

Land for a new parliament – and Temasek

July 7, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Land for a new parliament – and Temasek – translated and summarized from *Krungtep Turakit*; Column: Kae Roi Karn Muang; Author: Rak Montri, July 7, 2008

Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej, House Speaker Chai Chidchob and other government officials embarked on a boat from Sathupradit Pier (on the Chao Phraya River in Bangkok) on July 5 to reconnoiter a land plot where a new parliament building could be built in future. The 200-rai plot belongs to the ‘State Railways of Thailand’ (SRT), with about 160-rai of the site possibly being allocated for the construction of a new parliament.

Before considering whether the plot is appropriate for the construction of a new parliament, we should examine agreements that have been reached under the bi-national negotiation process known as the Singapore-Thailand Enhanced Economic Relationship (STEER).

STEER is an ongoing negotiation process, between the Singaporean and Thai governments, with an apparent agenda of boosting Thailand’s economic development.

Maew DVDs

July 12, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



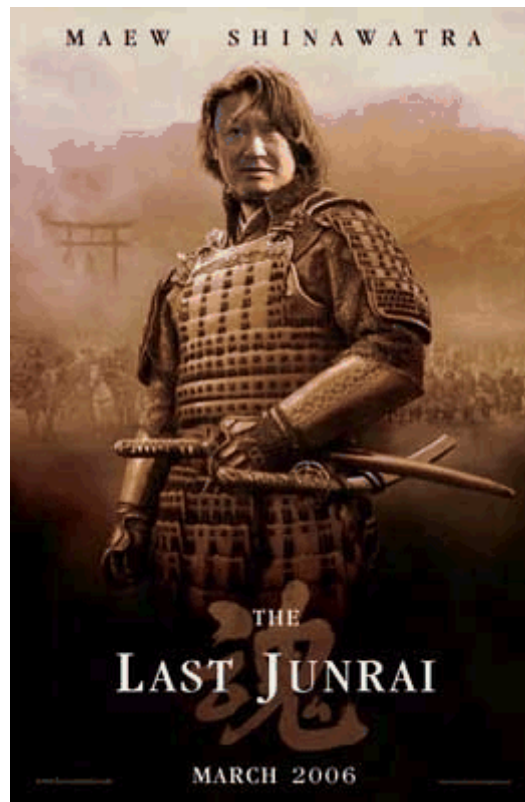
Maew DVDs – July, 12, 2008
Images from the faux-DVDs displayed at the PAD rally











Vatana's escape

July 14, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Left is a diagram from *Daily News* showing the escape route of politician Vatana Asavahame (sometimes spelled “Assavahame”). Cambodia is a place where money talks and there is no repatriation treaty with Thailand, and thus it is the refuge of choice for high profile Thai fugitives. Previously Duangchalem Yoobamrung and Chon Buri don Kamnan Poh fled to Cambodia to escape court cases.



Vatana (often spelled “Watana” or “Wattana”) has held top posts in governments of the past and is part of the Asavahame clan prominent in Samut Prakarn politics. Once the leader of the Rassadorn Party, his star has fallen in recent years with election losses and continuous court cases over fraud, election irregularities, land encroachment, etc. although at present he is chief adviser of the Puea Pandin Party.

Like Chalerm Yoobamrung, Vatana also has unruly family members—his son Chonsawas was accused of assaulting a police officer at a traffic stop in 2007.

“Thailand United Southern Underground” ceasefire

July 17, 2008

Categories: The Thai Deep South



Above and below: Screenshots from the ceasefire announcement – The man on the left spoke in Malay and the one on the right spoke in Thai. The man in the middle is holding a microphone.

"Thailand United Southern Underground" ceasefire – July 17, 2008

At noon on channel 5 (not channel 7 as *The Nation* claims), there was a announcement that the Thailand United Southern Underground group was calling a ceasefire in the south. There seemed to be emphasis that the King is their king and they want to remain part of Thailand. Also a warning that those who did not conform to the ceasefire would be punished.

[Southern insurgents announce ceasefire](#) – *The Nation*, July 17, 2008



Channel 5 TV broadcasts TUSU ceasefire announcement – translated and summarized from *Phujatkan*, July 17, 2008

The Channel 5 television station transmitted a special broadcast at noon today, carrying a videotaped ceasefire declaration by an alliance of militant groups involved in the deep south's violent insurgency. The declaration was made by the leaders of an insurgent network styling itself as the Thailand United Southern Underground (TUSU). The pre-recorded announcement was first made in Melayu, and then in Thai. The two spokesmen announced an end to their group's violent attacks against the Thai state and its loyal subjects in the southern provinces, retroactive to 12 pm on July 14. The statement was as follows:

"I am making this announcement as the spokesman of the Thailand United Southern Underground (TUSU) network, which has been operating for more than ten years. This announcement is intended to let Thai people know that our network has approved the declaration of a ceasefire, retroactively effective as of 12 pm on July 14, 2008 (2551 (BE) Buddhist Era) (14 Rajab, Hijrah 1429).

All of our units, both military and political, will henceforth support the creation of a peace-process in Thailand's southern provinces. This conflict began in 1909 (2452 BE), nearly 100 years ago. We have decided to end our part in this conflict in the hope that a ceasefire will help to both return this country to peace and improve the well-being of its citizens.

We call on all our units, military and political, to conform to this ceasefire. All plans to engage in combat and commit violence will be immediately cancelled.

I, as both the spokesperson and leader of the TUSU network, call on all units to immediately halt all violent attacks. I especially wish to communicate this to those units that have not yet been informed of our ceasefire decision. Any individuals or groups who defy the ceasefire order, to foment trouble or to carry out kidnappings or attacks, will be considered as renegades – whom we will pursue and/or eliminate as necessary.

We are willing to remain under the umbrella of HM the King of Thailand, and to support the integrity of Thailand as proscribed by the laws of its state. We are desirous to begin the process of returning this country to peace.

Our beloved Thai people! We should greet this ceasefire as a gift from God for both the people of the South and for all Thais nationwide. To show our gratitude and our kinship with this our beloved country, our religious and political leaders – of all ranks – will soon organize a meeting and a celebration that will clearly demonstrate to all of our brothers and sisters the full benefit of this ceasefire.

We wish to encourage people of all religions, and especially Buddhists and Muslims, to coexist peacefully. We hope that neighboring countries will provide us with advice on how best to bring a successful end to this conflict.

Our beloved Thai brothers and sisters! It is our profound hope that we can help to bring a permanent end to the violence and loss of life in the southern provinces – so that all of its inhabitants can once again coexist peacefully.

I would like to emphasize yet again, that we wish to inform all Thais that TUSU units will halt all operations that promote unrest from this day forth.

Our beloved Thai brothers and sisters! We all pay homage to the same God. We all love and respect the same King. May God protect our King and all his subjects! We hope, in this way, that peace will be soon be fully restored – and that it will remain that way forever.”

General Chettha Thanajaro, the leader of the Ruam Jai Thai Chart Pattana Party, claimed today that he has been in private negotiations with the TUSU network in recent months. TUSU network members are said to include representatives from both the Patani United Liberation Organization (PULO) and the Runda Kumpulan Kecil (RKK) insurgent movements. Gen. Chettha said that he had reached an unconditional agreement with TUSU for the ceasefire declaration to be made. He also said that TUSU had not make any demands for the establishment of either a separate state or a self-governing region within Thailand.

Criticism that ceasefire declaration was a political ploy and a fake – translated and summarized from *Isra Institute Thai Press Development Foundation News Center*, July 17, 2008

The Thai Television Pool today broadcast a pre-recorded videotape of a ceasefire declaration made by a group claiming to be the leadership of the Thailand United Southern Underground (TUSU) network. The declaration announced that all violent attacks by the TUSU group, in the southern border provinces, would come to an end with immediate effect. This declaration has since been widely criticized, however.

Isra News Center has gathered a number of opinions and thoughts on the likely impact of this declaration. These opinions were collected from academics, analysts, military tacticians, humanists and local community leaders with a considerable knowledge of the southern conflict.

Professor Adullah Abru, an academic based in the College of Islamic Studies at the Prince of Songkhla University's Pattani Campus, has commented that the declaration was nothing more than a political ploy – which carried too little weight in the region to have any great credibility. He portrayed the declaration as an attempt to improve the public perception of the government's initiatives in the region.

Pongcharat Ruayram, a committee member of the 'National Human Rights Commission of Thailand', has commented that the declaration was little more than a political ruse and a fake. He believes that TUSU does not really exist on the ground in the three restive southern provinces – and so has no role to play in improving the region's situation. He also believes that the ceasefire declaration could be construed as an act of defiance by the other insurgent movements active in the region – and that this could actually make the situation worse.

The President of the 'Southern Newspaper Association of Thailand', Chaibong Maneerungsakul, has said that the person who made the declaration in Melayu could be Lukman Bin Lima, the spokesperson of the original ('old') PULO insurgent movement. He accused PULO of trying to use its website to engineer a future political role for itself, in the hope that it might eventually be able to negotiate with the Thai government. He also described PULO as warmongers.

Chaibong noted that the security forces are currently blaming the Barisan Revolusi Nasional-Coordinate (BRN-C) insurgent group for all the violent attacks carried out in the South – rather than either the Patani United Liberation Organization (PULO) or Bersatu groups. He said that the BRN-C had never been involved in any real form of negotiation with the Thai state, whilst the original PULO and other 'old' groups had negotiated with previous Thai governments on a number of occasions. He also said that these 'old' groups had even signed a peace agreement, on the Malaysian island of Langkawi, with a previous Thai government. Chaibong also noted that the security forces were reporting that most of the violence was being carried out by groups led by Sapae-ing Baso and Masae Useng – and that a ceasefire declaration by the two would have carried much more weight than any made by Lukman and his compatriots. He said that there was now a big question as to why the Prime Minister (who is also the Minister of Defense) and the Royal Thai Army (RTA) Commander-in-Chief (C-in-C) had not been more forthcoming about the background to the ceasefire declaration. He said that it was responsibility of the two men to take a lead on this issue, but noted that they had allowed General Chettha Thanajaro (a former RTA C-in-C) to conduct the events leading up to the declaration. Chaibong noted that Gen. Chettha had not been assigned any official role to tackle the issue, and had no real history of dealing with the southern problem.

General Akara Thiproj is an RTA Spokesperson. He is also the Chief of the RTA Region 4 Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC). Gen. Akara has said that ISOC had no idea that any such negotiations were underway. He said that Gen. Chettha (who is also the leader of the Ruam Jai Thai Chart Pattana Party) had made no attempt to inform the 4th Army Region that he was involved in negotiations with an insurgent group. Akara said, however, that if the ceasefire declaration was genuine, it would be a cause for real celebration amongst all Thais.

Peerayos Rahimula, an elected Democrat Party MP, said that it was too soon to comment on whether the declaration would bring an end to the region's unrest. He said the TUSU declaration made no mention as to whether it had received the assent of other southern insurgent movements – such as PULO or BRN.

Angkana Neelapaichit, the President of the 'Working Group on Justice for Peace' commented that if the declaration proved to be real, that she would call on the government to also halt its violent security measures in the region. She said she would also call on the government to focus only on peaceful solutions to the conflict.

Vaedue Ramae Mamingji, the Chairman of the Pattani Provincial Islamic Committee, said that peace would only return if all the involved parties were prepared to sit down and talk to each other. He said that he thought it was a good thing that TUSU had decided to enter into negotiations and announce a ceasefire. He said that local people had suffered far too much in the past 5 years, but that it was inevitable that they would sooner-or-later achieve peace.

The Assistant Manager of the Chariyatham Seuksa Foundation School, Abdussakur Bin Safiey Din-a, said that the ceasefire announcement was a good political move. He said that despite the 'ceasefire group' being unknown, that there was a possibility that the region's other underground movements would begin to listen – as all most locals really wanted to hear was that some kind of peace-process was under way.

Jae Abiding Ben-abus – a Pattani Province resident – commented that no one locally seemed to know exactly who had made the declaration, or had even heard of TUSU. He said that locals were not at all sure whether the ceasefire had the potential to improve matters in the region. He added, however, that locals would be delighted if the declaration eventually restored peace – as most had no other hope than to once again live and work in a happy environment.

Chettha insists underground group is real – translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*, July 20, 2008

There has been widespread criticism of the ceasefire declaration made by the leadership of the Thailand United Southern Underground (TUSU) insurgent group. The announcement initially seemed to hold out some promise of bringing an end to the violence in the South. Many have since said that it is impossible for TUSU to deliver on their ceasefire announcement, since the group has no real power in the region. Powerful local insurgent groups such as the Patani United Liberation Organization (PULO) and the Barisan Revolusi Nasional-Coordinate (BRN-C) have already denied any involvement in the announced ceasefire. Opposition Leader Abhisit Vejjajiva has suggested that the government needs to make it clear to the public that it was not involved in the peace overtures that led up to the announcement.

General Chettha Thanajaro, who instigated the broadcast of the pre-recorded videotape of the ceasefire declaration, has once again insisted that he made peace overtures to TUSU without any official government or military involvement. Gen. Chettha says he is not worried if some people are inclined to believe that he began a negotiation process with TUSU as a means to gain a future position in government. Sources close to the general say his actions have enabled some important figures in the PULO and BRN-Coordinate insurgent groups to emerge from the shadows. The same sources also insist that the three TUSU spokesmen and their ceasefire announcement are all genuine – and that the level of violence in the South is likely to decline in the next 30 days.

Blame game over 'fraudulent' ceasefire having negative impact on state's public image – translated and summarized from *Krungtep Turakit*, July 18, 2008

A rebel group appeared on Channel 5 television in a pre-recorded videotape transmission yesterday, to announce an unconditional ceasefire by insurgent groups currently fighting government forces in the deep south. The 3 spokesmen on the video claimed to be the leaders of 11 militant groups long active in the region's unrest. It was later realized that the ceasefire declaration was probably fraudulent – after many military figures, academics and politicians made statements casting doubt on the authenticity of the individuals who made the announcement. Many people are now concerned that this whole event could hugely discredit the public image of the Thai state.

Public comments on the likely long-term impact of this event have broadly fallen into 2 strands:

The first strand holds that the episode could badly dent the public image of the state and its security units. This is because it is unclear exactly what part the state took in the episode – if any at all. There is some evidence, however, that the current government left the whole matter to a former Royal Thai Army Commander-in-Chief to negotiate alone – namely General Chettha Thanajaro, who was once also the Defense Minister. Gen. Chettha has since said that he is prepared to take responsibility for his part in the episode.

The second strand of comment has arisen among some residents of the restive south, who now have increasing suspicions that some of the violent incidents in their region's recent past were plotted with the

connivance of the state's security services. This suspicion is based on their assumption that this 'fraudulent' declaration could have been engineered through state collusion with terrorist groups.

[Troubles
in the South index page](#)

Navin's Sala

July 17, 2008

Categories: Art, Navin



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Navin's Sala – July 17, 2008

This show is located inside the River Promenade condo sales building and runs until August 10, 2008. [GoogleEarth Placemark](#)

There is a shuttle boat that leaves from the hotel shuttle boat pier at Taksin Bridge. For more info call Bangkok Art Map (BAM) at 02-252-3900. [Navin Party website](#) – [Navin on Wikipedia](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

"Quotations from Comrade Navin"



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Comrade Navin figures with the Chao Phraya River in the background



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Vintage Thai-styled movie poster documenting a Navin adventure



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

"He's Back!" – Jim Thompson appears on the Skytrain



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Series of "Lost in the City" paintings



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Panel 1 from the "Lost in the City" series – These paintings document practically every vignette that makes up present-day Bangkok—from drunken men asleep in front of a temple to protesters at Democracy Monument. Each painting is fronted by a Bangkok-style curb. Here a smashed plastic cup and dog droppings are on the curb.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

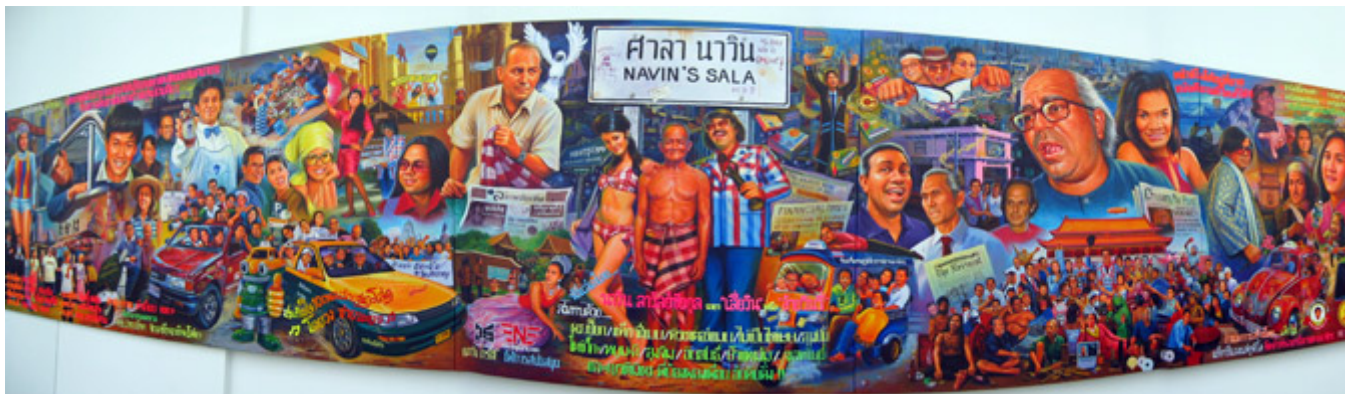


(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Everything is themed around the artist, Navin Rawanchaikul. Even the ubiquitous rumpled newspaper sitting on a chair is a copy of *The Navinist*.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The 9-meter long "Navin's Sala" features characters who have appeared in navin's art over the years.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

"Where is Navin?"



Bangkok Art Map – July 10, 2008

If you have not seen it yet, *Bangkok Art Map* or *BAM* (from [Talisman Media](#)) is a much needed guide to Bangkok's burgeoning art scene. It has all the latest on local galleries such as Manit Sriwanichpoom's [Kathmandu Photo Gallery](#) and the always interesting [Tang Gallery](#). *BAM* does not seem to have a website, but can be found in most galleries around town.

Navin at the Fat Fest – December 5, 2009

Don't miss these [photos](#).

Navin explains: ...It was the 9th Fat Fest this year Nov 7-8 at Munagthongthani. As you may know this is the annual music festival produced by Fat Radio FM 104.5 the festival also includes art and this year they asked me to do a project and the result is [a series of billboards 12 meters high and 300 meters long in total!](#)

Ready to fight

July 19, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



Sapae-ing and Masae are real leaders. It's believed that the matter is not related to any fake insurgent issue – *Khao Sod*, July 19, 2008



Ready to fight –

Security guards of the People Alliance for Democracy line up in front of the entrance to the gathering on the Makawan Rasan Road after members of the United Front of Democracy Against Dictatorship submitted a letter, pressuring the PAD to open the road by August 12. It led to a small fight took place in the evening of July 18. – *Khao Sod*, July 19, 2008

Changnoi –

[Pad: bulldog on a leash or another nail in democracy's coffin](#) – *The Nation*, July 21, 2008

...PAD promotes a visceral nationalism reminiscent of the early Phibun era. The nation is a body that is being physically ripped by its enemies (internal and external), causing pain to the citizens, who must rise up in the nation's defence.

The PAD's agitational practice suggests a high degree of organisation, strong financing, access to technology, and skill with sophisticated techniques. The equipment for staging and broadcasting the PAD's message requires high capital cost and running expenses. The crowds are well organised and provisioned. The programming shows strategic planning to sustain support and interest with relatively little novelty. The PAD seems skilled in the techniques and rituals of litigation. In short, this is not a few people gathered at a street corner with a soap box.

...In short, PAD is an anti-democratic movement, supported by high investment and shadowy protection, that exploits the fears of the privileged and a deliberately anti-rational nationalism, and flirts with militarism and violence...

[Rural Thais lash out at protesters](#) –
TVNZ, **July, 2008**

... "I voted for PPP because I like Thaksin," said street vendor Adisorn, adding that Thaksin had "wiped out drugs from Thailand" ...

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

Bangkok scenes

July 21, 2008

Categories: Old photos and films



Above: Undated postcard – It reads: Travel to Bangkok by rail from Penang

Bangkok scenes – July 31, 2008



Above: Undated postcard of New Road



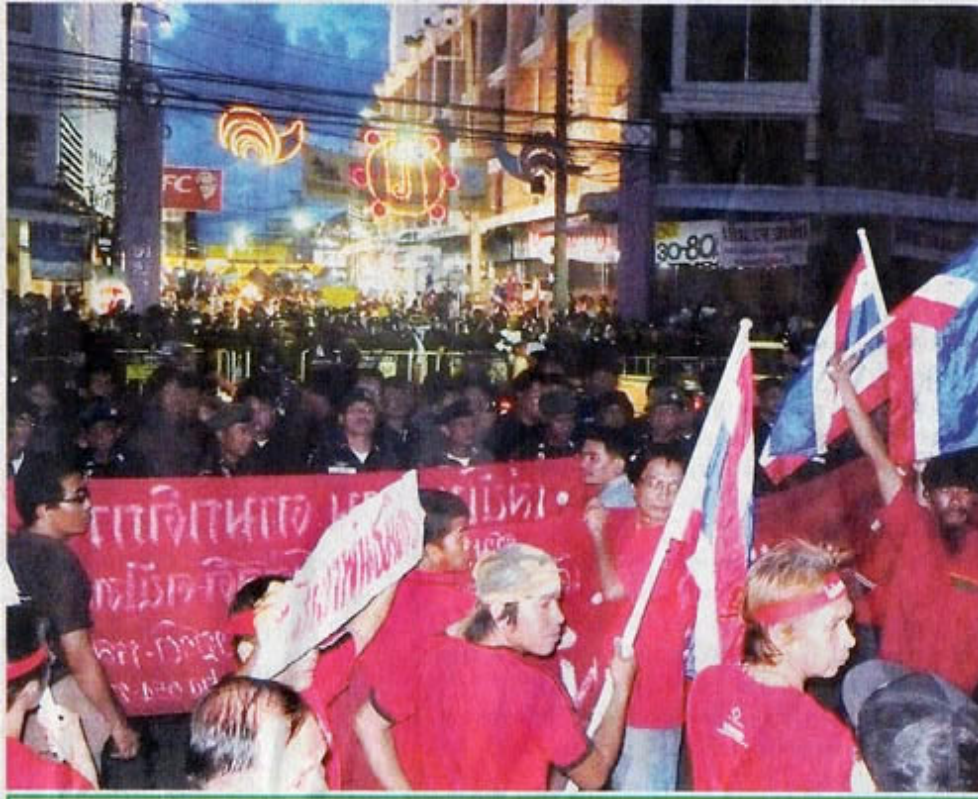
Above: 1930 postcard of See Phya Intersection

[Links to more old photos on the 2Bangkok archives page](#)

Ready to fight

July 28, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



Encountering risk – *Khao Sod*, July 28, 2008

The caption reads:

Encountering risk – Almost 100 police officers close off the Chareonmuang Road, center of Lampang province, to bar the pro-government rallying group from facing the People's Alliance for Democracy who hosts the rally stage against the government in front of the Seree Department Store, causing the tense atmosphere risky for chaos on July 26.



Daily News, July 27, 2008 – Cambodia withdraws Preah Vihear case submitted to UN – Udon Thani patriots rage against PAD rally stage, breaking through police ordinance-4 PAD critically injured.



Khao Sod, July 27, 2008 – Udon Thani-Buriram storming PAD rallies – many injured – UN Preah Vihear withdrawn – PM Satisfied – Hun Sen to discuss Thai

Komchadluek, July 27, 2008 – Bail given to Sondhi – PM bad mood for being blamed – Clash led by Udon Thani's pro-govt mob against the PAD – Minister's brother partakes – Rally clash in Buriram ensues





Thai Rath, July 27, 2008 -13 injured as Udon Thani pro-govt staged rally against PAD – Samak discusses Hun Sen on Preah Vihear dispute retrieved from UN – New Foreign Minister name reported to HM for royal approval

[Thailand: Protect Opposition Rallies From Attack](#) – HRW, July 26, 2008

...“Thai authorities have failed to protect their citizens’ basic right to peaceful assembly,” said Elaine Pearson, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch. “By allowing pro-government thugs free rein to unleash violence, the authorities are putting Thailand’s fragile democracy at risk. Officials should investigate these attacks and hold to account those responsible for the violence, as well as any officials who failed to stop it...”

[PAD supporter killed, 20 others in political violence in Udon Thani](#) – *The Nation*, July 24, 2008
 Udon Thani – A supporter of the People’s Alliance for Democracy was killed and 20 others were injured when PAD-led protesters clashed with their opponents in this northeastern province Thursday afternoon.

Police said about 1,000 anti-PAD people armed with sticks, machetes and iron bars, stormed into try to demolish the stage of the PAD at about 1:30 pm.

PAD guards tried to fight back and the man was killed in the clash.

The injured people were sent to the provincial hospital.

[Anti-PAD activist arrested on lese majesty charge](#) – *The Nation*, July 22, 2008

...Speaking to reporters after the weekly Cabinet meeting, Samak said he had received a police report that Daranee Charnchoengsilpakul, better known as Da Torpedo, attacked the highest institution during her debate at Sanam Luang...

[Download Da Torpedo’s speech](#)

[Police ignore duty to protect the monarchy](#) – *Bangkok Post*, July 28, 2008

On the forum: [Links to some of the articles in Phujatkhon over the last several days on this issue](#)

On the forum: [Decoding the words of Dah Torpido](#)

On the forum: [Bad language and the PAD](#)

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

Thai Media Project – July 2008

July 30, 2008

Categories: Thai Media Project

More: [Unlocking the Thai world: Thai-language newspaper headlines](#)



Do do do, look what they did... – *Thai Rath*, July 20, 2008

Top, left to right: They hire some cad people to throw water bottles and bags of urine to protest Yongyuth's case

Because of their corruption, now Thailand is in the top ten list of countries that has the most fat people in the world.

They did it against the constitution, but still insisted that the constitution is wrong.

Bottom, left to right: He hides 125 million baht bribe in the water tunnel.

They did it until UNESCO had to send 7 nations to invade our country.

They've tried to shut the brave soldier's mouth who come out to protect the nation's sovereignty and the royal institution.



Don't understand – Matichon, July 20, 2008

Top, left to right: Don't understand why this animal can come in and walk around here.

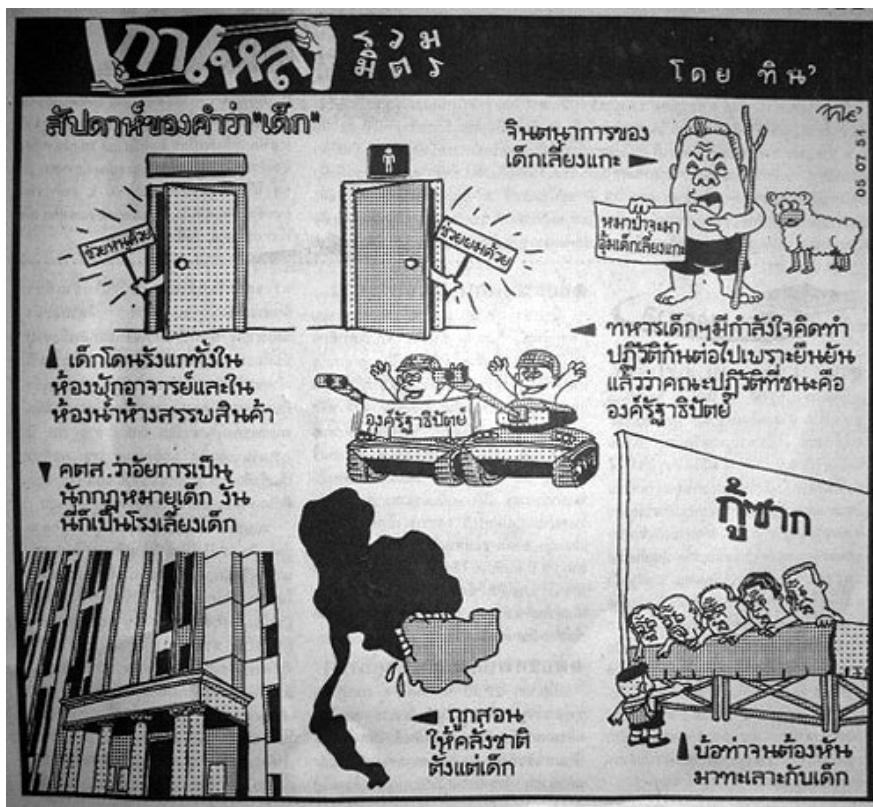
Don't understand why talkative person can be very quiet about the Bangkok Water tunnel project.

Don't understand why Iran firecracker scared people over the world.

Bottom, left to right: Don't understand why someone can transform from Godfather to Ninja.

Don't understand why political parties in this country can be very easily disbanded.

Don't understand why the horse has to be skittish on the People's Alliance for Democracy's stage



Week of children's words – Kaolaoruammitr by Tin, Matichon, July, 2008

Top, left to right: Kids were bullied both in the teacher's room and the restroom in the department store.

The imagination of the shepherd boy.

On the sign Samak is holding: The fox will hold the shepherd boy.

Middle center: Young soldiers get encouragement to make a revolution because it is insisted that the revolutionary group is the winner.

Bottom, left to right: Assets Scrutiny Committee (ASC) says that prosecutors are the kids lawyers so the place is a nursery.

Being taught to be national chauvinist from a very young age.

Without style, so fighting with children.

On the sign: Save the ruins.



Accidentally accidentally – by Chai Ratchawat, *Thairath*, July, 2008

Top, left to right: Accidentally, the one entitled "Tu" who normally do the noodle buying service is the same one with the well-to-do "Suthichart."

Accidentally, the bag containing 2 million baht and the snack bag look like the same.

Accidentally, someone whose name is Prompat took the test for someone whose name is "Santi Prompan."

Bottom, left to right: Accidentally, someone who says that the prime minister has a mental problem appears to be a doctor.

Accidentally, Rangsan was a chancellor at the time when many politicians got their degrees.

Accidentally, the big boss got involved with the concession in Cambodia so, that is why Noppadon behaves suspiciously.



I am Thaksin nominee – *Phutjadvuan*, July, 2008

It reads: Top left: I am Thaksin nominee

Top right: The whole group contains only one member who is a brave milksop (This is a compliment)

Insecure Internal Security – *Matichon*; Author: Wasit Detkunchon; July 1, 2008

I was once a police officer working for the Crime Suppression Division (CSD) of the Royal Thai Police in Southern Thailand. I have also been a member of the police department given the honor of providing protection for the Royal Family.

I wish to comment on the June 20 attack in which 4 'State Railways of Thailand' officials were killed on board a Sungai Golok to Nakorn Sri Thammarat train. I believe the militant attackers were aiming to discredit the Region 4 Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC) unit responsible for overseeing transport security, since I note that they had disguised themselves as military officers. I would like to ask the Prime Minister – who is also the chairman of a committee that oversees ISOC – whether he believes ISOC policy is being sufficiently well-executed to provide adequate security for the locals and state officials who live and work in the restive South.

[School collapses into canal](#) – ThaiBlogs, July 8, 2008

Third-generation ruler – translated and summarized from *Krungtep Turakit*; Column: Kae Roy Karn Muang; Author: Reporter Number 10, July 7, 2008

People are now keeping a close eye on the current legal cases against members of the present coalition government led by the People Power Party (PPP) and its 'de facto' boss & lady boss.

The judgments on these various legal cases could eventually bring some sort of finale to the numerous political conflicts that have wracked this country since the 2006 Coup. That said, the judgments could also increase the political temperature still further.

The People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) is currently engaged in protests in an attempt to oust Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej and his PPP-led administration from power. The PAD should now also be spending some time to consider how best to deal with Thaksin's supporters at work in the PTV (People's

Television) Channel and the Democratic Alliance Against Dictatorship (DAAD) political movement. The various impending judicial verdicts against Thaksin and his allies could bring an end to this protracted political conflict. This finale has been long-awaited by Thais, who have found themselves broadly split into two opposing (pro- and anti-) camps over this issue in the past few years. We will have to wait and see if the impending court verdicts will be sufficient to stop the political projects of Samak, the PPP and its ‘de facto’ boss and lady boss. There is now a big question arising as to who will become the third-generation political ruler of our country for the current political regime.

A deep issue – but not any great secret – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Author: Charan Phongchine; July 11, 2008

Regarding the recent phenomenon of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Noppadon Pattama and his handling of a joint Thai-Cambodian communiqué indicating that Thailand would allow Cambodia to proceed with the registration of Prasart Preah Vihear as a World Heritage Site. The Constitutional Court later made a judgment to the effect that the joint communiqué was a legally-binding agreement that should have been approved by Parliament before its release into the public domain. There was also the later Constitutional Court judgment to the effect that former House Speaker Yongyuth Tiypairat had broken electoral law. The court decided that Yongyuth should thus forfeit his rights to stand for election as a political representative. Both judgments have caused a considerable stir within both the Samak government and the People Power Party (PPP) that constitutes the majority of its MPs.

The recent Constitutional Court judgments have become a hot political issue. The court judged that the cabinet decision on Prasart Preah Vihear was unconstitutional. This has led some to suggest that the entire administrative team of this government must therefore resign.

The 5-year ban on Yongyuth Tiypairat (the PPP Deputy Head), from engaging in politics, could eventually lead to the disbandment of his party.

Politicians will soon be ‘slaughtered’ yet again. Previously, 111 members of the Thai Rak Thai (TRT) Party were ‘slaughtered’ for their political misconduct – and now another 37 members of the PPP are going to receive the same punishment.

The disbandment process of the PPP is likely to be a lot easier than was the case with TRT. The entire process is expected to take only six months.

‘New Politics’ based on more natural processes – translated and summarized from *Phujatkan*, July 7, 2008

Below I provide some observations on the ‘new’ direction in which I perceive Thai politics to be currently heading. :

Old Politics	New Politics
Political parties are the only organizations who currently enjoy the right to field candidates for positions of political representation.	Any possible combination of people will enjoy the future right to field candidates for positions of political representation.
Elections are the only means currently available to select political representation.	Elections will be just one of the future ways that will be available to select political representation.
The government and parliament are the only two entities that can realistically engage in political activities at the national level.	The general public will play an increasingly important role in political activities at the national level.
Political representatives, for pre-specified constituencies, can be selected only by an electoral process.	Political representatives will increasingly also arise from organizations that concern themselves with economic and social matters.

'Big Money' is an all-important ingredient of the political scene.	'Big Money' will have a reduced future role.
Publicly-initiated social movements are widely separated from political parties.	Publicly-initiated social movements will play an increasingly important role in politics. They will also have a greater degree of linkage to political parties.
Publicly-initiated social movements, that seek to directly represent their members' interests, are not accepted by political parties.	Publicly-initiated social movements, that directly represent their members' interests, will be in the forefront of an increasing number of political campaigns.
Political parties are heavily involved with capitalist interest groups and small pressure-groups of elite individuals.	Political parties will be more open to the participation of a wider cross-section of the general public.

'New Politics' will be a great deal more organic and less formal than 'Old Politics'. It will promote greater sharing & pooling of useful political ideas – in contrast to the more traditional high-degree of aggressive competitiveness between politicians of the 'old school'. 'New Politics' has the ability to rid Thailand of the absolutist political power tendency that has been so apparent in the form of a single all-powerful political party in recent years.

Thailand Special: sex transplants, elephants, and the Grand Palace

July 31, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand Special: sex transplants, elephants, and the Grand Palace](#) – GMA, July 31, 2008

...Mhel is just one of the thousand homosexuals lured by the promise of a “normal” life in the “Sex Change Capital of the World”– Bangkok, Thailand!...

Thailand sends first cyclist to Olympics in more than 40 years

August 1, 2008

Categories: Sports

[Thailand sends first cyclist to Olympics in more than 40 years](#) – Channel NewsAsia, August 1, 2008

...24-year-old Chanpeng Nonthasin has been chosen to go to the Games after the International Cycling Union gave Thailand one berth for a female cyclist...

Thailand to host world's first symposium on fireflies

August 1, 2008

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Thailand to host world's first symposium on fireflies](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 1, 2008

Murder in Bangkok

August 1, 2008

[Murder in Bangkok](#) – Bangkok Post, August 1, 2008

On July 24 at about 5.30pm, I witnessed an event in Bangkok that has left me shaken. It has changed the way I view Thailand...

PAD “alert day”

August 1, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

PAD “alert day” – August 1, 2008

Today (Friday, August 1) the PAD is trying reinvigorate its protest against the government. They have announced a special “alert day” to indicate they will not accept the government amending the constitution. Many groups of protesters from around the country are reportedly joining the crowd including large groups from the south and Pitsonalok.

Meanwhile, newspapers are full of news from a fortuneteller who says the country will either have a coup or dissolution of parliament on August 9. Fortunetellers typically come out of the woodwork to make opportunistic predictions during times of turmoil and these are duly reported on the front pages of newspapers.

Family of Calgary man killed in Thailand says Ottawa stalling them

August 1, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Family of Calgary man killed in Thailand says Ottawa stalling them](#) – Canadian Press, August, 2008

...There were nearly 300 pages, but almost all of them were blacked out, with entire pages omitted and emails censored.

The few lines that escaped the black marker suggested that someone – likely an embassy official – expressed concern that they were getting more information from the media than their own sources on the case...

US twist to Thaksin court case

August 2, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

[US twist to Thaksin court case](#) – *Asia Times*, August 2, 2008

...Thailand's new Thaksin-aligned government, led by prime minister Samak Sundaravej, announced earlier this year that the remaining portion of the 2004 Thai Ex-Im Bank loan would be handed over to Myanmar's generals, despite the political controversy surrounding the loan.

The bottom line however is that Thaksin and his family are not the only ones feeling the legal heat. While the US State Department looked on, the US Ex-Im Bank wrote checks that effectively extended badly needed satellite services into Myanmar – and in apparent violation of the sanctions Washington has long imposed against the military regime.

Now Myanmar's junta is likely using US-funded wireless broadband technology to perpetuate its repressive policies and harassment of pro-democracy groups. Not only does the oversight represent a shameful stain on US government accountability, it also sets back the broader cause of promoting human rights and democracy in military-run Myanmar.

Thailand: Weinsteins recreate old Shanghai in Bangkok

August 2, 2008

Categories: Film and TV

[Thailand: Weinsteins recreate old Shanghai in Bangkok](#) – Sin Chew Jit Poh, August 2, 2008

A large neon red sign in cursive script and a painting of a buxom woman wearing a blue bra advertise “The Great World Casino.” Nearby, a rice shop displays wooden buckets of grain under a canvas awning...

Students from Thailand clinch title of “World Champs” in official Microsoft Office competition

August 3, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Students from Thailand clinch title of “World Champs” in official Microsoft Office competition](#) – *INO News*,

August 3, 2008

Certiport today announced Chawanat Nakasan, 16, from from Thailand and Penporn Koanantakool, 20, also from Thailand as this year’s World Champions for Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel(R), respectively, at the 2008 Worldwide Competition on Microsoft(R) Office...

29 condemned Nigerians in Thailand, Afghanistan get reprieve

August 3, 2008

Categories: Crime

[29 condemned Nigerians in Thailand, Afghanistan get reprieve](#) – *This Day*, August 3, 2008

Reprieve has come for twenty-nine Nigerians, condemned to death in Thailand and Afghanistan for drug-related offences, as they have had their sentences commuted to prison terms...

Matichon reporter shot dead at home

August 3, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Matichon reporter shot dead at home](#) – Bangkok Post, August 3, 2008

... "He became extra careful recently due to a conflict with some local politicians over his reports. He told me to always change my routes when heading home," Mrs Pornpimol said.

She said her husband had told Region 8 Police Bureau chief Thani Tawitsri of his concerns.

Pol Lt-Gen Thani said police suspected the murder was related to news reports written by the victim, which caused conflicts with a high-ranking government officer in the district...

Rare deer to be released back into the wild

August 3, 2008

[Rare deer to be released back into the wild](#) – Bangkok Post, August 3, 2008

After disappearing from the forest in Uthai Thani more than three decades ago, the Eld's Deer will return to the Thungyai-Huay Kha Khaeng wildlife sanctuaries in the central province next week. The National Resources and Environment Ministry has scheduled the release of 77 of the deer, called Lamang in Thai, into the World Heritage site in Uthai Thani province on Friday in a ceremony to be presided over by Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej...

GTA killing

August 4, 2008

Categories: Crime, Culture and Society

[Teenager imitates online game, kills taxi driver](#)

– Bangkok Post, August 4, 2008
A Mathayom 6 student stabbed a taxi driver to death yesterday, acting out a robbery he copied from the online game Grand Theft Auto...

[2Bangkok n](#)

[Scores of violence online games available in Thailand](#)

– TNA, August 4, 2008
A senior police officer said Monday at least 10-20 violence online games can be found in the Thai market and instructed parents to be on alert in preventing their children from playing such games...

[Controversial video game pulled from shops](#)

– Bangkok Post, August 4, 2008
Ladda Thangsupachai, director of the Thai Culture Ministry's Cultural Surveillance Centresaid the murder was a wake-up call for authorities to tackle the issue of violent video games, adding ominously: "Today it is a cab driver, but tomorrow it could be a video game shop owner."

[Police ban computer game that is not on sale](#)

– Bangkok Post, August 5, 2008
...the Thailand distributor of GTA, New Era Interactive, removed the game from all shops on Mondayh and stopped selling it. That was not enough for police, who officially banned it because of "obscene" content. The AFP news agency quoted police spokesman Ruangsak Jaritake as saying, "The police are empowered to immediately arrest shopkeepers if they find any GTA (Grand Theft Auto) games on sale."



Above: *Daily News*, August 5, 2008 –

Mad about game: The police brought Mr. Nueng, a M 6 student, to re-enact his crime after he killed Mr. Kue Pokeng (small photo: left), a taxi driver. He confessed imitated the crime in the GTA game (small photo: right) saw that to kill people in the game was such an easy a

[Game inspires youngster to crime – Distributor hands back licenses, GTA banned](#)

– Bangkok Post, Aug 2008

...An eight-year-old boy admits he wants to be a thief, emulating an online game in which money can be made through assault and murder. In the game, the more crime a character commits, the more money he according to the Pathom 2 student at a well-known school in Muang district of Nakhon Ratchasima.

This, he said, is why he wants to become a professional thief.

... "A thief can eat whatever he likes, whenever he wants, just by killing a restaurant operator. It's cool, Nakhon Ratchasima student...



Left: *Daily News*, August 4, 2008 – Despaired: The police brought Mr. N (small photo: right), a Mathayom 6 student, to re-enact his crime story. The man Mr. Kuan Pokeng (small photo: left) was the driver, and seized his properties. He killed the victim until he died and dragged his body up on the car. He then tried to escape away from the police. However, he failed and was arrested. He claimed that he was inspired by an action he saw in the GTA game (left photo), which trains people how to commit crimes. He said he thought that it was as easy as crimes in the game.



Komchadluek, August 5, 2008 – Planned re-enactment: A police office took Mr. Polawat Shinno, a 19-year-old student, to re-enact the crime. The suspected killer of Mr. Kuan Pokeng (small picture), a 50-year-old taxi driver, was Mr. Charansanitwong 77, Yak 1, Khet Bang Plad, on August 3.

Microsoft expands software accessibility for Thailand

August 4, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Microsoft expands software accessibility for Thai consumers Microsoft Office Home and Student 2007 now available at 3,250 baht for students and home users in Thailand](#) – *Thaipr*, August 4, 2008

Microsoft (Thailand) Limited is encouraging more Thai consumers – specifically home users and students – to enjoy the genuine Microsoft user experience, by making the Home and Student edition of the Microsoft Office 2007 package available in Thailand at a reduced price of 3,250 baht – approximately 40% lower than that of the original price...

Following this success, Microsoft is now offering the product at a permanently discounted rate to home users and students in Thailand who are seeking basic computer functionality from core Microsoft Office programs such as Microsoft Office Word, Microsoft Office Excel Microsoft Office PowerPoint, and Microsoft Office OneNote...

Conviction for Thaksin could mean FA sanctions

August 4, 2008

Categories: Thai Politics

[Conviction for Thaksin could mean FA sanctions](#) – *Crain's Manchester Business*, August 4, 2008

The FA Premier League would reassess Thaksin Shinawatra's suitability to own Manchester City Football Club if he is convicted of a criminal offence in Thailand...

Keep Up – Modern Thai Architecture 1967-1987

August 4, 2008



Keep Up – Modern Thai

Architecture 1967-1987 – August 4, 2008

This is an incredibly odd, but interesting trend to document—the proliferation of modernist, 60's-era concrete structures in Thailand. This elaborate and detailed exhibit shows the history of buildings such as the Indra Hotel, Suan Amporn Pavilion, and the Science Museum. Ironically, one of the most interesting structures—the pavilion over the Samsen train station—was torn down to make way for the Hopewell line which was never built.

[“Keeping Up –](#)

[Modern Thai Architecture 1967-1987”](#) is at the TCDC on the 6th floor of the Emporium (on the movie theater level). Closed Mondays.

Fishing for criminals at the checkpoint – How the Pisces programme keeps our borders secure

August 4, 2008

Categories: Airports and Airlines, Security

[Fishing for criminals at the checkpoint – How the Pisces programme keeps our borders secure](#) – Bangkok Post, August 4, 2008

... A small camera standing at each immigration counter is a component of the system.

While a passenger waits in front of the immigration desk and is asked to look at the camera, the process begins. The traveller's picture is taken and the information on the passport is "grilled," the term used by immigration officers for scanning.

This information is linked with the two main servers at Suvarnabhumi and Don Mueang airports.

These servers then link their data with that from the Immigration Bureau head office at Suan Phlu, the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), the Foreign Ministry and other government agencies.

The immigration official will then know how many times the traveller has entered and left Thailand, whether the person's appearance has changed and, most importantly, whether they are wanted for any reason...

Actress Beart, director defend new tsunami film

August 4, 2008

Categories: Film and TV

[Actress Beart, director defend new tsunami film](#) – Reuters, August, 2008

...Du Welz heard some people were “irritated” by the fact that “Vinyan” dealt with the tsunami. The Times newspaper this week quoted a couple who lost a daughter in the tidal wave as saying that to turn tragedy into entertainment so soon was “outrageous”...

Taxi for Thaksin? City are rocked as Thai supremo considers his future

August 5, 2008

Categories: Thai Politics

[Taxi for Thaksin? City are rocked as Thai supremo considers his future](#) – Daily Mail, August 5, 2008

...And sources close to the situation revealed last night that two anonymous parties have been approached as Thaksin has investigated ways of selling the club he bought for 80million last summer or bringing in fresh investors.

...Furthermore, it is believed that Thaksin's cash-flow problems were such last season that he twice had to borrow substantial amounts of money from former owner John Wardle in order to pay the wages.

...Last night a Manchester City spokesman said: 'It is not true to say that Dr Thaksin Shinawatra is trying to sell Manchester City, nor that he is looking for a buyer. Since he bought the club a number of potential investors from his wide network of business associates have spoken to Dr Thaksin about investing in the club. These discussions have been nothing more than exploratory.'

Retail hacking ring charged for stealing and distributing credit and debit card numbers from major U.S. retailers

August 5, 2008

Categories: Scams

[Retail hacking ring charged for stealing and distributing credit and debit card numbers from major U.S. retailers](#) – Market Watch, August 5, 2008

...The San Diego charges allege that Yastremskiy, Suvorov, Chiu, Wang, Delpiero, Pavolvich, Burak and Storchak operated an international stolen credit and debit card distribution ring with operations from Ukraine, Belarus, Estonia, the People's Republic of China, the Philippines and Thailand...

Chaovarat vows to break drug patent to make cheap drug

August 6, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Chaovarat vows to break drug patent to make cheap drug](#) – *The Nation*, August 6, 2008

Newly-appointed Public Health Minister Chaovarat Chanweerakul vowed Thursday to break patent of expensive drug to allow the poor to have access to life-saving medicine at fair prices...

Thai plan threatens Mekong

August 7, 2008

[Thai plan threatens Mekong](#) – Radio Australia, August 7, 2008

The Thai government has revived controversial plans to divert water from tributaries of the Mekong river to help agricultural production in the drought affected north east of the kingdom...

Thai general conferred Singapore's highest military award

August 7, 2008

Categories: Thai Military

[Thai general conferred Singapore's highest military award](#) – Channel NewsAsia, August 7, 2008

President S R Nathan has conferred the Distinguished Service Order (Military) or Darjah Utama Bakti Cemerlang (Tentara) on the Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, General Boonsrang Niumpradit, at the Istana...

Sustainable approach to tackle coastal erosio

August 7, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[THAILAND: Sustainable approach to tackle coastal erosion](#) – IRIN, August 7, 2008

...However, more than 3,000 rai (483 hectares) of mangrove forests have been lost to the sea over the past 30 years. Panya, a former village head and one of 127 families who own seaside land, said most of their plots had washed away...

Vatana in hiding ahead of court verdict, but still pulling strings

August 7, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Vatana in hiding ahead of court verdict, but still pulling strings](#) – Bangkok Post, August 7, 2008

... "For many nights, Mr Vatana joined parties with Cambodian leaders to celebrate their recent election victory. Other times, he was seen side by side with Cambodian leaders at the Venetian Resort in Macau," said a source.

Though "missing" in Thailand, Mr Vatana can still wield influence from afar. He gave advice to the government on who should get what posts in the recent cabinet reshuffle...

Mr Samak finally agreed to see them and after seating them at a table, lost no time bemoaning the countless obstacles he faced in drawing up the latest cabinet line-up.

But he was cut short by the irate faction members, who reminded him they were there to talk about their problem, not to listen to his moaning...

Mr Santi cut in by suggesting the MPs should have called and discussed their problem with him. Again, the group's response was a loud whack on the table.

The angry MPs recited Mr Santi's phone number and said they called him hundreds of times, but he did not pick up the phone.

"You people don't know anything about sincerity, do you?" said one Isan Pattana member...

[THAILAND: A model for emergency medical response](#) – AlertNet, August 5, 2008

...A key finding, according to hospital officials, was that while most patients were medical emergencies not traumatic injuries, some 80 percent of the trauma injuries were from motorcycle accidents and 90 percent of in-hospital mortalities were from such injuries...

Thailand at the 2008 Beijing Olympics

August 8, 2008



Thailand at the 2008 Beijing Olympics – 21:32, August 8, 2008



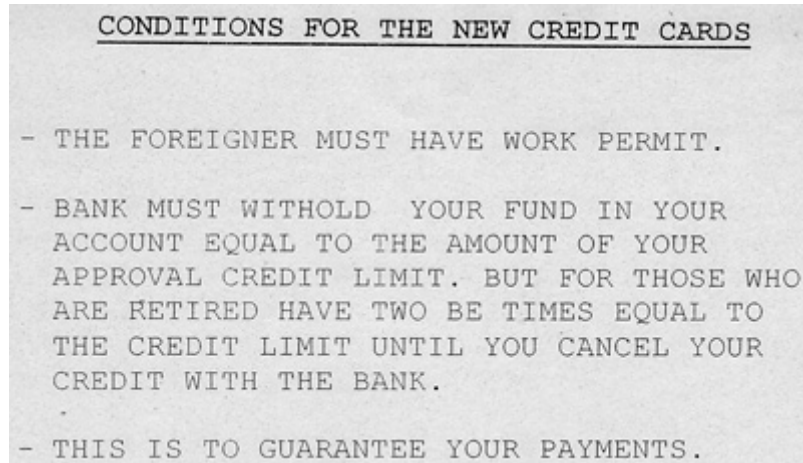




“Many foreigners do not pay their credit card bills and we have trouble following them

August 8, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Source: Bangkok Bank document)

100-200% of credit line held for foreigners? – August 8, 2008

A reader explains: *I was surprised by this requirement for non-Thais who apply for a credit card at Bangkok Bank.*

A bank officer explained (and this is a direct quote): “Many foreigners do not pay their credit card bills and we have trouble following them. So we have a new policy.”

If your work permit is over three years old (working at least 3 years at the same place) they hold 100% of your credit line from your bank account. If it is less than three years, they hold 200% of your credit amount from your bank account. If a foreigner has a Ministry of Foreign affairs card (meaning they are employed by a foreign embassy), this requirement is waived.

I have no doubt that Thailand remains a catchall for deadbeat foreigners, but this requirement is annoying for someone who has had a bank account in good standing with Bangkok Bank for nearly 20 years...

We are not sure how new this policy is as others have reported similar things in the past. In any event, banks like KTC and Kasikorn give out credit cards to foreigners very easily.

US, Thailand: A conflicted alliance

August 8, 2008

[US, Thailand: A conflicted alliance](#) – Asia Times, August 8, 2008

...Thai government insiders also contended that Bush failed after heavy foreign ministry lobbying to arrange a meeting with King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who was in residence at his seaside palace in Hua Hin, about 200 kilometers south of Bangkok. Government sources say that's because Hua Hin's airport lacks the runway facilities to accommodate Bush's jet. The 80-year-old and highly respected monarch notably did not opt to travel to Bangkok to greet Bush...

[Renowned Thai artist takes on property developers](#) – AFP, August 11, 2008

...He has even opened his home up as a museum, school and meeting place for fellow artists to share his passion for the kingdom's creative history.

Bangkok developers, however, rarely think twice about cultural heritage when they throw up skyscrapers, and now a 32-storey condominium is threatening to dwarf Chakrabhand's house of cultural treasures in the up-and-coming Ekkamai area.

But like a growing number of individuals, Chakrabhand is determined to fight the rampant development that many say is threatening the city's character...

Hello-o!? The magic words are not 'hello'

August 8, 2008

Categories: Culture and Society

[Hello-o!? The magic words are not 'hello'](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August, 2008

...The Office of the National Culture Commission has been asked to launch a campaign to promote the use of "Sawasdee" instead of "Hello" among Thais, particularly when answering the phone...

Books

August 8, 2008

Categories: Books



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Left to right: *Who gets, who loses from the escalation fight over the Prasat Preah Vihear Temple* and *Prasat Preah Vihear. Why? Where is it from?*



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Abu Dhabi night works

August 8, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: A reader)

Abu Dhabi night works – August, 2008

A reader notes: *I've been working the past year here in Abu Dhabi, which has probably the most ambitious development plans of any place in the world for the next 20 or so years. Here is a photo of some of the construction work being undertaken on Reem Island. It is just a very small portion of what is in store here for the next two decades. This is where our money goes when we fill the fuel tanks of our vehicles in Thailand!*

Cockroach king reigns as pest-killers discuss climate

August 8, 2008

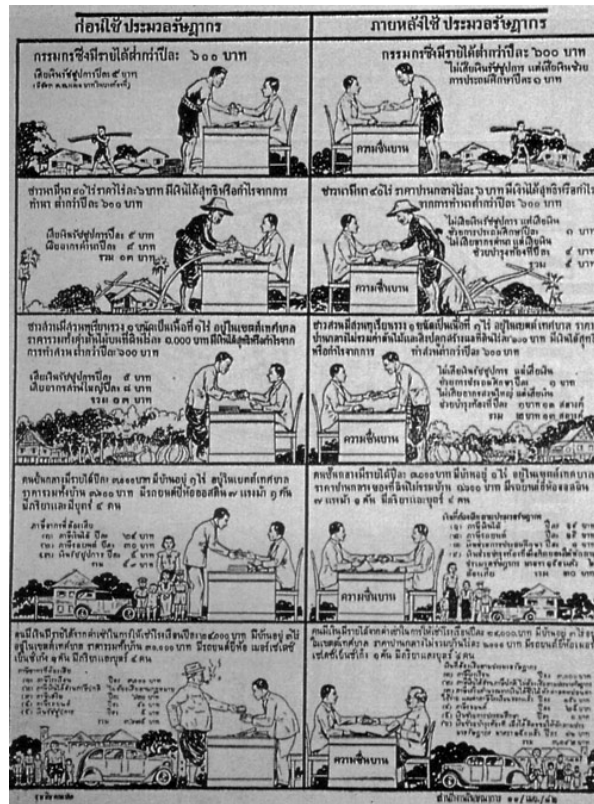
Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Cockroach king reigns as pest-killers discuss climate change](#) – *AFP*, August, 2008

Circa-1939 Pibul-era cartoon describing the new revenue system

August 9, 2008

Categories: History



Circa-1939 Pibul-era cartoon describing the new revenue system – August 9, 2008

The comparison of the tax system before and after using the revenue code

Row one, left column

Before using the Revenue Code

Workers who have income less than 600 baht per year need to pay 5 baht per year as poll taxes.

Row one, right column

After using the Revenue Code

Workers who has income less than 600 baht per year do not have to pay poll taxes, but needs to help the National Primary Education system by paying 1 baht per year

Row two, left column

Before using the Revenue Code

The farmer who has 80 rai of rice fields and gets profit from growing the rice at least 600 baht per year. He needs to pay taxes as follows

Poll taxes – 5 baht per year

Tax for growing rice – 8 baht per year

The total is – 13 baht per year

Row two, right column

After using the Revenue Code

The Farmer who has 40 rai of rice fields with the medium price per one field at 6 baht. The total income from growing rice less than 600 baht per year. He need to pay taxes as follows
No paying poll tax, but need to help the National Primary Education system by paying 1 baht per year.

No paying rice poll taxes, but need to pay 4 baht as a rice field maintenance taxes. The total is 5 baht per year.

Row three, left column

Before using the Revenue Code

The farmer who has 1 rai of durian field in the municipal area, the price including the land and the trees on the land is 1,000 baht per rai. The total income from growing the fruit 600 baht per year.

Need to pay taxes as follows

Poll taxes – 5 baht per year

Big field taxes – 8 baht per year

The total is – 13 baht per year

Row three, right column

After using the Revenue Code

The farmer who has 1 rai of durian field in the municipal area, the price of the land which not including the trees and the properties on the land is 1,000 baht per rai. The total income from growing the fruit is 600 baht per year.

Need to pay taxes as follows

No paying poll taxes, but needs to help the National Primary Education by paying 1 baht per year.

No big field tax, but needs to pay 1 baht and 13 satang per year as field maintenance taxes.

The total is 2 baht 13 satang.

Row four, left column

Before using the Revenue Code

The middle class citizens who has income less than 3,000 baht per year with the 1 rai of land and house in the municipal area. The total price of land and house is 3, 6000 baht. One 7 horsepower Austin car. One wife with 4 children. Need to pay the following taxes

1. Personal income taxes – 24 baht per year

2. Car taxes – 30 baht per year

3. Poll taxes – 5 baht per year

The total is – 59 baht per year

Row four, right column

After using the Revenue Code

The middle class citizens who have income 3,000 baht per year with the 1 rai of land and house in the municipal area. The total price of land not including the house is 3, 600 baht. One 7 horsepower Austin car. One wife with 4 children. Need to pay the following taxes.

1. Personal income taxes – 14 baht per year

2. Car taxes – 15 baht per year

3. National Primary Education – 1 baht per year

4. No paying for land maintenance taxes

The total is – 30 baht per year

Row five, left column

Before using the Revenue Code

People who have income from the house rental 24,000 per year. A 3 rai house in the municipal area. The total price of land and house is 30,000 baht per year. One Mercedes car. One wife with 4 children. Need to pay the following taxes

1. Property tax – 3,000 baht per year

2. Personal income tax No

3. Additional Tax – 620 baht per year

4. Car tax – 51 baht per year

5. Poll tax – 5 baht per year

The total is – 3,676 baht per year

Row five, right column

After using the Revenue Code

People who have income from the house rental 24,000 per year. Three rai house in the municipal area. The total price of land not including the house is 6,000 baht per year. One Mercedes car. One wife with 4 children. Need to pay the following taxes

1. Property tax – 3,000 baht per year
2. Personal income tax – No
3. Additional Tax which already deducted the write-off of all the expenses and property tax 150 baht
4. Car tax – 25 baht per year
5. National Primary Education Tax – 1 baht per year
6. Land maintenance taxes – 72 baht per year

The total is – 3,248 baht per year

Thailand's first bio-solar house

August 9, 2008

Thailand's first bio-solar house – August 9, 2008

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

Thanks to Nils for pointing this out.

Bush 'way cool' at Thai AIDS ward

August 9, 2008

[Bush 'way cool' at Thai AIDS ward](#) – Honolulu Advertiser, August 9, 2008

President Bush arrived in Bangkok's largest slum Thursday morning seven minutes early and in a black armored stretch Cadillac. Protected by a 40-car motorcade, some 200 Thai police officers, the U.S. Secret Service and its rooftop military snipers, the presidential limo parked in a closed-off white tent pitched near the end of a slum street...

100000 bags of Thai rice arrive in Negros; prices fall

August 9, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[100000 bags of Thai rice arrive in Negros; prices fall](#) – *Inquirer.net*, August 9, 2008

Prices of commercial rice in Negros Occidental were expected to fall to their lowest levels in months with the arrival of 100000 bags of Thai rice...

[Thailand revives worship of the Rice Goddess](#) – *EARTHtimes*, August 10, 2008

Thailand, a predominantly Buddhist country, has revived ceremonial worship of the Rice Goddess to commemorate the queen's upcoming birthday and boost the morale of the country's 3.7 million rice-farming families...

The Lost Girls

August 11, 2008

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[The Lost Girls](#) – August, 2008

A reader points out: *Hey, something new: About 2/3 down the page... Someone (3 American girls on a world tour, that is) actually praises Suvarnabhumi Airport and Bangkok cabbies for a change (but thinks the Skytrain is a “monorail”, Thai 7-Elevens don’t have Slurpees and Big Gulps, and the waiting Ronald McDonald is “praying”). Referring to the king as a “royal highness” instead of His Majesty is a widespread error and may be forgiven (by me; not necessarily by the lese majeste law!) Also interesting the part about the Gem District (not scam)...*

Photo-book about technological improvisation in Thailand

August 11, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Photo-book about technological improvisation in Thailand](#) – *BoingBoing*, August 11, 2008

British pensioner awaited his own murder armed with a tazer

August 12, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[British pensioner awaited his own murder armed with a tazer](#) – andrew-drummond.com, August 12, 2008

[British pensioner killed in Thailand predicted his own death](#) – Telegraph, August 12, 2008

Gary Glitter tricked onto flight back home

August 13, 2008

Categories: Crime

[Gary Glitter tricked onto flight back home](#) – *Times*,
August, 2008

...By 7pm Glitter was in seat 11B, a glass of champagne beside him and happily unaware that he had fallen into a trap. He planned to stay in a luxury hotel in Wanchai and used the phone on his arm rest to summon a friend to collect him at the airport. But Thai Police informed Hong Kong Immigration that he was coming and they agreed on a plan. He was arrested on arrival. By 1pm today Gary Glitter was back in Bangkok and, this time, Thai Airways brought the deportation papers they needed – issued by the Hong Kong police...

Keeping watch over the ‘megafishes’

August 14, 2008

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Keeping watch over the ‘megafishes’](#) – CNN, August, 2008
And the [Megafishes Project Blog](#)

Somali pirates hijack Thai cargo ship, watchdog seeks UN help

August 14, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Somali pirates hijack Thai cargo ship, watchdog seeks UN help](#) – Nasdaq, August 14, 2008

A Thai cargo ship has been hijacked off the

Somali coast, a maritime watchdog said Thursday as it called on the

U.N. and coalition forces to halt pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden...

‘Zero tolerance’ in Glasgow’s bid to stamp out prostitution

August 15, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[‘Zero tolerance’ in Glasgow’s bid to stamp out prostitution](#) – *Scotsman*, August, 2008

...Senior council officials and police said they were adopting a zero tolerance approach to buying sex to stop Glasgow becoming “the Bangkok of the north” ...

The passing of Yodrak Salakjai

August 15, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

The passing of Yodrak Salakjai – August 15, 2008

Chang Liu writes: *So I noticed there's not much information on 2bangkok.com about popular Thai culture, yet this past week was a momentous one in the life of the average Thai, more specifically the working-class Thai, who as you know loves the melancholic charm of "look-toong" (Thai country music, for want of a better term). This momentous event, which doesn't seem to have been mentioned much in other English-language Thai media, is the passing away of Yodrak Salakjai, perhaps the greatest star of look-toong music, on August 9, of cancer. The headline means: "Look-toong world saddened by Yodrak's passing away".*

[The](#)

[article's a bit long, but there are interesting photos at the very end.](#) Also [here](#).

Silence golden for Tata?

August 16, 2008

[Silence golden for Tata?](#) – *The Nation*, August 16, 2008

...Five years ago, superstar Amita “Tata” Young had to apologise to the public just because she said: “I love this man and he loves me too.”

Her candid revelation that she was seeing Thai tennis ace Paradorn Srichaphan sparked a controversy. She came under attack, as critics said she was not following the modest practices of the average Thai woman. She was in the spotlight simply because of her openness and her “un-Thai” behaviour.

Fast-forward to the year 2008, and things have come full circle: the public cannot stand the possibility of missing the latest developments in her relationship with her fiancé Prem Busarakamwong. As rumours began to spread over the past few months that Prem was seeing someone else and that the two were no longer wearing engagement rings, Tata was followed and the public wanted her to speak her heart out.

She’s likely feeling puzzled – once slammed for her openness, her silence now is not appreciated...

Fireball over the Gulf of Thailand

August 16, 2008

Fireball over the Gulf of
Thailand – August 16, 2008

Craig writes: *Dropping you a line to alert you to a possible breaking story that might not make the mainstream media. You seem to be the best source for unusual news stories in Thailand in English.*

Last night a huge ufo streaked across the sky and was seen to disappear with a huge white flash, possibly into the sea, north east of the Gulf.

It occurred around 9:45pm . Witnessed from Koh Tao

facing the north eastern sky, it moved slowly and produced a very large white flash on hitting the sea (we think). No waves were recorded here on Koh Tao as a result. Possibly a meteor, although the white flash is not consistent. It is also possible it went over the horizon although it appeared to land in the gulf.

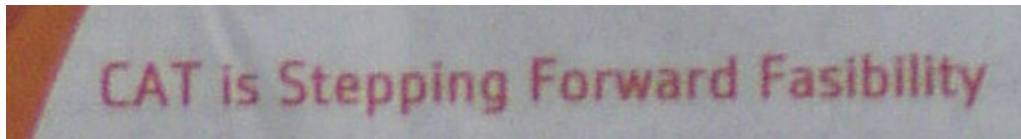
I am unsure if the party revelers on Koh Phangan would have seen this event, or noticed it for that matter, although it was witnessed by hundreds on Koh Tao from the main beach.

A few people are intrigued here as thai navy and underwater observation and retrieval ships are here as well. Maybe only a coincidence. Drop us a response if you hear anything from your sources.

We so far have no reputable sources covering this intriguing story and we are hoping you can find some information...

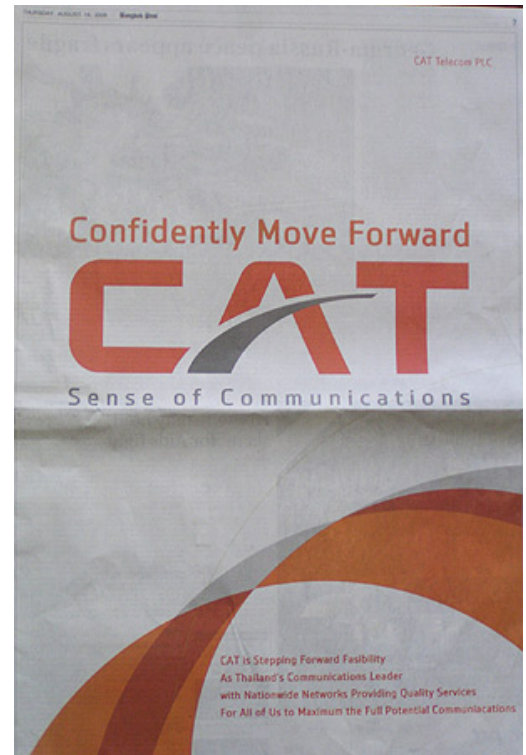
CAT “fasibility”

August 16, 2008



CAT “fasibility” – August 16, 2008

Terry writes: *This ad was in this morning’s Bangkok Post. I thought you might enjoy it. I particularly liked the “Stepping Forward Fasibility” bit. Since “fasibility” has yet to be defined perhaps we could invent a suitable meaning:*
Fasibility: the ability to hamper the development of a nation’s communications system by decades of bureaucratic incompetence



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

No leads on Thailand disappearance

August 17, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[No leads on Thailand disappearance](#) – BBC News, August, 2008

...A roadie and former winner of TV quiz show The Weakest Link, Mr Hall had been on his third trip to Thailand when he was last seen after the island's world-famous Full Moon Party...

[In pictures: Full Moon Party](#).

Bar girl and the expat: a killing foretold

August 17, 2008

[Bar girl and the expat: a killing foretold](#) – Guardian, August 17, 2008

...But the bitter consensus was also that after all the publicity had died down Beeston's wife would be granted bail and freed. 'She's got the money, and with money cases just get dropped,' said Herrington. Then the conversation turned to the future and who was 'next for the bullet'. They agree they know the identity of the marked man. He lives about 20 miles away and is having some major problems with his Thai wife. 'Yep,' they chorus, 'for sure.'

[Where an older man can think he is debonair](#) – Guardian, August 17, 2008

... 'Where else can an old man go to bed with a beautiful 20-year-old girl?' one elderly Brit asked me with a gleam in his wrinkled eyes. 'Do they love it? Why not?' he laughed. 'I pay them enough...'

1930s fashions

August 17, 2008

Categories: Old photos and films



The only note on these photos claims that they are of the daughters of King Chulalongkorn photographed in the 1930s.



Zayed fell on face while doing stunt in Bangkok

August 18, 2008

Categories: Film and TV

[Zayed](#)

[fell on face while doing stunt in Bangkok](#) – *Sindh Today*, August 18, 2008

Zayed Khan, who's currently into performing his own stunts, had an accident when he jumped out of a high-rise building in Bangkok while shooting for "Blue". The fall went wrong and Zayed's forehead hit the windshield of a car...

Thai slave laborers freed in El Monte become US citizens

August 18, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai slave laborers freed in El Monte become US citizens](#) – *Los Angeles Times*, August, 2008

...Buppha Chaemchoi, 37, said she was shocked to arrive in El Monte and realize that she would sleep crammed in one bedroom on the floor with nine others. The windows had been boarded up, she said, allowing virtually no sunlight. Her captors told her that if she tried to escape, brutal U.S. police would shave her head and stamp her scalp with marks of disgrace, she said.

“It made me worry and want to stay inside and just wait for my three-year contract to end,” Chaemchoi said...

Not Just Thaksin: Other Famous Thais Who Have Fled

August 18, 2008

Categories: Thai Politics

[Not Just Thaksin: Other Famous Thais Who Have Fled \(Part 1\)](#) – *Thaiblogs*, August 18, 2008

Surge unlikely

August 18, 2008

[Surge unlikely](#) – *The Nation*,

August 18, 2008

...Marine Meteorological Centre chief Wattana

Kanbua says the possibility of storm surge in Bangkok is less than 10 per cent...

Earlier: [Monster](#)

[storm to hit Bangkok](#) – *AsiaOne*, August 15, 2008

...Mr Smith Dhammasaroj, chief of the National

Disaster Warning Centre, told a seminar yesterday that if a storm was to gather, it would sweep through at a speed of 118kmph.

That would cause waves of 2.2m to 4.5m high and result in the worst storm to hit Bangkok in 50 years...

MPA unearths DVD burner lab in Bangkok army camp

August 18, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[MPA](#)

[unearths DVD burner lab in Bangkok army camp](#) – *Business*

of Cinema, August, 2008

...Five members from the 11th Infantry Regiment

*of the King's Guard were arrested on 9 August during a police raid,
dealing a major blow to pirate syndicates in Bangkok and neighbouring
Nonthaburi and Pathumthani provinces...*

Thaksin Goes Into Exile

August 19, 2008

Categories: Thai Politics

[Samak vows to defend Thaksin](#) – *The Nation*, August 19, 2008

...When Samak arrived, he complained about the heavy presence of reporters and cameramen. MP Wasit, who is close to Thaksin's politician sister Yaowapa Wongsawat, was heard saying: "They just want to photograph someone who rarely attends party meetings."...

[Run, Thaksin, run](#) – *Economist*, August 14, 2008

...Right up until the early evening on August 10th, the deposed prime minister's spokesman was insisting that the couple would return that day to Bangkok, to appear in court the next morning...

[Inoculating Thailand against one-man rule](#) – IHT, August 13, 2008

...Thaksin bought his popularity and the support of the rural poor in Thailand. He purchased or intimidated media outlets. He countenanced extra-judicial assassinations as a tool for waging a highly publicized war on drugs while leaving alone the drug lords in neighboring Burma, who are the source of that trade. He provoked popular protest when he sold his family's 49 percent share in the Shin telecommunications company for \$1.9 billion to a Singaporean company and claimed exemption from any capital gains tax. And he is currently fleeing charges that he used his power to secure insider deals on real-estate purchases for family members...

[Text of Thaksin's letter to the media](#) – Bangkok Post, August 11, 2008

...What happened to myself and my family was like the fruit from poisonous trees. The fruit was also poisonous. What I mean is that there has been a continuation of dictatorship in Thai politics under the democratic system. That was followed by interference in the judicial process. My cases have been pre-judged, to get rid of me and my family, who are regarded by a group of people as their political enemies, irrespective of the law and international principles of justice. My family and I have been continually treated unfairly...

Right: August 11, 18:15 – CNN reporting on Thaksin in exile

Top: Dan Rivers holding up Thaksin's handwritten statement

Middle: Sondhi commenting that Thaksin should return and face the court

Bottom: Dan Rivers agrees that the government was "naive" in letting Thaksin out of the country

August 11, 11:55 – [Thaksin announces his decision to seek asylum in England](#)



August 11, 10:10 – [Lawyer says no contact from Thaksin, wife](#)
A lawyer of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his wife, Pojama, said Monday the couple had not contacted him yet...

August 11, 7:24 – [Ex- to exile?: Former PM and wife no-shows on THAI flight](#)

...an official airline source said the three Thaksin children — Panthongtae, Pinthongta and Paethongtan — departed Bangkok for London on Saturday. It was also noted the the children had been in tears when their parents left Suvarnabhumi for Beijing...

Overnight – [Thai PM Thaksin flies to London rather than face corruption charges](#) – *Daily Mail*, August 10, 2008

Overnight – [Missing Person Alert – Where Is Frank?](#) – *Vital Manchester City*, August 11, 2008



August 11, 00:15 – Thaksin fleeing to England?

From [The Nation](#): *...People's Power Party MP Pracha Prasopdee told people awaiting to see Thaksin at Suvarabhumi Airport that Thaksin would not return home last night.*

He possibly came back Monday morning and go directly to the Supreme Court.

Samut Prakarn MP Pracha said people should go home.

Pracha said said tongue in cheek that Thaksin could issue a statement from London why he did not go to Bangkok as scheduled. He did not elaborate...

August 10, 23:01 – "Thaksin statement from London at 9:00 am"

Thai-language media are reporting that Thaksin will be making a statement from London at 9:00 am. This would appear to indicate that he and his family have left for exile overseas.

August 10, 16:44 – [Lawyer says Thaksin, wife will appear in court Monday](#) – *TNA*, August 10, 2008

...Lawyer Kamnuan Chalopatham said Mr. Thaksin and Mrs. Pojaman Shinawatra would appear at the Supreme Court's Criminal Division for Holders of Political Positions to fight charges on the Bangkok land scandal...

[Thread on the 2B forum](#)

Remembering Thaksin...



Opening page from the Hi-Thaksin website – 2007



Thaksin's return – 2008



Thaksin's reality show – 2005

Thaksin addresses the nation after the Tak Bai incident – 2004

Thaksin and the National Anthem – 2004





[Thaksin's Life comic](#) – 2006

[Thaksin Dictionary](#) – 2004

[Pro-Thaksin demonstrators at Chatuchak Park](#) – 2006

[Election posters](#) – 2005



[Thaksin email forwards](#) – 2008

[Prem's 'rebutal'](#) – 2005

[Thaksin government overthrown in coup](#) – 2006

[USA for Innovation](#) – 2007



[True-Thaksin website](#) – 2007

[High tension in Thailand](#) – 2005-2008

[The strange saga of TOTV – “Thaksin TV”](#) – 2007

[Thaksin's blocked interviews](#) – 2006

[More on “Elect one, get one free”](#) – 2007





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The Shinawatras – 2006

PAD at the British Embassy

August 19, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

PAD at the British Embassy – August 19, 2008

Photos from the PAD rally at the British Embassy in Bangkok.

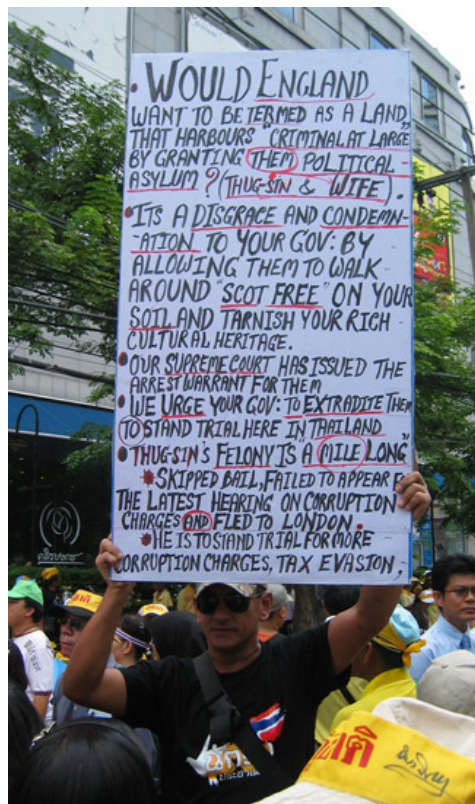
The PAD was protesting against asylum for Thaksin and his family in the UK.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

Driving a crushed pickup

August 19, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Driving a crushed pickup – August, 2008

Graham writes: ...still drivable and seen going down the highway at about 100kph.



(Photo: Graham)



(Photo: Graham)

Friday night and Saturday morning at the PAD rally

August 20, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Photo: Asiper for 2Bangkok.com)

Many guards at the entrance to Government House

Friday night and Saturday morning at the PAD rally – August 29-30, 2008



(Photo: Asiper for 2Bangkok.com)

Above and below: Remnants of a PAD stage and tents after the police attempted to pull them down



(Photo: Asiper for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Asiper for 2Bangkok.com)

People stand for the National Anthem at 6 pm.



(Photo: Asiper for 2Bangkok.com)

People packed inside Government House compound in the evening



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Saturday morning – Hundreds of police on motorcycles on the streets



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above and below: Tire barricades at Makkhawan Bridge



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Barricade facing Royal Plaza – In the background men in blue hard hats can be seen drilling with homemade shields and clubs. After the drill session, a man in fatigues is interviewed.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Protesters with bullhorns shout insults at soldiers tending the grounds of a military facility.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

PAD guards milling around the Royal Plaza barricades

[PAD's "final war" – August-September, 2008](#)

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

Asylum Tales

August 20, 2008

Categories: Crime

[Killer Scot fled to Thailand to avoid trial for murdering partner](#) – *Press and Journal*,

August 20, 2008

...He is understood to be the first Scot to be extradited from Thailand...

[Glitter tour continues; paedophile back in Bangkok](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 21, 2008

[Attorney-General](#)

[says extradition from Cambodia, Britain possible](#) – TNA, August 20, 2008

...the extradition treaty between Thailand and neighbouring Cambodia came into force on May 6, 1998 so it is possible to request Cambodia to send Mr. Vatana back to Thailand and serve his jail sentence...

[Thaksin, wife apply for asylum – Former PM calls PPP factions, urges unity](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 21, 2008

Hoax: Thailand's time zone to change?

August 20, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Hoax: Thailand's time zone to change?](#) – *Whatismatt*, August, 2008

Color footage of Bangkok in the 1930s

August 21, 2008

Categories: Old photos and films

Color footage of

Bangkok in the 1930s – YouTube, August 21, 2088

Krasin writes: *It's a [travel](#)*

[documentary on Bangkok shot probably in late 1930's](#). This is extremely rare because the video is in color.

Software anti-piracy hotline doubles reward

August 21, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Software anti-piracy hotline doubles reward – Call 02](#)

[7116193 to report pirated software using and get Bt500,000](#) – *The Nation*, August 21, 2008

Medical tourism is great — for those who can afford it

August 21, 2008

Categories: Health

[Medical tourism is great — for those who can afford it](#) – Alternet, August 21, 2008

...According to a recent Deloitte report,

Thailand, the world's leading medical tourism hub, saw 1.2 million medical tourists from around the world in 2006. On average, medical procedures in Thailand cost a mere 30 percent of American prices.

India, another destination that sees more than 400,000 medical tourists each year, charges just an average of just 20 percent as much as the U.S. Thousands of Americans also flock to Mexico and South America every year for cosmetic and dental surgery, where procedures cost anywhere from 75 to 50 percent less than they do in the U.S...

Medical emergency teams thwarted by dense Bangkok traffic

August 21, 2008

Categories: Uncategorized

[Medical emergency teams thwarted by dense Bangkok traffic](#) – *IRINnews*, August 21, 2008

...Bangkok Province has

the highest rate of accidents and the highest death toll – 46,647

accidents and 652 deaths in 2007 – of any province in the country...

New website: Save Thaksin.com

August 22, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



New website: [Save Thaksin.com](http://SaveThaksin.com) –
August 22, 2008

Thailand seeks Japan's help to build first nuclear power plants

August 22, 2008

Categories: Energy

[Thailand seeks Japan's help to build first nuclear power plants](#) – *Bloomberg*, August 22, 2008

Thailand has asked Japan to help build its first nuclear power plants as Southeast Asia's second- biggest economy seeks to reduce reliance on gas, oil and coal...

The Top 15 Wealthiest Royals

August 23, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

And the story from the print

version of the magazine: [The Top 15 Wealthiest Royals](#)

Also from the print version: [The Crowning Fortune](#)

...Last year FORBES ASIA valued

it at a conservative \$5 billion. Other estimates have put it at \$8

billion. But this year—using an exhaustive academic study of the

monarchy's investment arm, the Crown Property Bureau—FORBES ASIA now

values the fortune at \$35 billion.

...But bureau adviser Aviruth says simply: "The

utmost aim to uphold the royal prestige and kindness

of the monarchy. We feel that — we should — disclose certain

information for the benefit of the public."

[Thailand rebuffs Forbes' claims about king's wealth](#) — AFP, August 23, 2008

... "Forbes has included land and other assets

belonging to the Crown Property Bureau, which is not in His Majesty's

personal net worth," it said...

Pheu Thai party in talks on new home

August 23, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

[Pheu Thai party in talks on new home](#) – Bangkok Post, August 23, 2008

...Sakda Khongphet, a PPP MP for Roi Et, said Pheu Thai was ready to enter the political race as the Election Commission had already endorsed the party.

He said all factions of the PPP, including veteran politician Newin Chidchob's faction, would move to Pheu Thai if the PPP was dissolved.

"Mr Thaksin earlier told me the PPP would not survive. However, we are not worried as some phuyai in our party have already prepared the Pheu Thai as a new home.

"Those who see the abbreviations or the logo of the new party will understand that it is Mr Thaksin's party. Thor means Thaksin and Phor means Potjaman," said Mr Sakda...

Thai SCB bank in dilemma of Thaksin money release bid

August 24, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

[Thai SCB bank in dilemma of Thaksin money release bid](#) – Reuters, August 24, 2008

Thai Siam Commercial Bank said it would seek a board decision over a government request to release 12 billion baht (\$353 million) from frozen accounts of the family of ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra...

The frozen Shinawatra accounts – August 15, 2008

The totals in the Shinawatra accounts left in Thailand have been spoken of often, but it is interesting to contemplate the mind-boggling amounts broken down by various banks.

The “major” accounts are

18,100,000,000 baht at Bangkok Bank

2,100,000,000 baht at the Bank of Ayudhya

39,600,000,000 baht at Siam Commercial Bank

1,400,000,000 baht at Thanachart Bank

500,000,000 baht at the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives

15,700,000,000 baht at the Government Savings Bank

10,000,000,000 baht at the Islamic Bank of Thailand

2,700,000,000 baht at the Securities and Land Depository Centre

(Source TNA/MCOT)

Empty streets

August 24, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Empty streets](#) – *bkktimes*, August, 2008

This site has some interesting views of empty Bangkok streets.

Bangkok's road signs are misleading, to say the least

August 25, 2008

Categories: Highways and Roads

[Bangkok's road signs are misleading, to say the least](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 25, 2008

PAD's "final war"- August 26

August 26, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

[PAD's "final war" – August-September, 2008](#)

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

[Media deplores PAD's seizure of NBT](#) – Bangkok Post, August 26, 2008

...They pointed out that the anti-government group should not intrude into NBT station and cut off its broadcasting signal because it is not only a state agency but a media organisation as well. The protesters have to respect the rights of media members, according to the statement. Members of the media also demanded the PAD followers to stop enclosing the broadcasting vehicles of different television channels in many protesting areas. They said the demonstrators must respect the rights and freedom of media members, as endorsed by the constitution...

[Sondhi](#)

[explains his 'final war'](#) – Bangkok Post, August 26, 2008

...Watch out. The rally won't be an ordinary rally. We'll do everything to halt all the state's administrative mechanisms.

We'll block the roads from southern, northern and northeastern regions, but we'll let our supporters arrive in the city first. We'll block the roads after midday. At noon, we'll close Phuket airport and Hat Yai airport. We will post this plan online at 10am.

We'll seize all the ministries on Ratchadamnoen avenue. We'll ask civil servants to leave their offices.

The government won't be able to function any longer. It's a power vacuum. Samak knows that he will soon have to step down.

This final war has been seen as trying to make way for another military coup.

If there is a coup on the ground that they need to intervene to end turmoil in the country and reorganise things, I will immediately protest against them. All five PAD core leaders agree that such reasoning is unacceptable...

From *Not the Nation*: [World Media Insists All of Thailand On Fire, All Thais Dead](#)

This humorous article from *Not the Nation* accurately points how wrong the international media have been in explaining what is going on here. Since reports of the last cabinet reshuffle, the emergence of schisms in the PPP, and details of the upcoming military reshuffle have mainly appeared in the Thai language, the international press still relies on the legacy explanation of what is going on—that royalists are standing up against Thaksin proxies.

Beyond this misunderstanding, there is an almost bizarre misreporting of events on the ground at government house:

On Tuesday night, CNN mistook the arrival of PAD forces who retreated from their occupation

of government TV as the arrival of "thousands more" brand new protesters. They also repeatedly noted that the Thai government was "paralyzed."

Late Wednesday night, CNN, who has a reporter on the scene, was still saying that the PAD "was making a mockery of the government" and throughout the evening they ran the news item on the CNN crawl that "Police begin removing Thai protesters."

[PAD also seizes NBT stations in provinces](#) – *The Nation*, August 26, 2008

[Police to file treason charges against five PAD leaders](#) – *The Nation*, August 26, 2008

[PAD trying to gain control of NBT station](#) – *The Nation*, August 26, 2008

At 8.30 am, the People's Alliance for Democracy renewed the raid of NBT station and disrupted the broadcasting. Protesters were seen breaking down the police barriers and rushed to the office building and the broadcasting station. They shut down electricity to disrupt the broadcast.

In the pre-dawn raid earlier, police arrested 80 armed men involving in the raid.

Screen captures below from TPBS

Right: Map of Bangkok showing areas likely impacted by the PAD actions on Tuesday.



Left: Viphavadi-Rangsit Road outside of NBT television building on Tuesday morning.

Right and below: PAD men in custody after the unsuccessful pre-dawn raid on NBT studios on Viphavadi-Rangsit Road.



Left and below: Weapons the police confiscated from the arrested men.



Right and below: Series of shots of PAD men finally breaking into the NBT building filmed from the inside.



The video was shown on Thai channels throughout the day and the PAD generally received withering criticism from the media and viewers.

Also, mid-morning on Tuesday, Kitti Singhapad, a popular news anchor from channel 3 was attacked by the crowd and had to be extracted by police.





(Photo: Asiper for 2Bangkok.com)

Above and below: PAD protesters leave the NBT building and travel across town to join the protest at Government House late Tuesday afternoon. The arrival of these protesters at Government House had CNN reporting throughout the evening that "thousands more" were joining the protest. They also repeatedly noted that the Thai government was "paralyzed." Neither of these assertions were correct.



(Photo: Asiper for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Asiper for 2Bangkok.com)

Big PAD rally next week – 21:11, August 22, 2008

21:11 – On 98.25 (Labor radio) and 97.75 (ASTV radio) Sondhi is speaking and saying that the PAD will gather in a big rally for the last time on next Monday. They must “chase this government” so a big “mob” will peak on Tuesday when groups from the provinces will join the PAD in Bangkok. The speech concluded without saying where the group will march, but Sondhi said the destination will be announced on Tuesday and for people to believe in the five leaders of the PAD.

[PAD's "final war" – August-September, 2008](#)

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

Angry Reaction to Samak's 'Suu Kyi is a Tool' Remark

August 26, 2008

Categories: Thai Politics

[Angry Reaction to Samak's 'Suu Kyi is a Tool' Remark](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, August 26, 2008

Burmese opposition politicians and some political observers and commentators have strongly rejected Thai Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej's description of Aung San Suu Kyi as a "political tool" of the West...

Mother describes Laos lizard attack

August 26, 2008

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Mother describes Laos lizard attack](#) – *Radio Australia*, August 2008

The mother of an Australian man who was lost for eleven days in a jungle in Laos says her son has described being chased by giant lizards...

Jasmine submarine cable challenges CAT

August 26, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

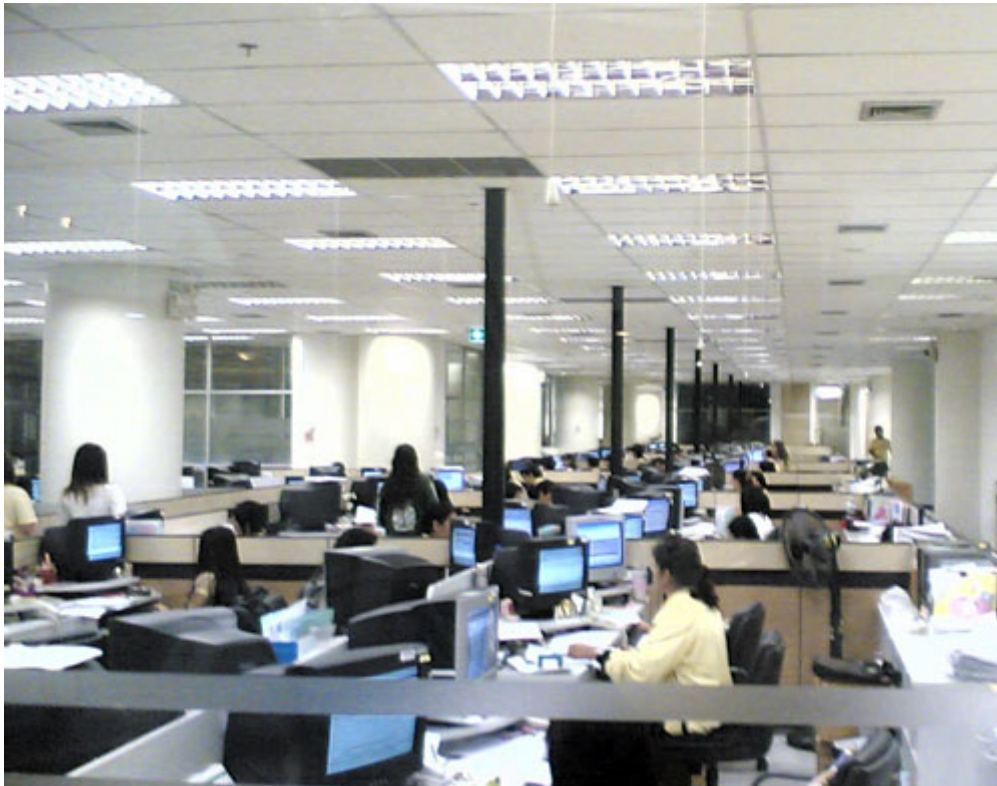
[THAILAND: Jasmine submarine cable challenges CAT](#) – AsiaMedia, August 26, 2008

JasTel Network's general manager says submarine cable will "result in cheaper Internet connection fees and drive the growth of data communication services"

Individual switches for fluorescent lights

August 26, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Individual switches
for fluorescent lights – August, 2008

If you look closely, you can see individual pull switches for each
fluorescent light in an office in the Jewelry Trade Center.

PAD's "final war" – August 27

August 27, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

PAD's "final war" – August 27

[PAD's "final war" – August-September, 2008](#)

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

Komchadluek, August 27, 2008 – The Prime Minister says the mob will be surrounded and left starving before they dissolve.

The Government House has been occupied, aiming to oust the government.

NBT station attacked. Five leaders are listed on the arrest warrant.

'Pa' says the military is not involved in the situation. People are ousting the government.



Poojadkuan, August 27, 2008 – Samak on TV talking to the PAD crowd: I asked you to think well. Stop doing illegal. Back to your family before you will be sorry.

Caption at the bottom: Yesterday afternoon, there was a comedy TV show.



Phutjatkhan, August 27, 2008 – All yellow – The puppet government disabled – Samak will neither quit nor back off. Kowit has been assigned to arrest five leaders.

Poojadkuan, August 27, 2008 – The headline reads: The situation reversed. Samak stages a mob to oppose the People’s Alliance for Democracy. Smaller black headline: An unexpected situation occurred. The situation has totally been reversed. Samak Sudaravej was previously protested by a mob and the PAD’s five leaders. However, he now stages a mob to oust the PAD from the Government House. He imposed a 24-hour deadline for the PAD. If the mob does not move, the police and the military will apply aggressive measures. On the sign: PAD out!



More [Poojadkuan columns](#)



Banmuang, August 27, 2008 – The People Alliance for Democracy puts an end to the war – breaking into the Government. Members lose patience and attack NBT station
Sondhi announces victory. Samak assigns Kowit to be in charge of the situation – strong measures will be applied. The police aim to issue an arrest warrant to hunt five leaders. International press reports on the issue.



Poojadkuan, August 27, 2008

Left: The caption reads: Before August 26 – Sondhi says: We must chase Ai Mak out of government house.

Right: The caption reads: After August 26 – Samak says: We must chase Sondhi out of government house.



Above: *Komchadluek*, August 27, 2008 – A group of armed young men, whose face was covered by cloth, breaks in to NBT station in the early morning. They allow photographers to take their photos. The People’s Alliance for Democracy claim the plan was not one of its plans. PAD members head to Government House.



Ban Muang, August 27, 2008 –
Hurry... I just worry that the emergency act still works.

Left: *Daily World Today*, August 27, 2008 – The third party is warned not to take an advantage of the situation and stages a revolution. Five leaders could be listed in an arrest warrant.



[PAD's "final war" – August-September, 2008](#)
Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

Procedure to build your own airstrip in Thailand

August 27, 2008

Categories: Airports and Airlines

[Procedure to build your own airstrip in Thailand](#) – *Thai Flying Club*, August, 2008

PAD's "final war" – August 28

August 28, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

PAD's "final war" – August 28

[PAD's "final war" – August-September, 2008](#)

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

Phutjatkhan, August 28, 2008 –

Stand to fight against tyrants – Seas of people prevent the

PAD's 9 mass rally leaders from being arrested –

Popular politics –

PM orders mob to end



Khao Sod, August 28, 2008 – Court order PAD to remove from Government House ending the rally. Issuance of arrest warrants for 9 PAD leaders approved – Samak hosts banquet for Olympic Game athletes, giving suggestion on money spending. Reward chance with *Khao Sod* today.

[Police confirm 82 who broke into NBT were PAD members](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 28, 2008

...The raid was the work of 82 people who called themselves "Srivijaya warriors" who worked as guards for the PAD.

The www.manager.co.th website of core PAD leader Sondhi Limthongkul also called the 82 people "Srivijaya warriors".

...Gen Panlop dismissed any link with the raids on NBT. The PAD protesters also occupied other government agencies before retreating later.

Earlier, deputy government spokesman Natthawut Saikua suggested the raids were connected to

former military officers critical of the government.

It was alleged Sqn Ldr Prasong Soonsiri, a former charter writer, and Gen Panlop might be behind the PAD movement. Gen Panlop warned Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej not to impose the emergency decree in order to try to break up the PAD protests. That could easily lead to the situation getting completely out of hand.



Komchadluek, August 28, 2008 –

Criminal Court approves arrest warrants to be issued for 9 PAD leaders – Charge of treason filed against the PAD leaders

General Anupong is to be the man who steers the boat – Command prompted to governors to stop PAD rallies from provinces to join the Bangkok rally



Ban Muang, August 28, 2008 – Arrest warrants issued for 9 PAD leaders for the treason charges – Sondhi and Chamlong challenge police to arrest them amidst the crowd of rally members –

Hundreds of thousands of PAD enraged by a court order injunction to remove them from Government House

Daily World Today, August 28, 2008 – Court approves arrest warrants for PAD leaders for treason charges



Daily News, August 28, 2008 – Court orders PAD to retreat – Rally stage to be removed from Government House – The PAD appeals against the court's injunction – Arrest warrants issued for the 9 PAD leaders for charges of treason.

[PAD's "final war" – August-September, 2008](#)
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PAD's “final war” Main Page

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[August 29-30, 2008 – at the PAD rally](#)

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Introduction of Rugby into Thailand

August 29, 2008

Categories: Sports

[Introduction of Rugby into Thailand](#) – Daily Mirror, August, 2008

Thai circus

August 29, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai circus](#) – *Cartoon by Sacrava*, August, 2008

Troubles in the South – July-August 2008

August 30, 2008

Categories: The Thai Deep South

Troubles in the South – July-August 2008

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

Above:

Villagers from the Banluemu, Mu 8 of the Krongpinang district in Yala province are bringing soldiers from the Army's special unit to host the session to propose the toilet construction project for the mosque of Banluemu Village. The army unit approved the project with a budget of 14,000 baht.

Mosque improvements in the deep south – July, 2008



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

Above: Soldiers from the Army's special force are presenting the information with regards to the toilet construction project.

Below: Heads of the soldier team deliver money for the project to Imamate of the Banluemu Village Mosque.



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



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

Scouts in the deep south – July 1, 2008

Dr. Has reports: *On July 1, 2008, the Yala provincial administrative organization hosted a ceremony on reviewing scouts' oath-taking speeches. The ceremony drew great interest from many schools and it was joined by greater numbers of scouts than previous years.*



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



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

[Troubles
in the South index page](#)

Thai Media Project – August 2008

August 30, 2008

Categories: Thai Media Project

More: [Unlocking the Thai world: Thai-language newspaper headlines](#)

Ways out – translated and summarized from *Krungtep Turakit*; Column: Editorial, August 30, 2008

Thailand is currently locked in a severe political conflict, which could turn to violence at any time. This conflict is also not likely to end any time soon.

Academics are worried that the current political situation could turn bloody once again. If, however, the right solution were applied, this critical situation could improve. Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej would be well-advised to listen intently to the advice of academics and social organizations. He must also bring himself to believe that this situation – that currently looks like it can only get worse – could get better if only it were approached in the right frame of mind.

The NGO Coordinating Committee on Development (NGO-COD) has suggested that the government should heed its (following) four proposals. Firstly, the government should remove police officers from the scene of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) protests rallies, and immediately stop taking violent measures against the PAD. Secondly, the PAD should gather peacefully for its protest rallies, without trying to impose conditions on the authorities that could easily lead to violence. Thirdly, Members of Parliament should be called to an urgent special assembly, to search for solutions to this political crisis. Lastly, organizations such as the National Human Rights Commission, the Electoral Commission and the National Economic and Social Advisory Council should jointly explore possible exit strategies to ease the current situation. Additionally, the Young People for Democracy Movement and academic networks and community organizations from the South should be requested to provide advice to this government on possible ways out of this crisis.

The breaking-point has been reached! – translated and summarized from

Komchadluek; Column: Len Nork Sapa; Author: Sophon Ongkarn; August 26, 2008

It is already 100 days since the current round of People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) demonstrations first began, but this government has still not modified its behavior. The government has not shown any degree of penitence. It has also not shown any indication of having a conscience, or of possessing any morality. The time has, thus, undoubtedly come for a schism between the forces of goodness and badness.

Those who have been closely following this situation, would now like to know just how strongly the PAD's 'people power' measures up against that of the government. At the same time, those who are still sitting on the fence are, perhaps, close to making up their minds over this issue.

Apart from the pressure now being mounted by participants of the PAD rallies, this government is now also coming under pressure from a group of 'key' PAD leaders. This group is saying that if this government continues to cling obstinately to power, that it will definitely not bode well for this country – and that another coup may be necessary.

The traitors of this government are striving hard to use their majority vote in parliament to 'fix' the law, in order to help their 'capitalist' survive the karma that is now so hard on his heels. It would not be the first time, however, that he has avoided meeting his fate. His fate has, nevertheless, caused him to be a political refugee in UK. But, it will probably not be that easy for him to become a UK resident. He started out his exile trying to portray himself as a penitent person, but the international press has begun to reveal him in his true colors. This is in spite of the fact that he has hired a public relations company to fool the 'white man' into believing that he is being persecuted.

'Big Chief' Samak Sundaravej is now moaning about the current investigations against him over numerous legal cases. If Samak would really like to know whether he has been working in a moral manner, he might perhaps like to ask members of his own family if they can give him a good answer. The answer would inevitably be "No!", if it were not for the fact that his family are probably also not capable of distinguishing good from bad. And they probably do not have the courage to tell him the truth, in any case.

Samak is still a nominee of the 'refugee politician'. A 'thief in a suit' is still being allowed to carry on with

his corrupt ways. That fact has begun to convince some people that if we let this government remain in power much longer, the country will definitely fall into a state of real disaster very soon. This is a possibility that HM the King has long predicted.

Why does Samak keep his silence? – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*; Column: Editorial; Author, August 19, 2008

Former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra recently released a statement to explain why he did not report to the Criminal Court for a scheduled legal hearing against him. This incident suggests that this country's judicial process has been compromised, and has been used as a political tool. This will likely have a negative impact on Thailand's image abroad, as the Judiciary is one of the three main planks of power that are used to rule this country.

Thaksin Shinawatra was formerly this country's prime minister, and he is still a person who draws media attention wherever he goes in the world. After the 2006 coup, the international community felt some pity for deposed PM Thaksin. This helped him to regain some of his former confidence, and his recent statement – that he was fleeing to the UK – will doubtless provide him with further confidence.

Do countries worldwide really have any idea why the 2006 coup was staged? Additionally, do they really know why former PM Thaksin is facing legal charges in this country?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already explained the truth over this issue. Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej, however, has made no comment on this very important issue in recent days. By maintaining his silence, the PM could be indicating that he respects former PM Thaksin. Thaksin provided considerable support to Samak's bid to become the current PM. However, we need to ask ourselves whether our fellow Thais will still be happy if we continue to have a PM who is content to let this matter destroy Thailand's image abroad by remaining silent.

PM Samak always likes to vent his anger against his political and social subordinates, but he is currently keeping very quiet over this vital issue – and does not seem to be making any move to protect the country's image.

The return of Pradarb and the donation request for the *Prachathai* website – translated and summarized from *Phujatkan*; Author: Panthep Puapongpan; August 20, 2008

The correspondent with the pen name 'Pradarb' writes for the pro-Thaksin *Prachathai* website, and was also a founder of the now banned *Hi-Thaksin* website. He is also an ardent supporter of deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Pradarb disappeared from political 'showbiz' in April this year, after receiving a request from the Shinawatra family to take the *Hi-Thaksin* website offline. The website was terminated because it was the subject of *lèse majesté* allegations that were embarrassing to the Shinawatra family at that time.

Pradarb is now returning to print, after Thaksin recently fled to the United Kingdom to avoid the numerous lawsuits out against him in this country. The 'Return of Pradarb' has come at the same time that the *Prachathai* website is urging its supporters club to donate funds for the running of the site.

I doubt that this action is a serious attempt to raise money from pro-Thaksin groups for a legal defense fund to assist Thaksin with the corruption lawsuits currently out against him. Pradarb's comments on the Thai judicial system – over the Thaksin lawsuits – are, to me, an attempt by the writer to please Thaksin in order to solicit funding for the running of the *Prachathai* website. I also view Pradarb's comments, on the recent Criminal Court judgments against Thaksin's wife, as libellous of that court's authority – as laid down by our current constitutional monarchy.

Jigsaw Puzzle Pieces' named Jakrapob, Daranee and Cheep

– translated and summarized from *Phujatkan*; Author: Warith Limthongkul, August 21, 2008

The political movement that is attempting to destroy this country's constitutional monarchy could be likened to what I will now refer to as the 'key' pieces in a jigsaw puzzle. The 'pieces' in question are 3 interlinked political figures who are playing a significant role in the current political turmoil. The first 'piece' is Jakrapob Penkair, a former Foreign Minister who is currently faced with a *lèse majesté* charge. The second is Da Torpedo, who was recently arrested on *lèse majesté* charges after she made some inflammatory speeches during a 'Democratic Alliance against Dictatorship' (DAD) political rally. The third is the 102.75 FM radio host Chuchee Cheewasut (AKA Cheep Chuchai), who hosts a program entitled, 'The Legend of the Hierarchy'. Chuchee is a known associate of a close aide of the deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The background to these 3 'pieces' is basically that they are known to have highly-idealistic visions of social revolution. I believe that it is high-time that the public woke up to the reality of the political

jigsaw puzzle that these 3 people are trying to assemble with themselves as key pieces.

Making its debut – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Column: Pid Mai Mid, August 21, 2008

It is known that the Pheu Thai Party (PTP) is a political party which has been set up as a backup for politicians of the People Power Party (PPP) – which could be disbanded during the next few days.

Some former PPP parliamentary candidates have already become members of the new party. No one in the new party is as yet an existing Member of Parliament (MP), however. Additionally, nobody in the Thai political scene is as yet familiar with any of the names that the PTP is likely to soon choose as its parliamentary candidates for any upcoming elections.

The PTP is now preparing to move its administration to a new office. It is said that the new party (which could eventually become as powerful as the PPP) will initially use the Shinawatra Thai Silk Building on Sukhumvit 23 as its new home.

In order to make ready their new place, PTP's executives have called on their members to make an extra special effort to get their new political power off the ground – so that the executives will not have to face for long the stigma of being labelled an ineffective party with unsuccessful parliamentary candidates.

PTP executives recently met to select a parliamentary candidate for the upcoming by-election in a constituency in Roi Et Province. (This by-election resulted from an Electoral Commission decision to hand a 'red card' to an MP of the Puea Paendin Party who was elected for this constituency in the December 2007 General Election.) PTP believe that their first candidate will achieve a resounding victory in the constituency – and that this will be a fortuitous sign for the future of their new party. The PTP executives responsible for selecting their first parliamentary candidate are apparently prepared to let a former PPP parliamentary candidate submit an application to stand in the constituency. They will need to make sure, however, that the first PTP parliamentary candidate is not a former Northeastern PPP MP aligned with the 'Newin's Fellows' group.

Cheep Chuchai seeks asylum? – translated and summarized from *Krungthep Turakit*;

Column: Kae Roy Karn Muang; Author: Pracha Buranavithree, August 15, 2008

The 'Big Boss' and his lady have recently decided to go to London to live. Meanwhile, a major advocate of his policies has also quietly disappeared from Thailand. His name is Cheep Chuchai, and he currently has a legal case out against him on the same charges as Da Torpedo. Amongst the network of those who hate the aristocracy, everyone seems to know exactly where Cheep Chuchai is hiding right now – but they are loath to reveal his whereabouts. Today, he was still talking on the phone, 'live on-air' on the 92.75 FM radio station for taxi-drivers, with Shinawatra Haboonpat. It is as if Cheep wants to tell everyone that, "I'm doing just fine!"

As we know, Cheep Chuchai is one of those 'October' people. After the October 6 Massacre in 1976, Cheep and his Mahidol University friends hid themselves away in the northeastern forests. This fugitive group became known as 'Somchai's Fellows'. This year, Chucheeep has stood up to oppose any actions within the People Power Party that run contrary to the needs and desires of deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his family.

Those who hate the bourgeoisie are now in a difficult predicament, however. There are currently no real signs that the 'Big Boss' wants to recommence his political struggle within Thailand, since he has already flown to England to live the good life.



Banmuang, August 15, 2008 – National Police issues criminal arrest warrants on Thaksin-Pojaman



Above: Matichon, August 18, 2008 – The caption reads: PAD's gag – The People's Alliance for Democracy brings pictures of Thaksin Shinawatra and his spouse Pojaman on their arrest warrants to decorate their rally stage background at the Makkhawan Rangsan rally platform on August 16th.

[Thaksin to seek political asylum in Britain: lawyer](#) – SkyNews, August 20, 2008

...*"His asylum request will note their malicious treatment in Thailand, where they lack security and freedom," Watchara told reporters.*

Thaksin has accused the Thai courts of bias and said he feared his family could not receive a fair trial... Watchara said Thaksin had instructed his lawyers to file a defamation suit against the protest leaders for parading in a truck carrying a giant banner bearing photos of him and Pojaman and reading "Most Wanted."

Left: Naewna, August 18, 2008 – The caption reads: Manhunt: Reporters reveal that in the men lavatory of the Nangleng Police Station decorated with many plants, contains the arrest warrant announcement for deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his spouse Pojaman on the Ratchada land purchase corruption case.



Must Believe – *Thai Rath*; cartoon by Chai Ratchawat, August, 2008

Must Believe

Top left to right:

In this country the government pays for bus rental fees at the rate more expensive than buying the new buses.

In this country, a dead one-and-a-half year old was charged for a scholarship by the Education Committee.

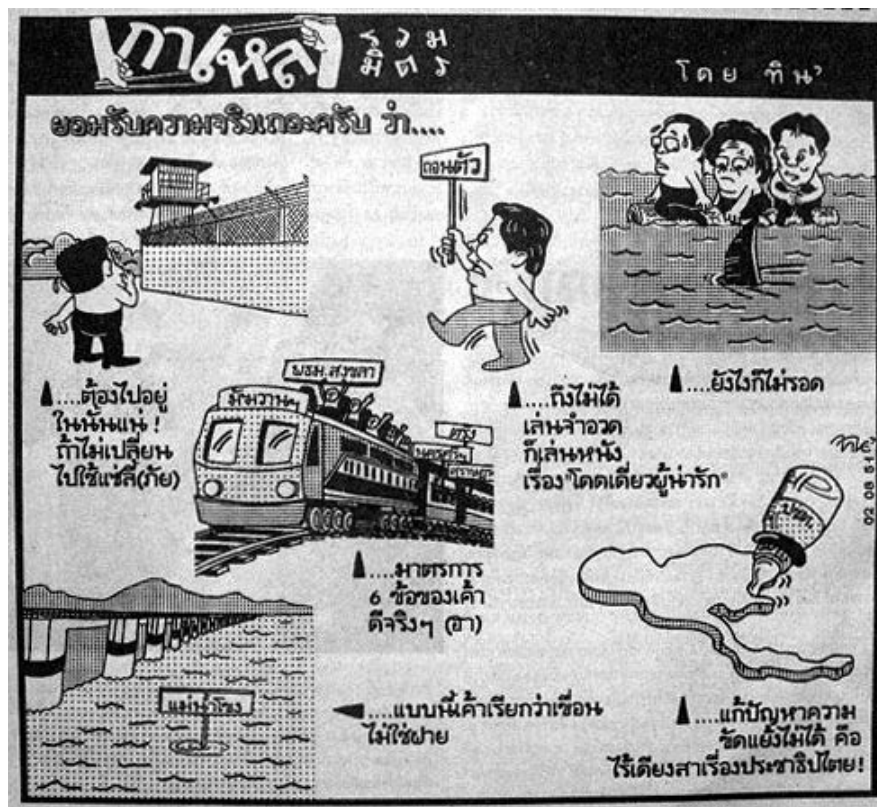
In this country, a child is allowed to play dreadful game until he killed a taxi driver to collect his game point award.

Bottom left to right:

In this country, people who wear a shirt with the messages “Chinese offspring love the country” are guilty.

In this country, from a kindergarten student to the ministerial post holder, a person has to buy their chair to sit in.

In this country, the Prime Minister who argues with the press everyday without boredom.



Please accept the truth that... – Matichon; Column: Kaolao Ruammit; Author: Tin, August, 2008

Please accept the truth that...

Top left to right:

The man says: I must be in jail if I do not try to seek asylum.

The man holding the sign says: "If I do not act as comedian, my role is the actor of the movie "Home alone" The sign reads: Withdraw!

People on a log in the sea: "No chance to survive"

Bottom left to right:

The caption reads: This is called dam, not reservoir. The sign in the river read: Khong River

The 6 measures of the government are really good. The plate on the locomotive says "Makkhawan – Songkhla PAD – Trang – Nakhon Sri Thammarat"

Not able to solve the conflict because is naive about democracy.



From *Poojadkarn*, August 12, 2008, by Buncha Kamin – The caption reads: Yesterday, Nong Kay was not the only one who made Thai people happy....
Thaksin holds a sign that reads: Take asylum to England.



From *Krungtepturakit*, August 13, 2008 – The person underground is the personification of death or hell. He says: If there is nobody to give you a place to take asylum, come down... I guarantee your safety.



From *Krungtepturakit*, August 13, 2008, by Arun – This cartoon portrays the Shinawatras as aliens fleeing with expensive suitcases onto a spaceship. This is perhaps to show the Shinatwatra's unconventional nature—they never seemed to be following conventional Thai rules of behavior in the way they aggressively played politics or dealt with respected figures.



Krungthepturakit, August 11, 2008 – Thaksin Pojaman flee – Aim to take asylum in London and will announce the reason today

Komchadluek, August 12, 2008

Top left: Photo of the Queen on the occasion of her birthday

Top right: Olympians paying respect to royalty after a victory

Bottom left: Story about Thaksin in exile:
Thaksin takes asylum with Or to England, claims that will be assassinated – Point to sell Man City

On the Thaksin photo: Finally Thaksin takes asylum



Matichon, August 12, 2008

Top left: Photo of the Queen on the occasion of her birthday

Top right headline:

Maew -Pojman do not come back to Thailand – Flee to England! – Rumors are they fly to Oak, Aim and Ung-ing whom Or’s secretary took them in advance – Prepare to announce his reason

Bottom right: Photo of Prapawadee Jaroenrattanakul who won Thailand’s first gold in the Beijing Olympics

The standpoint of the government – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*; Column: Editorial, August 15, 2008

What is the current standpoint of the government over the issue of the former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra? Can this government coexist with the judiciary and its judicial processes in their current form? These questions need clear answers, and the eventual answers could be a good indicator of whether the Samak government is running the country for one person’s benefit or for the happiness of the Thai people as a whole.

By allowing its Public Relations Department and its radio and television broadcasting channels to fall under the influence of Thaksin and his family network (one of whom has already been handed a jail sentence by a criminal court), this government has shown that it supports criminals – and does not support the punishment of Thaksin for his misdemeanors. This is especially true in the case of Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej,

whose reactions indicate that he disagrees with the recent actions of the judiciary. His People Power Party (PPP) is now also working hard to get an amnesty for Thaksin, to avoid the former PM having to fully face up to the many things he did wrong during his tenure as PM.

Does this government really want Thai people to perceive that it is standing up for bad people? By using its own media outlets to commit calumny against the judiciary, is this government also sending a message that it both agrees with and supports corrupt people – and does not accept the current role of the judiciary?

The judiciary is currently the only institution that we can still trust, since the executive and legislative branches of government have already forged an alliance to protect their mutual interests – and are both now firmly working for the benefit of a certain politician and his ‘network’.

Will Thais let a government, that seemingly condones and supports criminality, remain in power?

Thaksin’s political heir

– translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Author: Nitthi Aiewswiwong, August 16, 2008

Even before the September 19 coup of 2006, I had already commented in this column that the (now) deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was already a person whose political career was at an end. The only thing he really now has left is his power and his financial influence. He has now fled to the UK to avoid the lawsuits out against him in this country, and has thus failed to report himself to the Criminal Court for a scheduled hearing of one of the cases. I would say that Thaksin now has a permanent ‘handicap’ that will probably prevent him returning to politics for the rest of his life. So now is the right time to take a look-round to consider who could become Thaksin’s political heir.

I believe that if the new Pheu Thai Party is to be successful, it will need to change its marketing strategy to be more in accordance with rapidly changing Thai social mores. It will also need to make itself more amenable to middle-class values. In my opinion, Thaksin and his supporters have had a profound effect on Thai politics. However, if this new party is to adapt to current social trends, it must inevitably face the issue of the political succession to deposed PM Thaksin.

I note that even if the Chart Thai and Democrat parties avoid being dissolved by the law courts, they might still be wracked by internal conflicts. Some members of ‘The 111 Thai Rak Thai Foundation’ could possibly be viewed as ‘proper’ parliamentary candidate material in future elections, but they would probably find it difficult to find a political party with a ‘strong’ base that would be willing to take them on after the ban on their political activity expires.

Thai politics will likely continue in its current chaotic ways, if it remains for the most part unresponsive to this country’s current social trends.

The rich in trouble – Land tax and inheritance law to be proposed –

translated and summarized from *Thai Post*, August 14, 2008

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Dr. Surapong Suebwonglee discloses that the Land and Property Tax Act is expected to be proposed next month. The committee overseeing the act has submitted the draft act to him and he already approved it. The Finance Ministry sees that it is necessary to propose the act to meet the standard of international law, which says tax must be collected from a person who does not use his land at a higher rate than a person who makes use of his land. It might take some time before the law comes into effect. The new law will replace the existing Housing and Land Tax Act. In addition, the Finance Ministry is conducting a feasibility study on the collection of inheritance tax. Details will be provided if the decision reaches conclusion. Under the Land and Property Tax Act, tax collection from residential property will not exceed 0.1% of tax base, and not over 0.05% will be collected from agricultural property. For abandoned estate, tax collection in the first three years will not exceed 0.5% and will be raised every three year if the owner still does not make any use of the land plot. However, the collection will not be over 2% of the tax base.

Stop this devastating project! – for the sake of both Bangkokians and Northerners – translated and summarized from *Phujatkan*; Column: Siding with the People (Khang Pracharat); Author: Siri Anya, August

1, 2008

This People Power Party-led government has a mega-project in the planning that it says will deal with the water problems of both Bangkokians and Northerners: The Nam Ngum Hydro-Electric Project in Laos. This project would require a great deal of capital investment, but might seem to some to constitute just another form of state robbery from the Thai people.

I believe that this project is unnecessary, because I am not convinced that Thailand really suffers from a shortage of water in the dry season. Our water shortages are mainly due to a lack of efficiency in water resource management, and a lack of reservoirs to conserve water for the dry season. If the Nam Ngum project is allowed to proceed, Central and Northeastern Thailand might actually end up suffering even greater flood problems. Supporters of this government stand to benefit to the tune of billions of baht from this project. It is for this reason that the project is likely to go ahead.

I also wish to point out that the conflicts of interest in this project. There is a company that seems destined to receive the concession for this project from the government, which is headed by Yien Ping – a close associate of deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. There is also a conflict of interest with France – the country that assists the Democratic Republic of Laos to plan all of its water resource projects. It should be pointed out that France played a major role in brokering the recent highly-contentious territorial agreement with Cambodia, over the Preah Vihear Temple.

I wish to urge all Thai citizens, the Office of the Auditor-General and the National Counter Corruption Commission to scrutinize this project very closely. We should put a stop to this project.

Pullman Hotel – operational base of the ‘Boss’ – scene of his “Let’s seek asylum!” decision – translated and summarized from *Krungthep Thurakit*; Column: Kae Roy Karn Muang; Author: Chalao Kanchana, August 14, 2008

Regarding Thaksin Shinawatra’s recent explanation of the reasons why he did not attend a scheduled court appearance, but instead decided to take his family to England to seek political asylum. Many people have wondered why this statement was sent from the Pullman King Power Hotel on a soi off Rang Nam Road in Bangkok .

The sending of Thaksin’s statement from this location was neither a routine occurrence or an accident. It could be said that it was a move by the ‘Gang of Four’ (GOF) to show that it still enjoys the full confidence of the ‘Boss’. It could also indicate that the Boss still has the full backing of the GOF – as led by Newin Chidchob.

People may have been wondering if the idea to apply for asylum was Thaksin’s own, or that of one of his associates. It has now been discovered that Thaksin was encouraged to seek asylum by a group of people who love him almost unconditionally. This group is led by the same man who is also the leader of the GOF. The GOF has recently been working with a highly-experienced legal team to analyze all the various legal cases that have been initiated against the Shinawatra family, with a view to figuring out whether the Boss should stand his ground or just flee the country. This legal team recently arrived at the conclusion that the Boss should flee the country for a while, as it would only serve to foment further conflicts if he were to stand and fight. The Boss apparently made his decision to seek political asylum on the sole advice of Newin Chidchob – that renowned fighter of the Boss’s many causes.

From now on, Newin Chidchob will be the leader of the People Power Party (PPP). The GOF leader will also oversee all political and economic matters in the PPP-led government. This man is even scarier than the Boss himself.

Thaksin is not the first asylum seeker – translated and summarized from *Phujatkan*; Column: n/a; Author: Chaianand Samutwanit; August 14, 2008

Deposed Premier Thaksin Shinawatra is seeking his asylum to live in UK. I think that living faraway from the home land might make Thaksin to think about how he had faced unfair treats that push him to be in the position far beyond the old days when he had many affiliates and subordinate politicians who serve him. He was once a man who was praised for his merits that he supports many poor in the faraway areas. He might be proud of what he did and doubted why he has to escape. I would tell that Thaksin is not the first asylum seeker. In the past, Thailand have other key figures who played important roles in doing goods for the nation who seeks asylum. The first is first Statesman of the country Pridi Pnomyong who died in foreign country. He was the great man whose outstanding role was his support to the Democratic Reform in the year 1932. The other is Doctor Puay Eungphakorn who sought asylum after the October 6th 1976 democratic movement of the people. However, these two men’s great merits to the country cannot compare to Thaksin’s reputation. They were upright men who have no political influences or involvement in corruption like the deposed Premier Thaksin.

Kalib's "People's War" – translated and summarized from *Phujatkan*; Author: Warit Limthongkul, August 14, 2008

A *Lohk Wun Nee* newspaper columnist, with the pen name of Kalib, has recently attracted a great deal of interest through his apparent incitement of further national schism. Kalib expressed his opinions in 3 articles, entitled “Why come back?”, “Asylum” and “Poisonous blow”. His first article advised deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to avoid the criminal cases laid against him by seeking political asylum in the UK – in accordance with Chinese strategies of waging war. In his second article, Kalib said that he would support any attempt by Thaksin to return to Thailand to recommence the political struggle. In his third article, Kalib criticized Thailand’s judicial system. Kalib appears to be espousing ideas that could easily provoke further political schism in this country. He, perhaps, has one eye open to the possibility of provoking a popular uprising (“People’s War”) to support the return of Thaksin to power.

I would say that such notions are unlikely to come to pass, since the only sure way to create such a popular uprising would be for a *coup d’état* to first take place. The current situation does not really appear ripe for such a coup, however – so there are unlikely to be sufficient incendiary events to generate the necessary blaze to get a popular uprising really started.

Chinese love nation – *Nation Weekend*, August 10, 2008

The headline shows the controversial t-shirts used at the PAD. The government contends these inject a divisive racial element into the protest.

Various headlines read:

Gang of 2 Por.

and 2 hails and 2 masters –

War of Tamoeunthom castle –

News talk with the socially accused –

Mission of Sunny-Jack



Pim Thai, August 4, 2008 – Cancel constitutional amendment to stop triggering the fuse leading to the recurrence of the October 6th coup.

Suggestion for avoiding the bloody war downtown – PAD challenge government moving hurriedly in revising charter



Komchadluek, August 5, 2008 – Thailand claims for seizure the Prasat Muang Thom from Cambodia. The Khmer counterpart moves to urge the return of "Ta Muan Tom"
The blue splatter reads: Hot news! Before others

Enforced disappearances a blight on Thailand

August 30, 2008

[Enforced disappearances a blight on Thailand](#) – *The Nation*, August 30, 2008

...The latest and most blatant case of an enforced disappearance in Thailand occurred in February of this year in Khon Kaen, the gateway to the Indochina region. Kamol Laosophaphant, a well-to-do family man, disappeared from a police station in Khon Kaen as a result of his strong campaign against corruption within his community. Kamol knew it was dangerous to challenge the authorities and the alleged corruption in the province. Before his disappearance, he made repeated calls from the police station to confirm his location. The line was cut while he was making his final call to his family. His family hasn't heard from him since. Kamol's wife is afraid to leave her home out of concern for her safety...

PAD's "final war" – August 29-31, 2008

August 31, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

PAD's "final war"

August 29-31, 2008

[PAD's "final war" – August-September, 2008](#)

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Sunday morning – August 31, 2008

Above and below: Signs on the stage reads:
Opposing the People Alliance for Democracy –
Protecting the democratic government –
Democracy Loving Group

The truth of the truth –
Time swallows everything –
The stage of people's voice



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: About 200 members of the Democratic Alliance Against Dictatorship, an anti-PAD group, return from a brief demonstration at parliament building on Sunday morning. More groups of what appeared to be families arrived on baht busses (below) and stood around uneasily until men came over to lead them into the crowd.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[Warning over Thailand unrest](#) –
ITV, August 31, 2008

British travellers in Thailand are being warned to avoid large gatherings amid the threat of escalating violence...

[Australians aren't under threat in Thailand: Smith](#) –
ABC Online, August 31, 2008

The Federal Government says at this stage the anti-government demonstrations in Thailand do not pose any direct threat to Australians in the country...

Inside the PAD camp – August 31, 2008

Thomas writes: *I have been at the PAD camp at the governmental building yesterday. It indeed looks almost like a Hippy open air – with some very offensive odor. The pictures are [here](#). But don't forget to tell people not to go there, it might get dangerous as PPP set up some counter activities, yesterday I was save I was told. Things may loom up again ... its not a tank photo shoot like in 2006.*

From *Not the Nation*: [PAD Threatens to Flush One Million Toilets Simultaneously](#)
Catastrophic drop in water pressure would destroy Thailand, leaders claim...

ASTV's branding of its broadcast on August 29, 2008 – It reads: The final fight on last whistle day to evict the puppet government selling the nation



NBT on August 29, 2008 – In the background – The dragging PAD
At the bottom left: Follow up with the PAD seizing the town

[Army chief Anupong suggests PM to resign](#) – *The Nation*, August 29, 2008

[Samak will be asked to step down by his key allies: informed sources](#) – *The Nation*, August 29, 2008

[Police fire teargas at protesters at Metropolitan Police head office](#) – *The Nation*, August 29, 2008

Right: 20:29 – More footage is being shown on ASTV now of the aborted siege on Thai Police HQ that was broken up by tear gas.



[AOT confirms all flights to and from Phuket, Hat Yai, Krabi cancelled](#) – *The Nation*, August 29, 2008

Police clubbing a person – August 29, 2008

Series of shots ASTV is repeating over and over again as they exhort people to join the protest against the government.

At top, police charge a protester and then one policeman appears to hit him violently over his head.

Then (at bottom) the policeman staggers back as flashbulbs go off—perhaps suddenly realizing the cameras around him.





Other stations are also showing footage of the large stockpiles of weapons allegedly confiscated from the PAD at government House (left). These seems to include old knives, bullets, and hundreds of golf clubs.

Government TV channel NBT is running a public service announcement that shows PM Samak placidly informing the public of the 116 day reconciliation period ceremony to be held this Saturday (left).



[PAD's "final war" – August-September, 2008](#)

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

Why I will never buy a condo in Bangkok

August 31, 2008

Categories: Property and Development

[Why I will never buy a condo in Bangkok](#) – Stickman, August 31, 2008

...As a final word of caution, I ran this article by someone who had been in the industry in Thailand and this is what he had to say. These are his unedited words. "I wouldn't buy ANY property in Thailand. Of course, I could never say that when I was in the realty business!"...