Police warning

November 2, 2007 Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Police warning – November 2, 2007 The police billboard reads: Drink and drive, and get arrested

Thai heroin dealers plead guilty

November 2, 2007 Categories: Drugs

Thai heroin dealers plead guilty - Munster Times, November 2, 2007

...A street-level drug bust in East Chicago led to guilty pleas from a Thai couple who admitted to operating an international heroin smuggling ring out of a maximum-security prison in Bangkok.

Chief Judge Robert Miller Jr. accepted the guilty pleas in South Bend federal court Wednesday of Suwannee Spriprasarn and Pasit Bencharit, who claimed they were working with an Australian man — also in the Thai prison — to ship large packages of heroin to the United States ...

Underground Cable Plan

November 3, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Sensible project - translated and summarized from Komchadluek, November 3, 2007

The Cabinet has approved a plan by the Metropolitan Electricity Authority (MEA) to spend over 70 billion baht on a project to place all its Bangkok electricity trunk cables underground. The project's objectives include making the city more livable, and allowing more space for trees to grow on roadsides. It is hoped that this latter objective will also contribute to the easing of global warming, and reduce the city's air pollution.

Many consider the MEA project to be a highly sensible one, in spite of the very large amount of money involved. The project will hopefully also have a beneficial effect on Bangkok's tourist industry – which is one of the most important in the region.

Bangkok currently has less vegetation than other cities of approximately the same size.

It is quite surprising that the government has made such a rapid and definite decision on this project, as it is generally perceived to have been very slow in making decisions on other large projects.

It is imperative, however, that the project is run in a systematic and non-corrupt manner.

Coke Side of Life

November 3, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Coke Side of Life – November 3, 2007

Series of Coke cans with Thai art...

Left: Bangkok by Pattreeda Prasarnthong
Middle: Southern Thailand by Asadawut Luangsuntorn
Right: Northern Thailand by Doytibet Duchanee

And somewhere deep within the Flash site:

Our response to the rumor about counterfeit products:

We have recently learned of a false rumor, circulating by email via the Internet, about a supposed employee of ThaiNamthip, part of Coca-Cola System in Thailand talking about incidents of counterfeit products in the market.

These Internet rumors have no basis in fact and the name of the supposed ThaiNamthip employee referenced in the Internet posting is entirely made up and not real.

Our priority, as always, is consumer safety and we maintain the highest international quality standards in our manufacturing processes of our beverages.

Our name and trademarks were used in this instance without permission and we are currently investigating the situation. In the meantime, if consumers have any concerns they are welcome to contact our Consumer Information Center at 02 955 0888 or at a toll free number 1800 2 95555.

Siam at home: Then and Now

November 3, 2007 Categories: History



How things have changed—for some: Siam at home **Above:** From an undated postcard; "At home, Siam"

Below: "A perfect living among perfect neighbours" Heaven on earth at 150 Million plus an ultimate dreamed car...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

New Teak logs unearthed behind Pongpajjamit Fort

Categories: History



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

New Teak logs unearthed behind Pongpajjamit Fort – November 5, 2007

Fortress find stops work – The Nation, October 30, 2007
Work on the new Khlong San District Office in Bangkok has been halted because a historically valuable fortress built in the reign of King Rama IV has been found at the site.
...Excavation for the new district office building uncovered 98 ancient logs, prompting the Khlong San District Office to suspend construction work and

alert the Fine Arts Department...

GoogleEarth Placemark

And on ThaiRath



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Construction site with piles of teak logs on the left and right.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Flower wreaths left on the ancient logs



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Swastika building

November 5, 2007

Swastika building – Reportage Thailand, November 5, 2007

Thai farmers cash in on rodents

November 5, 2007 Categories: Uncategorized

Thai farmers cash in on rodents - Reuters India, November 5, 2007

...Thailand is the world's biggest rice exporter and roasted bandicoot rat has become a popular delicacy at roadside stalls despite costing twice as much as pork or chicken...

Let him guide you: Renowned Astrologer Pt. Ashok Vasudeva visits Bangkok

November 5, 2007 Categories: Local Beliefs

<u>Let him guide you: Renowned Astrologer Pt. Ashok Vasudeva visits Bangkok</u> – *Thaindian*, November 5, 2007

...He is a consulting astrologer to many Industrial Houses related to Automobile, Watches, Consumer products, Garments, Real Estate, Finance etc. Corporate Astrology, which he professes to these industrial tycoons, is an absolutely innovative concept in Astrology with amazing success. He firmly believes in Astrology as a guiding science not as a predictive science...

Siam's bond with Japan

November 6, 2007

Siam's bond with Japan - The Nation, November 6, 2007

Thai transgender beauty pageant contestants raise environmental awareness

November 7, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

<u>Thai transgender beauty pageant contestants raise environmental awareness</u> – AP Writer, November 7, 2007

Governor of Bangkok visits the Beatles Story

November 7, 2007 Categories: Music

<u>Governor of Bangkok visits the Beatles Story</u> – Beatles Museum, November, 2007

Defense and Security 2007

November 8, 2007 Categories: Thai Military



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Actas towable sonar unit

Visiting "Defense and Security 2007" in Bangkok – November 8, 2007 Photos from a visit to Bangkok's <u>Defense and Security 2007</u>



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Thai-designed anti-personnel mine sweeper to be mounted on the front of a Humvee



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Booth babe at LNM, a Thai company making puncture-proof material for tires



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: India's Brahmos cruise missile



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Examples of deployment of the Brahmos cruise missile



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Colorful ordinance from Malaysia



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Israel's "Iron Fist" weapons systems



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: MBDA missile technology from Europe



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Gen. Winai Phattiyakul, Permanent Minister for Defense, gets an explanation of Chinese-built destroyers.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Thai Ministry of Defence pavilion



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Thai-built ordinance



Above: Pratt and Whitney booth



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Polish barded-wire supplier



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Israel's "Red Sky-2 " weapons system



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com) **Above:** Rocket system from Israel



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Russian pavilion banner



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Ukrainian arms export company



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com) **Above:** Schiebel's UAV helicopter



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Thai "Stealth Mine"



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Samsung's target acquisition device



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Thai-made bomb disposal robot



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Thai-made UAV

Bangkok Plastic Surgery Clinic introduces buttock enlargement service

November 8, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Bangkok Plastic Surgery Clinic introduces buttock enlargement service – PR Web, November, 2007

...This service is relatively new in Thailand as full hips were not so popular before. However, ever since the Latino craze swept the entertainment world, the ideal body image has shifted to fuller, curvier looks as opposed to stick-thin ones...

Bangkok hospital targets Myanmar for int'l emergency helicopter service

November 8, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Bangkok hospital targets Myanmar for int'l emergency helicopter service – Myanmar Times, November, 2007
...the helicopter will leave Bangkok to retrieve the patient within 30 minutes of receiving the phone call. Flying charges for the service will be B120,000 an hour.
...He said more than 4000 patients from Myanmar have visited Bangkok Hospital since the start of 2007...

Power is a two-edged sword

November 8, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Power is a two-edged sword - translated and summarized from Thai Rath, November 8, 2007

It is clear that the post-coup government is trying to encourage the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) to approve the new Internal Security Act (ISA) within the remainder of its tenure. The new ISA passed its first reading in the NLA yesterday. The government has frequently affirmed that the new act will actually be less detrimental to the freedoms of the general public than the existing ISA.

Despite such assurances, some NLA members, human rights organizations, academics and members of the press corps perceive the new ISA as quite dangerous – as they believe it will provide the government with 'sweeping' powers. The Dean of the Faculty of Law at Thammasart University, Prof. Dr. Somkid Lertpaitoon, has opined that the act will destroy both public freedom and the judicial system. Somkid has also said that that the act poses a greater danger to public freedom than anything that happening during the Thaksin regime, as no checks and balances have been built into the legislation to curb the abuse of power. Many organizations have been strongly expressing their disapproval of the new ISA for months, but the government has consistently averred that it will definitely implement the act. It seems that the only way to stop the act's implementation is to find 25 NLA members who are willing to submit the issue to the Constitutional Court for a decision on whether it violates the Constitution.

HM The King leaves the hospital

November 9, 2007



Above: His Majesty back home; People shout "Long Live The King" – Komchadluek, November 9, 2007

HM The King leaves the hospital



Above: People cry Long Live The King and shed tears of joy – *Daily News*, November 9, 2007



Above: People shed tears of joy as the King recovers - Daily News, November 8, 2007

As Olympic Games approach, Chinese are urged to be 'civilized'

November 9, 2007
Categories: China

As Olympic Games approach, Chinese are urged to be 'civilized' – IHT, November 9, 2007

Chinese people are being urged to be "civilized," that being a word plucked directly from many of the slogans and banners. China's nanny state implores them to stop spitting, to form lines, to respect traffic signals when crossing the street, and on and on...

Leadership

November 10, 2007

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Leadership – November 10, 2007 At the top: Drinking and driving is dangerous and illegal. Slogan at right: A man's attractiveness is his leadership quality.

Stop ruining the kingdom

November 10, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Stop ruining the kingdom – November 10, 2007 This billboard near Klong Toei reads: Royal Thai Police – Stop selling drugs, stop ruining the Kingdom. Inform us of drug trading at 1688, or 0-2251-8556-7 for information about drug trafficking movements.

Malaysians hold huge rally for free elections

November 10, 2007

Malaysians hold huge rally for free elections – DPA, November 10, 2007

Malaysian police on Saturday fired tear gas and water cannons to disperse tens of thousands of demonstrators who gathered in the capital city of Kuala Lumpur to rally for fair elections in the country's largest anti-government protest in almost 10 years.

...Police say the gathering and march were illegal, as the organizers failed to get a permit which is required in Malaysia for any public gathering involving more than five people...

It's time to study MP candidates

November 10, 2007

It's time to study MP candidates – translated and summarized from Komchadluek, November 10, 2007

The upcoming election is a big gamble for 'old power' politicians, as they struggle against opposition from other political parties to bring about the return of former Thai Ruk Thai Party chief -Thaksin Shinawatra – from abroad. The Palang Prachachon Party (PPP) (AKA the People Power Party) has brought together many Thaksin loyalists, and they expect to gain enough votes – in the upcoming election – to set up a single-party government.

PPP's ability to achieve this aspiration will depend heavily on public sympathies, come election time. Their fortunes may especially hinge on votes cast by those city people who normally try to ignore elections.

City folk – with their high levels of education and income – would be well-advised to adjust their outlook on the electoral process, and start using their voting rights to prevent 'mean-hearted' people from becoming members of parliament (MPs).

Singha plunges into cheap-beer market

November 10, 2007 Categories: Food and Drink

Singha plunges into cheap-beer market - The Nation, November 10, 2007

...It goes on sale tomorrow and will cost Bt100 for three bottles. This is still more than its main competitor, Archa, from Thai Beverage. Archa has been selling for three years and costs Bt100 for five bottles. It is heavily promoted...

Sperm bank in Thailand hands out free samples

November 11, 2007 Categories: Humor

Sperm bank in Thailand hands out free samples – The Onion, November, 2007

NESDB, ADB cooperate to develop industry in south

November 11, 2007 Categories: The Thai Deep South

NESDB, ADB cooperate to develop industry in south - TNA, November 11, 2007

Thailand opens first walkway for disabled

November 11, 2007

<u>Thailand opens first walkway for disabled</u> – TNA, November 11, 2007

Police arrest man over 10 murders – Security guards sleeping on the job led to killing spree

Categories: Crime

Police arrest man over 10 murders — Security guards sleeping on the job led to killing spree — Bangkok Post, November 11, 2007 ... The 30-year-old, who had worked as a security guard for slightly more than one year, decided to punish other security guards after his attempts to wake them failed.
"I used to wake them up, but they scolded me. So I've remained enraged since then," said Mr Witaya.

This kind of story is perfect for "Weird News" filler in the foreign press-along with a humorous headline: Workplace etiquette: Don't kill your sleeping coworkers with chunks of wood

^{...}If Mr Witaya is found to have a mental illness, his punishment will be reduced...

Thai Social Etiquette

November 12, 2007

Categories: Culture and Society



(Source: Illustration by Ohm Rachawej, Thai Social Etiquette)



Book: Thai Social Etiquette

By Mrs. Pensri Kiengsiri, Mrs. Sudchit Bhinyoying and

Assoc. Prof. Malithat Promathatavedi, Editor: Prof. Khunying Maenmas Chavalit,

Cartoonist: Ohm Rachawej

(Source: Thai Social Etiquette)

This Ministry of Culture publication is actually quite charming...

It is odd to read in English, because the information is clearly meant as advice for an etiquette-challenged Thai person. Overall the advice is not about the way things are, but an exhortation to be mindful of how things should be.

Most of the points made are commonsense, some are odd or downright weird, and many are opposite to common Thai behavior, such as:

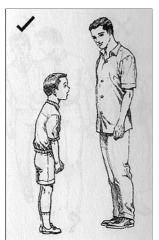
- * We should have a serving spoon in every common dish from which everyone may take another portion after the first serving.
- * Unless it is necessary, avoid the use of a toothpick.

Chang Noi's witheringly critical article, <u>Cultural bureaucracy means bureaucratic culture</u> (*The Nation*, November 12, 2007) seems to interpret the book as pernicious meddling by the Culture Ministry instead of what it probably is—idealized nostalgia inexplicably packaged as "advice for farangs."

...In the shopping mall, bus, or Skytrain, the visitor would be forced to conclude that almost none of the people were Thai since they did not seem to walk, talk, sit, or dress in the prescribed manner...



(Source: Illustration by Ohm Rachawej, *Thai* Social Etiquette)



Left: Ohm Rachawej's illustration of "How to stand" – We should stand in a straight position. However, when speaking to an older or a respected person, we should bend forward a little to show respect.

(Source: Illustration by Ohm Rachawej, *Thai Social Etiquette*)



(Source: Illustration by Ohm Rachawej, *Thai Social Etiquette*)

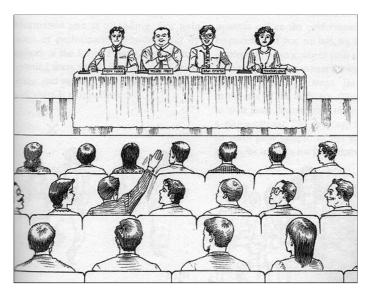
Left: The following is not acceptable especially if done in the presence of people older than you or your superiors at work, or in society.

Standing with legs apart, with hands in pockets, with arms folded across the chest, with hands on hips, with hands together at the back, in a leaning position, blocking someone from something he needs to see, blocking a passageway and towering over an older person who is sitting.

Right: Refrain from holding hands in public as it may have undesirable implication.



(Source: Illustration by Ohm Rachawej, *Thai* Social Etiquette)



(Source: Illustration by Ohm Rachawej, Thai Social Etiquette)

Above: A seminar or meeting is not a lecture class where you attend only to be informed. There must be an exchange of ideas, knowledge and experiences, questions and answers to clarify the issues concerned, in order to make the whole session worthwhile. Keep your shyness to yourself and try to contribute and demonstrate your ability as much as possible.

More interesting tidbits

- * You should not speak about something dirty or draw up a vision that is not pretty, such as talk about worms in a garbage, someone being sick and throwing up, the condition of someone down with diarrhea or constipation. You should also train yourself and your children not to have to visit the rest room directly before or after eating.
- * Do not wrestle with a tough piece of food trying to cut it into two smaller pieces till it shoots across the room or the table.
- * For a night banquet, candles on the table can look romantic and festive.
- * Do not spoil the atmosphere by chiding your inferiors in front of your guests.
- * Walk in a natural, relaxed manner, taking steps that are neither too long nor too short.
- * He does not show that he is well acquainted with someone by calling that person by his father's name. This is greatly impolite and yet some people do it.
- * He does not ask personal questions such as: How is your ex-wife/husband now? How much do you weigh? How old are you? How much is your salary?
- * Do not scratch here and scratch there.

Always introduce a man to a woman, a younger person to an older person, a lesser-in-rank to a superior-in-rank, etc. The lesser one will do the wai first and the superior one will give him a wai in return.

An alien from Thailand

November 12, 2007

An alien from Thailand – Funtasticus, November 12, 2007

The Hard Hat Show – Riding Line 5: Beijing's New Subway

November 12, 2007 Categories: China

<u>The Hard Hat Show – Riding Line 5: Beijing's New Subway</u> – YouTube, November 12, 2007

Authorities apprehend two men attempting to set fire to the Democracy Monument

November 12, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Authorities apprehend two men attempting to set fire to the Democracy Monument - PRD News, November 12, 2007

...Police Station authorities apprehended the two men along with 6 gallons of thinner fluid, 2 gallons of gasoline, 50 square slices of tire rubber and 20 candles as well as pamphlets opposing the election and the constitution...

Thailand's 'human zoos'

November 12, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

<u>Thailand's 'human zoos'</u> – *Times Online*, November, 2007

...Yet conditions in the villages are "worse than prison", the women say. "Our men are forbidden to seek work, we cannot grow our own food and if we try to leave, we are beaten," says Mun Mun, who lives in the village of Nai Soi. "We have no privacy. We are like animals in a zoo."

Officials who run the villages deny that the women are exploited and say they are free to leave. But six who recently tried to flee were allegedly kidnapped and returned to work in the tourist village...

The maturity of the candidates for the prime ministerial position

November 12, 2007 Categories: Thai Politics

The maturity of the candidates for the prime ministerial position – translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*, November 12, 2007
At present, many parliamentary candidates are fighting hard to get a healthy share of the votes in the December 23 General Election. There are – however – some candidates who wish to garner as many votes as possible from people, but who conduct themselves in an improper manner. An infamous example of such behavior is Samak Sundaravej, the leader of Palang Prachachon Party (PPP). Khun Samak has taken to talking to journalists in an impolite manner, and it is often said that he is a complete anathema to the media corps. Indeed, his actions and his words seem to reflect negatively on both his level of maturity and the integrity of his political views. He has also scolded – with rude words – those TV stations that have reported his conduct to the general public.

It's time for the government to initiate a welfare strategy to defeat populism

November 13, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

It's time for the government to initiate a welfare strategy to defeat populism – translated and summarized from *Krungtep Turakit*, November 13, 2007 This year's discussion at the annual conference of the Thailand Development Research Institute, held November 10-11, tended to indicate that it is time for the Thai government to initiate a definite strategy to improve the welfare of its general public.

Such a strategy would help improve the lives of ordinary Thai people, and allow them to live sustainable lives – with fewer living in poverty. This strategy would also help to rid the country of the strong populist strain that has wracked it in recent years. Greater government welfare provision would involve improving the lot of ordinary citizens, helping the underprivileged and easing poverty. The government would thus be required to exercise much greater responsibility for the care of its citizens, from cradle to grave. Any government – that undertook to create such a welfare system – would also find it necessary to systematically guarantee the fundamental rights of its citizens. Such a government would also be duty bound to help ordinary Thai people face their various social problems.

The golden years of Thai 'populism' were during the Thaksin regime. The Thaksin government used a populist strategy for its own political ends, rather than to

The golden years of That 'populism' were during the Thaksin regime. The Thaksin government used a populist strategy for its own political ends, rather than to actually help the poor in any real sense. It provided poor people with loans that vastly increased their indebtedness. Populist policies could only solve the problems of poverty in the short term, and these policies have since also created a great deal of trouble for the country's financial system.

Bad weather mars Thai king's Everest gift

November 13, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Bad weather mars Thai king's Everest gift - IANS, November 13, 2007

Inclement weather marred Thailand's ambitious plan to give a remarkable gift to its king on his 80th birthday – the first Thai Everest Expedition has been forced to abandon the attempt to climb Mt Everest...

Thai politicians swear to Buddha: no vote-buying

November 14, 2007 Categories: Buddhism, Thai Politics

<u>Thai politicians swear to Buddha: no vote-buying</u> – *TODAYonline*, November 14, 2007

Yellow shirts

November 14, 2007



Yellow shirts – November 14, 2007 THe entry page on the <u>AsiaSoft website</u> shows video game characters in yellow attire to honor the King.

World Bank urges next Thai government to rebuild, clarify policies

November 15, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

World Bank urges next Thai government to rebuild, clarify policies – TNA, November 15, 2007

The World Bank has called on the new Thai government to be formed after the December elections — probably in February — to take assertive steps to clarify state policies to quickly restore the country's waning investor confidence and to move ahead quickly with already planned mega-investment projects to stimulate the sagging economy...

Unity Billboard

November 15, 2007

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Unity – November 15, 2007 It reads: Unity has never made Thai people in discord. Time changes, the society changes. Yet, Thais' love for the Kingdom remains. Let's unite for the King.

From Pattaya City News

November 15, 2007

From Pattaya City News - November 15, 2007

We investigate the Elephant Tree in Sattahip

A unique way to stop stray dogs using the front of your house as a toilet

...It appears this works because the animals approach the bottles and sees a reflection of, what they think is another dog, which causes them to leave the area. However, the villagers have another problem, because street workers who collect these plastic recyclable items are stealing the bottles on a daily basis and villagers are running out of the empty containers. So, if you are having a similar problem and don't care about surrounding your house with plastic containers, try this proven method for yourself.

Bangkok airport: Who can identify this security officer?

November 15, 2007 Categories: Airports and Airlines

Bangkok airport: Who can identify this security officer? – Mathaba, November 15, 2007 Thanks to Anthony for pointing this out.

Thailand 'loosing investor appeal'

November 15, 2007

<u>Thailand 'loosing investor appeal'</u> – Asia Property Report, November 15, 2007

Opening ceremony for Outer Ring Road Bridge

November 15, 2007 Categories: Uncategorized



(Photo: Jerry)

Opening ceremony for Outer Ring Road Bridge – November 15, 2007 Jerry writes: *This is a far-away shot at 10:20 this morning–1 minute after opening.*

Bhikku Sandan Ka

November 16, 2007



(Anupong Chanthorn's Bhikku Sandan Ka)

Bhikku Sandan Ka - November 16, 2007

Left: Anupong Chanthorn's award-winning and controversial *Bhikku Sandan Ka* (Monks With Traits of a Crow)

On the forum

Sapan Han

November 17, 2007



Sapan Han – November 17, 2007

Last week we asked: Do any readers know where this was located? And when was it demolished?

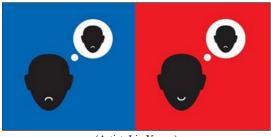
Wisarut notes: That's good old Saphan Han Bridge ... across city Moat near Wang Boorapha.

Paul notes: Hi, Just started reading your site this week, never knew of it's existence before. Very impressed. The bridge is a Paharut but called Saphan Hun not Hung, the old postcard got it wrong. Here's a few sites that mention it. Here, here, and here.

hdamm mentioned on the forum: "Saphan Han was on Sampheng Lane where it crossed Khlong Ong Ang east of Pahurat Rd. The name (Saphan means bridge and Han a pivotal point) referred to a small boardwalk that could be turned to let boats pass... In the 1950s the shops were removed and it became the quite unimpressive bridge that you can see today."

CultureEast vs West

November 17, 2007



(Artist: Liu Young)

Left: Anger (Blue = West, Red = East)

<u>Culture – East vs West</u> – funenclave, November 17, 2007 Thanks to Graham for pointing this out.

No vending in the street

November 17, 2007

No vending in the street – November 17, 2007 It reads: Buyer – seller – Illegal – If buy or sell on the street

These signs were put up to combat the rampant vending around Nakhon Sawan Road.

About the Gay Pride parade

November 17, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

About
the Gay Pride parade
On November 17 at 5pm,
Silom Road will witness
the annual Gay Pride Parade.
This parade always results
in lots of coverage around
the world. 2B has been
told by several journalists
that much of the coverage
of the parade is done
by reporters who do not
even attend the event.
This is because generic
descriptions of the parade
are a perfect lead-in
to breezy ruminations
on Thais' easy-going attitudes
to sex. These types of

articles are a staple of Weird News columns and bring lots of hits to newspaper websites.

Thailand steals a march as India dithers on rice policy

November 18, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

<u>Thailand steals a march as India dithers on rice policy</u> – *Economic Times*, November 18, 2007

Guess who laughed all the way to the bank while India dithered and tripped for lack of a long-term policy on rice? Thailand, that's who...

Thaksin's cronies perfecting the art of gutter politics

November 18, 2007 Categories: Thai Politics

Thaksin's cronies perfecting the art of gutter politics - The Nation, November 18, 2007

...The peak of this occurred under Thaksin Shinawatra when everything, except that which was good and truly beneficial for people, was provided through populist schemes from which vast sums of taxpayers' money was siphoned off by politicians and their cronies.

This was supposed to be a perfect plan of corruption in which no hard evidence would be left for later criminal prosecution. Big-time crooks in the Cabinet wasted no time and effort in plundering national assets.

They had yet to legalise their corrupt acts and whitewash all traces of them when mass demonstrations became intense and a successful military coup ousted the graft-ridden team.

Down from power, but not completely out of politics, Thaksin continues his sinister plan to regain power through nominees and cronies with large funds, while retaining publicity through his purchase of Manchester City Football Club...

Thai students: Eatery's name is offensive

November 19, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Thai students: Eatery's name is offensive - Michigan Daily, November 19, 2007

Rackham student Sirarat Sarntivijai said she was confused and offended when a restaurant called No Thai! opened on South University Avenue in September 2005. She thought the name suggested that Thai people were not welcome in the restaurant. Members of the Thai Student Association, including Sarntivijai, its president, said they find the name deeply offensive...

Ancient Thai scripts sink into oblivion

November 19, 2007 Categories: Culture and Society

Ancient Thai scripts sink into oblivion - Vietnam Net, November 19, 2007

...In the culture of Thai ethnic minority people, ancient Thai script is considered the spiritual heritage and the crystallized intelligence of Thai people. This kind of ancient script is now maintained on ancient books about culture, customs and habits, laws, history of Thai people or in family annals...

Chang: Thanks you

November 19, 2007 Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Chang: Thanks you – November 19, 2007 It reads: Thais share things among ourselves. "Thank you," says a girl.

The rude book

November 20, 2007

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

The rude book – November 20, 2007

The rude meaning of the book's title in the article below is instantly understandable to some Thais as being in the tradition of creating a play on words and word reordering to create a "dirty" connotation. There are Thai-language books with lists of such ribald and humorous words and phrases.

So *Radtammanuay Chabab Hua Khoon* is transformed to something meaning "constitution of the penis." There may be a better analogy, but perhaps this is somewhat like some of the elements of rhyming Cockney slang and spoonerisms.

Editorial: Removing uncivilized behavior - translated and summarized from Matichon, November 17, 2007

The People's Power Party held a seminar for its MP candidates on November 14 at Impact Arena, Muang Thong Thani. At the event, the candidates each got a book called *Radtammanuay Chabab Hua Khoon*. The book has been widely criticized as the title is a very rude spoonerism. The book, aimed at attacking the Constitution B.E.2550, is inappropriate. The book will have some negative effects on the party as the author, using the name Vathatawan Subarnbhesaj, does not fairly criticize the Constitution.

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E.2550 has been approved by the public through a public hearing on August 18, 2007 and signed by His Majesty the King on August 24. Criticizing the Constitution in a rude way can be interpreted as a way to disrespect the monarchy institution. The columnist suggests the party launch a statement to apologize to the institution and the public.

Scenes from the new Outer Ring Road Bridge

November 20, 2007



(Photo: Jerry)



(Photo: Jerry)

Scenes from the new Outer Ring Road Bridge – November 20, 2007

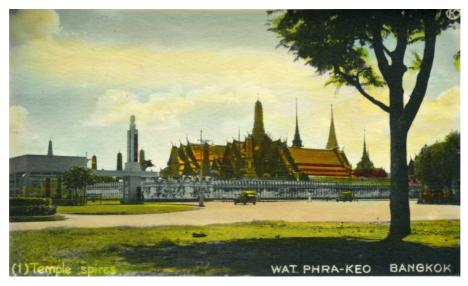
1928 - Snapshot of the "King of Siam" at Na Phrathat Road

November 20, 2007

Categories: Old photos and films



1928 – Snapshot of the "King of Siam" at Na Phrathat Road Another view of this area is <u>here</u>



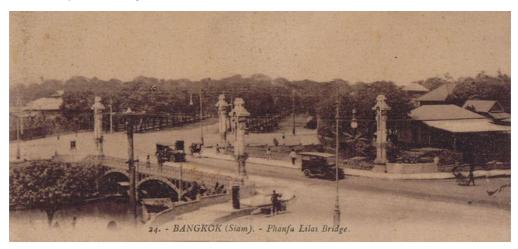
1930 - Wat Phra Keo with the Mobil gas station at left

Phan Fa Bridge area in the past

November 21, 2007

Categories: Bridges, History, Old photos and films

More views of the area here: "Birds Eye View of Bangkok"



(Source: Undated postcard)



(Photo: Undated postcard from the 2Bangkok.com collection)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Phan Fa Bridge-then and now Contrast the updated photo above with Ratchadamneon Avenue of today. In the old photo, note the horse and cart and rickshaw in the foreground, pedicabs going over the incredibly narrow Phan Fa Bridge, the Chalerm Thai Theatre (left – torn down in 1989). Another current photo of the area is $\frac{1}{1}$



Aerial photo of Ratchadamneon in the 1940s This is looking west. Note the fort in the bottom left—one of the last two remaining <u>forts of Rattanakosin</u>



Phan Fa Bridge in olden times This is a view of the Phan Fa Bridge area from the Golden Mount. The modern day bridge is where the small wooden bridge is. Any idea of the date?



Origin of the Phanfa Bridge – November 21, 2007

From an article in Matichon by Anek Nawikkamun: From the memo of Prince Damrongrachanuphap, King Rama V's brother, the bridge was first debuted on November 17, 1907 when King Rama V returned to Thailand from his second trip to Europe.



NZ Company under fire in Thailand

November 21, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

NZ Company under fire in Thailand – Press Release: National Distribution Union, November 21, 2007
"Graeme Hart's Rank Group must immediately reinstate a Thailand trade union leader," says Robert Reid, President of the National Distribution Union...

Slapped

November 21, 2007

TODAY'S BIG STORIES

Burma slaps on Asean face URGENT

SINGAPORE-Burma slapped on Asean's face as the United Nations special envoy Ibrahim Gambari, invited by.... $Slapped-November~21,~2007\\ Direct translation~of~this~phrase~from~Thai~always~results~in~delightfully~fractured~English~(left).$

Nitrates in drinking water in Philippines, Thailand: Greenpeace

November 22, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Nitrates in drinking water in Philippines, Thailand: Greenpeace – AFP, November 22, 2007

 $Thousands\ of\ people\ in\ rural\ Thail and\ and\ the\ Philippines\ face\ serious\ health\ problems\ from\ drinking\ water\ contaminated\ with\ nitrates,\ a\ report\ by\ the\ environmental\ group\ Greenpeace\ said\ Thursday...$

Rare Vulture Shot Dead In Myanmar After Being Freed In Thailand

November 22, 2007

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

Rare Vulture Shot Dead In Myanmar After Being Freed In Thailand - Sin Chew Jit Poh, November 22, 2007

A rare vulture set free in northern Thailand is believed to have been shot dead by a villager in Myanmar, bringing an end to a haphazard campaign to return the bird to its homeland in Mongolia, a conservationist said Thursday...

Apocalypse Naypyidaw!

November 22, 2007 Categories: Myanmar/Burma

 $\underline{Apocalypse\ Naypyidaw!}-\mathit{The\ Irrawaddy},\ November\ 22,\ 2007$

Burma's Bangkok embassy seeks names of student protesters

November 22, 2007

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

Burma's Bangkok embassy seeks names of student protesters – The Irrawaddy, November 22, 2007
....Student sources report that Bangkok's Assumption University, also known as ABAC, has been asked by the Burmese embassy to provide a list of Burmese attending courses there. Students at the city's Mahidol University say teaching staff there had warned them about the Burmese request...

NLA considers draft bill on national anthem

November 22, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

NLA considers draft bill on national anthem – The Nation, November 22, 2007
...That article stipulated that public members shall stand or be still in respect and, in case they are driving or riding, shall stop the vehicles, and turn towards the direction from which they hear the national anthem or see people raising the national flag. They shall proceed on their activity after the anthem or the flag-rising activity is ended. Exceptions are only for the vehicles on expressway, railway, airway, waterway or other ways that could not stop the vehicles...

Sapa Samanachan

November 23, 2007 Categories: Thai Politics

> Sapa Samanachan – November 23, 2007

Every Wednesday night at 23:00, TITV (formerly iTV) broadcasts *Sapa Samanachan* or "Conciliation Parliament." This is a political satire show where actors who resemble political figures sit in a mock parliament chamber and trade comic barbs.

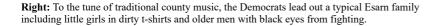
Initially the program was titled *Sapa Joke* or "Joke Parliament," but for some unknown reason this name was changed.

Right: Comic actors portray various political figures in Sapa Samanachan





Left: The parliament chamber festooned with advertisements in the style of Thai variety shows.





Right: The fake Democrat leader Aphisit reads a list of comic promises while gesturing to the typical Esarn family. When he slowly caresses the chins of the little girls, the house speaker cuts in to note, "If you try to go back to your house with them, that's not right."





Left: The lookalike actors also promote products in amusing advertisements. Here the Chavolit Yongjiyut lookalike touts AJ home theater and stereo products.

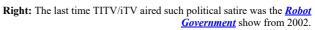
Right: Samak wants to explain his promises to Esarn with a chart. The chart is covered with a country-style cloth and carried in with great reverence by a policeman. The fake Newin and fake Sudarat wai the chart repeatedly.





Left: The Samak lookalike chuckles.

Unlike many Thai comedy and variety shows, *Sapa Samanachan* seems to have plenty of genuine and spontaneous laughter from the live audience.





Teaser billboard - November 30, 2007

This billboard (below), featuring a <u>Sapa Samanachan</u> actor, is used to promote a new energy drink.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Original Sapa Samanachan billboard: 22 November 2007 - It's time for Thai people to wake up. Must open your eyes.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Updated Sapa Samanachan billboard: 22 November 2007 - It's time for Thai people to wake up. Must open your eyes.

Thai generic drugs scheme a 'beacon' for poor: activists

November 23, 2007 Categories: Drugs

Thai generic drugs scheme a 'beacon' for poor: activists - AFP, November 23, 2007

The Thai government's drive to suspend patents to produce low-cost medicines is a "beacon" for other developing nations seeking to provide treatments to the poor, activists said Friday...

New condom jeans pack to fight AIDS

November 23, 2007 Categories: HIV-AIDS

New condom jeans pack to fight AIDS - Adnkronos, November 23, 2007

Fashion and AIDS prevention are to go hand-in-hand in Thailand where the government has announced that it will distribute condoms in a trendy new jeans bag case to encourage teens to practise safe-sex and combat AIDS...

Thai patriotism law seeks to halt cars for anthem

November 23, 2007 Categories: Uncategorized

Thai patriotism law seeks to halt cars for anthem – Reuters, November 23, 2007
... "The national anthem lasts only one minute and eight seconds, so why can't motorists stop their cars for the sake of the country?," retired General and NLA member Pricha Rochanasena, 70, told Reuters.

"They already spend more time in traffic jams anyway," he said, referring to Bangkok's notoriously congested streets...

Loy Krathong sights

November 24, 2007 Categories: Loy Krathong



(Photo: Monkey for 2Bangkok.com)

Loy Krathong sights in Chiang Mai – November 24, 2007



(Photo: Monkey for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Monkey for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Monkey for 2Bangkok.com)

More: Official Loy Krathong government site

More: Loy

Krathong photos 2003 and 2004 and 2005

Thailand's counterfeit pipeline: Porous borders, government inaction allow bogus goods to travel the world

November 26, 2007 Categories: Crime

Thailand's counterfeit pipeline: Porous borders, government inaction allow bogus goods to travel the world - Trading Markets, November 26, 2007

...Thailand's central role in the fakes trade earned it a place of dishonor on the U.S. government's 2007 survey of intellectual property-rights violators worldwide. After 14 years off the list, Thailand was labeled one of the world's worst offenders last spring, joining perennial pirates China and Russia, and nine other nations...

Honeymooner's deadly drug pact

November 26, 2007 Categories: Crime

Honeymooner's deadly drug pact – SMH, November 26, 2007
...The court heard she had only been married a matter of days when her new husband Justin Paul Dann, 36, pressured her to swallow 28 cocaine-filled condoms as the couple honeymooned in Bangkok, Thailand, on December 18 last year...

Group floats plan to keep rising sea out - B100bn wall will save city from being flooded

November 26, 2007 Categories: Floods

Group floats plan to keep rising sea out — B100bn wall will save city from being flooded — Bangkok Post, November 26, 2007

Alarmed by the prospect of global warming triggering a rise in sea levels, disaster prevention experts and a local political group yesterday called for the construction of a 100-billion-baht flood prevention wall to save the capital from being inundated. The call was made at a seminar on climate change and its impact on Bangkok held yesterday by the Bangkok 50 group, a political clan run by members of the now-defunct Thai Rak Thai party (TRT)...

Thaksin vows to aid Thai World Cup campaign

November 27, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

<u>Thaksin vows to aid Thai World Cup campaign</u> – ESPN Soccernet, November 27, 2007

Vietnam drop in FIFA world ranking

November 27, 2007 Categories: Sports, Vietnam

<u>Vietnam drop in FIFA world ranking</u> – Antara News, November 27, 2007

...The country, who failed to reach the third qualifying round for the FIFA World Cup 2010, were behind Thailand, who moved to 113th in the world ranking as leaders in the region...

Thailand: Denial of HIV treatment erodes success on AIDS – Drug users driven away from effective HIV programs

November 29, 2007 Categories: HIV-AIDS

<u>Thailand: Denial of HIV treatment erodes success on AIDS – Drug users driven away from effective HIV programs</u> – *Human Rights Watch*, November 29, 2007

...In 2003 the government of former Prime Minister Thaksin launched a repressive "war on drugs" that resulted in the extrajudicial killings of at least 2,275 drug users or dealers. A lasting consequence of this campaign has been to drive many drug users away from effective HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, out of fear of arrest and police violence.

..."The Thai government pays lip service to its official policy, which is to treat drug users as patients rather than criminals," said Suwannawong. "In reality, police collect information about drug users from health clinics, and arrest peer outreach workers outside drug treatment clinics. Drug users risk criminal charges if they seek health care services which are theirs by right..."

ETA forced to rethink airport highway route

November 29, 2007

Categories: Highways and Roads

ETA forced to rethink airport highway route — Bangkok Post, November 29, 2007
...The expressway was endorsed in 2004 by the Thaksin Shinawatra government, which gave the ETA approval to make a feasibility study of the 22.5km route, which encompasses areas in five city districts: Klong Toey, Wattana, Suan Luang, Prawet and Lat Krabang, and Bang Phli district in Samut Prakan.
The first 17.5km section, known as M1-1, starts from the Chalong Rat-Suvarnabuli expressway in Wattana district and heads to the airport. The other 5km route heads into the city over Rama IV road to the Customs Department intersection in Klong Toey, with four possible route options.

A harsh new film law

November 29, 2007 Categories: Film and TV

A harsh new film law - The Nation, November 29, 2007

TRT executives' rally

November 30, 2007

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008, Thai Politics



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

TRT executives' rally - November 30, 2007

Here are a few photos of the sparsely attended rally at Sao Ching Cha for the 111 Thai Rak Thai executives to protest their exclusion from politics. A YouTube clip of the scene is here.

The sign behind the speakers reads: A fair election is the final answer for the Kingdom.

Earlier: High tension in Thailand



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Air-con paddy wagon

December 1, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Air-con paddy wagon – December 1, 2007

Above is a new air-con Thai police paddy wagon. Below is the old, open-air wagon and a photo of the interior with a handcuff dangling from the bars.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Vietnam's Internet decade brings hopes, problems for dissidents

December 2, 2007 Categories: Vietnam

<u>Vietnam's Internet decade brings hopes, problems for dissidents</u> – AFP, December 2, 2007

Thailand's 'Doctor Death' transforms police work

December 3, 2007

Thailand's 'Doctor Death' transforms police work -

ABC, December 3, 2007

...A cancer survivor, she has fought death one-on-one, and has battled the country's male-dominated criminal justice establishment, which has been quick to belittle one of the most powerful women in the profession.

The outspoken doctor frequently appears in the media to challenge autopsy findings by police, who control all aspects of criminal investigation in Thailand.

As a result, she has become a prime target for harassment, bullying and lawsuits.

"Police ... they don't like me. They say bad things about me, like, I'm not a good doctor, or I steal money. Because they see me as a threat undermining their power," she said...

Illicit sex bad for health

December 3, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Illicit sex bad for health – The Star, December 3, 2007
Out of 5,529 heart attack deaths in Asia, 34 happened during sex. Of that number, 27 were having illicit sex, reported Berita Minggu on Sunday...

Light shed on rapid HIV deaths in India and Thailand

December 3, 2007 Categories: HIV-AIDS

<u>Light shed on rapid HIV deaths in India and Thailand</u> – SciDev.net, December 3, 2007

Thailand abandons managed baht exchange rate-paper

December 3, 2007

Thailand abandons managed baht exchange rate-paper – Reuters, December 3, 2007

Thailand has quietly abandoned the managed floating exchange rate of the baht it adopted in 1997 and reverted to the old system of a basket of currencies...

Or not...

We're still using float, BOT claims – The Nation, December 5, 2007
For now, the Bank of Thailand's senior director Pongpen Ruengvirayudh is denying the central bank has quietly abandoned the managed float system in favour of a basket of currencies to curb the baht's rise...

"I love Smart Head"

December 3, 2007

"I love Smart Head" - December 3, 2007

On Rama IV Road are a series of signs reading "I love fit shape," "I love sushi," and "I love good taste." But the most amusing is "I love Smart Head."

And here is the company's amusing website: Prantalay



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

King calls for unity, use of bio-fuels

December 5, 2007



Above: Front pages of the December 5, 2007 editions of Matichon, Daily News, Komchadluek. The Komchadluek headline reads: The Supreme patriarch of the Buddhist faith praises the King: "(He) wins the hearts of people in the world"

King calls for unity, use of bio-fuels – Bangkok Post, December 4, 2007

...This year's speech began humourously, with the king admonishing his 2-year-old grandson Dipangkorn Rasmijoti – the son of Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn – for talking during the ceremony.

"He is like his father. He talks a lot," the King said of his grandson's interruptions.

The king used his recent hospitalization and difficulties walking to urge Thais to work together for the sake of the nation.

"My legs don't walk in union. I was saying the other day that the military and civilians need to be united. If we are not united, the country will face disaster..." On a serious note, King Bhumibol used his birthday eve speech to admonish the navy for recently expressing the wish to buy a submarine, noting that submarines were unsuitable for Thailand. The Gulf of Thailand is a notoriously shallow body of water...

"No booze, sex on Thai king's birthday" – Jakarta Post, December 4, 2007

Honoring the King

December 5, 2007 Categories: HM The King's Birthday



(Photo: Graham)

Honoring the King – December 5, 2007 Thanks to Graham for sending some scenes from the ceremonies to honor the King's birthday in Tak Fa, Nakon Sawan.



(Photo: Graham)



(Photo: Graham)



(Photo: Graham)

Chased from streets, Myanmar monks get out message on video

December 5, 2007

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

<u>Chased from streets, Myanmar monks get out message on video</u> – AFP, December 5, 2007

...Unable to speak directly to their followers in public, two senior monks — Nyanissara and Kawvida — have recorded their sermons on a video disc titled "The end of sinful people".

In the sermon, they discuss the legend of a ruthless emperor who violated the teachings of the Lord Buddha, which resulted in him, and his followers, being sent to hell...

"People Republic of Thailand" virus

December 5, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

"People Republic of Thailand" virus – Dream Infection, December 5, 2007

Japanese 'Leaving Thailand For Viet Nam'

December 6, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Japanese 'Leaving Thailand For Viet Nam' - Sin Chew Jit Poh, December 6, 2007

...Some core industries including electronics and automobiles have pointed out that production costs in Viet Nam are now much cheaper than in Thailand. The economy there has also been vibrant for years due to strong domestic demand.

The United Nations has noted that Viet Nam is becoming of the world's best countries for investment along with China, Russia, Brazil, India and the United States.

Japanese companies are primarily concerned about political stability when making an investment decision, so they see Viet Nam as a good place to go, Kato said...

Sea Games: PSTM president banned from Thailand

December 6, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

<u>Sea Games: PSTM president banned from Thailand</u> – The New Straits Times, December 6, 2007

Malaysian Sepak Takraw Association (PSTM) president Datuk Ahmad Ismail claims he has been banned from coming to Thailand to give moral support to other

NLA wants to build new Parliament in Nonthaburi

December 6, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

NLA wants to build new Parliament in Nonthaburi – The Nation, December 6, 2007

After China, Vietnam Will Be World's Factory

December 6, 2007 Categories: Vietnam

After China, Vietnam Will Be World's Factory - Bloomberg, December 6, 2007

One Night in Bangkok Shows the Folly of Bali

December 7, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

One Night in Bangkok Shows the Folly of Bali – Bloomberg, December, 2007
...A recent UN report thickened the plot for officials in Bangkok. It found that Thailand's per capita carbon emissions stood at 4.2 tons a year, higher than China (3.8 tons), Indonesia (1.7 tons), and India (1.2 tons)...

Thailand's 40 richest

December 7, 2007

Thailand's 40 richest - Forbes, December 7, 2007

Thai goalposts keep moving

December 8, 2007 Categories: Elections

Thai goalposts keep moving - SMH, December 8, 2007

To see the more bizarre extension of Thailand's current election campaign you need to browse a few websites like goal.com, aimed at fans of soccer's English Premier League.

There you will read that the deputy head of the Democrat Party, Apirak Kosayodhin, who is also Governor of Bangkok, last month signed a deal with Everton for its players and coaches to train a squad of young players at the Bangkok Football Academy.

This was to counter the kudos gained in soccer-mad Thailand by the exiled political rival of the Democrats, the ousted prime minister and billionaire Thaksin Shinawatra, with his recent purchase of Manchester City, followed by the club's recruitment of three Thai players and its announcement of plans to open football academies in Thailand...

Discipline needed in politics

December 8, 2007

Discipline needed in politics – translated and summarized from Krungthep Turakit, December 8, 2007

I would like to comment on Thai politicians – and especially on the numerous occasions on which they have not conducted their political strategies in a well-disciplined manner. I raise this subject because of the case of *Matchima Thipataya Party* leader Prachai Leophairatana, who recently received an unsuspended one-month jail sentence. Prachai's conviction resulted from comments he made on a publicly-distributed VCD. On the VCD, Prachai criticized the same court for their earlier judgment that he had been involved in corrupt practices – while he was in charge of TPI Polene PLC. The December 23 General Election will hopefully usher in a new type of politics, in which the law of Thailand is treated with supreme respect by each member of its society.

Buying weapons under the 'sufficiency' principle

December 8, 2007

Buying weapons under the 'sufficiency' principle - translated and summarized from Matichon, December 8, 2007

HM the King delivered his annual 'Birthday Speech' on December 4, His audience consisted of high-ranking government officials, cabinet members, National Legislative Assembly members, parliamentary candidates and selected members of the general public. His Majesty talked extensively about the ethical procurement of military weapons under his self-proclaimed 'sufficiency' principle.

His Majesty also touched on the various secrets and scandals, of the nation's armed forces, that have been widely-rumored in the past. He noted that such rumors often made people wonder if there would always be a political dimension to the nation's arms procurement.

All senior military officers should realize that it is necessary for them to carry out arms procurement from other countries, in a way that does not cheat the nation. Ill-considered military purchases could also jeopardize the country's security.

Alarm bells ring for scammers

December 9, 2007 Categories: Scams

Alarm bells ring for scammers - Malaysia Star, December 9, 2007

...Easy Network Marketing, which appeared at a trade exhibition at Muang Thong Thani's Impact Arena, launched a rice seed scheme. People were told if they invested Bt1,200 to buy 35 kilos of rice, they would get half the money back in five days. Within 30 days, it was promised they would get the principal back. From then on, he or she would begin to see monthly profits.

Hundreds of people fell for this rice seed scheme, which soon raised some Bt1 billion in cash. It was a similar story with Bangkok Noodles.

People were told to invest Bt45,000 in the company and you will get two big pots for making noodles. And over the next 10 months, you will see returns of Bt10,000 a month.

People invested in this scheme without having to sell real noodles. Actually, there were no Bangkok Noodles for anybody to buy and eat. It was simply a fictitious noodle scheme, which, again, relied on the cash contributions from latecomers to finance the profits of the early birds...

Law should be respected

December 10, 2007

Law should be respected - translated and summarized from Thai Rath, December 10, 2007

Regarding a VCD, currently in circulation, which carries a number of political commentaries by deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The VCD has been distributed nationwide, in order to convey a positive image of the People Power Party to the electorate. I would like to comment on this matter with regard to our nation's democratic system, in which the Constitution and its principles are supposed to be highly-respected by its citizenry. The Election Commission has already warned that the distribution of this VCD might be in breach of electoral law, and has even launched an investigation of the matter. I believe that former executives of the disbanded Thai Rak Thai party should hastily reconsider their current lack of respect for both the Constitutional Court verdict, that banned them from politics, and the new constitution itself

Minister: novels to be rated

December 11, 2007

Minister: novels to be rated – The Nation, December 11, 2007
...Following the ministry's plan for book ratings – especially for romantic and translated novels – as proposed by the Publishers and Booksellers Association of Thailand (PUBAT), many public members posted their concerns that love scenes in books might be cut and placed their objections on www.m-culture.co.th...

BMA jungle

December 11, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

BMA jungle – December 11, 2007

The plaza in front of the BMA building is being transformed into a temporary jungle (above). There are no signs explaining why this is being done, but public spaces like this are often rendered unavailable to protests or public gatherings during sensitive times. The plaza was last used on November 30 for the TRT executives' <u>rally</u>.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above and left: On the east side of the BMA plaza are official candidate records from every province for the public to inspect.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

"Bare Back Tour 5"

December 11, 2007

"Bare Back Tour 5" – December 11, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Editorial: Reconciliation in the midst of conflict

December 11, 2007

Editorial: Reconciliation in the midst of conflict – translated and summarized from *Krungthep Turakit*, December 11, 2007
Regarding deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's suggestion that a government of national unity should be set up after the General Election to bring about a spirit of political conciliation. The public reaction to the ousted PM's suggestion was not particularly favorable. I believe this negative feedback is a part of the current fall from popular grace of the 'old power', as a result of the widespread perception that it was nepotistic. Many vote-buying allegations also surround both former members of the disbanded *Thai Rak Thai* party and the deposed prime minister himself. The only thing that might lead to genuine political reconciliation is for politicians to make a real effort to regain the general public's trust.

The last great air link becomes reality

December 12, 2007 Categories: Airports and Airlines

The last great air link becomes reality – theage, December 12, 2007

Locals, soldiers and vets join hunt for gaur

December 12, 2007

<u>Locals, soldiers and vets join hunt for gaur</u> – Bangkok Post, December 12, 2007

Bangkok Post, largest English newspaper in Thailand, chooses Violet Technology from Agfa for CtP and screening

December 12, 2007

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines

Bangkok Post, largest English newspaper in Thailand, chooses Violet Technology from Agfa for CtP and screening - La Société, December 12, 2007

Thailand's No. 1 deadbeat eyes top job

December 12, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Thailand's No. 1 deadbeat eyes top job - CNN Money, December 12, 2007

Thailand's Prachai Leophairatana was the undisputed bad boy of the Asian financial crisis. When the baht dove in 1997, his debt soared, transforming the company he founded, Thai Petrochemical Industries, into Southeast Asia's biggest corporate deadbeat when it defaulted on \$4.2 billion in loans to Thai and foreign banks...

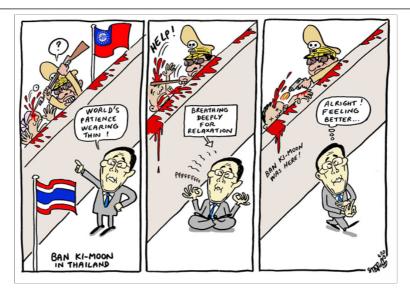
Bangkok Airways Boeing 717 heads for desert storage in USA

December 12, 2007 Categories: Airports and Airlines

Bangkok Airways Boeing 717 heads for desert storage in USA – Flight International, December 12, 2007

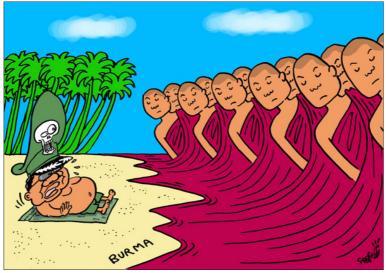
Stephff's Burma cartoons

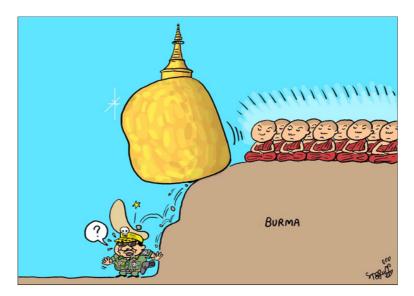
December 13, 2007 Categories: Stephff's Cartoons



 $Cartoon\ from\ Stephff-December\ 13,\ 2007$







Next page

Free version of The Nation

December 13, 2007

Free version of *The Nation* – December 13, 2007

In this era of severe downsizing of traditional newspapers in the face of online offerings, a giveaway for the "young generation" does not bode well for the viability of English-language Thai news. It is likely we are seeing the beginning of the end of The Nation Group's English-language presence.

First English freesheet to be launched – The Nation, December 13, 2007
The compact-sized XPress will immediately become the country's largest English language daily newspaper when it debuts in March as a freesheet, Thanachai Theerapatvong, chairman of publisher Nation Multimedia Group Plc, said Wednesday...

Homicide time is approaching. Get ready to kill people innocently!

December 13, 2007 Categories: Thai Politics

Homicide time is approaching. Get ready to kill people innocently! – translated and summarized from *Phujatkan*, December 13, 2007
The columnist said Gen. Krit Siwara told him that we would see Thai people killing each other without any punishments like the October 14 incident some day. The killing will be a result of political failure and selfishness of a leader who lets innocent people die so that he could survive. Gen. Krit was named army chief shortly before the October 14 incident. He did not obey his commander who told him to suppress the students with force. Gen. Krit said Thailand would face another coup because (1) Thailand's political system is not good enough; (2) we don't have good politicians; and (3) we don't have a good leader. Until now, Thai people still do not understand each other. The three problems Gen. Krit once mentioned still exist. The columnist is afraid there would be another October 14 incident some day.

He hasn't really quit politics!

December 13, 2007 Categories: Thai Politics

Hasn't really quit politics! - translated and summarized from Thai Rath, December 13, 2007

Several political parties have cast doubt on former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's frequent claims that he has actually quit politics. This doubt is fueling concerns that there might be considerable political problems in the run-up to the upcoming election.

Since his September 18 ouster in 2006, Thaksin's words have always seemed to be in stark contrast to his actual actions. He has continued to attack the interim government and the Council for National Security at every opportunity.

An election campaign VCD for the People Power Party (PPP) has recently been launched. At one part during the video, the commentary runs:

"Let us all gather together to set up a new party called the People Power Party. You, the public, understand us. And you already know how much we are under attack".

This VCD is making many people wonder whether Thaksin Shinawatra is actually one of the founders of the PPP – and especially since this would be a transgression of the law.

If Thaksin had really quit politics, the political problems in the current election run-up would undoubtedly be less severe – and the upcoming election would stand a much better chance of returning peace to the country.

On the forum: Fah Diew Kan is back online

December 13, 2007

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines

On the forum: Fah Diew Kan is back online

Yesterday: Fah Diew Kan webboard still accessible? It seems the webboard of Fah Diew Kan website is still working. **Earlier:** Fah Diew Kan website shut down



The Art of Corruption

December 14, 2007 Categories: Art



Ing K's Gestation (Sri Thanonchai) 2

"The Art of Corruption" — December 14, 2007

"The Art of Corruption" is an art exhibit at the TPI Building on Narwathiwat Road. It runs until January 20, 2008.



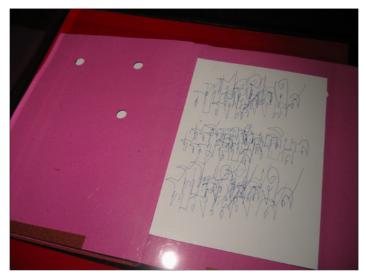
Phansa Buddharaksa's *The honest servant*, part of a series showing clamoring frogs, insects, and birds.





Above and right: Sakarin Krue-on's *Balance of Terror* is an audio-visual presentation in a pitch-black room. A hideous dog face morphs continuously to eerie roars and growls.





Above: A page on a check-signing book reads: Transparency – Governance – Transparency

Sutee Kunavichayanont's installation

Great Cheat Great Cheat: Children of "Srithanonchai" is a room filled with many typical Thai-style writing canvasses covered with words conveying corruption (above and below).











Above: Manit Sriwanichpoom's

Collateral Damage is another installation in a darkened corridor. Visitors shine flashlights on the photos as audio of the subjects plays describing the suffering of children near the Industrial Estate Authority in Rayong.

2Bangkok.com favorite Wit Pimkanchanapong is also featured with a large installation of his "If There Was No Corruption" map.

Right: A reverse-image graphic. It reads: The art of corruption is to make other people believe that they do not cheat and are transparent.





Left: "Designed by Wichian Tow –

Anti-corruption art" – A topographic map in the shape of Thaksin's face with elevation points showing members of his family and staff. The elevation numbers are the amount of his assets that was kept in their names (such as Housekeeper 1, Chauffeur, etc.). On the bottom right is the Cayman Islands connected to Thaksin's head at a point called "Wife's brother."



Ironically, this exhibit is being held in the TPI building, home of the business empire of Prachai Leophairatana.

Prachai is also the party head and financier of the of Machima Thippathai Party. The party is on the verge of collapse after the Criminal Court found Prachai guilty of manipulating the share price of TPI.

Left: Machima Thippathai Party stickers are prominently displayed on the doors of the TPI building. It reads: Becoming rich, having a happy life, receiving fair treatment – Please vote for Machima Thippathai Party – No. 15 Party List

CNN/Fortune also has a scathing article about Prachai: Thailand's No. 1 deadbeat eyes top job – CNN Money, December 12, 2007

Thailand's Prachai Leophairatana was the undisputed bad boy of the Asian financial crisis. When the baht dove in 1997, his debt soared, transforming the company he founded, Thai Petrochemical Industries, into Southeast Asia's biggest corporate deadbeat when it defaulted on \$4.2 billion in loans to Thai and foreign banks...

(All photos on this page: 2Bangkok.com)

Thai souvenirs land Liesl in court

December 14, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Thai souvenirs land Liesl in court - Stuff.co.nz, December, 2007

 $Books, socks, toothbrush, a pair of Thai \ knives ... oops. \ The \ \$10 \ knives \ mistakenly \ packed \ in \ a \ Dunedin \ student's \ hand \ luggage \ saw \ her \ standing \ trial ...$

Thai president already gone

December 14, 2007

Thai president already gone - translated and summarized from Phujadkan, December 14, 2007

The columnist criticizes some political movement to destroy Thailand's Monarchy and set up a presidential system. In the past years, activities have been run to

make the idea come true.

The government, the police and the military announce that they agree with the public that they resent this. They even ran a coup to eliminate those mean people who want to set up a new political system in Thailand. However, the coup is only a big lie. They ran the coup to benefit themselves.

No one really does anything to ease corruption and the betrayal of the Royal Family.

The columnist believes that all sacred things in the Kingdom will protect Thailand's Monarchy and those evil people will not be able to achieve their goal.

ADB approves largest-ever project loan for billion-dollar highway linking Ha Noi, Kunming

December 14, 2007

Categories: Highways and Roads

ADB approves largest-ever project loan for billion-dollar highway linking Ha Noi, Kunming - ADB, December 14, 2007

The Asian Development Bank is providing loans totaling US\$1.1 billion to Viet Nam for the construction of a modern 244 kilometer highway stretching from suburban Ha Noi to Lao Cai, on Viet Nam's border with the People's Republic of China (PRC). It is the biggest single project financing in ADB's history...

The friendliest country, and the unfriendliest skies

December 14, 2007 Categories: Airports and Airlines

The friendliest country, and the unfriendliest skies - NYT, December 14, 2007

...Is it because of the pains taken by the employing airlines not to discriminate against the old, the weighty and the rude — though every other nation's carrier still opts for the fresh, the courteous and the well-groomed? Is democracy, in short, showing its shadow side by reminding us that that frazzled, grandfatherly brute with a headache has rights the same as yours, even though he's there (purportedly) to make you feel comfortable and you only to "sit back and enjoy the flight"?...

Pre-Election Day photos – December 15, 2007

December 15, 2007 Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Democrat candidates on Suthisarn Road.

Pre-Election Day photos – December 15, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Not sure what this is... There was no campaign sign, but it was driving up and down all the sois.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: One of the many tuk-tuks covered with PPP stickers



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Early voting in Chiang Mai –
December 15, 2007

Monkey writes: (This is) the atmosphere of advance voting in Chiang Mai Province on December 15-16, 2007 at the sports field of Chaing Mai Municipality. Many people came to vote for their rights and everything was good...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

"Elect one, get one free"

December 15, 2007 Categories: Thai Politics



Above: General Prem Tinsulanonda Statesman Foundation.

The eternal political figure.

More on "Elect one, get one free" - December 15, 2007

Here are a few more screenshots and a translation of the <u>Hi-Thaksin.net video</u> equating a vote for Samak to a vote for Thaksin. While the video was controversial, the Hi-Thaksin.net was never blocked last week as some claimed—it was just timing out because of high traffic. However, the site does seem to be down for "construction" today. The original video can be seen in full on the <u>2Bangkok YouTube channel</u>.

Here is a translation of the video

Vote one, get one free

*

It is a time Thais have to choose

which one you will vote for

Vote for Abhisit Vejajiva and you have Sonthi Limthongkul as a premium

every vote score

*

will serve lead way to

Leader of a team who destroy

Thaksin

Vote for Banharn

*

you will have Prem as a premium

Every vote score

*

will lead power to

Its everlasting power

which causes trouble to the return

of premier Thaksin

Vote for Suwit Khunkitti

*

You will have Surakiat Satienthai as a premium

Every vote score will support

*

The a betrayer of Thai Rak Thai

*

Who serve the CNS

And its power

Vote for Prachai, you will get Somsak Thepsutin

*

Every vote score

*

Will lead ways to their TPI

Nourish those betrayers who backstab Thaksin

Vote for Ruamchaithai

*

and its absolute power

to permanently endure in Thailand



Vote for Samak Sundaravej, you will have Thaksin

Every vote score will bring Thaksin

to return home

Safely

To revive the national democracy



And Thai people's quality of life

Turn the asset into capitalism

Promote agricultural products

Develop the SME business in communities

30 baht for all medical treatment health insurance policy

*

Every vote score will be served

to the CNS



"Elect one, get one free" - December 8, 2007

EC wants ban on Thaksin internet site – Bangkok Post, December 7, 2007 The Election Commission has urged state agencies to ban the pro-Thaksin website www.hithaksin.net, after it carried messages saying that a vote for the People Power party (PPP) is synonymous to voting for deposed prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra...

The "message" referred to in the article is actually a popup video entitled "Elect one, get one free." The video starts by trying to show that the Democrat's Abhisit, Chart Thai's Banharn, Pua Pandin executives, etc. are closely aligned with *Manager*'s Sondhi and all are under the sway of Privy Councilor Prem who has delusions of granduer. This has been Hi-Thaksin.net's typical message over the last year.

Next the video has a single frame

linking Samak and Thaksin (above) and then the rest of the video extols Thaksin and his accomplishments as PM.

Right: At the end of the video is a scene of happy country folk



(Source: Hi-Thaksin.net)



(Source: Hi-Thaksin.net)

Left: Hi-Thaksin.net has already responded to Election Commissioner Sodsri Sattayatham's call to close the website by featuring a photo of her before a Nazi banner.

Also: Website censorship in Thailand Also: High tension in Thailand

Medical tourism in Thailand

December 15, 2007 Categories: Health

Medical

in Thailand.

tourism in Thailand

- San Francisco Chronicle
Because of all the problems associated with health insurance and managed care in the United States, Americans come in with the lowest expectations of all and end up the happiest customers, he said. "A lot of people would picture that we are doing appendectomies in rice paddies," Schroeder said. "But much of what we do here is beyond the U.S., service-wise." Here's an earlier article from the New York Times. After the NYT article came out, there was a flurry of letters to the editor from irate (and panicky) American doctors warning people that it was almost impossible to sue for malpractice

Kyoto 10th anniversary / Bangkok sinking

December 15, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

<u>Kyoto 10th anniversary / Bangkok sinking</u> – *AOL News Newsbloggers*, December, 2007

The Irrawaddy: All the news that Burma deems unfit to print

December 16, 2007 Categories: Myanmar/Burma

<u>The Irrawaddy: All the news that Burma deems unfit to print</u> – Christian Science Monitor, December, 2007

Holly Deane-Johns back after seven years in Thai jail hell

December 16, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Holly Deane-Johns back after seven years in Thai jail hell - PerthNew, December, 2007

Deane-Johns' release has divided West Australians, with many saying she should serve out her sentence in Thailand...

^{...}In other correspondence, she wrote of the horrors of life in a Thai jail.
"You live like an animal here," she said. "You just don't live like people here.
"Sometimes all the water is turned off in the prison, everywhere. You can wait 20 minutes when you are desperate to go to the toilet.
"Drinking water sometimes has like and pubic hairs in it."

Looking for people prepared to take responsibility

December 17, 2007

Looking for people prepared to take responsibility - translated and summarized from Matichon, December 17, 2007

The Supreme Court's final judgment on the *PTT Privatization* case on December 14 was to the effect that the Cabinet and PTT PLC should work together to facilitate the return of those landholdings expropriated by PTT during its privatization process. The judgment also withdrew PTT's automatic right to use the said landholdings for both the continuing use of its current oil & gas pipelines, and the construction of further pipelines. The landholdings and existing pipelines will now be returned to the control of the Ministry of Finance (MOF).

Ms. Rosana Tositrakul, a leading member of the *Foundation for Consumers* organization that brought the case to court, commented that the Supreme Court decision was a victory for Thai people as a whole. However, the Supreme Court rejected the plaintiff's request that sought the revocation of two Royal Decrees that were enacted to govern PTT's privatization process. Most people are delighted with the Supreme Court's judgment.

In the wake of this judgment, the Surayud Government must now enter into negotiations with the Ministry of Energy, the MOF and PTT executives to find the best way for the expropriated landholdings and pipelines to be returned to MOF control.

This judgment should be a lesson to all those engaged in Civil Service administration that they should not engage in the privatization of State Enterprises (SEs) without first consulting public opinion. Those who pressed hard for PTT's privatization should be prepared to take full responsibility for the negative effects that have accrued from their lack of attention to public opinion.

A Broad Abroad In Thailand - An Expat's Misadventures In The Land Of Smiles by Dodie Cross

December 17, 2007 Categories: Books

Book Review: A Broad Abroad In Thailand - An Expat's Misadventures In The Land Of Smiles by Dodie Cross

-

December, 2007

^{...}It doesn't take our adventurous author long to discover that the 'land of smiles' may well be full of smiles, but the company compound where everyone must live is anything but Eden. A repressive management, or to be exact the managers wife, has created her own version of hell on Earth. Endless lists of rules and regulations, the company not only owns the employees, but their wives and families as well. Must attend meetings, shopping trips, card games, and parties are all part of the social calendar...

NTN Editorial: An Epic Choice For The Ages

December 17, 2007 Categories: Humor

From Not the Nation: NTN Editorial: An Epic Choice For The Ages

- ...The conscientious Thai citizen must now ask himself in the mirror harshly these questions: ...

 Do I wish to have the next government's corruption managed by a belligerent thug married to a financial advisor for the CP Group, or an elusive gentleman who used to be on the board of the CP Group?
- Is it better to have the free press abused by a foul-mouth pig, or completely ignored by a mute elitist?
 Do I prefer my extrajudicial, constitution-violating actions to be the domain of the police or the army?...

Thailand, big pharma wrangle over cancer drugs

December 18, 2007 Categories: Drugs

<u>Thailand, big pharma wrangle over cancer drugs</u> – Reuters, December 18, 2007

Thailand is still talking to three major drug firms about cutting the price of certain cancer drugs but might make the medicines itself if it does not receive adequate discounts, a top health official said on Tuesday...

"A STAR IS BORN"

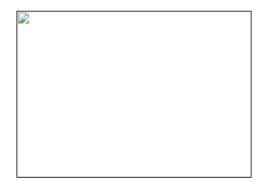
December 18, 2007

"A STAR IS BORN" – The Nation, December 18, 2007 HIlarious "article" from The Nation touting their new free newspaper...

Sutassanee Kunpalin, Korn Narongdej, Chailadol Chokwattana and Changnoi Kulchorn na Ayutthaya, who are typical of the readers the new paper is targeting, were enthusiastic not just about the format, but the entire concept, declaring XPRESS "their thing" for its treatment of the news and ability to fit in with their fast-paced ultra-mobile lifestyle...

125 Years of Thai Postal Services

December 18, 2007



125 Years of Thai Postal Services –
December 18, 2007
Nils writes: I think these cutesy cards sent to all households by Thai Post should be mentioned on 2B....

It reads something like:

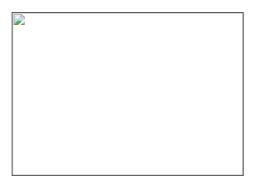
Happy New Year 2008

125 Years of Thai Postal Services

Let us wish happiness to Thai people

Thank you from our hearts

Thai Post.... for Thai people



The 111 call for all sides to abide by the outcome

December 19, 2007
Categories: Uncategorized

The 111 call for all sides to abide by the outcome – The Nation, December 19, 2007
Interesting that their website, secondclass111.com, was registered with no valid data
Registrant:

secondclass111

Bangkok Bangkok TH 10000

```
Interesting that their website, <u>secondclass111.com</u>, was registered with no valid data in the whois:
  second class 111.com\ abc@def.com\ +66.11111111
  secondclass111
  Bangkok Bangkok TH 10000
Domain Name: SECONDCLASS111.COM {secondclass111.com }
Registration Date: 2007-11-19
Expiration Date: 2008-11-19
Last update :2007-11-20 14:32:37
Domain Name Server:
  ns1.dns-diy.net
  ns2.dns-diy.net
Administrator:
   secondclass111 abc@def.com +66.11111111
  secondclass111
  Bangkok Bangkok TH 10000
Technical Contact:
  secondclass111 abc@def.com +66.11111111
  secondclass111
  Bangkok Bangkok TH 10000
Billing Contact:
  secondclass111 abc@def.com +66.11111111
```

US couple arrested in Bangok Film Festival graft probe

December 19, 2007 Categories: Uncategorized

US couple arrested in Bangok Film Festival graft probe: justice – AFP, December 19, 2007

A Los Angeles-based businessman and his wife have been arrested for paying 1.7 million dollars in bribes to a Thailand government official for the right to manage the Bangkok International Film Festival, the Justice Department said Tuesday...

Nation Group no longer organise Bangkok Film Festival – The Nation, December 19, 2007

Thailand's Magic Hill

December 19, 2007



(Photo: Graham)

Thailand's Magic Hill – December 19, 2007 Graham sends these photos of the gravity-defying "Magic Hill" outside Mae Sot.



(Photo: Graham)

Bangkok hospital breaks rules of medical diagnosis

December 19, 2007 Categories: Health

Bangkok hospital breaks rules of medical diagnosis – Mathaba, December, 2007
...The director of the hospital, Professor Emeritus Teerachai Chantarojanasiri who was copied in on the correspondence, apparently agrees that a diagnosis can be given for the simple condition of "dizziness" without the fully compus mentus patient having complained of any of the symptoms of dizziness, nor displaying any of the symptoms, and without even being tested for symptoms...

Be Smile Dental Clinic

December 20, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Be Smile Dental Clinic – December 20, 2007

BRT construction sign on Narwathiwat Road – December 20, 2007

Left: BRT construction site is 500 meters away. Please drive carefully.

PM rules out election day

December 20, 2007 Categories: Thai Politics

PM rules out election day - The Nation, December 20, 2007

Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont Thursday ruled out delay of the Sunday election. He said so far nothing warranted the postponement of the election.

Ghostly goings on

December 20, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Ghostly goings on - Phuket Gazette, December 20, 2007

...A number of villages in the district began ramping up anti-ghost measures after residents had been having dreams that people born on Tuesdays and Wednesdays would be taken by the dreaded phi pop.

The future of the past – Following up on Por Intarapalit's vision of Bangkok in 2007

December 20, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

The future of the past - Following up on Por Intarapalit's vision of Bangkok in 2007 - Bangkok Post, December 20, 2007

...In the sky, several cars were flying past the 'Patcharaporn' house at rather low levels. There were propellers on their roofs. Sports or private monoplanes flew in scatters here and there not unlike birds. All of a sudden, everybody sighted a huge train, with two tram-like carriages joined together, running at no less than 60kilometres-per-hour on tracks about ten metres above Sukhumvit Road.

From the 'Patcharaporn' house, one could see skyscrapers with at least 20 to 80 stories, the top floors rising into the thick clouds. Fluttering from the top of each building was the tri-coloured national flag. The crowds on Sukhumvit bustled by in a hurry, men in their suits and women in their one-piece outfits. The people of Bangkok looked not so different from the Europeans or Americans.

Nikorn asked his son in a hoarse, shaky voice...

"Tell me, Nop, is this Bangkok or Paris? How come all these cars and planes are flying like dragon-flies?"

"This is Bangkok, Father. This is Bangkok of 2007."

Pai Su Anakhot (Toward the Future), Por Intarapalit, 1967.

- ... What were the attractions?
- Places, language, food, dress code, commercial billboards, greeting by handshakes and even boxing had literally become Americanised "except for the presence of national flags, everything looks like New York ... which meant Thailand must have progressed rapidly, to become the world's superpower, on the same par as
- Every cabinet minister, "even the one overseeing the ministry of defense", was a civilian. "They served the country diligently, and there was absolutely no corruption."
- Every Thai citizen was well-educated the two taxi drivers hired by the Samgler gang had university degrees in architecture and engineering; Bangkok boasted about 200 universities and no fewer than 5,000 primary and secondary schools did not charge for tuition, stationery or uniforms (a precise prediction of today's politicians' election gimmicks).
- Traffic problems in Bangkok were nonexistent.
- The Thai currency had the same value as the US dollar!
- The Thai economy was rock-solid: Rich oil fields had been discovered and Thailand suddenly became industrialised, producing and exporting everything from clothes to cars, planes and battleships. Heavy machinery was exported to China while China sent agricultural products and hordes of tourists in return. Also, Bangkok no longer had small-scale businesses or street peddlers that would allow developed nations to look down on it...

And a link to the pdf of the Thai-language book is on the forum.

La Palma elects Thai-American mayor

December 21, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

<u>La Palma elects Thai-American mayor</u> – KTVN Reno, December 21, 2007

Thai American G. Henry Charoen is the new mayor of the tiny Orange County community of La Palma. Charoen is believed to be the nation's first Thai-American to lead a city...

Thailand to grant citizenship to 353,000 people

December 21, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Thailand to grant citizenship to 353,000 people - Straits Times, December 21, 2007

Thailand will grant citizenship to 353,000 people, mostly hill tribesmen living in the country's north bordering Myanmar and Laos, coup leader General Sonthi Boonyaratglin said on Friday...

Thai ex-PM said to end exile Feb. 14

December 21, 2007

Thai ex-PM said to end exile Feb. 14 - AP, December 21, 2007

'I'm saving Thailand's gay history'

December 22, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

<u>'I'm saving Thailand's gay history'</u> – Financial Times, December, 2007

Tata Young: Bangkok bombshell

December 22, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Bangkok bombshell – Times of India, December 22, 2007
Thai-American pop sensation Tata Young wooed India with her oomph in Dhoom. American actress Ali Larter was paired up with Salman Khan for Marigold. And now we have Lena, a Thai TV presenter who will make her Bollywood debut in Nagesh Kukunoor's Bombay to Bangkok...

Iraqi team irritated by national anthem mix-up

December 22, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

<u>Iraqi team irritated by national anthem mix-up</u> – Reuters, December 22, 2007Asian Cup holders Iraq were confused and annoyed when they were made to listen to the wrong national anthem before their opening match of the King's Cup tournament in Thailand on Saturday...

"Get happiness, get a Sanwa"

December 22, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

"Get happiness, get a Sanwa" - December 22, 2007

CIA chief to drag White House into torture cover-up storm

December 23, 2007

Categories: Thai Secret Prison

CIA chief to drag White House into torture cover-up storm - Sunday Times, December 23, 2007

...The tapes recorded the interrogations of Abu Zubaydah and Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, two suspected Al-Qaeda leaders, over hundreds of hours while they were held in secret "ghost" prisons. According to testimony from a former CIA officer, Zubaydah was subjected to waterboarding, a form of torture that simulates drowning, and "broke" after 35 seconds. He is believed to have been interrogated in Thailand. The tapes were destroyed in 2005. Both men are now held in Guantanamo Bay...

STEALTH STRIKE on SOI 3

December 23, 2007

STEALTH STRIKE on SOI 3 – Bangkok Post, December 23, 2007
...They (the gang members) are the biggest problem for us and a burden on Thailand. Many live here illegally," said the Pol Maj-Gen. "In the past, the drug trade was controlled by Thai pushers who sold to foreigners, but right now it is the other way around. People from West African countries sell cocaine, marijuana and crystal methamphetamine, widely known as 'ice', to Thais. In fact, they sell it to everyone, including some of the Middle Easterners who stay in large numbers on Soi 3..."

Orange bats?

December 23, 2007 Categories: Wildlife and Nature

Orange bats? – The Nation, December, 2007 Local villagers show colourful bats they found in Chachoensao's Muang district on Tuesday.

Don't just be a 'paper tiger'!

December 24, 2007

Don't just be a 'paper tiger'! - translated and summarized from Thai Rath, December 24, 2007

The Chairman of the *Electoral Commission (EC)* has admitted that the organization was not in a position to issue 'red cards' to parliamentary candidates in advance of the December 23 General Election. He also said that it had been impossible to mount investigations into electoral malpractice in such a short space of time, and that far more evidence was needed before red cards could be issued against erring politicians.

This columnist believes, however, that the *EC* has had plenty of time to investigate electoral malpractice and to initiate legal proceedings against the lawbreakers.

This columnist believes, however, that the EC has had plenty of time to investigate electoral malpractice and to initiate legal proceedings against the lawbreakers. In the wake of this election, the EC will now have a full thirty days to decide whether candidates will receive yellow or red cards. The commission must act decisively if it wishes to be seen as having fulfilled its most important allocated role. I would like to warn the EC that it is in danger of being perceived as a 'paper tiger'.

Thai General Elections – December 23, 2007

December 25, 2007 Categories: Elections



Top above: Daily News, December 24, 2007 - PPP wins - Samak brags he will form the government - Banharn joins Pua Paendin

Above: Daily News, December 25, 2007 - Parties fighting for control - divided into two groups - Banharn unlikely to join PPP - claiming he focuses on peace

Post-election headlines

Above: *Komchadluek*, December 25, 2007 – Banharn links up with minor party – indecisive to decide which party he will join – Samak declares he will be the next PM





Above: Thairath, December 25, 2007 - PPP surprises public - Four parties join Samak



Above: Khaosod, December 25, 2007 - PPP wins less than half of all seats - PPP wins 228 seats - Thaksin calls to congratulate Samak

Big People Power Party win - December 24, 2007

Thaksin proxy: People Power Party ready to form coalition government - TNA, December 23, 2007

Democrats in shocksweep in Chon Buri

US praises 'free and fair' vote

Chalit promises: No military coup

Thai Elections Could End Country's Political Crisis - NPR

or

Thailand readies for poll unlikely to end divisions – Reuters

2Bangkok YouTube channel: Samak as PM?

2Bangkok YouTube channel: <u>Samak Sundaravej's statement</u> 2Bangkok YouTube channel: <u>Are the Democrats aggressive enough?</u>

On the forum: Weird ballots

This cracker from Not the Nation: General Prem To Cast His 10 Million Votes Tomorrow

Past articles about likely Prime Minister Samak

By 7pm on December 23, incredibly, every single election poster had been taken down to conform with election rules. A far cry from the scene the day before.

All the election-related photos, cartoons and links are being kept here: ThaiElections.com



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

By 7pm on December 23, incredibly, every single election poster had been taken down to conform with election rules. A far cry from the scene the day before.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Thanks billboard – January 8, 2008

The billboard reads: Thirachai Vuthitham (Pae) – Happy New Year 2008 – Every vote from you will be appreciated and memorized. We eternally serve the nation.



Happy new year from a Bangkok council member – January 10, 2008 Thanks – Wish brothers and sisters in Klong Toey happiness throughout the year 2008 – Koranit Ngamsukonwattana, Bangkok council member of Klong Toey

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

For the nation – December 23, 2007 $\,$

Left: This Puea Pandin poster reads: This life is for the nation – Kitiwattana Pokmonti – For the nation, for happiness and unity of the Thai people



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Vote for an honest PM – December 23, 2007

Right: This Democrat Party poster reads: Vote for an honest PM



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: It reads: Puea Pandin Party – Please vote for No. 7, 8, 9 – 43 inspirations for the happiness of people in the deep south

Election photos from Yala – December 22, 2007

Our man in the Deep South notes: The election this year in the deep south is not vigorous. Not so many posters. They are only on the roads and intersections... The party that interests people are the PPP, Democrats and Puea Pandin.



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

Above: It reads: U-pe Village would like to declare that
1. will go on the path to a democratic life
2. will vote for our rights fully
3. will not buy and sell votes
Vote for the good person to get into parliament



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: It reads: Luemu School - All children ask parents to vote - 23 December vote for the good person. 8.00-15.00



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: This Pracharaj poster reads: Sanoh Tienthong – Peaceful nation, happy people



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: This green Rum Jai Thai Chat Pattana poster reads: Please vote for No.10 Hassun, No.11 Chanon, No. 12 Dorif



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above and below: Dr. Has reports: Today the officers received the election boxes and equipment. These photos show the activities of officers who come to get the boxes and cards in Amphur Krongpinan, Yala.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Mascots at Central Lat Prae - December 22, 2007

Above: Mascots at Central Lat Prae promoting election and anti-vote buying awareness.

No. 17 – December 22, 2007

Right: An make-shift ad for a minor party candidate...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Credit card debt - December 22, 2007 Right: It reads: Select the wrong party, repeat people. Thai Rak Thai government, credit card debt all over. Vote the Democrat Party to solve the crisis of the nation



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Help us win half of the seats... – December 22, 2007 **Left:** It reads: Solving Crisis. No time for more quarrel. Help us win half of the seats and the economy will recover. People Power Party – No. 12.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



Election poster - December 20, 2007

Chart Thai Party — Bangkok, Unit 1 Dr. Mano Mettananto Laohawanit, Ph.D. — No. 10 Kusuman Patchimsawas — No. 11 Aran Phantumajinda — No. 12 Dusit, Phra Nakon, Pomprab Satru Pai, Samphantawong, Bangrak, Pathumwan, Rajdhevi.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



Something for everyone - December 19, 2007

It reads: Ruam Jai Thai Chat Pattana Party - No. 2 People with a salary of 20,000 baht at most won't be taxed. Allowances

 $Parents\ allowance-50,\!000\ baht$

Disabled person allowance - 30,000 baht

First-time home buyers under installment purchase contracts will get a tax discount of 300,000 baht.

New SMEs to be exempted from taxes for five years, existing SMEs to get a 5-10% tax discount.

Traditional convenience stores to get 95% tax reduction.

Baby Bond – Children under 18 to get one-million-baht fund for education.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

More from the Artist Party - December 19, 2007

It reads: Save energy, stop destroying nature, cancel unfair FTAs, and grow a fair economy. Artist Party – No governing principle is the best.





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Voting - December 19, 2007

It reads: Please use your right to vote in the general election on December 23, 2007.

Democrats - December 18, 2007 Please vote for us all:

 $No.\ 4-M.L.\ Abhimongkol\ Sonakul$

No. 5 – Orn-anong Karnchanachusak No. 6 – Chermmas Junglertsiri





The Artist Party – December 17, 2007 People, I know what you are thinking about. The Kingdom is going to be in trouble.

The Artist Party. No governing principle is the best.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Banharn - December 14, 2007 It reads: Chart Thai Party - Making ideas reality - Please vote for No. 13 - Party List



Easy to study at Chula - December 12, 2007

It reads: Please vote for No. 36, Dr. Thep Wechwisit. Free tuition programs for people above 18 will be easy.

- * Don't have a father who is the Prime Minister;
- * Don't want to cheat on the entrance exam; * But want to enter Chulalongkorn University.

Vote for me and I'll encourage the Parliament to offer anyone an opportunity to study at Chulalongkorn University.

Thinking of Thaksin – December 12, 2007

A <u>ClubThaksin</u> sticker: Economy on the downswing... Thinking of Thaksin. Below is a sticker for the People Power Party.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



Pracharaj Party - December 4, 2007

Left: Royal People Party – Please vote for Sombat Metanee, No. 9, an MP candidate on a proportional-basis for Bangkok, Nontaburi and Samut Prakarn.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

No. 19 - December 4, 2007

Left: Pramuan Rujanaseri – Please vote for Prachamati Party, No. 19 – Party List



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Ruam Jai Thai Chart Pattana Party - December 4, 2007

Thais United National Development Party

Choose as you wish for Bangkokians

No. 25: Pornsak Srilaman

No. 26: Bun-anan Piampongsan

No. 27: Weerayut Potharamik

For Zone 3: Lad Phrao, Huay Kwang, Wang Thong Lang, Din Dang.





Banharn! - December 3, 2007

It reads: Chart Thai Party -"Making ideas become reality." Please vote for No. 13 – Party-list MPs

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



Democrat promises - December 3, 2007

99-day practical intensive plan

- 1. Free tuition fees and free textbooks, study supplies, and uniform, starting May 2008
- 2. Setting up a sufficiency economy fund. Initial budget of 1-2 million baht to be allocated to each tambon.
- 3. Setting up a special organization to solve problems in the south.
- 4. Using 15 first electricity units for free (up from 5 units at the present).
- 5. Canceling contribution to oil fund for diesel and gasohol.

Please choose the Democrat Party to form the government. No. 4

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



 $Democrat Society.com-December\ 1,\ 2007$

How does a 43-year-old aristocrat connect with youth? With a website full of crazy skateboarding images and a "chat with P' Mark" section...

Young generation - November 30, 2007

Left: Chart Thai Party – Party list Vote number 13

If you do not vote for young generation. If no young generation volunteer for the public. When Thai politics will improve? Vote

number 10, 11, 12

Apikiat Jenpanitch (Bo) and team

Young generation, we can do, we're honest

Constituency 2: Yannawa, Bangkolaem, Satorn, Klongtoey, Watana





Keeping promises - November 30, 2007

Left: Everyone can make up any good policies, but the people who keep their words are in the People Power Party. Please vote for us, People Power Party, No. 12.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



Time to clean the political parasites - November 30, 2007

Left: Chart Thai Party – Party list Vote number 13

"It is time to clean the political parasites"

Vote number 10, 11, 12 – Apikiat Jenpanitch (Bo) and team – Young generation, we can do, we're honest





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The return of Leena Jang - November 29, 2007

After several false starts, colorful character Leena Jang is running under the Palang Pandin Party.

Above left: Could you vote for Leena using the white ballot?

Please vote for Leena Jang to give her a chance to be an MP for the 4th area of Bangkok

No. 34 (Leena Jangjanya) Leena Jang

A female fighter for social justice.

Above right: Laksi, Bang Sue, Jatujak, Phyathai

No. 34 (Leena Jangjanya) Leena Jang

A lawyer for poor people who are treated unfairly.

Earlier: Leena Jang was famously disqualified during the 2004 Bangkok Governor election



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: No. 34 (Leena Jangjanya) Leena Jang

"We volunteer to be your voice" - November 29, 2007

Chart Thai Party
Party list vote number 13
"We volunteer to be your voice"
Vote number 10, 11, 12
Apikiat Jenpanitch (Bo) and team
Young generation, we can do, we're honest
Constituency 2 Yannawa, Bangkolaem, Sathorn, Klongtoey, Watana



New generation - November 28, 2007

Democrat Party

People of the new generation, determined and expert in economics

10 - Boonyod Sungthinthai, an independent news reporter

11 - Atthawit Suwanphakdi, an economic layer

12 - Sakonthee Phakdisakul, a social lawyer

MP candidates for Bangkok

Bang Sue, Laksi, Jatujak, Phyathai

Please vote for us.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Young generation - November 28, 2007

Chart Thai Party
Party list vote number 13
Vote for the young generation team for new politics
Vote number 11, 10, 12
Apikiat Jenpanitch (Bo) and Team
Young Generation, we can do, we 're honest
Constituency 2: Yannawa, Bangkolaem, Satorn, Klongtoey, Watana



Pink shirts - November 25, 2007

It reads: Ruamjaithai Chartpattana Party – Vote for Somkid for quality life for Bangkok residents – Vote Number
26 Boonanan Pienpongsarn – 25 Pornsak Srilamoon – 27 Weerayuth Pohtaramik – Constituency 3 – Ladprao, Huay Khwang, Wangthonglang, Dindaeng



Smells - November 27, 2007

Chart Thai Party – Party list Vote number 13
"We cannot bear any further soap opera in politics.
It does smell bad, do you agree?"
Vote number 10, 11, 12
Apikiat Jenpanitch (Bo) and team
Young generation, we can do, we're honest
Constituency 2 – Yannawa, Bangkolaem, Satorn, Klongtoey, Watana

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Puea Pandin Party - November 26, 2007

The poster reads: Puea Pandin Party
For the Nation, Defend Religion, Worship the King
Vote Our Party, For the happiness of Thai People

- people will have enough money to consume and save
- the law will be justice
- society will be secured
- warm family
- no fighting and argument
- good health and get free medical treatment
- trade will be flexible
- concern for the environment
- preserve Thai culture and tradition

For the happiness of Thai people

Machima Thippathai – November 26, 2007

It reads: Machima Thippathai

Mr. Prachai Lealpairath, the leader

Mr. Thanapon (Mahin) Tonboonperm no.13

Ms. Vajjana Sutas Na Ayudha no.14 Dr. Rattanaporn Thammakosol no.15

Candidates for Dindang, Huaykwang, Ladphao, and Wangthonglhang



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



Election poster - November 24, 2007

It reads: Palang Prachachon Party - Unity, Compromise, Attempt to rehabilitate the economics and accomplish every policies.

No.7 Mr. Chalearmchai Jeenavijarana

No.8 Ms. Suppamas Issarapakdee
No.9 Mr. Kawee na Lampang
The candidates for Jatujak, Laksee, Bangsue, and Phayathai

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

For Thais' happiness - November 22, 2007

It reads: For Thais' happiness, please vote for Payomrasi Rueksamran, Number 1; Chartporn Assarak, Number 2; and Dr. Waranyu Sujiworapanpong, Number 3 to be members of the Parliament for the Dusit, Phra Nakorn, Pomprab, Pathumwan, Bang Rak, Sampanthawong, and Rajathewi areas.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Democrat poster - November 21, 2007

It reads: People come first. Democrat Party – M.L. Apimongkol Sonakul, Number 4, Orn-anong Kanchanachusak, Number 5, and Chermmas Juenglertsiri, Number 6. Please vote for us all. – Dusit, Phra Nakorn, Pomprab Satrupai, Sampanthawong, Bang Rak, Pathumwan, Rajathewi Areas.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Democrat election poster – November 17, 2007

It reads: People come first – Democrat Party – Area 3: Din Dang, Huaykwang, Want Thonglang and Ladprao – Peerapan Saleeratwiphak No. 7 – Thana Chirawinij No. 8 – Dr. Sansern Samalapha No. 9 – It is our honor to serve you – Experienced, hard-working and never forget the people



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Cast your vote - November 17, 2007

It reads: Cast your vote for democracy's sake. General election on December 23, 2007. From 08:00 am to 03:00 pm.



 $First\ election\ poster-November\ 10,2007$

Above: This is the first 2007 election poster we have seen in Bangkok. It reads: Matchima Prachatippathai Party – 15. Thailand's economy is in trouble.

Professionals are in need. Please vote for Prachai Leophairatana.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Election billboard - November 9, 2007

It reads: Thailand – General election scheduled for December 23, 2007. Use your right to save the nation.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Anti-vote buying billboard - November 6, 2007

Left: Taking bribes is bad

Right: Electoral fraud violates the law and damages the nation



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Political party billboard-October 27, 2007

Above: Puea Pandin Party – We will rebuild the transportation system to be better and provide skytrain to as many people as possible. We will grow the trees to make Bangkok become a green city within four years. Furthermore, we will get rid of drugs and provide Thai people more security and safety for your life and assets. Select Puea Pandin Party for your happiness.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Political party billboard – October 12, 2007 It reads: "For the land – For the happiness of the Thai people" Motherland party Strengthen the nation, maintain religion and respect the royal throne for the Kingdom



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Changing billboard – October 6, 2007 **Above (until September 30):** Faster is better – Better is faster – Thais unite to promote sufficiency lifestyle



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The "threatening billboard" gone in 5 days – October 3, 2007

Just a note that the billboard threatening the return of a prominent figure in November (below) was only up for 5 days before being replaced with a more innocuous Democrat Party billboard (above). It is likely that the original billboard was considered too provocative in the current political situation—even though it was only advertising an upcoming movie.

The Democrat Party billboard reads: Textbooks, school uniforms and school supplies provided for free. Free tuition fees until college. People come first. Democrat Party



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Earlier: The return of...? - September 8, 2007

The black billboard reads: Watch carefully! World image maker will come back this November.

This has been a typical advertising tactic—put up a black and white billboard with a vague but menacing message—in this case implying that Thaksin will return in November. As in the past, it is most likely that this is a billboard advertising a new movie.

Commission's yellow cards and red cards could prevent another coup

December 25, 2007 Categories: Thai Politics

Commission's yellow cards and red cards could prevent another coup – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*, December 25, 2007 If the September 19 coup was a school examination, members of the coup would not pass the exam. The interim government does not seem to have any achievements. Some people therefore miss the previous premier.

People are wondering if the army will allow old power clique to regain its power. High-ranking military officials like Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin and army chief Gen. Anupong Phaochinda have not said much about this. Supreme commander Gen. Boonsang Niampradit said he would accept if the People Power Party does form the government.

The yellow cards and red cards to be rightfully issued by the Election Commission will ban candidates who offer money to voters. They could also prevent another coup that might be staged. Defense Minister Gen. Boonrawd Somtas wants everybody to follow rules in a bid to prevent turmoil. We expect the Election Commission to issue at least 25 yellow and red cards. That would make the forming of the new government easier. We are just wondering if the party will simply accept that.

2000 tigers possible in Thailand, study says

December 25, 2007 Categories: Wildlife and Nature

2000 tigers possible in Thailand, study says – Science Daily, December, 2007
Thailand's Western Forest Complex — a 6,900 square mile (18,000 square kilometers) network of parks and wildlife reserves — can potentially support some 2,000

Thai student mugged by teenage gang

December 26, 2007

Thai student mugged by teenage gang – Scotsman, December 26, 2007

"I AM 6000 baht short..."

December 27, 2007 Categories: Scams



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

"I AM 6000 baht short..." – December 27, 2007

This oddly grim and slightly too old grifter is pulling a traditional scam that allegedly is quite profitable. The photo was taken outside of MBK.

His sign reads: I am 6000 baht short to go back home HOLLAND. Can you help me?

Then it lists suggestions for donations: 20, 50, 100, 500, 1000 baht, etc.

A thread on this photo is <u>here</u>.

Online New Year traffic reports

December 27, 2007

Online New Year traffic reports

- The Nation, December 27, 2007 ...To get traffic information, they can access http://traffic.thai.net and see the density of traffic shown in red, yellow or green.

...They just have to download the software from http://map.longdo.com/m and install it in their phone to see the overall traffic map and check traffic status and accident information while on the move via the phone's GPRS network...

Top military commanders thumping in defiant of reprisal

December 27, 2007 Categories: Thai Politics

 $Another \ charming \ "Engrish" \ headline: \\ \underline{Top\ military\ commanders\ thumping\ in\ defiant\ of\ reprisals}$

- The Nation, December 27, 2007

A nation must be a real nation

December 27, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

A nation must be a real nation - translated and summarized from Krungthep Turakit, December 27, 2007

The interim government does not seem to care much about people's living over the past five to six months. The inflation rate jumped by three percent during this period, while the global oil price almost hit 100 dollars per barrel. The Surayud administration was initially well-received by most Thai people as it helped reduce political stress. However, most Thais have turned to focusing on their living problems. That is why the People Power Party got the highest number of seats in the general election despite strong opposition against the party. The author wants to see a real nation with a government which has clear administration policies and will restore the people's confidence.

The Nation tribute

December 28, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

The Nation tribute - December 28, 2007

Update: The Nation wrote and explained the material was placed online mistakenly and kindly requested that we remove this from 2Bangkok.com. So, to be a good neighbor, we removed the info in question...

This is reminiscent of the "The CNN.com incident" when prewritten obituaries of living people where exposed online.

Who betrays the people?

December 28, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Who betrays the people? - translated and summarized from Komchadluek, December 28, 2007

The negotiation between political parties seems to have been finalized. The People Power Party (PPP) sent certain offers to minor parties to persuade them to join its party in a bid to have the power to form the government. The PPP has more chances to form the government than the Democrat Party as it won as many as 233 seats in the recent election. How the coalition government will benefit the people we still do not know. What we know is that some politicians can say one thing and do the other if they are tempted by benefits and money. Thailand is not developing because the people never learn a lesson. They are still deceived by some two-faced politicians.

Somsak Raksuwan's Political Monsters

December 29, 2007 Categories: Art, Thai Politics



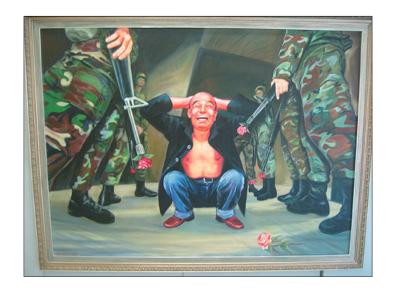
Above: "Oh!...Suwannabhumi"

Somsak Raksuwan's Political Monsters – December 29, 2007 Somsak Raksuwan's "Political Monsters" is on at the Jamjuree Gallery on Phayathai Road until January 3, 2008.

Earlier: The Art of Corruption



Above: "The Prototype"



Above: "Guns and Roses"



Above: "Monster No. 500"

Thai generals in fear after tycoon's victory

December 29, 2007 Categories: Thai Politics

<u>Thai generals in fear after tycoon's victory</u> – *Times Online*, December 29, 2007

Manchester City's chairman, the ousted Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, will face arrest on criminal charges if he returns home, despite a stunning election success by his political allies last week...

What were the best movies in Thailand this year?

December 29, 2007 Categories: Film and TV

What were the best movies in Thailand this year? - Cinematical, December 29, 2007

Selecting upright senators

December 29, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Selecting 'upright' senators - translated and summarized from Matichon, December 29, 2007

A committee is currently looking into the selection of 'appointed' senators in advance of a deadline set for this task on January 2. The committee is comprised of the following: The Constitutional Tribunal Chairman, the Electoral Commission (EC) Chairman, the Chairman of the Ombudsman's Office, the National Counter-Corruption Commission Chairman, the Chairman of the Auditor-General's Office, a Supreme Court judge and a Supreme Administrative Court judge. After the conclusion of this selection process, the EC will be forwarded a list of suitable individuals from many organizations & walks of life, and will have about one month to examine this list. Some of the 150 senators will be selected by an electoral process, while others will be appointed by the above-mentioned process. I wish to comment that the process of selecting senators is likely to generate some doubt in the minds of the public, if it is not clearly explained to them. The selection of 'upright' senatorial appointees will severely test the abilities of the seven committee members, if they are to conduct the process with both impartiality and fairness.

Thailand's ambush gangs worry New Year travellers

December 30, 2007 Categories: Crime

Thailand's ambush gangs worry New Year travellers - Earthtimes, December 30, 2007

The Thai Yankee

December 30, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

The Thai Yankee – MySinchew, December 30, 2007
...Then he embraced his mother Yome, a tanned Thai lady from whom Damon inherited his cheekbones. "She is very fast. Now you know why I am fast," Damon proudly said of Yome, who was an athlete when she was young...

Discount airlines in Asia: Low cost, high risk?

December 30, 2007 Categories: Airports and Airlines

<u>Discount airlines in Asia: Low cost, high risk?</u> – New York Times, December 30, 2007

THAILAND: A 14-year trial and alleged police set-up

December 30, 2007 Categories: Thai Police

THAILAND: A 14-year trial and alleged police set-up – Asian Human Rights Commission, 2007

The best of 2Bangkok in 2007

December 31, 2007 Categories: Best of 2Bangkok



The best of 2Bangkok.com in 2007

What it was like to be there...

Our annual collection of the biggest news, most popular stories, and interesting links of 2007

Also

The best of 2Bangkok in 2009
The best of 2Bangkok in 2008
The best of 2Bangkok in 2007
The best of 2Bangkok in 2006
The best of 2Bangkok in 2006
The best of 2Bangkok in 2005
The best of 2Bangkok in 2004
The best of 2Bangkok in 2004

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

<u>Front pages after the</u> <u>New Year's bombings</u>

<u>Headlines – New police</u> <u>chief and various</u>

Wally Higgins Thailand photos from 1959-1961

The USA for Innovation story (right)





Children's Day with the military at Royal Plaza

Toilet tutorial

CNN: "Shocking and heartbreaking" Thailand

Surayud: "The shocking confession"

Download

Sulak's banned book (in Thai)

How things have changed-for some: Siam at home

From <u>Troubles in the South</u>

Almost like being there: Women protest in the deep south – January 26, 2007

Almost like being there: Protest in the deep south - March 2, 2007

Hat Yai bombings - May 27, 2007

Various interesting bomb photos from the Deep South

Protest in the Deep South - June 18, 2007

Call from a southern militant - September 8, 2007

<u>Investigating a tea shop bombing</u> – October 27, 2007

Bombings in Narathiwat - October 30, 2007

PTV and PTV/UDD protests

April Fool's: PTV and 2Bangkok

Thaksin interviews

Website censorship in Thailand

Lot of interesting events this year including people disappearing in the night...

Election posters 2007

Election-related editorial cartoons and news items

Great editorial cartoons this year...





YouTube blocking

Headlines and editorial cartoons from Judgment Day - May 30, 2007

The TRT rally at Sanam Luang - August 15,

Constitution Referendum - August 19, 2007

The rude book - November 20, 2007

Sapa Samanachan - November 23, 2007

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Loy Krathong sights in Chiang Mai

Outstanding editorial cartoons this year

Right: Sanan and Banharn embrace on the occasion of Sanan's faction joining Banharn's Chat Thai Party. At the top it reads: The party of shark

Stephff's Burma cartoons

Myanmar Watch - September 26-October 2, 2007

Teak logs unearthed behind Pongpajjamit Fort

"Total English Environment in New York City"





General areas of 2Bangkok.com

High tension in Thailand

2Bangkok.com Daily News and Views archives

2Bangkok.com YouTube channel

ThaiElections.com

One of the most popular and weird external links of 2007

An alien from Thailand - Funtasticus, November 12, 2007

Also

The best of 2Bangkok in 2009

The best of 2Bangkok in 2008 The best of 2Bangkok in 2007

The best of 2Bangkok in 2006

The best of 2Bangkok in 2005

The best of 2Bangkok in 2004

The best of 2Bangkok in 2003

Thaksin: I used to dream of becoming a rich man

December 31, 2007

Categories: The Thaksin Years

This is from a typically anti-government article from The Nation, but this quote from Prime Minister Thaksin is rather memorable: "I used to dream of becoming a rich man. But once I achieved that dream, I realised that a man doesn't really need all that much. I once carried cash equivalent to Bt2 million which I planned to spend on a one-day shopping spree on New York's Fifth Avenue," Thaksin said. "Once I got there and spent some Bt300,000, it dawned on me that I really needed nothing more. All that I've ever wanted, I already have."

Cool English font composed of Thai-like characters

December 31, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News



Andreas Weygandt created this cool English font composed of Thai-like characters. You can download it for PC or Mac here.

Walk across Thailand in a day

December 31, 2007 Categories: Tourism

Walk

Walk
across Thailand in a day

- TAT website
Clever idea: The genesis for the trip occurred
in 1994 after a chance comment by Thiva Supajanya,
a geology professor at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn
University. 'My home is at the narrowest part
of Thailand. At Wang Duan, just south of Prachuap
Khiri Khan, it is only 10.96 kilometres from
the sea to the Burmese border.'

Venerable Scala theatre holds its own in a business dominated by high-tech chains

December 31, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Scala theatre holds its own in a business dominated by high-tech chains – The Nation

Thailand shocks Afghan doctors

December 31, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Thailand

shocks Afghan doctors - AsiaTimes, 2003

...However, while the representatives from East Timor and Sri Lanka appeared fairly sedate during the tour, the Afghan doctors expressed intense culture shock – often surprising the media and their hosts.

...while traveling together in a separate mini van or eating after a seminar, the five men from Afghanistan often regaled one another about social behavior in Thailand, where, unlike Islamic Afghanistan, women do not wear the all-encompassing cloth burqas. The five Afghan doctors commonly cited Islam as the reason the infection rate is low in their relatively isolated country compared with bustling, Buddhist-majority Thailand.

"It is because of the religion, because in Afghanistan all people are Muslim, and Islam does not accept things like Thailand," Dr Baz Mohammad Shirzad, Jalalabad-based deputy director of Afghanistan's Eastern Region Health Directorate, said in a taped interview. "Islam says, 'You have a wife and must be honest to the wife.' Islam does not accept sex like Thailand's people," Shirzad said...
"Afghanistan's people, if they know about a woman having sex with another who is not her husband, they suggest killing her," said Shafiqullah Shahim, the Kabul-based Health Ministry's national HIV/AIDS control program officer...

Thai links

December 31, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Thai links
1950's Ben Oostdam's Journal of Three Years (1954-1957) in Thailand
Thai crops
Thai history of education

Journalists who died covering the news in Thailand

December 31, 2007 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Journalists who died covering the news in Thailand – newseum.org

On the forum: Trans-Asia Railway Project Map

December 31, 2007



(Image: unescap.org)

On the forum: <u>Trans-Asia</u>
<u>Railway Project Map</u>
<u>Trans-Asian</u>
<u>Railway in the Southern Corridor of Asia-Europe Routes</u> – <u>TAR</u>
<u>North-South Corridor map</u> – <u>Trans-Asian</u>
<u>Railway in Thailand</u>

On the forum: "Ramasun" station Udorn Thani

December 31, 2007



(Photo: Unknown)

On the forum: "Ramasun" station Udorn Thani ... These were huge installations, consisting of several concentric rings of antenna several hundred meters in diameter. Officially known as AN/FLR-9 they were more often known by their nickname "elephant cage"...

On the forum: Boonrawd Breweries

December 31, 2007

On the forum: Boonrawd

Breweries

The document link has some interesting tidbits. We would love to find a copy of the label mentioned in this passage:

The National Archives documents show that the Boonrawd

Brewery Co., Ltd encountered several problems during the 1930's. The letter from Phraya Thepahasadin, director of the company, and M.P., to Luang Tamarongnawasawadi, Secretary-General of the Cabinet, dated on September 26, 1935, revealed that cheap and bad quality imported beer by Thailand competed with the company's beer. He pointed out that the imported beer used for their trademark pictures of Thailand's three famous ministers, namely Phraya Phahon, Luang Pradit and Luang Phibun. He asked the government to investigate.

The cabinet meeting report held on October 4, 1935 reveals that these three ministers were not aware of the situation and had not granted permission to use their pictures.

Bangkok New Year's Countdown: Hands Bangkok Countdown 2008

December 31, 2007 Categories: New Year's Eve

Bangkok New Year's Countdown: <u>Hands Bangkok Countdown 2008</u> – December 31, 2007 BTW: The crush of the crowd in front of Central World Plaza gets worse every year with little improvement in crowd control. Hopefully this situation will be improved.