

Saving Anocha: A Thai lady abducted by North Korea

November 4, 2008

[Saving Anocha: A Thai lady abducted by North Korea](#) – *The Nation*, November 4, 2008

No free lunch in credit crunch: \$1 million Bangkok meal

November 6, 2008

Categories: Food and Drink

[No free lunch in credit crunch: \\$1 million Bangkok meal](#) — Reuters, November 6, 2008

...The Lebua hotel, which raised the ire of many in Thailand's capital when it charged 1 million baht (\$28,580) for a dinner last year, is coming back for seconds — but charging almost 40 times more...

Burmese visitor dies in shooting incident near Bangkok airport

November 6, 2008

Categories: Crime

[Burmese visitor dies in shooting incident near Bangkok airport](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, November 6, 2008

Passenger takes Thai buses to task for cockroach in ear

November 6, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Passenger takes Thai buses to task for cockroach in ear](#) – EarthTimes, November 6, 2008

...At the first pit stop in Phitsanulok, Kittipong dashed to the bathroom and managed to remove the cockroach with a cotton bud but suffered a severe ear bleed and tinnitus, a roaring sensation in the inner ear...

Suspects arrested in murders of two Matichon journalists

November 7, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Suspects arrested in murders of two *Matichon* journalists](#) – RSF, November 7, 2008

Updates the [Rangcharoen case](#). Updates the [Chainurat case](#).

Princess Galayani's Funeral

November 12, 2008

Categories: Culture and Society



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Photographers take souvenir photos of visitors at the site.

Princess Galayani's Funeral – November 14-16, 2008

Photos on this page were taken on November 12, 2008.

Also: On the forum: Details of the [crematorium](#) and the [golden royal urn](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

One of several stations around Sanam Luang for people to line up to pay their respects.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

During the week before the ceremony, stages, lighting, and large screen TVs were set up around the park and on Ratchadamneorn Road.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Looking south from the middle of Sanam Luang towards the temporary crematorium building.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Vendors in the park selling souvenir photos of the princess and royal family.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Vendors with mini laminating devices and printers offer to take photos of visitors in front of the crematorium.
Police were quite aggressive in keeping vendors in pre-defined areas at the park.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Thai News and Views, November 2008-June 2009

November 12, 2008

Categories: Human Rights, The Thaksin Years

[“Holloway suspect involved in Thai sex trade”](#) – *RNW News*, November 10, 2008

Joran van der Sloot, the main suspect in the disappearance case of US teenager Natalee Holloway, has been filmed in Bangkok where he was allegedly recruiting Thai girls to work in the sex industry in Europe...

[‘Safe to visit south Thailand’](#) – *New Straits Times*, November 10, 2008

... “Malaysians, especially those from Kelantan, can go to Narathiwat, Yala and Pattani. They will be safe.

“But since most of the bombing attacks occur in the evening, Malaysians should come only during the daytime.

“I give my guarantee that Malaysians will be safe,” he said at a press conference here...

[Bangkok police arrest Abinayashree](#) – *Chitramala*, November 10, 2008

The Police Department of Bangkok recently arrested Abhinayashree for her unruly behaviour. The Police also said that she was disturbing the passers by. Abhinayashree was in a complete drunken state whe she was arrested...

[Cambodians rely on magic against modern Thai weapons](#) – *AFP*, November 10, 2008

A couple of weeks after their deadly border shootout, a Cambodian infantryman admits Thai troops have better weapons, but he’s confident his pink “magic scarf” will ward off bullets...

[Frozen dewes happen on Doi Inthanon](#) – *The Nation*, November 11, 2008

[Govt monitoring Aussie held in Thai case](#) – *AAP*, November 12, 2008

...Senator Faulkner said the Thai public prosecutor had until the end of November to bring the case to court.

Senator Faulkner said the government could not intervene directly in the judicial process.

“Mr Nicolaides is subject to the Thai judicial process, the government cannot interfere in that process, just as we would not welcome an attempt buy a foreign government to interfere in our own.”



Title: Yingluck Shinawatra

28th Prime Minister



A tiger: Those reporters ask stupid questions.

Caption: This Eastern tiger is very fierce.

พร้อมไหมคนไทย...



พร้อมเลือกไอ้โง่มาเป็นนายกฯแบบไอ้โง่แล้วหรือยัง..?

Title: Are you ready, Thai people...

Yingluck's paper: a note for governing the country

Panthongtae's paper: a note for the exam

Caption: Ready to vote a silly boy to be the new PM like the silly lady?

[SEA Field Trip: It's called Bangkok for a reason](#) – jaunted.com, June 24, 2008

...More common than spicy street food and heavy foot traffic in Bangkok is the sight of a balding, middle-aged man with a pockmarked face, potbelly and ponytail striding alongside a beautiful young Thai woman.

Their arrangement is apparent and immediate. Rather than get horrified, saddened or disgusted (and at times, my boyfriend, who co-wrote this travelog, and I felt all of the above), you'll have to accept if not embrace Bangkok's most common trade in order to enjoy the city...

Gone was the sexually liberated guise of Western strip clubs. Instead, women with limited options stood before a crowd of ogling men, as Johns pointed out their choice and bought their companion for the night.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Have morality... before it is too late – June 25, 2008

Left side: What do you think of the things people like to do? Anybody like to...

Kill animals – Commit adultery – Drink alcohol

Right side: The School of Life

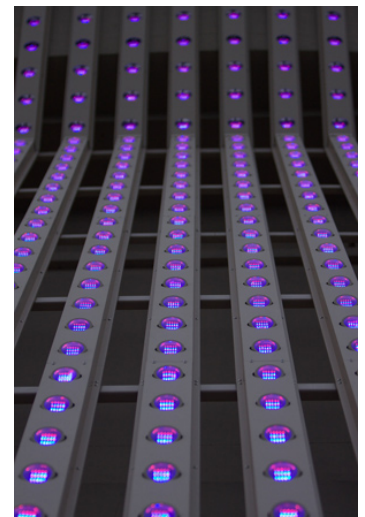
Right side (largest white letters): Have morality... before it is too late

Power of sacred rules that is unexpected – By Atcharawadee Wongsakol

On top right red band: Available at book stalls now

Baiyoke LED – June 30, 2008

Alexander writes: I've been on Baiyoke last week and took a picture close up of the LED's that have been [installed recently](#).



(Photo: Alexander)

[Thai national loses belongings to chatmate](#) – Philstar, June 28, 2008

A middle-aged Thai tourist from Phuket lost his luggage containing personal belongings, money, visa, mobile phones, Rolex watch and laptop to a Filipina acquaintance whom he met through the Internet site Friendster inside a hotel in Butuan City...

[Thai police keep a close eye on nude Chinese fundraiser](#) – EARTHtimes, June 28, 2008

Thai police are keeping a close eye on the nude photos of Xiao Yun, a 19-year-old Chinese girl who has allegedly been using her enticing website to raise funds for Sichuan earthquake victims, media reports said Sunday...

[Thai tycoon snaps up Sydney hotel](#) – Calcutta News, June 28, 2008

TCC Land, owned by Thai billionaire Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi, is to fork out \$76 million (USD 73 million) to buy a 4 star hotel and tavern in Sydney...

[Siamese method](#) – Wikipedia, June 2008

The Siamese method, or de la Loubère method, is a very simple method to construct any size of n-odd magic squares...

[On hold, as usual](#) – Bangkok Post, June 30, 2008

Thailand's telecommunications industry continues to be a casualty of politics, to the point that poor neighbours Laos and Cambodia today can even boast some technologies and services that Thailand lacks...

[Norwegian Doctors: Sex Is Risky In Thailand](#) – ScandAsia, June, 2008

The statistics are clear: Thailand is the country where most Norwegian men infected with the HIV-infection...

[Proposed new broadcasting law regressive, waters down prior commitments to community broadcasters, warns AMARC](#) – IFEX, June 18, 2008

On 10 June 2008, the Cabinet approved for submission to Parliament a draft bill titled "Independent Organisation for Broadcasting and Telecommunications Bill". The draft bill is intended to replace the provisions of the Allocation of Telecommunications and Broadcasting Frequencies Act 2000. AMARC considers the draft Bill to be regressive in several key respects. In particular, AMARC is concerned that...

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants – June 21, 2008

[Their 2008 report on Thailand](#) – This year Thailand scores an "F" in all categories except one.



(Photo: Sadartu for 2Bangkok.com)

"Thai people's power to stay away from drugs" – Mae Sa Rieng Kindergarten (Ban Pong)

Anti-drug parade in Chiang Mai – June 30, 2008



(Photo: Sadartu for 2Bangkok.com)

Left: Thai people should stay away from drugs

Center: Never ever try drugs – For good life, think carefully – Please stop smoking – It is very difficult to make money

Right: His Majesty the King is in our heart, we should stay away from drugs.



(Photo: Sadartu for 2Bangkok.com)

Left: We will help prevent drugs.

Center: Love the King, Care for Kids, Help prevent drugs

Right: Drugs are dangerous and harmful to the society. Stay away from drugs.



(Photo: Sadartu for 2Bangkok.com)

We will help prevent drugs. – Use drugs and go to jail – Don't smoke

[Demo-Crazy website](#) – June 23, 2008



[Higher Bangkok taxi fares to be enforced next week](#) – TNA, June 20, 2008

...The existing fare which has been in effect since November 1996 has been adjusted due to soaring fuel prices in Thailand, he said.

Mr. Chairat said the new taxi fare would see the Bt35 flagfall remain as before, but the fare will increase by 50 satang for every kilometer travelled...

[Thailand's elected PM under attack from all sides](#) – AFP, June 18, 2008

Just four months after forming a government, Thailand's elected Premier Samak Sundaravej is under attack both in the streets and in parliament, raising new fears about the nation's stability...

[Truckers call off blockade after government agrees to help](#) – TNA, June 19, 2008

Thailand's truckers decided Thursday "at the eleventh hour" not to go ahead with their threat to choke traffic in metropolitan Bangkok by halting their rigs and blockading roads leading to the Thai capital after the government at the last minute agreed to respond to their demands for help in response to soaring fuel prices...

[Anti-government demonstrations in militarised Bangkok](#) – AsiaNews.it, June, 2008

[Press freedom vanishing from Thailand](#) – Phuket Gazette, June 20, 2008

In his speech before the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand on Wednesday, Asean Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan delivered what might best be described as a severe reality check for Thai citizens. Citing statistics from Freedom House, the New York-based monitor of media freedoms around the world, he noted that less than a decade ago Thailand ranked 29th out of 194 countries surveyed, putting it among the top 15% in the world. In its data released last month, however, the agency's 'Freedom Index' saw Thailand in 127th place...

The toxic fumes leak

[Thread on the forum](#)

[Gas leak won't harm community: Disease Control Department](#) – TNA, June 10, 2008

Thailand's Department of Disease Control said the Tuesday morning gas leak from a plant in the eastern province of Rayong won't affect the communities nearby the

factory, but some 20 persons who inhaled the gas remain hospitalized under observation...

[Leaking gas at PTT factory injures over 50 workers](#) – PRD, June 10, 2008

[Gas leak at a Rayong factory injures 52](#) – *The Nation*, June 10, 2008

[Cumene Gas Leaking from Phenol Factory \(owned by PTT\) at Huay Pong, Rayong – 2 Dead 42 Seriously Injured ... from 112 injured workers](#) – *Manager*, June 10, 2008

[PTT Phenol contains gas leak at Rayong plant](#) – *The Nation*, June 11, 2008

PTT Phenol has contained the gas leak at its chemical plant in Rayong.

Those injured in the incident have returned home, and no damage was incurred to the plant, which is still under construction.

The company said the leak of cumene gas, occurring during a test run of machinery, caused 112 people to become ill.

[Toxic fumes sicken over 100 workers](#) – *Bangkok Post*, June 11, 2008

More than 100 workers were admitted to hospital after inhaling a toxic gas which leaked from a new PTT Phenol Co plant in Rayong province yesterday morning.

The gas was contaminated with cumene, an organic compound used in the production of phenol, which can be harmful if ingested...

Most of the injured people were later released, but about 20 were in a serious condition and were admitted for three days of monitoring...

[Come clean over toxic agents, say residents](#) – *The Nation*, June 12, 2008

Their call came after an accident on Tuesday when toxic gas leaked from a partly built PTT Phenol factory and badly affected 120 workers...

[NRI in Bangkok kingpin of fake currency racket](#) – *Gulf Times*, June, 2008

[Mystery surrounds whereabouts of Nepal's ex-crown prince](#) – *AFP*, June, 2008

He was last seen boarding a plane to Bangkok a day after Nepalese newspaper Nata Patrika (New Paper), quoting family sources, said he could be planning to go to Singapore as early as Tuesday...



(Photo: Sadartu for 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: If corruption is eradicated, Thailand will prosper.

Some banners from a PAD venue in Chiang Mai – June 30, 2008



(Photo: Sadartu for 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: Legal process is the core. Politicians must not interfere. (Bottom) Don't be unreliable in governing the country.



(Photo: Sadartu for 2Bangkok.com)

[U.S. tells Thailand it wants democracy, not coup](#) – Reuters, June 1, 2008

[A new museum puts a Thai imprint on Angkor](#) – IHT, July 3, 2008

...Anxious to promote the museum as a “learning cultural institute,” the Thais are easily stung by such criticism. “We want to educate Cambodian people about their own history,” said the museum’s managing director, Sunaree Wongpiyabovorn. There are those “who know little about its monuments, and even less of the progress of Buddhism and what led up to it,” she added. Wongpiyabovorn insists there is no fortune to be made from the Angkor National Museum. Given that Vilailuck had to triple its original investment of \$5 million due to the cost overruns, the company said it didn’t expect to see a profit until at least a third of the 30-year lease has expired; under its “build, cooperate and transfer” contract, the management and financial control of the collection will then revert to the Cambodian authorities and the Ministry of Culture...

[Leader of demolishers shot dead at Chatuchak Sunday Market](#) – The Nation, June 4, 2008

...The market was owned by Thanasarn Sombat, which has been unsuccessfully trying to evict vendors. The gunfire frightened the men who tried to flee the scene but they were rounded up by police who happened to arrive at the scene. They admitted that they were hired by Samlee between Bt200 to Bt500 each to demolish the shops.

[Foreign capital leaving Thailand ‘in certain amount’: BoT](#) – TNA, June 3, 2008

[Gaudy pink millipede gets world recognition](#) – Bangkok Post, June 11, 2008
And [here is the actual list](#)

[Thailand: Failure Rate For Condos Nears 50%](#) – Sin Chew Jit Poh, June 9, 2008

The chance of failure for condominium developers in Bangkok has grown to almost 50% as competition heats up amid a glut of fresh supplies, warned Aquarius chief executive Yongyuth Chaipromprasert...

[Thailand faces possible capital outflows – cenbank](#) – Reuters, June 9, 2008

Thailand will face possible capital outflows triggered by slowing global economic growth this year, Deputy central bank governor Bandid Nijathaworn told reporters on Tuesday...

[Thailand confirms intervention to slow baht fall](#) – Reuters, June 9, 2008

Thailand’s central bank said on Tuesday it had intervened to slow the baht’s fall and would continue to defend the currency if it remained volatile...

[Thai buffalo](#) – TNA, June, 2008

...Students at Ban Nam Tieng school in the northeastern province of Udon Thani sing a song called “Where’re dung beetles gone?”. Dung beetles are a local food during time of famine and can be easily found in buffalo dung. But they disappeared when farmers switched to using tractors...

From a press release – Cancelled – June 5, 2008

*Hard Talk: Extrajudicial killing with Mr. Kasit Piromya, former Thai Ambassador to Washington, DC
Thursday, June 5, 2008, 6.00-6.30 p.m. at People’s Alliance for Democracy’s rally grounds at Makawan Bridge
The more than 2,500 of cases of narcotics extrajudicial killings committed during the Thaksin Shinawatra regime remain unresolved. Instead of bringing drug-related suspects to justice through the judicial process, the police are said to have been told to ‘do away’ them and then shift the blame to drug gangs silencing their own members. Some of those extrajudicial killing victims were later revealed to not have been related to the drug trade. This controversy has garnered attention from international rights agency such as Amnesty International, as well as the foreign media, but no answers were provided by the Thaksin administration. However, until now, none of the thousands of cases have been solved and suspects be identified. Wrongdoers may forever not be brought to justice due to the efforts by the current administration to amend the 2007 Constitution to do away with the Assets Examination Committee, which is investigating this case to push it into the judicial system. Journalist and democracy activist Sarosha Pornudomsak talks to Mr. Kasit Piromya, former Thai ambassador to Washington, DC, as well as other distinguished speakers, to clarify the many unanswered questions that surround this controversial issue on the PAD stage at Makawan Bridge*

[New trafficking law for Thailand](#) – BBC, June 4, 2008

...Thailand already has an anti-trafficking law – but it does not work very well. The police often refuse to recognise abused migrants as victims of trafficking. A case in point is that of the survivors of an incident two months ago in which 57 Burmese migrants suffocated in a container smuggling them into Thailand. The police argued that they were illegal immigrants, jailed and then deported them. The UN defines a trafficking victim as anyone who is transported for purposes of exploitation...



The Met under construction on Sathorn Road – June 12, 2008

[Project website](#)

[“President” Surayud](#) – June 7, 2008

Thanks to Pklykoom for pointing this out.

The world’s 50 most powerful blogs – June 6, 2008

On the *Guardian* list of [50 most powerful blogs](#) is London-based Thai who [blogs about Thai food](#).



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

"How to win death" – June 6, 2008

It reads: How to win death – The Graduate School, together with the Life and Death Section, the Psychology Department, Faculty of Humanities, Maha Chulalongkorn Rajavidyalaya University, holds the academic seminar entitled “How to Win Death: Social Dimension Today” on Sunday, May 25, 2008 at 8.30am-4.30pm at the conference room of the Srisudaram Temple, Bangkhunnon, Bangkok Noi, Bangkok – Leading lecturer: Buddhist monk, Prof. Dr., Rector of the Maha Chulalongkorn Rajavidyalaya University...

[“Very cold” metal pieces retrieved after UFO explosion over Koh Tral Island](#) – *Tien Trinh Thanh Nien News*, June 02, 2008



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Hair banner – June 13, 2008

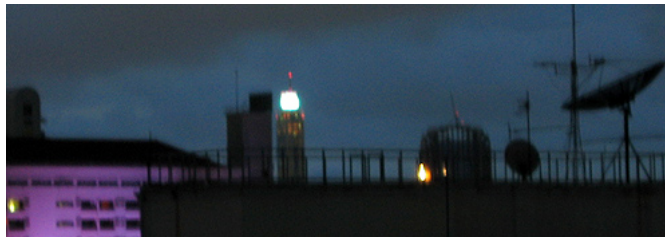
It reads: Prohair image – 90% of men suffering from hair loss or thin hair are caused by genes. Stop D H T, reduce hair loss, grow new hair – Advise with medical doctor or pharmacist at leading drugstores or [www.askprohair.com](#) – The presenter’s name is “Man” Supakit Tangtasawat – Prohair 02-686-9191

[Thailand should learn “bitter lesson” from Vietnam, says central bank](#) – TNA, June 12, 2008

Thailand should be prepared to learn a bitter lesson its neighboring Vietnam had got from a short-lived and unsteady economic boom boosted by an inflow of foreign capital in large amount, according to the Bank of Thailand (BoT)...

[Air America](#) – June 14, 2008

Graham notes: Pretty interesting site with [heaps of photos from the 60s and 70s in Thailand](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

“Designed by L&G” and “Hello Pippy Jung” – June 13, 2008

Henrik reports: Ian Fuller [took photos of the advertising display at the top of Baiyoke Tower](#).

Earlier: Baiyoke II lights – June 10, 2008

The top of the Baiyoke appears to have a new light display encircling the top. Anyone know anything about this?

[Thai Airways increases Fuel Surcharges: to Suspend Bangkok-New York Flights](#) – AsiaTravelTips, June 13, 2008

[Lawyer identified](#) – *The Nation*, June 13, 2008

[Illegal immigrants from Myanmar account for three-quarters of Thailand’s foreign workers](#) – *Aljazeera*, June 14, 2008

Pressure is mounting on Thailand to give greater protection to illegal migrant workers from Myanmar. Human rights groups say they make up around 75 per cent of foreign workers in Thailand, and that number is expected to rise in the wake of Cyclone Nargis...

["Thai Brides" on Little Britain](#) – YouTube, June, 2008

[US Congress Appeals to King of Thailand to Help Save Hmong Refugees](#) – RushPRnews (press release), June, 2008

...The legislation was introduced and spearheaded by U.S. Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), U.S. Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA), Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) to seek to urge the Lao government and military to stop the ethnic cleansing campaign and mass starvation of thousands of unarmed Lao and Hmong civilians as well as to appeal to the King of Thailand and the Royal Thai government to work to stop the forced and involuntary repatriation of nearly 8,000 Lao Hmong refugees from Thailand back to the communist regime in Laos that they fled...

[US blogger charged with insulting Singapore judge](#) – *Breitbart*, June 16, 2008

And the blog: [Singapore Dissident](#)

...I am an American blogger who had intended to remain in Singapore only from May 25th 2008 to no later than June 3, 2008. My being charged for criminal offenses for writing a blog criticizing a Singapore Judge on May 29, 2008 is forcing me to remain in Singapore much longer than I had expected. This is causing me untold misery by my inability to attend to my law practice in the US and other financial difficulties including my inability to attend to my house mortgage and other financial affairs. Regardless of what I have to undergo, I refuse to surrender to this punishment by the Singapore authorities...

[Thai prosecution of ‘Merchant of Death’ illegal – lawyer](#) – *RIA Novosti*, June 16, 2008

...“The Thai criminal case was opened in breach of the law... It is a serious crime, even by Thailand’s own legal standards,” the counsel said. “It is simply outrageous – a complete violation of due process. We will take this matter up – there is no question about that,” he added...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Purse grabber in the Suthisarn area – June, 2008

It reads: Please beware! of snatch theft!
Find incident or clue, please inform Suthisarn Police Station
02-275-9125
Sign donated by Charnthawee Engineering Partnership Limited.

[Reborn Thai](#) – *Bangkok Post*, June 13, 2008

The descendants of the Kuomintang army from China are finally getting their Thai citizenship, and it’s been a long and sometimes dangerous process, but now they can truly become part of the country they fought for...

[Ads for "Thaksin, Fight" energy drink pulled](#) – AP, June 17, 2008

Earlier: New
energy drink: Thaksin... fight! – *Matichon*,
April 11, 2008

Right: Ad for the new Thaksin-themed
drink from Sunspark Company.

It reads: Give moral support – Give.. Thaksin Soo

At the bottom: Don’t give moral support more than two bottles per day.



[Cross-dressing students get own bathrooms at rural Thai school](#) – Sin

Chew Jit Poh, June 17, 2008

...Most rural Thais are conservative in many ways, but the trailblazing toilet initiative at Sisaket province's Kampang school reflects another aspect of Thai society: its acceptance of the country's very visible transsexuals and transvestites.

After a survey showed that more than 200 of the school's 2,600 students considered themselves transvestites, it decided to set up restrooms for them.

The signs on the doors depict a human shape split into half a male in blue, and half a female in red...

[Police foil attempt to smuggle cooking oil, sugar into Thailand](#) – Bernama, June 17, 2008

[ASEAN+3 nuclear safety forum kicks off in Bangkok](#) – Chinaview, June 16, 2008

...According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), among ASEAN countries, governments in Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia have already launched plans for building their first nuclear power plants.

The Thai government has planned to build nuclear power plants with a total generating capacity of 4,000 MWs in 13 years from now, with the first plant put in operation in the year 2020, accounting for about 10 percent of total power generation.

Panels have been set up to conduct a detailed study of the project from 2008 to 2010, after which a final decision will be made whether to implement the nuclear program based on assessment of Thai public opinion...

[Another Thai government on the way out?](#) – UPI, June 2, 2008

...PAD leaders read several announcements from their affiliates in southern provinces. The first was from the popular tourist resort of Phuket: "If the police force the PAD demonstrators in Bangkok to disperse, we will close the airport!" Immediately after, another airport closure warning was received from Krabi, then another from Songkla, and a fourth from the southern province of Hatyai. Thailand's political chessboard pieces were on the move, blocking off a knight, preventing a rook from moving...

[When Indians in Bangkok went berserk over Bollywood stars](#) – Thaindian, June 9, 2008

...She said: "It's like a dream come true for us. We usually see them (stars) in films and admire them. But the experience of meeting them in person is ecstatic. I can't explain in words how I am feeling right now..."

[Turmoil in Thailand](#) – Lompoc Record, June 8, 2008

...On Wednesday, May 22, Laura Lo Xiong wrote in an e-mail: "Right now at this moment, the camp is on fire and more likely the whole camp will be burning down by tonight. Its horrible. I cannot sleep since May 16, 2008."

The next day I learned that the huts had all burned.

I called Pastor Tia, minister of the Hmong Christian Alliance here in Lompoc, to ask if he knew of any Lompoc Hmong with friends or family in the camp. My call reached him in Minneapolis. He did not know of anyone in Lompoc, but someone in Minneapolis had just received a cell phone call from the camp. Their shelters gone, people were sitting in the sun and the rain. Someone dressed in black clothes had been seen setting the fire, but no one knew for sure who it was...



[Competition For Jobs, Partners Sparks Height Craze In China – TV Regularly Promotes 'Stretching Machines,' Surgery Techniques](#) – Local 6, June 6, 2005

[China forces websites to register](#) – Slashdot, June 8, 2005

The Inquirer has the story that individual owners of websites and blogs must register with the government or face a shut-down. Apparently they will begin monitoring of all sites, both commercial and personal, beginning this month. Site owners have until the end of the month to register. The BBC has the story as well. From the BBC article: "The internet has profited many people but it also has brought many problems, such as sex, violence and feudal superstitions and other harmful information that has seriously poisoned people's spirits," said a statement on the MII website, explaining why the new rules were necessary."

[Egat confirms snail fossils' destruction – Deposit mined, only small area still intact](#) – Bangkok Post, June 8, 2005

...Only 18 rai of the 13-million-year old fossil layer was left, Egat officials told Administrative Court judge Veera Sangsomboon, who inspected the site on Monday.

...The revelation shocked Mae Moh residents, who have been seeking an emergency order from the court to stop Egat's mining operation pending the hearing of a lawsuit. The suit was filed by 18 villagers on April 7 against four government entities for destroying the prehistoric site—the cabinet, the industry minister, the Primary Industries and Mines Department, and Egat...

[Lex live: Thailand](#) – Financial Times, June 6, 2005

It looks as if Thailand's economy is heading for Bangkok-style gridlock. Gross domestic product contracted quarter-on-quarter in the first three months of 2005 – the first such decline for four years. The year-on-year growth rate has slowed to 3.3 per cent...

[Signs dispute billboard safety](#) – Bangkok Post, June 8, 2005

...The billboard in question was erected on the rooftop of a three-storey building. On the left side of the billboard, two signs were placed _ one by the Bangkok

Metropolitan Administration (BMA) and one by the Advertisers Association.
The BMA sign reads: "The structure of this billboard is not stable."
The Advertisers Association sign reads: "The safety of the structure is guaranteed."...

[Abandoned and little-known airfields](#) – June 9, 2005

Thanks to Dave Milam for pointing this out...

[LAND DEAL: SRT swaps 50 rai for stake in PTT tower](#) – *The Nation*, June 8, 2005

...PTT plans to build its own twin complex, in the same style as that of Malaysian rival Petronas, on a 50-rai plot of land next to its existing building on Vibhavadi-Rangsit Road. The new complex will be the headquarters of PTT and its subsidiaries.

...Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Somkid Jatusripitak earlier said he had instructed the State Railway of Thailand to propose a plan to better manage its assets, after discovering the state agency last year earned a mere Bt2.4 billion from leasing out land worth more than Bt100 billion...

[Power plant project draws fire](#) – *The Nation*, June 8, 2005

The government yesterday came under attack for approving the construction of a thermal power plant in Songkhla's Chana district.

The Cabinet approved the Energy Ministry's proposal to build the Bt16-billion thermal power plant, which would have a production capacity of 700 megawatts.

Construction, slated to start this year and finish in March 2008, involves installing a 27-kilometre distribution pipeline from the plant to electrical stations...

[Microsoft founder to visit Thailand](#) – TNA, June 6, 2005

The Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates is scheduled to visit Thailand on 30 June to sign three deals with key government ministries on the information technology development..

The three memorandums of agreement include one covering educational activities with the Education Ministry, the promotion of the e-government project with the ICT Ministry, and the development of web services, according to Vice Minister of the Information and Communication Technology, Kanawat Vasinsangvorn...

[Authoritarianism of the holy kind](#) – *Bangkok Post*, June 6, 2005

...The monks who want to attend those UN conferences face an uphill task. For as far as the council is concerned, the UN is a political body, so monks should not be there. And they cannot, if the council does not approve their applications for passports...

[‘Thai Newspaper: Imam Khomeini Designer of Religious Democracy’](#) – IQNA, June 6, 2005

A Thai newspaper covered Imam Khomeini's activities and thoughts in a full page on June 3rd one day before Imam's 16th demise anniversary.

Quoting an official of the central headquarters in charge of commemoration of Imam's 16th passing away anniversary, IQNA reported that the Thai newspaper 'Manager' pointed out Imam's opposition to the Shah's regime before the Islamic Revolution in 1978, and stressed Imam's role in foundation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The newspaper also printed a picture of Imam that displays him casting his vote in the ballot box and referred to the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the designer of religious democracy.

The Manager Newspaper went on to describe Imam's character and his behavior at home and also the special attention he paid to the role of women in society.

[Burmese workers file lawsuit against Thai employer](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, May 27, 2005

A provincial labor court in Thailand's border town of Mae Sot on Thursday held its first hearing of a legal action brought by 22 migrant Burmese garment workers against a Thai employer for not paying proper wages...

[Manhole covers of Japan](#) – May 30, 2005

[Lao Railway Authority starting the first railway project](#) – *Vientian Times*, May 31, 2005

Civil work on the proposed railway project is expected to begin in September said a Lao Railway Authority (LRA) senior official. The railway project that many people have been awaiting for about 10 years is finally coming, according to LRA Deputy Director Sonesak N. Nhansana.

LRA who invited bids from consultancy companies, have already received three offers, all of them from Thai firms. The Government is giving greater priority to Thai companies because the Thai government has agreed to grant a low interest loan of 200 Million baht as well as aid to operate the railway project, said Sonesak...

Sonesak said that after the railway was completed they would allow Thai trains to use it for transporting passengers and goods until the LRA obtain their own trains, according to an agreement signed by the two countries...

Drawbridges in Thailand? – June 3, 2005

Lance writes: Normally, when my Thai wife and I cross Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans, LA, USA, we do so over the record setting [causeway bridge](#). The bridge elevates at several points to allow for marine traffic. Recently we took an alternate route and had to wait for the drawbridge. My wife was amazed and said that she had never seen such a thing in Thailand. Are there no drawbridges in Thailand? ...

[LA's Thai Town](#) – *LA Weekly*, June, 2005

[‘Model car’ to be unveiled soon](#) – TNA, June 3, 2005

Thailand's prototyped energy saving car, called the 'model car', will be unveiled soon when the government is launching a new campaign to promote energy saving nationwide...

[Dawn of media freedom in Burma?](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, June 2, 2005

...Political and dissident websites—such as *The Irrawaddy*—and even Bangkok newspaper sites like *The Nation* and *Bangkok Post* remain banned.

[Powerful figure trying to get police to drop FBCB case: source](#) – *The Nation*, June 3, 2005

A "highly influential figure" is pressuring police to drop a misconduct case against former executives of the now-defunct First Bangkok City Bank (FBCB), a police source said. The source said the influential figure had asked police not to forward the case to state prosecutors. "The defendants in this case are not powerful, but the person behind them is," the source said...

["Thailand – where dependence on drugs and booze is a requirement for all working visas"](#) – *Cinematical*, June 3, 2005

Unflattering comments about Thailand: Tom Sizemore just turned down a role in *The Fifth Commandment* ("Thou shalt not kill," FYI), which would be filming in Thailand. In an unprecedented moment of good judgment, Sizemore determined that going to Thailand—where dependence on drugs and booze is a requirement for all working visas—might not be a good idea. Thus far, the actor has stayed clean for 3 weeks, consulted with his parents, and found God (not related to previously mentioned film). But still he faces some pesky probation violations that could land him in jail for up to 3 years. Jail is probably as bad as Thailand in terms of encouraging vices, so we're hoping he doesn't end up there, either.

[Commentary: A scapegoat in Thailand?](#) – *International Herald Tribune*, June 5, 2005

...If holding civil servants or government officials so gratuitously accountable for a mistake spreads, who in their right mind would take such jobs?

...As culpable as Rerngchai may be, a currency peg – which Thailand had until July 1997 – is a political device. It's a policy of the Finance Ministry that's carried out by the central bank. The blame for Thailand's crisis goes to poor transparency, dodgy corporate governance, negligible public accountability and cushy ties between government, banks and businesses...

[Thailand's GDP shrinks in 1st Qtr on drought, tsunami](#) – *Bloomberg*, June 5, 2005

Thailand's economy shrank for the first time in four years last quarter as drought parched rice and sugar crops and higher fuel costs curbed consumer spending...

Recent stories of note

[February 6 tipped as compromise election date](#) – *The Nation*, December 4, 2004

...February 6, a Sunday, is likely to be chosen as the new election date following a compromise between the government and the Election Commission, coalition and opposition lawmakers said yesterday...

[Flyover projects put on hold](#) – *Bangkok Post*, December 3, 2004

The planned construction of flyovers at Ekkachai, Kasemrat and Kluay Namthai intersections has been put on hold for another year.

The decision by the Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning is seen as a compromise between the city administration, which wants the projects scrapped, and the Transport Ministry, which favours the projects...

Earlier: [City hall overruled on flyovers](#) – *Bangkok Post*, November 30, 2004

The Transport Ministry has overruled city hall's decision not to build three flyovers at intersections in the Bang Bon and Rama IV areas.

The overpasses were planned at Ekkachai-Bang Bon-Bang Khun Thien, Rama IV-Kasemrat-Sukhumvit 26 and Rama IV-Sukhumvit 42 intersections...

However, Transport Minister Suriya Jungrungreangkit said a meeting yesterday insisted the flyovers were essential for long-term traffic planning, especially as Rama IV would become a main route connecting the city and Suvarnabhumi Airport...

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration is under the control of the opposition Democrat party and Mr Suriya is secretary-general of the ruling Thai Rak Thai party.

[What goes down must come up](#) – *Bangkok Post*, December 3, 2004

...Thailand was the world's third and Asia's top performing emerging stock market in 2003, up 140% in dollar terms...

Yet this year it has been the loser and disappointed many investors, the SET off 15% making it the worst performing equity market in the world, even while Indonesia (+39%), Malaysia (+14%) and Singapore (+15%) have risen...

Wisarat points out these interesting links:

[Ban Bu and Bangkok Noy Railway Station during WWII](#) from the old local people – the day when the first bomb hit the Bangkok Noy Railway station 60 years ago on November 29, 1944 – *Manager Daily*, November 29, 2004

Siam Centre renovation – July 28, 2004

[Siam Centre all set to receive Bt300m facelift](#) – *The Nation*, July 28, 2004

Siam Centre, situated at the heart of Bangkok's most vibrant shopping area, is to undergo a massive Bt300 million renovation to attract more high-profile...

[Siam Centre revamp to sport Japanese flair](#) – *Bangkok Post*, July 28, 2004

Siam Piwat Co is planning a 300-million-baht facelift to give its 33-year-old Siam Centre a look reminiscent of Tokyo's bustling Shinjuku district to appeal to teenage shoppers...

It will be the third major renovation for one of Bangkok's most popular shopping centres. The first was undertaken in 1991 and the second in 1997...

[French 'Spiderman' scales Jakarta highrise](#) – July 25, 2005

We wonder when he will get to Bangkok...

[India 'to build biggest Buddha'](#) – BBC, July 13, 2004

...The bronze statue is planned to be more than 150m tall, double the height of the 8th Century Tang dynasty Buddha in south-west China...

Local officials say it will be the world's biggest statue and that a 17-storey temple building with huge prayer halls will be housed inside it.

However, in the United States, plans are underway to build a statue in Houston, Texas, called *The Spirit of Houston*, that would be even higher....

Also: [More about the Spirit of Houston statue](#) (includes renderings)

[Computer reconstruction of Prasat Phimai](#) – July 26, 2004

It looks like a little Angkor Wat.

[Bus/train hybrid](#) – Slashdot, July 24, 2004

"...The innovative vehicle will run on road as well as rail. It is as applicable to freight as to passenger transport. Branch-line infrastructure costs could be at least halved because signalling and points could be largely, if not totally, made redundant."

[Thai kickboxing film *Ong Bak*](#) – BoingBoing.net, July 24, 2004

Lots of links to foreign distribution info about *Ong Bak*. Farangs seem to love it!

Three Gorges website – July 24, 2004

NSS points out: [The Three Gorge Dams](#)

[The real Bangkok Hilton](#) – BBC, July 24, 2004

Thanks to Don Entz for this link: ...Imprisoned for drug smuggling, his voice shook as he explained how he will only find out when he is to be executed two hours beforehand.

"I have no clue when I will die," Amporn said, "they could inject me today or tomorrow. All my life I hated drugs more than anything, I never thought that I would be arrested because of them."

"I told my kids don't touch them, don't get close to them, I hate them. I admitted I was guilty, why has society punished me so harshly? Why don't they give me another chance? I never committed a crime before."

Harsh sentences for drug smugglers are popular in Thailand.

In the Thai press – July 24, 2004

Something about [Metro Life Shopping Bangkok Subway](#) (in Thai)

[Songkhla Lake Tunnel](#) – July 23, 2004

Nils found this interesting proposal on the Yee Associates Website: Songkhla Lake Tunnel proposal from 1998.

[Bridge Climb in Sydney](#) – July 23, 2004

[Antiques impounded](#) – *Bangkok Post*, July 26, 2004

...Pol Col Tara Punasri, deputy commander of the police registration division, said although most of the products were fake, the law required a licence even for the sale of fake antiques. Offenders face fines of 2,000-5,000 baht.

A few antique Buddha images were found at some of the shops. The raid came after a number of antiques, including fakes, were seized by customs officers from departing tourists at Don Muang airport recently.

[The story of Golden Gate Plaza](#) – *Bangkok Post*, July 26, 2004

The 18-storey plaza-cum-condominium project in Bangkok's Pratunam area was begun by Golden Gate Plaza Co Ltd, a wholly owned Golden Land subsidiary, in 1995. It was managed by Golden Land and Vikorn Srivikorn, a member of the family that controlled the parent firm, was the project manager. The subsidiary at the time had registered capital of 10 million baht while Golden Land was capitalised at 750 million...

However, Golden Gate Plaza went out of business after the 1997 crash and the project remains suspended to this day, though almost 80% of the work had been done...

[Purported royal letter up for online auction](#) – *The Nation*, July 26, 2004

...The one-page letter, initially listed for US\$550 (Bt22,569), shows the letterhead seal bearing King Chulalongkorn's initials under the royal crown, as well as his

purported handwriting and signature.

...A professional collector of items related to King Rama V, who requested anonymity, said that he doubted the letter's authenticity as there were plenty of fake items on auction websites.

"Basically, websites are not a place for real collectors.... No one could verify the items' authenticity out there," he said.

He added that such letters were common among collectors and an authentic King Rama V letter with similar content had been sold for less than Bt12,300.

[Chiang Mai getting ugly](#) – The Irrawaddy, July 24, 2004

...The meeting was prompted by an article in the March edition of National Geographic Traveler magazine that rated two prominent Thai tourist destinations—Chiang Mai and Phuket—as "Getting Ugly". A scoreboard of destinations around the world was put together by the magazine and a team of graduate student from Leeds Metropolitan University in the UK.

...Professor Duongchan Apavatjirut, secretary-general of the Urban Development Institute Forum and a researcher at the Social Research Institute told the audience that earlier proposals to make changes in Chiang Mai were largely futile. She said she would rather suggest specific changes to be made than discuss abstract big-picture concepts that are generally ignored by the city's administrators.

The deputy governor of Chiang Mai Province, the city mayor and the city district chiefs left the auditorium as soon each finished speaking and did not wait around to listen to anyone else's thoughts.

She advised them to take down all the major advertising boards that stand atop the roofs of condominiums and office buildings, reasoning that most of them are flashy, cheap and painted in lurid colors, and so detract from the beauty of Chiang Mai's ancient temples.

Her second proposal was that a number of buildings in the city painted inappropriate colors be required to be repainted to blend in with their environs. Professor Duongchan noted that Kyoto city ordered McDonald's to change its logo color from the usual gaudy yellow and red to brown and green in order to preserve the metropolis's historic district.

She also suggested that flower pots along the pavement be removed as they blocked pedestrian traffic. Professor Duongchan furthermore claimed that Chiang Mai International Airport was too close to the city, causing traffic jams and noise pollution.

Associate Professor Thanet Charoenmuang, a political scientist at Chiang Mai University complained that it was unlikely that the seminar would count for much as many of the prominent administrators—the deputy governor of Chiang Mai Province, the city mayor and the city district chiefs—left the auditorium as soon as each finished speaking and did not wait around to listen to anyone else's thoughts.

In any case, none of the local government officials accepted that there was any justification for the National Geographic Traveler's low ranking of Chiang Mai.

His closing comments at the seminar were that Chiang Mai is developing in a "Bangkok mold"—a primary city taking all the infrastructure, facilities and major universities for itself while leaving neighboring centers such as Lamphun, Lamphang and Chiang Rai underdeveloped...

[What the Myanmar press thinks of US sanctions](#) – The Irrawaddy, July 23, 2004

... Today's article, written by Aung Moe San, was published in both the Myanmar Alin and Kyemon newspapers on Thursday. It called the American sanctions a foreign policy publicity stunt aimed at winning support for President Bush and incumbent senators before the US elections in November. The article also accused Washington of attempting to make Burma its client-state.

The sanctions are misguided, the article charged, because Asian countries, including those from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, continue to trade with the military regime in Rangoon. Sanctions are also contrary to American efforts to promote market economies around the world, the article added.

It also pointed out that while the US censures Burma, it is simultaneously boosting economic ties with China, a communist state which runs a "socialist economy"...

Links from the TNA: Fans at funerals/Alcohol ban?

[Public urged to use decorated electric fans as funeral wreaths](#) – TNA, July 23, 2004

A campaign to encourage people to use electric fans decorated with flowers as funeral wreaths should be stepped up, according to senior government officials.

The Bangkok City Clerk, Khun Ying Nathanon Thavisin told TNA that using electric fans decorated with dried or paper flowers as funeral wreaths could help reduce the city's volume of garbages, and could save money.

An electric fan can be an expression of love and friendship, it can also show respect at a funeral, she said...

However, Khun Ying Nathanon said, she was not launching a campaign against the florists.

She merely wanted to give consumers more options, she said.

[Public campaign on ban of alcohol during Buddhist Lent](#) – TNA, July 22, 2004

A campaign has been launched to encourage the general public to refrain from consuming alcohol during the forthcoming Buddhist Lent.

The campaign is scheduled to kick off on 1 August, the start of the three-month Buddhist Lent, with a declaration promoting a nationwide ban on alcohol over the whole Lent period...

Meanwhile, a recent survey found that the public overwhelmingly supported the campaign.

More than 90 percent of those interviewed agreed that people should be encouraged to refrain from alcohol consumption during the Buddhist Lent and other significant occasions

The ABAC poll was conducted by the Assumption University.

[Southern land bridge project gets go-ahead](#) – TNA, July 21, 2004

The government has announced plans to proceed with the construction of the so-called Land Bridge Project in southern Thailand.

The 28-billion-baht project, includes building a 250-kilometre oil pipeline from Phang Nga to Nakorn Si Thammarat in the South.

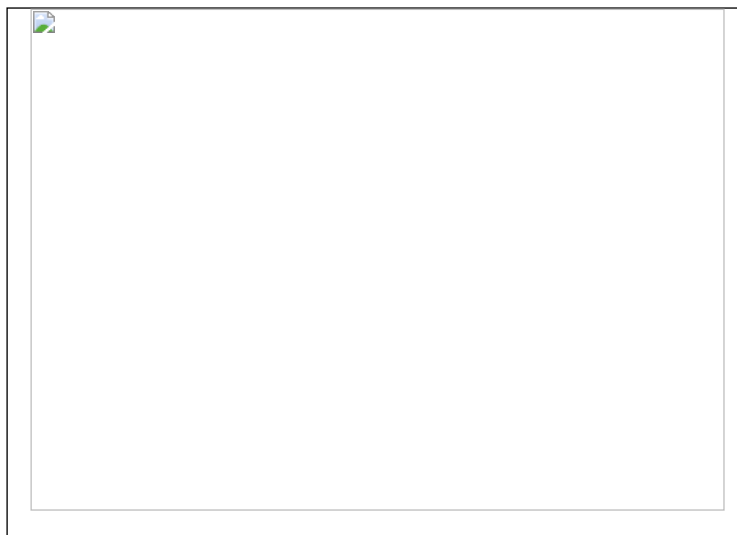
An oil refinery plant will also be built by 2010...

Once completed, the Land Bridge Project will become an alternative route for the transportation of oil from the Middle East to northern Asia...

Work on the project will start soon now that the cabinet has given the scheme the green light.

The first 2Bangkok.com meeting

Nils has a [short report](#) about the first 2Bangkok.com meeting which was held last night.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Muscle car in Bangkok – May 8, 2008

We wonder who was the young Thai guy roaring along in this left-hand drive 1970 Oldsmobile Cutlass with Nevada state plates on the expressway and Weepahwahdee Road...

[Peterborough man sick in Thai hospital](#) – *Peterborough Examiner*, May, 2008

...Bonnie also said on her second visit she had to escape from the hospital because they were pressuring her for money because Robert has no insurance. "They wanted my passport. I had to get out of there on the floor of a taxi. I don't feel good about it because I had to leave my son there," she said...

[Thailand's removal of official who supported compulsory licensing 'important' step to 'protecting patients' health,' editorial says](#) – *News-Medical-Net*, May 30, 2008

The Thai government's removal last week of Vichai Choekvivat — "one of the most vocal opponents" of patent protections for drug companies — from Governmental Pharmaceutical Organization's board is a "small" but "important" step in "restoring Thailand's international reputation and protecting patients' health," a [Wall Street Journal Asia editorial](#) says...

[Good Medicine for Thailand](#) – *Wall Street Journal Asia*,

May 29, 2008

Slowly, the war on drug patents in Thailand seems to be turning...

[Pink dolphins dying out fast](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 31, 2008

...At least four dolphins, also known as Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins, were caught in fishing nets and died since the start of this year...

He said around 40 pink dolphins lived in the bay. But a recent survey found their number had decreased as some are thought to have moved to Surat Thani waters which are more peaceful...

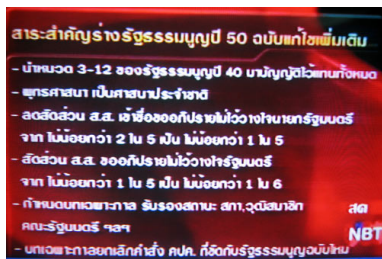
[Malaysia overtakes UK, Japan, Thailand in competitiveness ranking](#) – *Bernama*, May 30, 2008.

[BBC reporter accused of lese majeste](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 31, 2008

...In his complaint with the Crime Suppression Division (CSD) yesterday, Pol Lt-Col Wattanasak Mungkitkandi, of Bang Mod station, accused Jonathan Head of posting inappropriate photos on [www.bbcnews.com](#)...

[Global Peace Index](#) – May, 2008

Thailand slips one spot in the ranking to 118 out of 140.



"Significant details of the amended 2007 constitution" – May 23, 2008

Interesting screen grab from NBT last week:

– The Section three to twelve of the 1997 Constitution will replace those of 2007 Constitution

– Buddhist is the national religion

– The proportion of the name list of members of the Parliament (MPs) for a no-confidence debate proposal against the Prime Minister will decrease from two out of five to not less than one out of five

– The proportion of the members of the Parliament (MPs) for a no-confidence debate proposal against the Prime Minister will decrease from one out of five to not less than one out of six

– The Transitory Provision of the Constitution will be provided to ensure the positions of the Parliament, Senators, Cabinet, etc.

– The Transitory Provision has cancelled all announcements by the Council for Democratic Reform under the Constitutional Monarchy, which are against the new Constitution

[Secret list of 'influential people' drawn up](#) – *Phuket Gazette*, May 27, 2008

...Although the list will not be released to the media, V/Gov Tri confirmed that all the people on the list live in Phuket.

The list is similar to blacklists drawn up by the government during Thailand's war on drugs under the Thaksin regime. Blacklisted individuals were targeted as part of an intensive nationwide crackdown on drugs, which saw extra-judicial killings by police of more than 2,000 alleged drug dealers.

Thailand's latest war on drugs began on April 2 this year, although neither Governor Niran nor V/Gov Tri were available to confirm or deny a link to this latest blacklist.

[Protests and coup rumours return](#) – *The Economist*, May 29, 2008

Thailand's squabbling elites seem intent on ruining the country...

[PAD confident, says protest will continue](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 28, 2008

About 3,000 protesters gathered in Ratchadamnoen avenue yesterday to support the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD), which is pressuring the government and parliament to give up attempts to amend the constitution. With the protest set to enter its fourth day today, PAD coordinator Suriyasai Katasila said yesterday the rally would continue.

...

A core leader of the pro-government United Front of Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD), Suchart Nakbangsai, on Monday took a picture of parliamentary reporters who quizzed him, saying he wanted to know their faces and study their backgrounds.

On Monday night, he took to the stage at an anti-PAD rally and urged supporters to charge towards reporters who had questioned him.

Core leaders of the pro-government group used a parliament conference room on Monday to deny any link with a clash at the People's Alliance for Democracy rally the previous day. The room was booked by a People Power party MP for Roi Et, Nisit Sinthuprai...

[Bangkok's 'Slaughterhouse' children find a haven](#) – *CNN*, May 27, 2008

[Laos, Hmong Crisis: Thailand's Samak Uses Troops, Tear Gas](#) – PR Newswire (Press release), May 24, 2008

[Former Thai PM Thaksin plans 'modern city' in Cambodia: official](#) – Straits Times, May 25, 2008

[Chalerm allows one more day of legal cockfights per week](#) – Bangkok Post, May 21, 2008

[Long Neck Tribespeople Setup Local Tourist Attraction](#) – Pattaya City News, May, 2008

[Satellite images of the region](#) – May, 2008

["Thailand, Samak Crisis: Senators Respond to Hmong Crisis, Hunger strike"](#) – Media Newswire, May 21, 2008

...Massive hunger strikes and demonstrations have reportedly rocked the refugee camp in Petchabun, Thailand, after the arrest and imprisonment of Mr. Cha Lee as well as fears by the Hmong refugees of forced repatriation back to the communist regime in Laos that they fled...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Sign on the expressway – May 24, 2008

It reads: "...the prosperity of the country means the lasting prosperity of the people of the whole country" – Royal Guidance given on July 20, 1967 – "...activation of sustainable economy" – Advance Info Service PCL

[Ronaldinho makes overtures to City as his brother flies to Thailand for talks with Thaksin](#) – This is London, May 23, 2008

Ronaldinho's brother – who also acts as his agent – flew into Thailand for talks with Manchester City last night. He asked for a personal audience with City's powerful owner Thaksin Shinawatra to gauge the interest in the Barcelona playmaker...

Not the Nation: [Rich Thai Girl Totally Not Wearing Zara Anymore](#)

Stylish socialite insists Spanish brand is no longer sufficiently exclusive...

Not the Nation: [Chalerm Bookmarks 29 Websites](#)

Interior Minister has change of heart after enjoying alternative news, blogs and forums for hours on end...

Soccer Snobs: [SHINAWATRA: CITY FANS TO BE REPLACED](#)

...A senior source at the club conceded that, "Thaksin feels the City fans started the season extremely well, but after Christmas felt they just weren't pulling their weight any longer. He thinks he can find better fans to replace them..."

[Incoming Thai Interior Min dies of heart failure-officials](#) – Nasdaq, May 10, 2008

Taiwan's incoming Interior minister Liao Fung-te has died of heart failure 10 days before he was due to take office, his doctors and party officials said Sunday. He was 57...

[Homeland Security in Bangkok launches cyberwar against dissidents](#) – Indy Bay, May, 2008

[India plans to invest in airport and cable car for Preah Vihear Temple](#) – The Mekong Times, May 9, 2008

[PM: I didn't say banks on verge of ruin](#) – Bangkok Post, May 9, 2008

Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej yesterday denied saying two commercial banks were on the verge of jeng, or bankruptcy, on a TV show which led to a run on the banks. Mr Samak was replying to a question put to him by Democrat MP Korn Chatikavanij during a House meeting yesterday...

[Self-censoring Thai PM threatens to sue newspapers](#) – Straits Times, May 11, 2008

Thailand's Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej, who has a notoriously combative relationship with his country's press, threatened on Sunday to sue two local newspapers...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

"Eat somtam" – May 12, 2008

It reads: Samak moans about the high pork price. We'd better eat papaya salad (samtam).

[Bankers downplay Samak comments](#) – Bangkok Post, May 9, 2008

[Thailand: Press freedom slips in Asia](#) – Sin Chew Jit Poh, May 10, 2008

The state of the press in Southeast Asia is slipping. The findings, based on the report of the Southeast Asian Press Alliance (Seapa), a regional press advocacy group, cited the continuing threats to press freedom across the region with Burma in the limelight.

[Not the Nation: Paedophile caught in country that is not Thailand](#) – May, 2008



I'm a man – May 13, 2008

It reads: Good personality can be built at Robinson – I'm a man

Bizarre light blub commercial – May 14, 2008

[WiseKwai](#) points out the "[Bizarre light bulb commercial](#)"

[How Thaksin turned from saviour to sinner in a single season](#) – The Guardian, May 14 2008

Fans who failed to question the Thai owner's past are now shocked to see how authoritarian he can be...



[Gallery](#) – The Guardian, May, 2008

Guardian gallery of Photoshopped Thaksin images including a Little Britain gag...

[Thai fisticuffs on the high seas](#) – Malaysia Star, May, 2008

Two Thai fishermen were allegedly thrown overboard into the South China Sea off the coast of Borneo Island during a fight...

[Looking for Danny Hall](#) – KhaoSanRoad.com, May, 2008

And [more on missing people](#) in the region.

[Madam or slave owner?](#) – The Age, May 16, 2008

...The women had all worked in the Thai sex industry and knew they were to work as prostitutes here. Four of the women were “purchased” from Thai recruiters for about \$20,000 each (one woman was bought from a “Sydney owner”)...

[Thailand drops plan for rice cartel, citing humanitarian concerns](#) – The Canadian Press, May 6, 2008

[Korea falls behind Thailand in national competitiveness](#) – KoreaTimes, May, 2008



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Free education – May 20, 2008

It reads: This year's opening semester – Students in Bangkok are provided free education – Unconditionally... for the second time (quality schooling, international standards, students kept up-to-date with world's knowledge) – The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration

[DP World eyes Thai port](#) – *Lloyd's List*, May 19, 2008

DP WORLD is considering a Baht2.6bn (\$80m) deep sea port project in the south of the country, according to Thai government officials, writes Marcus Hand. The transport ministry is to propose to the cabinet the building of Pak Bara port in Satun, a project that has been on the drawing board for years...

["Thai border harassment intensifies: Thai soldiers cross the disputed zone at will to destroy Cambodian properties"](#) – *KI Media*, May, 2008

[Gorbachev buys mansion in Thailand](#) – *Pravda*, May 19, 2008

...However, this information is difficult to be checked. Thai laws don't let foreigners buy detached houses, only detached apartments are available. So all Thai mansions are registered on specially created local juridical people and it's difficult to identify who the real owner is.

[Canaries' chances of Thai-ing up Evans deal increases](#) – *Cheep Shot*, May 18, 2008

...The reason for this is that Manchester City's mad as a bucket of frogs Thai owner Thaksin Shinawatra is reported to have placed the entire squad on the transfer list...

[A Question Of Attitudes: and Fair Play The Dr Thaksin Way](#) – *Guardian*, May 9, 2008

...Dr Thaksin's Krazy Guide To Fair Play*: How To Sneak Your Team Into Euro Vase (with a little help from Human Rights Watch)...

["Worst owner of the season"](#) – *Telegraph*, May 12, 2008

[Alleged Thailand perv held without bail in N.J.](#) – *Boston Herald*, May 12, 2008

A small-time New Jersey actor accused of traveling to Thailand to have sex with underage boys was denied bail yesterday. U.S. District Court Judge Michael...

[Thailand museum director indicted in federal probe](#) – *AP*, May 12, 2008

...Brown, the director of the [Southeast Asian Ceramics Museum](#) at Bangkok University in Thailand, is accused of allowing her electronic signature to be used on appraisal forms that were donated at inflated prices to several Southern California museums so collectors could claim fraudulent tax deductions... The raids followed an undercover investigation by a National Park Service special agent who posed as a collector interested in various artifacts. The agent learned that some of the artifacts managed to pass through U.S. customs because they had "Made in Thailand" labels affixed to them, making it appear they were replicas. Court documents said the Markells and the agent met more than a dozen times and regularly e-mailed and called one another about antiquities from Southeast Asia. Some of the calls and meetings were recorded, the warrants said.

[Arrested art historian dies at detention centre](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 15, 2008

A well-known art historian, arrested in Los Angeles in connection with a federal investigation into illegal trafficking of pilfered Southeast Asian art, died early Wednesday of a heart attack at a Federal Detention Centre. Roxanna Brown, 62, wheelchair-bound was suffering from flulike symptoms severe enough to postpone her initial court appearance...

[Foreign husbands flock to impoverished Isan](#) – *The Malaysian Insider*, November 8, 2009

A hundred thousand foreign husbands in Issan, northeast Thailand, generating 10.5 billion baht (RM1.06 billion) in spending with 578,609 jobs created? Astounding figures. Got to wonder how accurate they are!...

[High tide flood in Paknam](#) – *Paknam.com*, November 8, 2009

...Samut Prakan is gradually sinking into the sea. During the high tide periods in November, the main city roads are submerged under sea water for three to four hours each day...

[Students on cultural trip end up at Bangkok sex show](#) – *Merchant News*, November 8, 2009

An investigation has been launched by one of the countries oldest schools into reports that students who were on a school trip to Asia were allowed to witness a sex show whilst out for the night in Bangkok's notorious red-light district...

[PAD still trying to run Thailand telling PM Abhisit what to do about Cambodia and Thaksin](#) – *Asia Travel Examiner*, November 7, 2009

...Meanwhile, potential tourists to Thailand should watch this situation closely as, if the PAD are allowed to control the situation like they were previously and it escalates, they could end up stuck in Thailand with no way of getting home...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Watch while you drive – August 5, 2004

The latest fad on Bangkok streets is LCD screens for car dashboards. They have been around for years, but recently have been promoted as a normal part of any car stereo system and a preferred add-on now that CD players have become standard. Here, a taxi driver watches a Bee Gees VCD while driving.

Do you have Asperger's Syndrome? – August 5, 2004

(from [Man With Train Obsession Arrested Again in NYC](#), *New York Times*, June 15, 2004) By now, Darius McCollum's exploits have become the stuff of city lore.

He is the eccentric transit fanatic from Queens who has spent more than a third of his life behind bars for transgressions related to his posing as a New York City Transit worker. Among the notable offenses on his rap sheet are commandeering an E train on a trip to the World Trade Center from Herald Square when he was just 15 and taking a number of city buses for joy rides.

... Mr. McCollum's supporters, who rallied behind him after his last arrest, say that he suffers from a social disorder similar to autism, known as Asperger's syndrome.

The disorder is also called "the little professor syndrome." Its sufferers often become obsessed with specific topics, talking endlessly about them with stunning expertise; they have problems socializing, make inappropriate comments and avoid eye contact. Obsession with trains and train trivia is common among sufferers of Asperger's...

[Thai visions of hell](#) – August 5, 2004

Japanese sites chronicling folk art interpretations of hell and punishment in Thai wats.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Offerings for *Khao Pan Sa* – August 4, 2004

Sunday was *Khao Pan Sa* (often called Buddhist Lent), the traditional beginning of the rainy season and the beginning of a three month period when monks are supposed to stay in the temples. Thus people visit temples at this time and give monks household items (so monks do not have to leave the Wat for offerings). Large candles are thought to be an especially lucky item to give. Nowadays, as most temple use electric lighting, people sometimes give packs of florescent lights in lieu of candles. The color of the boxes for the lights is the same color as the large candles. Above are *Khao Pan Sa* light packs (left to right) from Toshiba (5 pack), GE (9 pack), and Sylvania (9 pack) produced especially for the holiday.

Monkey bridge – August 1, 2004

Thailand's latest bridge is the monkey bridge in Songkhla. It stretches across Road 407 by Tang Kuan Mountain.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

['Transportation Futuristics'](#) – July 30, 2004

Collection of early to mid-twentieth century drawings of future transport methods. Every section is great – [monorails](#), [oddities](#), [helicopters](#), [flying saucer bus](#), [escape pods from airplanes](#).

How about the ROI on this project: *This "transplanetary subway" would stretch from New York to Los Angeles with few stops in between. The train would be propelled by magnetic levitation (maglev) and the air in the tunnel segments would be evacuated to eliminate air resistance. With no resistance whatsoever, the train would be capable of speeds exceeding several times the speed of sound.*

Later research estimated that the entire population of Los Angeles would have to commute by this subway to New York every day, and the entire population of New York would have to commute to L.A. every day in order for this proposal to be economically viable.

From the English-language press – August 3, 2004

[Sun, wind energy to cool trains](#) – Bangkok Post, August 3, 2004

...The wind and solar-powered system has been offered to the SRT by a British-based firm.

The company is represented locally by Chevro Asia, the governor said.

He said the SRT spends an average of 1.7 billion baht a year on fuel.

The amount of electricity consumed by air-conditioners on its trains costs tens of millions of baht, an average of 800-1,000 baht per car per trip...

[New bridge first joint border project](#) – Bangkok Post, August 3, 2004

A new bridge across the Kolok river, linking Tak Bai district in Narathiwat with Malaysia's Kelantan state, is expected to be the first project approved by the Thai-Malaysian Committee on Joint Development Strategy for Border Areas...

The first project is likely to be a bridge across the Kolok river, between Baan Bukehta in Tak Bai district and Bukit Bunga in Malaysia...

[Thai's shameful walk-off sullies ASEAN final](#) – Guardian Unlimited, January 31, 2007

... Singapore coach Radojko Avramovic was left mystified by the unfolding drama.

"I don't understand what the Thai coach was doing, or what point he was trying to make," he said.

"I don't think that's right. This is sport; it should be played like sport..."

[Bad press for Siemens trains – Further brake failures sideline a third of new trains](#) – The Age, January 16, 2007

[Quake predictors or just quacks?](#) – Bangkok Post, January 2007

... "After that quake, I realised that whenever I heard muffled sounds, an earthquake would occur in the next few days, so I began to e-mail my predictions to the Seismological Observation Centre," Lee told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa.

After several correct predictions, Lee became a national celebrity with reporters following him every day, asking him if he had heard strange sounds and when a big quake might hit.

Three dozen other earthquake predictors soon emerged, claiming they could predict earthquakes because they, too, could hear strange sounds or picked up other signs.

The SOC, fed up with their predictions, banned unofficial earthquake prediction in 2005. Violators of the ban face a 1-million-Taiwan-dollar (\$30,000, or just under 1.1 million baht) fine...



(Photo: GWR)

Democrat poster in Hat Yai – January 16, 2007

GWR reports: Here is a Democrat Party poster that is now placed in many locations around Hat Yai. It reads: Chuan Leekpai, Pongsak Jirophat and Abhishit Vejjajiva Wishing you Happy New Year and every success for 2550 to the people of Hat Yai.

Online book: [The Fascination of Siam, 1920](#) – January 23, 2007

Thanks to Anthony for finding this...

[Thai businesswoman finds new work for buffaloes](#) – M and C, June 1, 2009

[Grammy supports piracy crackdown](#) – TMCnet, June 1, 2009

...Vendors selling legitimate CDs have shrank to 2,000 from 10,000 outlets the past decade.

To adapt, Grammy altered its business direction toward the digital market by providing unlimited downloads of songs to mobile phone subscribers for 20 baht a month. It now has around 1.2 million customers...

[Change in Myanmar would stabilize region](#) – Thailandnews, June 1, 2009

Thailand's foreign minister urged the creation of an 'open society' in neighbouring Myanmar, saying that an end to repressive government in the military-run nation would help 'stabilize' the south-east Asian region...

[Hints of Burma-Thailand tension appear in state-run media](#) – The Irrawaddy, June 2, 2009

...Quoting a story from Bangkok's Thai Rath newspaper on May 28, Myanma Alin reported on Tuesday that Gen Sonthi Boonyaratglin, the 2006 coup maker who ousted former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, warned that "if Thailand has a conflict with Burma, it will face defeat..."

[Thai parliament women speak out for Aung San Suu Kyi](#) – EARTHtimes, June 2, 2009

Twenty-two female members of Thai parliament on Wednesday petitioned Myanmar's junta to drop current charges against democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi and free her immediately...

[Knock it off: One Thai museum's quest to educate Asia about counterfeiting](#) – Time, June 4, 2009

["THAI Pays Tribute to Her Majesty the Queen Showing Extravaganza Ten Thousands Orchids Globe At Siam Paragon Bangkok Royal Orchid Paradise 2009"](#) – Thaipr, June 4, 2009

[A cancer drug from sunny Thailand?](#) – ABC News, June 7, 2009

...In 2007, the results of a 4-year, population-based, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial that involved approximately 1,200 women were announced. It reported that Yaamet-Dor, this time at 1,100 units per day, led to a 60 percent reduction in cancer incidence...

[Lands of erotic fantasy and their complex reality](#) – New York Times, June, 2009

An adventurous English friend named Belinda, searching some years ago for sensual ecstasy in the East, once described finding a special salon in upcountry

Thailand, where she was invited to allow herself to be restrained quite naked on a cedar table and have three young female attendants gently apply a sweet-smelling unguent to her more delicate parts...

On the 2b forum: [Thairath gone too far – Showing the naked photo of the dead David Carradine](#)

[FBI not allowed to intervene in Carradine investigation](#) – Bangkok Post, June 8, 2009

[FBI may be allowed to take part in probe into Carradine's death](#) – The Nation, June 8, 2009

[Carradine family takes action on probe, photos](#) – WCVB Boston, June 8, 2009

David Carradine's family members, dissatisfied with Thai investigators and "profoundly disturbed" by the publication of a forensics photo in a Bangkok tabloid, are seeking help from the FBI and an independent pathologist and have threatened legal action against any media outlet that reprints images of the actor in death...

[Carradine's family wants FBI to investigate death](#) – Las Cruces Sun-News, June 5, 2009

The family of American actor David Carradine has asked the FBI to help investigate his death after his body was found in a hotel closet in Thailand's capital with a rope tied to his neck, wrist and genitals...

[Attorney believes Carradine was murdered](#) – WSYR 9 Syracuse, June 5, 2009

David Carradine's lawyer is calling on Thai authorities to launch a murder investigation because she believes the actor was killed and his death made to look like a suicide...

[Martial arts expert convinced David Carradine killed by kung fu cult](#) – 3news, June 9, 2009

[HETHERINGTON: Blundering by bank cut off my cash in Thailand](#) – Daily Mail, June 6, 2009

[Director's debut gets Thai tongues wagging](#) – Harborough Mail, June 5, 2009

A Gilmorton man who jetted to Thailand last year with just a screenplay and 6,000 has just finished making his first short film...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

RBAC – June 11, 2009

It reads: The world steps ahead to the future – You must follow – Ratana Bundit University (RBAC)

Old shopping malls – June 11, 2009

Interesting [Thai-language blog](#) with some old ads and comments about Thai shopping malls.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Signs of drug dealing – June 11, 2009

This is part of a banner campaign in sections all around town asking people to inform on drug dealing activities to the local police. It reads: Signs of drug dealing – Inform Police Colonel Manop Sukonthanapat, Suthisarn Police station Superintendent – Mobile phone 081-9212327, 081-3134446 – Email: manop.43@hotmail.com



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Signs of drug dealing – June 12, 2009

This is part of a banner campaign in sections all around town asking people to inform on drug dealing activities to the local police. It reads: Amphetamines are hard drugs – It is putting lives at risk – It is a society toxin – Signs of drug dealing, inform tel. 02-282-6610 or P.O. Box 222 Lanluang Post Office, Bangkok or nanglengpolice@hotmail.com – Police Colonel Rangsan Praditphon – Nangleng Metropolitan Police Superintendent – Metropolitan 1 Police Division

[Thailand's fearless 'Dr Death'](#) – BBC News, June 11, 2009

...She also angered police over the so-called war on drugs, in which 2,500 people – mainly dealers and addicts – were killed. Bodies were found clutching weapons and drugs as if they had died in gun battles with police. But Dr Pornthip discovered that residue from gun barrels had been smeared on some victims' hands after their deaths...

[300,000 stray dogs roam the streets of Bangkok](#) – DigitalJournal.com, June, 2009

[Old Southeast Asia combat zone gives way to burgeoning trade corridor](#) – ABD, June 11, 2009

...Overland shipments between Thailand and Viet Nam along the East-West Economic Corridor – which runs from Danang, Viet Nam, through Savannakhet, Lao PDR and into Thailand – can now proceed directly to their final destination. Shipments previously needed to be unloaded and re-loaded in Lao territory...

[UC Riverside gets a trove of 'priceless' Thai literature](#) – Los Angeles Times, June 12, 2009

...It's a virtual archive of Thai culture, taking in the full sweep of the nation's history, religious lore, art and anthropology. There's even a book on Abraham Lincoln, written in Thai.

"Every time I come down here, I can't believe we own this stuff," said McDaniel, a professor of religious studies, as he thumbed through a tattered 100-year-old volume of Buddhist children stories. "This is priceless..."

[U.S. bans Australian who stole bar mat](#) – Big Pond News, June 11, 2009

The Melbourne woman jailed in Thailand for stealing a bar mat has been refused a visa into the US...

[Thai tabloids lurch between lurid and deferential](#) – MSNBC, June 11, 2009

...But when it comes to reporting dramatic crimes, especially those involving sex and violence, all hell breaks loose. Crime reporting is so detailed that it tends to the gaudy and salacious, the death of David Carradine being the most recent example of over-the-top coverage.

In contrast, century-old lèse majesté ("injured majesty") laws mean that Thai media most often exercises self-censorship and is extremely cautious when it comes to covering the monarchy, military, judiciary or other politically sensitive issues...

[Britney plans lavish break at Thai resort for her entourage](#) – New Kerala, June 15, 2009

Pop princess Britney Spears, currently on her comeback tour, has planned a lavish break for her back-up dancers and key staff at a resort in Thailand...

[Thai tops pizza as fattiest takeaway](#) – NEWS.com.au, June 14, 2009

...Thai fish cakes had excessive amounts of salt, while Pad Thai contained 11.3g of fat per 100g and beef penang contained 8.8g, including 6.1g of saturated fat...

[Thais told to wear facial masks amid rising flu cases](#) – Xinhua, June 15, 2009

[Supply of firearms to civilians heats up southern Thai conflict](#) – Bernama, June 15, 2009

The Thai government has been asked to end the creation of armed civilian defence volunteer forces and supply of firearms to civilians in the restive southern Thailand as it had led to greater insecurity and ethnic polarisation among the population...

[Anti-government fervor persists among Thailand's rural poor](#) – Washington Post Foreign Service, June 16, 2009

[20 armoured cars for VIPs approved](#) – Bangkok Post, June 16, 2009

...The military has only only three armoured limousines. One of them was badly damaged by protesters during the Songkran riots, one has a broken engine, and only one is available for use...

[Thai streets disinfected as flu patients number rises to 310](#) – China Daily, June 16, 2009

[Tango Trikes](#) – June, 2009

[Suu Kyi's detention affects Asean's credibility: Thai PM](#) – *The Irawaddy*, June 16, 2009

[Thai PM Abhisit on Burma and Asean](#) – *FEER*, June, 2009

[Derelict structure on a pier in Pattaya](#) – *orientexpat.com*, June, 2009

...This thread was inspired by a structure I saw in North Pattaya and I can't find out much about it. It was clearly visible from my hotel room just a few hundred yards away and it is a pier structure extending quite some distance out to sea. It looked like some old war time bombed out pier on the south coast of England, decaying and crumbling away into the water (all the pictures in this post were taken with my mobile phone, so sorry about the image quality)...

[Report: Thailand, South Africa, Gaza Strip worst places for refugees](#) – *Voice of America*, June 17, 2009

... "They towed them back out to sea with disabled engines, inadequate food and water, at least a thousand of them. Some 400 were rescued in Indonesia or found later and nearly died," Smith said. "Hundreds more were missing and presumed drowned..."

[Rohingya with links to LTTE, Al Qaeda arrested in Thailand](#) – *Bernama*, June 17, 2009

Three Rohingya involved in human trafficking and with links with the defeated Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Sri Lanka, Al Qaeda and southern Thai insurgents have been arrested by Thai authorities...

[Canada is source, destination for sex tourism: US report](#) – *Canada.com*, June, 2009



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Drive-thru car registration – June, 2009

Scene of the drive-through vehicle registration at Morchit. It just takes a few seconds to register and get the yearly registration sticker—and no forms to fill out or sign.

[Cambodia premier expresses regret](#) – *Gulf Times*, June 18, 2009

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen yesterday expressed "deep regret" over suggestions by his Thai counterpart that an 11th-century Hindu temple ruin in a disputed border region be jointly administered by the neighboring countries...

"Defendant in BBTv case arrested" – June 19, 2009

From a [theruthgroup.com](#) press release: As you know, BBTv has filed a court order to halt illegal copying selling and re-broadcasting of its copyrighted programs by Los Angeles-based IPTV, which BBTv alleges has been illegally distributing its content on the website, ThaiTV.tv, and to Thai and Asian storefronts throughout the United States.

We thought that you might be interested to know that Mr. Noppadol Wongchaiwat, one of the defendants in BBTv's US Civil Case, was arrested by the Thai immigration at the Suvarnabhumi Airport (Bangkok International Airport) on June 16, 2009 on charges related to a separate case. The arrest was made in accordance with a warrant issued by the Thai Criminal Court in October 2003 (Warrant Number 7068/2564). At that time, CAT Telecom Public Company Limited, a major international calling service provider in Thailand, discovered that Mr. Wongchaiwat and his team in Thailand engaged in an international calling card business without a license under the Thai Telecommunications Business Act 2001. Violation can be subject to criminal offences of imprisonment not more than 5 years or a fine of not more than Baht 10 million or both...

Earlier: [Bangkok Broadcasting & T.V. Co. files court order to halt illegal copying, selling and re-broadcasting of copyrighted programs](#) – *PRNewswire*, May 29, 2009

Academic Ghostwriting – June 19, 2009

Chris notes: This is kind of creepy – and scary. Would you want to be operated on by a doctor whose academic papers were ghostwritten?...

From a Google Ad: Dissertation writing

Specialist dissertation writing service for Far East students

"In ten years our work has never been detected..."

Our successful clients include:

*

Senior business executives in the UK and abroad

* Doctors and Healthcare Professionals

* Senior social workers

* Military officers

* Government officials...

[Bangkok's Vietnam-War era hotels still offering cheap thrills](#) – *M&C*, June 16, 2009

...Surviving veterans include the Embassy, Federal, Florida, Grace, Liberty, Honey, Manhattan, Miami, Prince and Rex hotels, most of them situated along Sukhumvit Road.

There is a good reason they are so similar. Most were built to meet the specifications set by Tommy's Tours, a Thai company run by former air chief marshal Thawee Chulasap that monopolized the R&R tours to Bangkok...

[Elephant-size loopholes sustain Thai ivory trade](#) – *PhysOrg*, June 19, 2009

...TRAFFIC's survey documented over 26,000 worked ivory products for sale in local markets, with many more retail outlets dealing in ivory products than were observed during market surveys carried out in 2001...

Warden Message: H1N1 Influenza A – update – June 19, 2009

Interesting text from a U.S. Embassy

email to citizens in Thailand: ...American citizens should be aware that the U.S. Embassy in Thailand cannot demand their immediate release if they have been detained or quarantined in accordance with local public health and legal authorities, and cannot attempt to influence the terms or duration of quarantine. Quarantines in Thailand, however, have generally been of short duration...

[Ladyboys 'kill' Kung Fu star David Carradine over sex](#) – *Daily Telegraph*, June 19, 2009

[David Carradine murdered by lady boys](#) – *ANI*, June 18, 2009

[Thai lawyers for Chinese 'spy' appeal revoked refugee status](#) – *Voice of America*, June 19, 2009

...Thai media reports China has been pressing Thailand to extradite Li.

A Thai government spokesman said he could neither confirm nor deny the report. A Chinese spokesperson was not available for immediate comment...

[El Al cancels flight to prevent sabbath desecration](#) – *Israel National News*, June 20, 2009

El Al airline passengers in Bangkok, Thailand were ordered off the plane due to the company's commitment not to desecrate the Sabbath...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Signs of drug dealing – June 24, 2009

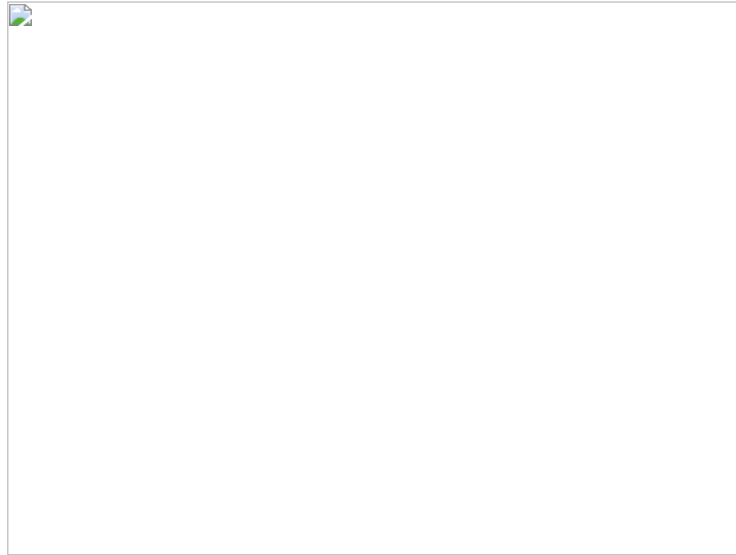
It reads: Traces of drug dealing, inform Police Superintendent of your local area police station. If not being processed, please inform Police Colonel Pawit Lekhawani (Deputy Metropolitan 6 Police Commander) – Call (mobile) 081-6136078 – Website www.metropolice6.com

[“The Nation is in deep financial doo doo”](#) – *Thailand Jumped the Shark*, June, 2009

[Thai Ginger co-owner accused of paying workers to marry her relatives](#) – *Seattle Times*, June 24, 2009



[The title was later corrected](#) – *Bangkok Post*, June 25, 2009



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

Yala meeting – June 23, 2009

Dr. Has reports: Today the Yala military task force calls a meeting of governmental school directors of the Yala Education Service Area 1 Office at the Yala Grand Palace hotel. The school directors discuss the security measures for school teachers. Recently, militants stage many violent attacks targeting school teachers, both males and females, Thai-Buddhists and Thai-Muslims. School directors suggest ideas for security measures implemented by the Army to reduce the chance that militants will stage attacks on school teachers.

Thailand Elite membership list revealed – June 25, 2009

A reader reports: ...It appears that on June 19, Thailand Elite sent out a mail to its members announcing a further reduction in benefits, but it was addressed with Cc:, not Bcc:, meaning that the e-mail addresses and hence identities of members were revealed! And that's not all: the card holders, who were already pissed off by the continuing reductions in benefits but couldn't individually do much about it, now know how to get in touch each other, so they've set up a private forum and are planning to meet up in Bangkok with an eye to suing Thailand Elite...



Naewna, June 10, 2009 – The victims of the southern bandits – More than 1,000 Thai-Muslim people gathered to transfer the bodies of those who were shot in the mosque at night on June 8, 2009 by a group of south agitators, to Gubow cemetery, Ai Ba Yae village, Juap sub-district, Jor Ai-rong district, Narathiwat province.



Khaosod, June 11, 2009 – The funeral: This is a funeral ceremony for 10 dead people who died from shooting while they were praying to their god in the mosque at Ai Ba Yae village, Jor Ai-rong district, Narathiwat province. The Commander-in-Chief of the Army quickly went to the South for tackling the severe situation on June 9, 2009. (above and below)



Thairath, June 11, 2009 – A bomb explosion at the van station: The staff investigated the van station servicing transportation on the Yala-Hat Yai route which was damaged with a bomb explosion by the south bandits. Because of bomb pressure, damage was caused to a lobby, the vans, a diesel petroleum tank and one person was injured.



Krungtep Turakij, June 11, 2009 – Bombing the soldiers: The soldiers and the police investigated the road which was bombed by a group of southern bandits because they hoped that those bombs would hit the pickup was used for inspecting the area and protecting the teachers in Ka To village, Rue Sor Aork sub-district, Rue Sor district, Narathiwat province. The pickup was damaged and 9 soldiers were injured.



(Photo: Nils)

UFO crash at Asok – June 27, 2009

[Will this stop the pandamonium? Thai elephants painted to look like pandas after the black and white bears steal their fans](#) – *Daily Mail*, June 26, 2009

Intensified southern unrest is the Democrat's noose – Abhisit's hot issue – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; June 10, 2009

The statement of Col. Prinya Chaidilok, a spokesperson of the Internal Security Operations Command Region 4 saying that current attacks were triggered by the government's success in arresting leading insurgents, seizing weapons and preventing bombings, is contrast to the current news in newspapers.

The situation became intensified since May 27, when nine spots in Yala were bombed and burnt. Attacks kept occurring on June 2, June 6 and June 7.

On June 8, the situation got worse as insurgents attacked a mosque in Ban Ai Payae, Tambon Chuab, Amphoe Joh I Rong, Narathiwat province. Eleven people were killed and at least eleven were injured by the attack. It was the worst case in five years.

Now that the unrest is intensified, the government becomes on the defensive as five months have passed, but nothing becomes better as people expected. People are still killed and injured. The government should consider again if its "politics leads the military" measure works. It has to find the holes in the strategy.

The mosque attack is a very horrible one and created anxiety among people. The attack aims to create disunity between Thai Buddhist and Thai Muslim people. As the head of the government, Abhisit Vejjajiva must figure the problem out or people in the three southern border provinces will be disappointed.

[Thailand or Siam? What's in a name?](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, June 29, 2009

Recently worsening violent attacks – Doubt on the statistics of the decreased violence toll – translated and summarized from *Issara News Center*; Author: Issara news team; June 10, 2009

Regarding the Southern violent attacks that were reported during the previous 20 days (May 18, 2009 to June 8, 2009), 4 teachers were killed and 5 injured. 15 security guards for school teachers were injured. The militants staged 9 blast attacks in the downtown of Yala on May 27, staging car-bombing attack in Narathiwat's Yeengo district that killed 2 and injured 19 on June 7 and also the deadly Mosque shooting attack in Narathiwat's Chaoirong district killed 11 people on June 8. The security agency insists that the statistic record of violent situation has decreased during the previous one year period. To explain the intensified degree of violence, the joint civil police military source states that the related cause is the militant attempt at revenge on authorities.

According to the source's review:

- 1) the teacher attacks occur usually during the school opening period, but this year, the loss is revealed as greater than the previous year
- 2) the car bomb attack in the Yeengor district and the mosque massacre in the Chaoirong district is related to the seizure of militant "zone" leaders during the past 2 months.

The Army views that the peace-reinforcing project in 217 villages also greatly impacts the militant operation in the red area and, additionally, the Islamic Conference Committee's recent meeting did not include discussion of Thailand's southern violence as its agenda. Therefore, the militants have to increase the degree of violence to make world see that the unrest situation in the South is a "problem."

Regardless of what the army and the national security panel claim, the question is that the government and the security agency have to explain why the policy, claimed to be "on the right track" generates such problems. This is what the army and the security units have to answer to the public. Likewise, to answer doubts about the large amounts of budget recently allocated to the army.

Panithan believes red-zone seizure cause of mosque attack – translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*; June 10, 2009

On June 9, Deputy Spokesperson to the Prime Minister's Office Supachai Jaisamut announced that the Cabinet approved a budget of 400 million baht from the

central budget for victims of southern unrest. The budget will be allocated to government units to help people affected by the southern unrest. The Cabinet has also approved special monthly payment for officials operating tasks in the southern border provinces and four districts of Songkhla. Panitan Wattanayakorn, Spokesperson for the Prime Minister's Office, gave his comment about a mosque attack in Amphoe Joh I Rong, Narathiwat province, which killed ten people. He said that the attack was an effort to counter the government. Government's projects in the South have turned local people into siding with it. Several leaders have been arrested. These make insurgents unhappy. However, the overall number of violent attacks declined by 40-50 percent. Malaysia is willing to help Thai government ease the unrest. It will visit Thailand's southern provinces at the end of the year to increase the efficiency of local schools.

Statistics in April reveals high toll – Daily shooting attacks increase – Pattani reported critical high toll – translated and summarized from *Issara News Center*; Author: Issara news team; June 4, 2009

The record of violent attacks that occurred in April, 2009 is slightly higher than the record of the previous month (March). However, the death toll decreases with 29 dead. The accumulative death toll from January, 2004 up to the present reaches 3,550 already. The report reveals that there were 89 violent attacks in April, 2009. 36 violent attacks occurred in Pattani province, 9 of which were from the Yarang district, 8 of which from the Saiburi, 6 of which from the Nongchick, 2 apiece of which from the city district, the Kokpoh, the Yaring, the Mayor, the Thung Yang Daeng and the Kapo district and 1 of which from the Panare district. There were 21 violent attacks that occurred in Yala province, 8 of which were from the city district, 4 of which were from the Yaha district, 3 of which were from the Raman district, 2 apiece of which from the Bannungsata, the Krongpinang and the Tarnto district. There were 32 violent attacks in Narathiwat province, 8 of which were in the Rueso, 6 of which were from the Bacho, 5 of which were from the Rangae, 3 a piece of which were from the Janae and the Choaiong, 2 apiece of which were in the Waeng and the Sungaikolok, 1 apiece of which was in the Takbai, the Sungaipadee and the Srisakorn district. There were 60 shooting attacks, 26 of which were in Pattani, 16 of which were in Yala and 18 of which were in the Narathiwat. There were 13 bombing attacks, 2 of which were in the Pattani, 2 of which were in Yala and 9 of which in Narathiwat. There were 16 torching attacks, 8 of which were in Pattani, 1 of which in Yala and 7 of which were in Narathiwat. Regarding the violent victims, there are the total of 100, 29 of which were dead and 71 of which were injured. Pattani reports 41 on toll, 14 of which were injured officials, 13 of which were dead locals and 12 were injured locals. 1 militant died and 1 other suffered injured. Yala reports 37 on toll, 3 of which were dead officials, 13 of which were injured officials, 10 of which were dead locals and 11 of which were injured locals. Narathiwat reports 22 on toll, 8 of which were injured officials, 1 of which was dead local, 12 of which were injured locals. One militant died.

Table 1: Summary of Violent Incidents in Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat Provinces, and 4 districts of Songkhla Province

Types of Incident	Pattani Province	Yala Province	Narathiwat Province	4 districts of Songkhla Province
Ambushes with gunfire	26	18	18	–
Arson attacks	8	1	7	–
Bomb attacks	4	3	10	–
Attacks injuring people	2	2	9	–
Attacks damaging assets	–	–	–	–
Incidents in which nails were strewn on highways	–	1	1	–

Table 2: Victims Injured or Killed in Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat Provinces, and 4 districts of Songkhla Province

Group	Pattani Province	Yala Province	Narathiwat Province	4 districts of Songkhla Province
State officials injured	14	13	8	–
State officials killed	–	3	–	–
Ordinary local citizens injured	12	11	12	–
Ordinary local citizens killed	13	10	1	–
Insurgents injured	1	–	–	–
Insurgents killed	1	–	1	–


The loss of three southern border provinces comes close – translated and summarized from *Phujatkarn*; Author: Sirianya; June 11, 2009
This column is to express concern on the ongoing violent situation in the South for fear that in the near future Thailand might have to lose the southern border lands. The mosque massacre that killed 12 in Narathiwat on June 8 did happen and it has not happened in this country before. After the shooting a rumor was spread putting blame on the state authorities for the massacre. What should be mentioned here is that firstly, the bloody event that occurred has removed the previous view

that the policy on violent situation is on the right track and the situation has improved. Secondly, the state authority, even now, does not know who they are fighting with.

The truth to be accepted here are

1. The government has spent more than 100,000 million baht up to now in the South. This amount could make the south prosperous economically. However, the southern economy is still not progressively developed.
2. Despite a large number of police military forces dispatched to the South, the loss of life of the people continues, likewise the violent attacks.
3. The strategy that military forces become target of the militant operations in the local areas ensures continuous losses.
4. The geographical area of the South is canvassed by militant supporters who work in villages and the militant exercises continue.
5. We are lacking the profound understanding that the militants are using a prolonged war strategy to reach their goals and at the same time, they are pushing ahead on making the issue become internationally discussed by the Islamic Conference Committee. We do not really focus on His Majesty the King's royal suggestion on developing policy with profound understanding for the locals. If one wants to understand the real "military leads politics policy", they should read the book named "Land philosophy" by Statesman Gen. Prem Tinnasulanonda to get to the concept. As for land development, I comment that if we followed it, things would be less problematic and open hope of opportunity for the great Thai-Muslim land to be well-developed with cooperation with world Islamic community.

Sound from the South: Three brave governors – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; June 17, 2009

 <http://www.matichon.co.th/news-photo/matichon/2009/06/pol03170652p1.jpg>

Winai Kharuwanapat
Narathiwat governor

He is in charge of aiding people in distress, boosting civilians' morale and confidence, holding a talk among people, and devising a scheme with other organizations to solve problems.

When we visit his place, much safety cautions are required and we have to avoid the risk and always be careful.

"I have to admit working here is tough because governor of the three affected provinces not only have to work like other governors, but we also have to deal with the crisis here which is far tougher than in other area," he said.

 <http://www.matichon.co.th/news-photo/matichon/2009/06/pol03170652p2.jpg>

Teera Mintrasak
Yala Governor

The core strategy is to create understanding among people so that it will ease conflict, restore faith, and reduce mistrust. In order to raise their feelings of justice, it is significant to make them apprehend cultural and racial diversity, or the so-called scheme "Solving Southern Unrest by Culture".

The activities are aimed at creating unity and peace among the population. Moreover, people can file their complaints at "Peaceful Yala Centre" that was organized for a year. State officials including soldiers, policemen, and sheriff are based there to provide assistance.

Besides, the centre is also available for the accused that want to surrender themselves. Up to now, there are 275 sympathizers and eight accused insurgents presenting themselves at the office.

"I visit my people and check on projects initiated by his Majesty the King and other projects such as living quality development, village development including youth and female's right. If our children are strong it will bring peace to Yala. We have to focus on drug abuse problem by giving them education, sport, and jobs. All of these are to keep them from joining the insurgents. My security is not that important because I do it for the sake of the country," he said.

 <http://www.matichon.co.th/news-photo/matichon/2009/06/pol03170652p3.jpg>

Teerathep Sriyaphan
Pattani Governor

He places emphasis on raising the quality of life and supporting family businesses, either full time or part time. Civilians should have security and income which the state is responsible for.

Justice is the first priority. Every case should be tried equitably to find the real motive. We should create the feeling that provincial organization is the place they can rely on.

He, therefore, employs His Majesty the King's principle saying understanding, approaching, developing, and unity will lead to love among human being.

Furthermore, he resolved to fight poverty by supporting careers and offering jobs for fresh grads. Otherwise, unemployment would lead to drug abuse as well as, afterwards, unrest in the area.

"When we have to work in a dangerous area, we cannot be careless. Sometimes, we need to call for reinforcement. Although working here is tiring, I will to do it for the country. To me, being a governor is the peak of my life, so I devote my life to it. If I have to sacrifice my life for the civilians' happiness, I will do," he said.



[In Thailand, a new party tries to take back the swastika](#) – *Time*, June 18, 2009

[New parliament in progress](#) – *Bangkok Post*, June 30, 2009

...The spokesman said Yothin Burana School will be relocated to a 16-rai plot in Soi Wat Soi Thong with about 1,000 million baht while the relocation residents of two communities to a townhouse project in Soi Wat Kaifa will cost about 266 million baht.

[Thailand: Fakery, enshrined](#) – *The Christian Science Monitor*, June 7, 2009

[Bangkok's tourism ranking replaced by Udaipur](#) – *The Nation*, July 13, 2009



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Billboard: What women want – June, 2009

New anti-drug campaign risks abuses – Government should seek justice for killings in previous crackdown

November 12, 2008

Categories: Drugs

[Thailand: New anti-drug campaign risks abuses – Government should seek justice for killings in previous crackdown](#) – HRW, November 12, 2008

... "The prime minister says that this time around killings will not be tolerated, but the government said the same thing last time. Somchai's credibility is at stake here. " Brad Adams, Asia director for Human Rights Watch...

Pee Boon Movements

November 14, 2008

Categories: Thai Politics

Pee Boon movements – translated and summarized from *Krungthep Thurakit*; Column: Kae Roy Karn Muang; Author: Pracha Buraphavithee; November 14, 2008

The story about the Pee Boon rebels or Pu Mee Boon rebellion movement that existed from 1901-1902 has been recorded in the history of the left wing. It is a movement of the poor farmers of the Northeast. Pee Boon members use poems to agitate farmers to oppose their bosses and officials in the Northeast.

However, every fight by the movement was beaten by the government's military or the central power of Ratanakosin , who possessed better weapons. Leaders of the movement were caught every time.

The Pee Boon name has been revived again by a new agency on Prachachuen Road . It wrote an article about people from the Lim family who behave like 'Pee Boon' in the globalization era.

However, considering the social context, the Lim family does not deserve to be Pee Boon. In contrast, the person who deserves the title is the square-faced guy .

During the campaign against the 2007 Constitution, some leaders of the red-shirt movement tried to arouse people to fight the aristocrat government and the military coup by raising the Pee Boon topic.

They announced that the old regime will be conquered by the red-shirt farmer troop.

The current red-shirt farmers are heirs of the Pee Boon members of the past.

Right: From *Rattanakosin Bicentennial*, 1982 – *During the long reign of King Chulalongkorn, there were some disturbances to the peace of the Kingdom, such as the invasion of the Hos, a hilltribe in the North, a revolt of the Phrae; but those who were engaged in the disturbances were quickly defeated by the government authorities.*

In 1901, a man, named Phi Boon, lived in Ubon Ratchathanai, a north-eastern province, declared that he was the super, no weapon could do any harm to him, and he could communicate with God and Spirits. He persuaded people and collected arms to build up forces. The government had to send the army unit to defeat them and keep the country in peace.



(Source:
*Rattanakosin
Bicentennial*)

Want to buy a ghost building?

November 14, 2008



(Photo: Nils)

Want to buy a ghost building? – November 14, 2008

Nils reports: *This is on New Phetburi Rd. opposite Phetchawet Hospital, not far from Khlong Tan Intersection.*

The large sign says: Building for sale 081-829-7667

A smaller sign near road level reads: Land + building for sale – Land plot: 3 rai – 3 ngan – 55 square wah – building: 23 floors, 29,940 sq.m – Car park building: 10 floors, 14,568 sq.m – Contact: 081-829-7667, 081-311-8113

Front Pages – Princess Galayani

November 16, 2008

Categories: Culture and Society, The Monarchy



Thai Post, November 16, 2008 – Peacefully cherished in heaven

Newspaper front pages from the cremation ceremony of
Princess Galayani



Than Setthakit, November 16-19, 2008 – In remembrance of Her Royal Highness Princess Galayani Vadhana's royal grace – Farewell Offered to HRH Galayani – In remembrance of HRH Galayani's mercy



Thai Rath, November 17, 2008 –
Farewell to the Princess for her return to heaven –
Royal Cremation ceremony for HRH Princess Galayani honorably hosted



Thai Rath, November 16, 2008 –
Return to heaven –
His Majesty the King bids farewell to HRH Princess his sister – People mourning over



Left: Kom Chad Luek, November 16, 2008 – Graceful return to the
heaven



Right: Krunghthep Turakit, November 16, 2008 –
Venerable mourning

Tourist arrivals plummet in Thailand amid credit crunch

November 16, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Tourist arrivals plummet in Thailand amid credit crunch](#) – AFP, November 16, 2008

... "Now there are not many tourists. Before in the high season it would be full," he told AFP, gesturing to the nearly empty pavement where vendors try to sell holiday-makers everything from fake DVDs to knuckle dusters.

"I cannot do anything, just wait and see. Eat little, spend little — try and save some money," the 37-year-old said outside his shop selling shorts, shin pads and headguards in the downtown Nana district...

Light relief from the lady known as Angel

November 16, 2008

[Light relief from the lady known as Angel](#) – SMH, November 16, 2008

...Dressed as an angel, a petite blonde Australian woman flitted about the auditorium, hugging participants and lecturing about the healing power of love and laughter. Australia's Susan Aldous prescribes laughter as the best medicine. Called the Angel of Bang Kwang, she is a ray of sunshine for underprivileged Thais – from inmates at a maximum security prison to women and children in shelters, writes Tibor Krausz...

WTO probes Thai barriers to foreign cigarettes

November 17, 2008

[WTO probes Thai barriers to foreign cigarettes](#) – AP, November 17, 2008

The World Trade Organization opened an investigation Monday into Thai import charges on foreign cigarettes, acting on a complaint from the Philippines...

Thaksin's Foundation

November 18, 2008

Categories: Thaksin Lobbying



Thaksin's foundation – November 18, 2008

Thaksin's [Building a Better Future Foundation](#) has gone online. There is practically no content except a letter from Thaksin and news that four projects are being considered. The domain was registered just 13 days ago. That was the same week during which Thaksin's UK visas were revoked (confirmed by UK authorities on November 8). Rolling out the site quickly with little content also indicates a desire to get in front of negative news about the visa revocations, the divorce news and Thaksin being "on the run" and "looking for a country."

[Building a Better Future Foundation](#) appears seems to be run by Hong Kong marketing company [Upstream Asia](#) and registered by Alex Trup ([Alex's blog](#) with an interesting note about possible Marlboro sponsorship of school uniforms in China).

The Whois:

Domain ID:D154628268-LROR

Domain Name:BUILDINGBETTERFUTURE.ORG

Created On:06-Nov-2008 14:31:14 UTC

Expiration Date:06-Nov-2009 14:31:14 UTC

Sponsoring Registrar:Omnis Network LLC (R101-LROR)

Status:TRANSFER PROHIBITED

Registrant ID:OMNIS-1225981865

Registrant Name:Alex Trup

Registrant Organization:BuildingBetterFuture.org

Registrant Street1:26/F, 46 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central

Registrant Street2:

Registrant Street3:

Registrant City:Hong Kong

Registrant State/Province:HK

Registrant Postal Code:HK

Registrant Country:HK

Registrant Phone:+1.3103169600

Registrant Phone Ext.:

Registrant FAX:+1.3103474075

Registrant FAX Ext.:

Registrant Email:alex.trup@upstreamasia.com

Right: An earlier organization set up by Thaksin lobbyists: [USA for Innovation](#)



INN explains Thaksin ‘asylum’ reports

November 18, 2008

[INN explains Thaksin ‘asylum’ reports](#) – *The Nation*, November 18, 2008

INN news agency yesterday insisted it had “sincerely and professionally” reported news to its audience after its report about small countries offering help to former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra were denied and questioned.

In a statement posted on its website, www.innnews.co.th, INN said it would stick to the standard of good ethics and would not be a tool for anybody...

Dr Who hunted in Thailand

November 18, 2008

[Dr Who hunted in Thailand](#) – *Bangkok Post*, November 18, 2008

The hasty deletion of audio-visual material by the BBC has resulted in a global hunt for lost cultural treasures that involve Thailand...

Editorial and Editorial Cartoons – November, 2008

November 19, 2008

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Thai Politics



Government of Madame Daeng's husband – *Phutjatkan*, by Bancha/Kamin, November 2, 2008

Title: Government of Madame Daeng's husband

Thaksin is saying: If the Sky refuses to grant me a pardon, I'm going to use my men to flatten the land thoroughly!

On the bottom right: Decoding Thaksin's phone-in

The government should solve the political crisis and beware of a people's war – translated and summarized from *Krungthep turakij*; Column: editorial; November 26, 2008

Because of the nominee government and its unfair legislative power, the anti-government People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) protesters decided to lay siege to important places such as the Suvarnabhumi International airport, Don Muang airport, the House of representatives, etc. in order to obstruct the government action. Is that the right action?

At this moment, the PAD's movement has affected the Thai economy in both the government and private sector. Besides this, a lot of conflict between the yellow-shirted PAD protesters and the red-shirted mob has brought violence all over the country. Maybe the conflict will become a people's war. The Somchai government should decide immediately to choose solutions to end the problems before serious damage to Thailand's reputation will be even greater.

The government playing hide-and-seek – Military remains calm – The country in a state of no law? – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; November 26, 2008

The gathering does not seem to end as fast as announced by the People's Alliance for Democracy in its latest major mobilization on November 23.

Its moves on November 24 did not seem to change the situation. However, the PAD is not giving up and still focusing on its 'shrapnel' strategy.

The reason its action does not end in one move is that the PAD is facing a smooth and relaxed strategy by the Somchai government.

Today's game is like hide-and-seek. The PAD is the party that seeks the government while the Somchai administration is hiding. If the PAD catches the government, the game ends. If it cannot, the catcher will become tired. It is the war to fight for the righteousness of victory.

Over in one move – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Column: Thinking Station 12; Author: Tawee Meengern; November 27, 2008

This is the second day that the People Alliance for Democracy (PAD) has applied the "over in one move" strategy. Strategic spots have been besieged by yellow-shirt members.

To gather at the kingdom's economic vein—Suvarnabhumi Airport—still does not give the victory to the PAD. The country has been greatly hurt.

This move is more severe than to surround the Parliament. Foreign countries may think that Thailand is closed.

In fact, many people understand the PAD and its fights. However, the PAD should also understand that all business sectors are affected by its strategy.

The person who must take full responsibility for all damages is Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat. He does not do his duty, but stays indifferent and lets the country be in a vacuum state.

Members of the Parliament do not seem to want to do anything to help the public.

Currently, Thai people cannot depend on the government and politicians.

Anupong stages silent coup 2 – Civil war not easy to be stopped – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; November 27, 2008

It is a sign telling the Somchai Wongsawat's government to end the political problem as soon as possible when Commander-in-Chief Anupong Paojinda, as the chairman of the committee for monitoring the national situation, called for after a meeting with high-ranking officials and businessmen.

The committee proposed that the government dissolve the parliament and the People's Alliance for Democracy withdraws their people from the Suvarnabhumi National Airport and other spots. It said that the public should be allowed to make their own decision to create peace in the country. If the government does not do as suggested, the committee will give up its mission to suggest for the country.

Gen. Anupong even said that if he were the Prime Minister, he would have resigned a long time ago. He questioned how the current PM stays in the post on people's blood.

However, Somchai is very stubborn. He does not dissolve the parliament, nor quit. He is confident that the military will not dare stage a coup.

It is not known if a silent coup will be able to help cure the kingdom from its terrible state.

The red shirt people are making a move. If the military decides to run a coup, we will see people using their own bodies to block tanks. Or is the civil war going on because a person called Thaksin never gives up?

If you don't do your duty, get out then – translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*; November 28, 2008

The major duty of a government in a democratic country, or even countries with other systems, is to keep the state and people in peace. To let bomb attacks happen every day in the country's capital, where the parliament and airports have been besieged, means that the government does not do its duty.

The government has already experienced the time when the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) took over the Parliament for several months. After that, it has no place to work. However, this time, it still lets the PAD besiege its temporary workplace at the Don Muang Airport. The worst part is that it allows the PAD to get to Suvarnabhumi Airport easily, without trying to fight.

It seems like there is no government to govern the country. Thailand is becoming a failed state like some African countries.

The government must admit that the closure of the Suvarnabhumi airport has enormously affected Thailand as the airport is the gate and entrance to the kingdom.

If the government still refuses to resign, it must do its duty. However, if it cannot keep the country in peace, it has better resign in order to allow a new government to get in—a government which is not led by the People Power's Party.

Politics walk – translated and summarized from *Krungthepturakit*; Column: Look and Critique; Author: Rak Montree, November 18, 2008

Sacked Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra seems to be fallen in the big trouble after he found himself homeless. The public wonders how such a problem could happen with the multimillionaire who now becomes a dream hunter.

His dream is currently to find a place to stay. The latest news claimed Dubai in the United Arab Emirates as the new candidate, which sounds impossible considering facts.

The

Muslim world today consists of Muslim countries that are cooperating in many ways. The United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran and others are strengthening their relationships and best group interests. Former PM Thaksin, however, did not create any positive results to the Muslim world while he was

holding the PM position. Are the Muslims going to accept the former PM who agreed to send manpower for America to battle against Saudi Arabia and killed Muslim brotherhood?

Not to mention his policies in the south of Thailand which turned the three provinces into red zone areas and caused thousands of Muslims to die. Also the cruel incident in Masjid Krueseh, and the kidnapping case of Muslim attorney Somchai Neelapaijit who helped Muslim suspects who were unfairly charged.

Past condemnation from OIC after the meeting in Saudi Arabia showed a big denunciation of the Thai government on the violence against Muslims. This may not much bother Thaksin if he still has the clout to sit down with the OIC and "clarify the misunderstanding."

The no-powered man with the severely bad karma may find it hard to get a house in a Muslim country. Saudi Arabia and others might choose to keep the good relationship with Iraq rather than accept this homeless person.

Brave Thai government – translated and summarized from *Thairath*; Author: Political team; November 18, 2008

Nothing impedes the Somchai-led government plans in any way. First of all, PM Somchai Wongsawat mentioned that Government House is a national asset and it is not suitable that the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) protesters have been gathering in front of the House for several months. This is because the government has to spend lots of money renovating the house after the rally.

Second, Chief government whip Witaya Buranasiri dared to announce that the government should carry on amending the constitution. He will press on with the plan to forward the draft of proposed amendments to the House meeting. He explained that this is the right action. Moreover all three government party dissolution cases – the PPP, the Chart Thai Party and the neutral Democratic Party, as well as the Khao Phrae Viharn border dispute involving the signing of the agreement by 28 cabinet members of Samak-led government is going to trial next month. It is not hard to guess what the final judgment will be.

Hence, former PM Thaksin Shinawatra would renew his political game if he wants to control the game under his direction. His supporters will have much sympathy for him if he is arrested after returning to Thailand. It is surely that his supporters will elect his youngest sister, Yingluck Shinawatra to be a new leader in order to amend the constitution. And it is in his advantage to stay in Thailand to direct this. Getting much benefit from amending the constitution is perhaps the reason he dares to return to Thailand despite arrest.

Demerit of PAD – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Column: Editor Review; November 11, 2008

People's Alliance for Democracy or PAD is now proud of the new history they established in joining the longest non-stop demonstration and cooperating in occupying the government house, saying these actions certainly never happened in any part of the world before.

Nevertheless, resisting the government intention in amending the charter and at the same time expelling former PM Samak Sunderevej and then Somchai Wongsawat as PM has caused the PAD to be widely criticized. Violence was reported with the mention of bombs and fires and people dead and wounded. The conflicts between PAD, government and others too seem to be uncontrollable.

Unlike today, the first step of PAD in 2006 towards the Thaksin government was claimed as honorable with a rational foundation and much support from the public. However, those people are now leaving saying they cannot tolerate the unreasonable accusations from PAD mainstays to people opposing against PAD. These accusations are made daily by PAD mainstays on ASTV.

The unreasonable accusations of the PAD create a demerit to their success. Rather than accuse and blame to anyone thinking differently, the PAD must examine their own weaknesses concerning what to be improve and recover. The government and other PAD opponents possess funds, intellectual knowledge, and power as well as the media as a weapon to win over the PAD. The PAD may find it hard to achieve victory as they keep announcing on ASTV the accusations against their opponents. These plans and actions might work against the PAD and could halt PAD achievements without a doubt.

Time bomb – translated and summarized from *Krungthep Thurakit*; Author: Pracha Burapavithree; November 21, 2008

A weapon called M79 grenade launcher is now not being used, but anyone who has money can buy it at the Thai-Cambodian border. During the cold war era, the US army produced the M79 grenade launcher for the war against Vietnam. On the past Tuesday, the weapon was used in the city war.

The explosion led to a death of a member of the People's Alliance for Democracy. Two were seriously injured and 21 other people were injured. We have to go on investigating to find out who runs this mission.

The M79 grenade launcher is not difficult to use. But what is the real question is how the police let such an incident happen. However, the bombing has intensified people's hatred against the nominee government.

The PAD leaders agree to mobilize the mass action again at the Government House on November 23 from 2 pm onwards. The move aims to oppose the amendment of the constitution and stop the nominee government in every way.

It will be able to create a great pressure on the military led by Gen. Anupong Paojinda. Previously, his role was "above" the conflict.

Don't risk the country – translated and summarized from *Krungthep Thurakit*; Column: Editorial; November 23, 2008

The People Alliance for Democracy's announce to gather and surround the Parliament again on November 23 makes people anxious. They fear that the situation will be like October 7. It seems like the gathering will last longer than the previous one. It means that political turmoil could widen. Moreover, an unexpected situation could happen.

However, the gathering of the PAD is not as scary as the fight by its opponents. Several bombings against the PAD members could lead to a more violent situation. In addition, all the counterattacks by the United Front of Democracy Against Dictatorship and Thaksin's phone-in make Thai people worried.

People are getting more scared day by day as they no longer know what the country is facing. We are now facing disharmony of thoughts and the global financial crisis, which is bigger than the previous one. The crisis starts at the center of the world, so it will create a bigger impact.

To cope with these crises, the government and people should be conscious and rational. At this time, we are risking the country, which means all Thai people.

Not the country in a normal state – translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*; Column: Editorial; November 22, 2008

Thailand's political situation temporarily went back to its normal state during the cremation of Princess Galyani during November 14-19. After the time-up is over, the situation became intensified again. Some members of the parliament from the People Power Party announced that Thaksin Shinawatra would return to the political battle again. They also say that the civil war had begun and the country could be separated. It is reported that Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat plans to reshuffle the Cabinet for the first time.

It is said three new ministers will be appointed, while two ministers will be transferred.

However, there is nothing new in this reshuffle. It is the same old quota system which enables members to become ministers without any consideration about their knowledge and ability.

What is very worrying is that the government still runs the country as if the kingdom is in a normal situation. Despite the political and economic crises, the government seems to be indifferent. The Prime Minister acts like he knows nothing about Thaksin's upcoming phone-in and the party members' declaration of war which could lead to violence.

If the cabinet is reshuffled, the Prime Minister should use the opportunity to create trust and faith among Thai people and foreigners, as well as prepare to cope with political and financial crises.

ISOC mission – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Column: Editorial; November 19, 2008

The Internal Security Operation Command was formed in 1965. It is responsible for coordinating with all sectors to prevent and get rid of any communist-related actions.

After beating the Communist Party of Thailand, its mission has gradually changed. The Chuan Leekpai government revised its role. It was then responsible for preventing and eliminating drugs and creating unity in border areas.

During Thaksin's administration, he reduced its role again by letting the organization focus only on the southern problem.

It looks like the ISOC mission focuses mainly on coordination, information seeking, psychological operations and solving problems by peaceful methods. No matter how many times it has been restructured, its major responsibility is to be a coordination center of government officials. It operates missions for the country, not for the benefit of certain parties.

We can see that the ISOC is a very important unit. It has power from the police, the military, civilians and even the scouts. However, we must admit that its image is not so good among the public. Despite applying peaceful measures, people think that they use covert methods to solve problems.

Amidst severe political conflicts, the government is likely to allow the ISOC to help solve the problem. Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat should be reminded that the ISOC has a duty to work for the country, not for the government nor safety of certain people. Moreover, the organization must solve problems with peaceful measures, not violent ones.

New economic attack – translated and summarized from *Daily News*; Column: editor Review, November 19, 2008

The report from Privy Councilor Dr. Kasem Wattanachai verifies a new economic attack on Thailand.

Insufficient crops derives from the imbalance between world population and agricultural area. Thus Middle East investors, which faces this problem, are insulting Thai law by appointing intermediaries to purchase the land from Thai farmers with immoral conditions. These conditions enable them to have full authority over the land while withdrawing all the rights of the former Thai landlord. This situation so also said to have happened in Laos and Cambodia.

The Ministry of Culture and Cooperatives confirm the Foreign Business Act, 2542 to the cabinet and said foreigners do not possess the right to conduct certain businesses. Rice farming is reserved for nationals and absolutely prohibited to foreigners. Thai nationals or juristic persons that assist foreigners in avoiding the Foreign Business Act will be sentenced to imprisonment of up to three years or liable for a fine from 100,000 to 1,000,000 baht. The same penalties would apply to the foreigner equally.

However the policy on this issue is not yet formed. It should be the goal to lift up Thai farmer's living standards during the current world's economic crisis, rather than putting all emphasis on imported systematic management techniques that would disrupt Thai farmers' customs and traditions.

The government should take the advice from Dr. Kasem on making the Board of Investment (BOI) manage the right and authority of agriculture business issues as well as to assist the Thai agriculturist. Though the BOI is supposed to support the charter, the reality is different as the good intentions in the first place are frequently overruled by the fact that a 'disqualified individual' is apparently involved in corruption in almost every project relate to farmers.

Politics unstoppable – Thaksin and PAD become uncontrollable – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Column: Analysis; November 16, 2008

If we keep an eye on the city war between Thaksin Shinawatra and his opponent, we will see that both of them are trapped by themselves.

Both Thaksin and Thaksin's opponent are unavoidably forced to fight against each other.

During 2005-2006, Thaksin Shinawatra, as the Prime Minister, was opposed by the People's Alliance for Democracy. During that time, the civil war was ended by a military coup, as the conflict could not be ended by the Constitution. Even if Thaksin decided to quit or dissolved the parliament, the problem would not be solved. After that, a post-coup government, led by Gen. Surayud Chulanont, was appointed. The 1997 Constitution was replaced by a new one, drafted by the Surayud's government.

The Thai Rak Thai Party was dissolved. Thaksin Shinawatra and his family members were charged. The People's Alliance for Democracy, which had been fighting to oust Thaksin, stopped their movements. If Thaksin decided to end his political role at the time, the civil war would have been ended.

However, he did not stop. He continues to fight until Samak Sudaravej became the Prime Minister. The Minister of Foreign Affairs returned the red passport to the ousted Prime Minister. These made the PAD unhappy. They started mobilizing people again to urge the government to stop intervening with the legal process and to oppose the amendment of the 2007 constitution.

The situation and the movements of both parties have forced them to continue to fight. Therefore, the civil war is now uncontrollable.

Power of the 'red shirt' – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Author: Songporn Srisuwan; November 17, 2008

It must be admitted that the gathering of the red-shirt people and the phone-in by former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to the The Truth Today or Kwam Jing Sanjorn Wann program on November 1 are strategies which have turned the political situation.

Those who analyze that the Somchai Wongsawat's administration will not last and that the story will end with the dissolving of the government must estimate the situation again.

The 'foot-clapping' power of the red shirt people has encouraged the government to make a major move.

They make a move knowing that they are at an advantage as the military cannot do anything – the coup is over. Senators take sides and people cannot depend on then. The public also is getting sick of the conflict. They want problem to be solved.

The People's Alliance for Democracy itself made false moves by demanding people to take sides and by running a prolonged gathering. They also change their targets often. The worst move was that they put used tampons at the statue of the King Rama IV in the Royal Plaza. This action was not acceptable for Thai people.

The government takes advantage of the situation by moving to amend the Section 291 in the Constitution and proposes several acts which will benefit them. They not only win grassroots support, but also gain a lot of money for megaprojects.

We can be sure that the People Power Party will win the election again, even under another name.

Thaksin returns to politics and runs his political game – translated and summarized from *Komchadluk*; Author: Naya Jaikawang, November 17, 2008

After the coup d'état in 2006, former PM Thaksin Shinawatra and his wife, Khunying Pojaman decided that they would separate if he returned to politics. Last Friday, they filed for divorce at the Thai Consulate General in Hong Kong because he will return to politics in order to fight to defend his name. Many people think that he planned in advance to find a way to get back his seized money. The divorce is only his political game. He plans to make a second phone-in speech to Kwamjing Wannee Sanjorn (or Mobile Truth Today) on December 10 to incite the red-shirted UDD supporters to violence and he wants to build a political movement.

Besides, Khunying Pojaman is coming back soon to manage Pheu Thai Party—planning political strategy—after sounding out Chaisit Shinawatra, Thaksin's cousin to be Phue Thai Party leader and Yingluck Shinawatra, Thaksin's youngest sister to be secretary.

If the names of anti-Thaksin supporters are revealed, could cause a severe clash between PAD protesters and anti-PAD groups. This would concern soldiers as well and then red-shirted supporters could clash with them. If this happens, the political situation would become more and more severe.

Thaksin's plan – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; November 12, 2008

Due to his ethical wrongdoing, ex-PM Thaksin Shinawatra had abused his power—helping his wife purchase 33 rai of land around Ratchadaphisek so his tourist visa was revoked by the British government. Now he cannot stay in London. He has to seek a new home. Maybe he will stay in Dubai because he has a lot of rich friends there. Domestically he is gathering many people in red shirts as the symbol of his supporters because he wants the Power People Party members to collaborate with his supporters to amend Thai constitution in order that he is acquitted on his case. While he is gathering a group of people, he has declared that he will make phone-in speeches to his supporters, spend much time talking with them and tell them a list of people who have persecuted him. Unless he fights hard like this for himself, he will not return to Thailand. However fighting hard is not always a good idea. Instead of reaching his goal, he may be assassinated by someone dislikes him like Pakistani politician Benazir Bhutto. Although a lot of Pakistani people appreciated her, she was assassinated.

Good timing? – translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*; Author: Political reporters; November 12, 2008

UK Foreign Secretary David Miliband announced that Britain decided to revoke visa of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his wife Khunying Pojaman Shinawatra following Thaksin's two-year jail term. They are no longer welcomed in England.

The venue where the UK Foreign Secretary announced his decision was Sarajevo, Bosnia, which has no link to Thailand. It reflects that the Thai former Prime Minister issue has become an issue of global interest. International press waited to ask the UK Secretary the question when he made a visit to Bosnia.

Thaksin becomes a focus of the world.

So, it is not an exaggeration when the former Prime Minister confidently said that he was a citizen of the world and he could fly to any country worldwide. AFP reported that many countries expressed that they wanted Thaksin Shinawatra. He would not reach a dead end easily.

However, several sources say that Thaksin plans to settle in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, very close to Thailand. And there could be another phone-in.

So, it is not a coincidence that the government decided to allocate 100 billion baht for its populist projects. It is expected that Prime Minister Somchai will dissolve the parliament in the near future to hold a new election in February.

It is the time that Thaksin begins to phone-in to 'The Truth Today' program, which will be held in the Northeast and the North – his major bases.

Thaksin's opponent – translated and summarized from *Krungthep Thurakit*; Column: Kae Roy Karn Muang; Author: Krin; November 12, 2008

It is not only Thaksin's advocates who want to know who are political opponents of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, but also other people. So that we will know who is the person who put Thaksin in the position he is now.

Is it the powerful person above the Constitution whom the former Prime Minister mentioned in early 2006? Are they the upper-class people? No answers are confirmed.

People also want to know why Thaksin dare fights against them.

His 70-billion-baht assets which have been impounded are not likely to return to him easily.

It is known by his phone-in that the former Prime Minister does not think that to fight through the legal process will be a difficult job.

And there are also many problems fighting via the Somchai Wongsawat's administration. One reason is that the majority do not accept him. The current Prime Minister has power, but cannot manage the country.

The new war has to be a prolonged one. The winner is the one who sets a new game. The bullet is a major factor in the fight. The more Thaksin tries to unveil his opponents, the more intense the conflict will become. The country will be in trouble. Thaksin himself may already know who his real opponent is. He does not dare unveil the name as it is himself from the beginning.

Bahamas – Thaksin – who is at an advantage? – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; November 13, 2008

Although his visa was revoked by the United Kingdom, Thaksin Shinawatra confidently expresses that he is a powerful person. He also announces that he will unveil the names of his opponents.

The move could be driven by his grass-root backup. In addition, Bahamas's Prime Minister Hubert Alexander Ingraham has summoned high-ranking officials to find measures to help the poor person as an honorary citizen.

The Bahamas Prime Minister said that he could not accept the UK decision.

According to information from Chulalongkorn's political science teacher Mr. Panithan Watanayakorn, Bahamas is a small, but financially strong country.

However, there is no official relationship between Thailand and Bahamas. One link is that Thailand imports drinks from the country and exports automobiles there. Mr. Panithan forecasted that after the UK changed its reaction to Thaksin, others would do so also, except countries which has trade benefits by dealing with Thaksin.

If Thaksin decides to settle in Bahamas, it is quite difficult to get him back. Thailand and Bahamas have not signed an extradition agreement, nor have any relationship between each other.

Now, we must keep a close watch as to where Thaksin will use as his base to fight his political opponents.

National trouble – translated and summarized from *Kom Chad Luek*; Column: Editorial; November 14, 2008

The current no-exit political turmoil, which is likely to become more intense and violent, causes us to consider which group might create problems in the country's future or create a dead-end so that no resolution can be found.

Thaksin Shinawatra is considered as a major source of trouble as he did not accept the court's judgment and became a fleeing prisoner.

However, the real problem, which Thailand's legal process cannot manage, is Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat. He is above problems and denies acknowledging them. He does not manage the problems, does not answer questions, does not quit and does not show that he is a moral person.

To have this kind of person as the leader of the government will worsen the problems. He does not show that he wants to take responsibility. He wants to keep the premier position, but does not want to do anything for the public without permission from his patron.

His behavior makes the problems become unsolvable. He does not quit and allows disgusting politicians to humiliate the Constitution. He creates problems to help a fleeing politician and therefore, the country has been put in great trouble.

Misuse of state-controlled media – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*; Column: Editorial; November 4, 2008

The NBT is a state-owned media. The people should benefit greatly from "the NBT" TV programs. It means they gain more knowledge after they watch the TV programs. Rebroadcasting "Thaksin's call-in" on the state-run NBT television station's The Truth Today program. It was so unsuitable because it is a misuse of the state-controlled media. He has used it for his personal interest. His speech has been completely distorted and could make the people misunderstand. If the people misunderstand that the court judged his case unfairly, the political conflict will be more violent. However he is able to use a broadcast for personal interest, giving any excuse. But now he has no power to do something he needs. It is important that he must avoid using the state-owned media for making up the stories and he must follow the rule in order that the political trouble will be better.

A narrowing path – translated and summarized from *Krungthep Thurakit*; Column: Kae Roy Karn Muang; Author: Reporter No. 10; November 10, 2008

Nine violent incidents at the Government House and neighbouring areas led to injuries of many people. It is a restricted area for the yellow members – no authorities can enter the place.

Some parties wonder who exactly committed the city bombings. Leaders of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) condemned the action and claimed that it was committed by the government. They demanded the government to seek the criminals and punish them.

However, some parties see that it was an effort to create a situation to draw the public's interest. We must admit that the daily trend set by the PAD has lost its charm. Day by day, there are fewer reasons to get rid of the Thaksin regime. In addition, some PAD members start to unreasonably fight, especially their obstinacy to close Rajadamnern Road. This may be unacceptable for the majority.

It is said that the PAD is now very stressed with the current political game. The longer the game becomes, the more difficult it is to be ended.

Some parties now start to oppose their move. Moreover, there is no response to their demands. As its path becomes narrower, if the PAD still does not change its strategy, it can be sure that the ending will not be beautiful.

Questions that need to be answered – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Column: Preface; November 5, 2008

I comment that there are some questions that need to be answered initially in case deposed Premier Thaksin Shinawatra is preparing to claim royal amnesty, according to his speech on November 1 and the reaction of his political supporters who plan to move on the royal amnesty request.

The first question is whether deposed Premier Thaksin Shinawatra intends to claim royal amnesty or is it merely speculation over his speech. The second is whether Thaksin is allowed to claim the royal amnesty during the time he still has to wait until the ending of the appeal against his conviction which is 30 days after the verdict is given. The third is whether his fleeing from bail without reporting himself to the court impacts his right to claim royal amnesty. Finally, it is also a concern that cases against that show his true guilt are possibly not included in chances for royal amnesty.

Black magic used for claiming new politics – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Column: Wipakhangwipak, November 3, 2008

Focusing on black magic, a new special form of charm is used for claiming fair politics is used by many demanding groups on both sides. Both the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) protesters and the Anti-PAD groups use black magic. For example, on the stage of "Kwamjingwannee" or "The truth today", the leaders invited Brahmanists to perform a ceremony before giving a speech believing their ideas would be more accepted after the ceremony. The mass media are interested in both groups so it becomes one of the main instruments of political change. Their stories show these rituals in photos which are published freely in the newspaper and other media and is more influential than what is said on stage. It makes the people believe in the magic spells more easily. What do you think about black magic? Between the black magic and the logic, which one do the people believe?

The truth, the belief – translated and summarized from *Krungthep Thurakit*; Column: Kae Roy Karn Muang; Author: Rak Montree; November 4, 2008

Academics and columnists are focusing on analyzing and decoding Thaksin Shinawatra's speech, aiming to understand the intention of this prisoner.

The truth is the event on November 1 was nothing, but a folk singer's effort to draw attention of his supporters.

The importance of the ceremony on November 1 was a process would be run to make his efforts come true.

Thaksin's request can be categorized into two sections. The first one was about him asking for royal kindness. And the second one was about the request for the public's power.

He is trying to ask for forgiveness from the King. However, its success depends on many factors. He is still being charged in many cases. The forgiveness will also destroy Thailand's legal process. However, if he has not been forgiven, he therefore asks for help from the public. He will ask the masses to consider whether he is right or wrong. To do so, he must increase the number of the red-shirt members.

After interpreting his speech, we will see that Thaksin and his followers wanted to make the belief become the truth. He is trying to turn the truth that 'Thaksin is a toxic product' into the belief that 'Thaksin is a useful product', by controlling the mass media.

Inappropriate action – translated and summarized from *Daily News*; Column: Editorial; November 4, 2008

A part of the phone-in speech by former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to members of the red shirts at the Rajamangala National Stadium on November 1 said that "no one will be able to take me back to Thailand, except the King's kindness and the public power."

Host of the event Mr. Veera Musikpong said that the former PM's speech reminded him of a word which means collaboration between the royal institute and the grass-roots power. This becomes a political issue as the MPs of the People Power Party are preparing to ask for the King's forgiveness for Thaksin.

Thaksin's expressions and his event could be his effort to fight as a political prisoner. However, his movement was careless and inappropriate. It can be seen that several parties express their disagreement with the action. His attempt could be the a natural behavior of a prisoner who does not admit that he is guilty. But, PPP's representatives' effort to seek ways to carelessly help the prisoner from being punished is absolutely unforgivable.

Listening to the voice of the silent power – translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*; Column: Editorial; November 5, 2008

Amidst a prolonged, no-exit political conflict, it is heartening that the campaign for a peaceful resolution by the press, the King Prajadhipok's Institute and the

Politic Development Council has been very well received by the public.

The campaign for the end of the violence has spread throughout the country, including the southern border province Satun. Results of a poll show that 94 percent of respondents in 19 provinces agreed with the campaign. Those who agree with the move include the government's advocates, the government's protesters and people who do not side with anyone or the so called silent power.

What is even more heartening is that a negotiation between representatives of the People's Alliance for Democracy and the government could be held. Leading member of the PAD Maj. Gen. Chamlong Srimuang also agreed with the negotiation idea.

A public poll clearly shows that all Thais people want peace.

Judiciary power – translated and summarized from *Thairath*; editor review; November 4, 2008

Thais might felt huge relief after the grand meeting of DAAD supporters of the former PM ended without any violence though tens of thousands of fans gathered. Thaksin himself phoned in to the crowd, but did not deliver an aggressive speech as expected.

In current political turmoil, administrative and legislative power that derived from the peoples' election are claimed to be discredited, leaving the judiciary as a sole candidate that gains peoples' trust and support. Some suspect a lot of the judiciary are trustworthy, but attempting to eliminate a group of people who in turn are doing their best to resist it.

A survey once reported that 91.9% of respondents believed in relying on judiciary power while only 36.6% trusted in legislation power. The survey did not cover the question of administrative officials' trustworthiness, but that figure would be expected to be lower than legislation power's rate.

Evidences show an attempt to interfere in the judicial system in many state organizations. This includes trying to bribe the judges of the constitutional court in political party banning cases or bribing judges during the sessions of the parliament members' corruption cases. This goes on as bombs are thrown into the superior court judges' homes.

MPs who possess administrative power claim judiciary power is too great. However, under standards, such as American politics, the Administrative and judiciary are separate and counterbalance other powers systematically, enabling the judiciary to halt any policy that is contrary to the law and constitution.

Political officials, who used to exercise their administration power without any investigation, may found it hard to accept these new systems and may even intend to amend the charter in order to diminish the judiciary what has the almost the sole trust of the people.

Thaksin and his plan to survive – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; November 4, 2008

After the coup on September 19, 2006, former PM Thaksin started doing his best to work towards his comeback. Victory of the PPP in the last election enabled his companions to hold power in government as planned. However this did not make any change to his karma.

The results since the elections derive from the 2007 constitution which gave authority to the judiciary power. Besides this, the aggressive action of PAD restricts the activity of the PPP to rescue their big boss. The failed performance of the PPP results in a sentence against Thaksin on corruption cases with 2 years in jail. This will surely stop him from coming back to his motherland before 10 more years.

These lessons show the inability of political power and legislative power to resolve the Thaksin situation. So now he may rely on the 'supreme power', which certainly has the greatest power of the PAD and PPP.

Proper exercise of power demands some actions to be take beforehand and it is claimed that Thaksin is plotting to attempt to stimulate the supreme power to take action. This includes the latest speech to his supporters on November 1, 2008, where ten thousands attended and displayed the power of his fans that support his policies.

In the near future, many actions will be taking place in a variety of forms according to the same intention.

Society should pay close attention to these situations taking place as the former PM is criticized widely on his working characteristics of achieving goals regardless of the consequences. The current politic turmoil too is a part of Thaksin's characteristic inheritance.

Cabinet selection – translated and summarized from *Thairath*; Column: editorial; November 29, 2008

Barack Obama is the President-elect of the United States. As a result of his cabinet selection, he acted in a spirit of democracy by deciding on his cabinet for assisting him with the administration of the United States—especially solving the global financial crisis. In selecting his cabinet he considered the knowledge, the experience and the appropriateness to give a particular post. For example, Federal Reserve Bank of New York president Timothy Geithner was appointed as Treasury Minister because of his experience. He is suitable to work as the Treasury Minister to help Obama to solve the US financial crisis.

The United States cabinet selection is different from Thailand's cabinet selection. Although Thailand has been governed under a constitution for more than 76 years, Thailand's cabinet selection is often unfair. A person who supports a government party is always appointed to the cabinet. This action has impacted Thailand's development. Besides, the country grows slowly because of the cabinet's lack of knowledge and experience to administer the country.



City of sculpture – Cartoonist: Palungkorn, *Daily News*, November 26, 2008

"Oh..the city of sculpture?"

Written on the pillar: Monument of [Hopewell](#)

Carleton Cole's new book

November 19, 2008

Carleton Cole's new book – November 19, 2008

Carleton Cole's new book, *Destination: Asia* is available via [Bangkok Books](#). His website is www.carletoncole.com.



Life Magazine photos of Bangkok

November 20, 2008

Life Magazine photos of Bangkok – November 20, 2008

Thanks to Brian who points out: *Maybe you know this already, but Google Images now covers old Life magazine photos. Searching Bangkok throws up several old street shots that I had never seen before.*

Some great examples: [Photo](#) – [Photo](#) – [Photo](#) – [Photo](#) – [Photo](#)

Bangkok Hospital patients receive same service as the King of Thailand

November 20, 2008

Categories: Health

[Bangkok Hospital patients receive same service as the King of Thailand](#) – *PR-Inside.com*, November 20, 2008

More on Gary Glitter

November 21, 2008

More on Gary Glitter – November 21, 2008

In August we pointed out [Gary Glitter tricked onto flight back home](#) and the thoughts by some readers that the article was a classic newspaper whitewash to cover up for official bungling.

The fascinating inside story of what was really going on behind the scenes is detailed in these Andrew Drummond blog entries: [Gary Glitter – where they went wrong](#) and [Tracking down Gary Glitter – & others](#)

Also interesting on the blog is [Fighting for Justice](#)

Thailand's drinking culture and the stock market

November 21, 2008

Categories: Food and Drink

[Thailand's drinking culture and the stock market](#) – Bangkok Post, November 21, 2008

...According to the Centre for Alcohol Studies, Thailand is reported to have the highest alcohol intake in Asia, followed by Korea and Japan. Intoxication is the leading cause of road accidents (72.7%) killing 14,000 and injuring 900,000 people annually, and leading to property damage (45.3%), rape and sexual assaults (20.8%).

In recent years, drinking among teenagers 15-19 years old has increased by 45%, and among women by 30%. Around 60 alcohol-related diseases include liver, colonic cancer and brain damage. Among those who drink regularly, 59.1% suffer from high stress, 48.6% from chronic depression, 11.9% are suicide risks and 11.3% have murderous tendencies. Violence in households increases four-fold.

The government collects a total of around 72.9 billion baht in taxes from the industry each year, compared with the estimated economic loss of 150.6 billion baht from the problems mentioned above. At the same time, people spend more than 200 billion baht annually on alcohol consumption...

Thai police shooting case abandoned

November 22, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai police shooting case abandoned – Policeman freed](#) – *andrew-drummond.com*, November 22, 2008

Shock as Thai policeman who gunned down Canadians in Thailand is released and case halted...

Bangkok Beverly Hills

November 22, 2008



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Bangkok Beverly Hills – November 22, 2008

The trouble with Harry

November 22, 2008

[The trouble with Harry](#) – *The Age*, November 22, 2008

Harry Nicolaides is languishing in Bangkok Remand Centre, yet to face trial, over a few sentences in an unread novel...

NERAKHOON film offers hope to those betrayed in Laos, Thailand

November 22, 2008

Categories: Film and TV

[NERAKHOON film offers hope to those betrayed in Laos, Thailand](#) – MarketWatch, November 22, 2008

...They express hopes regarding the film's positive impact on the Lao Diaspora community and those still suffering under oppression and corruption in the authoritarian Lao Peoples Democratic Republic (LPDR) and in squalid refugee camps in Nong Khai and Huay Nam Khao, Thailand...

“T. Shinawatra Thai Silk”

November 22, 2008

Categories: Old photos and films



“T. Shinawatra Thai Silk” – November 22, 2008

A 1975 tourist snapshot showing “T. Shinawatra Thai Silk” building in Bangkok.

Mahanak Canal

November 22, 2008



Mahanak Canal – November 22, 2008

Undated postcard showing Mahanak Canal. Note the tram tracks and tram in the distance.

Warning over Thai frozen chicken

November 22, 2008

[Warning over Thai frozen chicken](#) – *New Straits Times*, November 22, 2008

... "As there is no certainty that the chickens had received clearance from the Thai veterinary authorities before being slaughtered, it is not possible for us to determine whether the frozen chicken is really free from the bird flu disease," he said...

Promotion on Silom Road

November 24, 2008

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Promotion on Silom Road – November, 24, 2008

It reads: Central Plaza Chaengwattana – Beyond imaginative shopping – Recharge your life



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Airport Seized, November 25-26, 2008

November 25, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



Phutjatkan, November 25, 2008 – Concern that the government will become a lame duck – Investment to run deficit – NESDB: next year's economic growth is 3% – suggest to promote megaprojects – Seizure of Don Muang Airport—Kowit to negotiate



Komchadluek, November 26, 2008 – PAD to continue massively gather at Don Muang – The Government House turns quiet – Resist the government's power – Soldiers doubt the third party – Anupong orders force stand by – Thaksin criticizes UK saying they will regret his visa withdrawal – announces to return to Thailand as PM



Thairath, November 26, 2008 – Parliament blockade – Seizure of Don Muang – Chamlong issues order to launch battle team at 4 am saying the group will succeed in force PM Somchai to resign



Thairath, November 25, 2008 – Prepared to handle turmoil on dispelling the government-the PAD seizes the Parliament – Police say strong measures to be used if the situation is out of control – Somchai urges for the sake of the nation



Daily News, November 25, 2008 – 9 mobile units launched in tumultuous fight following the PAD's battle plan: "The government to leave within 7 days"

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

Airport Seized – Thai-language Newspapers, November 26-27, 2008

November 26, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



Matichon, November 26, 2008 – PAD wreaks chaos at Suvarnabhumi – Flights halt for fear possible chaos – Red and yellow violently fight – Police seize guns from PAD guard at government house – Somchai states no way to pressure him for resignation – Removal of the government is treason



Komchadluek, November 27, 2008 – Seizure of Suvarnabhumi Airport – Bomb blast downtown – PAD blockade – AOT orders flight halt – Cabinet considers emergency decree issuance – PM Somchai takes off in Chiang Mai



Krungthepturakit, November 26, 2008 – PM commands the army and police force to dispatch more security teams – Prepares to implement emergency decree – Suvarnabhumi International Airport under seizure – Blast generating turmoil downtown – Battle recurs at Viphavahadi 3 – Blast targeted at PAD stage in Don

Muang injuring 2 –
Army resolves: No coup to be staged – Promote peace negotiation



Thai Post, November 26, 2008 – Seizure of Suvarnabhumi Airport –
Center of power in paralysis – Downtown war staged



Thairath, November 27, 2008 – Army commanders: no coup – Adding coup is not a solution – Raid to close Suvarnabhumi Airport – Wreaking chaos – Flights
blockaded –
Passengers frightened



Khaosod, November 27, 2008 – PAD seizes Suvarnabhumi Airport – Tension goes on – Yellow shoots red – Meeting relocated – Fleeing the mob – Cabinet moves –
PM hiding



Daily News, November 26, 2008 – PPP reveals 2 ways to bring Thaksin to Thailand—MPs prepared for the possible party dissolution – Closure of Suvarnabhumi Airport by the PAD—regretful fight between yellow and red – Somkid expresses concern over Thailand’s economy – Fear for the return of crisis in the year 1997



Matichon, November 27, 2008 – Headline: (in red) Police say PAD mob aimed at wreaking violence—gun weapon seizure from PAD guard – (in black) Army commanders state do not pressure for the coup



Banmuang, November 26, 2008 – PAD aggressively moves to dispel PM (small) – without condition—Suvarnabhumi closure—violent battle—3 motorcycle torched—Anupong insists no coup—PM Somchai to land at U-Tapao



Naewna, November 26, 2008 – Suvarnabhumi closure!

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

‘Israeli facing Thai death penalty framed by police’

November 26, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[‘Israeli facing Thai death penalty framed by police’](#) – *Jerusalem Post*, November, 2008

“The Thai police don’t know him . Drugs were not found on him during the arrest,” Mahluf said. Mahluf also charged the Israeli Embassy in...

Top 5 karaoke-inspired acts of violence

November 26, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Top 5 karaoke-inspired acts of violence](#) – *The Shark Guys*, November 26, 2008

Indian navy ‘sank Thai trawler’

November 26, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Indian navy ‘sank Thai trawler’](#) – BBC, November 26, 2008

The owner of a Thai fishing trawler has said the Indian navy sank it off Somalia’s coast last week after wrongly assuming it was a pirate “mother ship”...

[Brother of Israeli sentenced to death: Israel Police gave him to Thailand](#) – Ha’aretz, November 26, 2008

...Akronik and Makhlouf were caught with 23,000 ecstasy pills in their possession that they had smuggled from Europe. They had planned to take the drugs from Thailand to sell in Japan, Australia and the United States.

...In 1997, a Thai court sentenced to death another two Israelis, who had been arrested in 1995 on suspicion of trying to smuggle 2.8 kilos of cocaine. Then president Ezer Weitzman lobbied the Thai king, eventually securing their release...

Kaolao Ruammitr by Tin

November 27, 2008

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



It's all about heart.... – *Matichon, Kaolao Ruammitr*, November 9, 2008

Top left to right:

Stunned heart... No flight to England

Cruel heart... No exception even for a patient.

On the sign: Action creates destiny

Selfish heart... No access for the state mourning period

Bottom left to right:

Spoiled heart... Three days to go, watch your teenage offspring

Obstinate heart... With respect, no more coup

PAD people in Government House in the background call out: "tank!," "tank!"

I have no heart... Sanitary napkins reused (not funny)!



I know what you fear – *Matichon, Kaolao*; Columnist: Tin, November 2, 2008

Top left to right:

Fear that the video clip of the face is not similar to the one standing behind

Fear Chaigyod digging in his heels

Fear of being disbanded again

Bottom left to right:

Fear of denunciation from foreigners.

Fear that Bahamas people cannot speak Thai language clearly

Fear of sponsorship withdrawal



Study the past to understand the future – Kao Lao Ruam Mitr column by Tin, June 22, 2008

Study the past to understand the future

Top left: In 1979, Samak joined an extraordinary-session no-confidence debate. In 2008, he said he never joined such a debate

Top middle: In the past, whistles, alarm clocks and bombs were all doing the same duty.

Top right: "Jok," who took bombs into the mob, is a brother of "Peud"

Bottom left: A careless reason for a construction of a dam is that a minority should sacrifice something for the majority.

Bottom middle: Gandhi's beautiful fight in the past has been distorted to pressure the majority to agree with the minority.

Bottom right: From the past until now, the nationalism always works in this nation,



Good news, bad news – Kao Lao Ruam Mitr, May, 2008

Top left to right:

The good news is that the court judged that Clity residents will be paid 30,000 baht per person for food, but the bad news is that, until now, the canal has not recovered yet.

Good news is that the government let members of the Parliament be responsible for amendments to the constitution, but the bad news is that most MPs are part of the government.

Good news is that there is no cyclone in Thailand, but the bad news is that there is too much "sat klone" here.

Bottom left to right:

Good news is that Yongyuth has already gone, but the bad news is that 'Pu Chai' takes the position instead

Good news is that the price of rise goes up, but the bad news is that the fertilizer price also increases.

Goods news is that the military confirms that it will not start a coup, but the bad news is that the same old group of dancers starts dancing



Oh... Scary! – *Kao Lao Ruam Mitr*, *Matichon*, May, 2008

Top, left to right:

Oh... it is scary after reading a report saying that a daughter has been raped by her own father for 24 years

Oh... it is scary after hearing that the government approved a two-baht rise for labor's minimum wage – the two fingers mean victory, not two baht

Oh... it is scary after knowing that who is behind 'Puchai' issue

Bottom, left to right:

Oh... it is scary when a man like Mr. Samak has been denounced as a disloyal person

Oh... it is scary that nationalism (flag) emerges

Oh... it is scary that a witch hunt is occurring again



"A pair" – *Kao Lao Ruam Mitr* (mixed issues) column by Tin, *Matichon*, April 6, 2008

Top, left to right: When there is the Kwansuang TV program, there is the Jakrapob TV program

When there is Samak, there is Big Pok

When there is a revolution rumor, there is a scapegoat.

Bottom, left to right: When there is pickled fish paste, there is a person to get diarrhea. "Jood, jood"

When there are people hating the Constitution, there are people satisfied with it. The sign reads: Don't touch my constitution!

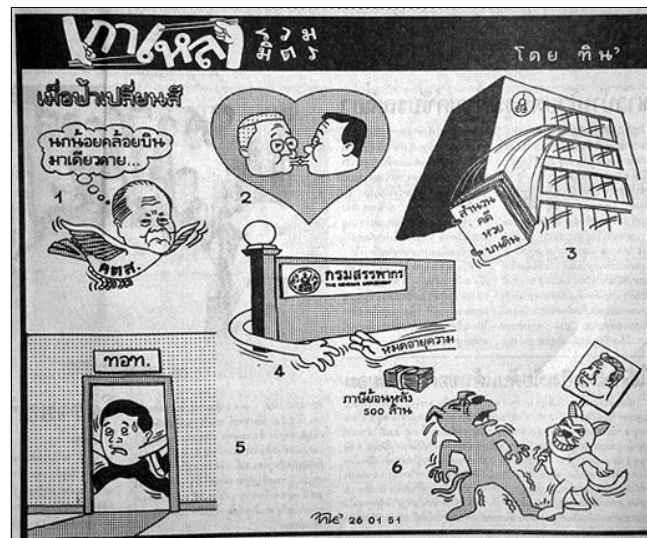
When there is Mr. Hatred, there is Mr. Torture.



"It is too late for..." – Matichon, Kaoloarummitr, February 3, 2008

It is too late for...

- Prachai to admit he is a kindergarten kid.
- The Democrat Party to say it lost in the general election because it sticks to the party's ideals.
- Surayud to say that he regrets being a prime minister after a year and five months have passed.
- Sonthi to accept Thaksin as his brother.
- Us to warn the girl selling her own eggs at B30,000 each that she might have problems in having a child.
- Border patrol police commander to apologize the public for having bad subordinates.



"When the sky has changed its color..." – Matichon, Kaoloarummitr, January 27, 2008

When the sky has changed its color,

1. A bird (AEC) is flying alone
2. Samak and Banham are seen kissing each other
- 3.
- 2- and 3-digit lottery case is dismissed.
- 4.
- The Revenue Department dismisses plan to charge a retroactive tax worth 500 million baht
5. Suriya is seen at AOT.
- 6.
- The cat supporting Samak wins the dog



“All About Names” – Kaolaoruummitr by Matichon, October 6, 2007

Top, left to right: Desires to be named PM.

A volunteer to fight against the new power clique.

His words are not pleasing to the ear, leading to the end of the party.

Bottom, left to right: His party seems to have a privilege compared with others.

Playing for time so the government has a victory over NHRC.

Uniting to kill and bury the square-face.



Whatever happens... will still be the same – Kaolaoruummitre, Matichon, May 27, 2007

Top left: Suu Kyi still is arrested before.

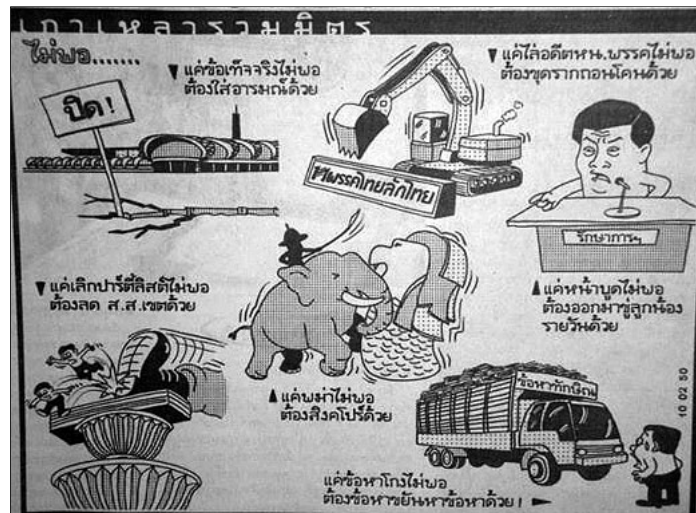
Top middle: Daily lives of people in southern provinces will still be the same.

Top right: Adjust the cabinet every time... it will still be the same

Middle: If setting up a new party it will use the Democrat name as before.

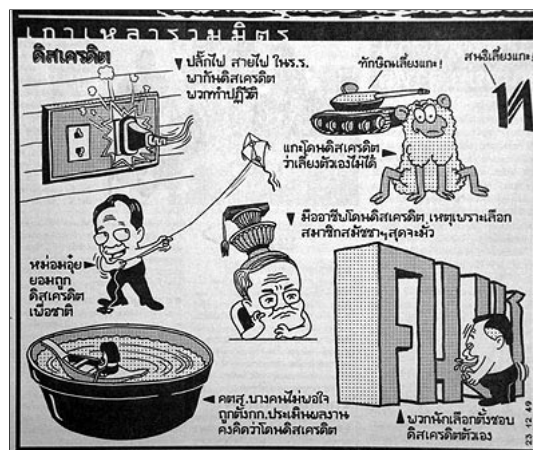
Bottom left: Ministers who resign all use the same reason.

Bottom right: After dissolution, after referendum, after election... this country still be in turmoil.



Editorial cartoon
 "Not enough" from Kaolaoruammitr, *Matichon*, February 10, 2007

Top left to right: The sign reads: Close.
 The truth is not enough... must be concerned with the temper/mood also.
 Thai Rak Thai party... Chasing the leader of the party is not enough. Must dig the root also.
 The sign reads: Acting
 Wry face is not enough... must come to threatens the underlings daily also.
 Bottom left to right: Canceling the party list is not enough... must decrease the number of MP districts also .
 Fighting with the Burmese is not enough... must fight with Singapore also.
 The sign on the truck reads: Charges for Thaksin. Charge on cheating is not enough... must charge diligently to find out the charge also.



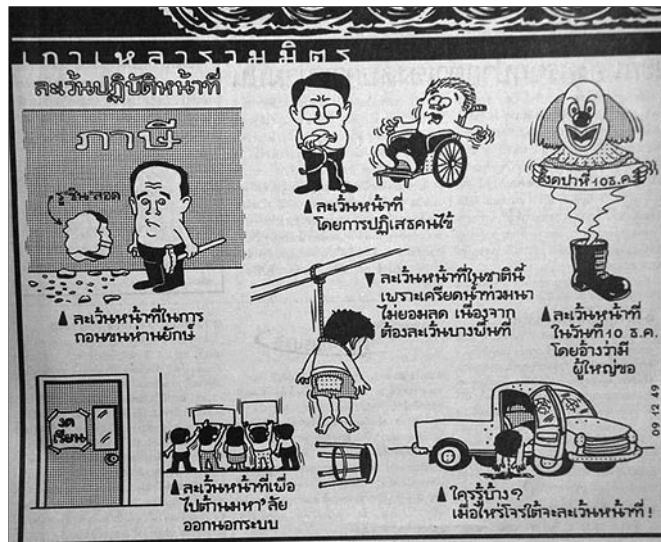
Editorial cartoons
 "Discredit"- *Matichon*, Kao Lao Ruammitr, December 24, 2006

Roughly clockwise from top left: Electric plugs and cables in schools are discrediting people staging the coup.
 Some people are discrediting sheep, saying that they can't live on their own. Thaksin and Sonthi have petted them.
 Pridiyathorn says he allows people to discredit him, just for the Kingdom.

Professionals are discredited because of some assembly issues.

Some figure in the Assets Scrutiny Committee (ASC) is not satisfied with the establishment of another committee inspecting the ASC's operation, considering the move an attempt to discredit the ASC.

Some election candidates are discrediting themselves.



"Omitting to do certain things" – *Matichon*, December 10, 2006

Here is another interesting *Kao Lao* cartoon that groups recent events around a theme.

Top, left to right: Taxes – A hole for Shin –

Omitting to remove the giant goose's hair

Omitting their duties by refusing patients.

Omitting the duty on December 10 as requested by some high-ranking officers. (The clown is holding a sign saying "stop the acrobatics performance on December 10.")

Bottom, left to right: Class cancelled

Omitting classes to join rallies against the plan to allow leading government universities to leave the bureaucratic system.

Omitting this world because floods have destroyed rice fields.

Who knows when will southern militants omit their duties?



Editorial cartoons

Kaolao Chamlek – *Matichon*, December 12, 2006

Panel 1: Sonthi said democracy will continue. We must solve the problem of those who use the constitution.

No. We must solve the qualifications of the one who will come to Commander-in-Chief.

Panel 2: Must understand democracy?

No. Must have two stubbed arms!

!?!

Panel 3: So he will not have hands to tear up the constitution.



Editorial cartoon

Cartoon: Kaolao Chamlek, *Matichon* – The different than the same: Oct 6, 1976 / Sept 19, 2006

Acted upon

6 Oct: The student movement

19

Sept: Thaksin and his followers

Accusation

6 Oct: Communists, insult institutions

The mouthpiece

6 Oct: Yankroh radio
19 Sep: ASTV

Mass power

6 Oct: People's boy scout, Navapon, Kratingdaeng-red bull
19
Sep: PAD, network
(On the banner "Thaksin get out")

P.M.

6 Oct: From P.M. to privy councilor
19
Sep: From Privy councilor to P.M.

The role of Mr. Rose-apple

6 Oct: On the side of the winner
19
Sep: On the side of the loser (Ha!)



Matichon, October 16, 2006 by Kaolao Chamlek

Panel 1: Urgent news! Some media begins to feel frustrated. / Why frustrated?
Panel 2: There is a big conciliation with the media representatives. / Ha... how?
Panel 3: Gives a chair for them.

Title of the cartoon: Twins!

Top left: At present Thaksin must use twin cars

Top right: Twin policies

Middle left: New province – Twin numbers 77

Middle right: Good news – Twin kouprey found

Bottom left: Bombs at Yala – The amount is twin numbers 22

Bottom right: Anand is worried that Thailand may be a twin country.



Editorial cartoon

Column name: *Kaolao Ruammitr* by Tin – *Matichon*, August 28, 2006

Title of the cartoon: All is fake

The dog on the sphere: After more than 70 years we have just known that Pluto is a fake planet.

The man crying: 30 years in the past–We have just known that October people are fake.

Roses: People think this is a Thai company, but this is a fake Thai company.

Man holding a sign behind him: We think "New Suchin" is also fake.

Policeman watching men fight: The fake police crush the mob. The real police just keep looking.

[Car bomb](#): (Is this) the a real thing that resemble the fake or the fake thing that resemble the real thing?

Evangelicals gather in Thailand

November 27, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Evangelicals gather in Thailand](#) – *Religious Intelligence Ltd*, November 2008

The world's largest evangelical body met for the first time in seven years last week, with over 500 leaders gathering in Pattaya, Thailand...

Airport Seized – Thai-language Newspapers, November 27-28, 2008

November 28, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



ThaiRath, November 28, 2008 – No house dissolution – No resignation – Somchai to fight – Relying on the law – Take off to Chiang Mai – No comment on Anupong's pressure to dissolve parliament – PAD not to dissolve – PPP: discharge Anupong – Challenge by red shirt team- If army tank, red shirt to gather



Komchadluek, November 27, 2008 – Red shirt man stages brutal murder imitating October 6 – Father of Chiang Mai member PAD shot – Anupong's serious solution: Dissolve Parliament and PAD to stop – Somchai disgruntled to fight – PPP urges to discharge Army Commander-in-Chief and Police Chief – Sondhi insists to fight unless PM resigns – 700 flights cancelled



Daily News, November 28, 2008 – MPs suggest to discharge Anupong – Somchai not to dissolve Parliament – Court order injunction for Airport – Urges Prem to help solve conflict – Mob seizes Suvarnabhumi Airport and causes loss of 12 billion – Worldwide flights to Thailand cancelled – Help delivered to tourists left at the airport



SiamRath, November 27, 2008 – Push forward on Anupong’s dismissal – PPP furious by pressure for house dissolution – Court order for PAD mob to leave Suvarnabhumi Airport immediately



SiamRath-Economy section, November 27, 2008 – Suvarnabhumi closure causing loss of opportunity

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

Ladyboys and Good Sons: Contemporary Mediums and Gender Identity

November 28, 2008

Categories: Local Beliefs

[Ladyboys and Good Sons: Contemporary Mediums and Gender Identity in Northern Thai Trance Dance](#) – *UCLA Asia Institute*, November, 2008

...The Lanna medium population that participates in annual trance dance ceremonies now contains a high percentage of elderly females and young males, the latter of which are primarily gay...

Airport Seized – Thai-language Newspapers, November 29, 2008

November 29, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



Daily News, November 29, 2008 – Seize of Suvarnabhumi causes hundred billion loss – Muslim Hajj pilgrims perchance to sacrifice life if being blocked from traveling to Mecca – Kowit assigned to use emergency bill – aimed at dissolving the PAD mob – Suchart-Chalong ordered to join the team



Khao Sod, November 29, 2008 – Police-soldiers to take back Don Muang-Suvarnabhumi – Emergency decree launched – Somchai assigns National Police Chief-Region1/Air Force – PAD to fight back – Metropolitan chaos—14 unrest provinces – Somchai: no dismissal of Army Commander in Chief/National Police Chief



Matichon, November 29, 2008 – Government uses emergency decree to tackle mob – Anupong lowered role only to support work – Air Force and Metropolitan Police to handle Don Muang – Suvarnabhumi to rely on Navy force and Region 1 Police – Court orders PAD to leave



Komchadluek, November 29, 2008 – PM orders Navy and Air Forces to handle mob – Army sacked – PAD not to give in – Coup rumor spreads – A group drinking alcohol argues and fights over PAD question causing 1 to die and 2 injuries – Red shirt people to gather 20 thousand in each zone to fight PAD and oppose coup – Commercial flights use U-Tapao Airport – Hundred thousands in tourism business sector to be laid off

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

Giant Turtle

November 29, 2008



Giant Turtle – *Khao Sod*, November 29, 2008

It reads: Giant Turtle: Villagers flock to see the giant turtle or the Tao Mafueng Turtle (Leatherback Turtle) weighing about 300 kilograms. The dead sea creature was stranded on the Had Sam Roi Yod Beach in Prajuabkirikhan. Examination indicates the wound on its legs caused the turtle to drown on November 27.

Goodbye Eddie

November 29, 2008

Categories: Film and TV

Goodbye Eddie – November 29, 2008

Nils notes: *Guess anyone who ever watched Thai TV has seen him at least once: [Eddie Cute Ghost \(Eddi Phi Narak\)](#), aka [Chalerm Thaweehot](#). And in the blog of a Swiss guy living in Thailand (Chai Nat), [including 2 pictures](#). He specifies that he died of bone marrow cancer.*

Thai queen has always shown compassion to her people

November 29, 2008

Categories: The Monarchy

[Thai queen has always shown compassion to her people](#) – *Financial Times*, November, 2008

...given the monarchy's revered status in Thai society, and particularly amid the current political situation, some groups may seek to portray or interpret certain actions by members of the Royal Family in favour of their own cause. Great care must therefore be exercised in lending credence to such claims, including in the case mentioned in [Ms Kazmin's article](#)...

High tension in Thailand – November 2008

November 30, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

All the past news: [High tension in Thailand \(2005-2008\)](#)

[Protest leaders refuse Saturday talks](#) – TNA, November 28, 2008

[PM insists emergency decree intended to restore order](#) – TNA, November 28, 2008

18:58 – PM Somchai addresses the nation – November 28, 2008

The PM said that tourists and travelers are now in trouble and how the Chonburi governor will help solve these problems such as transporting people, providing food, and find the places to stay.

Concerning the PAD that closed the airports, police will try to solve problem softly and without violence, step by step. He also told that he got a letter from the Human Rights Commission, Saneh Jamarik, who asked the PM not to use violence with the mob. The PM says anybody can observe how the police will deal with the mob and they will do under the law. And for any negotiations, he wants people to understand his duty as the head of government and that he will continue on his mission.



[Shock transfer of police chief](#) – The Nation, November 28, 2008

Phatcharawat was urgently transferred in the middle of Suvarnabhumi crisis, renewing doubts about Army chief's future...



Daily News, November 28, 2008 – Violent battle – The group of Chiang Mai patriot group 51 or the Chiang Mai DAAD closes off the gateway to the Ban Raming Niwes Village in Tambon Haiya in Muang district battling with the PAD causing Chettha Jienkitwattana, owner of the Wihok radio station, to suffer death.

["MUST READ: PAD Clarifies Decision to Surround Don Muang and Suvarnabhumi Airport"](#) – TOC, November 28, 2008

[Riot police gather at besieged Thai airport](#) – Reuters, November 28, 2008

Dozens of riot police with truncheons and shields gathered at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi airport on Friday after talks with anti-government protesters apparently failed to end a crippling blockade.

A Reuters correspondent saw 100 police set up a perimeter at the airport headquarters building, about 300 metres from where the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) protesters had besieged the main terminal...

From Not the Nation: [Bruce Willis reportedly in Suvarnabhumi vent system](#)

... "Bruce really can't believe he is in this situation again but he is eager to help," said police spokesman lieutenant Sombat Sreephatthep. "We will see if he can infiltrate the PAD from inside the airport. On behalf of the entire Royal Bangkok Police force, I would like to say, 'Yippee-ki-yay, Bruce...'"

[Govt to enlist help from Thaksin if coups staged](#) – The Nation, November 28, 2008

...He said Thaksin would make phone calls to direct the resistance against the coup on around-the-clock basis.

"If a coup is staged, thaksin will fight against it along side with Thais. He can make phone calls to us 24 hours a day," Natthawut said.

[Spokesman claims Govt wins support to use force to end Bangkok airports' besieging](#) – The Nation, November 28, 2008

21:00 – PM Somchai addresses the nation – November 27, 2008

PM Somchai addressed the nation and declared the state of emergency at the two Bangkok airport. He also mentioned that Interior Minister Kowit Wattana will be in charge of implementing the decree to clear the protesters. Kowit is a former Chief of Police.



[Somchai to declare state of emergency at Don Mueang, Suvarnabhumi](#) – *The Nation*, November 27, 2008

Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat will declare state of emergency specifically for the Don Mueang and Suvarnabhumi International airports to empower police to break the demonstrations, a source said.

The prime minister would not use military forces to deal with the protesters but would use police.

The source said forces from the Metropolitan Police Bureau would be deployed to crack down on protesters at the Don Mueang airport and police from the Provincial Bureau 1 would be used to deal with protesters at the Suvarnabhumi.

[Suvarnabhumi Airport remains closed until Nov 29](#) – *The Nation*, November 27, 2008

[People's Alliance not worried about coup](#) – *TOC*, November 27, 2008

Ruling MPs have vowed to disclose a list of companies that provide financial support for the anti-government protest by the People's Alliance for Democracy. Meanwhile, a key leader of the anti-government group insists that the group is not worried about speculation of a military coup...

[PM to hold press conference at 6 pm amid speculation of state of emergency](#) – *The Nation*, November 27, 2008

[Coup rumours sweep Bangkok](#) – *The Nation*, November 27, 2008

[Thai political crisis 'disastrous' for Cambodian tourism](#) – *EARTHtimes*, November 26, 2008

The seizure of Thailand's main international airport by protesters Wednesday left thousands of travelers stranded in Cambodia and will hurt the country's already beleaguered tourism sector...

[Bangkok's bizarre power struggle](#) – *Newsweek*, November 26, 2008

...Few dispute the claim that Thailand is moving in reverse. Its economy, which grew robustly during Thaksin's rule, thanks to rural reforms including village-level business loans and free medical care, is back in the dumps. Its multi-billion-dollar tourism industry has been dealt a staggering blow just as it enters the all-important winter holiday season. And the return of supernaturalism in politics, one could argue, marks a sardonic retreat from modernity. Thais revere King Rama V as a great modernizer who abolished slavery, forged diplomatic ties with Western powers and prevented the kingdom's colonization during his 42 years on the throne. Yet with little apparent irony, today's leaders seek to channel the powers of a legendary monarch who embraced new ideas using sorcery, holy water and menstrual blood.

[Activist shot as Thailand rejects army call to go](#) – *Reuters*, November 26, 2008

...A gang of government supporters in the northern city of Chiang Mai shot dead an anti-government activist on Wednesday, the first serious violence outside Bangkok.

The victim, a man in his 50s whose son ran a small anti-government radio station, was dragged from his car before being shot, police lieutenant-colonel Atipol Thongdaeng told Reuters...

[PAD takes over air traffic control tower](#) – *Bangkok Post*, November 26, 2008

About 30 People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) guards wearing masks on Wednesday took control of Suvarnabhumi airport's air traffic control tower to check the daily flight schedule...

[PAD refuses to leave Suvarnabhumi](#) – *Bangkok Post*, November 26, 2008

Giles Ji Ungpakorn: "[Fascist Thugs Terrorise Passengers at Bangkok International Airport](#)"

...Those who support democracy and social justice in Thailand must condemn the PAD and those advocating a dictatorship. We must be with the pro-democracy Red Shirts, while refusing to support ex-PM Thaksin, who has a record of Human Rights abuses. I hope that all those friends of Thailand abroad will support all our efforts to defend Thai democracy and to defend those of us who may face arrest in the future.

[Somchai to fly to Chiang Mai, declare state of emergency: source](#) – *The Nation*, November 26, 2008

[PM prepares to announce state of emergency](#) – *TOC*, November 26, 2008

[4 bomb attacks rock Bangkok](#) – *The Nation*, November 26, 2008

[Tourists urge to check with airport police at these phone numbers](#) – *The Nation*, November 26, 2008

[PAD: PM Somchai has arrived in Thailand](#) – *TOC*, November 25, 2008

[People's Alliance for Democracy Announcement 26/2008](#) – *TOC*, November 25, 2008

...The People's Alliance for Democracy is left with no choice but to step up its peaceful rally by blocking off access to the Suvarnabhumi Airport. This is considered to be an ultimatum for Somchai Wongsawat and the Cabinet to resign immediately and without any condition.

The people's alliance apologizes for any inconvenience the closure of the Suvarnabhumi Airport may cause to the public and international visitors to the Kingdom of Thailand. But the PAD believes the measure is crucial to bring an end to the traitorous-killer government...

[Suvarnabhumi closed, Sondhi delivers ultimatum](#) – *Bangkok Post*, November 25, 2008

[PAD closes Suvarnabhumi](#) – *The Nation*, November 25, 2008

...The Airports of Thailand has decided to close the Suvarnabhumi airport after PAD protesters entered passenger terminals.

Now, there will not be out-bound flights. In-bound planes are being allowed to land for now, but can be diverted to key provincial airports if situations deteriorated...



PAD riots on Vibhavadi Rangsit Road – *Thai PBS via Matichon*, November 24, 2008

This is the [video](#) taken around 17:00 today on Vibhavadi Rangsit Road showing PAD supporters attacking motorcycle taxi drivers along the road. At the end you the video, the PAD attempt to take the video away from the reporter.



21:00 – The raw video has been updated to show the Thai PBS TV report version of events. This more clearly shows the "PAD shooter" and omits the crowd trying to take the video from the reporter.

Phutjakkan has a different take on the events, [UDD Taxi drivers attack PAD with iron bars](#)

[Thaksin: UK will be sorry](#) – *The Nation*, November 24, 2008

... "With me at the helm I can bring confidence quickly back to Thailand. We have to find a mechanism under which I can go back, that is why I must tell you that I will go back into politics..."

[Crunch Day](#) – *Bangkok Post*, November 24, 2008

["Last battle" begins today](#) – *The Nation*, November 24, 2008

[Observers welcomed to monitor police response to protesters](#) – *TNA*, November 23, 2008

[INN explains Thaksin 'asylum' reports](#) – *The Nation*, November 18, 2008

INN news agency yesterday insisted it had "sincerely and professionally" reported news to its audience after its report about small countries offering help to former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra were denied and questioned.

In a statement posted on its website, www.innnews.co.th, INN said it would stick to the standard of good ethics and would not be a tool for anybody...

[Deposed Thai PM Thaksin now in Dubai: aide](#) – *AFP*, November 17, 2008

...Thailand's ousted prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra is staying in Dubai as he seeks a new home after his British visa was revoked earlier this month, an aide said Monday.

Billionaire Thaksin — who was toppled in a coup in 2006 and has been living in exile since August to avoid jail sentences at home — also plans to address supporters in Thailand by telephone next month, said the aide...

[Thaksin divorce 'just a business deal'](#) – *Bangkok Post*, November 15, 2008

... "The divorce helps boost the image of Khunying Potjaman. She repeatedly said she didn't want her husband to get involved in politics.

"If she returns to fight the legal case, the political pressure which she earlier faced might be reduced," said the former ASC spokesman...

[PPP MP: Thaksin leaves for Dubai](#) – *Bangkok Post*, November 15, 2008

...On the rumours claiming that the former premier divorced his wife Khunying Potjaman, the MP said he does not believe them because the couple appeared happy together when they were in Hong Kong.

According to Mr Sakda, many Pheu Thai party MPs expected Mrs Yingluck Shinawatra to lead their party and she would become the first Thai female prime minister. He believed the Shinawatra family is ready to administer the country, especially Mr Thaksin's brother Payap...

[Thaksin, Potjaman end 32-year marriage](#) – *Bangkok Post*, November 15, 2008

...Thaksin reportedly flew to Dubai last night after the dinner with the PPP MPs, who went to Hong Kong to meet Thaksin, who arrived from Beijing on Tuesday.

The group included Yaowapa Wongsawat, his younger sister and wife of Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat, her close aide Yongyuth Tiypairat and former Thai

Rak Thai executive Newin Chidchob. Veera Musikhapong and Chatuporn Promphan, hosts of the Kwam Jing Wan Nee (Truth Today), were also seen in Hong Kong yesterday...

[Thai premier arrives today for brief visit](#) – Business World, November 10, 2008

Thai Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat will arrive in Manila this afternoon for a seven-hour visit aimed at boosting ties between Bangkok and Manila. A Palace statement released yesterday said Mr. Somchai will arrive at 3 p.m. and will depart for Bangkok at 10 p.m...

[Exiled Thaksin vows fight back against Thai enemies](#) – AP, November 10, 2008

...The billionaire telecoms tycoon said he would address supporters at future rallies in northeast Thailand, a region that helped give him two landslide election victories.

"I will phone in and talk to the people who love and have faith in me. I will make a longer speech and start naming names because they have pushed me into a corner," he said...

[Home Office bars Thaksin Shinawatra from returning to Britain](#) – The Times, November 10, 2008

...A Whitehall source confirmed yesterday that the Home Office had revoked the couple's visas under rules banning entry to those convicted of offences that can carry a jail sentence under British law. The Thai Government confirmed that it had been informed – in fact, the only person who appeared not to have been notified was Thaksin himself. "I spoke with Thaksin's secretary and he said that Thaksin still has not been notified by the British Government," said Phongthep Thepkanjana, a spokesman for Thaksin.

Pracha Prosobdee, a member of the ruling pro-Thaksin People Power Party (PPP), told a Thai newspaper: "We don't have to be concerned about Thaksin and his family. There are the Bahamas and several countries in Africa and around the world that will gladly welcome high-quality people like him." The tycoon first fled to London after the military coup in 2006 and bought a £3 million penthouse flat in Kensington, West London, and a £4.5 million mansion in Weybridge, Surrey. He bought Manchester City in July last year and sold it in September to Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan of the Abu Dhabi United Group for Development and Investment for £210 million. He retained the post of honorary president but the club's board is believed to be considering stripping him of the title. There is also concern over his link to a 10 per cent holding of the club's shares through associates...

[Elephants fight, ants get squashed](#) – AsiaOne, November, 2008

...However, the on-going battle between the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) and the People's Power Party-led coalition government has indirectly trampled on her dream to compete against aspiring transvestites around the world including Malaysia — echoing the Thai proverb which says, "In a battle between elephants, the ants get squashed"...

How many at the DAAD rally?

The Nation: [Huge show of strength by DAAD](#)

...While most of the more than 20,000 people or so who showed up yesterday at Rajamangala National Stadium to express their support for the government and Thaksin donned red, not all were wearing red from the outset...

The Nation: [Thaksin calls for reconciliation, forgiveness](#)

... "May I ask you, brothers and sisters, if you wish me to remain abroad for that long period of time?" he asked the 50,000-plus red-clad supporters at Rajamangala National Stadium...

Bangkok Post: ['Only royal kindness can get me home'](#)

...Former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra told about 80,000 of his supporters last night only royal kindness and the power of the people could bring him home.

AFP: ['I cannot return home,' exiled Thaksin tells supporters](#)

...Exiled former Thai premier Thaksin Shinawatra denounced his opponents Saturday in a telephone address to 90,000 loyal supporters packed into a Bangkok sports stadium...

[Photos from Rajamangala Stadium](#) – The Nation, November 1, 2008

Unfortunately the photos are covered with distracting "Nation Group" watermarks.



Saturday gathering – November 1, 2008

Invitation to the press for the Saturday, November 1 gathering of anti-coup, pro-Thaksin groups at Rajamangla Stadium.

Schedule for "Truth Today" (Number 2)

Saturday, November 1, 2008 Rajamangala National Stadium, Bangkok

1:00PM Gate opens

3:00PM – Music starts

– Greetings (informal)

4:45PM MC appears

5:00PM Songs by Visa Kanthap

5:30PM Speech by Kawkaew Pikulthong

6:00PM – Singing the National Anthem altogether

– Speech by Jatuporn Promphan, MP

6:30PM Speech by Nattawut Sai-kua, Government Spokesman

7:00PM Speech by Jaturon Chaisang, Former Acting President of Thai Rak Thai Party
7:30PM Speech by Veera Musikapong, Former President of PTV
8:00PM Speech by Jakrapob Penkair, Former Minister of Prime Minister's Office
8:30PM Speech by Pongthep Thepkanchana, Former Minister of Justice
9:00PM Speech by Adisorn Piangkej, Former Deputy Minister of Transportation
9:30PM – Speech by a special guest
– Speech by Thaksin Shinawatra, Former Prime Minister
10:00PM Conclusive speech by Veera Musikapong

What happened to Mayateh Maranoh?

November 30, 2008

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[What happened to Mayateh Maranoh?](#) – *Rule of Lords*, November, 2008

...According to his family, a group of rangers from Unit 4111 surrounded their house on June 24 and put Mayateh in a vehicle. They also took his car, mobile phone and licensed gun.

...Her constant efforts to interest state officials in her husband's disappearance failed. The police did not investigate. The Department of Special Investigation under the Justice Ministry also declined to take up the case...

Smiley face over Bangkok

December 1, 2008



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Smiley face over Bangkok – 19:28, December 1, 2008

This evening, people around town saw this sight over Bangkok. Crowds at Victory Monument stopped and looked up to see the only three lights visible in the sky forming a smiley face. Thai TV reported that the lights were Venus, Jupiter, and earth shine on the moon.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Trooping of the Colors

December 2, 2008

Categories: HM The King's Birthday



Trooping of the Colors – December 2, 2008

On all Thai TV channels now (including ASTV) is the annual Trooping of the Colors at the Royal Plaza. Above, the King reviews troops from the back of a Cadillac convertible modified with a garuda hood ornament (see below).



Travel film archive – December 1, 2008

Quantum Pendant..SCALAR ENERGY

December 3, 2008

Categories: Scams

Latest scam: Quantum Pendant.....SCALAR ENERGY – December 3, 2008

Nils reports: *I actually got this URL from Thai TV (don't remember which channel), where three times already during the last month or so, I have noticed some weird kind of infomercial involving some quack 'treating' people with a metal tool (a cross between a spoon and a spatula), going over their face and neck (as if spreading butter on a bread) to straighten their skin with 'instant success'.*

[Quantum Pendant.....SCALAR ENERGY](#)

The Thai name *เหรียญพลังศุภมงคล* means something like 'Auspicious Energy Medallion'.

02-370-3270 , 02-370-2921

E-mail : yourlives@hotmail.com

They write they are a reseller a Malaysian (-Chinese) site – ["Scalar Energised RVT: The anti-ageing solution"](#)

[FusionExcel's Quantum Pendant](#) is made from natural minerals that are fused and structurally bonded together at a molecular level. It produces scalar energy that helps to enhance the body's biofield. The Quantum Pendant promotes positive flow of energy and helps to maintain energy balance. It helps to restore energy that has become weak in the body. By restoring the energy balance in the body this pendant helps one to maintain health and well-being.

Usage

Wear it on a chain or carry it in your pocket. The scalar energy from the pendant works outwardly and within the body. Outwardly scalar energy enhances the body's biofield. Inwardly it works to facilitate cell permeability and thereby enhances the many physiological functions of the cells in the body.

Health Benefits

- * Reduces inflammation
- * Promotes unclumping of cells
- * Enhances circulation
- * Enhances immune and endocrine systems
- * Has the ability to destroy viruses and bacteria
- * Enhances cellular nutrition and detoxification
- * Enhances cellular permeability
- * Increases energy
- * Helps to protect DNA from damage
- * Helps to retard the ageing process
- * Helps to fight cancer cells
- * Strengthens the body's biofield preventing electro-magnetic waves from affecting one's health
- * Increases focus and concentration

For a more comprehensive understanding of scalar energy, please refer to the book "Optimum Energy for Peak Performance with Scalar Energy", written by Dr. Siva Poobalasingam MD and Nisha Lakshmanan MA (published by FusionExcel International).

FusionExcel's Quantum Flasks is a Stainless Steel Flask enhanced with Scalar Energy. R & D studies shows that energy from the Quantum Flask is capable of restructuring water molecules into smaller clusters. The smaller clusters of water enhance the bio-availability of water in the body thus promoting the various physiological functions in the body complex.

Properties of energized water

Water energized by this flask carries subtle energy vibrations that enhance the body's biofield. This is essential for one's health and wellness. This type of water has smaller water clusters and this makes water more bio-available. Hence the absorption of nutrients and detoxification at the most basic level is facilitated and enables water to carry its myriad of functions effectively.

Usage

Simply fill up the Quantum Flask with normal drinking water. After a few minutes the water will be energized and is ready for consumption. Water from the Quantum Flask can also be used to wash open wounds and infected parts of the skin. Water used in this manner helps to relieve pain and hastens the healing process.

It goes on and on.... Really classic charlatanry!

http://www.fusionexcel.com/products_quantumair.html

http://www.fusionexcel.com/products_beforeandafter.html

http://www.fusionexcel.com/products_watercrystal.html

http://www.fusionexcel.com/products_cartests.html

http://www.fusionexcel.com/products_rvt.html

http://www.fusionexcel.com/income_plan.html

Thailand Products & Services Price List

QP100A FusionExcel Quantum Pendant Starter Pack 6,250.00

QS100A FusionExcel Quantum Bracelet Starter Pack 6,600.00

QQ100A FusionExcel Quantum Flask Starter Pack 6,650.00

Alcohol-free Krathin

December 4, 2008

Categories: Signs and Billboards

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Alcohol-free Krathin – December, 2008

It reads: Alcohol-free Krathin merit-making – Safe trip – Thai Health Promotion Foundation

King not giving much-anticipated birthday speech

December 4, 2008

Categories: HM The King's Birthday

[King not giving much-anticipated birthday speech](#) – *The Nation*, December 4, 2008

Left: HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn speaking to assembled government officials

Right: HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn informing the assembly of the King's condition

[Thai monarch falls ill; fails to deliver birthday speech](#) – TNA, December 4, 2008

Women go to Thailand to pick sex of baby

December 5, 2008

Categories: Health

[Women go to Thailand to pick sex of baby](#) – Thailandnews, December 5, 2008

Victorian women are travelling to Thailand to circumvent IVF sex-choice laws and pick the sex of their babies. Trips costing up to \$10,000 are being undertaken by mothers desperate to choose the gender of their babies after the practice was overruled by the Australian Health Ethics Committee in 2004...

Junta militants arrested in Thailand: BBC

December 7, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Junta militants arrested in Thailand: BBC](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, December, 2008

The BBC Burmese radio service has reported that 10 members of an armed Burmese militant group have been arrested in Mae Sot...

It's confirmed, there's trouble brewing

December 8, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[It's confirmed, there's trouble brewing](#) – Malaysia Star, December, 2008

...The 21-year-old singer's "pregnancy" ordeal started after celebrity fortune teller Mor Krit Confirm (whose trademark is ending his predictions with the word "confirm") confirmed that Lydia was pregnant.

Mor Krit's prediction fanned the soosip (Thai slang for gossip) on Lydia and the nature of her relationship with former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra who recently divorced Pojaman, his wife of 32 years.

The tabloid speculated that Thaksin had split up with the mother of his three children so that he could marry Lydia and raise her baby...

Buddhists perpetuate Bangkok's stray dog problem

December 8, 2008

Categories: Buddhism, Local Beliefs

[Buddhists perpetuate Bangkok's stray dog problem](#) – *Huffington Post*, December 8, 2008

... "Feeding dogs, without sterilization, makes them healthy enough to produce bigger litter sizes," says Sheridan Conisbee, founder of Soi Cats and Dogs, a Bangkok-based stray animal advocacy group. "Soi" means side street in Thai.

"With the merit-making idea so firmly entrenched," she says, "it's really difficult to change this..."

Mee krob anyone? Thais try to revive ailing cuisine

December 9, 2008

Categories: Food and Drink

[Mee krob anyone? Thais try to revive ailing cuisine](#) – Reuters, December 9, 2008

...Convenience and cost are two reasons why Thai food is changing, spurring many locals to bemoan what they think of as the death of their renowned local cuisine. They say the balance of sweet, salty, bitter, sour and spicy flavors meant to underpin Thai dishes has been replaced by something saltier and a lot sweeter than it should be.

The reason? Changing tastes wrought by globalization and culinary shortcuts have ended up changing Thai flavors, and placing some dishes in danger of extinction altogether...

Motorcycle taxi industry flourishing in Thailand

December 14, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Motorcycle taxi industry flourishing in Thailand](#) – *Bangkok Post*, December 14, 2008

Cyanide millipede, huge spider among new species

December 14, 2008

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Cyanide millipede, huge spider among new species](#) – *National Geographic*, December 2008

Discovered in northeastern Thailand in 2002, the newfound snake species grows to about four feet (130 centimeters)...

Police reveal 78 names involved in supporting the PAD

December 15, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

Police reveal 78 names involved in supporting the PAD – Companies-brands-persons all involved – *Thai Insider*, December 15, 2008

78 companies, brands, and suspected groups of people believed to be involved in granting support to PAD – The name list has been submitted to Police General Prateep already

The security personnel police headquarters reveals on December 14, 2008 that the report has been sent to the Acting National Police Chief (Police-Inspector) Police General Prateep Tonprasert of the lists of brands of private companies and private entrepreneurs, groups of people, persons, who are believed to be involved in granting support to the PAD.

According to the list they are

1. The Sahapattanapibul Company (MAMA)
2. Pao detergent powder
3. Lipon F and Lipon lemon dish-washing liquid
4. Hi-Class products
5. Pro detergent powder
6. Kincho mosquito killer products
7. Cli fight cleaner liquid
8. Pro dish washing liquid
9. Hana air freshener perfume
10. Luk detergent products
11. Kodomo products
12. St. Andrew products
13. Salt toothpaste
14. Shogobutsou Mononkatari
15. Systema
16. Flore herbal soap
17. I-New mother skin care cream
18. Hi-herb (BSC)
19. Mitr Phol granule sugar
20. Racha Oyster sauce
21. Shomi pickled veggie
22. Lotte
23. Nischin biscuit
24. The Preserved Food Organization Product
25. Nisshin Noodle
26. Aroy Dee Coconut milk
27. Prung Thip salt
28. Mong Fleur mineral water
29. Kung King for me product
30. Quick Chef product
31. Richess product
32. Mae Baan product
33. Pooh product
34. Hi-healthy Q-Ten diet supplementary product
35. Bionic facial foam
36. Ocha Balance high-nutrient Wafer
37. BSC facial tissue
38. Wang Yen milk
39. Mitsu fruit juice
40. Mogu fruit juice
41. Misteon deodorant
42. Misteon powder
43. Panstar shoe
44. Sara medicine product
45. Thai Airways International
46. Chang Beer
47. JIT Pochana Restaurant (B-Care Hospital owner)
48. Bangkok Bank
49. Kasikorn Bank
50. Muang Thai Insurance Company (Mr. Phothipong Lumsum)
51. Muang Thai Insurance Company (Mrs. Nuanpan Lumsum)
52. Rangsit University
53. Bangkok Hospital
54. J-Press
55. Ekpailin River Kwai Kanchanaburi
56. Pao M-Wash
57. Wat Dong Moon Lhek beef noodle
58. Siang Pure Oil
59. G-Net
60. IEC
61. Kuang Meng Thai sweet bean crisp

The group of people are

62. Nawarat Pongpaiboon
63. The Democrat Party
64. The 40 senator group and Mrs. Rosana Tositrakul
65. Mr. Kamon Kamoltrakul, columnist and academic
66. NGO Academic, former senator group and former ministers during the CNS-led government
67. Prof. Krirkkiat Pipatsereetham

68. Mrs. Jeeranan Prasertkul
69. Mr. Nimitr Tienudom, Director-General of the AIDS Access Foundation
70. Mr. Chatchawal Thongdeelert
71. Mr. Apichart Thongyoo
72. Mr. Paiboon Watanasiritham
73. Dr. Poldet Pinprateep
74. Mr. Prapan Koonmee
75. Mr. Witoon Koonmee
76. Mr. Surapon Nitikraipon, Chancellor of the Thammasat University
77. Mr. Parinya Thewanarutmitrakul, Deputy Chancellor on Student Affairs, Thammasat University
78. The State Enterprises Workers' Union

A source reveals that Deputy National Police Chief Police General Jongrak Chuthanont said in an interview that the list of people granting financial support to the PAD will be submitted to the Anti-Money Laundering Office for further investigation. This is in regards to the International Airports seizure that is considered as international terrorism and involved with money-laundering activities.

Human Rights Defender in Thailand: Somchai Homlaor

December 15, 2008

Categories: Human Rights

[Human Rights Defender in Thailand: Somchai Homlaor](#) – *Amnesty International*, December, 2008

Mark 1 government

December 16, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

Thai Post, December 16, 2008

“Mark’s” presented to HM King –

Cabinet lineup finished before New year – Sanoh pushed to become opposition party leader

Komchadluek, December 17, 2008

Win 235:198 – Mark to be presented for royal endorsement for PM post – Newin faction moves on asking for more quota – Vote results satisfied – Asking for 1 more added – Pua Pandin cut out from government – Red turns angry blockading parliament

Komchadluek, December 16, 2008 – Stones being hurled at cars leaving parliament

Ban Muang, December 16, 2008

Mark prominently takes PM post – Pracha dares to vote for himself – 33 of the cobra faction vote for Mark – red shirt group turns blazing – Threaten to redcard Bangkok governor – 160 million baht paid in compensation the re-election

Khao Sod, December 16, 2008

PM Mark divides the cake – Democrats holds 20 – 5 more from Newin faction – Thaksin phone-in to console Pheu Thai opposition party – 32 MPs on blacklists – Chuck off Ruamjaithai Chartpatana party leader

Daily News, December 17, 2008

Presented to HM King for royal endorsement – Abhisit to occupy PM post – The 27th PM of Thailand wins Pracha remotely – Coalitions altogether join opposite vote – The red shirt team turns angry throwing stones and damaging MPs’ cars – Many injured – Blockade at parliament after Mark’s victory announced

Matichon, December 17, 2008

Pheu Thai threatens to move on questioning debate immediately – Shaking Abhisit – Chai presents name of new PM to HM King – Thaksin awakens supporters for “losing for winning” – Pheu Thai denounces 32 MPs for betrayal – Blockading parliament not to allow policy delivery session – Red takes revenge – MP car destroyed – Many injured – Ministry of Foreign Affairs cancels red passport

Komchadluek, December 16, 2008

Presented to HM King for royal endorsement – Abhisit to be PM – Shake again the Mark 1 cabinet – Grabs the quota of Phea Pandin – Newin asks for more – Red turn angry after losing the vote – Staging blockade of parliament – Throwing stones – Breaking cars

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

We want a bonus!

December 16, 2008

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

We want a bonus! – December 16, 2008

At the Ministry of Labor, more than 200 employees of Cobra International Company in Chonburi gathered to stage a protest after their company refused to pay an annual bonus in the amount being requested by the employees.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Large lower lip

December 16, 2008

Large lower lip – *Khao Sod*, December 16, 2008

This cartoon shows new PM Abhisit (seated) with a protruding lower lip.
A big lower lip is the physical trademark of government partner Newin (standing behind Abhisit).

[Fake banknotes flood city as recession grips](#) – *Bangkok Post*, December 19, 2008

Thousands of counterfeit banknotes, particularly 1,000-baht bills, are likely to go into circulation over the New Year period, the Bank of Thailand (BoT) warned yesterday...

[Counterfeit Bt1,000 bills concern rises](#) – *The Nation*, December 23, 2008

[Counterfeit banknotes creating alarm](#) – *Bangkok Post*, December 23, 2008

The Pheu Thai Party

December 16, 2008

Categories: Uncategorized

The Pheu Thai Party – *Matichon*, December 16, 2008

It reads: The Pheu Thai Party for the future of Thailand and the happiness of the whole nation. The Pheu Thai Party is the newly founded political party that holds a vision to learn and be aware of the past, being happy at present and paves a bright and well-to-do future for every Thai.

The principle is learning from the Thai Rak Thai, both from success and mistakes in the past to create a new future for Thailand and our next generation for the happiness of the whole nation amid the economic crisis in present world. We invite everyone who is ready to serve the nation and the people to join as party members. The applicants are required to be qualified and have visions as to following:

1. Holding tight to the constitutional monarchy
2. Opposing coups both the military coup or the coup by judicial power or independent organizations as tools to destroy politics abusing of power of the people
3. Detest injustice and the persecution of the dictatorship
4. Respect the decision of the majority of the people and law
5. Love the people and ready to devote oneself for the people

Those who are fully qualified according to the law as MP candidates with the 5 principles above are invited to apply at the Pheu Thai Party...

The Pheu Thai party logo (below) is a combination of the Thai Rak Thai logo (above left) and the People Power Party logo (above right).

Foreign Ministry must revoke Thaksin's passport

December 17, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Editorial: Foreign Ministry must revoke Thaksin's passport – The Nation, December 17, 2008

Free from the grip of the fugitive former PM, the Foreign Ministry can enjoy a new lease of life

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, after finally revoking the diplomatic red passport belonging to former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, must now also revoke his standard passport. His legal status as a convicted criminal and fugitive should be understood by all countries.

As a convicted felon, he is automatically disqualified from the right to possess a Thai passport.

Thaksin is no different to any other Thai citizen who has a passport. This travel document belongs to the Thai government, and it can be withdrawn at any time.

The privilege of owning a diplomatic passport was at last removed from Thaksin after months of wrangling. Following the formation of a Democrat-led coalition government on Monday, the Saranrom Palace did the right thing in revoking the diplomatic privilege. Indeed, the Foreign Ministry should have done this long ago, if only to prove that it can act independently. But the political burden that would have come with such a move stalled its willingness to make a decision on the matter.

This time the decision can be viewed as a willow bending with the political wind. The ministry quietly revoked the diplomatic passport after Thaksin did not appeal his case when he was convicted of malfeasance concerning conflict of interest over the Rachadaphisek land deal. In October, the Supreme Court sentenced him to a two-year jail term in absentia. That should have been sufficient ground for the ministry to revoke his passport then. The ministry now says that it consulted the government before making the decision.

The ministry's handling of the passport case shows the true nature of the senior officials in control at the moment. They will do anything to survive. The professionalism of this respected ministry receded rapidly following the rise of the Thaksin government in 2001. Until 2006, Thaksin's government interfered with the ministry at every turn. Every policy was tempered and tampered with, especially those that concerned neighbouring countries, because Thaksin's personal vested interests were involved.

Senior officials who followed Thaksin's long wish list were rewarded. Those who dared to challenge him were punished mercilessly and relocated to inactive positions. This helps to explain why the morale of the ministry's officials sank to a low level. Some senior officials still act as if they were nominees of Thaksin, protecting his long-standing interests in neighbouring countries.

It is important that the new government restores some much-needed professionalism to the ministry at all levels. First of all, the ministry needs a new direction. Three ministers have come and gone in four months. Nothing substantive was achieved because none of them stayed long enough to do anything. The ever-changing governments also cowed the ministry's officials and forced them into submission. For instance, the negotiation between Thailand and Cambodia over the Preah Vihear Temple dispute has stalled and no decision has been concluded. Furthermore, the 14th ASEAN Summit has been held hostage by the political crisis and rescheduled twice. So it is incumbent for the ministry to get its act together.

The Thai Parliament has a growing role under the constitution of 2007, and elected officials and the Foreign Ministry have not really shown an appreciation of the significance of Article 190, which mandates that all documents affecting the national interest be vetted and approved by Parliament.

Of course, such screening will take time, but it is necessary as part of our democratisation process. Under Thaksin, key foreign policy decisions were made by him alone, with no input from anyone else at all. His decisions were riddled with self-interest. Article 190 was born out of Thaksin's abuse of power.

With the new government, the ministry should come out with new policy orientation that will place the national interest first. It is fortunate that Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva does not own any businesses. So, the ministry should feel free to propose the best policy options regarding our neighbours and the rest of the world.

– The Nation / 2008-12-17

Jingle bells unheard in Thailand until Santa shops child abuser

December 19, 2008

Categories: Crime

[Jingle bells unheard in Thailand until Santa shops child abuser](#) – Andrew Drummond, December 19, 2008

...Thailand's education authorities have been duped once again, this time by a man with a record dating back 45 years for sexually abusing children, who ran a child-sex tourism operation for profit under their noses.

The widespread abuses committed by Canadian John Wrenshall are so mind boggling it comes as no surprise this time that the U.S. authorities chose to arrest him somewhere from which he could easily be deported for trial...

Shameful case of forgotten political prisoner

December 19, 2008

[Shameful case of forgotten political prisoner](#) – *The Age*, December 19, 2008

*Why is Harry Nicolaides not as famous as Salman Rushdie? Is it because his novel *Verisimilitude* sold only seven copies? Perhaps it is because his work mentions Thai royalty rather than Allah and Mohammed. Or maybe it is because Nicolaides, an Australian teacher and aspiring writer, is locked up in a country that is generally friendly towards Australians...*

iPhone nano knockoffs already on sale in Thailand

December 19, 2008

[iPhone nano knockoffs already on sale in Thailand](#) – *Apple Insider*, December 19, 2008

The devices, spotted here by an AppleInsider reader in Thailand, are almost always designed to mimic Apple's products as closely as possible...

‘Finnish conspiracy’ lurks behind political crisis

December 21, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[“Finnish conspiracy” lurks behind political crisis in Thailand](#) – *Helsingin Sanomat*, December 21, 2008

Thailand: Documents offer look at big tobacco's tactics

December 22, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand: Documents offer look at big tobacco's tactics](#) – Sin Chew Jit Poh, December 22, 2008

...In the Thai study, University of Sydney's Ross MacKenzie and University of Edinburgh's Jeff Collin allege that Philip Morris scientist Roger Walk was able to lecture and organize conferences at the Thai government-funded Chulabhorn from the early 1990s to at least 2006.

The researchers say this allowed Philip Morris to develop relationships with key officials and scientists in efforts to discount the threat of secondhand smoke...

Stem-cell therapies ‘unproven and giving Thailand a bad name’

December 23, 2008

Categories: Health

[Stem-cell therapies ‘unproven and giving Thailand a bad name’](#) – *The Nation*, December 23, 2008

Google Zeitgeist Thailand

December 24, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Google Zeitgeist Thailand – December 24, 2008

It reads: The year 2008 is the year of change for Thais. Certainly, many use Google to search for information about this change. The fastest rising key words are also the wordings associated with the royal monarch such as the song “Saeng Nung” (One Light) composed in honor of Her Royal Highness Galyani Vadhana, the late princess. The other fastest rising words are words related to the popular social networking website Hi5. Tourism in the country is another topic that greatly attracts peoples’ interest. The search reveals that the hill resort Pai becomes more popular. Entertainment and showbiz is another topic interesting to Thais. This can be proved by the searching of names of superstar such as Lula Mario and the recently passed away country singer Yodrak. We collect the fastest rising words below. The words are recorded as most searched for words of the year 2008. Explore and share the zeitgeist or the soul of time of Thailand in the year 2008!

Fastest Rising

1. Code hi5
2. Decorate hi5
3. imeem
4. skin
5. hi5
6. music code
7. TV watch
8. TV
9. Music download
10. “Puan jai noi” song

Royalty

1. Sang Nung song
2. HM King’s sister
3. King Rama V
4. Chakri Dynasty
5. Mother Day
6. Royal Household Bureau
7. Royal project
8. self sufficiency economy
9. royal works
10. HM King’s picture

Fastest raising words about local celebrities

1. Lula
2. Jeeja
3. Aon
4. Yodrak
5. Mario
6. Note Udom
7. Four
8. Dome
9. Toey
10. Peoy

Most Popular

1. Music
2. Game
3. Listen music
4. job
5. hi5
6. picture
7. car
8. download
9. home
10. mp3

Olympics

1. Beijing 2008 Olympics
2. Olympics torch relay
3. Olympics international boxing
4. Olymp.ics weight lifting
5. Olympics gold medal
6. medal prize summary
7. swimming
8. Gae Prapawadee
9. Manus Boonjamnong
10. Somjit

Fastest raising words about local destinations

1. Pai
2. Hua Hin
3. Cha-um
4. Pattaya
5. Wang Nam Khiew
6. Khud Island
7. Ancient City (Muang Boran)
8. Samet Island
9. Chang Island
10. Phuket

Bangkok airport protests were fun, says Thailand's new foreign minister

December 24, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

[Bangkok airport protests were fun, says Thailand's new foreign minister](#) – *Telegraph*, December, 2008

...*Thailand's new foreign minister has described last month's hijacking of Bangkok's main international airport as "a lot of fun"...*

[FM Kasit apologises for saying airport closure was fun](#) – *The Nation*, December 23, 2008

[Thai PM defends foreign minister's airport comments](#) – *AFP*, December 24, 2008

End of government/beginning of government

December 25, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

End of government/beginning of government – November-December, 2008

[Thaksin's options get fewer and fewer](#) – *The Nation*, December 19, 2008

...He might also run into trouble with the UK authorities due to his dubious financial transactions, probably one of the reasons that his visa was denied. Thaksin bought Manchester City Football Club for more than 80 million (Bt4.3 billion) and sold the club to Sheikh Mansour of Abu Dhabi for 210 million. That deal raised the eyebrows of the British authorities. What was "Sinatra" trying to do? That prompted them to take a careful look at his financial dealings.

Arabianbusiness.com has recently revealed that the UK froze Thaksin's assets amounting to \$4 billion. "The UK froze his reputed \$4 billion of assets, forcing him to sell Manchester City to Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Mansour..."

Large lower lip – *Khao Sod*, December 16, 2008

This cartoon shows new PM Abhisit (seated) with a protruding lower lip.
A big lower lip is the physical trademark of government partner Newin (standing behind Abhisit).

[Abhisit's U.K. roots may prompt distrust from Thai rural voters](#) – *Bloomberg*, December 16, 2008

[Old Etonian becomes Thailand's new prime minister](#) – *Telegraph*, December 15, 2008

[Thai FM revokes Thaksin's diplomatic passport](#) – *The Nation*, December 15, 2008

[Several injured in rock throwing by red-shirted people](#) – *The Nation*, December 15, 2008

[Red-shirted people attempt to block Parliament gates](#) – *The Nation*, December 15, 2008

[Abhisit voted as the 27th prime minister](#) – *The Nation*, December 15, 2008

[Thailand on brink of major economic crisis similar to 1997 meltdown, says Thaksin](#) – *Bernama*, December 14, 2008

[Foreign media coverage of our crisis is distorted](#) – *The Nation*, December 12, 2008

...What kind of lese majeste taboo is The Economist talking about? It is all in the perception rather than reality. His Majesty the King does not prohibit people to criticise him or the Monarchy if they do so in an honest way.

Since 1932 no person has been sentenced to jail under the lese majeste law for criticising the Monarchy. Even King Rama VI, the King's uncle, did not put people to jail for criticising the Monarchy. In the old Ayutthaya period, the Siamese subjects also criticised the Monarchy when they had bad kings. But they all respected Monarchy as an institution first and the Kings as an individual second.

One has to differentiate criticism against the Monarchy from slanting, libelling or vandalising the Monarchy. Thaksin has sued a lot of people for libelling him. If you libel against the Monarchy, you also stand to get into trouble too.

If you have your doubt about the lese majeste law, just ask sharp-tongue social critic Sulak Srivalaksa. He has charged 15 times time with lese majeste and never once did he serve jail sentence. It was consistently ruled that Suluck had criticised the Monarchy rather than libelling it...

[Thai FM protest Economist's articles](#) – *The Nation*, December 12, 2008

...In trying to justify presupposed contentions, your double pieces ("The king and them" and "A right royal mess", 4 December 2008) choose to give credence to writing by one American journalist about the King of Thailand and interpret events to suit his unfounded conspiracy-prone speculations, while discarding important facts that prove otherwise...

[Bhumibol, Thailand's remarkable king](#) – *Los Angeles Times*, December, 2008

[Thai protests expose investors' risks in rotating-premier land](#) – *Bloomberg*, December 2008

Thailand's rotating-door politics was a sideshow for companies and investors. The recent eight-day seizure of Bangkok's airports by anti-government protesters changed that...

[Steering clear of Bangkok](#) – *Straits Times*, December 2008

Nearly a week after protesters left Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Singaporean travellers remain wary of Bangkok as a holiday destination...

[Thailand reverts to old-style politics](#) – *BBC News*, December 2008

[Thaksin's daughter buys house for HK\\$45m](#) – *SCMP*, December 6, 2008

...Records show Paetongtarn Shinawatra bought house No 19 at King's Park Hill in Ho Man Tin for HK\$13,583 per square foot...

[GooglePlacemark for the area](#)

PPP website – December 8, 2008

It reads: According that the Constitutional Court order disbanding the People Power Party--the PPP therefore halts the communication and public relation through the party website permanently. This announcement made publicly by the PPP Public Relations team – December 3, 2008

[Thailand 'bans' Economist – Straits Times](#), December 7, 2008

This week's edition of the Economist magazine has been banned in Thailand...

[Shuffling towards fascism – Guardian](#), December 3, 2008

[Suvaranbhum Airport “opening” ceremony this morning – ThailandQA](#), December, 2008

[Thailand looks anxiously to a future without... – The Malaysian Insider](#), December, 2008

...Ironically, an issue as critical as this to Thailand's future is not being openly debated...

[Foreign Office warns against air travel to Bangkok – asap News](#), December, 2008

...The latest advice on the Foreign Office website states: “... given the protestors' continuing threat of disruption to the airports and transport network, we advise that you continue to avoid air travel into or through Bangkok for the foreseeable future.”

[Bangkok's red light district suffers from political chaos – AFP](#), December, 2008

Potjaman returns – *Komchadluek*, December 7, 2008

Silently returns to Thailand to supervise government forming – Potjaman discusses with Newin overcoming disobedience – Thaksin buys back 20 MPs involving tricks over positions and money – Potjaman returns to Thailand late in the night prepared to supervise Pheu Thai Party – Discusses with Newin to stop disobedient team – Immigration chief reveals Potjaman returns as ordinary person without arrest warrant whereas Thaksin moves on buying back 20 MPs from Newin's group – HM King's symptom improves – Candle lighting celebration nationwide

Thai Rath, December 7, 2008

HM The King eats a bit – 1st announcement reveals blood check without bacteria infection – returns with Oak and Aim – Potjaman silently returns to Thailand – Resides at Chansonglah – PM's position candidacy becomes hot issue – Newin's friends group, Chat Thai Pattana promotes Sanan – Suvaranbhum Airport guaranteed for 100 percent safety

ASTV Phujatkan, December 6-7, 2008

Democrats hope for political turn for time for Abhisit to become PM – Buzz over Potjaman's silent return to Thailand

Daily News, December 7, 2008

Democrats unexpected to form government – 4 coalition parties join together with Newin's friends group – More than 260 MPs' votes to promote Abhisit – Second announcement on HM King's symptoms reveals HM King's recuperation – DAAD not postponing gathering at Suphachalasai National Stadium and Thaksin's phone in on December 13th – Government still under risk

Komchadluek, December 8, 2008

Pheu Thai threaten to dissolve parliament – Revealed Army buys 40 million – Abhisit to be PM with 260 MPs' votes – Democrats to form government with 5 parties from 2 groups – Pracharat Party isolated – Thaksin's magic stopped – Coalitions move to join Democrats – 4 coalitions from 2 groups pulled to join government forming with 260 MPs' votes – Promote Abhisit as PM – Pheu Thai says parliament to be dissolved revealing Army masterminds buying 40 million per head.

Thairath, December 8, 2008

4 coalition parties with Newin promote Democrats and Abhisit as PM

Wheeling and dealing...

[Potjaman's calls to kingmaker Newin go unanswered: 'It's too late' – Bangkok Post](#), December 7, 2008

...Realising that the momentum had shifted in favour of the Democrats, Khunying Potjaman tried in vain to contact Mr Newin yesterday afternoon to get him to change his mind. Her calls went unanswered.

There was a report that the newly established Pheu Thai party even tried to break up the new alliance by offering Chart Thai chief adviser Sanan Kachornprasat the prime minister's job.

Worried by the report, Mr Suthep and Mr Abhisit immediately called Mr Sanan, according to a source.

“How many cabinet seats will you, the prime minister, give us?” Mr Sanan joked with Mr Abhisit during the phone call...

[Democrats, former coalition parties to form govt – Bangkok Post](#), December 6, 2008

[Sanan says 15 former Chart Thai MPs to support Abhisit as next PM – The Nation](#), December 6, 2008

[Pheu Thai calls urgent meeting to prevent Democrats from forming coalition – The Nation](#), December 6, 2008

[Thai opposition says wins over ruling MPs in power bid – Reuters](#), December 6, 2008

...According to figures from parliamentary officials, the Democrats, with 165 seats, plus the five coalition parties it has wooed would have a total of 229 votes in parliament. The People Power Party, now Puea Thai, has 219...

Pheu Thai to back Sanan as PM – 16:00, December 6, 2008

We are getting word that the Pheu Thai will back Sanan Kachornprasat as PM.

Update: In light of the Democrat announcement that the Newin faction has swung to them, we are being told the Sanan PMship is in being reconsidered.

On this occasion, no better time to repost one of our favorite all-time editorial cartoons by Aroon featuring Banharn and Sanan...

Friends – *Krungtepturakit*, November 7, 2007

This striking editorial cartoon shows Sanan and Banharn embrace on the occasion of Sanan's faction joining Banharn's Chat Thai Party. At the top it reads: The party of shark fin

This is to indicate the partnership is an exclusive and expensive partnership made up of elites in the same way shark's fin soup is an expensive dish of the elite.

Banharn has fox ears to indicate he is tricky (chau lay). Sanan is drawn with his trademark big ears and bites at Banharn, perhaps indicating the

relationship is not a real friendship, but a duplicitous business decision.
Overall the point of this cartoon is to point out the insincerity and venality of the political merger.



These cartoons are from Pojaman's first return in January. At that time she was seen as helping to personally put together a government made up of fractious politicians—the same thing that is apparently happening this time.

[ex-Wife of Thaksin to return home Friday night](#) – *The Nation*, December 5, 2008

On the forum: [Does Pojaman face arrest or not?](#)

Above: "I come home because I am of thinking of my children." Huddled around her are various PPP/TRT politicians. (from *Manager*, Na Ban Bangkae, by Bancha, January 11, 2008)

Below: Pojaman as puppet (from Arun, *Krungtepturakit*, January 10, 2008)

Message to the Americans in Thailand – December 3, 2008

Message to the Americans in Thailand – December 3, 2008

The Department of State is evaluating whether to charter aircraft to facilitate the onward travel of American citizens seeking to depart Thailand. Americans who would like to take a U.S. government chartered flight from Bangkok to another airport in the region, such as Singapore,

where they would then make their own arrangements to connect to onward flights, are requested to read through this message and respond as noted below.

Under U.S. law, an American citizen receiving U.S. government transportation assistance is required to pay for the cost of travel at the rate of the most recently available full fare economy ticket. Therefore, American citizens who choose to fly on this charter must either pay prior to departure with a personal check or sign a promissory note (an Emergency Loan Application and Evacuation document <<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/80109.pdf>>) for the amount stated and reimburse the U.S. government for the flight within sixty days. Cash and credit payments can not be handled...

The power of money – translated and summarized from *Manager*, Author; Chaianan Samutwanit, November 30, 2008

Loads of people I know are currently talking about some suspicious events that occurred. Those suspicious events are the following:

1. A funny man encourages the public to send letters to his Majesty the King to pardon Thaksin.
2. A picture of the queen was defaced with no clues found.
3. Beloved people were given nicknames and dishonored comments on some websites.
4. The role of the royal family was widely criticized.
5. Missiles, bombs, and grenades were used against PAD without any investigation from police officials.
6. Generals coerce people to bomb PAD and they do not receive any warning from their commander.
7. The fighting of PAD and anti-PAD people on the road at midday.
8. Government House, Parliament House and the national airport can be occupied with ease.
9. There is no attempt to create a coup though many people were killed.

In the battle between fans and foes of Thaksin, it is a surprise to see lots of people still assisting the former prime minister to be pardoned from his many guilty cases.

Furthermore, though today the conflict has gone too far and seems to interrupt the loyalty towards the royal family, police officials do not seriously look into these matters.

Soldier might be forced to intervene in the conflict between two groups or even forced to exercise a coup and take the PM position.

No matter how the situation goes, Thai will face political turmoil problems and on-going economic disaster which might cause a reduction in the price of agricultural goods.

The situations taking place might stop Thaksin from getting a pardon.

The question of how only one man can create this turmoil in society from so far away can be answered when considering the the power of money. Thais should teach their children to value another things other than money or the situation may repeat again and again.

[PAD cease all protests](#) – *The Nation*, December 2, 2008

Crowd size at the court – December 2, 2008

Throughout the day, Thai TV channels have broadcast various aerial shots of the entrance to the Supreme Administrative Court building on Chang Wattana Road. After hearing reports in English of up to 1000 red shirts armed with clubs and surrounding the building a la the events at the airports, Thai TV coverage shows no more than a few hundred protesters at the front of the building. It may be that the initial besieging of the Constitutional Court downtown was confused with later events at Chang Wattana.

Pheu Thai Party – December 2, 2008

* The new Pheu Thai Party logo (left). The PPP logo (middle) was modeled on the disbanded TRT logo (right). There was also an attempt to name the TRT-successor party Thai Ruam Thai so its initials would be the same as Thai Rak Thai, but a law was quickly passed to prevent new parties from registering the same logo, abbreviation or name as a banned party.

* From August, 2008: Throughout the Northeast especially, PPP party headquarters already had new Pheu Thai party signs ready to be unveiled moments after any disbanding order to show party defiance against the process.

Below is one new party sign

ready to be unveiled (*Naewna*, August 18, 2008). The caption reads: Transforming: The branch office1 of the People Power Party in Pichit province's Muang district under the supervision of former PPP MPs candidate Sunee Luangvijit is preparing to replace its party sign to be named Pheu Thai Party and open for new party members to apply.

Earlier: [May 2007 – Headlines](#)

and [editorial cartoons from Judgment Day I](#)

Earlier: **2007:**

[Introducing the People Power Party](#)

[Charter court rules to dissolve Chart Thai Party](#) – *The Nation*, December 2, 2008

[Charter court dissolves Matchima Thipataya](#) – *The Nation*, December 2, 2008

[Constitution Court dissolves People Power Party](#) – *The Nation*, December 2, 2008

Thaksin in Cambodia – December 2, 2008

We are hearing reports that Thaksin is in Cambodia.

[Constitution Court judges to move to work at Administrative Court](#) – *The Nation*, December 2, 2008

[Govt supporters besiege Constitution Court](#) – *The Nation*, December 2, 2008

[THAILAND: Watershed moment for democracy and rule of law](#) – *Asian Human Rights Commission*, November 26, 2008

...Some commentators and opponents of the alliance have described its agenda as fascist. This is not an exaggeration...

[Leading article: Time for a royal intervention](#) – *The Independent*, November 27, 2008

[Catch me if you can](#) – *Arabian Business*, November 30, 2008

If Thaksin Shinawatra is feeling the heat, then he's not showing it. Thailand has an arrest warrant out for its former prime minister. The UK has just revoked his visa, and some Western countries are distancing themselves from the man they once championed as their greatest ally in Asia. And yet all Shinawatra can do is shrug.

"Do you know how many countries there are in the world? There are 197. And only 17 have an extradition treaty with Thailand," he notes with a thin smile. "Better still, only 10 of those treaties are active. So, don't you worry about me, I still have many places to stay..."

Some articles from the Thai-language press over the last 24 hours

Manager – [Chaiwat Sinsuwongse criticizes police work](#) against the PAD saying that the police is luring the PAD by the peaceful negotiation plan, but aims to dissolve the mob with force at 1 am on November 29.

Komchadluek – Acting Deputy Spokesperson of the [US Ministry of Foreign Affairs urges Thai government to halt the seizure](#) at the two international airports.

Manager – [A source reveals that the police start firing at the PAD](#) from the 4th floor gateway of the Suvarnabhumi Airport, but there is no report of injuries. Rumors also say that the Metropolitan Police Chief plans to use force to blockade the ASTV headquarters.

Komchadluek – ([here](#) and [here](#)) Thaksin gives interview to the foreign press saying the seizing of the two international airports has to be cleared away on concerns of the negative outcome. He warns that a coup, if staged, will lead to severe bloodshed and urges the army to respect law and democracy.

Komchadluek – [Speculation as to the possible dismissal of General Anupong](#) after National Police Chief Patcharawat was transferred to an inactive post.

The Nation – Phiphob Thongchai, PAD core leader, says that [PM Somchai has to resign](#) as he is serving Thaksin and the Shinawatras.

The Nation – [Police checkpoints are set up](#) at the gateway to Suvarnabhumi Airport on November 29 closing the entrance of the airport.

Komchadluek – [An unidentified group parked cars](#) in front of the Don Muang Airport Cargo blocking one lane of the road and causing a severe traffic jam on Vibhavahadee Road. Authority suspects the car parking after a blast event is aimed at protecting the group at the airport from attack as attacks have been staged from the expressway.

Manager – [The Northeastern People Network from the 19 provinces in the Northeast declares the manifesto](#) blaming the wicked government of the PPP and urging to halt of violent policy against the PAD gathering.

Manager – A Kalasin local reveals that the [pro-government DAAD in Kalasin has been prepared to gather at Konkhaen](#) before traveling to stage a mass gathering in Bangkok. Meanwhile, a source says that [Surin MPs led by the PPP meets to discuss with about 150 members of the DAAD](#) in Surin provinces, declaring a manifesto to oppose a coup.

Manager – [The Konkhaen PAD deliver blankets and socks to the Konkhaen ASTV manager](#) to give to the PAD warriors at the Suvarnabhumi and Don Muang Airport.

Manager – The Bloomberg/AFP press reveals [the PAD group contains families and their young children](#) and elderly who joined the protest aimed at dispelling the government at the Suvarnabhumi Airport where there is to be a final war of the group against the government.

[Exclusive video: Thaksin on Thai crisis](#) – *thomascrampton.com*, November 28, 2008

[Photos of the aftermath of the grenade attack at Government House](#) – *The Nation*, November 30, 2008

[Press photographer ‘assaulted by PAD guards’](#) – *Bangkok Post*, November 30, 2008

[Welcome to Bangkok airport – no passport needed](#) – *Reuters*, Saturday November 29, 2008

[20 of the world’s most dangerous places](#) – *Telegraph*, November 28, 2008

Iraq... Afghanistan... Chechnya... South Africa... Somalia... Sudan... Thailand

Major political demonstrations and a temporary state of emergency have affected both of Bangkok’s airports. The area around Government House and nearby Ratchadamnoen “Nok” Road, including the area around Metropolitan Police headquarters and Parliament should be avoided. Fighting also broke out last month on the Cambodian border at Preah Vihear and tensions remain high. Civil unrest and frequent attacks continue in the southern provinces of Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and Songkhla – the Foreign Office advises against all but essential travel to these areas.

Colombia... Haiti... Eritrea... Democratic Republic of Congo... Liberia... Pakistan... Burundi... Nigeria... Zimbabwe... India... Mexico... Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories... Lebanon

Dissolve parliament – by Zia, *Thai Rath*, November 28, 2008

Words above the hand clappers: Dissolve Parliament – Dissolve Parliament

On the right side: Pok-pak The soldier who does not want to become a big man

Somchai holds a card that reads: Maintain national security

Children hold cards that read: Protect democracy, respect the law

The rat says: Decline

[A different perspective on the Thailand situation](#) – *ireport*, November 2008

...While the PPP states they were democratically elected, numerous reports from across the country about vote buying and poll manipulation tell a different tale...

Hands up! – by Zia, *Thai Rath*, November 27, 2008

Hands up!

The super babycart bandit – *Thai Post*, November 26, 2008

The PAD leaders examine Thaksin’s head.

At the top: The super babycart bandit

Sondhi says: It should be the ending.

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

Why are they all so scared of being opposition leader?

December 25, 2008

Categories: Thai Politics

[Why are they all so scared of being opposition leader?](#) – *The Nation*, December 25, 2008

... "The opposition has robbed us of our MPs. We will get them back somehow," Thaksin told a group of red-shirted supporters in the North earlier this week. To him, MPs are like personal belongings. They don't represent their constituencies. They belong to the man who "owns" them. That's why they can be bought and sold. And, if you are not careful, they can also be stolen.

The following day, Snoh Thientong, leader of the Pracharaj Party, who has been serving as Thaksin's nominee in the fight to win back the "stolen" MPs, used an even stronger term. He told reporters that the Democrat Party had "hijacked" MPs from his side. And all efforts are being exerted to force them back where they belong...

“A message from your king”

December 25, 2008

“A message from your king” – December 25, 2008

The Nation has this peculiar “A message form your king” that leads to some sort of [viral advertising website](#).

Abhisit comments from 1994

December 25, 2008

Abhisit comments from 1994 – *Bangkok Post*, December 25, 1994
Interesting opinions from the Abhisit from Christmas Day 1994

Development policies as bad as the tsunami, surviv...

December 25, 2008

[Development policies as bad as the tsunami, survivors say](#) – *The Nation*, December 25, 2008

...Many local people without identity cards to prove they were Thai citizens – officially “stateless” but who had lived in areas for a long time – were also forced to leave. Sea gypsies such as Urak Lawoi and Moken ethnic groups were among those now facing settlement insecurity.

“Some people have lived in Thailand for up to 50 years. Yet, because they have no right to register their births, they have no other basic rights. When they are harassed, they cannot even lodge a complaint with police,” Maitree said.

Currently, there were lawsuits seeking to evict up to 2,258 families in 28 communities...

Thai references: “Why do they call them ‘Thai fighters’?”

December 25, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Thai references: “Why do they call them ‘Thai fighters?’” – December, 2008

Left: The “Thai fighter” from the *Family Guy* episode “Blue Harvest”

Right: Thai restaurant from the *South Park* episode: “Butters’ Very Own Episode”

Old travel films on YouTube

December 26, 2008

Categories: Old photos and films

Old travel films on YouTube: [Siam to Korea 1931](#) – [Singapore 1938](#) – [Hong Kong 1938](#) – [Manila 1938](#) – [Bali 1939](#) – [Borneo 1921](#)

Thailand's quiet survivor

December 27, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

[Thailand's quiet survivor](#) – *Guardian*, December, 2008

*...Nevertheless, some western commentators' views still seem to be influenced by Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The King and I*. It is as if the last two years of political turmoil were an oriental version of the English civil war, a battle between Roundheads and Cavaliers, parliamentarians and royalists. Nothing could be further from the truth...*

Our pick of the flicks and flops

December 28, 2008

Categories: Film and TV

[Our pick of the flicks and flops](#) – Sydney Morning Herald, December 28, 2008

...It's the other way round in Hollywood, where CG image-making has almost killed the creativity. One of the most interesting stories I heard this year was that audiences in Thailand have become so hostile to overblown effects that they now advertise "No CGI" on the posters for some movies...

Worst slump in decades for Thai tourism

December 28, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

[Worst slump in decades for Thai tourism](#) – *International Herald Tribune*, December, 2008

From empty sun loungers at luxury hotels to vacant bar stools in dingy saloons, tourism in Thailand is going through its worst slump in decades...

Bargains for the brave – Thailand slashes prices

December 29, 2008

Categories: Tourism

[Bargains for the brave – Thailand slashes prices](#) – *Times Online*, December 2008

Prices of holidays in Thailand are to be cut in a bid to restore confidence following recent political unrest...

Thaksin Flees to London

December 30, 2008
Categories: Stephff's Cartoons

“White elephant – Bangkok”

December 30, 2008
Categories: Old photos and films

“White elephant – Bangkok”
From an undated postcard

The best of 2Bangkok in 2008

December 31, 2008

Categories: Best of 2Bangkok

What it was like to be there...

Our annual collection of the biggest news, most popular stories, and interesting links of 2008

Left: Young Samak

Also

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Cheap Holidays](#)

[Sombat Khong Phudee](#)

Quality of well-mannered people

Experience the joyfulness of children who live cultural lives

[Navin's Sala](#)

[Thai email forwards](#)



[Thaksin's foundation](#) – November 18, 2008

[Newspaper front pages from the cremation ceremony of Princess Galayani](#)

[Circa-1939 Pibul-era cartoon describing the new revenue system](#)

[Last days of the absolute monarchy](#) – June 24, 2008

[Siam tries a people's party](#) – from *Asia* magazine, Vol. XXXII, Number 9, November, 1932

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[Vatana's escape](#) – July 14, 2008

Above is a diagram from *Daily News* showing the escape route of politician Vatana Asavahame. 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 Duangchalerm 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 advisor 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. An earlier thread on the family is [here](#).

[10 things you should know about narcotics](#) – July 5, 2008

[Website censorship in Thailand](#)

(Photo:
2Bangkok.com)

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[Marketing vs reality views of Sanam Luang](#) – September 27, 2008

An "Amazing Thailand" poster in the subway (above). This year's kite flying festival was cancelled because of the construction of the funeral buildings for Princess Galyani Vadhana. Instead of lush green fields of the marketing version above, the reality is a sandy, semi-paved expanse (below) where, from time to time, paid anti-PAD crowds are plied with cans of Leo Beer as speakers exhort them "settle" the PAD.

[Obama election front pages
in the Thai-language press](#)

[End of government/beginning of government](#)

"Day-D" newspaper front pages

[November 29](#) – [November 27-28](#) –

[November 26-27](#) – [November 25-26](#)

["Black October 2008" – PAD's "final war"](#)

On the forum: [Bangkok Governors of the past](#)

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

[Bangkok Governor election posters – 2009](#)

[Bangkok Governor elections – 2008](#)

[Senate elections – 2008](#)

From *Phujatkhan*, September 4, 2008 – PM Samak signing the Emergency Degree with the blood of the deceased protester.

[Troubles in the South 2008](#)

[Thai Media Project](#)

PAD's "final war"

[High tension in Thailand](#)

Translated articles, editorial
cartoons and newspaper front
pages from the Thai-language
press

[January](#)

[February](#)

[March](#)

[April](#)

[May](#)

[June](#)

[July](#)

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[October](#)

[September 10-13](#)

[September 4-5](#)

[September 2-3](#)

[September 1](#)

[August 29-31](#)

[August 29-30 – at the PAD
rally](#)

[August 28](#)

[August 27](#)

[More newspaper front pages](#)

["D-Day" newspaper front pages](#)

[Scenes from the DAAD rally](#)

[More scenes from around Government House](#)

[Views around occupied Government House](#)

[Photo collection of the bloody night of DAAD vs PAD – The
bloody war of Thais](#)

[DAAD rally site](#)

[Pro-Thaksin signs in Chiang Mai](#)

[Friday night and Saturday morning at the PAD rally](#)

[PAD at the British Embassy](#)

[Bye Thaksin](#)

[Sunday morning at Government House](#)

[Various sights at the PAD rally](#)

[Sunday morning at the PAD protest](#) and [map of the site](#)

[November](#)
[December](#)

[August 26](#)

[Sunday night PAD protest](#)
[PAD rally and Weekend front pages](#)
[Scenes from Thaksin's return](#)

Southern Violence Statistics – December 2008

December 31, 2008

Categories: Deep South Violence Statistics

Map of four provinces in the deep south (Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat) showing numbers of the dead and injured by location.

Southern Violence Statistics – December 2008

[Index of violence statistics for the Thai Deep South](#)

This chart shows violent incidents classified by the hour of the day (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black

This chart shows violent incidents classified by day of the week (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). The days of the week start with Monday on the left. Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black

This chart shows violent incidents classified by day of the month (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black

Numbers of violent incidents since January 2004. Across the bottom are the years (2547 is 2004, 2548 is 2005, 2549 is 2006, 2550 is 2007, 2551 is 2008, 2552 is 2009). The blue line shows the number of all violent incidents that took place as reported by the Deep South Coordination Center (counting all incidents both injury and non-injury). The red line shows data according to the Violence-related Injury Surveillance (a form that hospitals, doctors and clinics are supposed to fill out to report violent incidents).

The blue line shows the average monthly level of violent incidents from 2004 up to the present. The red line shows the information provided to the Violence-related Injury Surveillance in the present year. The y-axis shows the numbers of events from 0-300. The x-axis shows the months of the year from January to December (left to right).

The numbers of injured and dead reported from each province where the events occurred (Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and Songkhla). Black= dead, orange=injured. The CFR (Case Fatality Rate) of each province is above each bar.

The toll of dead and injured (y-axis), classified by the districts where the incidents took place (x-axis). Black= dead, orange=injured.

Map of four provinces in the deep south (Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat) showing the number of violent events by tambon (village). Starting at light yellow, the levels are 1-10, 10-20, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, and greater than 60.

The numbers of dead and injured, classified by the victims' profession. Black= dead, orange=injured. From left to right: army officers, police officers, agriculturists, others, laborers, businessmen, students, unknown (no data), other officials, Education Ministry officials, unemployed, state enterprise employees, tambon local administrative officials, village headmen

Source: Deep South Violence-related Injury Surveillance statistics

Thai Media Project – December 2008

December 31, 2008

Categories: Thai Media Project

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

Goodbye the Year of the Rat – *Thai Rath*, December 31, 2008

It's enough for the fierce year of the rat

The nation has grumbled

For those who are keen things even turned to losses in business

By the impact of the hamburger crisis

It is the humorous year in that Thailand had many PMs

And the year that Thais kill each other just because of the claim that they wear different shirt colors

that those who are fond of flattery receive promotion

May it be time to bid farewell to the year of ghost rat.

The gang of 4 “Ps”- The new influential base of the Democrat-led government protectors? – translated and edited from *Matichon*, December 24, 2008

The 4 men whose their initial letters begin with “P” and are influential as Army high-ranked officers and police in the time of the Democrat-led government are Defense Minister General Prawit Wongsuwan, Army Commander in Chief General Anupong Paojinda, Region 1 Army Commander Lieutenant-General Prayuth Janocha and re-appointed National Police Chief General Patcharawat Wongsuwan.

The 4 men are now playing important roles in maintaining the stability of the Democrat-led government criticized as being backed by the Army. The 4 “Ps” men are known comrades who shared friendship and kinship. This made the 4 are to be under close watch as their roles and power in Army and National Police headquarter involves greatly with the soundness of the ruling Democrat Party.

Dream selling policy – *Ban Muang, Cartoon Tasana*, Big Baang by Tid Num, December 16, 2008

"Dream selling policy"

Left: Past: Love to sell dream

Middle: Present: He is still hooked up to it

Right: It's no need to sell the future

Switching political sides – public or self interest? – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; December 12, 2008

If the conclusion of Thai political crisis is to switch political sides by letting the opposition party rule and keeping the ‘old kind’ of political officials in place, the nature of Thai politics might not have really changed.

The forces that rule over all the Thai political parties are power and money. In today's political situation it is also confirmed the nonexistence of the ‘true friend’ and ‘permanent rival.’ We see that the turmoil too can be easily dissolved when the profit is equally shared.

Unfortunately, the image of the expected PM, Abhisit Vejjajiva, needs to be seriously looked at. There is strong demand to form a government, but the normal political situation distort Abhisit's image as a new generation of political officials who will make a change in Thai politics.

While repeating the same procedures as the older generation of politicians, Abhisit may earn a chance to hold the position of PM and gain interest from public on his policy. However, he might be influenced by Newin and other political friends who are very talented in political plans. Whether Abhisit is strong enough to stay independent from the supporters who betrayed their ex-boss for their better interest has to be closely examined.

If Abhisit is willing to forgo justice in court cases related to corrupt political officials who support him, his morality and the morality of his government may not differ from the PPP one.

The public should learn a lesson on how the personalities of the political officials are. They are the same regardless of the amount the public sacrifice expended to lift up political situation. No matter how many generations of political officials pass, the public is always deceived.

Red-shirted rally gets angry with Newin's group for supporting the Democrat Party – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; December 10, 2008

Many terrible events happen during election periods. The red-shirts are dissatisfied that Newin's group changed their minds to support the Democrat Party to be the new head of government. Their protestations of dissatisfaction led to throwing a bomb, M26 type, into Bunjong's home. No one was at home during that time and the bomb caused little damage. On the same day, members of the Korat People Love Democracy Group put two caskets with the message “Unideological MPs” in front of his home.

Also, 30 red-shirted supporters gathered in front of Prajak's home at Khon Khaen. The supporters left his home after they found out no one was there.

At 11:30am on that day, while Democrat Party core leaders including Abhisit Vejjajiva and Suthep Thaugsuban were consulting at Spacafé, a man honked his car horn making a loud sound in the area. After all Democrat Party leaders had looked at him, he showed them his middle finger.

It should also be noted that, Abhisit Vejjajiva has not been avoiding the draft as Jatuporn Prompan alleges. Apisit has an official document showing that he already registered as a draftee before going into teaching at Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy.

This is the reason why Newin changes his mind – Supporting Democrat Party – translated and summarized from *Krungthep Turakij*; Column: Trace of politics; Author: Chalao Karnchana; December 10, 2008

There is a change in the political situation at this time. The ex-coalition government parties changed their mind to support the Democrats because someone forcefully asked them to make a change of politics in order to get rid of Thaksin's nominees known as the Party of Phue Thai.

Using the political strategy of “disunity” to stop the Thaksin system by leading Newin Chidchop, who is now ex-Thaksin's ally, to change his mind to choose the opposite party to be a new governing party.

Precisely, he accepted for the persuasion easily because there has been a conflict between him and his ex-big boss Thaksin Shinawatra since he supported Samak Sundaravej to be prime minister for the second time. His big boss opposed supporting Samak to return to be prime minister. He had tried to persuade Newin and his group to support his brother-in-law Somchai Wongsawat, but he did not accept and stayed away from him. Incredibly, Newin is the core leader to make the governing parties change their minds to support the Democrats. Although his big boss had tried to call him for more than 20 times, he ignored the calls.

Damage to the government – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Column: The Editorial; December 11, 2008

The Office of the National Security Council in the office of the Prime Minister is one of the offices that suffered damage and loss after the parliament house been occupied.

The investigation found the visible cameras in the office entry were sacked and damaged, automatic fence signals were cut off, lots of cars tire were flattened, not to mention

official rooms which were violated.

The shocking report even mentioned the trespass to the main offices and the loss of six vital hard disks which contained terabytes of fundamental information essential to the country's stability.

Terdthai Sriuppara, Director of IT and Infrastructure, claimed that the damage on only hardware and software cost around 40 million baht excluding the lost of essential information on crisis control, terrorism and others that has been kept from 2004. This information is surely priceless.

The action of PAD in occupying Government House is unexpected and never happened before in Thai political history. The occupation left no chance for the officials to take their personal belongings and official documents and is too surprising for the public to accept.

PAD irresponsibility is shown when there is no practical policy to prohibit the pilferer, which would damage the country's continuity and cause the damage to the offices in Government House.

PAD should take responsibility for the lost that occurred or criticism from the public might occur. It should also be the reason for PAD and any party not to occupy any official offices again.

Thais as well as the other countries should have the best security to cover the effective officials and the secure documents that they keep. The pilferer of PAD should receive proper investigation and the information found should be announced to the public to confirm the country's stability. Police officials should find the felons and pilferer of the country's official office. This should not be taken lightly and Thais should not let it go easily.

The law of the Kingdom of Thailand – translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*; Column: The Editorial; December 5, 2008

The constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand belongs to the population. Precisely, everybody is able to give his opinion and participate in a constitutional amendment. When someone wants to amend the constitution, it is acceptable that the population have to agree on it. However, the Samak government and the Somchai government hardly ask for the public opinion. They mentioned that the latest constitution of Thailand, which they want to amend, was written by the Council of National Security (CNS) and said that it is a dictatorial constitution which should be amended immediately.

In fact, amending the constitution by both the Samak and Somchai governments is for their own advantage. Hence, the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) decided to protest against the unfair amendment of Thai constitution. The protest grew more violent until the constitutional court decided to dissolve the coalition government party. Nevertheless, the violent political situation will be in crisis again if the Power People Party (PPP) and five political parties collaborates on organizing a new government. Maybe the country will completely be in political crisis.

PAD Party – translated and summarized from *Phujatkan*; Author: Chaianan Samutthawanit; December 8, 2008

After the PAD gathering and the case of "new politics," the PAD has two missions to continue. The first is to play an important roles in providing news on politics to the public and pressure against the power abuse of the government power if it occurs.

The second thing should be the PAD's long term mission to be involved in politics by establishing a political party and field candidates for election. The PAD party is at an advantageous state compared to other political parties as it will be the popular political party, having members who are experienced in politics.

Furthermore, the PAD party leaders have close relationships with supporters. The PAD runs their own newspaper, radio and TV to communicate to the public. I suggest that the PAD party should hold about 50 to 80 MPs in parliament and should field candidates for the constituency area 1 in the central region, the East, and Bangkok. The PAD party and the Democrat Party should be able to hold enough MPs votes to form the government. As long as the election is our democratically held, the PAD might not have other choices, but to follow the rules.

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

Free the Sims

December 31, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

(Photo: BrokenCookie.com)

Free the Sims – December 31, 2008

Some blog postings about the airport siege: [here](#) and [here](#).

Thanks to [Wise Kwaj](#) for pointing this out.

Another link: *A photo of an advertisement on what has to be a Bangkok city bus appears in [Dark Roasted Blend's latest roundup of Hilarious and Crazy Signage](#): When you apply the sticker over your van, pay attention to where the rivets are going!*