

# Cultural Chronicles With Carleton Cole

March 1, 2011

Categories: Announcements

Cultural Chronicles With Carleton Cole – March 1, 2011

Carleton writes: ...my new radio show, from 7:30pm to 7:37pm on Wednesdays, on FM 88 and FM 95.5, called “Cultural Chronicles With Carleton Cole”, kicks off on March 2—feel free to listen, promote, share, be dazzled, etc. The inaugural show takes a close look at what Phra Vihan actually is, and why it’s worth fighting for. : ) ...

# A Tale of Two Newspapers: The PM's Nationality

March 1, 2011

Categories: A Tale of Two Newspapers

Doug notes: You've probably noticed this already. I thought of your "one city, two papers" feature:

The Nation: [PM denies dual nationality](#).

Bangkok Post: [PM admits holding dual nationality](#).

Earlier: [A tale of two newspapers archives](#)

# **The story of the attack on Stickman: Cyberbullying And Karma**

March 1, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[At long last: The story of the person who went after Stickman: Cyberbullying And Karma](#) – March 1, 2011

...I read and re-read every email this person had ever sent to me, spanning years. He was a huge fan of this site and often gave feedback or asked questions. He had sent me many questions over the years, and also told me about his life in America. He had previously invited me to visit him at his home in rural Thailand...

# Democrat Party Pre-Campaign Posters

March 1, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Move on with the policy for the people – Increase the special drug suppression mission of 2,500 staff – The Democrat Party

Democrat Pre-Election Posters – March 19, 2011

Here are some of the Democrat pre-election posters. In many areas, the posters were immediately ripped up.





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Move on with the policy for the people – Increase the minimum rate of labor wages by 25% within 2 years – The Democrat Party



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Move on with the policy for the people – Increase the low interest loan for university study 250,000 person per year – The Democrat Party

# Thai Airways Fat Policy

March 1, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

17:52:21

นโยบายการปรับปรุง  
**บุคลิกภาพ**  
ของพนักงานต้อนรับบนเครื่องบิน

หลักเกณฑ์ค่า	ค่า BMI (ไม่เกณฑ์)	ค่าวัดรอบเอว (ไม่เกณฑ์)
พนักงานต้อนรับ ชาย	27.5	35
พนักงานต้อนรับ หญิง	25	32

SMS 4838777 (3 บาท/ครั้ง)

เพื่อความคล่องตัวในการให้บริการเห็นด้วยค่า:  
เตอร์ รับสมัครนิสิตใหม่โดยวิธีรับตรงจำนวน 30 คน ผู้สมัคร

The screen capture reads: “Cho Khao Den”

The words in the purple area read: Policy to improve the personality of air hostesses – The table shows data of standard value – BMI – waist measure, compared between male and female

[Thai Airways accused of discrimination over new weight, shape standards](#) – New Kerala, March 2, 2011

Thai Airways has been accused of discrimination by flight attendants who failed to meet its new weight standards after they were given six months to shape up...

# Trust Elephant Cement

March 1, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards



The sign reads: If challenging structural work like this is made possible by Elephant Cement, you can trust it for the construction of your house – Elephant Cement



# Pheu Thai Sign

March 1, 2011

Categories: Elections



The sign reads: The Pheu Thai Party – Thank you for every vote that has shown your trust in Pongpisuth Jintasophon

# **PM's nationality not a problem, clear since youth days**

March 1, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[PM's nationality not a problem, clear since youth days](#) – thaigov.go.th, March 1, 2011

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva confirmed that there is no problem about his nationality because it has been clear since he was in school; he had always needs to visa application before migration to England...

# Thailand seen holding onto crown of 'Detroit of Asia'

March 1, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand seen holding onto crown of 'Detroit of Asia'](#) – Reuters, March 1, 2011

...Welcome to the "Detroit of Asia," a vast area 120 km (75 miles) east of Bangkok, where durian orchards have given way to car plants over the past decade and vehicles are made for export to more than 200 countries.

While facing increasing competition as an auto manufacturing hub from countries including India, China and Indonesia, Thailand looks likely to retain its dominant position and win more investment thanks to its low wage costs and strong infrastructure...

# The Police and the Nationalists

March 2, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, March 2, 2011

At top left, C-in-C Prayuth is saying: Without the charge of terrorism, how can I walk on the street?

At top right, Sondhi is saying: If you file the charge of terrorism against us, we will continue the road blockade and not allow you to walk pass.

The words on the book being held by Police Chief Wichean reads: The case of filing charges of terrorism against the PAD for seizing the airport

At bottom right the mouse holds a sign that reads: Release the imprisoned UDD

# “East Meets West” Exhibition

March 3, 2011

Categories: Announcements

“East Meets West” Exhibition – March 3, 2011

Nils notes: While this art project was originally about Germans vs Chinese, I think most observations are true for “Westerners” vs “East Asians” on the whole... Like the example picture “Sunshine” in the two links: The Farangs rip off their clothes to enjoy the sunrays, while the Thais take out an umbrella so as not to get dark skin. 😊

[23 February-13 March 2011 | 10:30-21:00 – TCDC @ The Emporium](#) and [via German Embassy website](#)

...East meets West” visualizes the cultural differences between Asian and Western thinking. Yang Liu’s works show how it is possible to reduce complex cultural issues of mentality to very expressive pictograms. The designer approaches the subject with humour and without judgement. Her exhibition was highly successful in various places in Europe and in China...



# Rush to Oil

March 3, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, March 3, 2011

Left top: Their houses

The people are saying: Oh my God... oil oil oil!

Right top: Our houses

The people are saying: Oh my God... oil oil oil!

# **Baby elephant tortured into submission before illegal smuggling from Burma to Thailand**

March 4, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Baby elephant tortured into submission before illegal smuggling from Burma to Thailand](#) – MSNBC, March, 2011

I see almost 10,000 pictures a day, and many document some form of suffering. Some of that suffering is incidental as people try to survive, some happens in chaotic situations, and some is intentional. But in all of it, I've never seen an image of such a deliberate infliction of misery...

# Thai lawmakers warned of phone spy threat

March 4, 2011

Categories: Security

[Thai lawmakers warned of phone spy threat](#) – Straits Times, March 4, 2011

Thai lawmakers were ordered on Friday not to divulge secrets over the telephone in an edict by the country's parliament about so-called 'spy phone' technology.

Legislators were told that their calls could be intercepted and text messages hacked into, in a notice posted on the official parliament website.

'Don't discuss top-secret issues either on your mobile phone or land line,' the announcement said...

# Thai hotel where Kiwi died investigated

March 4, 2011

Categories: Health, Tourism

[Thai hotel where Kiwi died investigated](#) – tvnz.co.nz, March 4, 2011

...Just days before the friends were taken ill, a 47-year old Thai woman was found dead in the same hotel in Northern Thailand, allegedly in the room next door to the girls.

...A few days after Sarah died, a British couple, believed to be in their 70's, checked into the hotel and were found dead in their rooms more than a week later...

# DSI Hiding the Truth

March 4, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, March 4, 2011

The cartoon headline reads: The murderer needs to be arrested, not protected

The words above the skull at left: Hiroyuki, the Japanese photographer

The words above the skull at right: Red shirt

# Mafia Wars and Thailand

March 5, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Mafia Wars and Thailand – March 5, 2011

Nils notes: Another interesting tidbit from the Mafia Wars game on Facebook, as reported on the MW Wiki: The San Francisco-based company behind MW, [Zynga](#) is currently closing down a few older cities in the game, apparently as part of a plan to revamp them/eventually re-open them in a new format. Unfortunately, they committed a noteworthy faux pas in the process.

From [Neo-Imperium](#) (scroll down about half a page to where it says “Massacre in Moscow”) ...It originally said “Thai King Deported” as seen on the right, then they changed it to “Unrest In Thailand” seen on the left, due to very upset Thai players shouting about how disrespectful it was to publish that image. It’s important to note that Mafia Wars has a very large fanbase in Thailand.

...and then one of the Zynga game developers apparently apologized on the official forum, explaining that it had simply been a careless mistake, as by the “Thai King” they had actually meant one of the in-game characters (a non-player character, level boss), and not the real king.

The question is, of course, whether the developer(s) really just failed to make this clear/preclude any misunderstanding – or if they did intend to refer to the real king, without being aware of the cultural consequences...

# Weapons, frozen chicken, and the art of diplomacy

March 6, 2011

Categories: Wikileaks

[SPECIAL REPORT-Weapons, frozen chicken, and the art of diplomacy](#) – Forexyard, March 5, 2011

*...For the embassy in Bangkok, winning achieved two goals: helping Lockheed and keeping the Russians from selling planes. There was, however, a small complication with the terms — the Thai government didn't want to pay cash. Instead, it proposed trading 80,000 stockpiled tons of frozen chicken.*

*“Embassy contacts said that until Lockheed Martin offered a proposal to sell F-16s that included countertrade, the (Thai government) could not seriously consider its offer. Contacts also suggested that an offer that included an agreement to buy Thai chicken would be especially welcome,” the embassy said in a March 2005 cable setting the scene for the competition.*

*A May 2005 cable indicates Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra personally raised the bird barter issue with Admiral William Fallon, then-head of the U.S. Pacific Command. Days later, word got to Thaksin that Lockheed was willing to play ball.*

*“It was a negotiating tactic by Thaksin. But until relatively late in the game, Lockheed was reticent to engage. They finally agreed to talk ... but it was too late,” the former U.S. diplomat in Asia said, terming the whole episode “comical” in a way.*

*Things didn't quite work out, though. After a military coup the new Thai government ended up buying Swedish jets, fearing it wouldn't be allowed to buy the Lockheed planes because of post-coup sanctions. (The embassy contacted the government to disabuse them of the notion, to no avail).*

*Lockheed declined to comment on both the fighter competition in Thailand and the proposed sale of planes in Chad...*

More Thai Wikileaks

[07BANGKOK598, RTG OPEN TO DISCUSSIONS WITH PHARMA](#)

[06BANGKOK7335, NEXT STEPS FOR THAILAND'S COMPULSORY LICENSE BID](#)

# The Society that Depends on Praying

March 6, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, March 6, 2011

The headline of the cartoon: The society that depends on praying

Top left: Praying that a taxi driver will not take you to be raped and take a VDO clip !

Top middle: Praying that your weight will lost in the time designated by your company!

Top right: Praying that there is a control measures for advertisements along highways!

Bottom left: Praying that the murderer who killed Gen. Romklao and his military companions will experience revenge in this lifetime!

Bottom middle: Praying that the Skywalk valued at 15,000 million baht will not be taken over to become an area for street vendors!

Bottom right: Praying that the censure debate will not cause many lizards to walk inside parliament!



# PM attends Delivery Stocktake Meeting

March 7, 2011

Categories: Humor

[PM attends Delivery Stocktake Meeting](#) – March 7, 2011

Niles notes: There's another article with garbled English (in the title at least) on that government site. I think I figured it out: they meant to say "PM attends Performance Review Meeting"

Earlier: [PM's nationality not a problem, clear since youth days](#)

# Thailand has ‘more women in charge’

March 7, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand has ‘more women in charge’](#) – The Daily Telegraph, March 7, 2011

...Australia is still ranked 16th in the world, trailing Thailand where women hold 45 per cent of senior management roles...

# Thailand: Probe departure of Rohingya “boat people”

March 7, 2011

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Thailand: Probe departure of Rohingya “boat people”](#) – Aliran Online, March 7, 2011

...In January 2009, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva chaired a meeting of Thailand’s National Security Council that authorised the navy to intercept incoming Rohingya boats and detain the passengers in off-shore holding centres. Later that year, Thai security forces were captured on video towing boats with Rohingyas out to sea, which the government initially denied. Prime Minister Abhisit later stated in a media interview: “It’s not exactly clear whose work it is. All the authorities say it’s not their policy, but I have reason to believe some instances of this happened, but if I can have the evidence as to who exactly did this, I will certainly bring them to account...”

# Human rights: Thailand must transcend rhetoric

March 7, 2011

Categories: Human Rights

[Human rights: Thailand must transcend rhetoric](#) – malaysiakini.com, March 7, 2011

...The issue of state impunity, especially the war on drugs, which reportedly lead to the extra-judicial killings of at least 2,500 people under the administration of Thaksin Shinawatra, has been commonly referred to by the ruling Democrat-led government in the debate on how Thaksin's administration had a worse human rights record than they. However, after almost two and a half years in office, the Democrat-led government has failed to bring a single high-ranking military or police officials involved in atrocities under Thaksin to trial.

The government promised that the case of disappeared human rights lawyer Somchai Neelaphaitjit would be given priority. The seventh anniversary of his disappearance will be commemorated next week and his family continues to wait, empty-handed.

It's not very likely that culprits behind the assassination of 20 activists and 85 victims of the Tak Bai massacre will be held accountable for their crimes anytime soon. Nor would there be an investigation into the January 2009 incident where Burmese Rohingya refugees were mercilessly towed to sea to an uncertain fate without supplies...

# Diabetes uncontrolled in seven countries

March 7, 2011

Categories: Health

[Diabetes uncontrolled in seven countries](#) – endocrinetoday.com, March 7, 2011

...The researchers found that up to 62% of men with diabetes in Thailand are undiagnosed or untreated for diabetes, which translates to more than 663,000 people...

# Military Theft.... Again!

March 7, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, March 7, 2011

The policeman at right says What! ...facing the house burglary again! How many times?!

Commander-in-Chief Prayuth sits at right to report the theft to the police.

The caption at the bottom reads: The one who records the case even feel bored

# Recent Views of the Mahakan Fort Community

March 8, 2011

Categories: The Mahakan Fort Community



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Fireworks sales, which were stamped out during the Thaksin government years, are back.

Recent views of the Mahakan Fort community – March 8, 2011

Earlier: [The Mahakan Fort community](#).



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: The much touted park to promote tourism has fallen into ruin after just a few years.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: UBC dishes have sprouted from several of the old houses.





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Another view of the formerly green lawn of the park area.

Below: The site in 2004



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above and below: The extensive collection of fireworks on sale in the area.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: People have moved back in to the historic building at the back of the site on the klong.

# **Send for the tusk force! Why elephants really are good at teamwork**

March 8, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Send for the tusk force! Why elephants really are good at teamwork](#) – Daily Mail, March 8, 2011

# Thailand tires of six-decade Karen conflict

March 8, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Myanmar/Burma

[Thailand tires of six-decade Karen conflict](#) – MandC, March 8, 2011

...Myanmar's military regime closed the bridge to tourism and trade eight months ago, claiming that Thailand was deliberately trying to alter the course of the Moei River, which defines the common border, with construction of an embarkment on their side.

Thai authorities said the real reason for the closure was Myanmar's conviction that Mae Sot, a border town in the north-western province of Tak, is an enclave for the Karen National Union (KNU), possibly the world's oldest insurgency...

# **Mysterious deaths in Thailand – what's going on?**

March 8, 2011

Categories: Tourism

[Mysterious deaths in Thailand – what's going on?](#) – 3news, March 8, 2011

There was a fifth suspicious death in Chiang Mai, Thailand just weeks before that of New Zealander Sarah Carter...

[Thai police pressed on mystery tourist deaths](#) – ABC.net, March 8, 2011

# **China to start delayed Myanmar rail link this year**

March 8, 2011

Categories: Thai Railroads

[China to start delayed Myanmar rail link this year](#) – Straits Times, March 8, 2011

# **Vietnam fears for life of ‘sacred’ national turtle**

March 8, 2011

Categories: Vietnam

[Vietnam fears for life of ‘sacred’ national turtle](#) – BBC, March 8, 2011



# Thai Official Says Protesters Ran Into Bullets

March 8, 2011

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Thai Official Says Protesters Ran Into Bullets](#) – PR Newswire, March 8, 2011

In a March 5 interview with ASTV, Thai Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban made statements regarding the killings of pro-democracy protesters in April and May of 2010. He said, “We never wanted to kill civilians or use police/army force to crack down on the demonstration, but they were killed because they ran into it...”

# **CSD probes 4 missing Orient Thai aircraft engines**

March 9, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[CSD probes 4 missing Orient Thai aircraft engines](#) – Bangkok Post, March 9, 2011

# **‘Disappeared’ Pirate Bay founder ‘recovering’ in Cambodia**

March 9, 2011

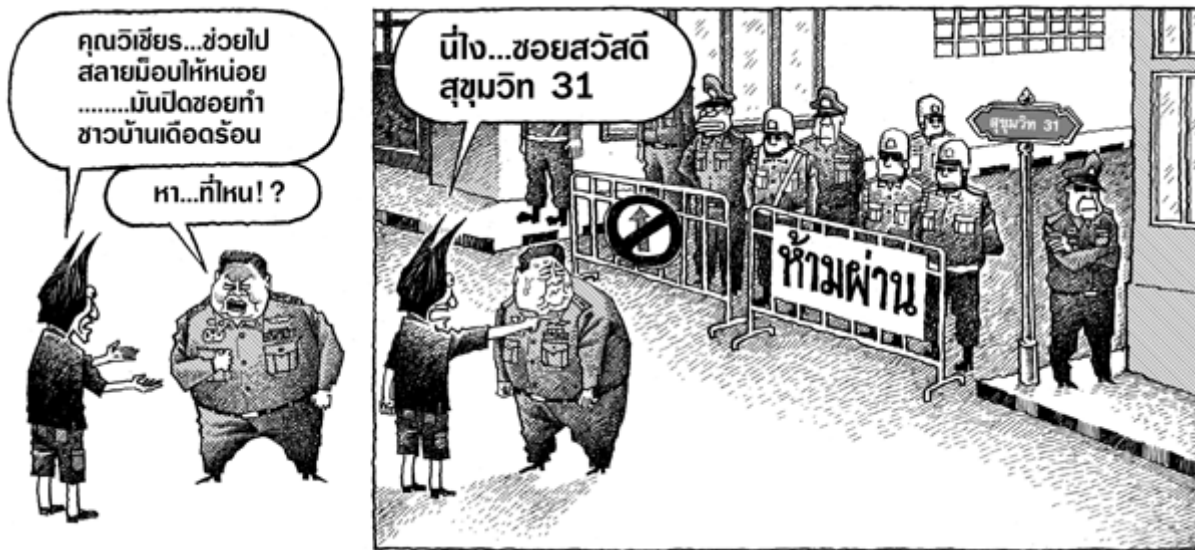
Categories: Cambodia

[‘Disappeared’ Pirate Bay founder ‘recovering’ in Cambodia](#) – itworld.com, March 9, 2011

# Wichean, please help disperse the mob

March 10, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, March 10, 2011

Left, the person is saying: Mr. Wichean , please help disperse the mob. They stage a blockade of the soi causing the people to suffer.

Gen. Wichean says: Haah... Where?

At right, the person says: There it is... Soi Sawasdee Sukhumvit 31.

The word on the barrier reads: Not allowed to pass.

# Film preserves villagers' lost way of life

March 10, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Film preserves villagers' lost way of life](#) – phnompenhpost.com, March 10, 2011

...Anger of the Spirits captures the daily lives of people in five villages who lived around volcanic lake Yeak Loam in 2001.

At a screening last weekend at Bophana Audiovisual Resource Centre, Carlsen explained that the lake was a storehouse of sacred spirits for the Tampuan people. However, since the lake became a tourist attraction and land concessions were granted in the province, most of the indigenous tribespeople were moved.

“There were a lot of land concessions to private companies and government officials or soldiers took their land. It’s still a problem, even today,” said Carlsen...

# Abduction Case Has Top Priority

March 10, 2011

Categories: Crime

[Abduction Case Has Top Priority](#) – ScandAsia, March 10, 2011

ScandAsia met late last night, a calm but tired Henrik Engdahl in Bangkok. He had come to Bangkok to see the Swedish Embassy and to search for his daughter Niza Engdahl who was kidnapped by her mother last Wednesday...

# Thailand: Temple incense smoke hazardous to health

March 10, 2011

Categories: Health, Local Beliefs

[Thailand: Temple incense smoke hazardous to health](#) – AP, March 10, 2011

...The samples showed the incense smoke contained benzene at levels 53 times higher than recommended safety standards, 33 times more butadiene and 10 times the amount of safe benzopyrene...

# **Palestine host Thailand in occupied West Bank**

March 10, 2011

Categories: Sports

[Palestine host Thailand in occupied West Bank](#) – YouTube, March, 2011



# Surrounded by Tanks

March 11, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Daily News, March 11, 2011

The cartoon's name is read "Kha Pra Jam" by Khuad

The cartoon caption at top: The child is startled.

The word on the paper: Good at speaking only

# People Might Die Before the Government

March 11, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Khao Sod, March 11, 2011

The cartoon caption reads: The people might go first

The word next to the man: Things are expensive

# Loss of Cigarette Taxes

March 11, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, March 11, 2011

The cartoon headline: Cigarettes are harmful to health

The words on the cloud of smoke: The government lost the cigarette taxes of 68 billion baht

The smoke covers a hooded figure with words: Order crackdown on the people

Words on the man at left: "A" the man who is close to PM

Words on the Uncle Sam figure at right: The giant cigarette company

# Thai Billionaires

March 11, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai Billionaires](#) – Forbes, March 11, 2011

# **An election won't solve Thailand's woes**

March 11, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

[An election won't solve Thailand's woes](#) – TODAYonline, March 11, 2011

...Mr Abhisit has promised his party will increase the minimum wage by 25 per cent in two years, at the maximum. He seems too determined to “buy” his way back into power. His critics see many similarities between Mr Abhisit’s agendas and those of Thaksin in the old days. They have already criticised Mr Abhisit of stealing Thaksin’s populist ideas. It is ironic that the Democrat Party, which once detested Thaksin’s people-centric approach, is now adopting similar policy platforms.

...As for the opposition Pheu Thai Party, some of its executive members have claimed that the party now has more “ammunition”, or election funds of 5 billion baht (S\$209,500 million), at its disposal compared to 4 billion baht in the previous election; and that with the money it would win the election “hands down”. They have never been more confident and are well prepared for an election...

# **Somchai's daughter fights for answers**

March 11, 2011

Categories: Crime

[Somchai's daughter fights for answers](#) – No giving up on famed missing Muslim lawyer – Bangkok Post, March 11, 2011

# **EU: we cannot lose sight of Thai refugee camps**

March 11, 2011

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[EU: we cannot lose sight of Thai refugee camps](#) – Europe Online Magazine, March 11, 2011

# Stuck in a rut: Thailand's telecom sector is crying out for reform

March 12, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Stuck in a rut: Thailand's telecom sector is crying out for reform](#) – Asian Correspondent, March 12, 2011

...By 2010, the National Telecommunications Commission was starting to look very much like a lame duck regulator with the government finally moving to create the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission. Although this new authority is not likely to be operational until late 2011 and will take time to get up to speed, the National Telecommunications Commission is finding it increasingly more difficult to carry out its role.

The biggest setback was the failure of the National Telecommunications Commission to hold the 3G auctions and to issue these long-awaited licences. The situation with respect to 3G was proving to be a national embarrassment for Thailand. There were also serious concerns in some quarters that the new regulator when finally installed would not be a truly independent authority...



# Jatuporn's Regret

March 14, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, March 14, 2011

Jatuporn is saying: an industrious attempt to gather 100,000 , but the press give this small space.  
The headline on the newspaper: Tsunami hits Japan!

## **6 animal nicknames to avoid in Thailand**

March 14, 2011

Categories: Local Beliefs

[6 animal nicknames to avoid in Thailand](#) – CNNGo, March 14, 2011

From harsh insults to stinky armpits. In Thailand, there's an animalistic moniker for every occasion...

# **Festival addresses Cambodian repression**

March 14, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Festival addresses Cambodian repression](#) – browndailyherald.com, March 14, 2011

...”Freedom of speech is difficult to find in Cambodia,” Kho said. “I promoted people to write about contemporary issues.”

Kho said the media in Cambodia is controlled by the country’s high-ranking members of society.

“Televisions, newspapers, magazines are all under the government,” he said. As a result everyone only hears the same “good” news, he added...

# Thaksin: A Continuing Menace

March 14, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thaksin: A Continuing Menace](#) – TAN, March 14, 2011

...Despite some remarks made by the red shirt leaders in the past, claiming that former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is no longer relevant to their movement, the red shirts announced at their latest rally that they are still fighting for Thaksin. So it seems that the fugitive criminal is still using the red shirts for political purposes...

# Abhist turns the tables on Mingkwan

March 15, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Abhist turns the tables on Mingkwan](#) – The Nation, March 15, 2011

...Abhisit summed up Mingkwan's attack on him as the presentation of distorted facts for political gains. He also challenged the opposition to run its campaign by promising to undo whatever his government has accomplished...

[Debate Day 1 wins opposition](#) – The Nation, March 15, 2011

The opposition yesterday took a slim lead over the government on the first day of the three-day censure debate, according to Abac Poll...

# **Tourists heading to Thailand warned after spate of mysterious deaths**

March 15, 2011

Categories: Tourism

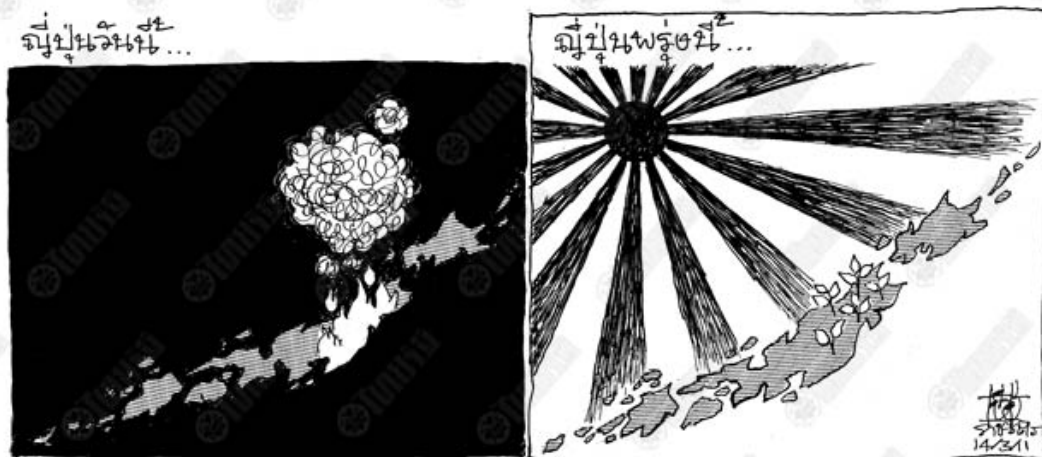
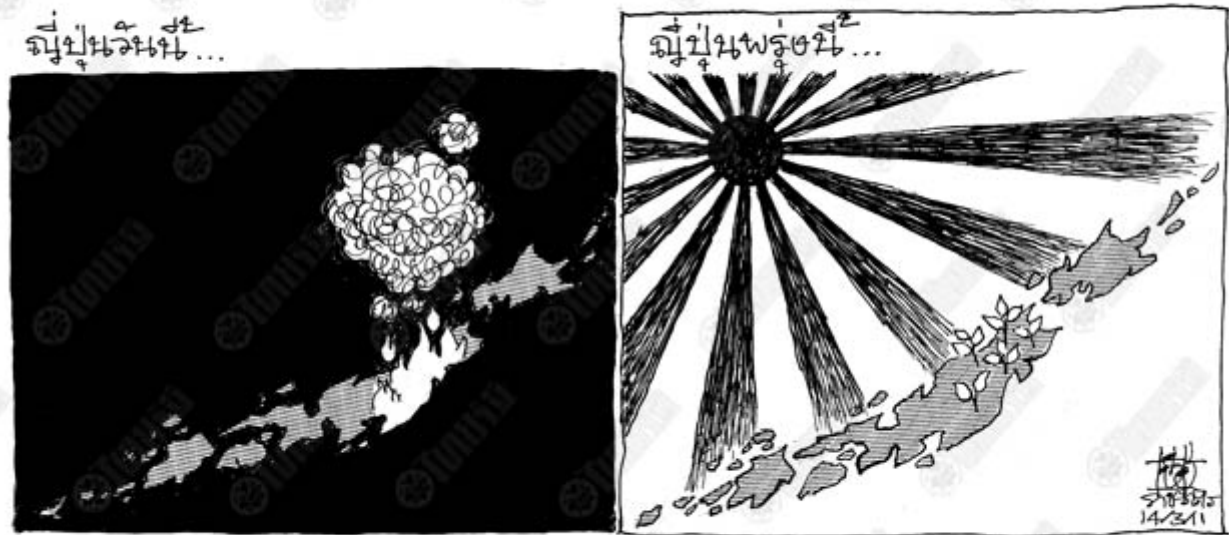
[Tourists heading to Thailand warned after spate of mysterious deaths](#) – NEWS.com.au, March 15, 2011

Travellers to Thailand are being warned to beware of food poisoning following a spate of mysterious deaths in a town popular with Australian tourists...

# Hopes for Japan

March 16, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, March 16, 2011

Left: Japan today

Right: Japan tomorrow



# Another Sarah Carter-style mystery death in Thailand

March 16, 2011

Categories: Tourism

[Another Sarah Carter-style mystery death in Thailand](#) – Stuff.co.nz, March 16, 2011

A Frenchwoman has been identified as the sixth person to die in similar circumstances to New Zealander Sarah Carter in Chiang Mai in Thailand this year.

Carter, 23, became ill last month while staying at the Downtown Inn in Chiang Mai, and died a day later...

# Thai politicians launch battles on Twitter

March 16, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thai politicians launch battles on Twitter](#) – Asia News Network, March 16, 2011

...After being mostly inactive for months, Thaksin's Twitter account came to life again on Saturday when the red shirts gathered in impressive numbers to mark the first anniversary of their anti-government rally last year.

The Democrat Party, whose official Twitter account @democratTH has slightly over 800 followers, relied on the accounts of its more popular politicians in spreading their messages – Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's @PM\_Abhisit with 170,000 followers, Finance Minister Korn Chatikavanij's @KornDemocrat with 71,000 and Korbsak Sabhavasut's @korbsak with 14,000.

Although the politicians mostly do their own tweeting, some are known to rely on their assistants to do it for them. Korn's staff at the Finance Ministry have a separate Twitter account, @TeamKornMOF...

# **Simmering Discontent Still a Risk in Thailand**

March 16, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

[Simmering Discontent Still a Risk in Thailand](#) – NTD, March 16, 2011

# Thailand's got trans talent!

March 16, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand's got trans talent!](#) – Same Same, March 16, 2011

# **Ex-Thai PM sues UAE lawyer for Dh441m**

March 16, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Ex-Thai PM sues UAE lawyer for Dh441m](#) – Emirates 24/7, March 16, 2011

...According to documents of the case, which Emarat Al Youm has a copy of, Shinawatra, in his capacity as the owner of UK Sports Investments Limited (UKSIL), struck a deal with another company for £150 million...

[Man denies cheating Thaksin in club deal](#) – Gulf News, March 18, 2011

# Lawyer's case raises "impunity" charge in Thailand

March 16, 2011

Categories: Crime, Human Rights

[Lawyer's case raises "impunity" charge in Thailand](#) – Reuters, March 16, 2011

...In a rare prosecution of a member of the security forces, Police Major Ngern Tongsuk was sentenced to three years in prison in 2006 for assaulting Somchai, then chairman of the Muslim Lawyers Association, but the Appeal Court reversed the verdict on Friday, saying witness accounts and evidence were inconclusive. Ngern was released on bail after the initial guilty verdict and then went missing. His family said he disappeared in a mudslide in northern Thailand in 2008.

"It's like a joke, except it's not very funny," Somchai's widow, Angkhana Neepapaijit, told Reuters.

...Angkhana, a human rights activist, plans to appeal to the Supreme Court but knows it will be an uphill task. "Like so many cases, one witness after another has pulled out through fear for their lives. Witness protection here is useless."

She has been threatened several times herself. Closed-circuit cameras outside her home are frequently destroyed and before the latest verdict she received threatening phone calls...

# **Sick website offered package holidays abroad for paedophiles**

March 17, 2011

Categories: Crime

[Sick website offered package holidays abroad for paedophiles](#) – Mirror, March 17, 2011

...Expat abusers in Thailand offered to arrange flights for like minded Brits who wanted to molest and rape youngsters. They met “customers” in Pattaya, laid on apartments and provided them with underage youths to abuse, Ceop believes...



# Tourists could see SE Asia on single visa

March 17, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Tourists could see SE Asia on single visa](#) – AFP, March 17, 2011

Travellers could soon be able surf in Bali, shop in Singapore and eat spicy street food in Thailand before crossing into Cambodia and cruising the Mekong in Vietnam — all on a single tourist visa....

# **Bangkok Super Skywalk Project to be Delayed**

March 17, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok Super Skywalk Project to be Delayed](#) – TAN, March 17, 2011

# Kiwis urged to be cautious in Thai city

March 18, 2011

Categories: Health, Tourism

[Kiwis urged to be cautious in Thai city](#) – TVNZ, March 18, 2011

Travellers to the Thai city of Chiang Mai are being urged to be cautious after a string of unexplained deaths. Six travellers, including one Kiwi, have died in the city in as many weeks with Thai authorities struggling to come up with a satisfactory explanation...

# Jatuporn says Abhisit, Suthep ‘collude to kill people’

March 18, 2011

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010, Thai Politics

[Jatuporn says Abhisit, Suthep ‘collude to kill people’](#) – The Nation, March 18, 2011

*...Jatuporn, who led last year’s 10-week protest by the red shirts that led to the political turmoil, said that if those cases go to court, Abhisit and Suthep would be charged with “colluding to kill people” and could face death sentence if found guilty...*

[Suthep repudiates Jatuporn’s claims](#) – Bangkok Post, March 18, 2011

*...Showing video clips, Mr Suthep said the four groups of “men in black” were:*

- the group of Ronin warriors led by the late Maj-Gen Khattiya Sawasdipol;*
- the Black Tigers group under Lt-Gen Thuanthong Suwannathat, former army specialist, and red guards leader Aree Krainara;*
- the Saming Dam group of hard-core red shirts, specialising in bomb-making; and*
- another group of “men in black” for secret operations.*

*Members of these armed groups had been trained for violent attacks and their operations had been well planned and systematic.*

*“Therefore, it can be said that those operating under Mr Jatuporn’s orders were responsible for the killing of civilians, soldiers and journalists,” Mr Suthep said...*

# On the forum: Purachai is back

March 18, 2011

Categories: Analysis, Thai Politics

## [On the forum: Purachai is back](#)

The reemergence of Purachai, popular for spearheading the Thai Rak Thai “social order” campaign, is a fascinating addition to the political landscape.

In the early 2000s, Thaksin was setting himself up as a life-long PM in the style of governments in Malaysia and Singapore. Those governments, which included strict control of the press by the ruling party, led to both quick development and rising living standards.

Purachai, as Thaksin’s Interior Minister, became popular as a moral crusader over issues Thai society continually wrings its hands over. The issues and attitudes that were promoted were ones Thaksin and Thai Rak Thai were known for: admonishing young women over a number of issues (including not wearing spaghetti strap blouses), enforcing limits on alcohol sales and age limits in bars, objecting to racy fashion shows on TV, and taking a dim view of homosexuality. On one hand these issues represent Thaksin’s insistence on following regulations to the letter (in opposition to normal Thai expectations of compromise) and on the other hand the new Thai upper classes’ view of traditional Thai vice and lasciviousness.

Government leadership on these issues proved very popular with the public and, coupled with Purachai’s squeaky clean image, quickly saw him labeled by the press as a successor to Thaksin. Public opinion polls showed him only second in popularity to the PM. During the Thaksin years, anyone labeled by the press as being successor to him saw their political futures cut short. Purachai was not only drummed out of the party, but was strong-armed into retiring from politics altogether.

Since then Purachai has been a perennial favorite in public opinion polls as a future PM. However, as a resigning academic with an uncompromising attitude, it may be that he does not have the aggression or pragmatism to lead and hold together a coalition. His reemergence into politics is yet another fascinating variable in the developing electoral landscape.

# The Old Sick Dog

March 19, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, March 19, 2011

Thaksin is speaking to his sister, Yingluck Shinawatra: Miss , could you do me favor by holding the dog and bringing it to go out for a walk?

The words on the dog's collar: Pheu Thai Party

The caption at bottom: Beauty and the Beast

# The Red Shirt leaders on Seh Daeng– “a decomposed dead dog”

March 19, 2011

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Utter hypocrisy](#) – Bangkok Post, March 19, 2011

*...Seh Daeng, who was a dissident military officer, told reporters prior to his assassination that Thaksin Shinawatra had summoned and asked him to provide protection for the red shirts during their demonstrations in Bangkok.*

*During the protest Seh Daeng had a serious disagreement with the mob leaders concerning the safety of demonstrators. Despite his concern, based on his military and strategic experience, he was labelled by one of the red shirt leaders, Jatuporn Promphan, as “a decomposed dead dog”.*

*Seh Daeng, no matter what we think about him, is now being used by some politicians as a martyr and a supporter of their “heroism”. Fair-minded Thai voters should be aware of this hypocrisy.*

# Mysterious Beliefs

March 20, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From ThaiRath, March 20, 2011

The cartoon titles reads: The mysterious belief of six planets lining up in the same orbit – Super Moon

Top left: People flock to pay homage to the 5-legged calf!

Top middle: The hot climate has turned to a cold season!

Top right: The real monk is the real leading actor in an x-rated video clip!

Bottom left: The radioactive ray changes the ability of eye sight by changing black color into white and vice versa!



Bottom middle: Tsunami causes deluge water to spurt out the parliament with bad odor!  
Bottom right: Dog running out from the honorable!

# Chalerm Waiting for a Call

March 20, 2011

Categories: Chalerm Yubamrung, Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, March 20, 2011

Chalerm's sons say: Noum... what's happening to Dad... he keeps watching the telephone for 3 days and 3 nights?

Noum says: He's waiting for Thaksin to call to console him.

# Foreign investors put off buying in Bangkok

March 21, 2011

Categories: Property and Development

[Foreign investors put off buying in Bangkok](#) – Property Wire, March 21, 2011

The real estate market in Bangkok is largely dominated by domestic buyers as various restrictions on foreign investment is ensuring that they stay away, according to a new analysis...

# Closing a Provincial Highway

March 21, 2011

Categories: Analysis, Protest



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign on the truck reads: To protect the project 'Father of the land, the Khao Hin Son Research and Development Project under the royal idea, in Panom Sarakham in Chacherngsao Province'

The road sign reads: The Panomsarakharm Police station -100 meters

Closing a Provincial Highway – March 21, 2011

Here are some photos of a typical method of protest—closing a road to get the attention of the government or bureaucracy. This protest event was in Panomsarakharm District in Chachoengsao Province and the protest



was against a coal-fired power plant. The fears of having such a plant in rural areas is not unjustified—there are numerous instances around the country of local communities being devastated by various polluting plants.

This sort of protest normally is a series of set events:

The protest usually blocks one lane of a highway—with truck and tents and sometimes by dumping produce on the road (especially if it is a price support issue).

The police then enter into negotiations with the protesters making sure they proceed in a formal manner that acknowledges the protesters' sense of legitimacy and importance.

The demand of the protesters is to present a letter detailing their grievances to a top relevant official.

Usually a deputy or subordinate arrives to accept the letter of protest for the top official.

Having had their issue acknowledged, the protesters disperse.

These events usually do not last longer than a day.

The success of local protests depends on governmental and bureaucratic resolve and increasingly can turn on technical legal rulings by the judiciary. Normally issues of harmony, "satisfaction," and "benefits for all" are valued over strict interpretations of right and wrong. Often in the case of power plants, dams, and other infrastructure important to the government, the response to local protest can be thuggish—especially when the protest is prolonged and the people will not disperse (i.e. they are not adhering to the acceptable rules for protest).

The "rules" of this sort of protest are key to the Red Shirt raid of the Asean Summit in Pattaya in 2009. The Red Shirts had been promising that they needed to approach the summit venue to offer a letter detailing their grievances in the traditional Thai style of protest. It appeared that the authorities were skeptical and did everything they could to resist this considering earlier Red Shirt attacks on the Prime Minister's car. At some point, perhaps with the assurances of top Chonburi officials about Red Shirt intentions, Red Shirts were allowed to approach the venue to deliver their letter, but it turned out to be a ruse to overrun the venue instead.

In general, a way to discredit a local protest is to circulate word that a "third hand" is staging the event for political or financial benefit. This sort of claim allows authorities and the public to instantly dismiss the protest issue. This is a blind spot in the Thai world—it is rarely recognized that, while a protest may be staged, it may also be true that the grievances raised are legitimate and should be addressed. Raising the "third hand" aspect usually results in the underlying issues being dismissed.

This ties into the Red Shirt protest issue as well. While it may seem clear that the specific timing of their activities are solely for Thaksin's short-term political goals, it may also be the case that the issues raised in general, such as inclusion, reform, and prosperity at the rural level, must be addressed regardless of the "third hand" involved.





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Panomsarakham District people do not want the Khao Hin Son coal-fired power plant!



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

# **Dismal role seen for renewable energy in Thailand**

March 22, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Dismal role seen for renewable energy in Thailand](#) – Thailandnews.net, March 22, 2011

...”Thailand’s electricity demand will double in the next 12 to 15 years. I don’t think renewable energy – because of its cost and its potential in this country – can replace natural gas and coal for generating electricity,” Kurujit said...

# Thai plane crash inquest hears how eight Britons died

March 22, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai plane crash inquest hears how eight Britons died](#) – BBC, March 22, 2011

An inquest has heard how an aircraft skidded on to a runway in Thailand and burst into flames, killing eight Britons. Ninety people are known to have died as a result of the incident on 16 September, 2007...

[Crash pilot's logbook 'failed'](#) – The Telegraph, March 23, 2011



# **ANALYSIS: Thai opposition party waits for Thaksin to name PM candidate**

March 22, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[ANALYSIS: Thai opposition party waits for Thaksin to name PM candidate](#) – Asia News Network, March 22, 2011

Thailand's opposition Pheu Thai Party will announce its candidate for the next prime minister as soon as the government calls for dissolution of the House of Representatives, fugitive ex-PM Thaksin Shinawatra said in a message on Sunday night...

# Looking at the Long Term

March 22, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Looking at the Long Term](#) – Thailand Outlook Channel, March 22, 2011

Risk factors affecting Thailand, at a glance, don't seem any different from its fellow Asian neighbors or other countries around the world. Whether its the allied offensive in Libya or the catastrophic disaster in Japan, it's easy to say that Thailand is in no more danger from major events around the world than the next country...

# Cambodian card cartel

March 22, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodian card cartel](#) – Thanh Nien Daily, March 22, 2011

Sources inside Cambodia say that Vietnamese nationals are being illegally imprisoned by casino loan sharks who have ensnared them in a vicious economy...

# Thailand Accused of Creating Instability in Burma

March 22, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Thailand Accused of Creating Instability in Burma](#) – The Irrawaddy, March 22, 2011

*... “There are base camps which they call refugee camps in the territory of the neighbor near Myanmar border. Those camps are founded with contribution of some certain super powers, INGOs and the neighbor. Insurgents use those camps as their base and launch guerrilla attacks on the army, which is the reason that are still occurring in Kayin State...”*

# **From 2002: Thaksin and Absolute Power**

March 23, 2011

Categories: Today in History

The link is long gone and the article itself has disappeared from the net and history, but this article was a good example of the controversy and praise Thaksin generated during his time in office: [Absolute power from the Washington Post](#)

# Army chief apologises to southerners

March 23, 2011

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[Army chief apologises to southerners](#) – Bangkok Post, March 23, 2011

...Gen Prayuth said he was deeply sorry for the deaths of 32 Thai Muslims killed during the Krue Se Mosque siege in Pattani on April 28, 2004, and for the deaths of 78 young Muslim people at Tak Bai Narathiwat on Oct 25, 2004.

“The two incidents should not have happened. I apologise to all southerners, especially relatives of the dead, even though at the time I was not yet in this position.

“The incidents happened partly because of carelessness on the part of the authorities.

“I promise not to let anything like that happen again,” he said...

# **Bung Kan, broken off of Nong Khai. That makes 77 provinces now, including Bangkok**

March 23, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bung Kan, broken off of Nong Khai. That makes 77 provinces now, including Bangkok](#) –  
pattayadailynews.com, March 23, 2011

# **Cambodia's Sam Rainsy predicts revolution, remains in exile**

March 23, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia's Sam Rainsy predicts revolution, remains in exile](#) – Radio Australia, March 23, 2011

Cambodia's opposition leader in exile, Sam Rainsy, says the democratic changes sweeping the Arab world will also be felt in Cambodia. So far there has been no outward signs of coordinated anti-government protests...



# Coroner criticises crash airline

March 23, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Coroner criticises crash airline](#) – BBC, March 23, 2011

A budget airline that operated a plane which crashed in Thailand leaving 90 people dead “exhibited a flagrant disregard for passenger safety”, a coroner has said...

# Warsaw prosecutors want to interview two ‘CIA prison’ captives

March 23, 2011

Categories: Thai Secret Prison

[Warsaw prosecutors want to interview two ‘CIA prison’ captives](#) – thenews.pl, March 23, 2011

...A Red Cross report published in 2009 states that Abu Zubaydah and Rahim al-Nashiri were moved from a black site in Thailand to Poland on 5 December 2002, as the CIA was making efforts to close the Thai prison...

# The real qualification to be Thaksin's PM

March 23, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, March 23, 2011

At left Mingkwana says: I have the nine qualifications that Thaksin claims proper for Prime Minister  
The other man says: Turn to the back page to see the qualification number 10.

Right: WAAI ...gotta be a Shinawatra!

# Heartache of Khmer Rouge forced marriage victims

March 24, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Heartache of Khmer Rouge forced marriage victims](#) – AFP, March 24, 2011

...Unlike forced marriages in Rwanda, Sierra Leone or Uganda — where husbands were often the perpetrators — Cambodian men were themselves victims, according to Natalae Anderson, a researcher at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

“Forced marriage in the Cambodian context is unique when compared to incidences of forced marriage in other countries,” she wrote last year in a paper for the Documentation Centre of Cambodia, which collects evidence of Khmer Rouge atrocities...

# **Cambodia's orphanages target the wallets of well-meaning tourists**

March 24, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia's orphanages target the wallets of well-meaning tourists](#) – Independent, March 24, 2011

The Cambodian government has started inspecting more than 250 orphanages after it was revealed that most of the country's 12,000 orphans have at least one living parent...

# **There's a Map for That: Penis Size Around the World**

March 24, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[There's a Map for That: Penis Size Around the World](#) – LAist, March 24, 2011

..."According to this map, Congo, Ecuador, Ghana, Colombia and Venezuela are the world's most well endowed nations, while South Korea, Cambodia, Thailand, India and Burma — all in east Asia — are the world's least well endowed..."

# **Boonmee a (really) strange, wonderful film**

March 25, 2011

Categories: Film and TV

[Boonmee a \(really\) strange, wonderful film](#) – calgaryherald.com, March 25, 2011

# Blowing in the Wind

March 25, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Blowing in the Wind](#) – The Irrawaddy, March 25, 2011

*...Traditionally, fishermen in the Irrawaddy Delta region carry radios and tune in constantly to the DMH's national broadcasts to get the latest updates on the changing winds and rains.*

*But when the DMH Office fails to issue timely warnings—or if it is coerced into playing down a potential tragedy by a military government that censors even the country's weather, such as in the cases of La Nina and Cyclone Nargis—then thousand of fishermen find themselves in mortal danger...*



# **Over 1,000 Tall Buildings in Bangkok at Risk of Quakes**

March 26, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Over 1,000 Tall Buildings in Bangkok at Risk of Quakes](#) – Malaysian Digest, March 26 2011

# **Heritage Steel Industry Has Been Taken Over By Thailand Based Company**

March 26, 2011

Categories: Business

[Heritage Steel Industry Has Been Taken Over By Thailand Based Company](#) – TopNews, March 26, 2011  
History was created when Thailand based gigantic steel company SSI, has ultimately taken over the 150-year-old Teesside Cast Products plant (TCP)...

# Reforms that Thailand can't put off

March 26, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

[Reforms that Thailand can't put off](#) – NST, March 26, 2011

...These are delicate issues, given Thailand's raw and rabid polarisation between those with vested interests in the old order and those intent on putting an end to what they claim are neo-feudalistic privileges and entitlements. Unless good-faith efforts at compromise are shown by all sides, Thailand will not retake its rightful place among the world's up-and-coming democracies.

[Survey suggests Thai political divide exaggerated](#) – DPA, March 28, 2011

...The poll of 1,500 Thai citizens by the Asia Foundation found that 76 per cent of the population professed no affiliation with the "red shirts" or "yellow shirts," which have sought to dominate Thai politics for the past five years...

[2010 National Survey of the Thai Electorate: Exploring National Consensus and Color Polarization](#)

# Myanmar Woman Jailed for Possessing Plastic Bags

March 26, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar Woman Jailed for Possessing Plastic Bags](#) – Fox News, March 26, 2011

A woman in Myanmar has been jailed for 15 days for violating a city ban on non-recyclable plastic bags. The Voice news magazine reported Saturday the Chinese market vendor was the first person to be punished for violating the ban enacted two years ago...

# The zoo of horrors

March 27, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[The zoo of horrors](#) – phnompenhpost.com, March 27, 2011

...The state of the zoo's two elephants is heartbreaking, as their emaciated necks stretch through the thick bars of their enclosure in an attempt to eat blades of grass, seemingly one of their few sources of nourishment.

The skeletal bodies of the two animals are hard to ignore and the two have become aggressive, lashing out at visitors who step near their enclosure...

# **Bethan Jones' father tells of anguish after Thai plane crash inquest**

March 27, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bethan Jones' father tells of anguish after Thai plane crash inquest](#) – WalesOnline, March 27, 2011

...While boyfriend Alex Collins died instantly, her parents watched as 22-year-old Bethan spent days in hospital with 70% burns...

# Rival of revellers rides again

March 27, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Rival of revellers rides again](#) – Bangkok Post, March 27, 2011

...Around the same time popular DJ Paul Oakenfold came to town and performed at Muang Thong Thani. His concerts are big dance events, but a few hours before the concert police turned up at the venue demanding seats be laid out. Thus, thousands of would-be dancers had to sit on rows of hard seats watching a DJ spinning CDs on stage!

Such an atmosphere led to the unspeakable. Nerdy places like Jakarta—of all places!—became more sanook than Bangkok. Even deadly dull Singapore's reputation flipped; a few years prior, Bangkok was the party capital and Singapore was for people whose idea of fun was a group tour taking in popular libraries and statues. That all changed...

# **Phuket Opinion: Policy on Thai residency should not be secret**

March 27, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Phuket Opinion: Policy on Thai residency should not be secret](#) – Phuket Gazette, March 27, 2011

...For reasons that have apparently never been divulged by the MoI, the stacks of stale PR applications, submitted in good faith and at great expense by law-abiding, long resident “visitors” to Thailand, continue to gather dust at the ministry.

...The breakdown in processing these applications reportedly stems from a xenophobic decision put in place almost a decade ago by ‘social order’ activist Purachai Piemsomboon, Interior Minister (and foe of Phuket’s night entertainment industry) under former premier Thaksin Shinawatra...



# Libya and the U.S.

March 28, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, March 28, 2011

At left, Gaddafi says: God, let them stop the Tomahawk firing. Our side is going to all die.

At right, Obama says: God let them surrender. One Tomahawk costs more than one million US... my country is facing a penniless status.

The caption reads: Both want to stop war.

# Colonial Buildings to Be Renovated

March 28, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Colonial Buildings to Be Renovated](#) – The Irrawaddy, March 28, 2011

# Smartag To Implement Land Checkpoint Project In Thailand Next Month

March 28, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Smartag To Implement Land Checkpoint Project In Thailand Next Month](#) – Bernama, March 28, 2011

Smartag Solutions Bhd, en route to a listing on the ACE Market of Bursa Malaysia Securities Bhd on Apr 18, 2011, plans to implement its land checkpoint project in Thailand next month, its chief executive officer, Lim Peng Keong...

# Navigating the Bangkok Noir

March 28, 2011

Categories: Books

Navigating the Bangkok Noir – March 29, 2011

Chris Coles writes: The just-published “NAVIGATING THE BANGKOK NOIR” book with 100 of my Bangkok paintings ([www.bangkok-noir.blogspot.com](http://www.bangkok-noir.blogspot.com)) is now available on several internet book store sites: [In Asia & Singapore at Noqstore](#) and [in UK, Europe & the U.S. at Amazon](#).

# Feeding frenzy: Thailand's fish spas nibble on despite health fears

March 28, 2011

Categories: Health

[Feeding frenzy: Thailand's fish spas nibble on despite health fears](#) – CNNGo, March 28, 2011

*Earlier this month, Thailand's Public Health Ministry advised people who have injuries on their skin not to use fish spas...*

# India among the most corrupt nations surveyed by PERC

March 29, 2011

Categories: Crime

[India among the most corrupt nations surveyed by PERC](#) – Economic Times, March 29, 2011

India finds itself bracketed with countries like Philippines and Cambodia, rated as the fourth most corrupt nation among 16 countries of the Asia Pacific region surveyed by leading Hong Kong-based business consultancy firm PERC.

...Among the 16 countries reviewed in its latest report, Thailand was rated at 11 with a scale of 7.55, followed by China (7.93) and Vietnam (8.3)...

# **Low-income voters key in northeast Thailand**

March 29, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

[Low-income voters key in northeast Thailand](#) – channelnewsasia.com, March 29, 2011

...One of the voters, Ms Khanthong Sukkhee, said: “Now sugar is expensive, eggs are sold in kilo and rice is costly. Everything is expensive. The prime minister should make things better for people.

“The prime minister is good as he allows us to stay here. However, some goods are expensive. He should solve this problem so that people will give more respect to him...”

# **‘Thailand tragedies’ website started**

March 30, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[‘Thailand tragedies’ website started](#) – Newstalk ZB, March 30, 2011

...Her father Richard Carter says the website [thailandtraveltragedies.com](http://thailandtraveltragedies.com) has been set up because of the cover-ups the family has experienced in Thailand...



# **Bangkok suspends service on link to main airport**

March 30, 2011

Categories: Airports and Airlines

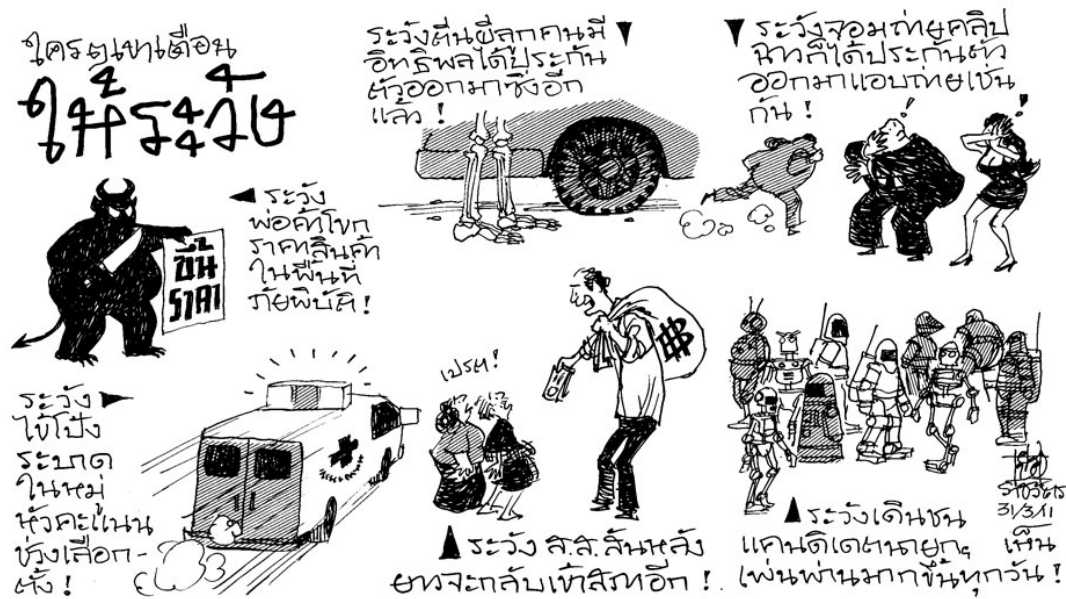
[Bangkok suspends service on link to main airport](#) – Forbes, March 30, 2011

Service on an express train to Bangkok's main airport has been suspended for several days while spare parts are delivered from Europe...

# Be Careful of...

March 31, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, March 31, 2011

The cartoon headline: Be Careful

Top left: Be careful of merchants taking the chance to increase prices of products in flood affected areas!  
The devil holds a sign that reads: Increasing price

Top middle: Be careful of the speeding driver, child of the influential who was recently granted bail to continue their fast driving!

Top right: Be careful for the notorious clip maker who was also granted bail and will continue producing clips!

Bottom left: Be careful of the targeted shooting that id usual during the election period!

Bottom middle: Be careful of the lazy MPs who return to parliament!  
The women say: Hungry ghost!

Bottom right: Be careful of the PM candidates that walk around!

# Flood Aid and the Military

April 1, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards, Thai Military



The sign reads: The Royal Army for the nation, religion and the people

# The Thai Military Wants You

April 1, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards, Thai Military



The sign reads: The awareness of Thai man is to join the military service conscription – During 1-12 April this year Thai men aged 21-29 years old and who are residents of Bangkok (who have not been exempted from the conscription) must join military service conscription for serving the army following a fixed date, time and place – For further information ask Bangkok Recruiting Office Tel 024650787 024653968 024653969

# Thai police raid secret ivory carving workshops

April 1, 2011

Categories: Crime, Wildlife and Nature

[Thai police raid secret ivory carving workshops](#) – San Antonio Express, March 30, 2011

...Nakhon Sawan is a center for Thailand's black market ivory trade, and Tuesday's police actions were a follow-up to raids and arrests in the city last year...

# Video suspect Pasit surrenders

April 1, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Video suspect Pasit surrenders](#) – Bangkok Post, March 31, 2011

...Mr Pasit faces charges in connection with allegations that he released video footage that defamed both the Constitution Court and the Democrat Party...

# **Website carrying ancient Cambodian manuscripts launched**

April 1, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Website carrying ancient Cambodian manuscripts launched](#) – channelnewsasia.com, March 30, 2011

# The Corpse of Pheu Thai Party Performs Well

April 1, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, March 15, 2011

The words on the newspaper: Poll indicates 17.6% popularity for the Democrats and 16.5% for Pheu Thai  
Abhisit is saying: My level of support is only 1.1% more than him?!

The word on the coat of the man at right: Pheu Thai Party

The caption reads: Hmmm... , born to be a pretty man



# **Saving Spirit: Big Pic Gallery**

April 1, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Saving Spirit: Big Pic Gallery](#) – Discovery, April, 2011

# Culture Ministry targets “truck nuts”

April 1, 2011

Categories: Local Beliefs

Culture Ministry targets “truck nuts” – translated and summarized from ThaiRath, April 1, 2011

...the cabinet has acted on a Culture Ministry request to approve a ban on the increasingly popular “truck nuts.” Once the rules are in effect, police will cite vehicles sporting the plastic representations of testicles on their vehicles.

Suchada Wattanasiritham, director of Interprovincial Hygiene at the Ministry of Culture, said that “vulgar humour (represented by truck nuts) is alien to traditional Thai culture which only embodies the most refined humour....”

...The new rules are in effect from May 1.

# PAD proposes foreigners to be allowed to run for office

April 1, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[PAD proposes foreigners to be allowed to run for office](#) – TAN, April 1, 2011

*...Much in the same way [British expats have been running and winning in regional elections in Spain](#), a PAD leader has proposed that expatriates in Thailand be allowed to stand for office.*

*PAD leader Sondhi Limthongkul said Thursday that voting for expatriates would be a way rural people might not waste their votes for the existing political groupings. The cultural values of foreigners from advanced democracies would also speed the education of those who presently sell their votes to the highest bidder.*

*...Banharn Silpaarcha, de facto head of the Chart Thai Pattana, declined comments when asked about this.*

*Later is brother, Chumpon Silpaarcha, later said he was sure voters in his home district would continue to vote for Silpaarcha family members or those they anoint...*

# Countries facing problems

April 1, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Daily News, April 1, 2011

Left, at top: The developed country while facing problems!

At left, Naoto Kan, the Japanese PM, says: I offer the policy to cut the salary of MPs and senators.

The title on the podium: Naoto Kan

Right, at top: The developing country while facing problems!

At right, Abhisit says: I offer the policy to increase salary of MPs and senators.

The title on the podium: Mark San

# Junta's Disaster Response Contrasts with Thailand

April 1, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Junta's Disaster Response Contrasts with Thailand](#) – The Irrawaddy, March 30, 2011

...the parallel rescue efforts of these two countries—one democratic and the other autocratic—betray their deeper contrasts. And these lessons can be used to further demonstrate the obvious differences in how their respective citizens are treated...

# Common language for region to be developed

April 1, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Common language for region to be developed](#) – Channel News Asia, April 1, 2011

The four languages of Thai, Lao, Khmer and Burmese are to be integrated into a common script once the recommendation to the Asean subcommittee on Regional Cooperation is approved. The new language, provisionally named “Talakabu,” would be then used throughout the entire region covered by the four neighboring countries.

The new language would be entail new standardized terms and spelling for most words, but it is hoped that it would gradually become the new universal SE Asia language within a generation. This plan comes about as an extension of the existing schemes to make the four countries a single geographic and political entity for immigration, tourism, trade, and business purposes...

# **Pornthip Investigated Over Breach Of Discipline**

April 2, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Pornthip Investigated Over Breach Of Discipline](#) – Bernama, April 2, 2011

...Questioned by lawyer Datuk Seri Muhammed Shafee Abdullah who is representing the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), Pornthip also admitted that she was a controversial activist in her country and disliked by the police...

# **Myanmar warns no ‘decadent’ dress for New Year’s**

April 2, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar warns no ‘decadent’ dress for New Year’s](#) – AP, April 2, 2011



# **Incentive program aims to attract tourists with cash**

April 3, 2011

Categories: Tourism

[Incentive program aims to attract tourists with cash](#) – Taipei Times, April 3, 2011

The Tourism Bureau has launched a program to attract foreign tourists in the wake of a massive earthquake in Japan and flooding in southern Thailand last month.

# **Myanmar's tattooed women lure tourists**

April 3, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar's tattooed women lure tourists](#) – AFP, April 3, 2011

# Purachai Climbing a Ruler to the PM Chair

April 4, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From ThaiRath, April 4, 2011

The cartoon title: The ruler leading to the dream  
Purachai climbs the ruler to a chair marked PM.

# **Pinay in Thailand jail to prove innocence: parents**

April 4, 2011

Categories: Crime

[Pinay in Thailand jail to prove innocence: parents](#) – Sun Star, April 4, 2011

# Thai power group's bid for TSI fund a godsend for Transfield

April 4, 2011

Categories: Business

[Thai power group's bid for TSI fund a godsend for Transfield](#) – The Australian, April 1, 2011

... to extract a payment from Transfield Services Infrastructure Fund (TSI) for the relinquishment of long-term management contracts if the proposed \$300 million bid for TSI by Thai-based Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Holding (RATHC) goes ahead. ...

# **Sutton man's Bangkok homeless centre opened by Thai royalty**

April 4, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Sutton man's Bangkok homeless centre opened by Thai royalty](#) – yourlocalguardian.co.uk, March 31, 2011

# Chiangrai Lanna Website

April 4, 2011

Categories: History

[Chiangrai Lanna Website](#) – April 2, 2011

# **The Hangover Part II (in Bangkok ) trailer**

April 4, 2011

Categories: Film and TV

[The Hangover Part II \(in Bangkok \) trailer](#) – cinemablend.com,

March 31, 2011



# **Monkey misery: Inside the ‘shameful’ Thai theatre where guitar-playing macaques string along the tourists**

April 4, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok

[Monkey misery: Inside the ‘shameful’ Thai theatre where guitar-playing macaques string along the tourists](#) – Daily Mail, March 30, 2011

# The Fresh Mushroom Revolution!

April 5, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



ตะวันออกกลาง



ไทย

From Manager, April 5, 2011

Left: The man says: The jasmine revolution!

The caption reads: The Middle East

Right: Election Commissioner Sodsri Satayatham says: The fresh mushroom revolution!

The caption reads: Thailand

# **Aussie editor fighting still after 47 days in Burma jail**

April 5, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Aussie editor fighting still after 47 days in Burma jail](#) – The Australian, April 4, 2011

...Still, many of Dunkley's supporters fear he is in for a difficult trial, which might end in a lengthy jail term. The brash newspaperman has raised a few eyebrows in the power structures of Burma (a nation also known as Myanmar); pushing for a daily licence for the Myanmar Times, commenting publicly on his position in Burma, and permitting an Australian documentary crew to make a film about him. On the other hand, his critics argue that Dunkley has played along with Burma's oppressive military regime, agreeing to submit the newspaper to rigorous government censors and contributing to the whitewash of a nation in tatters...

# **Thai Premier League clubs must improve or face boot from Asian Champions League in 2012**

April 5, 2011

Categories: Sports

[Thai Premier League clubs must improve or face boot from Asian Champions League in 2012](#) – Goal.com,

April 4, 2011

...Criteria for entry into the Asian Champions League not only covers the performances of clubs on the continent but also the professionalism, marketability and financial strength of leagues and clubs...

# Mingwan is on the Wrong Stage

April 5, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, March 16, 2011

The big words on the wall: The judge stage

Mingwan, dressed as a Li-kae dancer, says: This is an acting drama??

The caption reads: Just then the leading actor Ming knows that he is on the wrong stage.

A menacing Chalerm is at the bottom left.

## Political Signs at Schools

April 5, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The motto for National Children Day of the year 2011 of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva – “Be Prudent, Thoughtful and Publicly minded”





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Bangkok children wise children, we love the nation and harmony – from uncle Sukhumbhand”

# Make the ghost arise

April 5, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, March 18, 2011

The cartoon title reads: the people's life... must be able to choose

Suthep points to the picture of Thaksin and says: Make the ghost arise

The words on the four signs:

- If you want to have life quality of the same standard as the period of Thaksin, vote Pheu Thai
- Staying inside the people's heart
- Want to have quality of life of the same standard as the period of Abhisit, vote Democrat
- Be good not only for making speeches

The word on the devil's robe reads: Ordering crackdown on the people



# Thai peace talks come to light

April 5, 2011

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[Thai peace talks come to light](#) – Asia Times, April 6, 2011

After six years of secret contacts disrupted by political turmoil and mutual distrust, high-level peace talks aimed at addressing the roots of Thailand's bitter Malay-Muslim insurgency are moving into a more open and substantive phase.

Senior negotiators from both the Thai government and separatist sides of the conflict expressed optimism in recent interviews that key issues should now be tabled, while conceding that the secrecy and denial that have shrouded the talks to date have outlived their usefulness...

# Wishes for Japan

April 5, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, March 19, 2011

The word on the floating kratong reads: Moral support

The cartoon caption reads: Until the day comes when the sun rises

# Sliced Thaksin

April 6, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, March 21, 2011

At left: Mingkhwan talk to Thaksin on the phone: Master... the blade of the Democrat is not as sharp as it was thought at all...

At right, a sliced up Thaksin says: Not irritating our skin at all.

# No Coup Sign

April 6, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Khao Sod, April 6, 2011

The caption reads: The traffic conditions

# Washing mouth, not washing heart

April 6, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia, Songkran



From ThaiRath, April 6, 2011

The cartoon headline reads: Washing mouth, not washing heart

The man says: Bring to clean the mouth of those who always taunts others, tells lies, slanders others and glorifying himself.

The sign in the background reads: Welcome Thaksin's return to his homeland

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

# The revenge operation before seizing power?

April 6, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics



From Vote, April 6, 2011

The headlines read: Threatening! Assassination – The revenge operation before seizing power?

# **China, Thailand and Taiwan World's Most Infected Countries, With Nearly 70 Percent of all Computers Riddled by Malware**

April 6, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[China, Thailand and Taiwan World's Most Infected Countries, With Nearly 70 Percent of all Computers Riddled by Malware](#) – prnewswire.com, April 5, 2011

# Happy New Year from the Pracharaj Party

April 6, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards, Thai Politics



Happy New Year from the Pracharaj Party – April 6, 2011

The sign reads: Happy New Year 2011, may you and your family be happy forever. Love and always concern  
The names of the people from left to right: Sorawong Tienthong, Srinuch Tirntong, Thanit Tientong and Sanoh Tientong



# Secret to the Democrats' Success

April 6, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, April 6, 2011

The reporter asks: What is the special formula that keeps you alive for 65 years?

The deity says: Speak a lot and work less.

The caption reads: Today let's talk with an old lady who is 65 years of age.

# Thai Culture: Understanding Kreng Jai

April 6, 2011

Categories: Culture and Society

[Thai Culture: Understanding Kreng Jai](#) – womenlearnthai.com, December 7, 2010

# **Rights Group calls on Thai government to rethink worker safety and conduct investigations as 16 Myanmar migrants die in truck tragedy**

April 7, 2011

Categories: Human Rights, Refugees and Migrants

[THAILAND: Rights Group call on Thai government to urgently rethink worker safety, conduct investigations and provide effective remedies as 16 Myanmar migrants die in truck tragedy](#)

For Immediate Release: 6th April 2011

At 7am on 4th April 2011, a two-row seater bus carrying more than 70 migrants from Myanmar was hit by a 10-wheeler truck in the no parking zone central lanes of a major highway leading into Bangkok in Samut Sakorn Province in Central Thailand. 16 workers were killed in this tragedy and more than 50 were treated for their injuries in hospital...

# Cluster bombs found on Thai-Cambodia border

April 7, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

[Cluster bombs found on Thai-Cambodia border](http://www.abc.net.au) – www.abc.net.au, April 7, 2011

...Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) spokesman Laura Cheeseman told Radio Australia's Connect Asia program that officers from two member organisations visited 12 border sites and found the deadly munitions at five of them.

...Thailand has admitted using cluster bombs in a skirmish with the Cambodians.

Ms Cheeseman says neither Cambodia nor Thailand have signed an international convention outlawing use of the weapons. In all, 108 countries have signed...

# Enslaved on ‘ghost ships’

April 7, 2011

Categories: Human Rights

[Enslaved on ‘ghost ships’](#) – thecnnfreesomproject.blogs.cnn.com, April 4, 2011

CNN’s Dan Rivers explores the story of brothers Pheum Dina and Pheum Bolin, who were lured from Cambodia to work on the fishing boats three years ago. They say they were imprisoned on a Thai trawler for 3 months – with no pay and no chance to escape. They were slaves at sea...

# **An Illustrated Guide to the Surviving Steam Locomotives of Thailand**

April 7, 2011

Categories: Thai Railroads

Mike Pass' [An Illustrated Guide to the Surviving Steam Locomotives of Thailand](#) (4.66MB) and [Lost Steam Locomotives of Thailand](#) (197kb).

# **Burma's Dawei area undergoing property boom due to planned special economic zone**

April 8, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Burma's Dawei area undergoing property boom due to planned special economic zone](http://www.property-report.com) – www.property-report.com, April 5, 2011

# Ousted Thai Minister Vows to Play Role after Elections

April 8, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Ousted Thai Minister Vows to Play Role after Elections](#) – WSJ, April 8, 2011

*...His immediate goals include slashing corporate-tax rates and pushing for an amnesty for everybody charged with politically linked offenses in the tumultuous four-plus years since a military coup in Bangkok swept him from power.*

*Now, Mr. Thaksin says he is reinvigorated by the wave of uprisings sweeping the Middle East and North Africa, and buoyed by the prospect of new elections that could be held as soon as the end of June. His renewed engagement in Thai politics is an indication that the opposition party is preparing to vigorously enter the campaign. It also appears to provide some evidence that Mr. Thaksin plays a hand in directing what happens in the country, just as the country's political and military establishment accuse him of doing...*



# 19 ‘Taliban’ Appear in Arakan Court

April 8, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[19 ‘Taliban’ Appear in Arakan Court](#) – The Irrawaddy, April 8, 2011

...Burma’s Border Security Forces—a combination of army, police, immigration and customs, known commonly in Burmese as the Nasaka—arrested nearly 100 Muslim men in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, in early March, and accused them of belonging to a terrorist ring linked to the Taliban...

# Orange Caramel sweeps charts with “Bangkok City”

April 8, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Orange Caramel sweeps charts with “Bangkok City”](#) – allkpop.com, April 8, 2011

...K-Pop fans have been raving over “Bangkok City”, as they praised, “It’s fresh and energetic like Orange Caramel. Perfect for the warm weather!!!” and “I strongly recommend it when you need a song to dance to when you’re stressed“...

# Burning Thailand: Teaching Thai School Children About Protest Arson

April 9, 2011

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010, Thai Politics



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!

[Chinnaworn: 'Arson' school text OK](#) – Bangkok Post, April 7, 2011

[Red complaints lead to textbook revisions](#) – The Nation, April 9, 2011

...Red-shirt leader Weng Tojirakarn, at a press conference earlier this week, blamed the government for allowing a Matthayom 3 textbook to contain content alleging the red shirts burned the city. The documents were biased, as they did not mention the yellow shirts' actions, he said...

To understand the context of the arson, including the necessity of incessant threats to commit it beforehand, see the 2B report from last year: [Is Thai arson "unprecedented?"](#)

No. Arson and threats of arson are perennial fixtures of protest in Thailand. Arson is a normal indicator of both personal dissatisfaction and especially dissatisfaction of major figures or political groups who feel they have been wronged or treated unfairly.

There is a long history of both unionists and locals residents burning down factories, hotels etc., over various grievances. Threats of arson—particularly burning Bangkok to ashes—were also a perennial theme of the Red Shirts.

Arson attacks happened during and after the protests in the 1970s and at the end of the Black May events in 1992. There was also an ongoing spate of arson attacks in the provinces in the months after the 2006 coup. While the scale and locations of arson in this case are stunning to affluent Bangkok residents, neither the threats of arson nor the carrying of it out are outside historical norms...

Earlier:

[Veera threatens to burn NACC head office](#) – The Nation, April 3, 2010

[Outside Bangkok, “Red Shirts” still fighting, burn down city hall](#) – observers.france24.com, May 19, 2010

[Smoke \(and mirrors\) behind Bangkok fires](#) – AsiaTimes, June 17, 2010

*...Some believe that if the UDD was truly engaged in a rich-versus-poor class struggle, then it would have also symbolically torched the more upscale Gaysorn Plaza shopping mall, the other main commercial edge of its Rajaprasong protest stage directly opposite CentralWorld. Controlled by the local Srivikorn family, Gaysorn Plaza also owns the nearby Amarin Plaza shopping and office tower where the McDonalds – that stayed open throughout most of the protest – became a popular, air-conditioned gathering spot for UDD leaders.*

*Indeed, a number of terrified red shirt protesters sought shelter in the upper floors of the Amarin on May 19. The family – different members own different bits of the sprawling empire – also owns the two five-star hotels behind Gaysorn Plaza and some nearby condominiums. The Srivikorns were badly bruised by the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis and Pimol Srivikorn joined Thaksin’s Thai Rak Thai (TRT), a political party that on the campaign trail capitalized on popular anger over a slow economic recovery. He was banned from politics by for electoral malpractice along with 110 other TRT MPs in May 2007...*

[Spreading money as the only salve](#) – Bangkok Post, May 29, 2010

*...Among them were the twins of rhetoric, one wearing a Gandhi T-shirt and the other a Pheu Thai member of parliament. How they whipped up a frenzy. Bangkok’s citizens clearly saw red but couldn’t stop the momentum.*

*“Burn! I’ll take responsibility!” one blared on stage, while the other described the kind of panic the military-backed government was inducing among their Isan brethren. “Many of us, when in panic, will reach for brandname handbags, some will rush for gems and jewellery,” he said, giving owners of upscale emporiums a heart attack at the prospect of looting.*

*(Afterwards, soldiers checking the bundles of homeward-bound protesters who had gathered in a temple, retrieved many expensive watches and bracelets.)...*

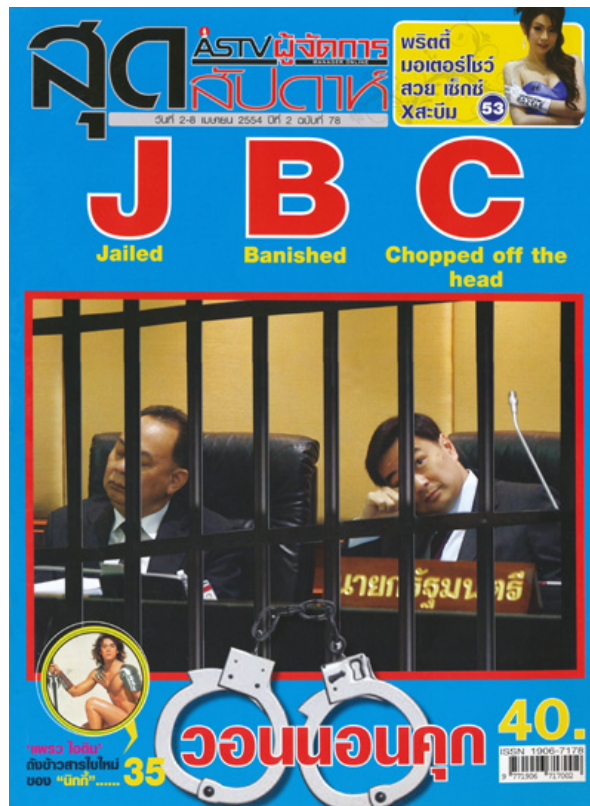
[Nuttawut threatens to burn the city \(with English subtitles\)](#) – YouTube, May 20, 2010

[Arisman urges protesters to be ready to burn the city](#) – YouTube, May 20, 2010

# Jailed-Banished-Chopped off the head

April 9, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics



From ASTV/Manager, April 2-8, 2011

The red words read: Challenging to be jailed

# Why Thai Rice Production May Decline

April 9, 2011

Categories: Food and Drink

[Why Thai Rice Production May Decline](#) – Business Week, April 7, 2011

...Now the Thai government is proposing a major change in strategy for its rice growers, who feel hard pressed by low prices, an assault of pests, and the presence of low-cost competition from emerging rivals. The government seems ready to abandon Thailand's position as the world top rice exporter—a serious decision, considering the mounting anxiety over the size and stability of the global food supply...

# No attempt to lay seige to the city this Songkran

April 10, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Songkran



From Manager, April 10, 2011

Jatuporn is saying: The Songkran Festival this year – all Thai fellows let's celebrate wholeheartedly as we don't have a plan to stage a torching of the city

The caption reads: Celebrate fully as they allow

# Don't Worry Master

April 11, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Naewna, April 11, 2011

Jatuporn is saying: Don't worry master, if we lose in the election I will put the blame on the "soldier" and say that the "soldier" gives a hand to the other side and cheats us.

Thaksin, in prison dress, says: Cool



# **BMA may have to review its expensive Skywalk plan**

April 11, 2011

Categories: Skytrain

[BMA may have to review its expensive Skywalk plan](#) – The Nation, April 11, 2011

...In an OAG written statement to the BMA, it said no mandatory feasibility study had been conducted while there were no details over who were exact beneficiaries of the Bt15.2billion project, as well as over those who had opposed it. The OAG recommendation called on the BMA leadership to review its 4.25billion first phase of the project, or continue partly with sections considered worthwhile...

# Sneaky passport gangs try new tactic

April 11, 2011

Categories: Scams

[Sneaky passport gangs try new tactic](#) – Bangkok Post, April 11, 2011

...”The gangs are acting like modelling agencies. They do some casting and keep photos of many people,” said Immigration Division 2 commander Preecha Thimamontri.

...If the gang cannot find a match, it will go out and find a person with a face that looks like that of its customer’s.

From public parks to department stores, the gang searches for lookalikes as if it is looking for a promising would-be model or talented star for the entertainment business, he said.

When the gang meets a lookalike, it devises a way to steal his passport, or will perhaps offer to buy it...

# Amnesty for Maew

April 11, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Naewna, "Naewna cartoon by Poj", April 11, 2011

The man is saying: The urgent policy of our party is to return justice to promote reconciliation to the society...

The word inside the man's mouth read: Amnesty for Maew

At right it says: Clearly see the habit from one's mouth

# **Korean People's Struggle Supported in Thailand and Ethiopia**

April 11, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Korean People's Struggle Supported in Thailand and Ethiopia](#) – KCNA, April 10, 2011

...The Thailand-DPRK Friendship Association in its statement on April 2 said that the work is a great programme which clarifies the orientation and way of achieving reunification by the concerted efforts of the whole nation.

...The historic June 15 joint declaration provided by Kim Jong Il is a declaration of the great unity of the whole nation which ushered in an epochal phase of realizing independent reunification and the great national unity.

The association expressed full support and solidarity with the Korean people in their struggle to consolidate national unity under the banner of “By our nation itself” and thus reunify the country at an early date, the statement said...

# Water festival in New Taipei City draws thousands

April 11, 2011

Categories: Songkran

[Water festival in New Taipei City draws thousands](#) – focustaiwan.tw, April 10, 2011

...The water splashing festival, or Songkran, originated in four Buddhist-majority Southeast Asian countries — Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos — where it was usually held in mid-April to mark the start of the traditional New Year.

Sunday's event in New Taipei City was held on Huaxin Street, Zhonghe District, where most of the residents are of Myanmar heritage...

# Thailand wants to close Myanmar refugee camps

April 11, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma, Refugees and Migrants

[Thailand wants to close Myanmar refugee camps](#) – InterAksyon, April 11, 2011

...”They have been in Thailand for more than 20 years and it became our burden to take care of them,” National Security Council chief Tawin Pleansri said after a meeting of the government body chaired by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva...

# Banharn's Brother

April 12, 2011

Categories: Elections



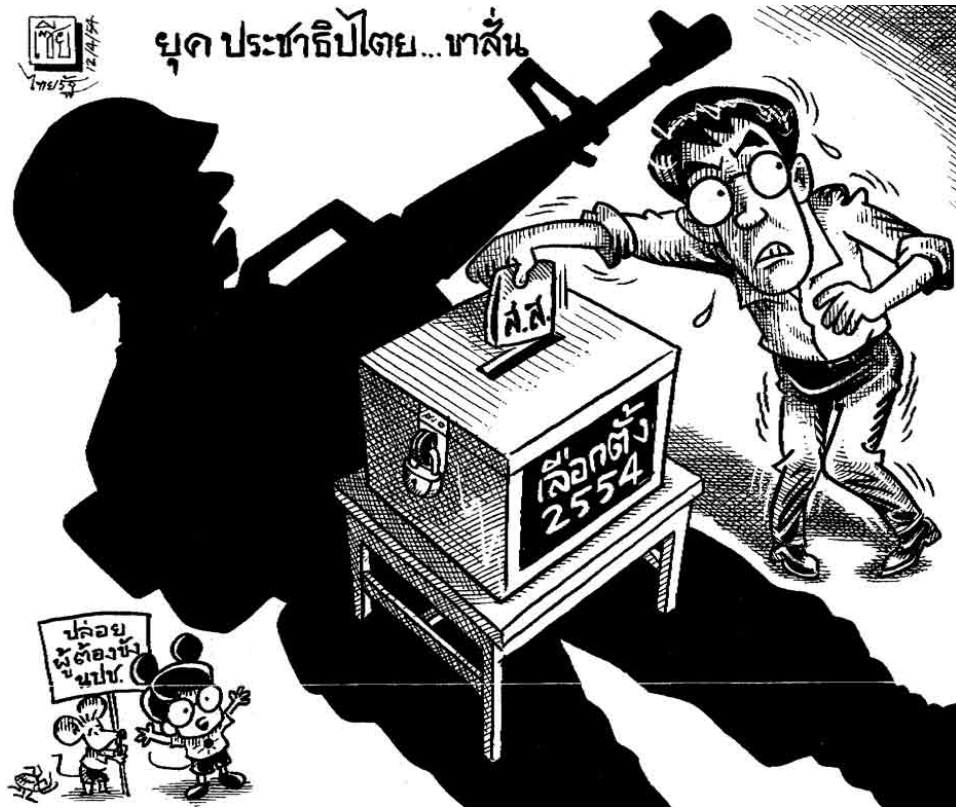
From a sign at Muang Thong Thani: No political conflict generates the economic impulse – Mr. Chumpon Silapaar-cha – Tourism and Sports Minister, Chartthai Pattana Party leader – Love Harmony for Thai fellows



# Shadow of the Military

April 12, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From ThaiRath, April 12, 2011

The cartoon headline reads: The age of the shivering leg democracy

The word written on the ballot: MP

On the front of the ballot box: Election 2011

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



# **Rangoon Residents Avoid Water Festival Due to Bomb Fear**

April 12, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma, Songkran

[Rangoon Residents Avoid Water Festival Due to Bomb Fear](#) – The Irrawaddy, April 11, 2011

...The deadly bomb blasts last April took place near the X20 water-throwing pavilion by Rangoon's Kandawgyi Lake. A senior military officer was amongst those killed, and some residents believe it was an unsuccessful attempt by militant dissidents to assassinate Nay Shwe Thwe Aung, the grandson of Snr-Gen Than Shwe.

# What lies behind Thailand's Burma refugee plan?

April 12, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma, Refugees and Migrants

[What lies behind Thailand's Burma refugee plan?](#) – asiancorrespondent.com, April 12, 2011

...Rather than a being burden on Thailand's natural resources (that claim really lacks credibility), the refugees have become a political inconvenience to a country looking to reassert itself on the new Burmese government. Thailand recently lost its spot at the top of Burma's foreign investment table to China, and with that much of its economic muscle in the country. The economic crutch provided by China has meant that Burma can afford to wield more clout with its neighbours, hence almost blackmailing Thailand into returning refugees, one of the most internationally visible signs of Burma's hidden domestic crisis.

# Do or die for Thai democracy

April 12, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Do or die for Thai democracy](#) – atimes.com, April 13, 2011

*...The calm before the proposed polls is the result of a behind-the-scenes accommodation reached late last year between Abhisit's government and the royal Privy Council on one side and Thaksin's camp on the other, according to a government aide with regular access to the premier. The first aspects of the multi-faceted deal were brokered in October, around the same time international mediators met with top Thaksin associates and government officials in Bangkok, according to the same insider.*

*...But soon after high-level meetings between known Thaksin allies and international mediators, the string of anonymous bombings across Bangkok and surrounding areas came to an unexplained halt last October.*

*...At around the time the bombings stopped, the government pulled back its previous vigorous pursuit of Thaksin's extradition from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where the former premier has resided since fleeing a two-year jail term handed down by a Thai court in August 2008...*

# Steve Irwin trap saves Cambodian crocodile

April 12, 2011

Categories: Cambodia, Wildlife and Nature

[Steve Irwin trap saves Cambodian crocodile](#) – AFP, April 11, 2011

...Fauna and Flora International (FFI), which had spent two years planning the attempt to free about 10 crocodiles trapped by the construction of a hydropower dam, said it was “disappointing” that only one animal was caught...

# Nigerian scam letter based around former finance minister Suchart Chaovisith

April 12, 2011

Categories: Scams

Nigerian scam letter based around former finance minister Suchart Chaovisith – April 12, 2011

*Dear*

*I got your basic contact through your country's Web Business Directory*

*which prompted me to contact you directly through your email address to seek your help and assistance*

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

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

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

*Thanks for your anticipated co-operation and my regards to your family.*

*And feel free to contact me on my email for now, until arrangements are made.*

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

*Sincerely,*

*Mrs.Suchart Chaovisith*

*Thailand Bangkok*

# **Do Bhutan's Anti-Smoking Laws Go Too Far?**

April 12, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Do Bhutan's Anti-Smoking Laws Go Too Far?](#) – Time, April 12, 2011

# Somchai unveils Pheu Thai's slogan: "Thaksin thinks, Pheu Thai acts"

April 12, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Somchai unveils Pheu Thai's slogan](#) – Bangkok Post, April 12, 2011

*"Thaksin thinks, Pheu Thai acts" is the selling point in the opposition Pheu Thai Party's election campaign, former prime minister Somchai Wongsawat said on Tuesday.*

*After taking part in a water-pouring ceremony with more than 80 red-shirt supporters in Chiang Mai's Muang district, Mr Somchai, who is fugitive former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra's brother-in-law, said the new slogan would work because Thaksin had been successful in the past.*

*Mr Somchai said he was no longer a Pheu Thai executive member, but he continued to support the party.*

*SEP"All political parties are readying for the coming elections but I believe most people will choose Pheu Thai because they believe Pheu Thai will save the country from crisis," he said.SEP*

*Pheu Thai will kick off its election campaign on April 23 at Thammasat University, he said.SEP*

*"In the future, farmers will have credit cards and their debts will be suspended while high-speed trains will run across the country," he added.*

April 27: Editorial cartoon: [Thaksin Thinks, Pheu Thai Torches](#)

May 6: [The poster: Thaksin thinks, Pheu Thai takes action](#)

# Somali pirates release Thai ship after ransom

April 12, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Somali pirates release Thai ship after ransom](#) – The Malaysian Insider, April 12, 2011

...“We received a US\$5 million ransom early in the morning for the release of the ship,” a pirate who gave his name as Hagle said by phone from their hideout...



# Protecting people a like member of your family

April 13, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards, Thai Police



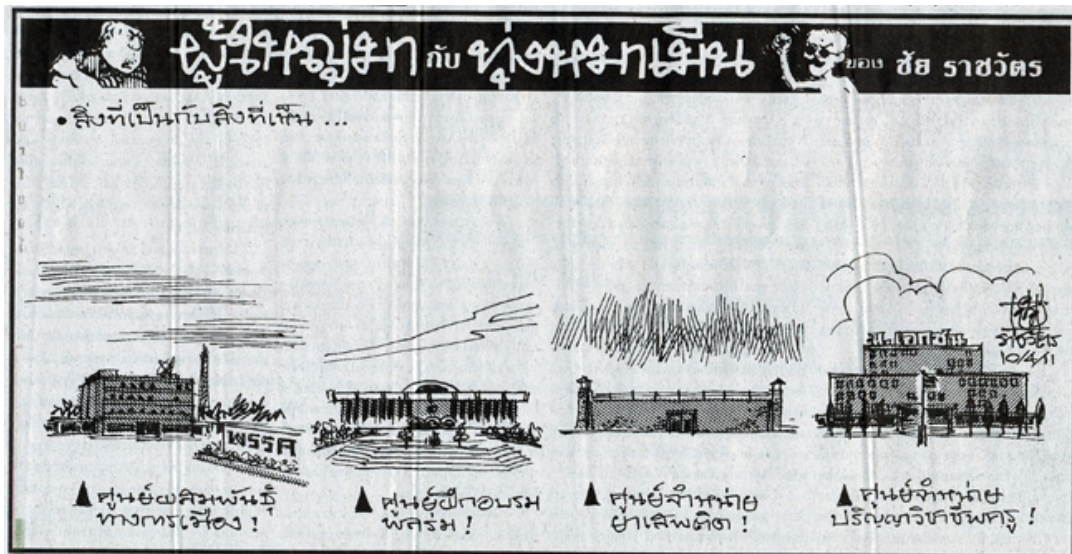
(Photo: Sam)

The sign reads: Service like a cousin, protecting people a like member of your family – Police General Wichien Potpohsri, National Police Chief

# Places Where Things Happen

April 13, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From ThaiRath, “Phuyai Ma and the Thung Mamern field” cartoon by Chai Ratchawat, April 13, 2011

The cartoon headline: What appears and what is seen...

Far left – shows a political party headquarters: The center for political breeding!

Middle left – shows the parliament building: The center for training paratroopers!

Middle right – shows a prison: The center for producing addictions

Right – shows a college: The center for selling teacher profession certificates

# Happy Songkran 2011

April 13, 2011

Categories: Songkran



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Songkran billboard – April, 2010

From last year: Songkran billboard on Pra Padaeng. It reads: Sawasdee everyone – Songkran of the year 2010 – We, brother and sister send our wishes – Have a cool splash, be happy and safe, good luck be with every one of you – MP Pracha Prasobdee – MP Naruemon Tharndamrong – Pheu Thai Party

[Social security office advise public to carry insurance card during Songkran](#)

[Songkran with the Red Shirts](#)

[Songkran Cartoons 2009](#)

[Accidental Tourist: Thai water torture](#)

Songkran in Bangkok in the past two years was muted by Red Shirt activity:

[Songkran 2010 – 2nd Red Shirt siege of Bangkok](#)

[Songkran 2009 – 1st Red Shirt siege of Bangkok](#) and [Part 2](#)

[Songkran cartoons in the Thai-language press 2008](#)

[Songkran Cartoons in the Thai-language press 2007](#)

[Songkran on Khao Sarn Road 2006 Part 1](#)

[Songkran on Khao Sarn Road 2006 Part 2](#)

[Songkran on Khao Sarn Road 2005 Part 1](#)

[Songkran on Khao Sarn Road 2005 Part 2](#)

[Songkran 2005 Part 3](#)

[The new year: “riding a donkey and eating milk and butter” 2005](#)

[Songkran decorations at night 2005](#)

[Songkran Preparations on Ratchadamnoen 2005](#)

[Songkran Scenes 2004](#)

[Songkran on Khao Sarn Road 2004 Part 1](#)

[Songkran on Khao Sarn Road 2004 Part 2](#)

[Songkran in Hat Yai 2002](#)

[Songkran – Thai new year and water-throwing festival – Various Articles](#)



# The Bangkok Governor Takes Care of Your Life

April 13, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards, Thai Politics



The sign reads: The whole life... we take care

# Happy Songkran Cartoon 2011

April 13, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Songkran



Happy Songkran Cartoon 2011

From Daily News, April 13, 2011

The cartoon headline reads: Cool season nationwide the Maha Songkran Festival 2011 – Very happy that an election will be held in Thailand

# Scientology's Global Disaster Squad

April 14, 2011

Categories: Local Beliefs



Above: 2006 – About a dozen Scientologists in red shirts distributed Scientology brochures to soldiers standing guard at the Royal Plaza. [More from that time](#)

[Scientology's global disaster squad](#) – minnpost.com, April, 2011

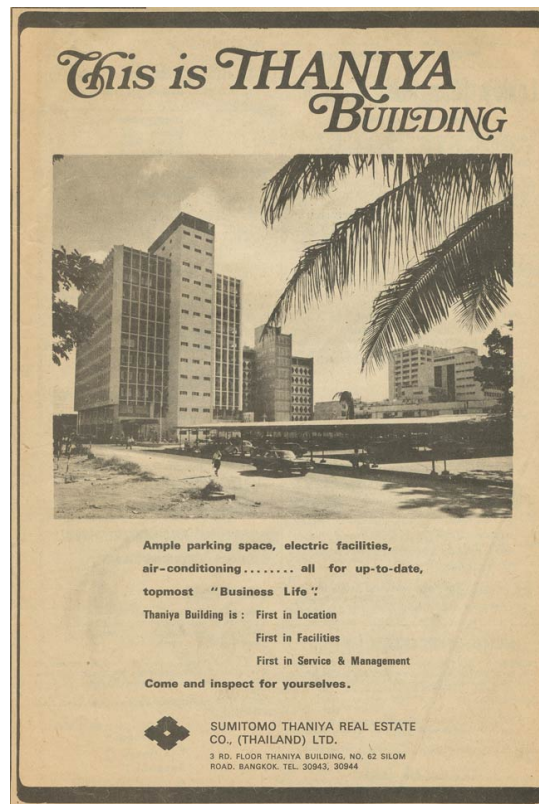
*...In a church promotional video, Phra Dang, an orange-robed buddhist monk, steps along a forested path. In single file, his faithful follow him into a temple classroom. Inside, he clutches "Dianetics" and his followers read a Thai-language copy of "The Way to Happiness," an entry-level Hubbard text. "I am Phra Dang," says the monk, flanked by a large golden Buddha. "And I use Scientology in Thailand..."*



# 1972: This is Thaniya Building

April 14, 2011

Categories: Old newspapers



This is Thaniya Building – Bangkok Post, July 4, 1972  
Silom area in 1972... Which direction is this photo facing?



# Mystery Thai illness strikes another tourist

April 15, 2011

Categories: Health

[Mystery Thai illness strikes another tourist](#) – torontosun.com, April 14, 2011

...”The doctors in Thailand said it was probably food poisoning and dehydration. In Seattle, we haven’t received all of the test results, but initial diagnosis was infectious enteritis. I had an x-ray and an EKG, and my heart looks normal. The doctor also referred me to follow up with an infectious disease specialist...”

# Thai military draft a lottery many hope to lose

April 15, 2011

Categories: Thai Military

[Thai military draft a lottery many hope to lose](#) – AFP, April 15, 2011

...At the school in Bangkok, the crowd cheered as Anond pulled out the last red card, his face turning pale as officers led him away to sign up for military service.

He admitted he did not want to be a soldier, but tried to look on the bright side.

“Now I’m chosen, I’ll get a salary and I won’t be any trouble to my parents,” he said. “If others can do it then I can do it too!”

# Funeral boss bolts to Bangkok

April 15, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Funeral boss bolts to Bangkok](http://www.northernstar.com.au) – www.northernstar.com.au, April 15, 2011

...He said Gray's explanation for not being in court was "simply insufficient". It was not good enough that the accused did not wish to interrupt his honeymoon...

# **‘Hangover Part 2’ Character Posters Show Wolfpack’s Adventures in Bangkok**

April 15, 2011

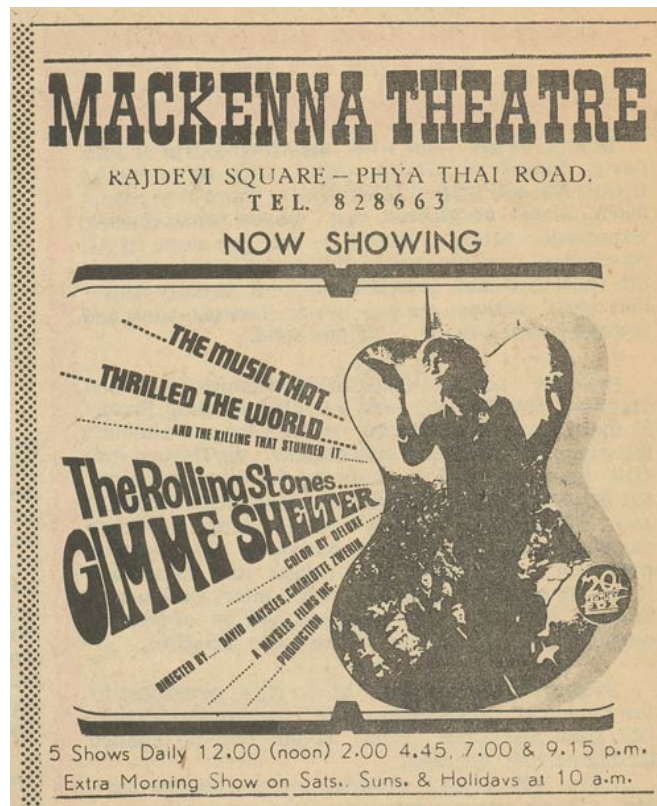
Categories: Film and TV

[‘Hangover Part 2’ Character Posters Show Wolfpack’s Adventures in Bangkok](#) – getthebigpicture.net, April 14, 2011

# Meet me at the Mackenna

April 15, 2011

Categories: Old newspapers



Meet me at the Mackenna – Bangkok Post, July 4, 1972

“Meet me at the Mackenna tonight at 19:15 for the Stones’ movie. I’ll be wearing a bow tie...”



# Greg Lowe: How to deal with Bangkok's illegal financial advisors

April 16, 2011

Categories: Scams

[Greg Lowe: How to deal with Bangkok's illegal financial advisors](#) – CNNGo, April 12, 2011

*...Just follow these simple steps. I've tried them. They work.*

- 1. When they call, say thanks and write down their name, phone number and email.*
- 2. Tell them, "I have a policy of refusing advice from IFAs who cold-call me. If you have to hard-sell your products and services they clearly can't be any good."*
- 3. Ask them what the regulations are for IFAs operating in Thailand.*

*The typical reply is that Thailand is an "open market." This means they are either lying or misinformed, because the selling and marketing of all financial services is strictly regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission.*

*In fact, the SEC has one really good regulation that must be followed by all financial firms: no cold-calling. That's right. It's illegal. Point this out to them...*

# **Soros & Brzezinski Talking Thai – International Crisis Group shines spotlight on Thailand**

April 16, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Soros & Brzezinski Talking Thai – International Crisis Group shines spotlight on Thailand](#) –  
landdestroyer.blogspot.com, April 11, 2011

...Freedom House has also nominated National Endowment for Democracy funded “Prachatai” for one of the many contrived awards given to lend agents of the globalist agenda legitimacy. Prachatai of course, is a propaganda clearing house for Thaksin’s “red” movement...

# Lawyer charged with duping Thaksin released on bail

April 16, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Lawyer charged with duping former Thai prime minister released on bail](#) – gulfnews.com, April 16, 2011

*...Prosecution records said Shinawatra asked K.K. to open a bank account for him in the Republic of Montenegro so that he could collect the money. K.K. had apparently convinced Shinawatra to open an account in his name and transfer the money to avoid it being seized by European authorities due to the political tensions Shinawatra was facing in Thailand. Shinawatra agreed after being commissioned to run the account, but K.K. allegedly siphoned off the money deposited in his personal account.*

*K.K. was additionally charged with embezzling another Dh39.5 million from the £150 million meant for the football club deal after Shinawatra asked him to buy a villa on his behalf. Records said K.K. bought a villa worth Dh38 million in Emirates Hills and registered it in his name...*



# Pinay ‘drug mule’ in Thailand ineligible for pardon

April 16, 2011

Categories: Crime

[Pinay ‘drug mule’ in Thailand ineligible for pardon](#) – gmanews.tv, April 16, 2011

...Talaban is ineligible to apply for royal pardon because the guidelines issued by the Thai Department of Corrections states that “a prisoner may submit a petition for royal pardon only after he or she finished all court proceedings .”

...If Talaban wishes to apply for transfer, she has to either drop her appeal or wait until after the court process has been completely exhausted and the decision becomes final and executory, Bajados said...

# Wilko first foreign captain in Thai league

April 16, 2011

Categories: Sports

[Wilko first foreign captain in Thai league](#) – straitstimes.com, April 16, 2011

...The former Singapore Armed Forces FC playmaker had been named captain, becoming the first foreign skipper in the Thai Premier League's 16-year history...

# Muay Thai Fighter Painting

April 16, 2011  
Categories: Art

[Muay Thai Fighter Painting](#) – palehorsesdesign.com, April, 2011

# Sick Hangover Cast Hospitalised In Bangkok

April 16, 2011

Categories: Film and TV

[Sick Hangover Cast Hospitalised In Bangkok](#) – contactmusic.com, April 15, 2011

“...everybody, including all the actors, were in hospital for some time... My movies are about mayhem and I always think I like it, but Bangkok is mayhem to another degree. You’re shooting and guys will literally drive through the scene on their little motorcycles. It was hot, it rained a lot. It feels like we went to war!”

# Suthep and the Songkran Dancers

April 17, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Songkran



From ThaiRath, April 17, 2011

The cartoon title reads: The shameful stories of the season

Left, next to the lady: Shameful for watchers

Middle, next to Deputy PM Suthep: Shameful mouth

Suthep points to a poster of Thaksin and says: Disgracing, lese majeste, toppling

The words on the Thaksin poster: Thaksin thinks, Pheu Thai takes action

Right, next to the man covering his eyes: Shameful for heart

The man says: Reconciliation, returning happiness for Bangkok residents, let's go shopping, Enjoy..

The skull around a sign that reads "Ratchaprasong" say: We were killed.

# Chavalit Runs Away

April 18, 2011

Categories: Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, April 18, 2011

The cartoon headline reads: How many times has the man named Jew escaped?

The skulls are saying: The hidden case of the killing of red shirts

The words on the arms read "soldiers" and "DSI"

The words on Chavalit's flight path read: Resignation

A Thaksin's poster on the ground read: Thaksin thinks, Pueu Thai takes action

# Washing Underwear

April 18, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, April 18, 2011

Yingluck says to her sister Yaowapa Wongsawat: Oops Sister Daeng, my brother Maew lists my name as first party list member, I will surely become Prime Minister!

Somchai Wongsawat, Yaowapa's husband, thinks: And then, you will learn...

# **Ed Helms has revealed that he found filming The Hangover sequel in South East Asia “brutal”**

April 18, 2011

Categories: Film and TV

[Ed Helms has revealed that he found filming The Hangover sequel in South East Asia “brutal”](#) – musicrooms.net, April 15, 2011

...“Thailand was brutal. It is a beautiful, majestic place to visit. But to work there, it’s just totally disconcerting and incredibly taxing,” Ed told Total Film...



# Myanmar gays seek Thai-style acceptance

April 18, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar gays seek Thai-style acceptance](#) – AFP, April 17, 2011

...Traditionally, the only area where non-heterosexuality has been openly embraced is the realm of “nat” or spirit worship, a form of animism that is intertwined with Myanmar’s Buddhist beliefs.

Flamboyant and effeminate spirit mediums take centre stage at popular “nat” festivals throughout the year, but their acceptance here has also served to reinforce certain stereotypes of gay people in Myanmar...

# **Reports: Laos begins work on widely criticized Mekong River dam before regional decision made**

April 18, 2011

Categories: Laos

[Reports: Laos begins work on widely criticized Mekong River dam before regional decision made](#) – AP,

April 17, 2011

...Photographs showed road work in progress and trucks bearing logos of Ch Karnchang, the Thai company that won the bid to build the proposed dam that would generate electricity for sale to Thailand...

# **Overpriced airport link is ‘a debacle’**

April 18, 2011

Categories: Airports and Airlines, Mass Transit

[Overpriced airport link is ‘a debacle’](#) – Bangkok Post, April 18, 2011

...No escalators, no trolleys, no car park and no connecting facilities are just some of the complaints...

# Wheel2Wheel at Angkor Wat

April 18, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Wheel2Wheel at Angkor Wat](#) – YouTube, April 13, 2011

From a press release: ...*On 1 March 2011, Parker departed on a 100+ day, over 20,000km solo motorbike expedition from Hong Kong to Brisbane meeting with each of the 10 nominated charities Wheel2Wheel will support along the way, which is being filmed for television. The journey aims to showcase natural wonders and human endeavour, bridging cultures, extending recognition to champions of grassroots charity and hopefully inspiring others.*

*The nominated charitable cause in Thailand is Baan Gerda, a small community north of Bangkok, where 85 HIV infected and affected orphans live and receive medical treatment in family houses under the care of foster parents...*

# Bob Dylan in HCMC

April 18, 2011

Categories: Vietnam

[No, no, no it ain't me babe](#) – Bangkok Post, April 17, 2011

Nearly half a century after first infuriating folkies by rejecting their calls to take a leading role in protests against the war in Vietnam, Bob Dylan made his debut in the country with the "voice of a generation" label as ill-fitting as ever...

# **China's housing bubble: ghost malls, ghost highrises, and ghost cities**

April 18, 2011

Categories: China

[China's housing bubble: ghost malls, ghost highrises, and ghost cities](#) – BoingBoing, April 18, 2011

...Here's an Australian TV documentary about China's housing bubble which has given rise of bizarre ghost malls, ghost highrises, and even ghost cities...

# The New Irrawaddy

April 18, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

The New Irrawaddy – April 18, 2011

From a press release: *Dear Esteemed Reader:*

We, [\*The Irrawaddy\*](#),

*were forced to take the difficult decision of suspending publication of our monthly magazine at the end of last year. Funding cuts meant we had the tough task of choosing between an international print edition and a daily online service. In this day and age of Internet, the online edition was the only viable option.*

*However, after a three-month hiatus, we have managed to juggle our numbers successfully enough to offer a solution—to relaunch our magazine as a quarterly journal, available in print, as a flip-through e-zine and as a downloadable PDF.*

*Our quarterly e-zine will feature in-depth political and social analysis, articles examining Burman's cultural and religious traditions, interviews with key figures in Burma, travel pieces, cartoons and photo essays...*

[\*To subscribe\*](#)

# US backing for parents' website on Thai danger

April 18, 2011

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[US backing for parents' website on Thai danger](http://www.nzherald.co.nz) – www.nzherald.co.nz, April 18, 2011

...News of the deaths spread to the family of Seattle resident Ryan Kells, whose fiancée was one of two women who died suddenly after staying in adjoining rooms in a hotel on Thailand's Phi Phi island in 2009. Mr Kells said that almost two years after his partner Jill St Onge, 27, and Norwegian woman Julie Bergheim died, their deaths remained a mystery...



# Hair News Front Page

April 19, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Daily News, April 19, 2011

This is a wrap-around advertising supplement that appeared in the Daily News as a fake front page about hairstyles. On the inside page are ads for shampoo. As in many Thai advertisements, the concept of the quirky joke almost seems more important than advertising the product itself.

The headline reads: The hair-doing trends that shows parts of the scalp spread widely from celebs to teenagers and white-collars

The other headline reads: “Ploy” walks away from “Petch” showing up alone at Siam Center wearing African American braided hair fashion causing doubt among her fans

ถึงคราวคนไทย  
กล้าโชว์หนังศีรษะ  
เตรียมหัวให้พร้อม  
แล้วเจอกัน!!

From Daily News, April 19, 2011

The words read: Dare to show your head skin... keep your head ready and see you soon!!

# The Fresh Mushroom

April 19, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, April 2, 2011

The Commander-in-Chief is saying: We guarantee by the honor of the Royal Thai Army that we have no idea about staging a coup as CLAIMED BY THE MUSHROOM.

The caption reads: The power of the fresh mushroom

# Thailand holiday fatalities and serious illness cases

April 19, 2011

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

A website based around the death of Sarah Carter and similar incidents is now online:

[ThailandTravelTragedies.com](http://ThailandTravelTragedies.com)

Several of these “grudge sites” have been created in the past, including the now defunct [BumrungradDeath](#).

Here is an old press release about the case: [Estate Posts an Increased \\$2 Million USD Reward](#)

# Freedom on the Net 2011

April 19, 2011

Categories: Censorship

## THAILAND

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	2009	2011
INTERNET FREEDOM STATUS	n/a	Not Free
Obstacles to Access	n/a	12
Limits on Content	n/a	23
Violations of User Rights	n/a	26
Total	n/a	61

POPULATION: 68.1 million  
INTERNET PENETRATION: 27 percent  
WEB 2.0 APPLICATIONS BLOCKED: No  
SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL CENSORSHIP: Yes  
BLOGGERS/ONLINE USERS ARRESTED: Yes  
PRESS FREEDOM STATUS: Partly Free

[Freedom on the Net 2011](#) – Freedom House, April 18, 2011

# Topless Dancers at Songkran

April 19, 2011

Categories: Local Beliefs, Songkran

[Cat](#) points out: ...have you been keeping up with the bare breasted Songkran dancers? Kaewmala has the best article: [“Only taboo when it’s inconvenient!” – Interview with Thai author Kaewmala on the outrage at topless Songkran dancers](#)

Here’s a quick overview: [Bare breasted brouhaha in Bangkok](#)

*...In a humorous side twist it was pointed out that the Ministry of Culture had an image of three bare breasted maidens on their website. News quickly reached the aforesaid Ministry and the image was speedily removed (on a Sunday!) and replaced. Richard Barrow managed to post ‘before and after’ pictures...*

Here are the original illustrations of [topless women from the Ministry of Culture website and the image that replaced it](#).

# Reporters With Thought Borders

April 20, 2011

Categories: Cambodia, Myanmar/Burma

[Reporters With Thought Borders](#) – The Irrawaddy, April 18, 2011

Burmese and Cambodian media have more than just Ross Dunkley in common—both compete for the title of the region’s most draconian media and Internet restrictions...

# Interesting National Anthems

April 20, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

From this [BoingBoing thread](#)

...Behold the mid-century epic horror movie theme that is [the national anthem of Montenegro](#)

The somber mood of the [Hungarian national anthem](#)

A translation of the final verse reads:

Pity, O Lord, the Hungarians  
Who are tossed by waves of danger  
Extend over it your guarding arm  
On the sea of its misery  
Long torn by ill fate  
Bring upon it a time of relief  
They who have suffered for all sins  
Of the past and of the future!

Charmingly baroque [national anthem of Uruguay](#)

The dramatic [Kenyan anthem](#)

[India's](#) and [Mexico's](#)...



# PM stalls computer crime act

April 20, 2011

Categories: Censorship

[PM stalls computer crime act](#) – The Nation, April 20, 2011

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva yesterday put on hold a controversial draft of the new Computer Crime Act amid widespread concerns that the planned legislation could affect the right of communication of millions of Thai Internet users...

# AHRC-URGENT APPEAL: Harassment and Threat to Woman Human Rights Defender in Tak Bai

April 20, 2011

Categories: Human Rights, The Thai Deep South

From a press release: THAILAND: Harassment and Threat to Woman Human Rights Defender in Tak Bai

ISSUES: Human rights defenders; Threats and intimidation

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Dear Friends,

The [Asian Human Rights Commission \(AHRC\)](#) wishes to draw your attention to the harassment and threats faced by Ms. Yaena Salaemae, a long-time Woman Human Rights Defender (WHRD) in Tak Bai district of Narathiwat province in southern Thailand. The state authorities used an attack on a police checkpoint near her house to search her house and intimidate her. The AHRC believes that this is an outright attempt to intimidate Ms. Yaena and cause her to cease her work calling for justice in the case of the Tak Bai massacre and other cases of human rights violations in southern Thailand. The Asian Human Rights Commission is particularly concerned about the relationship between the threats to Ms. Yaena Salaemae and the ongoing status of the Tak Bai case, and is concerned that this recent harassment may be an attempt by the state to halt progress on the case.

CASE DETAILS: (According to the information received from the Justice for Peace Foundation (JPF))

At 1.30 p.m. on 19 April 2011, unidentified men dressed in clothing similar to army uniforms robbed a vegetable delivery truck and used that truck to attack a police checkpoint in Paiwan subdistrict on the Narathiwat-Tak Bai Road. The checkpoint is located at Salachuak, Moo 6, Salamai, Tak Bai district, Narathiwat. Although there was some damage to the checkpoint from the bullets used during the attack, there were no injuries.

Three hours later, at 4.30 p.m. on 19 April 2011, approximately 20 armed police and army officers surrounded and searched the house of Ms. Yaena Salaemae in Tak Bai district of Narathiwat province. The officers did not present an arrest warrant from the court and only informed Ma. Yaena that they chose to conduct the search based on information from an informant who claimed that Ma. Yaena Salaemae might have been involved in the attack on Paiwan checkpoint. The officers only searched Ms. Yaena's house – her neighbors' houses were not searched and they were not questioned. No illegal items were found and no suspects were arrested. A record of search confirming this was made and Ms. Yaena signed it. At the conclusion of the search, one of the officers told Ms. Yaena that she should not share information about this incident with Ms. Angkhana Neelaphajit, chairperson of the Justice for Peace Foundation. By mentioning Ms. Angkhana Neelaphajit, the state security officials were also indirectly threatening her.

ABOUT MS. YAENA SALAEMAE:

Ms. Yaena Salaemae is a prominent human rights defender in southern Thailand. She has worked closely with the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand and has joined international human rights meetings organized by Frontline International in Dublin in 2009 and the Asian Human Rights Commission in Kwangju, South Korea in 2010.

In particular, she has consistently worked to end impunity in the case of the 25 October 2004 Tak Bai massacre, in which state officials have not yet been held to account and the victims and families of victims have not yet received justice. On 25 October 2004, approximately 1500 citizens were protesting what they believed was the unjust arrest of six Village Defense Volunteers on charges of allegedly stealing guns from the local armory in Tak Bai district of Narathiwat province. Seven civilians were shot and killed during the fighting in front of the Tak Bai police station. At the conclusion of fighting, all remaining protestors were arrested and security forces prepared to transport them to Ingkayuthboriharn Army Camp in neighboring Pattani province, as there was not a facility large enough in Narathiwat to detain 1500 people.

The 1500 protestors were transported the roughly 140 kilometers from Tak Bai district to Inkayuthboriharn Camp in military trucks. There were only twenty-eight trucks available, and so the arrested protestors were handcuffed and then stacked, in four or five horizontal layers in the back of the trucks. An additional 78 people died on the way or shortly after arrival at Inkayuthboriharn. The post-mortem examinations, which were carried out on 26 October 2004, concluded that the causes of death included the following, at times in combination: asphyxiation, pressure on one's chest, blunt object injuries, and seizures. In May 2009, the Songkhla provincial court ruled that although the 78 people died while in state custody, state officials had not improperly carried out their duties. .

In early 2011, Ms. Yaena led the victims and families of victims to submit a motion urging the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand to file a criminal lawsuit on behalf of the victims for truth and justice in the case of Tak Bai. Technically, this is the duty of the NHRC, but they have not yet taken it up. Since engaging in this action, Ms. Yaena has been interrogated and intimidated by a range of army officers in relation to the potential criminal lawsuit. In addition to this work, she has also assisted Thai PBS in producing a documentary of the Tak Bai massacre.

Ms. Yaena Salaemae does not have any personal disputes with anyone inside or outside the government. In 2007, her husband was assassinated in their village. The assassin is still at-large. She feels as though the current threats to her are related to her role as a human rights activist.

#### SUGGESTED ACTION:

Please write to the Thai authorities and request that they cease their intimidation and harassment of Ms. Yaena Salaemae.

To support this appeal, please [click here](#):

Sample Letter:

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Name of the person facing threats: Ms. Yaena Salaemae

Date and place of incident: 019 April 2011 at 1:30pm in her home in in Tak Bai district of Narathiwat province

Alleged perpetrators: approximately 20 armed police and army officers

I am deeply disturbed about the news of the harassment, threats, and arbitrary house search of Ms. Yaena Salaemae, a long-time Woman Human Rights Defender (WHRD) in Tak Bai district of Narathiwat province in southern Thailand. According to the information that I have received, it appears that the state authorities used an attack on a police checkpoint near her house to search her house and intimidate her. This appears to be an outright attempt to intimidate Ms. Yaena and cause her to cease her work calling for justice in the case of the Tak Bai massacre and other cases of human rights violations in southern Thailand. Particularly concerning, these threats have come after Ms. Yaena urged the National Human Rights Commission to take up the case of the ongoing lack of resolution in the Tak Bai massacre.

I urge you to investigate the logic and justification for the police and army search of Ms. Yaena's house. No warrant was presented and Ms. Yaena was told that the search was based on information from an informant. While this is technically legal under martial law and the Emergency Decree, for the purposes of protecting citizens and national security, I am concerned that this arbitrary search has had the opposite effect. In this case, the search has created fear and insecurity for Ms. Yaena and her family.

After the conclusion of the search, Ms. Yaena Salaemae was told by the security officers not to tell Ms. Angkhana Neelaphaijit about the search. Ms. Angkhana is the chairperson of the Justice for Peace Foundation and one of Ms. Yaena's colleagues working to redress human rights violations in southern Thailand.

Finally, I am particularly concerned about the relationship between the threats to Ms. Yaena Salaemae and the ongoing status of the Tak Bai case, and is concerned that this recent harassment may be an attempt by the state to halt progress on the case. I urge you to put the weight of your office both behind the protection of

Ms. Yaena and other human rights defenders and in securing accountability in the case of the Tak Bai massacre.

Yours Sincerely,

---

PLEASE SEND LETTERS TO:

1. Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva  
Prime Minister  
c/o Government House  
Pitsanulok Road, Dusit District  
Bangkok 10300  
THAILAND  
Fax: +66 2 288 4000 ext. 4025  
Tel: +66 2 288 4000  
E-mail: [spokesman@thaigov.go.th](mailto:spokesman@thaigov.go.th) or [abhisit@abhisit.org](mailto:abhisit@abhisit.org)

2. Mr. Chaowarat Chanweerakul  
Minister of Interior  
Office of the Ministry of Interior  
Atsadang Road, Ratchabophit  
Pranakorn, Bangkok 10200  
THAILAND  
Fax: +66 2 226 4371/ 222 8866  
Tel: +66 2 224 6320/ 6341  
E-mail: [secretary@moi.go.th](mailto:secretary@moi.go.th) or [om@moi.go.th](mailto:om@moi.go.th)

3. General Prawit Wongsuwan  
Minister of Defence  
Office of the Ministry of Defence  
Sanamchai Road,  
Pranakorn, Bangkok 10200  
THAILAND  
Fax: +66 2 225 8262  
Tel.: + 66 2 222 3121  
E-mail: [secretary@mod.go.th](mailto:secretary@mod.go.th) or [om@mod.go.th](mailto:om@mod.go.th)

4. Mr. Peeraphan Saleeratwipak  
Minister of Justice  
Office of the Ministry of Justice  
Ministry of Justice Building  
22nd Floor Software Park Building,  
Chaeng Wattana Road  
Pakkred, Nonthaburi 11120  
THAILAND  
Fax: +662 502 6734 / 6884  
Tel: +662 502 6776/ 8223  
E-mail: [secretary@moj.go.th](mailto:secretary@moj.go.th) or [om@moj.go.th](mailto:om@moj.go.th)

5. Pol.Gen. Wichean Potephosree  
Royal Thai Police  
1st Bldg, 7th Floor  
Rama I, Patumwan  
Bkk 10330  
THAILAND  
Fax: +66 2 251 5956/ 205 3738/ 255 1975-8  
E-mail: [feedback@police.go.th](mailto:feedback@police.go.th)

6. Professor Amara Pongsapich  
Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand  
Office of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand  
The Government Complex Commemorating His Majesty the King's 80th Birthday Anniversary 5th  
December, B.E.2550 (2007), Building B  
120 Moo 3, Chaengwattana Road  
Thoongsonghong, Laksi  
Bangkok 10210  
THAILAND  
Fax: +662 143 9546, +662 143 9575  
Tel: +662 141 3800, +662 141 3900  
E-mail: amara@nhrc.or.th

Thank you.  
Urgent Appeals Programme  
Asian Human Rights Commission (ua@ahrc.asia)

# Arms suspect ‘rape threat’

April 20, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Arms suspect ‘rape threat’](#) – NYPost, April 19, 2011

A former Soviet military officer charged with trying to sell weapons to a terrorist group says US agents warned he could face hunger, disease and rape in Thailand jails if he did not talk to them...

# Plight of Burmese Child Sex Slaves Revealed

April 21, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Plight of Burmese Child Sex Slaves Revealed](#) – The Irrawaddy, April 19, 2011

Young girls sold into life of rape and drug abuse in southern Thailand's Ranong province where virgins are traded as a valued commodity...

# **Straight outta Laos: Mor-Lum Hip-Hop**

April 21, 2011

Categories: Laos

[Straight outta Laos: Mor-Lum Hip-Hop](#) – BoingBoing, April 19, 2011

Mor Lum (aka mo lam, or mor lam) is a traditional form of song from Laos and Isan...



# Chavalit and Suthep

April 21, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, April 8, 2011

The cartoon headline reads: The medicine suggested by Jew is certainly good

The word on the pot Chavalit is holding reads: PT

Chavalit dabs power on Suthep and says: Helping the symptom of grey hair, facial wrinkles, tanned face, brazen face, unshamed face

The word on the sign in the background reads: Molding the PM

The words on the hooded figures robe says: Order crackdown to the people

# **All TV channels broadcast via Thai Com blacked out**

April 21, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

UPDATE: 18:18 – TrueVisions (UBC) is back on the air

[All TV channels broadcast via Thai Com blacked out](#) – The Nation, April 21, 2011

TV channels, including the True Visions subscription TV, went off the air Thursday afternoon.

The TV channels could not be accessed since 4:07 pm.

At press time, they services were still off air.

Thai Com has informed Nation Channel that its satellite up-link station at Kaerai, Nonthaburi, has developed technical errors..

# Two-Headed Politician

April 22, 2011

Categories: Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, April 22, 2011

Chavalit says: I cannot take the word you have said... I urgently resign.

# Singha Selling Rice with Beer

April 22, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, March 23, 2011

Left: After introduction of the new good rice, what do you plan marketing?

Left Middle: The old formula that is widely used in the showbiz?

Right middle: What is the old formula?

Right: Selling rice altogether with beer.

## 2B Situation Report: The Crusade to Minimize Thaksin

April 22, 2011

Categories: Analysis, Thai Politics



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: This billboard suddenly appeared during the day of February 27, 2008. It reads: Welcome home, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. From Bangkokians.

### 2B Situation Report: The Crusade to Minimize Thaksin

There has long been an attempt to manipulate the political situation to minimize Thaksin influence—but it will likely not involve “tanks on the street” as in a traditional coup. “Soft pressure” from the establishment is the sort of pressure that created and holds together the present coalition government.

#### The Plan of the Establishment

It is important to understand what the establishment is trying to accomplish—stall and isolate Thaksin. While the continued stalemate and Thaksin’s tenacity have led to broader discussions of reforming the Thai system and ignited populist measures for the poor, in the corridors of power everything is driven by the immediate goal to stall Thaksin and make it clear he cannot return to rule. His continual infusion of money, agitation and revolution from abroad are seen as the underlying causes of the recent years of unrest. The Red Shirt attempts to paralyze the capital and overthrow the government on the street clearly demonstrated Thaksin’s resolve and the lengths to which he is willing to go. Couple this with and many in the establishment feel it is key to thwart Thaksin from returning to the system at any cost. Pardons and reforms for everyone else are still on the table.

The People’s Alliance for Democracy (PAD) was once doing just that—opposing Thaksin and his creeping one-man rule—but have now morphed into several factions with competing and Quixotic dreams of fixing the entire Thai political system. However, this is a goal that no one group can accomplish. The Thai system and world is too amorphous and broadly balanced for any one group to fundamentally change the way things work.

#### Focusing on New Elections

It appears that all sides are intently focusing on the opportunity of new elections. The earlier questions over whether another season of street protests to cause the government to collapse will be called has been answered. Instead, Red Shirts are gathering to listen to speeches insisting they turn out the vote for the Pheu Thai.

There are still several ways in which things can still go bad. One is if Pheu Thai fragments too much before the election and erodes Thaksin's chances of influencing a new government. In such a case it could lead to Thaksin turning to the Red Shirts again to cause trouble on the streets. However, Thaksin has been able to hold his MPs together so far and it seems that Thaksin sees various and ever evolving ways he could put together a coalition—or at least plausibly call foul if Pheu Thai is excluded from the next government. So for now it is all about elections.

Another variable might be a traditional coup, but this is an outside possibility. The military have no desire for direct rule as long as they are certain of moving behind-the-scenes to block a Thaksin landslide. A traditional coup before the election would indicate military desperation at a lack of options which does not seem the situation at this time.

In most instances, reports of an upcoming “coup” should be understood as a “silent” coup or interference from a “third hand.” These are both common Thai concepts and are what the Red Shirts and Pheu Thai have largely been complaining about when they warn about a coup. They mean a behind-the-scenes manipulation that blocks Pheu Thai (and hence Thaksin) from power.



Waiting for the Jackpot – from Manager, March 29, 2011

The words on the sign: The PM is sleeping and waiting for the jackpot.

Chavalit and Mingkwan lay on the ground with mouths open, hoping for fruit, or the good luck of having Thaksin name them the Pheu Thai PM candidate, fall into their mouths.

Mingkwan sees Purachai Piemsomboon set up a blanket to lay under the tree too and says Purachai's nickname: Pu!?

At right Purachai says: Let me be the other one

### Choosing a Pheu Thai PM Candidate

The establishment is betting that political figures once relegated to political retirement by Thaksin will see an opportunity to once again taste power on their own terms. During elections they might make noises about Thaksin's agenda, but nothing will ever happen once they are in power. It is thought that these figures have no real desire to first gain power and then bring Thaksin back to take over their positions.

This is why Thaksin has had to be so careful about appointing leaders for the (now defunct) People Power Party and the Pheu Thai Party. Leaders either have to be weak political nonentities who do not have their own factions or family members who can be counted on not to betray him. The danger of having ambitious men like Chalerm at the helm of Pheu Thai would mean the party would swiftly spin out of Thaksin's control.

Just to note that controlling a government is the ultimate prize and ultimate source of power on the ground. A sitting government effectively controls the police, the courts and thus the pace and character of justice. They control the purse strings and spoils of power. The military, bureaucracy, and monarchy function as informal checks and balances on the Thai political system. The government cannot trample on these institutions without repercussions, but if they balance things right, they can be a font of money, policies and policy enforcement that gives them real power.

### **Possible Election Outcomes**

In previous years, each Democrat government seemed to generate public weariness over their slow and nearly static performance. This led to public dissatisfaction and a switch to voting for more dynamic, but more corrupt politicians—like the governments of Chavalit and Banharn in the 1990s. The public soon wearied of these governments as well and would shift back to the Democrats which are then seen as a more professional and upstanding in comparison.

Unfortunately for the Democrats, we are at the end of a cycle in which the public may again feel weary of the deliberate and cautious plodding of Democrat policies. This feeling could be heightened in the face of big promises by the Pheu Thai. The Democrats have further been hit by corruption and unrelenting flooding in various areas of the country. They have been mercilessly pilloried as dictatorial murderers by the Red Shirts.

Despite the events of the past years when the Red Shirts, buoyed by the Pheu Thai, tried to overthrow the government on the street, by and large their base appears faithful. Thais are pragmatic and forgiving (no one is ever really finished in Thai politics no matter what they do) and even after the events of past years, if the Pheu Thai can promise prosperity, they stand a good chance of election success.

Where exactly the election lands is anyone's guess. There is still a period of time during which major developments in party formation or disintegration can occur. However, despite the intense behind-the-scenes enticements on both sides, MP buying and vote buying can only go so far. No matter what the scenario, the Democrats and Pheu Thai appear to be poised to be the first and second parties in terms of MPs in one order or another.

Establishment hopes are being pinned on a solution that re-focuses political parties on their own goals and thus minimizes and isolates Thaksin. Thaksin will be pre-loading the local and international press with information to the effect that, if Pheu Thai does not prevail, this indicates that the elections were manipulated and illegitimate.

The election outcomes boil down to a few problematic scenarios.

One likely outcome is that a ruling government will be cobbled together that somehow includes Pheu Thai, but in a way that the party cannot dominate. This would cause a weak and unstable government grouping as Pheu Thai seeks to assert itself.

Another scenario is that Pheu Thai wins many seats, but other parties unite to form a government instead. If a government like this is formed or if a unity government is pushed together by the military to mute the Pheu Thai, then Thaksin will once again call the Red Shirts onto the streets with calls of unfairness. This scenario is already acknowledged by the Pheu Thai and has resulted in threats that chaos would ensue if Pheu Thai wins a majority, but is blocked from forming a government.





Top brass on Channel 3, October, 2008

It remains unlikely that the military would allow a Thaksin-controlled party to control the government outright. The preferred solution is to block and stall Thaksin in every way so a traditional coup is not necessary.

Equally important is merely the perception that the military will not allow Pheu Thai to govern again as a Thaksin proxy. The public musterings of troops in the last few days are meant to drive home this point (as well as revealing the extreme military reluctance in staging a traditional, “tanks on the street” coup—as in the [“coup via TV”](#) in 2008).

Pheu Thai realization that they can never hold power is meant to encourage their MPs and factions to gravitate towards groupings that allow them to be part of a government in the future. The danger that Pheu Thai might be mired down in legal cases along with the Red Shirts resulting in disbandment is also being used to scare MPs from the party.

However, any election result that does not result in a government Thaksin can control to effect a pardon means that the Red Shirts once again will be called onto the streets to topple to government. The establishment hope is the Pheu Thai becomes too fragmented, small, or removed from Thaksin control so it can be part of the government. With a diminished Pheu Thai in the government, it would make it much harder to use the Red Shirts to claim unfairness and stymie Thaksin’s goals for a pardon for himself.





Cat lover? – Arun, Krungratrakit, April 4, 2008

Loves the cat or does not want the cat to get the fish – The tag on the cage reads “Commander-in-Chief” meaning C-in-C Anupong.

### **Replacing the Commander-in-Chief**

One scenario sometimes mentioned is, if a Thaksin-directed Pheu Thai gains power somehow, there could be a preemptive coup if the Commander-in-Chief fears he might be replaced with a Thaksin loyalist. In 1991, the military staged a coup when it believed that the government was planning such a firing—and at that time the issues dividing the government and military were only prosaic power politics and competing business concerns.

Despite all the press this scenario has received, it is probably a non-issue. Previous Thaksin-proxy governments have been savvy and have done everything they could to cozy up to the Commander-in-Chief. Both the Samak and Somchai governments in 2008 made it a top priority to cultivate good relations with the military.

While Prayuth is a different animal than previous Commanders-in-Chief (both as a Thaksin foe and as one not hesitant to act in the face of provocations), he would probably be courted in many ways by a Thaksin government. If a Pheu Thai government tiptoes gently, they could enjoy civil relations with the military as it has in the past.

### **Pardons and Amnesty**

In the Thai world, pardons usually cover victims and perpetrators equally with the goals of reconciliation and harmony placed above justice. A dissatisfied Thai person is expected to resort to violence as a symbol of their dissatisfaction so it is thought key that pardons cover all and that no blame is assigned. To the Western world Thai pardons can seem unfair, but they have served to reunite Thai society in the past—notably after the events of Black May in 1992.

The sticking point here is that, When the opposition brings up these sentiments, it strikes at the heart of the carefully constructed public image and serves as a warning to the establishment that if Thaksin’s goals are opposed,

Possible pardons or amnesty would be modeled to achieve the isolation of Thaksin as his past conviction would stand and mean he would have to remain outside the country to avoid incarceration.

There have long been rumors that a grand plan is on offer in the background—a deal to pardon most or all infractions in recent years along with a return of money to Thaksin—all in an effort for politics to regain a firm footing . However, it appears Thaksin is taking a hard line and betting he can have it all back on his terms.

The next challenge is when the five year ban ends for banned Thai Rak Thai politicians in 2012—this will mean another crop of ambitious political figures will be on the loose. The question then will be if these men and women will once again hook their wagons to Thaksin or head off into other factions. It is certain that the background whispers will be that pardons may be fine and that running on Thaksin's populism may be ok, but Thaksin himself can never return.

# BBC: In Our Time

April 23, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

One of our favorite websites is BBC's [In Our Time](#) which features weekly discussions of extremely diverse topics from history, philosophy and science. This is a good site to learn the significance of events you may have heard of, but did not know the significance of...

# **Did the middle ages not really happen?**

April 23, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Did the middle ages not really happen?](#) – straightdope.com, April, 2011

# Survey of the Defunct Hat Yai-Songkhla Railway

April 23, 2011

Categories: Thai Railroads

[Survey of the Defunct Hat Yai-Songkhla Railway](#) – rotfaithai.com, April, 2011

Earlier: [The Songkhla to Hat Yai Rail Line](#)

Earlier: [The Songkhla Train Station](#)

Earlier: [Walking the Songkhla Rail Line](#)

# **Cambodian police crack down on rally in capital**

April 23, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodian police crack down on rally in capital](#) – AFP, April, 2011

Cambodian police wielding electric batons beat protesters, including elderly women, and detained 11 people in a crackdown Thursday on a Phnom Penh rally against mass evictions, rights groups said...

# Chavalit Runs Away (Again)

April 23, 2011

Categories: Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, April 19, 2011

The title on the board reads: The statistic showing resignation from a position

Chavalit says: Who else can do as I can?

The caption reads: Some like to rack up the abnormal statistics



From Manager, April 20, 2011

The words on the sign at the top left reads: The outdated landlord–red toppling down highness

Chavalit says: The gang to topple royalty? How can I belong here!!!?

The caption reads: Just wake up



From Manager, April 22, 2011

Left: The sign reads: MAE LA PLA PAO

The lady says: AYY! You say that you will establish the political party, will you?

Right: The sign reads: POR-YAI-MAE LA PLA PAO

The words on Chavalit's shirt reads: Mr. mercurial man

The caption reads: The career that should fit Jew most at this moment

[More on Chavalit](#)



# Bangkok's red-light nightlife must go

April 23, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok's red-light nightlife must go](#) – todayonline.com, April 23, 2011

...I am not going to pretend that all such establishments, right down to the last whorehouse, will be eliminated and Thailand will become the peaceful and ethical Buddhist society depicted in a lot of temple paintings.

Nor am I a saint, since as a man growing up in Thailand I've had my share of escapades to those places I have described.

But if New York City can clean up Times Square, and if Boston's aggressive policy can lead to the demise of Combat Zone, then why can't Bangkok?...

# Sargent Safety and Volunteer Death Messenger

April 24, 2011

Categories: Songkran



From Komchadluek, April 13, 2011

The caption to the photo reads: Cutting off accidents – The police from the Highway Police division and the Buriram Highway police launch the mascot of “Sargent Safety” and “Volunteer Death Messenger” and provide drinking water, maps and sacred water from Luangpor Koon for drivers as part of the campaign to cut accident rate during Songkran.

The words on the sign around the devil’s neck reads: speed drivers who hurt other – Coming to take the careless drivers – Love drunk drivers

# Tortured by tradition

April 24, 2011

Categories: Local Beliefs

[Tortured by tradition](#) – The Nation, April 24, 2011

...Talk with anyone who works for a children's rights group. They will tell you the horror stories of culture and tradition.

Daughters forced into prostitution, because filial duty dictates that they obey their parents and help the family.

Daughters forced into having sex with stepfathers, because filial duty dictates that they are slaves to the provider of the household. So show your gratitude.

Daughters who become pregnant, whether by rape or consensual sex, but get kicked out of the house because they have brought shame to the family.

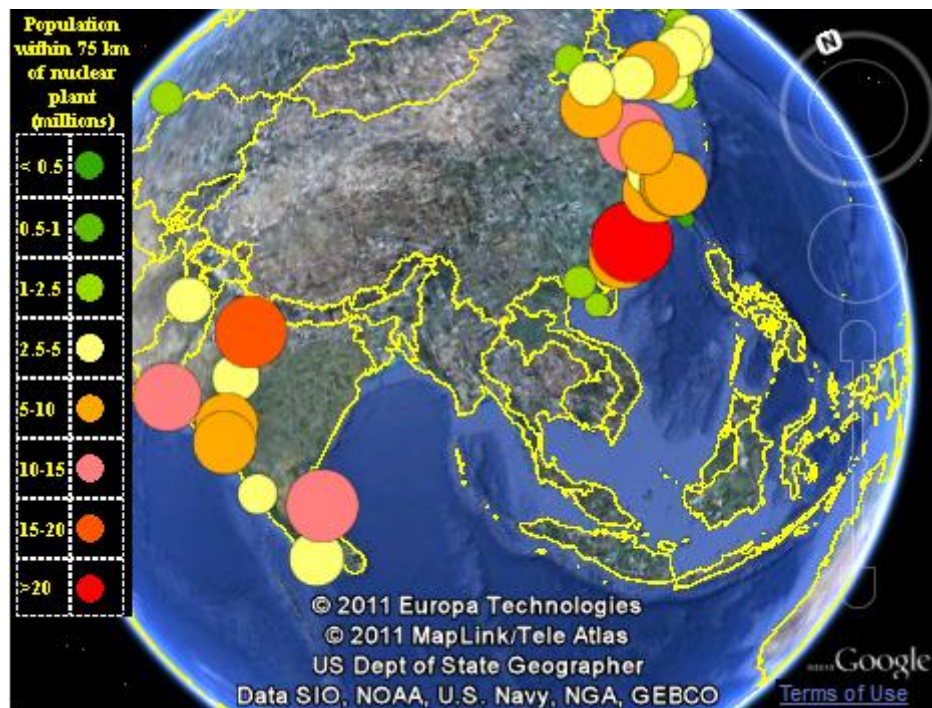
Study history and you will find out that if you fancy a girl, all you have to do is kidnap and rape her, and her family would be obliged to offer you their daughter's hand in marriage. This is to save face and family honour.

And don't for one second think that such beliefs and practices don't persist, or that they're not accepted by many in our society today. After all, this is a matter of culture and tradition...

# Reactors, residents and risk

April 24, 2011

Categories: Energy



[Reactors, residents and risk](#) – Nature, April 24, 2011

# **Thai Army Denies Using Toxic Gas in Cambodian Border Battle**

April 24, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

[Thai Army Denies Using Toxic Gas in Cambodian Border Battle](#) – Bloomberg, April 24, 2011

...Thai soldiers used “heavy guns loaded with poisonous gas” in yesterday’s fighting, Cambodia’s Defense Ministry said in a statement...

# **Cambodian troops captured 4 Thai spies and one spy dog**

April 24, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

[Cambodian troops captured 4 Thai spies and one spy dog](#) – Khmerization, April 24, 2011

# Siamese Arabesques: Tales Of The Islamic World With Thai Twists

April 25, 2011

Categories: Books

## [Siamese Arabesques: Tales Of The Islamic World With Thai Twists](#)

*...Proud of their own culture, one thing they don't come for is Thai culture. Rarely do Arabs ever step foot inside "infidel" Thai Buddhist temples.*

*For centuries, and especially in the last few decades, Middle-Eastern traders and travellers, restaurateurs and refugees have left their mark on Thailand, bestowing their cultural, Islamic, architectural, culinary and musical heritage.*

*Digging deep, Carleton Cole writes about Middle Easterners who have called Thailand a home away from home.*

# **The Library and the Full Moon Murders**

April 25, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[The Library and the Full Moon Murders](#) – The Irrawaddy, April 23, 2011

...The alcohol and drug abuse, combined with simmering grievances while working at sea, incite many Burmese fishermen to violence; many get killed with knives and sharpened iron rods.

“I guess it all happens because many of us are uneducated and not responsible for our own actions,” said Win Khet, a Burmese fisherman in the village, showing scars all over his head which he sustained from fights with other fishermen...



# Thailand Held Hostage

April 25, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, April 25, 2011

The man (apparently a Red Shirt from his headband) says: If you try not voting for my party, I guarantee that this hostage dies!!

# Wikileaks: al-Qaida targets included nightclubs in Thailand

April 25, 2011

Categories: Wikileaks

[Wikileaks: al-Qaida targets included nightclubs in Thailand](#) – April 25, 2011

Wikileaks is releasing leaked info on Gitmo detainees. One interesting tidbit from [Abu Zubaydah](#)—al-Qaida targets included nightclubs in Thailand frequented by Americans.

Full list of prisoners is [here](#).

# **Army: Cambodia using human shields**

April 25, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

[Army: Cambodia using human shields](#) – Bangkok Post, April 25, 2011

# Thailand Going Rogue

April 26, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

[Thailand Going Rogue](#) – WSJ, April 26, 2011

...In this context, a fight with Cambodia might seem an appealing way out of the deadlock. A limited war with a much smaller neighbor could unify Thais, as the red shirts would feel pressure to get behind the military in a time of national crisis. Mr. Abhisit, who has never won an election and is widely regarded as a figurehead within Thailand, could be dispensed with, and elections pushed off until the glow of victory and massive public spending restore the Bangkok elite's popularity...

# **In Thailand, Love of Food Carries Deadly Risks**

April 26, 2011

Categories: Food and Drink

[In Thailand, Love of Food Carries Deadly Risks](#) – NYT, April 25, 2011

...One popular dish in northeast Thailand is called pla som, or sour fish, which is made by mixing raw fish, garlic, salt, steamed rice and a pinch of seasoning powder. The mixture is shaped into egg-size portions, put into plastic bags and left to sit in the tropical heat for three days. That is not nearly long enough to kill the parasites, which die only after at least six months of fermentation...

# More Thailand Mentions in the Wikileaks Gitmo Docs

April 26, 2011

Categories: Wikileaks

More Thailand Mentions in the Wikileaks Gitmo Docs – April 26, 2011

## [Bashir Lap](#)

...Detainee cased flights at Don Muang Airport in Bangkok, Thailand (TH) for suicide operations to attack Israeli citizens, as well as foreign embassies, particularly the US Embassy, in Kuala Lumpur, MY.

...In March 2003, detainee attempted to join the Royal Thai Air Force in order to learn to fly airplanes under the alias Usman Waayita.

...Detainee also stated he wanted to conduct a suicide bombing in the area of Ban Gan Pu on Kowsan Road, an area well-known in Bangkok as a tourist attraction with many hotels, dance clubs, and bars...

## [Mohd Farik Bin Amin](#)

...Additionally, detainee targeted, planned, and cased western targets in both Thailand (TH) and Cambodia (CB) for future terrorist attacks to include the British Embassy in Phnom Penh, CB.

...Shortly after detainee cased the Don Muang airport, he also cased the Israeli Embassy in Bangkok, TH. Detainee stated he cased the Israeli Embassy from the outside approximately one month after he observed the El Al flight. Detainee concluded that operations against the Israeli Embassy would be difficult without a contact on the inside and noted that JI did not have such a contact.

...Some time after that, he went to an internet cafe in Thailand to send an email to his associates in Malaysia and then went to a bookstore to read. Detainee was arrested when he left the bookstore.

And [Hambali](#), perhaps the most famous al-Qaeda fugitive, captured in Ayuthaya in 2003.

Earlier: [Wikileaks: al-Qaida targets included nightclubs in Thailand](#)

# Thai authorities accused of ‘cover up’

April 26, 2011

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[Thai authorities accused of ‘cover up’](#) – The Telegraph, April 26, 2011

...A post-mortem examination showed Miss Carter died in hospital from myocarditis, or acute inflammation of the heart, after she had contracted echovirus, a highly infectious disease...

# Thai embrace of medical tourism divides professionals

April 26, 2011

Categories: Health

[Thai embrace of medical tourism divides professionals](#) – Guardian, April 26, 2011

...There are also concerns over the growing divergence between state and private health provision. Some of the big private hospitals now resemble five-star hotels. Doormen will guide you to a gleaming marble foyer before elevator attendants take you to your waiting room. These “hotel-spitals”, designed specifically for the needs of foreign patients, mean that the Thai middle classes are increasingly unable to afford private healthcare provision at these centres...



# Thaksin Thinks, Pheu Thai Torches

April 27, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, April 27, 2011

Left: Thaksin thinks

Right: Pheu Thai torches

# **Wikileaks: India put its foot down on statements against Iran and Myanmar**

April 27, 2011

Categories: Wikileaks

[Wikileaks: India put its foot down on statements against Iran and Myanmar](#) – [www.rtn.asia](http://www.rtn.asia), April 25, 2011

# Thai pair fight extradition

April 27, 2011

Categories: Crime

[Thai pair fight extradition](#) – [www.theage.com.au](http://www.theage.com.au), April 27, 2011

*...The two Thais in custody will face a pre-extradition hearing in Thailand on May 24, where they will claim that the Australian justice system is corrupt and they would be held in a sub-standard prison...*

# Miffed Prawit cancels talks

April 27, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Myanmar/Burma

[Miffed Prawit cancels talks](#) – Bangkok Post, April 27, 2011

...”We decided last night to cancel General Prawit (Wongsuwon’s) trip to Phnom Penh today after some Cambodia media reported Thailand agreed to ceasefire talks after it admitted defeat and losses,” said Colonel Sunsern Kaewkumnerd...

# Govt raids 13 community radio stations

April 27, 2011

Categories: Community Radio

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

...Police spokesman Pol Maj Gen Prawuth Thawornsiri said Isoc had ordered police to take legal action against community radio stations which had broadcast a controversial April 10 speech made by Pheu Thai Party MP Jatuporn Prompan, since he is facing lese majeste charges as a result...

[Earlier posts on Community Radio](#)

# Thailand Caught on the Thaksin Rebound

April 27, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thailand Caught on the Thaksin Rebound](#) – WSJ, April 27, 2011

*...As good as those might seem in theory at least to some people, coming from Mr. Thaksin the ideas are gimmicky, dilettantish and often cynical. His late conversion to the cause of political freedom fools no one, and his thoughts about fiscal policy are rooted in a superficial understanding of Thailand's competitiveness problem...*

# **Tourism Authority of Thailand Launches New International Campaign “The Most Amazing Show On Earth”**

April 27, 2011

Categories: Tourism

[Tourism Authority of Thailand Launches New International Campaign “The Most Amazing Show On Earth”](#)

– www.prweb.com, April 27, 2011

...These moments will then be collected and shown as part of “The Most Amazing Show On Earth”, a website where visitors can browse stories of Thailand from all over the world. By capturing real stories from real visitors, the TAT hopes to be able to give prospective visitors a diverse and realistic portrait of tourism of the whole country through the eyes of other visitors rather than an organization...

# Old Hotel Business in Nan

April 27, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, March 30, 2011

Left: Where is Mr. Bantoon? Has anyone seen Mr. Bantoon?

Left middle: He has returned from Japan, hasn't he?

Right middle: Ah! After getting getting of the plane, he just rushed to Nan province, Mr. Kridsada Why?

Right: He hurriedly returned to Thailand as he is worried about the Nanfah Hotel. He walks around everyday and night after hearing the news about earthquake there.

The words on the building read: The Nanfah Hotel



# Elite Card decides to call it a day

April 27, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Elite Card decides to call it a day](#) – Bangkok Post, April 27, 2011

...But political changes and exaggerated services led to the Elite Card proving a flop, with only 2,565 members from 65 countries in its eight years in operation. TPC reportedly suffers a debt burden of more than 1.4 billion baht.

Battling to survive, TPC two years ago sought cabinet approval to allow private investment in the company. But the request was rejected, as the government would not allow companies to make decisions on visa fees...

Earlier: [Elite Card Abandoned](#)

# **Lesbian Chic: Gay women in Thailand gradually push boundaries, find space for their lifestyle**

April 27, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Lesbian Chic: Gay women in Thailand gradually push boundaries, find space for their lifestyle](#) – AP, April 27, 2011

...”A decade ago, you would never have seen a movie about lesbians in Thailand. I would never have imagined a Tomboy singer,” said 24-year-old Sarunkorn Choksiripureenont, a drummer in an all-lesbian band. “It’s becoming fashionable now. You see lesbians everywhere.”

# Singapore Election and the Social Media Effect

April 27, 2011

Categories: Singapore

[Singapore Election and the Social Media Effect](#) – The Irrawaddy, April 27, 2011

...With the country's political media notoriously restricted in its criticism of government and discussion of politics, few outlets exist for Singaporeans to read and express free views on the government. Management of the media is so strong that, in the run up to the election, a number of the country's key political blogs—such as the hugely popular Temasek Review – were recategorized as media outlets so as to fall under stricter censorship...

# Happy Songkran Cartoon 2011

April 28, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Songkran



Happy Songkran Cartoon 2011

From Khao Sod, April 13, 2011

The cartoon title reads: Happy Songkran 2011

Left to right: Gen Chawalit Yongjaiyuth, Gen Panlop Pinmanee (?), Chalerm Yoobamrung

Left to right on the truck: PM Abhisit Vejjajiva, Democrat Chief Advisor Chuan Leekpai, , Deputy PM Suthep Tuagsuban, and BJT Party nominal head Newin Chidchob

In front of the truck: Pheu Thai member Mingkhwan Saengsuwan (drowning after being dressed down by Thaksin)

One the right side: UDD leaders Jatuporn Prompan and Nutthawut Saikuea

# Myanmar: New Govt May OK Street Thugs

April 28, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[New Govt May OK Street Thugs](#) – The Irrawaddy, April 26, 2011

...Swan Arr Shin (literally “Masters of Force” in English) became infamous after several violent incidents, most notably when they were involved in a mass attack on pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her convoy in Depayin in 2003, and nationwide monk-led demonstrations in 2007...

# **New Satellite Image of Construction at North Korea Nuclear Site**

April 28, 2011

Categories: North Korea

[New Satellite Image of Construction at North Korea Nuclear Site](#) – ISIS, April 27, 2011

# **Thai Church participates in the beatification of John Paul II**

April 28, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand: Thai Church participates in the beatification of John Paul II](http://www.speroforum.com) – www.speroforum.com, April 27, 2011

# More on the Ministry of Culture's Topless Artwork

April 28, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

More on the Ministry of Culture's Topless Artwork: [Nang Songkran by Thai Artist Sompop Budtarad](#) – womenlearnthai.com, April 24, 2011

And on BoingBoing: [Topless teen terpsichore in Thailand turns into truly terrible “Taliban!” Twitter taunts](#)



# Message from Chuwit

April 29, 2011

Categories: Chuwit Kamolvisit, Signs and Billboards



Above: Message from Chuwit at the Davis Hotel

# China's High-Speed Trains Coming Off the Rails

April 29, 2011

Categories: China

[China's High-Speed Trains Coming Off the Rails](#) – Slashdot, April 28, 2011

# Hun Sen at the Border

April 29, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Komchadluek, April 29, 2011

The word above the man's head: Hun Sen

In his left hand he holds a shell labeled "Red"

In his right hand he holds a shell labeled "Yellow"

The words above the soldiers' heads: Royal Thai Army

# The Seventh Anniversary of the Krue Se Massacre

April 29, 2011

Categories: The Thai Deep South, The Thaksin Years

[Krue Se victims 'still need help'](#) – Bangkok Post, April 29, 2011

...On April 28, 2004, 106 Muslims died in clashes with security forces at 11 locations. They included 31 Muslims who were killed when security forces stormed the Krue Se mosque in Pattani...

# Thai Protest Photos Earn a Capa Medal

April 29, 2011

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Thai Protest Photos Earn a Capa Medal](#) – NYT, April 28, 2011

...She worked day and night, photographing clashes that saw antigovernment protesters both attacking soldiers as well as being attacked. Her images were an emotional rendering of the chaotic and dangerous scenes around her...

# Prince Bira – The Prince of Motorsport

April 29, 2011

Categories: Sports

[The Prince of Motorsport](#) – [www.vivaf1.com](http://www.vivaf1.com), April 28, 2011

# Phuket to host ‘half-Thai’ beauty contest

April 29, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Phuket to host ‘half-Thai’ beauty contest](http://www.phuketgazette.net) – www.phuketgazette.net, April 29, 2011

...“There are two major beauty contests held annually in Thailand, but none are for half-Thais only,” Mr Kritphanat said...

# Land for Sale

April 30, 2011

Categories: Property and Development



Above: For sale sign on the Japanese Embassy site on New Petchburi Road



# No Privatization

April 30, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards



The banner reads: The inequality can be solved. The state privatization is a tool. Oppose the sale of state-owned enterprises with the State Enterprise Labor Union

# Watchara and Chalerm Election Posters

April 30, 2011

Categories: Chalerm Yubamrung, Editorial Cartoons



From Naewna, April, 2011

Left: MP Watchara Petchthong stands to serve the Nongkhaem people. Facebook: Watchara Petchthong. Tel 081-573-7442, the MP who receives honor award cup from the Prime Minister

Right: The Pheu Thai Party, the heart is the people – Police Captain Chalerm Yubamrung

The caption to this photo reads: Warming up – Watchara Parchthong, the Bangkok MP from the Democrat posts the electoral campaign sign close to the signs of Pheu Thai party-list MP Chalerm Yubamrong in every area of Nongkhaem and Thonburi



