

Democrat Roaches Read the Newspaper

January 1, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, December 18, 2012

Left newspaper headline: PAD persuaded people to cast a 'no vote'

Left caption: Injurious thing for the cockroaches in the old day...

Right newspaper headline: Pheu Thai holds a referendum on constitution amendment.

Right caption: ...Their favorite day

Thailand's Rotten Police: high-profile busts of crooked cops does few favours for the reputation of the force

January 1, 2013

Categories: Thai Police

[In 2012, police end up as their own worst enemies](#) – Bangkok Post, December 31, 2012

Corrupt policeman have been accused of many of this year's biggest murders, robberies and drug crimes, undermining the reputation of the police force as an agency which the public can rely on to dispense justice in a fair and honest fashion...

ATM frustrates thieves' best efforts

January 1, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[ATM frustrates thieves' best efforts](#) – Bangkok Post, December 31, 2012

Thieves ripped an ATM machine from its mooring in front of a restaurant in Lat Lum Kaeo district early Monday morning, but despite their best efforts could not open it and fled empty handed...

King sends New Year greetings

January 1, 2013

Categories: The Monarchy

[King sends New Year greetings](#) – Bangkok post, December 31, 2012

His Majesty the King has called on all Thais to extend compassion to others as a way to lead a happy life, in the royal New Year's greeting card released by the palace Monday...

There's A Secret War In Thailand No One's Talking About

January 1, 2013

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[There's A Secret War In Thailand No One's Talking About](#) – Telegraph, December 31, 2012

Dispatch: not far from Thailand's tourist beaches, Muslims and Buddhists are locked in a struggle in which thousands have died...

Thai Govt Warns Media Not to Draw Attention to the Muslim Insurgency in the south

January 2, 2013

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[Focus on unrest irks Surapong](#) – Bangkok Post, January 1, 2013

Lavishing too much attention on the violence in the deep South could provoke more bloodshed, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul says in a warning to the media.

The government is aware it needs to explain the problem but is also aware that drawing attention to it could encourage the insurgents, he said.

“I would not like the international community to pay more attention to this problem, but they should condemn those who attack innocent people,” he said...

What the Foreign Press is Saying about the Tourist Killed by Gang Gunfire

January 2, 2013

Categories: Crime, Thailand in the International Media

UK travel warning: [Western tourists have been victims of vicious unprovoked attacks by gangs in Koh Phangan](#)

[Thailand Killing: Brit Shot Dancing On Beach](#) – Sky news, January 2, 2013

Stephen Ashton was hit by a stray bullet during a fight between two gangs at a New Year's Eve party on Koh Phangan...

[British tourist Stephen Ashton shot dead in Thailand](#) – BBC, January 1, 2013

A British tourist has been killed in Thailand on New Year's Eve.

Stephen Ashton was reportedly caught by a stray bullet during a fight between two groups at a bar on Koh Phangan...

[British new-year reveller shot dead at Thailand beach party](#) – The Independent, January 1, 2013

Stephen Ashton, 22, caught in the crossfire between rival gangs of youths on party island...

[Brit shot at NYE party in Thailand](#) – The Sun, January 1, 2013

... Witnesses described how two groups of Thai youths got into a fist-fight at around 4am.

One group is said to have ran from the bar before a man turned around and fired his gun back inside...

[British tourist shot dead in Thailand](#) – Channel 4, January 1, 2013

A 22-year old British man has been shot dead at a new year's eve party on the Thai island of Koh Phangan – it is thought Stephen Ashton was caught in the crossfire between two rival gangs...

[Briton killed by stray bullet in gang crossfire as he danced at Thailand New Year's Eve party](#) – Mirror, January 1, 2013

A British tourist has died after being hit by a stray bullet while dancing at a “full-moon” party in Thailand.

Stephen Ashton, 22, had been seeing in the New Year with a group of friends at a pub on the island of Koh Phangan when a fight broke out between two rival local groups...

Thailand: The biggest microlender of them all

January 2, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[The biggest microlender of them all](#) – The Economist, January 2, 2013

There are an estimated 120,000 microfinance initiatives worldwide but Thailand's "Village and Urban Revolving Fund" lends more money to more people than any other. The scheme's outstanding loan portfolio totalled \$4.9 billion in 2011; the number of active borrowers that year stood at 8.5m. Those numbers are swelling. Yingluck Shinawatra, the Thai prime minister (pictured above), announced plans earlier this year to inject \$2.6 billion in additional capital into a network of nearly 80,000 village banks, which her brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, who was prime minister between 2001 and 2006, created with a stroke of a pen ten years ago...

The scheme has undoubtedly helped financial inclusion and boosted rural credit. According to the Bank of Thailand, 96.5% of households have access to financial products. A 2011 paper by Joseph Kaboski of the University of Notre Dame and Robert Townsend of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that Thai households increased both their borrowing and their consumption roughly one for one with each dollar put into the fund.

But the scheme has its drawbacks. Private providers are unable to compete with the Village Fund on cost: Mix Market, a data provider, lists only one private microfinance lender in Thailand. Regulations and licensing requirements are so strict that non-governmental organisations have stopped setting up shop. Critics say it is a tool of political patronage...

Laos Could Bear Cost of Chinese Railroad

January 2, 2013

Categories: Laos

[Laos Could Bear Cost of Chinese Railroad](#) – NYT, January 1, 2013

...The Chinese-financed railway is to snake its way through dozens of tunnels and bridges, eventually linking southern China to Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, and then on to the Bay of Bengal in Myanmar, significantly expanding China's already enormous trade with Southeast Asia. The price tag of the \$7 billion, 260-mile rail project, which Laos will borrow from China, is nearly equal to the tiny \$8 billion in annual economic activity in Laos, which lacks even a rudimentary railroad and whose rutted road system is largely a leftover from the French colonial era...

Rubbish collectors' co-op trades rice, soap for recyclable materials

January 2, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai 'scavengers club' turns trash to treasure](#) – AFP, January 2, 2013

...The couple have combed bins for decades, but their earnings of less than 10 dollars per day are not always enough to live on, so they turned to the cooperative.

“When we’re starving, we can find rubbish to exchange for rice to eat, detergent, soap and everything,” said Nom, who also has grandchildren to raise and feed.

By selling to the recycling plants in bulk, the cooperative gets a better rate than individual scavengers would manage on their own.

Profits are then paid back in dividends and other benefits to its members such as life insurance, interest rates from its “rubbish bank” and help paying medical fees...

Weekly News Magazines, December 28, 2012

January 3, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, December 28, 2012

Cover reads: You all know; We can only push against



From Matichon Weekly, December 28, 2012

Cover reads: The ultimate of the 'year': Mark-Thuak

Cost of the First-Car Policy

January 3, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, January 3, 2013

On the sheep skin: First-car policy

On the wolf: Oil and annual vehicle tax

Hard to believe, but it's true

January 4, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, December 16, 2012

Cartoon title: Hard to believe, but it's true

Top left: People are crazy afraid of the world's apocalypse and seek superstitious ceremonies

Top middle: AEC Thai kids are weaker in languages-maths-science than neighboring countries!

Top right: So far 18 constitutions were written, but none of them are any good.

Bottom left: Commander of a police station and his subordinates trafficked one million pellets of amphetamines using Royal Thai police vehicle.

Bottom middle: Former Prime Minister Anan confirmed that corruption this year is the worst ever.

Bottom right: The royal trophy rewarded to the winning boxer becomes a fake one.

Kick the Pig into the Poodle's Mouth

January 4, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager, Tharit Pengdit



From Manager, January 4, 2013

Caption: Kick Khun Chai Moo into the poodle's mouth

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra: Open your mouth, Judy... Tharit is about to kick it to you.

Also: [The Downfall of Tharit the Chameleon](#)

Plane Crash? Murders? Time to Play Thai Lottery

January 4, 2013

Categories: Local Beliefs

[Plane Crash? Murders? Time to Play Thai Lottery](#) – NYT, January 3, 2013

...The search for lottery numbers in Thailand can be confusing to outsiders. Many Thais believe that calamity can beget good fortune, and that tragedy may give rise to powerful ghosts who offer guidance on winning numbers. Newspapers report the license plate numbers of cars involved in gruesome accidents. Lottery aficionados note the highway route numbers where accidents took place, tally the casualties and play the numbers. Nothing is seen as too horrible to be a source of good luck, not plane crashes or massacres...

The Thai Diet: 13 Ways To Stay Thin While Eating All Day

January 4, 2013

Categories: Health

[The Thai Diet: 13 Ways To Stay Thin While Eating All Day](#) – Forbes, January 2, 2013

... But while Thai meals seem to overflow with pork, seafood, chicken, and beef, the protein is actually a small portion of the meal – a quarter, if that. A green chicken curry, for example, might also have chunks of eggplant, kaffir leaves, onions, chili peppers, limes and ginger, all swimming in a soup of spices and coconut milk. This is poured over – you guessed it, rice! – meaning that you’re mostly eating grains and vegetables...

Thailand shooting: are Ko Phangan parties safe?

January 4, 2013

Categories: Crime

[Thailand shooting: are Ko Phangan parties safe?](#) – Telegrpah, january 3, 2013

...There is a growing problem of violence and other crimes against foreigners elsewhere in Thailand, with Ko Samui, Phuket and Ko Phi Phi being of particular concern. If the current trend of rip-offs, threats, thefts, rape and other incidents in those locations increases, The Land of Smiles will indeed face a growing image problem and incidents like the tragic death in Ko Phangan may become part of a wider pattern of a decline in safety...

Cambodia arrests eccentric Russian tycoon

January 4, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia arrests Russian tycoon](#) – Bangkok Post, January 4, 2013

And on Wikipedia: [Sergei Polonsky](#).

May the bravest soldiers protect the monks!

January 5, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, January 5, 2013

Title: Faith and Reality

Left: May God protect you.

Right: May the bravest soldiers protect the monks!

New Year's Cartoons: Just Stop

January 5, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, New Year's Cartoons



From Matichon, December 31, 2012

Caption: 2556 Just stop and we'll survive

Stopping the reelection of the Bangkok Governor

January 6, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia, Skytrain



From Thairath, January 6, 2013

Title: Skytrain's terminal station!

On top of the train: BTS Skytrain concession and Bangkok governor

Mouse man Phi Nooring: Don't make the same mistake again and again.

Mouse: Bangkok wants to change.

The Shinawatras are Above the Clouds

January 6, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, January 6, 2013

Woman: Why don't they let us watch the Nua Mek series?

Man: I want to watch the Nua Mek series...

Caption: Why watch the TV series? Just look up and you'll see the real deal.

At the table on the cloud, from left: Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, former prime minister Somchai Wongsawat, and Yaowaree Wongsawat, Somchai's wife.

Happy New Year from Bancha/Khamin at the Manager

January 7, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, December 28, 2012

Cartoon title: Thank you for following our works all through the year 2012

Caption: Bancha/Khamin will probably be sober and come back to kick some butts again on Jan. 2 of next year.

Amend the constitution immediately!

January 8, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, December 23, 2012

Cartoon title: Starting since the first rally

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra: Please let's hold a referendum.

On Yingluck's suit: Pheu Thai Party

At Thaksin Shinawatra: Voice from Dubai

On the table: Constitution amendment

In hands of Interior Minister and Pheu Thai Party leader Jarupong Ruangsuan: Stage for talks for reconciliation

On the back of Deputy Prime Minister Chalerm Ubamrung: Pheu Thai Party

In his hands: Announcement from Baan Rim Klong

On Jatuporn Promphan's back: UDD

In his hands: Bonanza Declaration

Jatuporn: Go ahead and cast votes for the third reading.

Phi Nooring: The fans are confused

Man mouse: Amend the constitution immediately.

Yingluck, Red Shirts, and MPs Must Stick Together to Amend the Constitution

January 8, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, January 8, 2013

Cartoon title: Come together, leave together

On buildings, from left: Constitution amendment crisis; Referendum; Amend by section; Casting votes in the 3rd reading

On the back of man on the left: UDD

On the back of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra: Government

On the back of man on the right: Parliament

Mouse man Phi Nooring: Danger is in every soi.

Man mouse: Must amend the constitution.

Election Commission considers inviting Thaksin to lecture students in Thailand via Skype

January 8, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thailand's Election Commission considers inviting Thaksin to lecture students in Thailand via Skype](#) – The Nation, January 7, 2013

...Apichart said the students had proposed Thaksin give his talk through Skype and he thought there was nothing wrong about the idea as students should get well-rounded opinions for the political development of the country...

Foreigners getting “bricked” in Cambodia

January 8, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Expatriate Man Violently Bricked in the Face in Phnom Penh](#) – cambodiadaily.com, January 5, 2013

...In 2010, a spate of similar attacks, in which foreigners were bricked from passing SUVs and trucks, forced authorities to dispatch police along the riverside, where most of the attacks happened. The U.S. Embassy at the time issued a warning to tourists to be aware. The son of a high-ranking government official was believed to have been behind the attacks, which dissipated by the end of the year.

After two years of relative quiet for such attacks, Mr. Wootton said he could not imagine why he was targeted. The attack seemed random to him, because his assailants drove off immediately and made no attempt to steal anything...

Rare frost in Nakhon Ratchasima

January 8, 2013

Categories: Uncategorized

[Rare frost in Nakhon Ratchasima](#) – Bangkok Post, January 6, 2013

A rare phenomenon – frost – covered parts of the lower northeastern province of Nakhon Ratchasima, especially Phimai district, on Saturday after a sharp drop in the temperature, Sa-ngad Saimai, director of the provincial meteorological office, said...

Thailand in the international press: Brit knife terror on Thailand death isle

January 8, 2013

Categories: Crime, Thailand in the International Media

[Brit knife terror on Thailand death isle](#) – The Sun, January 6, 2013

Soap Opera Stirs the Political Plot in Thailand

January 8, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics

[Soap Opera Stirs the Political Plot in Thailand](#) – WSJ, January 7, 2013

...The prime-time drama “Above the Clouds” revolves around black magic and a corrupt politician aiming to bag a lucrative satellite project, and appeared to some viewers to echo a few aspects of the life of one of the country’s most controversial leaders, ousted premier Thaksin Shinawatra...

Foreign ambassadors in Thailand: scams and cheats continuing to plague Phuket's tourism industry

January 8, 2013

Categories: Crime, Scams, Tourism

[Tuk-tuk, jet-ski, taxi scams: Ambassadors name the bane of Phuket](#) – phuketgazette.net, January 8, 2013

...Speaking with Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut at Provincial Hall this afternoon, ambassadors Mark Kent of the UK, Philip Calvert of Canada and Joan Boer of the Netherlands focused on why tuk-tuk and taxi drivers are continuing to charge tourists in Phuket higher fares than are charged elsewhere in the country.

They also asked why metered taxis are not as common in Phuket as they are in other major tourist destinations across Thailand, including Bangkok and Chiang Mai...

Medical Vacation: A Thai hospital saved a Wyoming man's life (and finances)

January 8, 2013

Categories: Health

[Medical Vacation: A Thai hospital saved a Wyoming man's life \(and finances\)](#) – wyofile.com, January 8, 2013

...Given what I knew of medical care, I had every reason to be worried. In the United States a CAT scan can range from roughly from \$1000 to \$3000 depending on the clinic and location. According to a 2004 study by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, an average overnight hospital stay costs about \$10,000...

New Year's Cartoon: Politicians Say Happy New Year 2013

January 9, 2013

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



From Daily News, January 1, 2013

The cartoon reads: Happy New Year 2013, the Year of small snake

Thaksin vs Death

January 9, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, December 15, 2012

Cartoon title: Whose signature is... vicious, bad, good

Left, Thaksin Shinawatra is signing a document stating: Buying a piece of land in Ratchada

Left caption: Signing a document for his wife to buy a piece of land, but was sued and is wandering abroad.

Right, on the hooded figure's shirt: Order to suppress the people

On paper Abhisit signing: CRES

Right caption: Signed a document allowing military officers to use live bullets causing hundreds of deaths, but is still be at large.

Thailand not such a great place to be born

January 9, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[A surprising map of the best and worst countries to be born into today](#) – Washington Post, January 7, 2013

...The correlation between wealth, as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, and happiness is clear, though not nearly as clear as you might expect. The report concludes from the results that “GDP per head alone explains some two thirds of the inter-country variation in life satisfaction, and the estimated relationship is linear.” Only two-thirds!...

Traffic Jams in Laos

January 9, 2013

Categories: Laos

[Vientiane outlines plan to fight traffic](#) – Bangkok Post, January 9, 2013

...Vientiane has a population of 850,000, with 556,000 vehicles registered in the city, according to authorities. Well-known Lane Xang Avenue, Setthathirath and Samsenthai are among the most congested roads in the city...

Vietnam Jails Dissidents in Echo of Military-ruled Burma

January 10, 2013

Categories: Vietnam

[Vietnam Jails Dissidents in Echo of Military-ruled Burma](#) – The Irrawaddy, January 10, 2013

...According to Viet Tan's account of the trial, "authorities mobilized hundreds of uniformed and plainclothes security police to block supporters and relatives of the defendants from gathering outside the court. Dozens of supporters—including elderly women and Catholic clergy—were physically attacked by police and temporarily detained."

One of the 13 jailed yesterday, Nguyen Van Duyet, a workers' rights activist, said in his final testimony that "Only Jesus Christ is our hope, love, and truth. I wish to send peace to everyone!"

What the verdict means for the relationship between Vietnam and the Catholic Church is not clear. Vietnam has Southeast Asia's largest Catholic population after the Philippines, with an estimated 8-10 million believers...

Rewriting the constitution

January 11, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Naewna, December 27, 2012

Thaksin: My party... Constitutional change. I want to go this direction. You, my slaves, can't argue.

Caption: Oh my God. Call for a democracy in the country. But for the democracy inside the party, all members still have to follow the leader's commands.

Weekly News Magazines, January 4, 2013

January 11, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, January 4, 2013

Cover reads: Sell 'Mark' to the city market



From Matichon Weekly, January 4, 2013

Cover reads: So delicious that I forgot to return to the temple

Nazi chic in the new Myanmar

January 11, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Nazi chic in the new Myanmar](#) – atimes.com, January 10, 2013

...Myanmar's government-issued history textbooks contribute to this strong leader perception because they do not describe Nazi atrocities, according to Metro. "They talk about the Treaty of Versailles after World War I, and that the situation was very bad in Germany, that Hitler was a strong leader, and that many Germans felt that the Jews, who controlled the economy, were responsible for their troubles," Metro, who can read Burmese, said in summarizing Myanmar history textbooks. "That's strange because it doesn't say, 'And they were wrong.' And it doesn't mention the Holocaust."

That portrayal is in stark contrast to how schoolbooks refer to the British and the Japanese, who are described broadly as enemies of the Myanmar people who "sucked the lifeblood out of Burma," she said, referring to the country's former name...

New York Times on the disappearance of Sombath Somphone in Laos

January 11, 2013

Categories: Laos

[With Laos Disappearance, Signs of a Liberalization in Backslide](#) — NYT, January 10, 2013

...Paradoxically for the Lao government, it is a network of cameras that the municipal police installed over the past three years to monitor “anti-social behavior” that have pointed to signs of the government’s involvement in Mr. Sombath’s disappearance. Helpful workers at a local police station initially showed the family images of Mr. Sombath’s jeep stopped at a police checkpoint on the evening of Dec. 15. Mr. Sombath then appeared to be driven off in a white vehicle. Family members had the presence of mind to record the footage with their own digital devices — crucial because the government now refuses to let them view the video again despite pleas by diplomats who would like to analyze it for clues like license plates.

...A precise accounting of repression in Laos is difficult to obtain because the news media are controlled by the government and communication is poor across the impoverished countryside. But one measure of politically related violence can be found when it spills over into the country’s freewheeling neighbor, Thailand, where it is recorded by the police and reported in the news media. Mr. Adisorn, who has researched Lao politics for the past two decades, has compiled a list of more than 20 Lao citizens assassinated in Thailand over what appear to be political reasons, including a Buddhist monk who opposed the government and a member of the former Lao royal family...

Monk quarrel clip goes viral

January 11, 2013

Categories: Buddhism, Local Beliefs



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=http://www.youtube.com/embed/cxVMceZSz7U>



[Monk quarrel clip goes viral](#) – Bangkok Post, January 11, 2013

Bangkok's Design Houses: Studio Aeroplane, FiF House, OpenDream and Sync

January 11, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok's Design Houses: Studio Aeroplane, FiF House, OpenDream and Sync](#) – core77.com, January 11, 2013

Yaowapa's Overeating

January 12, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



24/12/55

From Manager, December 24, 2012

The people are former Prime Minister Somchai and his wife Yaowapa Wongsawat (Thaksin's sister).

Left Yaowapa: Chai, the world didn't end. what do you still worry about?

Somchai: I don't worry about the end of the world.

Right: Somchai: I worry about your stomach exploding.

New Year's Cartoon: Fighting It Out

January 14, 2013

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



From Daily News, December 31, 2012

Cartoon title: Good bye... yesteryear...

Bug: The country is disastrous.

Boy in the manhole: Be united to rebuild the country.

Thailand's Flesh Trade Exposed as Camp Captives Flee into Jungle

January 14, 2013

Categories: Human Rights, Refugees and Migrants

[Thailand's Flesh Trade Exposed as Camp Captives Flee into Jungle](#) – phuketwan.com, January 13, 2013

...Captives are held in secret in Thailand and beaten until relatives or friends provide the price for smuggling them into Malaysia. If the fee is not paid, the men and boys are sold to fishing trawlers.

The scale of the nightmare trade has been exposed in a series of raids this week that have netted close to 1000 men, women and children and at least eight alleged traffickers...

Thailand sees 1,000 new juvenile smokers daily

January 14, 2013

Categories: Health

[Thailand sees 1,000 new juvenile smokers daily](#) – pattayamail.com, January 13, 2013

...With the rapid increase of new smokers, the country's total number of 12 million smokers in the last two decades has not dropped despite successive anti-smoking campaigns, he said...

Vietnam admits deploying bloggers to support government

January 14, 2013

Categories: Vietnam

[Vietnam admits deploying bloggers to support government](#) – BBC, January 12, 2013

...Hanoi Propaganda and Education Department head Ho Quang Loi said that the authorities had hired hundreds of so-called “internet polemist” in the fight against “online hostile forces”...

Good TED talk about fact checking online videos

January 14, 2013

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=http://www.youtube.com/embed/sNV4yJyXXX0>



Who Stands Behind Yingluck?

January 15, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics



Above: Seven billboards like this one are along Petchakasem Road, or Highway 4, in Ratchaburi Province. On top left corner is a symbol of the Pheu Thai Party. The sign reads: Happy New Year 2556 (2013): To every dear and respected Thai people. The people of Photharam district and of the Ratchburi Province thank Her Excellency Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra for lowering income tax for low income earners as a New Year gift. This improves our living standards.

Remembering the Thaksin Years: Please don't be just sweet dreams

January 15, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia, The Thaksin Years



From Thairath, January 15, 2001

Cartoon title: Please don't be just sweet dreams

On bags held by Thaksin from left: Village fund, 1 million baht each; 3 year debt moratorium for farmers; health insurance, baht 30 for every disease

Wildlife Group Wants Thailand to Ban Ivory Trade

January 16, 2013

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Wildlife Group Wants Thailand to Ban Ivory Trade](#) – abcnews.go.com, January 15, 2013

... The World Wildlife Fund said “massive quantities” of African ivory are being imported illegally into Thailand, where they are carved into Buddhist statues, bangles and jewelry that are then sold to tourists or smuggled elsewhere. Although it is against the law to sell African tusks in Thailand, ivory from domesticated elephants can be traded legally.

“Many foreign tourists would be horrified to learn that ivory trinkets on display next to silks in Thai shops may come from elephants massacred in Africa,” said Elisabeth McLellan, manager of WWF’s Global Species Program. “It is illegal to bring ivory back home and it should no longer be on sale in Thailand...”

What happens when you cross a Thai landlord

January 16, 2013

Categories: Crime

[Lee Chestnutt blocked from leaving Thailand](#) – BBC, January 15, 2013

...The landlord has now asked the Supreme Court to grant him a 60-day extension so he can lodge a late appeal.

“All we can do is wait to see if the Supreme Court allow the delay,” Mr Chestnutt said.

“If they do, they will give him 60 days to form his appeal and then we have got to wait again to see whether the court even accepts the appeal.

“If they do we are looking at staying here for another five to 10 years...”

[Pilling's Lee Chesnutt 'relieved' to leave Thailand](#) – BBC, March 24, 2013

A man stuck in Thailand for three years because of a legal dispute has said it is “a big relief” to be back in the UK...

Indonesia city to ban women ‘straddling motorbikes’

January 16, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Indonesia city to ban women ‘straddling motorbikes’](#) – BBC, January 3, 2013

...Under the new regulation, the mayor says that women passengers are only allowed to sit “side-saddle” because straddling the bike seat violates Islamic values. “When you see a woman straddle, she looks like a man. But if she sits side-saddle, she looks like a woman,” Suaidi said...

Remembering the Thaksin Years: Time to Shoot Those Involved in Drugs

January 17, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia, The Thaksin Years



From Thairath, January 17, 2003

Cartoon title: Don't live on the same land

Sign in Thaksin Shinawatra's hands: Drug traffickers, loss of treasure, loss of lives

On the floor: Amphetamine drug trafficking cartel

On arm of a man: Politicians

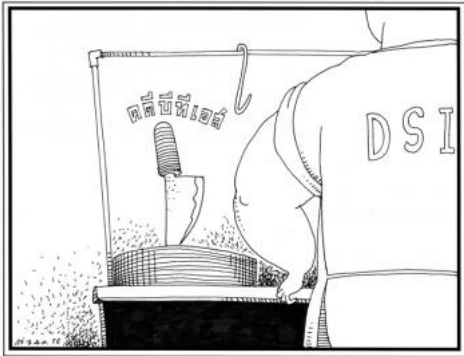
On back of a man: Civil servants

Also: [How many died in the drug purges?](#)

Putting the Governor on the Chopping Block

January 17, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Khaosod, January 4, 2013

Caption: BTS Charges

Weekly News Magazine, January 11, 2013

January 18, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, January 11, 2013

Cover reads: The cloud hides away the Moon.



From Matichon Weekly, January 11, 2013

Cover reads: Lift the 'cloud' above the 'cloud'

Bangkok: A City Of Glitz, A City Of Desperation

January 18, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok: A City Of Glitz, A City Of Desperation](#) – keranews.org, January 17, 2013

Most male dropouts living in Bangkok's most notorious slum, Klong Toei, are presented with two principal career paths: speed dealer or stevedore.

The first involves ducking cops, consorting with junkies and hardening your neighborhood's rep as a crime-infested no-go zone. Klong Toei's reputation for selling "ya ba" — pink meth tabs that smell like cotton candy when smoked — is second only to its reputation for catching on fire. Flames easily leap between dwellings in the slum, a labyrinth of buildings packed so tight that alleys remain dim under the Thai noontime sun.

In lieu of meth, Boat Thammongkul, 20, has chosen to work the nearby docks.

"We move heavy stuff at the pier for 500 baht a day," Boat says. That's roughly \$16 for nine hours at the Klong Toei wharf, a critical hub in Thailand's export economy and the chief employer of nearby slum dwellers...

Piling up cases against Abhisit: Justice or Politics in Thailand?

January 19, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics

[Justice or Politics in Thailand?](#) – thediplomat.com, January 19, 2013

...The government of Thaksin's sister Yingluck Shinawatra has for months tried to gain parliamentary approval to rewrite the constitution and pass an amnesty bill, a clean slate which would be retroactive to allow clemency for her brother who was sentenced to two years in prison for corruption.

"We are willing to go through the juristic system," says Chavanond Intarakomalyasut, chief spokesman for Abhisit's Democrats. "it's just a measure by the government to put pressure on the opposition to pass the amnesty bill."

The red shirts, many of whom support Yingluck and Thaksin and who see themselves as the main victims of the violence nearly three years ago, have argued that the charges against Abhisit – however flawed – would represent a great deal more than politicking...

Banharn, the Peacemaker?

January 21, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Thairath, January 2, 2013

Cartoon title: Terng volunteer to bring them for pinkies hooking.

On the heart: Reconciliation

On man's necktie: Banharn

On arm on the left: Favor Ammataya, love dictatorship

On arm on the right: Love democracy

On the hooded man's shirt and robe: Order to suppress people; 100 dead bodies

Mouse man Phi Nooring: Matchmaker from Suphan

Man mouse: Reconciliation must be fair.



03/01/56

From Manager, January 3, 2013

Sign on the wall: Shortie glue

Banharn Sillapa-acha: High quality glue, provides all kind of crack-sealing services.

Gen. Chawalit Youngjaiyuth: Just like myself... Grand opening, but out of business only in seconds.

Sign above a tray in front of Gen. Chawalit: One baht chain link

‘We Just Want To Visit Websites And Look At Them,’ Users Say – Internet Users Demand Less Interactivity

January 21, 2013
Categories: Humor

[‘We Just Want To Visit Websites And Look At Them,’ Users Say – Internet Users Demand Less Interactivity](#) – The Onion, January

...“Nobody needs to get my immediate take on everything I see online,” said Atlanta printing consultant Deirdre Levinson, questioning the merits of any site that, without knowing her level of intelligence or expertise in a particular topic, would deem her worthy enough to engage in a discussion. “And they’re sorely mistaken if they believe I could actually add something of value to the conversation. At best I’m just going to parrot back some loose approximation of what I’ve heard before, which will just prove that I never should have weighed in in the first place...”

How do stateless Rohingya men, women and children end up as slaves with a price on their heads in Thailand?

January 21, 2013

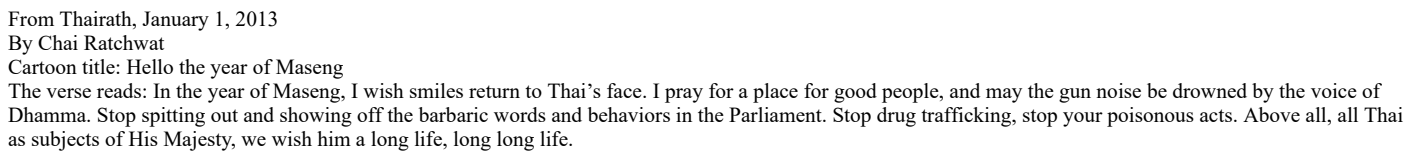
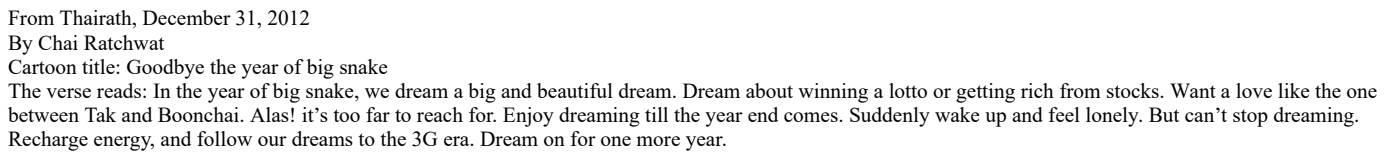
Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Secrets of Thailand's Trade in Men, Women and Children Revealed: Boatpeople and Modern Slavery](#) – phuketwan.com, January 20, 2013

How do stateless Rohingya men, women and children, generally regarded as the most downtrodden people in the world, end up as slaves with a price on their heads in Thailand?...

January 22, 2013
Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



Vanessa Mae aims to ski for Thailand at the Winter Olympics

January 22, 2013

Categories: Sports

[Vanessa Mae aims to ski for Thailand at the Winter Olympics](#) – telegraph.co.uk, January 21, 2013

...The violinist is a British citizen but she also holds a Thai passport. She was born in Singapore to a Chinese mother and a Thai father but she was brought up in England.

Vanessa-Mae, whose full name is Vanessa-Mae Vanakorn Nicholson, would be only the second Thai to compete at a Winter Olympics if she qualified...

Thailand Tax Refund Claims – 10 Truths to Share with Foreigners

January 22, 2013

Categories: Business

[Thailand Tax Refund Claims – 10 Truths to Share with Foreigners](#) – sherrings.com, January, 2013

...unlike the more advanced countries around the world, there is no system of automatic processing of tax refunds by the Thailand Revenue Dept. In Thailand, you will never receive a cheque back from the Revenue Dept within 2 weeks or 4 weeks as you may have received back home. Instead, all tax refund claims are sent to a special unit within the Revenue Dept, called the “Tax Refund Division”, which will, for 99% of the time, direct the tax refund claim to the Audit Division for investigation.

...foreign CFOs and CEOs should never expect the Audit Division officers in Thailand to have to follow the laws. Even in the case of a foreigner managing to convince one particular Audit Division officer regarding a particular matter of law, if that Audit Division officer is a member of a particular Audit Division team that needs to “satisfy” the upper levels, again this is more important than any particular matter of law...

Southern Thailand's Insurgency Turns Jihadist

January 22, 2013

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[Southern Thailand's Insurgency Turns Jihadist](#) – irrawaddy.org, January 22, 2013

...The insurgency is now primarily a rebellion legitimized by Islam. Further complicating the nature of the rebellion are deep links to local criminal gangs, especially those centered on drug and people trafficking. Conflict in the Deep South is an extremely profitable business.

Since 2001 and the New York terror attacks, academics and specialists have probed the insurgency in southern Thailand for links to global Islamic terrorism.

Nothing has been proven and the accepted wisdom is that there are no links. This view is generally accurate. There has been no grand bargain between local militants and global Islam, although the view does ignore important regional links to Islamic supporters in Malaysia and Indonesia.

However, creeping Islamization is changing the nature of this previously low-level conflict. Eventually, and regardless of the input of global Islam, the current escalation of the conflict is likely to lead to a widening of acceptable targets...

Thailand's Richest Man Gets Richer Chasing \$11 Billion F&N Deal

January 23, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand's Richest Man Gets Richer Chasing \\$11 Billion F&N Deal](#) – Bloomberg, January 23, 2013

Billionaire Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi is poised to win a \$13.8 billion (\$11.2 billion) bid for Fraser & Neave Ltd. (FNN)'s property and drinks empire. The takeover battle has boosted the value of his other stock holdings by more than \$2 billion...

Ikea Ad Outrages Trans Community In Thailand

January 23, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=http://www.youtube.com/embed/YxtaTn8zSwg>



[Ikea Ad Outrages Trans Community In Thailand](#) – queerty.com, January 22, 2013

...An ad tagged “Forget to Deceive” aired in late December and January and depicts a young woman so surprised by a bargain that she speaks in a deep male voice (the suggestion being that she’s trans or in drag). The woman’s male companion looks aghast and runs away, as she is left to schlep a heavy box of flat-packed furniture.

The Thai Transgender Alliance sent an open letter to the Swedish retailer, complaining that “the transgender content of the advertisement is negative and stereotypical in nature, perpetuating misunderstanding transgenderism as human sexuality for ‘deceitful and deviant lifestyle...’”

Only people with brains will vote to amend the constitution

January 24, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



11/01/56

From Manager, January 11, 2013

Lion: Don't bring those without brains... They deserve to die!

Caption: No matter from which angle, its mouth doesn't look like that of a lion.

Hun Sen Lauds Relationship With Thaksin, Yingluck

January 24, 2013

Categories: Cambodia, Thai Politics

[Hun Sen Lauds Relationship With Thaksin, Yingluck](#) – cambodiadaily.com, January 23, 2013

...“The benefit that Cambodia had from Thaksin and today’s government is peace and development along the borders.... If there is a secret benefit, if Abhisit and his team know about it, please reveal it now...”

The Brewing Terror Threat in Thailand

January 24, 2013

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[The Brewing Terror Threat in Thailand](#) – NYT, January 22, 2013

Islamic terrorism never went away, though it seemed perhaps to have quieted down after the death of Osama bin Laden in 2011. But is it back now, stronger, as the crisis in Mali shows? And is southern Thailand a next crisis zone?...

Nigerian scammers arrested in Bangkok with 11 million baht cash

January 24, 2013

Categories: Scams

[Nigerian online scammers nabbed](#) – Bangkok Post, January 24, 2013

...The Nigerian men were arrested with approximately 11 million baht in cash in their possession. The DSI reported that at least 400 women all over the world had fallen prey to the fraudsters and about 20 million baht had been scammed from the Thai victims...

Take Preah Vihear back

January 25, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Various



From Thairath, January 7, 2013

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra: This year... let's think positive brothers and sisters.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Surapong Towichakchaikul: The best is we break even, the worst is we lose... and are accused of being traitors.

Signs from left: Do not accept the World Court's verdict; Take the Preah Vihear back

Headbands from left: Liberate the country; Topple the government

Mouse man Phi Nooring: Think positive, Mr. Minister.

Man mouse: Peace is better than war.



07/01/55

From Manager, January 10, 2013

Cambodian Prime Minister Hunsen: Faster stupid dog.

Thaksin Shinawatra: Take it easy, Hunsen. What you told Pueng to bring you... is much heavier than my passport.

Caption: The dog bites something again

Mother uses internet to search for son missing in Thailand

January 25, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Mother uses internet to search for son missing in Thailand](#) – BBC, January 24, 2013

...Mr Armstrong, who has been on the island resort of Kotoah since April, emailed his mother to say he had “run into trouble”...

Thailand to Avoid Currency War as Ghost of 1997 Crisis Looms

January 25, 2013

Categories: Economy

[Thailand to Avoid Currency War as Ghost of 1997 Crisis Looms](#) – Bloomberg, January 24, 2013

...“The shadow of 1997 is there,” Kittiratt said in an interview in Bangkok. “I will never encourage Bank of Thailand to go and trade against the market-determined rate unless it’s only part of the daily stability, the weekly stability...”

[The big challenge as currencies face collapse](#) – The Nation, January 25, 2013

The Bank of Thailand is facing one of its greatest policy challenges ever: how it will manage its foreign reserves of around US\$200 billion amid the global currency war. For Thailand’s reserves – which back the baht currency and international transactions – are mostly backed by international reserve currencies that might become worthless. If the dollar or the yen, in the worst-case scenario, were to become worthless, our reserves would also become worthless. That would be amount to a repeat of the 1997 financial crisis when the baht crashed through the floor...

NYT article on how Thaksin rules the country with Skype and instant messenger

January 25, 2013
Categories: The Thaksin Years

Out of his country, but not out of power

BANGKOK

Exiled former premier helps run Thailand using Skype and social media

BY THOMAS FULLER

Millions of people across the globe have cut the tethers to their offices and enjoy working from wherever they want. But the political party governing Thailand has taken the idea of telecommuting in to an altogether different realm.

For the past year and a half, by the party's own admission, the most important political decisions in this country of 65 million people have been made from abroad, by a former prime minister who has not set foot in the country since 2008.

Thaksin Shinawatra circles the globe in his private jet, chatting with ministers over his dozen cellphones, texting over various social media platforms and reading documents e-mailed to him from bureaucrats, party officials say.

It might be described as rule by Skype. Or governance by instant messenger.

Mr. Thaksin was removed from power in a military coup six and a half years ago and remains in exile because of a conviction for abuse of power, a highly politicized case initiated by the

coup makers. But that has not stopped him from helping run Thailand — by remote control.

Officially, his sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, is prime minister (he nominated her for the job in 2011). But from his homes in Dubai and London, from the gold mines he owns in Africa and during regular visits to nearby Asian countries, Mr. Thaksin, 63, has harnessed the Internet and mobile technology to create one of the most unusual and innovative ways of governing a country.

"We can contact him at all hours," said Charupong Ruangwan, the interior minister and secretary general of Mr. Thaksin's Pheu Thai Party. "The world has changed. It's a boundless world. It's not like a hundred years ago when you had to use a telegraph."

To illustrate the point during an interview, Mr. Charupong took out his iPhone and scrolled through the list of Mr. Thaksin's phone numbers (Mr. Thaksin gives different numbers to different people, often depending on seniority).

"If we've got any problem, we give him a call," Mr. Charupong said.

The day-to-day governance of the country is carried out by Ms. Yingluck, who is genial, photogenic and 18 years younger than Mr. Thaksin. She cuts the ribbons and makes the speeches.

Ms. Yingluck has on occasion sought to play down her brother's role. Soon after taking office, when Mr. Thaksin joined the weekly cabinet meeting via Skype, reporters asked who was really the head of the government. Ms. Yingluck insisted that she was in charge and said that Mr. Thaksin had joined the discussion to offer "moral support."

But if there is one thing that allies and enemies of Mr. Thaksin agree on, it is that he is the one making the big decisions.

"He's the one who formulates the Pheu Thai policies," said Noppadon Pattama, a senior party official who also serves as Mr. Thaksin's personal lawyer. "Almost all the policies put forward during the last election came from him."

Sondhi Limthongkul, a leader of the "yellow shirt" movement that has taken to the streets many times to

THAKSIN SHINAWATRA



THAKSIN SHINAWATRA

THAILAND, PAGE 4

(Source: International Herald Tribune)

Exiled Thai leader runs country remotely

THAILAND, FROM PAGE 1

democratic against Mr. Thaksin, said that "he's running the whole show."

"If you want a king, you have to have a king," Mr. Thaksin said in an interview.

Mr. Thaksin uses various social media applications, including WhatsApp, Skype and Line, to keep in touch with the leaders of the party.

Many of the Skype sessions are reported in the Thai news media. This month, Mr. Thaksin had a video chat to discuss a controversial decision by the government in Bangkok. The seven-hour video chat made news because party officials reported that Mr. Thaksin had told his colleagues that it did not matter where they resided and because even a single vote would defeat the opposition. (The vote actually appears much tighter than that.)

Politics in Thailand can be difficult to explain to outsiders because it sometimes seems too implausible to be true. The general who led the coup that ousted Mr. Thaksin in 2008, for example, is a member of Parliament and head of the reconciliation committee. The country's former "smoke king" who made a fortune by operating illegal massage parlors — customers get more than just a back rub — is now an anti-corruption crusader who regularly exposes illegal gambling dens. The Supreme Court is in the process of dismantling its own building, which is a listed landmark.

Mr. Thaksin has his own guests in adjacent to his nationality, he has guests from Montenegro and Nicaragua, which he used to be the president immediately after the 2008 coup when a military-backed government revoked his Thai diplomatic passport.

Fittingly, Mr. Thaksin made a fortune in telecommunications before he entered politics. He used part of the billions of dollars from his mobile phone and satellite companies to start a new political party and in 2001 became a coalition partner who generated a huge following in the provinces and among the less affluent. But he alienated the Thai elite through his popular policies, denouncing personality and penchant for among the affairs of state with the expense of his business empire.

The paradox for Thailand today is that despite the odd governing arrangement, the past 18 months have been a time of rare stability, without any of the political violence that bloodied the streets of Bangkok in the recent past.

There are two ways you can look at this — you can make it into a lesson, a

discuss situation and the butt of a lot of jokes. The brother is proving, the haters, and the sister is a puppet," said Thaksin Pongwattana, a professor of political science at Chulalongkorn University and one of the country's leading political thinkers. "But I'm beginning to take a slightly different view. This may be the last way to run Thailand."

Thailand is lacking the global slump. The stock market is surging, tourists are pouring into the country in unprecedented numbers (more than 22 million visitors last year alone), and unemployment is virtually nonexistent.

Many Thai believe that it might be better both for Mr. Thaksin and the country if he stayed abroad.

With Mr. Thaksin away, passions have cooled and "a kind of uneasy accommodation has taken hold," Mr. Thaksin said.

Mr. Charupong, the interior minister, says Mr. Thaksin's distance gives him useful perspectives.

"It's like a football team," he said. "The captain and I are like 11 players on the field. There must be a coach that watches how we are playing."

He elaborated: "It's like we have a prime minister in the country and another prime minister overseas. And we work together. That is our strength."

For some decisions, Mr. Thaksin insists on meetings in person. He regularly summons politicians to meetings in his Dubai home and at hotels in Hong Kong, which he visits frequently. (He declined a request for a telephone or Skype interview for this article but asked the reporter instead to meet him in London.)

It is a given in Thai politics today that anyone who wants an important job in government must first see Mr. Thaksin. The minister of departing flights have become a new genre of Thai political dynasties because those who

before the country is meet with Mr. Thaksin often end up with high-profile jobs. This was the case with Ramkarn Thongphrasang, a senior police officer, who traveled to Hong Kong last June to meet Mr. Thaksin and was promoted to chief of the Metropolitan Police soon after.

While Mr. Thaksin's role in making appointments and setting policy is unusual by the standards of other democracies, voters know what they were getting. The party's website, published again during the 2011 election campaign was "Thaksin thinks: Pheu Thai does."

Supporters of Thaksin Shinawatra talking with him by cellphone in Suva Men, Thailand. Mr. Thaksin's sister is the official prime minister, but his party says he makes the big decisions.



(Source: International Herald Tribune)

Out of his country, but not out of power – NYT, January 25, 2013

Update: Here's the link: [In Thailand, Power Comes With Help From Skype](#)

World's craziest free kick? Thai side Muangthong United's head-first set piece

January 25, 2013

Categories: Sports

[World's craziest free kick? Thai side Muangthong United's head-first set piece](#) – Guardian, January 24, 2013

Thai team Muangthong United's free kick attempt against South Korean Gyeongnam FC borders on the absurd. With the score 0-0, Muangthong United's Macedonian star Mario Durovski lines up a free kick about 30 yards from goal. He takes a run up as usual, but when he gets within a couple of yards of the ball swan-dives to the turf and nudges it to the side with his head. His team-mate takes a shot, but the ball hits the wall.

Hun Sen playing with crickets

January 26, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From [Arun](#), January 26, 2013

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen

Caption: Playing with crickets

Crickets: Government, Opposition party

Cambodia: Arrests of Land Rights Activists Doubled in 2012

January 26, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Arrests of Land Rights Activists Doubled in 2012](#) – cambodiadaily.com, January 25, 2013

...Mr. Soveth said authorities arrested 201 land activists and protesters last year, which is more than double the 98 they arrested in 2011, and higher than any year on record since 2007.

“It’s a confrontation between the government and the people, rather than between the people and the private companies,” he said. “The government tries to protect the companies.”

Among those arrested last year was Tep Vanny, along with a dozen other fellow residents of Phnom Penh’s Boeng Kak neighborhood. Ms. Vanny became one of a group known as the “Boeng Kak 13” when the municipal court convicted them in May after a summary trial for peacefully protesting against their evictions...

Thai police caught on camera allegedly extorting mall vendor

January 26, 2013

Categories: Thai Police



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=http://www.youtube.com/embed/WXYKkN6FB3M>



[Bangkok cops caught on camera allegedly extorting mall vendor](#) – coconutsbangkok.com, January 26, 2013

[Cops filmed 'extorting cashier'](#) – Bangkok Post, January 25, 2013

Myanmar: Will Asia's breadbasket rise again?

January 27, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar: Will Asia's breadbasket rise again?](#) – FT, January 25, 2013

...While the area planted with rice has almost doubled and production almost tripled in the decade up to 2010, the addition of irrigation and other inputs could boost yield to at least five tonnes per hectare, from about four tones now, it says, citing analysis done by the Food and Agriculture Organisation, an agency of the UN. That would place Myanmar just behind Vietnam's yield of 5.3 tonnes per hectare...

Myanmar dissolves press censorship division

January 27, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar dissolves press censorship division](#) – IANS, January 25, 2013

Myanmar has dissolved its Press Scrutiny and Registration Division, a follow-up move after domestic media publication control was totally liberalized in August 2012, the official media reported Friday...

Disillusioned Thai rice exporter turns to Cambodia

January 27, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Disillusioned Thai rice exporter turns to Cambodia](#) – Reuters, January 27, 2013

Capital Rice Ltd, Thailand's third-largest rice exporter, is shifting some of its business to Cambodia as the Thai market shrinks because of government intervention that has diverted grain into state stockpiles or made it too expensive to ship...

Government Officials Not Engaged in Their Work

January 28, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, January 12, 2013

Left, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra: Poo didn't attend the Parliament because Poo had to discuss with leaders of various countries.

Middle, Deputy Prime Minister Chalerm Ubamrung: I don't visit the South because I set up a war-room in Bangkok.

Right, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affair Minister Surapong Towichakchaikul: Why should I testify at the World Court when I know we either lose or break even?

In parenthesis: From Khun Tom, Ronnachai

Eleven things organizations can learn from airports

January 28, 2013

Categories: Airports and Airlines

[Eleven things organizations can learn from airports](#) – sethgodin.typepad.com, January, 2013

...Like colleges, airports see customers as powerless transients. Hey, you're going to be gone tomorrow, but they'll still be here.

By removing slack, airlines create failure. In order to increase profit, airlines work hard to get the maximum number of flights out of each plane, each day. As a result, there are no spares, no downtime and no resilience. By assuming that their customer base prefers to save money, not anxiety, they create an anxiety-filled system.

...The ad hoc is forbidden. Imagine an airplane employee bringing in an extension cord and a power strip to deal with the daily occurrence of travelers hunched in the corner around a single outlet. Impossible. There is a bias toward permanent and improved, not quick and effective...

Saturday Night Live Skit – Why Learn Thai?

January 28, 2013
Categories: Humor



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=http://www.youtube.com/embed/SZCXy8XIIfk>



Rosetta Stone Sketch – Saturday Night Live

Weekly News Magazines, January 18, 2013

January 29, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, January 18, 2013

Cover reads: Red, Blue, Dark Yellow



From Matichon Weekly, January 18, 2013

Cover reads: Clothes without seams; Government-Bangkok

Are you being paid enough in Thailand?

January 29, 2013
Categories: Business

[Adecco Thailand Salary Guide 2013](#)

Red buffaloes realizing the truth

January 30, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, January 30, 2013

Doctor: You're infected... just being conned repeatedly by your keepers for too long

Thai clothes from 200 years ago

January 30, 2013
Categories: History



From Kom Chad Luek, January 25, 2013

Headline: The Culture Ministry opens the ‘Thai Phuan Clothes’

News story: An ancient blouse of 200 years of age. A 200 year old ancient Thai Phuan blouse which look like a one-string top in the present time is on display at the Chalerm Rach Cultural Center at the Fung Klong temple in Paak Phli district, Nakhon Nayok province.

In Thailand, Power Comes With Help From Skype

January 30, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics

[In Thailand, Power Comes With Help From Skype](#) – NYT, January 29, 2013

Thaksin and the Kamnan Poh saga

January 30, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Fugitive Kamnan Poh arrested](#) – The Nation, January 30, 2013

[Kamnan Poh arrested](#) – Bangkok Post, January 29, 2013

...The Supreme Court on March 12 last year sentenced Somchai in absentia to 25 years in prison for hiring a gunman to murder Prayoon Sitthichoke, alias Kamnan Yoon, the head of tambon Samet in Muang district of Chon Buri, at a wedding in March 2003.

On June 21, 2004, the Criminal Court sentenced him and Passakorn Homhual, a former member of the Saen Suk municipality council in Chon Buri province, for the same offence. The Appeals Court on Oct 12, 2006 upheld the judgement.

Somchai was earlier found guilty by the Chon Buri Court of graft over the purchase of a 140-rai block of land valued at 93 million baht in Bang Lamung district, Chon Buri, by Pattaya City between 1992 and 1993 for use as a rubbish landfill, and sentenced to five years and four months in jail.

Somchai was earlier reported to have fled to Cambodia...

From 2003: [EDITORIAL: Justice on trial in Kamnan Poh case](#)

...Until very recently, Thaksin was known to be seeking Kamnan Poh's political allegiance. The latter's unwavering loyalty to Chat Thai leader Banharn Silapa-Archa prevented the "Chon Buri group" from joining Thai Rak Thai. And there have been rumours that the looming legalisation of gambling in Thailand has triggered a high-level scramble for casino licences, thus pitting Kamnan Poh against some politicians in power. Now the Thai Rak Thai camp is charging that Kamnan Poh's supporters are "twisting the story" to make it sound like political harassment. Thaksin himself has repeated that only "clear-cut evidence" was behind the arrest warrant, which comes at a time when relations between the ruling party and Chat Thai are not at their best...

From 2003: [The trials of Kamnan Poh](#)

...A few days ago, Thaksin warned politicians to get out of organised crime. Previous prime ministers might have had the same thought, but none came out and spoke it. The warning is a measure of the growing power and confidence of Thaksin and what he stands for—the marriage of big business and government. But for Thaksin, the timing is delicate too. The last election felled some of the godfathers, but far from all of them. Many are still members of his coalition. One more general election could change the complexion of parliament further, and reduce this problem to insignificance...

Full text:

The trials of Kamnan Poh
Chang Noi
28 April 2003

It must be quite a shock. One week you are a big wheel. You generously offer a huge bit of land to the government. You are in line to grab the big plum — Thailand's first legal casino. Your son is a minister. If you call a party, half the country's political elite comes. Then next week, you have a five-year jail sentence, you face a murder charge, and AMLO is panting to seize your assets.

Kamnan Poh's name is a synonym for "godfather" and "influence". For fifteen years, every journalistic review and academic study on Thailand's murky local politics has made him the star.

This is not because he has been the biggest or baddest of them all. Rather, he has been the proudest and the most confident. His rise was spectacular. Fisherman. Smuggler. Land dealer. Local politician. Big national political wheel. It's a great story and Kamnan Poh has enjoyed telling it. Of course he edited out a lot. But what he left in the accounts was breathtaking. Who else could say, "I used to have enemies in Chonburi, but they all died"? Over the past decade, he has seemed ever more secure, confident, and untouchable. A senior police officer, deputised by the prime minister to investigate Poh, reported being hauled off the case by the top man in the police hierarchy. That is influence.

So why has he suddenly run into trouble? His aides suggest it's just a hitch in the bargaining process over the casino deal. That could be true. But there's a larger context too.

The godfathers rose at a time there was not a lot of law or government in the provinces. They made lots of money by exploiting that space. And then they provided the law and government. They regulated who got the good deals. They got rid of people who made trouble. They helped out those in difficulty. When big people like ministers, generals, or senior bureaucrats came down from Bangkok, they went straight to the godfather to get things done. This was when the term "influence" came into vogue.

Then in the 1980s, parliamentary politics offered them a way to launder themselves and to upgrade themselves — a broader range of contacts, some bigger deals, and higher status. But it also had a downside. It bought them into contact with a very different system of law and government which claimed to be superior. This started a period of uneasy transition. They were still very powerful—in fact more powerful than ever. But they had to put up with a lot of flak. "Influence" was now modified to "dark influence". Journalists portrayed them as semi-outlaws. Policemen were occasionally sent to hound them. A few got caught and a few retired.

Their survival strategy was to go legit, and to promote their sons. But this was not easy. Other countries have been through this change from a lawless environment for business and politics to a much more regulated one. Think of the transition in the US from the Kennedy patriarch to his presidential son. But in Thailand, it happened much faster. The Thai godfathers had little more than a decade. They had to bring their sons on quickly. They had to settle the blood feuds stretching back over many years and many killings. They had to get out of the bad businesses while preventing another apprentice godfather slipping into their place.

If Kamnan Poh is brought down, he can curse the 1997 Constitution and the economic crisis. The modern politicians from Bangkok want to clean up the godfathers. They want politics and politicians to have a better public image. That means cutting out the people and practices that bring politics into disrepute. The modern businessmen from Bangkok want to clean up the godfathers too. Only a few years ago, the head of a big Bangkok business dynasty was furious that he had to go cap-in-hand to Kamnan Poh before he could start a business in Chonburi.

The 1997 Constitution has rigged the political system in favour of the capital. The economic crisis has persuaded the big Bangkok businessmen they need to be in politics. This has swung the balance of power against the godfathers. A few days ago, Thaksin warned politicians to get out of organised crime. Previous prime ministers might have had the same thought, but none came out and spoke it. The warning is a measure of the growing power and confidence of Thaksin and what he stands for—the marriage of big business and government.

But for Thaksin, the timing is delicate too. The last election felled some of the godfathers, but far from all of them. Many are still members of his coalition. One more general election could change the complexion of parliament further, and reduce this problem to insignificance.

But meanwhile, the godfathers are still powerful in their own backyards. Poh is admired and liked for the way he ran and developed his hometown. The godfathers are still to a large extent the law and government in the locality. Thaksin's strategy is to court a new sort of popularity through his public leadership style, his populist policies, and his proven ability to get things done. Now the Democrat Party has committed hara-kiri, his popularity at this level is unchallenged. He is dreaming aloud about winning all 500 seats. But we don't yet know how this national popularity stacks up against the local popularity of the godfathers. At present, it's not an issue. The two are aligned together.

But if Thaksin openly challenges the godfathers, that will change. Nidhi Eoseewong once argued mischievously that Thai people support local “influence” in order to counterbalance the “power” of the central government. Will that be the story of the next election? Or will Thaksin have bypassed the godfathers? We have to wait two years to find out. Will that be too long for Kamnan Poh?

Thailand can be a deadly destination for Australian tourists

January 30, 2013

Categories: Thailand in the International Media, Tourism

[Thailand can be a deadly destination for Australian tourists](#) – heraldsun.com.au, January 30, 2013

Figures reveal the South-East Asian kingdom is the deadliest destination for Aussies. The 100 Australians who died there last year accounted for one in eight of the 791 deaths on foreign soil...

Thailand tourism: hitting record highs

January 30, 2013

Categories: Tourism

[Thailand tourism: hitting record highs](#) – ft.com, January 29, 2013

...But the country's tourism industry has notched up its own distinctive records, including a new high for the total number of tourist arrivals, at 22.3m last year, according to figures issued this week. The number is up 16 per cent from the previous year – and with predictions by the Tourism Authority of Thailand of 24.5m tourist arrivals this year, is set for a fresh record...

Rangoon's Future: Orderly Singapore or Disorderly Bangkok?

January 30, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Rangoon's Future: Orderly Singapore or Disorderly Bangkok?](#) – The Irrawaddy, January 30, 2014

Rangoon should be rebuilt in the image of Singapore, said President Thein Sein, with the best bits of Bangkok like the famous “skytrain” railway and stilted roads added on...

Happy New Year

January 31, 2013

Categories: Signs and Billboards



The sign reads: Happy New Year 2013 – Kawi Na Lampang, Adviser of the Office of the Consumer Protection Board from the Pheu Thai Party

His verse roughly reads: New year is better than the old year because we're one year older. Be aware of the bad things, stop doing it. Make virtues and your life will keep getting better.

Thaksin and the Fierce Animals

January 31, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



31/01/56

From Manager, January 31, 2013

Thaksin Shinawatra: The kindness I've shown to these animals... is a boon that enables me to avoid Kamnan Poh's destiny.

Caption: He has made lots of merit.

Power pole or Pheu Thai candidate?

January 31, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, January 16, 2013

Left: Woman: In developed capital cities, a power pole is put underground.

Man: So what?

Right: Woman: But here, the power pole is put up for gubernatorial election.

Man:

More videos exposing the foolish: ‘Sergeant Major threatens civilians’ caught on video

January 31, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=http://www.youtube.com/embed/n2Cwkz0dsi0>



[‘Sergeant Major threatens civilians’ caught on video](#) – Bangkok Post, January 31, 2013

UK press exposes the horrors of Thai Full Moon Parties – Drunkenness and females urinating

January 31, 2013

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[Dark side of the moon – The Sun probes sinister Thai party island Koh Phangan](#) – thesun.co.uk, January 31, 2013

... Girls in skimpy bikinis spew luminous liquid from their mouths, their bodies rejecting the syrupy cocktails they have been guzzling for hours. As they heave up into the sea, lads sway in the shallows urinating into the water. Girls pull down their bikini bottoms to do the same...

Weekly News Magazines, January 25, 2013

February 1, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, January 25, 2013

The cover reads: Who's bigger than Luang Poo?

The sign reads: A temple for sale cheaply. We cannot stand the smell from this food stuff factory anymore.



From Matichon Weekly, January 25, 2013

The cover reads: ‘Pa’ n ‘Poo’ with ‘Too’ along the side

Bangkok Governor Posters

February 1, 2013

Categories: Elections



The sign reads: Governor who doesn't belong to any political party. Fully offer!! Everything, instantly!! Pol. Gen. Seripisut Temiyawes, the Hero of Nagae Bangkok governor must not belong to any political party. If not there could be overlapped benefits and hidden agenda.



The sign reads: Laying down strategies to build Bangkok future in a seamless collaboration with the government. Pol. Gen. Pongsapas Pongchalroen



The sign reads: Ladprao road, 600 ms. to a bridge



The sign reads: A managing executive who can manage coordination from ten directions
Kosit Suvinitjit Bangkok 24 hours; Bangkok 24 hour services



The sign reads: MR. Sukhumbhand Paribatra Love Bangkok, Build Bangkok together; Vote for MR. Sukhumbhand Paribatra

Thai Government Fails to Pursue Justice, Free Speech, and Political Reforms

February 1, 2013

Categories: Human Rights

[Thailand: Rights Challenges Go Unaddressed](#) – hrw.org, February 1, 2013

...In Thailand, the government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has politicized efforts to hold accountable those responsible for political violence in 2010. It cracked down on the free expression rights of people deemed critical of the monarchy. And it took no action against security forces who reacted to insurgent atrocities with abuses in the southern border provinces. The government pushed ethnic Rohingya “boat people” back to sea, and failed to provide protections for the many unauthorized Burmese in the country...

Dubai lawyer who embezzled from Thaksin has jail sentence upheld

February 1, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thaksin's Dubai lawyer has jail sentence upheld](#) – thenational.ae, January 31, 2013

...K M, 45, a partner in a well-known Dubai law firm, was accused of embezzling the former prime minister of Thailand's money through an escrow, or type of third party, account the law firm controlled in 2008...

China's Insatiable Demand For Timber Destroys Cambodia's Forests

February 1, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[China's Insatiable Demand For Timber Destroys Cambodia's Forests](#) – NPR, January 30, 2013

Cambodia's forests are dwindling, and China's insatiable demand for timber of any sort and luxury wood in particular isn't helping. Environmental groups say China is now the world's number one importer of illegal timber...

Cambodia's golden age of architecture the in 1950s and 1960s

February 1, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Reminders of a golden age](#) – swissinfo.ch, January 31, 2013

During Cambodia's "golden age" in the late 1950s and 1960s, Swiss-Cambodian architect Vann Molyvann designed many of Cambodia's most iconic buildings as part of the country's effort to blend both modern and traditional concepts...

Hopewell pillars finally coming down

February 1, 2013

Categories: Mass Transit

[Hopewell's pillars ousted by Red Line](#) – Bangkok Post, February 1, 2013

...Withawat Khunapongsiri, ITD's Red Line director, said 90% of the pillars would be demolished. The pillars slated for demolition were not strong enough to be used in the project or they would cause obstructions, he said.

The Red Line's 21km-long Bang Sue-Rangsit section is planned along Bangkok's northbound railway tracks, which is where the Hopewell project had also been planned.

More than 900 structures, including houses, garages, warehouses and shops, will be demolished over the next 30-45 days to make way for the route...

In Cambodia, Strongman Hun Sen is the Real King

February 1, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[In Cambodia, a King by Another Name](#) – NYT, February 1, 2013

...Only 60 years old, Mr. Hun Sen already ranks among the world's longest-serving leaders. Since taking office in 1985, he has become known by rivals and supporters alike as a Machiavellian operator who presided over Cambodia's recovery from civil war and genocide but who also quashed dissent and outmaneuvered opponents. He has done so, rights groups say, using cronyism, violence and intimidation...

Gridlocked: The sad history and frightening future of Bangkok traffic

February 1, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Gridlocked: The sad history and frightening future of Bangkok traffic](#) – coconutsbangkok.com, January 31, 2013

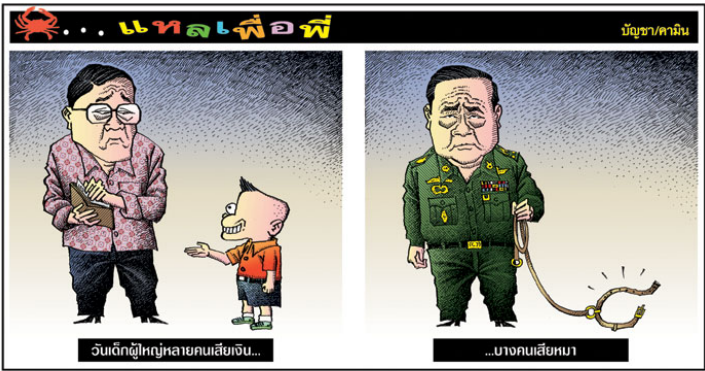
...Development had gravitated toward the city's major roads, leaving the sois woefully neglected; car ownership outpaced the rate at which the city could build traffic infrastructure; up to 10 different government agencies (and at least as many private enterprises) oversaw Bangkok's transport development with little to no coordination.

Transit-bereft "super blocks" developed throughout the city, forcing citizens to spend additional time and money traveling between their houses and Bangkok's few public transit lines.

Citizens found that the only convenient way to get around was to invest in a car, causing these problems snowball. The government, meanwhile, found itself trapped in constant attempts to play catch-up with the city's rapidly expanding automobile-owning class...

On Children’s day, some adults lose money

February 2, 2013
Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



15/01/56

From Manager, January 15, 2013
Left: On Children’s Day, some adults lose money.
Right: Some lose a dog.

Amnesty for the Buffaloes

February 2, 2013
Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



21/01/56

From Manager, January 21, 2013
Caption: TRICK of buffaloes keepers
Thida Thavornset : It works, Ten... It stops weaning... And starts to walk forward.
Signs on the sticks: Amnesty Act for the Reds

Thailand: Tourists are mugged, robbed, raped, scammed, & charged double, but still they come

February 2, 2013
Categories: Tourism

Some of the best quotes ever: [Thailand tourism is like an easy date](#) – eturbonews.com, February 1, 2013

...Thailand, is a like a cunning cheerleader; a good looker; an easy date who cheats at her exams and gossips about her friends, but is perpetually popular despite her shortcomings...

Thai tourism authorities are “marketing geniuses but management dunces...”

The streets are festooned with vendors, prostitutes, robbers (often the police), stray dogs and their feces. “But still the tourists come,” he said.

Tourists are mugged, robbed, raped, scammed, and charged double pricing, “but still they come,” he smiled wistfully.

He likened tourists to abused wives. They are beaten, but still they come back...

He said that Thailand’s position was: “We want to take your money, but we don’t want a negative image...”

Santa with gifts

February 2, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, January 25, 2013

Boy: Dad, why does Santa love to come to Thailand during the election campaign?

Santa's bag: Budget for Bangkok gubernatorial election campaign.

Thai Nanotechnology Turning Floodwater into Drinking Water

February 3, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

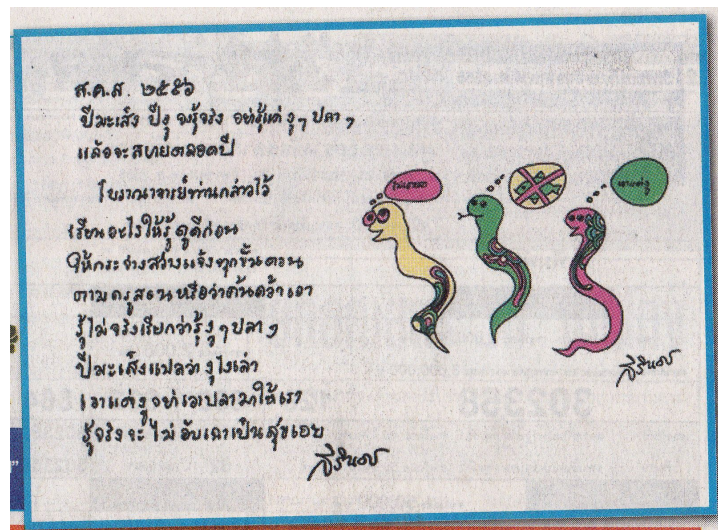
[Turning Floodwater into Drinking Water](#) – MIT Tech Review, February 1, 2013

A Thai government agency has developed a mobile unit called SOS that can purify contaminated water in the aftermath of a flood.

New Year's Cartoon from Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

February 3, 2013

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



From Komchadleuk, December 31, 2012

Cartoon and verse by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

The card reads: 2013 New Year Card.

The verse reads: This year is a year of small snake. If you learn something, do it like you mean it, and don't just do it 'ngoo ngoo, plaa plaa'. And then you'll be fine all year long. Ancient masters preached that whatever you study from your guru or learn by yourself, you should be proficient in such subjects. If you learn and know something superficially, it's called 'know it ngoo ngoo, plaa plaa'. Maseng is the year of snake, so only bring the snake (ngoo), and not the fish (plaa) so that you really learn some knowledge.

New Year's Cartoon: Hello Year of the Small Snake

February 4, 2013

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



From Thai Rath by Chai Ratchwat, January 1, 2013

Cartoon title: Hello the year of Maseng

In the year of Maseng, I wish smiles return to Thai's face. I pray for a place for good people, and may the gun noise be drowned by the voice of Dhamma. Stop spitting out and showing off the barbaric words and behaviors in parliament. Stop drug trafficking, stop you poisonous acts. Above all, all Thais as subjects of His Majesty, we wish him a long life, long long life.

Democrat candidate weighed down

February 4, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Thairath, January 15, 2013

Caption: Carry your own weight in the race!

A man running behind: Democrat party

On the balls: A charge by DSI; Previous works

On the hooded figure: 100 deaths

A man running in the lead: Pheu Thai party

Mouse man Phi Nooring: Judge by their works!

Man mouse: Future of Bangkok people

Putting the horns back on the buffalo

February 4, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



04/02/56

From Manager, February 4, 2013

A man with glasses is Dr. Weng Tojirakarn, a Red-shirt leader: Put the horns back and get back to the stable now!!

Th woman is Thida Thavornseth, top Red-shirt leader.

A man wearing a suit and holding horns is Warachai Hema and a man close to him is Jatuporn Prompan.

On the buffalo: January 29

Caption: The herdsmen are cruel.

Scratch where it's not itchy

February 4, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, January 20, 2013

Cartoon title: Scratch where it's not itchy

Top left: Giving up, refusing to get out of the corner before the fight begins

On back of the boxer: Foreign Minister

Top middle: Claiming that he's drunk is not why he stole the bus from the terminal to return to the temple.

Top right: File a lawsuit against former prime minister for deducting the party's MPs as donations to the party

Bottom left: Claiming that those who lost the bidding had the surveillance cameras burnt.

Bottom middle: The educational standard lags behind, but students' hairstyles get more attention.

Bottom right: It's the politicians who are bad, but it's the constitution that will be executed.

Thai govt wants SNL spoof on sex industry removed

February 4, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=http://www.youtube.com/embed/SZCXy8XIIfk>



[Govt wants US spoof on sex industry removed](#) – Bangkok Post, February 4, 2013

...Culture Minister Sonthaya Khunploem said on Monday that the Culture Watch Centre is gathering information and working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to get the video removed from the world's popular video sharing website.

The government will also inform the United States Embassy that the commercial spoof is tarnishing Thailand's image and will ask the embassy to explain the situation to the SNL producers, Mr Sonthaya said...

The original video has already been removed with this cryptic message appearing in its place:

This video has been removed as a violation of
YouTube's policy against spam, scams, and
commercially deceptive content.

If you are using Firefox and install [Download Helper](#), you can get a copy of any interesting YouTube video to make sure it does not vanish for some reason. Then use [Miro Converter](#) to convert it (or nearly anything else) into the format you want. This is also good to convert YouTube music videos to audio files.

Dr Pornthip ready to do Sugumaran's second autopsy, say lawyers

February 4, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Dr Pornthip ready to do Sugumaran's second autopsy, say lawyers](#) – themalaysianinsider.com, February 4, 2013

...Sugumaran's death joins a list of other alleged police killings like the custodial deaths of Chang Chin Te earlier this year; A. Kugan and R. Gunasegaran in 2009; the deadly police shooting of 14-year-old schoolboy Aminulrasyid Amzah in 2010, and various other fatal police shootings in the past two years.

A United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention 2010 visit to Malaysian prisons and detention centres reported in 2011 that between 2003 and 2007, "over 1,500 people died while being held by authorities..."

Military children protest ASTV

February 5, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, January 14, 2013

Woman: Does your dad tell you guys to come and visit here? Whoa! Where is he? Why doesn't he come with you?

Soldier: He doesn't dare to come. He's frightened.

A soldier is holding an ASTV-Manager newspaper criticizing on Army Chief Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha on its front page.

Sign: Ban Phra Arthit

Running a power pole for Bangkok Governor

February 5, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



17/01/56

From Manager, January 17, 2013

Frog on the left: Pig!?

Frog on the right: Power pole!?

Caption: Problem of the Bangkokians now



18/01/56

From Manager, January 18, 2013

Power pole: Thaksin made that parrot Prime Minister... Making me a governor shouldn't be hard.

Caption: Deep-down hope of the power pole



From Komchadluek, January 14, 2013

Thaksin Shinawatra: Okay!! I'll nominate that power pole for the Bangkok governor election.

Pheu Thai Promises a Bright Future for Bangkok after Its Red Shirts Burned It

February 5, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, January 21, 2013

Sign: Bangkok Governor

The Corruption of Thai Buddhism

February 5, 2013

Categories: Buddhism

[The Crisis in Thai Buddhism](#) – The Irrawaddy, February 5, 2013

...Corruption within the Thai clergy has not been an uncommon or even recent phenomenon. In 1999, The Associated Press carried a story stating: “At its core, Buddhism is a religion that teaches the renunciation of desire for material comforts is the way to relieve suffering and find the path to wisdom. But instead of shunning material comforts, some senior monks live in plush quarters and drive Mercedes Benzes...”

Another Thai House with a Foreign “Owner”?

February 5, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Turning on the Waterworks in Thailand](#) – WSJ, February 5, 2013

This villa, made of two structures totaling 4,300 square feet, was built around a 50-foot piece of granite rock on the island of Koh Samui in Thailand. Owner Alan Kozlowski, a cinematographer and entrepreneur based in Los Angeles, designed an artificial waterfall to flow over the rock and through the interior of the home...

Thai Govt Claims Victory as SNL Skit Removed from YouTube

February 5, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Spoof on Thailand removed from YouTube](#) – The Nation, February 5, 2013

...Culture Minister Sonthaya Kunplome said his permanent secretary Prissana Pongtatsirikul signed an objection letter against the 1.32-minute clip and sent copies to the Foreign Ministry, the Information and Communications Technology Ministry and the US Embassy in Thailand to tell them the clip tarnished Thailand's image and asked for help to solve the problem urgently...

Earlier: [Thai govt wants SNL spoof on sex industry removed](#)

And of course the video is still on Youtube:



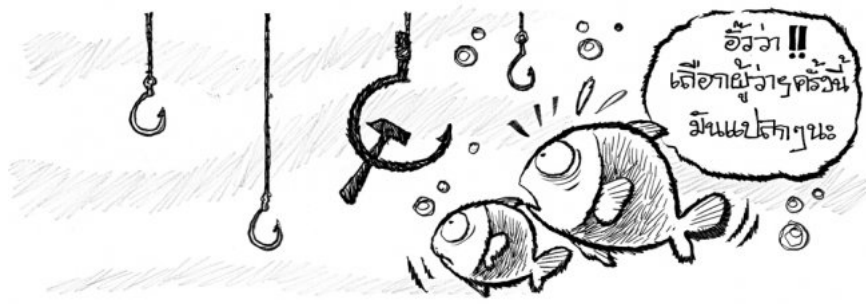
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=http://www.youtube.com/embed/SZCXy8XIIfk>



Communist hook

February 6, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, January 20, 2013

Fish: I have a feeling that there something wrong about this governor election!!

Thaksin's Thailand: CIA Secret Detention and Extraordinary Rendition

February 6, 2013

Categories: Thai Secret Prison, The Thaksin Years

48. Thailand

Thailand hosted a secret CIA prison where detainees were tortured and also apprehended individuals subjected to secret detention and extraordinary rendition. It also allowed the use of its airspace and airports for CIA secret detention and extraordinary rendition operations.

Thailand hosted a secret CIA prison outside Bangkok that was code-named "Cat's Eye," and located on a military base in the northeastern province of Udon Thani.¹⁵⁰¹ At least three "high value detainees"—Ramzi Bin al-Shibh, Abu Zubaydah, and Abd al Rahim al Nashiri—were detained and interrogated there.¹⁵⁰² (In a submission to a 2010 U.N. Joint Study on secret detention, the government of Thailand denied the existence of such a facility).¹⁵⁰³ Abu Zubaydah was waterboarded in Thailand 83 times, and al Nashiri was also waterboarded there.¹⁵⁰⁴ In November 2005, the CIA destroyed 92 videotapes recording the interrogations of these two detainees.¹⁵⁰⁵

Court records show that at least one flight, registered as N85VM and operated by Richmor Aviation (a company that operated CIA extraordinary rendition flights¹⁵⁰⁶), landed in Thailand some time between August 12 and 15, 2003.¹⁵⁰⁷ The timing of this flight coincided with the capture and possible transportation to

[CIA rendition: more than a quarter of countries 'offered covert support'](#) – Guardian, February 5, 2013

...A 213-page report compiled by the Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI), a New York-based human rights organisation, says that at least 54 countries co-operated with the global kidnap, detention and torture operation that was mounted after 9/11, many of them in Europe...

[Reports: Globalizing Torture: CIA Secret Detention and Extraordinary Rendition](#) – opensocietyfoundations.org, February, 2013

...Globalizing Torture is the most comprehensive account yet assembled of the human rights abuses associated with CIA secret detention and extraordinary rendition operations. It details for the first time what was done to the 136 known victims, and lists the 54 foreign governments that participated in these operations...

[Globalizing Torture: CIA Secret Detention and Extraordinary Rendition](#) (1.08MB pdf)

A Burden of Care Over Seized Exotic Wildlife in Thailand

February 6, 2013

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[A Burden of Care Over Seized Exotic Wildlife in Thailand](#) – NYT, February 6, 2013

Thailand wants to shed its image as a place where many types of wildlife — turtles from Madagascar, marmoset monkeys from South America, baby sun bears, exotic birds — are for sale, an international trade driven by the global market in exotic meats and rare pets...

What now for Myanmar's Ministry of Truth?

February 6, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[What now for Myanmar's Ministry of Truth?](#) – aljazeera.com, February 6, 2013

...in December, parliament passed, by an overwhelming majority, a motion to investigate a blogger by the name of Dr Seik Phwa.

In an article headlined “Is the parliament above the law?”, he questioned the influence that Myanmar’s legislature has over the judiciary, which despite laudable efforts by President Thein Sein, remains strong.

Nearly 350 MPs voted in favour of setting up an emergency committee to trace Dr Seik Phwa, by all accounts an unprecedented move. Nominally independent local media, like Weekly Eleven journal, provided their support, with lead articles that berated “the clandestine presentation of malicious ideas titled ‘Is there a parliament above the law?’”...

Reject the World Court on Preah Vihear

February 7, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, January 12, 2013

Caption: Don't make your compatriots' lives as a staircase.

Flags: The People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD). Reject the jurisdiction of the International Court Justice, a return of Preah Vihear temple.

Caption below the skulls: Livelihood of people along the border

On the headband: Saving the country

Mouse man Phi Nooring: Make up a story to destroy the government

Man mouse: Being patriotic, not nationalist

Political prisoners

February 7, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, January 14, 2013

Cartoon title: Everybody loves freedom

On prison's bars: Political prisoners

On backs of prisoners in the right cell: PAD

On backs of prisoners in the left cell: UDD

In the hands of man in the middle: Amend the constitution to constitute an amnesty act to mitigate the country's conflicts

In the hands of man behind: To think differently doesn't mean you're bad.

Phi Nooring: Give freedom to everybody.

Man mouse: Release the political prisoners.

A tank in a child's future?

February 7, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, January 14, 2013

Caption: Remember son, if you are a good boy, you can see an aircraft for free. But if you are a bad adult, then, you will see a tank for free instead.

Thailand Corners the Big Fat Indian Wedding Market

February 7, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand Corners the Big Fat Indian Wedding Market](#) – bloomberg.com, February 7, 2013

...Top of this list is Thailand, which is the world's favorite destination for foreign weddings and is only a four-hour flight from Delhi and Mumbai. To Indian families, it offers the twin advantages of a foreign jaunt in a beautiful locale as well as cheaper prices...

Thai Activists want ‘CIA jail’ truths

February 7, 2013

Categories: Thai Secret Prison

[Activists want ‘CIA jail’ truths](#) – Bangkok Post, February 7, 2013

...Pornpen Kongkachonkiet said her Cross Cultural Foundation group raised the issue with US President Barack Obama when he visited Thailand last November. The CCF statement was sent to the US embassy but there was no feedback or comments on the issue. The Thai government also did not respond.

“At least one of these black sites is said to have been in Thailand,” said Ms Pornpen. “Not only are both Abu Zubaydah and Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri alleged to have been detained at this facility, but it is also alleged that they were also tortured during their detention by US officials, who were aided by Thai officials,” said Ms Pornpen.

It is now well known that Zubaydah was held at a still-secret location in Thailand and subjected to water boarding. Ms Pornpen’s allegation that Thai officials aided in the “enhanced interrogation” are new...

All the past articles on the Thai secret prison are [here](#) and also [here](#).

Thailand: Astonishing Ten New Species of Semi-Aquatic Freshwater Earthworms Revealed

February 7, 2013

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Thailand: Astonishing Ten New Species of Semi-Aquatic Freshwater Earthworms Revealed](#) – sciencedaily.com, February 6, 2013

...In Thailand, the species demonstrate astonishing biodiversity due to the monsoon climate contributing to drastic river system changes and a large variety of microhabitats. While general interconnections among these allow for gene flow, their great diversity leads to independent evolution and specialization in isolation...

Scores of Aussies attacked, murdered in Thailand

February 7, 2013

Categories: Thailand in the International Media



(Source: Today Tonight)

[Aussie deaths in Thailand](#) – Today Tonight, February 6, 2013

In the past five years over 1300 Aussies have died in Thailand from mysterious causes.

Rory McDonald's son Andrew Oake is one of those statistics, and McDonald knows the death was no accident...

Five years ago: Chronic failure in Thai police and the war on drugs

February 7, 2013

Categories: Thai Police, The Thaksin Years

Five years ago: [Chronic failure in Thai police and the war on drugs](#)

Weekly News Magazines, February 1, 2013

February 8, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, February 1, 2013

The cover reads: Arrested, but not the end

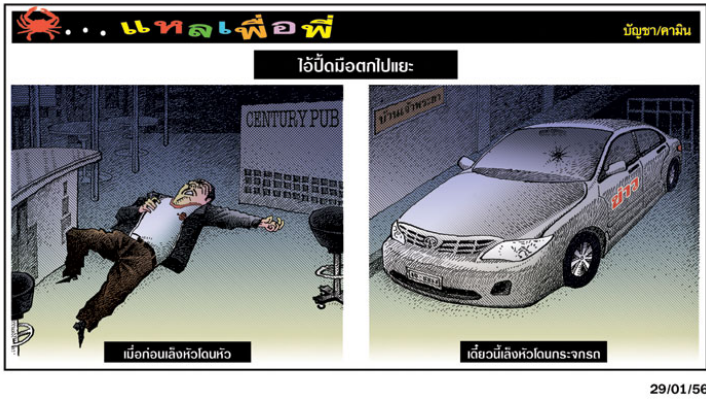


From Maticon Weekly, February 1, 2013

The cover reads: Beautiful beard, extended mustache; Planting the conscience gland; Consciousness of editor

Ai Puded's skill is on the decline

February 8, 2013
Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, January 29, 2013
Left: In the past, he'd exactly hit in the head if he aimed at it.
Right: Now, he aims at the head but hits the windshield.
Caption: Ai Puded's skill is on the decline

Must amend the constitution

February 8, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, January 10, 2013

Cartoon title: Very well responsible to the country

Left: Don't pretend to be stupid. It's not my duty to explain... Whatever this verdict states... is our business, not yours.

Phi Nooring: Who pretends to be stupid?

Man mouse: Must amend the constitution

Jatuporn Promphan: But we need clarity and a solution of the problem so that we don't get sued.

Phi Nooring: Asking for cooperation

Man mouse: Must amend the constitution

The Voice: That's your problem not ours.

Phi Nooring: !?!

Man mouse: Must amend the constitution

In Jatuporn's hands: Verdict of the Constitutional Court

Remembering the Thaksin Years: NGOs attack Thaksin

February 8, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai, The Thaksin Years



From Thairath, February 8, 2013

Prime Minister Thaksin runs from NGOs holding signs that read: anti-violence, anti-power plant construction

They are using a water monitor lizard to attack Thaksin. These lizards are symbols of disgusting, contemptible things.

Caption: Who is playing harder?

New York Times hounded by Chinese censorship, expulsion and spying

February 8, 2013

Categories: Censorship, China

[“New York Times” hounded by Chinese censorship, expulsion and spying](#) – ifex.org, February 6, 2013

...The newspaper has been subjected to growing harassment in recent months. An article about outgoing Premier Wen Jiabao's fortune was censored. The authorities refused to issue or renew visas and accreditation for its journalists. And now it turns out that it has been the target of cyber-attacks for months...

Vietnamese blogger critical of government released from psychiatric institution

February 8, 2013

Categories: Censorship, Vietnam

[Vietnamese blogger released from psychiatric institution](#) – CPJ, February 7, 2013

...The institution's director told Hung's colleagues that he had been admitted at the request of his mother and was not allowed to see visitors. The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a coalition of three international rights groups, said in a public statement that Hung's mother had made no such request...

Thai Rice Subsidy Program Short of Money

February 8, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai Rice Subsidy Program Short of Money](#) – NYT, February 7, 2013

Thailand's generous rice subsidy program has run into funding problems, a new threat to a policy that wins millions of rural votes for the government but that has generated huge stockpiles, set off allegations of graft and unnerved markets...

No ridicule or satire please: Governor candidates warned to use social media carefully

February 8, 2013

Categories: Elections



Above: Widely circulated Photoshopped image contrasting the Pheu Thai candidate's goal for a "bright new Bangkok" with the burning of Bangkok in 2010. The appearance of this bit of satire on Facebook brought howls of protest from Pheu Thai.

It is suspected that this is part of a last ditch effort by the Democrats—known for their 11th hour vicious campaigning—to draw the connection between candidate Pongsapat, affirmed by the Red Shirts as "their" candidate, and the burning of Bangkok in 2010.

[Governor candidates warned to use social media carefully](#) – The Nation, February 8, 2013

...Sak Korsangruang, chairman of the Lawyers' Council, said candidates could use the social media for their campaign but warned that all sides should be careful about not posting things that can be deemed illegal. He also advised candidates, their supporters, media organisations and the Election Commission to get together and decide exactly how the social media should be used...

A related Thai editorial cartoon on this subject is [here](#).

More Bangkok Governor Posters

February 9, 2013
Categories: Elections



The sign reads: The Bangkokians stride forward immediately. Number 16; Vote for MR. Sukhumbhand Paripatra



The sign reads: 231 years old, Bangkok needs a good, courageously smart person who will accelerate problem solving. Time's up for anybody to correct himself. Pol. Gen. Sereepisuth Temeeeyaves, the Hero of Nagae The Bangkok Governor must not belong to any political parties which have overlapping benefits with hidden agenda.



The sign reads: A governor who doesn't belong to a political party – Fully engage!! Every issue immediately!! Pol. Gen. Sereepisuth Temeeeyaves, the Hero of Nagae – The Bangkok Governor must not belong to any political parties which have overlapping benefits with hidden agenda

Thai Muslim Insurgents Widen Targets in Southern Conflict

February 9, 2013

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[Thai Muslim Insurgents Widen Targets in Southern Conflict](#) – WSJ, February 8, 2013

Not far from the world-famous tourist beaches of Phuket and Krabi, a violent conflict in southern Thailand appears to be entering a dangerous new phase as Islamist insurgents expand their attacks against local Buddhists to include outsiders entering the Muslim-majority region...

Underground Thailand: Subterranean spirits

February 9, 2013

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Underground Thailand: Subterranean spirits](#) – independent.co.uk, February 9, 2013

...Like them, I was happy to escape the crowds. The cave is part of an extensive network in Pang Mapha, in the far north-west corner of Thailand, a few miles from the Burmese border. It's a 90-minute drive from the backpacker town of Pai, and four hours from the provincial capital Chiang Mai, and the solitude is a welcome antidote to their touristy trappings...

UN expert calls on Thailand to eliminate disparities on access to water and sanitation

February 9, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[UN expert calls on Thailand to eliminate disparities on access to water and sanitation](#) – un.org, February 8, 2013

... “The contrast between people who have access to water and sanitation in modern and formal zones in cities and those who suffer from the lack of access to these basic services and have been left behind, including informal settlements and hill tribe communities, was striking,” said the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, Catarina de Albuquerque, after her eight-day visit to the country.

“While the great majority of Thai people have experienced rapid development, millions of people, including stateless people and undocumented migrant workers, have not reaped these benefits,” she said...

The New Hopewell?

February 10, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, January 19, 2013

Cartoon title: From Hopewell foundation pillars to police stations' piles

Piles from left: Tend to corrupt; tear down police stations, but not rebuild them; contractors deserted the works

Sign on the left: Build 369 police stations nationwide

Sign on the right: Use garages as police stations

In hands of former deputy prime minister Suthep Thuaksuban: Awarding the bid to one contractor

In hands of DSI Director General hands: Bidding collusion

Australian academic identifies the red shirts’ “men in black”

February 10, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics

[From Cold War to the ‘Tor Chor Dor’](#) – Bangkok Post, February 10, 2013

...You’ve spoken before on the possibility that the armed ‘men in black’ guarding the red shirt protesters in 2010 were gleaned from the Thahan Phran. Most definitely. The attack by rocket-propelled grenade that killed Col Romklao Thuwatham on April 10, 2010, had the hallmarks of the ‘men in black’. They are a militia for hire. Now they’re the fastest growing security group in the South. Normal infantry have been reduced, but Thahan Phran forces have tripled. They started recruiting women five years ago, and now they’re one of the main groups in the region, minimally trained, corrupt and allied with criminal groups. Many killings have been committed by the Thahan Phran...

Exodus over the 300-baht-a-day wage

February 11, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, January 16, 2013

Left: Workers from neighboring countries move to Thailand for 300 baht-a-day-wage.

Right: Thai industries move to neighboring countries to avoid paying 300 baht-a-day wage.

Buffaloes and the Electric Pole

February 11, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



24/01/56

From Manager, January 24, 2013

Left, red buffalo: You see. Whatever comes from Thaksin, it's so great.

Right, red buffalo: Even the power pole can drive a bus... and cut a chicken.

Review: Jokes fly, but don't travel well, in 'Lost in Thailand'

February 11, 2013

Categories: Film and TV

[Review: Jokes fly, but don't travel well, in 'Lost in Thailand'](#) – LA Times, February 10, 2013

...A Thai cabdriver declares the Chinese are always in a hurry, to which Xu fires back that Thai people are lazy, and that's about as sophisticated as the film's cultural crossover gets. There is an in-passing punch line reference to abortion that one would certainly never find in a mainstream American film. Overall, however, "Lost in Thailand" points out how even in our global, tech-connected world, individual cultures maintain an idiosyncratic specificity in their tastes for comedy. In this way, our small world is still a big, funny place.

Will Thai spending never cease?

February 11, 2013

Categories: Mass Transit, Thai Politics

[Thailand: will building never cease?](#) – FT, February 11, 2013

...Despite criticism about funding problems, the Thai government should get credit for ambition – and, say supporters, for pushing a plan that will provide some welcome economic stimulus. But investors may be cautious about how the infrastructure budget will be raised and allocated. From the outside, Thailand appears much more advanced than many of its neighbours, but still suffers from widespread graft and budget-skimming, judging by the steady string of scandals over public works contracts...

Borrowing while the Deep South simmers

February 12, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, February 12, 2013

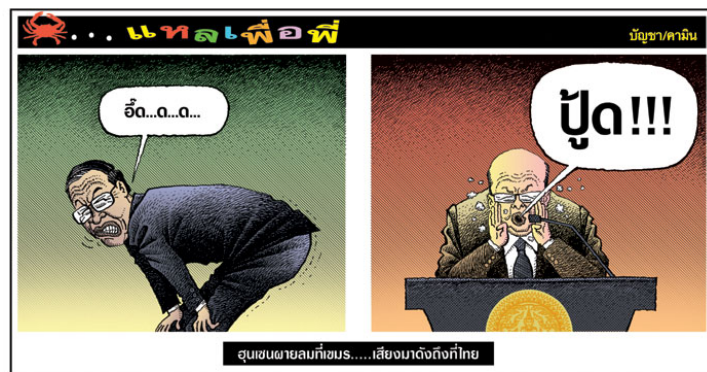
Yingluck: I will borrow another 2.2 trillion baht to make our lives better.

Bomb: Southern insurgency

Hun Sen farts

February 12, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



25/01/56

From Manager, January 25, 2013

Left, Hun Sen: Hmmmm...

Right, Thai Foreign Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul: Pood!!

Caption: Hun Sen farts in Cambodia... but the sound is heard in Thailand.

Still More Bangkok Governor Posters

February 12, 2013
Categories: Elections



The sign reads: One year of changes – Four years all done – Pol. Gen. Sereepisuth Temeeeyaves, the Hero of Nagae; Number 11 – The Bangkok Governor must not belong to any political parties which have overlapping benefits with hidden agenda



The sign reads: Cooperating with the government seamlessly – Garbage in front of your house will be collected all day. – Bangkok will be freshly clean without pollution. – Pol. Gen. Dr. Pongsapat Pongcharoen; Please vote for number 9, the Pheu Thai Party

Four MV-22B Ospreys Make Debut at Thailand's Cobra Gold

February 12, 2013

Categories: Thai Military

[Ospreys Make Debut in Thailand](#) – military.com, February 11, 2013

...This marks the first time the aircraft has appeared in Thailand, which can be added to its list of accomplishments. The Ospreys are assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force...

Cambodia seen as “best” investment for Thailand

February 12, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia seen as “best” investment for Thailand](#) – livetradingnews, February 11, 2013

...“We should take advantage of the geographical proximity between Thailand and Cambodia while the Thai government has planned to build and expand roads and railways to link the two neighboring countries. Part of these infrastructure would be serviceable when the AEC finally takes off in the next few years,” Roongrote said...

Cambodia muzzles critics – imposes election-year ban on lawyers giving radio & television interviews

February 12, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia: Government Muzzles Lawyers](#) – hrw.org, February 11, 2013

...“Just when you thought the Cambodian government couldn’t think of any new ways to try to muzzle critics, it has imposed an election-year ban on lawyers giving radio and television interviews,” said Brad Adams, Asia director. “This ban dramatically demonstrates the government’s aim to control the media and the legal profession, but more broadly makes a mockery of free speech in a democratic society...”

Thai schools breed fraternities of violence

February 12, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai schools breed fraternities of violence](#) – aljazeera.com, February 11, 2013

...”Before, the violence would happen more randomly. Now it is more organised. The gangs are starting to use social networks to set up places to gather, like at the charity concert,” said army spokesman Wanchana Sawasdee.

“All this has an effect on other people, who now almost schedule their lives around the violence. They think, ‘I live near this school, so I’ll take detours to not be at the wrong place at the wrong time’...”

NASA: Fires in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam

February 12, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Fires in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam](#) – NASA, February 11, 2013

Miracle Year of Amazing Thailand

February 13, 2013

Categories: Signs and Billboards



The billboard reads: Many Wonders of Thailand are waiting for you to discover.

Miracle Year of Amazing Thailand

Picture on the left: Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra

Picture on the right: Deputy Prime Minister and Tourism and Sports Minister Chumpol Silpa-archa

From left-right: 1672 Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) call centre, Ministry of Tourism and Sports, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT)

DSI clears the Pheu Thai candidate

February 13, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek, Tharit Pengdit



From Komchadluek, February 13, 2013

DSI Chief Tharit Pengdit: I can judge right now that this candidate hasn't done anything wrong at all.

Boy, at right: Here it is! This is the root of the term 'Saal Tia'

Also: [The Downfall of Tharit the Chameleon](#)

Ignore the World Court

February 13, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, January 23, 2013

On the building: The International Court of Justice

On the court's pillar: A place where dogs pee

The court: Since I was established for 76 years... this stupid scratched head guy is the only person who believes that I am really sacred... powerful... heh heh

Thai Officials and the Curse of the Illegal Hunt

February 13, 2013

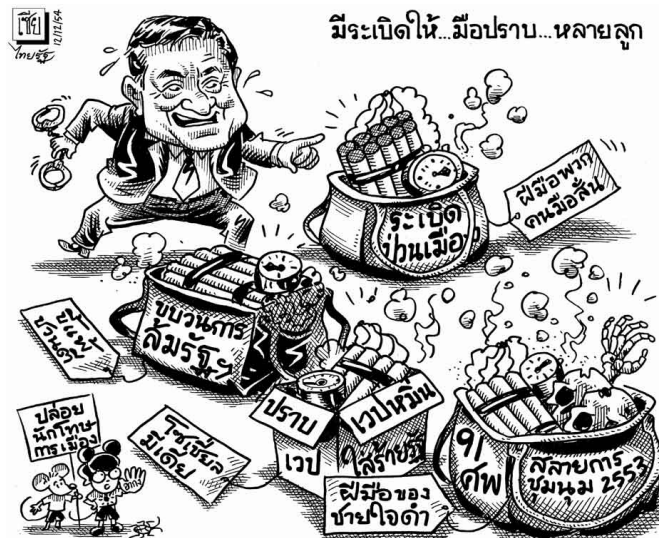
Categories: 2Bangkok News, Analysis

[Police inspector 'was part of hunting party'](#) – The Nation, February 13, 2013

Another Chalerm Bluff on Terrorism?

February 13, 2013

Categories: Analysis, Chalerm Yubamrung, Thai Politics



Above: [From Thairath, December 9, 2011](#)

[Al-Qaeda terrorist 'has left Thailand'](#) – Bangkok Post, February 13, 2013

...The information followed a remark made earlier by Deputy Prime Minister Chalerm Yubamrung that some of the al-Qaeda and Salafist terrorists had already left Thailand after the plan to attack the consulate was exposed...

[Terror threat spurs security alert](#) – Bangkok Post, February 12, 2013

...Deputy Prime Minister Chalerm Yubamrung says he has received information that al-Qaeda and Salafist terrorists had planned to launch a three-pronged attack on the US consulate in an operation codenamed "Billiard Ball" in the first half of February.

The terrorists, based in Algeria, would be equipped with small arms, grenade launchers and C-4 explosives provided by drug traders who are unhappy with the Chiang Mai consulate's role in drug suppression in the region, he said.

There never has been any such alliance reported in the past...

Earlier

From 2011: [Chalerm and Prasong Soonsiri](#)

From 2011: [Chalerm Points Out the Bombs](#)

From 2011: [More on Chalerm and Prasong](#)

From 2011: [Chalerm denies warning about bomb attacks](#)

From 2001: [Chalerm and "the brawling brats of the Thai Elite"](#)

[Who is Chalerm Yoobamrung?](#)

Can Thailand Become a Major Player in the Call Center Industry?

February 13, 2013

Categories: Business

[Thailand contact center industry on the rise](#) – zdnet.com, February 13, 2013

Thailand's call center industry is stepping up as an increasingly competitive player alongside traditional outsourcing heavyweights India and the Philippines...

Thai police fail 12-year-old torture victim

February 13, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand: How the cops failed a tortured girl from Myanmar](#) – globalpost.com, February 13, 2013

...As the Thai-language “Daily News” reports, the girl hails from the persecuted Karen ethnic group in Myanmar. She’s reportedly told police that a Thai couple kidnapped her, forced her tend to their house pets like a slave and tortured her with boiling water...

Back up the Red Buffalo Birth Canal!

February 14, 2013
Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



14/02/56

From Manager, February 14, 2013
Jatuporn Promphan: Get in there fast... (If) it's granted amnesty, so will we.
Caption: Way to survive for buffalo keepers

China's 11 billion dollar mystery plant in remote Cambodian province

February 14, 2013

Categories: Cambodia, China

[Insight: Cambodia's \\$11 billion mystery](#) – Reuters, February 14, 2013

...That money carries political clout. Last year, Cambodia used its powers as chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to stymie discussion on the South China Sea, where China's territorial claims overlap those of five other countries. Cambodia emerged as a staunch China ally willing to put the interests of its giant neighbor over those of its ASEAN members.

The lesson for Washington was clear.

"For U.S. strategists, if you neglect certain ASEAN countries you hurt U.S. interests," says American scholar Carlyle Thayer, an Asia Pacific security expert at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra. "There's a price to pay ... because China's economic dominance carries political influence, the U.S. has to compete across the board..."

Incredible Thai thing that just sold on ebay for \$2475: 1911 Coronation Program for the King of Siam

February 14, 2013

Categories: History, The Monarchy



[Incredible Thai thing that just sold on ebay for \\$2475: 1911 Coronation Program for the King of Siam](#)



Fears for Burmese Rohingya asylum seekers rounded up in Thai police sweeps

February 14, 2013

Categories: Human Rights, Refugees and Migrants

[Rohingya asylum seekers arrested in southern provinces of Thailand](#) – humanrights.asia, February 14, 2013

The Asian Human Rights Commission is deeply concerned for the fate of Rohingya asylum seekers who have been arrested in the past weeks in police sweeps of remote areas in Songkhla's Sadao district near the border with Malaysia and the other provinces. They have fled from Burma, where they have been subjected to various types of persecution. Even though Rohingya migrants are entering into Thailand without permission, owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race and religion they are entitled to seek asylum. Therefore customary international law and the non-refoulement principle should be strictly applied by the Thai state...

Should Thai “grenade protesters” and arsonists get amnesty?

February 14, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics

[Should Thai “grenade protesters” and arsonists get amnesty?](#) – bangkokdave.blog.com, February 13, 2013

“Political prisoners.” In Thailand, the term has been popping up with increasing frequency – and has become a virtual mantra for various pro-Thaksin and anti-establishment groups, including UDD, the Nitirat group of academics, and more recently a red-shirt splinter group who have actually incorporated the phrase into its moniker: “January 29 for the Release of Political Prisoners.”

After last year’s spectacular failure of pro-Thaksin MPs to push through a “reconciliation” bill that was a poorly disguised attempt to legislate amnesty for their patron, UDD, Nitirat, and now the January 29 group, are trying another tack: promoting an amnesty for “political prisoners.” Last week, the head of a government-appointed panel pushed for the introduction of its mish-mash version of UDD and Nitirat proposals into parliament.

But what makes a prisoner in Thailand “political”?

We often equate a “political prisoner” with a prisoner of conscience. But a number of people connected with recent political protests have been imprisoned or charged with violent crimes, including assailants who in 2010 threw grenades into crowds or at government installations. Recently, a red shirt was sent to prison for setting fire to a provincial hall. Are these and other violent offenders considered by UDD, Nitirat and the government panel “political prisoners” worthy of amnesty?

Violent acts such as grenade attacks, targeted assassinations of soldiers and arson committed for a political cause are indeed politically motivated, but this does not make the offenders into political prisoners. Thailand is not a dictatorship; it is not Syria where government soldiers slaughter women and children in their homes – and where absolutely nothing short of violence can remove a regime from power. It is a democracy – a very flawed one; one with limitations on certain freedoms that would be unacceptable in the West – but one nevertheless, where issues can be aired out in debates and protests, or resolved through elections.

However, Thailand does possess one group of genuine political prisoners: those given long jail terms for supposed violations of the nation’s strict lese majeste (LM) laws. Whether you agree with these “offenders” or not, and whether you like them or not, they are genuine prisoners of conscience; it would make sense to call them “political prisoners” and lobby for their release. In addition, those arrested for minor violations of various emergency decrees, while in a different category from prisoners of conscience, should also be freed.

But why should the amnesty extend to assassins and arsonists? Why should violent offenders against a state that allows free elections, debates and assorted protests of all stripes be equated with prisoners of conscience? Why should the man who murdered one innocent civilian and wounded 90 others on Silom Road on April 21, 2010, deserve not only freedom, but the saintly moniker of “political prisoner”?

If the proposed amnesty were aimed only at LM prisoners and those imprisoned for minor violations, it would be fine – and worthy of support by all parties. As it stands, it is not clear whether violent offenders are included in the proposed amnesty – and most absurd of all, whether those convicted of LM – the only genuine political prisoners in Thailand – are even included at all.

But as long as “grenade protesters” and arsonists are included in the proposed amnesty and those imprisoned for LM stand little chance of release, the term “political prisoners” is a propagandistic sham – designed mainly to promote and expand the idea that Thailand is not a democracy until UDD, Nitirat and other Thaksin-affiliated groups say it is. By expanding the term “political prisoners” to include violent offenders and pushing it into everyday political discourse, UDD and others hope that violent actions committed in the name of politics become an acceptable thing; something to be forgiven – and possibly allowed in the future without consequence.

It is attempted brainwashing through repetition. Say “political prisoners” with UDD enough times, and they will be so. Except they won’t. And with Thailand’s few actual political prisoners facing the prospect of many years without freedom, abusing the term that defines them for pure political gain is an insulting exercise in shameless hypocrisy.

Bangkok Governor should not belong to any political party

February 15, 2013

Categories: Signs and Billboards



Campaign Poster: Let Bangkok people join hand to support Pol. Gen. Sereepisuth Temmeyaves for Bangkok Governor. The Bangkok Governor should not belong to any political party which has a conflict of interest and a lot of hidden agenda.

Spanking... our friend

February 15, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, January 21, 2013

Caption: Spanking... our friend

The man holding the document: Mr. Wattana Sengpairoh, Spokesman for Parliament

Document: Amnesty Bill

Mouse man Phi Nooring: Speaking that which is unpleasant to hear.

Man Mouse: For humanity.

Remembering Chumpol Silapa-archa

February 15, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, January 23, 2013

Caption: Only virtue remains for the following generations to remember.

Man Mouse: Rest in Peace.

On the wreath: Chumpol Silapa-archa

Thailand's highly centralized government and the Bangkok governor

February 15, 2013

Categories: Elections

[Thailand's capital city – Power failure](#) – Economist, February 15, 2013

...The governor has no power over the city's police or public bus services. For all the hoopla of the election campaign, the central government keeps the governor on a short leash. The Thai state is highly centralised. Bangkok's citizens know that they are lucky to have elections at all. The interior ministry appoints the governor of all of Thailand's 76 provinces, with which the capital region is on a par...

Insight into Thai separatism: Tak Bai radicalized a generation and relief militant dies as he faced torture if taken alive

February 15, 2013

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[In death, another side to insurgent Mahrosu is revealed](#) – The Nation, February 15, 2012

...Che Mah Che Ni, 52, said her son's life changed dramatically after the Tak Bai massacre in 2004 that ended in the death of 86 unarmed demonstrators, most of whom died of suffocation.

"He was one of the guys they stacked one on top another in the back of the military truck," Che Mah said.

The massacre, in which no government officials were punished, has radicalised an entire generation of Malay Muslims in an already highly contested region and become part of the local narrative that feeds into the justification for taking up arms in the separatist movement.

...In a way, Mahrosu's death was a blessing in disguise. At least, said the wife, there is no longer any worry about him being caught alive. "He was certain he would be tortured severely if they had got him alive," she said.

Remembering Sanan – Thai-language editorial cartoons and billboards featuring the late political kingmaker

February 15, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

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

[Veteran politician Sanan passed away Friday](#) – The Nation, February 15, 2013



From KhaoSod, June 2, 2011

The cartoon title: Gruem

The word on the glass: PM

Banharn is starting to fill Sanan's glass.



From Manager, May 28, 2011

The words on the bottle: Warning: wine drinking makes someone to drift in a dream

The caption reads: Should warn the drinker



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

December 18, 2010 – The billboard reads: Reconciliation... the reconciliatory road will succeed if every side coordinates for the happiness of everyone in the nation



“Wants some falling oranges” – from Thai Rath, Cartoon by Sia, September 25, 2010

The caption near the top left reads: Wants some falling oranges

The letters on the chair dropping on Sanan read: The reconciling Prime Minister

The words on each of the boxes he is carrying read: To leave/To take away

The small man at the bottom left holds a sign that reads: Release the UDD prisoners



From Manager, February 26, 2011

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

Kanit says: Yeah.

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

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

Thailand: Insurgents Should Cease Attacks on Civilians

February 15, 2013

Categories: Human Rights, The Thai Deep South

[Thailand: Insurgents Should Cease Attacks on Civilians](#) – hrw.org, February 14, 2013

Separatist insurgents in Thailand's southern border provinces should immediately end deadly attacks on civilians, Human Rights Watch said today...

February 16, 2013
Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai

Right, vendor: We sell buay , ragum , and haew .

Right, vendor: We sell buay , ragum , and haew .

Wan Tee Rak

February 16, 2013

Categories: Signs and Billboards



On the Movie Billboard: Will you choose... to lose, hide or find love? – Together – December 20 in the theater – Story by Poo Drama

Cambodia border casinos and Asia's soccer gambling obsession

February 16, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[In gritty town on Thai-Cambodia border, Asia's soccer gambling obsession is on display](#) – Fox News, February 16, 2013

...Authorities turn a blind eye to the bookmakers, even those who operate outside the casinos, which are run by powerful tycoons with links to the corruption-riddled government in Phnom Penh, the capital.

In September, police arrested 100 Indonesians in Phnom Penh for illegally running a soccer betting site from two houses in the city.

One bookmaker's Malaysian manager, who refused to give his name because of the illegal nature of his business, conceded that the operation was running "on borrowed time."

The websites operating in the town employ Indonesians, Thais and other nationalities on telephone help lines and computer chat rooms to assist people setting up accounts in their home countries.

Rooms in hotels and casinos are rented out to these operators, giving the town something of a gold rush atmosphere...

One Year Ago Today: The People Demand the Constitution Be Amended!

February 17, 2013

Categories: Today in History

One Year Ago Today: [The People Demand the Constitution Be Amended!](#)

Explaining Thai education to foreigners

February 18, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, January 28, 2013

Left: Foreigner: I’m not surprised Thai education is behind other countries. Schools in the south of Thailand have to close to the escape from insurgent groups...

Middle: Foreigner: ...for the safety of the teachers and students. And in the capital...

Right: Foreigner: it closes for teachers and students to escape from the principal.

Weekly News Magazines, February 8, 2013

February 18, 2013

Categories: Uncategorized



From Nation Weekend, February 8, 2013

Cover reads: Khun Chai SukhumPoll



From Matichon Weekly, February 8, 2013

Cover reads: Locked lottos; From Jul. 3 '11 to Mar. 3 '13

I swear to replace the constitution of Thailand

February 18, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, January 25, 2013

U.S. President Barack Obama: I swear... and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra: I swear, to the best of my ability, that I will amend, cancel and destroy the constitution of this country.

In the Thai Deep South: Burying Gunmen as “Martyrs”

February 18, 2013

Categories: Analysis, The Thai Deep South



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=http://www.youtube.com/embed/lkC2yRYEZic>



[Insurgents have ‘a deep pain’ in their hearts](#) – Bangkok Post, February 18, 2013

...Venting anger at the Muslim mourners for honouring the fallen insurgents will not change the attitude of those who support the insurgency cause.

Nor will the arrest of the Pattani students suspected of uploading the video clip on YouTube help in the attempt to win the hearts and souls of the local Muslims which is as important as winning the insurgency war.

The “healing process” extended to families of the dead insurgents by the government is an approach in the right direction, although it was widely misinterpreted when it was announced by Deputy Prime Minister Chalerm Yubamrung. Although no compensation will be paid for the deaths of their loved ones, the families are in need of counselling and understanding about why they were killed...

Also recently: [Thailand: Insurgents Should Cease Attacks on Civilians](#)

Also recently: [Insight into Thai separatism: Tak Bai radicalized a generation and relief militant dies as he faced torture if taken alive](#)

Car scheme a roaring success but some Thais unhappy

February 18, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Car scheme a roaring success but some Thais unhappy](#) – CNA, February 18, 2013

...They said that while the scheme gave the automotive and their related industries a short-term boost, it has long-term consequences.

Frost & Sullivan's Thailand country manager, Monsinee Keeratirainon, said: "In terms of the financial system, there's increasing public debt. If you just look at the number of the car loans for last year, it grew about 42 per cent from the year before...(compared) with the household loan (which) grew only about 14 per cent from the year before. So there is a big jump in the number of (car) loans."

But the revenue department said the benefits will come later down the road.

Its director-general, Somchai Pulsawas, said: "Overall, the government will benefit more from the car project than the rebates paid out. The benefits will be in the forms of indirect income tax, higher employment and related taxes and fees."

But for now, the new cars are being blamed for the increasingly bad traffic in the capital Bangkok, where 7 million cars try to get through congested streets every day.

Many people also think the money could have been better spent elsewhere...

Strange Death in Singapore

February 18, 2013

Categories: Singapore

[Death in Singapore](#) -FT, February 17, 2013

...The front door was unlocked and there was no sign of an investigation – no crime-scene tape, no smudges from fingerprint searches. “The first thing I did was make a beeline for the bathroom,” Mrs Todd recalled. She wanted to see exactly how Shane had died – and she saw nothing that fitted the police description. The marble bathroom walls had no holes in them. Nor were there any bolts or screws. The toilet was not where the police had said...

Head in the sand

February 19, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, January 23, 2013

The sign reads: Don't forget to exercise your right to vote in the Bangkok Governor election

Above the ostrich: Silent power

Yingluck and the Press

February 19, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, February 19, 2013

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra: I've already prepared my answers as follows. So please ask questions relating to them. Thank you.

More Singapore Funny Business: Soccer Fixing Inquiry Hinges on a Shadowy Singaporean

February 19, 2013

Categories: Crime, Singapore, Sports

[Soccer Fixing Inquiry Hinges on a Shadowy Singaporean](#) – NYT, February 13, 2013

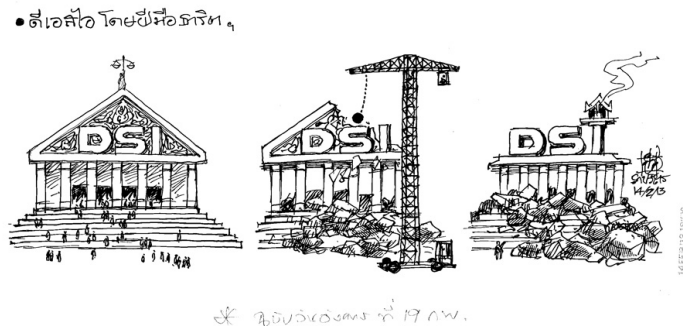
...The phone conversation illustrated the power of Mr. Tan, a shadowy figure living in Singapore who was called “the boss” and “the capo” by his accomplices and is suspected of fixing dozens of games as easily as he did that 2010 match in Tuscany...

Earlier: [Strange Death in Singapore](#)

Tearing Down the DSI

February 19, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai, Tharit Pengdit



From February 19, 2013

Cartoon title: DSI under Tarit's authority

Corruption and the Police Stations

February 19, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, February 1, 2013

Cartoon title: The only police officer who still smiles when there is no police station .

Sign behind the dummy police officer: Sert. Chuii is on duty here, sir.

Sign on the right: Building 396 new police stations across the country with the job bidding granted to just one contractor

On poles from left: corruption, colluding bid; Corruption in the Thai Khem Khaeng projects; the contractor deserts the jobs

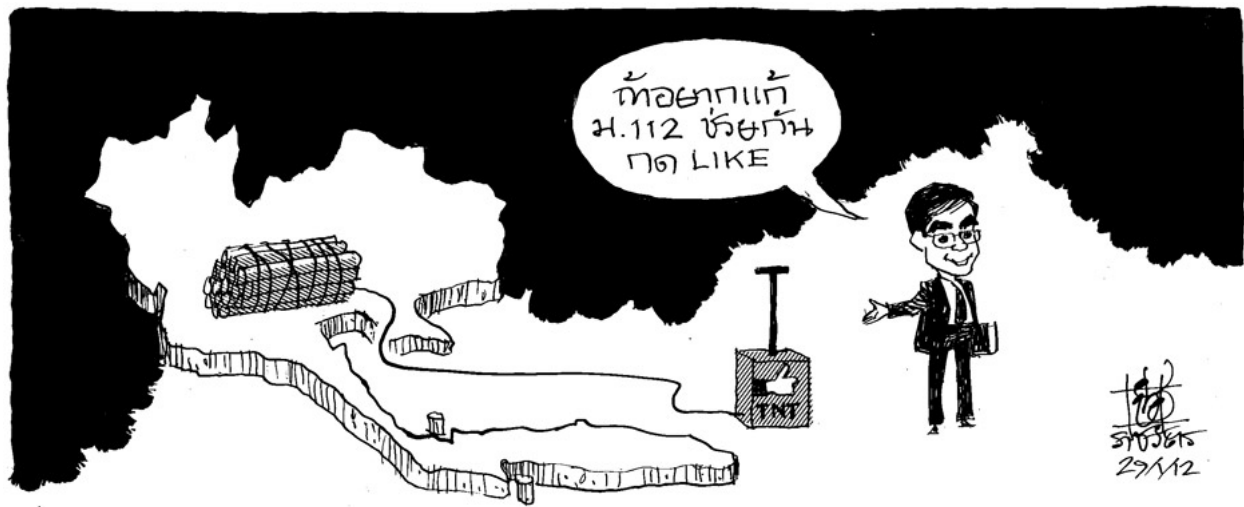
Phi Nooring: Poor him, he's in an awkward predicament.

Man mouse: Bring the corrupted to justice

One Year Ago: Editorial Cartoons on the Lese Majeste Law

February 19, 2013

Categories: Uncategorized



One Year Ago: [Editorial Cartoons on the Lese Majeste Law](#)

Trouble for Foreigners in Thailand

February 19, 2013

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[Scottish woman raped by 4 men in Thailand](#)

[Kickboxer Denies US Marine's Murder In Thailand](#)

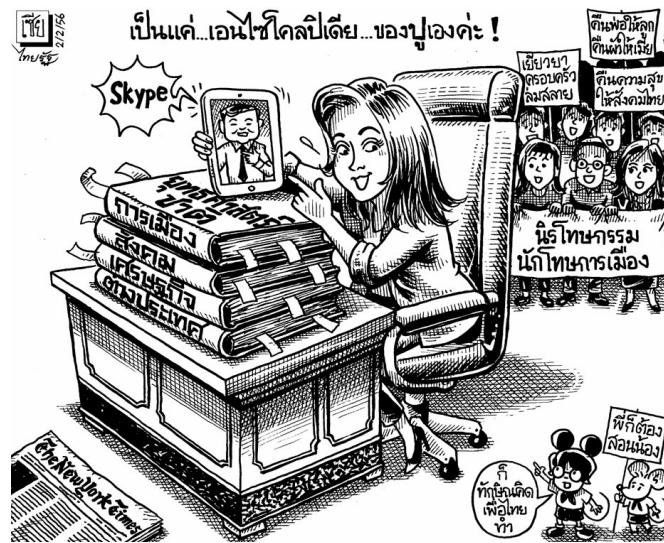
[Round-the-World UK Cyclists Killed in Thailand](#)

[Missing Thailand traveller Tom Armstrong found 'safe and well'](#)

Thaksin is the nation's encyclopedia

February 19, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, February 2, 2013

Cartoon title: It's just Poo's Encyclopedia

Books from top: National strategy; Politics; Society; Economics; Foreign affairs

In students' hands, from the front: Amnesty for political prisoners; Reinstate happiness to Thai society; Remedy the affected families; Give the fathers back to their children, the husbands to their wives

Phi Nooring: It's Thaksin thinks, Pheu Thai acts.

Man mouse: Big brother has to tell little sister what to do.

Loving the Bangkok Governor candidates

February 20, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From [Arun](#), February, 2013

Caption: Later, you will know the power of Bangkok women...

Woman: Love you. (Letters on her clothes: Bangkok people)

On the left is Sukhumbhand Paribatra, Democrat Party candidate

On the right is Pol. Gen. Pongsapat Pongcharoen, Pheu Thai Party candidate

Wrong Silapa-acha in Hell!

February 20, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



22/01/56

From Manager, January 22, 2013

Prince of devils: Hey!... wrong soul, not the younger brother Silapa-acha!!!

Yet More Bangkok Governor's Race Posters

February 20, 2013

Categories: Elections



Bangkok children, full stomachs, smart and disciplined

- Build more public libraries for new dimension of learning and communal learning centers close to your home;
- Free 5,000 points of Hi-speed WiFi 4MB
- Fostering morality via the “Grow up not becoming corrupted”
- Provide tutoring for Matthayom 3 and 6 students from every school by famous tutoring schools

Vote for MR. Sukhumbhand Paripatra, No. 16



The poster reads: Mar. 3, Bangkok governor election day, please vote for: Natdanai Phubesh-atthawit, No. 7

- Open universities for free undergraduate education;
- Free language tutoring in every district;
- “What do you want to be”, free tutoring

Vote for an independent candidate, citizens love each other; vote for governor with no conflicts, all citizens will be happy.



An executive who can collaborate with 10 directions – Khosit Suvinijit: 24 hour Bangkok: the three-shift governor, and independent candidate – Healthy all 24 hours: No. 10



Your vote can resist seamless corruption! Pol. Gen. Sereepisut Temeeyawes: Bangkok must not have any political party. The symbol: Bangkok Power Group – Vote for Pol. Gen. Sereepisut Temeeyawes, the real deal governor – No. 11



Love Bangkok, help build up Bangkok – Vote for MR. Sukhumbhand Paripatra, No. 16 – www.sukhumbhand.com



Help build up Bangkok, the metropolis of happiness – Vote for MR. Sukhumbhand Paripatra, No. 16

Yingluck, save the political prisoners!

February 20, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, January 22, 2013

Cartoon title: They're floating... We're waiting for human morality

On boat: Rohingya

On jail wall: victims of political conflict, April-May 2010; accused of being terrorists; 112 Act

Phi Nooring: Before another dies in jail.

Man mouse: Amnesty for political prisoners

The Russian and Uzbek Mafia Running Pattaya

February 20, 2013

Categories: Pattaya

[One Town in Thailand \(and human trafficking\)](#) – huffingtonpost.com, February 19, 2013

...”Anyone who goes to Pattaya, they see 27,000 sex workers in a corridor of about three miles,” said Matthew Friedman, former regional manager for the United Nations Interagency Project on Human Trafficking...

Putting a face to the conflict in Thailand's south

February 20, 2013

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[Putting a face to the conflict in Thailand's south](#) – BBC, February 19, 2013

...Through her tears, Rusanee said she felt honoured to have been his wife, although she grieved that their young son would never know his father.

There were murmurs of approval from the visitors in the house. None questioned an insurgent campaign which has targeted teachers, Buddhist monks and anyone working for the Thai state.

Instead they recounted their own narrative, of repeated harassment by the authorities...

Earlier: [In the Thai Deep South: Burying Gunmen as "Martyrs"](#)

12-Yr-Old Israeli Boy Found in Bangkok Monastery

February 20, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[12-Yr-Old Israeli Boy Found in Bangkok Monastery](#) – israelnationalnews.com, February 20, 2013

...His parents sent him to the monastery in northern Thailand for care following a series of difficult treatments, including a bone-marrow transplant more than two years ago. When all treatments failed, according to his parents and the social worker involved in the case, monks advised the parents to send him to a Buddhist monastery in Thailand...

Thai Transgender Community Finds its Voice

February 20, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai Transgender Community Finds its Voice](#) – The Diplomat, February 20, 2013

...Although Thai parents of transgender children are often very supportive, society can often be cruel. According to a poll by Ramkhamhaeng University Public Opinion Center, 70 percent of respondents disapprove of allowing gay marriage or granting transgender people to change their gender on their ID cards and passports...

US issues worldwide travel alert inc. South Asia where terrorist outfits like al-Qaida & the Taliban might strike

February 20, 2013
Categories: Security

[US issues worldwide travel alert inc. South Asia where terrorist outfits like al-Qaida & the Taliban might strike](#) – timesofindia.indiatimes.com, February 20, 2013
...Noting that current information suggests that al-Qaida, its affiliated organisations, and other terrorist outfits continue to plan terrorist attacks against US interests in multiple regions, including Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, the State Department said these attacks may employ a wide variety of tactics including suicide operations, assassinations, kidnappings, hijackings and bombings...

Polls lead to low turnout?

February 21, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek, Elections



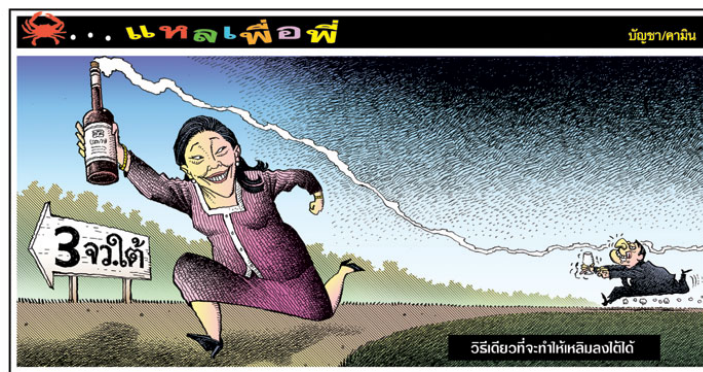
From Komchadluek, January 28, 2013

Sign: Please vote.

Making Chalerm Go to the Deep South

February 21, 2013

Categories: Chalerm Yubamrung, Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, February 21, 2013

Caption: Only way to make Chalerm go to the southern provinces

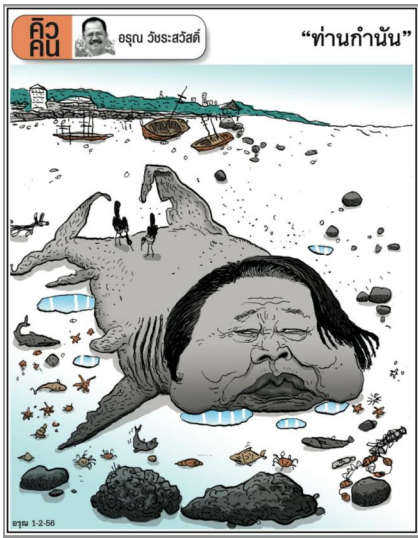
Sign: 3 southern provinces

A woman with a bottle of wine: Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra

A man: Deputy PM Chalerm Yubamrung

Catching the Kamnam

February 21, 2013
Categories: Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From [Arun](#), January, 2013
The title reads: Kamnam

Weekly News Magazines, February 15, 2013

February 21, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, February 15, 2013

Cover reads: Ba Joh battlefield: intelligence decisively executed the strategy



From Matichon Weekly, February 15, 2013

Cover reads: ‘Grong’ ‘red’ pants

No Angels Here!

February 21, 2013
Categories: Signs and Billboards



Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy Under Renovation

February 21, 2013

Categories: Buildings



(Photo: [LPrahin](#))

[Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy Under Renovation](#)

Earlier: [Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy News 2003-2007](#)



Above: Postcard view from the 1930s of the Hotel Royal located in the Luang Sathorn Mansion (later the Russian Embassy).



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

1. [Main mansion](#)
2. [Stairs to nowhere](#)
3. [The West Wing](#)
4. [Rooms with no way in](#)
5. [Metal-lined chambers](#)
6. [Labyrinth](#)
7. [The East Wing](#)

8. [Sleeping with an ax](#)
9. [The North Wing](#)

Bangkok Governor Posters: Achievements

February 21, 2013

Categories: Elections



Your vote can stop the “Above the Cloud” movement: Selling dreams... easy to say! “BKK must not be politics-related” Bangkok Power Group – Vote for Pol. Gen. Sereepisut Temecyawes: The real-man governor; No. 11



The Democrat Party – Have done... and can carry on
Done: A giant drainage tunnel at Rama IX
To carry on: Build 6 more drainage tunnels
Vote for MR. Sukhumbhand Paribatra, No. 16



The Democrat Party – Have done...and can carry on
Done: 5,024 rai green areas

To carry on: Additional 5,000 rai of green areas with 10 large public parks
Vote for MR. Sukhumbhand Paribatra, No. 16



The Democrat Party – Have done...and can carry on
Done: “Growing up uncorrupted” courses , free education fees, free breakfasts
To carry on: BKK children, “Stomachs filled, smart, disciplined, grown up uncorrupted” with strong English skills
Vote for MR. Sukhumbhand Paribatra, No. 16

No Accusing the Democrats

February 21, 2013

Categories: Chuwit Kamolvisit, Thai Police, Thai Politics



The billboard reads: The construction project of 396 police stations nationwide, worth baht 5,848 million. How much more will you corrupt?

Below: The same poster on “Chuwit’s billboard.” This billboard, in the middle of the expressway loop in the middle of the city, always hosts messages from Chuwit.



Rights group urges Southeast Asian nations to pressure Laos on missing activist

February 21, 2013

Categories: Human Rights, Laos

[Rights group seeks ASEAN's help on Lao activist](#) – AP, February 21, 2013

...Sombath disappeared on Dec. 15 after he was stopped at a police checkpoint in Vientiane. A few days later, the Lao Foreign Ministry said he may have “been kidnapped perhaps because of a personal conflict or a conflict in business.” It said “authorities concerned are currently and seriously investigating.” Accounts from Sombath’s wife and supporters, however, suggest that any investigation has been slipshod at best...

Under the table payments in Thailand alleged to have grown from 5-10% to a minimum of 30%

February 21, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Asian Economic Growth Masks Growing Corruption Problem](#) – VOA, February 19, 2013

...A 79-year-old businessman pointed to rising costs of doing business, including bribes for officials.

“I am an industrialist. I cannot stand anymore because we have to pay under the table so much money,” he said. “Before, all right you have to accept that before it was about five and ten per cent. But now it’s a minimum 30 per cent – minimum is 30 per cent.”

Estimates for how much economic activity is lost to corruption are difficult to judge, but a recent study by the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce concluded that over two per cent of national output or some \$11 billion is likely to be lost to corruption this year...

Grandiose Thai plans for the port of Dawei losing out to China's port of Kyaukphyu

February 21, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Thailand Losing out to China in Battle of the Burma Ports](#) – The Irrawaddy, February 21, 2013

...“The fundamental problem with the Dawei project is that its main beneficiary is always going to be Bangkok,” regional energy industries analyst-consultant Collin Reynolds told The Irrawaddy on Feb. 19. “The Thais want it primarily as a crude oil transshipment point much the same as the Chinese are achieving with their Kyaukphyu set up.

“Thailand also sees Dawei as a place where it could expand its petrochemicals industry, which is stymied on the edge of Bangkok because of environmental and health concerns.

“Japanese investment could go into Dawei in support of this because Japanese firms are among those that have been restricted at Bangkok's Map Ta Phut petrochemicals industrial estate. But I think Japan sees bigger prospects in and around the port in Rangoon where some of its large industrial corporations have committed to a new economic zone.”...

Mirror, Mirror

February 22, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Komchadluek, February 4, 2012

Yingluck: Magic mirror, please tell me how to govern the country.

THaksin: U-me...

The fake prime minister

February 22, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, February 2, 2013

Left: Man: The foreign media reveals that Thailand is a big fake market.

Middle: A man with glasses: Thai people are addicted to fake goods more than other countries.

Second man: Do you have any evidence?

Right: Man: Even the [New York Times confirms](#) that Thai people choose the fake Prime Minister who receives the instruction from the real power through Skype.

Bangkok Governor Transport Plans

February 22, 2013

Categories: Elections



Top left corner: Pheu Thai Party

Top right corner: Pol. Gen. Dr. Pongsapas Pongcharoen, No. 9

Restore monorail system for tourism, charming the historical areas

Monorails encircling the Rattanakosin island;

Construction of the orange, purple and blue lines of the BTS



Top right corner: the Democrat Party

Have done... and will carry on

Done: Extending the BTS system to Bang Waa-Wongwian Yai-Baring

To carry on: Additional 5 BTS lines, reducing fare of the extended parts of the BTS

Vote for MR. Sukhumbhand Paribatra, No. 16

Going into a joint venture in Thailand: Megalomania, Gangsterism, and “Sue me, this is my country”

February 22, 2013

Categories: Business

[Business and property joint ventures – Thais and foreigners – inequality and power](#) – www.property-report.com, February 22, 2013

... “I will terminate your employment as an ‘investor’ ” If you haven’t structured your joint venture properly, or the directorships issue hasn’t been well thought through, then aside from your actual shareholdings, you may find that your position could be seriously weakened simply by a termination of your involvement in the joint venture. As a shareholder, you just have rights to a profit if one occurs. Without any involvement in the joint venture, the remaining joint venture partner could easily start to move business elsewhere, and contrive to ensure the existing business does not make much of a profit, ever. This would leave you back at the position of having to sue. You would only be entitled to compensation for unfair dismissal, and a long drawn out battle over ‘valuation’ of shares may then ensue whilst you are not involved in the very business you invested in...

Business and property joint ventures – Thais and foreigners – inequality and power
Feb 18, 2013

Balance is one of the hardest objectives to achieve, in life and in business. In Thailand, due to the way in which laws are drafted and enforced, foreigners and Thais in business generally have an inequality between them. The reality is that this can be in favour of the foreigners, or in favour of the Thais in such an arrangement, regardless of the intentions of the law. Over the last 10 years, I have seen the ways in which a lack of equality, or balance, can seriously damage investments, and not only have I witnessed others experience this business phenomenon, but I have personally experienced it too. There are of course, plenty of positive outcomes to investments, but these perhaps occur when more caution is applied at the outset of an investment and throughout its course.

When I first studied joint ventures back in the days of university and as a post-grad, I recall that most of the textbooks described joint ventures like ‘marriage’. The parties ‘need to get to know each other’, the parties ‘need to describe their relationship’ and ‘set out their wishes’ so they are clearly understood. This all seemed very trite and patronising at the time, but the reality is that there is a lot of truth in the sage of those textbooks.

In the real estate, hospitality and leisure markets in Thailand, the majority of investments require some form of joint venture. This can be through shareholdings, contractual relationships, or a combination of those. Although this article focuses on real estate, the principles of joint venture pretty much apply to most business relationships. It is worth mentioning that under certain frameworks, such as the Board of Investment (BOI) framework, joint ventures might not be necessary, but I don’t deal with that in this article.

Capital

We are all familiar with the 49:51 rule. In fact, in many relationships I have seen, Thai joint venture partners like to have a lot more than just 51 percent of a company. This is not a criticism, because in many countries, nationalistic control-hungry tendencies also dictate the business behavior of many. The investment and legal climate in Thailand is very much centered towards providing majority power, and majority control, to Thai persons or businesses. The Foreign Business Act, the Land Code and a host of other legislation give support to that notion. This may change gradually under the Asian Economic Community system to be implemented in stages at the end of and post-2015. The attitude of many business people also gravitates towards the notion that foreign investment, no matter how high, does not warrant proportionate control, rewards or return on investment.

However in many investments it may be that one party, such as the foreign party, may invest significant sums of capital. Part of this capital may be needed to invest in land on which a project is being built, a hotel is being developed, a manufacturing site built. Furthermore, that party may also re-invest sums instead of drawing out profits from the project as they go along. The issue between unequal joint venture partners then becomes about how the minority partner, who has invested more capital or even just effort, obtains the correct reward. In accounting terms of course, capital may be share capital, and what I am talking about is total sums of monies invested, which can be loans, assets, know-how and all sorts of items, which can be quantified as ‘capital’ investment. How this is quantified and set out in terms of return on investment should be defined very precisely.

Typical power struggles

In order to obtain a good result, it is sometimes worth analysing the more negative aspects of a potential investment. Here is a list of matters I have seen create serious investment issues over the years

“Powerful family syndrome”

Time and time again, I have heard clients, often exceptionally gifted, well educated and experienced business people, extoll the virtues of a new found connection in Thailand. I should emphasise that this occurs in other countries too, not just in my home. Such connections are heralded by the foreign business partner as beneficial to ‘getting things done’, to smoothing the way for ensuring that milestones occur on time, or simply for the fact that knowing a group of powerful and wealthy people confers prestige and recognition on the foreign business partner which may assist with their success.

What is so obviously missing from the analysis here, is that should there be a dispute, or abuse of power or control, then clearly the foreign partner will be the weaker party, and all of the connection and power held in such high esteem previously, will simply turn against the foreign partner in the face of adversity.

So, back to the textbooks, joint venture is indeed like a marriage, and choose your partner carefully. It is not always so clever to have an inequality of power.

“General accounting principles”

Money going into a project, is generally viewed differently than monies coming out of a project. A handshake, a nod of agreement regarding a common understanding, the clinking of champagne glasses and polishing off that fine dining experience can all seem so alluring in the swanky lobbies of nice hotels or the private business suites of completed real estate projects.

However, the treatment of capital, expenses, employment of persons with conflicts of interests, can all seriously affect the bottom line of return on investment for a partner.

Here is a list of typical issues in relation to accounting principles I have witnessed first hand in joint ventures:

Dividends not properly declared to ‘mitigate’ tax, resulting in inability to properly close the accounts at the end of any given year

Cash in the bank is split between the parties, before a proper reckoning up of the liabilities of the joint venture

Employees, such as family members of one of the joint venture parties, are gifted jobs, but without properly contributing to the financial performance of the joint venture

Foreigners might resist becoming or even be advised not to be directors, due to the complex work permit issues involved, especially when there are multiple companies in a group of companies. This means that the foreign party will have a lack of control on signing off on the accounts of a company, key issues slipping them by and not within their control

Internal accounts might not match, at all, filed accounts

Unauthorised expenses can affect the bottom line – expensive cars; expensive offices; expensive overseas trips. If none of this was properly determined at the outset of a joint venture arrangement, then one or more parties could be taken by surprise by the approach of another party to these matters. Conversely, other more important investments might be seen as unnecessary, by the very party who has indulged in unnecessary expense. Unfortunately, a good shareholders agreement is not enough on its own to combat this issues. Banking controls split between the parties can assist here, provided the issue on directorships doesn't override such banking controls.

Megalomania stunting creativity, initiative and growth

One party, due to its alleged power or simply inequality of power, may perceive its role as all encompassing, all powerful, completely to the detriment of the minority shareholder but keep this attitude initially well hidden. The issue here may also be that this is not how the investment was presented or conducted for a significant period of time. The test of this issue normally comes in times of stress on the joint venture or one or more of the joint venture parties.

Marketing programs, advertising, keeping the joint venture fresh and productive, developing employees' careers and creating good business plans can all be stunted and hindered by one party seeking to exercise megalomaniac control over all aspects of the joint venture. This can create a culture of oppression, with all eyes on the megalomaniac figure for decisions in even the smallest micro aspects of a business.

One way to reduce this issue if it is discovered a megalomaniac exists in the joint venture arrangement, is to form a group to dampen the urge to exercise unreasonable power in an arrangement and to introduce decision making systems which prevent one party dominating all. This may of course not be possible if the worst-case scenario has already occurred or if the other persons in the joint venture are weak and easily dominated.

Internal systems v presentation of the business

A good friend of mine pointed out to me that some of the most successful business people he knows are non-demonstrative about the extent of their wealth. CEOs of companies like IKEA, he said, take the bus to work, and ensure that they remain connected to the people they work for. This is quite a strange concept to certain Asian businesses, although that is a very sweeping generalisation, and there are many exceptions to this. However, the matter of 'face' can mean that a company not performing very well could still have a fleet of expensive cars for its top level management, or an excessive amount of office space completely underutilised. This happened in the UK in relation to certain large companies, who had invested heavily in property assets, only subsequently to have to find ways to raise capital to ensure their businesses survived in the face of economic adversity. This created the 'sale and leaseback' trends in the UK for many years for public and private companies and these deals were the only way such companies were able to survive. They created a lot of work for property lawyers.

It is good sense to present a business with a positive face to the market. However, the market will quickly see through a façade if there is no substance to a project. Nice advertising and swanky offices do not mean good internal systems which might benefit the customers, buyers or investors of a joint venture project.

Disputes

This is the biggest issue, and most pertinent issue to legal services companies who see clients enter into disputes, even after years of perceived stability in a joint venture. Unfortunately, the test of character, integrity, honour and ethics of parties are seriously challenged in times of disagreement or dispute, and this can be very revealing about the nature of the joint venture parties. If only it were possible to have a 'trial dispute' before entering into a joint venture to see how parties behave, many more joint ventures would survive and be successful.

Here are just a few of the dispute phenomenon that can occur:

"Sue me, this is my country" I have heard this or heard reports of this in the United States, the UK and elsewhere. It is not unique to Thailand. However, in Thailand, this can of course be a significant issue for an investor who might be relying upon business visas, might not be in Thailand all the time to attend court, and might also need the joint venture business to facilitate a work permit. The way to mitigate this is to have agreements which are well drafted, which is often not the case, and to select arbitration in a well respected and convenient venue. My British blood (I guess mixed up blood given the amazing multi-cultural nature of Britain) immediately gives way to thoughts of 'forum conveniens' – the forum which is most convenient, for a trial or dispute as a good solid principle to base forum selection upon.

"I will terminate your employment as an 'investor' " If you haven't structured your joint venture properly, or the directorships issue hasn't been well thought through, then aside from your actual shareholdings, you may find that your position could be seriously weakened simply by a termination of your involvement in the joint venture. As a shareholder, you just have rights to a profit if one occurs. Without any involvement in the joint venture, the remaining joint venture partner could easily start to move business elsewhere, and contrive to ensure the existing business does not make much of a profit, ever. This would leave you back at the position of having to sue. You would only be entitled to compensation for unfair dismissal, and a long drawn out battle over 'valuation' of shares may then ensue whilst you are not involved in the very business you invested in.

"Let the business become Insolvent, and see what happens next" This one is the old 'cut off your nose to spite your face' scenario. Business disputes in joint ventures can become so heated, that one party can elect to simply test the other party's resolve and financial position to see if they are prepared to become bankrupt in Thailand. Clearly, a foreigner becoming bankrupt in Thailand is not going to be able to recover in quite the same way as a Thai business partner might. This is true in other countries too.

"Buy me out at a high value, or I will buy you out at a low value" This scenario could be dealt with by strong valuation mechanisms, 'tag along' and 'drag along' rights in a Shareholders Agreement, with strict codes relating to the timing and sincerity of a buy out offer. The issue for the minority investor is that their monies might be tied up in the very assets of the joint venture which are under dispute, thereby weakening their negotiating position in this situation.

Gangsterism This is very controversial, and is not often written about other than in the national newspapers. However, it is true that business disputes can result in death, injury and family tragedy, and the boundaries in a foreign country for a foreign investor might not be the same in their home country. Crimes are committed all over the world relating to business, and Thailand should not be singled out for such an issue. However, as this is an article about what can happen, I can say that I have seen reports of Human Resource Managers being shot in the head simply for dismissing the wrong employee and I am sure many readers have seen reports across a wide spectrum of business issues of violence. This is such a global issue in many respects, but in times of stress, personal threats can be made to a party, simply to undermine their negotiating position, make them feel uncomfortable contemplating dispute, and can be a very nasty card to throw on the table in the event of a dispute. What is the solution – well, there is no clear solution, but here are some tips:

research in written form, the business experiences of others with your joint venture partner. What was their experience during an exit. If your potential joint venture partner is very secretive about the nature of a previous split, this may be a clue to an issue. Hindsight can be unfortunately revealing but useless.

research the temperament of your joint venture partners when things go wrong. Try some test scenarios in a low value investment, and see what happens to establish whether you would be prepared to make a larger investment.

Establish a base of support in Thailand, away from the central business you have invested in. This can be difficult, if the joint venture requires a lot of your time and efforts. However, ensure that your connections; your base of business friendships and other friendships, go beyond your main business venture partners. This can often serve as a warning to a business partner resorting to underhand tactics, that they are under scrutiny, and others are observing their behavior which may affect their own future in business.

Positive conclusions

This is a rare article in which I have focused on some quite negative aspects of joint venturing, and I generally keep a very positive view about investment in Thailand. The real estate, hospitality and leisure industries have lots of amazing people working within them, Thai and foreign, and the majority of business is clearly successful, as reflected in the continued growth of the economy, and the continuing waves of foreign investors all seeking to share a part of Thailand's

success. Within such an environment, I simply believe that caution should be exercised to the degree that listening to other's more negative experiences, can help you steer a path to successful joint venturing and investment.

I have avoided focusing on the documents required to assist make a joint venture successful, because every good lawyer should have a list of these permanently emblazoned in their mind, but more commercially minded lawyers will be aware of the broader range of issues affecting or potentially affecting a joint venture arrangement. In real estate, try to control the assets, prevent them from being sold or damaged, ensure they are presented through marketing channels in the correct and cost efficient way, manage your cash flows, revenues and profit distribution through internationally accepted accounting principles. The check list is almost but not quite endless of protective measures that could be taken to ensure better equality, more fairness, and non-abuse of power in joint venture arrangements.

About the Author:

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Bank Account Warning

February 23, 2013

Categories: Signs and Billboards



The sign reads: Being hired as a proxy to open a bank account or if you allow other people to use your bank account is illegal and punishable if your account is used illegally. With good wishes from the Royal Police Bureau

Yingluck and Judy

February 23, 2013
Categories: Elections



This is a closeup of a small sticker affixed to taxis and vendor carts in Bangkok for the governor elections. It reads: Please take Pongsapas Pongcharoen to serve the Bangkokians – Please vote for No. 9 – On No. 9: Pheu Thai party

est Cola Knocks Pepsi off the shelves in Thailand

February 23, 2013

Categories: Food and Drink

[Pepsi suddenly scarce in Thailand after bottler breakup](#) – Reuters, February 23, 2013

...The two companies had a non-compete clause that expired when their contract ended on November 1. Pepsi has similar non-compete clauses with bottlers in other markets such as China, but the decision backfired in Thailand.

The following day, est hit the market, costing about the same as Pepsi and sold in the same bottles, with a red, white and blue logo reminiscent of Pepsi's. Pepsi declined to comment on whether it was pursuing any trademark violation claim...

Tesco launches online grocery store in Thailand in March

February 24, 2013

Categories: Business

[Thai web store is next pin on Tesco's world map](#) – independent.co.uk, February 24, 2013

...Thailand is one of Tesco's most significant overseas markets. It opened Tesco Lotus in 1998 and now has 1,257 stores in the country, generating annual revenue of more than £3bn...

Mr. Sukhumbahnd or the Pig

February 25, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



13/02/56

From Manager, February 13, 2013

Left: Pig: Please vote for me...

Caption: Starting out as a polite Moo

Right: Pig: Asking me this question is so damn insulting... Don't you insult me because I'm the Democrat guy.

Caption: Ending up being despicable Moo

More Pheu Thai Bangkok Governor Posters

February 25, 2013
Categories: Elections



Coordination center for Bangkok gubernatorial election – Pheu Thai Party



Having a strategy to build the future of Bangkok and incorporate with the government seamlessly – Pol. Gen. Pongsapat Pongcharoen – No. 9 Pheu Thai Party

Elder Energy – Suggest Policies

February 25, 2013

Categories: Elections



Please suggest a policy for the Bangkok governor to do on facebook.com/ElderEnergy. Don't need to drill canals. Only provide a new better place for canal-side slum residents, then the canals will be clearance. Elder Energy Group – facebook.com/ElderEnergy
People (left-right): Pramote Maiklad, former irrigation chief who played an important role during the Bangkok flood of 2011, Teerarat Chuamnat from Sorso Asa school for homeless children, Dr. Krisana Kraisintu who was given the Ramon Magsaysay Award and Professor Rapee Sagarik, former Dean of Kasetsart University and former Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

Red Shirts and Yingluck release the prisoners!

February 25, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, February 4, 2013

Cartoon title: Joining hands: first to arrive, first to lend a helping hand

On suit of man on the left: Ukris

On blouse of woman on the left: Jan 29

On shirt of woman on the right, Thida, head of the Red Shirts: UDD

On ladders from left: Amnesty Act; Constitution Amendment; Amnesty; Amnesty Act

On the wall: Political prisoners

Phi Nooring: Unity is power.

Man mouse: Bring brothers and sisters out of jails.

Yingluck Striptease

February 25, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



25/02/56

From Manager, February 25, 2013

On the backdrop: Stripteasing against the energy crisis

Host: She took off one piece now... and about to keep taking off piece by piece. Keep your eyes on her best trick from the last piece

Caption: Maybe this is how far her brain can work out.

Cameras Watching for Safety

February 26, 2013

Categories: Elections, Security



The sign reads: Did it... and will continue to do it.

Did: Installed 24,000 CCTV cameras

Will continue to do: Install more 27,000 CCTV cameras and lights in every roads and soi

Vote Mr. Sukhumbhand Paribatra No.16 – Democrat Party

Hun Sen Warns Thais May Use Force Over Preah Vihear

February 26, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Hun Sen Warns Thais May Use Force Over Preah Vihear](#) – cambodiadaily.com, February 25, 2013

Prime Minister Hun Sen warned on Friday that he feared Thailand would deploy armed forces if the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague issues a judgment in favor of Cambodia over the disputed Preah Vihear temple...

Police taking care of Kamnan Poh

February 26, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



07/02/56

From Manager, February 7, 2013

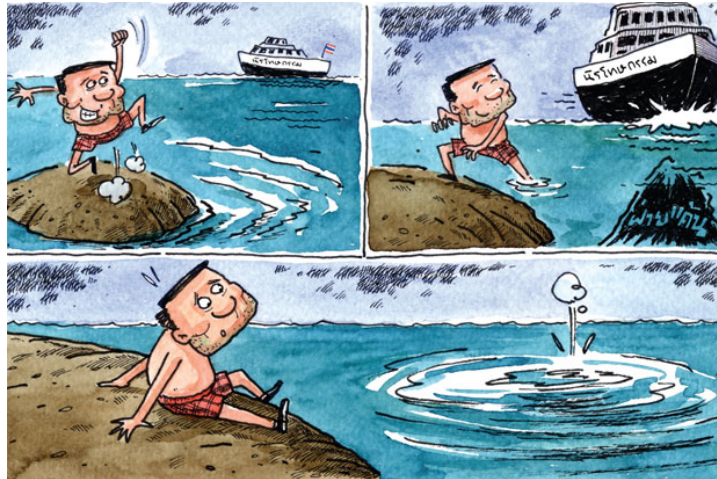
Caption: This is just a rehearsal of the correctional officers.

Correctional officer: Learn how to nurture Sir Poh well... When it's time to nurture Sir Thaksin, our service must be 100% perfect.

To Thaksin's Rescue

February 27, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Post Today, February 10, 2013

On the boat: Amnesty

Black rock under the sea: Revenge group

The man is former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra

We Are More Ethical!

February 27, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, February 10, 2013

Caption: Clearly shown and open

A man mouse: Anti-corruption

Mouse man Phi Nooring: Management with transparency

On the man in the center: Transport

His coat: (Left-right) Examine, moral, ethics, project, invest and public sector

Men: (Left-right) Anti-Corruption Network (ACN), observer, private sector and government officer

Being Thaksin's lackey

February 27, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, February 8, 2013

Left: I am a Docteur en Droit from France... I had been honored by being appointed president of the National Legislature Assembly at different periods for almost ten times... And at the age of 79, I received the highest honor of a lifetime.

Reporter: What is it, sir?

Right: Dr. Ukris: Being Thaksin's lackey.

Caption: The highest honor of Dr. Ukris

Elder Energy – We won't let our knowledge and experience die with us

February 27, 2013

Categories: Elections



We won't let our knowledge and experience die with us. Elder Energy Group – Follow their potentiality on facebook.com/ElderEnergy

Thais use cars incorrectly.

February 27, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, February 10, 2013

The title reads: Thais use cars incorrectly.

Top left: Use a pickup car to withdraw money from ATM.

Top middle: Use ASTV media group's cars as a shooting target.

Top right: Use a police car and uniform to smuggle.

Bottom left: Use a car to ask for food.

Bottom middle: Use a free public bus to attract public votes.

Bottom right: Use a car to promote the Prime Minister as a mother of fortune.

Yingluck and Judy in the Ruins

February 28, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Naewna, February 21, 2013

Title: Soldiers die? It happens like an everyday life. So, we'd better come and vote an electric pole for the new Bangkok governor...

On the smoke: Anger, insurgency in the three southernmost provinces, southern border

Gutted and Crapping

February 28, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Naewna, February 6, 2013

Foreign Minister Surapong Towichakchaikul: Want Cambodia to withdraw the Prear Vihear case? Hun Sen will never do it...

On Surapong's pants: Cambodia's lackey

Caption: He was gutted out, nothing left but shit in his pants...

At bottom right: Thank you Khun Jet for the idea .

Cabinet Posts in Dubai

February 28, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, February 8, 2013

Left: Prime Minister: I would like to inform you that it is time for a new cabinet reshuffle again.

Middle: Prime Minister: Aao! ...the meeting isn't finished yet. Where is everybody going?

Right: Cabinet members: We have to be hurry to fly to Dubai or we will be later than others.

(Sent by Dr.Somchan from Ubon Ratchathani)]

Seamless = No Conflicts

February 28, 2013
Categories: Elections



The poster reads: Working with the Government seamlessly – Seamless = no conflicts – Pol. Gen. Dr. Pongsapas Pongcharoen – No. 9, Pheu Thai Party

Jatuporn Promphan as deputy Bangkok Governor???

February 28, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager, Elections



28/02/56

From Manager, February 28, 2013

Thaksin Shinawatra says: Besides being amazed that I can turn a power pole into a Bangkok governor... They're going to be even more amazed when they see the deputy governor I prepare for them.

Meteors Coming for No. 9

February 28, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, February 17, 2013

Cartoon title: Meteor storm bombarding Bangkok

On meteors from top: a movement to destroy; evil tricks; defamations

Man with No. 9 jacket is Pol. Gen. Pongsapas Pongcharoen, candidate for the Bangkok governor election from the Pheu Thai Party.

Phi Nooring: Mar. 3, 2013, voting for the Bangkok governor

Man mouse: Disasters from the Dem.

And the rest...

February 28, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



Clean, Convenient, Comfortable, Serene
Please vote for No. 7 as the Bangkok governor
Nattadanai (former president of Saksit Alloy)
I can do it if I'm allowed.
March 3, 2013



The Thai Phophiang Party is the "self-sufficiency economy"
Grassroots people and the middle class, way to peace of Thailand
I've been fighting for the poor and those who're struggling for 25 years.
Ajarn Jamras Inthuman, leader of the Thai Phophiang Party, No. 15
Good, tell forward
We're smarter, vote for the self-sufficiency governor
No floods, no traffic jams, self-sufficiency economy
Waive both debts in the system and loan sharks, etc.