

Indonesian truck tipping over?

March 2, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Indonesian](#)

[truck tipping over?](#) – neatorama, March 2, 2006

Top 20 Thai Rak Thai party-list candidates

March 2, 2006

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Top](#)

[20 Thai Rak Thai party-list candidates](#) – *The*

Nation, March 2, 2006

The top 20 candidates on the Thai Rak Thai's party-list are:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>1 Thaksin Shinawatra</i> | <i>11 Yaowapha Wongsawat</i> |
| <i>2 Suriya Jungrungreangkit</i> | <i>12 Thamarak Isarangura</i> |
| <i>3 Sudarat Keyuraphan</i> | <i>13 Somsak Thepsuthin</i> |
| <i>4 Somkid Jatusripitak</i> | <i>14 Sonthaya Kunplume</i> |
| <i>5 Bhokin Bhalakula</i> | <i>15 Yongyuth Tiypairat</i> |
| <i>6 Suwat Liptapanlop</i> | <i>16 Somchai Sunthornwat</i> |
| <i>7 Pinij Jarusombat</i> | <i>17 Chaturon Chaisang</i> |
| <i>8 Pongthep Thepkanchana</i> | <i>18 Adisai Potharamic</i> |
| <i>9 Sora-at Klinpratoom</i> | <i>19 Promin Lertsuridej</i> |
| <i>10 Wan Muhamad Noor Matha</i> | <i>20 Phumtham Vej Jayachai</i> |

Thaksin's rally at Sanam Luang

March 3, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Almost like being there: Thaksin's
rally at Sanam Luang – March 3, 2006

[Back to the High tension in Thailand
main page](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



Left and above: Sudarat Keyuraphan, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives is swamped by autograph seekers

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above and below: Photo op – (?) Deputy
Government Spokesman Yuranan (Sam) Pamornmontri



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Left: (?)

Right: Preecha Laohapongchana, Deputy Minister of Commerce



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Left: Wissanu Krea-ngam, Deputy Prime Minister

Middle: (?)

Right: Pongsak Ruktapongpisal, Minister of Transport

Left: Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai,



Deputy Prime
Minister

Right: (?) Suwat Liptapanlop,
Deputy Prime
Minister

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



Left: Suriya Jungrungreangkit, Deputy Prime
Minister, Minister of Industry, seemed to be having a
very good
time.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Thousands of orange-vested motorcycle taxi drivers attended the rally.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

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to the [High tension in Thailand](#) main page

Reprocessed Combatant Status Review Tribunal (CSRT) and Administrative Review Board (ARB)

March 3, 2006

Categories: Thai Secret Prison

[Reprocessed](#)

[Combatant Status Review Tribunal \(CSRT\) and Administrative Review Board \(ARB\)](#) – U.S. Department of Defense,

March 3, 2006

These are documents that reveal in a roundabout way the identities and testimony of prisoners being held at [Guantanamo](#)

[Bay](#). We have been slowly looking them over to find any mention of Thailand...

Mass transit is a victim of its own terms of reference

March 3, 2006

Categories: Mass Transit

[Mass](#)

[transit is a victim of its own terms of reference](#) –

The Nation, March 3, 2006

...Ever since it was conceptualised, the project has drawn criticism, first for an over-ambitious 300-kilometre system and then over financing terms. On top of that the map was redrawn several times. The straw that broke the camel's back, however, seemed to be the proposal to trade Thai chicken, rice and shrimp for the heavy machinery and other investment.

Yet the biggest braking factor was conceivably the complicated nature of the terms of reference...

BIMSTEC's FTA-India, Thailand locked in battle over rules of origin (ROO)

March 3, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[BIMSTEC's FTA-India, Thailand locked in battle over rules of origin \(ROO\)](#) – *News From Bangladesh,*

March 3, 2006

Two big economies in BIMSTEC – India and Thailand – have become locked in a battle over the rules of origin (ROO) issue in talks on creating a free trade zone among member states, reports BSS...

Baht's strength will not endure forever

March 3, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Baht's strength will not endure forever](#) – IHT, March 3, 2006

...Another factor possibly fueling the baht's appreciation is Singapore-based Temasek Holdings shifting approximately US\$700 million for its tender offer of Shin Corp shares. Analysts have speculated that Temasek is transferring the money this week before the tender offer expires on March 9.

"It is hard to pin the baht strength on the Temasek deal, but there is capital inflow and I think this is more on regional factors," like the BoJ announcement and yuan speculation, said Usara Wilaipitch, senior economist at Standard Chartered (Thailand)...

Removing Advertisements

March 3, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News



Removing advertisements

– March 3, 2006

Two men on hanging swings remove giant advertising panels from the outside of Chartered Square Building in the Sathorn area.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Marching to Government House: What is on Thai TV now?

March 5, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

What is on Thai TV now?

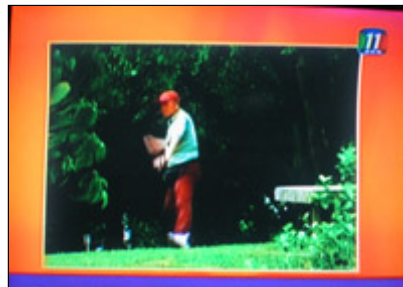
– 11:21 pm, March 5, 2006

Thai TV has been notorious for remaining silent when historic events are happening. Right now history is happening—a mob is marching on

Government House [with the intent to overthrow the Thaksin administration](#). What is Thai broadcast television showing?



Channel 9 – An MTV-style hip host talking about music videos



Channel 11 – A show explaining how tai chi is good for the elderly



MCOT – A show about when the Backstreet Boys performed in Bangkok



Channel 3 – From 11:10-11:19 only commercials (this is not unusual for Thai TV). At 11:20, a game show sponsored by "Hang Foreplay" drink



Channel 5 – Channel 5 has a brief live broadcast from the protest (the segment is called "Break News"). They then return to an infomercial for the Thai version of the Tiger Woods book, *How I Play Golf*.



Channel 7 – A celebrity talk show

[The March](#)
[5 anti-Thaksin rally](#)

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Selling ads to raise money-again

March 5, 2006

Selling ads to raise money-again

– March 5, 2006

We noted a press release about a Thai version of the "sell tiny blocks for ads to make money" scheme ([Thai Student Entrepreneur Launches \\$10 Million Homepage to Pay For Family Debt](#), March 5, PR Web). It is funny to see the header note "All new idea – first and original" and "no bullxxxx." As the press release notes: "Find out more about Supadet Jitthamma and his wonderful business idea at <http://www.milliondollartoyou.com>."

Seven parties register 252 candidates

March 5, 2006

[Seven
parties register 252 candidates](#) –
The Nation, March 5, 2006

The March 5 anti-Thaksin rally

March 6, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

The March 5 anti-Thaksin rally

[Back to the](#)

[High tension in Thailand main page](#)

Returning to Sanam Luang –

12:30 am, March 6, 2006

The Nation reports: *A source from PAD says the alliance will remain at Government House until 2 am before returning to Sanam Luang.*

[Photos](#)
[of the March 5 anti-Thaksin rally](#)



(Source: Google Earth)

Where the action is –

12:27 am, March 6, 2006

Above is a Google Earth image of the Government House complex.

Protesters are gathered around the upper right corner of the site. In the lower left corner, just out of the photo, is the Southeast Asia headquarters of the United Nations.



(Source: ASTV)

Sondhi addresses the crowds –

12:11 am, March 6, 2006

In what appears to be a carefully planned series of events, Sondhi, standing on a specially prepared truck, addresses the crowds assembled outside of Government House.

[What is on Thai](#)

[TV now?](#) – 11:21 pm, March 5, 2006

Thai TV has been notorious for remaining silent when historic events are happening. Right now history is happening—a mob is marching on Government House with the intent to overthrow the Thaksin administration. [What is Thai broadcast television showing?](#)



(Source: ASTV)

Police in riot gear in front of Government House

– 11:07 pm, March 5, 2006

Rally moves to Phan Fa Bridge –

10:15pm, March 5, 2006

The Nation [reports](#)

10:15 pm: "Some 200 policemen armed with stunners and shields form barricades in the middle of the Pan Fah Bridge."



(Source: ASTV)

Rally at Democracy Monument

– 10:12pm, March 5, 2006

Marchers reach Democracy Monument. ASTV has live online coverage [here](#).



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

"Final" anti-Thaksin rally

– 21:15, March 5, 2006

Anti-Thaksin protesters gather in Sanam Luang in preparation

for a 10:00 march to Democracy Monument and later to Government

House.

Above right and left: Protesters ready themselves to march to Democracy Monument.

Below right: The media wait for the protesters to arrive.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

More on [High tension in Thailand](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

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Future extinction hotspots unveiled

March 6, 2006

[Future
extinction hotspots unveiled](#) –
Nature, March 6, 2006
And a [map](#)...

Thaksin's Burma blunder

March 6, 2006

Categories: Myanmar/Burma, The Thaksin Years

[Thaksin's Burma blunder](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, March 6, 2006

...he cynically urged Thailand's three opposition parties, led by the Democrat Party, which are to boycott the snap election called by Thaksin for April, to consult detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi on the imperative of participating in elections.

...Thaksin is a known friend of Burma's military regime. Since he came to power, Thaksin and his government have courted the regime by offering loans, improving border trade and sending numerous delegations to Rangoon. While other governments in the region—and worldwide— are piling on the criticism of the junta and championing speedy change in Burma, Thaksin is seen defending the generals, investing in the country and promising piecemeal progress...

Thai army to introduce ‘third category’ for transsexuals

March 6, 2006

Categories: Local Beliefs

[Thai army to introduce ‘third category’ for transsexuals](#) –

AFP, March, 2006

Sugar prices allowed to rise after 22 long years

March 7, 2006

Categories: Food and Drink

[Sugar prices allowed to rise after 22 long years](#) –

IHT, March 7, 2006

Perpetual emails

March 7, 2006

Categories: 2004 Tsunami



Perpetual emails – March 7, 2006

We are still receiving this emails (right) about a little girl who cannot find her parents. This will probably [go on forever](#).

The Gutting of iTV

March 7, 2006

Categories: The Thaksin Years



Leave the space by Buncha/Kamin – *Manager*, December 14, 2006

Man: Sad news in the morning... Ho.

From the lady, sounds of crying.

Bottom right: Fans of iTV news this morning may have to hold back tears.

iTV survives for now – March 7, 2007

It has been a seesaw ride for iTV and the press have been trying to keep up. *The Nation* even pre-reported the closure as if it already happened...

[STATION OFF THE AIR – iTV's last hope hinges on court](#) – *The Nation*, March 7, 2007

...The embattled iTV station went off air immediately after midnight last night pending the Council of State's interpretation as to whether the Public Relations Department (PRD) can take over and operate the station, which has failed to pay more than Bt100 billion in debts to the PM's Office...

And a flurry of conflicting headlines in the foreign press—is the government seizing it, stopping it or running it?

[Thai government to seize private TV channel](#) – CNN, March 6, 2007

[Thai govt agency to run ITV til new operator found](#) – Reuters, March 5, 2007

[Thai govt to stop iTV broadcast at midnight](#) – Bernama, March 6, 2007

[Thai govt to temporarily take over private TV station](#) – TODAYonline, March 6, 2007

[iTV website](#)

What iTV once was – December 16, 2006

With restored concession fees threatening to sink iTV, there is not much in the English-language press about the significance of the station. Even the [The Nation's chronology of iTV](#) principally covers events from the Thaksin era.

After iTV was created in 1995 to be an independent source of news in the broadcast media world, it became the talk of the town for its investigative journalism of sensitive subjects such as exposing the [Naga fireballs](#) and the [gem scam](#), using hidden camera to show policeman taking bribes from motorists, and highlighting the sexual exploits of famous monks. Nothing like this had ever been shown on Thai TV before.

Incisive newscasting on TV broke Thai norms. Print media is open to all manner of sensational reporting, but television is considered as an overly influential medium and is usually under the yoke of military or government influence. The vapid soap operas of Thai TV that typically reinforce traditional forms of interaction and expression are part of this idea that TV should be a pacifying and not a controversial medium.

iTV always lost money and even during the Democrat-led government era, iTV was accused of colluding with the government to circumvent concession fees.

It is not surprising that Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai, which attempted to bring all aspects of the Thai state under its control, would see iTV as another media outlet to be targeted for absorption or closure. The rest of the Thai word also wanted this pesky news outlet humbled. Its open exposure and ridicule of officials through its hidden camera reports struck at the heart of Thai concepts of "face" that one is supposed to maintain, whether doing right or wrong.

[Taming the media](#) – Asiaweek, February 16, 2001

...The ITV controversy, which started with Thepchai's ouster, blew open on Jan. 12 when 20 of his former colleagues at the station, led by managing editor Jira Hongsamrerng, went public with charges that pressure had been applied on them to do stories favorable to Thai Rak Thai and Thaksin's Shin Corp. business empire. "There was so much intervention by the executives, so much political interference," says Jira. After the whistle-blowing, Jira was called in for a meeting with his bosses. "They told me I had a problem, because what I had done was to the detriment of ITV. They said I was wrong to tell the public. And there on the table was the resignation form. I was forced to resign."

Similar allegations have been forthcoming from another television station, Channel 3. Popular TV commentator Kasemsant Weerakun recently announced that he and his news team had quit the station following pressure to toe the Thai Rak Thai line. "Almost every morning, my staff would get calls saying, don't say anything negative about Thai Rak Thai and Thaksin," he charges...



Poojadkuan, December 14, 2006

Above: iTV changes the type of news it reports. Now it will present only sad news.

U.S., Malaysia to Launch Free-Trade Talks

March 8, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[U.S., Malaysia to Launch Free-Trade Talks](#) – AP, March 8, 2006

Now that the U.S./Thai FTA is stalled: ...*The agreement will be announced publicly later in the day by U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman and his Malaysian counterpart, Rafidah Aziz, according to a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the announcement had not yet been made...*

U.S. State Department's 2005 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices

March 8, 2006

Categories: Human Rights

U.S.

State Department's 2005 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices

– March 8, 2006

In past years Prime Minister Thaksin has reacted vigorously to these reports. This year's [report on Thailand](#):

- * arbitrary and unlawful killings by both security force personnel and insurgents as well as deaths in police custody*
- * torture and excessive use of force by police*
- * poor conditions in some prisons and immigrant detention facilities*
- * arbitrary arrest and prolonged detention without charge*
- * impunity for human rights abusers*
- * intimidation of the press leading to self-censorship*
- * widespread corruption*
- * violence and discrimination against women trafficking in persons*
- * discrimination against hill tribes and other minorities*
- * inadequate protection of worker rights*
- * forced labor and child labor*
- * mistreatment of foreign migrant workers*

Bangkok set to be user-friendly city for women

March 8, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok set to be user-friendly city for women](#) –

TNA, March 8, 2006

How to make a bike that goes on train rails

March 8, 2006

[How
to make a bike that goes on train rails](#) –
March 8, 2006

iTV to blare its news in elevators, mass transit stations

March 8, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[iTV](#)

[to blare its news in elevators, mass transit stations](#)

– *The Nation*, March 8, 2006

Love it or hate it, Bangkokians will find it harder to avoid watching iTV from now on. The channel yesterday announced it had made a deal with five partners that would air its news service in public places...

"From your home, while riding the BTS and subway, or going up in elevators, or when you go shopping, you won't be missing important news," said Songsak Premasuk, iTV's managing director...

High tension in Thailand – March 9-20, 2006

March 9, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

High tension in Thailand: March 9-20, 2006

[Back to the High tension in Thailand main page](#)

Is the end really near? – March 20, 2006

The Thai press has been telling its readers over the past few weeks that Prime Minister Thaksin will be stepping down any day now, but it has become increasingly clear Thaksin will not budge and is deftly responding to public expectations.

Thaksin has been raising public hopes he might step down at times when anti-Thaksin sentiment is high—and then shortly afterwards he clarifies the statement to indicate he will not step down. This cycle has been repeated many times over the last three weeks and has effectively kept pro- and anti-Thaksin forces, as well as other institutions that might mitigate the crisis, at bay. This is also an effective way of keeping Thaksin's internal enemies off balance.

The slow, gradual way the pro-Thaksin farmers were brought into town follows this tactic as well. First the movement of the farmers raised tensions that a showdown was on the way. Then it was announced they would be staying outside of town. Then they were on the move again [finally ending up in Chatuchak Park](#). In between these movements were various pronouncements, just at times fears were highest, that the sides would not be allowed to clash.

Ultimately, maneuvering the protesters into Bangkok in an opposing venue shows Thaksin is serious in contending he will not allow "the mob" (as a Thai press puts it) to force him out of office. (The appearance of a pro-Thaksin group also plays well in the foreign press which almost universally has a simplistic reading of Thai political events based on Western models.)

This adept use of information and public opinion is in keeping with Thaksin's skill in public opinion and indicates, despite continual assertions in the press (at least in the Thai-language press and *The Nation*), that Thaksin fully intends to stay. It is likely that internal dissension with Thai Rak Thai party is lessened now that Thaksin has shown he will not bow to traditional political norms and allow a Bangkok-based "elite" to declare he has lost the legitimacy to rule.

The fact that we are halfway through March and Thaksin is still in power is a testament to his skills and is probably making the opposition—particularly the political bigwigs who broke with Thaksin—feeling a bit desperate.

This means that the desire for and reaction to untoward or violent incidents would be high. Both sides will have to choose their moves carefully as the line between success and failure is very fine. A likely upcoming event could be the postponement of the election (hints of this have been trickling out for several weeks), but this would still allow Thaksin to hang on as P.M.

[Beyond the business of politics](#) – Chang Noi, March 20, 2006

...Private business-owners account for only 3 percent of Thailand's working population, but they occupy about 70 to 80 percent of the seats in parliament.

Over-representation of one group — especially on such a staggering scale — means under-representation of everybody else. Only 2 percent of MPs claim to be farmers, and none is truly representative of the small farmers who are the single largest segment of the population. Only a couple of MPs are representative of the small-scale family businesses and others in the urban informal sector who are the second largest population group. There's not one from the private business employees who are the third largest.

[RP and Thailand – different systems, different outcomes?](#) – Manila Bulletin, March 18, 2006

...As a consistent proponent for meaningful reform through Charter change, it is my belief that Thailand will probably have an easier time than the Philippines in overcoming each other's political crisis. Compared to our presidential form of government, Thailand's parliamentary system offers a non-violent, legal, and constitutional alternative: The "confidence or no-confidence" vote, to effect regime change without the need for police-military intervention. The Philippine system, in contrast, may lead to the fragmentation of our armed services, the adoption of extra-legal measures, and the eventuality of bloody civil strife.

Within six months, Thailand could again be "up and away," while the Philippines may still be stuck in stalemate up to 2010 and even beyond.

[Thailand protests put Asia's democratic ideal at crossroads](#) – Sydney Morning Herald, March 17, 2006
"Thaksin aok bai." What happens then is an open question. Amid the clamour, concerns are quietly being raised on whether Thailand's new protest movement could be throwing the baby out with the bathwater in its unwavering desire to unseat the Prime Minister.

"I am very concerned; this is unprecedented," said Thitinan Pongsudhirak, who teaches political science at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. "This has the potential to undermine Thailand ... We have had mass movements in 1973 and 1992. But this is a democratically elected prime minister who remains popular..."

[Bangkok and Caracas: A comparative analysis](#) – axisoflogic.com, March 15, 2006

...The result is an eye opener for Doubting Thomas' who refuse to believe that the US is meddling in the internal affairs of many emerging nations with recent examples being the Ukraine, Georgia, Haiti, Venezuela and now Thailand.

Update: Bangkok Pundit writes: *I am not sure whether that Axis of Logic website is just political satire. See [Does Google News Have a Sense of Humor?](#)*

Another ad from Thai Rak Thai – March 18, 2006

An ad from TRT in *Komchadluek* and *Krungtepturakit* – The headline says: Forward to reform of Thai politics

A contract with the people: "If I do not get half of the vote I will not be prime minister." One year and three months then immediate dissolution. When there is a new constitution, new role open to the neutral person to investigate the work transparency... Believe and respect in the decision of the nation for the future.

1. Forward to reform Thai politics to rectify the nation's problems.
2. Forward to find a neutral person. After one year and three months there was dissolution and later there will be a new constitution and new rules.
3. Forward to administer with transparency and ability to be investigated. Any project of over 100 million baht, the media will be invited to be on a committee to oversee it.
4. Unite on April 2 to vote at the general election with the heart of love for the nation and democracy.

Earlier: [Ad from Thai Rak Thai](#) – March 10, 2006

[Thaksin seeing a turning of the tide on the airwaves](#) – The Nation, March 15, 2006

...Yongyuth Tiypairat, the minister for Natural Resources and Environment and a staunch protege of Thaksin, last week blasted Channel 7, a television station owned by the Royal Thai Army, for interrupting a popular prime-time soap opera with a news update on the anti-Thaksin rally at Sanam Luang. He also faulted Channel 9, which is operated by the Mass Communications Organisation of Thailand, for airing an interview with a 10-year-old boy from Khon Kaen who has been a regular at the Sanam Luang rallies. With the exception of Channel 11, which is run by the Public Relations Department, all the free TV channels seem to have made extraordinary efforts by Thai broadcast journalism standards to cover the anti-Thaksin activities...

Earlier: [March 5 – What is on Thai TV now?](#) – [March 14 – What is on Thai TV now?](#)

[Many Thais weary of 'CEO Prime Minister'](#) – AP, March 16, 2006



(Photo: Jokey)



(Photo: Jokey)



(Photo: Jokey)



(Photo: Jokey)

Rally at Government House – March 15, 2006



"Pro-PM farmers" – March 16, 2006

We note that an [article](#) about pro-Thaksin farmers coming to Bangkok is accompanied by the largest photo we have ever seen on the TNA/MCOT site. The article further notes that anti-Thaksin protesters will demonstrate at "several up-country military bases."



(Photo: Mr. John for 2Bangkok.com)

Anti-government protests then and now – March 12, 2006

Mr. John writes: *Above is the atmosphere of the anti-Thaksin gathering organized near the Hadyai Railway Station where there are lots of people monitoring the live situation from Bangkok. This railway station has been the place to display political opinion from October 1973, Black May 1992 and nowadays...*



(Photo: Unknown)



(Source: *The Nation*)

The Nation glories over Thaksin's possible downfall – March 16, 2006

Above is an image from another one of the peculiar Flash intros *The Nation* website has been running during the recent protests. *The Nation* has special reason to rejoice over Thaksin's downfall—within months of coming to power *Nation* principals found themselves being investigated by a government money-laundering watchdog in what was seen as a government attempt to intimidate critics. To protect itself and highlight the situation, *The Nation* ran many unflattering headlines day after day including the giant block-capital headline "THAKSIN-GATE."

[Royal Hotel feels impact of political unrest](#) – *Bangkok Post*, March 15, 2006

... The hotel's average occupancy rate throughout the year is between 70% and 75%. The hotel projected that political rallies in the old city area during the past two weeks could bring down the occupancy rate by between 2% and 3%...

[Negotiation to replace embattled PM is on the way](#) – *The Nation*, March 14, 2006

Negotiation is taking place to ease political crisis with a change in the prime minister, a highly-placed

source said on Tuesday.

The negotiation is at a high level to find potential candidate to replace embattled caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The list includes Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai and Bokhin Palangkura.

[What is on Thai TV now?](#) – 7:54 am, March 14, 2006

[Tale of two cities in protest-hit Bangkok](#) – AFP, March 13, 2006

...The anti-Thaksin rallies have been confined to a part of the city rich in symbolism — near royal palaces, historic temples, and the Government House — but far from residential neighborhoods and the main commercial district.

That historic part of the city has no public transportation, with a tangle Bangkok's traffic separating it from the rest of the city, meaning most people only see the rallies on television...

[‘No time for neutrality’](#) – *The Nation*, March 13, 2006

...Speaking at a seminar yesterday titled "Human Rights Look at the Media, and the Media Look at Human Rights" held at Chulalongkorn University, Anand said both human rights advocates and media professionals must prioritise their search for truth and integrity.

"The media have to be confident with the truth they are going after. They cannot just try to stay neutral in the face of right and wrong. There is no neutrality between good and evil," he said...

[Thaksin's challengers have responsibilities, too](#) – *International Herald Tribune*, March 13, 2006

[HM's mediation of May 1992 bloodshed replayed on TV pool](#) – *The Nation*, March 12, 2006

..."You two should get together to talk it over how to restore the country. This is the reason why I have summoned you. Now we have to rebuild the country from shambles," the King said.

Thaksin on CNN – March 13, 2006



(Source: CNN)

CNN, still completely unable to add any insightful perspective or background to any Thai story they broadcast, had an interview with Thaksin on [TalkAsia](#), one of the most vacuous of CNN shows. The PM seemed a bit tired, but still feisty.

The transcript has not been posted yet, but here are some highlights: In answer to the question "who is showing up at the anti-Thaksin rallies?" Thaksin: Some are from two companies who oppose me, some recruited by politicians, some just want to see, some convinced by one sided arguments.

Mike Chinoy: You never met anyone from Tamasek to discuss it ?

Thaksin: No.

[Thaksin denies he plays to enter a live debate with opponents](#) – *The Nation*, March 11, 2006

Earlier: Debate set for March 24 – March 11, 2006

Off the newswire: *PNET has offered itself to be the monitor between PM Thaksin, Mr. Abhisit, and Mr. Sondhi during the debate on March 24.*

[Thai PM accuses critics of resorting to black magic](#) – INQ7.net, March 10, 2006

Embattled Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, a firm believer in astrology and the supernatural, conceded Friday that the stars have not been in his favor lately, but said his political enemies were taking it a step too far.

"They are using all kinds of means to try to destroy me, including black magic and the supernatural," he told a meeting of civil servants at Government House, the prime minister's offices. Without naming names,

Thaksin said his critics were using photographs and voodoo-like dolls to cast spells.

"But don't worry, I have talismans and various Buddha amulets with me to ward off their magic," he said...



Thaksin on Sorayuth's show – 23:00, March 10, 2005

PM Thaksin explains his positions on TRT-friendly [Sorayuth Sutassanajinda](#)'s television show.

How many demonstrators? – March 11, 2006

[700 march on Singapore embassy](#) – *Bangkok Post*, March 10, 2006

Hundreds of demonstrators marched on the Singapore embassy this morning to demand the reversal of a \$1.9 billion sale by the prime minister's family of a stake in Shin Corp to Temasek Holdings, an investment arm of the Singapore government...

[Thousands protest over Shin Corp deal outside Singapore embassy](#) – AFP, March 9, 2006

Thousands of Thais have demonstrated outside the Singaporean embassy, demanding a state-linked investment firm scrap the takeover of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's telecoms giant Shin Corp...

[Singapore says Shin deal purely a business matter](#) – *The Nation*, March 10, 2006

In spite of demands from **thousands** of protesters, a Singaporean envoy told their representatives that the government would not interfere in state-run Temasek Holdings' decision to take over Shin Corp, reasoning that the decision was purely business...

[Hundreds of protesters demonstrate at Singaporean Embassy in Bangkok](#) – TNA, March 9, 2006

...**About 500** protesters are rallying in front of the embassy, demanding a response from the embassy after they presented a letter of ultimatum to Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the Singapore Embassy on Tuesday to request cancellation of the deal between Shin Corp and Temasek, an investment arm of the Singapore government...

Thaksin's retort? – March 11, 2006

A measure of Thaksin's relative lack of strength can be seen in his reaction to the [latest U.S. human rights report on Thailand](#). In previous years, in a position of greater power, Thaksin struck back forcefully against negative claims with strongly worded retorts in response to local and foreign criticism.

For example:

[The accusation about a secret prison and criticism of Matichon](#) – November 8 2005

[Thaksin is upset and cries out that the media are dishonoring the government by quoting World Bank statistics that Thailand is getting more corrupt](#) – *Matichon*, May 12, 2005

[A tale of two newspapers: US 'error'](#) – March 25, 2004

While many condemned his swagger, unusual for a Thai leader on the international stage, others felt it signaled a new independent-minded Thailand. Thaksin's quick, straight-spoken retorts to overseas comments on "Thai affairs" became one of his trademarks and recalled the tactics of Malaysia's Mahathir.

This month, the [human rights criticism](#) of Thailand is some of the toughest yet, but Thaksin, under extreme pressure to resign, is in not in a position to offer any forceful comments. The response is a traditional statement from the Foreign Ministry saying they are [disappointed](#).



Above: *Komchadluek* – Someone stirs up the hot situation – Bombs Pa's house – Audacious in the daytime – Police kiosk and car are damaged

Below: *Daily News* – Bomb in front of Pa Prem's house – Chaianand bombed also – Firecracker used to terrorize – Maew apologizes to Pa



[Bomb at stateman's residence unfavorable to government](#) – TNA, March 10, 2006

Blasts

[Firecrackers lobbed into Chai-anan's residence](#) – *The Nation*, March 9, 2006

[Bomb blasts at Gen Prem's residence](#) – *The Nation*, March 9, 2006

[Chamlong says bomb at Prem's residence same type with that at Santi Asoke](#) – *The Nation*, March 9, 2006

[Bombing incidents during anti-Thaksin Shinawatra movements](#) – *The Nation*, March 9, 2006

More on [High tension in Thailand](#)

Ad from Thai Rak Thai – March 10, 2006



Left: Thai Rak Thai's full page ad placed in many newspapers yesterday.

The headline says: Information from Thai Rak Thai – issue 1 – Hold on to Democracy, keep the rules, go on to reform Thai politics

The four major points discussed:

1. The important difference between the constitution of present and democratic constitutions of the past
2. Authority and reason to dissolve (parliament)
3. Creating political reform and the way of telling people not to vote
4. Trust and respect the decision of the people

As the *Bangkok Post* explained (March 8, 2006) ...*In the advertisement, Thai Rak Thai asked why parties such as the Democrats and Chart Thai fielded candidates in past elections under dictatorship regimes, but planned to field none in the upcoming election. "Will this lead people to understand the parties supported the dictatorship system in the past?" the advertisement reads...*



Thai email forwards – March 10, 2006

Left: "Subject: FW: Thaksin get out !!!!!!!!!!" Contains a series of graphics:

[zipped](#)

More [Thai emails forwards](#)

"Dragonstea Din Taksin" – March 10, 2006

Gigabyte points out this [Karaoke Thaksin](#).

[Back to the High tension in Thailand main page](#)

War on opium gives Golden Triangle a different hue

March 9, 2006

Categories: Drugs

[War](#)

[on opium gives Golden Triangle a different hue](#) –

Reuters, March 9, 2006

The mountains of northern Laos have changed color. In the past five years, the opium poppy fields that for the last two centuries lent splashes of color to the pervading green of the jungle have become a thing of the past...

Ranking of world's billionaires by Forbes

March 9, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Ranking
of world's billionaires by *Forbes*](#) –

breitbart, March 9, 2006

214. Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi, Thailand, 61, \$3.2, alcohol

292. Chaleo Yoovidhya, Thailand, 74, \$2.5, Red Bull

317. Dhanin Chearavanont and family, Thailand, 66, \$2.4, agriculture

Rat-squirrel back after 11-million-year absence

March 9, 2006

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Rat-squirrel back after 11-million-year absence](#) – CNN,
March 9, 2006

Sultan's School kids collect ring pulls to help Thai amputees

March 9, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Sultan's School kids collect ring pulls to help Thai amputees](#) –

Times of Oman, March 9, 2006

...The scheme involves collecting ring pulls from soft drinks cans and recycling them to extract the small amount of titanium which is used to manufacture these aids...

Do elephants run?

March 9, 2006

Categories: Uncategorized

[Do elephants run?](#) – March 9, 2006

Thailand's "northern border with China"

March 9, 2006

Thailand's "northern border with China"

– March 9, 2006

Don Entz notes the mention of Thailand's "northern border with China" in the *Asia Security Monitor* article:

Thailand has no border with China.

Thailand struggles with North Korean refugees – *Asia Security Monitor*, No. 155, March 1, 2006

February 19: Thai officials are now seeking to boost security on their country's northern border with China in an effort to block a steady stream of illegal North Korean immigrants. According to the Bangkok Post, after gaining entry most of the refugees surrender to local Thai police in hopes of being processed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and sent to South Korea. Since 2003, authorities in the Thai province of Chiang Rai have arrested 227 North Korean defectors, shipping 166 of the 227 to Seoul and keeping the rest under detention. According to police reports based on interviews with the detainees, most of them slipped into China before boarding Chinese cargo ships to take them along the Mekong River to Muang Mom across the river in Laos' Bokeo Province. Police have warned boat-owners that their vessels will be seized if they are caught aiding the defectors and workers on Chinese cargo ships could face imprisonment.

Odd turns of phrase from TNA

March 10, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Odd turns of phrase from TNA –

March 10, 2006

Nils points out these oddly humorous items from TNA:

1. [Government](#)

[plans lower death toll during Songkran Festival holiday.](#)

2. *...Those who have died will each receive Bt215,900,*

while those who have become physically disabled or mentally disordered

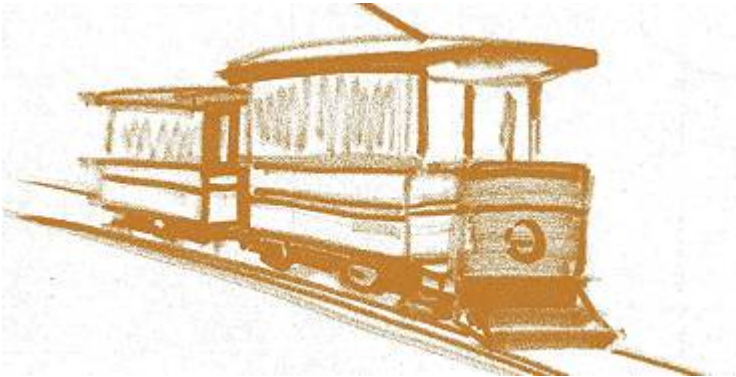
will each receive Bt1.45 million... ([Cabinet approves compensations for victims of 1973 student uprising](#)

– TNA, March 8, 2006)

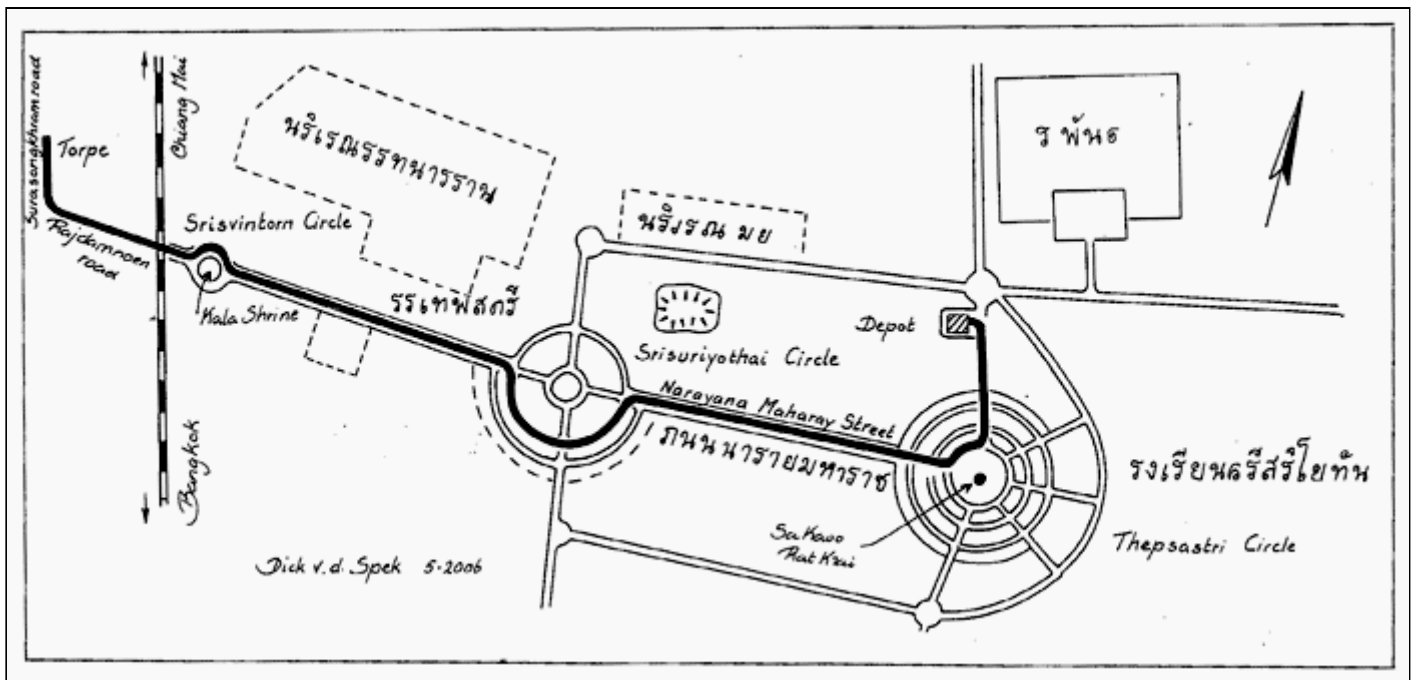
The Lopburi Trams

March 11, 2006

Categories: Trams



[Return to the Bangkok Tramways main page](#)



(Source: Dick van der Spek)

Lopburi tram map draft – May 24, 2006

Dick van der Spek writes: *Here is a small drawing from the Lopburi tramnet. I ask the forum members for corrections or/and additional information so that I can work out a Lopburi map in style of the others.*

[Other Thai historical transit maps](#). A thread on the subject is [here](#).



(Photo: Wally Higgins)

Past transit: Thai mass transit of the past – May 24, 2006
Lopburi tramway: 6 on reserved track – 1960.6.9



(Photo: Wally Higgins)



(Photo: Wally Higgins)

Past transit: Thai mass transit of the past – March 11, 2006
Lopburi tramway: 5 crossing the road in the distance, with tram warning-sign at left – 1960.6.9



(Photo: Wally Higgins)

Past transit: Thai mass transit of the past – May 20, 2006
Lopburi tramway: 3 on street in downtown Lopburi – 1960.6.9

[Return to the Bangkok Tramways main page](#)

The gallery of transport loss

March 11, 2006

[The
gallery of transport loss](#) – March
11, 2006

Thanks to Jack for pointing out this gallery of transport loss.

Tsunami watch cancelled

March 12, 2006

[Tsunami](#)

[watch cancelled](#) – *Bangkok Post*,

March 12, 2006

[Disaster](#)

[centre issue warning of possible tsunami by undersea volcano](#)

– *The Nation*, March 11, 2006

The National Disaster Warning Centre issued an urgent warning asking the people to monitor announcements from the centre constantly following 31 earthquakes under the Andaman Sea off Ranong's coast.

The centre issued an announcement on TV saying 31 earthquakes measured at 4.0 to 5.3 on Richter scale happened on the seabed about 400 to 600 kilometres west of Ranong's coast...

[Map](#)

[of the earthquake cluster](#)

UFO may have been a meteor

March 13, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[UFO](#)

[may have been a meteor](#) – Bangkok Post,

March 13, 2006

The sighting of what appeared to be an unidentified flying object (UFO) over Ayutthaya recently has left experts scratching their heads over exactly what it might have been. Morakot Areeya, head of Uttaradit's astronomy learning centre and the chairman of the People's Network for Elections (P-Net), said he saw a burning object speeding across the sky at about 6.20pm on March 4 in Ayutthaya's Nakhon Si Ayutthaya district...

Google Mars

March 13, 2006

[Google](#)
[Mars](#) – March 13, 2006

Oddball Guru

March 13, 2006



Oddball *Guru* –
March 13, 2006

Despite its stogy layout, *Guru* has plenty oddball content like the advice at the top right of a recent cover and info on using the f-word in rap songs. 2Bangkok.com has even received several emails from British DJs wondering how to get into the magazine. Too bad the magazine does not a website.

More coverage of the protests: What is on Thai TV now?

March 14, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

What is on Thai TV now? –

7:54 am, March 14, 2006

Until recently TV stations remained largely silent on the political protests against the government (for instance [coverage of the first march on government house](#)). On March 6, the army ordered its television station to begin covering the protests ([Army chief orders Channel 5 to cover anti-Thaksin protest](#) – *The Nation*, March 6, 2006). Especially this week Thai TV in general has been presenting more and more coverage of the government opposition activities. Some have interpreted this as a sign that the Prime Minister's influence over the broadcast media is waning. What is Thai broadcast television showing at 7:54 am?



Channel 9 – Protest coverage



Channel 11 – Protest coverage



iTV – Protest coverage



Channel 3 – 12 minutes of commercials, then coverage of the protest at 8:00 am



Channel 5 – Protest coverage



Channel 7 – Channel 7 inserted a live feed of the protest into its regular morning programming

Contrast this with the [coverage of the first march on government house](#)

[Back to the **High tension in Thailand** main page](#)

Troubles in the South – July 2006

March 15, 2006

Categories: The Thai Deep South

Troubles in the South – July 2006

[Troubles in the South index page](#)

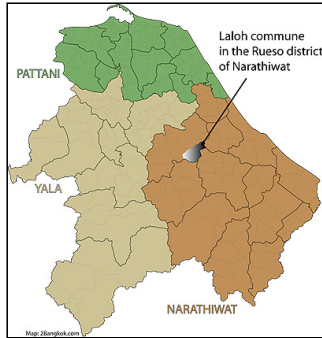


(Photo: Mr. John for 2Bangkok.com)

Shooting in Yala – July 6, 2006

Mr. John reports: *At Ban Kiyor, Mu 4, Thambon Purong, Amphur Krongpinang, Yala, officers investigated the place the assailants shot Mr. Karing Yama, employee of Urgent Work Project. He died while on his way to a garden.*





The exposure of Laloh commune in the red zone after school teacher shooting – translated and summarized from Thai Journalists Association, July 24, 2006

The shooting of Prasan Makchu, a school teacher at Ban Bueraeng school situated in Moo 1 of Laloh commune in the Rueso district of Narathiwat on 24 July was not the first crime against school teachers and other government officers working in the area. It is one of the most dangerous areas and has a high frequency of violence and crimes that have continuously occurred over the past two years.

On January 29, an armed band of at least 10 militants with AK and M16 rifles killed 2 navy personnel at Laloh railway station. For this crime, police detained 2 suspects for interrogation. On May 10, villagers held the two female school teachers, Juling Pongkunmul and her friend for bargaining with authorities. The incident finally ended in a tragedy that saddened the entire country. When the largest bomb crime in the south recently occurred, Laloh railway station was the targeted place. Fortunately there were no injuries.

Laloh has never been clear of violence and crimes during the past 2 years. In 2005 alone, a total of 10 crimes were committed. The crimes varied and included shooting attacks with guns or rifles by combatants on motorcycles. There were raids on an army unit located in the area of Ban Thai Suk temple, bombardments of government offices, bomb attacks on security forces, etc. These incidents caused damage to property and many deaths, not only to civilians but also government officers.

All these dangerous crimes committed in Laloh area are believed to be supported by a powerful member of the BRN (Barasi Revolusi Nasional) Coordinate group. He is reported by intelligence sources to be Usah, also known as Sofh Toh-Luenoh and Ustas Soh as per the police arrest warrant.

Ustas Soh has the position of regional chief and his responsibility covers Laloh commune, Rueso commune, Rueso district, Tammayong commune, Chengkiri commune and Srisakorn district, all in Narathiwat province. He is the direct commander of Permudor or The Youth for Pattani United divisions of BRN Coordinate.

Laloh needs to be carefully watched as it is one of the most dangerous areas in the list hazardous places and seemingly draws special attention as can be seen from the history of continuous violence and crimes.

[Four dead in Thailand after wave of attacks](#) – AP, August 3, 2006

[Thailand upgrades military communication to tackle southern unrest](#) – Bernama, July 28, 2006
Royal Thai Army Commander-in-Chief General Sonthi Boonyaratkalin ordered the military telecommunications system in the violence-plagued deep South to be improved, so as to increase the efficiency of the army's counter-insurgency operations...

[Peace stays far away in southern Thailand](#) – atimes, March 15, 2006

...Mahkota indicated that his group was willing to compromise. "Our initial goal was independence for Patani," he said. "But the world has changed and we are willing to discuss other solutions than a total breakaway. The main thing is to get the Thai authorities to the negotiating table..."

[Muslims of southern Thailand unclear over new Islamic party policy](#) – *Bernama*, July 10, 2006
The newly-formed Santiparp Thai (Peaceful Thailand) Party, which aims to be the voice of the Muslim community of southern Thailand, may have its work cut out for it...

[What the disappeared leave behind](#) – *Bangkok Post*, July 9, 2006

Southern Thailand 40 years ago – A different viewpoint from a foreign researcher – translated and summarized from the Thai Journalist's Association News, article by Supaporn Kanjanaweerao, July 16, 2006

It was almost 40 years ago that Professor M. Ladd Thomas of the University of Northern Illinois visited Thailand for 10 months. Thomas interviewed local villagers and administrators in 120 villages in Thailand's three southernmost provinces for his research submission to the National Research Council on "Malay Muslims and their attitude towards economic and social development."

Professor Thomas is now back in Thailand to update his research. Here is some information from his original research to allow us to compare the past and present of the region.

Thomas's pre-research preparation involved studying the Malay language for 3 months so that he could effectively interview ordinary local residents. He interviewed three or four families in each of 120 villages before finalizing his research conclusions.

Thomas's research showed that Southern Thai Muslims main concern was their local education system. The second most important issue for them was the state of local roads and infrastructure and the third was the local medical system. Thomas reported no violence during his research period. Most locals appeared to lead a peaceful life despite the nearby presence of forces of the Communism Party of Malaysia (CPM). The CPM was largely engaged in its struggle with the Malaysian authorities and rarely came into conflict with the Thai armed forces at that time.

Thomas noticed that the local Malay population detested government officials. These officials often referred to them as 'khaek'—a derogatory Thai term reserved for Indians and others who supposedly resembled Indians. Government officials often used this term for local villagers with no apparent thought that it might cause offense.

Thomas also discovered that none of the policemen working in the southern provinces were able to speak Malay despite it being the native language of the majority of the local population. He also found that none of the villagers he questioned could speak Thai—not even the village headmen. This greatly limited the communication between local residents and their administrators. The last resort for many villagers was the Kamnan who could sometimes speak Thai. Kamnans were usually the first contact when local residents wanted to communicate with the police. None of the questioned villagers reported receiving even the slightest satisfaction from visiting a police station.

Apart from the communication difficulties, there was another obstacle to the local relationship between policemen and villagers. It was also locally perceived that justice could only be obtained by those paying "private" fees to policemen. It was also perceived that there was no sincerity in the service provided by government officials. This was the original reason why local people were loath to inform government officials of their plight. Instead, they took such problems to their village headmen or local Islamic religious leaders.

The infrastructure in the southern region 40 years ago was not very well-developed and there were great difficulties traveling from place to place. Police would usually make only an annual visit to some villages and only the Deputy District Chief usually had a jeep to travel around his patch. Only a few low-ranking officials bothered to learn to speak Malay. Such officials soon found themselves able to socialize with local people and often voiced their appreciation of the generosity of the villagers to their visitors.

Muslim leaders disagree with NSC idea to close down "tadika" schools fearing further unrest may result – translated and summarized from *Krungtep Turakit*, July 19, 2006

The director of a ponoh and a prominent academic have recently voiced their disagreement with the National Security Council (NSC) plan to close down "tadika" schools in the three southernmost provinces with both critics saying they fear that local unrest might intensify as a result of this policy.

Abdulrohni Kahama, Secretary-General of Islamic Boarding Schools Association in the five southernmost provinces, says that the NSC's plan is not at all practical, as the local unrest will intensify if these schools are closed down. Many other organizations also disagree with the plan, as do the mosques in which a number of the tadika schools are based. Abdulrohni believes that the government's problem-solving strategies are not addressing the real issues behind the unrest. He points out that the tadika schools are now under the supervision of the Ministry of Education which theoretically makes it impossible to close them down. He also wants the government to stop thinking of tadika schools as places for insurgents to gather.

Ahmad Somboon Bualuang, a prominent academic and former National Reconciliation Committee member, recently described the NSC plan as ridiculous. He described how tadika school curricula are different from those of ordinary schools as they teach Islamic religious belief and practice. He noted that tadika schools are already carefully supervised by both their relevant Provincial Islamic Committee and the Ministry of Education, and warned that government closure of the schools could lead to a huge reduction in social prestige for local Islamic leaders. He felt that this might intensify the unrest in the region. He suggested that the government still had a lot to learn about the educational system in the deep south.

[Big Trouble In Thailand](#) – Yahoo, July 26, 2006

Global War On Terror: Thailand, the Land of Smiles, is close to becoming yet another front in the global war on terror. A bloody Islamic insurgency in the south has already left 1,400 dead. And al-Qaida may be fueling it...

Muslims seen as sympathetic to the government are also attacked. Earlier this month, a Muslim who was active in local politics was killed outside a mosque, apparently because he maintained friendly ties with the government. Such sectarian attacks mirror those seen in Iraq and Afghanistan...

Last year, authorities found a video of an al-Qaida training session among items seized at a school in Pattani. Some of the terrorists have attended al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan. They may have sanctuary across the border in northern Malaysia, with groups tied to Jemaah Islamiyah, an al-Qaida-linked terror group that blew up Western tourist spots in Bali in 2002 and 2005...

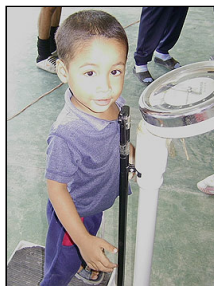
The U.S. must respond in kind. We must show unequivocal support for Bangkok in its efforts against becoming al-Qaida's next domino. More U.S. military aid and training should also be in order.

Much is at stake. Al-Qaida, which recently seized Somalia, already has its claws in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

If terrorists weaken Thailand's government, al-Qaida would have a major footprint in Southeast Asia. Does the world want that?

[Officials say international terrorists have no foothold in Thailand](#) – The Nation, July 27, 2006

[Army chief not yet 'officially' given authority to resolve southern unrest](#) – TNA, July 27, 2006



Health fair in Yala – July 30, 2006

Dr. Has reports: *Yala Municipality opens a health test and body efficiency fair. There are lots of people come to participate. Mr. Pongsak Yingchoncharoen was the chairperson of the opening ceremony.*

(Photo: Dr. Has
for
2Bangkok.com)



Giving scholarships – July 21, 2006

(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

Dr. Has reports: *On July 21, the Education Center Office, zone 1 of Yala organized a ceremony to give 60 education scholarships (above)–“Education Fund project of the 60th anniversary access to the throne.” The funds were donated by the Rotary Club of Yala and from Ajarn (professor) Au.*

Mr. Pakorn Nitcharankul, Governor of International Rotary, was the chairperson of the ceremony and deliver wheel chair for Kroo Jintana Tongpaen, Luemu teacher who was shot on February 3 and could not walk since then.



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

Tracing the strategies of bombers – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*, July 7, 2006
The southern unrest has intensified in terms of the types of bombs used by the insurgents. Army Commander-in-Chief General Sonthi Boonyaratklin has recently been assigned to tackle the southern unrest after the recent occurrence of fifty simultaneous bombings in the three southern border provinces. General Sonthi is reported to be concerned about bomb attacks that target the vehicles of government officials as they are hard to prevent and often cause serious injuries and extensive damage.

Police Major General Amporn Charuchinda, a bomb expert, has recently reported that most of the bombs used in the deep south are homemade–having been made from materials commonly used in the mining industry. He added that he has yet to detect high-grade military explosives being used by the region’s terrorists.

However, Amporn warned that most militants were usually capable of improving the quality of

their explosive devices in the long term. Amporn described how, as recently as 2004, militants had packed urea-based bombs into plastic food containers. These bombs were not as powerful as those made from dynamite, but were still capable of inflicting fatal injuries.

The bombers have more recently replaced urea with ammonium nitrate and have also begun packing their devices into metal containers. The newer bombs are, inevitably, more powerful than those made from urea.

Early in 2005, the terrorists began making far more powerful bombs from fire extinguishers. The blast of these bombs is sufficient to totally wreck road vehicles and railroad tracks. So far, the authorities have noted the use of 60 fire extinguisher bombs by the terrorists.

>From 2004 until August 2005, bombers were usually able to plant bombs with impunity in any area of the region they chose. The bombs were usually detonated by a call to an attached mobile phone or by command wire. The militants have changed their strategy since September 2005 as they now ambush the survivors of their bomb attacks.

The number of terrorist bomb attacks increased from 106 in 2004, to 273 in 2005. To date this year, 118 explosions have been reported.

Three arrested bombing suspects have confessed that some bombs have been imported from Malaysia while others are produced in Thailand. They also confessed that the aims of their attacks were to destroy people's confidence in the government, kill security and government personnel, intimidate local people and destroy the local economy. Their overarching aim was to intimidate Thai Buddhists into relocating out of the region.

Sonthi attempting to separate militants from innocents – Locals still fear arbitrary arrest – translated and summarized by *Komchadluek*, July 5, 2006

Caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra recently handed the Royal Thai Army Commander-in-Chief Sonthi Boonyaratklin a mandate to quell the current unrest in the deep south. General Sonthi recently traveled to Pattani Province to discuss the current problems in the southern border provinces. General Sonthi is insisting on the implementation of his policy of finding ways to separate militants from innocent local citizens.

Nimi Makaje, a former President of the Islamic Committee of Yala Province, recently urged the government to arrest only "known" militants and not those who are only suspected. It has been reported that some high-level government officials are still making arbitrary arrests.

RTAF joins hands with other armed forces to solve the southern insurgency – translated and summarized by *Phujatkan*, July 6, 2006

Air Chief Marshal Chalit Pukbhasuk, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF), recently informed the media about the service's support for efforts to solve the southern insurgency. Personnel from air force bases have been promptly pressed into service as reinforcements for ground forces in the south and even ground-support staff have been assigned to such duties.

The RTAF security base at Bo Thong has also been fully re-equipped. The Pattani base is used for intelligence-gathering, but is now taking on a new role as a center for the rapid and smooth deployment of reinforcements when difficult situations arise.

General Chalit also informed the media that, to ensure the smooth running of effective missions, most of the air force officers deployed in the region are originally from the south. These officers are also given longer term tours-of-duty than is common elsewhere in the country. Air force personnel in the region may also soon be awarded scholarships to study the Malay language if they show an interest. In the near future, RTAF may also provide scholarships for local young people to attend school.



(Photo: Mr. John for 2Bangkok.com)

Almost like being there: Marching against Thaksin in the South – July 14, 2006

Mr. John reports: *On July 14, the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) marched in Hat Yai, Songkhla Province with the banners reading "Southern people are not afraid of you, Ai Thaksin" and "Thaksin Get Out." They also ignited firecrackers. This political activity was being conducted when PAD marchers in Bangkok went to submit letters to six embassies to counter Thaksin's letter to U.S. President Bush. There were many persons from many organization coming to criticize the PM for a "lack of maturity" in writing the letter. PAD in Songkhla held the protest on the day of the anniversary of setting up the TRT party .*



(Photo: Mr. John for 2Bangkok.com)

Bomb tunnel – *The Nation*, July 5, 2005

A police investigates [a tunnel](#) that suspected militants had dug under a road in Yala's Bannang Sata district. A 10 kilogrames of explosives was placed inside the tunnel and set off Tuesday, hitting a patrolling security unit, injuring one soldier.

Interview with Supalak Kanchanakhundee – NRC does not fail, it just does nothing – translated and summarized from Prachatai.com, week of June 30, 2006

The National Reconciliation Commission (NRC) worked for fifteen months on a report entitled "Unite to Fight Violence." To date, the report has yet to be widely discussed despite being authored by fifty respected people from various fields.

Supalak Kanchanakhundee from *The Nation* has studied problems in the southern border provinces for ten years. He agrees with the way the NRC identifies problems caused by cultural diversities and identity in the south. However, their proposed solutions to the problems are insufficient. Supalak said that the administrative structure of the three southernmost provinces should be beefed up. He suggested the establishment of special administrative zones to solve problems resulting from a lack of identity within the Melayu Muslim community in the deep south.

The NRC did propose the establishment of a strategic peace building center. But Supalak believes the center will end up being just a center for government officials that does not really help solve problems in the region, as was the case with the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Center. Supalak said that the NRC did not study leading militants or major incidents such as Krue Se and Tak Bai. The NRC says it wants to negotiate with the militants, but Supalak wonders how the agency could communicate without knowing anything about them. The NRC cannot distinguish between the Pattani United Liberation Organization (PULO) and the Barisan Revolusi Nasional Melayu Pattani (BRN) and lacks understanding of the new generation of assailants. The NRC, in fact, considers the militants to be criminals and does not actually want to talk to them.

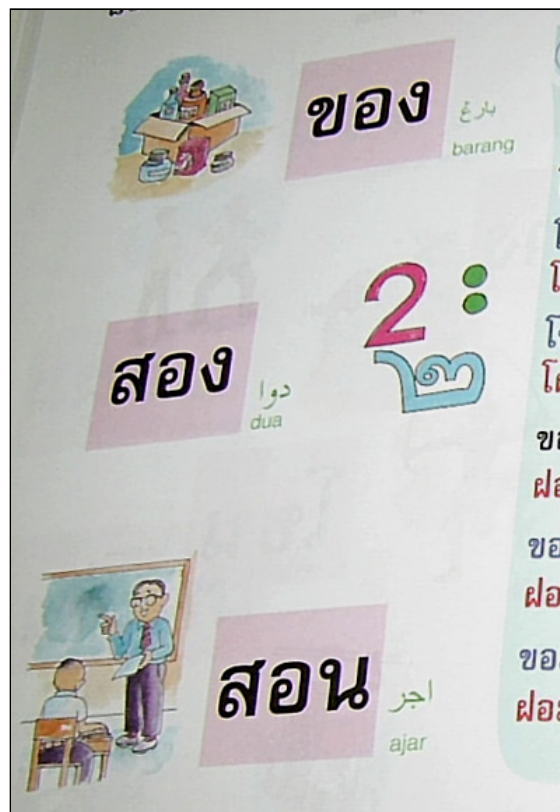
Agencies working on problems in the deep south should focus on the trust of the local people towards the government. Supalak said that the NRC does not build trust, but causes disagreements and suggests they should be sincere and transparent. The NRC also does not provide enough information to the public about problems in the southernmost provinces. Supalak further doubts the practicability of armed forces and feels they should be composed of people who know Islam, understand local people and can master the art of rhetoric. Supalak advised that certain proposed solutions should be implemented and one of which is making Melayu an official language in the provinces. But he still does not know what the government will actually do to ease problems in the region.



Textbooks with Yawi – July 15, 2006

Dr. Has reports: *The Quality Development Thai Language Study Project produced a basic Thai language development textbook which consists of two languages: Thai and Yawi in brackets. This is one of Education Ministries ways to develop Thai language in the southernmost provinces in order to improve the psychological barriers between Thai and Yawi-speaking people.*

(Photo: Dr. Has
for
2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

Monitoring the RKK group – Commits 6,000 crimes in one year – translated and summarized from *Matichon*, June 23, 2006

The name RKK has been mentioned many times during the southern unrest. Executive officials, including Commander-in-Chief Pol. Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin, Fourth Army regional commander Ongkorn Thongprasom, Region 9 Police Commander Adul Saengsingkaew, and Region 9 Police Deputy Commander Worapong Chiewpreecha, claim that those who commit crimes in the south are members of the RKK group.

After more than fifty crimes had occurred in the three southern border provinces during June 15 and 16, PM Thaksin Shinawatra said that the RKK group was behind the incidents.

What is the RKK exactly? Information from the intelligence unit shows that RKK stands for Runda Kumpulan Kecil, which is a small commando group...

It is believed that the RKK group dominates 500 villages in the three southern provinces with six RKK members in each. There are in total 3,000 RKK members ready to commit crimes in the three southernmost provinces. Groups of five to eight members are trained at a time in 10 to 60 days. It has been found that the trained groups are required to commit at least one crime every month. If all groups follow the target, 6,000 crimes will be committed annually.

Coincidentally, RKK is also the name of Indonesian specially trained fighters called Runda Kumpulan Kecil.

Senators and academics complain about government's handling of southern terror – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*, June 21, 2006

...Panithan (Professor Panithan Wattanayagorn of Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Political Science) went on to comment, "The current situation is gradually becoming more like a civil war. The recent occurrence of 50 bomb attacks in a single day indicates that the current security measures are ineffective. The government also claimed to know in advance the date on which these attacks would occur, but failed to take any kind of action". Panithan also complained that the southern crisis was still a major headache for the country, despite the unrest having been underway for over two years.

He continued, "The situation in Southern Thailand has been categorized as having the same root causes as the unrest in East Timor and Aceh. The south's proximity to these territories makes it almost certain that it shares the same terrorist ringleaders with them. Although many believe that the issue in Southern Thailand is not primarily a separatist one, it is inevitable that the

government's reaction to the continuing unrest will be closely observed by other nations." Delegates of the Islamic Organization Convention (IOC) have also recently complained about the government's handling of the problems in Thailand's three southernmost provinces. Other international organizations are starting to pay attention to the unrest in the south as they are concerned that the situation there might intensify to become even more severe than that which has occurred in Sri Lanka and Indonesia in recent years.



(Photo: Mr. John for 2Bangkok.com)

Almost like being there: Training – July 1, 2006

Mr. John reports: *Front-line officers from the Nation Police Office Operation Center, Yala train in commando techniques for rescuing hostage...*

[Troubles in the South index page](#)

Councillors ‘missing’ in Bangkok

March 15, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Councillors ‘missing’ in Bangkok](#) – *Gulf Daily*

News, March 15, 2006

Twenty municipal councillors have reportedly gone AWOL in Bangkok, Thailand, instead of returning to work in Bahrain. Twenty-five councillors went on an official visit to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, last week, but only five returned, a top municipal source told the GDN.

The rest booked tickets to Bangkok where they are on an unscheduled vacation – even though they were supposed to be back at work on Saturday...

Chinese bloggers stage hoax

March 15, 2006

[Chinese bloggers stage hoax](#) – Slashdot.org,
March 15, 2006

Hippo Eats Dwarf

March 17, 2006

Categories: Uncategorized

Hippo eats dwarf –

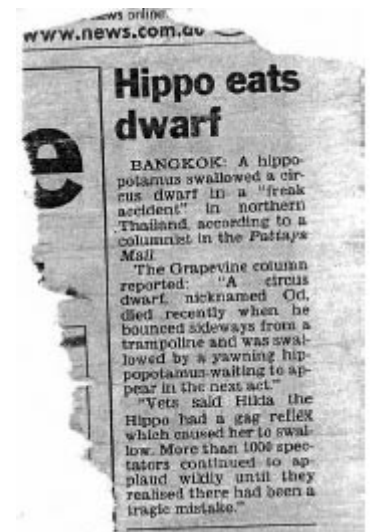
March 17, 2006

Thanks to Mark for pointing out "Hippo eats dwarf."

It is an old [urban](#)

[legend](#) that actually [appeared in the Pattaya Mail in 1999](#). It dates back at least to 1994 where it was apparently set in Austria. There is also a book

about urban legends entitled [Hippo Eats Dwarf](#).



Pro-Thaksin demonstrators at Chatuchak Park – Part 1

March 18, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Speeches being given in the Esarn dialect. The banners read: Caravan of the poor. P.M. Thaksin Shinawatra back to government house to solve the poverty problem.

Almost like being there: Pro-Thaksin demonstrators
at Chatuchak Park – March 18, 2006

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(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

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Pro-Thaksin demonstrators at Chatuchak Park – Part 2

March 18, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: The banner reads: Don't admit defeat.

Almost like being there: Pro-Thaksin demonstrators at Chatuchak Park – March 18, 2006

[Page one](#) – [Page two](#)
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(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: The banner reads: We want P.M. Thaksin for the 30 baht cure-every-disease project and the village fund.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above:
The banners read: "From Payao province"
and "P.M. fight fight."



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

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Pro-Thaksin demonstrators at Chatuchak Park – Part 3

March 18, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Almost like being there: Pro-Thaksin demonstrators
at Chatuchak Park – March 18, 2006

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(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above:

The name above the windshield: Thanongsak Sabchaloen. The green banner says: Stop hectoring (persecuting) Thaksin.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above, left and below:

The north end of the park has been cordoned off for an evening rally.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Left: The banner behind the main stage reads: People's stage – Please keep democracy – Go to vote in the General Election on April 2.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

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The March 5 anti-Thaksin rally

March 20, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

Photos of the March 5 anti-Thaksin rally

[Back to the](#)

[High tension in Thailand main page](#)



(Photo: Peter)



(Photo: Peter)



(Photo: Peter)



(Photo: Peter)



(Photo: Peter)



(Photo: Peter)



(Photo: Peter)



(Photo: Peter)

[Back](#)
to the [High tension in Thailand](#) main page

Gallery of overloaded vehicles

March 20, 2006

Categories: Uncategorized

[Gallery.](#)

[of overloaded vehicles](#) – ezprezzo.com,

March 20, 2006

Black and white Bangkok

March 21, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Black and white Bangkok –

March 21, 2006

Check out Steve's great gallery of black and white photos of Bangkok. There is a [low](#) and [high](#) bandwidth version.

A tale of two newspapers: Buying rice

March 21, 2006

Categories: A Tale of Two Newspapers

[Official calls report on deal to import rice from Thailand incorrect](#) – www.mehrnews.ir, June 26, 2006

There is no reason to import 800,000 tons of rice from Thailand to Iran and the reports suggesting such an agreement has been made are illogical, Deputy Commerce Minister Mohammad Sadeq Mofatteh said here on Monday.

The Bangkok Post's recent article in which this was reported is incorrect, Mofatteh stated.

The nation's total rice imports amount to only 650,000 tons per annum and over 350,000 tons have already entered the country since the Iranian New Year (March 21, 2006), he added.

[Iran agrees to Thai rice price](#) – Bangkok Post, June 26, 2006

Iran has agreed to buy 800,000 tonnes of 100% cent white rice from the Thai private sector this year.

Pranee Siripan, director of the Foreign Trade Departments Grain and Conformity Trade Bureau, did not provide details of the deal. Recently, Iran has been trying to drive a hard bargain with Thai sellers.

She said the rice price was not a problem as Iran is not facing financial difficulties.

Mrs Pranee said Iran has already imported 55-60 per cent of the total rice volume it agreed to purchase from Thailand in the first half of this year.

Mrs Pranee said Iranian importers have confidence in the quality of Thai rice and therefore have agreed to buy it more from Thai exporters despite the fact that the prices were higher than that produced by other countries, such as Vietnam. (via Thaisnews)

Destruction of the Phra Prom statue

March 22, 2006

Categories: Crime, Culture and Society



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Destruction of the Phra Prom statue –
March 22, 2006

[Much-revered](#)

[Phra Prom statue destroyed](#) – *The Nation*, March 21, 2006

A man described to be mentally-deranged hammered the most-revered Pra Prom or Brahmin creator god at the Hyatt Erawan Hotel and reduced it into pieces before he was lynched to death...

[Thai](#)

[Muslim killed after smashing Hindu statue](#) – *Reuters*,
March 21, 2006

[Thai government](#)

[orders quick restoration of Brahman statue](#) – *TNA*, March 21,
2006

...He said the restoration would be finished within two months by using as many former fragments of the damaged image as possible. Pending the completion of the restoration, the painted images of the Brahma will be posted on the four sides of the closed shrine for admirers to pay homage, instead of the image itself...

[Bangkok's primary](#)

[Hindu deity destroyed by mentally-ill man](#) – *TNA*, March 21, 2006

...The mentally-ill man used a hammer to shatter Bangkok's most

revered 'popular religion' image, a shrine which traditionally helped barren women have children, the unemployed find job, lovers to resolve their quandaries and those confronted by impossible burdens to find relief...

[Damage to shrine 'could hit tourism'](#) – *The Nation*, March 22, 2006

The damage inflicted on the much-revered Brahman shrine at Rajprasong intersection could lead to the loss of at least one million tourists a year; as the statue has been a major attraction, drawing worshippers from around the world, according to Prakrit Shinamourpong, vice president of Thai Hotels Association...

[Revered Brahma image returns to Erawan Shrine](#)

– *TNA*, May 19, 2006

...Restoring the sacred image and objects of adoration after the statue was destroyed by a mentally-ill man in March, caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra will preside at the ceremonies at 11:39-11:59 a.m. Sunday...

More on this area: [Bangkok's Crucible of Construction](#) – More on the [original Erawan Hotel](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Devotees pray outside of the shrine.

Below: The Skytrain passes over the shrine site.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Source: Erawan Hotel brochure, circa 1963, showing the first Erawan Hotel)

More on the destruction of the Phra Prom statue – March 23, 2006

From a plaque at the Erawan Shrine site exactly as it is written:

At the end of the year 1955, the union of the Thai Hotel and Tourism

Company Limited, the founder of the Erawan Hotel was told by Rear Admiral Luan Suwichanphaet, who specialized on astrology, that the original moment for laying the foundation stone of the Erawan Hotel was not really right auspicious moment, it must be corrected by building a shrine of the Thao Maha Brahma and a spirit house in the area of the hotel. Then a shrine with the image of the Thao Maha Brahma and a spirit house were built followed the advice. The image was a sculpture in plaster covered with gold leaf, which was designed and sculpted by Mr. Chit Phimkowitz, a sculptor of the Fine Arts Department. It was brought to enshrine there since the 9th November, 1956. And a worship ceremony of the image has been held on the 9th November of every year.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Another missing shrine opposite the Phra Prom statue

Below: The same corner in July 2005

The unprotected intersection – March 22, 2006

On the corner opposite the Phra Prom statue is another prominent shrine which has been removed (above). This intersection, called the Rajaprasong intersection, is considered an area rife with bad luck and thus the need for shrines. The area was long ago used to put criminals on public display and the Central World Plaza area was considered potentially unlucky as it was built on former palace grounds and has a highrise that towers over a temple. It is certain that Thai observers will note the loss of two prominent shrines on Bangkok's most hexed intersection as an ill-omen.

More on this area: [Bangkok's Crucible of Construction](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Rail Asia)



(Photo: Rail Asia)



(Photo: Rail Asia)



(Photo: Rail Asia)

Ratchaprasong intersection

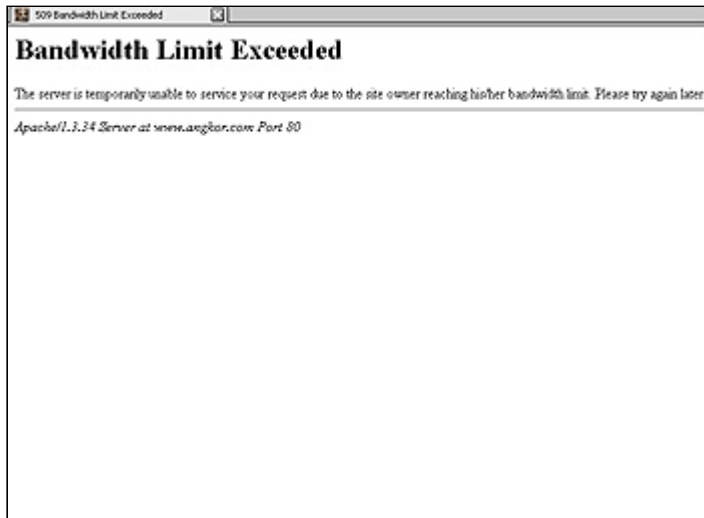
– June 22, 2006

Robert writes: *The Ratchaprasong Intersection, the corner of the Thanon Ratchadamri and Ploenchit close to the Erawan shrine were the spirits now can focus on a massive construction. One can like it or dislike it, this is the city and here struggle to keep on moving. The building of an elevated city railway raised from the gridlock beneath. Here seen the building in progress on 12 February 1999. The following pictures were all shot from one point over a five year period.*

2Bangkok.com booms

March 22, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok



2Bangkok.com booms – March 22, 2006

With 16,000 unique visitors a day 2Bangkok.com is becoming the most popular source for Thai news you cannot find anywhere else... and we are also blowing our bandwidth limit every day. If any well-off readers are interested in providing 2Bangkok.com with a grant to maintain this site online please contact ron@angkor.com.

EU bans ‘flying coffin’ airlines

March 22, 2006

[EU
bans ‘flying coffin’ airlines](#) –

CNN, March 22, 2006

Thanks to Conor for pointing this out...

*...The EU blacklist also includes Ariana Afghan Airlines,
North Korea’s Air Koryo and Thailand’s Phuket Airlines...*

Homo erectus found in Thailand

March 24, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Homo erectus found in Thailand](#) – ITV.com, March 24, 2006

Researchers have found remains of Homo erectus, a part-human, part-ape creature, in Thailand for the first time. Four pieces from the top part of a Homo erectus skull, one of the earliest ancestors of mankind, were unearthed by members of a Thai archaeological expedition...

Experts: Bioterrorism should worry Asia

March 25, 2006

Categories: Security

[Experts:](#)

[Bioterrorism should worry Asia](#) – AP, March

25, 2006

Hot weather. Crowded communities. Weak public health systems. Conditions like these have turned Southeast Asia into a breeding ground for SARS and bird flu. Now experts warn that the region's vulnerability to infectious disease could prove devastating in the event of a bioterror attack...

Yao Defen, the tallest woman in the world

March 25, 2006

Yao Defen, the tallest woman in the world

– March 25, 2006

[Yahoo](#)

[photos](#) – [Shanghaiist](#)

– via [Friskodude](#)

Korat bargirls, 1966

March 25, 2006

[Korat
bargirls, 1966](#) – March 25,
2006
via [Friskodude](#)

Anti-Thaksin protest at Rajaprasong

March 26, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Almost like being there: Anti-Thaksin protest at Rajaprasong
– March 26, 2006

[To](#)
[the High tension in Thailand main page](#)



[Brief](#)
[video of the march](#) (2.13MB)

Left: The multi-billion dollar sale of Thaksin assets to a Singapore holding company finally sparked mass protests against Thaksin rule.

Below: Press assembled on an elevated walkway to photograph the above scene.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Protesters approaching the
Rajaprasong intersection



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: The marchers turn onto Rajadamri Road for a brief rally.

Right: Gridlocked traffic on Rajadamri Road



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



Above: Sondhi
Limthongkul

Right: Chamlong Srimuang

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[To](#)
[the High tension in Thailand main page](#)

Book on Vietnamese nationals in Thailand honoured

March 26, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Book](#)

[on Vietnamese nationals in Thailand honoured](#) –

Viet Nam News Agency, March 26, 2006

...Published in October 2005, the book consists of six chapters, focusing on Immigration of Vietnamese people to Thailand; Patriotic movement of Vietnamese people in late 19th and early 20th century; Policy of Thai government towards Vietnamese nationals in Thailand; Repatriation of overseas Vietnamese; and other areas. The author reserves a part of his book for President Ho Chi Minh and his life in Thailand.

Sign language for babies comes to Thailand?

March 27, 2006

Sign language for babies comes to Thailand?

– March 27, 2006

Dear Mr. Ron,

I am the Creative Director for Baby Hands Productions, a company based in the US with an award winning and bestselling DVD series for babies from 10 to 36 months. We are pleased to announce our partnership with Thai Soonthorn International Trading Co. and the introduction of the My Baby Can Talk DVD series into Thailand. I have attached a press release that will be placed on the wire on Monday.

One of the most popular parenting trends today is teaching hearing babies to use sign language to communicate before they can speak and My Baby Can Talk is the most popular baby sign language series available....

www.MyBabyCanTalk.com

Election Posters 2006

March 29, 2006

Categories: Elections

Election posters: Your one vote decides the nation's future – April 2, 2006

The sign reads: Your one vote will decide the nation's future – On 2 April go to vote – No. 2 Thai Rak Thai



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Almost like being there: Election time in the deep south – March 29, 2006



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

Dr. Has reports: March 20, 2006 – The military who are responsible in the area cooperate with the Raman district in Yala Province to campaign asking people to vote in the general election on April 2 and they have a banner to support P.M. Thaksin as well.

Below are TRT campaign posters in zone 2 , Yala. There are three election zones in Yala and only TRT candidates are in the three zones.



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Forward on Education Fund (ICL) – Study first, pay later.

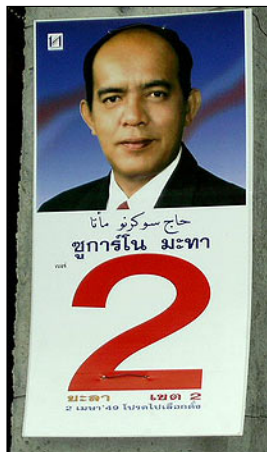


(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Forward on SML budget – Budget for community, village



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)



Above: Forward to a new round of political reform – Amend the constitution with neutral persons from every occupation

Left: Mr. Zukano Mata – No. 2

(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)



Election posters: Alternative to TRT – March 27, 2006

Left: The poster reads: Thai Citizens' Party – If you don't vote for us, they will get all the votes – Cross at the right place – Vote for No.4 – Cross both – Thai Citizen's Party

Election posters: Investigate the government – March 27, 2006

Right: The poster reads: (We) do not want to confront – Vote for No. 5 – Investigate the government



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Anti-) Election poster: Stop Thaksin system – March 24, 2006

The poster reads: Stop! Thaksin system – It's time to change – For the standpoint of the Democrat Party see you at Sanam Luang, Friday, 24 March, 2006 – Starts at 17:00 – Democrat Party

(Photo:
2Bangkok.com)



Election posters: Hold on to democracy – March 24, 2006
Left: The poster reads: Thai Rak Thai party – No. 2 – Hold on to democracy – Keep the rule – Forward to political reform – Miss Yuwalak Apithanakhun – Candidate M.P. of Pathumwan-Ratchathewi district

Election posters: At present the nation is in trouble – March 23, 2006
Right: The poster reads: Prachakornthai Party (Thai Citizen Party) – Thai people who have peaceful heart vote for No.4 in every district Thai people love peace – Ask for Thai people to have a neutral mind – Build peace – Do not make the sorrow (trouble), be merciful – Don't blame anybody – Intend to work for the peace of the nation – Respect the power of people's decision
At present, the nation is in trouble – Thai Citizen Party volunteers to solve the problem – No. 4



(Photo:
2Bangkok.com)

(Photo:
2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Election posters: We would like to continue to working – March 22, 2006
The poster reads: We would like to continue working. Create new works for Dindaeng residents. "Sam" Yuranand Pamornmontri, Zone 10, Dindaeng, No.2



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Election posters: Not be in debt to the IMF again – March 17, 2006
The poster reads: Forward to build up a strong Thai economy and not be in debt to the IMF again. Vote TRT. Vote Thaksin to be P.M. No. 2



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Election posters: Still working – March 13, 2006
The poster reads: Thai Rak Thai No. 2 – Still intend to work – Please vote Nahathai Tiewpaingam to serve you – District Huoikwang-Wattana



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Election posters: Quash drugs – March 13, 2006
The poster reads: Forward to quash drug for our nieces (and nephews). Vote TRT. Vote Thaksin to be P.M. No. 2



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Election posters: Minor party candidate – March 13, 2006
 The poster reads: Member of parliament of Bangkok (named) Thana. Your problem is my duty. Dindaeng (district) must be better.
 Chairperson of Bangkok Member of Parliament Office 0 2224 3006



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Prestige on the world stage – March 15, 2006
 The poster reads: Go forward to create Thai prestige on the world stage. Vote TRT. Vote Thaksin to be P.M.

Election posters: Amend the constitution – March 13, 2006
 The poster reads: Forward to reform Thai politics for a new round. Amend the constitution by using neutral persons from all sides to participate.
 Vote TRT. Vote Thaksin to be P.M. No. 2



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

We are always ready to serve Dindaeng – March 13, 2006
 The poster reads: Member of parliament of Bangkok Anong Petchtut , M.P. Yuranan (Sam) Pamornmontri and team – Works well on the nation level – Supervise every inch in the field – We are always ready to serve Dindaeng residents with our capacity.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Election posters: Give me a chance to serve you again – March 13, 2006

Below: The poster reads: I am ready to continue working. Give me a chance to serve you again.

Please vote for Army Captain Rachata Pisitbunnakorn. Payathai – Ratchathevi district. No.2



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Election posters: 10 mass transit lines to begin at the end of this year – March 13, 2006

Left: The poster reads: Forward to build 10 lines of skytrain– 300 kms. It will start at the end of this year. Vote TRT. Vote Thaksin to be PM.



(Photo: GWR)

On the forum: [Floodbuster Phrai!](#)

Left: Phrai Pattano

Anti-Thaksin protests on Rama I Road

March 29, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Photo: Peter)



(Photo: Peter)

Anti-Thaksin protests on Rama
I Road – Day – March 29, 2006



(Photo: Peter)



(Photo: Peter)

Right: The sign reads: Object to the protest – Support the election – Respect the peoples’ voices – Stop the protest – Stop destroying the nation – No mob!!



(Photo: Peter)

Anti-Thaksin protests on Rama I Road – Night – March 29, 2006



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Left: The sign reads: Thaksin... About
CTX the
American State Attorney said there are eight people involved.
Who are they? Reply!



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

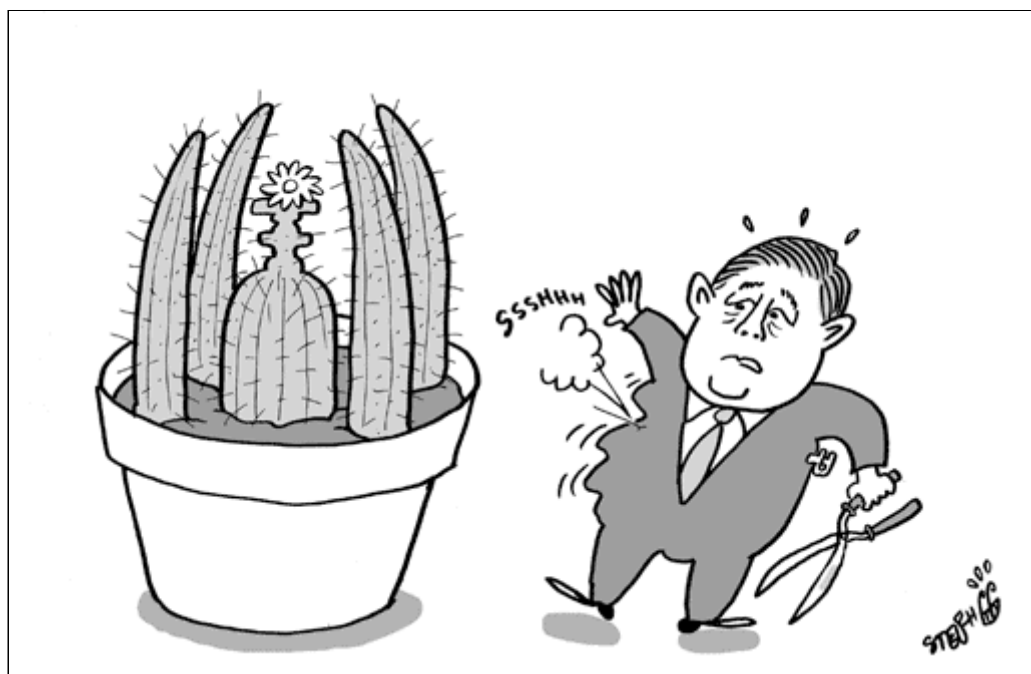
[Back](#)
to the [High tension in Thailand](#) main page

Cartoons from Stephff

March 30, 2006

Categories: Stephff's Cartoons





My Darling, ✨
 Since you've been beside me, my heart is a 100-carat diamond and its value never ceases to increase. My love for you is my greatest speculative operation after Shin Corp itself. I am offering you this 6,758th pair of mega-expensive earrings as my gift to appease your never-ending greed that is such an inspiration to me. For you, I would burn myself into an ocean of molten gold. For you, I would escape all the income taxes in the World. For you, I would appoint all the members of your family for 10 generations to come to the highest ranking positions in Thailand. For you, I would sell every satellite, every TV station in the World to an alien civilization. For you, I would corrupt all the most untouchable airport officials in the World, to offer you the most exclusive fleet of airport limousines in the Universe. For you, I would hijack all the C-130 military aircrafts on the planet to make sure all your friends come to your birthday (which reminds me, by the way, that I had a little problem this year getting a C-130 available)...
 With Love, ✨



I HAVE A REQUEST FOR MY WIFE: DO YOU KNOW THE SONG "ENDLESS LOVE OF MONEY"?

IT'S A POPULAR ONE IN HONG KONG...

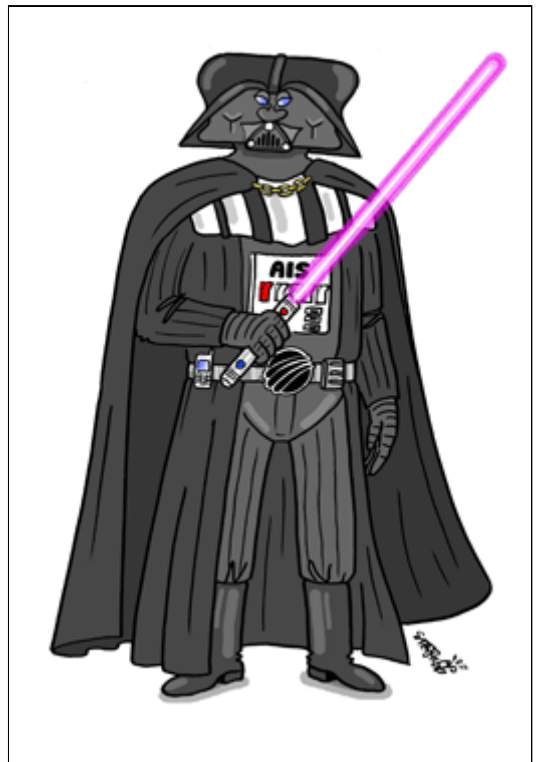
FILIPINO SINGER

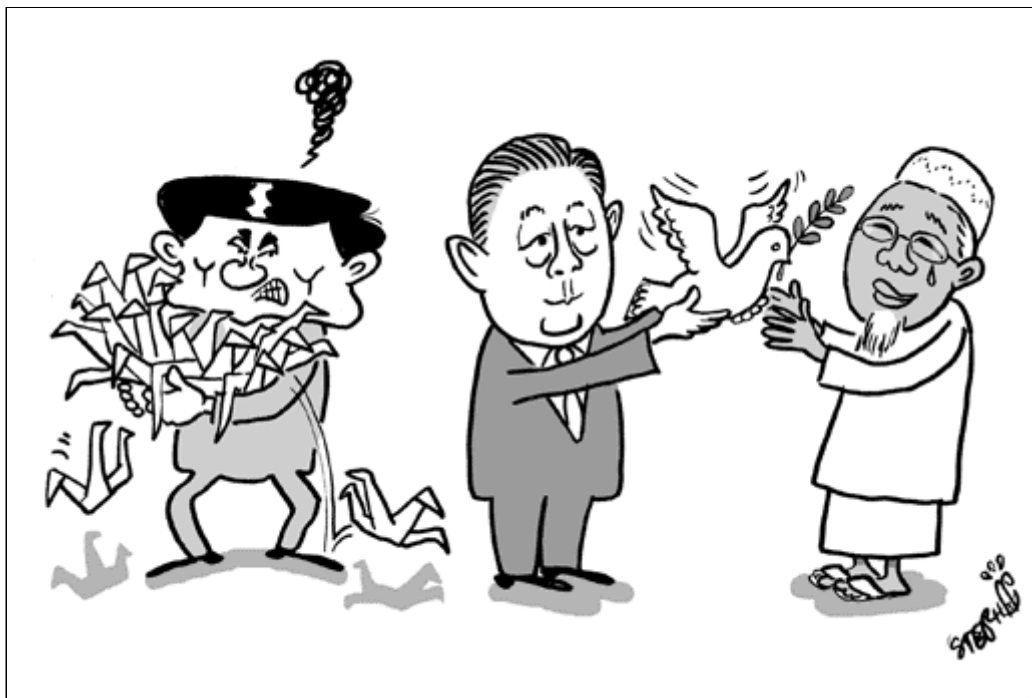


WHEN THE DARK SIDE OF THE FORCE IS TOO STRONG...



WELL... A LITTLE BIT OF PRAGMATISM IS IN ORDER...





HALLOWEEN 2006 : THE REVENGE OF THE SQUARE PUMPKIN



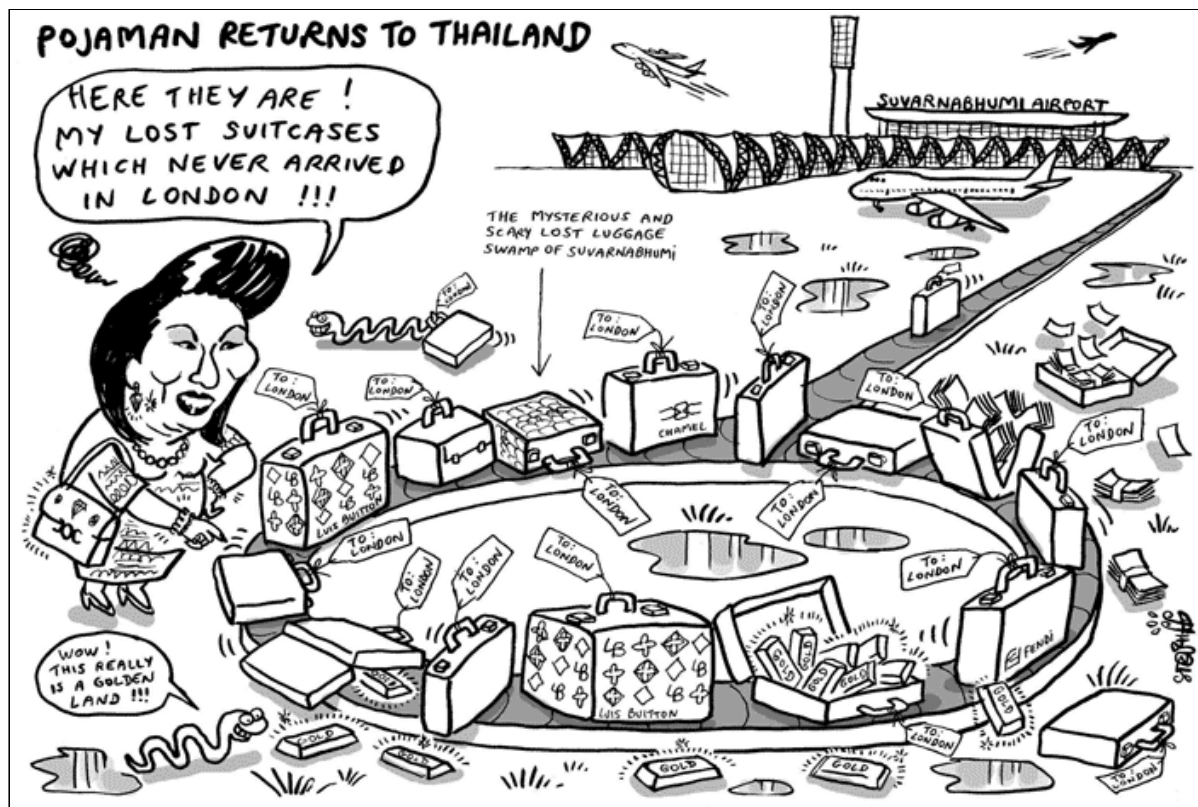
MYSTERIOUS MEETING BETWEEN GEN. PREM AND POJAMAN

I WISH I COULD HAVE BROUGHT YOU A MORE EXPENSIVE PRESENT BUT AS YOU KNOW, WE - THE SHINAWATRAS - ARE GETTING POORER...

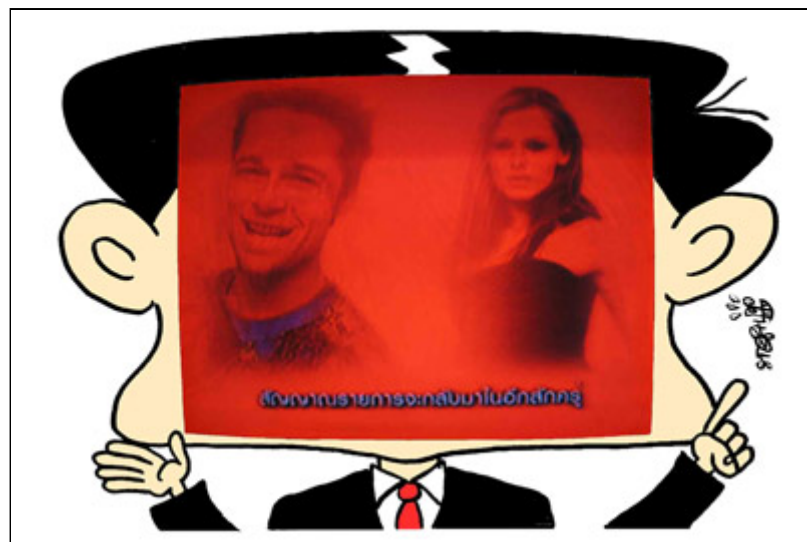


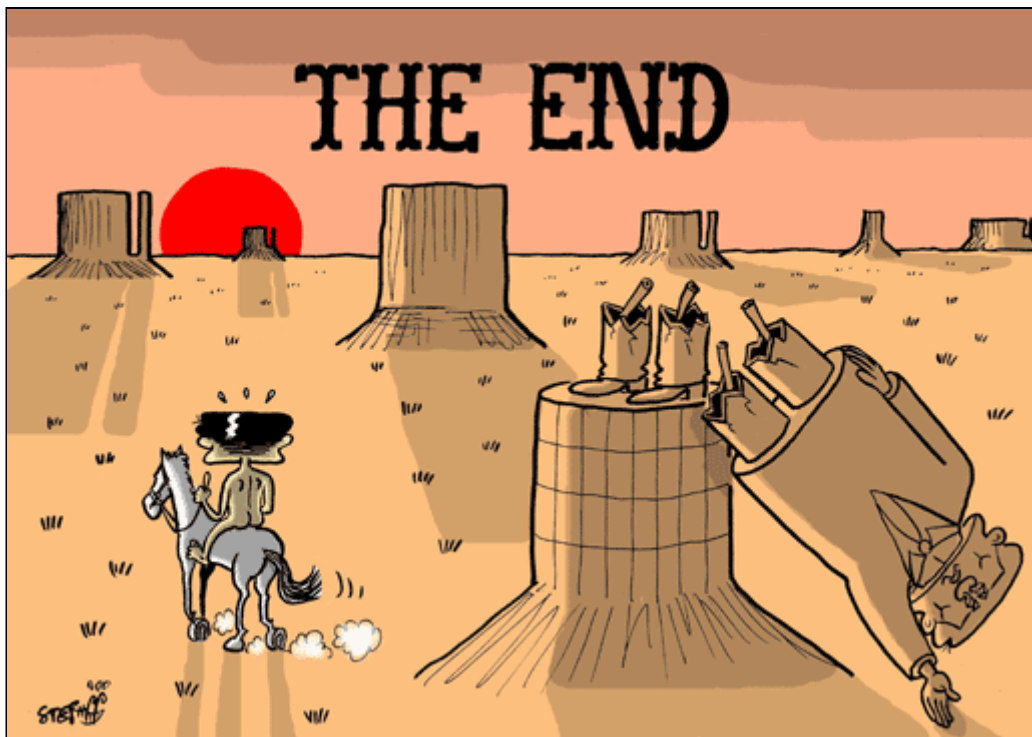
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL BIG BEN KEY HOLDER...

SRECH 100













THAI TEENAGERS AND ADDICTION TO INSTANT TELECOMMUNICATIONS



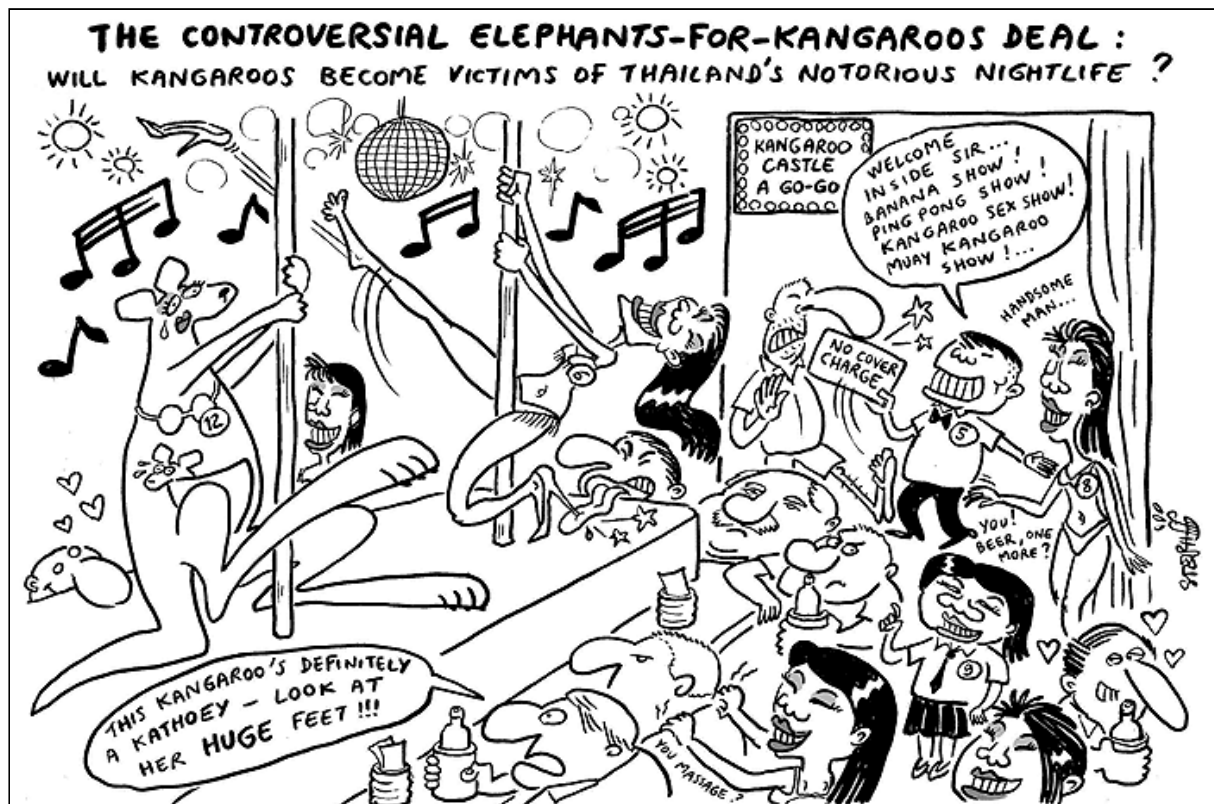
NICOLAS CAGE IS IN BANGKOK TO PLAY A HITMAN WHO MUST EXECUTE FOUR TARGETS





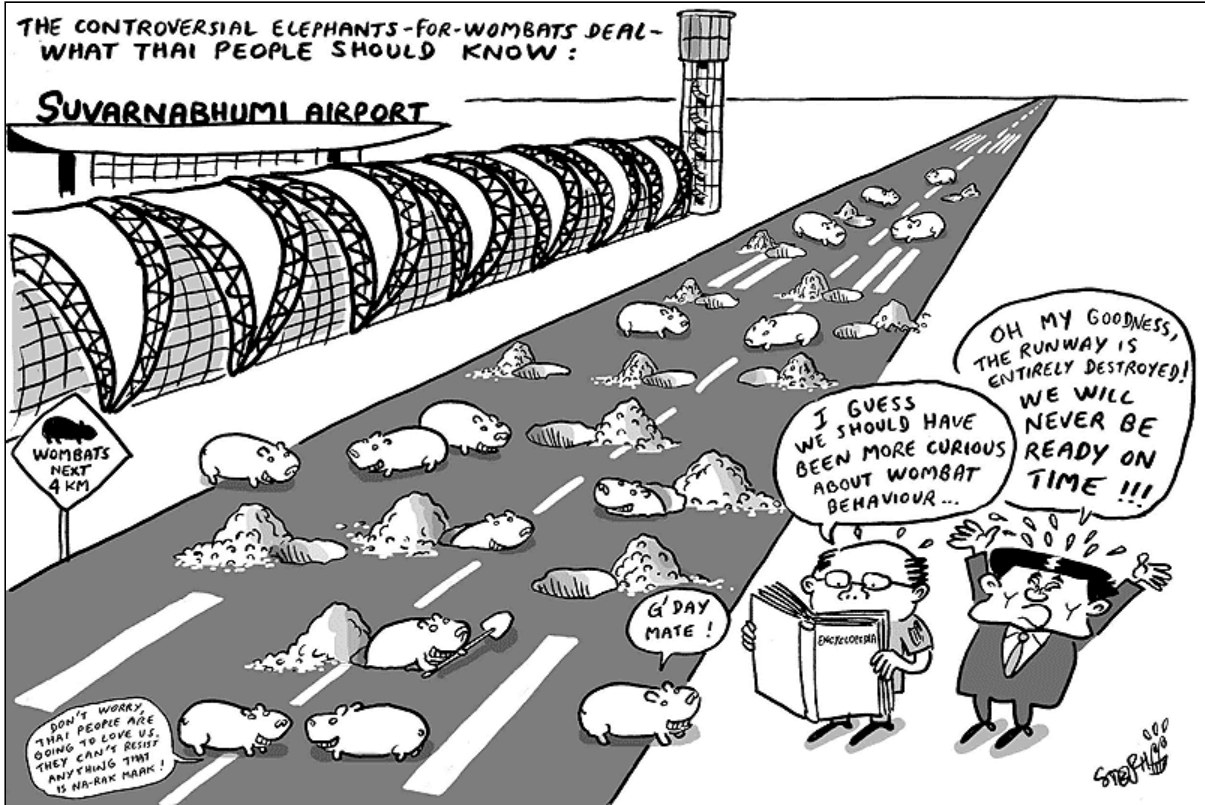


Cartoon from Stephff – August 15, 2006

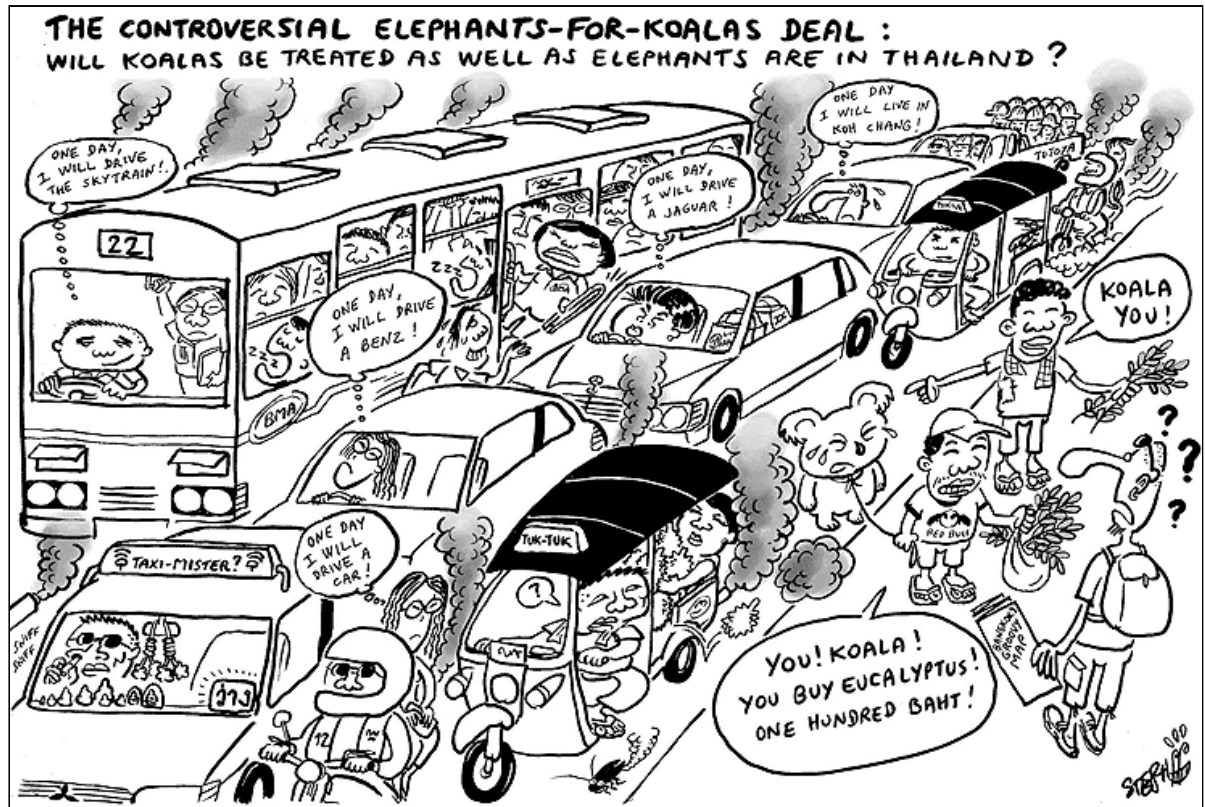


THE CONTROVERSIAL ELEPHANTS-FOR-WOMBATS DEAL:
WHAT THAI PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW:

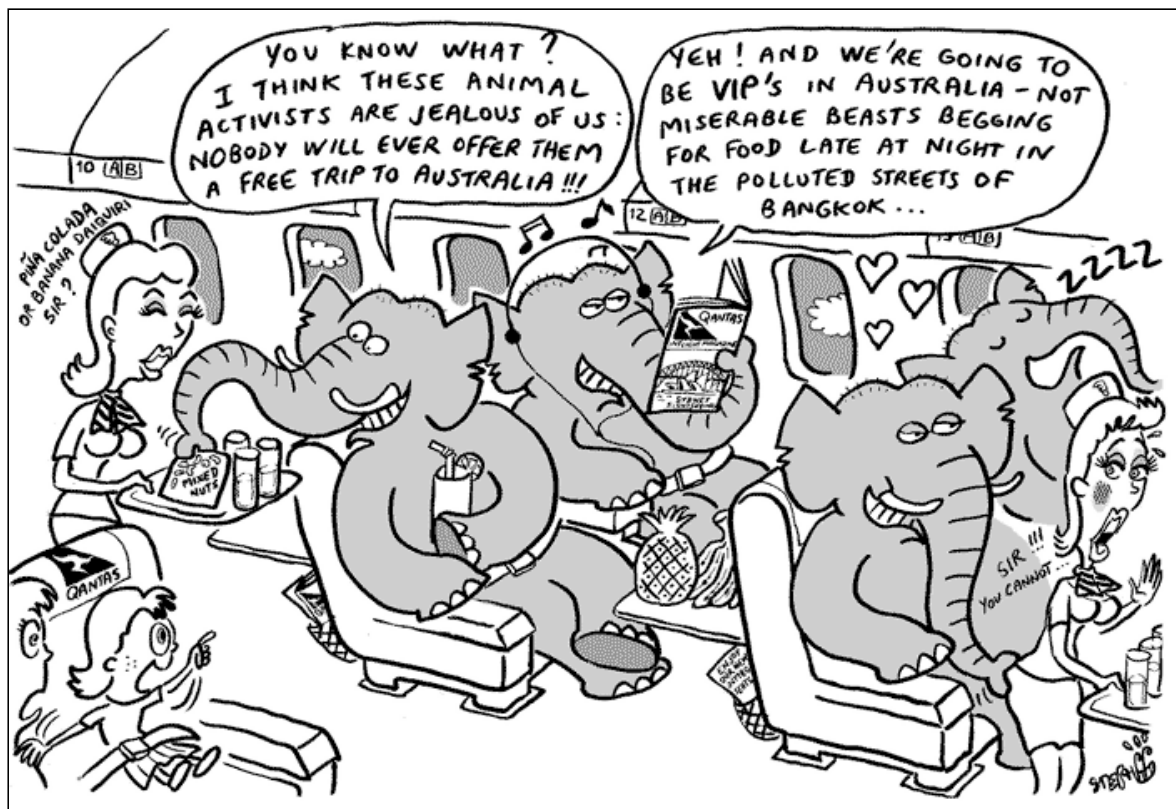
SUARNABHUMI AIRPORT



THE CONTROVERSIAL ELEPHANTS-FOR-KOALAS DEAL:
WILL KOALAS BE TREATED AS WELL AS ELEPHANTS ARE IN THAILAND?



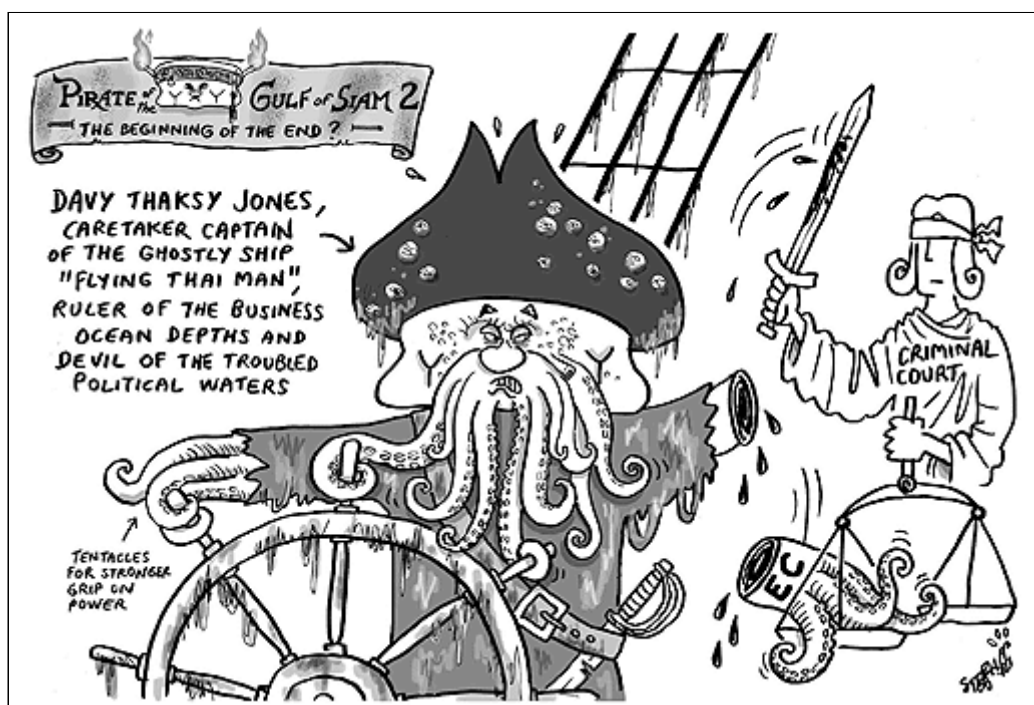
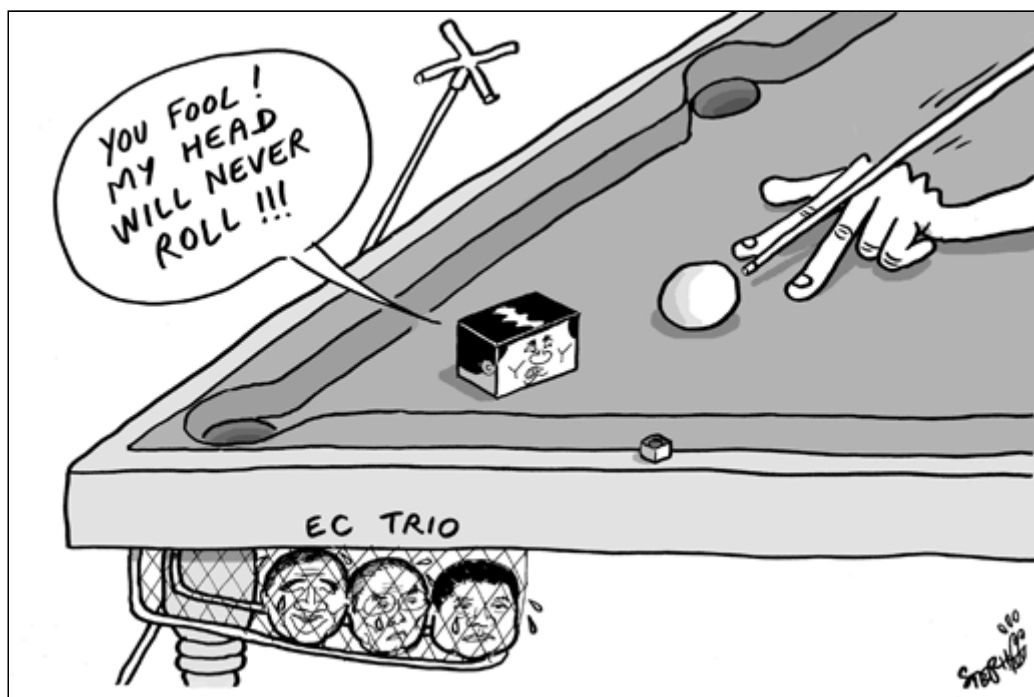
Cartoon from Stephff – August 5, 2006

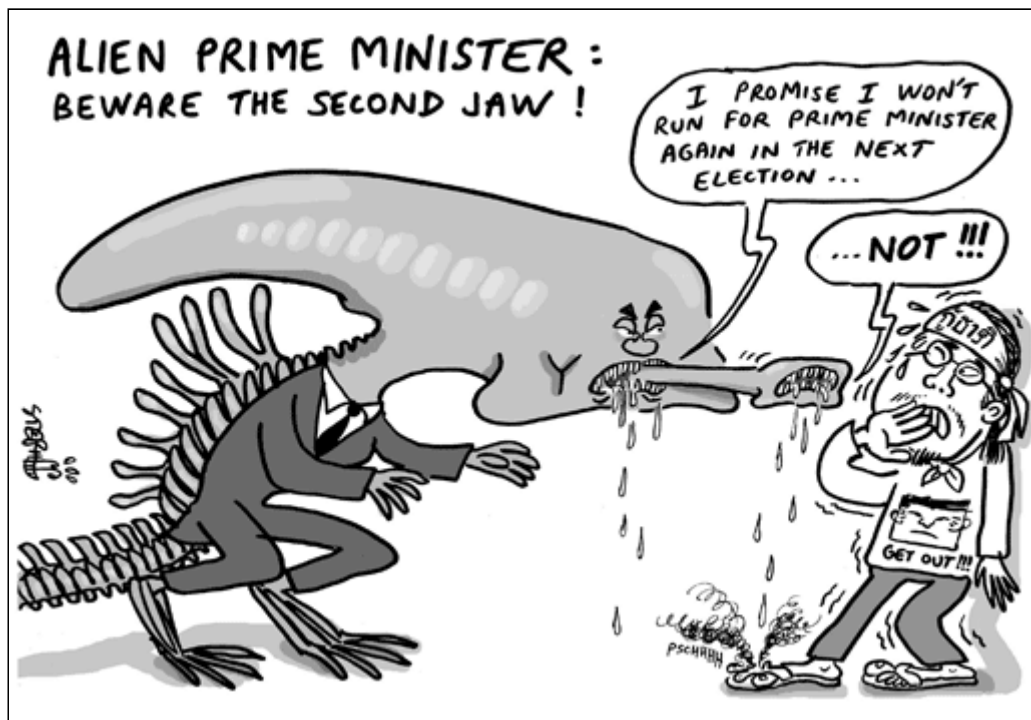


Cartoon from Stephff
– August 2, 2006

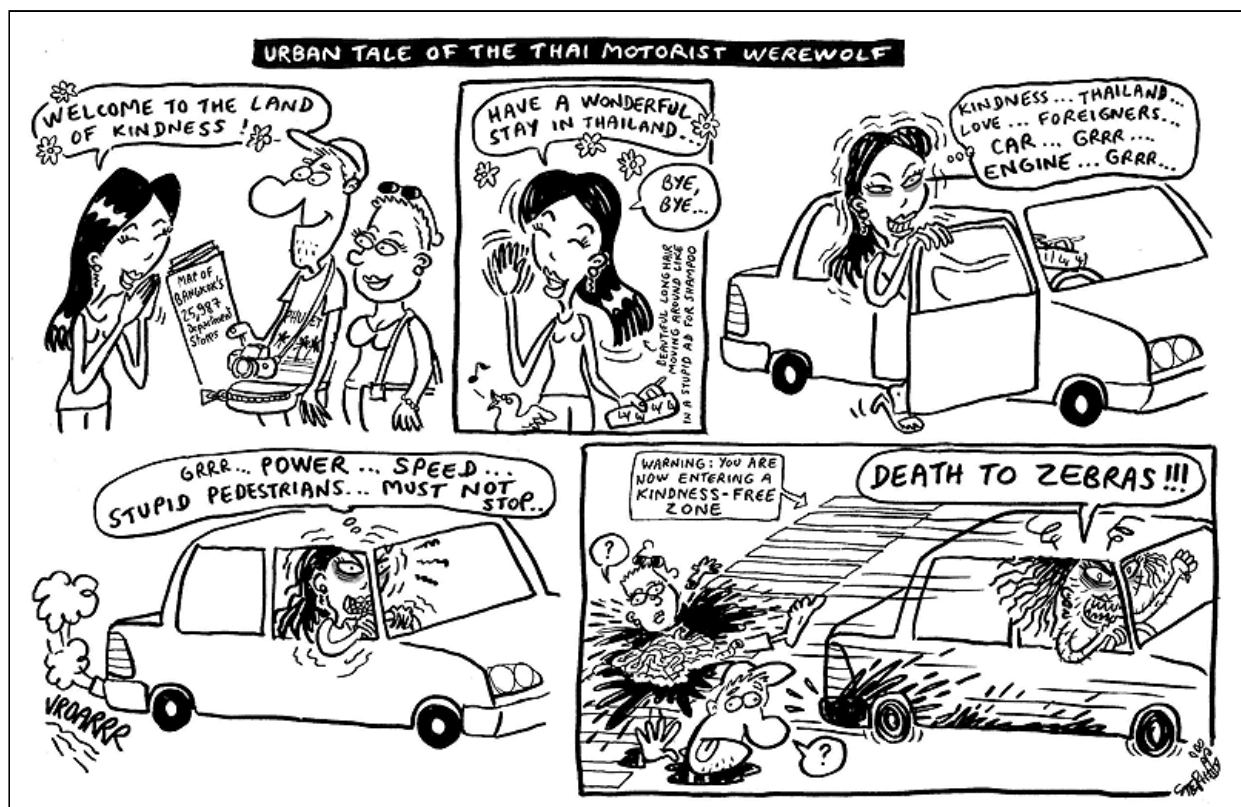


Cartoon from Stephff
– July 31, 2006





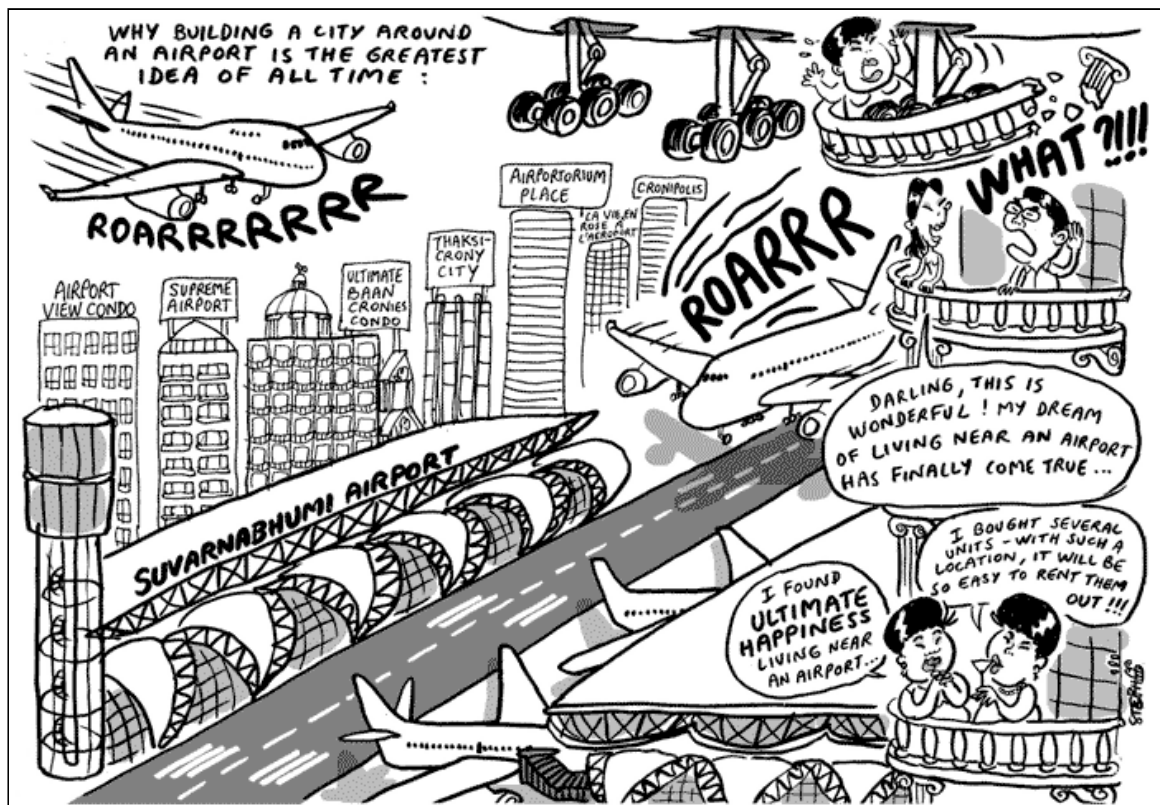
Cartoons from Stephff
– July 29, 2006



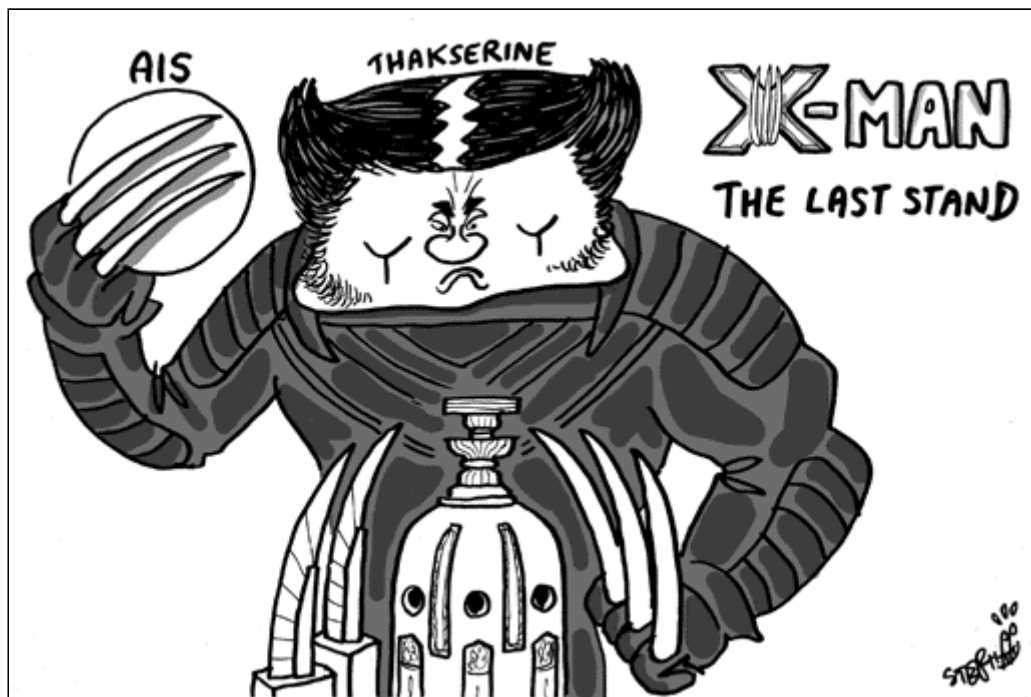
Cartoon from Stephff
– July 25, 2006



Cartoon from Stephff
– July 22, 2006



Cartoon from Stephff
– July 1, 2006



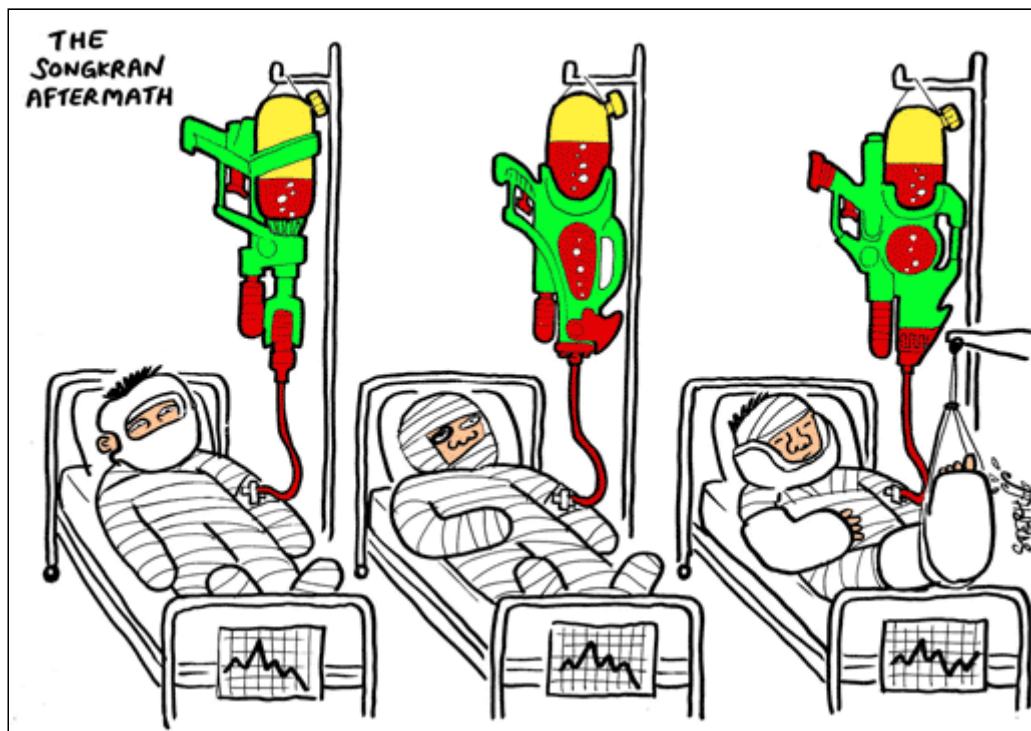
Cartoon from Stephff – May 21, 2006



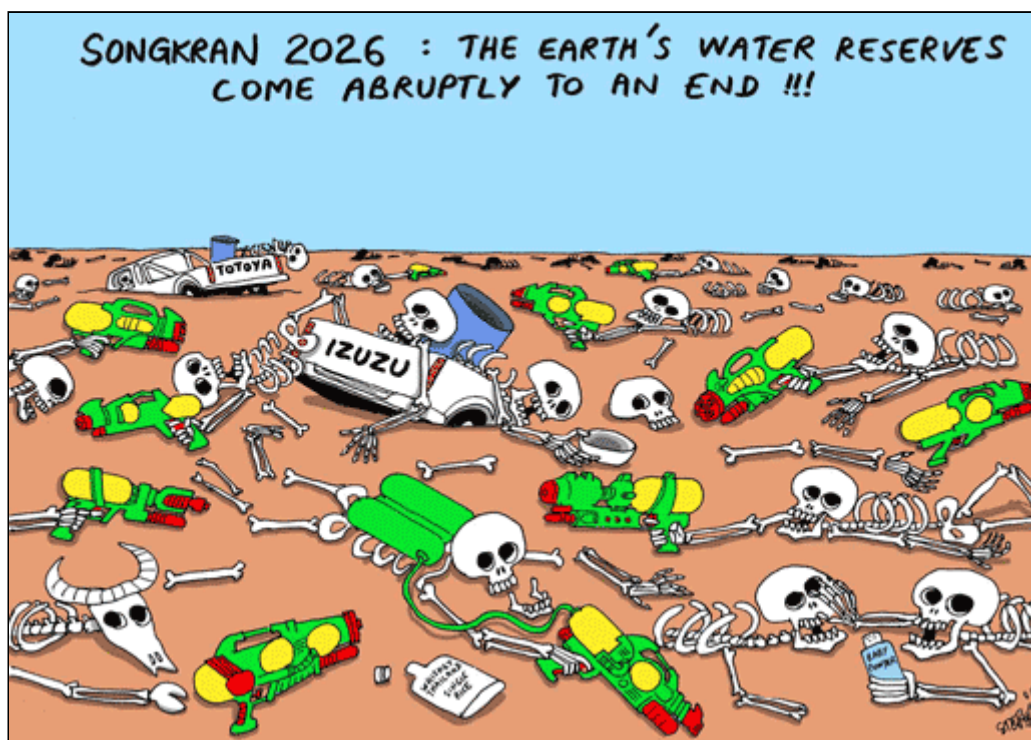
Cartoon from Stephff – May 14, 2006



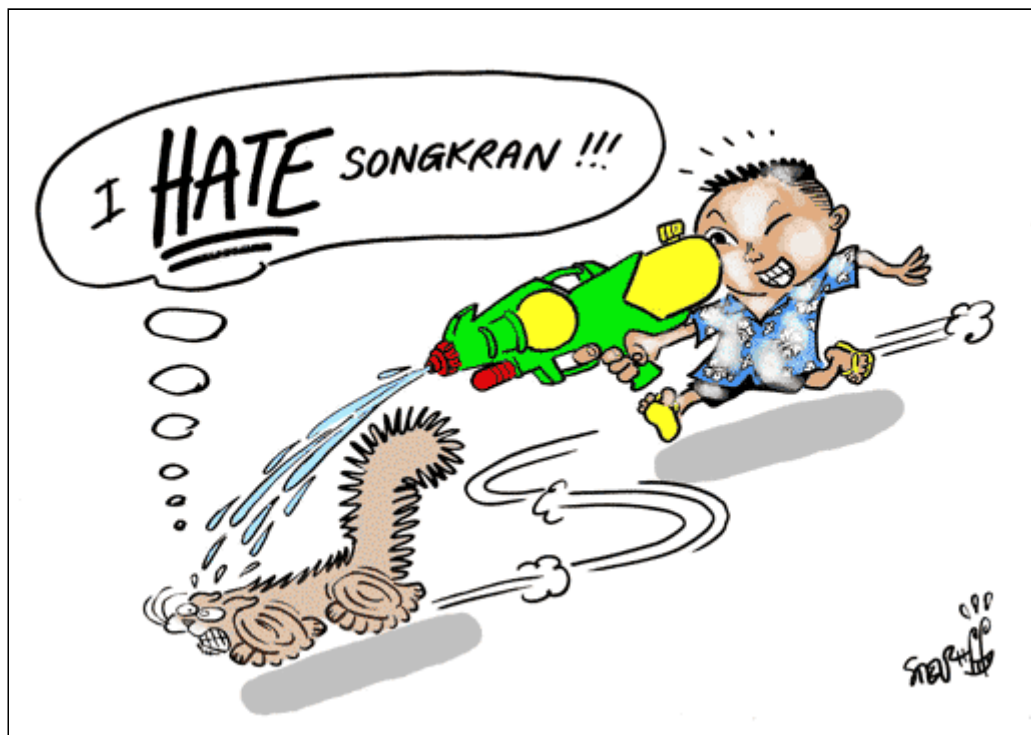
Cartoon from Stephff – April 29, 2006



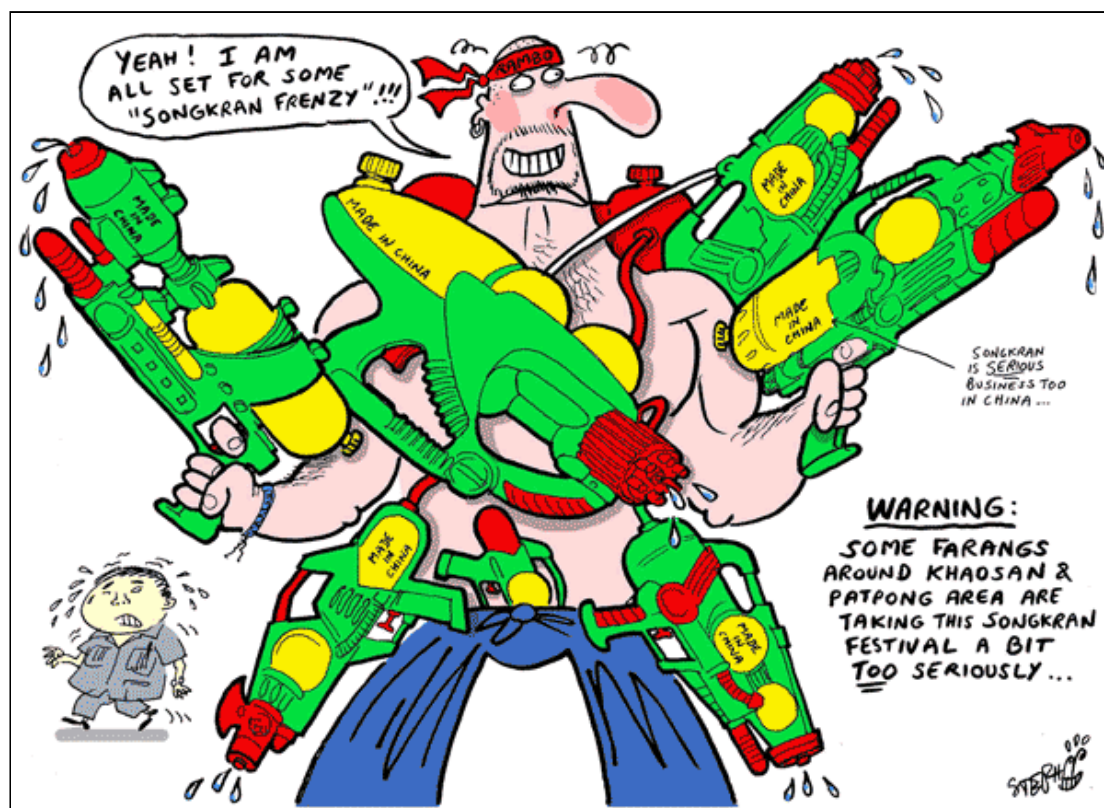
Cartoon from Stephff
– April 17, 2006



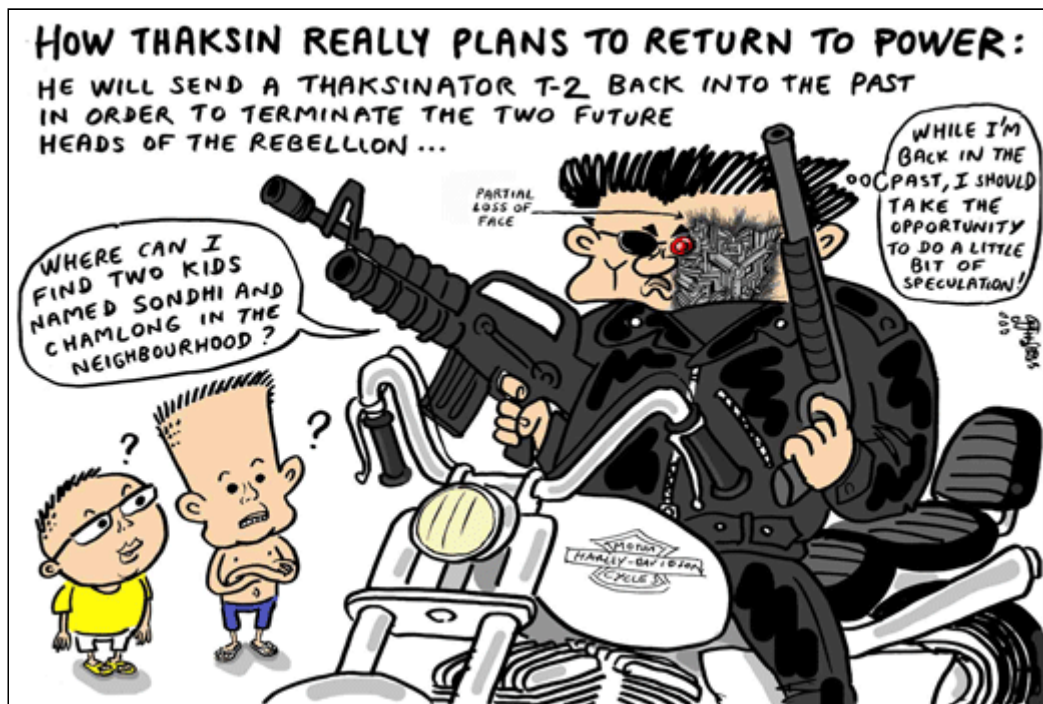
Cartoon from Stephff
– April 15, 2006



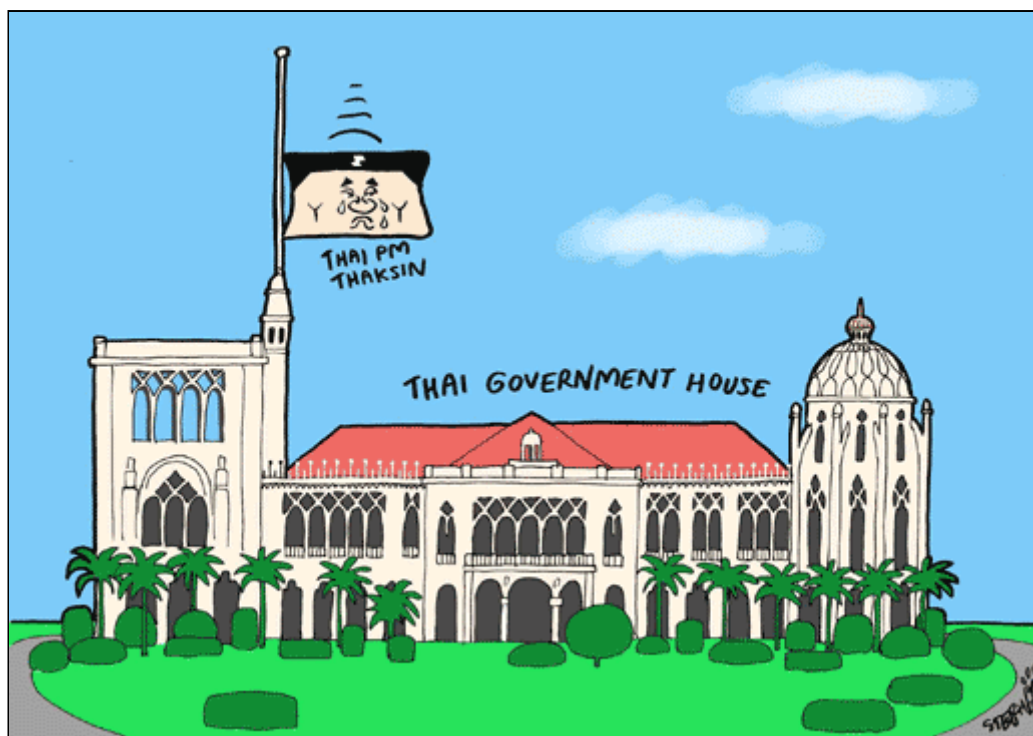
Cartoon from Stephff
– April 14, 2006



Cartoon from Stephff
– April 13, 2006



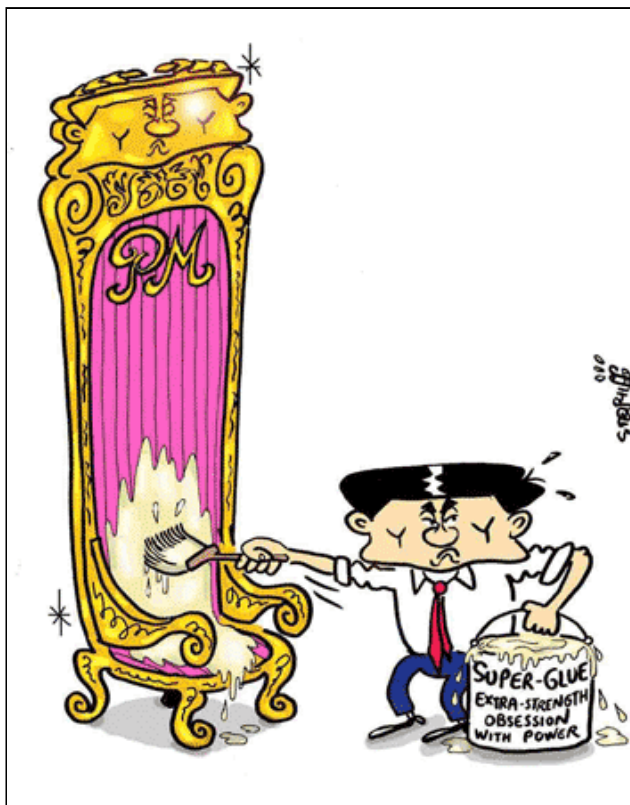
Cartoon from Stephff
 – April 10, 2006



Cartoon from Stephff
 – April 5, 2006



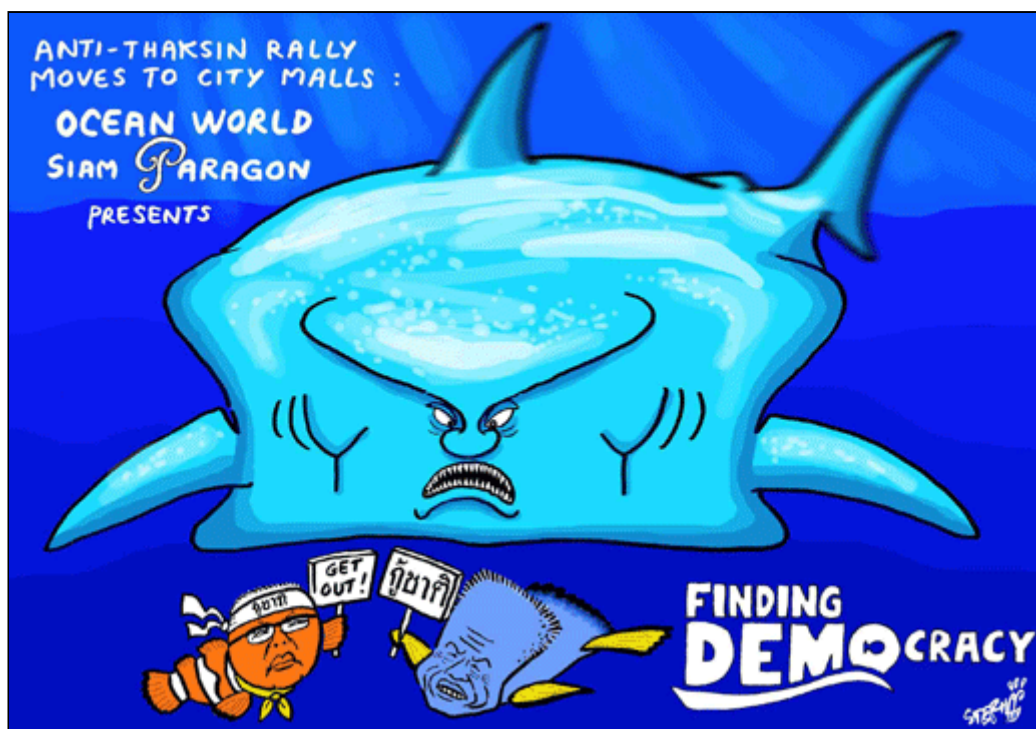
Cartoon from Stephff
– April 4, 2006



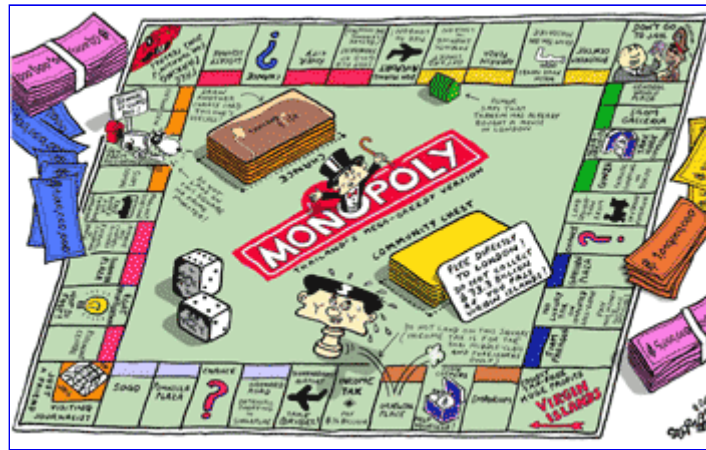
Cartoon from Stephff
– April 1, 2006



Cartoon from Stephff
– March 30, 2006



Cartoon from Stephff –
March 29, 2006



Cartoon from Stephff –
 March 26, 2006
[Full-sized](#)
[color version \(421kb\)](#)



Cartoon from Stephff –
 March 25, 2006

Eleven folk statues missing, believed stolen

March 30, 2006

Right: One of the remaining sculptures at the Silom intersection that was not stolen.

Eleven

[folk statues missing, believed stolen](#) –

Bangkok Post, March 30, 2006

... The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration spent about 10 million baht allocated by the government on commissioning the 20 sculptures. "I believe they were stolen on Saturday or Sunday night. I have asked Jor Sor 100 radio station and motorcycle taxi drivers to help look for them," Mr Sanob said. Khunying Nathanon said the two districts would set up a committee to investigate.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Firms vie for embassy land

March 31, 2006

Categories: Uncategorized

[Firms](#)

[vie for embassy land](#) – Bangkok

Post, March 31, 2006

...The nine-rai site in front of the British Embassy on Ploenchit Road could fetch as much as one million baht per square wah, say industry executives. That would far outstrip prices paid for prime land on Silom and Sathorn roads, which have been known to fetch between 200,000 and 400,000 baht per square wah.

Two years ago a plot of land on Sathorn Road belonging to the United States Information Services (USIS) fetched 260,000 baht per square wah at an auction.

It was purchased by Singapore's Hotel Properties Limited (HPL) and is being developed into a high-end condominium, The Met...

If it succeeds, LH has said that it plans to invest around 13.5 billion baht in the plot over four years to develop three kinds of property: a serviced apartment building, an office building and a hotel, on 150,000 square metres...

[Google](#)

[Earth Placemark showing the site](#) – [Download Google Earth](#)

High tension in Thailand – April-May 2006

April 1, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

[Back to the High tension in Thailand main page](#)

Thai Rak Thai claims 20 million supporters – Warns the country will be set on fire if court approves dissolving the party – translated and summarized from *Phujatkan* online, May 25, 2006

The Thai Rak Thai party is annoyed by the rumor that the party may be dissolved. On May 25, Suthin Klangsang, deputy spokesman for the Thai Rak Thai party, responded to the words of Chaianan Samutvanich, former judge of the Constitutional Court and an academic in political science, who said that the Court may dissolve the party in July. He also referred to the same words from Pramote Nakornrat, also an academic in political science. Suthin said that the party is confident that it did nothing wrong. The dissolving of the Thai Rak Thai party, which is supported by almost twenty million people, is not an easy matter. If the reasons to dissolve the party are not justifiable, then the country will be set on fire as Thai Rak Thai is the supporter of the population. No matter what happens, the party will not be dissolved. Suthin also added that Chaianan and Pramote are not acting like academics any more as no academic would be so biased.

Closed-circuit video footage from Defense Ministry: [Candidates for sale?](#) – *The Nation*, May 30, 2006

Battle lines are drawn – May 30, 2006

[Court set trial date against EC commissioners](#) – *The Nation*, May 30, 2006

The Criminal Court Tuesday set the trial date against four members of the Election Commission on June 19 charging them for the dereliction of duty relating to a decision to allow additional candidates to contest the repeat vote on April 23...

He also said he would oppose bail applications from the four defendants on grounds that they should be locked up to speed up the trial proceedings. The detention of the four defendants might prevent them for causing damage to the new election, he added...

[October 15 will be new election day](#) – *The Nation*, May 30, 2006

The Cabinet on Tuesday endorsed Election Commission's proposal for October 15 to be the date for a new general election...



(Photo: *Manager*)

On the forum: [Removing the garuda seal from the national ID card?](#)

Latest rabble rousing allegations from the anti-government *Manager*...

Also: [What were they doing at the Defence Ministry? – Suthep's court shocker allegedly shows small party being bought](#) – *The Nation*, May 30, 2006

Closed-circuit video footage from Defense Ministry: [Candidates for sale?](#) – *The Nation*, May 30, 2006

Finland plot: [TRT and PM file libel suit against Manager Group](#) – *The Nation*, May 30, 2006

[Thailand at the brink of 'great loss'](#) – *The Nation*, May 29, 2006

...The PAD campaigner said the first sign of doom was the alleged collaboration among the Thai Rak Thai Party, the Election Commission and caretaker Senate Speaker Suchon Chaleekrua to challenge the power of the three highest courts.

He said the Supreme, Administrative and Constitution courts wanted the EC to be replaced before another election, but Thai Rak Thai, the EC itself and Suchon were using any means to help the commissioners cling to their jobs...

Beware of assassination, academic warns Thaksin – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*, May 22, 2006

Pairoj Vongvipanond, an economics lecturer at Chulalongkorn University, recently gave his opinion that Thailand's political system is getting similar to that of some Latin American countries. Pairoj commented that although Thailand's current interim Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is an elected premier, he is an amoral person who does not keep his promises. He also commented that the Premier used democracy as a tool to create dissension in Thai society.

Pairoj noted that the Premier was always saying he would solve the problems of Thailand's poor, but thought that the Premier's policies would not lead to the redistribution of wealth from the rich to the poor in the long run. Pairoj then stated that the Thai Rak Thai party leader had concentrated on trying to make suburban people feel self-important, while exploiting the government's power for his own ends.

Pairoj gave his opinion that Thailand needed a leader who would really strengthen the institution of government as the Thaksin administration had all but destroyed its credibility. Pairoj also noted that Thai people had divided themselves into two factions—one which supported the Premier and the other which was repelled by his power. Pairoj's final comment was that the Premier should be careful not to become the target of assassination attempts as he had made many enemies during his two terms in office.

[EU investors confident in Thailand despite political woes: diplomats](#) – AFP, May 28, 2006

European investors have confidence in the Thai economy, but have warned that the country could lose out to regional rivals if its political turmoil continues much longer, officials said...

[Open and shut media policy](#) – Chang Noi, *The Nation*, May 29, 2006

...Since this government came to power in 2001, radio stations have been closed down, specific radio programmes taken off the air, television presenters and editors sacked, community radio stations harassed and outlawed, cable television channels disrupted and websites blocked with a relentless regularity. As in this case, there is often an intermediary to act as the hatchet man and a rationale which has nothing to do with politics, but the pattern tells us we should have no doubt who is behind all of this and what it represents.

This closure also signals a dismal return to business as usual. Open Radio flourished in the little extra space which was created by the surge of political sentiment after the attempted Matichon buy-out, Sondhi's crusade, the Temasek deal and the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) demonstrations. Even mainstream television participated a bit in this miniature Bangkok spring. In March viewers were shocked at the sight of intelligent people discussing the issues of the day on their television screens. No such sight had been seen for five years. Even critical views were aired. Opposition figures were allowed to talk at some length. Some programmes even allowed debate. Newscasters began self-consciously allowing the opposition a balanced share of air time, and some of them even restrained their instinct to portray every action critical of government as something close to high treason...

[Chang Noi's website](#)

[Prime Minister's critics called for police questioning](#) – TNA, May 29, 2006

...Summoned to the police division on June 7 and 8 under the libel lawsuit are Manager newspaper founder Sondhi Limthongkul, a leader of the People's Alliance for Democracy, a coalition of anti-Thaksin groups,

former Senate speaker Major General Manoonkrit Roopkhachorn, outgoing deputy Senate speaker Pichet Pattanachote, outgoing Senator Jermsak Pinthong and the editors of Manager, Post Today, Thai Post and Krungthep Thurakit newspapers.

All of the defendants are accused of making defamatory public statements against the caretaker prime minister at the height of the mass rallies in Bangkok between February and April of this year.

[A LIBRARY – Only pro-Thaksin material is what you can get to read](#) – Bangkok Post, May 28, 2006

...Mr Pongnarin said the Thai Rak Thai library was endorsed by the Election Commission's party budget, a yearly fund given to every political party. He added that there were more than 2,000 Thai language books and 800 foreign language copies with some very rare publications obtained from Singapore.

... "We intend to have newspapers. It's just that we are having trouble with the supplier of the newsstands. We also are thinking of getting the whole series of Roo Than Thaksin (Seeing Through Thaksin) soon. It's just that we prefer books that are accepted by all parts of society," says Ms Yawin.

Roo Than Thaksin is a series of books written by outgoing Bangkok senator Chirmsak Pinthong together with a group of people including academics and former diplomats.

The books contain criticisms of Mr Thaksin's policies and practices and sold tens of thousands of copies.

A library user, the only one found there, said she found out about the library through the newspaper but was very disappointed about the fact that the library itself had no newspapers.

"A library is not a library if it doesn't have newspapers," she said.

[Defectors from TRT form party](#) – The Nation, May 20, 2006

... "The new party will soon be registered with the Election Commission and is expected to become the banner for more than 40 defectors from the ruling party," Sarit said. He said he was certain that the Thai Rak Thai Party was about to be dissolved for paying small parties to contest the April 2 election...

[Misleading Information – Surin slams government website praising Thaksin's overseas tour](#) – The Nation, May 18, 2006

Article from the government site:

[Why did Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra travel abroad?](#)

...In such circumstances, will there be anyone that can understand the feelings of a national leader, even one who has suspended his role, who realizes that regardless of political developments the confidence of international community must remain? It was with this in mind that the idea arose of visiting the leaders of six countries with whom he was personally familiar with, although many posed the question – why?

The reason was that the Prime Minister wanted to explain to the foreign leaders the facts of what happened in Thai politics, as he did not want them to misunderstand that Thailand was turning away from the path of democratic government.

Therefore, building "confidence" is most important factor...

[Who pays for politics?](#) – The Nation, May 15, 2006

... "For this 10 per cent policy, the minister would have to pad the budget proposed for approval to include the 10 per cent that would go to the party. Then once it was agreed with 'his person' via Khunying, the matter could be sent to his trusted 'permanent political representative', who used to be his company employee. To date nobody knows how much this 10 per cent amounts to. Probably need to ask Khunying."

Snoh claims to have asked Pojaman what she needed so many billions for, and got this answer: "In politics you have to hand out money. It has to be considered a business." Snoh asked her what would happen if things blew up, and she replied, "If Thaksin falls, the Thai Rak Thai Party will have to stay in power for at least two more terms for safety..."

[Thaksin returns from palace but refuses to speak](#) – *The Nation*, May 19, 2006

[Military concerned about political uncertainty](#) – *TNA*, May 18, 2006

... "We (the armed forces) have long been concerned about the country's political state because we feel it doesn't appear to end soon." he said...

[Army chief insists no coup](#) – *The Nation*, May 18, 2006

[Military top brasses to discuss political situation this evening](#) – *The Nation*, May 18, 2006

[Thai king upset about political logjam – army chief](#) – *Reuters*, May 18, 2006

[EC chief: Nothing amiss with trip](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 19, 2006

Election Commission chairman Wasana Permlarp denies there was anything irregular about his trip to Australia last week, during which a person with links to Thai Rak Thai sat next to him on both the outbound and return flights On May 11 the EC chairman took the TG 995 flight of Thai Airways International from Bangkok to Sydney. He was seated in first class beside Sawang Mankong- charoen, a real estate developer who is close to the Thai Rak Thai party.

Sitting behind him were Paithoon Pongkaysorn, a deputy director-general of the Revenue Department, and Jintana Kruapim, whose public relations firm clinched a 77-million-baht election campaign contract with the EC...

[Nam panel defies Wasana's order](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 19, 2006

The chief of an Election Commission subcommittee has refused to pursue further investigations after finding that Thai Rak Thai (TRT) hired smaller parties to run in the April 2 general election...

[Navy chief: Heed court decisions](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 19, 2006

[Mobsters have a free hand as police look on](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 19, 2006

... This was the second time in less than two weeks that rowdy mobsters carried out a violent attack on PAD protesters, who have occupied the area in front of the EC office in a peaceful rally against the election panel under Pol Gen Wasana Permlarp...

[Who pays for politics?](#) – *The Nation*, May 15, 2006

... "For this 10 per cent policy, the minister would have to pad the budget proposed for approval to include the 10 per cent that would go to the party. Then once it was agreed with 'his person' via Khunying, the matter could be sent to his trusted 'permanent political representative', who used to be his company employee. To date nobody knows how much this 10 per cent amounts to. Probably need to ask Khunying."

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[Thai courts reject proposed election date](#) – *AFP*, May 16, 2006

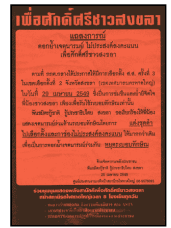
Earlier: [EC sets new election on Oct 22](#) – *The Nation*, May 15, 2006

[Constitutional Court invalidates the April election and orders new election](#) – *The Nation*, May 8, 2006

[EC panel recommends charges against Thaksin](#) – *The Nation*, May 11, 2006

“For the prestige of Songkhla people” – May 8, 2006

A leaflet from the Alliance to Restore the Nation and Restore Democracy of Songkhla to persuade people to wear black and boycott the “strange” election and persuade people to join the PAD gathering via the ASTV channel. This leaflet was planned to be distributed on April 29, but the administrative court canceled the election.



[Thaksin will top TRT list – Won’t be PM, unless popularity demands it](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 9, 2006

[Thaksin ‘has not resigned’](#) – *The Nation*, May 5, 2006

Acting Prime Minister Chidchai Wannasathit said that Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is on leave to rest, and that he has not resigned.

Mr Thaksin’s leave was authorised in writing by the cabinet, according to Pol Gen Chidchai, who was left in charge by Mr Thaksin. He is also Deputy Prime Minister and Justice Minister.

“Taking a leave to rest is different from resigning,” said Pol Gen Chidchai. His comments followed recent claims by some that Mr Thaksin’s departure was really a resignation...

[Thaksin faces lese majeste inquiry](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 3, 2006

The Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) has set up a committee to investigate lese majeste complaints brought against caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Karoon Chaikaeo, a citizen, filed the complaints with national police chief Pol Gen Kowit Wattana alleging Mr Thaksin on several occasions had acted in a way that imitated His Majesty the King...

Yellow flags bearing the Thai message meaning “Long Live the King” were distributed to thousands of taxi drivers who waved them at Mr Thaksin...



The election that never was – May 6, 2006

Asiper sends in a few posters for the April 23 election that never was. These are posters for TRT candidates in zone 1 Yala and zone 1 Songkhla.

Left: Pls. vote for me – Professor Niyapar Raden-armad, former Professor of Rajabhat Yala – No. 2 Yala Zone 1 – 23 April 2006 – Please go to vote for the MP.

(Photo: Asiper for 2Bangkok.com)

Right: No. 2 – TRT – Please vote for Wanchai Parinyasiri to be Songkhla MP in zone 1 – Put faith in democracy – Ready to serve people.



(Photo: Asiper for 2Bangkok.com)

[Media intimidation: a view from the front](#) – *The Nation*, May 3, 2006

...Claiming they received an anonymous letter, anti-money-laundering authorities launched a probe into the bank accounts of senior journalists critical of the government. About two dozen reporters were laid off by iTV after Shin Corp acquired it. The TJA and the Thai Broadcasters Association have documented more than 20 cases in which news editors and print and broadcast journalists were dismissed or transferred or have had their work tampered with to appease the government. The Bangkok Post was threatened with a Bt1-billion lawsuit for reporting, in the wake of the CTX corruption scandal, that there was a [crack on a runway at Suvarnabhumi Airport](#)...



(Photo: Asiper for 2Bangkok.com)

Praising Prem – April 30, 2006

The banner reads: Songkhla residents love and are proud of Pa (Pa Prem).

Same editorial in all major newspapers – April 12, 2006

[Free media must become a reality](#) – *The Nation*, April 11, 2005

...The concept of a free press in this country dates back to 1835, when American missionary and medical doctor Dan Beach Bradley published Thailand's first newspaper, *The Bangkok Recorder*, which was later

sued into bankruptcy after having exposed tax evasion by the French consul-general in Bangkok. But the legacy of this pioneering journalist/publisher has lived on to this day...

[HM the King's April 26 speeches \(unofficial translation\)](#) – *The Nation*, April 26, 2006

[Mass gatherings are a right of free speech: Interior Minister](#) – TNA, April 24, 2006

Caretaker Interior Minister Kongsak Wanthana said that Sunday's gathering of pro-Thaksin crowd at Rajabhat Udon Thani University—allegedly to heckle or harrass speakers at a 'pro-democracy' seminar—was simply an expression of different opinion in accordance with the path of democracy, and not anything more...

[Only non-TRT MP](#) – *The Nation*, April 5, 2006

Sondhi postpones police meeting

[Thai protest leader misses police subpoena](#) – *Channel NewsAsia*, April 17, 2006

One of the key leaders of the protests that forced prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra to step down has defied a subpoena over an alleged insult to Thailand's revered king, police said Monday...

[Sondhi delays his surrender](#) – *The Nation*, April 17, 2006

Sondhi Limthongkul, a leader of the People's Alliance for Democracy, Monday sent his lawyer to postpone his surrender to meet charges of insulting His Majesty the King...



(Source: Asia Times Online)

More Thaksin analysis

[In Thailand, Thaksin falls from grace](#) – *Asia Times Online*, April 6, 2006

...According to PAD leader Sondhi, certain elements in the army had also encouraged him to raise the tempo of his peaceful protests, a move that would open the way for a military intervention that could have been manipulated to knock Thaksin from power. Sondhi, however, said he refused to put his followers at risk...

[ANALYSIS – Has absent Thai PM turned the tables on his foes?](#) – *Reuters*, April 11, 2006

Be careful what you wish for — you might just get it. The old adage is looking ominously prescient for the enemies of Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who got much of what they wished for when he stepped aside a week ago after an embarrassing and...

[Where Brashness Doesn't Play](#) – *NYT*, April 11, 2006

...Mr. Thaksin's headstrong policies have often courted controversy, even ridicule. He once raced by helicopter to a small town in a vain effort to locate a mythical hoard of wartime Japanese gold, saying it could be used to pay off the nation's foreign debts. He suggested helping the country's financial markets by advancing Thailand's clocks past those of its eastern neighbors, to the same time zone as the financial centers of Hong Kong and Singapore. And he fired his first central banker because the banker refused to raise interest rates, a move intended to stimulate spending by making Thai depositors feel wealthier...

...Nevertheless, after five years, Mr. Thaksin has left the country in better economic shape.

One of the important elements of the success of the Thaksin administration "was restoring confidence among the business community as well as consumer confidence," said Vincent Milton, the Bangkok-based managing

director of Fitch Ratings ...

[Mob rule usurps democracy in Thailand](#) – Ohmynews, April 9 2006



...King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand proposed a parliamentary election. He wanted the voters to decide if Thaksin Shinawatra should keep his job. The prime minister's enemies opposed the election. The three main opposition parties staged a boycott. A majority of Thai voters supported Thaksin Shinawatra so their demands for resignation would go unheeded. They repudiated the will of the majority and believed their voices deserved greater priority than the voters ...

[COMMENTARY: What the US could learn from Thailand](#) – Asia Times, April 7, 2006

...Ralph "Skip" Boyce, the garrulous US ambassador to Thailand, has maintained that Washington has in no way assisted Thaksin's controversial counter-insurgency efforts, which, similar to US military operations in Iraq, have been attended by allegations of torture and abuse of Muslim detainees.

Bangkok-based European and Asian diplomats, however, beg to differ, claiming that the United States' behind-the-scenes role in the conflict is an open secret in diplomatic circles.

...Thaksin's Thailand plays host to a joint top-secret US Central Intelligence Agency-run counter-terrorism center, charged with managing covert operations throughout Southeast Asia, according to a senior Thai intelligence official attached to the National Intelligence Agency. Those ties appear to have paved the way for the CIA to establish a secret prison in Thailand, where abducted terror suspects were allegedly held and interrogated. Ambassador Boyce has repeatedly declined to comment on the specifics of the secret detention center. (The facility was closed down in 2003, according to the Washington Post.)...

[English lyrics to the Square-face Song](#) – April 10, 2006

[Rural Thais await return of "Thaksin the hero"](#) – Reuters, April 8, 2006

..."I don't like the Democrats. They said terrible things about the prime minister and ruined all his projects," said watermelon hawker Hakiew Sae-gno, 61, about the biggest opposition party.

"He (Thaksin) is a big, important person who helps our king and takes care of us. If he doesn't pay tax that's his right." ...

A tale of two newspapers: Thaksin steps down

A step forward...

or a step back?

[Events signify a giant step forward for Thai democracy](#) – Thai Day, April 6, 2006

[Have protesters destroyed democracy in Thailand?](#) – AFP, April 7, 2006

...For most analysts, however, who are aware that, not so long ago, political change usually came with military intervention and tanks rolling through the streets of Bangkok, the peaceful demonstrations that culminated with Thaksin going on national television this week to announce his resignation signals a maturing of Thai democracy...

[In Thailand, a silk revolution](#) – IHT, April 6, 2006

What has just happened in Thailand will doubtless puzzle the pundits for some time to come. The concerted effort by a wealthy minority to overthrow a popularly elected leader who enjoyed the undying support of the poor rural majority was regarded by much of the world as a perversion of democracy. The corporate world was surprised to see the man who had helped put Thailand back on the growth track after the 1997 financial crisis vilified by those who had benefited most from economic recovery.

... Some analysts wonder if democracy has been subverted, and if the Bangkok elite effectively disenfranchised rural voters.

"Thaksin was hugely popular and was by far the biggest vote winner," said Robert Broadfoot, head of the Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy. "It's disastrous for democracy in Thailand..."

[Backsliding in Bangkok](#) – Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service, April 6, 2006

...But it's hard to see this as a step forward for Thailand. By boycotting the election, the opposition parties succeeded in changing leaders, but not much else. If they want to influence the country's future, they'll have to do it the hard way. That means coming up with candidates who will run the government the way they think it should be run – instead of simply throwing out the ones who won't.

[Thailand's top opposition party fails to win hearts despite Thaksin ouster](#) – Channel NewsAsia, April 8, 2006

Thailand's top opposition party scored a win by helping to oust Premier Thaksin Shinawatra, but this has done little for the fortunes of a party that lacks a vision for the kingdom's future, analysts say...

[Minister: Arroyo 'is no Thaksin'](#) – Bangkok Post, April 8, 2006

..."President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has balls," said the secretary, Raul Gonzalez, to stress that the president would not resign her post – unlike Mr Thaksin, who did. He said Mrs Arroyo will hang tough.

"Maybe Thaksin Shinawatra is not made of a sterner stuff," he said during an interview on a Manila radio station. He added that Mr Thaksin "gets scared easily".

"President Arroyo was elected by the people. She won, as far as we are concerned, in an election that was fair and square," he said...

[Comparing Philippines with Thailand a show of ignorance: Bunye](#) – Asia Pulse, April 6, 2006

...Claudio said that prior to Thaksin's announcement, there was an environment of gloom and pessimism and a lot of outrage and anger.

"Such is not the situation here in the Philippines. There are lots of positive development in the economic and the political front that should make the Filipinos feel optimistic and hopeful," he said...

[Target widens to 'Thaksin regime'](#) – The Nation, April 7, 2006

...The alliance's rally planned for today at Sanam Luang must raise three important points, he said.

First, a probe must be launched into the alleged corruption of the Thaksin government and the assets of the prime minister and his family. Attempts should also be made to void the April 2 election.

Second, the media must be allowed to operate freely. People working on the government's behalf must stop intervening in the media by resigning from all positions at media organisations. Jon said he has learned that a confidant of the prime minister was stationed at MCOT for two days in order to check on its Modernine TV.

Third, Thai Rak Thai proxies are running in the Senate election on April 19 and all provinces must announce the names of the candidates running under the influence of that party so people will not vote for them, he said...

[Hero of the poor became a corrupter of democracy](#) – *The Age*, April 6, 2006

Thanks to Terry for pointing out this Australian perspective on Thaksin.

Two years ago, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra noted, "A company is a country. A country is a company, the management is the same." The Opposition's boycott of last Sunday's snap election has delivered what may be Thaksin's last political lesson: a company and a country are different, and chief executives don't always get what they want...

[Thaksin's exit good for Thailand. Asia, Too](#) – Bloomberg, April 5, 2006

... His fans failed to see Thaksinomics for what it really was: Old-fashioned, debt-financed pump priming, dressed up as something new and revolutionary. Thaksin's strategy to raise Thai incomes and make the economy less reliant on exports is belied by how quickly millions of his people became heavily indebted — average household debt rose 53 percent between 2004 and 2001 — and often seem vulnerable to hard times...



Thaksin ork pai laew – April 5, 2006

Above left: *Khao Sod* – (Thaksin) Gets out – Maew concedes to take a break – Bhokin is widely expected to be P.M. – Stop the nation's conflict

Above right: *Daily News* – Thaksin moves back to take a break – Not quit – Apologizes to 16 million who voted for TRT -On 7 April the mob will protest again – Appeals to cancel those elected (in the April 2 elections)

Below: *Bangkok Post* – Thaksin Bowing Out and *The Nation* – Thaksin Quits



[I will not accept post of premier in the next government : Thaksin](#) – *The Nation*, April 4, 2006

[Thai premier to take "political break"](#) – Reuters, April 4, 2006

[*****PM announces suspending political role*****](#) – TNA, April 4, 2006

[Thaksin sues 'The Nation' for misleading report](#) – TNA, April 4, 2006

* As many readers have noted, Thaksin has not resigned, but has pledged not to be PM in the next government.

* From the *Bangkok Post* website, April 4, 2006: The headline is "Thaksin: Why should I resign?" and directly to the right is a breaking news article entitled "THAKSIN RESIGNS."



(Photo: Don)

Police waiting – April 4, 2006

Above and below: Police waiting for "Caravan of the Poor" protesters to arrive at the the Nation Group building. For some reason, the protesters never arrived at the building. Note the riot shields in the pickup truck above.



(Photo: Don)

[Thaksin's party gets all 36 seats of Bangkok constituencies](#) – Xinhua, April 3, 2006

According to the latest results of ballots issued on Monday, the Thai Rak Thai (TRT) Party led by caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has got all the 36 seats in Bangkok constituencies. But doubt follows as TRT received fewer votes than abstentions in 28 out of 36 constituencies.

The latest figure released by the Election Committee showed that TRT candidates in Bangkok's 36 constituencies has got 1,234,522 votes, or a 46.9 percent of all the 2,631,200 voters, while the votes of "No vote" raise to 1,319,206, or a proportion of 50.1 percent.

The vote counts showed that the TRT received fewer votes than abstentions in 28 out of 36 constituencies in Bangkok.

Therefore, some analysts doubted that if the higher figure of abstentions means TRT's nonsupporters are more than supporters. But in term of election law of Thailand, TRT has win all the 36 seats in Bangkok legally.

Thaksin: We have 50% – AP, April 3, 2006

Thailand's prime minister says his party has received more than 50 percent of the votes in the national election.

[Thai PM claims election victory](#) – Reuters, April 3, 2006

[Thai Leader's Party Sweeps Elections](#) – AP, April 3, 2006

PM stunned or confident?

At about the same time last night it was amusing to read these two stories online with different takes on the PM's demeanor.

['No vote' stuns pm](#) – The Nation, April 3, 2006

Early results show Thaksin losing huge support in the capital

– Rattled leader avoids press, plans emergency meeting with senior Thai Rak Thai members this afternoon

[Thaksin confident of post-election calm](#) – TNA, April 2, 2006

...Speaking to reporters at the headquarters of his TRT Party, Mr Thaksin said he would like to congratulate the Thais for coming out to exercise their right in a show of endorsement for democracy.

...Mr Thaksin declined comment on move to form the next administration, saying that one only has to wait for the outcome of the election which will represent the people's will that all sides must respect.

– Ruling party insiders fear result could give new momentum to PAD

[Election results are a rude wake-up call for Thaksin](#) – *The Nation*, April 4, 2006

...The incident, however, backfired. Instead of silencing the media or cowering critics of the government, it galvanised them. The fact that a certain political figure closely associated with the government was behind the potentially violent protest didn't escape the public attention...

Protest photos from SomethingChanged.com – April 2, 2006

Ben writes: *...Just for your interest, I've put up a couple of photo galleries of last weekend's demonstrations ([here](#) and [here](#)). There's also an [album](#) taken a couple of weeks ago at Sanam Luang (just the photos in the middle of the album).*

Thaksin has won? Sondhi in exile? – Sunday, April 2, 2006

A day after other media outlets reported that Sondhi has not fled to China, TNA is still trumpeting the strange holiday Sondhi is taking in China. Depending on their political slant, the media are either reporting the trip breathlessly and implying Sondhi has fled or stressing the trip was a quick vacation and Sondhi will return on Saturday.

Why might Sondhi be weighing future moves from overseas? Because contrary to media opinions that Thaksin will be facing a crisis after the election, the reality is that Thaksin's ability to get to the election without having to step down means he has, in effect, defeated the opposition. The confident predictions that that the "loss of legitimacy" would require Thaksin to step down will have been discredited.

Thaksin has already been setting his own terms in suggesting a national reconciliation government. The election gives Thaksin international credibility, restricts the actions of those who might be able to replace him, and gives TRT factions unprecedented influence over whatever actions will need to be taken to restore a constitutional government if the requirements for electing a suitable number of MPs are not attained. After Sunday pro-government mob action will increase and the mechanisms of government will begin to turn again against Thaksin foes and the media.



For two days before the election, the press have been predefining the result as "chaos," but on the ground Thaksin will be in the driver's seat.

Also: [Sondhi delays return from China](#) – *The Nation*, April 1, 2006

BTW: Note that the Thaksin reference to "[sacrifice](#)" (implying he would step aside) on the eve of the election is just part of the rounds of conciliatory talk Thaksin uses when the situation is at its hottest. More on this tact is [here](#).

[Back to the High tension in Thailand main page](#)

Half a world apart

April 1, 2006

Categories: Crime

[Half a world apart](#) – *Morning Sentinel*,

April 1, 2006

...He started teaching English at a junior college in Bangkok, but found the job dull. He looked for opportunities to put his computer graphics and art skills to use. And he found them — in the Bangkok underground.

Ireland built a business forging documents — passports, driver licenses, visas.

He defended his choice by saying it not only made him a decent living, but also allowed him to help others.

"I was allowing people — citizens of Earth — to go where they wanted, allowing a person to reunite with their family, a poor person to find work abroad, a mother to visit her children, a family to escape religious persecution, a wronged man a chance to start over," Ireland said.

Bangkok, he said, was the perfect place for his kind of business.

"One can do business with the Russians at 9 a.m., the Tamil Tigers at noon and the Chinese around 5 p.m.," Ireland said.

...The guards were rough; each was assigned to work there as punishment for breaking rules at other Thai prisons, Ireland said.

...Klong Prem held about 10,000 prisoners in 10 buildings. Every building had a large yard where prisoners spent the daylight hours.

The prison also had a soccer field, a weight room, TVs in every room, new magazines and newspapers, and three prison bands.

And, the guards at Klong Prem never carried weapons.

"They were mellow and slept a lot," Ireland said.

But the prison rock band was a bright spot for Ireland...

Street chef in a city that loves its food

April 3, 2006

Categories: Food and Drink

[Street chef in a city that loves its food](#) –

International Herald Tribune, April 3, 2006

Street stalls are the testing ground for Thai cooks, a Darwinian competition to win the hearts and sate the appetites of Bangkok's hungry – and often picky – 10 million or so residents...

Yet Sompong has achieved nowhere near the fame of the superstars of Bangkok street food. A 15-minute walk from Sompong's stall is a family that sells green papaya salad and grilled chicken, a food-stall-cum- restaurant known to most people in the neighborhood as the Soi Polo Som Tam.

Pongsi Sapketsobha, the matriarch, says the family owns one Mercedes, one BMW, one Volvo, and several other cars. She sent her children to private universities, and the family owns a rubber plantation in southern Thailand and "many houses" in the capital.

"Just say that I can buy anything I want," Pongsi said in an interview...

Singapore bans net politicking for election

April 4, 2006

Categories: Singapore

[Singapore bans Net politicking for election](#) – DPA,

April 4, 2006

New Internet technologies such as podcasting and videocasting cannot be used for disseminating political information during the upcoming Singapore general election, the government said in a published statement Tuesday.

Bloggers are allowed to discuss politics but will have to register their sites if they consistently espouse a political line.

Streaming of "explicit political content" by parties or individuals has been banned under election advertising rules set in 2001 ...

Implementation of mega projects likely to delay until mid 2007

April 5, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Implementation
of mega projects likely to delay until mid 2007](#) –

TNA, April 5, 2006

... "The work of the planned political reform is expected to take about 12-15 months to complete, during which the implementation of the mega-projects is unlikely, but is expected to be adjourned until the post political reform government is formed," he projected.

The leading analyst said, however, that the anticipated delay in the mega project implementation would help ease the country's current account deficit in the meantime...

Crisis point?

April 6, 2006

Categories: HIV-AIDS

[Crisis](#)

[point?](#) – Thai Day, April

6, 2006

...Inside, however, there is no notice advising that the rate of HIV infection among gay and bisexual men in Bangkok surged more than 50 percent from 2003 to last year — to 28.3 percent. There is not a single free condom. Not one warning to practice safe-sex and no brochures explaining how to do this.

...The indifference of the Thaksin administration to HIV/AIDS issues has been compounded by the government's CEO governors' policy, which has seen national health policy shifted to the local level, Jon explains. With this decentralization, local authorities are supposed to be in charge, but no mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that they use their funding wisely...

Kamnan Poh disappears

April 7, 2006

[Kamnan](#)

[Poh disappears](#) – *The Nation*,

April 7, 2006

Royal elephant to shine in celebration of Monarch's reign

April 7, 2006

Categories: The Monarchy

[Royal elephant to shine in celebration of Monarch's reign](#) –
The Nation, April 7, 2006

Airport of Thailand company breaks burglary ring

April 7, 2006

Categories: Airports and Airlines

[Airport of Thailand company breaks burglary ring](#) – thaisnews, April 7, 2006

History of the Thai viceroys

April 7, 2006

Categories: History

[History of the Thai viceroys](#) – ThaiFolk.com, April 7, 2006

Thailand to restore religious sites for king's 60th anniversary

April 8, 2006

Categories: The Monarchy

[Thailand](#)

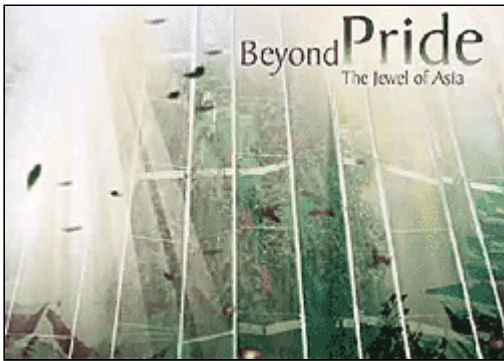
[to restore religious sites for king's 60th anniversary](#) –

AFP, April 8, 2006

Thailand is planning a multi-million-dollar facelift for more than 150 historical and religious sites to mark King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 60 years as monarch, officials have said...

Paragon website

April 8, 2006



(Source: Paragon)

Paragon website

– April 8, 2006

The latest update to the [Paragon website](#) keeps up the tradition of puffery in the form of a blizzard of English words paired in questionable combinations: *Beyond Pride – The Jewel of Asia*, *Beyond Precious – Facet of Luxury...*

Earlier: [Early](#)

[Paragon advertising and the *Bangkok Post*](#)

Army Club website

April 8, 2006

Army Club website

– April 8, 2006

Right: The striking new Army Club building on Weepahwahdeeransit Road is available for parties and conventions and has a [website](#).

[Google Earth Placemark showing the site before construction](#)

– [Download Google Earth](#)



(Photo: ArmyClub.net)

Elephant well?

April 8, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News



Elephant well? – April 8, 2006

Above: Where is this?

English lyrics to the Square-face Song

April 10, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

English lyrics to the *Square-face*

Song – April 10, 2006

English lyrics to the [anti-Thaksin](#)

[song](#)... Overall, it is a nasty attack on all of the alleged failings of Thaksin, a listing of negative rumors about his family, and an attempt to blame TRT allies as well.

Ai Na Liam

*A square has four sides, Mr. shameless
face is AI Na Liam*

*The Singapore's follower, the Singapore follower, he will go to
hell for he is not humble.*

*AI Na Liam Na Liam Na Liam , his followers fawn over
Mr. Na Liam is a mixed breed person, speak Thai mixed with English.
He seems showy!*

*The opposite party gathers to boycott,
people are against him because he still shameless. Shameless and
not a gentleman, he is afraid to revealed the secret so he dissolves
parliament.*

*AI Na Liam, Na Liam. He distributed new bank notes
for people to go to the ballot. Some fake election card are mixed
so he got 19 million votes.
He was chased, but he didn't quit. He answer people whom ask him
to quit with "he will quit in the next life."
He sold all of Shin Corp and the nation. He grabbed country for
his mom and dad's descendants.*

*Oh-Ai, Liam Liam Liam Liam Liam
Oh-Ai, Liam Liam Liam Liam Liam*

*AI Na Liam Na Liam. He bought power with money. He
gathers to float the baht, caused the nation's economy turmoil because
he stored the dollars.
If the law has a loophole, he involved to trade through it.
When the secret disclosed, he hired the lawyer, but he forget to
tell him to speak morally.
He bought the land for profit, he knew inside information that it
will have BTS.
The policy benefits he, his family, descendants and servants to
be rich.
Import goods come into Thailand market because he opened free trade
with I. P. Star.
He acted as a business mafia, caused corruption, and ordered kidnappings.*

*Square face has 4 sides, Mr. shameless face is AI Na Liam.
Follower of Singapore, will go to hell, not be a humble person.
AI Na Liam, Na Liam Na Liam, just thinking about tricks and not
eat food. When he is hungry, he eats the airwaves, post office,
electricity authority.*

*For snacks, he eats longan fruit with TPI or the young plant
He took PTT shares for Oak and Or at Jansongmah.*

*AI Na Liam, Na Liam, Na Liam, just thinking about the
tricks, doesn't fully sleep.
Be engrossed in CTX, then forgets the sex that he likes.
He worried about Ample Rich, then he forgets to slip the zip after
he pees.
He worry about his destiny and if that his assets assets be seized.*

*Oh-Ai, oh-Ai, Liam Liam Liam Liam Liam
Oh-Ai, oh-Ai, Liam Liam Liam Liam Liam
AI Na Liam Na Liam Na Liam, Populism Na Liam is so favored!
Village fund loans make people have debts. Payments to the Bank
of Agriculture and Cooperative are paused, but people still have
money to buy mobile phones.
The deceptive Eua-Arthon house worse quality than if people build
the house by themselves.
For selling drug, he ordered to commit murders, because he is afraid
of the secrets that will be disclosed about the chief.
30 baht cures all diseases, diabetes, bird-flu—just take a paracetamol
tablet.
When his destiny is not good, he plays drama and act like a prostitute,
hugs many people and pretends to cry.*

*A square has four sides, Mr. Shameless is Mr. Na Liam.
Follower of Singapore, will go to hell, not be a humble person.
AI Na Liam, Na Liam, Na Liam, very tricky, brazen, shameless, so
cheating.
Put the money for the constitutional court and orders not to rule
on hiding shares.
The amoral independent organizations, he orders his follower to
arrange.
And bribe the corrupt government officers, the ones who favor him
will be promoted faster.*

*AI Na Liam, Na Liam, Na Liam, AI square face tyrant,
he acted very arrogantly.
He wants to be a hero, disgusting person. Wants to compare status
to the privy councilor
He spoke impolite to the King, impudent to set up the patriarch
disguised as a monk.*

*Oh-Ai, oh-Ai, Liam Liam Liam Liam Liam
Oh-Ai, oh-Ai, Liam Liam Liam Liam Liam
AI Na Liam Na Liam Na Liam. AI Nazi Na Liam who is liar.
Lied that thieves in the south were arrested. Good people died and
also were accused.
He said he is good, but he cheated the tax and let his son to face
the case.
He said he followed the role, but if he is at a disadvantage, he
amended the rule.
He will buy Liverpool, Fullam, he lied with other news to cover
his bad things.
He look down on ratification, but he wrote another one and said
he had prepared.
He said he will conquer corruption, but he was corrupt more than
that.*

He said he had Dhamma when he was found the guilty.

He said "Tathata"

*A square has 4 sides, Mr. Shameless is Mr. Na Liam.
Follower of Singapore, will go to hell, not be a humble person.
AI Na Liam, Na Liam, his face has sides more than geometry.
His sister also has a big stomach , less brain,
fakes a vocation education degree to further study in university.
His daughter is quite dull, cheats on exam and still gets a bad
grade.
His son has low IQ and wears black eyeglasses because he is a drug
addict.
His wife cheats and is not humble. She walked at the Emporium and
was abused by people.
He has lots of guilt since the case of monk land to the mega project.
At night, he might worry and needs injection to make him sleep.
He may be neurotic and may be nude cause trouble with the advertising
sign.*

*Oh-Ai, oh-Ai, Liam Liam Liam Liam Liam
Oh-Ai, oh-Ai, Liam Liam Liam Liam Liam
AI Na Liam, Na Liam, if we let him trick to next term.
Thailand may be a secret jail which is the army base of USA.
Singapore will come into the country and be arrogant without having
to have a visa .
A Khmer black magician will be rich and spell the magical word when
bad things get in the parliament.
He may take money from the fund and give loans for the Myanmar economy.
Thailand may be taken to the share market and sold at 1 baht per
share. And he will say it is par price.
He may permit Ar Koo to change the national anthem and get a copyright
for this life and the next life.
Hitler is reborn and who has a son named Puangthongta.*

*A square has 4 sides, Mr. Shameless is Mr. Na Liam.
Follower of Singapore, will go to hell, not be a humble person.
Suriya Juengrungrongkit – Surakiat –
Somkid – Kongsak Wantana, Chidchai Wannasatit – Ai Samak – Dusit
– Wisanu – Wassana – Suwan Walaisatun – Thammarak Issarangkool Na Ayuthaya,
Sunee Sinthudeja, Thanong Pittaya – Yongyuth- Yaowapa – Suranand
– Sukwit, Sunai – Supap Klikrajai – Sutham – Sitha Suchat – Suwit
– Suwat- Jey Noi Sudarat – Suchon – Sonthaya Kunpleum, but I don't
favor him because I don't forget that his father kills who?*

*Oh-Ai, oh-Ai, Liam Liam Liam Liam Liam
Oh-Ai, oh-Ai, Liam Liam Liam Liam Liam
Adisorn – Adisai – Arisaman – Newin – Yuranand – Laddawan – Wattana
– Pongpon – Jaturon Chaisaeng – Mr. Rung Kaewdaeng – Somchai – Suchada,
Mr. Padung Limcharoenrat – Mr. Wanmuhamad Normatha – Phutham – Pongsak
– Prommin – Phokin – Pongthem Themkanjana – Surapong Suebwongli
Thongthong – Kantati – Sutep – Orathai Thanajaro – Bawornsak Suwannoo
– Pracha – Rabiebrat – Sermsak – Somsak- Priewphan – Chaipak- Jakrapob
– Pawina- Pinij Jarusombat – Sora-at- Sorayuth Suthasanajinda.*

*Oh-Ai, oh-Ai, Liam Liam Liam Liam Liam
Oh-Ai, oh-Ai, Liam Liam Liam Liam Liam
Warathep Ratanakorn, Wira – Danuporn – Prayuth – Parinya – Mingkwan*

*Saengsuwan – Pansak – Jakapan – Sansanee – Preecha – Ura Daitaewang
Sophon Petchsawang – Boonkli – Lalita – Plodprasop Surassawadi who
opened the Night Safari to be a cemetery of wild animals – Na hathai
– Chaiyasit – Ittipon – Sukhum – Kamon – Sumitta – Sujinda – Jamlong
Krutkhuntod – Sirikorn – Bunpod – Wichai – Wittaya.
Channel 9, ITV, Ch.7, Ch.3, Ch.5, UBC CP, Seven, Tiger, Heineken.*

Earlier: "Square face" song – March
31, 2006

[*The
Nation*](#) points out the "[Square
Face](#)" song on the *Manager* site.

[TRT asks composer to reveal
name, get sued](#) – *Bangkok Post*, March 30, 2006

*Ai Khon Na Liam, or Square-Faced Man, a satirical song about caretaker
Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his friends which has become
the talk of the town, was played at Thai Rak Thai headquarters yesterday
by two groups with different goals in mind...*

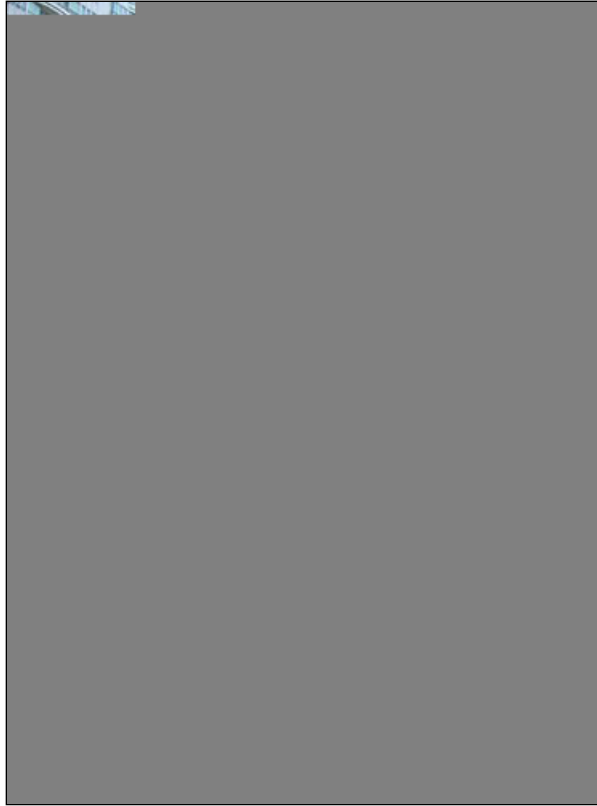
*"After listening to the song and analysing the lyrics, we have come
to the view that the composer defamed the people mentioned in the
song. The writer should expect to receive a libel lawsuit," said
Chusak Sirinil, a lawyer working for the party...*

*Party deputy spokesman Chatuporn Prompan said the song was rude and
insolent and the composer, who used the pseudonym Suwaron, should
reveal his name so the party's legal team knew who to target...*

Old House on Sri Ayutthaya Road

April 10, 2006

Categories: Buildings, History



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Old House on Sri Ayutthaya Road
– April 10, 2004

Bangkok old hands will remember the old house on the northeast corner of Sri Ayutthaya and Phayathai Roads. Further down Phayathai Road, MacKenna Theater is being torn down too.

Tearing down Laksamee Wilas Palace
– February 1, 2006

Wisarut reports: *After my investigation, I found that the old house at the corner of Phaythai Intersection is "Laksamee Wilas Palace" of the former Queen Laksamilawan of King Vajiravut (July 3, 1899 – August 29, 1961). She was born Momjao Ying Wanphimon Worawan of Prince Nartadhip Praphanphongse (the founder of the Red Line Tram and Phraphutthabat Railway).*

This palace came from the money from the will of King Vajiravut since she received only 12,000 baht annual payment from the Royal Household Office and stayed in the palace at the end of Soi Phrom Phong (Sukhumvit 39 when it had not become a shortcut yet) without servants. Even when she lived in the new palace, she rarely met with anybody—not even her own siblings and relatives (the Worawan family).

Laksamee Wilas Palace is also the place where the former Queen Laksamilawan met the tragic end of her life. She was murdered by her own gardeners with an axe and a steel crowbar on August 29, 1961. Her secretary (a junior student at the Accountant and Commence Department, Chulalongkorn University) discovered the decomposed body of former Queen Laksamilawan at the garage of Laksamee Wilas Palace on September 3, 1961. She was cremated at the crematorium at Wat Debsirin on October 1961.

Police speedily arrested two gardeners for the murder. Both of them admitted that they murdered the former Queen Laksamilawan since they could not endure the continuing curses of the old lady since she was so self-centered, so moody and so pushy that nobody wanted to become her maids, butlers or servants. The gardeners were sentenced to death by a Military Court since it was a time under Martial Law, but the sentence was commuted to life and they were pardoned years later.

Today, Laksamee Wilas Palace is becoming history since the new owner want to demolish it to erase the tragedy from the place. Even today, nobody care about this old palace and noodle stalls are set up in front of the derelict palace.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

It has sat vacant for many years and is now being torn down.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The old house from the eighth floor of Siripinyo Building. The Phayathai Skytrain Station in in the background.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Creative Advertising

April 10, 2006

Categories: Advertising and Commercials

[Creative](#)

[Advertising](#) – April 10, 2006

Laos bans mobile Songkran spraying

April 10, 2006

[Laos bans mobile Songkran spraying](#) –
Bangkok Post, April 10, 2006

LandofSmiles.com

April 10, 2006

LandofSmiles.com

– April 10, 2006

Nils came across these [galleries/slideshows of Thailand](#).

Breast cream billboard

April 10, 2006



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Breast cream billboard
– April 10, 2006

Accept sex workers, says Lascelles Chin

April 11, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Accept sex workers, says Lascelles Chin](#) –

Jamacia Gleaner, April 11, 2006

...Citing Thailand as an example of a nation where the profession is accepted, though not legalised, Mr. Chin said that country has been able to achieve 100 per cent condom use among its sex workers...

The LASCO chairman said Thailand has been able to reduce its HIV/AIDS infection rate because of the proactive approach it has taken. He noted that the country had about 140,000 new infections each year. However, since its Prime Minister became the head of the National Aids Committee and the government and private sector got together in an effort to fight the disease, the new rate of infection was reduced to 18,000 in 2003.

And a response: [No to Thai prostitution model](#) – April 16, 2006

New species of aquatic ray identified

April 11, 2006

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[New](#)

[species of aquatic ray identified](#) –

The Nation, April 11, 2006

Yearly subscription to the Bangkok Post: U.S. \$3,820.65

April 11, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Yearly](#)

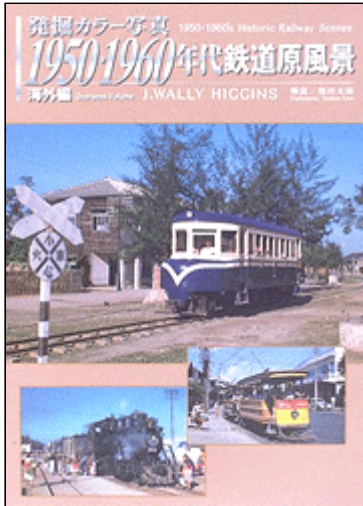
[subscription to the *Bangkok Post*: U.S. \\$3,820.65](#)

– Amazon.com, April 11, 2006

1950-1960's Historic Railway Scenes

April 11, 2006

Categories: Thai Railroads



J. Wally Higgins' book *1950-1960's Historic Railway Scenes*
– April 11, 2006

2B forumers recently helped review J. Wally Higgins' new book [1950-1960's](#)

[Historic Railway Scenes](#). Wally writes: ...I should add a note to the Forum thread that somebody at JTB changed the tram line name from Pratumwan to Patumwan (though not everywhere that the name appears). This should make ncr happier, or less unhappy... Many thanks for opening 2Bangkok.com to me for collecting information and corrections, and, in the process, also putting me in contact with Dick van der Spek.

I won't offer any comments on Thai politics. Trying to figure out political developments in Japan and in the USA is difficult enough.

Demolition of the British Embassy in Bangkok

April 12, 2006

Categories: Buildings

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: British Embassy
land fronting Ploenchit Road. Existing structures are being
removed.

British Embassy demolition – April 12, 2006

Firms vie for embassy land – *Bangkok Post*,
March 31, 2006

...The nine-rai site in front of the British Embassy on Ploenchit Road could fetch as much as one million baht per square wah, say industry executives. That would far outstrip prices paid for prime land on Silom and Sathorn roads, which have been known to fetch between 200,000 and 400,000 baht per square wah. Two years ago a plot of land on Sathorn Road belonging to the United States Information Services (USIS) fetched 260,000 baht per square wah at an auction. It was purchased by Singapore's Hotel Properties Limited (HPL) and is being developed into a high-end condominium, The Met... If it succeeds, LH has said that it plans to invest around 13.5 billion baht in the plot over four years to develop three kinds of property: a serviced apartment building, an office building and a hotel, on 150,000 square metres...

British Embassy to sell land in Bangkok – UPI, November 25, 2004

The British government is going ahead with a major redevelopment of its Bangkok embassy and will be selling a huge chunk of its prime land. Ambassador David Fall said the plans to sell four acres of the present 12-acre site were "an open secret," even though there has been no formal announcement and the deal is waiting for the go-ahead from London, Business Day reported Thursday. The scheme could be delayed or even postponed by the softness in the Bangkok property market or by the firmness of sterling. In the meantime, a London firm has been commissioned to design new housing to accommodate embassy staff who would be displaced by the sale. The British Embassy, then a legation, moved to its present site in 1926, when it was a remote, rural spot. A statue of Queen Victoria moved from the old legation was the first structure on the new site. During World War II, the statue of Queen Victoria was boarded up, but the Japanese occupiers provided a peephole so that the old queen would not be too upset. The British legation became an embassy in 1947.

[For sale: government land assets from Bangkok to Chelsea](#) – *This is London*, December 12, 2006

...The British Embassy in Bangkok sold off less than four acres "of the noisiest most polluted and least used" part of the 13-acre Embassy grounds to a shopping centre and raked in £50million. The entire complex was valued at just £8.8m in the 2001 National Asset Register...

[Central wins bid for most valuable land](#) – Bangkok Post, April 28, 2006

Central Retail Corporation (CRC), the country's largest retail chain, has won the bid for the British Embassy land, which has been touted as the most valuable plot in Thailand. An industry source said CRC beat Land & Houses Plc in the final round of bidding with an offer of more than 900,000 baht per square wah, or three billion baht, for the prime nine-rai plot on the corner of Wireless and Phloen Chit roads, while the latter proposed 880,000 baht...

Central Chidlom leases a one-rai plot from the Kamol Sukosol Group for parking space, which would be in jeopardy if the lease cannot be renewed...

In another development, Kobchai Chirathivat, the president of Central Pattana Plc, the group's property development arm, confirmed that CentralWorld would open on June 30, on schedule...

[Central buys 'priciest plot' from UK Embassy](#) – The Nation, May 16, 2006

The sale of part of the British embassy compound in Bangkok to the Central Group was completed yesterday in a historic deal reportedly worth about £50 million – Bt3.5 billion...

The embassy originally occupied about 31 rai of land that had been purchased in 1922 from Phya Pakdi Noraset (Nai Lert). There had been talk of the sale of part of the property for over a decade, but it was not until late last year that bidding was opened on about one-third of the block...

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Changes at the British embassy compound – February 24, 2007

Where did the Queen Vic statue go? In the last three months there is only one "Embassy News and Press Release": [SALE OF PART OF BRITISH EMBASSY COMPOUND](#)

1. *The 12.75-acre compound was larger than needed. The site was purchased outright by the British Government in 1922. Originally located on the outskirts of the city, it is now part of the Central Business District. The land sold was the most polluted and noisiest part of the compound; next to a six lane arterial road (Ploenchit) and the skytrain elevated railway.*

2. *The War Memorial and statue of Queen Victoria will be moved to appropriate sites near the Residence.*

[Google placemark for the site](#)

Above: Undated postcard showing the Queen Victoria Memorial

[Britain to sell off its prime acres in Thailand](#) – Telegraph, February 10, 2005

To be sold: four acres of prime land in central Bangkok, currently occupied by one war memorial, some diplomatic buildings, and a historic flag pole.

Estimated value: up to £30 million. Apply:

HM Government, Whitehall...

The war memorial will be moved elsewhere within the compound, as will the statue of Queen Victoria which would otherwise find itself facing the back wall of whatever is built on the land. Efforts will also be made to preserve a huge steel flagpole, specially imported from Hong Kong in the 1890s at

*a cost of £500 – earning the then vice-consul
a reprimand for unnecessary extravagance...*

Indonesians hurl stones at Playboy offices

April 12, 2006

[Indonesians](#)

[hurl stones at Playboy offices](#) –

Washington Post, April 12, 2006

Songkran on Khao Sarn Road 2006 Part 1

April 13, 2006

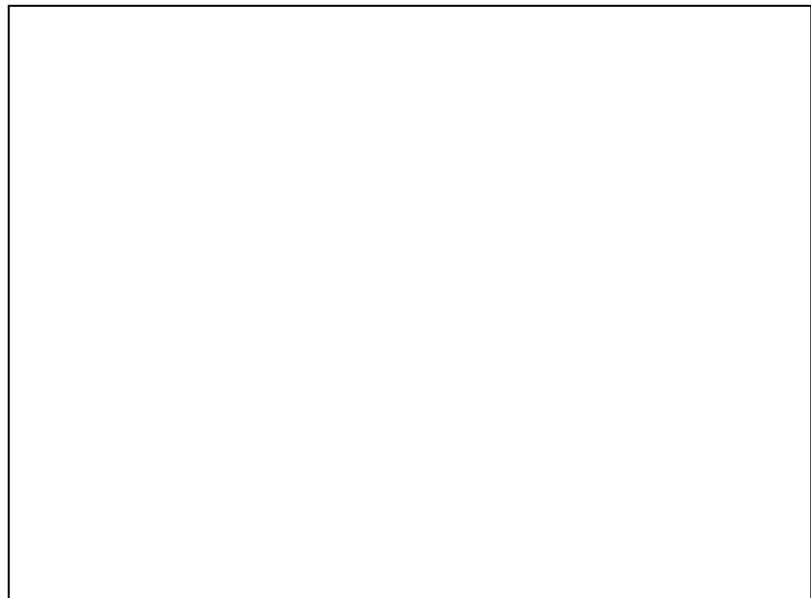
Categories: Songkran

.
(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Songkran on Khao Sarn Road 2006
– April 13, 2006

.
(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Right: Corporate sponsorship of the festivities on Khao Sarn Road grows every year. This year San Miguel sponsored a "foam party" for the largely underage crowd.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

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(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

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(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

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(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: An injured boy hit by a motorcycle near Khao Sarn Road. As alcohol consumption increases and the roads become slick with talcum powder and water, accidents like this increase.

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(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[On to page 2](#)

Songkran on Khao Sarn Road 2006 part 2

April 13, 2006

Categories: Songkran

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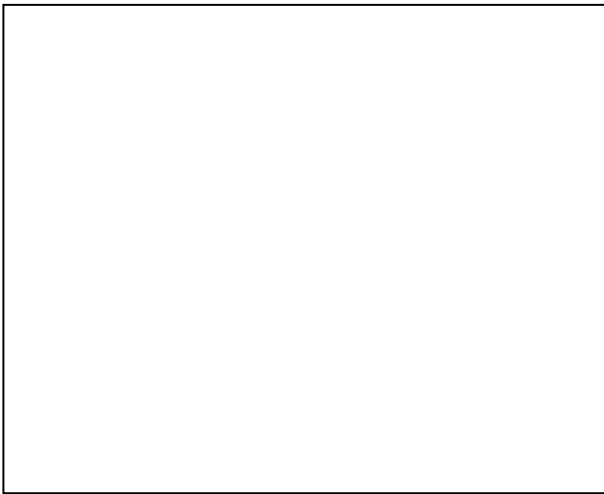
(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Songkran on Khao Sarn Road 2006 – Page 2

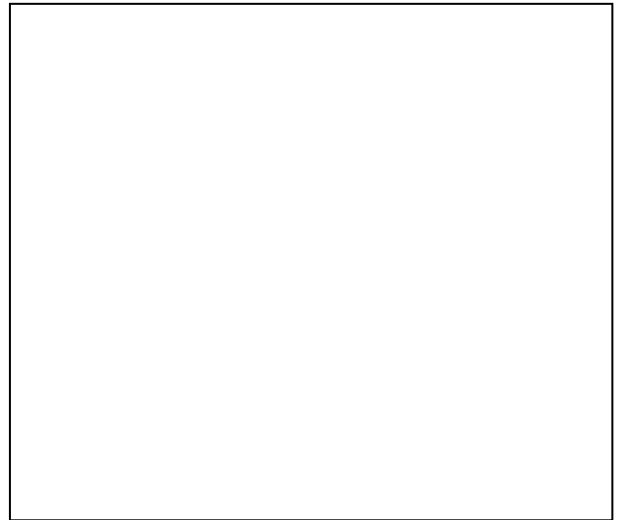
– April 13, 2005

[Back to page 1](#)

– [2Bangkok.com Songkran main page](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

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(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Dancing girls (left) and anointing a Buddha statue (right).

.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: More corporate sponsorship. Also note the forest of Coca-Cola banners.

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(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

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(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[Back to page 1](#) – [2Bangkok.com](#)
[Songkran main page](#)

Soi 0 clearing out?

April 14, 2006

Soi 0 clearing out?

– April 14, 2006

A source informs us that on April 7 tenants under the expressway on Soi 0 on Sukhumvit were given 7 days to vacate their businesses. This is the "Buckskin Joe's" bar area.

The businesses had rental agreements with a small office near Sukhumvit Road and had been paying rent, but the rental office has closed and the proprietors have disappeared.

Bangkok has had a series of scandals involving nightlife areas suddenly ordered to vacate or pubs cleared by sledgehammer wielding thugs. One such scandal thrust [Chuwit Kamolvisit](#) into the public eye.

In India, 'next great' industrial story

April 17, 2006

[In
India, 'next great' industrial story](#)

– *International Herald Tribune*, April 17, 2006

...Still, India is not the only country gunning for new factories. Southeast Asian nations, including Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia, are also expected to see a spurt in manufacturing. India lags those countries in infrastructure, but has one big advantage: a home market of more than one billion people.

Indian wages are also relatively low, beginning at about \$2 a day for factory jobs. That compares with a minimum of \$3.50 to \$4.50 a day in Thailand, depending on the area, and the \$4 to \$8 that some Chinese workers are beginning to command as labor shortages spread.

China is not in any immediate danger of falling behind, however. Its exports exceed India's by several multiples, and the gap keeps widening. In 2005, India's exports were worth about \$8 billion a month, and China's, \$63 billion, with manufactured goods the bulk of both countries' exports. Experts say the two countries will occupy different positions in the vast market for offshore manufacturing. The first wave of low-cost manufacturing to be sent overseas – the making of toys, electric kettles and television sets, among other wares – will remain out of India's reach because of the difficulty of running Indian factories as large as Chinese ones. Official paperwork and regulation is still sticky here, and power still costs about twice as much...

Bangkok Opera presents Wagner's 'Ring' with a difference

April 18, 2006

Categories: Uncategorized

[Bangkok](#)

[Opera presents Wagner's 'Ring' with a difference](#) –

NYT, April 18, 2006

... His work has also been dogged by the internecine rivalry of Bangkok's classical music scene. The city has three orchestras, more than most European capitals. The original Bangkok Symphony, created in 1999, was followed in 2002 by Mr. Somtow's Siam Philharmonic, which also plays for the Bangkok Opera. Sugree Charoensook, dean of music at Mahidol University, established the Thailand Philharmonic last year with a full season and has been poaching the best of Bangkok's players.

In spite of attempts by Mr. Somtow to get the groups to consolidate their rehearsal schedules, Mr. Charoensook's concerts tend to fall on the same dates as Mr. Somtow's, forcing Mr. Somtow to cast about for players, who in the case of this season's "Rheingold" are from the Opera and Ballet Theater in Hanoi.

To safeguard his projects against what he sees as others' efforts to undermine him, Mr. Somtow is aiming to turn Bangkok into the hub of classical music making in Southeast Asia, and he recently inaugurated the first regional opera conference to encourage collaboration. There is nothing new in this. Like-minded American opera companies regularly cut deals on co-productions...

Three dead in Rangoon's water festival

April 18, 2006

Categories: Songkran

[Three
dead in Rangoon's water festival](#) –

The Irrawaddy, April 18, 2006

At least three young Burmese girls were killed on Friday when a water-throwing stage collapsed during Rangoon's Thingyan water festival, according to city residents. More than two dozen others were injured in the incident...

A tale of two newspapers: Invited or arrested?

April 19, 2006

Categories: A Tale of Two Newspapers

A

tale of two newspapers: Invited or arrested?

[Activists](#)

[nabbed in rally at embassy](#) –

Bangkok Post, April 19, 2006

Around 30 Burmese activists including students were arrested yesterday while protesting in front of the South Korean embassy in Bangkok against the participation of Korean companies in a gas pipeline project in Burma...

[Burmese](#)

[stage a protest in front of S Korea embassy in Bangkok](#)

– *The Nation*, April 18, 2006

...After the half and hour protest, special branch police invited the group to Huey Kwang police station to check their identity cards...

Senate Elections 2006

April 20, 2006

Categories: Elections

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: An election official stands in front of a board listing senate candidates for Bangkok. Note the various candidates who are blacked out—they are people who were disqualified for various reasons.

Senate election day

[Senate:](#)

[New faces, same old ties](#) – *The Nation*, April 20, 2006

Candidates thought to have links with Thai Rak Thai out in front...

[As](#)

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[66 per cent of voting counted, Nitiphum still tops the list](#)

– *The Nation*, April 20, 2006

Left: Nitipoom Naowarat's Bangkok Governor campaign poster from 2004. Nitipoom is an influential *Thai Rath* columnists and the top vote-getting senate candidate in Bangkok. His website is [here](#), but it seems to be offline.

[Nitiphum](#)

[top-vote earner in Bangkok](#) – *The Nation*,

April 20, 2006

[Thai](#)

[Rak Thai calls on for disqualification of three Bangkok top winners](#)

– *The Nation*, April 20, 2006

[Thailand's](#)

[‘husbands and wives’ senate](#) – *Bangkok*

Post, April 20, 2006

...But unofficial vote counts on Thursday indicated that only a handful of truly independent candidates in Bangkok will win seats in the next senate, while the upcountry tally was going primarily to candidates with strong connections to politicians, many of them even wives or husbands of elected members of parliament, observers said. "We've dubbed it the husbands and wives chamber," cracked former senator Mechai Viravidhaya, Thailand's famed family planning crusader. "It's totally against what the constitution says. You're not supposed to be a politician."...

More on the election: [ThaiElections.com](#)

[Vote](#)

[For Me!](#) – *Bangkok Recorder*, April

19, 2006

Another irreverent feature from the *Recorder*—this time critiquing the senate election posters.

(Photo: Mr. John for 2Bangkok.com)

Senate election day – April

19, 2006

Mr. John reports: *People in Yala come to vote in the senator election on April 19. There are 8 candidates, but only one can be senator. The atmosphere of the election is strict safety provided by security personnel.*

Senate elections tomorrow: "Vote for the wife of your favorite government minister"—April 19, 2006

Thai-language forumers on Pantip.com have joked that when you vote for the supposedly nonpolitical senate you can "vote for the wife of your favorite government minister." Below are links to the English-language profile pages of these "political relatives" from the EC website...

...caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's sister-in-law [Pawruthai](#), running in Chiang Mai; Natural Resources and Environment Minister Yongyuth Tiya-pairat's wife [Salakjit](#), running in Chiang Rai; and [Suwit Wongsri-wong](#), husband of Thai Rak Thai party-list MP-elect Ladawan Wongsriwong, running in Phayao. [Poonpirom Liptapanlop](#), wife of Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop, is a candidate for Nakhon Ratchasima; [Chai Chid-chob](#), father of PM's Office Minister Newin Chidchob, is running in Buri Ram; and [Patcharee Phetsawang](#), wife of Thai Rak Thai MP-elect Sapon Phetsawang. Ten other candidates have close relationships with former opposition parties including Suphan Buri's [Prasit Pothasuthon](#), the older brother of Prapat Pothasuthon (Chat Thai), and in Krabi, [Somkiet Engchuan](#), the younger brother of Arkom Engchuan (Democrat). Running in Sa Kaew is [Wittaya Thienthong](#), younger brother of Snoh Thienthong (who split from Thai Rak Thai)... ([Will it be 'all in the family' for the new Senate?](#) – *The Nation*, April 18, 2006)

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Senate election poster: Amnuay Klinyu

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com) – April 18, 2006

Left: Amnuay Klinyu, Chairperson of the Blind Persons Sport Association of Thailand

Foreign
election observers to monitor Thai Senate election –

VNA, April 18, 2006

Foreigners from more than 20 countries worldwide will observe the April 19 Senate election in Thailand to monitor the transparency of Thailand's Upper House contest, held once every six-years, the Thai News Agency reported on April 18.

According to Election Commissioner Gen. Charuphat Ruangsuwan, the foreign observers are scheduled to witness the senatorial polls in a number of northeastern and southern provinces, including Khon Kaen, Nong Khai and Phuket.

Observers from Australia, Austria, India, Japan, Kenya, Pakistan, Poland and Uzbekistan, among others, are planning to witness Thailand's election process and observe the polling system applied in this country, the commissioner said...

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(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

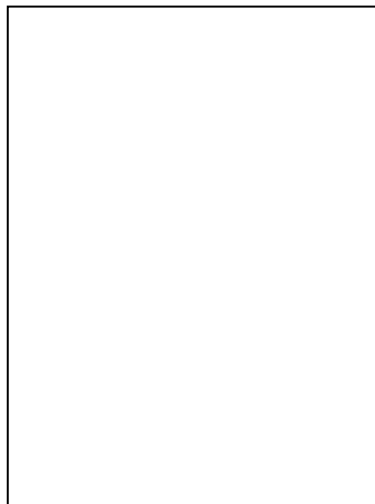
Senate election posters –
April 11, 2006

Above: 107 – Dr.Pipat Preedawiphat
160 – Lieutenant Colonel MD. Kamolpan Cheewapansri
31 – Mr. Thawee Krakupt
184 – Mr. Jumnong Chaimongkol
66 – Mr.Prateep Watcharachokkasem

.
(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: 164
– Dr. Nitipoom Nawarat
131 – Dr.Bhichit Rattakul
7 – Dr.Nalinee Taveesin
31 – Mr.Thawee Kupt
107 – Dr.Pipat Preedawiphat
175 – Khun Ying Uraiwan Sirinupogn

.
(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Senate election poster: Phichit Rattakul

– April 8, 2006

Above: Senate election poster of former Bangkok Governor Phichit (or Bhichit) Rattakul. He was once head of the Mot Ngarn (Worker Ants Party)... not to be confused with his father, former Democrat Deputy PM Bhichai Rattakul.
Senate elections will be held April 19.

Malaysia denies capturing baby Bigfoot

April 20, 2006

Categories: Malaysia

[Malaysia](#)

[denies capturing baby Bigfoot](#) –

breitbart.com, April 20, 2006

Journalists from India, Thailand, Cambodia, Fiji Islands Take Top Prizes at 2006 DAJA Awards

April 20, 2006

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines

[Journalists
from India, Thailand, Cambodia, Fiji Islands Take Top Prizes
at 2006 DAJA Awards](#) – adb,

April 20, 2006

*The Bangkok Post's Supara Janchitfah, 43, was awarded
Development Woman Journalist of the Year for her story on
Muslim fishermen using knowledge and information to protect
their seas from commercial trawlers...*

Foreign-domination regulations spark international outcry

April 20, 2006

Categories: Business

[Foreign-domination regulations spark international outcry](#) –

The Nation, April 20, 2006

The Norwegian government is concerned with draft regulations preventing foreign domination of Thai telecom operators and says rules being drawn up by the Thai National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) could interfere with the rights and interests of foreign shareholders of Thai telecom firms...

The commission's board approved the first draft on March 23 and posted it on its website, www.ntc.or.th, for interested parties to send comments via e-mail, with no deadline. It recently posted an amended draft on the website and invited interested parties to send comments by May 12...

VN Communist Party ‘totally’ corrupt

April 20, 2006

[VN](#)

[Communist Party ‘totally’ corrupt](#) –

Bangkok Post, April 20, 2006

Tourist Police target Mae Sot gem market scams

April 21, 2006

Categories: Scams

[Tourist](#)

[Police target Mae Sot gem market scams](#) –

The Irrawaddy, April 21, 2006

*Mae Sot Tourist Police recently put
in place a new regulation for gems traders after accusations
that illegal brokers were selling fake stones to tourists...*

“Burning issue doused in flood of cliches”

April 21, 2006

["Burning](#)

[issue doused in flood of cliches"](#) –

April 21, 2006

Farangaffairs.com [points](#)

[out](#) a hilarious headline from *The Nation: Burning*

Issue – A Bleak Interlude – A collective sigh is almost audible as politicians bent on each other’s annihilation start kicking up dust

US warship at Laem Chabang

April 21, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[US warship](#)

[at Laem Chabang](#) – Bangkok Post,

April 21, 2006

The USS Abraham Lincoln is the first aircraft carrier to dock at Laem Chabang, one of the few ports in Asia able to berth the nuclear-powered warship. The ship arrived at the port yesterday. Its crew of almost 6,000 will be allowed a five-day break in Pattaya...

Pattaya Mayor Niran Watanasatorn said the stopover means a welcome boost for tourism. The crew would pump hundreds of millions of baht into the local economy.

A source at the Supreme Command yesterday said that Indonesia will join next month's annual Cobra Gold military exercise as a participant for the first time.

Indonesia, a long-time observer, will replace the Philippines in the multi-national military exercise, scheduled from May 16 to 26. The source said it is a demand of the US and Thailand that the drill concentrates on anti-terrorism and intelligence network operations.

A field exercise involving full-scale combat operations will be organised in Lop Buri, which is under the First Army, and a command centre will be set up at the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy in Nakhon Nayok. The US has decided to reduce its troop numbers from 30,000 to 10,000 for this year's exercise, due to the situation in Iraq.

King's stance may seal Nepal monarchy's fate

April 23, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[King's stance may seal Nepal monarchy's fate](#) –

Gulf News, April 23, 2006

Asian monarchies, whether in Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, Cambodia or Bhutan are well-established institutions. They generally enjoy the support and respect of the public and are viewed as the guardians of national unity and pillars of stability and integrity...

Arrested drunk drivers to tend mentally ill

April 23, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Arrested drunk drivers to tend mentally ill](#) –

Bangkok Post, April 23, 2006

Drunk drivers arrested during the Songkran holiday are to tend patients with alcohol-induced mental illnesses as part of a new rehabilitation scheme proposed by the Probation Department. The scheme aims to raise awareness of alcohol's negative effects, said Wanchai Roujanawong, director-general of the Probation Department...

During the 10 dangerous days, Chiang Rai province had the most accidents, with 223 cases, but only one driver faced probation. In Phitsanulok there were 191 accidents and 12 probation cases.

The anti-drink driving campaign was conducted strictly in Chiang Mai, which reported 199 accidents and a high number of probation cases, at 694.

Bangkok came second with 428 probation cases, followed by Nakhon Ratchasima with 350, and Songkhla with 233.

There are more than 4,800 drunk drivers under probation nationwide. Most are aged between 18 and 25...

Burmese Spy Reveals MI's Dirty Deeds

April 24, 2006

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Burmese Spy Reveals MI's Dirty Deeds](#) –

The Irrawaddy, April 24, 2006

A Burmese spy, now in hiding in a secret location, spoke exclusively to The Irrawaddy about how Burma's newly formed military intelligence service struggles to reach the sinister standards set by jailed intelligence chief Gen Khin Nyunt...

Under Khin Nyunt, the Burmese embassy in Bangkok was highly active and believed to have a large intelligence network inside Thailand. Kyaw Myint Myo claims that "active cells" in India and Thailand are still working for MAS...

Thailand in the Dark about Burma's Bird Flu

April 24, 2006

Categories: Health

[Thailand in the Dark about Burma's Bird Flu](#) –

The Irrawaddy, April 24, 2006

Thai public health authorities and medical NGOs are getting ready for a bird flu outbreak on the Thai-Burma border area of Tak province...

Copyright crackdown pushes pirates onto the Internet

April 24, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Copyright crackdown pushes pirates onto the Internet](#) –

AFP, April 24, 2006

A long campaign to remove pirated goods from shop fronts in Asia is finally having an impact but the crackdown has also changed the nature of the problem and new outlets are flourishing...

Hmong demonstrate against grave desecration in Thailand

April 24, 2006

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Hmong demonstrate against grave desecration in Thailand](#)

– AP, April 24, 2006

Blow to Thailand monkey business

April 24, 2006

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Blow to Thailand monkey business](#) – Aljazeera.net,

April 24, 2006

Orangutans forced to perform in a Thailand zoo may soon be returned to the jungles of Southeast Asia, in a small victory in the struggle against the illegal...

Drug Gang, SSA Square Off on Thai-Burmese Border

April 25, 2006

Categories: Border Issues, Drugs, Myanmar/Burma

[Drug Gang, SSA Square Off on Thai-Burmese Border](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, April 25, 2006

Fighting has broken out between the Shan State Army, a Burmese armed ethnic group, and regional drug traffickers near Monghsat Township in Shan State on the Thai-Burmese border...

Phatchaneetopten.com

April 25, 2006

Categories: Local Beliefs

[Phatchaneetopten.com](http://www.phatchaneetopten.com)

– April 25, 2006

Amusing spam we received: *Teach for Horoscope–Need to know your future—* <http://www.phatchaneetopten.com>

*phatchanee@phatchaneetopten.com Now at LOTUS Ladplow 3Floor.
0-1921-5381 , 0-2375-5311*

Kiwi's ex hired Thai gunmen

April 26, 2006

Categories: Crime

[Kiwi's ex hired Thai gunmen](#) – *Dominion Post*, April 26, 2006

... "Pattaya is a law unto itself."

Shooting a "farang", as foreigners are known in Thailand, would cost about NZ\$3000, Mr Olson said...

Ghost Game Controversy

April 27, 2006

Categories: Film and TV

[Producers of Ghost Game movie wish to officially apologise to Cambodia](#) – *The Nation*, May 4, 2006

The producers of a Thai horror film reportedly based on a notorious Khmer Rouge torture centre said on Thursday they are seeking a meeting with Cambodian officials to officially apologise for the movie...



(Source: ghost-game.com)



(Source: ghost-game.com)

Above: *Ghost Game* main page

More on *Ghost Game* – May 1, 2006

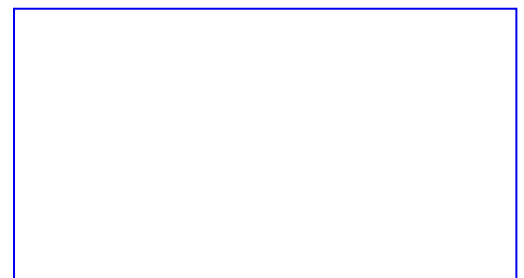
The *Ghost Game* website is now offline. However, they only managed to block the entry page. The rest of the site is still online ([high bandwidth](#) – [low bandwidth](#) – it is a Flash site that does not work with Firefox).

Left: The *Ghost Game* website decorated with Khmer characters.

[Movieseeker](#) attempts to clarify the situation by [describing the movie as](#) being based on the "bloody Cambodia War."

Don't miss the teaser trailers that starts out with a poodle wearing a red bikini walking on its hind legs down the beach (right). How this leads to a Khmer death prison is something only the brilliant Thai advertising industry can produce.

And incidentally, "Kampuchea" is mentioned by name in the trailers.



(Source: ghost-game.com)

[Film brings shame upon Thai society](#) – *The Nation*, April 30, 2006

...In one of the most offensive scenes, contestants provoke the spirits of genocide victims by smashing up

skulls and skeletons (artificial, not real ones). Again the piles of skulls and skeletons depicted in the movie are eerily similar to those on exhibit at Phnom Penh's Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum...



(Source: ghost-game.com)

Above: It seems clear from the film's website it is set in the Khmer Rouge Toul Sieng prison. The text reads: An official report specifies that in four years of war, there were more than 17,000 persons who were registered as prisoners in this place which was named officially "Detention camp S-11"

[Cambodia fumes at 'disrespectful' Thai ghost movie](#) – DPA, April 26, 2006

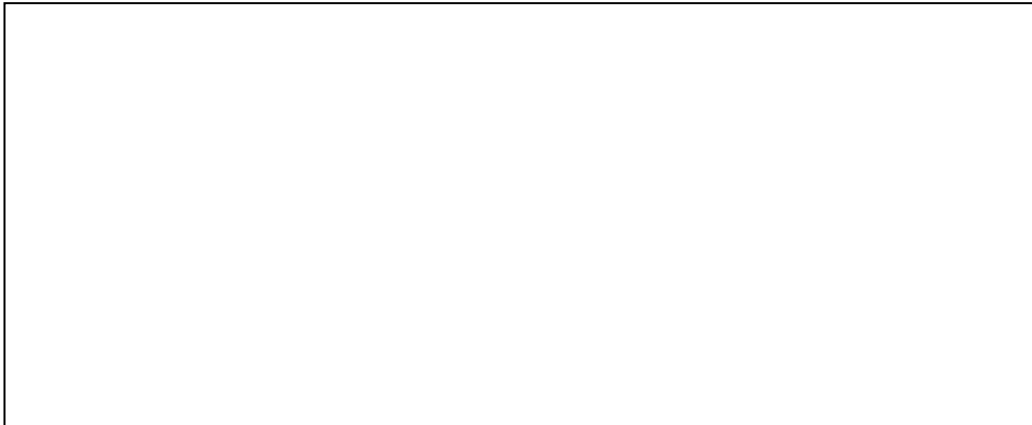
... A group of 11 young Thais play characters in a TV reality show who must stay in the haunted Cambodian prison and brave angry ghosts to win prize money.

"The movie makes the dead out to be bad, but they are innocents. Our national tragedy is not a game. This movie looks like the Thais are not respecting the Khmer," Kendara said.

The movie, due for release Thursday in Thailand, has united all factions of Khmer politics in indignation, with some saying they fear renewed friction between the two nations due to the Thai production's allegedly crass treatment of a highly sensitive and still painful period of Cambodian history.

... "If they were neutral, they would make a film about Thai authorities killing thousands of their own people in their 'war on drugs'," soldier Loung Nhoung was quoted as saying...

[The Ghost Game website](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

2519/2549 ad for a film – April 21, 2006

Pipat reports: *I think this advertisement is about an upcoming movie called "Ghost Game" acted by UBC Academy Fantasia 1. I got the information in Thai so if you want to check it out it is on [Pantip.com](#).*

Earlier: A reader informs us that the "2519/2549" banner (above) is promotion of Thai film that is running teaser advertisements on television now. No word on what the title is though...

Earlier: 2519/2549 – April 19, 2006

The banner reads: In the year 1976, 10,000 people had gone suffering – In the year 2006, 11 people are coming with a challenge...

Thai Island News 2002-2006

April 28, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[The rape of Samui](#) – Bangkok Post, August 11, 2006

...Gone are its serenity and lush green surroundings, the credentials that made the island much sought-after by holiday makers, both local and foreign.

Buildings like hotels, resorts and real estate projects, have been mushrooming too quickly over the last decade. The coconut trees that once lined the island beaches have all vanished.

Now that the beach-front areas are fully occupied and land developers are eyeing mountain land, concern is growing over the environmental impact...

[Samui 'doesn't belong to us anymore'](#) – Bangkok Post, August 11, 2006

... "Samui has changed a lot. In the past, we could go everywhere, walk on any beach. But nowadays we can't do that. The beaches are still there but access is limited, what with hotels and resorts all around. The place doesn't belong to us anymore," he said.

The Post's Koh Chang series – June 6, 2005

[INVASION: KOH CHANG](#) – Bangkok Post, June 3, 2005

...Drastic changes have taken place since 2003 when the first Thaksin Shinawatra government formed a special public organisation to develop Koh Chang into a world-class destination for nature lovers, Koh Mak for diving and other water sports, and Koh Kut for exclusive tourism...

Vast tracts of land have been acquired by many national-level politicians and associates. A number of beachside plots have changed ownership several times before falling into the hands of major investors, both Thai and foreign...

[Villagers pushed out, developers move in](#) – Bangkok Post, June 3, 2005

Land encroachment on the eastern resort island of Koh Chang has intensified since the government announced it would make the island a major tourist attraction under its policy of turning assets into capital...

"Three years ago, there was no encroachment. This excludes land title deed conflicts, as that is beyond our legal power," said Pratya Thangchan, head of the suppression unit of Mu Koh Chang National Park. Technically, land not in use must be classified as forest land under the Forest Act of 1941 and any forest land encroachment must be investigated. But in most cases officers failed to capture the real culprits, he said. As soon as the government launched the asset capitalisation policy, under which land title deeds are issued more rapidly, several developers approached police with title deeds in their hands.

"Once they have land documents, we can't take any legal action and the case must be closed," the official said...

Encroachment tactics vary depending on the type of land. People wanting to occupy forest or public land prepare documents that indicate land use while hiring workers to clear the land.

If police cannot arrest land encroachers in 30 days, they have to close the case. The encroachers later seek to upgrade the land documents to title deeds.

People wanting to own mangrove forest land have clay dykes built in target areas to keep seawater away for about four months, causing plants to wither and die.

Once the dead trees are cleared, they then make false claims that the land was once a rice field with Sor Kor 1 land ownership papers. After a while, they apply for title deeds.

Encroachers on coastal land usually occupy land near beaches. They fill in land next to the beaches, which is public land, and claim it as their own even though the law requires all structures to be built no less than 20m away.

Public access to beaches is now hard to find. Only two public routes lead to Hat Sai Khao beach where many resorts are located. Some businessmen who block the public route even charge 50 baht for people to pass through...

The average price of land on the beach is now 15 million baht per rai, up from 300,000-400,000 baht 10 years ago, and 1.5-3 million baht along the only main road...

[Owner clears site set aside for monument](#) – Bangkok Post, June 4, 2005

Trees growing on an 8-rai plot set aside for a memorial to navy war heroes on Koh Chang have been felled, apparently at the order of an unidentified person who claimed to be its rightful owner...

Sixty Thai sailors were killed in combat on Jan 17, 1941, when three Thai warships engaged a fleet of seven French vessels led by the cruiser Lamotte-Picquet.

The naval engagement site has since been held sacred by villagers and naval officers. A small shrine in honour of the war heroes is located at the cape and a wreath-laying ceremony is held on Jan 17 every year...

[Welcome to Phi Phi Island](#)

You've seen the tourist photos on all the other websites, now visit Phi Phi Island the 2Bangkok way...

[Developing beachfront property](#) – The Nation, November 24, 2002

The article is mainly a listing of the 10+ mega resorts and golf courses that are to be constructed around Samui on unused beachfront land. The article also has this interesting tidbit: *The floodgates for the construction frenzy opened after the Treasury Department allowed beachfront properties on Thai islands to be developed by private companies. Investors were invited to develop state properties on Mak Noi island in Phang Nga province, Lanta island in Krabi, Samui in Surat Thani, Arding and Pooloan in Satun, Krut in Ranong, Samed and Man Nok in Rayong, and Chang and Kud in Trad among others. Each seaside plot covers at least 50 rai. The project to open up the islands is in line with the government's policy to make better use of and create greater value for state assets.*

[Development on Phi Phi](#) – The Bangkok Post, November 18, 2002

Phi Phi and five surrounding islands were declared part of the national park in 1983. The problem of over-exploitation for tourism resulted in them being declared a pollution control zone in 1993. The government invested 14 million baht four years ago to build a water treatment plant and another 18 million baht on a garbage incinerator, both still unused

[All hail Tesco Lotus on Ko Samui!](#) – The Bangkok Post, November 17, 2002

This time the Post article is better. [The Nation article](#) on the same day just printed public relations statements from the Tesco CEO.

[Frenzy at Koh Chang](#) – CNN, September 24, 2002

You've read about it in the local press, now here's the international take on it: *...one tropical island after another in Thai waters has been overrun in the onslaught of the tourism industry. [Phuket](#), [Samui](#), [Phi Phi](#), [Samet](#) — all these once idyllic islands have suffered through unbridled, profit-first development. Now, Thailand's cash-starved government has its eye on the last large piece of paradise, aiming to transform the island of Koh Chang into a theme park for rich foreigners. "The island would generate huge revenue for the country if it were fully developed," says Plodprasop Suraswadi, who heads a special body to oversee this development....*

A feeding frenzy erupted as soon as Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra announced his vision for Koh Chang last October. As prices soared, speculators and developers scooped up land held by villagers for generations. Racing to beat new regulations going into effect in coming months, developers are now engaged in soon-to-be forbidden, already illegal or simply inappropriate activities. A lagoon is being dredged, mangrove swamps cut down, national park land violated. One upmarket resort dumps untreated sewage into the sea. Cookie-cutter bungalows are being hastily marshaled on beaches and once forested slopes. See it before it's too late. [As low as \\$11.58 a night](#).

[Development on Koh Pha-ngan](#) – The Nation, August 21, 2002

Each tree planted along a seashore avenue was said to have cost Bt40,000. BTW: We've got cheap hotel rates at Pha-ngan [here](#).

[Secluded Khao Lak](#) – *The Bangkok Post*, August 9, 2002

Interesting beach destination... You can [stay there](#) for US\$30.66 a night.

Koh Tao – July 30, 2002

The Nation has an [interesting article](#) (the link's already broken!) on the island diving paradise Koh Tao. There's a couple funny lines: "*You know, after a five-hour boat journey, I expected to find somewhere more secluded and peaceful,*" remarks one girl to her friend. "*It's changed so fast. I don't remember a 7-Eleven store here before,*" adds another. It's still cheap – US\$11.83 a night.

[Phi Phi Island splendors](#) – *New York Times*, 16:16, April 28, 2002

The New York Times (registration required) has an article on one of the [most amazing places on earth...](#)

[The Beach](#) – the ultimate resource for the film

[Thailand Life](#) – one of the most linked-to websites about Thailand "with Pictures and Words by a Thai Student." Comprehensive does not begin to describe it—although some of the photos and text seem a bit too polished and to be from one student (some photos look staged to us). Nevertheless, it is an extraordinary site.

Nattawud Daoruang, legendary webmaster of [ThailandLife.com](#) responds: *I work on Thailand Life alone. At school there are about 300 students working on English homepages like me but I have been doing it the longest. Nearly four years now. I take all the photos. The pictures of me are taken by my parents or my computer teacher. The school is making a press room for me because they get lots of letters from reporters about me. Some of the answers to your questions will be there.*

Krushchi chief finds Bangkok jails too hot

April 29, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Krushchi chief finds Bangkok jails too hot](#) – *The Times of India*, April 29, 2006

...Sources in the police department said Venkateshwara Rao had grown tired of a life of squalor in the Bangkok jail, warding off homosexual advances from jailmates...

A study of Bangkok expats

April 29, 2006

Categories: Business

[A study](#)

[of Bangkok expats](#) – Bangkok Post,

April 29, 2006

The expatriate community in Bangkok grew by over 13.8% from December 2004 compared to December 2005. There are now 61,913 foreigners with work permits in Bangkok, according to the latest CB Richard Ellis residential rental report, this excludes diplomatic staff. 22% of the total number of expatriates were Japanese followed by Indians (12%), Chinese (9%), British (9%), and American (7%)...

Thai Elections April 2006

April 30, 2006

Categories: Elections

Dueling Headlines:

[TRT Party to accept court's ruling on April 2 general election](#) – TNA, April 27, 2006

The ruling Thai Rak Thai (TRT) Party vows to accept any court verdict on the April 2 general election, in which the party's candidates filled uncontestedly in most constituencies across the country.

TRT Party deputy leader Khunying Sudarat Keyuraphan affirmed on Wednesday that the party would accept and follow any court verdict—even a ruling that the April 2 snap election be nullified.

"We respect the laws and democratic rules; so, we'll accept any court ruling without any condition—even the court will rule that the April 2 general election must be nullified," she told journalists...

[Thai Rak Thai MPs not accept any ruling against election: Somsak](#) – The Nation, May 1, 2006

Thai Rak Thai Party MP Somsak Thepsuthin said his party MPs would not accept any court ruling, which may be made to nullify the election.

Somsak said Thai Rak Thai MPs see that the reasons cited to ask the Constitution Court to nullify the April 2 election were too weak.

"The MPs are considering to find a channel to fight. Thai Rak Thai MPs will not allow the cited reasons to be used to set a precedence," Somsak said.

[King halts Thailand's troubles](#) – The Observer, April 30, 2006

Ruler steps in to end months of stalemate and street fighting...

It was until recently illegal to question his judgment...

Thai Rak Thai had argued that the constitution should be ignored and parliament should meet anyway...

Meanwhile, the judges who had the power to decide appeared frozen into inaction through fear....

[Thaksin return to office possible: close aide](#) – TNA, April 30, 2006

... "Everything is possible. He has the constitutional right just as others to seek re-election. No one can bar him to join the race," the acting premier said.

... "It's not right to call for any particular person to temporarily stay out of politics," General Chidchai said. "If the courts rule that the new election must be held, everything will go back to square one. Earlier political conditions do not exist anymore."...

[Thaksin can return as prime minister: Chidchai](#) – The Nation, April 30, 2006

[ADVISORY – Thai court ruling story withdrawn](#) — Reuters, April 29, 2006

Earlier: [Thai court says April 2 election possibly illegal](#) – Reuters, April 28, 2006

[Here come the judges](#) – Chang Noi, April 29, 2006

... We have seen the consequences in the Election Commission's conduct of the recent poll. It destroyed the principle of the secret ballot, connived in wholesale fraud over candidacies, handed down rulings that effectively legitimised vote-buying and repeatedly broke its own rules and regulations. In the service of the executive, this

body has undermined all the principles for which an independent commission was created...

[Thai court suspends new by-elections](#) – AFP, April 28, 2006

[Court ruling welcomed by all](#) – The Nation, April 29, 2006

[TRT may be courting disaster](#) – The Nation, April 29, 2006

... Imagine a fresh election battle centred round a vote-me-back-into-office theme. Could Thailand withstand something like that in the next couple of months? Should the Kingdom, during this most auspicious period

for its beloved monarch, make a decision about this potentially explosive issue while everyone is still reeling from the turmoil it has already caused? ...

Decision day – April 28, 2006

Today is a day of decision – with the King's blessing, judges will rule on the legitimacy of the elections held this month. The opposition expects them to be overturned and has made clear it will run in new elections. Potential coalitions are being formulated with Banharn allegedly meeting with Thaksin in Hong Kong. Thaksin is rumored to be considering entering politics again right away instead of waiting a year as promised. And it is Friday, the traditional time when controversial decisions are made (the weekend gives business and people time to cool off before reacting). By late afternoon some word should come...

[Judges feel poll not legitimate](#) – Bangkok Post, April 28, 2006

*... The elections were deemed to lack legitimacy from the beginning with the House of Representatives being dissolved for political reasons, the source said. The polls were organised in haste and the electoral process was flawed with ballot booths rearranged in a way that cost the voters their privacy.
... Mr Pan said that no complaints had been lodged with the Constitution Court seeking to revoke the April 2 polls. His court's recommendations to ease the crisis were non-confrontational and would hopefully comply with people's wishes, he added.*

[Judges divided at 11th hour](#) – The Nation, April 28, 2006

...Leaked reports suggest Phan Chantarapan, the acting Constitution Court president, is inclined to convene the new Parliament as the unfilled seats will not impair the legislative work. Phan has also apparently expressed concerns that a power vacuum might result if a new government is not formed within the 30-day deadline. It has been predicted that today he will try to convince Chanchai Likhitjittha and Akaratorn Chularat, the presidents of the Supreme and Supreme Administrative courts, to rule in favour of opening the House...

[Will EC go after 'the big party'?](#) – Thai Rath editorial in Bangkok Post, April 28, 2006

The 'big party' is, of course, Thai Rak Thai.

...We hope the EC will take action against the big party that allegedly hired the small parties to run on April 2. If the two small parties are dissolved, the big party must also meet the same punishment...

[Nine members of tiny parties win ballots](#) – The Nation, April 25, 2006

...Abdulkadir Jeh-useng, Narathiwat's Constituency 1, the Khonkhoplodnee Party (People's Party for Debt Forgiveness)...

Sopon Suapan, Krabi's Constituency 2, the Palang Dharma Party...

Pleung Buasri, Phatthalung's Constituency 3, the Khonkhoplodnee Party...

As one of the three advisers for the Farmers' Debt Network of Thailand, Pleung led farmers to protest against the government about their debts 63 times over the past six years. "That was how people came to know about me, as I always fight for the poor."

Pornjanat Srirattananun, Phetchaburi's Constituency 1, the Khonkhoplodnee Party.

Pornjanat was in the spotlight after defeating Thai Rak Thai's Rajasak Klaiklueng – a friend of Thaksin's son Panthongtae – by nearly 7,000 votes...

[Chalerm announces comeback](#) – Bangkok Post, April 24, 2006

Controversial politician Chalerm Yubamrung has announced his political comeback with the New Alternative party, which claims to have a policy platform 90% different from that of the ruling Thai Rak Thai party.

Pol Capt Chalerm said the Election Commission approved the registration of the New Alternative party on April 18. The party has changed its name from the Muan Chon party, of which he was the former leader...

Senate headline – Komchadluek, April 22, 2006

The headline (left) reads: Opposing Samak to sit for Senate Speaker – Klanarong to lead a boycott of the representatives of Thaksin (in the senate)

The bottom pokes fun at relatives of politicians who were elected to the supposedly nonpolitical senate. In the heart is Mrs. Salakjit Tiyaipairat, senator from Chaing Rai and wife of Yongyuth Tiyaipairath, Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment.

[Thaksin's Magical Mystery Tour](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, April 24, 2006

While saying he is now "unemployed," and widely assumed to have resigned, Thailand's wily caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has embarked on a world tour, and may meet top leaders...

"People who love Songkhla" – April 22, 2006

Asiper reports: Here (left) is a leaflet from "People who love Songkhla" to persuade people to wear black and vote for "no vote" in further elections of MPs under the Thaksin regime.

Songkhla will have a re-election for 7 zone because the TRT party is the only party and it did not get 20% of the vote. TRT is trying to find a competitor and find ways for the nominee parties to stand, but this is objected to by many Songkhla people and alliance groups that are independents.

The group is going from neighborhood to neighborhood in Songkhla protesting and informing residents.

[Tourism Authority of Thailand – Life returns to normal in Thailand](#) – *Travel Daily News*, April 19, 2006

Life has returned to normal in Thailand following the decision by Caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra not to take the premiership in the next government. The streets of Bangkok are bustling with traffic as usual as anti-government political demonstrators have returned home to await the next developments.

Travel industry executives have heaved a sigh of relief, stressing that Thailand's vibrant democracy has again proved triumphant, allowing the Thai people to express their opposition peacefully...

[Such a strange election](#) – *Chang Noi*, April 17, 2006

...When the television channels started their election coverage early next day, there were some surprising features. None of the free-to-air channels made any attempt to add up the constituency-by-constituency returns to give estimates of the regional or national patterns. No returns from the party list were reported at all. The ECT's website was designed to hide the information on the no-vote and spoilt ballots. Later in the day, it was announced that Thaksin would appear on television that evening. The TV channels reporting of the election tailed off. Channel 11 stopped displaying the results and showed monks chanting in the Temple of the Emerald Buddha.

That evening, Thaksin claimed victory with 16.2 million votes on the party list. He said the data came from the Interior Ministry which was strange as that ministry is not involved in running the election. The 16.2 million figure is 60 percent of valid votes cast. By coincidence the equivalent figure at the 2005 poll was almost exactly the same. The ECT has since adjusted the figure even higher to 16.4 million.

Such a strange election.

[I will not accept post of premier in the next government : Thaksin](#) – *The Nation*, April 4, 2006

[Thai premier to take "political break"](#) – *Reuters*, April 4, 2006

[*****PM announces suspending political role*****](#) – *TNA*, April 4, 2006

[Thaksin sues 'The Nation' for misleading report](#) – *TNA*, April 4, 2006

* As many readers have noted, Thaksin has not resigned, but has pledged not to be PM in the next government.

* From the *Bangkok Post* website, April 4, 2006: The headline is "Thaksin: Why should I resign?" and directly to the right is a breaking news article entitled "THAKSIN RESIGNS."

[Thaksin's party gets all 36 seats of Bangkok constituencies](#) – *Xinhua*, April 3, 2006

According to the latest results of ballots issued on Monday, the Thai Rak Thai (TRT) Party led by caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has got all the 36 seats in Bangkok constituencies. But doubt follows as TRT received fewer votes than abstentions in 28 out of 36 constituencies.

The latest figure released by the Election Committee showed that TRT candidates in Bangkok's 36 constituencies has got 1,234,522 votes, or a 46.9 percent of all the 2,631,200 voters, while the votes of "No vote" raise to 1,319,206, or a proportion of 50.1 percent.

The vote counts showed that the TRT received fewer votes than abstentions in 28 out of 36 constituencies in Bangkok.

Therefore, some analysts doubted that if the higher figure of abstentions means TRT's nonsupporters are

more than supporters. But in term of election law of Thailand, TRT has win all the 36 seats in Bangkok legally.

Thaksin: We have 50% – AP, April 3, 2006

Thailand's prime minister says his party has received more than 50 percent of the votes in the national election.

[Thai PM claims election victory](#) – Reuters, April 3, 2006

[Thai Leader's Party Sweeps Elections](#) – AP, April 3, 2006

PM stunned or confident?

At about the same time last night it was amusing to read these two stories online with different takes on the PM's demeanor.

['No vote' stuns pm](#) – The Nation, April 3, 2006

Early results show Thaksin losing huge support in the capital

– Rattled leader avoids press, plans emergency meeting with senior Thai Rak Thai members this afternoon

– Ruling party insiders fear result could give new momentum to PAD

[Thaksin confident of post-election calm](#) – TNA, April 2, 2006

...Speaking to reporters at the headquarters of his TRT Party, Mr Thaksin said he would like to congratulate the Thais for coming out to exercise their right in a show of endorsement for democracy.

...Mr Thaksin declined comment on move to form the next administration, saying that one only has to wait for the outcome of the election which will represent the people's will that all sides must respect.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Voting booth arrangement on April 2, 2006 with booths arranged facing out. Critics contend this allows peoples' voting choices to be seen.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Voting booth arrangement for the February 6, 2005 elections with voting booths facing away from the street.

Election "not secret?" – April 3, 2006

A report from the April 2 voting: *X was disturbed by the spot where you mark the ballot was positioned in such a way as to allow others to see how people vote. Nation Television (really Nation TV) reported a lot of complaints about that fact alone and speculated that it could be cause for nullifying any election results, as this would go against the Constitution. There have also been complaints from voters showing up to be told there were no pens available and that there no had been no money to buy pens, so they had to use the stamp. X said also that the ballot itself was changed without notice. In the past, a "no vote" selection was always at the top. Now, Thai Rak Thai is at the top, and the "No Vote" is at the bottom. X said it seemed easy now for others to tell if you were marking "No Vote."*

A tale of two newspapers: Booth arrangement upsets or helps? – April 3, 2006

[Booth change upsets many voters](#) – The Nation, April 2, 2006

Former prime minister Anand Panyarachun Sunday criticised the Election Commission for having set up voting booths in a way that voters could be seen how they cast their ballots.

This year, the booths are placed in a way which

[New positioning of poll booths to help voters](#) – TNA, April 2, 2006

Voting cubicles for today's general election have been arranged in such a way as to help prevent any electoral fraud, according to the Election Commission (EC).

EC secretary general Police Major General Ekachai Warunprapha said voters would face the

voters turn their back to the front of the polling station and anyone observing outside could see how voters mark their ballots. In previous elections, the booths have their back pointed inside the station so no one could see how voters cast their vote. Anand said the booths allowed people with ill intention to see how ballots were marked which could cause trouble later.

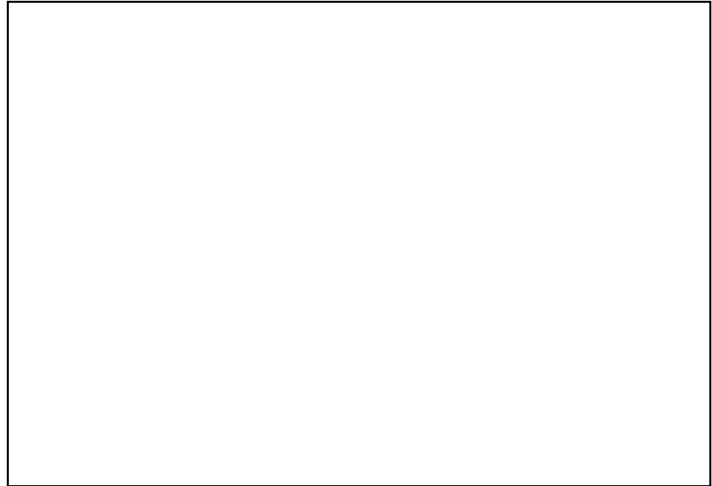
wall as they marked their ballots. This would allow polling station officials to monitor any illicit activity, such as bringing ballot papers from other constituencies or taking pictures of the marked ballots.

It would also allow voters to see pictures of the candidates and their numbers.

The new measures would also be in place for the April 19 senate election to help voters, he said, especially given the high number of candidates vying for a seat...

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(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)



Voting in Yala – April 3, 2006

(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

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(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: An almost-bare polling station informational board. Since the major opposition parties are boycotting the election, only Thai Rak Thai and minor party candidates are on the ballot. For a normal election there would be four to eleven candidates contesting depending on the constituency.

Election day 2006 – April 2, 2006

Below: A speaker truck plays the controversial "[Square Face](#)" song at the Si Lom subway station entrance on Friday morning.

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(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

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