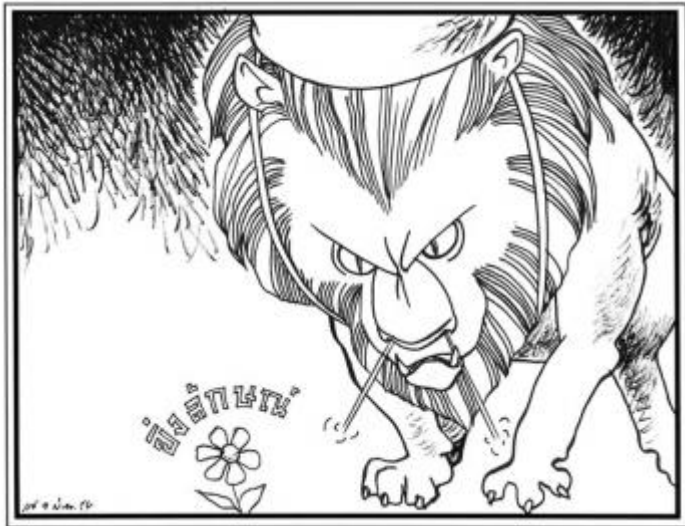


The Lion and the Flower

July 1, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From KhaoSod, June 6, 2011

The word above the flower: Yingluck

A ferocious lion with a military helmet is threatening the flower

Pheu Thai for the Future of Thailand

July 1, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Pheu Thai Party – Pheu Thai for future of Thailand – Succeeds through hard work – Fight the work in practice – Reachable – 3 July please vote Wilawan (Yai) Thammachart – Vote 1 – Chatuchak zone, vote the candidate and party- Number 1

At the PAD rally site

July 1, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Police killed the people – Police killed the people on 7 October: the day tyrants killed the people – Murder at Thai parliament



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Neo Protest – Stop the corrupted politicians selling the nation – We ask Thais to exercise this right – Vote No – Peace – Non-violence – Integrity – Purity – Profundity – Straightness



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The Thai words read: Duty – Paying back debt – Making merit for the homeland



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The world needs non-violence



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: PAD Uttaradith – Pichai, the brave hero – PAD Uttaradith



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: I insist that there is no reason that I will exchange the land for other benefits – If I do that, not only should not be in the position of PM, but also should not live in this land further – Abhisit Vejjajiva Prime Minister 7 August 2010 at the Thailand – Japan Sport Stadium (Dindaeng)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Piles of “Vote No” posters



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Thai Koo Fah Din community on Pitsanulok Road

Solved puzzle reveals fabled Cambodian temple

July 1, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Solved puzzle reveals fabled Cambodian temple](#) – AFP, June 30, 2011

...The workers numbered some 300,000 of the sandstone blocks and laid them out in the surrounding jungle. But efforts to rebuild the crumbling towers and lavishly ornamented facades abruptly came to a halt when Cambodia was convulsed by civil war in 1970...

Malaysia: Arrests in advance of rally for electoral reforms raise deep concerns

July 1, 2011

Categories: Malaysia

[Arrests in advance of rally for electoral reforms raise deep concerns](#) – Freedom House/IFEX, June 29, 2011

...Approximately one hundred activists have been arrested for wearing Bersih 2.0 t-shirts and/or distributing its leaflets since calls for the July 9 rally began. On the morning of June 29, authorities raided the offices of the Coalition for Free and Fair Elections (Bersih 2.0), a coalition of civil society organizations campaigning for electoral reforms, without a warrant. The organization's materials were confiscated and six staff members and one volunteer were arrested. The Malaysian government has made clear that the July 9 rally will not be permitted to take place and is considered "unlawful..."

Raising Parents With Their Legs

July 1, 2011

Categories: Elections



The sign reads: Raising parents with their legs – Number 16 – “Fight and then become rich” – Building a professional sport center – The Bhumjaithai Party – Populist policy brings social happiness – We do according to what we say, dare make it for Thais

Rural Thais Find an Unaccustomed Power

July 1, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Rural Thais Find an Unaccustomed Power](#) – NYT, June 30, 2011

...But no one is quite sure what rural means anymore.

Villagers here complain of slow Internet download speeds. On a single street that winds past rice paddies, residents tell of work stints in Taiwan, Singapore, Israel and Saudi Arabia, enough frequent-flier miles to rival the inhabitants of a tony Bangkok condominium.

Once passive and fatalistic, villagers are now better educated, more mobile, less deferential and ultimately more politically demanding...

In Thailand, Ugly Politics Is Testing Investors' Resolve

July 1, 2011

Categories: Business, Thai Politics

[In Thailand, Ugly Politics Is Testing Investors' Resolve](#) – businessweek.com, June 29, 2011

... "It's not that Thailand becomes worse, as such," he says. "But the other ones are lifting the bar." Restrictions on investments in telecommunications have made Thailand one of Southeast Asia's only countries without high-speed mobile-phone services, while the Philippines is already working on a 4G wireless network. Heavy regulation of the financial sector limits the amount of capital available to smaller foreign companies...

Bored! to see this country losing its opportunity

July 1, 2011

Categories: Elections



This sign reads: Bored! to see this country losing its opportunity – Creating only quarrelsome problems with neighboring countries, demoting the economy – The Pheu Thai Party

From Not the Nation: Police Prepare For Election Day Expat Sobriety Riots

July 1, 2011

Categories: Humor

From Not the Nation: [Police Prepare For Election Day Expat Sobriety Riots](#) – June 29, 2011

... “For many of these men, 36 hours without a drink and the company of a rented Asian female represents something unacceptable, terrifying even,” said Noppawan Rangkulan, sociology professor at Thammasat University. “Sobering up means becoming momentarily aware of their graying bodies and emotionally hollow lives. What we think of as an alcohol-free night represents an existential crisis for them...”

Komchadluek and the Bribery Scandal – “We are ready to be checked”

July 1, 2011

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Komchadluek, July 2, 2011

Komchadluek and the Bribery Scandal: “We are ready to be checked” – July, 2011

This front page notice in Komchadluek addresses the current media scandal of reporters and media outlets taking bribes from the Pheu Thai. These allegations have been met with public outrage in the Thai-language world.

The notice, entitled “We are ready to be checked,” is a statement that Komchadluek is ready for public scrutiny to find out whether their journalists were involved in media bribery as outlined in a leaked email.

Update: [Newspaper denies taking Pheu Thai cash](#) – Bangkok Post, July 2, 2011

The Pracha Santi Party promotes a taxi driver to become MP

July 1, 2011

Categories: Elections



([Photo: 2Bangkok.com](http://2Bangkok.com))

The sign reads: The Pracha Santi Party promotes a taxi driver to become MP – Julee Sawangarun Taxi – Seree Suwanpanon, party leader – No. 33 X – Sunday 3rd July 2011 8.00-15.00 hrs.

Sanan!

July 2, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Chart Thai Pattana Party – Reconciliation for happiness of the whole nation – Maj Gen. Sanan Kajornprasart, Party list MP candidate – Please vote no. 21

Sanan and Banharn

July 2, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From KhaoSod, June 2, 2011

The cartoon title: Gruem

The word on the glass: PM

Banharn is starting to fill Sanan's glass.

No Panda

July 2, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: 3 July – Do not let animals enter the parliament -Vote No

Land Dept claims 90% of prime Phuket land controlled by foreigners

July 2, 2011

Categories: Property and Development

[Land Dept claims 90% of prime Phuket land controlled by foreigners](http://www.phuketgazette.net) – www.phuketgazette.net, July 2, 2011
...Penalties for Thai nominees could as much as double existing punishments, while foreigners found guilty will have their land seized before being deported, he said.
Mr Sriracha said foreigners had already acquired about one-third of all Thai land, about one billion rai...

Thai leader accused of using Cambodia temple row for election gain

July 2, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia, Thai Politics

[Thai leader accused of using Cambodia temple row for election gain](#) – Guardian, July 2, 2011

...But analysts believe the row is driven by Sunday's general election in Thailand. "In this very critical week for Thai politics, has appeared again as a political weapon," said Dr Pavin Chachavalpongpun of the Institute of South-East Asian Studies in Singapore.

He said that while the government's stance would not win over opponents, it had rallied nationalist sympathisers who had drifted away...

As bomb expert inspects, explosion rips car apart in Thailand

July 2, 2011

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[As bomb expert inspects, explosion rips car apart in Thailand](#) – MSNBC, July 1, 2011

...Bomb removal officers then tried to defuse a third bomb only three meters (yards) away from the second one but it exploded, wounding seven policemen. It is a standard practice of the insurgents to plant a second bomb to go off when security officials arrive to investigate an explosion.

Malaysia: IGP says cops to arrest those with pro-Bersih ‘shoes, cars, buses’

July 2, 2011

Categories: Malaysia

Malaysia: IGP says cops to arrest those with pro-Bersih ‘shoes, cars, buses’ – www.themalaysianinsider.com, June 29, 2011

...“Not just T-shirts but shoes, cars, buses. If these are the tools used to encourage people to gather (illegally), this amounts to sedition,” Tan Sri Ismail Omar told reporters at Bukit Aman police headquarters here today...

This is referring to the [July 9 election reform rally](#).

“Don’t sleep on your vote!”

July 3, 2011

Categories: Elections



Above: Don’t sleep so deeply that it will make you give up your rights. On 4 April, 1973 go to vote for your M.P. Sent by: Mr. Choosak Yongjaiyuth, Way survey unit of Kokkloi, Phuket – 118/2 Mu 2 Kokkloy Amphur Takuatung, Pang-nga

Below: April 4 The General Election day – To Khun Tien Pritchakorn 411 Phuphapakdee Road, Amphur Muang, Narathiwat



Envisioning a Pheu Thai Government

July 3, 2011

Categories: Analysis, Elections

Assuming a Pheu Thai win, there are two possible outcomes: a Pheu Thai-led government or a government much like the one now—with the Democrats as a leading party and perhaps a compromise PM like Sanan. There are many permutations of these two outcomes and many ways the establishment can block Pheu Thai, but it essentially boils down to these two options.

The deciding factor is military confidence that they can brave the immediate street protests that would ensue if Pheu Thai is blocked from power.

The Democrats, as is their style, have apparently run a very conservative and ineffective campaign. The recent Democrat rally pointing out the links between the Pheu Thai and violent Red Shirts probably increased Pheu Thai popularity. This is because the Thai inclination is to feel sorry for any party (rightly accused or otherwise) who are being put at a disadvantage.

With the Pheu Thai apparently surging, it is possible that the military would take the path of least resistance and allow Pheu Thai to form a government.

In 2008 the last Thaksin-directed party came to power, but failed to gain both momentum and legitimacy since it refused to govern until constitutional amendment absolving Thaksin were passed. We would expect Pheu Thai to not repeat the mistakes of 2008, but try to take power as a normal government and legislate—gaining both legitimacy and popularity—particularly if they make it clear that policies and direction of the government were coming from Thaksin.

With the military on edge about Thaksin intent towards it and the highest institution, this might be the best strategy for the Pheu Thai—build legitimacy and popularity as a base to eventually declare reconciliation has been achieved. Then measures could begin which would include the exoneration of Thaksin. The Pheu Thai have every reason to play nice—meanwhile the establishment faces many uncertainties.

A Pheu Thai government would be a bitter and frightening pill to swallow for many. The same Red Shirt leaders who besieged Bangkok and called on the city to be burned are high on the Pheu Thai Party list and will certainly become MPs. The political opposition and the media will be wary of a return to the past when the media was pressured to praise the government and those who criticized the government came under constant threat of libel suits.

The top military and police brass will be feeling uncertain and must be pre-planning their responses to surprise replacement orders from the government. Twice annual military reshuffles would once again become the occasion for bitter recriminations and occasional violence as pro-Thaksin figures are reshuffled back into top positions. Most coups have taken place because those in these groups feared being replaced and acted proactively to prevent it.

During the People Power Party year in power in 2008, anti-monarchy statements were repeatedly made at Red Shirt rallies as the government was trying to pressure the establishment on absolving Thaksin. Expect this sort of tact to continue if things heat up.

A Pheu Thai government means much less immediate chaos, but instead a long, drawn out struggle including legal and procedural challenges to mute the government's power. Military pressure on coalition parties could be used to force a government collapse at a key time (and perhaps trigger a re-formed government with the Democrats leading again).

Other recent reports related to the election:

This series released June 1-3, 2011:

Part 1 [Returning the Nation to a Future Past](#)

Part 2 [Scenarios for Government](#)

Part 3 [The Fate of the True Believers](#)

Part 4 [Possibilities for Violence](#)

Part 5 [The Upshot: Resurgence of the Military](#)

April 22, 2011: [The Crusade to Minimize Thaksin](#)

How to Subvert Democracy: Montesinos in Peru

July 3, 2011

Categories: Crime

[How to Subvert Democracy: Montesinos in Peru](#) – fsi.stanford.edu, 2004

...Which of the democratic checks and balances – opposition parties, the judiciary, a free press – is the most forceful? Peru has the full set of democratic institutions. In the 1990s, the secret-police chief Montesinos systematically undermined them all with bribes. We quantify the checks using the bribe prices. Montesinos paid television-channel owners about 100 times what he paid judges and politicians. One single television channel's bribe was five times larger than the total of the opposition politicians' bribes. By revealed preference, the strongest check on the government's power was the news media...

Thailand's fate is in the stars

July 3, 2011

Categories: Local Beliefs

[Thailand's fate is in the stars](#) – LAT, July 3, 2011

As the head of Thailand's Securities and Exchange Commission, Thirachai Phuvanatanarubala is one of the country's most powerful policy makers. But his true passion isn't GDP growth or inflation rates. He's co-author of an English-language book of prophecies called "Know Your Future," which uses the Thai zodiac to predict, among other things, an al Qaeda terrorist attack in 2014 and an Obama reelection victory in 2012...

Baby Yingluck

July 3, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, July 3, 2011

Ousted PM Thaksin Shinawatra is saying to his sister Yingluck: Poo , you go play outside. I've taught you never to disturb the grown-ups when they're busy.

The paper in front of Thaksin reads: Cabinet list

From the 2B forum: Election Articles

July 3, 2011

Categories: Elections

From the 2B forum: Election Articles

[Thai Rath's correct election forecast](#)

[Bad vs Good Ballots](#)

[Various Election Night News](#)

Thai exit polls signal Red Shirt landslide

July 3, 2011

Categories: Elections

[Thai exit polls signal redshirt landslide](#) – Guardian, July 3, 2011

Thailand's opposition has triumphed in a bitterly fought election, putting Yingluck Shinawatra on course to become the country's first female leader, five years after her brother Thaksin was toppled as prime minister in a coup.

The incumbent Democrats admitted defeat as preliminary results suggested another tide of support for Thaksin, a billionaire now living as a fugitive in Dubai. Although his younger sister formally leads the Puea Thai party, she is regarded as his proxy.

Yingluck, a 44-year-old businesswoman who entered politics just six weeks ago, said: "I don't want to say that Puea Thai wins today. It's a victory of the people..."

2 CIA prison deaths draw wider investigation

July 4, 2011

Categories: Thai Secret Prison

[2 CIA prison deaths draw wider investigation](#) – www.azcentral.com, July 1, 2011

...Last November, he opted not to file criminal charges against CIA operatives involved in the decision to burn the tapes at a secret facility in Thailand...

Other articles on the [Thai Secret Prison](#)

Thai women cheer first female prime minister

July 4, 2011

Categories: Elections

[Thai women cheer first female prime minister](#) – Reuters, July 3, 2011

...But some Thais, especially females, want to give her the benefit of the doubt and see this as a big step for women in a country where they have struggled for equal representation in government.

“I’ve always wanted to have the first lady prime minister,” said Areerak Saelim, 42-year-old owner of a sunglass shop in a Bangkok market.

“I’ve seen too many men failing to run the country. Maybe this time, things will be different. What women are — and men aren’t — is meticulous. I’m pretty sure she can do the job based on her age and successful career...”

Abhisit quits as Democrat party leader

July 4, 2011

Categories: Elections

[Abhisit quits as Democrat party leader](#) – The Nation, July 4, 2011

Yingluck announces five-party coalition

July 4, 2011

Categories: Elections

[Yingluck announces five-party coalition](#) – The Nation, Jul 4, 2011

...The five Yingluck coalition parties are Pheu Thai, Chat Thai Pattana, Chat Pattana Phua Pandin, Palang Chon and Mahachon...

Rs 75,000 cr and counting: More treasure tumbles out of shrine

July 4, 2011

Categories: India

[Rs 75,000 cr and counting: More treasure tumbles out of shrine](#) – timesofindia.indiatimes.com, July 3, 2011

...Among the notable discoveries was an ancient gold idol of Lord Vishnu studded with precious diamonds and emeralds. Sources said its value could not be assessed due to its antiquity. There were also human figurines made of pure gold, each weighing 1 kg as well as 18-foot-long jewelery weighing 35 kg used to adorn the deity. Bags of coins and precious stones were also found in the chamber marked A...

Thailand's ruling party's error-prone road to defeat

July 4, 2011

Categories: Elections



WOMAN'S WORLD: SHINAWATRA TO LEAD
THAILAND

DRUDGE REPORT

Above: Drudge Report headline

[Thailand's ruling party's error-prone road to defeat](#) – The Nation-ANN, July 4, 2011

...Thanks to an inefficient opposition in Pheu Thai – which failed to make its leader, Yongyuth Wichaidit, the opposition leader because he was not a member of Parliament – some Cabinet members managed to remain in office despite allegations of irregularity, mismanagement, and lack of efficiency. With many problems remaining unsolved, came the allegation the Democrats are “only good at talking”...

Fight for Preah Vihear

July 5, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: One square inch, will not give up – Phraviharn must belong to Thailand – Together join by giving support – <http://facebook.com/FightforPhraviharn> – <http://twitter.com/SuforPhraviharn>

Thailand and Mass Politics

July 5, 2011

Categories: Elections

[Thailand and Mass Politics](#) – WSJ, July 3, 2011

...The incumbent Democrat Party and the challenger Pheu Thai fought this contest primarily on the basis of party platforms and the personal appeal of the candidates. That may sound unremarkable, but Thai politics used to be the province of bland characters who campaigned on their ability to bring benefits to their local constituencies.

Patronage and vote buying continue to play a part in Thai politics today. But it's striking that in the last few weeks both parties mobilized their supporters on the basis of their visions for the nation as a whole. The pro-Thaksin Pheu Thai set the agenda of rural development and globalization, and the Democrats were forced to follow...

Poll success takes Chuwit by surprise

July 5, 2011

Categories: Chuwit Kamolvisit, Elections

[Poll success takes Chuwit by surprise](#) – July 5, 2011

...Mr Chuwit added that people got behind his political brainchild because he is neither dishonest nor conceited.

“There are two kinds of people – those complimenting themselves and those admitting the truth,” he said.

“I’m in the latter group and I asked for a chance to work in parliament.”

Despite his stated ambition to work as an opposition MP, Mr Chuwit claimed a key Pheu Thai figure had offered him a ministerial post in the next government.

However, Mr Chuwit says he declined the offer, as accepting the deal would go against what he stood for.

Red shirt author in exile says Thailand's govt has mandate

July 5, 2011

Categories: Elections

[Red shirt author in exile says Thailand's govt has mandate](#) – ABC, July 4, 2011

...With the head of the army General Prayuth coming out and intervening in the election process by saying that people shouldn't vote for Pheu Thai, although he didn't actually name the party – that was the understanding. So, we can't really trust the army to remain neutral, they've never been neutral. They've always felt that they had some kind of extra-constitutional rights, if you like.

But the power of civil society, that's basically the Red Shirts, the fact that the election result is so clearly, overwhelmingly in favour of Pheu Thai, would make a military coup very difficult, but we don't know what kind of negotiations and pressure is going on behind closed doors...

Shinawatras Pull Off Another Political Magic Act

July 5, 2011

Categories: Elections

[Shinawatras Pull Off Another Political Magic Act](#) – NYT, July 4, 2011

...Once again the Shinawatra clan has pulled off an unlikely feat: One of the wealthiest families in Thailand has convinced the poor and politically disenfranchised that it understands their problems, feels their pain and will fight for their rights.

The paradox of a billionaire family winning Sunday's election by championing the have-nots — a notion that flabbergasts its adversaries — was on full display here in San Kamphaeng, the Shinawatra family's hometown...

Thai Newspaper Election Headlines: Yingluck Wins

July 5, 2011

Categories: Elections

ผลการเลือกตั้ง ส.ส.แบบแบ่งเขต และแบบสัดส่วน

พรรค	ภาคเหนือ	ภาคอีสาน	ภาคกลาง	ภาคใต้	กทม.	แบบสัดส่วน	รวม
1. พheu Thai	49	104	42	-	10	60	265
2. ประชาธิปัตย์	14	4	23	50	23	45	159
3. ภูมิใจไทย	2	13	13	1	-	5	34
4. ชาติไทยพัฒนา	3	1	10	1	-	4	19
5. ชาติไทยพัฒนาเพื่อประชาชน	1	4	-	-	-	2	7
6. ภูมิใจไทย	-	-	6	-	-	1	7
7. ทรประชาไทย	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
8. มาตุภูมิ	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
9. ภูมิใจไทย	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
10. ทรประชา	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
11. ประชาธิปัตย์	-	-	-	-	-	1	1

รวมทั้งหมด : บัตรเลือกตั้งแบบแบ่งเขต 1,992,214 บัตรเลือกตั้งแบบสัดส่วน 1,672,317

From Daily News, July 5, 2011

The headlines read: Army gives green light Pheu Thai to form the government- Sanoh asks Jew to form the government – ‘Songkitti’ on hope to sit as Defense Minister- Chalerm to run for House Speaker.

‘Thaksin’ pushes his desire to return home – Fear for problems

กาาจด264 บุ้คนแรก นายกหณึ่ง

ข่าวสด

เตงเตินหน้าทอ

ลยจืดตึงตม

From KhaoSod, July 5, 2011

The headlines read: 'Poo' grabs 264 the first female PM

North-Northeast the whole province in many area – Mark shows the flag gaining only 160 but still able to gain from Bangkok's 23 zones – Chalm's son-Singha's son -Pueng drops – Bhumjaithai dull with 34 – Terng has only 19 – Chuwit cheered with 4 MPs – Pu comes alone



From Komchadluek, July 5, 2011

The headlines read: Pheu Thai 264 'Yingluck' PM – Forming the government of 4 parties – Thaksin forms by himself – Quota of ministers – Mark admits loss

Democrats lead with 23 seats from the Bangkok area hitting the polls in the face



From Post Today, July 5, 2011

The headlines read: Election 2011 the new step of Thailand – Pheu Thai landslide 264 – Yingluck PM – the formula of forming Pheu Thai government – Pheu Thai 264 – Chartthai Pattana 19



From Post Today, July 5, 2011

The captions reads: The path to the Government House
(from top to bottom)

- 3rd July – overwhelmingly winning the election with more than 250 seats
- Election Commission to certify MPs by 95% or 475 MPs from 500 within 30 days
- Calling for the House meeting within 30 days from the election – set to vote for the House Speaker
- Selecting the PM within 30 days from the first House Meeting date
- Setting the Cabinet of the maximum of 35 members
- The appointed cabinet presents policy to the parliament within 15 days from the designation date

How will Thai election outcome affect listed companies?

July 5, 2011

Categories: Business, Thai Politics

[How will Thai election outcome affect listed companies?](#) – Reuters, July 5, 2011

Yingluck Shinawatra must distance herself from her brother

July 5, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Yingluck Shinawatra must distance herself from her brother](http://www.guardian.co.uk) – www.guardian.co.uk, July 5, 2011

...If he were smart and cares for his land of birth, Thaksin would allow his sister complete latitude to govern and seek peace with his enemies. If his enemies were concerned for the future of the Thai people, they would allow Yingluck to rule and make concessions and accommodation that are necessary for Thailand to move on into the 21st century.

Myanmar: ‘Three Princesses’ to Sit Out By-election

July 6, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[‘Three Princesses’ to Sit Out By-election](#) – The Irrawaddy, July 5, 2011

...Cho Cho Kyaw Nyein, Nay Yee Ba Swe and Mya Than Than Nu—sometimes described by the media as the “three princesses” because their fathers were government leaders during Burma’s brief era of democratic rule—said they took part in last year’s election believing that it would create some political space and help pave the way to genuine democracy...

Beggars: If kindness is a crime

July 6, 2011

Categories: Local Beliefs

[If kindness is a crime](#) – Bangkok Post, July 3, 2011

...Would the gangs give up and their members decide to become good, productive citizens, turning the dungeons where they keep the children into kind and caring orphanages?

Would the children be freed to go to school, complete their studies and eventually become doctors and lawyers?

Would the handicapped get brand new wheelchairs with satellite-guided GPS?

No, no and no. The gangs would resort to more desperate measures. The children would be forced to steal, deal drugs and go into prostitution. The handicapped would continue to be neglected...

Reopen Stilwell Road as gateway to SE Asia

July 6, 2011

Categories: Highways and Roads

[Reopen Stilwell Road as gateway to SE Asia](#) – calcuttanews.net, July 5, 2011

...China has completed constructing its stretch of the Stilwell Road. 'The road on the Assam side is in good shape and the only hindrance is from Myanmar as the road on their side is not complete. The Indian government needs to convince Myanmar to help rebuild the road on their side,' Gogoi said...

North Korea Official Site

July 6, 2011

Categories: North Korea

[North Korea Official Site](#) – [And the forum](#)

Don notes: The “forum,” appropriately enough, is only a propaganda blog and has the Comments feature turned off!

Higher Quality of Opposition

July 6, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, July 6, 2011

The man is yelling: Yay! Now, once again, we have a higher quality of opposition, better than the last one.

Caption at the bottom right: This is true, and it's actually good news for Thais.

Agoda: Discount coupons could be ‘devastating’

July 6, 2011

Categories: Tourism

[Agoda: Discount coupons could be ‘devastating’](#) – www.hotelnewsnow.com, June 30, 2011

...The automatic, inclusive, free membership is what bothers hoteliers and OTAs. Offering a deal to a segment of a hotel’s database or a closed membership group is perfectly legitimate, they said...

Dengue Fever, Cambodian Space Project release new albums

July 6, 2011

Categories: Cambodia, Music

[The golden era of Cambodia – Dengue Fever, Cambodian Space Project release new albums](#) – Bangkok Post, July 5, 2011

Two bands playing music inspired by Cambodia's "golden era" of rock 'n' roll and pop music during the 1960s through to the mid-'70s, LA-based Dengue Fever and Phnom Penh-based Cambodian Space Project (CSP), recently released new albums...

Yingluck Cooks

July 6, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, July 6, 2011

The headline reads: Female cook... steel wok

The pan reads: Cabinet

The shirt: Poo 1

The dishes and arms read: Pheu Thai, UDD, Pheu Thai MP, Coalition party

The cartoon title reads: Yingluck Shinawatra forms her new cabinet while the UDD, Pheu Thai and coalition parties hopefully await cabinet seats.

Thailand's Return to Democracy

July 7, 2011

Categories: Elections

[Thailand's Return to Democracy](#) – Asia Sentinel, July 6, 2011

...The bigger question now is whether Thaksin is any closer to understanding the resentments he aroused when in power, not just from old elites but from those who felt the force of his authoritarian instincts. This was the man who undermined the generally excellent 1997 constitution by subverting the checks and balances which were supposed to have been built into it, muzzling the press as well as abusing power to generate wealth for his supporters. All that was in addition to his extra-legal campaign of the murder of so-called drug dealers and his brutal actions in the south, which further alienated the Malay/Muslim population.

Thaksin bears the marks of the authoritarian populist who believes that a popular mandate is all he needs, and that institutions should be subservient to that. When in power he was an admirer of Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad, a man who similarly undermined institutions such as the judiciary, used the power of government to reward supporters with fat contracts and extended the power of the central government against that of the states. Thaksin hoped to stay in power as long as Mahathir –22 years...

Malaysian Protesters Shift from Streets to Stadium

July 7, 2011

Categories: Malaysia

[Malaysian Protesters Shift from Streets to Stadium](#) – AP, July 6, 2011

...The plan is spearheaded by independent activists who want an overhaul of electoral laws to ensure transparency in national polls widely expected by mid-2012. Some activists had earlier voiced hopes that as many as 100,000 people would march in Kuala Lumpur, making it Malaysia's biggest political rally in nearly four years...

Cambodia: A life on the margins

July 7, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[A life on the margins](#) – www.phnompenhpost.com, June 24, 2011

...Twenty kilometres out along National Road Six, there is a small village known only half jokingly by local NGOs as “Siem Reap’s dirty little secret”: a ramshackle slum built around the rim of a one-acre pit filled daily with garbage from the city.

More than 140 children and countless adults queue up alongside a column of garbage trucks each day, scraping a living by picking bottles and plastic out of the waste they deposit...

Red shirt pursuers at the mercy of new government

July 7, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics, Tharit Pengdit

[Red shirt pursuers at the mercy of new govt](#) – Bangkok Post, July 7, 2011

The futures of Tharit Pengdit, director-general of the Department of Special Investigation, and national police chief Wichean Potephosree hang in the balance as the administration of the country shifts to the Pheu Thai Party.

Mr Tharit has handled the prosecution of red shirt protesters who support former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, the de facto leader of the Pheu Thai Party, while Pol Gen Wichean, instead of Thaksin's brother-in-law, was promoted to become national police chief by the outgoing Abhisit Vejjajiva government...

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Mr Tharit has handled the prosecution of red shirt protesters who support former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, the de facto leader of the Pheu Thai Party, while Pol Gen Wichean, instead of Thaksin's brother-in-law, was promoted to become national police chief by the outgoing Abhisit Vejjajiva government.

Wichean Khaokham, a Pheu Thai Party candidate who was elected in Udon Thani province, said yesterday he would attend a meeting of his party today and propose the transfer of Mr Tharit from the DSI.

Mr Wichean was among the red shirt protest leaders whom the DSI prosecuted on lese majeste charges.

He also wants the new government under the leadership of Pheu Thai to review legal action taken against red shirt demonstrators and rehabilitate them. He said that reconciliation could only happen when arrested red shirt protesters were released.

Many red shirt demonstrators have been detained since their protests last year. Some have been charged with lese majeste, terrorism and illegal assembly.

Apart from Mr Tharit, Pol Gen Wichean looks likely to be replaced. He served the Abhisit government and recently deployed police to drugs suppression unit 315 which Pheu Thai supporters viewed as an attempt to obstruct the party's vote campaigning.

His promotion to police chief last year shattered the dream of Pol Gen Priewpan Damapong, elder brother of Thaksin's ex-wife Khunying Potjaman na Pombejra. Pol Gen Priewpan complained that Pol Gen Wichean's promotion overlooked him unfairly. Pol Gen Priewpan will reach retirement age in October next year but Pol Gen Wichean will do so in the following year.

Pol Gen Wichean said it would be understandable if the next government were to replace him as police chief. But he said he is a professional and that he followed the policies of his supervisors.

But, under the National Police Act, the next prime minister could only assign Pol Gen Wichean to assist another government agency and make Pol Gen Priewpan acting police chief. The official position of the national police chief would remain with Pol Gen Wichean.

Pol Gen Priewpan could only officially take over the role if Pol Gen Wichean agreed to leave the Royal Thai Police Office to work for another agency.

Thailand's Yingluck says to let baht appreciate

July 7, 2011

Categories: Economy

[Thailand's Yingluck says to let baht appreciate](#) – WSJ, July 7, 2011

Thailand will continue to let the baht appreciate against the dollar to limit import price inflation, the country's incoming prime minister, Yingluck Shinawatra, told the Wall Street Journal in an interview published on Thursday.

Yingluck also told the newspaper she would continue to allow the baht to float freely and had no plans to change the existing exchange-rate system...

Filipino provincial journalists get taste of what Bangkok offers

July 7, 2011

Categories: The Philippines, Tourism

[Filipino provincial journalists get taste of what Bangkok offers](http://www.pia.gov.ph) – www.pia.gov.ph, July 7, 2011

...But while ritzy sections in Metro Manila or even in Dagupan come alive only after dark sets in, bars here are already open during daytime with fair skinned customers enjoying the company of Asian girls.

Many of the group felt as if they were traveling along EDSA or Ayala in Metro Manila upon leaving the airport. The only marked difference is traffic was smooth from the airport to the central business district.

With comprehensive road networks including skyways, Bangkok appeared to have outlived its notorious tag as having the worst traffic in Asia...

Fowler in shock move to Thailand

July 7, 2011

Categories: Sports

[Fowler in shock move to Thailand](#) – uk.eurosport.yahoo.com, July 7, 2011

...”He agreed to play with Muang Thong United as a forward,” team manager Ronnarit Suewaja told AFP...

Thai-made 'Transformers' invade the United States

July 7, 2011

Categories: Art

[Thai-made 'Transformers' invade the United States](#) – cnngo.com, July 7, 2011

Leftover Election Poster

July 8, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photos: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Vote for the Democrats to extinguish the country's burning fire and reject violence. Vote for No. 10 on both ballots.

Old Billboard With Chalerm

July 8, 2011

Categories: Chalerm Yubamrung, Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The billboard reads: New Aspiration Party – Choose whoever your heart wants because if you choose in spite of money... – Choose New Aspiration people – Police Captain Chalerm Yoobamrung

Reds Fighting for the Cabinet Seat

July 8, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Thairath, July 8, 2011

The cartoon title reads: The blood and tears aren't dry yet.

The sign reads: Rachaprasong

The skulls say: Here, people are fighting for seats.

The back of the chair reads: Political posts

Both headbands read: "UDD"

Thaitanium: Gangsta Rap straight outta Phuket, Thailand

July 9, 2011

Categories: Music

[Thaitanium: Gangsta Rap straight outta Phuket, Thailand](#) – Boing Boing, June 29, 2011

There's good news and bad news

July 9, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, July 9, 2011

Left: There's good news and bad news. The good news is PM Yingluck has announced the minimum wage must be 300 baht.

Middle: What about the bad news?

Right: The bosses are saying anyone who wants 300 baht should quit so they can hire Burmese workers instead.

The Crab is Hollow Inside

July 9, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, July 9, 2011

Left: This crab has no meat!?

Right: Yes, it's hollow inside.

The caption reads: Finally, Thais are starting to realize they have been cheated.

Shinawatra's likely return good for Thaksin Inc but not for Thailand

July 9, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Shinawatra's likely return good for Thaksin Inc but not for Thailand](#) – Bloomberg, July 9, 2011

Thailand's winding canals lined by fruit trees

July 9, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: Matthew)

Matthew writes: Seen at Target in Somerville, Mass. today. I was shopping with my wife and came across this. I thought the imagery of 'winding canals' lined by fruit was just kind of amazing and a bit audacious...



(Photo: Matthew)

Program can protect photographers

July 9, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Program can protect photographers](#) – UPI, July 8, 2011

An image processing system that hides the position from which photos are shot may help protesters in repressive regimes avoid arrest, an Indian researcher says...

Thai capital named 'World's Best City'

July 9, 2011

Categories: Tourism

[Thai capital named 'World's Best City'](#) – www.independent.co.uk, July 8, 2011

...It is the second year in a row that Bangkok has been named in the top spot, despite a period of civil unrest last year which did considerable damage to Thailand's international reputation as a tourism haven.

The only other Asian city to make an appearance in the top ten was Siem Reap, a major tourist attraction for many on the backpacking trail around South East Asia thanks to its proximity to the famous Angkor Wat temple...

Malaysian police fire tear gas at protesters, arrest

July 9, 2011

Categories: Malaysia

[Malaysian police fire tear gas at protesters, arrest](#) – DPA, July 9, 2011

Police arrest 1,600 in Malaysia protest

July 9, 2011

Categories: Malaysia

[Police arrest 1,600 in Malaysia protest](#) – The Nation, July 9, 2011

...“I considered it (the demonstration) a success despite the fact that they (police) were really brutal in their action,” added a frail-looking Anwar, who says the lurid accusations against him are politically motivated...

Biased Granny Kills Again

July 10, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, July 10, 2011

The cartoon reads: Carry to be ... ill. Shoot them dead again.

Sign at left: Ratchaprasong

On Granny, it reads: National Human Rights Commission

Sign at right: Khok Wua Intersection

Amazing Trains That Were Never Built

July 10, 2011

Categories: Mass Transit

[Amazing Trains That Were Never Built](#) – www.infrastructurist.com, June 28, 2011

...The Minnesota Historical Society contains a conceptual graphic from 1871 of the railway system of St. Paul in the year 1900. The most striking line from this system — which is really saying something for a system that includes a track to the North Pole — is a double-tracked bridge that extends across the Atlantic Ocean and runs, via an incredibly straight course, into London...

But...

July 10, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, July 10, 2011

The headline reads: But...

Top left: They burned poor people's houses to chase them from the land they encroached upon, but they didn't burn the homes of the Cambodians who invaded Thai territory.

Top middle: Thailand will be promoted as the "Kitchen of the World," but some cakes will be brought from Dubai.

Top right: Words that just won't go away — Thaksin didn't break any law; he just did what the law prohibited.

Bottom left: I hate people who don't keep their word to their friends, but then I've never considered anyone my friend.

Bottom middle: This is the parliament of honorable persons, but it's also the refuge of terrorists.

Bottom right: They say she's a miss, but Chuwit wants her to declare her husband's assets.

Banharn-Thaksin meeting downplayed

July 10, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Banharn-Thaksin meeting downplayed](#) – Bangkok Post, July 10, 2011

...Ms Yingluck denied the report. She said Mr Banharn went to see Thaksin out of a personal acquaintance and their meeting had nothing to do with the formation of the cabinet...

Pheu Thai's candidate for prime ministership Yingluck Shinawatra on Sunday downplayed a reported meeting between Banharn Silpa-archa, the Chartthaipattana advisory chairman, and her brother and former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, saying the meeting was personal and had nothing to do with a cabinet formation.

Mr Banharn reportedly went to meet Thaksin in Brunei to discuss about cabinet portfolios for Chartthaipattana.

Ms Yingluck denied the report. She said Mr Banharn went to see Thaksin out of a personal acquaintance and their meeting had nothing to do with the formation of the cabinet.

She said it was she who would preside over a meeting to consider cabinet portfolios for the six parties in the coalition after the Election Commission has endorsed elected candidates.

The formation of the cabinet would be completed in one to two weeks after that.

It was not known if outsiders would be brought into the cabinet, but capable persons would not be obstructed from joining it, Ms Yingluck said.

Ms Yingluck said after being officially appointed prime minister she would seek to visit all senior people, particularly Privy Council chairman and statesman Prem Tinsulanonda.

On Thaksin's remark that national reconciliation would be achieved in two years, she said this would depend on the work of the Truth for Reconciliation Commission chaired by Kanit na Nakorn.

The government would provide full support for commission to swiftly and smoothly fulfil its work, she said.

Church urges crackdown on child sex trade in Goa

July 10, 2011

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[Church urges crackdown on child sex trade in Goa](http://www.gulf-times.com) – www.gulf-times.com, July 10, 2011

Goa is becoming a child sex trade hub after Thailand launched a crackdown on its thriving child abuse industry, Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao said yesterday.

“Till recently, Thailand was considered to be the capital of the child sex tourism industry in this part of the world. It is now known how the Thai government, pushed by international child protection organisations, cracked down on the industry in that country,” Ferrao said...

Thailand set for return to ‘Thaksinomics’

July 10, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thailand set for return to ‘Thaksinomics’](#) – AFP, July 10, 2011

...Thailand has made great strides in reducing poverty, with 8.1 percent of the population living below the national poverty line in 2009, one of the lowest rates in developing Asia, according to the World Bank. But there are significant inequalities in the distribution of wealth, particularly between Bangkok and the rural northeast, the heartland of Thaksin’s “Red Shirt” supporters.

The richest 20 percent of Thai households account for nearly half of total household incomes, the Asian Development Bank estimates...

New govt may spend two years to reconcile Thailand: Thaksin

July 10, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[New govt may spend two years to reconcile Thailand: Thaksin](#) – The Nation, July 10, 2011

...”It is not necessary that those who were guilty be punished. What is important to the national reconciliation is simply to find out who did wrong and that they accepted the mistakes. I believe Thai society is ready to forgive,” he said.

Voice TV and an Exploding Head

July 11, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Voice TV – The station that wakes up ideas

Photo: four new jewel beetles uncovered in Thailand and Indonesia

July 11, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Photo: four new jewel beetles uncovered in Thailand and Indonesia](#) – news.mongabay.com, July 10, 2011

Coca Cola Welcome to Bangkok Sign

July 11, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards

[Welcome to Refreshment \(1950\).](#)

Questions for the PM-elect

July 11, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Questions for the PM-elect](#) – Bangkok Post, July 7, 2011

... According to the Grant Thornton International Business Report survey, the percentage of Thai women in senior management is the highest in the world at 45%, more than twice the global average. In other words, education is no longer the problem.

...While city prejudice against the poor sustains and condones inequity and injustice, the sexual double standard legitimises men's promiscuity and culturally endorses the sex industry...

Is Thailand Losing the Battle Against Human Traffickers?

July 11, 2011

Categories: Crime

[Is Thailand Losing the Battle Against Human Traffickers?](#) – Time, July 8, 2011

...Then comes the hard part. Some of these women have been lured with false promises from a poor Central Asian nation and forced to sell their bodies to tourists in the Thai capital. Some are “minders” who threaten and beat the other women on behalf of unseen bosses. How to separate the victims from the villains?...

Rights groups fear wave of deaths as Thailand faces new drugs crackdown

July 11, 2011

Categories: Drugs

[Rights groups fear wave of deaths as Thailand faces new drugs crackdown](#) – The Guardian, July 10, 2011

...More than 2,500 people died in three months after Thaksin Shinawatra ordered police to draw up blacklists of suspected dealers and act “decisively and without mercy”. Though the police blamed gang crime for most of the deaths – they said 68 were shot by officers “in self-defence” – human rights groups say there is compelling evidence of extra-judicial killings. A committee later reported that more than half the dead, including a nine-year-old boy, had not been involved in the drugs trade...

Thai ‘rhino horn dealer’ arrested in S.Africa

July 11, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Thai ‘rhino horn dealer’ arrested in S.Africa](http://www.straitstimes.com) – www.straitstimes.com, July 11, 2011

Hitler reacts to the Thai election

July 11, 2011

Categories: Humor, Thai Politics



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=>



Video following the route of the Purple Line

July 12, 2011

Categories: Mass Transit

[Video following the route of the Purple Line](#) – YouTube, July 12, 2011

Thanks from Chuwit

July 12, 2011

Categories: Chuwit Kamolvisit, Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Chuwit Kamolvisit. Thanks for all the votes you cast for me. If you did not vote for me, I hope one day you will give me a chance. Rak Thailand Party.

Yingluck Lying in Front of Her Son

July 12, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, July 12, 2011

Yingluck Shinawatra: I wrote the cabinet list all by myself. Khun Thaksin was not involved in writing it at all.

Bottom right: If you must lie, take care that your son is not listening.

This refers to Yingluck's recent appearance with her son at a market. There she made some incredible statements—especially common in Thai politics—making claims everyone knows are not true. Yingluck matter-of-factly claimed she chose her cabinet and Thaksin was not involved.

Other examples of such statements:

[Pheu Thai MPs to attend Thaksin's birthday party in Bali](#) – The Nation, July 20, 2011

...Pheu Thai deputy leader Plodprasop Suraswadi said the planned trip was private without linkage to the party.

[Banharn-Thaksin meeting downplayed](#) – Bangkok Post, July 10, 2011

...Ms Yingluck denied the report. She said Mr Banharn went to see Thaksin out of a personal acquaintance and their meeting had nothing to do with the formation of the cabinet...

Five Years Ago Today: Ministry bastardises bid process

July 12, 2011

Categories: Today in History

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

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

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

EC suspends endorsing Abhisit and Yingluck, pending probing complaints

July 12, 2011

Categories: Elections

[EC suspends endorsing Abhisit and Yingluck, pending probing complaints](#) – The Nation, July 12, 2011
Election Commission on Tuesday officially endorsed 109 party-list candidates but suspended 16 others including outgoing PM Abhisit Vejjajiva, PM designate Yingluck Shinawatra and red shirted leaders of Pheu Thai party...

Thailand looking to ink pact with Indian cities

July 13, 2011

Categories: Business, India

[Thailand looking to ink pact with Indian cities](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com) – economictimes.indiatimes.com, July 11, 2011

Thailand today expressed interest in inking agreements with Indian cities with an aim to boost bilateral trade. “We have already signed the Free Trade Agreement with India... Now, we are looking at signing agreements with Indian cities,” Governor of Trang Province in Thailand Maitri Inthusut told PTI here...

Violent murder prompts police warning to gay community

July 13, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Violent murder prompts police warning to gay community](http://www.mmmtimes.com) -www.mmmtimes.com, July 11-17, 2011

A gay man viciously stabbed to death with a pair of scissors in May “created the opportunity for the murder to be committed” through his lifestyle, a Myanmar Police Force official said last week....

Suu Kyi criticises restoration of Myanmar temples

July 13, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Suu Kyi criticises restoration of Myanmar temples](#) – www.thehindu.com, July 12, 2011

...UNESCO still has the site on its “tentative” list. “These monuments represent the outstanding artistic and technical achievement of an original and innovative Buddhist school of art,” the agency has said.

Construction of a 60-metre (198-feet)-high viewing tower in 2003 drew particular ire from conservationists, with UNESCO saying the tower would be out of scale and detract visually from the historical monuments.

State tourism authorities responded that the tower, intended to provide unfettered views, would prevent tourists from climbing on fragile pagodas and stupas and damaging them...

Thailand: Media targeted in political transition

July 13, 2011

Categories: Censorship, Community Radio

[Thailand: Media targeted in political transition](#) – CPJ/IFEX, July 7, 2011

The Committee to Protect Journalists condemns the raid and seizure of broadcasting equipment by police at six community radio stations in Thailand's northeastern Nakhon Ratchasima province. The raids were staged two days after caretaker Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's government lost to the opposition Peua Thai party in general elections held on July 3...

Earlier: [Some Perspective on Thai Community Radio](#) – October 23, 2010

[Govt raids 13 community radio stations](#) – April 27, 2011

[Community radio news 2002-2008](#) – January 11, 2008

[Local radio stations generate strong bonds between neighbours](#) – July 25, 2005

What Cambodia Wants

July 13, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, July 13, 2011

Left: When Cambodia gets something small, they want something bigger. Now they want to take 4.6 square kilometers of Thailand!

Middle: And that's not all.

What else does Cambodia want from Thailand?

Right: They're flocking to Thailand for the 300-baht minimum wage too!

Thailand's Shinawatras: From clan to dynasty

July 13, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thailand's Shinawatras: From clan to dynasty](#) – BBC, July 12, 2011

Unhappy DTAC

July 13, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, July 13, 2011

First panel: These days, our 'Happy DTAC' slogan is not effective.

Second panel: Wherever we go, no one is happy with us

How does Khun Jon Eddy know?

Third panel: See this! I'm looking at the Commerce Ministry through these binoculars.

Fourth panel: Ever since our case reached there, the ministry people have not been happy. There's lots of fighting.

From the ministry: We must file a lawsuit! And: No!

Cambodia Wikileaks Cables

July 13, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia Wikileaks Cables](#) – wikileaks.org, July 13, 2011

Thaksin's dreams can end Thai democracy

July 13, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thaksin's dreams can end Thai democracy](#) – [www.ft.com](#), July 5, 2011

...Mr Thaksin was at the heart of these tensions. First elected in 2001, he proved a revelation. For the first time here was a Thai politician who appealed to the poor – who, as in many developing countries, comprise the majority of the electorate. Politically engaged for the first time, they turned out in droves. Yet as he won mandate after mandate, Mr Thaksin – like other elected autocrats such as Vladimir Putin or Hugo Chavez – began to undermine the rule of law, enacting policies that favoured his family businesses...

Cambodia's Ancient Wonders Suffer Modern Ills

July 13, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia's Ancient Wonders Suffer Modern Ills](#) – abcnews.go.com, July 13, 2011

...Critics say such deals at Angkor merely mirror today's Cambodia, dominated by Hun Sen and the powerful politicians and tycoons around him.

"They control Siem Reap and Angkor like everywhere. They could do whatever they please no matter what the law says," Son Chhay says...

Actually, Thaksin was scourge of visa-runners

July 13, 2011

Categories: Tourism

[Actually, Thaksin was scourge of visa-runners](#) – The Nation, July 13, 2011

...The complicating and quadrupling of visa costs had absolutely nothing to do with the Banharn government or the wife of a rich politician taking a dislike to a foreigner on a plane. Thaksin effectively did away with the three-month visa!...

US ambassador connects with Thai ‘Tweethearts’

July 13, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[US ambassador connects with Thai ‘Tweethearts’](#) – www.mysinchew.com, July 13, 2011

...Kenney denied her informal style — “Good morning tweethearts!” is a typical daily message — detracts from more serious diplomatic matters, such as keeping secrets, delivering speeches and providing feedback from Washington...

Is Cambodia Slipping Back To Rogue State Status?

July 13, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Is Cambodia Slipping Back To Rogue State Status?](http://www.worldcrunch.com) – www.worldcrunch.com, July 13, 2011

A new law designed to crack down on NGOs is one of several signs that Cambodia is edging back toward authoritarianism nearly two decades after the UN stepped in following brutal civil wars. The international community, by turning a blind eye to government abuses, is partly to blame...

Eight Years Ago: Thailand to pursue ‘Tourism Capital of Asia’ status

July 13, 2011

Categories: The Thaksin Years, Tourism

Eight Years Ago: [Thailand to pursue ‘Tourism Capital of Asia’ status](#)

Thai Prince's Plane Impounded in Germany

July 13, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai Prince's Plane Impounded in Germany](#) – NYT, July 13, 2011

...An international arbitration panel in July 2009 found the Thai government to have been in breach of its obligations to Walter Bau for, among other things, refusing to raise tolls on the road, as had been agreed in the contract. It ordered the Thai government to pay more than €30 million, or \$42 million, in damages and legal costs.

“This drastic measure is virtually the last resort,” Mr. Schneider said earlier in a news release. “The Thai government always stalled and did not respond to our demands”...

Thailand To Produce Vaccines Against Seven Deadly Diseases

July 13, 2011

Categories: Health

[Thailand To Produce Vaccines Against Seven Deadly Diseases](http://www.bernama.com) – www.bernama.com, July 13, 2011

...The disease are dengue haemorrhagic fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, Japanese encephalitis, hepatitis type B and tuberculosis...

Cambodian Building Boom

July 14, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[A Cambodian 'uprising'](http://www.business-standard.com) – www.business-standard.com, July 14, 2011

...Four other satellite cities are at various stages of development around Phnom Penh, including the 260-hectare Grand Phnom Penh International City, invested by Indonesia's Ciputra Group, with architectural designs that are considered too avant-garde for Cambodia. A fifth one has just been announced by a local firm, Overseas Cambodia Investment Corporation, which is prepared to spend up to \$3 billion to build a 387-hectare property. Satellite cities are part of the government's plan to cope with Phnom Penh's burgeoning population, now 1.5 million but growing at about 20 per cent a year...

Myanmar: Traditional dance troupes face additional restrictions

July 14, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Traditional dance troupes face additional restrictions](#) – Mizzima News/IFEX, July 12, 2011

...”They need to perform a full-dress rehearsal in front of us three or four days prior to the actual stage performance. Then we will tell them which parts are unacceptable,” Myint Thein Pe told Mizzima. “We will examine their jokes and clothes. We will not allow them to say rude jokes. In the past, they submitted their videos to the censorship board prior to the release of a video and sometimes we had to censor, so they suffered losses. That’s why we have demanded a full-dress rehearsal...”

How to avoid being killed: a traveller's guide

July 14, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[How to avoid being killed: a traveller's guide](#) – The Age, July 11, 2011

If you plan to join a riot, carry a motorcycle helmet.

If you're kidnapped treat your captors with respect, being aggressive won't help you.

If you need to keep fingers and feet sterilised for a short period of time use condoms...

Arson video, witness unclear

July 14, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011



Above: From [Voice of Taksin](#), March 1-16, 2010

The caption reads: Special campaign to greet the coup festival – Cheer up, Thaksin! – Do not throw more than 2 bottles a day!

[Arson video, witness unclear](#) – Bangkok Post, July 13, 2011

[Central World witness describes 'Molotov cocktails'](#) – The Nation, July 13, 2011

[Molotov cocktail on Wikipedia](#)

Court rejects case for new election

July 14, 2011

Categories: Elections

[Court rejects case for new election](#) – Bangkok Post, July 14, 2011

...The court ruled it was not within its jurisdiction to give such an order, since the case concerned legal argument involving an independent agency that required an interpretation by the Constitution Court.

Red Shirt Comments on the Stalling of MP Endorsements

July 14, 2011

Categories: Elections

[Natthawut promises not to organise red-shirt rally to pressure EC](#) – The Nation, July 14, 2011

... *"Red-shirt leaders have consulted about this and we agreed that we will not do such a thing," Natthawut said...*

Earlier: [Red shirts warn EC of backlash](#) – The Nation, July 14, 2011

...*Thida Thawornseth, chairwoman of the movement, said the red shirts were "worried and dissatisfied" over the EC's decision.*

She called on the red shirts to "keep your batteries full and get ready for action in any situation"...

Earlier: [Natthawut warns EC of 'big trouble' if it fails to endorse MPs-elect](#) – The Nation, July 14, 2011

... *"I can guarantee there will be a big trouble".*

He said the "invisible hands" would become visible and would be criticized by the International Community...

Seven Years Ago: Does the road to the future end at Dubai?

July 14, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

Seven Years Ago: [Does the road to the future end at Dubai?](#)

China: 1.3 million websites shut in 2010

July 15, 2011

Categories: Censorship, China

[China: 1.3 million websites shut in 2010](#) – BBC, July 14, 2011

The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences said there were were 41% fewer websites at the end of 2010 than a year earlier...

Old Portrait

July 15, 2011

Categories: Old photos and films



Yingluck Riding a Horse

July 15, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, July 9, 2011

Yingluck Shinawatra says: What?! Brother, you want me to ride the green horse too?

At bottom left: No one knows whether she can even hold onto the white horse alone.



From Thairath, July 15, 2011

The cartoon says: Interrupting the momentum of the lady on the white horse.

Khao Phansa (Buddhist Lent)

July 15, 2011

Categories: Thai Holidays and Festivals



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[Khao Phansa](#) (Buddhist Lent)

Thai 'Black Magic Woman' In Hiding At Malaysia-Thai Border

July 15, 2011

Categories: Local Beliefs

[Thai 'Black Magic Woman' In Hiding At Malaysia-Thai Border](http://www.bernama.com) – www.bernama.com, July 14, 2011

Remembering Thai Dreams of Checks and Balances

July 15, 2011

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Now is the time to remember 'Magnificent 14'](#) – The Nation, July 15, 2011

...Those were the halcyon days for the “independent organisations” set up under the much-praised “People’s Constitution” of 1997. One year before the EC swept away many high-flying senator candidates, powerful Democrat secretary-general Sanan Kachornprasart was indicted and banished from politics for faking a Bt15 million debt while declaring his assets and liabilities as a political office holder...

Now is the time to remember ‘Magnificent 14’

Believe it or not, there was a time when the Election Commission acted tough against big name politicians and managed to elicit applause from the public.

It was in 2000, to be exact, when the whole nation commended the election commissioners and Constitution Court judges for being brave and politically unbiased, simply because they did not care who the big fish were. Those were the halcyon days for the “independent organisations” set up under the much-praised “People’s Constitution” of 1997.

One year before the EC swept away many high-flying senator candidates, powerful Democrat secretary-general Sanan Kachornprasart was indicted and banished from politics for faking a Bt15 million debt while declaring his assets and liabilities as a political office holder. At that time, it didn’t matter who you were. Election candidates belonging to the government side were disqualified for fun. Among them were Sanan’s wife, Newin Chidchob’s sister, provincial governors, influential military figures and close relatives of Cabinet members. You name it.

They were such a breath of fresh air that “The magnificent 14” – the nine members of the National Counter Corruption Commission and five election commissioners – were named The Nation’s “Persons of the Year” for the year 2000.

What happened after that? There’s no need to say.

The same “independent bodies” credited for Sanan’s shocking exit from politics and the fearless disqualification of powerful men running for office suddenly became worse than a paper tiger. They were accused of caving in to political pressure, of being biased in the government’s favour. Charges of bribery plagued them.

After the Constitution Court acquitted Thaksin Shinawatra of share concealment in a murky verdict in 2001, the slide down the slippery slope has been irreversible. Every decision by the Constitution Court, the NCCC, the EC, the Supreme Administrative Court, as well as the Supreme Court’s section for political office holders has been met with scepticism and criticism, and in many cases rightly so.

Who politicised the independent bodies and made them lose their integrity and credibility all at once? This is a question the new government must ponder very seriously. The Pheu Thai camp as well as its red-shirt supporters may believe that the country’s political crisis began when the yellow shirts took to the streets to try to dislodge a vastly popular government, leading to the military coup in 2006.

There are others, however, who believe that all the trouble began when the checks-and-balances mechanism began to unravel. There were a few voices of discontent when Sanan was banned from politics for something seemingly as trivial as a Bt15 million debt that was not there. But they were drowned out by the strong, optimistic belief that such harsh constitutional action was designed for a long-term impact.

In a political system so festered with graft, Sanan’s fate was meant to sound a serious warning and create real fear. It wasn’t to be, as we know. The old culture of “political elite” – the thinking that people in power

should escape any tough scrutiny, let alone punishment hit back. The rest is history.

Yingluck Shinawatra, Thaksin's youngest sister, is facing an EC ruling. It's too bad that this is an EC that has been transformed so much from the one that lashed out courageously and independently at any election candidate, no matter who the person was.

Life is probably being unfair to Yingluck, and she may want to ask her big brother why. It was not so long ago but so much has changed. A lot of people are saying that Thai politics is coming full circle, with the imminent return to power of the Thaksin camp. That the good old days before his time haven't even been mentioned speaks volumes.

Also: [1996: Newin's canvassers caught red handed in vote buying](#)

12 Years Ago: Shrinking Trink

July 15, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Shrinking Trink](#)

Full Moon of drugs and booze

July 15, 2011

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[Full Moon of drugs and booze](#) – au.news.yahoo.com, July 15, 2011

...As I walk through the crowd, shady local Thai men repeatedly offer our hidden cameras illegal drugs such as ecstasy, cocaine, marijuana or speed for just a few dollars...

Combating HIV/AIDS: Lessons from Thailand

July 15, 2011

Categories: HIV-AIDS

[Combating HIV/AIDS: Lessons from Thailand](#) – nepalnews.com, July 14, 2011

...As a result of this four pronged attack, Thailand witnessed a dramatic reduction in risky behavior, STD consultations, and HIV infections nationwide. Condom use in brothels rose from 14 % in 1988 to above 90 % in 1997; the number of male STD patients at public clinics dropped from 220,000 per year to 20,000 per year over three years. Nepal can learn many lessons from Thailand's successes and control its own epidemic. Academician Jeffrey A Kelley argued for HIV prevention programmes "to be relatively intensive...provide attention to change attitudes, behavioral skills". This type of intensity requires political commitment from the highest level, something Nepal has lacked. It is not surprising that countries deemed AIDS success stories—Uganda, Thailand, and Zambia—all had top government officials place AIDS on the national agenda...

Reds Fighting for the Chair

July 16, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, July 16, 2011

Thida Tawornset says: I want to warn the EC not to make us tired from chasing you.

The chair is labeled: UDD chairperson

The man says: Yes, just chasing only this woman has made us so tired.

Bus Asia Website

July 16, 2011

Categories: Buses

[Bus Asia website](#)

Train track therapy in Indonesia

July 16, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Train track therapy in Indonesia](#) – Boing Boing, July 15, 2011

Lost rainbow toad is rediscovered

July 16, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Lost rainbow toad is rediscovered](#) – BBC, July 14, 2011

Also: [Rediscovering lost amphibians around the world](#)

No 'one size fits all' for democracy

July 16, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[No 'one size fits all' for democracy](#) – Japan Times, July 16, 2011

...On the not-wanted side, the majority said they don't want military government that produces little more than ribbons for generals, and they don't want more than half the country left out of the inner circle so that the greedy elite can slurp up all the spoils themselves. If a parliamentary democracy now headed by Yingluck Shinawatra, sister of the incisive but controversial former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, laboring in the shadow of a still-active monarchy, can produce that change, fine. If not, then further change will come. They might even rent a Lee Kuan-Yew for a time if things don't get better...

Waterboarding in Thailand

July 16, 2011

Categories: Human Rights, Thai Secret Prison

[Waterboarding in Thailand](#) – www.asiasentinel.com, July 15, 2011

...Thaksin's 2001-2006 administration coincided with the arrival of Americans who used cloaks, daggers and waterboarding to expand the US war on terror. Some critics believe the savage civil war that is going on in the south of the country can be laid directly at the door of Thaksin, who told the military to crack down on Muslim fundamentalists. Allegedly armed with the tacit encouragement of the Americans, who believed international fugitives were hiding in the south, the military did so with a macabre enthusiasm that alienated Muslims and drove them into the arms of the extremists.

In other places, the US Central Intelligence Agency established black operations where they secretly waterboarded a suspected al-Qaeda facilitator, Abu Zubaydah during 2002 while Thaksin was prime minister, flying in two American psychologists named James Mitchell and Bruce Jessen who helped create the CIA's interrogation program...

More on the [Thai Secret Prison](#)

Monks teach maleness to Thai ‘ladyboys’

July 16, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Monks teach maleness to Thai ‘ladyboys’](#) – AFP, July 16, 2011

The 15-year-old aspiring “ladyboy” delicately applied a puff of talcum powder to his nose – an act of rebellion at the Thai Buddhist temple where he is learning to “be a man”...

Thai Christianity ‘Young’, Vibrant: Evangelical Leaders

July 17, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai Christianity ‘Young’, Vibrant: Evangelical Leaders](#) – sg.christianpost.com July 16, 2011

...In addition, Christians are known for being the first to participate in disaster relief efforts.

After a tsunami hit Japan in March this year, Thai Christians collected a lot of money and sent it to Japan. Organisations like Food For The Hungry and Campus Crusade for Christ almost immediately became part of the disaster relief effort.

Around the same time, southern Thailand was hit by massive floods. Christians were also part of relief efforts there.

Amid political tension and struggle, Thai Christian leaders have been a voice of reason leading Christians to contribute toward national reconciliation...

The New Minimum Wage

July 17, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From ThaiRath, July 17, 2011

The cartoon caption reads: She has not yet taken up the post.

The man on the left, whose suit reads “Entrepreneur,” tells Yingluck: If you implement , I will overthrow your government.

The suit of the man who is holding a glass reads “Employer.”

The shirt of the man on the far right reads “Employee” and he says: If we’re not paid that, we will protest and chase out your government.

Another man is holding a sign that reads: 300 baht daily minimum wage in 6 months.

Bangkok and Phuket Workers

July 18, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, July 18, 2011

Left shirt reads: Bangkok worker

Right shirt reads: Phuket worker

Both workers say: We're sorry for workers in provinces that voted for the Pheu Thai Party. We both voted Democrat, but we'll receive the 300 baht a day before you do.

Growing Rich on the Sweat and Labor of Others

July 18, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From ThaiRath, July 18, 2011

Cartoon caption: Sacrifice for starving stomachs

At left a farmer is holding a sign that reads: Farmers grow poorer forever as rice traders grow richer.

Yingluck Shinawatra's right hand is holding the hand of the man whose shirt reads "Laborer." This man says: It's not enough to survive on.

Yingluck's left hand is taking money from the pocket of a man whose shirt reads "Feudal entrepreneur" and his pocket reads: 300-baht minimum wage

This man is holding a big bag that reads: Growing rich on the sweat and labor of others.

Left mouse says: We want justice.

Right mouse is holding a sign that reads: Release the UDD prisoners.

Releasing those suspected of committing political crimes

July 18, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, July 18, 2011

Left: The policeman says: A spy reported that a politician hired you to shoot his opponents. You must come to police station.

Middle: The man says: This case is classified as a political crime. You can't arrest me.

The policeman says: Why not?

Right: The EC said they will approve those who suspected of committing political crimes first and prosecute them later.

All the most amazing planking photos

July 18, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News



[All the most amazing planking photos](#) – IBTimes, July 13, 2011

Myanmar: A tentative opening for conscientious visitors

July 18, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[A tentative opening for conscientious visitors](http://www.theaustralian.com.au) – www.theaustralian.com.au, July 16, 2011

...But since her release from house arrest, Suu Kyi has been cautiously positive about the possible benefits of some tourism.

Cruises and package tours should not be encouraged, she told the Associated Press, but “individuals coming in to see, to study the situation in the country might be a good idea”...

Former Thai Coach Robson Caught in Press Sting

July 18, 2011

Categories: Sports

[Legend Bryan Robson's 'dodgy soccer deals' – He tells club buyers how to 'break' FA rules](http://www.thesun.co.uk) –

www.thesun.co.uk, July 17, 2011

...Bombshell footage of the ex-Manchester United skipper, 54, shows him allegedly telling would-be owners how to break FA and League rules by taking over two football clubs.

...Robson's pal Joe Sim, chief adviser to the Thai FA, says in a separate meeting: "Once you have put £5million into the fund, I'll arrange for you and me, we have dinner with Sir Alex Ferguson, then Sir Alex Ferguson will tell you that he is going to lend me the players..."

Thaksin Lobbyist Denies Involvement in Plane Seizure

July 18, 2011

Categories: Robert Amsterdam

[Thaksin Lobbyist Denies Involvement in Plane Seizure](#) – robertamsterdam.com, July 18, 2011

Eight Years Ago: Visas, residence permits face big price jump

July 18, 2011

Categories: Tourism

Eight Years Ago: [Visas, residence permits face big price jump in August](#)

“Little Sister Kicks Ass”

July 18, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Little Sister Kicks Ass](http://www.strategypage.com) – www.strategypage.com, July 17, 2011

The low-level civil war that has been going on for the last six years is over. The Royalists (yellow shirts) have acknowledged that the majority of Thais do not support them and are abiding by the results of the July 3rd election. The royalists (also called the urban elite) gained power via a coup in 2006, and held onto it using tainted elections...

Last year, the courts moved to seize half of Shinawatra's fortune (\$1.4 billion) as a fine for being corrupt. This was an unpopular move, since nearly all Thai politicians are corrupt, and people wondered who was going to get the \$1.4 billion. The red shirts threatened violence over the seizure, although Shinawatra, from exile in Dubai, urged calm and only non-violent demonstrations...

Family Guy's Evil Monkey Works for the Thai Police

July 19, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards, Thai Police



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Wearing a helmet is not difficult. It's just that we're not used to it yet. Please get into the habit of wearing it.

The monkey says: If you don't, you should be ashamed, because even monkeys can wear them. Hee hee hee!

The bottom reads: With good intentions from Police Colonel Sanoh Ornsri, Metropolitan Police Division 6

At the Emerald Buddha

July 19, 2011

Categories: Buddhism, The Monarchy



From Komchadluek, July 17, 2011

The caption reads: On July 16, 2011, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, on behalf of His Majesty the King, arrived at the main *boht* of the Temple of the Emerald Buddha at the Grand Palace to change the Emerald Buddha's robe from the hot season garment to that for the rainy season.

Wikileaks Documents: Govt ministers report to Thaksin

July 19, 2011

Categories: The Thaksin Years, Wikileaks

[WIKILEAKS DOCUMENTS Thaksin's control left in no doubt](#) – Bangkok Post, July 19, 2011

...Mr John, in a cable referenced 08BANGKOK1209, wrote that Mr Noppadon laughed when asked how much direction he took from then-deputy prime minister Mingkwan Saengsuwan.

... "I am fortunate. I am pretty independent in my work. I don't have to take instruction from anyone, and I only report to Mr Thaksin," Mr Noppadon was quoted as saying...

Military Intelligence's Ethnic Affairs Experts Released

July 19, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Military Intelligence's Ethnic Affairs Experts Released](#) – The Irrawaddy, July 19, 2011

Thai wealth management growth hampered by regulations

July 20, 2011

Categories: Economy

[Thai wealth management growth hampered by regulations](#) – Reuters, July 19, 2011

...Bankers estimate there are about 50,000 high net worth individuals (HNWIs) in Thailand who are estimated to control about 40 percent of money invested in Thai capital markets...

Ayutthaya relic in limelight at Unesco HQ

July 20, 2011

Categories: Buddhism, History

[Ayutthaya relic in limelight at Unesco HQ](#) – The nation, July 20, 2011

Six Years Ago: Anand's comments to the government

July 20, 2011

Categories: The Thaksin Years

Six Years Ago: [Anand's comments to the government](#)

Myanmar, Germany to cooperate in upgrading ports, airports

July 20, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar, Germany to cooperate in upgrading ports, airports](http://english.peopledaily.com.cn) – english.peopledaily.com.cn, July 20, 2011

German court releases Thai prince's plane

July 20, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[German court releases Thai prince's plane](#) – AFP, July 20, 2011

A German court on Wednesday ordered the release of an aircraft flown by the Thai crown prince impounded in Germany on receipt of a 20-million-euro (\$28.2-million) bank guarantee...

Old Photos of the Thai Military

July 21, 2011

Categories: Old photos and films, Thai Military



The flag reads: Department of Defense Equipment

The writing on the bottom says: Authentic swing the swing





Thailand's Irresistible Attraction for Fugitives

July 21, 2011

Categories: Crime, Thailand in the International Media

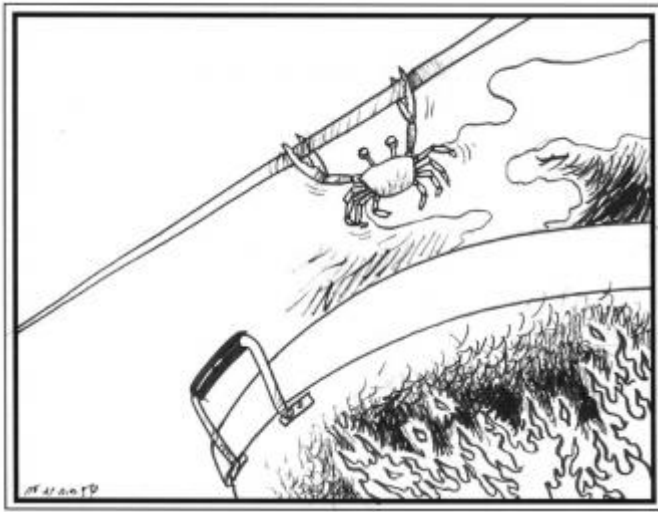
[Thailand's Irresistible Attraction for Fugitives](#) – NYT, July 20, 2011

...Many criminals seem to find refuge in Pattaya, the seedy seaside resort southeast of Bangkok known for its vast stretches of girly bars. A separate U.S. cable from 2005 said U.S. fugitives had “taken up residence in Pattaya over the years, along with people who should be getting treatment for mental illness, but are not...”

Don't Fall Into the Hot Pot

July 21, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From KhaoSod, July 21, 2011

Thailand, Sinking: Parts of Bangkok Could Be Underwater in 2030

July 21, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand, Sinking: Parts of Bangkok Could Be Underwater in 2030](#) – Time, July 21, 2011

...The city continues to multiply demographically: some 10 million people now live in the center or in the suburbs of this megalopolis. Even the weight of the skyscrapers contributes to the progressive engulfing of Bangkok. The soils descend from 1.5 to 5.3 cm each year, and a big part of the megalopolis is already under sea level...

Suu Kyi marks anniversary of father's assassination

July 21, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Suu Kyi marks anniversary of father's assassination](#) – CNN, July 20, 2011

...Meanwhile, one witness at the martyr's day event, who asked for his name not to be disclosed because he fears for his safety, said the authorities monitored Tuesday's events from a distance.

"I saw more than 10 trucks of armed police were on stand-by with full riot gear," he said. "There were around 300 police."

Agence France-Presse reported that plainclothes police took pictures of the crowds, but allowed hundreds to pass through checkpoints and continue to the memorial...

A Fake Apple Store in China

July 22, 2011

Categories: China

[A Fake Apple Store in China](#) – birdabroad.wordpress.com, July 20, 2011

Thais refuse German deal on Prince Vajiralongkorn's jet

July 22, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thais refuse German deal on Prince Vajiralongkorn's jet](#) – BBC, July 21, 2011

...But judges ruled that documentation was inconclusive, and said the jet would be released only when a payment was made.

Speaking on his return from Germany, Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya expressed confidence that the issue of ownership would be resolved at the next court hearing in the second week of August.

"We are preparing solid evidence and witnesses to prove our case that would make the 20m-euro deposit unnecessary," he told reporters...

Playing by others' rules is a losing game

July 22, 2011

Categories: Border Issues

[Playing by others' rules is a losing game](#) – The Nation, July 22, 2011

...It is a mistake for Thailand to appear before the court and put its argument. Thailand is not a member of the World Court, and it therefore has no obligation to follow the Court's orders.

Wikileaks' Cambodia Angle: New Files Show U.S. Anxiety over a Rising China

July 22, 2011

Categories: Cambodia, Wikileaks

[Wikileaks' Cambodia Angle: New Files Show U.S. Anxiety over a Rising China](#) – Time, July 21, 2011

...In April that year, the embassy was irked when Prime Minister Hun Sen praised a \$600 million Chinese aid package announced during a visit by Chinese premier Wen Jiabao as coming “without strings.” According to an unclassified cable, this was “a slap” at other aid donors, who, unlike China, placed conditions of accountability, reform and transparency on aid...

\$686 mln needed to build Cambodia-Vietnam rail route

July 22, 2011

Categories: Cambodia, Vietnam

[\\$686 mln needed to build Cambodia-Vietnam rail route](#) – Thanh Nien News, July 21, 2011

...The Vietnam News Agency quoted a Cambodian press release as saying Thursday the route would run between Kampong Speu in Cambodia and Tay Ninh Province in Vietnam...

Singapore: Murdochian Democracy?

July 22, 2011

Categories: Singapore

[Singapore: Murdochian Democracy?](#) – Asia Sentinel, July 22, 2011

Probably the most telling statement the press baron Rupert Murdoch made during his abject mea culpa before the UK Parliament Tuesday was his praise of Singapore, saying “the most open and clear society in the world... is Singapore—the cleanest society you can find anywhere—as every minister is paid at least one million dollars a year and has no temptation to transgress.”

What that statement betrays is that Rupert Murdoch appears to have no basic understanding of either independent journalism or democracy itself...

Unheralded Thai takes one-shot lead

July 22, 2011

Categories: Sports

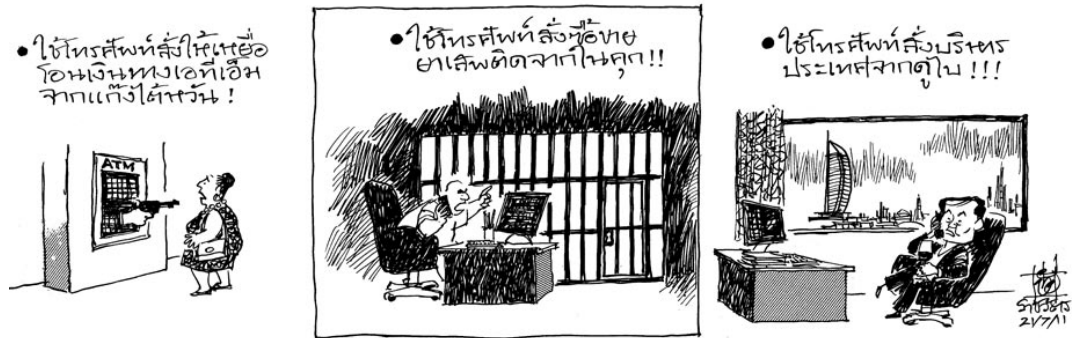
[Unheralded Thai takes one-shot lead](#) – thestar.com.my, July 22, 2011

...The pint-size Panuphol, who leads on eight-under 136. He turned professional at the age of 14. His performance surprised even himself and he was delighted to have a shot at the title...

Three Things To Use Telephones For

July 23, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, July 23, 2011

Left: Taiwanese gangs use telephones to make victims transfer money via ATM.

Middle: Prisoners use telephones to buy and sell drugs.

Right: uses telephones in Dubai to run the country .

Crown Prince urges no payment

July 23, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Crown Prince urges no payment](#) – Bangkok Post, July 23, 2011

... "His Royal Highness has been concerned about Thai people's feelings which may be misled over the issue into thinking that he violated aviation rules," said Attorney-General Chulasingh Vasantasingh at a press conference yesterday.

"I would like the Thai people to understand the Crown Prince did not commit any violations and he isn't involved in the legal fight between the government and German firm," he said...

Cambodia: World's smallest stock exchanges can only go up

July 23, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[World's smallest stock exchanges can only go up](http://www.marketwatch.com) – www.marketwatch.com, July 22, 2011

...The world's smallest exchanges are, in order of increasing size: Cambodia, Mozambique, Laos, Cameroon, Maldives, Cape Verde, Swaziland, Namibia, Libya, Armenia, Tanzania, and Syria. There combined market capitalization is far less than 1% of the New York Stock Exchange...

Why Thais still fear Thaksin Shinawatra

July 23, 2011

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Why Thais still fear Thaksin Shinawatra](#) – washingtonpost.com, July, 2011

...Over time, more Thais saw in his actions evidence that he was using his office and his enormous personal wealth to gut the constitutional reforms of any real meaning and to perpetuate himself in power. This was the main reason for the conflict between Thaksin and his opponents, not the desire of a pampered elite in Bangkok to maintain its privileges...

Sulak Sivaraksa of Thailand Receives 28th Niwano Peace Prize

July 23, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Sulak Sivaraksa of Thailand Receives 28th Niwano Peace Prize](#) – PRNewswire, July 23, 2011

The Niwano Peace Foundation awarded the 28th Niwano Peace Prize to Sulak Sivaraksa of Thailand on July 23 in recognition of his contribution to a new understanding of peace, democracy and development and to environmental preservation based on the core principles of his Buddhist faith...

Cambodian PM Denounces U.S.-Funded Radio As Unfair

July 23, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodian PM Denounces U.S.-Funded Radio As Unfair](#) – AP, July 22, 2011

...Hun Sen said Friday that reports broadcast in the Cambodian language by Voice of America and Radio Free Asia were groundless. The stations carry news and analysis sometimes critical of the government on subjects such as human rights and corruption...

Customers angry, staff defiant at China's fake Apple Store

July 23, 2011

Categories: China

[Customers angry, staff defiant at China's fake Apple Store](#) – Reuters, July 22, 2011

..."The media is painting us to be a fake store but we don't sell fakes, all our products are real, you can check it yourself," said one employee, who didn't want to give his name.

"There is no Chinese law that says I can't decorate my shop the way I want to decorate it..."

Before and After

July 24, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, July 24, 2011

The title reads: Before and After

Top left: Before – MPs greet people

After – People greet MPs!

Top middle: Before – Every promise to be performed suddenly

After – Must take action after discussion with every section

Top right: Before – If my son failed to be MP, I will not take any position .

After – My speech is merely the vote canvassing strategy

Bottom left: Before – Government allows the labor wages of 300.

After – The employer gives white letter

Bottom right: Before – Being peasant

After – Being aristocrat

10 Best Thai Romance Movies

July 24, 2011

Categories: Film and TV

[10 Best Thai Romance Movies](#) – screenjunkies.com, July 23, 2011

Cambodian PM warns main opposition party for Jasmine Revolution plot

July 24, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodian PM warns main opposition party for Jasmine Revolution plot](#) – Xinhua, July 23, 2011

...”How many are your supporters? They can come, we welcome, the ruling Cambodian People’s Party has its own supporters too, you want to use people to topple us; we will have our people to defend the government as well...”

Of slow cha-chas and service elevators

July 25, 2011

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[Of slow cha-chas and service elevators](http://www.sunstar.com.ph) – www.sunstar.com.ph, July 23, 2011

...Welcome to Bangkok, where not only the people look like Filipinos (except that Thai language sounds very foreign, and so is their alphabet, errrr... characters... or whatever), their buildings, too...

I want to be the one who “clicks”

July 25, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards



The sign reads: I want to be the one who “clicks.” Please vote for Phak Phon Non Deuk.

A Tale of Two Countries: Family Planning in the Philippines and Thailand

July 25, 2011

Categories: Health, The Philippines

[A Tale of Two Countries: Family Planning in the Philippines and Thailand](#) – opinion.inquirer.net, July 23, 2011

...Essentially, the tale is how, starting from the same point in the early seventies, Thailand and the Philippines took separate routes, with contrasting results. Currently, Thailand has a much smaller population, a much bigger economy, fewer people living in poverty, and a better quality of life for the general population. What accounted for the difference? “Thailand,” says Nibhon, “took family planning seriously...”

Britain Asks Thai Authorities To DNA Test Professor in Kirsty Jones Murder Enquiry

July 25, 2011

Categories: Crime

[Britain Asks Thai Authorities To DNA Test Professor in Kirsty Jones Murder Enquiry](#) – www.andrew-drummond.com, July 23, 2011

...”Dyfed-Powys police have constantly to suggest lines of enquiry to the DSI,” he said, ‘It is a constant struggle to obtain accurate information from the Thai authorities. It appears that action takes place only after pressure is placed on the Thai authorities by the UK Police, the family, or the Foreign Office...’”

The World's Favorite Food? Massaman Curry

July 25, 2011

Categories: Food and Drink

[World's 50 most delicious foods](#) – www.cnn.go.com, July 11, 2011

And a [thread on the forum](#)

Asking for...

July 26, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, July 26, 2011

The cartoon headline: Whose voice is louder

On the paper Yingluck is holding: The problem of the cost of living, the revival of the economy

The giant military figure says: Asking for 30 helicopters

The common people on the left are saying:

Asking for labor wage 300 baht per day

Asking for land zone to earn a living

Asking for enough rice

Asking for justice

The sign the mouse is holding: Release the UDD prisoners

Ashamed to Listen

July 26, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, July 26, 2011

From the TV: The cabinet is formed inside Thailand by party party members. Mr. Thaksin does not take part.

The people say: Oui! Ayy

The caption reads: If the one who lies does not feel ashamed, those who listen to it must feel ashamed.

Run up to the top of the mountain...

July 27, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, July 27, 2011

The soldier is saying: Run up to the top of the mountain within 30 minutes. Those who cannot reach it will face punishment by taking a helicopter there.

The caption reads: The training of Thai soldiers

Thai woman ‘cried’ next to shot rhino

July 27, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Thai woman ‘cried’ next to shot rhino](#) – www.news24.com, July 25, 2011

...Wan said she was told to pose for a photo “to show that we were there for a holiday and that we had fun”.

Motorbike muggers prowl city's streets – New 'Tigers' gang targets mobile phone users

July 27, 2011

Categories: Crime

[Motorbike muggers prowl city's streets](#) – New 'Tigers' gang targets mobile phone users – Bangkok Post, July 25, 2011

...The unusual aspects of the attack on the respected expatriate prompted the Metropolitan Police Bureau to broaden the investigation into the case as it happened at a busy time in a main business area of the city...

Thaksin Promises He'll Forgive Everybody

July 27, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thaksin Promises He'll Forgive Everybody](#) – www.asiasentinel.com, July 25, 2011

...During the two-part interview which was aired from July 18-19, Thaksin masqueraded as a moral leader who was ready to forgive his enemies. But there was one cynical flaw; he only saw faults in others but none in himself...

Germany tells govt to pay contractor

July 27, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Germany tells govt to pay contractor](#) – Bangkok Post, July 27, 2011

...”The judgement is final,” the embassy said. “In line with the Investment Protection Treaty between Germany and Thailand, the German government expects the Thai government to fulfil its obligation ... as soon as possible.”

The embassy said reports in the Thai media about ongoing proceedings in New York are misleading...

Split personalities revealed in Cambodia

July 27, 2011

Categories: Cambodia, Wikileaks

[Split personalities revealed in Cambodia](#) – atimes.com, July 27, 2011

...Other tycoons mentioned include CPP Senator Ly Yong Phat, who maintains a formidable economic fief in the southwestern province of Koh Kong; Sok Kong, who heads Sokimex, the country's largest petroleum supplier that also controls the lucrative ticket revenues from the famous Angkor Wat temple complex; and Lao Meng Khin, a commercial jack-of-all-trades with a seat in the senate, a powerful, well-connected wife and lucrative construction, logging and agribusiness concessions...

Cambodia's 'orphan tourism' sparks concern

July 27, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia's 'orphan tourism' sparks concern](#) – AFP, July 27, 2011

...Her advice to tourists pondering a brief working stint at an orphanage is simple: "Don't go. Give blood, support a community-based organisation that provides day activities for a child but where the children go home at night..."

Prayuth names reporters for criticizing the military – Reds Insinuate Royal Status for Thaksin

July 27, 2011

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



Above: Thai Post, July 27, 2011 – Thaksin raised on par with monarchy – Reds celebrate his birthday, put statues of some significant kings on the same level as Thaksin

[Prayuth names newspapers and reporters for criticizing the military, Thaksin reigns in Red Shirts who insinuate Thaksin's royal status](#) – The Nation, July 27, 2011

Thais Busted Trying Phuket Con Trick in Vietnam

July 28, 2011

Categories: Crime

[Thais Busted Trying Phuket Con Trick in Vietnam](#) – phuketwan.com, July 26, 2011

...The 11 were given a list of Thai names and numbers to call. The men would pretend to be police or members of the Department of Special Investigations, the women would call and say they represented a government bank.

Working to a prepared script, the callers enticed victims to pay five baht for every 100 baht advanced as part of a "special offer..."

Can eating dogs be done humanely?

July 28, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Can eating dogs be done humanely?](#) – globalpost.com, July 25, 2011

Cease and Desist orders relating to the web and Thailand

July 28, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Cease and Desist orders relating to the web and Thailand](#) – www.chillingeffects.org, July 26, 2011

Is Myanmar the Origin of the World?

July 28, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Is Myanmar the Origin of the World?](http://www.sci-tech-today.com) – www.sci-tech-today.com, July 26, 2011

...”After laboratory tests and analysis of international organizations, a consensus was reached that Pontaung anthropoid primate fossils date back 40 million years, earlier than 33-million-year-old primate fossils discovered in Africa,” the minister said.

“Thus, the world has acknowledged that Myanmar is the origin of the world,” he said.

“These findings have enhanced the national prestige of Myanmar people, proving the origin of Myanmar originated in Pontaung-Ponnya, lived through the Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age and City States Age and King Anawratha established the First Myanmar Empire in Bagan in 1044 AD,” the minister added...

Myanmar is No.1 in Attack Traffic

July 28, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar is No.1 in Attack Traffic](#) – www.esecurityplanet.com, July 26, 2011

...Myanmar, the country formerly known as Burma, now tops the list, representing 13 percent of all attack traffic observed by Akamai. Myanmar's top billing is particularly suprising given that the small south Asian country did not rank in the top 10 originating countries for attack traffic at the end of 2010...

Bangkok artist makes drivable sci-fi sculpture out of spare parts

July 28, 2011

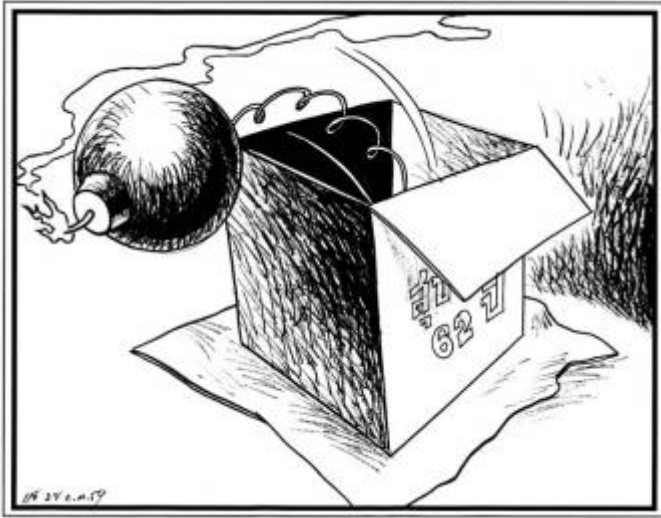
Categories: Art

[That motorbike is out of this world: Bangkok artist makes drivable sci-fi sculpture out of spare parts](#) – Daily Mail, July 28, 2011

Bomb in the Box

July 29, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Khaosod, July 29, 2011

The word on the box is reads: Happy 62 years

Bomb Detector

July 29, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Daily News, July 29, 2011

Kha Pra Lam Cartoon by Khuad

Top left: The Blackhawk crash is not the matter to blame on corruption in helicopter purchase.

Top right: In regards with the Army weapon purchase, the case is transparent and can be proved.

How?

Bottom: You can use the GT 2000 .

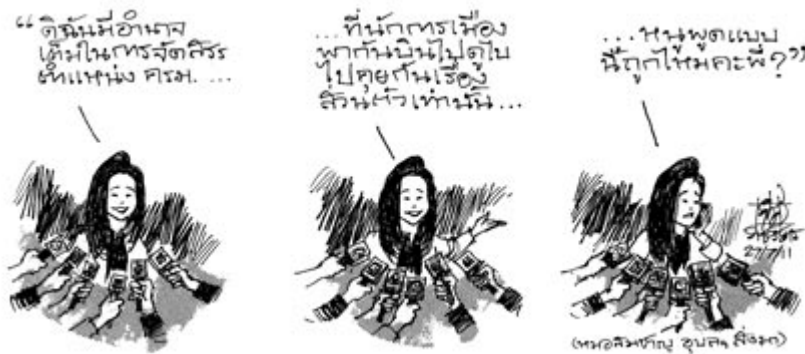
The sign on the left side reads: 100% transparency

The sign on the left side read: Corruption

I have the absolute power to arrange the cabinet

July 29, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Thairath, July 29, 2011

Left, Yingluck: I have the absolute power to arrange the cabinet.

Middle: The politicians who flew to Dubai, they merely talk on personal matters.

Right, Yingluck: I said it right, brother?

Jetstar denies exploiting cabin crew

July 29, 2011

Categories: Airports and Airlines

[Jetstar denies exploiting cabin crew](#) – www.abc.net.au, July 28, 2011

...An employment contract for crew based in Thailand also shows there are no limits to the hours staff can be made to work...

Second fainting incident at Puma factory in Cambodia sparks alarm

July 29, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Second fainting incident at Puma factory in Cambodia sparks alarm](#) – DPA, July 26, 2011

Plant evolved a bat beckoning beacon

July 29, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Plant evolved a bat beckoning beacon](#) – BBC, July 29, 2011

Bangkok real estate ‘heading for bubble’

July 29, 2011

Categories: Property and Development

[Bangkok real estate ‘heading for bubble’](#) – thephuketnews.com, July 29, 2011

...He said entrepreneurs are confident in the country’s economic expansion. But he warned that if the economy slows in 2013 because of political factors or increased foreign competition, or both, buyers may not be able to keep up with payments on their property.

In addition, he pointed out, the higher supply of real estate and the atmosphere of bullishness could lead to rising competition among banks in the home loan sector, which in turn could lead to increasing amounts of bad debt or non-performing loans.

He added another disturbing factor is that real estate purchases nowadays “are mostly speculative”, especially for condominiums selling for less than B1 million...

EC Chief Says NLD Threatened Junta with ‘Nuremburg-style’ Trial

July 30, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[EC Chief Says NLD Threatened Junta with ‘Nuremburg-style’ Trial](#) – The Irrawaddy, July 29, 2011

...Tin Aye was apparently referring to a comment by late NLD leader Kyi Maung, who said in early July 1990, about a month after the 1990 election that “here in Burma, we do not need any Nuremberg-style tribunal” when he was asked by a foreign journalist if the NLD would require putting the military on trial for past crimes...

British father who faked his own death found sleeping rough on Thai airport bench

July 30, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[‘I’ve been living a lie for too long’: The 53-year-old British father who faked his own death after wife’s breast op in Moscow found sleeping rough on Thai airport bench](#) – Daily Mail, July 29, 2011

...But when we caught up with him, he was chain smoking 50p-a-pack local cigarettes at Bangkok airport, where he was begging for money and sleeping on benches.

His entire belongings comprised two t-shirts, a pair of combat trousers, a shoulder bag and a filthy pair of flip-flops after the rest of his possessions were stolen...

Cambodia's 'Aw, Shucks' Banker

July 30, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia's 'Aw, Shucks' Banker](#) – Forbes, July 29, 2011

...Foreign banks are starting to wake up to Cambodia's potential. Malaysia's CIMB and Maybank have opened branches and are said to be seeking acquisitions. ANZ Bank has a head start with its joint venture with Royal Group, while the Pung family-owned Canadia Bank, the second-largest lender, is courting strategic investors for a 30% stake...

Turkey in crisis after military top brass quit

July 30, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Turkey in crisis after military top brass quit](#) – Bangkok Post, July 30, 2011

Turkey was thrown into a crisis Saturday after its top military brass resigned in the latest episode of a fight between the Islamist-rooted government and the staunchly secularist army.

The military police chief of the country was named acting chief-of-staff and the commander of land forces late Friday, in a quick move to contain the crisis...

Thai Politics: A Family Business

July 31, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Family Business](#) – Bangkok Post, July 31, 2011

...Need to borrow some quick cash? Done. Want your newly graduated son hired by a certain company? Done. Want daughter to attend a particular school? Done. Need pesky bookie to back off a little? Done. Parties and festivals to keep the "serfs" happy? Done. Fat envelopes for weddings and funerals? Done and done. And the latest trend – populist polices? Done.

So when election time comes, the hua-kanaan, or canvasser—the ears, eyes and bulging biceps of the lords and barons, many also heads of the district administrative offices—will make sure that the X is marked in the right box. What happens if a district votes against its patron? The many political assassinations, failed and successful, before and after the July 3 general election, are examples of the extreme repercussions....

Thailand's Military Crisis?

July 31, 2011

Categories: Thai Military

[Thailand's Military Crisis?](#) – the-diplomat.com, July 29, 2011

...However, a broader explanation is that when the military effectively sets its own budget and determines its own priorities, the taxpayer gets very poor value for money and the armed forces themselves don't always get investment in the things they really need. The problem for Thailand is that these are policy areas that Yingluck's incoming administration, for all its ambitious campaign promises, will not dare to go anywhere near.

Cambodian Army conducting a recruiting drive

July 31, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

[Cambodia Cleans Out The Pretenders](#) – strategypage.com, July 30, 2011

Briton 'left to die' in Thai jail returns home

July 31, 2011

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[Briton 'left to die' in Thai jail returns home](http://www.mirror.co.uk) – www.mirror.co.uk, July 31, 2011

...Richard Hewitt, 49, was chained, stripped and forced to fight for food after he was found wandering the streets of Pattaya in a drug haze.

Part of his unofficial punishment was to survive eight weeks on his own despite not being convicted...

Threatening and Bowing

August 1, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, August 1, 2011

Left: Release Jatuporn immediately. Without release, we will threaten you to death and torch the Election Commission Office totally!!!

The caption on the left: The Red Shirt rally pressures the Election Commission

The caption on the right side: We are asking Khun Poo to kindly choose Mr. Apiwan if not, we will disperse silently with humbleness.

The caption on the right: Pressuring Poo

Choosing the Right House Speaker

August 1, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, August 1, 2011

At top: Her first barrier to maintaining stability for “Poo 1”

Yingluck is holding an envelope that says: House Speaker

Left thought balloon: King-cobra speaker

Upper-right thought balloon: Decoy-target speaker

Lower-right thought balloon: Two-faced speaker

Sign in front of the chair: House speaker

The mouse holds a sign that reads: Release the UDD prisoners.

The other mouse says: Making incorrect choices could cause the country to collapse.

Lurking danger of earthquakes

August 1, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Lurking danger of earthquakes – Few buildings constructed to withstand temblors](#) – Bangkok Post, July 30, 2011

Fencing Off Sanam Luang

August 1, 2011

Categories: Analysis



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: *July 31, 2011 – Fencing around Sanam Luang*

In the years since the 2006 coup, the authorities have been clever in making sure key protest areas have been off limits to protesters. Most Thai parks are gated and guarded—ostensibly to control crime and stop rural people visiting Bangkok from sleeping in parks to save money. While fences can be easily torn down by protesters, the idea that politically important Sanam Luang is to be fenced and regulated like all other parks marks a turning point in its history.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: [October, 2006 at Thammasat](#) – One of the iconic images from 1976: Right-wing mobs beating the corpses of lynched protestors.

Sanam Luang has long been a focal point for political protest. Thammasat University faces on the park and its undergraduates in particular have been active in political protest in the past—particularly during the 1973, 1976, and 1992 events.

In 1992, the military-dominated government floated the idea of fencing off Sanam Luang. This idea was hotly contested by activists and the public at large as it was seen as an attempt to curtail protests that were simmering over the continued military capture of the government.

Later, during the Thaksin years, the plan to relocate Thammasat undergraduates to the remote Rangsit campus was vigorously pushed. The stated reason was to relieve overcrowding at the campus, but many activists and students saw the move as part of a plan to ensure a student uprising in the key area of Sanam Luang would not imperil Thaksin rule as it had for others who had overreached in the past.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: November 28, 2004 – Thaksin mobilized [yellow-shirted Village Scouts at Sanam Luang](#) in an attempt to foster a nationalistic response to the resurgence in violence in the deep south. As scouts assisted in the massacre of protesters at Thammasat University in 1976, the spectacle of them marching by the university again raised suspicions about the message they were sending to Thaksin's growing opposition at the time.

Fencing off Sanam Luang would have been unthinkable 10 years ago, but the tumultuous events of recent years changed everything. In the last decade the paradigm of “the military vs the people with the monarchy as final arbiter” has fallen by the wayside. In this age, political battles are fought with sponsorship from ambitious tycoons in the background with the goal being total power—with no polite Thai-style backing down in the service of unity.

Protest is still seen as undesirable and no defined societal limits have developed for it. From Yellow Shirts taking over the airport to Red Shirts threatening to burn down the city, there is still very little sense of protest as a desirable part of the normal democratic discourse. Protest remains a go-for-broke undertaking, up to and including making sure the monarchy is embroiled in a partisan way.



(Photo:
2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Marketing vs reality views of Sanam Luang – September 27, 2008

An “Amazing Thailand” poster in the subway (left). Instead of lush green fields in the marketing version, the reality is a sandy, semi-paved expanse (above) where, from time to time, anti-PAD crowds are plied with cans of Leo Beer as speakers exhort them “settle” the PAD.

In recent years, the park has been an arid, brick-paved expanse most often used for parking buses. This is in contrast to politically peaceful years in the past when it was annually re-sodded. It is likely the park was purposely allowed to languish to make it a less inviting place to stage rallies.

This is complicated by the success these protests have had. The Yellow Shirt protests of 2008 were successful in stalling the government in its plans for constitutional amendments to clear Thaksin. The Red Shirt sieges of Bangkok of 2009 and 2010 were apparently unsuccessful on the ground, but protester deaths appear to have ignited a popular upsurge in sympathy. Coupled with economic issues, Red popularity in the service of Thaksin swept the Democrats from power.

How the military and police interact with protesters remains critical. During tough times security forces often have appeared to be unwilling or unable to follow orders, much less take action. Considering the tricky blame game that surrounds Thai protest, this is probably understandable.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: [*Thai Rak Thai rally at Sanam Luang*](#) – March 3, 2006

The fencing represents the end of an era for the area. Undergraduate university students are no longer politically active. The idea that Sanam Luang or other downtown areas are effective or desirable protest sites is no longer valid.

The pro-Thaksin camp in particular realized that protests downtown were having little practical or psychological effect since the real business of the city and nation takes place elsewhere. Rajaprasong, the new heart of Bangkok, was chosen to ensure the Red Shirt siege could not be disregarded (unlike the recently ended and virtually ignored PAD protest at government house).

The development of Rajaprasong area security will be worth watching. Rajaprasong remains a rallying cry for the Red Shirts and their hollowed ground. The Yellow Shirts and the Democrats have rallied there as well. It will especially interesting to see if the area can be made off limits over some pretext in the same way multiple areas have been made unavailable in the old part of downtown Bangkok.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: *July 31, 2011 – Fencing around Sanam Luang*

Telex: A New Way Around Internet Censorship?

August 1, 2011

Categories: Censorship

[A New Way Around Internet Censorship?](#) – www.npr.org, July 31, 2011

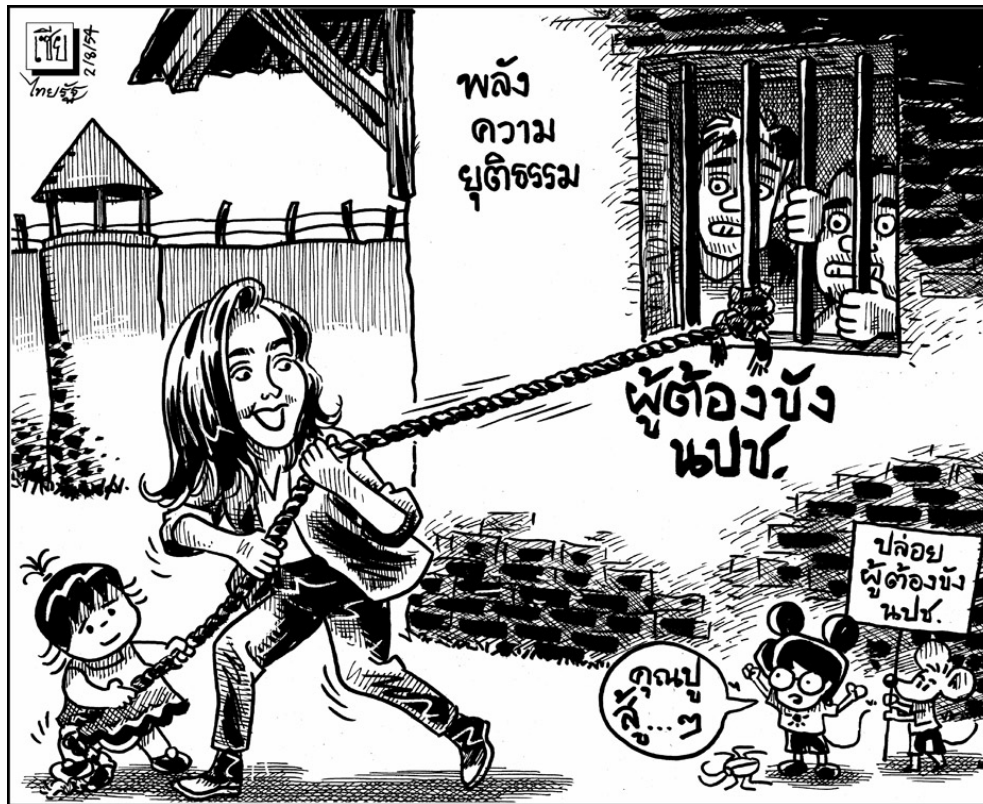
[Telex: an infrastructure-level response to state Internet censorship](#) – BoingBoing, July 18, 2011

[Telex.cc](#)

Breaking the Reds Out of Jail

August 2, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, August 2, 2011

The word on top: The power of justice

The word close to the rope: UDD prisoner

On sign hold by mouse: Release UDD political prisoners

The mouse say: Mrs. Poo, fingers crossed for you

Dusit Poll: Do people trust polls or astrologers more?

August 2, 2011

Categories: Local Beliefs, Polls

Considering the disastrous performance of exit polling during the July 3 election and the continued prominence of soothsayers' predictions on the front pages of Thai-language newspapers, one might assume Thais continue to put stock in astrology over polls.

A Dusit Poll released on July 29, 2011 surveyed 1305 nationwide and found:

Does the public rely more on poll results or astrologers' prediction concerning political matters?

Not relying on either 45.52%

Reason: The results contain errors, it must be based on paper evidence and other things for consideration, they can be an attempt to generate trends or beliefs in society, etc.

Relying more on polls 41.38%

Reason: There is a research approach that is reliable and can be proved based on answers by respondents.

Relying on both equally 10.34%

Reason: Despite the scientific approach, there are significant results in predictions.

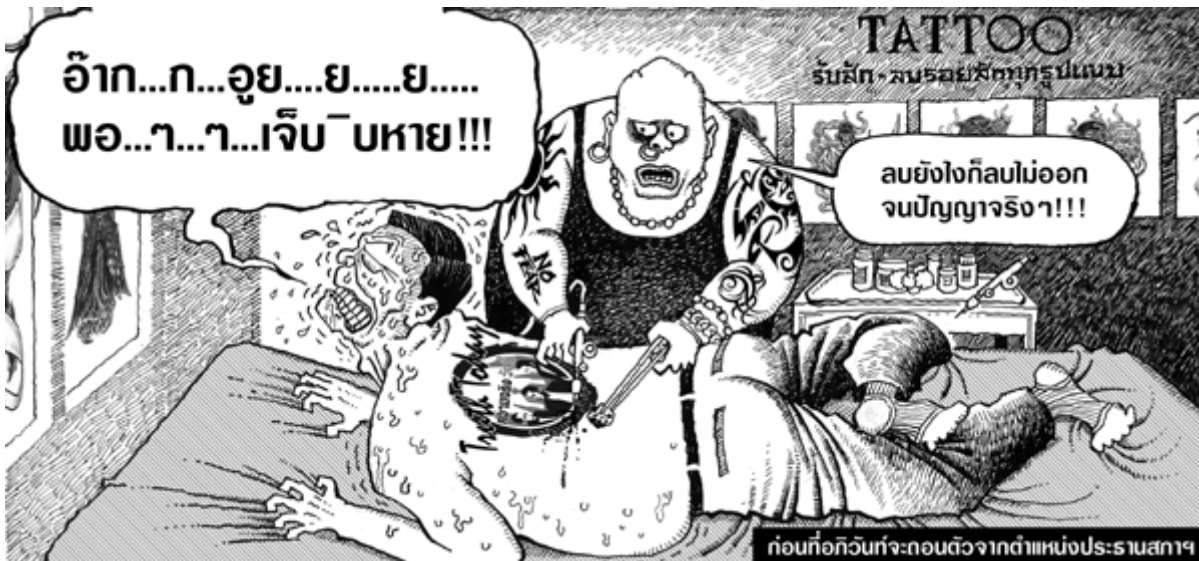
Relying on astrologers' prediction 2.76%

Reason: This science is accepted and exists since ancient times.

Removing a Tattoo

August 2, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, August 2, 2011

The cartoon caption: AKKK OUY... Enough... enough... it is bloody painful.

The tattooist says: How to delete, I cannot.

The caption reads: Before Apiwan refused to take the House Speaker position.

The word on the wall behind: Tattoo – Tattoo service – Every type

On the man's back is logo of the Red Shirt TV program Truth Today

Don't be careless

August 2, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, August 21, 2011

Cartoon title: Don't be careless

Top left: Being careless for only a short moment, Thai dogs are served in Vietnamese restaurants.

Top middle: Being careless for only a short moment, Cambodia stole Thai traditional dances by registering them.

Top right: Being careless for only a short moment, quickly changed its color to welcome the new PM.

Bottom left: Being careless for only a short moment, English adolescents copied Thais' protesting style.

Bottom middle: Being careless for only a short moment, young vocational students transform buses into rock-throwing trucks.

Bottom right: Being careless for only a short moment, has already stolen many chickens.

Five nabbed in Thai fake sex drugs swoop: police

August 2, 2011

Categories: Drugs

[Five nabbed in Thai fake sex drugs swoop: police](#) – www.mysinchew.com, August 2, 2011

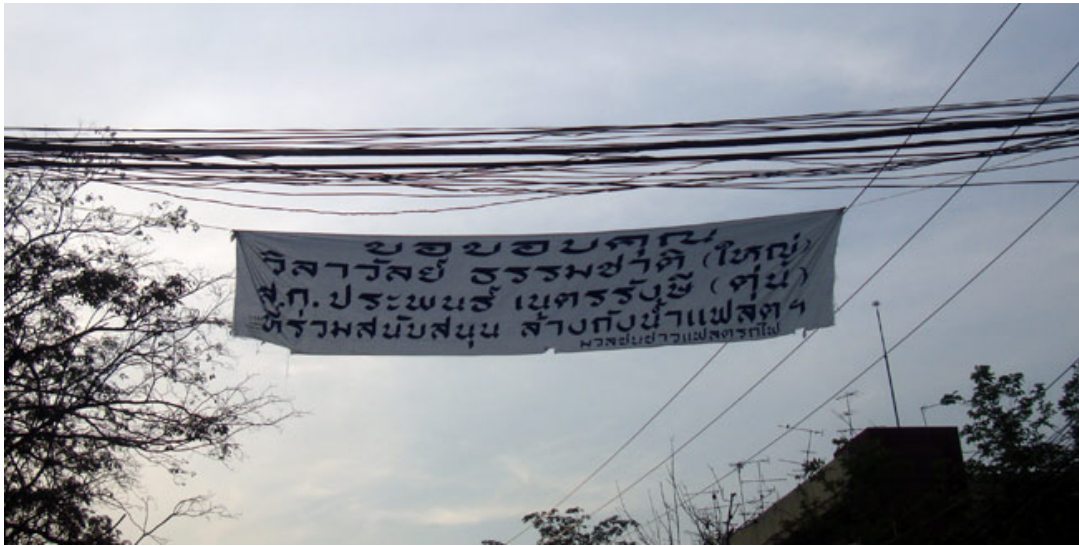
...These included various types of Viagra, “Waman penis enlarging tablet”, Kamagra oral jelly — in banana, apple and blackcurrant flavours — and an item intriguingly listed as “Night fire heartily burnable lady’s intense emotion”.

“This has tarnished Thailand’s tourism image,” said an official from the Thai Food and Drug Administration, which also took part in the raids.

Thanks for Cleaning Out Our Water Tanks

August 3, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards

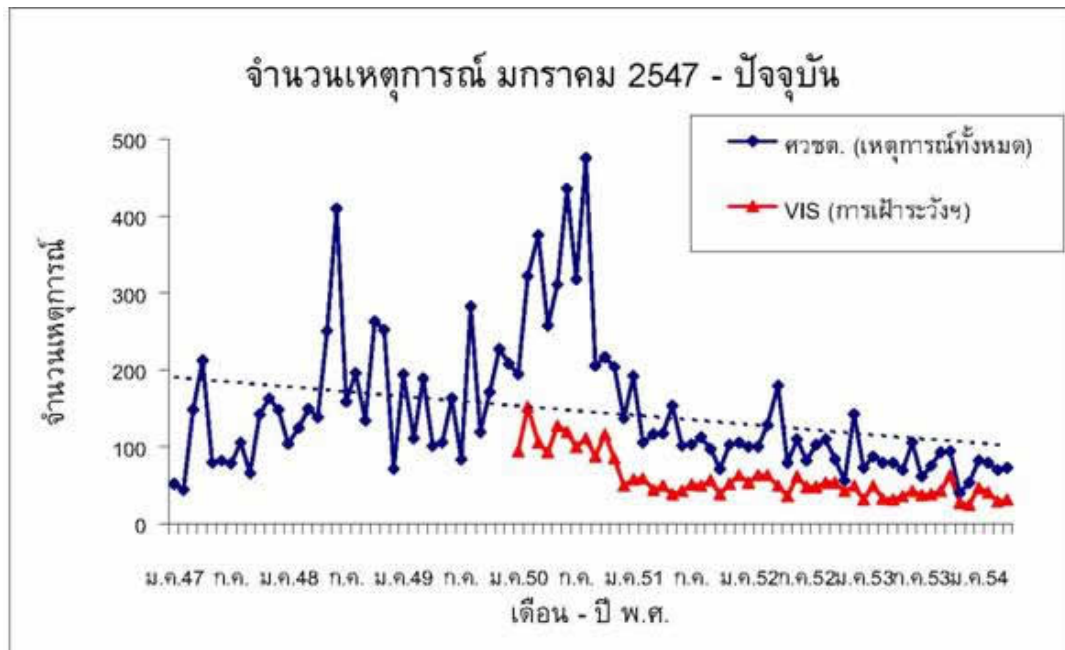


The sign reads: Thanks to Wilawan Thammachat (Yai) and Bangkok Metropolitan Council Member Prapon Naterangsi (Toon) for their support in cleaning out apartment buildings' water tanks. Residents of the State Railway of Thailand's apartments.

Violence in the Deep South getting worse?

August 3, 2011

Categories: Analysis, The Thai Deep South



Above: Numbers of violent incidents since January 2004 through April 2011. 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). Source: Deep South Violence-related Injury Surveillance statistics

[Thailand's Muslim Insurgency: Now What?](#) – foreignpolicyblogs.com, August 2, 2011

...Perhaps foreign policy analysts will soon take more notice because, as argued by Patrick Winn at Global Post, Thailand's Islamic insurgency now threatens to be Asia's biggest and bloodiest...

[Introduction: Asia's bloodiest insurgency](#) – www.globalpost.com, July 27, 2011

All-Buddhist militias in southern Thailand must defend themselves against Islamic militants. Their temples have become fortresses ringed with razor wire...

[Part 1: How did insurgents master bomb-making?](#) – www.globalpost.com, July 27, 2011

According to a rebel spokesman, they Googled it...

[Part 4: Quietly, the U.S. aids terror fight](#) – www.globalpost.com, July 27, 2011

The hush-hush nature of America's involvement partly explains why the Western world remains so blind to this conflict...

Asia's top women keep it in the family — for now

August 3, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Asia's top women keep it in the family — for now](#) – AFP, August 3, 2011

Thailand's first female prime minister will this week join a long list of Asian women leaders whose power stems from family ties, with analysts saying the trend is a mixed blessing for equality.

Political novice Yingluck Shinawatra went from virtual unknown to election victor in a matter of weeks after her brother, fugitive former leader Thaksin, endorsed her Pheu Thai party's candidacy, assuring voters she was his "clone".

Her stellar rise, set to be formally completed this week, mirrors stories from across Asia, with a collection of women whose family names — and often the death of a male predecessor — propelled them to power...

Experiencing Thainess

August 3, 2011

Categories: Culture and Society

[Experiencing Thainess](#) – TAT, August 3, 2011

...Thailand's renowned hospitality grew from traditional customs that still shape modern Thai life, bind the land's diverse cultures with core values, and imbue activities with gentle zest. Thainess is an intangible heritage – and an attraction in itself...

Angel's hole for teaching politics

August 4, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, August 4, 2011

Cartoon says: He finally gives his gift at the hole.

On the sign: Angel's hole for teaching politics

Voice from inside the hole: In a bad mood.

On the iron ball: Ninety-one deaths

Bottom right: Election Committee

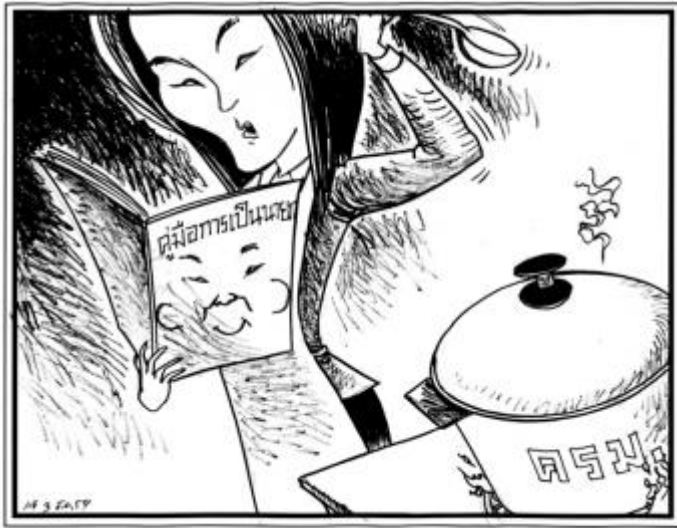
Left mouse: We want freedom and justice.

On the right mouse's sign: Release the UDD prisoners.

Yingluck Cooking a Cabinet

August 4, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Khasod, August 4, 2011

The words on the book: How to be PM Manual

The word on the cooking pot: Cabinet

Thaksin's face is on the book

Thaksin demands a ‘clean’ cabinet

August 4, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thaksin demands a ‘clean’ cabinet](#) – Bangkok Post, August 4, 2011

...Thaksin has let it be known he wants the first Yingluck cabinet to look good. A party source said he has been trying to recruit respected figures from outside the political arena despite the pressure from party factions demanding recognition in the form of ministerial seats.

Thaksin’s firm grip on the party’s fortunes mean red shirt leaders elected to parliament may not be invited into the cabinet. But the source said they could take over posts in any reshuffles that occur later...

[Cabinet line-up to show Thaksin’s resolve](#) – The Nation, August 4, 2011

...Moreover, Thaksin will appoint people who can tolerate different views and are ready to work with all parties as ministers in security-related posts, such as the deputy prime minister overseeing security issues, and at the Interior and Defence ministries.

“Thaksin wants those who can tolerate criticism, and not people who immediately counter what is said. He doesn’t want the ‘hard core’ as ministers, as they would love to create violence and destroy the atmosphere of reconciliation, and especially the image of Yingluck’s first Cabinet,” a key Pheu Thai member said...

‘New’ Sanam Luang To Open

August 4, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[‘New’ Sanam Luang to open](#) – The Nation, August 4, 2011

...Political rallies or demonstrations are not allowed without permission of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, which is now authorised to slap a maximum sentence of 10-years’ imprisonment and/or a Bt1-million fine on violators under the amended regulations.

...Sanam Luang will be guarded around the clock by 100 municipal police, working in three eight-hour shifts. There are another 42 surveillance cameras installed to keep watch on intruders and streetwalkers...

More: [Analysis – Fencing Off Sanam Luang](#)

Maplecroft: Thailand at extreme risk of terrorism

August 4, 2011

Categories: Terrorism

[Newly formed South Sudan joins Somalia, Pakistan, Iraq and Afghanistan at top of Maplecroft terrorism ranking](#) – attacks up 15% globally – Maplecroft, August 3, 2011

...“Although some countries are rated as ‘extreme risk’, terrorism attacks can be limited to a specific region or a relatively small number of areas. Thailand is a case in point, where the majority of attacks take place in the southern states,” continued Skinner...

[Somalia heads terrorism risk, S.Sudan in top 5-survey](#) – AP, August 3, 2011

...The only Western European country seen at high risk was Greece, assessed at 27, down from 24, due to violent left-wing groups. The next most at risk was Britain, rated at 38, up from 46, while France was at 45, barely changed from 44.

The survey period did not cover an attack in Norway by anti-Muslim zealot Anders Behring Breivik, who killed 77 people in Oslo and a nearby island.

After the attack, some analysts argued that terrorism monitoring had been skewed towards the threat of violence from Muslim groups, ignoring the danger posed by far right westerners.

The survey rated Norway at a lowly 112.

The Problem With Organic

August 5, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[The problem with organic](#) – The Nation, August 4, 2011

...The main problem with organic rice farming, says Nanta, is that it's too labour intensive. Everything has to be done by hand including weed removal.

"It was costing me Bt2,000 to get rid of weeds every time. It's much easier and cheaper to use chemical weed-killer," she says.

She's now opted for cost-reduction farming, which allows the use of herbicide and insecticides though not chemical fertilisers...

Fragrant thanaka is truly a Burmese household tradition

August 5, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Beauty That's More Than Skin Deep](#) – The Irrawaddy, August 5, 2011

Burmese women feel great pride when they are asked to explain the golden paste covering their faces. This traditional skin conditioner has been used in Burmese society for centuries and is a cherished part of the national identity...

Thai Film Archive celebrates trains and Ratana Pestonji

August 5, 2011

Categories: Film and TV

[Thai Film Archive celebrates trains and Ratana Pestonji](http://thaifilmjournal.blogspot.com) – thaifilmjournal.blogspot.com, August 5, 2011

...Dome notes that lots of hard-core movie fans and film archivists are also railfans. There must be something about the clicky-clack sound of films running through projectors and trains on the track. For Thailand, there's a stronger, historical connection. One of the key developers of the film industry in Thailand was the Topical Film Service of the Royal State Railways of Siam, formed in 1922 to shoot newsreels and documentaries as well as commercial features. The Topical Film Service had a hand in the now-lost Hollywood silent film *Miss Suwanna of Siam*...

Thaksin Lobbyist Joins Legal Team of Nigerian Politician Yusuf Tuggar

August 6, 2011

Categories: Robert Amsterdam

[Amsterdam & Peroff LLP Joins Legal Team of Nigerian Politician Yusuf Tuggar to Fight Electoral Fraud Case](#) – PR NewsWire, August 5, 2011

Going to Siriraj or Dubai?

August 7, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, August 7, 2011

One of the cabinet members boarding the plane says: If we are going to Siriraj , why do we need to go by plane!?

Yingluck says: Oh! I thought that we must go to Dubai.

Village Headman Elections: A deliciously feudalistic dish

August 7, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[A deliciously feudalistic dish](#) – Bangkok Post, August 7, 2011

...the minimum age for eligibility to contest for the seat of village or district head is 25 years old. So a powerful local politician can put his 25-year-old son up for election. If elected, his reign is 35 years of lording it over his very own little fiefdom...

China: Ominous rise of a thirsty dragon

August 7, 2011

Categories: China

[Ominous rise of a thirsty dragon](#) – indiatimes.com, August 7, 2011

...The consequences of such frenetic construction are already visible. First, China is now involved in water disputes with almost all its riparian neighbours, ranging from big Russia and India to weak clients like North Korea and Myanmar...

Thailand's human trafficking draws UN attention

August 7, 2011

Categories: Human Rights

[Thailand's human trafficking draws UN attention](#) – DPA, August 7, 2011

... 'For two years I never left the factory once,' Ei Phyo said. 'Even when I had paid back the debt they wouldn't let me go outside because the boss said it wasn't right to take a break right after paying him back.' Finally she managed to escape by putting her regular clothes on under her uniform and shedding her factory outfit after taking out the trash through a back exit.

'Now that factory has built a taller wall around it to make sure no one gets out..'

A state-of-the-art subway in impoverished Burma?

August 7, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[A state-of-the-art subway in impoverished Burma?](#) – Global Post, August 7, 2011

[Russia to build metro in Naypyidaw: reports](#) – www.dvb.no, August 2, 2011

Worthless paper dollars

August 8, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, August 8, 2011

First panel: Obama says: Once I sign this bill raising the debt ceiling, more dollars will be sold worldwide, and this is certain to cause the currency to lose more of its value.

Second panel: The man says: Not at all, Mr. President. Many Chinese businessmen are just waiting to buy more dollars.

Third panel: Unbelievable! China still understands the value of the dollar. Why do they want to buy more, for their reserve fund?

Fourth panel: The man says: No, I've heard they want to use them for *kong teck* notes since they're cheaper than even plain paper.

High Pork Prices

August 8, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From ThaiRath, August 8, 2011

The headline: Creating happiness and ending suffering is the priority

On the pork selling stand (left): High priced pork

On the food selling stand (right): High price rice and curry dishes

The man says: Paying high price

The mouse holds the sign: Release the UDD political prisoners

The other man says: Cost of living problem

Reds For the 300 Baht Wage

August 8, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics



From Khao Sod, August 8, 2011

Headline: Push for 300 baht

The caption reads: Jitra Kochadej, the first one ever to hold up the now-popular sign “Good only at speaking,” joins a red-shirt event at Imperial Lat Phrao on August 7 to throw her support behind the Yingluck government’s 300-baht pledge.

On the wall behind her: Labor Angel, 300 baht, Jitra Kochadej

Anniversary of the 8888 Uprising

August 8, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Anniversary of the 8888 Uprising](#) – Wikipedia, August, 8, 2011

['88 Generation Students' Leaders Welcome Suu Kyi, Aung Kyi Talks](#) – The Irrawaddy, August 8, 2011

Five New Skytrain Stations

August 8, 2011

Categories: Skytrain

[The Five New Skytrain Stations](#) – Google Maps, August 8, 2011

Open on August 12.

Overthrowing Monarchies

August 9, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, August 9, 2011

Cartoon caption: The prospective education minister is interested in the subject of history.

The book he is reading is titled: The Russian Revolution and the Fall of the House of Romanov

Books to the left: The Last Emperor, Overthrowing Nepal's Dynasty

10,000 CCTV Cameras to Watch You

August 9, 2011

Categories: Security, Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: 10,000 CCTVs – “The whole life, we take care” – Ready for Bangkok people – The safety standard by CCTV installment

Who Really Controls the Party?

August 9, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Daily News, August 9, 2011

Left: Dubai was the base.

Right: For setting up the cabinet.

Thaksin's ex-wife Pojaman says: Aow! You guys just found out?

Have you ever heard of Thai-language computer terms?

August 9, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, August 9, 2011

Left: Have you ever heard of Thai-language computer terms? For example, Facebook is *Phak Pakorn* , Twitter is *Samniang Sakuna* .

Middle: Google is *Asongkhai Sonthi* , Hi5 is *Benja Sawaddee* , system failure is ...

Right: *Rabop kor kor tor* .

That day, someone died

August 9, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, August 9, 2011

Cartoon title: That day, someone died.

Left: The soldier holding the piece of paper that has “CRES Order” written on it says: The boss ordered us to use shotguns.

The other soldier says: The shotguns are all being used in other government duties, so I’m using its mother instead.

At the bottom it says The base says “sniper” and the gun makes sound “bang bang.”

Right: The first soldier says: Hey! They order us to aim below the knees.

The other soldier says: So what? I do aim lower than ‘my’ knees.

Sign on the barbed wire: Real-bullets zone

Sign: Ratchaprasong

Paper under the corpse’s foot: Democracy

Paper under the corpse’s hand: We demand justice

Chatuchak Market: City Seeks Renewal of Weekend Market Lease

August 10, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[City Seeks Renewal of Weekend Market Lease](#) – TAN, August 9, 2011

...The BMA has submitted an offer to pay a rental fee of 79 million baht per year for the concession to manage the 8,000 shops on the 68-rai plot of land.

On the other hand, the SRT has offered to extend the concession for the price of 1.1 billion baht per year...

Cambodia: Forest on the auction block

August 10, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Forest on the auction block](#) – Phnom Penh Post, August 9, 2011

...Concessions signed by Hun Sen in February and April gave more than 55,000 hectares of national park to private companies under 99-year leases for agricultural development...

Cambodia shows soft policy with Thailand

August 10, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia shows soft policy with Thailand](#) – Xinhua, August 9, 2011

...”Prime Minister Hun Sen was making the same such quick approach to Abhisit Vejjajiva soon after he was elected as a prime minister,” he said, adding that “as always Cambodia shows soft and friendly approach to Thailand...”

Standard & Poor's Credit Rating for each country

August 10, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Standard & Poor's Credit Rating for each country](#) – chartsbin.com, August 9, 2011

...Thailand BBB+ STABLE...

Disney Bus

August 10, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News



Court shoots down anti-gay rule

August 10, 2011

Categories: Local Beliefs

[Court shoots down anti-gay rule](#) – The Nation, August 10, 2011

...The plaintiff, Natee, secretary of the Chiang Mai Araya Group, claimed the regulation – stating that presenters on competing Loy Krathong floats must be ladies or gentlemen or the floats would not be included in the competition – in effect barred gay people and transvestites from participating and violated the constitution...

THAILAND: North Koreans escape from hunger

August 10, 2011

Categories: North Korea, Refugees and Migrants

[THAILAND: North Koreans escape from hunger](#) – irinnews.org, August 9, 2011

...”Here in Thailand it’s quite clear that every North Korean who has arrived is being considered by the South Korean embassy and is being sent to South Korea,” says the deputy director of Human Rights Watch’s Asia division, Phil Robertson.

“There’s a system here that works in terms of North Koreans who can reach their destination...”

A freshness in Thailand

August 10, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[A freshness in Thailand](#) – The Straits Times, August 10, 2011

...Ms Yingluck is a clean slate – no baggage, no powerful enemies, and a beguiling presence that has thrown the pro-establishment yellow shirt movement into disarray. Precisely because she is unencumbered, she would appeal to the people's innate sense of Thai-ness, in the manner of Mrs Corazon Aquino, who unified the Filipino people after Ferdinand Marcos had done his worst...

[No room for Red Shirts in new Thai cabinet](#) – AFP, August 9, 2011

...Yingluck, a 44-year-old political novice, was elected as Thailand's first female premier in a parliamentary vote on Friday.

She swept to an election victory last month with the support of her brother Thaksin, who is hailed by many rural Thais for his populist policies while in power but loathed by the Bangkok-based ruling elite...

New Seahawks delivered to Thai navy

August 10, 2011

Categories: Thai Military

[New Seahawks delivered to Thai navy](#) – www.flightglobal.com, August 9, 2011

..."The Navy has expressed interest in additional MH-60S purchases", it added in a 8 August statement about the delivery...

India-US Pact Points to Multilateral Response as the Solution to Cyber Attacks

August 10, 2011

Categories: India

[India-US Pact Points to Multilateral Response as the Solution to Cyber Attacks](http://www.defenceiq.com) – www.defenceiq.com,

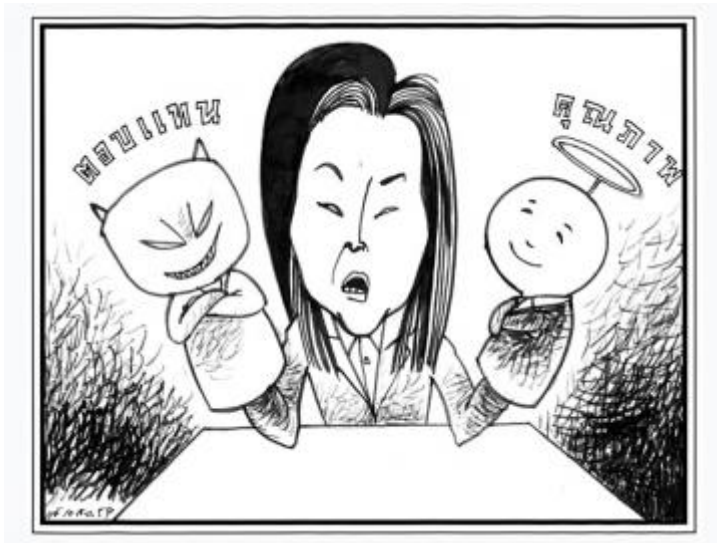
August 4, 2011

...The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), inked in July by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and the US Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT), came days before an announcement by security software company McAfee that it has uncovered a five year campaign of virtual attacks on global defence contractors and governments...

Good or Evil for Yingluck

August 11, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Khaosod, August 11, 2011

the word on the left: Pay back

the word on the right: Quality

Suthep Left Alone

August 11, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Daily News, August 11, 2011

First panel: That day .. !

Second panel: Excuse me, Sir...

Third panel: CRES's secret report.

Fourth panel: Aow!

Today ..!

Skywalk halted

August 11, 2011

Categories: Skytrain

[Skywalk halted](#) – The Nation, August 11, 2011

...Saying that Bangkok residents would lose out if the first phase did not materialise, he added that its construction was originally budgeted at Bt5.2 billion, but the cost was brought down to Bt3 billion.

Court demonstrates contempt for human rights by jailing torture victim on say-so of alleged perpetrator

August 11, 2011

Categories: Human Rights

[THAILAND: Court demonstrates contempt for human rights by jailing torture victim on say-so of alleged perpetrator](#) – AHRC, August 11, 2011

A court in Bangkok on 10 August 2011 sentenced a torture victim to two years in prison for having spoken out against his alleged torturers. Police Major General Chakthip Chaijinda brought the criminal complaint (Black Case No. 2161/2552) against Mr Suderueman Malae, one of the clients of forcibly abducted and disappeared human rights lawyer Somchai Neelaphaijit...

Thailand wants to take back the ‘jeeb’

August 11, 2011

Categories: Culture and Society

[Thailand wants to take back the ‘jeeb’](#) – The Nation, August 11, 2011

...In 2008, Cambodia had the Sbek Thom, Khmer Shadow Theatre, inscribed in 2008 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (originally proclaimed in 2005) along with the Royal Ballet of Cambodia, also known as Khmer Classical Dance, (originally proclaimed in 2003) which included graceful hand gestures including the ‘jeeb’ hand position. This has the thumb and index touching and three other fingers fanned out.

LinkedIn opts you into being used in advertisements; here's how to opt out

August 11, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[LinkedIn opts you into being used in advertisements; here's how to opt out](#) – BoingBoing, August 11, 2011

From 2002: Nation employees fear closure

August 12, 2011

Categories: Today in History

[From 2002: Nation employees fear closure](#)

Cambodia sees end of ‘nightmare’ Thai relations

August 12, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

[Cambodia sees end of ‘nightmare’ Thai relations](#) – AFP, August 11, 2011

...I think everything that happened in the past can be considered as the last nightmare of the relationship between Cambodia and Thailand. From now on, ties will be better,’ he vowed.

Intellectual property infringement is a sin

August 12, 2011

Categories: Buddhism, Signs and Billboards



The sign reads: Stop intellectual property infringement. You are prosperous, the nation is prosperous. Tha Ma Pha

Chuwit's Tweets

August 12, 2011

Categories: Chuwit Kamolvisit, Thai Politics



chuvit_online ชูวิทย์ กมลวิศิษฐ์

New cabinet is same as company that looks good image to public but inside have broke

10 Aug



chuvit_online ชูวิทย์ กมลวิศิษฐ์

Even small thing could become big in Parliament, this is politic and no matter of what I tried to communicate will be politic

10 Aug



chuvit_online ชูวิทย์ กมลวิศิษฐ์

As u can seen for today, even time for meeting in Parliament, it is not easy to final, still don't know when and have to discuss next week

10 Aug

One to follow if you are not already—[Chuwit's engaging and amusing English-language tweeting](#).

Tokyo to talk to Bangkok about fugitive ex-premier's visit to Japan

August 12, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Tokyo to talk to Bangkok about fugitive ex-premier's visit to Japan](#) – monstersandcritics.com, August 12, 2011

Tokyo said Friday that it would discuss with Bangkok a request for Thailand's fugitive former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra to visit Japan later this month...

Foreign Minister Unafraid

August 14, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From ThaiRath, August 14, 2011

Cartoon says: With his sacred amulet, he's not afraid of minefields.

Behind Surapong is former Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya, wearing a headband that says "Shadow minister" and holding a sign that says "Good food, great music."

The mines in front of Surapong are labeled: PAD , People, Poll, Opposition, Faith, Media, Government Officials

Sign next to Preah Vihear: Turn battlefields to trading fields

To be a Burmese slave in Thailand

August 14, 2011

Categories: Human Rights, Myanmar/Burma

[To be a Burmese slave in Thailand](#) – atimes.com, August 12, 2011

Rolling up his right shirt sleeve to show a scarred forearm, Than Zaw Oo recalls the beatings he endured onboard the Thai fishing boat where he says he was held as indentured labor – in other words, a slave – for almost three years...

Lower Burrell couple to go to Thailand to combat sex trade

August 14, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Lower Burrell couple to go to Thailand to combat sex trade](#) – McClatchy-Tribune Information Services, August 13, 2011

By fall, the Rev. Bill Samuels will exchange a Lower Burrell pulpit for the seamy streets of a Thailand city known worldwide for its sex trade...

When she cooperates, the pimp starts to send a little bit of money back to the village so her little brother can go to school. The pimp will then taunt with her with guilt, saying, "If you leave, he can't go to school. Do you want that to happen?..."

Fake currency war from India neighbours

August 14, 2011

Categories: India

[Fake currency war from India neighbours](#) -truthdive.com, August 13, 2011

Involvement of China-Pakistan-Thailand in manufacturing fake Indian currency has been detected by Indian intelligence agencies reports DNA newspaper...

Cheers in Myanmar as Suu Kyi travel tests freedom

August 14, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Cheers in Myanmar as Suu Kyi travel tests freedom](http://www.cbsnews.com) – www.cbsnews.com, August 14, 2011

[Burmese opposition leader dares to take political tour](#) – DPA/The Nation, August 14, 2011

...Editorials in The New Light of Myanmar, a government mouthpiece, warned that there might be a repeat of the incident of May 2003, in which Suu Kyi and her followers were attacked in central Myanmar by pro-military thugs while on a political tour of the countryside.

Suu Kyi, who was slightly injured in the attack, was arrested and placed under house detention for seven years on charges of disrupting national stability...



(Photo: AHCDM)

Above: Witness photo of military men who attacked the convoy in 2003.

2003: [Black Friday](#)

2003: [Interview with Black Friday Witness](#)

2003: [Black Friday Witnesses Avoid Capture](#)

2003: [Doing Something about Black Friday](#)

[Remembering Myanmar's Black Friday](#)

The Puppeteer

August 15, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics



From Manager, August 15-21, 2011

The headlines read: Disclosing the secret plan by Poo's cabinet No. 1 to bring Maew back home as a hero.

Yellow headline: Watch Yingluck's cabinet No. 1 solve the big cost-of-living problem

Unannounced Pheu Thai Policies

August 15, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, August 15, 2011

Left: We'll stop withholding the money of the nieces and nephew – 12 billion baht – We really can do it, we can do it immediately. Pheu Thai Party

Middle: We'll return the brother's passport — We really can do it, we can do it immediately. Pheu Thai Party

Right: We won't collect taxes from the brother and sister-in-law — We really can do it, we can do it immediately. Pheu Thai Party

Cartoon caption: During the campaign, they neglected to announce these policies.

Thaksin's Foreign Minister

August 16, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, August 16, 2011

On the sign: Thailand

Thaksin, hiding behind Foreign Minister Surapong: Stop complaining Ai Ping . This is the price to pay for the Foreign Minister post.

It begins: Japanese Official reveals new government requested a visa for Thaksin

August 16, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Yingluck govt requests Japan's visa for Thaksin: Edano](#) – The Nation, August 15, 2011

...Japan issued a special visa for Thaksin Shinawatra, who has lived in exile since a 2006 military coup after it received a personal request from the new Thai government of Yingluck Shinawatra, who is Thaksin's younger sister. "In light of the request from the Thai government and various related considerations, we have decided to issue a visa," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said....

[Govt 'didn't aid' Thaksin Japan trip](#) – Bangkok Post, August 15, 2011

The government had nothing to do with Thaksin Shinawatra's visit to Japan because the former prime minister received an invitation in June, before the July 3 general election, Noppadon Pattama said on Monday.

Therefore, the government under Yingluck Shinawatra had nothing to do with it, Thaksin's close aide and personal lawyer said...

Muang Ya Warriors Protest the EC

August 16, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics



From Komchadluek, August 8, 2011

Protest against the Election Committee (EC): On August 7, a group of men calling themselves Muang Ya Warriors gathered at the Thao Suranari Monument to burn an effigy and reprimand the EC for their incompetence that resulted in an unfair election and for their decision to approve member-of-parliament status for Jatuporn Prompan.

Wetropolis to Help Bangkok Stay Afloat

August 16, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News



[Wetropolis to Help Bangkok Stay Afloat](#) – greenpacks.org, August 15, 2011

[Wetropolis: A Floating City that Survives the Ebb and Flow of Shifting Tides](#) – inhabitat.com, August 14, 2011

Cambodia: Crackdown on anti-government leaflets

August 16, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[CCHR Fundamental Freedoms Fact Sheet: freedom of expression and the distribution of leaflets](#) –
www.ifex.org, August 15, 2011

[Suspension of prominent land rights NGO confirms civil society fears over forthcoming NGO law](#) –
www.ifex.org, August 15, 2011

Khmer: A Language in Crisis

August 16, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[A Language in Crisis](#) – ki-media.blogspot.com, August 15, 2011

Thailand's Family Affair May Unnerve Markets

August 16, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thailand's Family Affair May Unnerve Markets: The Ticker](#) – bloomberg.com, August 15, 2011

The nation's new foreign minister starts Wednesday, yet the most tantalizing diplomatic question isn't waiting for Surapong Tovichakchaikul to come to work: When will exiled former Thai leader Thaksin Shinawatra return to Bangkok? A lot sooner than many of us thought, it appears...

Just days after being sworn in, Yingluck's government asked Japan to grant a visa for Thaksin, and Tokyo complied. Japan should have said no; it has clear laws on the books against welcoming those sentenced to significant jail time. Germany also lifted a travel ban on Thaksin...

Thais Say Toxic Exposure May Have Killed Tourists

August 17, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thais Say Toxic Exposure May Have Killed Tourists](#) – AP, August 16, 2011

[Investigation into tourists' deaths inconclusive](#) – DPA, August 16, 2011

[Probe finds pesticide link to Thai tourist deaths](#) – AFP, August 16, 2011

Myanmar: China Protects Its Interests

August 17, 2011

Categories: China, Myanmar/Burma

[China Protects Its Interests](#) – www.strategypage.com, August 15, 2011

...The government is becoming closer to China, in terms of economic deals and military cooperation. Burma is believed to have allowed China to use Burma as a relay point for Cyber War attacks (making it appear that the attacks came from Burma). The government is also suspected of allowing Internet based criminals to operate in Burma, in return for cash and attacking government opponents on the web...

Politics on two wheels in Thailand's capital

August 17, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Politics on two wheels in Thailand's capital](#) – AFP, August 16, 2011

...Officially, there are a little more than 100,000 motorcycle taxis in Bangkok, but Claudio Sopranzetti, researcher in anthropology with Harvard University in the US, believes there could be around 200,000.

...If Thaksin, who lives abroad to avoid a jail term for corruption, were to return, Suksomboon said he would lead a group of motorbikes to the airport to welcome him back to Thailand with a fanfare...

Dead Irrawaddy dolphin

August 17, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature



From Komchadluek, August 8, 2011

Entangled in nets: In Laem Hat village, Tambon Koh Yai, Krasae Sin district, Songkhla province, a local fisherman who works Songkhla Lake carries the corpse of a less-than-one-month-old Irrawaddy dolphin that was found dead, entangled in fishing nets.

India leery of neighbor's new squeeze

August 17, 2011

Categories: China, India

[India leery of neighbor's new squeeze](#) – www.atimes.com, August 16, 2011

...It means that the Sri Lankan president can count on the Chinese to come to his rescue should allegations of war crimes against his regime come up for consideration in international bodies like the United Nations Security Council and the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC). He can expect Beijing to use its clout to dilute resolutions unfavorable to Colombo or veto any possible UN security council resolution referring Sri Lanka to the International Criminal Court...

Cambodian newspapers shut down

August 17, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodian newspapers shut down](http://www.indexoncensorship.org) – www.indexoncensorship.org, August 15, 2011

...Newspapers The Water and Fire News and The World News were ordered to stop publishing as of 3 August and had their licenses revoked due to perceived insult to the Ministry of Information.

Thaksin Moving Fast

August 17, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics



Above: Web graphic from 2008 touting Thaksin's first return to Thailand following the victory of the People Power Party.

The big election win had one message for Thaksin—"you can have it all back on your own terms." In the shadow of the Pheu Thai victory, there is no other force that can act to check him at this time. This also means any controversial moves on Thaksin's part are safer made as near as possible to the big election win. That means reshuffles of officials at all levels, bold moves on the constitution, referendums, etc. will be pushed sooner rather than later.

[Ploy to bring back Thaksin](#) – The Nation, August 17, 2011

...Many consider that the ruling party is pushing for a charter rewrite with the ulterior motive of discarding Article 309, which sanctions the orders and activities of the 2006 junta, seen as the legal cornerstone for the prosecution and conviction of the former prime minister...

[Oil deal: Thaksin to visit Cambodia](#) – The Nation, August 17, 2011

[Yingluck evasive on queries about Thaksin](#) – The Nation, August 17, 2011

[Thailand's Economy Survives it All](#) – blogs.cfr.org, August 16, 2011

Singapore: Warning Over Potential Bottom Pinching Scam

August 18, 2011

Categories: Singapore

[British High Commission Issues Warning Over Potential Bottom Pinching Scam](#) – andrew-drummond.com,

August 7, 2011

Four Years Ago Today: Tale of two newspapers: What Kosit said

August 18, 2011

Categories: A Tale of Two Newspapers

[Tale of two newspapers: What Kosit said](#)

How To Steal ATM PINs With a Thermal Camera

August 18, 2011

Categories: Scams

[How To Steal ATM PINs With a Thermal Camera](#) – Slashdot, August 17, 2011

Silencing Cambodia's Honest Brokers

August 18, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Silencing Cambodia's Honest Brokers](#) – IHT, August 17, 2011

...It didn't turn out that way. Cambodia today is essentially ruled by a single political party with little room for an opposition, has a weak and corrupt judiciary, and the country's most effective union leaders have been murdered...

[Cambodian Anti-Corruption Drive Creates Headache for Western Firms](#) – VOA, August 17, 2011

...The problem is that the move has effectively outlawed "facilitation fees," payments that are critical for doing business in Cambodia. Anyone who pays them can be jailed for 10 years, while the person receiving them can get 15 years.

But what exactly is a facilitation fee?

"Facilitation fees are what are paid basically to low-ranking government officials to assist in doing their job," said Matthew Rendall, the managing partner at Sciaroni & Associates, a law firm in Phnom Penh. "No advantage and nothing illegal is being obtained. And you are basically having to pay these in order to do legitimate business..."

Ruling party bribes' email was 'real'

August 18, 2011

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines

[Ruling party bribes' email was 'real'](#) – Bangkok Post, August 18, 2011

...The report said the panel had information Pheu Thai had taken “extra care” of certain members of the press when they were covering the party’s affairs.

The panel investigated the content of five newspapers mentioned in Mr Wim’s email, covering headlines, photos, articles, columns and interviews and adverts.

The newspapers are Khao Sod, Matichon, Thai Rath, Daily News, and Kom Chad Luek.

It reported that Khao Sod, Matichon and Thai Rath tended to run positive content, particularly in headlines and photos, about the Pheu Thai Party compared to the other two newspapers...

Some links from the Thai-language press on this subject are [on the forum](#).

Earlier: [Press council to probe into bribery allegation](#) – The Nation, July 5, 2011

Thaksin to assess how Thailand can aid rebuilding

August 18, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thaksin to assess how Thailand can aid rebuilding](#) – japantimes.co.jp, August 18, 2011

...Thaksin, who is scheduled to arrive in Japan on Monday, cited three areas in which Thailand can play a role, including helping businesses affected by the earthquake and tsunami relocate to Thailand and issuing long-stay visas to allow tsunami victims to recover in Thailand...

Myanmar drops ‘killer broadcast’ anti-BBC slogans

August 18, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar drops ‘killer broadcast’ anti-BBC slogans](#) – AFP, August 18, 2011

...But in recent days the publications have halted the tough-talking rhetoric, which also included phrases such as “Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy” and “Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence...”

Thailand Mountain Challenge

August 18, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand Mountain Challenge](#) – jesselogister.com, August 18, 2011

Jesse writes: Currently I am organizing a charity project to raise money and awareness for Thailand based charities. My goal is to hike to the [summits of 10 high mountains in Thailand](#). I already climbed [Doi Inthanon](#). The donated money will go to [Bangkok Free Ambulance](#) and [Baan Unrak](#)...

Footpath Repair

August 19, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News



From Komchadluek, August 8, 2011

Headline: This sidewalk is taken care of by many agencies.

Top left: Before the surface was repaired.

Top right: After the surface was repaired.

Arrow in top right: Condition of the water-pipe trench after being repaired by the MWA

Bottom right: CAT Telecom dug up the same sidewalk to lay pipes after the MWA finished its work.

Shetty gives ‘vivid account’ of Rajan’s Bangkok escape

August 19, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Shetty gives ‘vivid account’ of Rajan’s Bangkok escape](http://www.indianexpress.com) – www.indianexpress.com, August 18, 2011

...Rajan was kept in a room on the third floor of a hospital that was guarded by the Bangkok Police at the instance of the Mumbai Police, and the four Rajan aides needed to come up with a plan to free their boss...

Yingluck and the Cabinet

August 19, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics



From Komchadluek, August 8, 2011

Headline: More than half the cabinet list has been finalized. Isan growls since its quota for cabinet seats has been cut to three. The list for Poo's cabinet No. 1 will be presented to His Majesty the King on August 9.

Sub-headline: Maew hurried to solve problems with outsiders running away . Pheu Thai sweeps 19 parliament committees.

: I will be the adviser to the prime minister only at home.

Sarah Carter: Thai authorities get the message

August 19, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Editorial: Thai authorities get the message](#) – www.stuff.co.nz, August 18, 2011

...To most of the holidaymakers who travel there, Thailand is a land of exotic, bustling markets and glorious beaches inhabited by a polite, gentle people to whom nothing is too much trouble. But it is also a developing country with little of the health and safety infrastructure we take for granted.

It is inconceivable that a highly toxic pesticide would be sprayed in a New Zealand hotel room. In the Downtown Inn in which Sarah and two friends stayed, it appears to have been unremarkable.

The Thais have a different, more fatalistic attitude to life and death than New Zealanders – a product of their Buddhist faith and their environment. That is their right...

Thaksin revival poses risks for new Thai PM

August 19, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Analysis: Thaksin revival poses risks for new Thai PM](#) – Reuters, August 18, 2011

...Most had expected Thaksin, who from exile webcam and telephone links to rally thousands of supporters against the previous government of Abhisit Vejjajiva, to lay low and allow his political allies to consolidate power and pave the way for an amnesty that could eventually bring him home.

But he has done exactly the opposite, planning high-profile trips to Japan and Cambodia that have embarrassed Yingluck and detracted attention from her policies.

“This rashness and haste on Thaksin’s part have come far sooner than I expected,” said Montesano...

56 Years Ago: Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat executes Bangkok wrongdoers on the spot

August 19, 2011

Categories: History

[Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat: Do-It-Yourself Premier](#) – Time, August 17, 1959

...When a rash of fires broke out in the business district last winter. Sarit raced to the scene one night, ordered four Chinese merchants shot on the spot—a brutal but effective reminder that the annual custom of burning down shops to collect insurance for the Chinese New Year celebration was thenceforth taboo. Fortnight ago. prowling La Guardia-style about the streets of Bangkok in his chauffeur-driven car, Sarit drew up behind an automobile in which a woman sat eating fruit and throwing the peels out the window. The Premier characteristically took her license-plate number, ordered the police to pick her up and fine her 100 bahts (\$5) for littering...

Yingluck will only ride in her van

August 19, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Yingluck will only ride in her van](#) – The Nation, August 19, 2011

...Yingluck's Volkswagen is considered "lucky" because the last two digits of the vehicle's red licence plate number 1662 were winners in the lottery on Tuesday.

Myanmar: The Scorpions Are Back

August 19, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[The Scorpions Are Back](#) – The Irrawaddy, August 19, 2011

...During the latter half of the 1990s, people in Rangoon quipped that the Scorpion Gang was virtually the second most powerful group in Rangoon—after the junta’s Military Intelligence unit. It got to the point that when Scorpions on motorbikes drove up to traffic junctions, the police turned the lights from red to green as if they were an official convoy...

Police suspect they have found bodies of missing reds

August 19, 2011

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Police suspect they have found bodies of missing reds](#) – The Nation, August 19, 2011

...Pol Lt-General Santhan Chayanont, commander of the police bureau's Law and Case Office, led a team yesterday to inspect Wat Klong Takwa and Wat Huai Yang of the eastern seaboard's Klaeng district. The police discovered 72 bodies at the first temple and another 97 at the second...

[Don't rush to pass judgement on 169-body mass grave: Army chief](#) – The Nation, August 19, 2011

Army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha on Friday urged for calm following the discovery of three mass graves where 169 bodies were buried under suspicious circumstances in Rayong...

Cambodia Villagers Stage ‘Avatar’ Themed Protest About Land Loss

August 19, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia Villagers Stage ‘Avatar’ Themed Protest About Land Loss](http://www.voanews.com) – www.voanews.com, August 18, 2011

Reshuffling the Police?

August 20, 2011

Categories: Thai Police



From Daily News, August 9, 2011

Headline: Pushing Preowpan to be commissioner general — transferring Wichian to be permanent secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister

Sub-headline: Pheu Thai plans to rearrange the police force as their first task. The cabinet list was changed again to give Plodprasop Suraswadi the position of Foreign Affairs minister.

Chuwit 2011

August 20, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The billboard reads: Your MP, you must use their service – Network of Chuwit – Inform information to P.O. BOX 11 Dindaeng Bangkok 10470 www.chuvitonline.com

Helping the People

August 20, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Thairath, August 20, 2011

The cartoon headline: Do not destroy the hopes and happiness of the people

On the devil's robe: Order crackdown on the people

On the black smoke: Dissolving the Pheu Thai Party

On signs held by the people: Solving social problems / Solving drug problems / Income / Foreign relations

On bags: Solving the problem of living cost of the people / Solving the natural disaster problem

On the sign held by the mouse: Those who ordered the killing must be punished

On sign close to the hole: Political school

The person in the hole is saying: They don't know, They are sick

Sacred Dolphin on Brink of Extinction

August 20, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Sacred Dolphin on Brink of Extinction](#) – news.discovery.com, August 18, 2011

The Irrawaddy dolphin, considered sacred to many people in Cambodia and Laos, has declined to just 85 individuals in Southeast Asia's Mekong River, according to a World Wildlife Fund assessment. Leading researchers now conclude that the population is at high risk of dying out altogether...

Yingluck and Son

August 20, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, August 20, 2011

Yingluck's son: I must memorize my lessons so I can answer my teacher tomorrow at school.

Yingluck: I must memorize my scripts so I can answer reporters tomorrow at Government House.

At bottom: This mother and son's routine before bedtime.

Six Years Ago Today: Last look at NASA Spaceadrome

August 20, 2011

Categories: Today in History



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Six Years Ago Today: [Last look at NASA Spaceadrome](#)

Yingluck Sticker

August 20, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sticker reads: Pheu Thai Party

Growing network and growing congestion for Bangkok BTS

August 20, 2011

Categories: Skytrain

[Growing network and growing congestion for Bangkok BTS](#) – eTN, August 19, 2011

...Most commuters will have to line up for 10 minutes and let an average of 2 trains pass them by before being able to board one of them...

Thaksin Visa Raises Questions in Thailand

August 20, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thaksin Visa Raises Questions in Thailand](#) – WSJ, August 19, 2011

...Now, returned to the spotlight by last month's landslide election victory for his sister and the populist Pheu Thai (For Thais) party, Mr. Thaksin is trying to repair his international reputation, analysts say—but may be doing it and the new government more harm than good.

“Mr. Thaksin wants to show that he's Thailand's de facto prime minister,” says Pavin Chachavalpongpun at the Institute for Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore. “But by doing so he's putting Ms. Yingluck in jeopardy...”

Society prejudiced against the uneducated poor, seminar hears

August 21, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Society prejudiced against the uneducated poor, seminar hears](#) – The Nation, August 21, 2011

...”You are elite or serf not by birth but from your consciousness. It is a threat to the democratic system,” he said, at the symposium on myths about lowly educated poor Thais being stupid and a drag on Thai society. The meeting was organised by Thailand Mirror, a liberal group of red shirts, at the October 14 Monument. The event comes at a time when some formally educated Thais who are disappointed by the latest general election results began asking whether Thailand should continue to accept the concept of universal suffrage or not...

Should the U.S. Issue a Travel Warning on Thailand?

August 21, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics



[Should the U.S. Issue a Travel Warning on Thailand?](#) – robertamsterdam.com, August 20, 2011

...It would be helpful to know whether Kenney's efforts to block discussion of a U.S. citizen being held as a political prisoner in Thailand represents official policy, individual discretion, or a misunderstanding...

Thailand's rice exporters heading for the sunset?

August 21, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand's rice exporters heading for the sunset?](#) – DPA< August 21, 2011 ...Thai rice exporters, ironically, are helping turn the tide in Vietnam's favour. 'We have started buying Vietnamese rice to ship to our customers,' Charoen said. 'We love our country but what can we do?'...

Ousted Thai leader gambles on return to world stage

August 21, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Ousted Thai leader gambles on return to world stage](#) – AFP, August 21, 2011

With his sister barely in office, fugitive former Thai premier Thaksin Shinawatra has launched a high-stakes international charm offensive that analysts say threatens his allies' hold on power...

First batch of Thai soldiers returns home from peacekeeping mission in Sudan

August 21, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[First batch of Thai soldiers returns home from peacekeeping mission in Sudan](#) – MCOT, August 21, 2011
...With UNAMID, the Thai troops was tasked with conducting patrols, providing protection to civilians, UN facilities, convoys and UN and other humanitarian workers, as well as providing medical service. Their assignments complement the peace process in Darfur.
Thailand's Army chief is sending the second contingent from the Thai armed forces to Sudan on Aug 19 as the first batch of Thai troops have completed their rotation and are gradually returning home.

The US J1-visa: Foreign students walk off Hershey's factory job in protest

August 22, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Foreign students walk off Hershey's factory job in protest](#) – AFP, August 18, 2011

Chasing Gadaffi

August 22, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, August 22, 2011

The skulls are saying: Dictator / Killing the people / Killing the people / Killing the people

On the man's robe: Gaddafi

The cartoon headline: Killing the people is not the way to extend the lifespan of the tyrant

He Only Did What the Law Prohibits

เขาทำแต่สิ่งที่กฎหมายห้าม

August 22, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, August 22, 2011

Left: The Democrats have taken legal action against the foreign minister for the illegal use of his position to help a fugitive entering Japan.

Middle: Chalerm says: The Democrats are stupid! They can't read or understand the law. The minister's not done anything illegal ...

Right: Chalerm says: ...he only did what the law prohibits.

Thai massage hits new heights in Phuket – Bangkok to see climax

August 22, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai massage hits new heights in Phuket – Bangkok to see climax](#) – blog.phuketoceanvillas.com, August 20, 2011

Sukampol slows down high-speed lines

August 22, 2011

Categories: Mass Transit

[Sukampol slows down high-speed lines – Democrat-initiated plans require further studies](#) – Bangkok Post, August 22, 2011

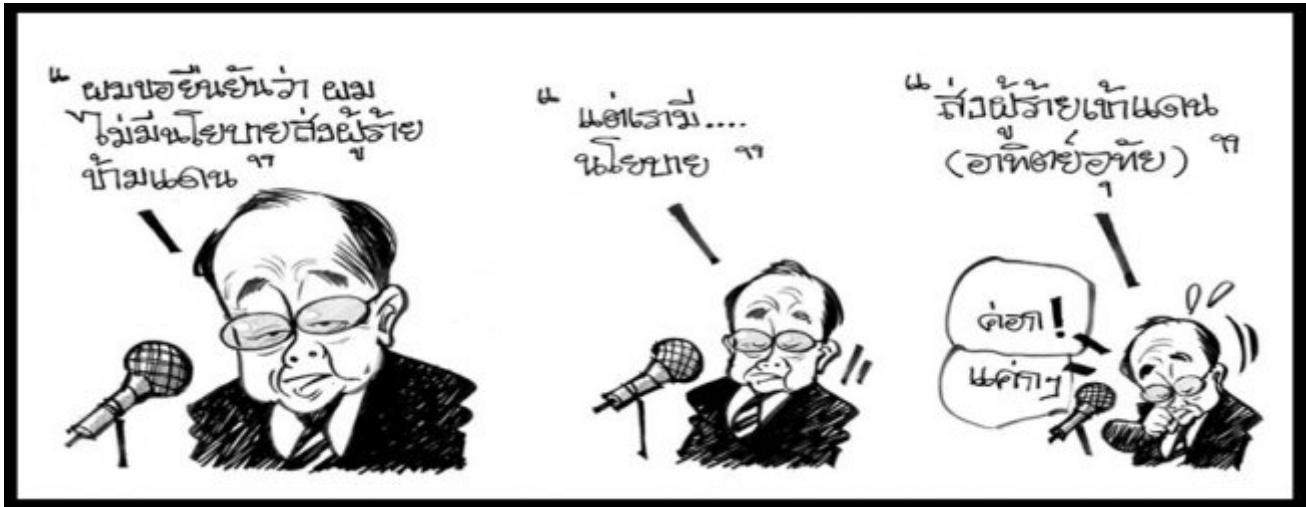
...ACM Sukampol said construction of the high-speed lines between Bangkok and Nong Khai and Bangkok and Padang Besar in Malaysia under a joint development framework between Thailand and China, which had earlier been approved by the Democrat-led government, would be put on hold.

He said details of the project, from the terms of joint development agreements to the advantages and commercial viability of all train lines, had to be studied...

Extradition Policy

August 23, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, August 23, 2011

Left, Foreign Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul says: I insist that I have no extradition policy.

Middle: But we have the policy...

Right: ...Of sending the convicted to the territory (the land of the rising sun).

Then coughing noises

The October 1973 event

August 23, 2011

Categories: History



From Daily News, August 9, 2011

Headline: Amorn Rattanakosin (25)

Photo caption: The October 1973 event

Yingluck Protecting the Little People

August 23, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, August 23, 2011

The cartoon title reads: They haven't even started their duties yet, but others are already trying to restrict their space.

The shirt of the man holding fire is labeled "Salim."

The knife is labeled "media."

The paper that Yingluck's holds says: Policies of Cabinet Poo No. 1: Creating happiness, dissolving suffering.

The devil's robe is labeled: Ordering people to be slaughtered.

How long do countries have until their populations disappear?

August 23, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[How long do countries have until their populations disappear?](#) – The Economist, August 22, 2011

Thaksin Takes the Tokyo Stage

August 23, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thaksin Takes the Tokyo Stage](#) – WSJ, August 23, 2011

Thailand's former leader Thaksin Shinawatra kicked off his hyped visit to Japan Monday by visiting financial services minister Shozaburo Jimi to discuss the economic aftershocks from the March 11 tsunami and trade ties between Bangkok and Tokyo. Thai politics, though, might already be part of Mr. Thaksin's closely-watched visit...

Anwar Angrily Denies Guilt in Malaysian Courtroom

August 23, 2011

Categories: Malaysia

[Anwar Angrily Denies Guilt in Malaysian Courtroom](#) – asiasentinel.com, August 22, 2011

Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim Monday delivered a blistering 8,700 word statement from the dock denying he had sodomized an aide in 2008. He accused Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak, his wife, Rosmah Mansor, and government officials of framing him with the connivance of High Court Judge Mohamed Zabidin Mohamed Ziah to ruin him politically...

The Wolf and the Sheep

August 24, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, August 24, 2011

The word on the body of the wolf: Democrats – The out-of-system power

The word on the sign being hold by Yingluck: The policy to create happiness and clear away suffering

The wolf is saying: Insulting brother generating impact to sister

The sign held by the mouse: The killing order causing 91 deaths must be punished.

The mouse man says: Return justice to the people

The word under the picture: Wolf and little sheep 2011

Trails of a Legend: The Ponies of Thailand

August 24, 2011

Categories: Film and TV, Wildlife and Nature

[Trails of a Legend: The Ponies of Thailand](#) – prnewswire.com, August 23, 2011

...Cross breeding and improper care have drastically reduced their numbers. During the course of treating these horses, Dr. Siraya discovered striking similarities between the Thai Pony and Mongolian wild horses, the last of the legitimate wild horses surviving in the world today...

Thailand's Lost Tribes: The Natives who are not Citizens

August 24, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand's Lost Tribes: The Natives who are not Citizens](#) – ibtimes.com, August 23, 2011

Thaksin: I will return to lead again

August 24, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thaksin: I will return to lead again](#) – The Times, August 23, 2011

Deposed Thai PM will lead his country if his people demanded it...

How Singapore is part Cambodian

August 24, 2011

Categories: Cambodia, Singapore

[How Singapore is part Cambodian](#) – NST, August 24, 2011

Cambodia's lax enforcement of environmental laws has made a haven for sand miners. And most of it is headed for Singapore...

Cambodian govt warns NGOs over letter to donors

August 24, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodian govt warns NGOs over letter to donors](#) – trust.org, August 23, 2011

...“By going after the NGO Forum, the Cambodian government is essentially telling development partners like the ADB and others to butt out, and expanding the dragnet against civil society dissidents...”

Asia's Best Performing Currency Weighs on Burma's Rulers

August 24, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Asia's Best Performing Currency Weighs on Burma's Rulers](#) – [blogs.forbes.com](#),. August 24, 2011

...Why is the kyat so strong? One reason is the weak dollar – Burma's commodity exports are priced in dollars. Another is the slew of privatizations and asset sales over the last year that had to be settled in kyat. Speculation in kyat by Chinese investors is another supposed cause. But much of what passes for economic analysis in Burma is guesswork. It hasn't published a credible budget for years and its statistics are notoriously unreliable...

Slip-Up in Chinese Military TV Show Reveals More Than Intended

August 25, 2011

Categories: China



[Slip-Up in Chinese Military TV Show Reveals More Than Intended](#) – theepochtimes.com, August 21, 2011

A standard, even boring, piece of Chinese military propaganda screened in mid-July included what must have been an unintended but nevertheless damaging revelation: shots from a computer screen showing a Chinese military university is engaged in cyberwarfare against entities in the United States...

Hornbills Recuperating

August 25, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature



From Khaosod, August 18, 2011

The caption: Storm impact – The team of the Khao Laem National Park in Karnchanaburi province delivers help to injured 7 hornbills that fell into the Vachiralongkorn Reservoir after the storm. The hornbills are recuperating before being returned to the forest.

Minimum Wage for Thaksin's Kids

August 25, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, August 6, 2011

Thaksin son is saying: The minimum wage of being Thaksin's son and niece of Yingluck.

The word on the bag is read: 11,000 million

The caption reads: 300 baht per day type needs to wait

12 red shirts jailed for town hall fires

August 25, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[12 red shirts jailed for town hall fires](#) – Bangkok Post, August 25, 2011

...The most notable defendant—well-known radio host Pichet Thabutda—was given a one-year jail term for fomenting unrest by persuading others to join in the riot. Pichet, also known as DJ Toy, was acquitted of other charges because he convinced the court that he was not at the provincial hall when the fire started. ...About 200 red shirts showed up to give the defendants moral support.

12 red shirts jailed for town hall fires
Terms range from 8 months to 34 years

Published: 25/08/2011 at 12:00 AM

Twelve red-shirt protesters have been sentenced to jail for terms ranging from eight months to 34 years for their involvement in the arson attack on Ubon Ratchathani provincial hall during anti-government rioting last year.

On May 20, 2010, the day after the military crackdown and arson in Bangkok, red shirt demonstrators broke into the Ubon Ratchathani province hall and burnt the building. (Reuters photo)

They were among 21 defendants on trial for involvement in the arson attack on the hall last May.

All of the defendants were originally charged with violating international security law, terrorism and arson.

The verdict, originally scheduled to be read on Sept 5 by the Ubon Ratchathani provincial court, was moved to yesterday.

Nine of the defendants were acquitted for lack of evidence. The most notable defendant _ well-known radio host Pichet Thabutda _ was given a one-year jail term for fomenting unrest by persuading others to join in the riot. Pichet, also known as DJ Toy, was acquitted of other charges because he convinced the court that he was not at the provincial hall when the fire started.

Four rioters _ Patama Moolmee, Thirawat Sajasuwan, Somsak Prasansap, and Sanong Ketsuwan _ were first given life in prison, but their sentences were commuted to 34 years in jail because they had confessed.

Another four people _ Pradit Boonsuk, Likhit Suthiphan, Chaiya Deesaeng, and Pisut But-amkha _ were sentenced to three years in jail but the sentences were commuted to two years after they confessed.

The other three defendants _ Ubon Saentaweesuk, Supoj Duang-ngam, and On-anong Banpachart _ were each given one-year in jail, but the sentences were reduced to eight months after they had confessed.

The remaining suspects were acquitted, among them Thanusil Thanuthong, 52, who was wrongfully detained.

At a Truth for Reconciliation Commission of Thailand hearing in April, Pol Col Aiyasoon Singhanat, then Ubon Ratchathani deputy police commander, conceded police had wrongfully arrested one man on an arrest warrant that had been based on a still photograph.

Dokchan Thanuthong, 47, Thanusil's wife, said in a telephone interview she was glad that her husband would be finally released as his detention had adversely affected her family.

She said she would consult with her husband and his lawyer about taking legal action against the police for the mistake.

Khamploy Namee, 60, said he was relieved he had been acquitted. Khamploy yesterday processed documents to retrieve his bail guarantee. He was the only one among the 21 defendants who was given a bail release this month so he could receive treatment for partial paralysis, a condition he has developed.

About 200 red shirts showed up to give the defendants moral support.

Why rush to alter charter?

August 25, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Why rush to alter charter?](#) – Bangkok Post, August 25, 2011

...Besides the Ratchadapisek land scandal in which Thaksin was sentenced in absentia to a 2-year jail term for conflict of interest, the fugitive ex-premier also faces three other corruption cases still pending with the court. These are the 4-billion-baht soft loan for the Burmese government by the Export-Import Bank of Thailand, supposedly to help develop a communications system in Burma with equipment sold by Shin Satellite; the conversion of telecom concession fees to excise tax in which Shin Corp (then owned by the Shinawatra family) was alleged to benefit at the expense of the state; and lastly, the special lottery scheme...

Why rush to alter charter?

Published: 25/08/2011 at 12:00 AM

Apparently unperturbed by criticism and possible political fallout, the Pheu Thai-led government appears determined to push ahead with its plan to write a new constitution to replace the current charter, which the party holds in contempt for the mere fact it is a legacy of the military junta that toppled the Thaksin administration in Sept 2006.

Rewriting the charter has been listed as one of the 16 urgent policies of the new government, as announced in its policy statement to Parliament on Tuesday by Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. To make this possible, Section 291 of the current charter which spells out the methods and guidelines on how to amend the charter, will be amended in order to pave way for the creation of a charter-drafting assembly which will be tasked with crafting a new charter.

But the real intention of the whole rewriting exercise is to scrap Section 309 of the existing charter. The rest of the exercise is just a sideshow meant to distract public attention.

Why Section 309? The provision, in essence, legitimises all the actions undertaken by the 2006 coup-makers, including in particular the setting up of the Assets Scrutiny Committee to investigate suspected corruption practices of the Thaksin regime. Scrapping the entire provision means that all the actions and decisions made by the committee would be invalidated. In other words, the corruption cases investigated by the ASC and then tried or decided by the Supreme Court's criminal division for political office holders, would be declared null and void as a result of the abrogation of this particular provision.

Thaksin Shinawatra is the person most investigated by the ASC, though other members of his cabinet were also investigated on corruption charges. Former deputy finance minister Varathep Rattanakorn, for instance, was handed a 2-year suspended jail term along with former finance permanent secretary Somchainuk Engtrakul and Chaiwat Pasokpakdi, director of the Lottery Bureau, over the two- and three-digit lottery scheme introduced by the Thaksin government in 2003.

Besides the Ratchadapisek land scandal in which Thaksin was sentenced in absentia to a 2-year jail term for conflict of interest, the fugitive ex-premier also faces three other corruption cases still pending with the court. These are the 4-billion-baht soft loan for the Burmese government by the Export-Import Bank of Thailand, supposedly to help develop a communications system in Burma with equipment sold by Shin Satellite; the conversion of telecom concession fees to excise tax in which Shin Corp (then owned by the Shinawatra family) was alleged to benefit at the expense of the state; and lastly, the special lottery scheme.

Given all these cases against Thaksin, critics have been quick to point out that the government's attempt to rewrite or amend the charter is meant to benefit just one individual _ Thaksin. Of course, the government has categorically denied this.

If the whole exercise is indeed not meant to absolve Thaksin, then why the rush? Is the current charter so undemocratic or bad that it needs an urgent make-over? Why didn't members of the People Power Party, Pheu Thai's predecessor, demand the amendments when they had the chance a few years back?

Amending the charter or writing a new one now is a badly thought-out move by Pheu Thai, which will unnecessarily bring a backlash on the government. It is not an urgent issue and will not benefit the public, except for one individual.

Need for prudence in Thailand

August 26, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Need for prudence in Thailand](#) – The Straits Times, August 25, 2011

...There is the argument that post-coup Thailand must regain the democratic space that it lost, and that this recovery will sustain political stability in the long term. However, the Prime Minister's self-exiled brother remains a divisive force in Thai politics. Any amendments that clear the way for an amnesty for him and his eventual return may be seen as over-hasty and would go against the spirit of reconciliation that Thailand needs desperately...

Auspicious Thai vanity license plate sells for \$223,000

August 26, 2011

Categories: Local Beliefs

[Auspicious Thai vanity license plate sells for \\$223,000](#) – globalpost.com, August 25, 2011

If you see any traffic police misbehaving or acting corrupt...

August 26, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards, Thai Police



The sign reads: The traffic police listens to the people. If you see any traffic police officers misbehaving or acting corrupt, please report the incident to Pol Lt-General Pitak Niyompluek at 081-988-5433, 02-511-2884. Vibhavadi-Rangsit/Expressway Traffic Control Center, Sub-Division 2, Traffic Police Division

Red Land

August 26, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Red shirts attack 2 men in front of Parliament](#) – The Nation, August 25, 2011

...When the two men walked to lay the wreath in front of Parliament, red-shirt people, who demonstrated there in support of the government, alerted their guards.

The guards captured the two men and were seen hitting them with a roll of hard paper...

[Reporters urge PM to act on threat against the media](#) – MCOT, August 25, 2011

...The reporters' move came after messages were distributed online with the name and picture of a female reporter of television channel 7, inciting hatred among the recipients and urging them to act against her wherever she is seen...

Judge Suppresses Statements in Arms Trial

August 26, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Judge Suppresses Statements in Arms Trial](#) – NYT, August 25, 2011

...The judge concluded that, contrary to testimony, the agents had been aware of the Thai police's refusal after Mr. Bout's arrest to grant him access to legal counsel and to a representative of the Russian embassy. She also found that the agents' contention that they would have no further access to him after their initial meeting was "false" and that they were untruthful when they denied insinuating they could take Mr. Bout to the United States immediately if he "cooperated" and waived extradition...

Red Shirts Catch Anti-Government Protester

August 26, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics



From Thairath, August 27, 2011

The caption reads: Red in action – The UDD guards in front of parliament attempting to capture one of two males who claimed that they are democratic student activists. The two brought a flower wreath with a message insulting the House Speaker and placed it at the parliament gate. This caused dissatisfaction in Red Shirts who gathered to show support for the government and stand guard .

Some 10 red shirts rally in front of Prem's house

August 26, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Some 10 red shirts rally in front of Prem's house](#) – The Nation, August 26, 2011

...Patrol policemen took the people to the Samsen police station for questioning and taking their photos for records. They were freed without being charged...

Cars and Gas for the People

August 26, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From ThaiRath, August 26, 2011

The cartoon headline: Thank you for buying service!

The word on the sign hang above the car: Reduce the fuel price

On sign being hold by Yingluck: Ready to serve service

Kukrit Institute / De-Sign Science

August 26, 2011

Categories: Buildings



Photo: De-Sign Science

[Kukrit Institute / De-Sign Science](http://www.ibtimes.com) – www.ibtimes.com, August 25, 2011

Thai police ‘don’t care’ about Kiwi’s death – family

August 27, 2011

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

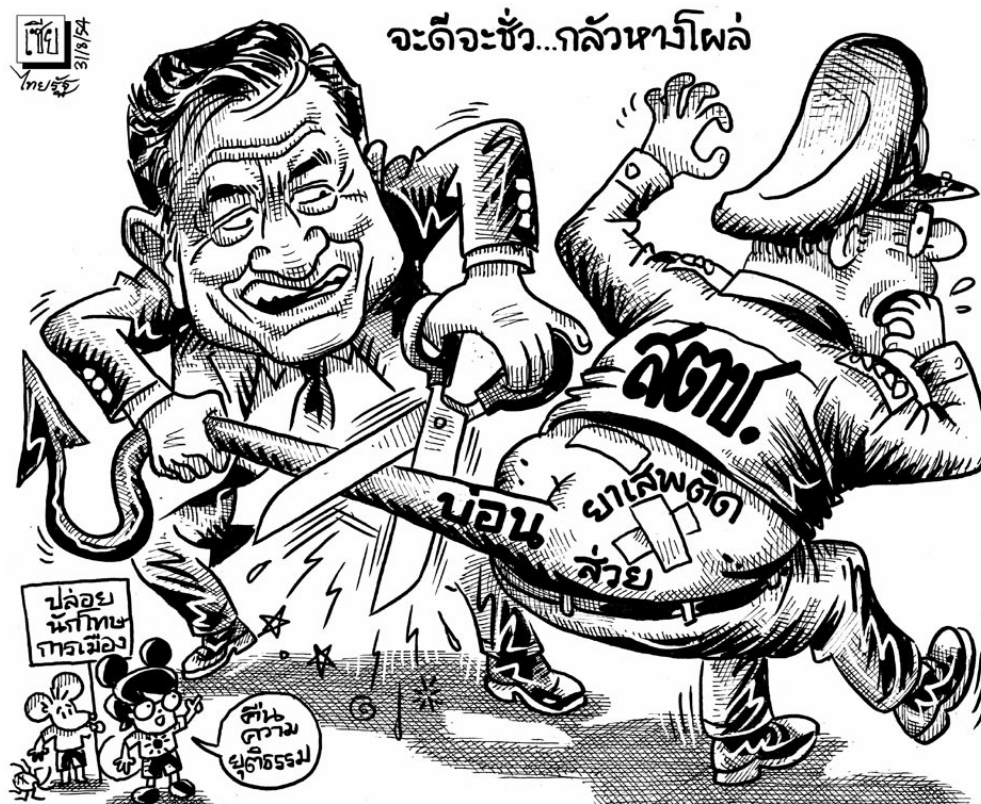
[Thai police ‘don’t care’ about Kiwi’s death – family](http://www.3news.co.nz) – www.3news.co.nz, August 26, 2011

...”They just say, ‘This is Pattaya, a murder happens here every day,’” says Alison McMillan. “They just didn’t seem to care, they’re not very interested...”

Cutting the Tail

August 27, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, August 27, 2011

The cartoon headline: Good or bad, afraid of the tail to appear

Chalerm cuts the tail of the police chief. On the body of the policeman: Gambling pool / Bribery / Drugs / National Police Bureau

On the sign being hold by the mouse: Release political prisoners

The caption from the mouse: Return justice

Weekly News Magazines, August 19, 2011

August 27, 2011

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, August 19, 2011

Thai dance and Khmer dance; Phraya Lawaek, – the treasure trove in the Gulf of Thailand



From Matichon Weekly, August 19, 2011

Yongyuth Wichaidit on the cover: had been quiet and finally he got the best piece of fish

Broadcast media calls for press freedom

August 27, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Broadcast media calls for press freedom](#) – The Nation, August 26, 2011

...A group of journalists working at the Parliament on Thursday sent an open letter to the Prime Minister asking her to stop the challenge to press freedom on this matter.

The journalists said they regarded the note as a threat to their freedom and profession. The government should put a stop to that threat, they said.

Thailand's Thaksin Steals the Spotlight Once Again

August 27, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thailand's Thaksin Steals the Spotlight Once Again](#) – Time, August 25, 2011

...But Thailand's government has changed — Thaksin's younger sister Yingluck, 44, recently became the nation's first female Prime Minister — and so has the status of its best-known fugitive. He arrived in Tokyo on Aug. 22 to be greeted by Japan's Financial Services Minister Shozaburo Jimi. "Coming to Japan is my own right," he told reporters. "My sister has nothing to do with it..."

The Gold-Rush Era

August 28, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From ThaiRath, August 28, 2011

Cartoon headline: The Gold-Rush Era

Top left: They hope to get rich quick by speculating in gold.

Top middle: If you find monitor lizards around parliament, don't be surprised, as there is a lot of polluted water in the pipes.

Top right: Some agencies work like they are unmelted gold. The back of the chair says "EC" .

Bottom left: The price of parrots and mynahs also increased.

Bottom middle: These policemen were transferred because they didn't see the silver or gold ponds in their areas.

Bottom right: They're pushing policies to steal Luang Ta Maha Bua's gold. The safe is labelled "Finance" .

Democrats call for end to intimidation of govt critics by the red shirts

August 28, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Democrats call for end to intimidation of govt critics by the red shirts](#) – The Nation, August 28, 2011

...Democrat spokesman Chavanond Intarakomalyasut said the intimidation of former premiers Chuan and Abhisit, as well as an assault on two students involved in a protest, must not be allowed to happen again...

[Target of chain e-mails not mollified by apology](#) – The Nation, August 28, 2011

...Somjit was referring to Pornthip Paksanont, chief of a red-shirt group in Phetchaburi province. Pornthip has admitted to sending the chain e-mail messages criticising the reporter for asking Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra some aggressive questions. Part of the e-mail said, "Remember her look. Wherever you find her, help me take care of her..."

Thai murder suspect ‘preyed’ on gay tourists

August 28, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai murder suspect ‘preyed’ on gay tourists](http://www.nzherald.co.nz) – www.nzherald.co.nz, August 28, 2011

...Stuart Yeatman, who discovered Jones’ body, said the Syrian national had completely changed his appearance since the murder, cutting his hair and buying new clothes.

Yeatman described him as a “professional thief” who befriended tourists before robbing them, and likened him to the lead character out of the movie The Talented Mr Ripley...

Miss Thailand contest won by fashion student from Devon

August 28, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Miss Thailand contest won by fashion student from Devon](http://www.mirror.co.uk) – www.mirror.co.uk, August 28, 2011

...Half-English half-Thai, she moved to Thailand two years ago and hasn't even learned the language yet...

What's Wrong With the Philippines?

August 29, 2011

Categories: The Philippines

[Rwanda in the Pacific? – Population Pressure, Development, and Conflict in the Philippines](#) – inquirer.net,

August 27, 2011

...it has been a dozen years since the reproductive health bill was first introduced in Congress. Since it was first debated, the population of the country has grown from 75 million to 94 million. The scorched-earth rearguard action of the Catholic Church hierarchy against rationality and collective responsibility has unfortunately condemned millions of those children who joined our country in the last 12 years to grinding poverty and a precarious existence...

Five Years Ago Today: The anti-drinking ad in popular culture

August 29, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News



Five Years Ago Today: [The anti-drinking ad in popular culture](#)

Bodies in the Forest

August 30, 2011

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010



From Thairath, August 20, 2011

Corpse inspection: Pol Lt-General Santhan Chayanon, head of legal affairs litigation for the police, and his team inspect the mass graves of 72 unidentified bodies on the grounds of Wat Klong Ta Kwa in Village 1 of Rayong's Klang district and seize the bodies to investigate whether some might be 51 missing red shirts. Two other temples were also inspected.

Effect of Cheaper Gas

August 30, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From ThaiRath, August 30, 2011

Left: I have good news and bad news about gasoline going down at the pump.

Middle: Joy says: The good news is motorcyclists will save on gas. The village headman says: What's the bad news?

Right: *Dek van* gangs can go out and cause more trouble thanks to the cheaper gas.

Beauty pageant mini-scandals

August 30, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

There have been dozens of beauty pageant mini-scandals over the years. Most often relating to the Thai penchant for choosing Thais raised overseas: [Miss Thailand contest won by fashion student from Devon](#)

Here are a few from the past:

[Miss Thailand didn't expect to have to live there](#)

[Miss Thailand Universe 2010 poses garners criticisms; Takes anger out on Facebook](#)

[The exclusive quality of being Thai](#)

[Sex capital Thailand upset over Miss Universe bikini babes](#)

Academic urges legalisation of casinos

August 30, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Academic urges legalisation of casinos](#) – Bangkok Post, August 30, 2011

...Mr Sangsit said his research on the “Gambling Economy and Public Problems” showed there are more than 170 gambling dens in Bangkok. There were 10 large ones operating permanently, 60 medium and small ones, and about another 100 mobile casinos that move around.

Between 180 and 200 billion baht flows through these casinos every year. Those behind the operations rake in a yearly profit of 38 to 40 billion baht, he said. Of this, 5 to 20 per cent (2 to 8 billion baht) is paid to police.

Elsewhere in the country, there are between 700,000 and one million gambling dens operating. Of these, 75 are large operations and about 780 medium to small businesses. The rest are mobile gambling operations, operating at various locations including funerals...

[Police chief's days are numbered](#) – Bangkok Post, August 30, 2011

Rak Thailand party list MP Chuvit Kamolvisit might not have anticipated that his controversial video clip about an illegal casino in the heart of Bangkok would shake the entire police force to its core. The Pheu Thai Party was quick to capitalise on the scandal and target the top echelons for a major shakeup – and a chance to fill key positions in the force with its own, trusted men...

Ai Weiwei finds China's capital is a prison where people go mad

August 31, 2011

Categories: China

[The City: Beijing – Ai Weiwei finds China's capital is a prison where people go mad](#) –

www.thedailybeast.com, August 28, 2011

...Officials who wear a suit and tie like you say we are the same and we can do business. But they deny us basic rights. You will see migrants' schools closed. You will see hospitals where they give patients stitches—and when they find the patients don't have any money, they pull the stitches out. It's a city of violence...

Bangkok facing 'disaster scenarios'

August 31, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok facing 'disaster scenarios'](#) – www.canberratimes.com.au, August 29, 2011

...Combining this with predictions of coastal erosion along the Gulf of Thailand, the US embassy said Bangkok could face "regular flood waters up to 2m high".

It reported that rising sea waters could also kill off the rice paddies of the Bangkok plains that contribute to Thailand's status as the world's largest rice exporter. "Other Asian mega-cities such as Jakarta and Ho Chi Minh City face similar inundation scenarios..."

Shooting a police officer is too easy

August 31, 2011

Categories: Chalerm Yubamrung, Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, August 31, 2011

Chalerm speaks to his son: Chai, shooting a police officer is too easy. I'm gonna show you that I can shoot a Police Chief like Police General Wichien.

