

Somali abductors refuse to release kidnapped Thai national

November 2, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Somali abductors refuse to release kidnapped Thai national](#) – AFP, November 2, 2006

A Somali militia that abducted a Thai national in the northeast enclave of Puntland last month vowed not to release the captive until three Somalis detained in Thailand are freed...

Fisheries running out?

November 2, 2006

Fisheries running out?

Thanks to Nils for pointing this out:

[‘Only 50 years left’ for sea fish](#) – BBC, November 2, 2006

[Will seafood nets be empty? Grim outlook draws skeptics](#) – *Seattle Times*, November 3, 2006

Bangkok's reputation belies the city's charm

November 2, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok's reputation belies the city's charm](#) – Press & Sun-Bulletin, November 2, 2006

The recent military coup in Thailand has focused attention on its capital city, prompting many Americans to add political turmoil to the other two things synonymous with Bangkok: traffic and prostitution...

Cambodia busts internal terrorist plot

November 2, 2006

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia busts internal terrorist plot](#) – DPA, November 2, 2006

Cambodian authorities said Thursday they were still seeking an unspecified number of suspected terrorists after foiling an apparent...

Monks in the crucible of construction

November 3, 2006

[Monks in the crucible of construction](#) – BBC, November 3, 2006

Thanks to Richo for pointing this out: *“People may have money, but they’ll always want more. Real life is not about money – even millionaires are still suffering.”*

Fired 'Post' reporter backed over story

November 3, 2006

Categories: Airports and Airlines, The Thaksin Years

[Fired 'Post' reporter backed over story](#) – *The Nation*, November 3, 2006

Two witnesses yesterday vouched for the professional integrity of Sermasuk Asitidit, the former Bangkok Post reporter who is suing the newspaper for unfair dismissal over his report on Suvarnabhumi Airport runway cracks in August...

“Recommended Menu”

November 3, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News



"Recommended Menu" –

November 3, 2006

A reader sent in this mobile phone shot from a 7-11. Apparently this makes no more sense in Thai than it does in English.

“You destroy the world!”

November 4, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: "You destroy the world!" – November 4, 2006

Some kind of event poster at Thammasat University...

Various websites

November 4, 2006

Various websites – November 4, 2006

Via the [Thai History blog](#): *Another brief link note, three links for S. Sivaraksa.* [Someone's blogging about S.Sivaraksa...](#)

And a [website about the Bunnag family](#).

Bangkok intersection

November 5, 2006



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Bangkok intersection –
November 5, 2006

Intersection of Petchburi and Phayathai Roads – The new construction in the distance is on the former site of Hollywood Street Plaza.
[Google Placemark for the location](#)

Cambodia moves to protect endangered bird

November 6, 2006

Categories: Cambodia, Wildlife and Nature

[Cambodia moves to protect endangered bird](#) – *EurekAlert!*, November 6, 2006

In an effort to protect a large grassland bird from possible extinction, the government of Cambodia has recently moved to set aside more than one hundred square miles of habitat for the Bengal florican, a bird now classified as endangered, according to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)...

Uncyclopedia on Singapore

November 6, 2006

Uncyclopedia on Singapore –

November 6, 2006

Nils writes: *I'd say the [Uncyclopedia article on Singapore](#) is funnier (at least more well-written) than the one on Thailand.*

See especially Legal System and Judiciary, Economy, and, last but not least, Transportation: "It is customary for visitors to leave a piece of chewing gum stuck to the ceiling of a train car with their name and passport number written beside it; make sure you partake in this wonderful custom!"

2Bangkok.com exclusive: Conversation with a southern “bandit”

November 7, 2006

Categories: The Thai Deep South

Bangkok.com exclusive: Deep South Diary

[Troubles
in the South index page](#)

The following is put together from primary sources in the deep south.

November 7, 2006

Today, 10 schools in Amphur Krongpinang, Yala announced to stop teaching until this Friday, November 10.

Today at 7:00, the assailant shot a charcoal burning worker at Orange Orchard, Yala

at 10:30. Soldiers were attacked at Lek Bridge, Ban Pawang, Amphur Bannangstar, Yala.

At 17:00 assailants shot a teacher of Ban Khaowang, Amphur Mayor, Pattani. At Ban Sarong, Amphur Yarang, Pattani, Mr. Prab Saengnara was shot and killed while he was driving his motorcycle back from school.

November 6, 2006

At 7:59 a.m. there was a mysterious call from a terrorist to the director of School...

Separatist: Hello, are you the director of School?

Official: Yes.

Separatist: Your soldiers shot the villagers today. You told the soldiers to escort you to , but our guys will get you and once you are home instead.

Then he hung up.

At 10:50am a mysterious called to the director of . The director was not there so he called back again later.

Separatist: Are you ?

Official: Yes. Who are you?

Separatist: You don' t have to know

Four-finned Japanese dolphin an evolutionary throwback, researchers say

November 7, 2006

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting, Wildlife and Nature

[Four-finned Japanese dolphin an evolutionary throwback, researchers say](#) – *Mainichi Daily*, November 7, 2006

With photos...

Bangkok a haven for Asian migrants

November 8, 2006

[Bangkok a haven for Asian migrants](#) – BBC, November 8, 2006
Thanks to Richo for pointing this out...

China's Thames Town opens house

November 8, 2006

Categories: China

[China's Thames Town opens house](#) – CNN, November 8, 2006

...She said her pub and fish-and-chip shop have been replicated in Thames Town. Her establishments, the Rock Point Inn and Cob Gate Fish Bar, have both been reproduced almost exactly, though Caddy's fish-and-chip shop is spelled "Cobb".

"As you can imagine, the jokes are absolutely rife here," she told Reuters in Britain. "They are as follows: 'I have been Shanghaied' and 'My business is on the Chinese take-away menu...'"

Legless Thai-American loses election

November 8, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Legless Thai-American loses election](#) – *The Nation*, November 8, 2006

More interesting articles from the Post and Nation

November 9, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

More interesting articles from the *Post* and *Nation* – November 9, 2006

[Website ban 'violates freedom of expression'](#)

[Blacklisting of teachers to stop](#)

[BMA revives bus project after approval of rail routes](#)

[Firms eye foreign partners for rail lines](#)

[What is happening to Buddhism in Thailand is completely political and unBuddhist](#)

Police Officer's car broken into as he attends a police celebration party

November 10, 2006

Categories: Crime, Thai Police

[Police Officer's car broken into as he attends a Police celebration party](#) – *Pattaya City News*, November 10, 2006

The political apathy of Thai films in 2006

November 10, 2006

[The political apathy of Thai films in 2006](#) – *Bangkok Post*, November 10, 2006

Truly amazing: Kjeragbolten

November 10, 2006

Truly amazing: Kjeragbolten –

November 10, 2006

Nils writes: Nothing to do with Thailand, but breathtaking...

[Kjeragbolten](#) – [Kjeragbolten photos](#) – [Kjeragbolten on flickr](#)

Hualamphong photo

November 10, 2006

Hualamphong photo –
November 10, 2006

Nils points out: *Here's something to do with Thailand – a nice [Hualamphong photo](#) on the [trekearth site](#).*

Where are the demolished stalls?

November 11, 2006

Categories: Communities

Where are the demolished stalls? –

November 11, 2006

Where around Chutuchak are the stalls that were demolished earlier this week? There is some broken up concrete at this location ([GoogleEarth Placemark](#)), but this could be routine construction work. A thread about this is [here](#).

Earlier: [Stalls of Chatuchak vendors demolished](#) – *The Nation*, November 9, 2006

About 120 men wearing T-shirt with the word "police" moved in to forcefully demolish about 500 stalls of vendors who rent a plot of the State Railway Authority inside the Chatuchak Weekend Market.

A vendor was also assaulted when he took pictures of the men, who were backed up by a bulldozer...

Angry flood victims complain about bills for unused power – Charged as if homes were not under water

November 12, 2006

Categories: Floods

[Angry flood victims complain about bills for unused power – Charged as if homes were not under water](#) – Bangkok Post, November 12, 2006

...Power offices were inundated with complaints from villagers in Ayutthaya and Ang Thong who received high electricity bills for the two months their homes were under three metres of water. They called on the Provincial Electricity Authority to deal with the problem, saying officials could not wade through floodwater to read electricity meters so they just billed customers as if there had been no flood...

Dubai swats pests ogling beach beauties

November 12, 2006

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Dubai swats pests ogling beach beauties](#) – *New York Times*, November 12, 2006

...Indeed, for the estimated 500,000 foreign workers here, most from the Indian subcontinent, the chance to spot a woman in a bikini may be hard to pass up. They typically live in a Dickensian world of squalor, working 12-hour shifts six days a week, often denied their wages of about \$150 per month for months at a time. Most of them secure work by taking out loans from recruiting agencies at home to get here, forcing most to stay on for years without seeing their families and loved ones. The workmen have become prevalent in Dubai's public parks and beaches as their numbers have swelled, and because of the lechery-on-the-beach factor, they are especially noticeable at this time of year.

They tend to beachcomb in groups, their camera-equipped cellphones always at the ready. Many do not know how to swim; some enter the water wearing their traditional robes, made of thin white cloth that becomes transparent when wet — and reveals far more of their anatomy than most beachgoers want to see. Incidents of physical harm to women are rare, though the police have arrested flashers and men committing lewd acts in public...

Govt open websites to receive public complaints

November 13, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Govt open websites to receive public complaints](#) – *The Nation*, November 13, 2006

...According to Prime Minister's Office Minister Khunying Dhipavadee Meksawan the address of the new site was www.1111.co.th. It matches the 1111 telephone hotline for the same purpose.

The old address was www.rakang.thaigov.go.th.

Foreigners seek surgery in Thailand despite dangers

November 13, 2006

Categories: Health

[Foreigners seek surgery in Thailand despite dangers](#) – *TODAYonline*, November 13, 2006

Warning sign

November 13, 2006

Categories: Signs and Billboards

Warning sign –

November 13, 2006

Charlie writes: *Here's a warning I never saw before.*

In a local style toilet in Chiang Rai, "Beware dropping your phone."



Thailand yet to understand that appeasing Jihadis only toughens them

November 14, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Odd articles – November 14, 2006

Judeoscope adds an editorial headline to a *Reuters* article: "["Thailand yet to understand that appeasing Jihadis only toughens them"](#)" – *Judeoscope*, November 12, 2006

And a weird, rambling article full of dubious facts: [Loud actions, still voices in Thailand](#) – *The New Nation*, November 12, 2006

...And it's also a place where Western scare stories about the dangers of China's economic rise ring hollow. In fact, so many of its top leaders are as fluent in Mandarin as they are in Thai that its cabinet meetings could be conducted in the language of Beijing just as easily as of Bangkok...

While Malaysia fiddles, its opportunities are running dry

November 14, 2006
Categories: Malaysia

[While Malaysia fiddles, its opportunities are running dry](#) – *The Age*, November 14, 2006
And the author [writes about the response to this column on his personal website](#).

Disappearing Armstrong Guns

November 15, 2006

Disappearing Armstrong Guns – November 15, 2006

Richard writes: *I thought I would share with you [some pictures I took during a recent press trip I went on to Phi Sua Samut Fort](#).*

This is an island fort in the middle of the Chao Phraya River between the city hall in Samut Prakan and Phra Samut Chedi on the West bank. The temple used to also be on an island just north of the fort, but after they dredged the river to make it deeper in the mid-20th Century the river changed course slightly. The gap between the bank and Phra Samut Chedi silted up and it stopped being an island.

However, Phi Sua Samut is still an island. The land is owned by the navy and up to now entry was forbidden. However, they are presently renovating the fort and hope to open it to the public in 2007. In the 1890's, King Rama V purchased ten Disappearing Armstrong Guns from the UK. Seven were placed at Chulachomklao Fort (at the mouth to the estuary) and three on Phi Sua Samut Fort. These 6 inch guns were modern for their time and were the first rear-loaded guns in the Thai navy. The guns were loaded while they "crouched" in the gun pit. They were then raised by hydraulics to the firing position. The recoil from firing forced the gun back into the pit.

This meant the guns were only visible to the enemy for a few seconds. The Armstrong guns only saw action in 1893 during the Paknam Incident. A pilot ship hired by the French navy was hit and ran aground. The other two French ships managed to slip past Chulachomklao Fort. By the time they reached the inner fort at Phi Sua Samut it was already dark. They then proceeded all the way to Bangkok with no resistance from the remaining forts. The Armstrong guns at Chulachomklao Fort are in good working order and were fired during a recent anniversary. The guns at Phi Sua Samut Fort are being renovated and hopefully will be fired next year.

European cities do away with traffic signs

November 16, 2006

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[European cities do away with traffic signs](#) – *Spiegel*, November 16, 2006

In pictures: Bangkok toilet expo

November 16, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[In pictures: Bangkok toilet expo](#) – BBC News, November 16, 2006

The World Toilet Expo and Forum has opened in Bangkok with the theme “Happy Toilet, Healthy Life” – 800 delegations from 19 countries are attending...

Bangkok composer defends ‘appalling’ opera

November 16, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok composer defends ‘appalling’ opera](#) – Contactmusic.com, November 16, 2006

... "It's an opera written for people who grew up on STAR WARS and THE LORD OF THE RINGS. "At the same time, the opera is not a simple retelling, but a complete rethinking of the Ramayana in terms of contemporary society and culture."

Rail crisis as train brakes fail

November 16, 2006

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Rail crisis as train brakes fail](#) – *The Age*, November 16, 2006

Some of Melbourne's newest passenger trains have had to be withdrawn from service after a spate of braking failures...

Ho Chi Minh City hurries to become a megacity

November 17, 2006

Categories: Vietnam

[Ho Chi Minh City hurries to become a megacity](#) – *The New York Times*, November 17, 2006

(Thanks to Danny for pointing this out...)

Overseas visitors left in dark by the loos on show at World Toilet Expo

November 17, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Overseas visitors left in dark by the loos on show at World Toilet Expo](#) – Bangkok Post, November 17, 2006

The Health Department's exhibitions on the history and development of toilets in Thailand, as well as the royal projects on national public health, have failed to draw the attention of international delegates at the World Toilet Expo and Forum. A lack of information in English was blamed for the low attendances at the exhibitions held at the Impact Exhibition and Convention Centre, Muang Thong Thani yesterday. The expo ends tomorrow.

Most foreign visitors could not make out what the exhibitions were about and walked past them because they did not understand the information, which was presented mostly in Thai...

Bus Uncle

November 17, 2006

Bus Uncle – November 17, 2006

Nils points out Bus Uncle on [Wiki](#) and [YouTube](#) and comments: *I wonder if there is any [Internet meme](#) related to Thailand?*

Thaksin's Life in Cartoon Form

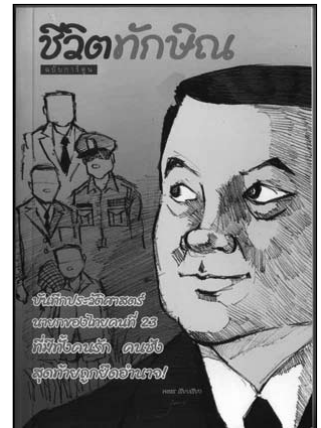
November 18, 2006

Categories: The Thaksin Years

Thaksin's Life –

November 18, 2006

Right: *Thaksin's life: Cartoon version* – History of the 23rd Prime Minister of Thailand whom has people who love and hate him. Finally his power was seized.



Left: Thaksin youth –

Got a job being a hotel officer carrying trays to service the customers – Being a cook helper – Making breakfast for the guests – Officer of Kentucky Fried Chicken.



Above: Chapter 9: The minute that changed the history. The story that they did not want to tell.

In the morning of Sep 20, 2006, Thaksin's power was seized!

Boy: Grandpa, why the TV have the announcement so often?

Grandpa: Eak, for this story the truth is difficult to tell. But you might see from the television some of it... It started last night at 9 p.m. on November 19 when the military seized the important places and seized the power of P.M. Thaksin.

Right: Thaksin foundation –

But I don't think like that because the mission to help the poor that he has founded has not ended.

Setting a foundation is good but it is in a narrow sphere. Working in the status of P.M. might be wider.

So I think this hero for poor people will not desert the poor certainly. One day, I believe that he will come back.



Graft busters warned to be ‘wary of women’

November 18, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Graft busters warned to be ‘wary of women’](#) – *Bangkok Post*, November 18, 2006

Latest photos of the SS American Star

November 18, 2006

Latest photos of the SS *American Star* –
November 18, 2006

Nils points out the latest photos of the SS *American Star*: [*Mother Nature takes her toll*](#). I think last time we had seen the photos from November 2005. The wreck has since almost tipped over, and the bridge and main mast have collapsed.

Panoramic photos from Baiyoke

November 18, 2006

Panoramic photos from Baiyoke –

November 18, 2006

Mike of thailandresor.se sends links to [some interesting panoramic photos](#) from Baiyoke ([here](#) and [here](#)).

China and India put a strain on energy markets

November 19, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[China and India put a strain on energy markets](#) – *International Herald Tribune*, November 19, 2006

Developing countries like China and India have been buying up energy and mineral resources to guarantee security of supply...

(Thanks to Danny
for pointing this out...)

China's environmental problems mirrored in the Yellow River

November 19, 2006

Categories: China

[China's environmental problems mirrored in the Yellow River](#) – *The New York Times*, November 19, 2006

Perplexed and dismayed, Tibet nomads survey the results that global warming and industrialization have had on their homeland...

(Thanks to Danny for pointing this out...)

Clash of civilizations at Hong Kong newspaper

November 19, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Clash of civilizations at Hong Kong newspaper](#) – IHT, November 19, 2006

An American editor ruffles feathers at the territory's leading English-language daily...

(Thanks to Danny for pointing this out...)

Editorial cartoon from the southern separatists

November 20, 2006

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, The Thai Deep South

Troubles in the South

– Editorial cartoon from the southern separatists

[Troubles
in the South index page](#)



Editorial cartoon from the southern separatists – November 20, 2006

On the sign in the background: 1st and 2nd Trips to South

CS Hotel / Wor Kor Yala / PSU (Prince of Songkla University (Pattani Campus) / Thammawittaya Islamic School

Surayud says:

I'm sorry.

We'll create justice.

We'll withdraw charges against the Tak Bai suspects.

We'll cancel blacklist of terrorists.

Surayud is thinking: I give you this first and get rid of you later!

The people below Surayud are asking questions, from left to right:

How come the Thai government has treated southern Muslims badly?

How will you cope with innocent university students being arrested?

What about arrests of innocent people in the Tak Bai incident?

What will you do to blacklisted ustazes and students, who together account for 99.99% of the blacklist?

Under the people asking questions:

Formed – Creating good image – Being tough and acting to be kind later

Secret policy: Meet with ustazes and local leaders and discuss past incidents, such as Krue Se and Tak Bai incidents. Through the discussions, Muslim and other local leaders could release their stress, like releasing air from a balloon.

[Troubles
in the South index page](#)

“Tallest rollercoasters currently in Thailand”

November 21, 2006

"Tallest rollercoasters currently in Thailand" –

November 21, 2006

A reader reports: *I thought you might find this interesting at 2B. During the recent IAAPA Amusements Convention in Atlanta it has been reported that [Siam City Park](#) Bought two new rollercoasters from a now closed park in Dubai. both due to open in 2007. They will also be the two tallest rollercoasters currently in Thailand...*

‘The Train’: First Hindi film in Bangkok’s Sky Train

November 22, 2006

Categories: Skytrain

[‘The Train’: First Hindi film in Bangkok’s Sky Train](#) – Indiafm, November 22, 2006

The Kinaree Nava-the floating restaurant in Lumpini Park

November 24, 2006

Categories: History



The Kinaree Nava– the floating restaurant in Lumpini Park –
November 24, 2006

Don writes: *Attached is a photo of that boat restaurant on the lake in Lumpini Park from about late 1960s or 1970. It's a little hard to see, but if you look closely at the left side of the boat, you can see the kinnaree figure...*



(Source: *Bangkok Bulletin*, No. 657, December 12, 1966)

Japanese planners reveal design of world's tallest tower for downtown Tokyo

November 25, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Japanese planners reveal design of world's tallest tower for downtown Tokyo](#) – AP, November 25, 2006

Japanese planners this week revealed the design of a huge broadcast tower that is set to become the world's tallest structure upon completion in 2011, eclipsing even Canada's CN Tower...

Interesting Thai art blog: Contemporary art & culture

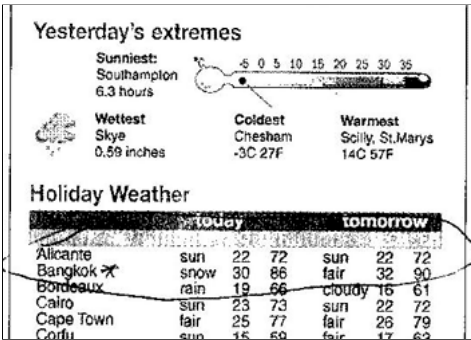
November 25, 2006

Categories: Art

Interesting Thai art blog: [Contemporary art & culture, Thailand](#) – November 25, 2006

Snow for Bangkok

November 25, 2006
Categories: 2Bangkok News

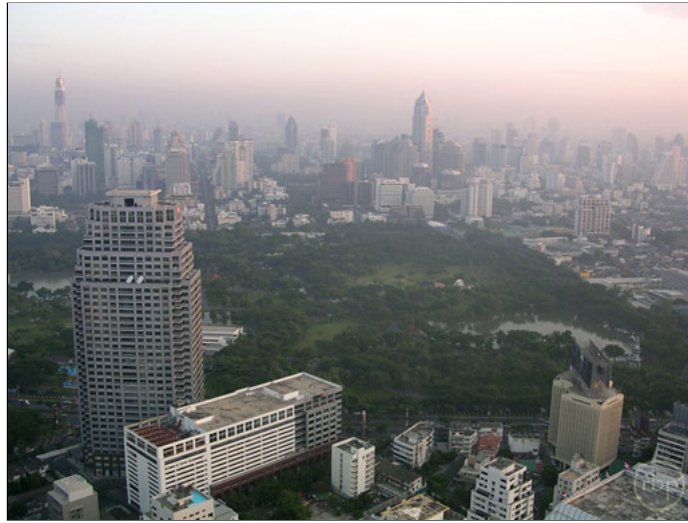


Snow for Bangkok – November 25, 2006
Charlie reports: ...this is from last weeks Swindon Advertiser... (above)

Dawn at Vertigo

November 25, 2006

Categories: Buildings



(Photo: Rapee)

[Dawn at Vertigo](#) –

November 25, 2006

Rapee reports: *Last week, I had a chance to go up to the Vertigo on the rooftop of Banyan Tree Hotel, Bangkok, at dawn. Since not too many people are allowed to be up there during such hours, I think this set of pictures might be interesting for you and your readers.*

The series of photos [here](#).

Earlier: World's highest outdoor restaurant: [Sirocco Restaurant on top of State Tower](#) and [on top of RCK Tower](#)

Earlier: World's second highest outdoor restaurant: [Vertigo Restaurant on top of Thai Wah II Tower](#)

A Final Injustice

November 26, 2006

Categories: Thaksin's War on Drugs, The Thaksin Years

[A Final Injustice](#) – *The Nation*, November 26, 2006

Not only were innocent people killed in the war on drugs, some of them were framed even after the life had gone out of them...

Killers of Welsh student face 50 years of squalor and disease in Thai jail after death sentences are commuted

November 27, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Killers of Welsh student face 50 years of squalor and disease in Thai jail after death sentences are commuted](#) – ieWales, November 27, 2006

The two Thai fisherman who murdered a holidaying Welsh student look set to spend the rest of their lives in one of the world's most notorious prisons after having had their death sentences commuted...

Pearl, Partners Win Acreage Offshore Thailand

November 27, 2006

Categories: Energy

[Pearl, Partners Win Acreage Offshore Thailand](#) – Rigzone, November 27, 2006

Pearl Energy Limited, along with partners, Horizon Oil (Thailand) Ltd and Tana Oil & Gas (Thailand) Ltd, has been conditionally awarded the petroleum contract for Block G10/48 in the Gulf of Thailand...

Indian Air Chief Offers to Upgrade Burma's Air Force

November 27, 2006

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Indian Air Chief Offers to Upgrade Burma's Air Force](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, November 27, 2006

Quite amazing how they don't show the slightest scruples delivering military hardware to the dictators to suppress and slaughter their people... and here's the underlying reason (the possible revenue from the sales is surely not the main motivation): currying favor with the junta for India's own gain. India sees itself in a race with China to tap Burma's vast natural resources to fuel its economic expansion...

Uproar in China as some universities add golf course to the curriculum

November 27, 2006

Categories: China

[Uproar in China as some universities add golf course to the curriculum](#) – *Bloomberg News*,

November 27, 2006

Mandatory golf lessons for business students at a Chinese university have sparked a national debate about elitism...

(Thanks to Danny for pointing this out.)

Education Ministry to scrap one laptop per child project

November 27, 2006

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Education Ministry to scrap one laptop per child project](#) – *The Nation*, November 27, 2006

...The Education Ministry Monday vowed to scrap three populist policies floated by the previous administration. "We will not focus too much on technology and materials. We will focus on substance," Education Minister Wijit Srisaarn said Monday. When Thaksin Shinawatra was at the helm, his government promised to procure 250,000 computers along with Internet broadband access to state schools, and also to give a low-cost laptop for every primary student. "We don't request budget to finance such ideas," Wijit said...

Google Earth spurs Bahraini equality drive

November 27, 2006

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Google Earth spurs Bahraini equality drive](#) –

FT, November 27, 2006

...For those with insufficient bandwidth to access Google Earth, a PDF file with dozens of downloaded images of royal estates has been circulated anonymously by e-mail. Mr Yousif, among others, initially encouraged web users to post images on photo-sharing websites. "Some of the palaces take up more space than three or four villages nearby and block access to the sea for fishermen. People knew this already. But they never saw it. All they saw were the surrounding walls," said Mr Yousif, who is seen in Bahrain as the grandfather of its blogging community...

Thai Beat A Go-Go

November 28, 2006



Thai Beat A Go-Go –
November 28, 2006

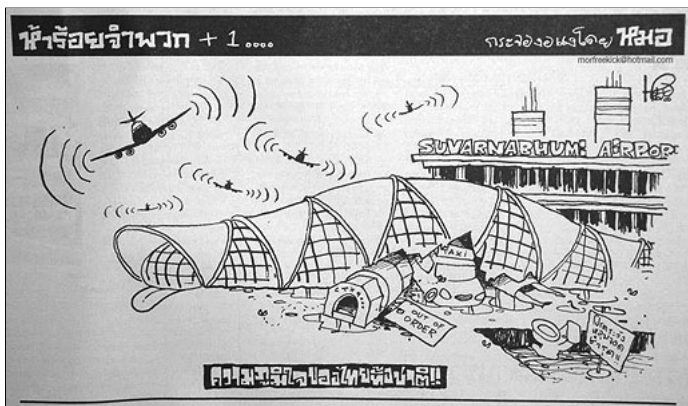
Brigitte writes: *Hi, I don't know if you're aware of three CDs called 'Thai Beat A Go-Go' compiled by the Swedish label Subliminal Sounds. I just bought the first two volumes of this terrific collection of '60s Thai beat, garage and surf music – here's what the booklets say: "What you are about to hear is a collection of rare and unusual, mostly western-influenced and western-styled, songs concocted in Thailand during the 1960s. Very little is now known about the Thai rock 'n roll scene of the 1960s, an era that now seems hopelessly lost in the past. The original records are so scarce that they practically never turn up, even in their native Thailand, and sadly few people remember the original artists.*

Traditionally Siam has been separated from the west by many aspects of life, by language, culture, religion etc. But during the 1960s with the Vietnam war developing into full swing in neighbouring Vietnam, and Thailand itself filled up with American GI's on R & R looking for kicks, the Thais became increasingly exposed to western pop music being broadcasted on the airwaves and being played in hotel lounges. Many of the local bands were of course influenced by The Beatles, Elvis Presley, The Ventures and other big names of the day. Luckily most of the so-called "string band music" groups developed their own style through mixing pop sounds with traditional Thai music." They're available from Amazon (they also offer two CDs called 'Cambodian Rocks', which might also be of interest to you); sound samples of all tracks are available at a mouseclick at the German Amazon site (amazon.de), which made me buy them instantly!

Editorial cartoons – November 2006

November 29, 2006

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



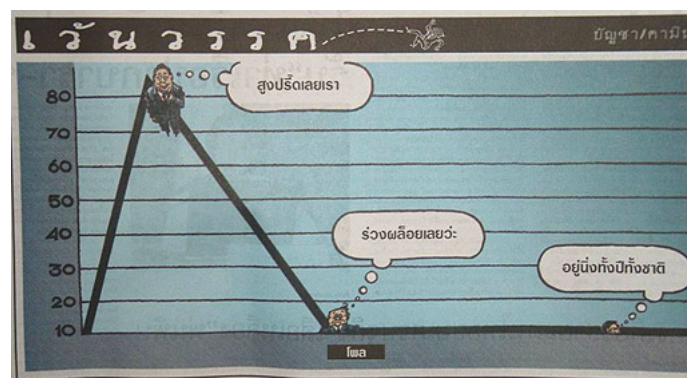
Editorial cartoons

Krungtepturakit, November 29, 2006 – The black sign bottom reads: The pride of all Thai people. The sign at the bottom right reads: Be careful. The runway is in disrepair.



Poojadkuan, November 27, 2006 – Suggest King Power to sell "Comfort 100" in duty free.

Earlier: [Poojadkuan columns](#)



Manager, November 29, 2006 – Leave the space column by Buncha/ Kamin

Left: I am at the high level.

Middle: Me, drop off.

Right: Remain still. All year, all life.



Editorial cartoon

Manager cartoon on November 24, 2006 -Column: Leave the space by Buncha/ Kamin On the sign: Thai Malay border.

The bottom reads: Old soldier has just known the power of words.



Editorial cartoon
Thai Rath, November 19, 2006

Charlie writes: *Did you see this cartoon? About Prem saying Surayud is like Churchill. But she says: Churchill never gave Hitler a diplomatic passport to travel on.*



Editorial cartoon
Manager, November 18, 2006 – Leave the space by Buncha/Kamin
 Left: Off – Apichat died! Ho...Ho..
 Why you have to feel sorrow so much?!
 On the newspaper: Tai (Off's girlfriend) is shocked and cried, Off – Apichat died.
 Right: His news grab my news area on the front page.



Editorial cartoons
 Thairath by Zeer, November 8, 2006 – Apology! When will the last dead body be?



Krungtepturakit, November 8, 2006

Cat held hostage for 50 baht

November 29, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Cat held hostage for 50 baht](#) – *The Nation*, November 29, 2006
And a photo [here](#).

Troubles in the South – November 2006

November 30, 2006

Categories: The Thai Deep South

Troubles in the South – November 2006

[Troubles in the South index page](#)

School closure order – November 27, 2006

The schools have been reopened in many areas in the deep south, but here is the initial order:

Letter from the Teachers Federation of Yala – Statement No. 1 on halt to school openings in Yala

The unrest in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat Provinces has grown continuously and gradually become more violent. There are bombings and shootings targeted at civilians, government officials and teachers. Militants have destroyed many lives and property in the three southern border provinces.

To let authorities revise and issue practical measures to resume local people's confidence and protect government officials and civilians, the Teachers Federation of Yala Province and academic institutions in the province agreed on November 27 to:

1. Halt school opening indefinitely, starting November 28, 2006

2. Hold make-up sessions as soon as the schools are re-opened

(signed)

Sanya Surwanpoh

President of Teachers Federation of Yala Province

November 27, 2006



[Former govt kill insurgents handed over by M'sia: Sonthi](#) – *The Nation*, November 27, 2006

...
"Malaysia is reluctant to help us as we don't behave. Sometimes they handed over suspected militants as requested, but we killed them," Sonthi told reporters upon his departure to Malaysia...

Southern Teachers' Association makes proposals to deal with southern unrest – Says government strategies must be more transparent – translated and summarized from Issara News Center, November 18, 2006

In the midst of the ongoing intense unrest in Thailand's deep south, teachers and education personnel have become easy targets for attack. Southern Teachers' Association (STA) members from the three southern border provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat held a meeting on November 12 to analyze the situation in the region. The group met at the Area 12 Educational Inspectorate Office in Yala Province and some firm conclusions arose from their discussions.

STA representatives from these provinces submitted a report to Khunying Kasama Voravarn Na Ayudhaya (the Permanent-Secretary of the Commission for Basic Education) yesterday. They also plan to submit a copy to Prime Minister Gen. Surayud Chulanont soon.

The STA report initially describes the unrest in the region. It notes that crimes have occurred on an almost daily basis since the onset of the current unrest in 2004 and that many innocent people have been killed. It goes on to mention that government officials are frequently subjected to violent ambush and that the work of both government officials and ordinary citizens is frequently sabotaged.

The report next describes an atmosphere of continual confusion in the region. It says that low-ranking government officials often doubt that the unrest is entirely caused by local separatist movements. The report suggests that high-ranking officials frequently attribute the unrest to the anger of local people as the result of years of unfair treatment, human rights infringements and warlike conditions. Thus, the report suggests that measures taken by these officials are often based on mistaken perceptions.

The report then examines the outlook of low-ranking government officials who usually believe that the unrest is mainly caused by the separatist movement known as the 'BRN Coordinate' (Barisan Revolusi Nasional). Local STA members are adamant that such low-rankers are correct in their estimation that the past three years' unrest has largely been caused by the BRN. Thus, many local STA members believe that the government's strategies for the region are completely wrong. The report admits that government security operations have helped to break up some separatist movements, but says these operations are incapable of impairing the separatists' long-term ability to engage in low-level warfare.

The report also details the religious paranoia that is rampant in the region. It says that some local Muslims believe that Thailand's Buddhists are acting deceitfully and only wish to be seen as acting in a fairer manner as a means to gather better intelligence data on separatist movements. It also cites the common local Muslim belief that the Buddhist establishment wish to appear more generous-minded as part of an attempt to cover up their past mistakes in the region.

Many local Muslims see the recent espousal of a more peaceful approach as a dishonest attempt to overcome the separatists rather than to actually create the necessary conditions for peace. The report also describes the belief of some Buddhists that the majority of Muslim people in the deep south are dishonest, selfish and in total agreement with the separatist cause.

The report roundly condemns the RKK (Runda Kumpulan Kecil), the BRN and their fellow travelers for causing the unrest. However, it also says that the government has been remiss in failing to collect high-grade intelligence data and so lacks a decent understanding of the causes of the unrest.

The report goes on to propose the following solutions to the unrest:

- (1) The government must begin to accept that the unrest is largely caused by the BRN and constantly remind itself that the BRN is a self-proclaimed revolutionary organization. It must also realize that both black market operators and drug dealers are contributing to the problem.
- (2) The government must get to know a great deal more about its enemies. It must begin to better understand the goals and strategies of the separatists in order to establish better goals and strategies of its own.
- (3) And when such better-informed goals and strategies have arisen, it must also seek the right people to implement them in an efficient manner.

The report then recommends the following operational methods in the region:

- (1) The assignment of as many local people as possible to run local operations.
- (2) Such operations should take place in ALL districts and the authorities must persevere with these operations until they have completely run their course.

(3) The law of the land must be applied strictly with no favoritism towards certain groups.

(4) The public must be provided with transparent information on all such operations.

(5) The government must continue to deploy security forces in the three provinces to protect innocent people and ensure fair treatment for all groups in local society.

The report also details the education problems of the region:

(1) Teachers and other educational personnel work in a constant state of worry about their own security.

(2) Schools and educational units are likely to face personnel shortages in the near future.

(3) Most schools and educational units manage their budgets inefficiently.

(4) There are no basic educational policies to help foster greater long-term security for both the nation and for local schools.

(5) The local system of educational management makes no allowances for changing social circumstances.

The report also details the causes of breakdowns in local educational provision:

(1) Proactive political and military operations by the BRN.

(2) No consistency in the government's goals and strategies. This ensures that all operations in the region are constantly beset by confusion and a lack of transparency.

(3) The Ministry of Education has not yet established any special policy for the security of teachers and educational personnel in the region.

(4) There is regulatory body to ensure that the local educational system lives up to the goals and strategies espoused by the Ministry of Education.

The report then concludes with a set of proposed solutions:

(1) There must be a sustained and serious effort to provide security guards for teachers and education personnel.

(2) Vacant teaching and administrative positions must be quickly replaced by temporary teachers and government workers.

(3) A firm eye must be kept on the budget management of education zones and schools, to ensure they make the best use of their budgets.

(4) New educational policies must be created, that will help to foster greater security for both the nation and its educational units in the region.

(5) Some kind of administrative center should be set up for the three provinces, to ensure that their educational systems are capable of meeting the challenge of the social changes that will be necessary to create peace in the region.



Leaflets from the deep south – November 25, 2006

These are leaflets from the Southern Border Provinces Peace-building Command. They read: *Attacking teachers is against religion. Teachers are respectable, honorable and dutiful, willing to instruct your children. Let us give teachers moral support and protection for a better future of our children. Let us give teachers moral support and protection, otherwise our children will be left uneducated. We should collaborate with government authorities who sincerely help us. Please inform military authorities of any information or hints you receive. You might contact the Civil Department of the Southern Border Provinces Peace-Building Command, Sirindhorn Campus in Amphur Yarang of Pattani Province. Call 1341, 1881 or 0-7326-2572, or www.southpeace.go.th.*



Krungtepturakit, November 24, 2006 – Carry the dead body: People in Amphur Thanto, Yala parade the dead body of Mr. Maroyee Karoh who was shot dead . His body was taken to the Kubo . On the way there were many sounds of mysterious gunfire and almost a situation of turmoil, but finally the officers can control the situation.



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

Opening a school – November 20, 2006

Dr. Has reports: *On November 20, Ban Luemu school, Amphur Krongpinang, Yala reopened again after 2 weeks after being when insurgents called and threatened to kill teachers. The sheriff of Krongpinang District came to visit and talked to teachers and students.*



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

[‘Bangkok not interested in peace’](#) – Aljazeera.net, November 21, 2006

The leader of an umbrella group of separatists in south Thailand says the government is not interested in peace...

Violence in the south

Manager, November 21, 2006 – The southern victim: A Muslim guy shot by the insurgents in the south was sent to hospital in Narathiwat late Saturday night. The unrest in the three southern border provinces has killed more than 1600 people since January 2004.



Komchadluek, November 21, 2006 – Bomb the market: The police officers investigate a motorcycle with a bomb parked in front of Kenting market building in the area of Sungaikolok municipality, Narathiwat. The bomb was set off with a mobile phone bomb. This caused two people to die and 15 injured.



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

Arson in the south – November 17, 2006

Dr. Has reports: *On November 17 the assailants burned the house of Mr. Arbus, a petty officer, at Ban Luemu, Amphur Krongpinang, Yala. The fire damaged his car and house.*

More on [Troubles in the South](#)



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

Almost like being there: Happenings in the deep south

Mr. John reports: *On November 16, Gen Surayud Chulanont, P.M., and his team visited the Thai Buddhist people who moved from Ban Sunti 1 and Sunti 2, Amphur Bannangstar, Yala to stay at Wat Niotsungkaram, Amphur Muang, Yala. This is because of the unrest in the south is more violent and Thai Buddhists are victims more than before*

The P.M. took the [leaflet](#) that he got from people and showed it to reporters. The leaflet assaults government policy on the three southern provinces and the failure of solving southern problems created by the old government.



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



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



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

Left: After more violence near the southern border, secondary school children moved with their families from Ban Sunti 1 and Sunti 2, Amphur Bannangstar, Yala. They stay in monk's quarters and use it as a temporary classroom. All the children have the same opinion that they prefer to stay in the temple rather than their homes.

Right: The room of Parkview Hotel, Amphur Muang, Yala has a sign telling the direction for people who want to "Lamad." The arrow points to the direction of Mecca in Saudi Arabia for Muslim guests.



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



Tea shop bombing

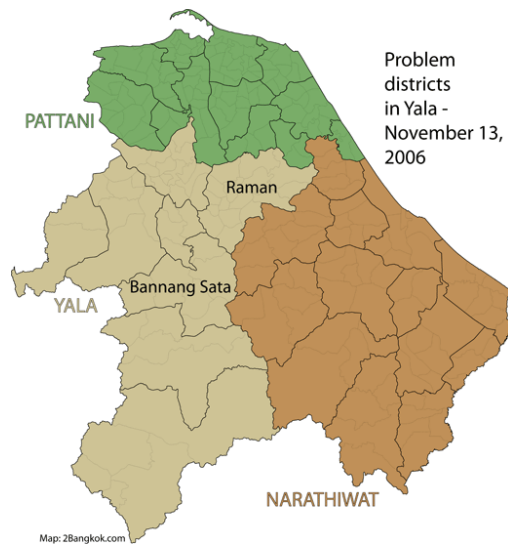
Krungtepturakit, November 18, 2006

The officers investigate the bombing at the ancient coffee shop in Narathiwat yesterday morning. Ten minutes after the bomb exploded, another bomb exploded and damaged a car and caused many injured and death.



Matichon, November 18, 2006

Tumble down: the officers investigate damage at an ancient coffee shop in Narathiwat after the assailants bombed it two times on November 17 while there were many people sitting in the shop. This caused 1 death and 22 injuries.



Lessons to be learned from the recent expansion of "no-go areas" for government officials – Lack of any real strategy? – Failure of mass media to assist government initiatives? – translated and summarized from *Issara News Centre*, November 7, 2006

On November 5, over 300 women and children rallied in Bajoh Commune in Bannang Sata District in Yala Province. The anti-government protestors called for the removal of all armed forces personnel from the commune with a promise to stop their protest if this condition was met.

On November 3 (preceding the protest), Ismai Sama, a resident of Bajoh Commune, was fatally shot by gunmen dressed as soldiers. Ismai's son is a known member of a Runda Kumpulan Kecil (RKK) insurgent group. Just before he was murdered, Ismai was invited to an interview by local government officials keen to learn about the movements of local insurgent groups.

Thus, Ismai's death has become the rallying point with which southern separatists can encourage the people of Bajoh to protest against the government. The separatists and their sympathizers are claiming that Ismai was killed by armed forces personnel.

The local RKK group in have recently attacked soldiers and burned four schools in Bajoh Commune. After each attack, the group has encouraged women and children to blockade roads and prevent the entry of security forces into their villages. The protestors have vowed that government officials will not be allowed in again until all security forces have been removed from the commune.

This kind of incident has happened once before, in Narathiwat Province's Sungai Padi District.

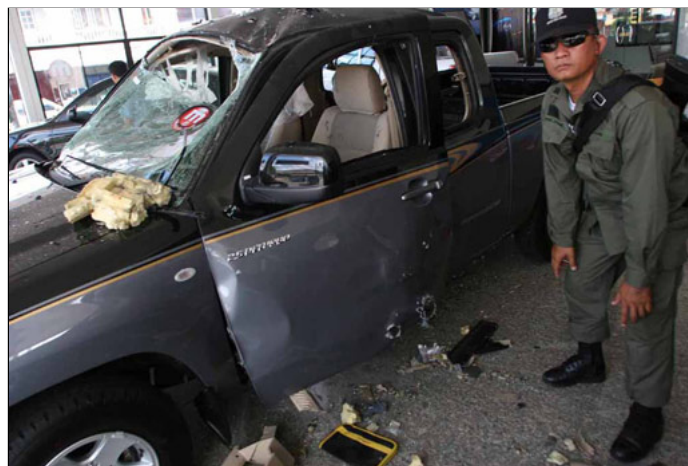
This strategy is likely to be used again in any villages and communes where the separatists and their sympathizers are in almost complete control.

Women and children will be in the vanguard of these protests, while many of their men folk will be in concealment and ready to attack the army forces if their "human shield" strategy fails.

There are two districts in Yala–Raman and Bannang Sata–that are already almost completely controlled by separatists. Commune and village headmen in these districts are too scared to fully cooperate with the government. Indeed, the government continues to have very little understanding of the people who live in these districts. Since 2004, over 1,000 Muslim and Buddhist people and 100 government officials and armed forces personnel have been killed in these two districts.

The government's efforts to involve local people in helping to solve the unrest have always failed, while the separatists are continually attempting to expand their power in the region.

The government should devise a special plan to regain control in areas where the insurgents presently enjoy considerable control over the local population with Raman and Bannang Sata Districts receiving the most urgent attention.



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

Almost like being there: Bombing auto showrooms in the deep south



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

Mr. John reports: November 9 – The officers investigated the place that the assailants bombed in Yala. The target of the bombs are showrooms with many brand cars and motorcycles and they want to shake the economy again after the August 31 bombings of 22 places.



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



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

Dr. Has reports: Today (November 9) between 11:58 and 12:30, bombs exploded in 8 spots in municipal of Yala causing 9 to be injured. It started at the Nissan showroom, and continued through the Honda showroom, Isuzu showroom, Mazda showroom, Ford showroom, Chevrolet showroom, Numhuajan motorcycle shop, Saengjaroen motorcycle shop. In the photos are the damage of Mazda showroom and Numhuajan motorcycle shop.



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



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



**More violence in the south
Matichon, November 8, 2006**

Burning again: The common room and kitchen of Ban Tabingtingisamakki, Thambon Talingchan, Amphur Bannangstar, Yala was burnt by the assailants. This is the fifth school that was damaged in the past 3 days—at 02:30 a.m. on November 7.



Komchadluek, November 8, 2006
 Burn recurrent: The state of the common room and kitchen of Ban Tabingtingisamakki, Thambon Talingchan, Amphur Bannangstar, Yala after the assailant burnt for fifth school. Sad student and a soldiers look on the scene on November 7.



School attacks

Above: *Komchadluek*, November 5, 2006 – No school to study: The students of Ban Banglang school, Thambon Bajor, Amphur Bannangstar checked the damage at their school after it was burnt at the same time as other four schools on November 4.



Above: *Krungthep Turakit*, November 5, 2006 – Burn and threaten: A soldier reads graffiti on the ruined wall of Ban Banglang school building, Thambon Bajor, Amphur Bannangstar, Yala that was written by the terrorists when they burned four schools.

Photos from the south

Komchadluek – Still turmoil: Officers investigate the ice tub a tea shop at No. 71/6 Rangaemakka, Amphur Muang, Narathiwat that was bombed by assailants on October 31 and caused 6 to be injured.





Krungtepturkit – Burn Pornor: The students of Pornor Rasamipakdi Ban Kubangpaze, Amphur Yarang, Pattani, sadly look at the remains of an Alkuraarn bible and textbook after 8 school lodgings were burned. The school opening has to be postponed.

Third Region Army chief says troops can enter Bangkok in two hours – translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*, October 26, 2006
 Army chief Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin, as head of the Council for National Security (CNS), and Defense Permanent Secretary Gen. Winai Phattiyakul, as secretary general for the CNS, recently met with Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont to discuss national security. Rumor has it that Third Army Region chief Lt. en. Chiradet Kocharat ordered his troops in Nakhon Sawan Province to enter Bangkok in a bid to cope with possible rallies by some movements, following a rumor that former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's supporters will gather to welcome his rumored upcoming return. The Third Army commander denied the rumor. However, he said that his troops can enter Bangkok in two hours. He said if Bangkok needs troops, the First Army Region and the Special Warfare Command have sufficient troops.

Anti-government movement spreads rumor to maintain Thaksin's popularity in the northeast – translated and summarized from *Phujatkan*, October 27, 2006

The anti-government movement recently sent an open letter to government offices in northeastern provinces, trying to mislead the public into believing that the coup d'etat was staged because the plan to assassinate Thaksin Shinawatra failed. The movement slandered the government by saying that the government is shameless continuing projects initiated by the Thaksin administration.

Thaksin supporters keep trying to mislead the public and civil servants in northeastern Thailand.

An open but confidential letter, by "Southern People," was recently spread at government offices in northeastern provinces. There is a message telling readers to spread the letter at the end of the letter.

The letter says,

"1. Do you know who wants former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra killed?

2. If not, ask people in Huaykwang, Bangkok.

3. The assassination plan failed and a coup d'etat was staged, by the same person mentioned in number 1.

4. The coup was staged to overthrow the Thaksin system. So, how on earth they are so shameless continuing projects by the Thaksin administration?

The thumbs-up given to trouble makers and money suckers led by The Skinhead, The White Beard, The Cruel Face and The Udorn Guy.

There are 192 countries in the world. Two of which are underdeveloped – Myanmar and Thailand.

We're really sorry for underdeveloped people."

In addition to the letter, there is a sheet of paper with the picture of some people said to bring troubles to Thailand.

The people include Anan Panyarachun, Abhisit Vejjajiva, Gen. Prem Tinsulanonda, Suthep Tuaksuban, Gen. Surayud Chulanont, Khunying Jaruvan Maintaka, Klanarong Chantik, Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin, Kaewsan Atipoh, Dr. Prawate Wasi, Sondhi Limthongkul, Mj. Gen. Chamlong Srimuang and Suriyasai Katasila.

The biggest image in the paper is also the picture of Thaksin Shinawatra. There is a message saying, "PM Thaksin, people will not forget you. We will wait for you."

[Troubles in the South index page](#)

Cactus building

November 30, 2006

[Cactus building](#) – BoingBoing, November 30, 2006

Airbus A380 superjumbo to make first visit to Bangkok

November 30, 2006

Categories: Airports and Airlines

[Airbus A380 superjumbo to make first visit to Bangkok](#) – AFX News Limited, November 30, 2006

Thailand to mark AIDS Day with world's longest condom

November 30, 2006

Categories: HIV-AIDS

[Thailand to mark AIDS Day with world's longest condom](#) – INQ7.net, November 30, 2006

Thailand planned to mark World AIDS Day on Friday by setting a record for the “Longest Condom Chain,” a ribbon of 25,000 condoms intended to raise awareness to fight the disease...

Ask the pilot

December 1, 2006

Categories: Airports and Airlines

[Ask the pilot](#) –

Salon.com, December 1, 2006

...Opened in 1914, Don Muang was one of the oldest big-city airports in the world, and was showing it. Dirty and overcrowded, it had become the fourth busiest airport in Asia, handling just under 39 million passengers in 2005. Many of Don Muang's long-haul flights arrived and departed in the wee hours, and it often seemed that at least half of those 39 million people could be found on any given night sleeping on the greasy concourse floors...

Experimental bar in Thailand aims to provide safe refuge for sex workers

December 1, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Experimental bar in Thailand aims to provide safe refuge for sex workers](#) – Channel NewsAsia, December 1, 2006

Commercial sex workers in Thailand account for a high number of AIDS cases in the kingdom. To improve their lives, a non-profit organisation has set up an innovative self-help programme in Chiang Mai...

Young people with HIV/AIDS in Bangkok highest in Thailand, on the rise

December 1, 2006

Categories: HIV-AIDS

[Young people with HIV/AIDS in Bangkok highest in Thailand, on the rise](#) – TNA, December 1, 2006

...According to surveys from 2004 to 2006, young people aged between 15-24 years old had little knowledge on HIV protection and the rate of condom use remained low.

...There have been 15,174 infections reported this year with an average of 40 new cases daily—or almost two persons per minute on average...

The National Science Museum

December 1, 2006

The National

Science Museum – December 1, 2006

A reader points out: [*The National Science Museum building*](#) is designed in geometric shape to reflected the future-world technology. The building it's self included 3- 20*20*20 m. cube..single cube's base build to support up to 4200 tons....45 m. tall..12 storey high...

“Please learn this.”

December 1, 2006

"Please learn this." –

December 1, 2006

Nothing to do with Thailand, but amusing... Text from an email virus.

Dear Sir/Madam,

We have logged a fraud activity from the IP-address belonging to your computer at more than 17 Web-sites and have received abuses from several companies.

The abuse copy is sent as an attachment to this letter. Please learn this.

We have added our utilite that would help you to find and remove any spyware from your PC. If you were not lucky using another software, please try this one.

Yours faithfully

Steven Cooper

It seems English is not Steven Cooper's native language.

S.S. Ryndam university cruise, 1926

December 2, 2006

Categories: Old photos and films

S.S. Ryndam university cruise, 1926 –

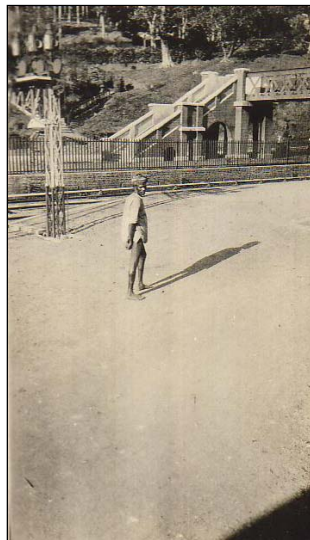
December 2, 2006

In 1926, a group of university students traveled to Thailand on the Holland-America line cruise ship *S.S. Ryndam*.

Wisarut writes: *After I took a look at the Royal Diary of King Prajadhipok published in 1993 by National History Committee, Office of PM, I found that there was 560 American students visiting Siam from December 4-7, 1926. They rode the Paknam Tram from Paknam to Klong Toei before putting into Phyathai Hotel, Oriental Hotel or even Vajiravut College.*













Thai AIDS vaccine trials hope for breakthrough in three years

December 2, 2006

Categories: HIV-AIDS

[Thai AIDS vaccine trials hope for breakthrough in three years](#) – TNA, December 2, 2006

...Only half get the genuine jab while the rest get a placebo. If fewer in the vaccinated group get HIV, it will be champagne all round...

The Demise of the Professional Photojournalist

December 4, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[The Demise of the Professional Photojournalist](#) –
CitMedia, December 4, 2006

Fiji army chief wants Thailand style coup: NZ PM

December 4, 2006

Categories: 2006 Coup

[Fiji army chief wants Thailand style coup: NZ PM](#) – Fijilive.com, December 4, 2006

New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark says Fiji's army commander Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama may be leaning towards a Thailand style coup, which had been endorsed by the king...

Thailand prepares for ultra-efficient cars

December 4, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand prepares for ultra-efficient cars](#) – UPI, December 4, 2006

Six leading Japanese auto manufacturers have expressed interest in investing in manufacturing ultra-fuel-efficient cars in Thailand...

Honoring the King

December 5, 2006

Categories: HM The King's Birthday



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Honoring the King – December 5, 2006

This is an example of one of the many small community commemorations of HM The King's birthday. This small community on Lat Phrae Soi 41 set up a karaoke machine, television, and shrine for the King and then gathered to participate in the mass candle-lighting ceremony happening throughout the country on the night of December 5.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[Back to the main 2Bangkok.com page](#)

Thai Glow Energy to expand power capacity

December 5, 2006

Categories: Energy

[Thai Glow Energy to expand power capacity](#) – Reuters, December 5, 2006

Thai utility Glow Energy PCL said on Wednesday it would build a new power plant to expand capacity by 120-140 megawatts after signing two contracts with petrochemical companies of the Siam Cement group...

For foreign inpatients in Thailand, visa extensions now pain free

December 5, 2006

Categories: Health

[For foreign inpatients in Thailand, visa extensions now pain free](#) – *Asahi.com*, December 5, 2006

Foreign inpatients at some of Thailand's leading hospitals are getting the red carpet treatment from what may seem like a highly unlikely source—the immigration department...

Afghans consider rebuilding Bamiyan Buddhas

December 5, 2006

[Afghans consider rebuilding Bamiyan Buddhas](#) – *New York Times*, December 5, 2006

Search for top talent gets fierce in India

December 5, 2006

Categories: India

[Search for top talent gets fierce in India](#) – New York Times, December 5, 2006

With the talent pool thin at the top, the net is being cast for more than just overseas executives of Indian origin – a category referred to as boomerang professionals – but also for Americans and Europeans with an India connection...

A380 Airbus in Bangkok

December 5, 2006

A380 Airbus in Bangkok – December 5, 2006

Pascal writes: *We just returned from the new airport, and [got a few good shots of the A380 Airbus](#), which is visiting Bangkok for three days.*

Tom also has [photos from the A380 visit here](#).

An Open Letter to the Prime Minister of Thailand

December 5, 2006

Categories: 2006 Coup

[An Open Letter to the Prime Minister of Thailand](#) – *The Nation*, December 5, 2006

...About a month ago, the scheduled speaker at the SEAWrite Awards, Nobel Prize Winner Woye Soyinka, abruptly cancelled his appearance. His reason was that he wanted to protest the fact that Thailand was no longer a democracy. I was asked to speak in his place.

In my speech, I expressed outrage that an outsider would dare to posture about protecting my freedom when I was in fact, perfectly free. I vigorously defended the recent politics of this country, and I stated that, "I am proud to stand here, in front of my prince, my peers, and my compatriots, and tell the world that right here, in this place and time, I have never felt more free."

...Unlike what many international papers have reported, not one note of my opera was cut. The full integrity of my work as conceived by me and as staged by Hans Nieuwenhuis was preserved.

Even though I signed the document, other attempts were made to silence the production, including claims by the TCC that a secretary had mistyped the Royal Agenda leaving out the scene and that it was now too late to put it in, and an anonymous "poison pen" fax that was sent to HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindorn's office which urged Her Royal Highness not to preside over the event because its text was "obscene". This sort of dirty, underhanded sabotage has always been typical of the way things are done in this country and is certainly not the fault of the current administration...

Iranian envoy blasts West in Thai speech

December 5, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Iranian envoy blasts West in Thai speech – Bangkok Post](#) – Islamic Republic News Agency, December 5, 2006

Iranian Ambassador to Thailand Mohsen Pakaeen blasted the United States, the West and Israel in a speech before a gathering of Muslim Shias in Bangkok on Sunday...

Hong Kong, opting to remain a shopper's paradise, takes a risk

December 6, 2006

Categories: China

[Hong Kong, opting to remain a shopper's paradise, takes a risk](#) – *International Herald Tribune*, December 6, 2006

The decision to avoid a sales tax is likely to start a search for other revenue sources, some of which could cut into profits of those who make it a financial capital as well...

Daewoo – A Serial Suitor of the Burmese Regime

December 7, 2006

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Daewoo – A Serial Suitor of the Burmese Regime](#) – *The Irrawaddy*,

December 7, 2006

With news of Daewoo's illegal activities in Burma continuing to emerge on Thursday, observers have been given a rare glimpse into one of the closest business relationships the regime has had with the outside world in recent years...

Richard Shaw Brown and the Misunderstood

December 7, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Richard Shaw Brown and the Misunderstood –

December 7, 2006

Interesting [website](#) and [bio](#) of Thai resident Richard Shaw Brown and the 1960s band the [Misunderstood](#).

A guide to the alcohol ad ban

December 8, 2006

Categories: Health

[A guide to the alcohol ad ban](#) – *Bangkok Post*,
December 8, 2006

Researchers catch rare turtle in Thailand

December 9, 2006

Categories: Vietnam

[Researchers catch rare turtle in Thailand](#) –
CTV.ca, December 9, 2006

Researchers in Vietnam announced Friday they have caught one of the world's most endangered turtles in the wild, a development which could bolster efforts to protect the species from hunters and collectors...

FDA bans 57 skin whitening products

December 9, 2006

Categories: Health

[FDA bans 57 skin whitening products](#) – *The Nation*, December 9, 2006

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has banned 57 skin whitening products found to contain harmful substances. Check the list of banned cosmetic at www.fda.moph.go.th...

NEW Phetchaburi Road

December 9, 2006

NEW Phetchaburi Road –
December 9, 2006

Several readers pointed out: *...that should be NEW Phetchaburi Road, not Phetchaburi Road...* (in *The Nation*'s article yesterday)

Yesterday: [Is Phetchaburi Road cursed?](#) – *The Nation*, December 8, 2006

...But has anyone wondered why so few companies have established their headquarters there, except for the fact that the road is famous as a strip of massage parlours and some night-entertainment venues (before new ones sprang up on nearby Rama IX Road)?

Probably there is a curse on this thoroughfare that casts a dark cloud over the operations of companies located on it...

Catching the chicken to show the monkey

December 10, 2006

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



Catching the chicken to show the monkey – *Thai Rath*, December 10, 2006

Here is *Thai Rath*'s version of the interesting [Kao Lao](#) cartoons that group recent events around a theme. This one is titled "Water, water, water" and is really hard to translate and decipher!

Each cartoon involves a play on words that contains the Thai word for water, *nam*—but each instance of *nam* has a different meaning. This cartoon is a good example of the wordplay Thais find so amusing.

Top, left to right:

Undercurrent (*kun thi nam*) from a big water pipe (*tor nam*)

Two children died from drowning (*jom nam*) when they helped their mother pick morning glories.

Some politicians who have been ousted speak a lot causing a flood of saliva (*nam lai*) as they have been ousted.

Bottom, left to right:

A man is shedding tears (*nam ta*) as the Kingdom's budget has been used up.

Beware of water from the soup (*nam gang* the water part of *tom yum goong* soup) as it might hurt you.

It serves him right (*som nam nah*). Some government officials deserve punishment as they help politicians cheat the country.

CNS chairman Sonthi details national problems at ISOC seminar

December 10, 2006

Categories: Thai Politics

[CNS chairman Sonthi details national problems at ISOC seminar](#) – TNA, December 10, 2006

... "Many of you may not know that Thailand's map contradicts that of all of our neighbouring countries—Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Malaysia," Gen. Sonthi said. "Should the boundary disputes be brought to the International Court of Justice, Thailand is likely to lose many square kilometres, because our maps apparently overlap the demarcation lines prepared earlier by those countries."

Expressing his concern regarding Thailand's dwindling natural resources, Gen. Sonthi said, "We must ask ourselves how to live in the next 10 years. We may have to decide which role to be played: that of an industrialized country, a country in a middle-man role, or that of a producing country"...

How foreigners swipe Thai assets

December 11, 2006

Categories: Economy

[How foreigners swipe Thai assets](#) – *The Nation*,
December 11, 2006

Doctor debunks rabies myths

December 11, 2006

Categories: Health

[Doctor debunks rabies myths](#) – *The Nation*,

December 11, 2006

...He advised people to ignore long-held myths about rabies. Its spread was common in hot weather and cold and bites cannot be treated with balm or tobacco. Slapping wounds with sandals is not a cure, he added, and neither is holy water.

It is not true killing and eating the liver of the dog that bites you will stop you getting the virus, he said. Prat told people the cutting off of dogs' ears and tails will not stop them being infected...

ThaiRoyalProjects.com

December 12, 2006

ThaiRoyalProjects.com –
December 12, 2006

German musical set in Thailand?

December 12, 2006

German musical set in Thailand? –

December 12, 2006

Anyone know what the story is with this German musical set in Thailand?

[Here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

A thread about this is [here](#).



Sex industry in the news

December 13, 2006

Sex industry in the news –

December 13, 2006

Stories about the sex industry always contain strange assertions and peculiar opinions...

[The two faces of Patpong](#) – *The Star*, December 12, 2006

...From the point of view of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), Mohd Said has got his comparison wrong, as Patpong is “no longer the Patpong of the past”.

“That was a long, long time ago,” explained Vunsadej Thavarasukha, TAT advertising and public relations department executive director.

“Thirty years ago, yes, Patpong was famous as a red light area where tourists can do ‘monkey business’.”

But now, Vunsadej insisted, most of the go-go bars have shifted elsewhere (i.e. to Nana Plaza at Shukumvit) and Patpong is a place where family-orientated tourists come for food, shopping and music...

Without batting an eye, he replied, “Yes, we still have go-go bars in Patpong but it is very rare.”

[No more Thai sex for SA](#) – *Citizen*, December 13, 2006

...

Suvit made it clear the administration, which came to power in a bloodless coup on September 19, aimed to curtail the sex trade.

“Prostitution is illegal in Thailand,” he said. The South East Asian country’s police force is being assisted by “tourist police”, and will be further bolstered by specially trained volunteers.

He is due to announce further steps before the end of the month to tighten up on the policing of the sex industry...

[Seedy sex resort home to hundreds of Irish](#) – *Sunday Independent*, December 3, 2006

[Thai sex workers are ‘better off’ in SA](#) – *Independent Online*, December 24, 2006

One of many Thai prostitutes who have worked in Richards Bay for the past three years told Xolani Mbanjwa that they are illegal immigrants but that they would rather stay in South Africa than go back home...

Dictator slays millions in last-minute push to be Time's Man Of The Year

December 13, 2006

Categories: Humor

[Dictator slays millions in last-minute push to be Time's Man Of The Year](#) – *The Onion*, December 13, 2006

...*"In the back of his head, is he thinking about Stalin? Yes," Nyein said. "But he is well aware that Stalin killed 62 million people, while Myanmar only has a population of about 50 million. Genocide is a percentages game..."*



(Source: The Onion)

Thailand cracks down on dirty dancing

December 14, 2006

Categories: Culture and Society

[Thailand cracks down on dirty dancing](#) – *Associated Press*, December, 2006

Children lured into Thai sex industry in Pattaya

December 14, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Children lured into Thai sex industry in Pattaya](#) – Reuters, December 14, 2006

...Once a small fishing village until American servicemen started “relaxing” there early in the Vietnam War, Pattaya is now a “pedophile paradise”, where anything goes.

Even the government’s Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is not embarrassed to boast about the town’s sex industry.

TAT says on its Web site (www.tourismthailand.org) the beach town, 180 km (110 miles) east of Bangkok, proclaims “exotic erotic shows” and “sauna & massage parlors” alongside elephant rides, water and aerial sports as star attractions.

Pattaya, it says, offers “an incomparable array of possibilities to unwind during an exotic holiday beach vacation”...

Foreigners want List 3 tossed out

December 14, 2006

Categories: Business

[Foreigners want List 3 tossed out](#) – Bangkok Post, December 14, 2006

...List 3 comprises businesses in which Thais are not considered ready to compete with foreigners, and includes businesses such as accounting, law, construction, forestry, advertising and other services.

"The so-called List 3 should in fact be deleted. List 3 has prevented foreign investment since 1972 and was later revised in 1999," Mr Van Haren said.

"So for 30 years, these restricted businesses are still not ready for foreign competition. We wonder how long it would be protected? With no free competition, the winners are the ones who control business, but the losers are the end users or consumers..."

Hard lessons in expat paradise

December 14, 2006

Categories: Business

[Hard lessons in expat paradise](#) – BBC, December 14, 2006

... "You get penalised a lot for being a foreigner. I've had to do things in a much more official way than Thai-owned businesses – and I had lots of visits from people checking I had the right permits and licenses, which is often quite complicated to get right..."

Auction Of Thailand treasures feed needy

December 14, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Auction Of Thailand treasures feed needy](#) – KHNL News, December 14, 2006

A man who bought a container from Thailand sight unseen makes a remarkable discovery. KHNL News-8's Beth Hillyer has details on how you can benefit from this amazing find...

Mud volcanoes may just be underwater hills

December 14, 2006

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Mud volcanoes may just be underwater hills](#) – *The Nation*, December 14, 2006

The Mineral Resources Department yesterday downplayed an earlier announcement by a university lecturer that mud volcanoes had been found on the sea floor off Phuket...

Anond, who was present at yesterday's press conference, also backed down from his "mud volcano" theory. "At this point, we should call it an undersea muddy hill," he said.

According to Anond, a mud volcano was not volcanic mud, yet this technical term led some people to wrongly believe that it was. The lecturer said the team that found the undersea "hills" was planning to survey the site again early next year...

“Große Protestaktion vor dem Rathaus”

December 14, 2006

["Große Protestaktion vor dem Rathaus"](#) –

December 14, 2006

Something about foreigners protesting construction in Pattaya?

A thread on this is [here](#).

Chiang Mai Mail on hiatus

December 14, 2006

Chiang Mai Mail on hiatus –

December 14, 2006

[*Chiang Mai Mail*](#) seems have gone on hiatus: *We'll Be Back* – Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have decided it is time for a much needed break to regroup, restructure, and return, bigger and better than ever.

We've come to realize how many of you depend on us, and we regret any inconvenience this may cause.

At this point in time, we do not know how long we will be away. It may be two weeks or two months, but we will be back to bring you the local news, sports, special features, columns and puzzles that you've grown to enjoy.

Thailand loses luster with Vietnam's rise

December 15, 2006

Categories: Vietnam

[Thailand loses luster with Vietnam's rise](#) – Christian Science Monitor, December 15, 2006

Vietnam's economy could permanently eclipse Thailand's once stellar growth – now uncertain after the recent coup...

“Talk to any businessman, and they say Vietnam is the next China,” said a Bangkok-based Western diplomat who monitors economic activities. “Yes, the infrastructure may not be as good as in Thailand, but they have 84 million people, they work like dogs, and they really want the investment. In Thailand, they no longer care about economic growth and they can't figure out what they want...”

Disciples protest against charms rite

December 16, 2006

Categories: Local Beliefs

[Disciples protest against charms rite](#) – Bangkok Post, December 16, 2006

Disciples of revered monk Buddhadasa Bhikkhu have protested against the consecration of Buddha amulets at a temple in Chaiya district, complaining the idea of producing good luck charms is "anti-Buddhist." About 200 laymen and students yesterday marched to Wat Phra Boromthatchaiya where they rallied against an amulet sanctification rite being organised at the temple. The ceremony will be held on Monday...

Boyce not queried by DC yet

December 16, 2006

Categories: Health

[Boyce not queried by DC yet](#) – Bangkok Post, December 16, 2006

...Ambassador Boyce coordinated the meeting between representatives of the tobacco and alcohol industries with health minister Phinij Jarusombat that was seen as an attempt by the companies to protest advertising restrictions on cigarettes.

...They expressed concern that it may have contravened the law which prohibits government agencies from promoting the sale of tobacco products overseas or working to reduce other countries' non-discriminatory tobacco control regulations...

The 41 Burmese migrant workers found inside gasoline truck

December 16, 2006

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[41 Burmese migrant workers found inside gasoline truck](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, December 16, 2006

Blue Dragon Factory Export Center – December 17, 2006

December 17, 2006
Categories: Gem Scam

A reader reports: *I also just become a gem scam victim at Blue Dragon Factory Export Center Co., Ltd. in Bangkok.*

The following text describes the facts of the case that just occurred at Dec 14th 2006.

I walked along a road with my girlfriend not far away from our hotel "Royal Princess (Lan Luang)" and we wanted to do some sightseeing by walking. After we had walked some blocks, we were looking in our street map (in front of the Thai Airways International Building) as a nice guy from Thailand (good looking and very friendly) offered his help to find some good places to see.

He told us that we need to go to the tall buddha "wat indravaharn" and to the lucky buddha "wat mongrut" before we should enjoy the sunset at "Golden Mount". He also talked some words in German and seemed to be a fan of the German football league "Bundesliga". To waste not too much time he suggested us to take a Thai tuk-tuk to go to these places, especially a Thai one because they were cheaper as the Chinese ones, as the Thai guy said.

As there were tuk-tuks all around us the guy waved to one of the Thai tuk-tuk drivers and explained him to which places he should drive with us and that he should make a special price of 20 BAHT for the small sightseeing trip.

We felt happy about that nice guy and drove with this Thai tuk-tuk to the recommended places.

The tuk-tuk driver waited at all stops so that we could enjoy the sightseeing. Before we drove to the lucky buddha (second stop), he explained us that there is a special event in bangkok, a Thai promotion. We should also go there because it is real nice and he would get a free tank for his tuk-tuk if he would bring some tourists to this place. The tuk-tuk driver made us believe as if it were something like a governmental sponsored event.

At the attraction "lucky buddha" we met another nice Thai guy that asked very friendly how we did find this holy place, where we came from, how long we stayed in Thailand etc. After a short talk with this man he mentioned that we were very lucky because there is a unique promotion in bangkok that we need to go to. Because of the tsunami in Thailand some years ago and the less numbers of tourists as a result of that, he explained, there are special promotions in Bangkok where tourists could buy original Thai jewelry "sapphire and rubies" without tax of 100% that needs to be paid normally. He told us that he just bought some jewelry for several thousand BAHT, that he works in a bank and his wife for an insurance company, that they just got married and that he and his wife will go for a trip to Australia tomorrow.

As he knows that the Thai sapphire and rubies stone is very popular, valued and rare, he explained, and that he could sell his jewelry with a profit of at least 50-100% in Australia e.g., especially because you do not need to pay the tax at this special promotion day, it is a real good deal that he had made. Through this jewelry promotion he finance his trip to Australia, he said. The idea behind the promotion he told us is: People from foreign countries should get some chance to buy Thai jewelry without the high tax of 100% on special days, so that they can make a good deal with their investment in jewelry and will keep on coming to Thailand (as another motive to come to Thailand and to finance the trip).

After we had talked with this guy for a while, we felt lucky for these information and we decided to go to this promotion. The shop that the nice Thai at the lucky buddha recommended was ["Blue Dragon Factory Export Center Co., Ltd."](#)

We got with the tuk-tuk driver to the recommended promotion shop and were amazed by the good looking shop. We did not feel to be on a place where bad deals were to be made. Besides we did not imagine at this point that all nice guys that we have met so far may work together. And we still do not know today, but we think that it is just a very good organized criminal group of people that try to make bad deals with tourists.

In the shop the dealer took a lot of time for us, explained everything about the tax on jewelry and the rare and high valued Thai sapphires and rubies and that he normally does only wholesale and not retail business. Just on this special promotion week, which today should be the last day, he opens his shop for end consumers. He did not force us to buy something, there were many people in the shop, the shop was not dark, a lot of jewelry in it, good looking furniture and rooms... everything just looked fine.

*After almost one hour I decided to buy a bracelet for my sister with the following details for a price of 60.400 BAHT:
a bracelet with blue sapphires and diamonds in 18k white gold setting Sapphires weight 2.23 cts.
Diamonds weight 0.08 cts.
18k white gold weight 8,91 gms.*

After we paid with the credit card we left the shop and went to the Golden Mount with the tuk-tuk driver that still waited outside and seemed to be lucky with the gas coupon for his tuk-tuk. We only paid 20 BAHT after our sightseeing tour with him and everything seemed to be alright.

Later in the hotel we read in the "lonely planet" about jewelry business in Thailand and all of a sudden we recognized that we could also have become a gem scam victim. As we had no time to be left to check more information through the internet or go to the police because our plane was just leaving the next morning, I just found out today in Germany that I wasted a lot of money on a bad deal.

Although there is a "buy back policy" in our contract with the jewelry shop that says that we can change the jewelry anytime or get 80% of the money back within the first three months I am skeptic if we really can do so. I will try to find out more information in the internet to get some of my money back.

Besides that I want my case to be published on [www.2bangkok.com](#) because every gem scam victim is one victim to much. Bad businesses like that can destroy the wonderful holiday impressions of Thailand that so many nice and friendly people in Thailand just have created. I still like this country very much and I am sure I will come back again, but I will never ever buy expensive goods without using several objective sources of information to reduce the risk of being tricked.

More on the
[Gem Scam](#) & [maps to the scam stores](#)

Stop going to Thailand during coffee, lunch breaks order

December 17, 2006

Categories: Border Issues, Malaysia

[Stop going to Thailand during coffee, lunch breaks order](#) – *Bernama*, December 17, 2006

The Malaysian government Sunday ordered its employees serving at the Malaysian-Thai border to immediately cease the practice of going to Thailand during their meal breaks...

Extinct? White-fin dolphin

December 18, 2006

[Extinct? White-fin dolphin](#) – *The Independent*, December 18, 2006

...A recent expedition failed to spot a single *Lipotes vexillifer*, and now conservationists fear the almost-blind, long-beaked animal is gone for good, the first big aquatic mammal to become extinct due to human activity.

“We have to accept the fact that the baiji is extinct. It is a tragedy, a loss not only for China, but for the entire world,” said the joint leader of the expedition, August Pfluger, an economist who runs the Swiss-based [baiji.org](#), an environmental group dedicated to saving the dolphins.

...If the dolphin is indeed extinct, it will be the first big aquatic mammal to disappear since hunters killed off the Caribbean monk seal in the 1950s...

Italy village gets ‘sun mirror’

December 19, 2006

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Italy village gets ‘sun mirror’](#) –

BBC, December 19, 2006

A sun-deprived village in the Italian Alps has come up with a novel solution to fix the problem – by installing a giant mirror...

Friendship Bridge stamps

December 19, 2006



Friendship Bridge stamps – *Post Today*, December 19, 2006

Photos of the joint Thai/Lao Friendship Bridge stamps on the front page of *Post Today*.

[Mukdahan Bridge](#) construction photos

Three highrises

December 19, 2006



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Three highrises –

December 19, 2006

[Google Earth placemark](#) (placemark is in between the three buildings)

Station lists Bangkok's 10 worst sois

December 20, 2006

Categories: Crime

[Station lists Bangkok's 10 worst sois](#) – *The Nation*, December 20, 2006

Lat Phrao 21 in Chatuchak... robberies and murders...

Soi Wat Makok on Rajvithi Road near Victory Monument also made the list because of drug and gangster problems are so severe residents don't dare to go out at night for fear of robbery or sexual assault...

Soi Charansanitwong 89 in Bang Phlat and Soi Vimutayaram are used as hangouts by gangsters, drug dealers and drug addicts...

Charansanitwong 37 in Bangkok Noi district was said to be the scene of many sexual assaults and thefts...

Other sois were Taling Chan's Soi Suan Pak 11, Lak Si's Soi Wipawadee 64, Huai Khwang's Soi Ruam Raksa, Samphanthawong's Soi Pirom and Khlong San's Soi Charoen Nakhon 23...

Cambodia to restore missing rail links in Mekong Region

December 20, 2006

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia to restore missing rail links in Mekong Region](#) – CIOB International News, December 20, 2006

...Cambodia has some 600 km of railway track and associated bridges. Reinstating 48 missing kilometres up to the Thai frontier will allow the two countries to re-establish rail traffic between them. The project will also improve rail connections with the country's ports at Sihanoukville and Phnom Penh...

Web sites help travelers see more

December 20, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Web sites help travelers see more](#) – *The Ledger*, December 20, 2006

Had Jani Patokallio relied solely on a printed travel guidebook to plan a recent trip to Cambodia, he might have skipped a visit to Sihanoukville, turned off by talk of bumpy bus rides, bombed out buildings and kidnappings. But after checking out Wikitravel, one of several free sites that let travelers themselves share information and reviews, he...

New bridge to Laos opened – Mukdahan wonders why

December 20, 2006

Categories: Bridges, Laos

[New bridge to Laos opened – Mukdahan wonders why](#) – *Bangkok Post*, December 20, 2006

New bridge to Laos opens today

December 20, 2006

Categories: Bridges, Laos

[New bridge to Laos opens today](#) – *Bangkok Post*, December 20, 2006

Stock Crisis – Black Tuesday – Bt820-billion blunder

December 21, 2006
Categories: Economy

[Thailand still reeling after military moves to limit foreign investment](#) – *Sun-Sentinel*, December 21, 2006

...some of the confidence that foreign investors and others had in Thailand's new, military government may have waned. And the sharp, sudden shock was a painful reminder that investing in emerging markets has its risks...

[Henderson's Kerley looks to sell Thai investments](#) – *Reuters*, December 20, 2006

... "There's a huge credibility issue ... It's an unelected government with no constitution. When we start to see policies like this, it makes us nervous ... It has certainly put a spanner in the works." ...

[Malaysian economy well-placed to withstand Bangkok fallout](#) –

Bernama, December 19, 2006

[Stocks rebound, but Thai credibility in tatters](#) – *Washington Post*, December 20, 2006

Thai shares bounced back from their biggest sell-off in 16 years on Wednesday after the government scrapped controls on foreign stock buying, but the abrupt policy U-turn shattered confidence in its economic chiefs...

[Bankers say foreign investment may stop](#) – *Bangkok Post*, December 25, 2006

...Bankers warn that the rule will essentially eliminate foreign investment in the Thai bond markets and dissuade Thai companies from tapping the overseas financial markets, as all foreign currency inflows would be covered under the reserve requirement...

[Bt820-billion blunder](#) – *The Nation*, December 19, 2006

...In a nationally televised announcement, Pridiyathorn admitted foreign investors had been severely hit by the capital reserve and tax measures, resulting in the Thai stock market's free fall.

...Pridiyathorn said the 30 per cent capital reserve requirement would remain intact on funds brought into the country for investing in financial instruments, as well as for borrowings.

However, there would be no such requirement on foreign funds brought into the country for foreign direct investment and for investing in the stock market, starting today.

He said the stock market should recover in stages and admitted that the damage in terms of a massive loss of market capitalisation was far beyond any expectation...

[Region blames Thailand for new crisis](#) – *Bangkok Post*,

December 19, 2006

... What is sending shivers down the spine of foreign investors is the spectre of contagion. When the Thai baht plunged in July 1997, it marked the start of a region-wide financial crisis...

[STOCK CRISIS:](#)

[It's Black Tuesday](#) – *The Nation*, December 19, 2006

It's Black Tuesday. In a single trading day, the Thai stock market lost Bt800 billion in paper wealth as its key SET index plunged by a record 14.84 per cent – the worst since Black Monday in 1987...

[Thai stocks crash as investors panic over central bank rules](#) – *AFP*, December 19, 2006

Thai stocks have suffered their worst losses in more than 30 years as panicking investors fled the market after the central bank imposed draconian measures in an effort to halt the baht's rise...

[Stock market loses Bt500 billion in value: SEC](#) – *The Nation*, December 19, 2006

[Central Bank should cut requirement on capital inflows: Teerana](#) – *The Nation*, December 19, 2006

[Thai capital control would have no sudden impact: S&P](#) – *The Nation*, December 19, 2006

[SET plunges after central bank acts to curb rising baht](#) – *The Nation*, December 19, 2006

Fire burning across from the Queen Sirikit Convention Centre

December 22, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: Andrea Baker)

Above: Fire burning across from the Queen Sirikit Convention Centre (Soi Asoke) at 7:30pm.

[Google Earth placemark of the approximate site of the blaze](#)

[Fire breaks out at Town in Town Inn on Rama IV road](#) – *The Nation*, December 22, 2006

[Apartment on fire; people trapped](#) – *Bangkok Post*, December 22, 2006

The Bangkok Post says it is "Tower Inn" that is on fire.

[Another fire breaks out at a building on Chan Road](#) – *The Nation*, December 22, 2006

[Massive slum fire renders hundreds homeless](#) – *The Nation*, December 22, 2006

Quirks of Turkmenistan's President-for-life Saparmurat Niyazov

December 22, 2006

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Quirks of Turkmenistan's President-for-life Saparmurat Niyazov](#) – CNN, December 22, 2006

Giant squid caught on video by Japanese scientists

December 22, 2006

[Giant squid caught on video by Japanese scientists](#) – [Video](#) – *Reuters*, December 22, 2006

New motifs minted

December 22, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[New motifs minted](#) – Bangkok Post, December 22, 2006

...The Treasury Department plans to introduce a new coin design to replace the temple theme used for the past 20 years with new motifs representing Thai culture. Wisudhi Srisuphan, the department's director-general, said the likenesses of His Majesty the King, currently on the face of all coins, would remain unchanged...

Blue Dragon Factory Export Center – December 23, 2006

December 23, 2006
Categories: Gem Scam

A reader reports: *Hi,
I just wanted to share my gem scam story with people. I hope it will be able to prevent some tourists from being scammed like I did.*

I am from Montreal, Canada and my boyfriend went to Singapore in early August for a student exchange. In late August, I went to visit him and we decided to fly to Bangkok to visit. The second day we were there, we wanted to visit some specific places and took a boat on the river from our hotel to the Tewet stop. There, a tuk-tuk came to offer us his services, but we wanted to walk so we said no. We continued walking and he kept following us decreasing and decreasing the price. He offered to take us to all tourists places in the morning for around \$1US.

He said it was a special day because the government was giving free gas vouchers today only and that this was why he could give us such a low price. So we decided to accept and asked him to go to a specific place on the map. He then said the place was only opening at noon today because it was a Thai holiday. He offered to take us to a few tourist places that opened earlier in the day and then that he would take us to our place at noon when it would open (we later realized our place was opened at 9am as we thought!). The first place he took us was to two different temples. Then, we asked him to bring us to somewhere to eat and we did. Then, he brought to a third and last temple.

There we were looking at it and discussing in French (our first language). One man interrupted our discussion and started saying that he speaks French too and he asked us where we were from. Then, he started sharing with us info about his trip and how he liked it and how he comes here every year for its annual vacation. He then said he always comes in late August because it is at that time that one of the big jewelry shop has a sale for tourists. He said to us the shop was usually opened only for businessman but that during one week per year, they opened for tourists. He also said he always had great deals. Wanted to buy a jewelry in the first place, we then decided to go have a look and we finally bought one ring and a pair of earrings. We did not think it could be a scam because there were a lot of people in the shop and the shop just looked professional...

The following day, we headed back to Singapore and a couple of days after that I went back to Canada with the jewelry and my boyfriend continued studied in Singapore. Two weeks after that, my boyfriend called me because he found your website on the internet. I gave the jewelry to his parents which were going to visit him 3 weeks after and they brought back the jewelry to Singapore. At the end of the semester when he finished university, my boyfriend traveled around before coming back and made a stop in Bangkok with his friends. They wanted to visit a bit and at the end of the day they would go to get reimbursed.

The minute they left their hotel, a tuk-tuk went to them and he asked them if it was their first time in Thailand. They acted as if it was and the guy started the same story as three months before. They negotiated the price for about \$1CAN because they said they were interested in buying jewelry at Blue Dragon shop (in fact, they wanted to exchange the jewelry) so the tuk tuk took them all around town for quite a low price and at the end he brought them to the Blue Dragon shop.

They were brought into the manager's office and we could only get 70% of the purchase price. When the tuk-tuk heard they were in fact exchanging the jewelry, he had the guts to ask them why they had lied to him all day. What do you want to say to that! Oh well, I know revenge is never the right way to solve problems, but this one tuk-tuk now knows how it feels to get lied to ... even if those people will always continue scamming tourists all day long. It is part of their daily life.

*When I think about it now, I feel I could have been more cautious buying those jewelry, but I am almost glad I experienced that at 20 years old and only for a \$300 CAN loss in total (Purchase price – 70% refund) because I know I'll be more cautious in my future trips and I now feel like I know how to travel and this is due to all those small scams I experienced traveling in Asia. The lesson I took back: read about all the scams happening in the country BEFORE traveling there and about others' experiences to learn from those.
Anyway, just wanted to share my story with you.*

More on the
[Gem Scam](#) & [maps to the scam stores](#)

Restoring the Giant Swing

December 23, 2006

Categories: History



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



Restoring the Giant Swing – December 23, 2006

Above, left and below: The Giant Swing partially reassembled. Below is a detail of the top with symbolic objects in preparation for a Brahmim dedication ceremony.

More info on the Giant Swing: [Giant Swing main page](#)

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[Giant Swing main page](#)

Breeze “Highest outdoor seafood restaurant in Asia”

December 23, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News



[Breeze – "Highest outdoor seafood restaurant in Asia"](#) – December 23, 2006

Film festival postponed until July

December 23, 2006

Categories: Film and TV

[Film festival postponed until July](#) – Bangkok Post, December 23, 2006

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has decided to postpone the Bangkok International Film Festival from next month to July 2007, TAT announced yesterday. It cited the recent decision of a potential cinema venue not to proceed with further discussions with TAT because of financial considerations as the main reason. Last year the festival took place at Paragon Cineplex of Siam Paragon shopping mall. According to TAT, every Bangkok multiplex expects to reap big business from the Jan 18 release of MC Chatrichalerm Yukol's "The Legend of King Naresuan", and is reluctant to spare screens for the festival. Originally, the festival was scheduled to take place from Jan 29 to Feb 5.

TAT last month cancelled a contract with the American firm which ran the festival for the past four years. In an unexpected move, the tourism board has invited Kriangsak Silakong, director of the competing World Film Festival of Bangkok, to serve as the festival's interim director...

Global warming claims tropical island

December 24, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Global warming claims tropical island](#) – *The Independent*, December 24, 2006

For the first time, an inhabited island has disappeared beneath rising seas...

Chulalongkorn study says new Thai-Lao bridge to create problems

December 24, 2006

Categories: Bridges

[Chulalongkorn study says new Thai-Lao bridge to create problems](#) – TNA, December 24, 2006

A number of Thai social problems will arise from the second Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge which was opened officially last Wednesday, according to a study conducted by Chulalongkorn University's Asian Studies Centre...

The Vietnam challenge: Bye-bye sabai-sabai

December 25, 2006

Categories: Vietnam

[The Vietnam challenge: Bye-bye sabai-sabai](#) – Bangkok Post, December 25, 2006

... "First, Vietnamese salaries are almost half what Thais are paid. Second, on average, a Thai engineer works about 30 hours per week, while a Vietnamese engineer works 60 hours per week. They work six days a week and roughly 10 hours a day.

"In addition, our engineers have some other disadvantages. Number one is we are not disciplined. Number two, the attitude toward work is too demanding, since the IT market in Thailand is short of manpower. Staff turnover is high. Consequently, they are very demanding for benefits and compensation. Finally, our fighting attitude is not good. We want a high salary and we don't want to solve problems. Instead, we look at the technical problems as the challenges; we perceive them as an obstacle to our sabai (comfort)."...

At Government House

December 26, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

At Government House – December 26, 2006

Pro-lottery protesters at Government House

The sign on the left: Underground (lottery) cost and changes—70,000 million baht per year.

The sign in the middle: We want the honest (not corrupt) career.

The protesters advertise three websites [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

New species of salamander founded in Chaiyaphum

December 26, 2006

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[New species of salamander founded in Chaiyaphum](#) – *The Nation*, December 26, 2006

...However, only the Huai Hang Nam salamander, whose scientific name is *Tropidophorus hangnam*, sp nov, is entirely new to the world...

SNP Jewelry – December 27, 2006

December 27, 2006

Categories: Gem Scam



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[Google Earth placemark](#)

A reader reports: *I would just like to inform you about the recent change in name for [SSS](#). I was in Bangkok for 3 days at the end of the December as part of my big OE. The story is pretty similar to those described in all the articles that I have found on 2bangkok.com. Essentially met a nice person who claims that he is a tourist from another part of Thailand near Wat Po. Had a really good conversation and suggested that I should go to a few other temples that had less tourists. Helped me hailed down a tuk-tuk with the advise that white plated ones are "legal" while yellow plated ones had "no licence" (which I found out later was a lie). Also suggested SNP export for jewelery, got a bit suspicious then but wasn't planning to even bother going there so left it as that.*

At the 2nd temple met a man claiming to be the owner for workers doing restoration work on the temple. Stated his name was Wang. Very well spoken Thai with an American accent. Claimed he was a chef from America but came back to run family operations. He was very smooth talker and didn't mention anything about jewelery shops until he asked where I was going and I showed him my map that the initial con artist had also labeled SNP on it.

Then he tells me wow, no one except Thais know about this place as it sells cheap and that how he used to fund his travelling during his student years. We then said our goodbye but shortly met another younger person stating he's Indonesian living in the UK and had a British accent. Saying he was visiting friends in Bangkok and one thing led to another and it was how cheap SNP was... followed by showing me his receipt for his purchase this time round. Eventually ended up at the shop and very stupidly bought a ring for 50000 baht.

I kept on thinking about the unusual events and had a very chilling feeling about the whole thing. Eventually I found this site as searches for SNP yielded nothing. I almost fainted when I saw the photo of SSS as this is SNP!! And looking thru the photos I see that it was the person in photo 3 and 21 on 2bangkok.com that spoke to me. Really leaves a very sour taste for the last leg of my trip and I doubt that I will ever return there again.

Considering I was also scamed by the taxi driver on the way out to the airport as he refused to use the meter then stating it's broken and wouldn't open the trunk (as the stupid door man stuffed my luggage in the trunk before I could negotiate a price for the taxi) and was going to cost me the full price for driving 10 meters in the traffic jam!! I'm sure most Thais are very nice and hard working but these few bad bugs really ruins the whole experience. It isn't cost effective to fly all the way from New Zealand to Bangkok (including other costs) just to try and get whatever refunds I could. It would be nice to try Suchat Sinrat's at internal affairs office if you could let me know what his email is.

The current shop runs by the name SNP jewelery Limited Partnership at 386 Visuttikasat Road, Banpantom, Pranakorn, Bangkok 10200. Tel 026295767, 026285768. Interestingly, the credit card receipt is issued by Bangkok bank and is actually addressed to SNP rather than a gold shop as mentioned on many of the articles. This is probably I suspect they have only very recently changed names.

I just want to let the word out so that if people search SNP they will be able to find out about the scam and the great website you have much more quickly.

More on the
[Gem Scam](#) & [maps to the scam stores](#)

Study: Gibbons in Thailand communicate threats in song, similar to humans

December 27, 2006

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Study: Gibbons in Thailand communicate threats in song, similar to humans](#) – *Associated Press*, December 27, 2006

Developers in Southeast Asia try to lure aged Japanese

December 27, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Developers in Southeast Asia try to lure aged Japanese](#) – IHT, December 27, 2006

Thanks to Danny for pointing this out...

Genetic defects rise with fad-driven inbreeding of dogs in Japan

December 27, 2006

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Genetic defects rise with fad-driven inbreeding of dogs in Japan](#) – IHT, December 27, 2006

Care for a Chihuahua with a blue hue? How about a teacup poodle so tiny it will fit into a purse — the canine equivalent of a bonsai? The Japanese sure do. Rare and unique dogs are highly prized here and can set buyers back more than ¥1 million, or about \$8,400. But the problem is what often arrives in the same litter: genetically defective sister and brother puppies born with missing paws or faces lacking eyes and a nose. There have been dogs with brain disorders so severe that they spent all day running in circles, and others with bones so frail they dissolved in their bodies...

Earthquake knocks Asia back to phone age, and beyond

December 27, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Internet access in Asia disrupted by Taiwan earthquake](#) – BoingBoing, December 27, 2006

[Earthquake knocks Asia back to phone age, and beyond](#) – IHT, December 27, 2006

It was a tsunami for the digital age, a collapse of the virtual world that radiated through much of Asia and beyond after an undersea earthquake late Tuesday off the coast of Taiwan...

Thai references in Star Trek

December 27, 2006

Categories: Film and TV

Thai references in *Star Trek* – December 27, 2006

References to Thailand [here](#) and [here](#).

Deposed Thai PM inspires documentary on perils of demagoguery

December 28, 2006

Categories: Film and TV, The Thaksin Years

[Deposed Thai PM inspires documentary on perils of demagoguery](#) – *New Kerala*, December 28, 2006

Thai documentary filmmaker Pipope Panitchpakdi is working on an ambitious new project – to tell the story of politics going sour in that country...

Surayud's house from the air

December 29, 2006

Categories: Thai Politics

Right: Surayud and aerial photos from *Post Today*.

[Mystery photo adds to pressure on Surayud](#) – *The Nation*, December 27, 2006

Earlier: Surayud's house from the air – December 27, 2006

From *The Nation*, December 26, 2006: Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont shows [aerial photo](#) during a press briefing after he was accused of illegally acquiring train compartment for his residence in Nakhon Ratchasima. The photo showed there was no compartment in his residence.

[PM denies owning train, costly home](#) – *Bangkok Post*, December 26, 2006

Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont has rejected as groundless an allegation he illegally possessed four decommissioned train carriages at a resort house with a swimming pool on a large block of land in Nakhon Ratchasima province...



(Photo: Post Today)

Editorial cartoons – December 2006

December 30, 2006

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



Manager, December 12, 2006 – Kamin .. The era of old ginger by K'min

Panel 1: To summarize the mob on December 10... there were 30,000 person.

Panel 2: 30,000 what? The media said it was only 1000 people

Panel 3: 1000 is the people who come to protest.

Panel 4: If we count the police, military, intelligence units, vendors and people flying kites so the total will be 30,000.



Editorial cartoons

Manager, December 11, 2006 – Kamin .. The era of old ginger by K'min

Panel 1: What is in China and it is the longest thing in the world?

Panel 2: Great wall of China!

Panel 3: False!

Panel 4: The pipe for sending the money of Maew. It stretches from Beijing to Sanam Luang.



Matichon, December 11, 2006 –

Cartoon by Son

Top: Er... The young ginger.... The taste is not hot or controversial!

Uncle Son, what evidence do you have to prove it?

Bottom: Notice that when people taste the taste of old ginger they forget the young ginger-Apisit.



Poojadkuan, December 11, 2006

Maew, Or are satisfied when the office of the National Counter Corruption Commission spoke with Mr. Siroj. They confirm that they wanted to pay tax, but he did not collect.

Editorial cartoons

Right: Matichon, December 10, 2006

Cartoon by Son

Top: Uncle, what one thing is the same about the Democrat Party and the TRT Party?
What?

Bottom: Each party makes a wish for it not to be dissolved.



Above: Komchadluek, December 10, 2006, Cartoon by Kuy

The causes of the undercurrents, December 10

In the bubbles: Old power. Old capital.



Editorial cartoons

Thairath, December 8, 2006, by Zeer

Daily life of the ideal government

Left: Three southern provinces

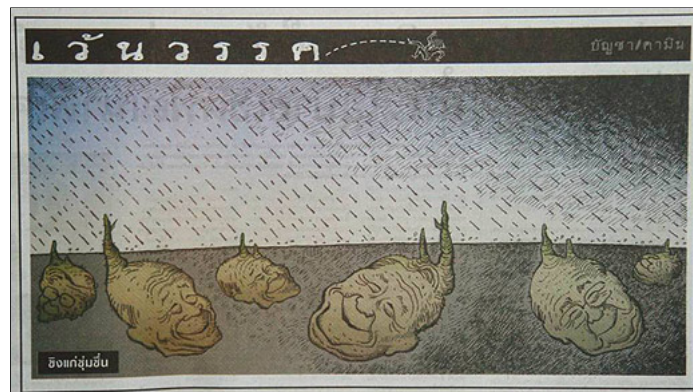
On the flag: Sorry

Papers on the ground on the right:

North, Esarn, Undercurrent, Burn schools, temples



Poojadkuan, December 8, 2006 – The Ministry of Defense threatens if the military does not get more money from the budget that, next time, when there is a revolution, there will not be enough tanks for people to take photos with.



Editorial cartoons
 Krungtepturakit, December 7, 2006 –
 Leave the space by Buncha/Kamin
 Bottom left reads: Old gingers are refreshed/cheerful.



Poojadkuan, December 6, 2006
 Pawina fit to break a record. "Lifts the heaviest gold in the world."
 Earlier [Poojadkuan columns](#)



Thai Rath by zeer, December 7, 2006
 Thai people have bad habits... Slowing prosperity?
 From left on the poster with Thaksin: Come to seek revenge, Thaksin
 On the book: Dhamma, the Ethics of Sufficiency
 On Sonthi's hat: CNS
 On the paper Sonthi holds: Habit of Thai people: 1. lazy 2. cheating 3. boast 4. jealous
 Signs held by protesters (from top to bottom): Undercurrent, Mob, Protest, Return democracy to people



Poojadkuan, December 7, 2006
 The astronauts are amazed... The yellow color can be seen from the moon.

Finding a Leader for Thaksin's Party – December 2006

December 30, 2006

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



Manager, December 25, 2006 –

Leave the space

Thaksin says to Chaowalit Yongjaiyut: Pa is biased. He loves younger brothers more than you. Come to be in my group and attack them.



Krungtepturakit, December 25, 2006

The note on the door: Uncle Santa, I wish for the teacher not to be shot and schools not to be burned.

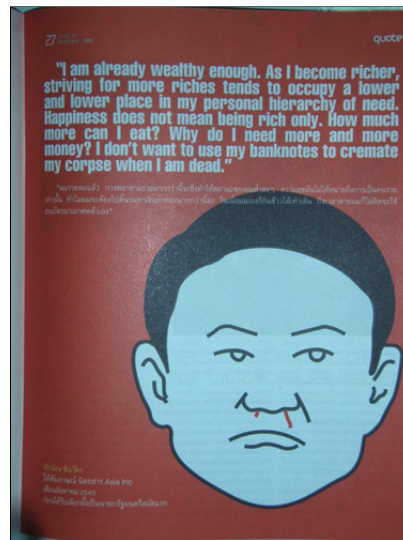
Bottom left: Easy to ask for, but difficult to get.



Matichon, December 25, 2006 – by Son

Top frame: Which chair is suitable for old ginger-Big Jiw? This one?--The leader of TRT or...

Bottom frame: Or this one to take a rest at home.



Way Magazine –
December 16, 2006

Above is another interesting *Way Magazine* graphic from issue 3. The quote is from an interview Thaksin gave to *Inc. Magazine* in August 2000 before he became PM. *Way Magazine* is the new magazine from the former [a dayweekly](#) team.
Earlier from *Way Magazine*: [Hitler Doremom](#)



Editorial cartoons

Leave the space by Buncha/Kamin – *Manager*, December 13, 2006

On the chair: Leader of party

The man says: You steal his ATM card and drag his interest another way. For me I will steal the chair of the party leader."



Poojadkuan, December 14, 2006

This is the poster from the Thai movie *Kao Kao* which means "very old." The movie is about cool 1960s-era musicians. The faces of the people in the poster have been replaced by cabinet members. The main man in the center is PM Surayuth.

Coup-themed Christmas card

December 30, 2006

Coup-themed Christmas card –

December 30, 2006

Hamish reports: *I wondered whether you guys had seen this [Coup-themed Christmas Card from Nancy Chandler](#).*

Disaster area at 15 degrees

December 30, 2006

Disaster area at 15 degrees –
December 30, 2006

CB noted: *Just spotted [this from the Nation a few days ago](#): "Sixteen districts and two sub-districts of Chiang Rai and some districts in Chiang Mai have been declared as disaster areas after a third day of temperatures below 15 degrees centigrade..."*

The first 7-11

December 30, 2006

The first 7-11 –
December 30, 2006

Don Entz notes: *I remember the very first 7-Eleven. It was on Silom Road, right next to Patpong. Opened in 1989. It's not there now. (The ones close to there now are relatively new.) The second 7-Eleven ever to open in Thailand is still there: on the Suriwong end of Patpong, next to the KFC and also opened in 1989, shortly after that first one.*

Earlier: [7-Eleven to stop at 5,000 shops](#) – Bangkok Post, December 25, 2006

C.P. Seven-Eleven Plc, the country's largest convenience-store chain, will temporarily stop expanding after it reaches 5,000 outlets, expected within three years...

SMS, e-cards popular New Year's greetings modes for young

December 30, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[SMS, e-cards popular New Year's greetings modes for young](#) – TNA, December 30, 2006

The time when sending a New Year card by post are gone and mostly forgotten as Thai young people have discovered instant text messaging and e-cards as increasingly attractive ways of saying "Happy New Year;" according to a survey by the Kasikorn Research Centre...

The best of 2Bangkok in 2006

December 31, 2006

Categories: Best of 2Bangkok



(Photo: Greg)

The best of 2Bangkok.com in 2006

What it was like to be there...

Our annual collection of the biggest news, most popular stories, and interesting links of 2006

Also

[The best of 2Bangkok in 2009](#)

[The best of 2Bangkok in 2008](#)

[The best of 2Bangkok in 2007](#)

[The best of 2Bangkok in 2006](#)

[The best of 2Bangkok in 2005](#)

[The best of 2Bangkok in 2004](#)

[The best of 2Bangkok in 2003](#)

High tension in Thailand: [Coup news](#)

High tension in Thailand: [Anti-government protests](#)

[John Mark Karr – Bangkok takes a beating](#)

[Mega Bridge opening](#)

[Finding the man who is hiding a woman inside](#)



Troubles in the South

Left: Editorial cartoon from the southern separatists

[Editorial cartoon from the southern separatists](#)

[Deep South Diary – Another call from a southern separatist](#)

[Hat Yai blasts](#)

2Bangkok.com exclusive: [Conversation with a southern separatist](#)

[November 2006](#)

[October 2006](#)

[September 2006](#)

[Bank bombing headlines](#)

[August 2006](#)

[July 2006](#)

[June 2006](#)

[May 2006](#)

[February-April 2006](#)

[January 2006](#)

[Earlier troubles in the south](#)



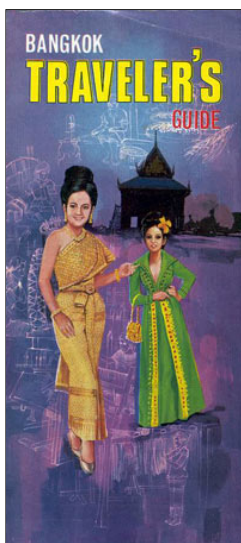
[October 6 banners at Thammasat University](#)

The Thai Media Project: [Editorial cartoons](#)

["Chaba in LA" is mad, launching leaflets against CNS and its supporters](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Source: Bangkok Traveler's Guide, June 1969)

[2B's April Fool's Day 2006 page](#)

[Elephant polo report](#)

[THAILAND: FRIENDLY, FUN, AND BECOMING LESS FREE \(PART 2\)](#)

Extremely strange ruminations on a trip to Thailand...

[Roi Et cattle show](#)

Left: Caption for this cover from a 1968 visitors' guide: *Beautiful Thai silk – from silk worms to finished product. Don't they look just elegant whether worn in either typical Thai or Western style?*

[Komchadluek's statement concerning their recent ceasing of publication: "Komchadluek recommences publication – ready to serve all Thais"](#) – translated from Komchadluek, April 3, 2006

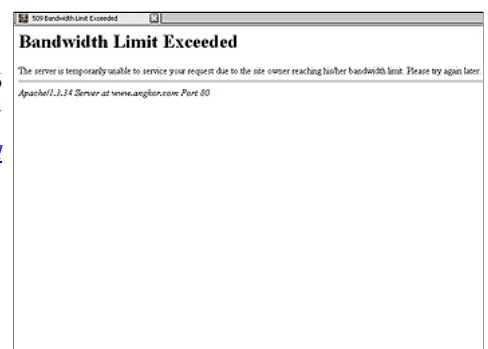
2Bangkok.com booms – March 22, 2006
With 16,000 unique visitors a day 2Bangkok.com is becoming the most popular source for Thai news you cannot find anywhere else... and we are also blowing our bandwidth limit every day...

Also: [2Bangkok.com in Lonely Planet Thailand](#)

[Thaksin's Life comic](#)

[British Embassy demolition](#)

[New airport opens](#)



[Bangkok, 1956!!!](#)

Fantastic [Flickr account](#) with Bangkok street photos from 1956. Of special interest to 2Bangkok readers: [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#). Notable shots: From the [Golden Mount](#) (note the lack of a skyline), [street traffic](#), [Bangkok road](#), [trade fair](#), and [river scene](#). On the forum: [1956 Bangkok photo series](#)

[Hi-res images of the new Myanmar capital construction](#)

Almost like being there: [Ubon Ratchatani Candle Festival](#)

[Goodbye to ThaiDay](#)

(Photo:
2Bangkok.com)

Below: Assorted peculiar billboards...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Breast cream billboard



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: "I'm hot!" "I'm cool!" – Lighted billboard in subway and skytrain stations for Wall Street Institute (an English school) – [More Wall Street ads](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: The new Superman stops a runaway Skytrain.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: "Sena Hoi is Too Dark"

This is an advertisement for an album of songs by Sena Hoi. Sena Hoi is a comedian and singer with a popular TV show. The style of song he sings are romantic longing love songs. His first album was very successful. This poster is for his second album *Dumjung Sena Hoi* which means "Sena Hoi is Too Dark" (Sena Hoi is known for having dark skin). One of the main songs on the album is *Dumjung* or "Too Dark."

Black face depictions are not uncommon in Thai pop culture and despite the stereotypical motifs they show, most Thais do not have any particular feeling that they are inappropriate. Many Thai soap operas have used characters in black face including *Khao Nok Nah* from the early-1990s.

Also

[The best of 2Bangkok in 2009](#)

[The best of 2Bangkok in 2008](#)

[The best of 2Bangkok in 2007](#)

[The best of 2Bangkok in 2006](#)

[The best of 2Bangkok in 2005](#)

[The best of 2Bangkok in 2004](#)

[The best of 2Bangkok in 2003](#)

New Year's Eve bombings in Bangkok at Victory Monument

December 31, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

New Year's Eve bombings in Bangkok at Victory Monument – December 31, 2006

[Bomb scene at Saphan Kwai](#) – More on the [New Year's Eve bombings in Bangkok](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above and below: Police floodlights at the southeast corner of Victory Monument.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Soldier in the dark – Machine-gun-carrying soldiers are surrounding the bomb sites.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Investigators slowly comb through the debris



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Another view of the roped-off bomb site under the Skytrain line.

[Bomb scene at Saphan Kwai](#) – More on the [New Year's Eve bombings in Bangkok](#)

New Year's Eve bombings in Bangkok at Saphan Kwai

December 31, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

New Year's Eve bombings in Bangkok at Saphan Kwai – December 31, 2006

[Bomb scene at Victory Monument](#) – More on the [New Year's Eve bombings in Bangkok](#)

Above: The site of the Saphan Kwai bomb next to the police box under the pedestrian walkway at Saphan Kwai intersection.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Police floodlights illuminate the area.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Closeup of the site of the blast in front of the police box.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Bomb damage to a car parked next to the blast site.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Picking through the debris.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[Bomb scene at Victory Monument](#) – More on the [New Year's Eve bombings in Bangkok](#)

New Year's Eve Bombings in Bangkok

December 31, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008, New Year's Eve Bombings in Bangkok



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[New Year's Eve bombings in Bangkok at Saphan Kwai](#)

[New Year's Eve bombings in Bangkok at Victory Monument](#)

Compare and contrast: [Hat Yai blasts](#) from September 17, 2006

Blast locations: Saphan Kwai – Victory Monument – Central World Plaza – Seacon Square – Sukhumvit Soi 62 – Seafood Restaurant – Khae Rai intersection – Na Ranong intersection

[Thai police abandon probe of Bangkok blasts](#) – AFP, March 21, 2008

Thai police have given up their investigation into deadly bombings across Bangkok on New Year's Eve in 2006, saying Friday that they had failed to find any clues to the culprits...

[CNS yet to be convinced rebels behind Bangkok bomb blasts](#) – Bangkok Post, March 20, 2007

The Council for National Security (CNS) has yet to be convinced by police reports linking southern separatists to the New Year bombings in Bangkok...

[Arrest warrant to be issued against alleged Bangkok bombers](#) – The Nation, February 14, 2007

[DSI disagrees with police's plan to issue arrest warrants in Bangkok bomb case](#) – The Nation, February 14, 2007

[Bomber from the south?](#) – February 4, 2007

[All 19 suspects detained by police released due to a lack of evidence](#) – Bangkok Post, January 27, 2007

[Four Hungarians hurt in Bangkok bomb blast](#) – Budapest Sun, January 10, 2007

...According to the Magyar Hirlap, medical staff who treated the woman initially believed the leg would have to be amputated, but after an eye-witness and the Hungarian consul intervened, the leg was eventually saved by top surgeons following an eight-hour operation...

[Police say 9 bombs, not 8, hit city](#) – Bangkok Post, January 10, 2007

...A source in the Metropolitan Police revealed that the ninth bomb blast was at the Major Cineplex Ratchayothin in the Phahon Yothin area.

A cinema and shopping complex security guard found a suspicious black bag left unattended in a fast food outlet and then removed the bag from the outlet's front area and placed it in a back room, while waiting for further investigation.

After a short time, the bomb exploded, damaging the outlet's electrical circuit breaker and causing a blackout in the cineplex's retail area but not in the cinemas. There were no casualties, and none of the customers were alarmed as they mistook the noise for an exploding power transformer, said the source.

The owner only alerted Phahon Yothin police on Monday, the source said...

[Explosives of New Year bombings same types and makers](#) – The Nation, January 8, 2007

[All eight Bangkok bombs likely made by same bombmakers](#) – The Nation, January 8, 2007

[Kowit's fate hangs in balance – PM, CNS 'dissatisfied' with him in blast wake](#) – Bangkok Post, January 6, 2007

The fate of national police chief Kowit Wattana is on the line amid signs he is out of favour with Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont and the Council for National Security (CNS) due to his performance after Bangkok and Nonthaburi were hit by the bomb blasts at New Year.

His no-show at a security meeting yesterday at Government House between Gen Surayud and key CNS leaders fuelled further speculation that his future is uncertain. Another absentee was Air Chief Marshal Chalit Pukpasuk, the air force commander and a CNS member...

[Coup leaders tighten grip](#) – *The Nation*, January 4, 2007

[Army denies coup rumours](#) – *The Nation*, January 4, 2007

[Bombers were “in uniform” : defence minister](#) – *The Nation*, January 4, 2007

[Front pages after the bombings](#)

[Thai tourism fears after bombings](#) – CNN, January 2, 2007

[Britons advised to stay away from Bangkok](#) – *The Guardian*, January 2, 2007

[Thai tours gamble](#) – *The Standard*, January 2, 2007

[City woman ‘freaked out’ by Bangkok bombs](#) – *The Southland Times*, January 2, 2007

[Police accused of failing to protect public – Street cleaners ‘swept away bomb evidence’](#) – *Bangkok Post*, January 2, 2007

...Central Institute of Forensic Science acting director Porntip Rojanasunan lashed out at police for barring her team from collecting evidence from a bombing site in Pratunam late on Sunday night, although she had been ordered to do so by Council for National Security chairman Sonthi Boonyaratkalin.

... “The incidents prove Thai police are inefficient. They should know public safety is the direct responsibility of police. They have not managed to make a single arrest following recent school fires,” he said, referring to fires in the northern and northeastern provinces...

American Embassy Public Announcement – January 1, 2007

This Public Announcement is being issued to alert U.S. Citizens traveling to and residing in Thailand of a series of bombs that exploded in the Bangkok metropolitan area during the evening of December 31, 2006 and shortly after midnight on January 1, 2007. This Public Announcement expires January 31, 2007...

Given the fluidity of the current situation, the Department of State advises all American Citizens residing in or traveling to Bangkok to continue to monitor events closely, to remain indoors when possible, to avoid any large public gatherings, and to exercise discretion when moving about Bangkok...

January 1, 2006, 0:41 – Exclusive information: One Hungarian was injured in the Victory Monument blast.

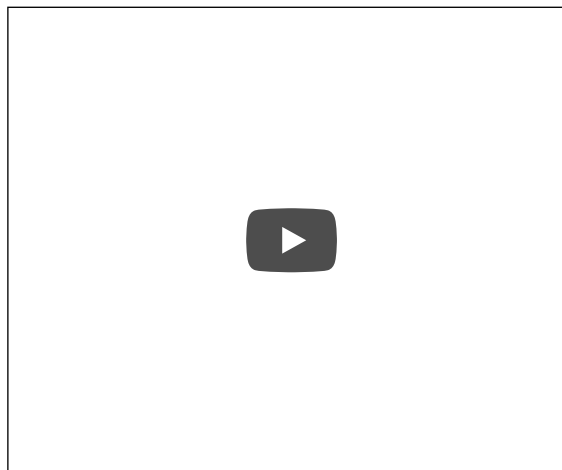
Three Serbs, two English, two Thais, and one Irish were injured in the Central World Plaza/Pratuman blasts and are in the nearby Police Hospital. Three more unexploded bombs were found in the Central World Plaza area that did not go off.

January 1, 2006, 0:15 – Comment: *All indications are that these events will be laid at the feet of the previous government. It was surprising to see leaks to the press so soon after the bombings citing the “old clique” as being behind the attacks—of course, this type of accusation would also be expected to manage public perceptions that the troubles in the deep south have come to Bangkok.*

In the last two weeks the coup government has been under sustained attack from accusations that PM Surayud kept rail cars at his estate and that his estate was on public land sold to him illegally. Both of these accusations have been leveled at politicians before and resonate with the public and are extremely damaging.

On top of this Sonthi was accused of having two wives and has been called on to step down. The government has been coming forward in a rather amateurish way to counter these claims—holding press conferences in an even-handed way instead of going on the attack and regaining the high ground.

We would expect that these bombings, coming on top of the recent attacks on Sonthi and Surayud, will be the last straw—the government has to strike back now or risk being seen as weak.



Bangkok bomb site at Saphan Kwai

The site of one of the Bangkok bombings on New Year’s Eve, 19:07, December 31, 2006

The video starts at the site of the blast at a police box under a pedestrian walkway and pans around the intersection.

[Two more bombs explode at Central World, Pratunam](#)

[Bomb victims identified so far](#)

[CNS may seize Thaksin’s assets following bomb attacks: source](#)

A security source said the Council for National Security may order the seizure of assets of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra to cut money supply for financing disturbance in the country.

The source said the CNS believed Thaksin was behind the series of seven bomb attacks in Bangkok Sunday evening...

[Sonthi orders deployment of soldiers to step up security in Bangkok](#)

[Revellers at Central World ordered to disperse](#)

[PM asks people to avoid crowded parties](#)

[Count-down celebration at Sanam Luang cancelled](#)

[TRT denies masterminding bombs](#)

[Major department stores in Bangkok closed now](#)

[Old power clique suspected of being behind Bangkok bomb attacks: source](#)

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For Lesbians, the Party Never Stopped in Bangkok

December 31, 2006

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NYT, December 31, 2006

On the night of Sept. 19, military leaders in Thailand suspended the constitution, seized control of Bangkok and imposed martial law...