

# “Support Taiwan’s participation in the UN”

July 2, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

"Support Taiwan’s participation in the UN" – July 2, 2007

Interesting sign at the Taipei Airport. The text on the right reads: *The United Nations’ founding Charter is a pledge to promote and encourage respect for human rights for all. Yet the UN continually turns its back on the 23 million people of democratic Taiwan. for the sake of their health, education, living standard and security, right this wrong.*

## Siamese lady and child from the 1890s

July 2, 2007

Categories: Old photos and films



Siamese lady and child from the 1890s –  
July 2, 2007

# Scouts go to Japan

July 5, 2007

Categories: Old photos and films



Vintage photo: Scouts go to Japan (from what era?)

Top left: The team of scouts will go to Japan so they come to worship the Emerald Buddha at Wat Prasirattanasatsadaram .

Top right: The team of scouts march past the King Rama V. statue.

Bottom left: Marching from Vitcharavut Collage where they train.

Bottom right: Paying respect to the King Rama V statue.

# People holding big fishes

July 5, 2007

[People holding big fishes](#) –

July 5, 2007

Including many examples from Thailand...

# **The Birth of Film Screening in Thailand**

July 5, 2007

[The Birth of Film Screening in Thailand](#) –  
ThaiFilm.com, July 5, 2007

# Removal Of Thailand From U.S. Trade Representative's Priority Watch List Would 'Undermine Rule Of Law'

July 6, 2007

Categories: Crime

[Removal Of Thailand From U.S. Trade Representative's Priority Watch List Would 'Undermine Rule Of Law'](#) –

Medical News Today, July 6, 2007

*...The 35 House Democrats, led by Reps. Henry Waxman (Calif.) and Tom Allen (Maine), in a letter released last month criticized Schwab for including Thailand on the list in the trade office's annual report. They also called on Schwab to reverse the designation. "It is difficult to interpret this decision as anything other than retaliation for Thailand's recent" steps to issue compulsory licenses to manufacture generic versions of antiretroviral drugs and other medications, the letter said, adding, "It sends a troubling message, not only to Thailand but to the whole world, that the exercise of recognized public health flexibilities in trade obligations is frowned upon by" the U.S...*



# Welcoming freshmen

July 7, 2007



(Photo: Monkey)



(Photo: Monkey)



(Photo: Monkey)

Welcoming freshmen – July 7, 2007

Monkey reports: *On July 7, 2007, Chiang Mai University teamed up with full-time and part-time student organizations to welcome freshmen by taking them up Doi Suthep (the middle photo shows some mass-hazing stunt). Chiang Mai University students, either from undergraduate, graduate or post-graduate programs, believe they may have obstacles in studying if they cannot reach the top of Doi Suthep. They also campaigned for alcohol-free orientation activities.*



# Siamese nurse in Singapore

July 7, 2007

Categories: Old photos and films



"Siamese nurse"

# **Hua Lamphong Railway Station and Post Office**

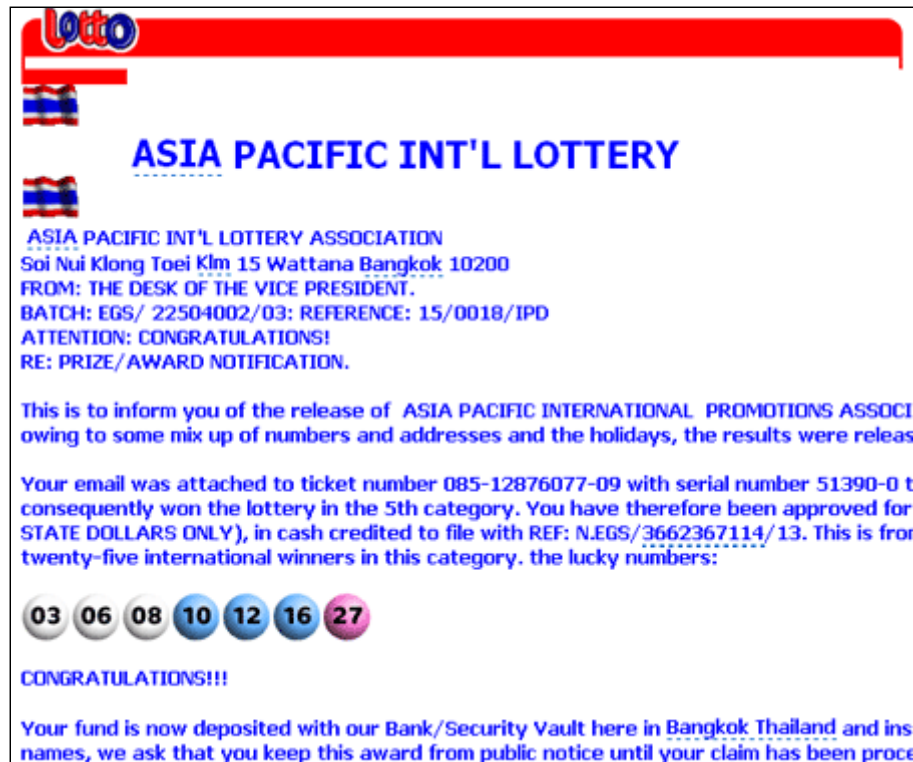
July 7, 2007

Categories: Buildings

[Hua Lamphong Railway Station and Post Office – A Photo Essay](#) –  
thaiphilately.org, July 7, 2007

# Bangkok lottery

July 7, 2007



Bangkok lottery – July 7, 2007

Recently Thailand is turning up in both Nigerian and lottery scam emails. Be sure to write back or call to the person mentioned in the email: *NAME: Sirichai Paibhoon, TEL: 00(66) 8-31774316 EMAIL: [cordinatorpimpan112@hotmail.com](mailto:cordinatorpimpan112@hotmail.com), [asia\\_pacificlottery@yahoo.com](mailto:asia_pacificlottery@yahoo.com)*

# Bangkok builds on shaky ground

July 7, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok builds on shaky ground](#) – IHT, July 7, 2007

*...But for Ian Soo, managing director of a high-end real estate agency in Bangkok, all this activity is cause for trepidation, not joy.*

*In the past six months, inquiries from prospective buyers have fallen by 40 percent, said Soo, who heads Hamptons Property, an agency that sells luxury condominiums and whose clients mostly are foreign expatriates. Prices for the units on Hamptons' rosters range from studios for 4 million baht, or almost \$123,000, to three-bedroom units for 60 million baht. "We're probably one of the most aggressive agencies in central Bangkok and, if we're experiencing quiet times, other agencies are probably experiencing something similar or worse," the British transplant said. "It's a buyers' market out there..."*

# Escape from Klong Prem Prison

July 7, 2007

[Escape from Klong Prem Prison](#) – July 7, 2007

Richard writes: *The recently published book “Escape” by David McMillan, is the true story of the only Westerner ever to break out of the notorious ‘Bangkok Hilton’. The escape from Klong Prem Prison took place on 18th August 1996. With help from people on the outside, David reached relative safety in Singapore within only 12 hours. Ten years later there is still a warrant out for his arrest. An exclusive interview with David McMillan has just been published [on thai-blogs.com](#). Also [discussed on this thread](#).*



# Too many checks deter Thai tourists from visiting Malaysia

July 7, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Too many checks deter Thai tourists from visiting Malaysia](#) – Bernama, July 7, 2007

*Some Thai tourists are hesitant to visit Malaysia due to the various screenings they have to go through before being allowed into the country, Thailand's honorary consul in Langkawi Datuk Shazryl Eskay Abdullah said...*

# **‘Jesus Revolution’ Hits Thailand**

July 9, 2007

Categories: Uncategorized

[‘Jesus Revolution’ Hits Thailand](#) – Christian Broadcasting Network, July 9, 2007

*...With only one percent being Christians in Thailand, the Thai Christians are encouraged as Jesus Revolution opens their eyes to the bigger work of God throughout the world....*

# Fictional/Erroneous Thai flags

July 9, 2007

[Fictional/Erroneous Thai flags](#) –  
July 9, 2007

# Sathorn Union Tower

July 9, 2007

Categories: Buildings



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Apparently the original name of the derelict building at the end of Sathorn Road is "Sathorn Unique Tower." It was is 47 floors and approximately 164 meteres. Nearby State Tower is 69 floors and approximately 247 meters. Anyone know any more details about this structure? Also on the forum: [Highrise construction map](#)

# Man dies after sting by scorpion

July 11, 2007

[Man  
dies after sting by scorpion](#) – BBC,

July 11, 2007

*A businessman who emigrated to Thailand has died in hospital in Wales after being stung by a scorpion while abroad...*



# Thaksin wages war on drugs, but calls Wa his ally?

July 12, 2007

Categories: The Thaksin Years



Thaksin wages war on drugs, but calls  
Wa his ally? – translated and summarized by *Daily  
News*, July 12, 2007

The accompanying map shows certain areas around Baan Ta Ton of Chiang Mai Province's Amphur Mae Ai, which Myanmar people are trying to seize. It is said that Myanmar army entered the areas eight years ago and has been staying there. Wa is a Myanmar-Chinese tribe in northern Myanmar and Thailand. The tribe has been influenced by Chinese Communist regime. There are around 500,000 people in the tribe. They help Myanmar people fight against the country's enemies. The United Wa State Army (UWSA) is the army of the tribe. Drug kingpin Wei Sia Kang is a commander of the network. During the Thaksin administration, the government fought against drugs and offered assistance to the Wa tribe so that they could earn a living from planting, not selling drugs. The assistance also helped improve the image of the tribe. People doubted the government's move .

# Quiet Bangkok

July 12, 2007

Quiet Bangkok –

July 12, 2007

Chris reports: *There was an interesting article in the Bangkok Post July 7 about the Quiet Bangkok Club, started by a Thai lady. They are fighting to get noise levels reduced in public parks and elsewhere. They have created a [website](#).*

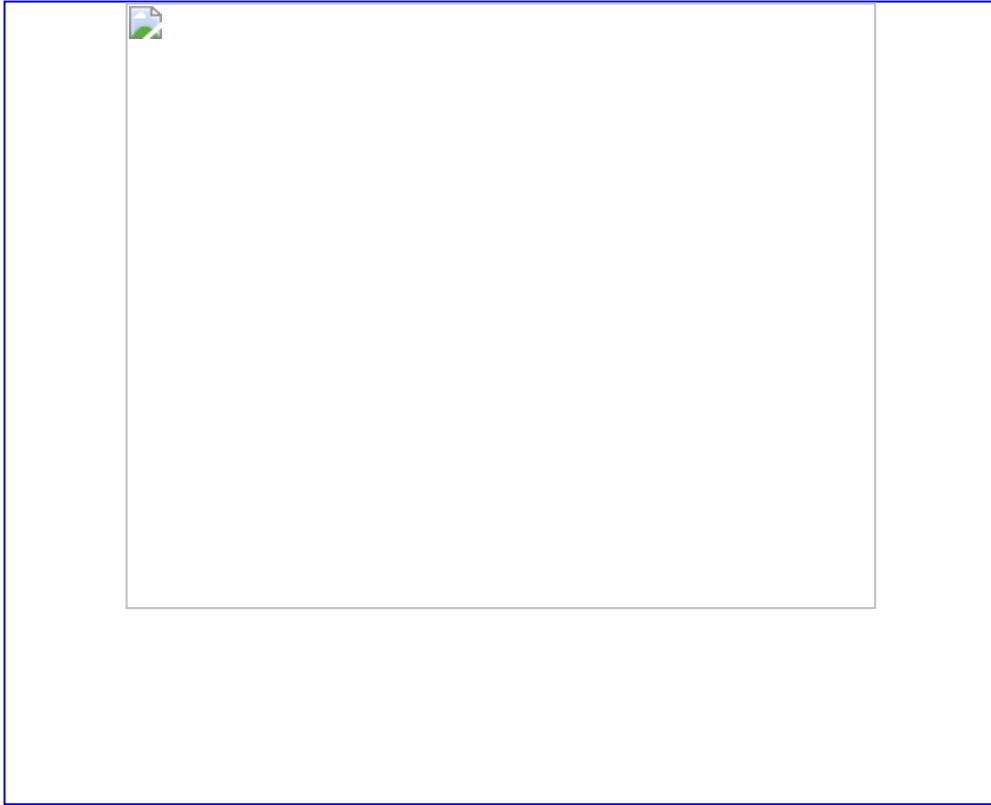
*I'm sure many of your long-suffering readers would be interested.*

Lots of good stuff on the site including:

- *Suan Luang or Royal Park, becomes Suan Siang, Noise Park*
- *Noise and Bangkok Airport*
- *Protest at TV advertising on Skytrain*
- *IS THIS ENGLISH? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?*

# Escape route from Klong Prem Prison

July 12, 2007



(Photo: thailandphotomap.com)

[Escape route from Klong Prem Prison](#) – July 12, 2007

# “Spoil your vacation...”

July 13, 2007

2007 FIRST EXHIBITION OF ART PATTERNS FOR FABRIC EMBROIDERY. ■ Embroidered fabrics from rural people under the patronage of HM the Queen, with designs chosen by Her Majesty. Through Jul 31. At Queen's Gallery.

Dominic Rouse. Through Aug 30. At Eat Me Art Restaurant.

THE WAY OF LIFE. ■ Watercolors by Attasit Pokpong. Through Jul 28. At Gossip Gallery.

Kathmandu Photo Gallery, 87 Pan Rd., near Indian Temple, Slom. 02-234-6700. Open Tue-Sun 11am-7pm. BTS Surasak.

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\*Special conditions apply

BK Magazine Jul 6-12, 2007

“Spoil your vacation...” – July 13, 2007

CB reports: *Finally some truth in advertising. This is quite unbelievable. At first I thought it was a joke but in the end I think they spent 60,000+ on the ad without checking the copy and meant to say “Spoil yourself on your vacation” ...*



# The Grand Palace from Wat Arun 1959

July 14, 2007

Categories: History, Old photos and films



(Photo: Wally Higgins)

Past Thailand: "The Grand Palace from Wat Arun – 2-24-1959" – July 14, 2007

[Other photos from Wally Higgins](#)





(Photo: Wally Higgins)

Past Thailand: "Chao Phraya from Wat Arun – 2-24-1959" – July 14, 2007

# Mime in Chiang Mai

July 14, 2007



(Photo: Monkey)

Mime in Chiang Mai – July 14, 2007

Monkey reports from Chiang Mai: *A mime on a walking street along Ta*

*Pae Gate in Amphur Muang of Chiang Mai Province. The walking street, running on Sundays, is a place where you can buy a variety of products, including local goods, at low prices. Local music and dance performances are also held.*

# Nana Intersection in the Past

July 14, 2007

Categories: Old photos and films



(Photo: Art)

Nana intersection in the past – July 14, 2007

Art sends in another Nana intersection photo: *...It's older by 7 years, unless I have the date wrong, in which case it could be 12 years older. What's amazing is how many of the buildings are still there today, and are even still the same color. Note the wall between Soi 4 and the 7-11 — it goes all the way to Sukhumvit now.*

Also note how the road narrows in the distance on the left. For many years one property maintained a front yard two lanes into Sukhumvit Soi 3.

**Earlier:** John sends this photo (below), taken May 14, 1991.

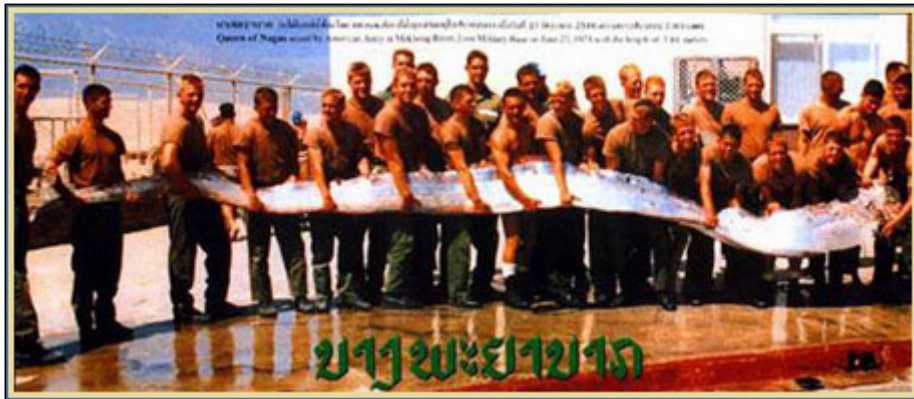


(Photo: John)

# “Naga” photo?

July 14, 2007

Categories: Wildlife and Nature



“Naga” photo? –

July 14, 2007

A reader reports: *I turn to you to look into a questionable picture we saw when we were at Khao Yai. It was a [picture of a Naga](#). The picture is in the middle of the website, a group of GI's holding a Naga. It is the same picture we saw in Khao Yai.*

*I was curious if you ever heard of this – I have to assume it is fake but I admit it is a good job of faking. Do you know anything about it?*

That is a real photo of U.S. soldiers (we think in Phuket) holding a [deep sea ribbon fish](#).

It has nothing to do with anything that would come out of a river.

**Update:** Several readers have written to point out that this is an [oarfish](#).

More on this photo is [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).

Update 2012: [Oarfish hoax](#): *A photograph on display in bars, restaurants, guesthouses and markets around Laos and Thailand that is captioned, “Queen of Nāgas seized by American Army at Mekhong River, Laos Military Base on June 27, 1973 with the length of 7.80 metres,” is a hoax. The photograph was taken by Dr. Leo Smith of The Field Museum, of an oarfish found in late 1996 by US Navy SEAL trainees on the coast of Coronado, California, USA.*

# Preah Vihear resources

July 15, 2007

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

Preah Vihear  
resources – July 15, 2007

[Preah](#)

[Vihear, Arrêt de la CIJ de La Hague du 15 juin 1962](#) – [Reference](#)

[Map N°1](#) – [Reference](#)

[Map N°2](#) – [Reference](#)

[Map N°3](#) – [Reference](#)

[Map N°4](#) – [Cambodia's](#)

[Borders Committee](#)



# Approaching Victory Monument, circa 1960s

July 16, 2007

Categories: Communities



(Photo: Gary W. Kay)

## Approaching

Victory Monument, circa 1960s – July 16, 2007

Last week we posted this photo (above).

Gary W. Kay writes: *I took that shot of Victory Monument while riding in a cab just before my tour of duty ended in Bangkok in April 1964. The site that posted this photo is, in fact, defunct. However, there is an excellent site with many photos that still endures. It is located at <http://83drdrsou.org/>.*

*It is made up of stories and photos of U. S. Army Security Agency soldiers who were stationed primarily at Seri Court off Pradiphat Road during my time there from 1962 – 1964. At that time, the unit was designated as the 5th Radio Research Unit. It changed names after I left to the 83rd Radio Research Special Operations Unit. That unit later evolved into the 7th Radio Research Field Station, which was located at Udorn.*

Below is another one of his photos from around April 1964 of Pradiphat Road looking towards Seri Court.

**Earlier:** [Saphan Kwai in 1968](#)



(Photo: Gary W. Kay)



# S. Thailand Roadblock Incident Sparks Rights Appeal

July 17, 2007

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[S. Thailand](#)

[Roadblock Incident Sparks Rights Appeal](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, July 17, 2007

*...The dead man, Sakariya Paomani, 47, died from gunshot wounds while in the custody of Thai rangers. Security officials said Sakariya died while a group of insurgent tried to seize him, but Ministry of Justice forensic scientist Porntip Rotjanasunan found that he had been badly beaten...*

# Thailand heads for Guinness record with upcoming referendum

July 18, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thailand heads for Guinness record with upcoming referendum](#) – DPA, July 18, 2007

*Thailand could enter the Guinness Book of World Records next month for holding the world's first referendum to pass a constitution after giving the population less than a month to prepare for it, Thai academics say...*

*Thailand heads for Guinness record with upcoming referendum*

*By DPA*

*Bangkok : Thailand could enter the Guinness Book of World Records next month for holding the world's first referendum to pass a constitution after giving the population less than a month to prepare for it, Thai academics say.*

*On Aug 19, the Thai people will decide in a national referendum whether to accept a new charter drafted by the military-appointed Constitution Drafting Assembly (CDF).*

*The assembly, which finished drafting Thailand's latest constitution June 28, will distribute 19 million copies of the document to 19 million families nationwide by July 19 and will commence educating the public on the contents of the charter as of July 31, said Kiatchai Pongpanich, a member of the CDF.*

*The Constitution Drafting Assembly will have only 19 days to inform the public about the new constitution, a lengthy and complex document containing 339 articles.*

*The referendum, Thailand's first, was required under an interim constitution put in place by the military junta that staged the Sep 19, 2006 coup that toppled former premier Thaksin Shinawatra.*

*"This is the first time in the world that there will be a referendum to accept a constitution," said Siripon Nogsuan, a political scientist at Chulalongkorn University.*

*"The Guinness Book of World Records can say we have been given the shortest time to study the longest constitution," Siripon told a seminar. "No country can hold a referendum in such a short period on such a long document. In Europe, a referendum would require two to six months to study the issue beforehand."*

*Siripon was echoing concerns raised by many political scientists and diplomats based in Thailand, that the current military-appointed government has not provided enough time to inform the public about the new constitution, which has been widely criticized for weakening the political party system.*

*"We realize that this is quite a short time frame for the public to go through 339 articles of the final draft but the interim constitution stipulates that not less than 15 days or more than 30 days should be spent scrutinizing the draft," said Kiatchai.*

*If the new constitution – Thailand's 18th since a clique of Young Turk military officers overthrew the absolute monarchy in 1932 – is approved by referendum, Thailand is expected to hold an election by November or December, this year.*

*If it is voted down, an election will still be held, although the time frame will be less certain.*

# New road

July 19, 2007

Categories: Bridges, Highways and Roads



(Photo: Maarten Brusselers)



(Photo: Maarten Brusselers)

New road –

July 19, 2007

Maarten Brusselers writes: *Attached are some pics I took yesterday They were taken on the new road between Bang Na Trat and the new ring road bridge. The road markings on the new bridge*

*are complete and the rest of the system looks as if it will be open within 2 months. Interestingly, the planned connection between the new mega bridge and the ring road bridge has not even been started on yet, although the signs for this connection are already on the mega bridge.*



(Photo: Maarten Brusselers)



(Photo: Maarten Brusselers)

# **iPod honoring the King**

July 19, 2007

[iPod honoring  
the King](#) – Tuaw.com, July 19, 2007

# Wildlife Fund Thailand shuts down

July 20, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Wildlife Fund Thailand shuts down](#) – *The Nation*, July 20, 2007

# Muang Boran Journal

July 20, 2007

Categories: History

[Muang](#)

[Boran Journal](#) – July 20, 2007

Pong writes: *Here is the second coolest Thai website (after 2Bangkok.com).*

# “She knows how to please you...”

July 20, 2007



“She knows how to please you...” – July 20, 2007

Hilariously risqué ad from the Novotel’s 18th anniversary...



# Do you really want to smoke that joint in Thailand?

July 20, 2007

Categories: Drugs

[Do you really want to smoke that joint in Thailand?](#) – Cyber Diver News Network, July 20, 2007

*...In Thailand, a major current issue is of Britons who overstay their visas and are being held for months in conditions worse than the notorious Bangkok Hilton, according to a former prisoner who has just returned to Britain.*

*John Davies, who was released from jail in Thailand after serving 17 years on a drugs charge, said that people who had failed to renew their visas or had their passports stolen were being kept in detention centres because the Foreign Office declined to pay for their repatriation...*

# Outsourcing at a crossroads

July 22, 2007

## Outsourcing at a crossroads – High

**talent turnover can wipe out cost advantage, as India is discovering** – *Bangkok Post*, July 22, 2007

*... "Countries such as Thailand and Vietnam that are looking to promote their outsourcing industry need to take a hard look at the issues that other countries have managed to sort out," he said. He added that countries looking to be emerging SSO centres should also look at their immigration regulations to ensure they can attract talent to settle on a long-term basis.*

*"Look at what happened in the United States: its policy of allowing long-term residency to the talent pool helped create Silicon Valley. Thailand and other countries should look into this aspect as well," Mr Zutshi said...*

# Which group to follow?

July 22, 2007

Which group to follow? – translated and summarized from *Manager*, by Siang Sao Long, July 22, 2007

1. About the “rumor process” – it is the most powerful weapon. Some groups make the rumor it and post it within the code in some websites. The writer said the ones who spread the rumors should consider themselves. Is this is right or wrong or suitable for society?
2. There is the movement to overthrow the constitution process. One group says if you want a good economy, do not accept the constitution. This group will try its best to object to the constitution.
3. The government side tries to do everything to make people accept the constitution by getting through to people through public health people, teachers, etc.
4. The government, especially the interior ministry, has a project to gain volunteers to develop democracy. Some seemed to be drafted into this hurriedly. It appears the government is controlling this process.

In conclusion, we have to decide between the group that wants to maintain control and the group that fights every way to survive.

# Seven Amazing Wonders of Thailand Campaign

July 23, 2007

Categories: Tourism

[Tourism](#)

[Authority of Thailand to launch Seven Amazing Wonders of Thailand Campaign](#) – *AsiaTravelTips*,

July 23, 2007

# **Resilient Khao Lak Back In Full Swing**

July 23, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Resilient Khao Lak – Back In Full Swing](#) – TAT, July 23, 2007

# Thai gambling site for low-budget punters

July 23, 2007



[Thai gambling site for low-budget punters](#) –  
July 23, 2007

# EU Observers to Watch Thailand Election

July 24, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[EU Observers to Watch Thailand Election](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, July 24, 2007

*The European Commission plans to send a team of 150 observers to Thailand to watch how the country conducts the general election scheduled to be held before the end of this year...*



# Monks nationwide are going to the three southernmost provinces

July 25, 2007

Categories: The Thai Deep South

**Monks to stay in three southernmost provinces during Buddhist Lent** – translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*, July 25, 2007

347 monks nationwide are going to the three southernmost provinces and will stay there during the Buddhist Lent as several temples have been left abandoned due to fear of violent attacks. Deputy Chief Aide-de-Camp General to Her Majesty the Queen Gen. Napon Bunthap on July 25 took 126 monks to Narathiwat Airport by a C130 plane. The project was initiated by Her Majesty the Queen, who worried about Buddhist Thais in the three southernmost provinces. Under the same project, 96 monks are going to Wat Kuhaphimuk in Amphur Muang of Yala Province and will stay at local temples in the province.

**Right:** 96 monks are going to stay at temples in Yala Province. They are carrying bags, printed with the phrase “Su Woi!” (meaning Fight!).



(Photo: *Thai Rath*)

# Al Gore snubs Thailand visit

July 26, 2007

[Al](#)

[Gore snubs Thailand visit](#) – Bangkok

Post, July 26, 2007

*...The former US Vice President was originally scheduled to arrive in the capital on August 8 but his representatives have now confirmed that the event will not be taking place due to Gore's heavy workload...*

# TrueThaksin.com

July 27, 2007

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Source: TrueThaksin.com)

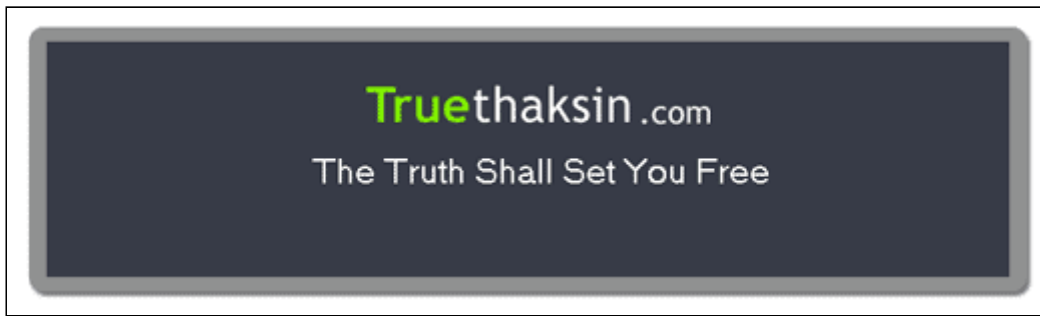
18:40, July 27: [TrueThaksin.com](http://TrueThaksin.com) is now online

## Initial observations:

- There is no broad overriding theme as yet. So far the site consists of many pdfs and other explanations of the charges against the Thaksin family and some of their legal retorts along with comments on the party dissolutions. There is also a handful of translations from the Thai-language press that are complementary to Thaksin.
- Surprisingly amateurish. This is not a slick, Western-created lobbying site. As of now it is a collection of awkwardly translated articles looking at the issues from a Thai perspective (“Let us give you the facts, the comments, the opinions of many well respected group of people about the Rule of Law, justice, the new constitution, etc.”). The junta has nothing to fear yet from this site as a communication tool to the English-speaking world.
- The site is only in English now. There is a link to Thai, but no Thai yet.
- The site does not work in Firefox (the menu bar at the top is not visible). Also no metatags.
- At 2Bangkok we were looking to see if this site would publicize the present UDD controversies like Hi-Thaksin.net is doing—it does not.

**Also:** [Govt to launch truethailand.com](http://Govt.to/launch/truethailand.com) – *The Nation*, July 27, 2007  
However, [truethailand.com](http://truethailand.com) is registered already...

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(Source: TrueThaksin.com)

Thaksin offensive: Phase 3 – July 27, 2007

After several initiatives that included [Hi-Thaksin.net](#), site of official Thaksin statements, and [USA for Innovation](#), the fake lobbying site set up to pressure the junta, Thaksin is returning with a new autobiography in Chinese and a new website, [TrueThaksin.com](#) (above).

Also note that [Hi-Thaksin.net](#) is featuring a new set of bloody photos every day from the Sunday siege of Prem's house.

**Earlier:** Made-to-order lobbying group? – [USA for Innovation](#)

**Also:** [Thaksin's life in comic book form](#)

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#### Sidelines:

[TrueThaksin website shows his true colours](#) – *The Nation*, July 29, 2007

*...What Veera and his jailbird friends should understand is that the fight for money and the fight for public good are entirely different. They have not been cast in a good light but more as a nuisance every evening, amid physical discomfort and public dislike, just for money from the paymaster in political exile in London...*

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TrueThaksin.com – first update since July 27 – August 8, 2007

[The first update to the site](#) since it was inaugurated on July 27 brings more anguished English:

*"Junta Intervention of Justice – Everyone denies this..."*

*"News from world class newspaper how the military government increased the junta paycheck by 9 million US\$. Minister of Foreign Affair admits to world medias, coup was a mistake!!!! : U.S. diplomat says Thailand has seen steady progress toward democracy..."*

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[Statement from Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra](#) – TrueThaksin.com, August 17, 2007

*Over the next few days the military junta in Thailand will increase its attacks on my reputation. This is because they fear my influence on the outcome of the referendum on a new military constitution on Sunday 19 th August 2007...*

# Countdown to Thai referendum begins with arrests and warnings

July 27, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Countdown to Thai referendum begins with arrests and warnings](#) – OneWorld.net, July 27, 2007

*THAILAND: Countdown to Referendum Begins with Arrests and Warnings*

*By Marwaan Macan-Markar*

*BANGKOK, Jul 27 2007 (IPS) – Dr. Weng Tojirakan was in a defiant mood the morning after he was detained by the police at the Criminal Court in the Thai capital. “This happened because of the tyranny in our country,” the 56-year-old medical doctor said in an interview Friday.*

*Weng is among nine leaders of an anti-coup group who were charged by the authorities following a clash between police and protesters Sunday night in Bangkok. The others who were taken into custody include a former supreme court judge, a former member of the National Human Rights Commission and a former spokesman of deposed prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra’s government.*

*“We regard our arrest as another step in our struggle to restore democracy in Thailand,” added Weng, who was present outside the home of a top advisor to the country’s revered monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, where the confrontation took place. Over 100 people were injured when the police tried to stop nearly 5,000 protesters from demonstrating. The latter responded with stones.*

*This first incident of violence following last September’s coup comes just as the national junta and its military-appointed government launch a campaign for Thailand’s first-ever referendum, on Aug. 19. The registered voters are being urged by the generals to endorse the country’s 18th constitution in the plebiscite.*

*The week ahead will see the government raising the tempo of the referendum campaign through the media and the mail. Postal carriers across the country are expected to deliver a copy of the new constitution to each of the country’s registered voters. Households will have only three weeks to digest the 186 pages that contain the 309 articles of the new charter.*

*But there is more at stake, given the criticism levelled against military rulers, who came to power after driving from office the twice-elected Thaksin in the Sep. 19, 2006 putsch. For the Council for National Security (CNS), as the junta calls itself, the referendum is the first test of its legitimacy at the ballot.*

*“The CNS is hoping to gain legitimacy for the coup and the period since through the referendum,” says Naruemon Thabchumpon, a political scientist at Bangkok’s Chulalongkorn University. “To win it, the ministry of the interior has already organised a network in the provinces, where the majority of voters are.”*

*A victory for the CNS may help to reduce the political tension, she told IPS, but added that such a truce between opposition groups and the generals may not last for long. “The political divisions in Thailand have grown wider and deeper since the coup.”*

*Bridging the country’s political divides, in fact, was one reason the military launched the coup, Thailand’s 18th since it became a constitutional monarchy in 1932. The generals accused the Thaksin administration of pursuing politically divisive policies, in addition to charges that he had undermined the country’s democracy through corruption and nepotism.*

*The military rulers offered themselves as a better alternative – even promising a free and fair political culture – in helping to guide the country back to democracy.*

*But on Wednesday, the military-appointed parliament passed a law that raises questions about such assurances as the referendum looms. Any attempt to obstruct the referendum has been made a crime,*

*including a 10-year jail sentence. Violations range from misleading the public about the plebiscite to damaging ballot papers.*

*These measures come on top of nearly half of Thailand's 76 provinces still being under martial law since the coup and the government using the military and police to prevent anti-coup groups from the villages heading to Bangkok to protest. Men from the Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC), a powerful arm of the military, are monitoring activity in the poorer neighbourhoods, says a former senator.*

*The junta's restrictions on the country's rural population and the poor stem from fear that ousted premier Thaksin, currently living in exile, will restore lines of contact with this largest constituency. The poor and the rural voters formed the bedrock of Thaksin's supporters, enabling his Thai Rak Thai (Thais Love Thai party) to win thumping mandates at the 2001 and 2005 general elections.*

*Little wonder why, to some, there is hardly a difference between the way the junta is trying to control the political environment and the way Thaksin's administration did before. "The pillars on which the coup was legitimised have been knocked down one by one," David Streckfuss, a U.S. academic specialising in Thai political culture, told IPS. "What we have are two illegitimate regimes fighting against each other."*

*Thailand is facing a "new political culture," adds Somchai Homlaor, a human rights lawyer. "The current environment is not free for the pro-Thaksin people. More and more people are getting suspicious the junta wants to retain its power."*

*The leaders of the anti-coup groups, some of who have already pasted "Vote No" signs down Bangkok's streets, are more blunt. It is particularly so following the weekend's clashes that come after regular anti-coup protests in a field close to the historic part of the city.*

*"This will be a sham referendum because the military has major institutions under its control – the police, the soldiers and the courts," says Dr. Sant Hatthirat, a leader of the United Front of Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD).*

*"Public anger will only rise," Sant, a cardiologist by training, told IPS. "The military's intimidation of the people is a form of vote threatening."*

# “Backpackers on High Heels”

July 27, 2007

“Backpackers on High Heels” – July 27, 2007

Sandra writes: *We have just launched [Backpackers on High Heels](#). A hip and urban travel, shopping guide for Bangkok with all the best, the stylish Hotspots. A guide that shows you all the places to B. in Bangkok: Stylish shops with absolutely stunning fashion, shoes, bags and everything else a girl needs with hip-n-cool bars, restaurants, nightclubs as well as fashionable and über clean hotels. Now for Bangkok, soon for Hanoi and Amsterdam...*



# Toward a less democratic Thailand

July 27, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Toward a less democratic Thailand](#) – *Asia Times Online*, July 27, 2007

*...In the transition, however, it's apparent that*

*Thailand's democracy will be compromised in significant ways and will open the way to future military interventions in politics...*

# UDD Surprise Raid on Privy Council President's House

July 28, 2007

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

[UDDerly rudderless in mindless violence](#) – Bangkok Post, July 28, 2007

*...At the time of the April Fool's Day coup by Gen Sant*

*Chitpatima in 1981, the Bangkok Post ran a picture of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn on the occasion of her birthday on April 2. For fear of being closed down by the coup leaders, the paper did not identify her whereabouts and printed only that portion of the photograph which showed the Princess. Fifty-six hours later when Gen Prem's forces had recaptured the capital, the Post reprinted the same picture, in full, showing the Princess standing with Gen Prem at the army barracks in Korat, where the general had been safeguarding the Royal Family...*

*So, if Mr Musikapong thinks he can institute a case of lese majeste against Pa Prem, he should think again. The matter could very likely rebound on him. His mor doo should hasten to remind him of his past for the sake of his future—unless he thinks that a royal pardon might be as forthcoming this time around as it did in 1988.*

*As for Full Moon, the man positively thrills to his moment in history, eyes all agleam and baying at the microphones as he waves pictures of bloodied people. He claims the atrocities were committed "not by policemen, not by soldiers, but by savages... We're going to show these snaps to the UN Human Rights Commission. We want the whole world to know." Certainly. And while he's at it he should not forget to add that it was his protesters who were behaving like barbarians at the gate to Pa Prem's house, hounding the elderly statesman.*

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Detained

[Police urge holding 9](#)

[key anti-coup protesters](#) – TNA, July 26, 2007

*Claiming that police intelligence officers have sufficient information that anti-coup protesters plan to march on Privy Council president and former prime minister Gen. Prem Tinsulanonda's residence and create unrest again Friday, police Thursday urged Thailand's Criminal Court to issue warrants of detention for nine leading demonstrators...*

[Key anti-coup](#)

[protesters acknowledge charges](#) – TNA, July 26, 2007

*They were charged with holding an illegal gathering of more than 10 persons which led to disturbances in the capital, instigating unrest and obstructing police. The nine denied all the charges against them...*

[Stoppage](#)

[time :It's time to rethink what 'mob rules' we can accept](#) – The Nation, July 25, 2007

*...Analysts have rightly pointed out that the military junta emerged triumphant following Sunday's confrontation because more policemen were wounded than protesters, and because no evidence surfaced in the media of any demonstrator having been assaulted. The analysts were also right in saying that it would have been a very big blow to the junta if a protester had been beaten up or shot at. The conventional "mob rules" have been applied in both analyses. It's nobody's fault because this has long been the case for Thailand.*

*“Demonstrations” mean nothing unless someone gets killed. Only violence can force quick political change and peaceful rallies are just for losers. Why a protest takes place is not as important to the media as whether it will put conflicting parties on a bloody collision course...*

**Earlier from the Thai-language press: Mission to scatter mob – War room hunting 11 leading members** – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*, July 24, 2007

A national security unit expected the Democratic Alliance Against Dictatorship (DAAD) group to attempt to besiege the residence of Privy Council President Gen. Prem Tinsulanonda on July 22 in a bid to press him to resign. However, no one ever expected the extent of the march outside Gen. Prem’s house.

About 10,500 anti-coup protestors marched on the statesman’s residence and demanded his resignation as president of the Privy Council. The police negotiated with leaders of the group. The negotiation only led to more violence. The police then announced a plan to arrest eleven leading DAAD members.

At night a man called a Council of National Security figure, asking him why the demonstration was formed at the house of Gen. Prem. The figure then told the police to use force. Then the mob scattered.



(Source: hi-thaksin.net)

**Above:** “People who are victims of the cruel dictatorship.”

From Hi-Thaksin.net – July 23, 2007

The Thaksin mouthpiece site Hi-Thaksin.net is doing its best to capitalize on the events of Sunday. From Monday to Tuesday they had the above photos on their website. From Wednesday the site had the graphic below.

At the top it says “who?” or, as it would be interpreted, “who do you think you are?” This is meant to question Prem’s status and comparing his activities to those of royalty.

With Thaksin football club buyout complete, we can expect to see another round of high-tension politics and rumors along with well-timed

public comments by Thaksin. This would be an attempt to sway current events in the lead up to the constitution referendum.

The new political groupings do not seem to want to be involved so far. Perhaps they are waiting to see how things turn out. However, many of the former TRT-associated politicians may not want to derail the present roadmap back to elected government. They are more than willing to make a deal with the military in a future government—it may even suit them better than being under Thaksin's occasionally reform-minded control.



(Source: hi-thaksin.net)



(Photo: Breeze – from [Pantip.com](http://Pantip.com))



[Press release from UDD Thailand](#) – July 23, 2007

Photos from the protesters' point of view –  
July 24, 2007

Dan writes: *Attached picture is one picture that touch my heart and want to share (above).*

Pantip.com seems to be the locus of anti-junta threads this week (including [this one](#) with photos from the protesters point of view) –and the “rumors” of last week.

Quite a few anti-protester comments have been posted on the 2Bangkok forum [here](#) including excerpts from some of the tough article/editorials from *Manager*.

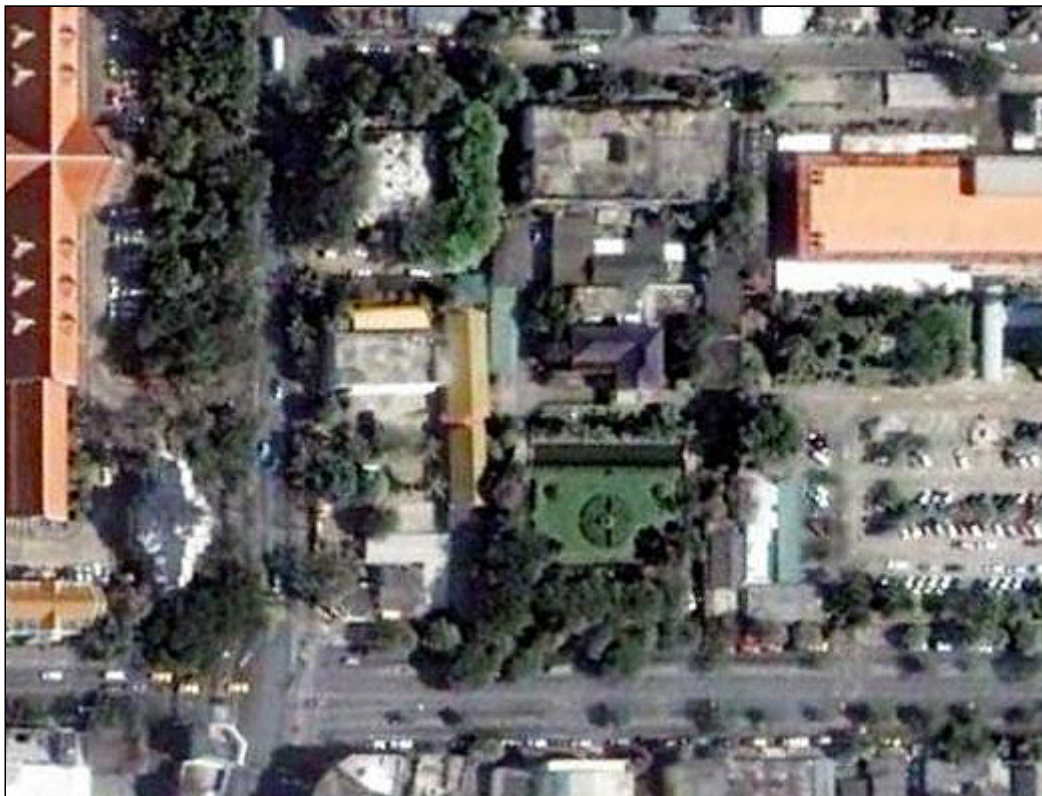
[Anti-coup mob goes berserk](#) – *The Nation*, July 23, 2007  
*Barrage of missiles hits home; Sonthi says ‘no’ to martial law, but warns tough measures will be considered...*

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[Prem targeted in violent attack](#) – *The Nation*, July 23, 2007  
*Barrage of missiles hits home; Sonthi says ‘no’ to martial law, but warns tough measures will be considered...*

[Police, protesters clash outside Prem’s home](#) – *Bangkok Post*, July 23, 2007  
*Eight rally leaders will be arrested, police say...*

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(Source: GoogleEarth)

Surrounding Prem’s house  
16:58 – *Manager*: Protesters are

making a stage in front of Prem's house. There is no word on how long the protest will last.

16:18 – *The Nation*: Anti-coup protesters surround Prem's house

15:42 – *The Nation*: Protesters break through police barricade

## “Looks tasty...”

July 28, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

“Looks tasty...” – July 28, 2007

The add reads: Volz cracker – New! Looks tasty... inserted with a chocolate wafer.

More on

the “Looks tasty...” ad – August 4, 2007

Max writes: *Saw your ‘Voice’ pic on 2Bangkok. I wrote [this](#) for a laugh a while back...*

# Jobs for the Thai disabled

July 28, 2007

Jobs for the Thai  
disabled – July 28, 2007

Ekmarin writes: *Please give disabled people a chance. I have [website](#) about presentation of the job placement for people with disabilities for you to make a consideration.*



# No more TRT?

July 28, 2007

No more TRT? – July 28, 2007

[Thai](#)

[Rak Thai thwarted](#) – *The Nation*, July 27, 2007

*The National Legislative Assembly (NLA) yesterday passed a draft law that bans disbanded political parties from registering a new party under the same name, logo or abbreviation...*

[ThaiRuamThai.com](#) is for sale.

[ThaiRakThai.or.th](#) is now offline, but [TRT Mail](#) is still up.

[ThaiRuamThai.net](#) and [ThaiRuamThai.org](#) were registered by a domain squatter.

# “Bloody Bunny”

July 28, 2007

“Bloody Bunny” – July 28, 2007

Don points out a [Nation article](#) about new cartoons lined up for late afternoons starting in September: ...*Lak Taechawanchai, chairman of the TACGA, said the association had prepared four Thai cartoons for MCOT — ‘Spooky Imaginary Friend’, ‘Bloody Bunny’, ‘Fuzzy Adventure’ and ‘Fruity Town’...*

# Graffiti

July 28, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Graffiti –

July 28, 2007

Graffiti on the Weepahwahdee-Suthisarn intersection flyover that reads:  
Pathumwan Mechanical engineers

# Thaksin urges rejection of constitution

July 30, 2007

Categories: Uncategorized

[Thaksin urges](#)

[rejection of constitution](#) – Reuters, July 30, 2007

*...Thaksin described the new charter as an act of “political revenge”.*

*“If they really need to ensure that I am not going back to politics, they can add one more clause — ‘disband Thaksin’,” he said.*

*“And they can put some of my DNA code in there to be sure that I do not change my name...”*

*Thaksin urges Thais to reject constitution*

*Mon, Jul 30, 2007*

*Reuters*

*SINGAPORE, July 30 (Reuters) – Thailand’s ousted former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra criticised a military-sponsored draft constitution and urged Thai voters to reject it in next month’s referendum, the Financial Times reported on Monday.*

*In an interview from his London exile, Thaksin described the new charter as “fruit of the poisonous tree” and a “step back” for democracy.*

*He said it was less democratic than the “people’s constitution” adopted in 1997, and then abolished in last September’s military coup against his government.*

*The military-backed government is campaigning hard for voters to endorse the draft constitution in an Aug. 19 referendum. That would be followed by elections and a handover of power to a new government by the end of the year.*

*Thaksin told the Financial Times voters would prefer to have the 1997 constitution restored. It was drafted to clear up Thailand’s notorious money-driven politics, but was later blamed for allowing Thaksin excessive power.*

*The military has indicated the charter could be re-adopted, with amendments, should voters decline to support the new constitution.*

*“If voters reject the 2007 constitution, and the (military) is forced to use the constitution that they already tore up, that is going to be something,” the Financial Times quoted Thaksin as saying.*

*“Democracy will come back to Thailand.”*

*Thaksin described the new charter as an act of “political revenge”.*

*“If they really need to ensure that I am not going back to politics, they can add one more clause — ‘disband Thaksin’,” he said.*

*“And they can put some of my DNA code in there to be sure that I do not change my name.”*

*Thaksin said he was relieved to be free of the burden of running the country and now spends his days “kicking around the London streets” and preparing to improve the performance of Manchester City, his recently acquired Premier League soccer team.*

# Thaksin not involved with People's Party

July 30, 2007

[Thaksin not involved](#)

[with People's Party](#) – TNA, July 30, 2007

*...When asked whether PPP would be secretly dictated to by Mr. Thaksin, Mr. Noppadol said the former premier had announced that he had washed his hand of politics but would provide “morale and advice” to the party...*

# **IMF: financial crisis unlikely to recur in Thailand**

July 30, 2007

Categories: Economy

[IMF: financial crisis](#)

[unlikely to recur in Thailand](#) – TNA, July  
30, 2007

[IMF hails Thai economy 10 years after crisis](#) – TODAYonline, July 28, 2007

# **Unofficial deportations, extortion and poverty thrive in Thai frontier town**

July 31, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Unofficial deportations, extortion and poverty thrive in Thai frontier town](#) – *Guardian Unlimited*, July 31, 2007

# Vietnam Drawing Thailand's Investment

July 31, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Vietnam Drawing Thailand's Investment](#) – Bernama, July 31, 2007

*Thailand's investment into Vietnam surged quickly in the recent past, making investment a successful cooperative area in the two countries' ties, Vietnam News Agency (VNA) quoted Foreign Investment Department as saying...*



# Asavahame family faces big election challenge

July 31, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

[Asavahame family faces big election challenge](#) – Bangkok Post, July 31, 2007

*The Asavahame clan, long dominant in Samut Prakan politics, is facing its biggest political challenge in the provincial administration organisation (PAO) election on Sunday as its arch-rival enjoys solid support from local voters, political observers said...*

# Chinese investment applications up 888 per cent in Thailand

July 31, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Chinese investment applications up 888 per cent in Thailand](#) – DPA, August 28, 2007

*...Chinese firms sought promotional privileges from Thailand's Board of Investment (BOI) on projects worth 15.23 billion baht (441 million dollars) between October 1, 2006 to July 31, 2007, compared with 1.54 billion baht (44.6 million dollars) during the same period in fiscal 2006...*

# Rights groups oppose Thaksin

August 1, 2007

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Rights groups oppose Thaksin](#) – *The*

*Nation*, August 1, 2007

*...Amnesty International shares many of HRW's concerns and their spokesperson told BBC Sport: "Thaksin did preside over some very serious human-rights violations."*

*Amnesty also outlined several allegations against Thaksin, including extrajudicial killings, a violent crackdown on insurgency in the deep South and suppression of media freedom.*

*"If the Premier League wants to take any of that into account when making their decisions, we're happy to make our documents available to them..."*

# “Mob” blocking trains at Hualumphong

August 1, 2007

“Mob” blocking trains at Hualumphong – August 1, 2007

Pakorn writes: *As of 5pm , a mob of unknown persuasion (no news about it in the media that I’m aware of) is blocking the trains at the Hua Lumphong station.*

Anyone know anything about this incident?

**Update:** BangkokPundit points out: [Protest delays trains](#) – *Bangkok Post* and also [here](#).



(Photo: Pakorn)



(Photo: Pakorn)





(Photo: Pakorn)

# Thaksin lives the highlife in book out today

August 1, 2007

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Thaksin lives the highlife in book out today](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 1, 2007

*...Mr Thaksin is not cut off from the outside world by any means. The former prime minister carries eight cell phones, with 20 SIM cards altogether.*

*... As for his golf companion, Mr Thaksin flies Lydia to London. She also doubles as a singer in their karaoke sessions.*

*"She is like another daughter to him," said Mr Panthongthae...*

# Channel 5 reporter faces criticism from government for interviewing Thaksin

August 1, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

THAILAND: Channel 5 reporter faces criticism from government for interviewing Thaksin –  
UCLA Asia Institute, August 1-7, 2007

Interesting how this is viewed outside of Thailand—not primarily as a soldier who when off to interview Thaksin, but as a television reporter being criticized by the government for interviewing Thaksin...

*THAILAND: Channel 5 reporter faces criticism from government for interviewing Thaksin*

*The army launched an [investigation](#) into the unauthorized trip that Lieutenant Sunisa Lertpakawat, a military reporter for army-run Channel 5, took to England to interview deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. After [meeting with a disciplinary panel](#), the journalist was told not to do publicity for her book, *Thaksin, Where Are You?* Lt. Sunisa is expected to [resign](#) from the army.*

**COMMENTARY:** Kamolwat Praputitum explains why [journalism and the military do not mix](#).

# Happy anniversary to the Bangkok Post

August 2, 2007

Happy anniversary to the *Bangkok Post* – August 2, 2007

August 1 was the 61st anniversary of the founding of the *Bangkok Post*...

**Last year:** [\*Bangkok Post's 60th\*](#)

**Also:** [Happy birthday to \*The Nation\*](#)



# Say 'No' to charter for democracy. Long live hypocrisy!

August 2, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thai Talk: Say 'No' to charter for democracy. Long live hypocrisy!](#) – *The Nation*, August 2, 2007

*...That's why you noticed no sense of embarrassment whatsoever when leading members of the Thai Rak Thai Party, who used to pride themselves as being on the "left" during the October uprisings, welcomed the arrival of the country's best-known "right-wing chieftain" into their ranks under the People Power Party. The former arch-rivals have joined together to come to the rescue of the country's most popular capitalist.*

*In case your memory has been blurred somewhat, remember that the same guy who became a powerful Cabinet member after the bloody, ultra-right military coup on October 6, 1976 is now poised to head a political party that comprises mainly Thai Rak Thai members who have vowed to go against the September 19, 2006 coup!...*

**Earlier:** [All about Samak](#)

# Banners Encouraging Prem

August 3, 2007

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Photo: Kewalin)

Encouraging Prem –  
August 3, 2007

**Above:** Ode to Gen. Prem Tinsulanonda

Born in Songkhla Gen. Prem Tinsulanonda

Is virtuous, righteous statesman

And president of Privy Council

Loyal to religion, nation and sovereign (from a banner in front of Mahavajiravudh  
Changwatsongkhla School in Songkhla)



(Photo: Kewalin)

**Above:** Devoting his life to duty and doing good deeds for the Kingdom

Gen. Prem is honorable among Thai people

Mahavajiravudh Songkhla School supports good people (from a banner in front of Mahavajiravudh Changwatsongkhla School in Songkhla)



(Photo: Kewalin)

**Above:** Fire does not harm real gold. Stop slighting good people. (from a banner in front of Mahavajiravudh Changwatsongkhla School in Songkhla)



(Photo: Kewalin)

**Above:** People who respect good people are the real good people (from a banner in front of Mahavajiravudh Changwatsongkhla School in Songkhla)





(Photo: Kewalin)

**Above:** Noble Privy Councilor and statesman Gen. Prem is the giver (from a banner in front of Mahavajiravudh Changwatsongkhla School in Songkhla)



(Photo: Kewalin)

**Above:** Mahavajiravudh urges you to stop conflicts in the country for the nation, religion and the sovereign. (from a banner in front of Mahavajiravudh Changwatsongkhla School in Songkhla)



(Photo: Kewalin)

**Above:** Gen. Prem is loyal to the sovereign. “We must do good deeds for our homeland.” Mahavajiravudh Songkhla School (from a banner in front of Mahavajiravudh Changwatsongkhla School in Songkhla)



(Photo: Kewalin)

**Above:** Gen. Prem is a good person. Songkhla Administrative Office (from a banner in front of Mahavajiravudh Changwatsongkhla School in Songkhla)





(Photo: Kewalin)

**Above:** “We must do good deeds for our homeland,” Gen. Prem Tinsulanonda – Songkhla Administrative Office (from a banner in front of Mahavajiravudh Changwatsongkhla School in Songkhla)



(Photo: Kewalin)

**Above:** The Statesman to people in Songkhla is Gen. Prem – Songkhla Administrative Office (from a banner in front of Mahavajiravudh Changwatsongkhla School in Songkhla)

# Thailand dangerous for Brits?

August 3, 2007

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

Thailand dangerous for  
Britons – August 3, 2007

Pieter points out: *Amazing stuff, worth of 2*Bangkok: [\*Thousands of party-loving British tourists end their holidays in jail\*](#)  
...*Brits that end up in hospital in Thailand each year: 233*  
...*Brits that die in Thailand each year: 224...*

On  
the forum: [Thailand dangerous for Brits?](#)

# Prem on Wikipedia

August 3, 2007

Categories: Uncategorized

Prem on Wikipedia – August 3, 2007

The [rather](#)

[disorganized article on Prem in Wikipedia](#) uses the UDD's take on

the protest outside of Prem's house: *The government violently*

*cracked down on protestors, wounding several, and arrested several*

*protestors, including an interim National Human Rights Commissioner and a former Chief Justice of the Criminal Court...*

And cites [this article](#) as the source.



# About Werner Herzog's Rescue Dawn

August 3, 2007

About Werner Herzog's *Rescue Dawn* – August 3, 2007

...Such is the case in “*rescue Dawn*” which is littered with Herzog's errors of both omission and commission: [RescueDawnTheTruth.com](http://RescueDawnTheTruth.com)

[Former TRT members get campaign tips from ex-PM](#) – *The Nation*, August 8, 2007

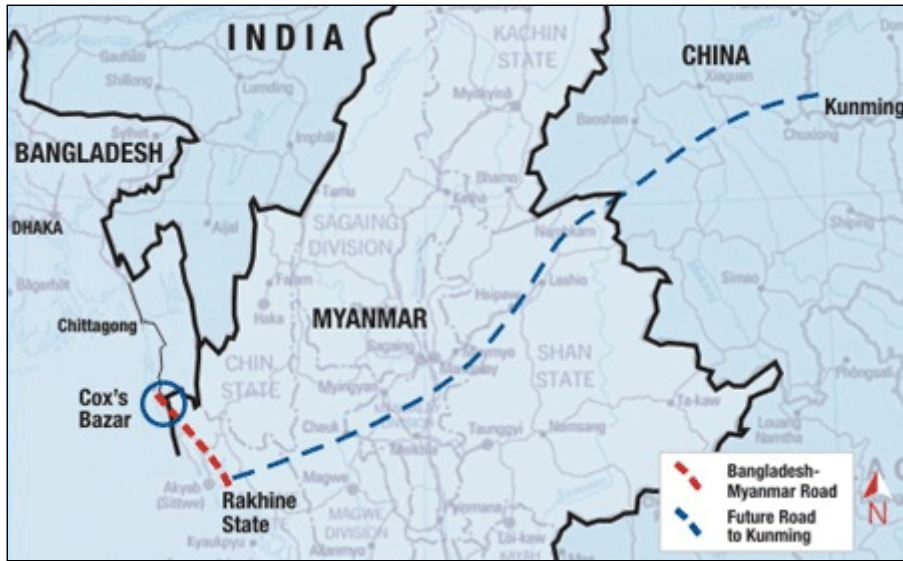
Former members of the defunct Thai Rak Thai Party yesterday made a pledge of allegiance to ex-prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra and watched a video clip on campaign strategy which was recorded by Thaksin in London.

...“If less than 50 per cent of voters cast ballots, then we don't feel this is the charter for the entire population,” Surapong said...

# Chinese Foreign Minister Voices Support for Tri-Nation Road Link

August 3, 2007

Categories: Highways and Roads



(Source: Narinjara)

[Chinese Foreign Minister Voices Support for Tri-Nation Road Link](#) – Narinjara, August 3, 2007

# '58 Ford in Bangkok

August 4, 2007



'58 Ford in Bangkok – August 4, 2007

Here is a ad for the 1958 Ford Fairlane. According to the ad, the car was driven around the world. From the ad: *...The 58 Ford rolled beautifully, easily through the severest road test ever given a car before its American announcement. The Ford endured—and came through still glittering ad fresh.*

*Acclaimed from Buckingham Palace to the Taj Mahal, it showed camels how to cross deserts and elephants how to move through jungles. It was proved and approved by everyone from natives who had never seen an American car before to famous stylists and nabobs who have seen every car built...*

# Harry Potter book in Ho Chi Minh City

August 4, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Harry  
Potter book in Ho Chi Minh City – August 4,  
2007

# **Thailand's economy prospers on king's sufficiency philosophy**

August 5, 2007

Categories: The Monarchy

[Thailand's economy prospers on king's sufficiency philosophy](#) – *Business Report*, August 5, 2007

# Dancing to a TRAFFICKER'S TUNE

August 5, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Dancing to a TRAFFICKER'S TUNE](#) – Bangkok Post, August 5, 2007

*In recent years, this has become a sad and strangely common fate for Uzbek women, and Thailand (its discos, its prisons, its Immigration Detention Centre) a strange and sadly common stop for them.*

*...Within 72 hours of "hiring", Elena was Bangkok-bound, set upon a nightmarish journey in which, over the course of a couple months, she was forced into prostitution in Pratunam, smuggled into Malaysia, and sent to Pattaya to spend 5 days with a European man (from there she was able to place the phone call that led to her rescue)...*

# Reading the Middle East in Bangkok

August 5, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Reading the Middle East in Bangkok](#) – Global Politician, August 5, 2007

*...While the country has many problems and real poverty it has also made remarkable progress. Moreover, it has a good record of solving internal disputes and avoiding problems with neighbors. For Thais, it could not be more obvious that problems should be examined in practical, logical terms in order to find solutions without resort to fanaticism or ideology. How could people choose to flatten their own countries?*

*...Third, alongside this Western-oriented approach is a strong sense regarding the security of their identity. Listening to classical music, reading Shakespeare, or wearing Western clothes do not make them frightened of ceasing to be Thai...*

# Caught without a country

August 5, 2007

[Caught without a country](#) –  
aljazeera.net, August 5, 2007

*In the first of a series, we look at Thailand, which has one of the largest stateless populations in the world...*



# Thai media hails Xinhua's extensive reporting on 24th Universiade

August 5, 2007

Categories: Sports

[Thai media hails Xinhua's extensive reporting on 24th Universiade](#) – Xinhua, August 5, 2007

*China's international news agency Xinhua has sent the biggest team of journalists to cover the 24th Universiade, which has drawn great attention from Thai media...*

# Why did your police kill my granny Mr. Thaksin?

August 5, 2007

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Why did your police kill my granny Mr. Thaksin?](#) – Sunday Mirror, August 5, 2007

*As he ploughs millions into Manchester City, new owner Thaksin Shinawatra is being hailed by fans as the latest foreign billionaire to bring his riches to British football.*

*But back in his native Thailand, the exiled former prime minister is being investigated over policies which led to the deaths of nearly 2,500 people...*

# **Hello Kitty to punish bad-boy Thai police**

August 6, 2007

Categories: Thai Police

[Hello Kitty to punish bad-boy Thai police](#) – AP, August 6, 2007

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

# Bangkok Bank promotes investment in Viet Nam

August 6, 2007

Categories: Vietnam

[Bangkok Bank promotes investment in Viet Nam](#) – VNEconomy, August 6, 2007

*Bangkok Bank Public Co Ltd is organising a fact-finding trip to Viet Nam for representatives of more than 50 companies from Thailand, according to the bank's HCM City branch...*

# The coup and the cutting-room floor

August 6, 2007

Categories: 2006 Coup

[The coup and the cutting-room floor](#) – *The Nation*, August 6, 2007

*The cameras had just finished rolling on 'Truth Be Told' when the tanks hit the streets, but the director stayed focused on Supinya Klangnarong's victory for democracy...*

# Thaksin at Man City

August 7, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Hamish points out: *Have you seen the [blog footage of Thaksin's maiden speech at Man City](#)? As a Brit myself and sometime live-football-match attendee, hearing the crowd chanting "There's only one Frank Sinatra" brought back fond memories of that curious beast The English Football Fan.*

# If Kitty doesn't say "hello"...

August 7, 2007

Categories: Thai Police

[If Kitty doesn't say "hello"...](#) – TNA, August 7, 2007

*The police officer who came up with an avant-garde idea of wrapping a pink "Hello Kitty" band around the arm of an undisciplined policeman said Tuesday he would resort to a Thai cartoon in case the copyright owner of the Japanese cat cartoon objected to it...*

# Heckling at the FCCT

August 8, 2007

Heckling at the FCCT –

August 8, 2007

A reader reports: [\*Prof Barry Rubin\*](#) *tried to host a speech at the The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand, but was heckled aggressively by local young European farang journalists until he walked out... He may have been a bit clueless about some local issues, but it was the usual barrage of heckling questions on his position concerning the Palestinian question and his supposed "Zionist views" that was probably a bit off topic...*



# Spam email in Vietnamese: how to control?

August 8, 2007

Categories: Vietnam

[Spam email in Vietnamese: how to control?](#) –

VietnamNet, August 8, 2007

*As spam emails in Vietnamese are booming, authorities have affirmed they will develop a legal document to control spam emails...*

# Thailand is Myanmar

August 8, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News



Thailand is Myanmar –

August 8, 2007

John comments: *Thought you might find [this map](#) suitable for your site. It seems geography is not our favourite ice cream maker's forte.*

# Bridges across Chao Phraya all said to be in good shape

August 8, 2007

Categories: Bridges

[Bridges across Chao Phraya all said to be in good shape](#) – Bangkok Post, August 8, 2007

*The agency in charge of maintenance of 11 bridges across the Chao Phraya river in Bangkok has confirmed that they are all still in good condition, including the 75-year-old Memorial bridge...*

# Thai monks blocking ordination of women

August 8, 2007

[Thai monks blocking ordination of women](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 8, 2007

*Theravada Buddhism in Sri Lanka has stepped forward. Tibetan Buddhism is ready to take the plunge. But our Thai Buddhist clergy still prefer to live in the Dark Ages when it comes to female ordination...*

# Chinese map vendors fined

August 8, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Chinese map vendors fined](#) – ASM, August 8, 2007

*...The Wuyi Road outlet of the discount chain Home Inn gave its guests maps that only showed one third of China, leaving out the vast western part of the country.*

*According to a hotel receptionist who declined to be identified, the maps simply show the part of China where Home Inn has hotels...*

# Trying to shoot arrows at the army

August 9, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Trying to shoot arrows at the army](#) – *Manager*, August 9, 2007

# Bangkok from a taxi window

August 9, 2007

Bangkok from a taxi window –

August 9, 2007

Steve writes: *I just finished a new Thailand web site, the [series of photographs from a Taxi window](#) might be interesting to your viewers.*

*There are many other interesting photographs, at least to me, on the [complete web site](#).*

# Thaksin feted at Man. City

August 9, 2007

Thaksin feted at Man. City –

August 9, 2007

Hamish points out this [YouTube video](#) of Thaksin being called onstage during a Manchester City sing along. At 2:50 in the video Thaksin comes on stage.



## Question: Traffic stats?

August 9, 2007

Question: Traffic stats? –

August 9, 2007

Nicola writes: *For my diploma in Architecture at the University of Kassel (Germany) I am designing three stations in Bangkok (Thailand), which combines the different mass rapid transit systems of metro, railway and skytrain with their specific locations. To determine the correct shape and size of the stations I would require information about pedestrian and vehicular traffic volumes, as well as their origin and destination.*

*In case you should have some information about traffic volumes in Bangkok or know a source that would provide such, I would very much appreciate your response...*

# Kapook dangerous?

August 9, 2007

[Welcome to My Kapook](#)  
[This site may harm your computer.](#)  
Welcome to My Kapook.  
[my.kapook.com/](#) - [Similar pages](#) - [Note this](#)

[Music Portal ดนตรีรวม เพลง และ ศิลปิน นักร้อง ให้คุณได้เลือก ฟัง ...](#)  
[This site may harm your computer.](#)  
รวมรวม เพลง ศิลปิน นักร้อง จากค่ายต่างๆ และยังมี mv music vdo ให้เลือกชม เลือก ฟังเพลง อีกเพียบ.  
[music.kapook.com/](#) - [Similar pages](#) - [Note this](#)

[www.kapook.com - เว็บแรกที่คุณเลือก](#)  
[This site may harm your computer.](#)  
ประกาศคณะปฏิรูปการปกครองในระบอบประชาธิปไตย อันมีพระมหากษัตริย์ เป็นประมุข ให้วันพื้งนึ่ง ซึ่งเป็นวันพื้งนึ่งที่ 21 กับ  
ให้ทบ่งงานราชการ รัฐวิสาหกิจ ...  
[hilight.kapook.com/](#) - [Similar pages](#) - [Note this](#)

Kapook dangerous? –

August 9, 2007

Google seems to think Thai website Kapook.com is harmful to visit...

# Foreign Business Act stopped

August 9, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Foreign Business Act stopped](#) – Bangkok Post, August 9, 2007

*... Diplomats have said the new law, which already tightened restrictions on new foreign investment by defining ownership in terms of voting rights instead of shareholding, would trigger a challenge at the World Trade Organisation.*

*Despite this, analysts say the government's draft left scope for foreigners to control the companies in which they invested by having a majority presence on the board — a loophole the last-minute addition was designed to close...*

# **Wanted Suckers! It's the boiler room calling...**

August 9, 2007

Categories: Scams

[Wanted Suckers! It's the boiler room calling...](#) – andrewchant.com, August 9, 2007

Great photos...

# Darlie toothpaste

August 9, 2007

Darlie toothpaste –

August 9, 2007

Hamish notes: *Thought the 2B readers might be interested in this [Wiki article about Darlie toothpaste](#). I had always wondered about the evolution of this particular brand identity.*

# Jenkins to speak in Bangkok on abductions

August 10, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News, North Korea

[Jenkins to speak in Bangkok on abductions](#) – *The Daily Yomiuri*, August 10, 2007

*Charles Jenkins, a U.S. Army deserter to North Korea and husband of Japanese abductee Hitomi Soga, is to speak at an international conference on the human rights situation in North Korea to be held in Bangkok on Sept. 17-18, it was learned Thursday.*

*He is set to tell the conference details about other abductees he knows personally...*

*A conference official said: "It seems that wishes to raise further questions in Thailand because a Thai national is suspected to have been abducted and a number of North Koreans have sought refuge in Thailand..."*

# **Thailand's Internal Security Bill – sweeping powers for the military with little accountability**

August 10, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand's Internal Security Bill – sweeping powers for the military with little accountability](#) – Amnesty International, August 10, 2007

*Amnesty International is concerned that the “Draft Act on the Maintenance of National Security in the Kingdom” (Draft Act), currently under review by Thailand's Council of State (the government's legal advisory body), would, if passed into law, violate international human rights standards and further jeopardise human rights in Thailand...*



# EU's Mandelson warns Thailand against drugs pricing programme

August 10, 2007

Categories: Drugs

[EU's Mandelson warns Thailand against drugs pricing programme – report](#) – *Forbes*, August 10, 2007

*...In a letter seen by the business daily, Mandelson wrote that Thailand 'may be taking a new approach to medicines,' adding that the country's military government 'stated that if drug companies wish to do business in Thailand, they should offer their drugs for no more than five percent above the generic cost...'*

# MP's 'despair' over Thai murder

August 10, 2007

Categories: Crime

[MP's 'despair' over Thai murder](#) – BBC News, August 10, 2007

*...Mr Williams, MP for Brecon and Radnorshire, said: "It's very interesting in the Madeleine case taking place in Portugal, that our police seem to be much more proactive than they've been allowed to be in Thailand.*

*"I'm not quite sure if that's because it is a EU country, but our police certainly haven't been allowed to take the initiative in Thailand.*

*"For instance, they've wanted more DNA checks on people living in the area in which Kirsty was murdered – that doesn't seem to have taken place..."*

# Thai police too macho for Hello Kitty armbands

August 10, 2007

[Thai police too macho for Hello Kitty armbands](#) –  
MSNBC, August 10, 2007

*...I always found it hard to imagine Thai policemen wearing Hello Kitty armbands as a mark of shame for wayward officers.*

*Evidently most policemen did too, because Thailand's top cops decided Friday to abandon the idea. It seems there was a rebellion in the macho ranks, as well as outrage on Hello Kitty Web sites...*

# Thai Rak Thai website is back

August 11, 2007

Thai Rak Thai website is back – August 11, 2007

The Thai Rak Thai website is [back](#) and includes a "why we do not want the constitution" campaign. [Here is the pdf.](#)

The banner at the top of their site reads: Vote "No" for the draft constitution 2007 –

Bring the 1997 constitution of people back –

Arrange the election in this year

# Insulting U.S. Ambassadors: The Nation apologizes

August 11, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Insulting the U.S. Ambassador: *The Nation* apologizes – August 11, 2007

*The Nation* printed an odd rant about the current and former U.S. ambassadors to Thailand. At the bottom of [this page](#): *Apology* –

*On August 6, we published a letter in the Letters to the Editor section titled, “US used the coup as an excuse to end talks”, which contained an unjustifiable and totally unfair characterisation of American Ambassador to Thailand Ralph Boyce and his predecessor, Darryl Norman Johnson. We apologise for the lapse in editorial oversight that allowed this inflammatory letter to run. Ambassador Boyce has always been recognised as a diplomat of the highest professional integrity and a great friend of Thailand.*

Here’s the offending letter originally on [this page](#): *US used the coup as an excuse to end talks*

*Re: “Americans stacking the deck led to collapse of Thai-US free-trade talks”, Letters, August 1.*

*Prathip Gidrangsi pointed out that the obnoxious behaviour of two corrupt American ambassadors to Thailand, Ralph Leo Boyce and Darryl Norman Johnson, scuttled the proposed US-Thai Free Trade Agreement. In a letter on August 3, “Thais the big losers in trade disputes with US”, Major Mark A Smith (Retired) of Bangkok took issue with Mr Prathip and defended Boyce and Johnson.*

*In a long letter, Smith tried to say that the Thais were wrong and the Americans were right and that Thailand had lost a great opportunity.*

*The idea behind banning advertising of alcohol and tobacco products is to protect youths. The Thais, in banning the advertising of alcohol and tobacco products, are following the example of many other countries and Boyce, in trying to get the local ban removed or reduced, was definitely going against the grain.*

*Thailand has at least one million people with Aids, close to 2 per cent or more of the population. Thailand’s decision to copy and distribute expensive American anti-Aids drugs on its own was a natural response to a national emergency. Johnson’s attempt to stop the Thais ran counter to sound health practice and disease control. Nobody demanded that the millions of tsunami victims pay for help before they received it.*

*The ouster of the tyrannical Thaksin Shinawatra in a coup last year did not inhibit the Japanese from signing a Thai-Japan FTA. Nor did it inhibit Thailand’s trade with China and India. Washington was embarrassed by the behaviour of Boyce and Johnson. The coup in Thailand offered Washington, which had very cosy dealings with Thaksin and was upset to see him go, an excuse to break off FTA talks.*

*I should point out that the US rushed to sign a nuclear accord with India recently, a country that never signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.*

*There was nothing reasonable in this and, indeed, no good explanation for this conduct has been offered. One really doesn't need one. Greed and corruption were the all too obvious motives.*

*Gen Amos T Halftrack*

*Bangkok*

# Few spectators at Bangkok's Universiade

August 11, 2007

Categories: Sports

[Few spectators at Bangkok's Universiade](#) –

Earthtimes.org, August 11, 2007

*...Thailand's Tourism and Sports deputy minister Nat Intrapana said that at some events only the athletes and security guards were present, with no spectators at all...*

# Huge fish from southern China

August 11, 2007

[Huge fish from southern China](#) –  
shanghaiist.com, August 11, 2007



# Mittraparp fire

August 12, 2007



(Photo: Noel Boivin)



(Photo: Noel Boivin)

Mittraparp fire –  
August 12, 2007

Noel reports on Mittraparp housing complex fire in Nong Bon sub-district: *Thirty-two homes, housing many more families, went up in the blaze. Officials are on site to accept donations of clothing, household items and money to help those left homeless by the fire.*



(Photo: Noel Boivin)

# Immerse yourself in the non-stop energy of busy, bustling Bangkok

August 12, 2007

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[Immerse yourself in the non-stop energy of busy, bustling Bangkok](#) – *Stars and Stripes*, August 12, 2007

*...They looked like women.*

*They had slender arms and curvy waists. They wore enough eyeliner and foundation to keep local drug stores profitable.*

*And yet, as they circled a pool table with two Western men, it was clear to my friend Eileen and I that they were — biologically, at least, born men.*

*“Do we tell them?” Eileen asked.*

*“Maybe the guys already know,” I said. “If they don’t know and we tell them, it might make things worse. Especially if they’re already on second dates.”*

*Spend enough time in notorious Bangkok locales like Patpong or Nana Plaza, and you’ll see a similar scene play out. It even happens in some of the more reputable bars and clubs.*

*But there’s more to Bangkok than cross-dressing, at least for most of us, I hope...*

# **Sugary profile of Thaksin in exile riles Thailand's junta**

August 14, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

[Sugary profile of Thaksin in exile riles Thailand's junta](#) – IHT, August 14, 2007

*A young Thai writer says she wheedled and wept until Thaksin granted her seven hours of interviews that revealed, among other things, a protracted struggle to find a decent haircut. Thailand's military rulers were not amused...*

# **“Say No to Coup d’etat, Reject the junta constitution”**

August 14, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics



(Photo: prachatai.com)

["Vote-No demonstration – Say No to Coup d’etat, Reject the junta constitution"](#) – prachatai.com, August 14, 2007



# **“Just vote NO”**

August 14, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

"Just vote NO" —

August 14, 2007

"Just vote NO" sticker on a police motorcycle (we blurred out the helmet number in case a passerby put the sticker on the motorcycle).

# Controversial picture replaced

August 14, 2007

Categories: Health, Local Beliefs

[Controversial picture replaced](#) – Bangkok Post, August 14, 2007

*...The committee has withdrawn the old picture, which showed a hand-held conch being used to pour water onto the hand of a dead person to imply that smoking can cause death.*

*In Thai tradition, a conch is normally used for auspicious ceremonies such as weddings, not funerals...*

# JBIC agrees to lend B5.76bn for Purple line

August 14, 2007

[JBIC agrees to lend B5.76bn for Purple line](#) – Bangkok Post, August 14, 2007

*...The three routes are expected to cost 160 billion baht in total, with 45 billion going to the Purple line; 59 billion for the Red line, which runs from Rangsit to Bang Sue and Bang Sue to Taling Chan; and 52.5 billion for the Blue line stretching from Bang Sue to Tha Phra and Bang Khae and Hua Lamphong to Tha Phra. ...The new light rail lines will be integrated with the current Bangkok subway and Bangkok Skytrain systems. Economists hope that work on the new lines, which are expected to take four years to complete, will help stimulate economic growth in 2008 and jump-start private investment in the property sector.*



# NESDB hopes to jump-start stalled Mor Chit mall project

August 14, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[NESDB hopes to jump-start stalled Mor Chit mall project](#) – Bangkok Post, August 14, 2007

*... The decision is the latest delay in the programme, which was first proposed in the mid-1990s as a new commercial, retail and transport hub for North Bangkok. Located on the site of the former Mor Chit bus terminal on Phahon Yothin Road, the development would cover 900,000 square metres.*

*Two floors of the site have been completed, one dedicated to a train depot for the Bangkok Skytrain and a second as a park-and-ride facility. Work on the third section, originally planned as a condominium, hotel and shopping mall complex, has stalled after the original contract was mired in corruption allegations and the contractor, Sun Estate, was hit with financial troubles during the 1997 economic crisis...*

**Earlier:** [Sun Estate's Mor Chit development](#)

# Anti-Bali sites

August 15, 2007

Anti-Bali sites –

August 15, 2007

Via [Friskodude](#): *There's been a long running dispute between Mark Austin and several people in Bali over issues almost beyond belief: ownership and manipulation of the tourism industry on the island, corruption within the Balinese police department, death threats, condo and villa conversions, and domination of the internet chat rooms related to life in Bali...*

And [Indcoup](#):

*Some nasty stuff in my inbox this morning.*

*But before you read it, you might wanna check out these two websites: [Nasty Bali](#) and [Fugly Bali](#)...*

# A Thai Temple in the Sea

August 15, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

A Thai Temple in the Sea –

August 15, 2007

Richard writes: *There are not many places near Bangkok left untouched by tourists and guidebooks. One of these places is Ban Khun Samut Chin on the Gulf of Thailand. Due to land erosion in this area, the sea has encroached on the land by more than one kilometre. Many households have moved their houses 3 or 4 times in the last twenty years. One group of people refusing to move are the five monks at Wat Khun Samut. Their temple is now surrounded by the sea at high tide. There are no roads in this area. You will have to go by boat and then walk the remaining two kilometres to this village. You will receive a warm welcome. During our recent visit, the village chief invited us in for a meal and then took our picture. Outsiders are still a novelty here. Full story with [pictures and videos](#). Locate this temple on the [map](#).*

# Concern mounts in Thailand over hazardous food from China

August 16, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Concern mounts in Thailand over hazardous food from China](#) – *Japan Today*, August 16, 2007

*Thailand's Public Health Ministry on Thursday disclosed a long list of hazardous food exported to the country from China, saying authorities have been making efforts to keep them away from markets...*

# 3,000 Pinoys teaching English in Thailand

August 16, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[3,000 Pinoys teaching English in Thailand](#) – *Philstar*, August 16, 2007

*...Thai teacher Chaiyot Saengthong told The STAR that Filipinos are among the best English teachers here. ...He said Filipino teachers are earning salaries ranging from 12,000 Baht (P17,000) to 30,000 Baht (P43,000) a month...*

# Preserving ancient Thai script

August 16, 2007

Categories: Culture and Society

[Preserving ancient Thai script](#) – VietNamNet Bridge, August 16, 2007

*Nghia Lo town in the northwestern mountainous province of Yen Bai has held a closing ceremony for the first training course on the preservation of ancient Thai script from the Muong Lo area, which drew the participation of 40 Thai ethnic people...*

# Thaksin not removed by coup?

August 17, 2007

Categories: 2006 Coup

Thaksin not removed by coup? – August 17, 2007

We have been watching the [History of Thai Prime Ministers](#) page for quite awhile. It was only today it was updated with the new PM–Surayud. Unlike Phya Manopakorn, Field Marshal Pibul, Seni, Tanin, and Chatichai,

who were removed by coup d’etat,

Thaksin apparently left office because of "2) State Administration Assembly – September 19, 2006."

# Latest from the UDD: “they moon the constitution!”

August 17, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

Latest from the UDD: "they moon the constitution!" – August 17, 1007

Via an email from the UDD: *This link [contain the pictures](#). So polite moon and today they claim that they will cut themselves and drop the blood on constitution.. lets see what they will do. [Check out the link also](#).*



# “Black herbal toothpaste”

August 18, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News



["Black herbal toothpaste"](#) –

August 18, 2007

[Noel](#) notes: *My pick for strangest Thai commercial*

Yes, this is one of the most surreal ever!

# The taxi experience

August 18, 2007

The taxi experience –

August 18, 2007

Brigitte writes: *I liked the link to the website showing the [pictures taken from a taxi window](#) a lot.*

*Maybe your readers are also interested in this video collage I made (on YouTube) – if they're able to access it, that is: [Bangkok Pop Collage](#) and I made a similar one about [Siem Reap](#).*

# Patipat's Wikipedia

August 18, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Patipat's Wikipedia](#) –

August 18, 2007

Interesting listing of articles by Patipat on Wikipedia...

# Panorama from Sky Baiyoke II

August 18, 2007

Panorama from Sky Baiyoke II –

August 18, 2007

Mike notes: *We make a new panorama from Sky Baiyoke II i Bangkok from August 12.*

*This panorama is not finished yet. This is only in 270° of 360°.*

*Here is a [small one](#) and the [big one](#) (5.7 MB).*

# One of the three tyrants

August 18, 2007

Categories: History



One of the three tyrants –

August 18, 2007

**Above:** Field Marshal [Prapas Charusathien](#), who, amazingly enough, does not have his own page on Wikipedia.

# Constitution Referendum Day

August 19, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics



Vote... – August 19, 2007

From a "How-to-vote" brochure distributed to buildings in Bangkok

Above:

First time for Thais

to cast their vote in referendum for the draft constitution

Vote to agree or disagree with the draft constitution

on August 19, 2007

From 8:00 am until 4:00 pm.

- Know how to vote
- Read through the draft constitution and decide if you agree with it
- Go to vote



**Above: Voting procedure**

1. Check your name
2. Show your identification card
3. Get a ballot
4. Mark an X
5. Drop your ballot into a box



YES

or

NO



[Why the draft charter should be rejected](#) – *The Nation*, August 17, 2007

[Why my conscience tells me to vote 'yes'](#) – *The Nation*, August 17, 2007





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

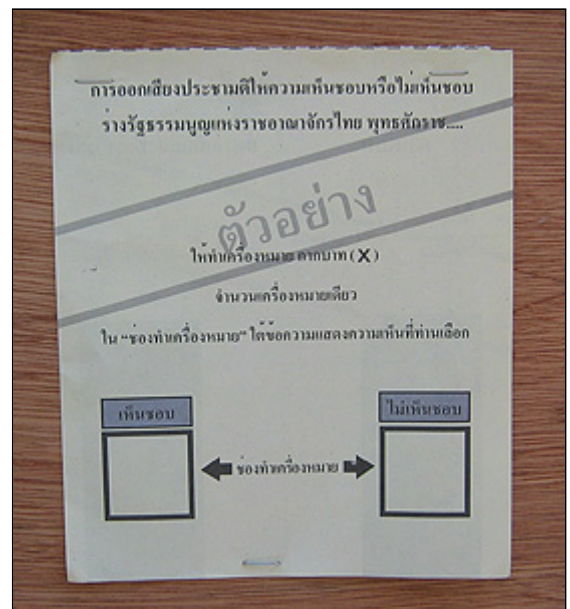
Scenes from Referendum Day – August 19, 2007

**Above:** Checking the voter lists on Suthisarn Road

**Right:** Sample ballot

[Latest posts on the 2Bangkok Forum](#)





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

**Above:** Graffiti on a sign publicizing the referendum  
**Below:** People line up to cast their votes on Thahan Road



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

# Tale of two newspapers: What Kosit said

August 19, 2007

Categories: A Tale of Two Newspapers

Tale of two newspapers: What Kosit said

[Choose without fears for the economy, Kosit urges](#) – *The Nation*, August 19, 2007

*Deputy Prime Minister and Industry Minister Kosit Panpiemras yesterday urged the public to vote on the charter today with a free conscience, as the referendum outcome would not derail the economy from its 4-per-cent growth path...*

[Kosit: Economy depends on referendum](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 19, 2007

*Economy will sustain growth of 4 and 5 per cent in 2007 and 2008 respectively if the draft constitution is approved during the national referendum on Sunday, paving the way for a general election, Kosit Panpiemras, deputy prime minister and industry minister said Saturday...*

# Beckham's Bangkok beautification

August 20, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Beckham's Bangkok beautification](#) – Gridskipper, August 20, 2007

*This David Beckham idol has adorned the Wat Pariwas shrine in Bangkok since 2000, but kindly blog Travelhappy supplies a few nice shots and a short video...*

# Newin Chidchop in Wikipedia

August 20, 2007

Newin Chidchop in Wikipedia –

August 20, 2007

Sometimes it is more fun to watch how out of date Wikipedia can become than it is to edit it. For instance, we have been watching the [Newin Chidchop](#) entry in Wikipedia where we learn he is "currently being detained by the military junta that overthrew the government of Thaksin Shinawatra in a 2006 coup."

# TRT website says goodbye

August 20, 2007

TRT website says goodbye –

August 20, 2007

While the main TRT webpage has gone blank, [an inside page](#) has a final message to followers ("Thank you for every moral support. The TRT party will be in the hearts of people forever.") along with a video touting the accomplishments of the part.



# **Police say the three LTTE suspects deported from Bangkok are not held incommunicado**

August 20, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Police say the three LTTE suspects deported from Bangkok are not held incommunicado](#) – Ministry of Defence, August 20, 2007

*The three LTTE suspects who were deported by Thai authorities to Colombo for possessing of illegal arms are not held incommunicado in Sri Lanka said Sri Lanka's Deputy inspector General of Police Jayantha Wickramaratne...*



# **A Statement by the Asian Human Rights Commission**

August 20, 2007

Categories: Human Rights

[A Statement by the Asian Human Rights Commission – THAILAND: A long road back to human rights and the rule of law](#) – August 20, 2007

**Also:** [On the forum](#)

# **Thailand's Muslim insurgency is spinning out of control**

August 20, 2007

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[Thailand's Muslim insurgency is spinning out of control](#) –

Newsweek, August 20-27, 2007

# Thai man dies wearing estranged wife's bras

August 21, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai man dies wearing estranged wife's bras](#) – EARTHtimes.org, August 21, 2007

*A 43-year-old Thai man was found dead wearing 15 bras and a mini-skirt belonging to his estranged wife, news reports said Wednesday. Jaran Khadphano was found dead Tuesday from a suspected heart attack at his home in Roi Et, 400 kilometres...*

# Biking in Bangkok: A matter of survival

August 21, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Biking in Bangkok: A matter of survival](#) – *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, August 21, 2007

*...Most of the Thai bikers interviewed favor a safety-free uniform of sandals, short pants and no helmets or gloves. With Bangkok traffic laws enforced with less authority than last call at Lindsay Lohan's crib, the scene on the streets is one of pure traffic anarchy, with motorcycles, buses, taxis and kamikaze pedestrians all moving as one...*

# **Local Radio Broadcasters issued with new regulations at City Hall Meeting**

August 22, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Local Radio Broadcasters issued with new regulations at City Hall Meeting](#) – *Pattaya City News*, August 22, 2007

## Look who's (rumored to be) dead now...

August 23, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Look who's (rumored to be) dead now...

[Khun Tongdaeng is alive and well : HM the King](#) – *The Nation*, August 23, 2007

*The King expressed surprises at a widespread rumour that Khun Tongdaeng, is dead...*

A thread on this on the forum: [Tongdaeng swimmingly well](#)

*...Thai Rath says American. The Nation reports that Matichon says African. Thai Rath says 5 years old. The Nation reports that Matichon says 9. Can't they even report HM's words correctly!*

# **Puffer fish sold as salmon kills 15**

August 23, 2007

[Puffer fish sold as salmon kills 15](#) –  
AP, August 23, 2007

# Second highway proposed to link Vietnam with Laos, Thailand

August 23, 2007

Categories: Highways and Roads

[Second highway proposed to link Vietnam with Laos, Thailand](#) – *Asia Pulse*, August 23, 2007

*A proposal to develop another trans-Asia highway linking central Vietnam with Laos and Thailand, officially called the Second East-West Economic Corridor (or EWEC-2), has been put forward by the central city of Da Nang...*



# Google launches Guardian hack, says Thai paper

August 23, 2007

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines

[Google launches Guardian hack, says Thai paper](#) – *Guardian Unlimited*, August 23, 2007

*...Reader Bruce emailed in this screengrab from the website of Thai newspaper The Nation: rather than running this story on the launch of Google Sky, it seems to be suggesting that I'm in fact one of Google's latest products...*

# Phone cards celebrating *Daily News*' 30th anniversary in 1993

August 24, 2007

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



*Daily News* –

August 24, 2007

Phone cards celebrating *Daily News*' 30th anniversary in 1993

# Thaksin Skeptic: Supporting Manchester City, Democracy and Human Rights

August 24, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Blog – ["Thaksin Skeptic: Supporting Manchester City, Democracy and Human Rights"](#) –  
August 24, 2007

# New Gas Pipeline to Thailand Stalled in Talks

August 24, 2007

Categories: Energy

[New Gas Pipeline to Thailand Stalled in Talks](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, August 24, 2007

*The Thailand and Burmese governments are working to complete a new pipeline project to take natural gas from the Gulf of Martaban to Rangoon, but the route is still not agreed upon...*

# **Thailand to proceed with compulsory licensing of life-saving medicine**

August 24, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand to proceed with compulsory licensing of life-saving medicine](#) – TNA, August 24, 2007

# Anantara Golden Triangle Trumpets 2008 Elephant Polo

August 25, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Anantara Golden Triangle Trumpets 2008 Elephant Polo](#) –

August 25, 2007

Thanks to Don for pointing this out: *The King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament has been moved from the first week in September to early next year, March 31 to April 6... It seems that the tournament has been moved back to avoid the heavy rains that are prevalent in the North this time of year. March to April is the height of our dry hot season, not a drop of rain in sight usually. During last year's tourney, in September, it poured a couple of days and soaked the pitch thoroughly. That did cause some problems. There was talk last year of moving the tourney to March and April, but when those months passed THIS year, we thought they had decided against it. My team is a bit disappointed that we must wait a few more months to indulge, as we won't be playing in the exhibition or celebrity matches on September 21 here in Bangkok at the official kick-off for the tournament. We do think it's a little bizarre to have a kick-off this far in advance of the tourney, but hey, this is Thailand. And this will work out rather well for me personally, because I'm doing a 10-day elephant-handling course next May, so that entire period will be some great elephant time for me.*

# Americans question new Business Act

August 25, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Americans question new Business Act](#) – Bangkok Post, August 25, 2007

[Farewell to the subcontract technique for foreign entities](#) – Bangkok Post, August 28, 2007

*The atmosphere is deteriorating for foreign enterprises doing business in Thailand. Developments that have sapped confidence include the 30% reserve requirement imposed by the Bank of Thailand in December to maintain baht stability, controversy over the amendment of the Foreign Business Act to eliminate the use of nominees, and the shocking attempt by the National Legislative Assembly to adopt a harsher approach by including economic interest and foreign management control to test foreign ownership. Thankfully, the draft has been withdrawn temporarily. In any case, it is getting more difficult for foreign entities to survive when it comes to tax...*

*Just recently, the Revenue Department set a guideline stating that, where a foreign contractor subcontracted work that it undertook from a customer in Thailand, even though it did not carry out any activity in Thailand by itself, it was deemed to carry on the business in Thailand if the activities of the subcontractor took place in Thailand. As a result, the foreign contractor in such a situation was obliged to pay corporate income tax...*

# Evening rainstorm

August 26, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Evening rainstorm –  
4:33pm, August 26, 2007



# **“Thai Massage” Parlours Offer Sex**

August 26, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[“Thai Massage” Parlours Offer Sex](#) – YLE News, August 26, 2007

*...Thai massage parlours began to appear in Helsinki in the early 1990's. There are now dozens of them in the city, and the phenomena has spread around the country.*

# PM Samak spits venom as Thaksin's nominee

August 26, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

[Sidelines: Samak spits venom as Thaksin's nominee](#) – *The Nation*, August 26, 2007

*...Samak wasted no time and left no doubt in peoples' minds when he declared that he would serve as a "political nominee" for Thaksin Shinawatra, now seeking exile in London and branded a fugitive criminal with at least two arrest warrants issued by the Criminal Court.*

*Samak in politics is everything but harmonious and courteous. His mouth serves as his most fearsome weapon, though at times self-destructive – as seen from the decline and eventual demise of his Prachakorn Thai Party...*

# Prem's birthday

August 26, 2007

Prem's birthday –  
August 26, 2007

Sunday is Prem Tinsulanonda's 87th birthday... [Prem's homepage](#) – [Prem on Wikipedia](#) – [Prem posters in the south](#) – Prem's residence at [Si Sao Teves](#)

# **Burmese citizen-reporters create direct link to international media**

August 27, 2007

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Burmese citizen-reporters create direct link to international media](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, August 27, 2007

*Photographs, video clips and firsthand news reports about the recent protest demonstrations against the Burmese government's fuel prices increases appeared in some international media on the same day...*

# Keith Floyd in Thailand collapse

August 27, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Keith Floyd in Thailand collapse](#) – *The Sun*, August 27, 2007

Boozy celebrity chef Keith Floyd was rushed to hospital in Thailand after collapsing in his restaurant. The TV cook, 63, was holding a glass...

# Evolving headline

August 27, 2007

Evolving headline –

August 27, 2007

We like how this *Nation* headline was slowly edited over time...

1. [More than 100 robust men destroy a Bangkok market](#)
2. [More than 100 men ravages a Bangkok market](#)
3. [100 men go on rampage at RCA market](#)

# In Thai cultural battle, name-calling is encouraged

August 28, 2007

Categories: Local Beliefs

[In Thai cultural battle, name-calling is encouraged](#) – *New York Times*, August 28, 2007

*...With help from language experts at the Royal Institute, the official arbiter of the Thai language, Mr. Vira plans to produce by the end of the year a collection of thousands of old-fashioned nicknames, listed by such wholesome categories as colors, animals and fruit and including simple favorites like Yaay (big), Ouan (fat) and Dam (black).*

*Published in a small booklet, the names will be distributed to the news media and libraries, and posted on the Internet...*

# **Nation Tower on the block – Non-core assets will be sacrificed**

August 28, 2007

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines

[Nation Tower on the block – Non-core assets will be sacrificed](#) – *The Nation*, August 28, 2007



# **Media Debt-Ridden Firm – Nation group to sell B1.6bn in non-core assets**

August 28, 2007

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines

[MEDIA DEBT-RIDDEN FIRM – Nation group to sell B1.6bn in non-core assets](#) – Bangkok Post , August 28, 2007

*Nation Multimedia Group Plc, the publisher of The Nation and Krungthep Turakij daily newspapers, expects to sell its non-core assets worth 1.6 billion baht in a bid to lower financial burdens and improve its balance sheet. Thanachai Santichaikul, the company's vice-chairman, said non-core assets up for sale included the 40-storey Nation Tower on Bang Na-Trat Highway Km 4.5, 30 rai of land next to the printing house on Bang Na-Trat Km 29, and some pieces of land in Chiang Mai, Hat Yai and Khon Kaen...*

## Abhisit's website

August 29, 2007



[Abhisit's website](#) –  
August 29, 2007

## Passing reference

August 29, 2007

Passing reference –

August 29, 2007

Thanks to DE for pointing out this passing reference to Thailand in Ebert's review of [2 Days in Paris](#): *She runs into old boyfriends so often it makes Paris seem like a small town, and attacks one of them, in a restaurant, for taking a sex vacation to Thailand.*

# Foreign media watch Thailand's politics

August 29, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

Foreign media watch Thailand's politics – translated and summarized from *Phujatkarn*, Chaisiri Samutwanich, August 29, 2007

The author points out the foreign media's analysis of Thailand's politics published in a column by journalist Seth Mydans in the *Herald Tribune*. Mydans comments that Thailand's 2007 constitution will weaken democracy as it is a military-backed constitution, aiming to eradicate the old power group of ousted PM Thaksin Shinawatra, adding the constitution will slow down the democratic progress.

# No kidding: they actually ‘own’ political parties here

August 30, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

[No kidding: they actually ‘own’ political parties here](#) – *The Nation*, August 30, 2007

*...It's the party's "owner" who counts. The party's leader will only be a figurehead – an "image booster" perhaps, but he won't have a say in anything that's of any significance...*

# **Culture Minister to promote Thainess as suggested by His Majesty**

August 30, 2007

Categories: Local Beliefs

Culture Minister to promote Thainess as suggested by His Majesty – translated and summarized from *Phujatkan*, August 30, 2007

Culture Minister Khunying Khaisri Sriaroon said the ministry would carry out His Majesty the King's suggestion to promote better usage of the Thai language. The ministry will collaborate with other ministries, including the Education and Foreign Affairs ministries, in a campaign to promote the Thai language, clothing and lifestyle among both Thai people inside and outside the country. The minister admitted the campaign might be difficult as Thailand is an open country. Khunying Khaisri said the ministry will also encourage Thais, including those in the three southernmost provinces, to go to religious places to uplift their souls.

# A doubt on democracy

August 30, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

A doubt on democracy – translated and summarized from an editorial in *Matichon*, August 30, 2007

The author states that there are now many political conflicts between the old power group's People Power's Party led by Samak Sundaravej and the election commission. This is leading to a doubt about the progress of democracy of the nation. The author is concerned over the role of the election committee, specifically formed to support democracy, but that it now lacks clarity about its activities and standpoint. He points out that the current conflicts between each power group will lead to more vote-buying activities in the upcoming general election, eliminating the democracy for the people.