

Thrills spills and swills – The battle of the beers continues in Thailand

January 1, 2009

Categories: Food and Drink

[Thrills spills and swills – The battle of the beers continues in Thailand](#) – Examiner, January, 2009

...All beers also take pride in their use of “imported ingredients.” Not surprising since they don’t grow hops nor barley in Thailand. But this is typical of beer battles throughout the world...

COMMENT: Anything goes in the hedonists' tropical paradise of Bangkok

January 2, 2009

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[COMMENT: Anything goes in the hedonists' tropical paradise of Bangkok](#) – *Times Online*, January 2, 2009

[Khmer culture and the Thai people](#) – *KI*, January 1, 2009

The Thai people have copied Khmer culture, adopted and practised it as a new culture to build a brand new society on the lands of the ex-Khmer territories and developed Thailand into a more advanced and prosperous country than Cambodia, which is the original owner of the culture and the land...

Dark secret of the Thai glutinous rice

January 4, 2009

[Dark secret of the Thai glutinous rice](#) – NST, January 4, 2009

Watch out if you're buying black glutinous rice in Thailand. It could be just plain white rice dyed black...

2008 ‘a nightmare’ for Thai journalists

January 6, 2009

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines

[REPORTING – 2008 ‘a nightmare’ for Thai journalists](#) – *Bangkok Post*, January 6, 2009

Why did Thaksin leave office?

January 7, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

เหตุผล						
23	Police Lieutenant Colonel Thaksin Shinawatra	LIV	February 9, 2001	House of Representatives Resolution	March 9, 2005	Term Ended: General Election
		LV	March 9, 2005	House of Representatives Resolution	September 19, 2006	1) Parliament Dissolution February 24, 2006 2) State Administration Assembly September 19, 2006
24	General Surayud Chulanont	LVI	October 1, 2006	Council for National Security	February 6, 2008	Constitution of Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2005 when there is appointment of the new Prime Minister
25	Mr. Samak Sundaravej	LVII	January 29, 2008	House of Representatives Resolution	September 8, 2008	Constitutional Court ruling
26	Mr. Somchai Wongsawat	LVIII	September 18, 2008	House of Representatives Resolution	December 2, 2008	Constitutional Court ruling

Prime Ministers – January 7, 2009

Besides the plethora of font types, sizes and colors, the Thai government [cabinet website](#) continues to show unusually worded reasons for Prime Ministers leaving office. I bet you did not know Thaksin left office because of the “State Administration Assembly.”

Thai police confiscate tiger carcasses smuggled from Malaysia

January 7, 2009

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Thai police confiscate tiger carcasses smuggled from Malaysia](#) – *Bernama*, January 7, 2009

Thai highway police confiscated four tiger carcasses, believed to have been smuggled from Malaysia, in Hua Hin on Monday...

Thai Airways seeks to delay delivery of Airbus on cash shortage

January 7, 2009

Categories: Airports and Airlines

[Thai Airways seeks to delay delivery of Airbus on cash shortage](#) – Bloomberg, January 7, 2009

Thai Airways International Pcl , the nation's biggest carrier, will ask Airbus SAS to delay delivery of new aircraft as its running short of cash after the eight-day shutdown of the country's main airport...

When it comes to cash, a Thai village says, ‘baht, humbug!’

January 7, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[When it comes to cash, a Thai village says, ‘baht, humbug!’](#) – *Wall Street Journal*, January, 2009

...Decorating their money with children’s sketches of water buffaloes and Buddhist temples, the villagers conceived it as a do-it-yourself attempt to protect themselves from the whiplash of vast outflows of speculative money which undermined local currencies and threw Thailand — and much of Asia — into recession in 1997-98.

At the time, some villagers faced questioning before Thailand’s central bank and were accused by local government officials of plotting a secessionist revolt...

From the Thai-language press: Thaksin hiring foreign press lobbyists

January 8, 2009

Categories: Thaksin Lobbying

One of American lobbyists in Ai Maew's portfolio is James Baker – the right hand of Bush Sr. and Bush Jr. – translated and summarized from *Phujatkan*, January 8, 2009

Today the Democrat Party's executive member Korbsak Sabhavasut gave an interview to the "Phar Arthit Pier Forum" TV program broadcast on ASTV in the morning. He said he believes that the reason Police Lieutenant Thaksin Shinawatra, the former Prime Minister, hired lobbyists in the United States, especially the company of the US's former Finance Minister and Minister of the Foreign Affairs James Baker, is to lobby the US government and the Congress. Thaksin's intention is to seek asylum and support for him to return to his powerful position in Thailand.

Mr. Korbsak observed that James Baker has influence on the incumbent US government as he was former key member of government under former President George Bush who is father of the current president of the US. He believes that Thaksin spent a great amount of money to hire the foreign company.

"The hiring of the company is believed to be a political ploy between countries as Mr. Baker is former head of the US's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a law and trade expert," said Mr. Korbsak. He adds that the case is worrying Thais as it means the case for help is run by someone who is antagonist to Thailand's government and also Thai people.

The Democrat executive member also states that the lobbyist company hiring is possibly related to the scheme to allocate money to the US's Republican-led government without objectives set for how the money will be spent. This is because financial support directly donated by foreigners to the government is against US law.

Democrats: Deposed Premier Thaksin is hiring foreign press lobbyists to discredit Thailand's image – translated and summarized from *Phujatkan*, January 5, 2008

The Democrat Party Spokesperson Dr. Buranat Samutrak reveals that the the party has concerns over the political factors involved with solving the national crisis and especially on the case involving the country's national image. He added that deposed Premier Thaksin Shinawatra has hired foreign press lobbyists to discredit Thailand—especially over the image of the judicial system and the state of democracy. He adds that Thailand is now on the verge of gaining foreign confidence. However, the Democrat Party acknowledges Thaksin's movement in hiring the foreign press lobbyists to discredit Thailand will impact foreign confidence and the country's good image.

According to the Democrat spokesperson, four foreign companies are being hired . These are Edelman, based in Washington D.C. and Hong Kong, BGR Company (Barbour Griffith & Rogers) from the US, the Bell Pottinger Group in Manchester and Baker Botts in Washington D.C. The Bell Pottinger Group is the only company that withdrew its contact to work for Thaksin.

Furthermore, the Democrat Party spokesperson also revealed that Thaksin assigned three people to work on the matter on his behalf. These people are former advisor to the Prime Minister Pansak Winyaratana, former Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr. Phrommin Lertsuridetch and former Deputy Secretary to the Prime Minister Poomtham Vetchayachai.

Thailand: Inquest blames soldiers for imam's death

January 8, 2009

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[Thailand: Inquest blames soldiers for imam's death – New government should halt army abuse and bring perpetrators to justice](#) – *Human Rights Watch*, January 8, 2009

Cambodia protests against Thailand in the “Jupiter Cruise” affair

January 8, 2009

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia protests against Thailand in the “Jupiter Cruise” affair](#) – *Cambodge Soir Hebdo*, January 8, 2009
...269 tourists including 257 Cambodian were denied access to Thailand on Christmas Day even though they hold proper visas and passports, the Cambodian ministry of Foreign Affairs indicated on 08 January.
...The British skipper of the cruise ship was informed by the Thai authority that his passengers were not authorized to enter Thailand, unless they post a \$1,500 bond deposit that they can collect back after three months just in case any of these passengers cause “trouble” in Thailand...

Are Malaysian, Thai officials trafficking Burmese migrants?

January 8, 2009

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Are Malaysian, Thai officials trafficking Burmese migrants?](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, January, 2009

A scandalous trade in Burmese migrant labor involving Malaysian and Thai officials and international human traffickers is coming to light, investigators say...

Interesting things from the Bank of Thailand website

January 10, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Interesting things from the Bank of Thailand website – January 10, 2009

[Historical series of banknotes](#) – how to check for counterfeits [Thai](#) – [English](#) (although the posters seem to only be in Thai)

Kate Moss ‘splashed 100,000 pounds during Thailand break’

January 10, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Kate Moss ‘splashed 100,000 pounds during Thailand break’](#) – *New Kerala*, January 10, 2009

New Delhi, Jan 10: Supermodel Kate Moss reportedly spent 100,000 pounds on a luxurious eight-day holiday in Thailand...

Bangkok Governor Election Posters 2009

January 11, 2009
Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

This is a banner put across some posters of “Sam” Yuranan Pamornmontri (see below). It reads: Former MP the Dindaeng district and former deputy spokesperson for the government



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: Vote “Kaewsan” Number 12



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: Professional executive, experienced in working for Bangkok Metropolitan Administration –
Aethas Monsereenusorn, Bangkok governor candidate –
Former assistant to Bangkok governor’s secretary –
Executive who turns successful since age of 21 years old



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: Governor who is an academic or a governor who is a professional executive? –

Number 14 –

Athas, the real executive – Clear cut



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: We are going to run a better administration of Bangkok than the government does for the nation -

Believe in the Pheu Thai team –

Vote for "Sam" Yuranan Pamornmontri – Number 10 –

The 10 qualified policies for better Bangkok – www.sam10.net



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: Vote Kaewsan Atipothi to be Bangkok governor –
Number 12 –
Hand in hand with me to create a new Bangkok –
Honest with contribution –
The budget of 60 billion baht is not to lose



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: Number 12 –
Vote for Kaewsan Atipoh –
For Bangkok governor



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: Pheu Thai Party –
Give him opportunity to be part of the national administration –
Give us the opportunity to administrate Bangkok for the better –
“Sam” Yuranan Pamornmontri –
Number 10



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: Pheu Thai Party –
Give us the chance to think and do for renovation for better Bangkok –
Sam-Yuranan Pamornmontri Number 10 –
The union of 111+ 37 members who are pros of the nation to change Bangkok's image



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: The Democrat Party –
 Real good environment –
 Good and fast clean up for trash –
 Increase the green zone by 5000 rais –
 Please vote M.R. Sukhumphan Boriphat Number 2 –
 for Bangkok governor on January 11, 2009 –
 “I am ready to lead Bangkok to become the metropolitan of the new era” – www.suksmile.com



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: The Democrat Party –
Real safety – to increase 50,000 more spots with lights – 10,000 close-circuit cameras together with a 24-hour operating center –
Please vote M.R. Sukhumphan Boriphat – Number 2 –
for Bangkok governor on January 11, 2009 –
“I am ready to lead Bangkok to become the metropolitan of the new era”
– www.suksmile.com



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Knows how to manage – December 20, 2008

It reads: Vote Kaewsan Atipoh, number 12 for Bangkok elected governor –

Honest –

Follows through –

Works tight –

Knows how to manage



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

New bangkok governor elections – December 31, 2008

It reads: Altogether again – 11 January 2009 Bangkok governor election – 8:00-15:00 for a better Bangkok



Sam – December 18, 2008

It reads: Pheu Thai Party – Yuranan Pamornmontri (Sam) – Number 10 – 10 qualified policies for better Bangkok – www.sam10.net

Some Thai forums have made light of the fact that the poster design has Sam's eyes Photoshopped as totally black (above).



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Politics is about working – December 17, 2008

It reads: Vote Kaewsan Atipoh , number 12 for Bangkok elected governor – “Politics is working... It’s time to work... The new Bangkok group is ready to go through!”



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

19 projects – December 15, 2008

It reads: Policy is not just a dream, what important is its feasibility—19 projects I volunteer to do to repair Bangkok –

Number 8 –
M.L. Natthakorn Thewakul (Khun Pluem)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

20 hours a day – December 13, 2008

It reads: Work 20 hours a day – 7 days a week without national holidays – I volunteer to repair Bangkok –

Number 8 –

M.L. Natthakorn Thewakul (Khun Pluem)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

First new Bangkok governor's election poster – December 6, 2008

It reads: Democrat Party –

Vote Sukhumphan –

Number 2 –

ML. Sukhumphan Boriphat –

Return a smile to Bangkok residents

[By-elections result in favour of Democrat](#) – *The Nation*, January 12, 2009

New riverside park

January 12, 2009

Categories: Communities

New riverside park – January 12, 2009

There's a new riverside park under construction at Tha Tien pier. Anyone know any more details about this?

Bangkok red light cameras

January 13, 2009

Categories: Crime

Thai email forwards: The image of the police warning ticket by the use of hi-tech camera – January 13,

[Close up views of the Bangkok red-light cameras](#)

[More Thai email forwards](#)

It is the time to begin for the use of the hi-tech camera to record illegal driving in more than 30 intersec around Bangkok. Wrongdoers are to receive fine order at home.

The hi-tech camera project is on the first trial on December 30 under the supervision of Police Major G Panu Kerdlarbphon, the Deputy Metropolitan police Chief of Traffic control, who was initiator of the p

The work of the detective gadget contains 2 parts which are the photo recording system to record the pl wrongdoer which is by digital camera function and the monitoring system that evaluates the recorded d process follows the following steps: taking photo records with details, transferring the photos through t network system to the central monitoring center, comparing the data which are record of pictures of wr vehicles, rechecking the clarity of the picture, and ordering the warning ticket by postal mail for fine.

Up to now, the digital camera has been installed in more than 30 spots in Bangkok:

1. The Ratchada-Ladprao intersection
2. The Ban Ma intersection
3. The Klong ton intersection
4. The Asokepetch intersection
5. The Wireless-Ploenchit intersection
6. The Sanghi intersection
7. The Phaya thai intersection
8. The Chokechai 4 intersection
9. The Nida intersection
10. The Urupong intersection
11. The Pradipat intersection
12. The Ratchada-Rama4 intersection
13. The Lamsali intersection
14. The Bankhaek intersection
15. The Bangphat intersection
16. The Narinthorn intersection
17. The Ratchaprasong intersection
18. The Asoke-Sukhumvit intersection
19. The Sathorn intersection
20. The Taksin intersection
21. The Poh Kaew intersection
22. Pattanakarn-cross Ramkhamhaeng 24 Road intersection
23. The Rom Klao intersection
24. The Sulakakorn intersection
25. The Mengjai intersection
26. The Thaphra intersection
27. The Prawes intersection
28. The Henri Dunont intersection
29. The Prachanukul intersection
30. The Bang Pho intersection

The camera contains with 3 functional parts

- 1.The body of the camera
- 2.The censor
- 3.The computer assessing part

When the red traffic light begins to start, the censor of the camera starts its function and any red light break through action will be recorded by the camera and then assessed by the computer system equipped in the steel case at the bottom part of the traffic light pole. The computer will process the data to the monitoring and traffic control center and the data will be shown in the police traffic control office's computer screen. The data will be read automatically by the machine and the drivers' owners will be identified. The traffic control police will connect the transport department at the Rattana Thibet Center confirm the color, brand and name of car owner before the warning tickets are to be considered issued

Right: An attached jpg shows a document with the mark of the national police office and an example of the data that appears on the police traffic control screen

The wrongdoers' photo will be recorded and the warning tickets will be sent to the wrongdoers' residence when the complete evidence is gathered. The 3 pictures sent to wrongdoers' residence are the picture before the action took place, the picture recorded when the illegal action is occurring and the picture of car registration number. The picture will identify place, day and time that the illegal action occurred, including the specific car and the car body within 7 days after the traffic law breaking occurred. The owners will have to pay an amount fixed according to the law and also lose their driving points.

The traffic lawbreakers have to pay fine at the specific fine spots which are located at the Land Transport Department Office in Chatuchak, the Land Transport Department Office in Bangna, the Land Transport Department Office in Talingchan, in Bangkhuntien, at the parallel skyway, at the Rama 4 Expressway, at the station, the Kamphaengphet Police booth, the Viphavadi Police station and the fine spot at the old traffic police office within a 7 day-period. The maximum fine is fixed at no more than 1,000 baht.

The photo of first car that was recorded by the hi-tech camera 4 am on December 30 at the Asoke intersection

[Close up views of the Bangkok red-light cameras](#)
[More Thai email forwards](#)

Mass Transit News Main Page 2006-2010

January 13, 2009

Categories: Mass Transit

[Highway 7 to open by month's end](#) – *Pattaya Mail*, March, 2010

The entirety of the Chonburi-Pattaya Motorway will open before the end of March, marking the end of a four-year project to relieve traffic congestion and create a convenient link between Pattaya and Bangkok International Airport....The entirety of the Chonburi-Pattaya Motorway will open before the end of March, marking the end of a four-year project to relieve traffic congestion and create a convenient link between Pattaya and Bangkok International Airport...

[One more road to link Vietnam, Thailand](#) – *Vietnews Online*, February 22, 2010

A \$440 million highway to be built in southern Vietnam will increase connectivity with Cambodia and Thailand...

[Green mini-buses on a road to nowhere – Rogue operators face arrest, ministry warns](#) – *Bangkok Post*, February 18, 2010

[Land traffic commission approves two more skytrain routes, Airport Link extension](#) – *The Nation*, February, 2010

[Purple Route consultant hired](#) – *Bangkok Post*, December 29, 2009



(Photo: paknam.com)

Mega Bridge official name: [Bhumibol Bridge](#) – *paknam.com*, October 21, 2009

Also: [Mega Bridge construction photos](#)

[BTS eyes green-line routes](#) – *The Nation*, June 29, 2009

[Thai Power Line group wins Bangkok rail bidding](#) – *Reuters*, June, 2009



Skytrain extensions – June, 9, 2009

With the Thaksin parties and its allies sidelined, banned, and reabsorbed into other groupings for the moment, real mass transit projects—particularly the long-delayed Skytrain extensions—are finally getting going again. Website [here](#) and [here](#). Thanks to [Richard](#) for pointing this out and sending material from the [recent press conference](#) about the extensions.

The words on the poster read: Light up your trip happiness ...Extend the rail system to Bangpoo -The BMTA project design expo for the light green rail route, extension for Samut Prakarn (Bangping) – Bangpoo



New Skytrain lines – May 26, 2009

Richard reports: *Yesterday I attended a press launch for an exhibition for the extension of the light green sky train route through Samut Prakan. This will be done in two stages. The first part goes from Soi Bearing to Samut Prakan City. It will be 12.6 kms long and will have nine stations. This is due to be completed within five years. The second stage goes from the Crocodile Farm to Bang Pu Seaside Resort via Ancient City. This section is 9.1 kms long and will have five stations. I have posted a report [here](#) and a map of the stations on the route [here](#).*

[Skytrain route to Thonburi opens](#) – Bangkok Post, May 14, 2009

Skytrain extension opens today – May 15, 2009

Wes reports: *You probably already know, but as of passengers can ride the BTS across the river. They've already changed the signs at Siam from "Saphan Taksin" to "Wongwian Yai...."*

[Thailand's Skytrain rides high; sets example for Asian transit](#) – WorldFocus, May 11, 2009

[Skytrain green lines ready by 2012: BMA](#) – The Nation, February 25, 2009

[Japan approves Yen 63 billion loan to Thailand for mass transit rail system](#) – MCOT, February, 2009

[Ch Karnchang group wins Bangkok mass transit bid](#) – Reuters, January 13, 2009

Thailand's Ch Karnchang CK.BK tendered the lowest bid to build a 12 km (7.5 mile) electric train line, part of Bangkok's 36 billion baht (\$1 billion) "Purple Line" mass transit project, a government agency said on Tuesday...

[SRT signs contract to construct Red Line](#) – Bangkok Post, December 15, 2008

Redline Project (Bangsue – Rangsit) – October 24, 2008

Nils reports: *I noticed the EIA for the SRT's Red Line project to Rangsit has been published as a PDF (11 MB) [on their website](#).*

[BTS's 2.2-km extension to Thonburi to be in operation in April](#) – The Nation, October 10, 2008

[Thaksin-style pitch for megaprojects](#) – Bangkok Post, July 28, 2008

...The big infrastructure plans include water development, logistics development such as electric mass transit, railway development, a public health project and education development...

[Rails on track despite politics](#) – Bangkok Post, July 9, 2008

The Samak Sundaravej-led government plans to develop nine elevated and subway rail lines stretching over 400 kilometres in Greater Bangkok over the next four years at the total cost of 770 billion baht.

Among those, the 23-kilometre elevated Purple Line linking Bang Sue with Bang Yai is due to take shape soon, with the bidding process due next month and construction beginning next year...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Mass transit banner –
April 2, 2008

It reads: Unveil Skytrain problems that Bangkokians must know. Bangkok should have have a 100-kilometer Skytrain already. What are the problems that slow the project? Solve the problems. Accelerate the Skytrain project.

[“Hopewell”](#) is no longer “Hopeless” but “New Hope.”

In a short time Skytrain will reach your home.

The man is Deputy Bangkok Governor Dr. Samart Rajapolsit responsible for manual labor, public works and traffic.

[Politics threatens to derail transit – Party dissolution case hangs heavy on plans](#) – *Bangkok Post*, March 25, 2008

...Transport Minister Santi Prompat said the hot issue of whether the People Power Party would be dissolved for election fraud had worried both the government and civil servants responsible for getting the big-ticket projects off the ground...

[Thai-made trains on MRTA list – Foreign firms may need local factories](#) – *Bangkok Post*, March 26, 2008

...MRTA governor Prapat Chongsanguan plans to propose to the government that foreign train manufacturers bidding for the mass-transit megaprojects establish domestic production plants to help produce the more than 900 train carriages estimated to be required for the new routes...

Megaprojects headlines

It has been a couple years since we have had any [tale of two newspapers](#) candidates, but the new government and the imminent return of Thaksin seems to have charged up *The Nation* again...

[Samak highlights his pipe dream on megaprojects](#) – *The Nation*, February 22, 2008

[Samak says he will personally supervise five megaprojects](#) – *Bangkok Post*, February 25, 2008

Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej says he intends to supervise five megaprojects, including a controversial plan to divert water from the Mekong river to feed the water-starved Northeast. Mr Samak said yesterday he would be in charge of the projects _ mass transit schemes for Bangkok, train projects across the country, the water diversion scheme, a project to stimulate the economy and a medical scheme...

[The end of the road](#) – *Bangkok Post*, March 6, 2008

...The three projects which would go ahead are the enlargement and improvement of a road between Pracha Nukul school and Soi Watcharapol road in Sai Mai district, Soi Gluay Mai road in Lat Phrao district, and Soi Rarm Intra 39 road in Bang Khen. "The three are the most possible options even though some areas are already fully settled," he said.

...He said the BMA would try to redesign the remaining 22 projects to see if any could be pursued with less impact on surrounding communities.

The 22 projects include new roads from Siam Park to the Outer Ring Road; from Sena Niwes village to Soi Satriwithaya 2 road; from Soi Chuenchulak road to Pongsaphuwadol kindergarten; and from Soi Onnuj 30 road to Soi Sukhumvit 101 road.

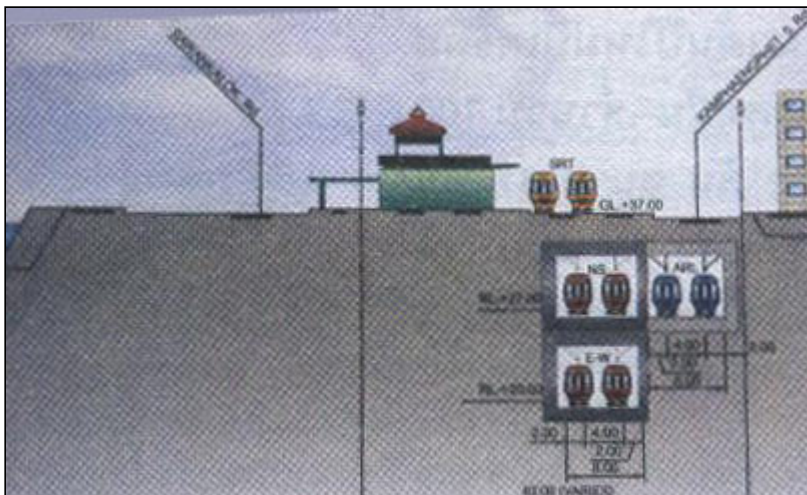
Others are in Soi Phuyai Erb road; Soi Onnuj 70 road; the road in the Classic Villa housing estate; Soi Ramkhamhaeng 21 road; Soi Lat Phrao 48 road; Soi Chaeng Wattana 14 road; Soi Lat Phrao 94 road and Ekamai-Rarm Intra road.

Also among the 22 projects facing the axe are roads in Sammakorn housing estate and Krungthep Kreetha road; Bunthaworn Plaina and Plaina road; Intamara 4, 8, 10, and 12 roads; Ramkhamhaeng 21 and Soi Ramkhamhaeng 24 roads; Soi Sukhumvit 71 road and Soi Suan Luang road.

Still others which could be abandoned are in Soi Udomsuk 42 road and Yuthasin 1 road; Soi Sukhumvit 64/1, 66, and 66/1 roads; and Soi Kraisoron Housing Estate road and Soi Cement Thai road...

[Bids for 3 train routes to be called this year](#) – Bangkok Post, February 26, 2008

...Transport Minister Santi Prompat said the three routes will be the Purple Line running from Bang Sue to Bang Yai in Nonthaburi, the Red Line from Bang Sue to Taling Chan and the Red Line from Bang Sue to Rangsit...



Above: Chitlada Station

Red Line details –
translated and summarized by Wisarut, December 17, 2007

Red line commuter at Bangsue – Makkasan – Hua Lamphong – *Cosmopolitan Weekly Newspaper*, December 14-20, 2007

1. Investment 25.137 billion baht –

1.1 14.96150 billion baht for civil works,

1.2 1.738 billion baht for electrification and mechanic

1.3 EMU rolling stock 4.980 billion baht

1.4 1.084 billion baht for reservation

2. economic benefit of 4.5 trillion baht ->

2.1 fuel saving 1.7 trillion baht ,

2.2 time saving of 1.5 trillion baht, and

2.3 environment improvement of 1.06 trillion baht

2.4 0.126 trillion baht saving from traffic jam reduction

Red Line criticism – *Than Setthakij*, December 16-19, 2007

Than Setthakij has given a criticism toward Red Line commuter that the terminal at the Old Makkasan station (km 5.10) is still 500 meters from the City Ari Terminal at New Makkasan station (Phetburi Stop) at km 5.60.

Furthermore, the delay of Bangsue-Rangsit Red Line commuter along with the New Bangsue terminal due to 4 extra stations will leave the Red Line commuter (Bangsue-Talingchan) stranded.

This will compelled the government to construct Bangsue terminal first of all to ensure better connection.

JBIC has sent a signal that they are going to approve the loan as the 100% backup for the Red Line commuter project–30 year period with 7 year grace period at 1.4% annual rate (higher than previous loans, but still cheap).

Below: Map for Bangsue – Makkasan – Hua Lamphong



[SRT](#)

[Red Line draft designs](#) –

Skyscrapercity.com, September 28, 2007

[Purple line metro gets the green light](#) – *The Nation*, September 15, 2007

Government to invest in project to speed up implementation; Cabinet approval to be sought within a month...

A new monorail
for Thailand! – September 12, 2007

[Photo](#)

[from The Nation](#): *Tourists stand under a German-made monorail in Chiang Mai zoo on Tuesday. The monorail that will be open for public in November this year for of Bt40 per route is used in the zoo to alleviate pollution.*

[State railway to decide Airport Rail Link project's future tomorrow](#) – *Bangkok Post*,
September 9, 2007

The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) will decide tomorrow how it should continue with the trouble-plagued Airport Rail Link (ARL) project. SRT deputy governor Nakhon Chantarasorn said the project's contractor, the Sino-Thai Engineering and Construction company, has been given 370 more days to finish the project from its original deadline of Nov 5...

[Matchima](#)

[pledges new train network – Flat price of 15 baht offered to woo voters](#) – *Bangkok Post*, September 10, 2007

...Matchima leader Somsak Thepsuthin said if his group registers as a political party and has the opportunity to be part of the next government, he would push for a new electric train network with a flat ticket price of only 15 baht for an entire journey for the first 15 years. The price could be increased after that.

A total of 10 rail routes with a combined length of 333 kilometres would be constructed linking Bangkok to surrounding provinces, Mr Somsak said. Construction would take about six years and cost about 500 billion baht...

This sounds suspiciously like [Samak's ring road plan](#) from when he was Bangkok Governor.

More Skytrain delays: [City firm on opening new skytrain route – Council of State ruling could delay project](#) – *Bangkok Post*,
April 21, 2007

The city administration is determined to go ahead with its plan to open an extended 2.2km skytrain route to Thon Buri even though the project may be ruled by the Council of State as a joint public-private investment. In principle, that ruling would delay the opening of the extended route for at least another year as there is a long process to go through...

Construction of the extended route, which runs from Taksin bridge to the Taksin intersection is now almost 100% complete...

[Bombardier wins skytrain contract](#) – Bangkok Post, March 14, 2007

Bangkok Mass Transit System Plc (BTSC), the skytrain operator, has signed a US\$40 million contract with Canada-based Bombardier Transportation to replace an existing signalling system operated by German-based Siemens, the train supplier. According to Surapong Laoha-Unya, chief operating officer of BTSC, the new system applies radio-based train-control technology and open software, which will provide more efficiency and better facilitate network expansion...

[All five transit routes in capital to go ahead](#) – Bangkok Post, March 13, 2007

The Finance and Transport ministries yesterday ended the confusion over the future of the city's mass transit lines with a promise to push ahead with all projects that the government had already approved...

Last Friday, the new finance minister said the implementation should be first capped at two lines given the short tenure of the interim government. However, he said yesterday he would try to start all the five routes though he knew that would be difficult. He would try to keep the projects from affecting the country's financial status...

[Only one or two electric rail projects to proceed this year](#) – TNA, March 9, 2007

[New question mark over mass-transit routes](#) – The Nation, March 3, 2007

While MR Pridiyathorn Devakula's resignation as deputy PM and finance minister is not expected to disrupt Thailand's investment in five electric-train routes, there is uncertainty about whether the road show planned for Japan by the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) will proceed this month...

[Chiang Mai seeks budget for mass transit system](#) – The Nation, February 13, 2007

...The first phase of the operation will take 310 years after which the routes will be expanded to offer wider access to residents.

Champa is a tourist guide who developed a romantic relation with a Thai boyfriend. The pace of their relation was quick to hold on to her catch.

"It's misleading that Lao woman is such an easy woman," he added...

[MASS-TRANSIT EXPANSION: BMCL is off to a flyer](#) – The Nation, February 7, 2007

Subway operator in talks to buy 20 carriages as Cabinet backs new routes...

['Smart' traffic projects put under review](#) – Bangkok Post, January 23, 2007

...The smart traffic sign project has been awarded to Genius Traffic System Co, which has spent about 300 million baht building 40 hi-tech traffic signs in Bangkok.

SFrame Co has been granted a concession to build 150 taxi stands.

The source said the smart bus stop project has been beset with problems as Centisoft Co, the project's operator, has had trouble coordinating with the Bangkok Mass Transit Authority (BMTA), which plans to reorganise its bus routes...

[Mega-projects back on track](#) – *The Nation*, January, 2007

...After reviewing the country's mega-infrastructure projects, the Surayud Chulanont government has greenlit the four mass transit system lines project, water management and a logistics system development plan...

[Ministry asks JBIC to fund 3 subway routes](#) – *Bangkok Post*, December 20, 2006

The three new lines to be financed by JBIC loans are: the 23-kilometre, 29.16- billion-baht Purple Line running from Bang Yai to Bang Sue; the 27-km, 52.58- billion-baht Blue Line running from Bang Sue to Hua Lamphong via Tha Pra and Bang Khae; and the 41-km, 53.9-billion-baht Red Line, running from Rangsit to Bang Sue to Taling Chan...

[Subway lines to get push](#) – *Bangkok Post*, December 18, 2006

The Transport Ministry has vowed to hasten subway construction projects on the Purple and Blue Lines in the hope of catering to Bangkok commuters by 2011 and 2013. Transport Minister Thira Haocharoen said bidding would open by the third quarter of next year for private companies to build the 23km Purple Line (Bang Yai-Bang Sue) and the 27km Blue Line (Hua Lamphong-Bang Khae and Bang Sue-Tha Phra). Construction was likely to begin by 2008...

[Airport Rail Link delayed 4 months](#) – *The Nation*, December 8, 2006

The Airport Rail Link project to connect Suvarnabhumi Airport with central Bangkok, will be delayed four months, with completion now scheduled for April 2008, Siwa Saengmanee, chairman of the State Railway of Thailand, said yesterday.

He said this was because construction had been delayed by 20 per cent as a result of a change in the blueprint, delays in handling land plots and problems with contractors' cash flow.

[Mass transit project on the rails again](#) – *Bangkok Post*, November 15, 2006

[October for mass-transit relaunch](#) – *Bangkok Post*, November 11, 2006

[Revised mass-transit plans more feasible than Thaksin's](#) – *The Nation*, November 12, 2006

[Thailand slashes Thaksin's \\$46 billion mega-projects budget](#) – *Bloomberg*, November 10, 2006

[Cabinet approves five Bangkok rail lines](#) – *The Nation*, November 7, 2006

The cabinet today approved a master plan to construct five new mass transit lines in Bangkok, one underground and four Skytrain-type lines.

Ministers instructed the Ministry of Transport to draft a detailed plan for the project, which calls for extending five rail lines in the capital — known as purple, red, blue, light green and dark green.

The Purple line, which is to run from Bang Yai to Bang Sue, and the Red line from Rangsit to Makkasan via Bang Sue will come first.

Later, construction will take place on the Blue line from Hua Lamphong to Tha Phra and Bang Sue to Bang Khae, the Light Green line from National Stadium to Prannok, and from On Nut to Samut Prakan, and the Dark Green line from Mor Chit to Saphan Mai, and from Taksin to Bangwa...

[Review of new subway routes](#) – Bangkok Post, October 11, 2006

...The Thaksin government approved the construction of the three new rail links with an estimated budget of more than 25 billion baht. The subway lines are the 40km Red Line from Phya Thai to Rangsit and Chiang Rak Noi; the 23km Purple Line from Bang Yai to Bang Sue; and the Blue Line, which includes both the 14km Hua Lamphong-Bang Khae and 13km Bang Sue-Tha Phra routes.

...A ministry source said the Purple Line was most ready to be built because its land appropriation plan was completed. The Blue and Red lines still had problems to overcome.

Thai security forces systematically torture in southern counter-insurgency

January 13, 2009

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[Thai security forces systematically torture in southern counter-insurgency](#) – *Amnesty International*, January 13, 2009

Kasit wants to use Hun Sen's blood to wash his feet

January 13, 2009

Categories: Cambodia

[Kasit wants to use Hun Sen's blood to wash his feet](#) – *KI*, January 13, 2009

Thailand's new prime minister is an indie rock fan

January 13, 2009

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thailand's new prime minister is an indie rock fan](#) – *Guardian*, January, 2009

...Yet Thailand's new prime minister Abhisit Vejjajiva has made his bid to be down with the kids, telling an audience in Bangkok that Oasis, the Killers and Guns N' Roses are among his favourite bands...

Thai fugitive's charges may expire before extradition determined: B.C. judge

January 13, 2009

Categories: Crime

[Thai fugitive's charges may expire before extradition determined: B.C. judge](#) – *Vancouver Sun*, January 13, 2009

A B.C. Court of Appeal justice has expressed grave misgivings about Canada's inability to extradite financier Rakesh Saxena to Thailand, where he has been wanted for the past 12 years on charges of embezzlement...

US and Thailand announce joint war games

January 13, 2009

Categories: Thai Military

[US and Thailand announce joint war games](#) – *AFP*, January 13, 2009

Thailand will next month host troops from the United States, Japan, Singapore and Indonesia for their annual war games, the biggest in Southeast Asia, US and Thai officials announced Tuesday...

MFA Spokesperson comments on Amnesty International's report concerning Southern Thailand

January 14, 2009

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[MFA Spokesperson comments on Amnesty International's report concerning Southern Thailand](#) – MFA, January 14, 2009

In response to press queries, Mr. Tharit Charungvat, Director-General of Department of Information and Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs commented on news reports concerning Amnesty International's study alleging that Thai security forces are systematically using torture and other ill-treatment on suspects in pursuing its counter-insurgency campaign. The gist of his comment is as follows...

2001 terror plot crushed in Bangkok

January 14, 2009

[2001 terror plot crushed in Bangkok](#) – *Bangkok Post*, January 14, 2009

District court to hear detainee case

January 14, 2009

Categories: Thai Secret Prison

[District court to hear detainee case](#) – *The Washington Independent*, January, 2009

...Almost six years ago, while on a business trip in Thailand, Amin Al Bakri was abducted on his way to the Bangkok airport. For months, his wife and three children at home in Yemen had no idea where he was...

DTV: PTV's proxy, Thaksin's mouthpiece

January 15, 2009

Categories: Thaksin Lobbying

[DTV: PTV's proxy, Thaksin's mouthpiece](#) – *TOC*, January 15, 2009

[More on the forum](#)

From 2007: [PTV](#)

Thailand: Addressing sexual violence in Mae La refugee camp

January 15, 2009

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Thailand: Addressing sexual violence in Mae La refugee camp](#) – IRIN, January 15, 2009

...Mae La suffers from a significant degree of sexual violence and domestic abuse, aggravated by frustration born of the inability to return to Myanmar, live and work openly in Thai society, or resettle in other countries, according to aid workers...

The Foss family's extended adventures in Thailand

January 15, 2009

[The Foss family's extended adventures in Thailand](#) – Cannonfalls, January 15, 2009

... "A political group (P.A.D.) did not like the newly elected Thai prime minister who won the election in a landslide. So a P.A.D. opposition group took over the airports in Bangkok, shutting down all flight operations. Their primary purpose was to prevent the return of the prime minister from meetings in Peru. Except he just flew into Chiang Mai instead..."

Navy denies ill-treatment of Rohingya migrants from Burma and Bangladesh

January 15, 2009

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Navy denies ill-treatment of Rohingya migrants from Burma and Bangladesh](#) – *The Nation*, January, 2009

Earlier: [Thailand urged to stop pushing refugees out to sea](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, January 15, 2009

Human bread

January 15, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Human bread](#) – *bangkokdaytours.com*, January, 2009

Steve King's my Rep – I'm so proud

January 16, 2009

[Steve King's my Rep – I'm so proud](#) – TPM, January 16, 2009

... "A soldier, man or woman, could get drunk in Bangkok, wake up in the morning and be married, as will happen sometimes in places like Las Vegas or Bangkok, be killed the next day, and the spouse who was a product of the evening's celebration would have then a right to claim access to come to the United States on a green card..."

Nishimatsu ‘planned Thai contract bribes’

January 16, 2009

[Nishimatsu ‘planned Thai contract bribes’](#) – Asia News Network, January 16, 2009

Japan’s Nishimatsu Construction Co planned to offer about 350 million yen (US\$3.8 million) in bribes with its joint venture partner in Thailand to then Thai government senior officials to win a 2003 tunnel construction project, sources said Thursday (January 15)...

Bangkok: A land of hot dogs and chilly soldiers

January 17, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok: A land of hot dogs and chilly soldiers](#) – Independent, January 17, 2009

...But while Britain is blasted by Arctic winds, the Thai notion of “winter” is somewhat comical. Consider the dinner table I shared one evening with six Thai army officers in the northern hills, when the night-time temperature was a balmy 18C. These tough-looking military men baulked at this terrifying cold, adorning themselves in jumpers, scarves and woolly gloves. I sat beside them — slightly provocatively, perhaps — in T-shirt and shorts...

Floating tree trunk causes a stir at the Navy School in Sattahip

January 17, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Floating tree trunk causes a stir at the Navy School in Sattahip](#) – *Pattaya One News*, January 17, 2009

Thai soldiers threatened Cambodian workers two days consecutivel

January 18, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News, Cambodia

[Thai soldiers threatened Cambodian workers two days consecutively](#) – *KI*, January 18, 2009

Thailand's questionable 'kindness' to refugees

January 19, 2009

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Thailand's questionable "kindness" to refugees](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, January 19, 2009

...Suthep's response to the problem has not been too reassuring, however. Speaking to reporters, he said, "I myself believe the officers did not do such a thing because Thai people have generosity and kindness..."

Statistics on the violent situation in 2008

January 20, 2009

Categories: Deep South Violence Statistics

Statistics on the violent situation in 2008 – 546 died – 1,056 attacks – The reduction of violent attack revealed almost half of the previous year's 2007 record – Raman reportedly hit most by militant attacks – translated and summarized from *Issara News Center*; Column: Southern News; Author: Sumeth Panpetch, January 20, 2009

The record of the death toll since the gun robbery at Narathiwat military camp on January 4, 2004 to December 31, 2008 reaches 3,405.

There is a total of 1,056 violent incidents that occurred during the year 2008 with death toll of 546 victims and 1,075 injuries.

There are 120 violent incidents that occurred in January with 68 death and 127 injury victims.

78 events occurred in February with accumulated death toll of 41 and injury toll of 64.

In March, there are 81 incidents with 48 deaths and 77 injuries on toll.

In April there are 97 violent incidents with 51 deaths and 77 injuries on the monthly toll record. There are 99 incidents occurred in May with 35 deaths and 91 injuries.

In June, there are 88 violent incidents with 59 death and 81 injuries.

76 violent incidents took place in July with reportedly 41 deaths and 81 injuries on toll.

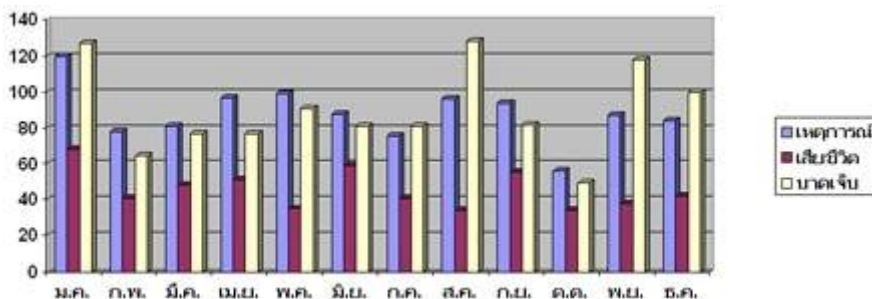
96 incidents took place in August with 34 death and 128 injuries.

94 incidents took place in September with 55 deaths and 82 injuries.

In October 56 incidents occurred with 34 deaths and 49 injuries.

There are 87 incidents occurred in November with 38 deaths and 118 injuries.

Following with 42 deaths and 100 injuries in the 84 attacks that took place in December.



Above: The blue reveals the numbers of violent incidents that occurred from January to December of the year 2008 (from left to right). The purple reveals the death toll and the white shows injuries.

There were the total of 1,992 violent attacks that occurred in the year 2007 which refers to the dropping number of violent incidents in the year 2008 at about half of the previous year's record. (the drop of 936 events). The number of deaths in the year 2008 drops from the record of deaths in 866 in 2007 by one-third or equal to 320 events.

Regarding the violent attacks in 2008, classified by numbers in each district of Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and Songkhla (from higher to lower).

Pattani province reports 70 attacks in the Yarang district, 54 attacks in Saiburi, 43 attacks in Nong Chick, 40 attacks in the Kok Poh district, 34 attacks in the Yaring district, 30 attacks in the city district, 29 in the Mayo, in the Tung Yang Daeng, 17 in the Panare district, 15 in Kapoh, 13 in Maikhaen and 2 in Maelan district.

Yala reports the total of 101 violent attacks in the province, 81 of which are in the city, 61 in the Bannangsata in the Yaha, 32 in the Krongpinang, 20 in the Tantho, 6 in the Baetong and 4 in the Kabang district.

Narathiwat reports 74 violent attacks in total, 64 of which are in the Ruesoh district, 35 of which are those occurred in the Bacho, 33 of which are in the Cho-airong, 26 of which in the city, 18 of which are in the Sungaikolok, 12 apiece occurs in the Sungaipadee and the Srisakorn, 11 of which belong to the Takbai, 5 of which belong to the Yee-ngo district, 4 of which occurred in the Waeng district and 2 of which occurred in the Sukirin district.

In Songkhla province, there are 6 attacks that occurred in the Sabayoi district, 4 apiece in the city and the The district and 2 apiece in the Hadyai and the Nathawee district.

The province that contains the highest record of the violent attacks in the year 2008 is Yala (in Raman district with the record of 101 incidents.

The record of violent incidents classified by the following types of events:

Shooting attacks – of the 741 events that occurred, 266 incidents are in Pattani, 256 in Yala, 204 in Narathiwat and 15 in Songkhla

Bombing attacks- there are 218 events occurred, 70 occurred in Pattani, 56 in Yala, 83 in Narathiwat and 9 in Songkhla.

Arson attacks- there are 37 incidents in total, 20 occurred in Pattani, 10 in Yala and 7 in Narathiwat.

The public asset destroying attacks- there are 35 events in total, 5 occurred in Pattani, 24 in Yala, 5 in Narathiwat and 1 in Songkhla

The tripod spike attacks – there are 22 events in total, 3 in Pattani, 9 in Yala and 10 in Narathiwat.

The case of attacking locals – there are 3 incidents, 1 in Pattani and 2 apiece in Narathiwat

The victims classified by as follows:

Of 546 deaths – 74 are stated officials, 36 of which are Pattani residents, 15 are from Yala, 22 are from Narathiwat and 1 from Songkhla.

Of 422 deaths who are local residents, 151 are from Pattani, 143 from Yala, 118 are from Narathiwat and 10 from Songkhla

Of the 50 deaths who are militants, 7 are from Pattani, 27 are from Yala and 16 are from Narathiwat.

Of the 1,075 injuries, 452 are state officials (191 from Pattani, 127 from Yala, 134 from Narathiwat), 613 are local residents (187 from Pattani, 179 from Yala, 234 from Narathiwat and 13 from Songkhla), 10 are militan from Yala and 5 from Narathiwat)

Proton “among top 10” in Thailand

January 20, 2009

[Proton “among top 10” in Thailand](#) – *The Malaysian Insider*, January 20, 2009

In just over one year of its presence in the Japanese-manufacturer dominated market, Proton has managed to place itself within the top 10 brands in passenger car sales in Thailand.

Malaysian Ambassador to Thailand Datuk Husni Zai Yaacob said Proton had sold 2,918 cars since making its entry in the late 2007, with a market share of 1.4 per cent and currently is among the top three models within a group of other than Japanese makes...

The changing face of Buddhist sculptures

January 21, 2009

[The changing face of Buddhist sculptures](#) – *International Herald Tribune*, January 21, 2009

Thanks to Danny for pointing this out.

President Obama's 2008 Election in the Thai-language press

January 22, 2009

Categories: Culture and Society



Source: *Daily News*, January 22, 2009

Thairath; Column: editorial; November 7, 2008

Barack Obama–African-American born–was elected as the US president in the US presidential election of 2008. It means Americans don't care very much about his color. They focus on his economic policy. They believe that Obama can solve the economic crisis. Wiping out the terrorists using more practical methods and having a very good relationships with other countries is very good news because it affects the global economy will which will be improved exceedingly.

However Obama will break off all relations with Thailand if a military coup occurs because all of the US presidents support the democratic idea. A very good democratic lesson that is after Obama won the election, McCain accepted the results of the democratic election and congratulated him on winning–democracy in action. Another democratic lesson that is Americans give a lot of money to support their politicians. It is different from Thailand –Thai politicians give a lot of money to Thai people in order that the people elect them to be a leader.

HM King's royal message bestowed felicitations on President Obama's inauguration – 2 million people flock to join the swearing in ceremony

Interior Ministry's Permanent Secretary: in depth politics



Source: *Thai Rath*, January 22, 2009

HM King royally bestows felicitations to Obama presidential inauguration hosted in grandeur]

HM King's message of felicitations on Obama's inaugural ceremony granted- Inauguration ceremony to be inscribed in world's history as a color steps to lead the world's powerful nation – Inauguration ceremony occurs!

HM King royally bestows felicitations message on President Barack Obama on the occasion of his inaugural ceremony

Big cleaning of high-rank political officials – Tawee to be promoted after the transfer of Interior Ministry's Permanent Secretary – Abhisit orders "Assawin" to sit as DSI Director – General-Suwit transfers 3 high-ranking officials – Abhisit orders transfer to Bhirapon from the Interior Ministry's Permanent-Secretary post to inactive post assisting PM's Office

Faith in the leader – translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*; Column: Editorial, January 23, 2008

Barack Obama's inauguration ceremony for the US presidential position took several days. He is the first black US president. He gives hope to people and vows that he will change the country. However, he has to face several critical problems. He is the person who makes people believe that he can do anything.

People worldwide and also Thai people get excited by the victory of the first black US President.

In Thailand, people like to compare President Obama to Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva. They are both young leaders and have the similar party names. They are in the power at the same time and also face severe problems – political crisis in Thailand and financial downfall in the USA.

What is completely different is that Obama is a leader with full power. It is said that he is the most powerful person in the world. In contrast, Abhisit is the leader of a mixed government. It is not sure if he can ease political problem.

[Obama speech censored in Burma](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, January 26, 2009

...A part of the speech that was cut was: "To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history; but that we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist."..

Earlier: [China censors Obama's speech](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, January 21, 2009

...The news channel of state broadcaster China Central Television broadcast the speech live early Wednesday local time, but appeared caught off-guard by the statement about facing down communism. The translator had no sooner said "fascism and communism" when the audio faded out from Obama's speech and cameras cut back to the studio anchor, who seemed flustered for a second before turning to ask an expert what challenges the president faces in turning around the US economy...



U.S. presidential election front pages and Obama editorials in the Thai-language press

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

From *Business Thai*, November 17-23, 2008: Super Obama – World shaking president

Right: Photos of US President-elect Barak Obama at a Bangkok photo and frame shop.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



A mournful tear – *Thai Rath*, November 5, 2008

A mournful tear- Barack Obama, representative of the Democrats and President-elect of the United States wipes off his tear of sadness while mentioning about his passed away grandmother who died of cancer on November 3 when he was campaigning in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Obama trend –bringing change to Americans – translated and summarized from *Komchadluk*; Column: editorial; November 9, 2008

According to Obama's policy –solving the global economic crisis, suppressing compromisely the terrorists– he became the 44th president of the United States. Obama sets out to change the political style of Washington and brings a change to the American people. That change could impact Thailand as well. Thailand should draw a very good political lesson from America, especially politicians. Most Thai politicians abuse power to seek personal benefits. Moreover a group of Thai politicians are trying to amend the constitution to aid a political criminal. It is morally wrong. They should be more moral. If not, Thailand will be abandoned by the mature democracy and the world's biggest economy– America. It is possible that maybe the Thai economy will not be supported and developed while the US economy is being developed more and more.



Election day– *Phuket Krung*, November 5, 2008

Large headline: Army Commander urged to protect Constitution—stop the wicked government from abusing power

Black headline below the red bar: Obama-McCain Watch – Result to be known by midday

Results of the wrong move – translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*; Author: Political news reporters; November 6, 2008

Barack Obama, the future 44th President of the United States of America, is the first African-American US President.

American people have turned from the Republican Party to the Democrat Party – from conservatism to liberalism. They said they want to change the leader because they no longer want another economic failure and wars against Iraq and Afghanistan.

The point is the US lets the political system naturally change, which is a big contrast to Thailand. There are many political conflicts going on. And all of them are related to Thaksin.

The military coup was run to get rid of Thaksin Shinawatra and promote Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva as the new Prime Minister. It aimed to transfer power in one night. However, the result did not come out as expected. The Democrat Party is still not able to get support from people in the North and Northeast. The grassroots people are still loyal to Thaksin.



Please change the world also – *ThaiRath, Zeer*, November 7, 2008

Please change the world also

On the IV bottles: Terrorism – Economics

At the bottom right: U.S. president Obama

The tear – *Matichon*, November 5, 2008

White and black headline in the gold box: Obama's policy on Asia

White headline: Obama sheds tear on celebrating his win

Looking at the US election – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Column: Editorial; November 5, 2008

Thailand's press and countries worldwide have been focusing on the US presidential campaigns between the Democrat and Republican parties. If Barack Obama really wins the election, he will become the first African-American President of the United States of America.

Thailand and the US political system and election are at the opposite. The USA has its new President by the public vote, while Thailand is facing political disorder. The People's Alliance for Democracy is gathering at Government House. Former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra becomes a political prisoner who has been sentenced to two years in jail. People are discussing about "new politics" and much more.

Unlike the USA, there is no unity in Thailand's political system. Amidst economic downturn, they still take sides and attack the opposite side. Therefore, we cannot hope that Thailand's politics will be like other developed countries. Only thing we could only hope that the kingdom will be able to escape the current economic recession.





The first – *Krungthep Turakit*, November 6, 2008

Blue headline- Absolutely the first black President-elect of the United States

Black headline- World hopes Obama can prevent the economic crisis



No chance to be in Government House – *Krungtepturakit*, 500 species plus 1, Boisterous by Mor, November 6, 2008

PM Somchai says to Barack Obama: Congratulations on your honored walk to the White House, I did not have chance to do so anyway.

At bottom right: Homeless lord!!

Knight on a white horse named Obama – translated and summarized from *Krungthep Thurakit*; Column: Chab Krasae; Author: Kanokpa Puemboonpa; November 7, 2008

After Barack Obama from the Democrat Party won the presidential election on November 4, all hopes and expectations turn to the 44th President. He might not have much time to enjoy his victory as lots of problems are waiting to be solved.

Many people wonder how he can solve the problems as he is inexperienced in economic matters, while several people expect a lot from the first black President of the United States.

So, first things first, Obama should form an economic team and appoint his Finance Secretary. The expectations towards him come not only from Americans who are disappointed with the Republican's management, but also investors on Wall Street who always support the Republican Party. They want to see changes and Obama is the perfect choice. The new US President is facing a lot of pressure.



World celebrates – *Thai Rath*, November 6, 2008
 White headline: World celebrates the first black President, Obama won 364 votes

“Democratic lesson” from Obama – translated and summarized from



Obama's win – *Phujatkan*, November 6, 2008
 Obama – Win for blacks

What is the best solution to solve the economic problem—waiting for Obama's help or other solutions?
 – translated and summarized from *The Krungthep turakij*; Author: Aurawan Hoychan; Column:

Jabkasaeturakij (Focusing on Business), November 6, 2008

During the global financial crisis period, many financial institutions around the world are impacted. It is a very worrying situation because it may cause a reduction of Thai export value. Fortunately Barack Obama

has been elected as the 44th president of the United States because of his new interesting economic policy. We are hopeful that he can solve the terrible recession. Moreover the US Ambassador in Thailand assured that Obama's economic policy would influence Asian economies to be better. However the best solution is to for each country to follow its own business plans for an economic solution. It is quicker than waiting for someone's help.



Obama vs Thaksin – *Matichon*, Cartoon Sol, November 8, 2008

Top: This is the guy who the world wants to bring world harmony.

Bottom: This is guy who all Thai people pray will not destroy Thai harmony.

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

Can new Thai PM achieve genuine media reform?

January 22, 2009

[Can new Thai PM achieve genuine media reform?](#) – SEAPA/IFEX, January 22, 2009

[A Thai Democrat?](#) – Wall Street Journal, January 22, 2009

...Mr. Abhisit likes to emphasize accountability and the rule of law. But so far he hasn't practiced what he preaches...

Cast adrift – Myanmar's unwanted human flotsam

January 22, 2009

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Cast adrift – Myanmar's unwanted human flotsam](#) – *The Economist*, January 22, 2009

[Fears for 126 Rohingya rise as Thais deny holding them](#) – *International Herald Tribune*, January 23, 2009

...Amid persistent reports of a shadowy arm of the army towing 992 Rohingya out to sea last month in engine-less boats and leaving them to die, the U.N. refugee agency asked Bangkok on Tuesday to see the 126, most of whom it said were in army custody on an Andaman Sea island.

The Foreign Ministry said that was no longer the case, citing the army's Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC), which admits to overseeing the arrest and detention of the group of Rohingya, a Muslim minority from northwest Myanmar.

"The latest information that we have from ISOC is that there are no longer any Rohingya left in Thailand," deputy ministry

He refused to answer repeated questions about the current whereabouts of the 126, or say where, when and how they left the country...

[Hundreds of Burmese migrants arrested in Maesod](#) – *Network Media Group*, January, 2009

Protest letters concerning the ASEAN Summit

January 22, 2009

Protest letters concerning the ASEAN Summit – January 22, 2009

From a press release: *Jackrapob Penkair and leaders of red shirt people will submit letters of protest to the embassies of nine ASEAN countries due to attend the summit: tomorrow, January 23rd, 10:00am at the Myanmar Embassy and 10:30am at the Singaporean Embassy. The rest of the countries are to be scheduled later.*

Update: Here is the letter:

January 23rd , 2009

Ambassador of _____;

Your great nation is a vital ingredient to the ASEAN framework, and the current chairmanship of Thailand depends on it. We thus appreciate your taking time to realize a political reality of Thailand today: the Thai government, the so-called Royal Thai Government led by Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, does not democratically represent the great people of Thailand. At the outlook, his coalition resembles the one with legitimate majority and seems politically qualified, but the very conception of such government can't be remotely considered democratic. A democratically-elected government, as you are well-aware, must be led by the party with majority, which in turn reflects the will of the people. "The Abhisit government" came into existence only because of the heavy maneuvering of undemocratic external forces, the ones that disregard the true will of the people and their rights for self-determination. Furthermore, the appointment of Kasit Piromya as Foreign Minister is an unbelievable act of recognizing a personality Thai people view as a terrorist, as he was a constant contributor to the seizure of both international airports of Thailand quite recently. In the eyes of most Thais, this government is politically handicapped. Such state of leadership should not be allowed to tamper with ASEAN's good works, especially as its Chair.

Therefore, we would like to officially address the problem to you, the respectable ASEAN partner, that the current Thai government is not well-regarded and not generally accepted by the people of the land. What to do and what gesture to be made are entirely up to you. Our civil duty is to inform you most directly of the will of the democratizing Thai citizens. We will continue to support the ASEAN framework. But we found it impossible to let a group of ill-conceived political appointees to represent us in there.

We the Thai people have full trust in your judgment. Thank you dearly for your kind attention.

Respectfully,

(Mr. Jakrapob Penkair)

Former Minister of the Prime Minister's Office

Co-ordinator of the Red Shirt Movement

Letter from Hat Yai – Paradise lost?

January 23, 2009

[Letter from Hat Yai – Paradise lost?](#) – *The Nation*, January 23, 2009

...Welcome to the multicultural world of the South...

Bank of Thailand warns of fake money

January 23, 2009

Categories: Crime

[Bank of Thailand warns of fake money](#) – UPI, January 23, 2009

...The bank seized 18,895 counterfeit notes in the 12 months that ended Nov. 30, Nopporn said. In the previous year, 10,819 notes were seized...

Pardon sought for Thais convicted terrorists in Cambodia

January 24, 2009

Categories: Cambodia

[Pardon sought for Thais convicted terrorists in Cambodia](#) – *The Nation*, January 23, 2009

Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya will seek royal pardons for two religious teachers who were jailed for life in Cambodia on terrorist charges. Muhammad Yalaluding and Abdul Azi Haji Chiming, both from Yala province, received life sentences in December 2003 on charges of helping the regional terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) plot a terrorist attack in Cambodia...

Thai police hunt drug syndicate's Malaysian leader

January 24, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai police hunt drug syndicate's Malaysian leader](#) – Bernama, January 24. 2009

Thai police are hunting an international syndicate involved in money laundering, drug and football gambling believed to be headed by a Malaysian man who is said to possess bank accounts worth over 300 million baht (about RM30 million)...

Missing refugees in Thailand scandal grows

January 26, 2009

Categories: Refugees and Migrants



(Source: CNN)

[Missing refugees in Thailand scandal grows](#) – CNN, January 26, 2009

...We have uncovered photographic evidence that the Thai military is towing refugees out to sea...

[Boat people tragedy exposes Thai PM's debt to army](#) – The Star, January 25, 2009

[Honeymoon to nightmare for Thai PM](#) – BBC News, January 25, 2009

Thailand by train: In the Tropics, the train is thing

January 27, 2009

Categories: Thai Railroads

[Thailand by train: In the Tropics, the train is the thing](#) – *Telegraph*, January, 2009

Tim Jepson goes back in time on an Eastern and Oriental rail journey through Thailand, from the sleepy charms of Laos to the clamour of Bangkok...

Thai govt says national carrier's finances 'alarming'

January 27, 2009

Categories: Airports and Airlines

[Thai govt says national carrier's finances 'alarming'](#) – AFP, January 27, 2009

Thailand's deputy prime minister Wednesday said the financial state of flag carrier Thai Airways was "alarming" and promised the government would step in to help it...

Suthep Thaugsuban proposed talks between the finance and transport ministries to resolve the crisis at the airline, in which the government holds a majority stake.

"The problem at Thai Airways (THAI) is very alarming and the government will take care of it absolutely," Suthep told reporters.

"I have to admit that the government is very concerned because as of now the airline still has not submitted its rehabilitation plan," he said.

On Tuesday Finance Minister Korn Chatikavanij insisted the carrier would have to submit a detailed recovery plan in order to receive taxpayer funds.

In a statement to the Thai stock exchange last week, THAI said it needed 19 billion baht (54.4 million US dollars) to resolve its liquidity problem this year.

It also hoped to raise 15 billion baht to replace short-term debt, the statement said.

Last week the airline announced it would move all its remaining domestic flights from Bangkok's decades-old Don Mueang airport to the new Suvarnabhumi Airport to save up to 700 million baht (20 million dollars) a year.

Earlier this month, THAI also said it would ask to delay the delivery of six A330 aircraft from European aircraft manufacturer Airbus due to a shortage of cash.

THAI's net loss for the first three quarters of 2008 was 6.61 billion baht, against a net profit of 2.53 billion baht for the same period in 2007, according to company figures.

The carrier has suffered amid the global economic downturn and from a week-long blockade of Bangkok's airports by anti-government protesters late last year.

The airline said last year it had lost around 20 billion baht after protesters against the previous government occupied the capital's international and domestic airports from late November to early December.

The protest stranded around 350,000 passengers in Thailand.

Thailand promises army-led probe of Rohingya scandal

January 29, 2009

Categories: Myanmar/Burma, Refugees and Migrants

[Thailand promises army-led probe of Rohingya scandal](#) – *Thailandnews*, January 29, 2009

Thailand has promised a transparent investigation into allegations of army abuse of Rohingya boat people, but said the probe would be led by the shadowy military unit at the heart of the scandal...

Elite Card Abandoned

January 29, 2009

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Elite card abandoned](#) – Bangkok Post, January 29, 2009

...The loss-making Thailand Elite Card, launched in 2003 to lure wealthy tourists and business people to Thailand, will be scrapped, a government spokesman said. Only 2,570 were members in 2008.

Earlier: [Thailand Elite cardholders reassured](#) – The Nation, January 17, 2009

The Tourism Authority of Thailand and Thailand Privilege Card insisted yesterday that privileges for Thailand Elite cardholders remained unchanged, despite a recent mailing to members that benefits would be done away with completely...

Earlier: [Playing with the wrong card](#) – The Standard, October 23-24, 2004

Even those rich enough to have bought a Thailand Elite Card are too embarrassed to talk about it. And even after it was put on the market a year ago with overt government backing – including the imprimatur of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra – not even the government bodies responsible for the card want to talk about it now...

Falling in Thailand

January 30, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Geelong tourist killed in 'sleepwalk balcony plunge'](#) – smh.com.au, October 10, 2011

[Japanese woman falls to death from Pattaya condominium](#) – *The Nation*, December 18, 2011

[Briton dies after fall from hotel](#) – *chiangmai-mail.com*, September, 2010

[Briton falls to his death at hotel](#) – *The Nation*, August 24, 2010

...Smith reportedly went to the rooftop on the eighth floor before climbing down the building's glass windows until he reached the fourth floor when he fell...

[Japanese man killed when car plunged from 4th floor of apartment building](#) – *The Nation*, June 29, 2010

[Phuket Expat Dies in Fall](#) – *phuketwan.com*, June 20, 2010

[Phuket Tragedy: Aussie Dies in World Cup Row Plunge](#) – *phuketwan.com*, June 10, 2010

[Norwegian tourist falls to his death from 8th floor of Pattaya hotel](#) – *The Nation*, March 9, 2010

[Canadian Survives 4-Storey Shop House Fall in Pattaya](#) – *pattayadailynews.com*, March 11, 2010

[Norwegian Woman Falls From High Rise Condo in Pattaya](#) – *pattayadailynews.com*, March 11, 2010

[Swedish National Falls to His Death From Pattaya Hotel](#) – *pattayadailynews.com*, February 24, 2010

[Russian National Falls to his Death Off Pattaya Hotel](#) – *pattayadailynews.com*, February 21, 2010

[Australian flight attendant found dead at Thai Hilton Hotel may have fallen in room mix-up](#) – *Herald Sun*, February 15, 2010

...Police suggested he may have fallen to his death after trying to enter the wrong room...

[British businessman falls to death from Bangkok condominium](#) – *The Nation*, July 6, 2009

[Jeremy and Guy Webster critical after balcony collapse in Bangkok](#) – *The Australian*, January 30, 2009

[Japanese tourist falls to death from Phuket hotel](#) – *The Nation*, January 16, 2009

[Russian tourist killed after falling from 11th floor of Pattaya hotel](#) – *The Nation*, November 11, 2008

[Korean man falls to death from Pattaya hotel](#) – *The Nation*, September 22, 2008

[American teacher falls to death from condominium's rooftop](#) – *The Nation*, June 6, 2008

[Japanese man found dead at Bangkok condo along with Thai girlfriend](#) – *The Nation*, May 23, 2008

[Bhutanese dies in fall from balcony](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 31, 2008

[Japanese woman killed](#) – *The Nation*, June, 2008

[City man severs spine in fall in Thailand](#) – *The Charleston Gazette*, April 22, 2008

[Briton killed after falling from 19th floor of Samut Prakan condominium](#) – *The Nation*, March 6, 2008

[South Korean student falls to death from hotel's 7th floor](#) – *The Nation*, January 12, 2008

[American falls to death from 18th floor of condo building](#)– *The Nation*, January 14, 2008

[Edmonton man unconscious in Thailand](#) – *Edmonton Sun*, December 7, 2007
...the hospital is charging \$3,000 a day just for the use of the room...

[American tourist killed after falling down cliff on Phiphi Island](#) – *The Nation*, December, 2007

[Man falls to death from 64th floor of Bangkok condominium](#) – *The Nation*, November 30, 2007

Falling... –

November 5, 2007

The Nation's online article system oddly does not serve a date with their online stories. However, in the past few days, several foreigners have fallen out of buildings...

[Briton injured after falling from 4th floor of Hat Yai hotel](#)

[Briton falls to his death from 21st-floor condominium room](#)

[South Korean tour guide falls to his death from rooftop of Phuket Hotel](#)

Thai Media Project – January 2009

January 30, 2009

Categories: Thai Media Project

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



Greetings New Year 2009" – translated and summarized from *Daily News*, Column: Kha Prajam Wan Arthit (Sunday's article) by Khuad, January 4, 2009

Top right:
The oil price goes down "and the traffic jam is intensified"

Top left:
The phone network companies gain great amount of income from new year SMS service- "May Daily News fans become prosperous, healthy, cutie in year 2009"

Top right:
The fire burns down the jet set's well-known night pub

Middle left: was reminded about the budget for plane-buying project

Middle right: for holding the policy delivering session at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – "but no bloodshe

Bottom left: faces the fleet clappers and the threatening phone calls – "Allow me to be the PM of every regi to perform the work."

Bottom right:
The news about the attempt to reconcile Suthep says "Hello"

Thaksin moves on the plan to eliminate the aristocracy – Democrats to resist with strategy to promote national agenda on national institutes – translated and summarized from *Phujatkarn*, January 8, 2009

It is an issue to be watched regarding Thaksin Shinawatra moving ahead on his policy to rely on foreign hands to blockade Thailand in an effort to eliminate Thailand's upper-class. Meanwhile, the Democrat-led government of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva is preparing to issue the Education Ministry's policy to protect national institutes and to promote the national agenda on national institutes.

The Democrat-led government of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva is facing many problems including economic sluggishness and the unstable political turmoil with pressure against by the protesting United Front of Democracy against Dictatorship. At the same time there is a movement to besiege Thailand with foreign lobbyists such as the Elderman Company, Baber Griffith & Rogers, Bell Pottinger North and Baker Botts via some people such as former advisor to the Prime Minister Pansak Winyarat, former Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr. Prommin Lertsuriyadet and former Deputy Secretary to the Prime Minister Poomtham Vechayachai. They are involved as the middlemen who play leading roles in the game.

Two targets to eliminate aristocracy and to promote Thaksin as hero

"The lobbyists whose names have been revealed dare to do things that Thailand's press fears to do and the issue should be raised as it is of interest to the public," said the lecturer of Thammasat University's Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication Professor Dr. Surapong Sothanasathien. According to the professor, deposed Premier Thaksin Shinawatra's movement to lobby foreign media is aimed at degrading the government's stability and the upper-class and also bringing him back to a powerful stance.

The first step of the policy requires the service of foreign media as the incumbent government has little proven weaknesses, and he, hence has to target at lowering the government's stability by linking the story of its rise to the upper class institutes and the Privy Council President.

The internal media have limited numbers and are normally overlooked so instead, Thaksin turns to rely on hiring foreign lobbyists that are able to do what the internal media of the country cannot.

Secondly, the target to make Thaksin to become a hero is a move to destroy the image of the Democrat-led government and promote the good image of Thaksin himself. Obviously, there is the attempt to promote Thaksin as a capable man and accepted by foreigners. This is carried out by [Thaksin's Foundation for a Better Life](#) before the re-election of the MPs in January, 2009.

"The strategies used in the political fight are normal, but it is a matter of concern on the attempt to separate politics from the state's security, especially on some cases that are considered sensitive matters. These might possibly impact the nation's stability even if, basically, the intention is to assault the political party opponent or influential persons. The result of the operation might unexpectedly destroy the nation."

Three points of assaulting the government – Righteousness – *Lese majeste* cases – Jurisdiction

According to the statement of Democrat Songkhla MP Sirichoke Sopha evaluating Thaksin's strategy on the move to besiege the country, he believes that the plan is to continue, but with less focus regarding the case related to the interview of former PM's Office Minister Jakkapob Penkiat.

"The names of the foreign lobbyists are potent to some extent, but this should not be worrying as the media exposed this matter. The government has declared the issue will be attended to attentively, especially on the case on the watch of the foreign media reports on the aristocracy. They are attempting to link the matter to the fight between the upper-class and the poor as well as the legal issues and the country's justice process. This includes the lawsuits involving the *lese majeste* case that has been torturous and have to be explained righteously. However, this is not considered as too much of a burden as other countries understand the system of constitution monarchy.

"Regarding the *lese majeste* cases being questioned, we have to bear in mind that our country holds the monarchy institute separate from politics and apart from the lawsuits. This is, therefore, the case to be protected," added the Democrat MP.

Furthermore, for the cases involving arguments between Thailand and neighboring countries such as Myanmar and Cambodia, the government has prepared for the solutions such as bilateral talks with the team established to look over the matter."

On the move to explain to the public – Economic revival – Boost-up confidence

The foreign lobbyists' scheme is mixed with the inner movement by the opposition Pheu Thai MPs presenting the issue to embassies to pressure the government. Along with this is the movement of the protesting UDD,

will finally come out the time for the government to speak in explanation to the foreign media and on stage at the World Economic Forum (WEF) to be hosted in Switzerland and at the Asean summit.

“The Prime Minister’s role is to explain the doubts and boost up the foreign confidence and there are many chances on the world stage. The scheme to lobby foreign media is not worrying and the government targets more on solving the national economic crisis. The political problem is not the top priority.”

According to Sirichoke, despite the movement has ongoing for some time, the Democrat-led government has prepared to handle the case as Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva has explained to both Thailand and foreign press since he stepped to the PM post, especially to the CNN, Reuters, and the AFP.

Push on the agenda to protect national institutes –

National agenda

On concerns about the sensitive case of foreign media assault, the strong policy is to be issued with serious concern. This is reflected in Prime Minister Abhisit declaring government policy to protect institutes from threats. The government still has the full authority to consider the case and it will strongly promote patriotism and loyalty to the nation, monarchy and religion.

Strict measures are to be launched especially for the case related to *lese majeste*. As for the long term policy the responsible agency is the Education Ministry which will work on promoting the public awareness and the case is to become the national agenda with coordination of the Culture Ministry and the Information Communication and Technology.

PM should be more strong – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*; Column: The Editorial, January 12, 2009

During a month of Apisit’s work, we are seeing that he has been agreeing on all projects of the coalition government parties. That is because he lets himself go with what the governing parties do and has always behaved courteously toward them.

If he is still afraid of them, Thai people will have no faith in him. It can impact Thailand’s view as an “insecure country” and can make governing and developing the country by PM Apisit Wejchacheewa run into trouble. Because of lessons from successful and failed administrations, he should be strong and brave and should look forward before making decisions and acquiescing to all the political parties.

The "Disclosed secret" – Special – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Column: “Pid mai lab – Special,” January 10, 2009

* It becomes the talk of the town when the opposition parties assault the Army continuously. Parliamentary committee Chief on Army affairs Police Lieutenant Colonel Somchai Petprasert is on the move to check the Army residency privileges of the retired high-ranking officials who were former influential figures of the Council of National Security.



(Photo: *Matichon*)

The privilege of special residence at the 11th Infantry Army Department (King’s Guards) for retired and honored army officers, built under the governmental budget, is now revealed to belong to Privy Council President Gen. Prem Tinasulanonda, former Army Chief Gen. Issarapong Numphakdee, former National Security Council Chief and former CNS Chief Gen Sonthi Boonyaratkalin, who led the CNS during the September 19, 2007 coup. This is the real assault targeted to scare the army and high-ranking officers who still rely on the governmental residence, including former Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chaiyasith Shinawatra, who was Thaksin’s cousin.

It is known that unofficially the housing refers to the possibility and prospect or to join and influence politics and the military after retirement.

The Privy Council President’s residence is the See Sao Thewas (Theves) which was once used as the residence of the Army Commander-in-Chief.

Members of the high-ranks who stay at governmental residences at the Army’s Department after their retirement includes – “Big Poey”-Gen. Saprang Ganlayanamitr who was former Deputy Defense Ministry Permanent-Secretary and “Big Tui” Gen Chaiyasit Shinawatra who was former Army Commander-in-Chief

* PM's Office Minister Weerachai Weeramethakul makes his progressive leap right at the start. He is former son-in law of Chareon Pokaphand Group (CP) executive who is criticized as taking a ministerial post in the Abhisit-led government because of this money. Weerachai attempted to clear away the negative rumors involving his new position by giving interviews to the press and also denying his role to promote the CP Group. However, the PM's Office Minister's great leap now brings the underhand order: "new ministerial post holders should not make remarks ."



(Photo: Matichon)



(Photo: Matichon)

* Former Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej is going to undergo the operation on his liver cancer in the USA. Former PM secretary Teerapon Noprampa flies to visit Samak in the States. If Samak's health condition soon improves, it is expected that he will plan to return to Thailand to write books telling his political background and opinions, as he planned to do after stepping down as Thailand's 25th PM.

Politics to be applied to ease southern unrest – translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*; Column: Editorials January 20, 2009

During his first visit to the southern border provinces, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said that the southern unrest was not only the matter of the security units only, but the government must also get involved in the development in the area. He added that the government would try to solve the problem without depending on the forces and the special laws. He added that those who breached human rights would be punished under the legal process.

The unrest in the three southern border provinces becomes more intense day by day. The unrest has begun since 2004 and becomes a national threat. Over 3,000 officials and citizens have been killed. All governments said that they went in a right direction and the problem would end soon. However, the violence still goes on and people are killed almost every day.

Prime Minister Abhisit could be the first government leader to say that the unrest is not only the problem about security—the military or the police. He said that the problem has several dimensions and is related to politics, economy, society, history, race and religion. Therefore, it cannot be solved only by one measure as it is not about "inexperienced criminals."

The first problem that must be solved is the unity for the processes of easing the unrest in the South. The government has set up a new Cabinet for the development of five southern border provinces, chaired by the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister's idea saying that he would not always depend on the security forces and special laws is correct.

“Suthin Wannaboworn” dissects foreign media – “Farang” hired by “Maew” to destroy Thailand – translated and summarized from *Phujatkan*, January 12, 2009

Former reporter of the foreign press AP Suthin Wannabovorn reveals to *Phujatkan* media the influence of Thaksin over the foreign media and the impact on the country and the royal institution. The former AP reporter adds that his resignation from the AP press was due to his being upset over the foreign press's bias that is impacted by Thaksin's money which is spent to lobby the press. He believes that the good image of the royal institution is being tortured by the pro-Thaksin-foreign press.

According to Suthin, famous world press such as the AFP, the AP and the Reuters are the three leading

organizations that provide news to other worldwide press. However, his past experiences as AP reporter were not impressive as he had to work under pressure as he believes that the foreign press is hired to present a good image of deposed Premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

He says that the magazine readers like those who read the *Economist* are reading material created by the pro-Thaksin group.

Regarding the September 19 coup aimed at dethroning Thaksin from his corrupted power, the foreign media and lobbyists presented issues by focusing on points that torture the image of the royal institution instead of mentioning Thaksin's corruption.

Suthin reveals that the foreign media rarely has awareness that they are under the financial influence of Thaksin's lobbyists.

Suthin said that the foreign media rarely bears in mind having respect for Thai royal institution and those who are Thaksin promoters usually input data that are positive to Thaksin. This includes the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand.

As claimed by Suthin, *The Economist* publishes the column about Thailand's PAD protest against Thaksin's government with the cover printed "A Blow to Thai Democracy". *The Economist's* recent magazine is also printed with the article headline "The King and them", which Suthin says it has psychological impact to Thailand's institution. Suthin adds that many foreign press choose to have interview with the pro-Thaksin academics and bring their point of view to their readers.

Overall, the situation like this will promote Thaksin's press lobbying scheme and his intention to pressure the government. Suthin believes that the bias among the foreign press over news presentation about Thai institutions exists and this is the result of Thaksin's influence over the media.

Fund raised for DTV by selling the "Truth Today" energy beverage – Denial over "Maew"'s support, Maew's simply phones in – D-Day on January 19 opposing the government – translated and summarized from *Matichon*, January 16, 2009

(Pro-Thaksin) Red shirt team introduces the "D-station"

The pro-Thaksin red shirt team led by former Thai Rak Thai Party executive member Adisorn Piengket introduces the D-station for Democracy to oppose the government and broadcast through the Thaikom Five satellite cable network. "Maew" is to phone in to during the program. Earlier, Adisorn revealed that a fund of about 1 million baht to promote the TV station was delivered from many friends without the involvement of deposed Premier Thaksin, who was claimed to allocate his money to the station.

Program introduced – Confirmed nothing behind

According to Mr. Adisorn, the D-station's TV programs are aimed at opposing the administration of the Abhisit-led government with nothing to do with a political ploy. Many including former Spokesperson to the PM's Office Suparat Nakaboonam, former PM's office minister Jakkapob Penkiar and famous monk Payom Kanlayano participate as hosts of the TV programs to begin on January 19, 2009 (claimed as D-Day of the station).

ASTV fans can watch for free

Former government spokesperson Nattawut Saikua reveals that the ASTV watchers can receive the D-station signal for free. The special program of the TV program is on Sunday after the government's program "Abhisit Meets the People". He adds that Thaksin's phone-in during the program will be for clarifying issues doubted by the public.

Lieutenant Jeab believes allowance is to be given from supervisor

Famous *Thaksin, where are you?* writer–Lieutenant Sunisa Lertpakawat–states that if she was allowed by her supervisor she would host the D-station program as MC. Core member of the opposition Pheu Thai Party, Jatuporn Prompan says that the hosts of Truth Today will run the three programs: Truth Today, Mahaprachachon and Puan Pong Nong Pee for the D-station.

Interior Ministry launches watchdog center

Interior Minister Chawarat Charnweerakul states that the center monitoring the broadcast of the D-station is launched by the Interior Ministry, but is concerned with rights and related laws as priority.

Two ways for possible changes for the NBT

Regarding the policy of the Prime Minister Abhisit-led government on reforming the National Broadcasting Television or former the channel 11, there are two choices on consideration—either running under a public organization management or otherwise running as an independent station like the Thai-PBS.

Red-shirt clad in 30 provinces urge the government to consider five issues

The Udon Thani Patriot group under the leadership of Kwanchai Praipana declares manifestos urging the government of PM Abhisit Vejjajiva to consider five issues: the constitution revision progress, the PAD law investigation, the depromotion of Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya, the financial policy, and the loss of 52

billion baht loss in trade balance during the first quarter of the year.

Mark insists not worried by government house protest

Meanwhile Abhisit Vejjajiva states that a protest at Government House by the red shirt people is not worrying and he will continue, but continues his work at the Government House compound.



(Photo: *Matichon*)

Left: Opening ceremony of DTV – Former Thai Rak Thai Party executive Adisorn Piengket as Chief Executive of the D station Co., Ltd., along with Truth Today program hosts held a press conference to introduce the “D-station” satellite network TV station. And also introduce the energy drink of the “Truth Today” brand which is a major sponsor for the station to introduce. A dinner was held at the Grand Miracle on January 15, 2009.

Making reference to human rights, is it unintentional or calculated? – translated and summarized from *Phujatkarn*; January 20, 2009

Why has Apisit government been accused of human rights violations by foreign and local media despite only one month of work? For example, the illegal immigrant problem of the Rohingya, who are a Muslim ethnic group from the Northern Rakhine State of Western Burma. This problem has been taking place for a long time. Why do the media offer such a pessimistic view of the Rohingya problem now that the Democrat Party is administering the country? Why does the media specially focus on it? Is there something concealed or a black power behind it?

At the same time, it is said that the military has attacked and tortured suspects in Southern Thailand. The media also offers a pessimistic view of this problem. For local media, some take sides with former PM Thaksin Shinawatra and report news discrediting the Democrat Party because they used to receive much advertising business from him.

Road map – the red army – translated and summarized from *Matichon*, January 23, 2009

After being politically executed twice, the Pheu Thai party – the third generation of the Thai Rak Thai party begins to know its future. It seems like its opposition period will be long.

Despite being the party with the most representatives in the Parliament, it cannot fight against the government as the majority in parliament are all from coalition government parties.

Therefore, the DTV satellite station has been set up to be a communication channel among the red army members.

A leader of the red-shirt people says that the DTV has duty to maintain Thaksin's base, especially in the Northeast. It will also provide information which will destroy the stability of the government as soon as possible.

The red-shirt group consists of two types of people – those who love and are loyal to Thaksin and those who do not like Thaksin, but cannot accept the aristocratic system.

Leaders of the group then come up with a new strategy by seeking a new leader. Thaksin will just stand on the side and becomes a supporter.

The new leader must be completely against aristocratism like Sulak Siwalak or Sor. Siwalak and Jai Ungpaporn. The group will also help improve the quality of life of its members. It also plans to go international by collaborating with overseas networks to share information. The target is to mess up the ASEAN leaders conference to be held in Prachuabkirikhan.

Old political pole in “Phrae” creates rumors with pamphlet – Distributing news on lese majeste continuously – Government still silent – translated and summarized from *Phujatkarn*; January 24, 2009

A source in Phrae province reveals that the old political pole continues to give news aimed at disgracing the royal institution, PAD leader Sondhi Limthongkul, and famous revered monk Phra Maha Bua Yarnasampan. However, the government's reaction is to remain silent.

As revealed by the source, 8 page-long pamphlets were widely distributed in the local area providing information that blames PAD leader Sondhi Limthongkul for using the royal institution as tool to destroy Thaksin Shinawatra, including the royal visit of HM Queen to the funeral of a PAD supporter killed in the October 7, 2008 clash with authorities.

Punch to punch: Thaksinomics versus Marksinoemics – translated and summarized from *Matichon*, January 24, 2009

“Thaksinomics” is the word used by Philippines President Gloria Makapagal Arroyo to praise the economy Thailand under the policy of Thaksin. “Marksinoemics” is the word used by the press to refer to the economic policy of the Democrat-led government which is similar to the populist policy of the former Thai Rak Thai party mixed with the public welfare policy of the Democrats.

1. The SML project for local villages of the former Thai Rak Thai was dusted off with double the amount of budget added and its name revised to be “self-sufficient economy budget.” Initially, the budget to be allocated is 15,200 million baht.
 2. The project 30 baht for all disease medical services is now changed to be free medical service and its name was changed to the “project guaranteeing health for all.” The former government set up a 30 billion baht fund for the project under the Public Health Ministry.
 3. The CEO governor budget is changed to “the budget for provincial integrated administration” and is expected to be at least 10 billion baht.
 4. The Democrats will extend the free education period for each student from 12 years to 15 years and set up budget for free textbooks instead of an education loan which, under the Thaksin-government, was budgeted 19 billion baht (19,000,000,000).
 5. Pensions for elderly are increased from 300 baht per one person per month to 500 baht. The total budget is 1 billion baht.
 6. The allowance for Public Health volunteers for villages is increased from 500 baht per one person to 600 baht. The total budget is 3 billion baht.
 7. The price intervention policy covers for 5 economic crops (rice, corn, cassava, rubber, palms). Earlier, the Thai Rak Thai focuses on rice price only. The Democrats also further other popular policies of the former government such as the OTOP, the 5 measures for 6 month relief policy and also has measures to distribute 2,000 baht for 9.3 million people who are members of Social Security nationwide .
- The opposition party criticizes these policies as being vote buying for the Democrat government in advance the next election.

Please stop it, Thaksin – translated and summarized from *Thai Post*; Column: Editorial; January 24, 2009
After Commander-in-Chief General Anupong Paojinda allowed leaders of political parties to discuss the setting up of the new government at a soldier camp in the Department of the First Royal Guard Infantry, people have been criticizing the issue.

People talk about how the government has been formed and the unrighteousness of the army, which intervenes in politics.

Recently, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra gave an interview to a Japanese newspaper. He demanded fairness after being bullied by political enemies. He said that he currently had a bad personal financial status. He also criticized Thailand’s political situation, targeting the Privy Council, the army and the court, which supported the Democrat Party. His report underlined Gen. Anupong’s involvement in the process in which the Democrat Party became the leading government party.

Thaksin’s move to attack the army, the Privy Council and the court underlined his defeat. If he now had power he would not complain so much about persecution. What he said only emphasized his evil and does not benefit the country in any way.

The Democrat Party is now being monitored. If it makes a false move in management, the public will be the party to push the court, the Privy Council and the army to do the right thing. It is just that Thaksin must now stir up the situation and create conflicts, which will lead the country into crisis again.

Getting to know Thaksin, getting to know political war – translated and summarized from *Phutjatkhan*, January 26, 2009

Many unnatural events took place in Thailand during the past week. All events mysteriously or accidentally seemed to be committed by a group. It was like all events had the same target – an advantage of a person.

Five events are interesting:

1. The demand to dissolve parliament. It reflects that the legal representatives did not do their duty by issuing regulations to control the use of power in the country’s management.
2. Thaksin’s interview attacking the judicial power, the Privy Council and the army. Thaksin Shinawatra, who is sentenced to two years in jail, continued to give interviews to foreign media about Thailand and its important institutes.

3. Blaming Thailand with false accusation with foreign embassies. Jakraphob Penkair, Veera Musikpong, Nattawut Saikua and their fellows submitted a letter to foreign embassies, asking those countries not to attend the ASEAN Summit with Thailand. They claimed that Thailand was not a democratic country, but was ruled by a hidden dictatorship.
4. The setting up of the DTV station. It is clear that the DTV station has been set up for political purposes. The station is operated by those who are loyal to Thaksin. Its target is to harm the Kingdom of Thailand.
5. Violent mobs by red-shirt people in Thailand. There were many violent events caused by people in the red shirt.

These cases were led by people related to the Pheu Thai Party. They are missions designed to create a situation in Thailand. They want to stir up the situation to challenge the government. If the current government does not catch their game, it will lose to Thaksin's political game.

January 31 is the judgment day of the red-shirt people – Blockade the parliament to destroy the government translated and summarized from *Matichon*, January 27, 2009

Newin Chidchob, a former executive of the Thai Rak Thai Party and the leader of the Newin's Friend group has given an order to his members, including Kwanchai Praipanna – the leader of the Khon Rak Udon Group to remove all members out of the United Front of Democracy against Dictatorship, led by three stubborn leaders Natthawut Saikua, Chatuporn Prompan and Weera Musikpong.

It cannot be denied that the powerful UDD is now losing its power, especially its backup supporters in the Northeast. However, this does not make the UDD surrender to its fate easily. On the contrary, the situation makes the UDD to make a move again. The movement from now on will try to become an epic movement, like the movement of the People's Alliance for Democracy.

First things first, the leaders of the UDD will ask its partner Pheu Thai Party to seek another 1,200 members. Moreover, in-depth information will be given away to red-shirt people in all regions through 182 Pheu Thai coordination centers across the country.

The move by the Pheu Thai party is completely in line with the UDD's Mae Nam Roi Sai (100 rivers) strategy. It shows that former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Pheu Thai Party and the red-shirt people are one.

The meeting of the red-shirt people on January 31 is very interesting. It will accurately measure the power of the red-shirt people by the number of people gathering there.

The most interesting move is to move 30,000 people to block Government House. They will be there for a few days to demand three things – dismissing Kasit Pirom, Minister of Foreign Affairs from his position, filing a lawsuit against the People's Alliance for Democracy for blocking the Suvarnabhumi Airport, and asking Abhisit Vejjajiva to dissolve the Parliament to allow the public to make a decision again.

The red-shirt people's official war will start at the end of January. The victory is to end the current government as it is the only way out for Thaksin and Pheu Thai Party.

31 January: The glory day or the losing day of the red-shirt people – translated and summarized from *Phutjatkhan*, January 27, 2009

While most Thai people are joining forces to fight against the economic recession under the Abhisit administration, a group of people in the red-shirt symbol is moving to obstruct the government's operations, claiming that the current government does not have the righteousness to run the country.

The red-shirt group has been moving in different forms to protest against the government. Its highlight is the 'The Truth Today' program, led by leaders of the United Front of Democracy against Dictatorship.

Before the current government took its position, the red-shirt group ran several meetings. Each time, there was a large number of people attending. Most of them were from the Northeast and the North. Only a few came from the central and southern regions.

Now that the MPs from the Newin's Group joined the government, red-shirt people start to have conflicts among themselves. Leaders of some provinces in the Northeast refused to join a big meeting in Bangkok on January 31. However, some leaders of the United Front of Democracy against Dictatorship see that it is necessary to continue to run the meeting to oppose the government.

Therefore, the meeting on January 31 will point out whether red-shirt members nationwide will allow the leaders of the group to lead them.

This columnist sees that the red-shirt people will not likely turn out in force due to many reasons.

Refusal to see "defeat" – translated and summarized from *Krungtep Turakij*; Column: Trace of Politics; Author: Journalist no.10; January 27, 2009

Making a phone-in message which is broadcast on DTV is part of Thaksin's political game. We are seeing that former PM Thaksin Shinawatra works on the old strategy to motivate his supporters. If the number of red-

shirted groups are increasing more and more, maybe it will make him resolve to take further action against the opposition. It is important that he motivates his supporters to gather and to fight for himself.

If he creates political conflicts again, will Thai people agree with him? The situation is now changed so much that the political conflicts should not happen. If he wants to get back power, he should reform the Pheu Thai party well because the party has not managed to unite. Besides, Khunying Pojaman (Shinawatra) Damapong going to take care of his political game by herself because they are unsatisfied with the performance of their political nominees. However, they will lose this game if they ignore society's opinions.

Red-shirted rally gives false information to discredit Thailand – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*; Column: The editorial; January 26, 2009

A political movement group have gathered to call on the Association of South East Asia Nations to cancel the conference because of the reason that the government is unfair.

In fact, this action is against the ASEAN principle and has also impacted the country. It is fortunate that Thai people refuse to accept this political movement. The people really know that the red-shirted assembly wants to discredit the country and plan to do everything, giving false information and slandering the country for his personal interest. They also know who the assembly works for.

Recently, the red-shirted movement has been split because of conflicts of interest. Hence, the government should explain to Thai people and foreigners that the internal and external political movement and members of the opposition party have come together for mutual benefit. They collaborate among themselves and do everything without thinking about what is right.

Who the red-shirt protesting mob does things for? – translated and summarized from *Thai Post*; Column: The Editorial; Author: The Editorial team, January 31, 2009

Regarding the gathering of the red shirt clad United Front of Democracy against Dictatorship aimed at the government on January 31, 2009, we comment that the protest of the red shirt people is clearly proved to be the only one person and the public was used as tool by claiming it was about the principle of justice.

Despite UDD leader Jakkapob Penkiat's claim that the gathering is for national Democracy and Thaksin's cause is the only a part of it, the movements of the group prove that it is for Thaksin. This includes the phone-in of Thaksin during the gathering.

The movement of the red shirt gathering is defiant to the police and military who are maintaining security for the public.

The group's goal is to fall as a target of assault. The national police headquarters under leadership of Gen. Patcharawat Wongsuwan, earlier transferred to an inactive post, as well as the Army Chief Gen. Anupong Paojinda and Defense Minister Gen Patcharawat Wongsuwan, are to be under close watch as the red shirt might assault the Army claiming that it backs for the establishment of the Democrat-led government. However, we comment that the action of the UDD is doing nothing good for the country.

Live in Thailand on \$10 per day

January 30, 2009

Categories: Tourism

[Live in Thailand on \\$10/day](#) – *Wheeling Circles*, January, 2009

...Cell phones, satellite TV, running water, gas cooker, all the modern amenities, and their income is around \$10 per day, but could you live here? ...

M'sian nabbed in Bangkok over US\$150m credit card fraud

January 30, 2009

Categories: Crime

[M'sian nabbed in Bangkok over US\\$150m credit card fraud](#) – *Malaysia Star*, January, 2009

A Malaysian man wanted in the United States for credit card fraud amounting to US\$150mil (RM540mil) was arrested by Thai authorities and US Secret Service agents in Nonthaburi on the outskirts of Bangkok on Tuesday...

New Thai premier seen as leaning right; Reformists worry

January 30, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

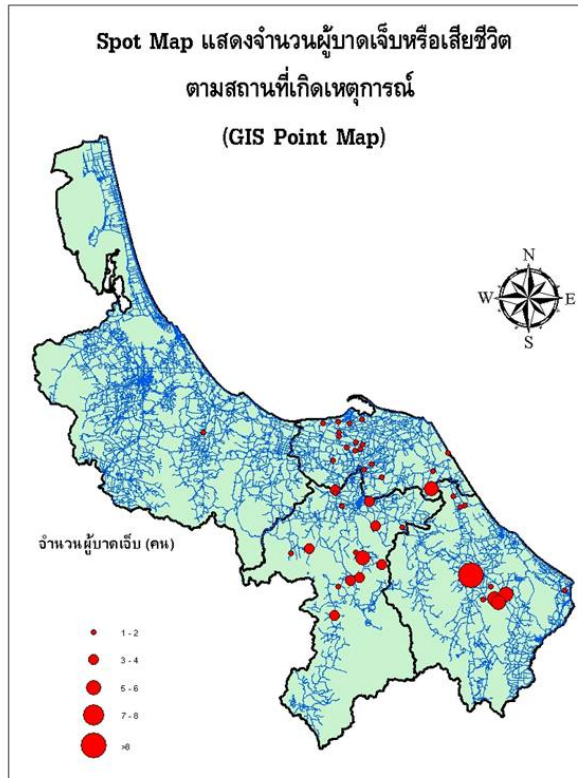
[New Thai premier seen as leaning right; Reformists worry](#) – *Washington Post*, January 30, 2009

... "It is the military's dividend for putting Abhisit in power: They can now dictate policy," says Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a political scientist at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University...

Southern Violence Statistics – January 2009

January 31, 2009

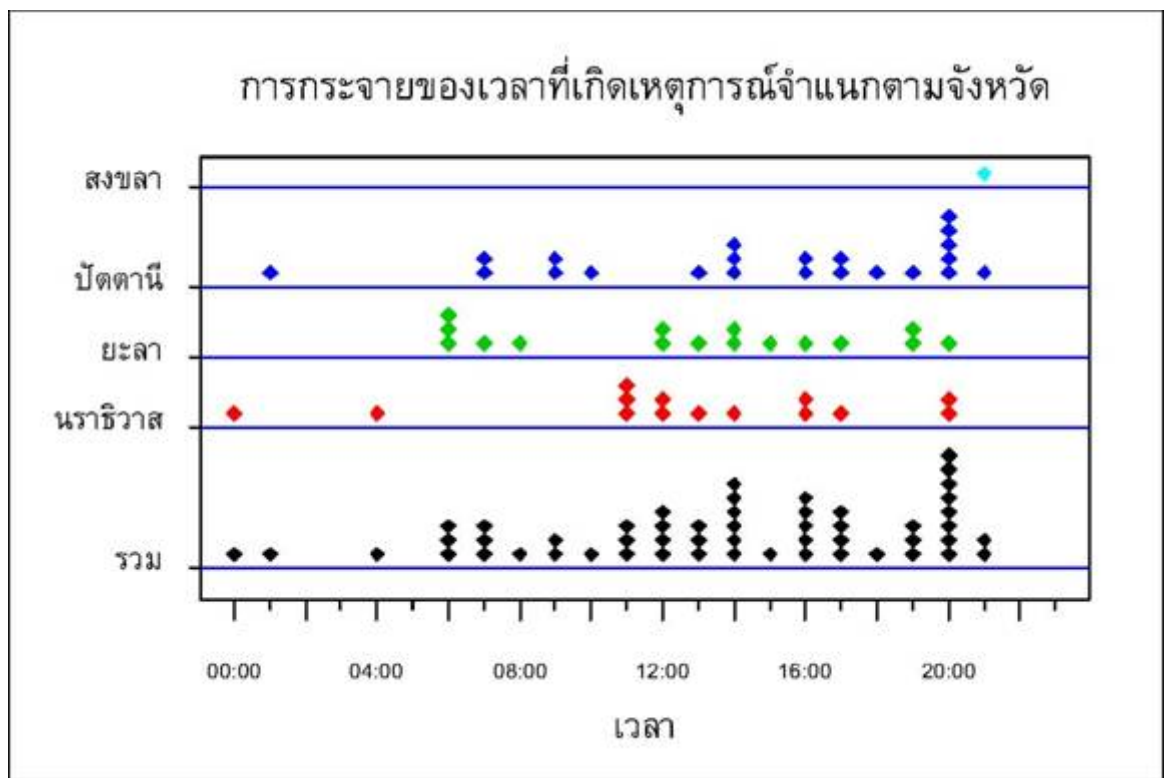
Categories: Deep South Violence Statistics



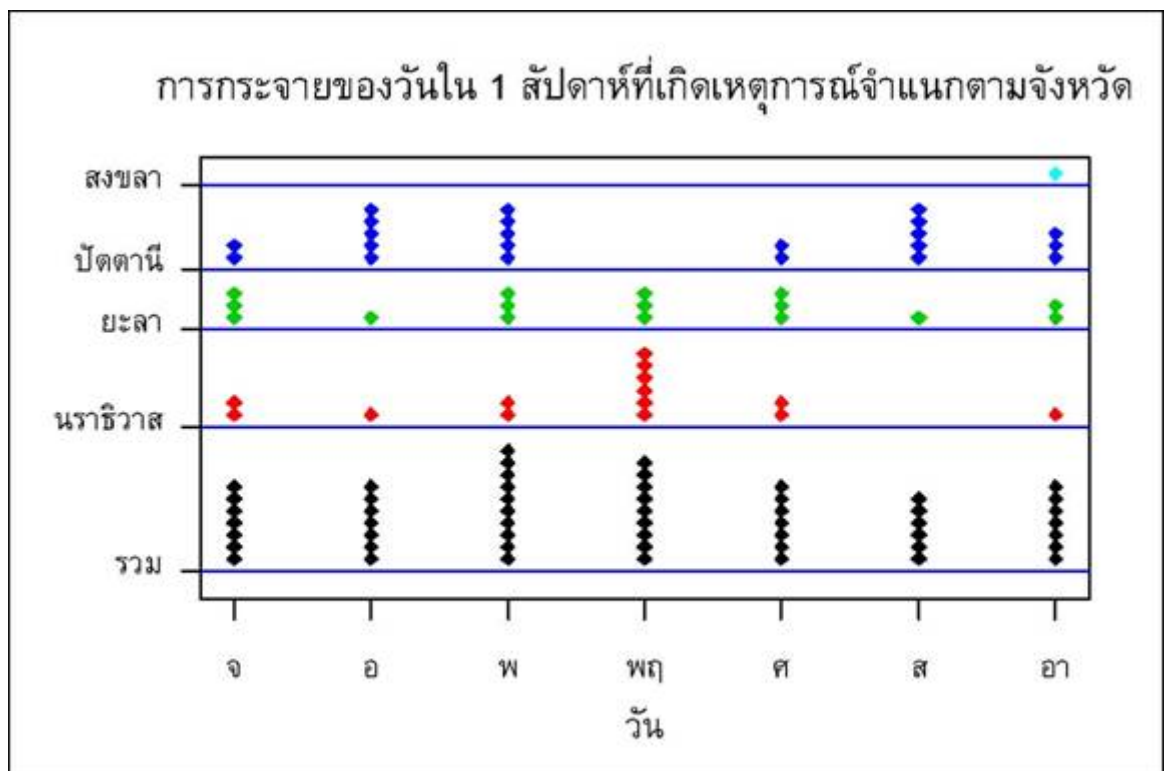
Map of four provinces in the deep south (Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat) showing numbers of the injured by location.

Southern Violence Statistics – January 2009

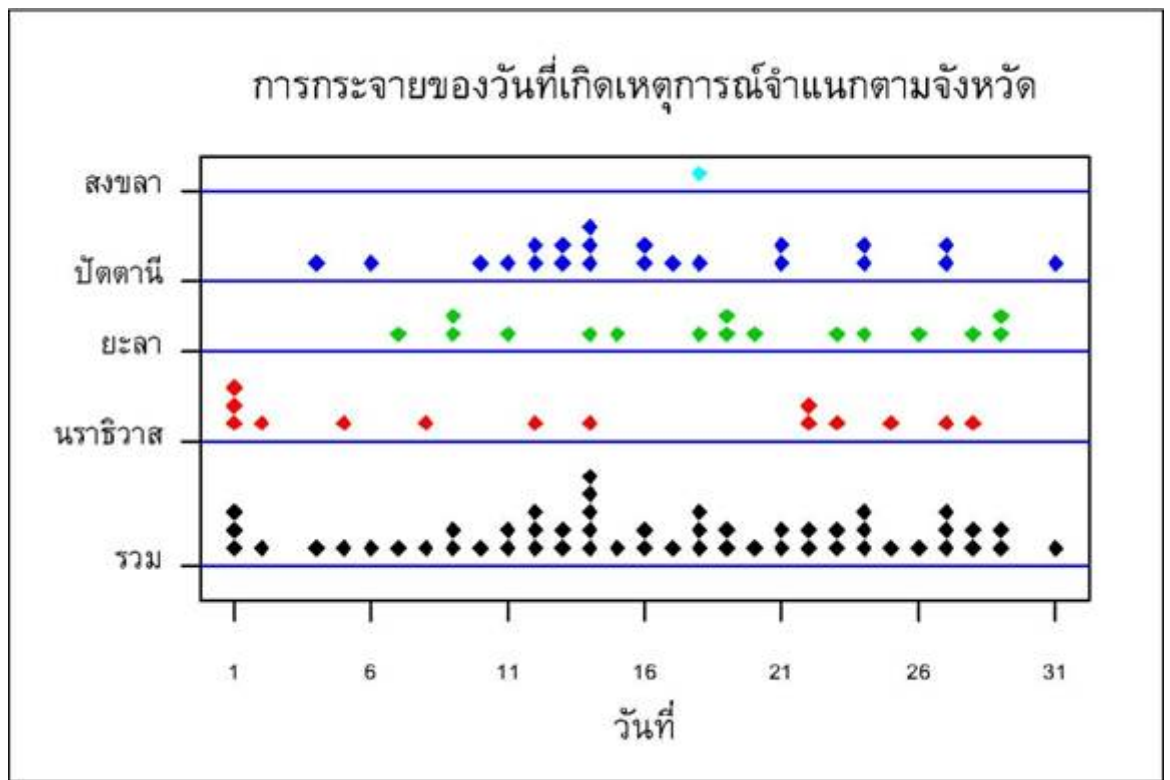
[Index of violence statistics for the Thai Deep South](#)



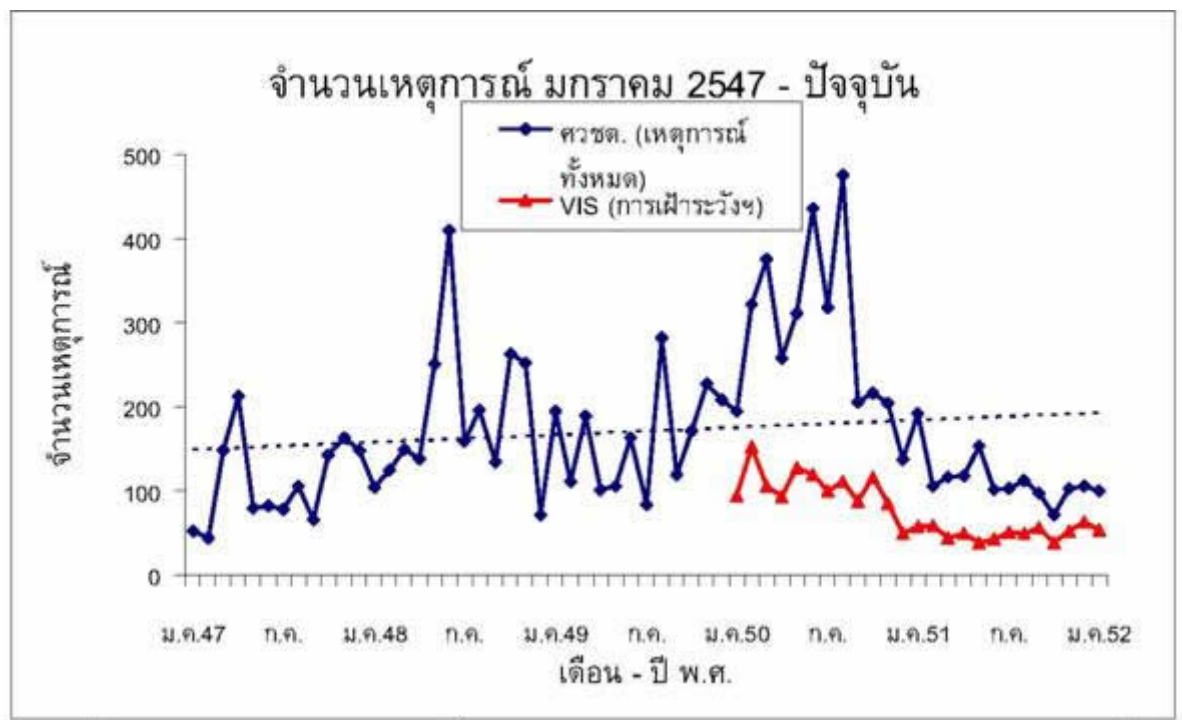
This chart shows violent incidents classified by the hour of the day (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black



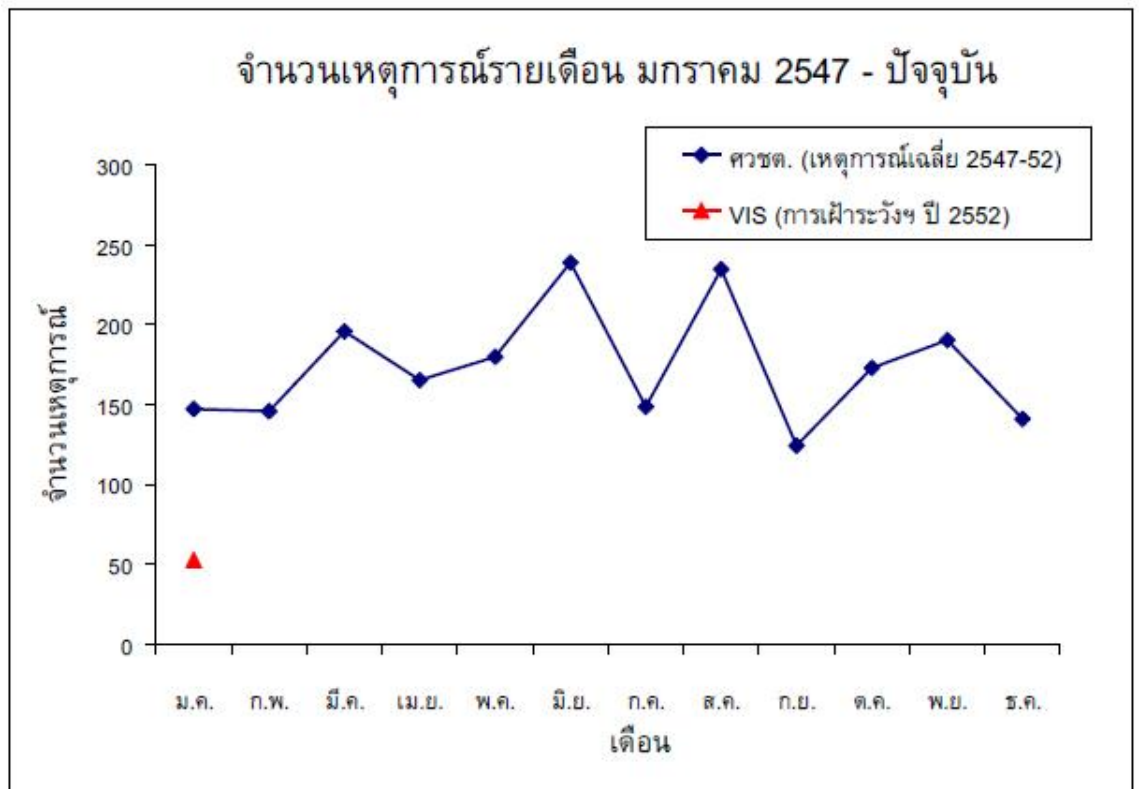
This chart shows violent incidents classified by day of the week (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). The week start with Monday on the left. Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black



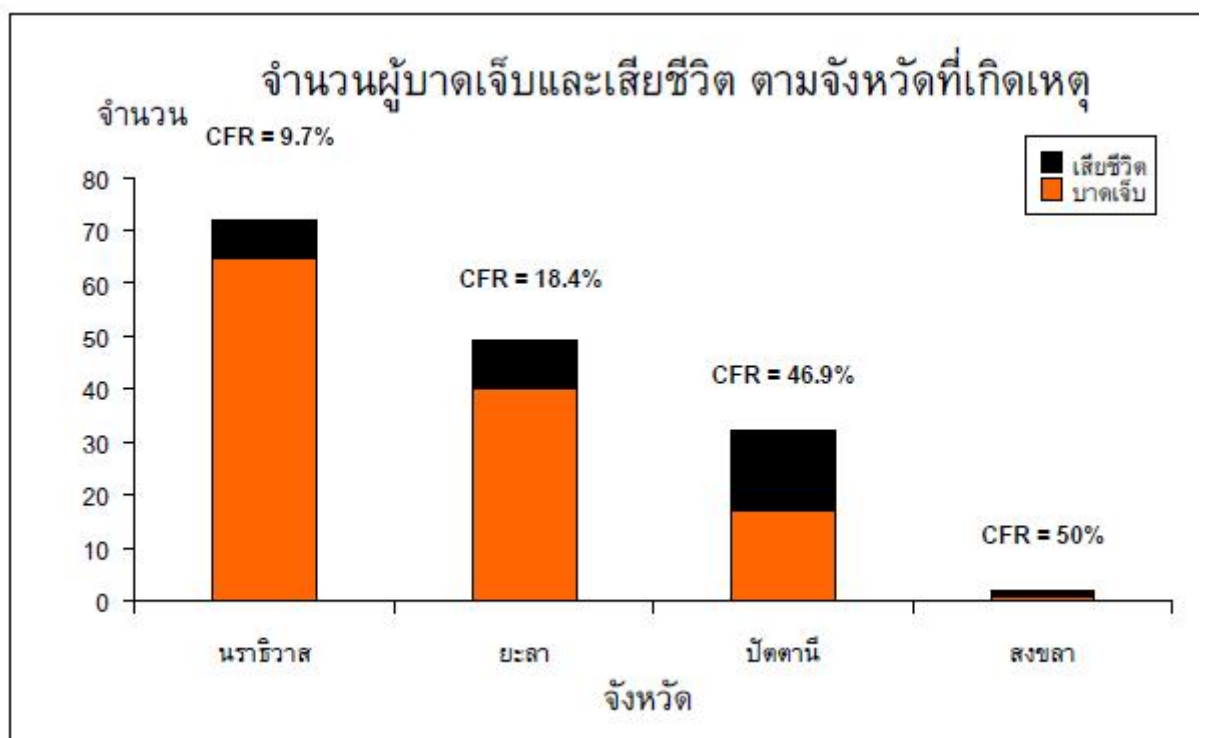
This chart shows violent incidents classified by day of the month (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black



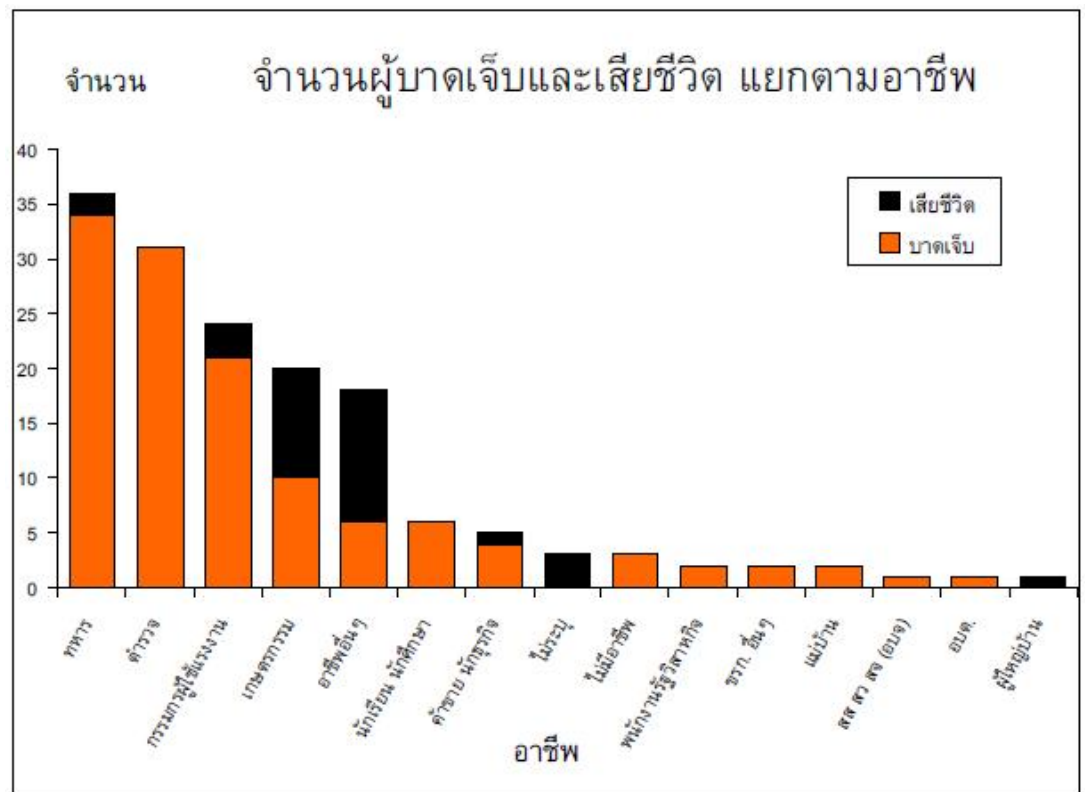
Numbers of violent incidents since January 2004. Across the bottom are the years (2547 is 2004, 2548 2005, 2549 is 2006, 2550 is 2007, 2551 is 2008, 2552 is 2009). The blue line shows the number of all violent that took place as reported by the Deep South Coordination Center (counting all incidents both injury a injury). The red line shows data according to the Violence-related Injury Surveillance (a form that hosp 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 triangle 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 (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 shown above each bar.



The numbers of dead and injured, classified by the victims' profession. Black= dead, orange=injured. From right: army officers, police officers, agriculturists, others, students and college students, businessmen, unemployed, state enterprise employees, other officials, housewives, provincial administrative officials, village headmen

Source: Deep South Violence-related Injury Surveillance statistics

Red Shirt Protests 2009 Main Page

January 31, 2009

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2009



(Source: DTV)

Above: April 11 – DTV has added a graphic of the King to their broadcast

April 12 – DTV is no longer using the graphic

Red Shirt Protests – 2009

[Red shirt protest aftermath – April 15-30, 2009](#)

[Red Shirt protest headlines – April 13-14, 2009](#)

[April 13, 2009](#)

[Retaking Bangkok street by street – April 13, 2009](#)

[April 12, 2009](#)

[April 10-11, 2009](#)

[March 26-April 9, 2009](#)

[Photos from the Red Shirt protest – April 4, 2009](#)

[Photos from the Red Shirt protest – April 3, 2009](#)

[Photos from the Red Shirt protest – March 26, 2009](#)

[Red Shirt Rally – January 31, 2009](#)

“Red in the Land” – At the Red Shirt rally – Part 1

January 31, 2009

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2009



(Photo: HK for 2Bangkok.com)

Red-shirts passing Pan Fah Bridge

"Red in the Land" – At the Red Shirt rally – Part 1 – January 31, 2009

[Part 2](#)

Also: [March 26, 2009 Red Shirt rally](#)

Also: [April 3, 2009 Red Shirt rally](#)



(Photo: HK for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: HK for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: HK for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: HK for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: HK for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: HK for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: HK for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: HK for 2Bangkok.com)

The crowd at Sanam Luang

[Part 2](#)

Also: [March 26, 2009 Red Shirt rally](#)

Also: [April 3, 2009 Red Shirt rally](#)

“Red in the Land” – At the Red Shirt rally – Part 2

January 31, 2009

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2009



(Photo: HK for 2Bangkok.com)

We are not sure what the Chinese characters mean, but the headband reads "Love Chiang Mai"

"Red in the Land" – At the Red Shirt rally – Part 2 – January 31, 2009

[Part 1](#)

Also: [March 26, 2009 Red Shirt rally](#)

Also: [April 3, 2009 Red Shirt rally](#)



(Photo: HK for 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: I want to be Prime Minister



(Photo: HK for 2Bangkok.com)

The sign with the red background: Dissolve parliament – Return power to the people – The terrorist governn to wreck

The white banner: The group of Sanam Luang Democratic group and the Democratic Group of the Four regi ask for the return of Democracy



(Photo: HK for 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: Truth Today



(Photo: HK for 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: Dissolve Parliament – Return power to the people – The red shirt club from Ladphrao



(Photo: HK for 2Bangkok.com)

Sign on top: Hair cloth 10 baht each
The white letters on the cloth: Missing Thaksin



(Photo: HK for 2Bangkok.com)

The white letters read: The gathering of the red shirt group for the people
The url does not seem to be working.



(Photo: HK for 2Bangkok.com)

The red letters read: February 14 – Meet again



(Photo: HK for 2Bangkok.com)

[Part 1](#)

Also: [March 26, 2009 Red Shirt rally](#)

Also: [April 3, 2009 Red Shirt rally](#)

PAD rally in the provinces

February 1, 2009

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

On the back of the shirt: Maung Chod

PAD rally in the provinces – February, 2009

PAD in Maesod, Tak



(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: The picture says the new politics to develop the popular democracy –
 Meet the PAD leaders –
 Somkiat Pongpaiboon –
 Somsak Kosaisook, Terdpoorn Jaidee –
 Chaiwat Sinsuwong, Suriyasai Katasila –
 Artist band of Ngaa Surachai Jantimarn, Mongkol Utok, Rang Rockestra and the Kor-kai band –
 The program is to host by Amorn Amornrattananont, Khun Tam –
 Sunday 22 February, 2009 at 5 pm. At the Naresuan Sport stadium at Maesod in Tak province –
 Meet the PAD leader and the seminar on new politics, the exhibition on the PAD fight for the new politics
 band performance of Surachai Jantimarn(Ngaa Caravan, Rang Rockestra and the sale of ASTV souv



(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: If you are interested to watch the PAD, installing ASTV Asia Satellite TV, the TV of the people must.

Contact installation tel. 055-532731, 086-9391936



(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

It reads:

Meet the PAD leader – Free for everything – Somkiat Pongpaiboon, Somsak Kosaisook, Terdpoom Jai Chaiwat Sinsuwong and Suriyasai Katasila – Ngaa Surachai Jantimartorn, Mongkol Uthok, Rang Rocke the K-kai band – Watch the band performance – February 22, 2009, 5pm – at the Naresuan Sport Stadium, Tak province.



(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: The new politics for the popular Democratic development at the King Naresuan sport stadium Sod in Tak province on February 22, 2009 at 5 pm – PAD network from the 5 districts in the western at province.

In monkey-filled Thai city, humans have learned to get along to go along

February 1, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[In monkey-filled Thai city, humans have learned to get along to go along](#) – *Watertown Daily Times*, February 1, 2009

Pattaya 'Foreign Tourist Police Assistance' volunteers

February 1, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Pattaya 'Foreign Tourist Police Assistance' volunteers](#) – Bangkok Post, February 1, 2009

...But the "farang police", despite their good intentions, have been subject to criticism, particularly over what people see as their intimidating black uniforms, their imposing appearance and the carrying of handcuffs and batons. Questions have also been raised about whether proper background checks are conducted on applicants...

From Not the Nation: Local man makes startling discovery of Daily Xpress

February 1, 2009
Categories: Humor

From *Not the Nation*: [Local man makes startling discovery of Daily Xpress](#)

From *Not the Nation*: [40 red shirts seize bus stop](#)

And one that sounds like it came from *Not the Nation*:
[Customers advised to be vigilant as new batch of counterfeit Windows XP finds its way into Thailand](#) –
Thaipr.net, February 1, 2009

Caught in the crossfire of love and hate

February 2, 2009

Categories: Thai Police

[Caught in the crossfire of love and hate](#) – Bangkok Post, February 2, 2009

... "From our field investigations, we realised that no policemen liked him because he tried to expose their extortion activities," Pol Col Prayon said.

"On the other hand, every villager loved him because he always lent them a hand every time they had problems with police..."

I'll return to post of prime minister: Thaksin

February 2, 2009

Categories: Thai Politics

[I'll return to post of prime minister: Thaksin](#) – *The Nation*, February 2, 2009

Former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra Monday vowed to fight his way back to the post of prime minister and vowed to return to Thailand...

Bangkok is sinking

February 2, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok is sinking](#) – *GlobalPost*, February 2, 2009

Thailand's top disaster expert once foretold the 2004 tsunami. Now, he says the nation's capital will be submerged by 2030...

Bangkok nightclub fire: Police ‘tried to protect guilty colleagues’

February 3, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok nightclub fire: Police ‘tried to protect guilty colleagues’](#) – *Telegraph*, February 3, 2009

A fresh investigation into the Bangkok nightclub fire that killed 66 people on New Years Eve has exposed serious flaws in the police inquiry, raising suspicions that officers framed an innocent man to protect guilty colleagues...

US and Thailand begin joint war games

February 3, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[US and Thailand begin joint war games](#) – Channel NewsAsia, February 3, 2009

Thailand launched its annual war games Wednesday with troops from the United States, Japan, Singapore and Indonesia linking up with Thai forces for two weeks of joint military exercises...

Travelers cautioned about Bangkok political unrest

February 3, 2009

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2009

[Travelers cautioned about Bangkok political unrest](#) – *Hostelbookers*, February, 2009

...Backpackers in Bangkok in particular may be affected by the anti-government demonstrations currently taking place in the capital city...

Thais protest idea of Rohingya refugee center

February 4, 2009

Categories: Myanmar/Burma, Refugees and Migrants

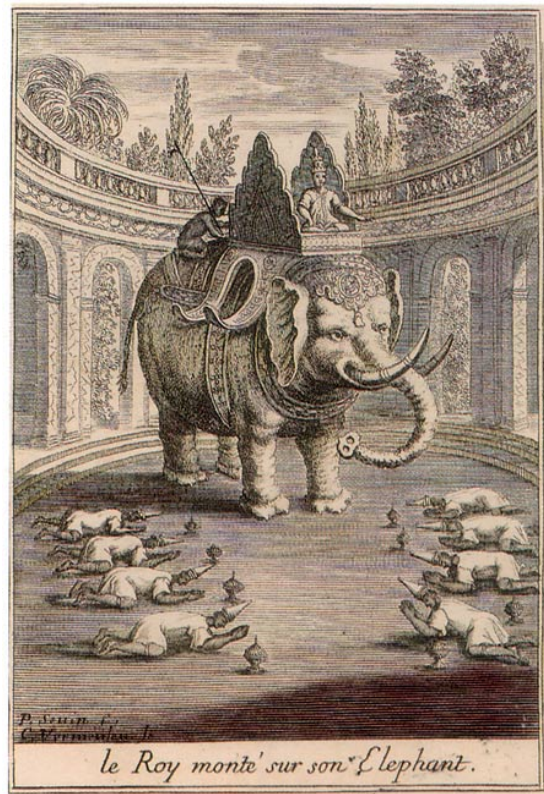
[Thais protest idea of Rohingya refugee center](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, February 4, 2009

Around one thousand protesters gathered in Thailand's southern port city of Ranong yesterday to demonstrate against suggestions that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is seeking to establish a Rohingya refugee center in the area.

According to an official Thai report, the demonstrators were mostly local residents "acting on behalf of a Thai- human rights commission." They formed a picket line with signs in Thai and English after they were blocked from entering Ranong Airport, where they planned to submit copies of a protest letter to representatives of the embassies of Burma, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh and India...

Voyage de Siam

February 5, 2009



Voyage de Siam – February 5, 2009

Plate from *Voyage de Siam*, by Guy Tachard, Paris: Arnould Seneuze & Daniel Horthemels, 1686

Thailand's Wild East

February 5, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand's Wild East](#) – Time, February 5, 2009

...Locals work the nearby ranches, occasionally dressed in Wild West outfits likely inspired by American soldiers who passed through during R&R from the Vietnam War...

Looking for Bob (Robert) Morris

February 5, 2009
Categories: People

Looking for Bob (Robert) Morris – February 5, 2009

We are looking for Bob (Robert) Morris who contacted us in 2005 about his father who had moved to Bangkok. If anyone has any information on contacting Bob (Robert) Morris, please let us know.

Unknown Thai train

February 6, 2009



(Photo: Collection of Dick van der Spek)

Unknown Thai train – February 6, 2009
Anyone have any details about this train?

Chatuchak Night Market

February 6, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Chatuchak Night Market – February 6, 2009

Thai press is reporting that from February 20, 2009 Chatuchak Market will be open on Friday night.

Convertible tuk-tuks for the US market

February 6, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News



[Convertible tuk-tuks for the US market](#) – February 6, 2009
Thanks to David for pointing this out.



Obama look-alike found in Saraburi

February 6, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Obama look-alike found in Saraburi](#) – *TOC*, February 6, 2009

Boffins reject climate claims

February 6, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Boffins reject climate claims](#) – Bangkok Post , February 6, 2009

...For example, water-related agencies had failed to come up with sustainable means of water resource management because they thought floods and drought were caused by climate change which were beyond their ability to deal with, the physicist said...

Koh Lanta: Like Phuket without mass tourism

February 6, 2009

Categories: Tourism

[Koh Lanta: Like Phuket without mass tourism](#) – *Cyber Diver News Network*, February 6, 2009

A tuk-tuk driver is squashing a black scorpion on the road during a brief tropical downpour, the chilli from fiery tom yum soup is burning my tongue and the Andaman Sea is lapping...

In Defense of Thailand

February 6, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[In Defense of Thailand](#) – Thailandnews, February 6, 2009

...Americans should take a moment to acknowledge Thailand as a member in good standing of the democratic club that is America's system of alliances in East Asia and the Pacific...

Q and A: Thailand's former PM Thaksin Shinawatra

February 6, 2009

Categories: Thai Politics

[Q and Thailand's former PM Thaksin Shinawatra](#) – *Time*, March, 2009

...Last time you spoke with TIME in January 2007, you said you were finished with politics and that you would retire. What changed?

have been bullying me politically nonstop since then. I already declared that I wanted to retire. I wanted to spend my life with my family. But they were bullying me. The rule of law is not there. The democratic process is not there. That is too much. All of my supporters urged me: 'you have to come and fight back politically.' They want to come back to a mature democracy...

From *Not the Nation*: [Thaksin raising army of orcs](#)

... "This is nor ordinary army," explained army chief Anupong Paojinda. "These U-rak-thai do not fear sunlight or the seniority of puu yai. They cannot be placated by Buddhist abstractions about karma, or by casting spells of nationalism. Even our royalist amnesia weapons have no effect on them. In other words, they are not human. Or at least not Thai."

...Privy Council head Prem Tinsulanonda has been entrusted with the defense of Dusit and the residence of His Majesty. Appearing for a press conference on the Makkawan Bridge, Prem, dressed in a long white robe and sporting a newly grown white beard, explained his strategy by raising his gnarled wooden walking staff and pounding it into the pavement. "They shall not pass!" he exclaimed, as the bridge cracked beneath his feet. Two reporters from Channel 7 and one from Al-Jazeera were injured when the bridge collapsed into the klong.

No Thaksin blog post? – March 6, 2009

We also note Thaksin has missed his monthly blog post which came out on the 6th of each month like clockwork.

Earlier: Thaksin's latest blog entry – [buildingbetterfuture.org](#), February 6, 2009

From his secret location, Thaksin releases his second blog entry: [Literacy is key to competing in a rapidly changing world](#)

So far these rather generalized articles seem to be coming out on the 6th of each month.

Like Phuket, long ago

February 7, 2009

[Like Phuket, long ago](#) – *The Age*, February 7, 2009

[The Rebirth of Phuket](#) – *The Age*, February 7, 2009

Mystery Briton is key witness in Merchant of Death arms sting

February 8, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Mystery Briton is key witness in Merchant of Death arms sting](#) – Times, February 8, 2009

...Even before Bout's plane touched down, more than 50 Thai police, tipped off by the DEA, were staking out the Sofitel hotel where he had planned to meet his fake Farc clients. Amid the publicity that Bout's arrest attracted, Smulian's role went initially unnoticed. There were some reports that the Briton was also arrested in Bangkok, but other sources claim he was picked up later in New York...

Protest graffiti on building

February 8, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

Protest graffiti on building – February 8, 2009

This photo is from Amphur Maesod in Tak Province. It reads: The bastard black man is going to destroy my building. His whatever speech is meant to destroy my building. My building's worth is 4 million but he gives me about 1 million and a little. If this is the asset of your fucking parents, what would you think? Where is the fuck fairness of the matter?

Thai police net Colombian burglary gang

February 9, 2009

Categories: Crime

[Thai police net Colombian burglary gang](#) – M and C, February 9, 2009

... 'Sometimes, security guards are lenient when seeing foreigners,' Metropolitan Police Commissioner Lieutenant-General Suchat Muankaew said. 'But now they had better be strict... '

Human rights office in Southern Thailand raided

February 9, 2009

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[Human rights office in Southern Thailand raided](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, February 9, 2009

...The rights group on Saturday had responded to the military's warning to government agencies of alleged infiltration of NGOs by challenging the army to produce evidence and charge wrongdoers. In a statement, it called on the army "to stop threatening the work of activists who are helping people in the region whose rights are violated or abused..."

Park reopens on Thai-Cambodian border

February 9, 2009

Categories: Preah Vihear

[Park reopens on Thai-Cambodian border](#) – *UPI*, February 9, 2009

Honda CRM250 blasts along Sukhumvit highway, Rayong

February 10, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News



Honda CRM250 blasts along Sukhumvit highway, Rayong – *YouTube*, February 10, 2009

Warrant: Slain St. Paulite was Thai lottery middleman

February 10, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Warrant: Slain St. Paulite was Thai lottery middleman](#) – *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, February 10, 2009

Police: Man's fatal stabbing could be related to Thai lottery

February 10, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Police: Man's fatal stabbing could be related to Thai lottery](#) – *Pioneer Press*, February 10, 2009

All about Ladda Tammy Duckworth

February 11, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[All about Ladda Tammy Duckworth](#) – *Wikipedia*, February 11, 2009

UNHCR warned over Angelina Jolie's criticism on Rohingya

February 11, 2009

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[UNHCR warned over Angelina Jolie's criticism on Rohingya](#) – *The Nation*, February 11, 2009

Thai government has warned UN High Commission for Refugees that Rohingya boat people's presence in Thailand is sensitive issue and it and its guests should not mention about the issue, Thai Foreign Ministry's senior official said Wednesday...

[Boatpeople 'ugly as ogres'](#) – *Straits Times*, February 11, 2009

Myanmar's senior official in Hong Kong has described the Rohingya boatpeople as 'ugly as ogres,' as a high-profile refugee case has highlighted...

[Myanmar's outrageous racism excused](#) – *Asia Sentinel*, February, 2009

The reputation and so-called solidarity the Association of Southeast Asian Nations hit a new low this week...

The tone of this article somehow reminds us of this: [Being Offended](#) – *Stuff White People Like*, May 28, 2008

Thailand's stubborn fugitive

February 11, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand's stubborn fugitive](#) – *Far Eastern Economic Review*, February 11, 2009

...According to Mr. Phongthep, nothing short of a fundamental change will bring meaningful peace to Thailand's political landscape. "I think we have to bring back a system that is acceptable to most of the people. We have to bring back the system that is correct according to internationally accepted standards and we have to make the people in Thailand realize that we cannot just live in this country and do what we like without considering the ways that people should follow to live peacefully together," he said...

NBT: We interrupt this broadcast to give you trash

February 12, 2009

[NBT: We interrupt this broadcast to give you trash](#) – *The Nation*, February 12, 2009

...Of course, they couldn't hoodwink anybody. It was a flop from Day One. News was not only slanted, it was meant to serve as a fortress against any political opponents. With Satit's predecessor Jakrapob Penkair in charge, the station promptly became a machine for Samak's political witch-hunt...

Thai military leaders tour Cobra Gold headquarters

February 13, 2009

[Thai military leaders tour Cobra Gold headquarters](#) – *Stars and Stripes*, February 13, 2009

... "The great benefit that the Royal Armed Forces get out of Cobra Gold is the preparation for operations, especially peacekeeping operations which they can then apply in internal security efforts."

Amid a blend of field uniforms from five Southeast Asian nations, Kanchanawat met participants of the staff-level mock United Nations crisis scenario being played out in the fictional country of "Arcadia..."

The project of road construction line A B and E

February 13, 2009

Categories: Highways and Roads



(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: Department of Rural Roads, road construction office

Road construction: The project of road construction line A B and E

The Tak's Office the Public Works and Town and Country

Planning, the length of 5265 kilometer

Hired company: Phra Nakorn Sri Ayuthaya Commercial and Industrial Co., Ltd

Contact begins on September 3, 2008

Due date of contact ending February 13, 2009

Budget: 177,000,000.00 baht

Construction supervision team Monchai Prasithiwong Civil Engineer head (level 7)

Visuth Thongthab – Civil engineer

Phone number 0-5553-4115

www. Project-maesodroad.com

The project operation relies on the tax income from the public

The picture on the right side shows the scenery along the road side following the project plan.

When allies drift apart

February 13, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[When allies drift apart](#) – *Asia Times*, February 13, 2009

When a Thai court last year refused to turn over an Iranian national United States authorities claimed was part of a missile parts smuggling operation, it marked the first-ever failed extradition between the two long-time strategic allies...

Increase in AIDS cases in Thailand prompts action by civic groups

February 13, 2009

Categories: HIV-AIDS

[Increase in AIDS cases in Thailand prompts action by civic groups](#) – *Voice of America*, February 13, 2009
...Thailand United Nations AIDS Country Coordinator, Patrick Benny, says while the forecast of 12,000 is much lower than the 120,000 new infections Thailand was reporting each year a decade ago, trends do point to a rising incidence within key vulnerable groups...

Where's reimbursement for time stuck in Thailand?

February 13, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Travel Q&A: Where's reimbursement for time stuck in Thailand?](#) – Inside Bay Area, February 13, 2009

...That's about \$57 per person per day.

Figuring out how to apply for that refund has been tough. Finding no details on the official Thai tourism Web site or the government news site, we contacted the U.S. division of the Tourism Authority of Thailand. The New York office thought the offer had expired; the Los Angeles office marketing manager said she had never been informed of the reimbursement program but has now been told it ended Dec. 30...

Lunch with the FT: Abhisit Vejjajiva

February 13, 2009

Categories: Thai Politics

[Lunch with the FT: Abhisit Vejjajiva](#) – *Financial Times*, February 13, 2009

Thailand never used to have an image problem. Put to one side the occasional negative story about sex tourism and heroin-trafficking and the country has been successfully marketed as the idealised Oriental paradise: exotic, beautiful, warm, welcoming and unthreatening...

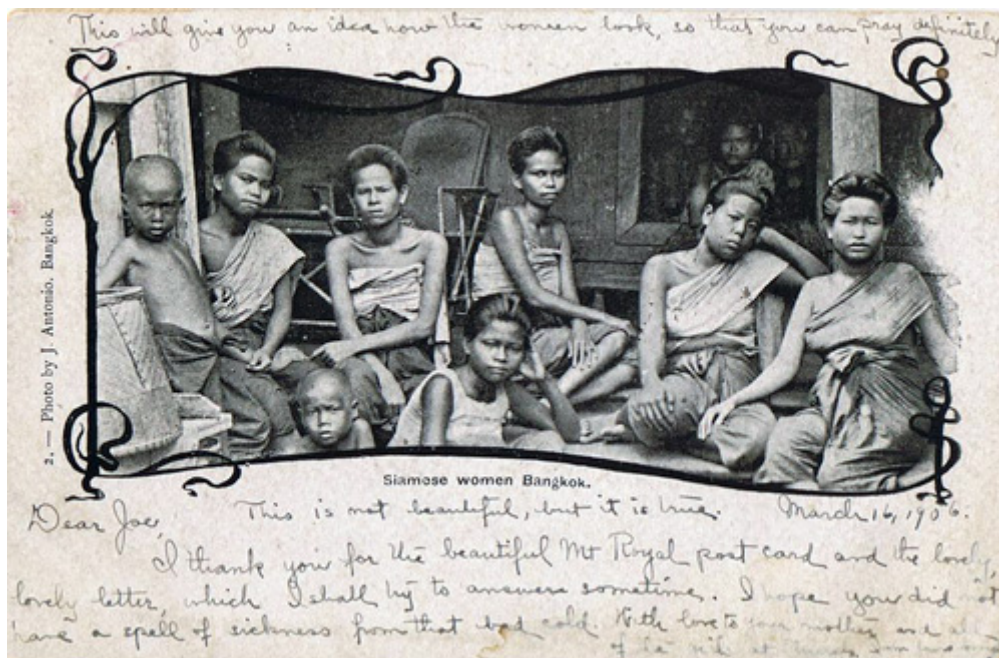
Thai girls

February 14, 2009



Circa 1900 postcard: *A Siamese girl, a Bangkok girl, a Bangkok damsel, a native nurse*

Thai girls – February 14, 2009



(Source: postcard 1906)

1906 postcard: *Siamese women Bangkok*



1940 postcard: Swarnchitt Kruhanont, Miss Thailand 1940 – Chia Khee Seng Store, Bangkok Thailand



1969 travel booklet: *See You In Thailand in 1969*

National Lottery Building, 1959

February 14, 2009



(Photo: *Siam. Pays des merveilles*, Photographs by Michael Wolgensinger, text by Rudolf Wening and A.F. Somm, Published by Artis-Brussels, 1959)

National Lottery Building, 1959 – February 14, 2009

Olivier writes: *This is an old picture of the National Lottery building in Bangkok. It's taken from a book called: "Siam. Pays des merveilles," Photographs by Michael Wolgensinger, text by Rudolf Wening and A.F. Somm, published by Artis-Brussels in 1959. Hope you'll enjoy it.*

Tortured by Thai visits

February 14, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Tortured by Thai visits](#) – *The Star*, February 14, 2009

I am a married woman in my 40s with a teenage son. My marriage was a happy one until two years ago when I found some condoms in my husband's luggage and that he had been making regular visits to a Thai border town...

Russia slams US for pressure on Thai court over Bout extradition

February 14, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Russia slams US for pressure on Thai court over Bout extradition](#) – RIA Novosti, February 14, 2009

... "Moreover, Thailand has terminated a criminal case against Bout, while he has not been proven guilty on charges brought against him in the United States. In this context, the U.S. lawmakers' public appeal cannot be regarded only as an attempt to put pressure on the executive and judiciary authorities of Thailand," the statement said.

"These actions on the part of parliamentarians in a nation that purports to be an example of rule of law and observance of human rights looks embarrassing, to say the least," the document said...

Urban elephants ply Bangkok streets in search of tourist dollars

February 14, 2009

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Urban elephants ply Bangkok streets in search of tourist dollars](#) – AFP, February, 2009

...A report released by wildlife charity TRAFFIC last month revealed that more than 250 live animals had been smuggled from neighbouring Myanmar in the past decade, in contravention of national and international laws.

“Females and juvenile elephants are particularly targeted to supply the demand from the tourism industry in Thailand,” said Chris Shepherd, senior programme officer with TRAFFIC...

Thaksin has been recently spotted in Cambodia

February 15, 2009

Categories: Cambodia, Thai Politics

Thaksin has been recently spotted in Cambodia – *KI*, February 15, 2009

Four days ago, a number of opposition National Assembly members asked Prime Minister Hun Sen to confirm the presence in Cambodia, in January and/or February 2009, of Thailand's ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The presence of the foreign fugitive politician on Cambodian soil may have negative implications on relations with neighboring Thailand.

According to article 96 of the Constitution, Hun Sen must respond to the parliamentarians within seven days after receiving their letter.

Read the letter in Khmer at <http://tinyurl.com/arb59e>

[Thaksin's V-day call](#) – *Straits Times*, February 15, 2009

...Saturday's rally at a Buddhist temple outside Bangkok was billed as a fundraiser for Thaksin supporters, who still hold periodic rallies that have failed to muster significant crowds. Thaksin did not mention where he was calling from...

Road announcement

February 17, 2009



(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

Road announcement – February 17, 2009

It reads: Regarding the road construction project line A, B and E under work for the Tak Public Works and Town and Country Planning Office that begins on September 3, 2008 up to the present, we apologize for any inconvenience that occurred to pedestrians and local residents living close to the area.

Any comment that are useful for the project running or complaints can be sent to our box or by phone number 0-5553-4115, address 989 Moo 9 Tambon Maepa, Mae Sod district, Tak province 63110 or via www.Project-maesodroad.com

Maiden foreign trip ends in terror ordeal

February 17, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Maiden foreign trip ends in terror ordeal](#) – *Times of India*, February 17, 2009

... "While Amarjit and Jasbir were given immigration clearance, the officials started acting funny with me during verification," Paramjit told TOI on Monday. "They said I was Paramjit Singh Panjwar, a KLF terrorist whose entry Bangkok has banned since 1995. I was harassed for about 12 hours because of my namesake. They did not even bother to check my passport or contact the embassy officials in Delhi. It was terrible – they stripped me of my clothes, and dignity..."

The ten cheapest countries to holiday – and the ten priciest

February 18, 2009

Categories: Tourism

[The ten cheapest countries to holiday – and the ten priciest](#) – *Times*, February 18, 2009

Pictured: The Buddhist temple built using 1.5 million recycled beer bottle

February 18, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News, Buddhism

[Pictured: The Buddhist temple built using 1.5 million recycled beer bottles](#) – *Daily Mail*, February 18, 2009

Film-rating system to take effect in May

February 18, 2009

Categories: Film and TV

[Film-rating system to take effect in May](#) – *The Nation*, February 18, 2009

... "The two extra groups are for films that should be promoted on merits of cultures, arts or traditions, and films that should be banned for containing inappropriate content," Teera said...

Teenage backpacker ‘died from excitement’ in Thailand

February 19, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Teenage backpacker ‘died from excitement’ in Thailand](#) – *Telegraph*, February 19, 2009

Katy assault suspect found in Thailand

February 19, 2009

Categories: Crime

[Katy assault suspect found in Thailand](#) – MyFox Houston, February 19, 2009

A man featured on the FOX 26 Predator Check segment has been found in Thailand one month after another man, also featured on Predator Check, was caught living a secret life in the Southeast Asian country...

Rolls-Royce delivers first car to Thailand

February 19, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Rolls-Royce delivers first car to Thailand](#) – Autochannel, February 19, 2009

...Dr Nikorn specified his bespoke car to feature a Diamond Black exterior and an interior finished with piano black wood and contrast stitching. Amongst other Bespoke features, the car comes with the award-winning starlight headlining, an optional feature that incorporates 800 fine fiber optics in the ceiling, creating the impression of a star-filled night sky...

Pibul-era graphics

February 20, 2009
Categories: History



Wisarut comments: After taking a look at those photo of [Pibul Era](#), I could make additional comments on this issue as follows: This sheet music cover (above) reads: Song – Rabbit Brand – 19th edition – Yurathai Song – Retail and wholesale distribution at Tor. Jeckhuan department store at Banglampoo Pratumai, Phra Nakorn.

This refers to the [phonograph records sold at Tor. Ngek Chuan](#) –
More Info abot the [phonographic records from Tor. Ngek Chuan](#)



Book of speeches – It reads:
 Thai at present –
 Memorial to the National Day 2483 (1940)



Wisarut comments: Magazine – It reads: Nikorn Sunday – We believe listeners – Nation is far from troubles – Issue 13 – Date November 14, 1943

At bottom: Maksing...Kitima...Usana Mor. Pleunghum – Havakalormak and Sunshine in cloud rain

This refer to the novelists written for Nikorn Sunday written by Pramoon Unhadhoop (17 June 1920 – 11 January 1987) who generally used the pen name “Usana Ploengtham.” The most famous novel of Usana Ploengtham is “[The Erotic Story of Chan Dara](#)” -> the masterpiece of

Thai erotic Novel published first in Siamrath Samdahwicharn between 1964-1966. More on the [biography of “Usana Ploengtham”](#)



Cover of speech collection book of PM Pibul – It reads:
Speech given by the Prime Minister dated June 24, 2482 – June 24

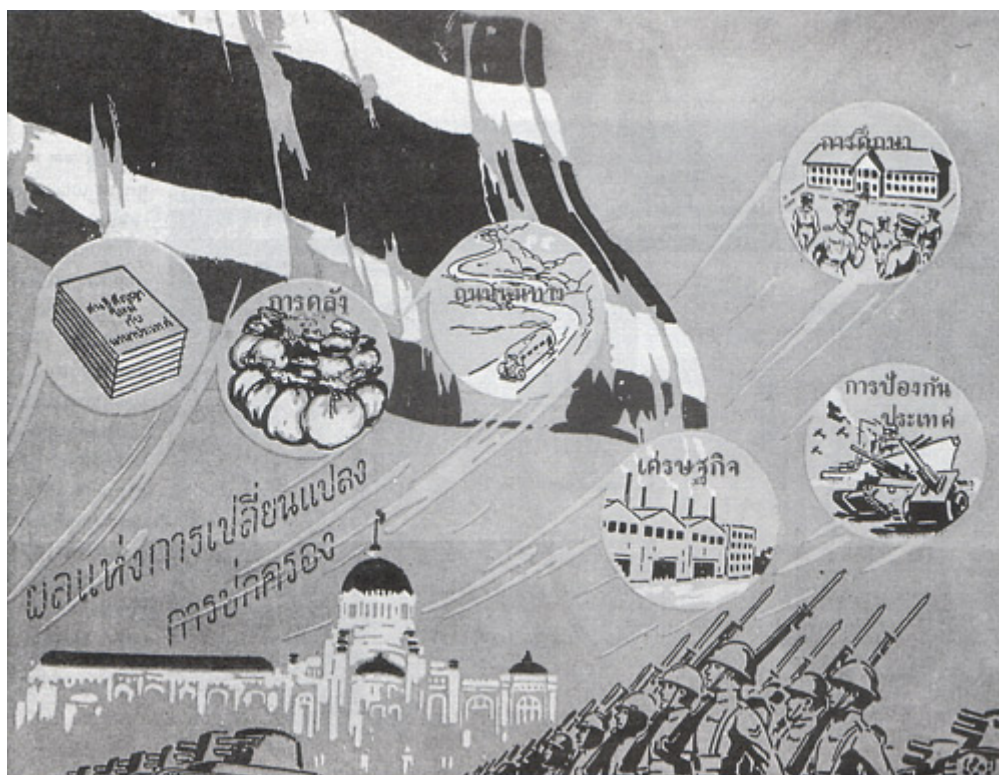


Image circa 1939-1940 It reads:
New treaties with other countries – Finance – Streets – Education – Economics – Defence Result
of the political change

Thailand launches national cocktail to lure tourist

February 20, 2009

Categories: Food and Drink

[Thailand launches national cocktail to lure tourists](#) – *Guardian*, February 20, 2009

...Thailand's tourism authority formally rolled out the drink yesterday, grandly styling the concoction "Thailand in a glass: the new punch in Thai tourism..."

Thai military commanders brought an apology letter to Cambodia

February 21, 2009

Categories: Cambodia

[Thai military commanders brought an apology letter to Cambodia](#) – *KI*, February 21, 2009

Rescue plan for rare Siamese crocs

February 23, 2009

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Rescue plan for rare Siamese crocs](#) – BBC News, February 23, 2009

...The Siamese was declared extinct in the wild in 1992, and while several population sites have been found in recent years, numbers are still critically low...

Severed head

February 24, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Severed head – February 24, 2009

[Noel](#) points out the closeup photo of the [severed head](#).

Photos of both head and body are [here](#).

Several readers also noted how The Nation repeatedly [reported](#) that the head was hung from Rama IX Bridge instead of Rama VIII Bridge.

Thaksin running scared as Abhisit picks up more points

February 24, 2009

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thaksin running scared as Abhisit picks up more points](#) – *The Nation*, February 24, 2009

...That's why Dubai prefers to welcome "white" guests, while non-white visitors or tourists are regarded with ill-concealed contempt, including eye-scanning and scolding for those who do not understand the procedure. Workers from the sub-continent have been known to be slapped on the back of the head by irate overzealous civil servants at the airport...

Bangkok rocked by anti-government protests – Radio...

February 24, 2009

[Bangkok rocked by anti-government protests](#) – *Radio Netherlands*, February 24, 2009

British angler lands monster stingray in Thailand

February 24, 2009

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[British angler lands monster stingray in Thailand](#) – *Guardian*, February 24, 2009

Catch weighing up to 350kg could be the largest freshwater fish ever caught by rod and line...

KNU colonel released by Thai army

February 25, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News, Myanmar/Burma

[KNU colonel released by Thai army](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, February 25, 2009

Col Ner Dah Mya of the KNU is released on bail by the Thai army, after being charged with possessing illegal weapons and transporting migrants to Thailand...

How not to make a political fashion statement in Bangkok

February 26, 2009

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[How not to make a political fashion statement in Bangkok](#) – *Time*, February 26, 2009

...So what's a safe fashion choice in Bangkok these days? Black may be appropriate for ASEAN members mourning the regional casualties of the global financial crisis. For everyone else, it's pink—a hue that gets to the heart of a color conundrum. The Thai King was born on a Monday, but he was born in Massachusetts, which is half a day behind Thailand's time zone. Technically, that means he was actually born on Tuesday Bangkok time, which could mean he should be honored by pink...

Thai group demands independence

February 26, 2009

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[Thai group demands independence](#) – Aljazeera, February 26, 2009

...Speaking to Al Jazeera's Step Vaessen at a location outside Thailand, a senior member of the National Revolutionary Front Co-ordinate (BRN-C) said the group's main aim was "to fight for independence through an armed revolution".

"Our main aim is not war but we are forced into this because without violence Siam will never stop discriminating against the Malay people in the south," he said on condition of anonymity...

Thai separatists vow to pursue independence

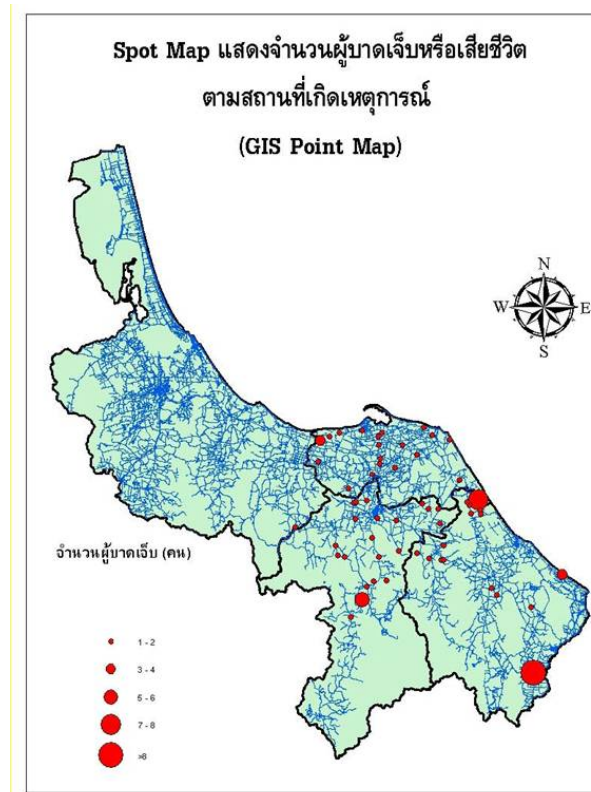
February 26, 2009

Thai separatists vow to pursue independence – *AlJazeeraEnglish*, February 26, 2009

Southern Violence Statistics – February 2009

February 28, 2009

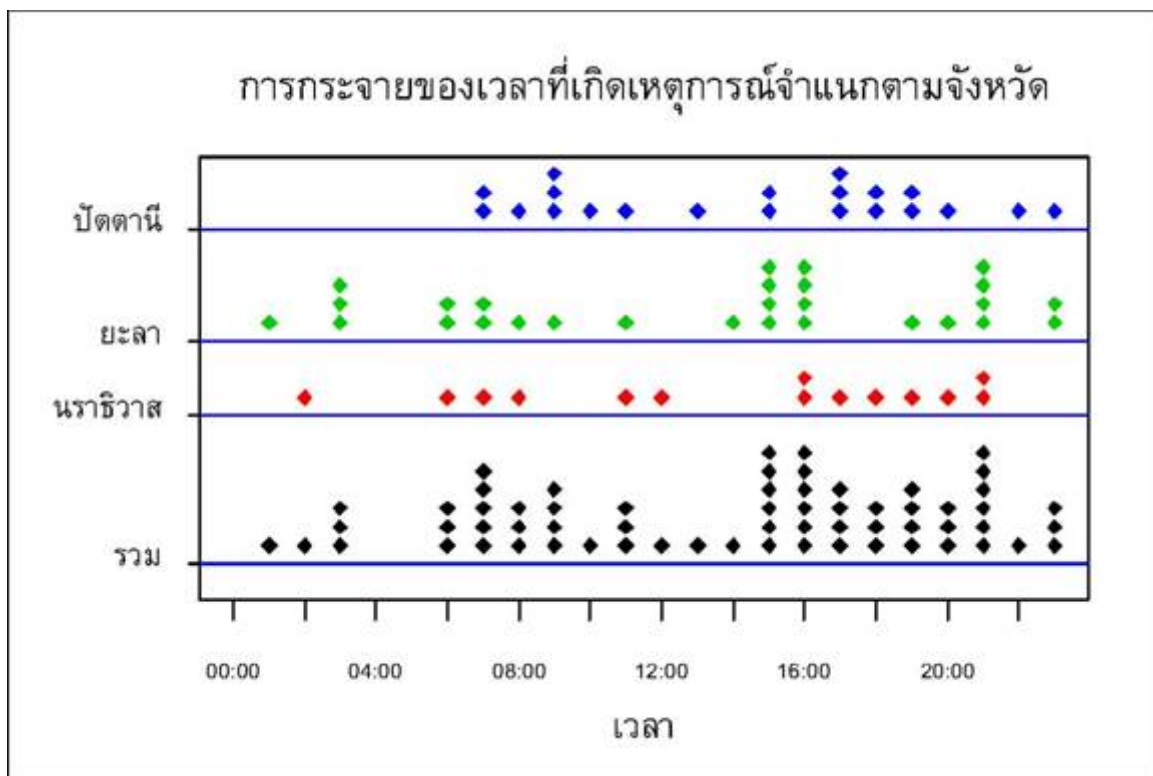
Categories: Deep South Violence Statistics



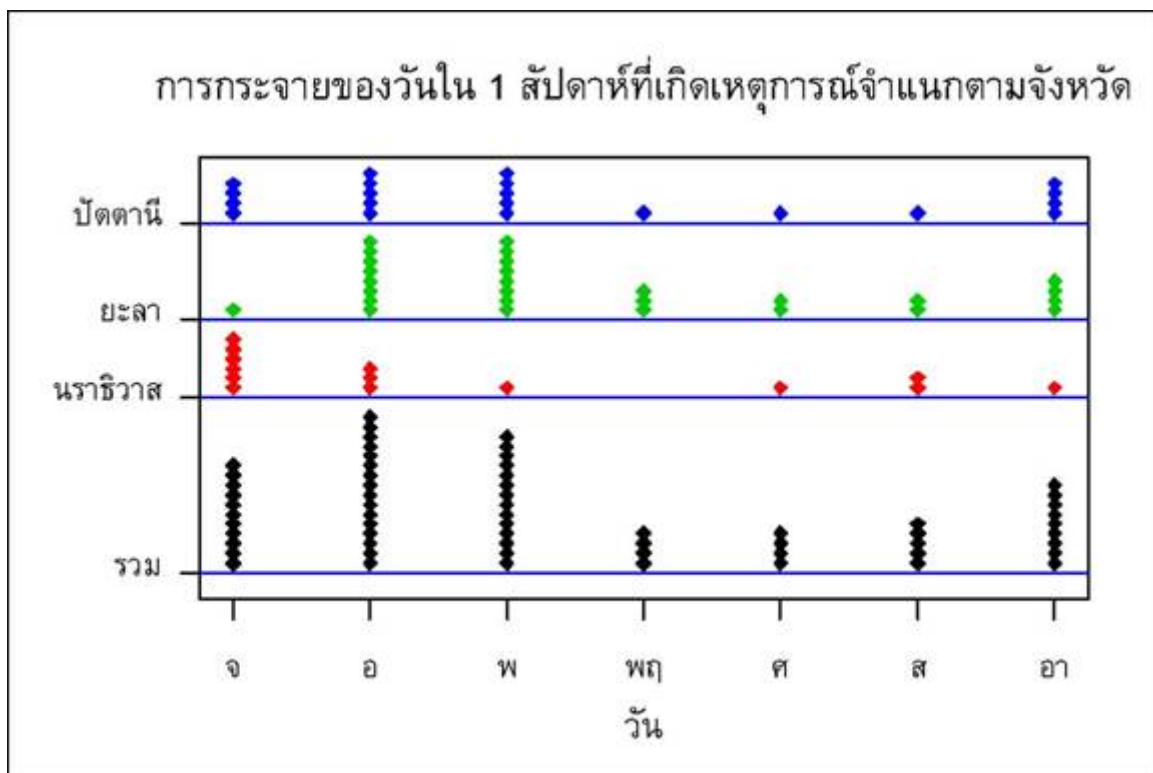
Map of four provinces in the deep south (Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat) showing numbers of the dead and injured by location.

Southern Violence Statistics – February 2009

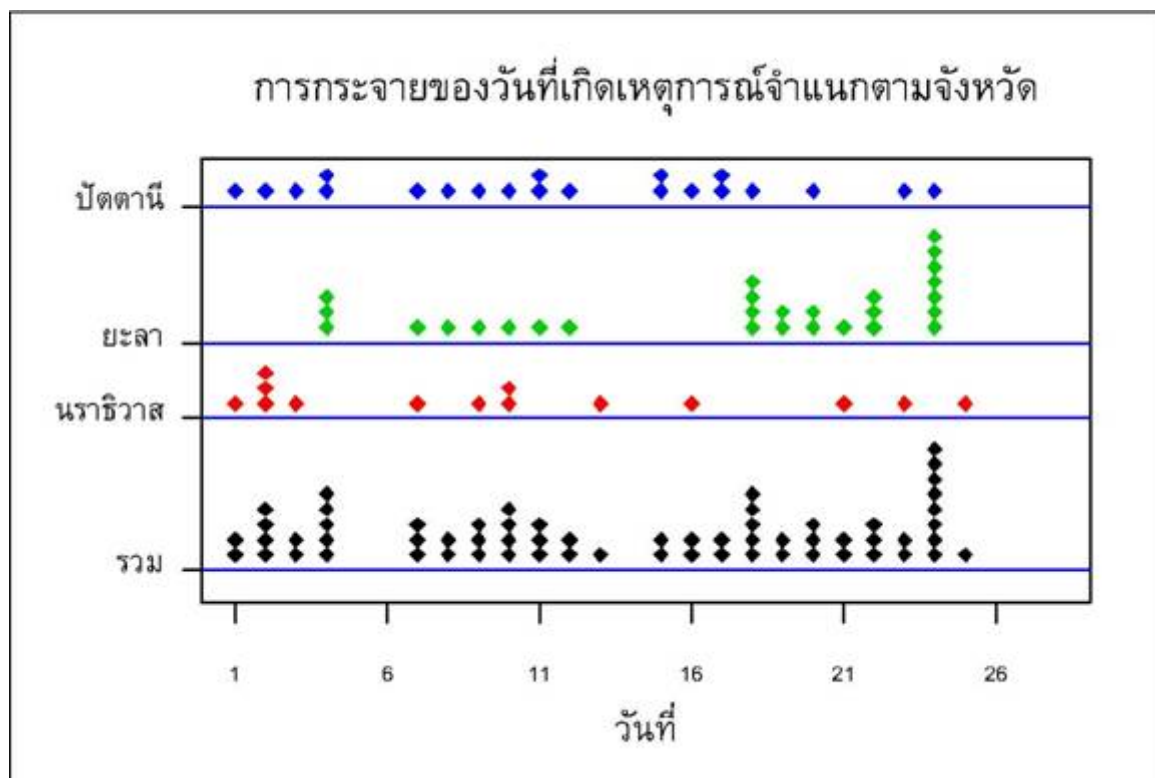
[Index of violence statistics for the Thai Deep South](#)



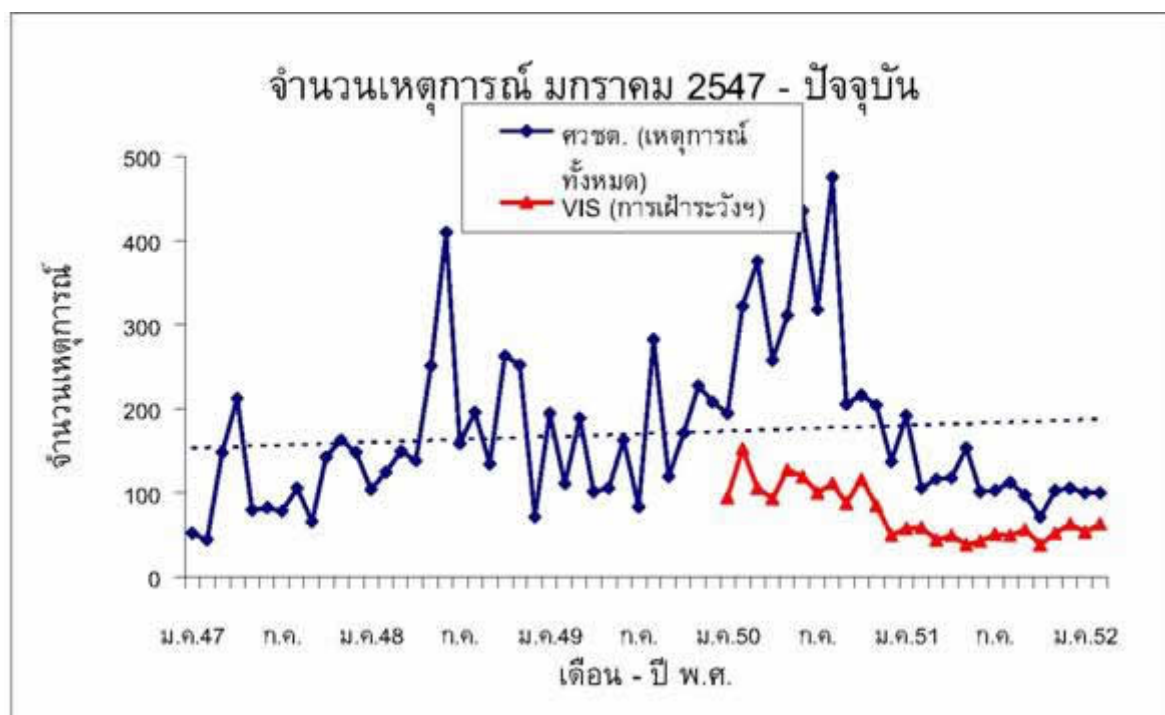
This chart shows violent incidents classified by the hour of the day (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black



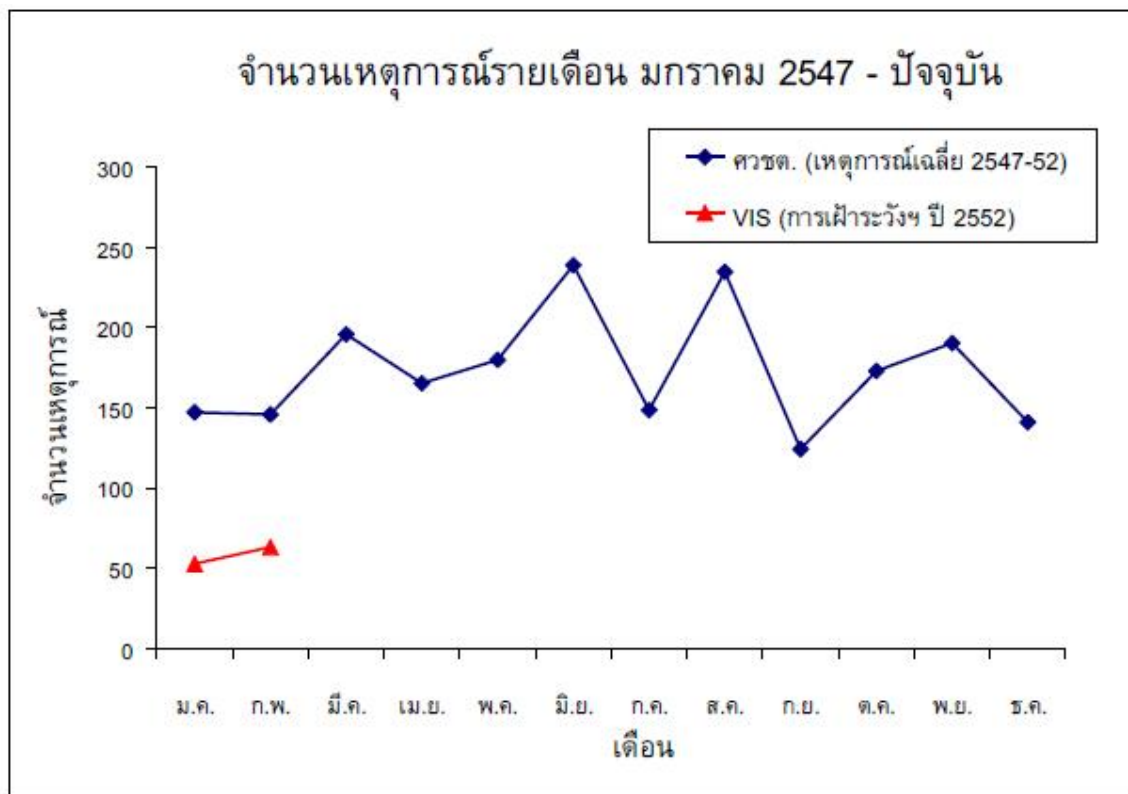
This chart shows violent incidents classified by day of the week (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). The days of the week start with Monday on the left. Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black



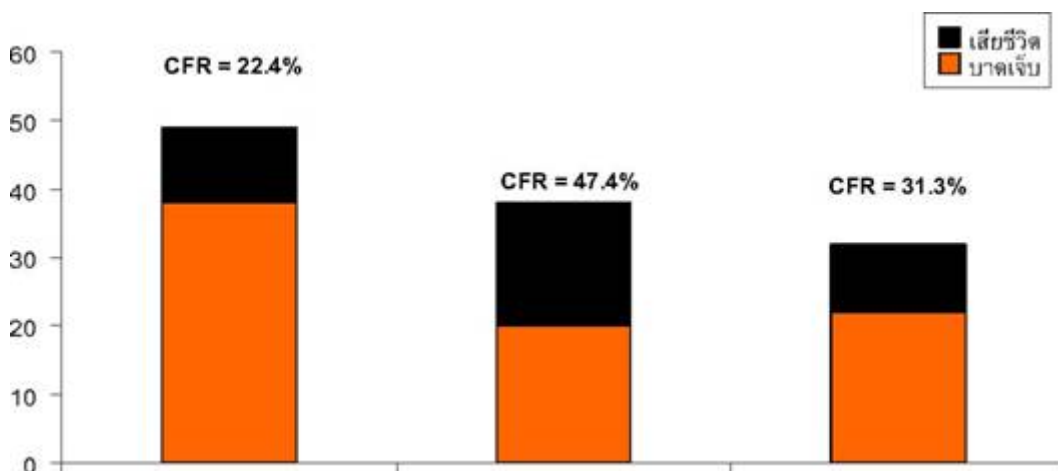
This chart shows violent incidents classified by day of the month (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black



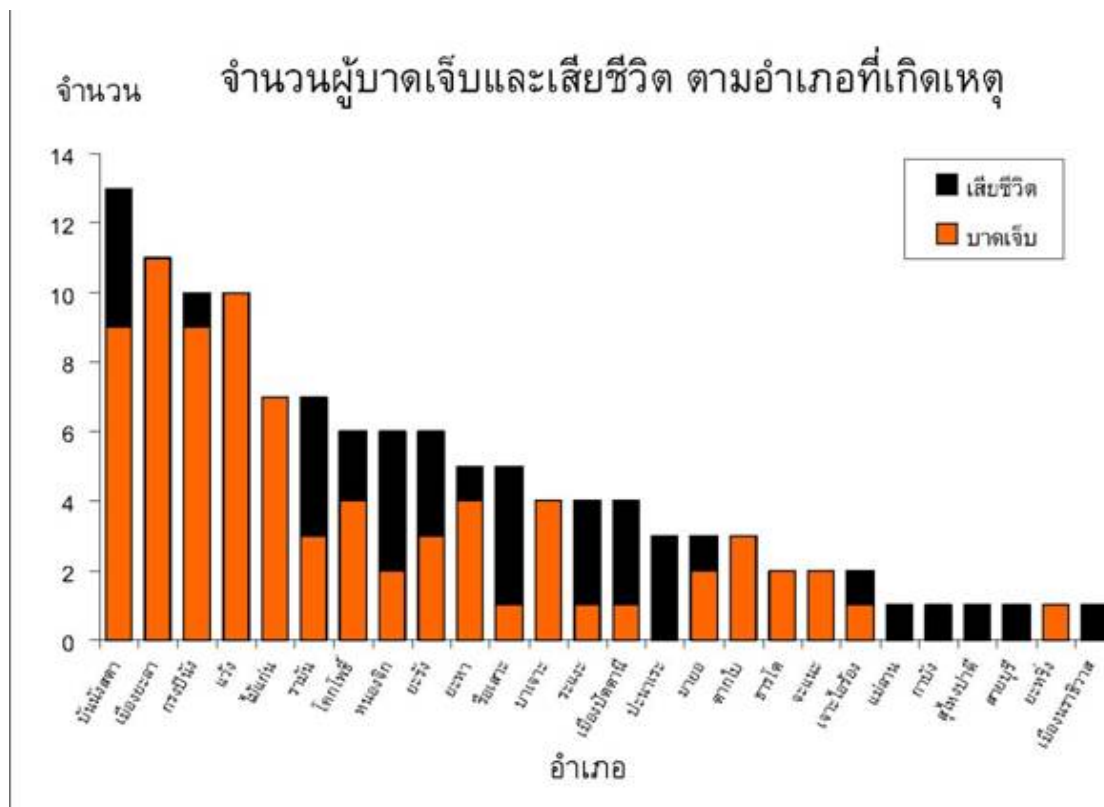
Numbers of violent incidents since January 2004. Across the bottom are the years (2547 is 2004, 2548 is 2005, 2549 is 2006, 2550 is 2007, 2551 is 2008, 2552 is 2009). The blue line shows the number of all violent incidents that took place as reported by the Deep South Coordination Center (counting all 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).



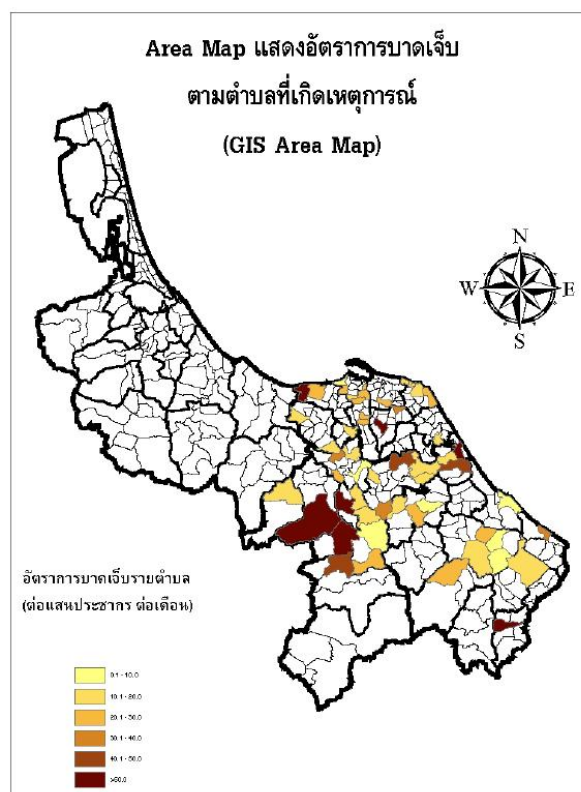
The blue line shows the average monthly level of violent incidents from 2004 up to the present. The red line shows the information provided to the Violence-related Injury Surveillance in the present year. The y-axis shows the numbers of events from 0-300. The x-axis shows the months of the year from January to December (left to right).



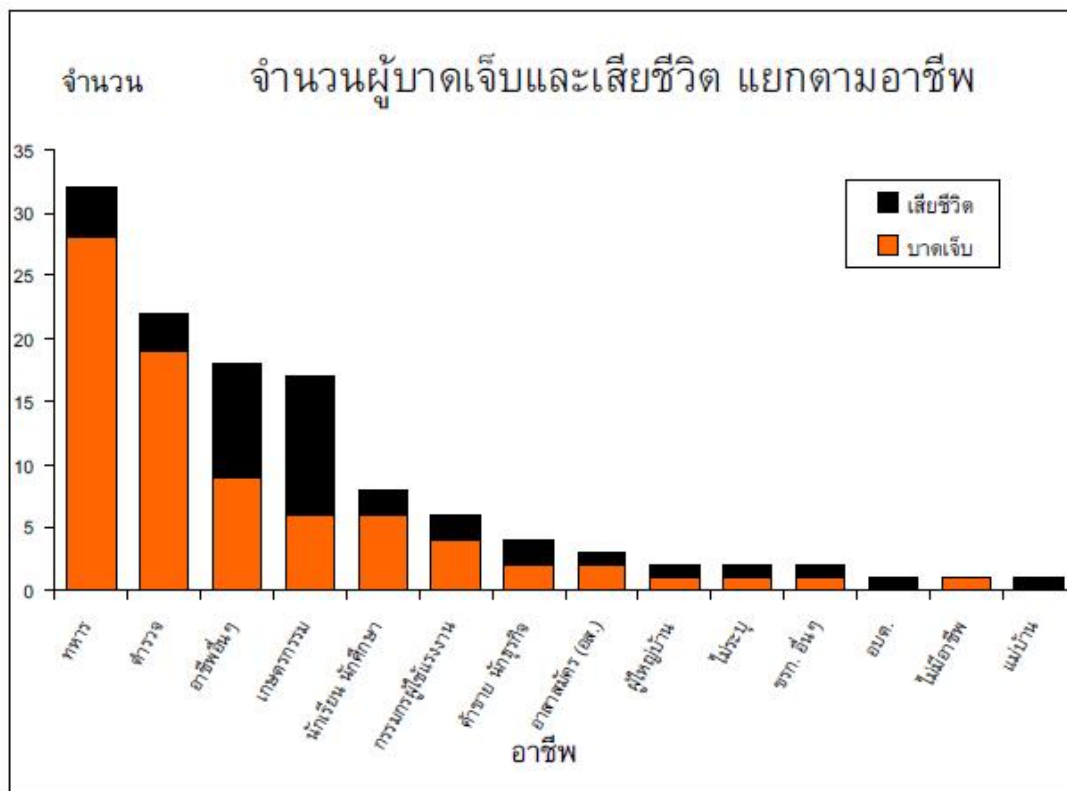
The numbers of injured and dead reported from each province where the events occurred (Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and Songkhla). Black= dead, orange=injured. The CFR (Case Fatality Rate) of each province is above each bar.



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, students and college students, laborers, businessmen, volunteer defense guards , village headmen, unknown (no data), other officials, tambon administrative officials , unemployed, housewives

Source: Deep South Violence-related Injury Surveillance statistics

Go-Go in 1967

February 28, 2009

Categories: Old newspapers



(Source: *Bangkok After Dark*, Vol. 2, July 1967, No. 12)

Go-Go in 1967 – February 7, 2009



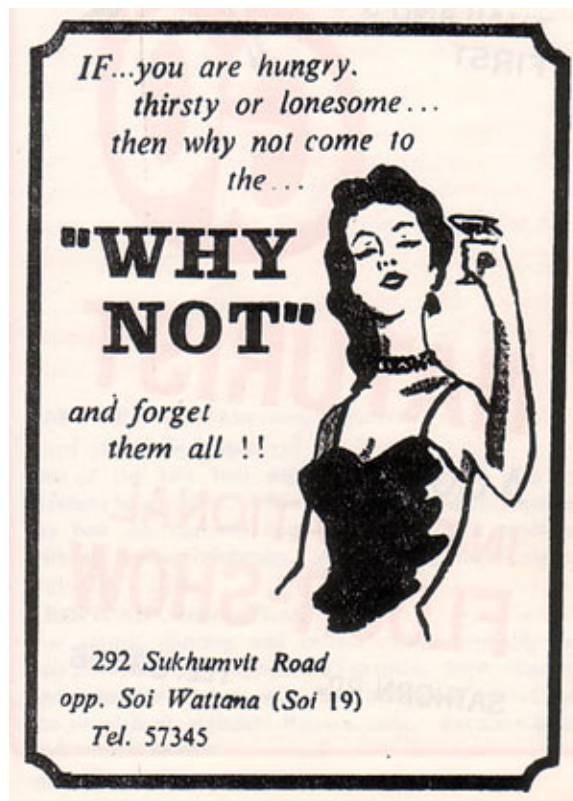
(Source: *Bangkok After Dark*, Vol. 2, July 1967, No. 12)

"Where the action is" in 1967 – February 16, 2009



(Source: *Bangkok After Dark*, Vol. 2, July 1967, No. 12)

"The Spheres at the President Hotel" in 1967 – February 19, 2009



(Source: *Bangkok After Dark*, Vol. 2, July 1967, No. 12)

"Why not" in 1967 – February 21, 2009



(Source: *Bangkok After Dark*, Vol. 2, July 1967, No. 12)

"New Nana Hotel" in 1967 – February 27, 2009



(Source: *Bangkok After Dark*, Vol. 2, July 1967, No. 12)

"Go where the 'in crowd' goes" in 1967 – February 20, 2009

More old ads: [‘Thailand’s Coolest Store’](#) – [Groovy Bangkok 1969](#) – [Bangkok Weekly 1953](#) – [Bangkok Bulletin 1966](#) – [Old newspapers](#)

Thai Media Project – February 2009

February 28, 2009

Categories: Thai Media Project

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

Problematic community radio – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*; February 3, 2009

The cooperation between the National Telecommunications Commission and PM's Office Minister Sathit Wongnongtoey to monitor five community radios in Chiangmai and Lamphoon which are using the media as a tool to generate break up relations among people is a good start.

Community radio has been a tool for some political groups for a long time. The media generates breakup among people and this includes the phone-in session during a radio program of deposed Premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

During the ruling government of Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont, the community radio station "Chum Chon Kon Roo Jai," FM 87.75 MHz, broadcast from Nonthaburi the phone-in of Thaksin for the first time. The news was spread by the Taxi 92.75 MHz community radio of the United Front of Democracy against Dictatorship or the UDD core supporter Shinnawat Haboonpad.

Public Relations Department officials and the police under the leadership of the Surayud Chulanont-led government investigated radio station, attempting to check the signal transmitters of radio station but they were reportedly missing. During this time the community radio stations carried entertainment for a while before returning as radio stations, speaking out for the People Power Party-led government shortly after.

The community radio stations were widely established after the issuance of the article 40 of the constitution 2007 on the belief that the media will speak public opinion. However, many radio stations become political tools and do not serve the target to provide service to communities and develop progress in democratic participation of community members.

The community radio stations in Chiang Mai province are backed up by both the PAD and Pro-Thaksin groups. The 97.50 community radio of Udonthani patriot leader Kwanchai Praipana, Chum Chon Kon Roo Jai Community Radio, and Taxi Community Radio are stations that provide news and political criticisms that should be under probe and organized under the same standard to prevent the problems of public breakup like the one we have already learned from past.

Only on rotten canned fish creates trouble to the whole cabinet – translated and summarized from *Daily News*; Column: Editorial; February, 2009

Rotten canned fish in supply bags given away to flood-affected people has become a big issue. The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security Witoon Nambutr says that this is not corruption as he did not use the government's budget to buy the fish, but used donated money.

It is interesting whether the minister will have to take responsibility for the issue, which could affect the whole cabinet. He said that if the National Anti-Corruption Commission finds that he is guilty for the case, he will resign.

However, the problem is not about corruption. It is about his care for the public and for the products given away to them. In addition, the distribution processes are also doubtful.

From now on, the Prime Minister will have to show his strength by considering the case in a strict way and following the government's principle. He should not let one rotten canned fish affect the whole cabinet.

Udon Thani's PAD moves to create new politics – translated and summarized from *Phutjatkhan*; February 4, 2009

The leader of the People's Alliance for Democracy, Udon Thani province, Mr. Charoen Mookajorn, announced that the Udon Thani's People Alliance for Democracy is working with nineteen people's

assemblies in the Northeast to hold a stage talk to allow members of the PAD to talk and share information. This will happen on February 14. The activity is called the "PAD Caravan for New Politics." The event will be held in Nong Prachak from 4.00 pm onwards. It will be broadcast live through the E-san Discovery channel, ASTV.

Mr. Charoen expects that members of the PAD nationwide will join the gathering as it takes place where PAD members were attacked by Thaksin supporters on July 24 . Strict security will be provided. Lots of PAD leaders will be guest speakers.



It is normal case...? – *Daily News* ; By Palunkorn, February 5, 2009

The words at the top read: It is normal case...?

On the hand clapper side: Being opposition party

On the foot clapper side: Being a minister



Kom Chad Luek, February 5, 2009

Black headline on left : Rotten canned fish poisons – Vitoon resigns! Issara to sit as Social Security and

Human Development Ministry – Mark keeps Boonjong

Headline in dark blue: Thai Samut Insurance representative seized – Lures customers to kill brutally to receive insurance payment – Claim of 2.2 million – Well-planned accident – 4 more cases to be investigated. Caption under the photo of Vitoon:

Resigns: Vitoon Nambootr announces his resignation from the Social Security and Human Development Minister post because of the public strong criticism of the distribution of rotten canned fish for flood victims in Pattalung Province on February 3, 2009



Daily News, February 5, 2009

Main headline: Issara steps to sit as new Social Security and Human Development Minister after Vitoon resigns from the post to take responsibility for the rotten fish can scandal – Abhisit promotes Boonjong
Smaller headline in pink: Insurance seller brutally murders 4 – Millions of customers' money cheated – Police seize suspect – Gang associate hunt underway
Black letter: Cabinet approves policy to seek 270 billion loan

The Army's role as fierce guarding giant monitoring the red shirt gathering to be within the law – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*; Column: *Taluikongthab*; Author: news team on national security; February 6, 2009

The Army's reaction to the Pro-Thaksin red shirt gathering people is visibly different from its reaction to the gathering of the PAD that earlier seized the Government House and the two international airports.

The Army is now strongly responsive to the political administrative unit to maintain the peace of the nation without hesitation. Region 1 Army Commander Lieutenant General Kanit Sapithak gave interviews on two consecutive days last month on the monitoring policy related to the United Front of Democracy Against Dictatorship gathering. 22 troop groupings have been beefed up for monitoring the situation.

Previously, the former government was faced with difficulties in controlling the PAD mob partially because of the Army's reaction that shrugged off the problems to police. The signs are now that the Democrat-led government and the army will not let a UDD mob seize Government House again.

As long as the Army backs up the government and helps protect Government House, the Parliament and the airports from being seized by the UDD, the security of the government is guaranteed.

Don't say that you do it for the country when you call for the return of rights to politicians of disbanded parties – translated and summarized from *Thai Post*; Column: Editorial; February 6, 2009

A political norm established twice by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva is an example that politicians should consider doing as well. These two cases are the resignations of former Bangkok Governor Apirak Kosayothin and former Social Development and Human Security Minister Witoon Ngambutr.

It is a new norm that society wants. They want politicians to be clean and trustworthy. If those politicians can prove that they are innocent later, they can come back to their positions.

There are many times that politicians ignored their responsibility and tried to hold their positions. They only thought about their own advantage and did not care what the public was thinking.

Now, it is said that the Pheu Thai party is moving to issue for amnesty to return the rights of banned politicians of disbanded political parties.

These people raise many reasons to side with their idea. They said that the country needs experienced people to get out of the political and economic crises. Former politicians should receive a new chance to come back and help the country. These reasons are nonsense. They will be extremely opposed by most people who disagree with the idea.

Thaksin, can do you something good for the country before dying? – translated and summarized from *Phutjatkhan*; Author: Chatchawan Chatsuthichai; February 4, 2009

Politics worldwide, if it does not end with peace, will end with blood.

During January and the beginning of February, this columnist had the chance to meet many powerful people in person. Their names will be undisclosed.

They discussed the current political and economic crises.

Senior reporters said that Thaksin never stops fighting. Red-shirt people who went to the Parliament were hired. It was noticeable that they went there by buses and vans. The Director-General of a department said that Thaksin era was the era of "money is God."

The bureaucratic system was weakened. Some officials openly sold their souls.

It is not surprising that a lot of policemen are willing to serve Thaksin with all their hearts. Even now, former and current police officers still secretly help the red-shirt people.

Thaksin has a lot of police friends. He also influences the police a lot.

An experienced politician said that Thaksin announced that he would fight with all his might.

Thaksin's goal is to dissolve the parliament and buy votes to get as many seats as possible in the Parliament in the next election.

A former Prime Minister said that Abhisit's administration must be courageous and think more about the majority. He said the public must help support the Abhisit government. He felt sorry that Thaksin does not seem to love Thailand at all. If he did, he would not do what he had done in the past and also at present.

Thaksin must stop hurting the country immediately.

Rising up strategy applied to enable Thaksin to come back to Thailand – translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*; Column: Kao Wikhro; February 8, 2009

Thaksin is sending a signal that he is coming back to Thailand. He has been wandering around neighboring countries like Hong Kong and Cambodia. He also allows members of Pheu Thai party to make a visit and discuss political issues.

The movements are made after his phone-in with leaders of house representatives of the Pheu Thai party in Nakhon Ratchasima on February 2.

During the phone-in, he announced that he was confident he would be able to come back to Thailand. He added that he was ready to come back and fight. He said he would not leave the people and that he would seek fairness.

He said he was ready to become Prime Minister again if the public was ready. If the public surrendered, he would lose as well.

He said he would not die overseas. And once the public needs him, he will come back. He also announced that he would support the Pheu Thai party with all his might. He also encouraged the red-shirt people to rise up by announcing clearly that he would come back to be the Prime Minister again.

His intention is to use the Northeast as his base to fight in the political battle.

It is clear that he wants to use the mass to pressure the government and fight against the Democrat Party.

Police reshuffled to promote peace and security of the nation – translated and summarized from *Daily News*; Column: The Editorial; February 10, 2009

Regarding the meeting of the Office of Police Commission chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Tuagsuban on discussions about the police reshuffle, the board meeting was postponed to be hosted on February 13, 2009 due to indeterminate problems.

The Pheu Thai opposition party criticizes that the transfer of some police officials is to promote some Democrat-backed police officers who are close to Democrats' politicians.

According to Prime Minister Abhisit, who gave a defensive speech to clarify the reason behind the police

transfer, the police officials are officials who serve best the nation as those who maintain the security of the nation and the security of the Royal family. The police transfer following the Democrat-led government policy is aimed at promoting the police's responsibility and roles in promoting the peace of the nation (as opposed to responding to flaws and political incidents in the past).

War game between 'colors' – Stopping a bloodshed situation – translated and summarized from *Thai Post*; Column: Editorial; February 14, 2009

The leader of the National United Front of Democracy Against Dictatorship, Nattawut Saikuer, came out to disclose to that public that a two-billion-baht budget was allocated by the Royal Thai Army to help dissolving the red-shirt group.

The Royal Thai Army tries to explain the issue by saying that the project is aimed at helping people in the rural areas nationwide through the Solving Crisis with Sustainable Economy program. It is not aimed at destroying the red-shirt group as claimed. The army also continuously reveals the real figures of the budget. At the same time, leader of Pheu Thai Party Yongyuth Tiypairat held a press conference and presented evidence disclosing that his Bangkok's house was raided by armed military officers. He said that the action violated his human rights and he would complain to an international human rights watch organization. However, the army said that it was an old issue and asked why he just unveiled it at this moment.

The current systematic move by the red-shirt group and the Pheu Thai party, targeted at the army, is very interesting. They know that the army is an important factor for a change in the political situation under the Democrat Party. It also affects the country's situation.

Their move might not affect the army much, but the army values their image via the masses. They launch underground movements to urge fight against the red-shirt people. Amidst this intense fight, the minds of millions of grassroots people are at risk.



The Lord Buddha's preaching – Kao Lao Ruam Mit by Tin, *Matichon*, February 15, 2009

The Lord Buddha's preaching guides us to follow the moderate practice for our life

Top left: Having too many spokespersons is not recommended.

Top middle: Having too many unrevealed issues is not recommended.

Top right: Spending too much money to help the PAD—oops!—PR is not recommended.

Bottom left: Celebrating the four step ladders (to achieve success) too much is not recommended.

Bottom middle: Loving one's institutes too much is not recommended.

Bottom right: Too many apologies are not recommended.



Red and yellow rallies – February 16, 2009

Khao Sod, February 16, 2009 – The caption reads: Red in mass- The UDD leaders host a fund-raising activity for the group's political movement. A feast was joined in by many red shirt people with a phone-in from deposed premier Thaksin on February 14 in the evening. The feast was hosted at the Pai Khaew Temple at Don Muang, Bangkok.



Khao Sod, February 16, 2009 – The caption reads: The Udon Thani raid – 10,000 PAD members staged a mass gathering at the Nong Prachak Silapakom in Udon Thani province. Core leaders of the PAD led the talk on stage. There was reportedly no violent clash as police closely monitored the situation on February 14, 2009



Daily News, February 16, 2009 – The caption reads: “Red gathering” – The red clad of the United Front of Democracy against Dictatorship gather on February 14, or their “Day of love for Democracy” at the Pai Khaew Temple in Don Muang. The gathering was lightened up by a phone-in by deposed Premier Thaksin Shinawatra who declared his intention to return to Thailand without concern for the security of his life due to rumors of assassination.



Breast of a monk – *Khao Sod*, February 16, 2009

It reads: “Breast of a monk” – The image from video footage of a monk at Wat Bot Intornsarnpetch in Pasi Chareon in Bangkok who was found to have characteristics of a female and also has breasts. Villagers in the area called for the clergy and the Office of National Buddhism to urgently check the situation.

is allowed to come back to Thailand, he will definitely start his path in the political world again. And we will get back to the same old state again. While the world keeps moving forward, Thailand will lag behind. The unity in the country will be created once everything is done legally. If he still complains about the legal process and attacks the court, does he deserve amnesty?

Report – keeping a close watch on Democrat’s measure to solve the red-shirt crisis – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*; February 18, 2009

It was such a relief for the Democrat Party that the Pheu Thai party has decided to postpone proposing the draft amnesty act.

Although the Democrat Party is confident that its ‘big backup’ will not think too much in the short term and join Pheu Thai’s game.

However, the only certain thing is uncertainty. Anything can happen.

If the coalition government parties decide to support the amnesty, the government will be in huge trouble, especially the Democrat Party.

If members of the Thai Rak Thai Party and People Power’s Party are released, it means the end of the Democrats in the government.

Therefore, the postponement of the submission of the draft act helps make the Democrats feel relieved.

Besides the draft amnesty act, the Pheu Thai party still has at least two plans to destroy the Democrats.

The first one is the gathering of the red-shirt people at the Government House on February 24, two days before the ASEAN Summit.

It is estimated that about 30,000 red-shirt people will join the gathering.

If the gathering becomes a violent situation, the government may have to dissolve to parliament to avoid the image of a "bloodshed government."

The second one is the situation of the big boss himself. He is now suffering from wandering from country to country. If he does not end the game soon, the chance he will permanently become a flitting bird is higher.

Consequently, a no-confidence vote will be held. The major topic will be about the 258-million-baht donation to the Democrats.

The Democrats are quite worried about the issue.

So now, the question is how the Democrats will cope with these situations.

Old sin of Lord Mun Muang – Red-shirt people asking for trouble – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; February 19, 2009

Former Supreme Commander Gen. Chaisit Shinawatra, elder brother of Thaksin Shinawatra, together with his family and red-shirt people held a religious ceremony to change the bad fortune of Thaksin Shinawatra at Umong Temple, Tambon Suthep, Amphoe Muang, Chiang Mai province.

It is believed that Thaksin did bad deeds during his previous lives.

A medium claimed to be Lord Mun Muang or a person believed to be the previous life of Thaksin. He said that in the past life he did bad deeds while fighting against Burma. Those bad deeds come to haunt him in this life.

After that, they ran another ceremony cursing enemies of Thaksin Shinawatra. They put the names of those people in monks’ alms-bowl to make bad actions return to Thaksin’s enemies.

However, the list contained the name of Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratklin, Sondhi Limthongkul, Abhisit Vejjajiva, Suthep Thaugsuban, Thanin Kraiwichien, Gen. Prem Tinsulanont and other high-ranking authorities.

The action was likely to be made by those people who wanted Thaksin back in Thailand.

The appearance of the privy councillor’s name means that they unreasonably declared war against the Privy Council. They are unnecessarily asking for trouble.

The action reflects a strategy-less move, which could affect their movement in general.

The fate of Santisuk village – Another side of the truth in the southern border provinces – translated and summarized from *Kom Chad Luek*; Author: Pakorn Pheungnet; February 16, 2009

If listening to high-ranking officials from security units and looking in newspapers, we may understand that the situation in the southern border provinces is getting better and the situation is not as bad as in the past few years. The number of violent attacks is also dropping. We see news about violent attacks a few times a day in small headlines.

Moreover, the government has announced a policy to apply both development and security strategies to the area. The Commander-in-Chief and the Fourth Army Region Commander also disclosed that more local people are cooperating with the police. It might not be exaggerated if we say that we see peace and light coming in Thailand’s southern part.

However, the fact is far from what we heard. Even villages which once announced themselves as a 'strong village' or 'peaceful (santisuk) village', as they decided to cooperate with the government and permanently cut themselves from insurgents, are facing a new unbelievable fate.

Previously, it was reported that over 1,000 residents from Moo 5, Tambon Patae, Amphoe Yaha, Yala province reported themselves to the police to join the government's policy to create 'strong' or 'peaceful' villages.

The report was very famous as the area was once a red-alert area. Violent attacks took place every single day. The incident of which a passenger van was fired on and eight people were killed on March 14, 2007, also happened in the district.

The peaceful village promotion program, called the "3 Ps program," aims to dissolve insurgency movements in 217 red-alert villages across three southern border provinces. The measure will send soldiers, police officers, volunteers and workers to stay with residents in those villages.

When they can reduce the number of violent attacks and separate good people from bad people, they will return the village to the local residents. The village will be announced as a 'peaceful village' or 'strong' village. A tricolor flag will also be flown at all houses. Residents will paint their houses white as a signal saying that the area is insurgent-free.

In the mid-year of 2008, there were smiles everywhere. Local people joined hands to create a check point and a guard booth for their villages. Security was provided night and day.

When Yala Governor Theera Mintrasak visited the area, local people were willing to point out places where medicine, rice, dry food and bullets were buried. They dug them up and gave them to the government.

However, the situation has changed. The delightful ambience has gone. People are now criticizing that the government is not sincere.

Local leader of the Munung village Dueramae Abu Baka said that after people of Moo 5, Tambon Patae, joined the government's program, new problems keep showing up and the government does not even care. He said, for instance, soldiers told them to show the places where insurgents hid their rice supply and they would give it to the people. He was so happy that he rode his motorcycle across the village to tell people about the news. He told people who once had their rice buried to register themselves to the government and dug it up. He told people that officials would return the rice to everyone. People then gave a large amount of rice to officials, but they only got four sacks of rice back. They said that there was too much rice kept by officials.

That was just the first test for the government's sincerity. As days pass, new problems show up. Even the policy to train ten local residents to be guards for the village created a problem. A village would receive 20,000 baht from the government and the money would be paid to the guards. Therefore, there was an attempt to sack existing guards to let their men in the posts.

Just like other promises, the government promised that they would provide a job for unemployed and poor residents and they did nothing.

"The district chief, assistant district officer, and assistant tambon officer told me that if there was a job vacancy, they would tell people in the village before telling others. I was so delighted at that time and told everybody to get prepared. However, nearly a year has passed, no one got a job. All units, even administrative ones, are gone. We are abandoned," Dueramae expressed his feeling, which represents the whole village's feeling. He said, "the authorities abandoned us. What we can figure out is that we have been fooled."

People in the Munung village say that they were like a boat in the middle of the sea hit by a storm. The ones who give them a hand will become a great supporter. The situation is dangerous in the war to win the hearts of the masses.

Mistake – Fairness – Conviction – translated and summarized from *Daily News*; Column: The editorial; February 20, 2009

Failing to discharge their duty at Udon Thani Province on July 24, 2008 was the cause of a severe situation. This was considered by the Office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission. The provincial governor, the deputy governor of the province, the provincial commissar and two deputy provincial commissars were judged to have made a mistake in failing to discharge their duty and this lack of action brought shame on the government. The decision indicated that if they had carried out their duty carefully and absolutely, the severe situation would have been controlled perfectly.

On the other hand, seizing the airport and the government house or creating violence during the Samak and Somchai government by the PAD is also an illegal action. However, it is wondered why the result of the investigation into these incidents is happening so slowly. Does the judge fail to discharge his duty? It reaches a month since the investigation should have been announced. The result should be appeared, but nothing has

happened. The government had better speed up working and conclude this case urgently to convince people around the world .

Pheu Thai joins hands with Democrats – A ‘mission impossible’ game – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; February 24, 2009

While the Democrat Party is facing big problems like a no-confidence vote and the red-shirt movement, the Pheu Thai Party tries to be the party with options, including the proposal of the National Unity and Reconciliation Act, which will grant an amnesty to all political persons related to the September 19, 2006 coup and after.

It is said that a leader of the Democrat Party met with a leader of the Pheu Thai Party to seek ways to allow both parties to jointly form a government. It is said that the Democrats feel uncomfortable with the actions of the coalition government parties.

However, members of Democrat Party denied the rumor as the information leaked to lead to a conflict between the Democrat and coalition parties.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva came out to confirm the standpoint of the party, which stands against the Pheu Thai party. He said both parties would never get along well.

Several house representatives admitted that the rumors was true. However, not everyone believes it.

Some members of Pheu Thai party see that the rumor is a game of the Democrats, aiming to tempt Pheu Thai members to talk about the issue to prevent coalition parties from becoming more disobedient.

However, Pheu Thai party seems to benefit the most from the rumor

It creates an internal conflict among coalition parties. The value of the only opposition , which claims to have been invited to join the government, also rises.

Setting any conditions, creating the unreal situation – translated and summarized from *Thaipost*; Column: The Editorial; February 24, 2009

After spreading the news that the Democrat party and the Pheu Thai party will work together to form a new government, Pol. Lt. Chaowarin Latthasaksiri and a group of politicians went to see former PM Thaksin Shinawatra at Hong Kong.

Is this action a portion of Thaksin's political game? Or does he feel enjoyment and happiness after releasing the news?

Nowadays, Thailand's political crisis starts to heat up again because last Tuesday, the red-shirted rally has gathered around Government House while the Pheu Thai party has been preparing to call a no-confidence vote on the government's work.

The Pheu Thai party tries to propose Pol. Capt. Charlorn Yubamrung to hold the position of Thailand's prime minister and to establish the red-shirted institution called "Institution for Democratic Development."

Besides, the red-shirted rally also gets ready by creating a political movement by order of Thaksin.

This situation is made to bring the change to Thailand's politics as Jakrapob Penkae has said on the red-shirt stage at Sanam Luang. Importantly, Thaksin is going to make a phone-in speech on March 1 which indicates the next step for his political game under the unreal situation. So all Thai people had better announce to any political movements that the social situation cannot be in crisis continuously to respond to the need of some political groups.



Komchadluek, February 25, 2009

Main white and yellow headlines:

Prints from the famous temple used to lure donators for merit-making fund for many years –

The whole cheater gang that lures merit-makers into donating money is seized – Raising fund of 400,000 baht monthly – Head of the gang found to have become rich from this activity – All gang members found to have urine test return purple color

Headline white on blue at right: A jillion police stationed at Government House to be prepared for red shirt gathering

Black and with headlines:

Foreign guy hung himself to death – His head was fastened up tightly causing his body to split off –

Deceased found to be the mate of a gay in the Khao San area

The red and the "red under monarchial virtues" – translated and summarized from *Krungthep Turakit*;

Author: Pracha Buraphavithee, February 23, 2009

I comment that the seeking asylum of Mr. Jai (Giles) Ungphakorn to avoid his lese majeste charge is not something unexpected to happen. Previously, the UK Ambassador to Thailand's representative met representative of the PM Abhisit Vejjajiva-led government to discuss the issue related to Mr. Jai's lese majeste case as he holds UK citizenship.

Mr. Jai knows what to do and where to go after his manifesto "Red Siam" was introduced. The work is comparable to the second manifesto of the Democratic Reform group that staged the revolutionary movement in the King Rama 7's reign. This was the Kanarasadorn Reform in the year 1932 that changed Thailand's absolute monarchy into the constitution monarchy.

However Giles upset many senior red members by his fleeing abroad.

It was pleasure to the red radical group, both the old and new generation, when Giles participated the "Red in the land" protest on stage late last month , but he finally flees from the criminal charge without concern for his red fellows, both the old and new generation.

To examine the old red group, most of the group is from the Northeast who are now known as "ex-communist group" who are calling for farmer debt release and farm land support. One group of old reds joins the farmers' protest in front of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives for 116 days before leaving after the Abhisit-led government allocated billions of baht for debt relief.

The old red farmers from 15 provinces in the Northeast questioned the current government about the Surayuth-led government's progress to allocate money to help them. The old red are those who once devoted their life to hopes to see the country change from a constitutional monarchy to the communism in the past. Nowadays, they become the so-called "red under the monarchial virtue."

According to the Region 2 Internal Security Operation Command, that plays an important role in the area,

the government should allocate money to support the red Northeastern farmers' group as they are now the "ex-communist patriots."

The matter on the watch is the movement of the new red and the old red, the former is the one like dual-citizen Giles and the latter is the red who seek financial support from the government like the ordinary grass-root people.

The country's future is in the hand of all Thai people – translated and summarized from *Daily News*; Column: Editorial; February 25, 2009

The gathering of red-shirt people from the United Front of Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD) on February 24 was like the movement by the People Alliance for Democracy (PAD). The red-shirt group gathered for the first time on January 31 at the Government House to declare their demands to that the government dissolve. They now come back to require answers from the government. They will stay there and will definitely not break into Government House. Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and some members of the Cabinet insisted they would get in and work in Government House.

Three suggestions by Prof. Dr. Bavornsak Uwanno, Secretary of the King Prajadhipok's Institute, are very interesting. He suggests that the government come up with new measures to enable people to approach resources and the economic structure in the new politics, without depending on either populist policy nor politicians. He also proposes using the Constitution and the law as guidelines to allow the poor and the majority to approach and manage resources and the economy.

He said the taxing structure should be revised. Under the new structure, money from the rich will be used in the new policy and welfare state. The last suggestion is to reduce the cluster of funds and wealth of big businesses. The last move should be gradually done to let people in the society accept it.

These three suggestions could be solutions to Thailand's problems. However, to achieve the goal, all Thai people must cooperate for the future of the kingdom.

Red-shirt people to bring down the government – translated and summarized from *ASTV Manager Daily*; Column: Na Kradan Rieng Ha; Author: Chaisiri Samunwanich; February 26, 2009

The red-shirt group's effort to run a mob is boring. We can evaluate the situation of these people by looking at these factors.

1.

Frankly, these red-shirt people have no ideals. They only gather by a quite narrow belief – Thaksin will return to power again. The reason they stick to Thaksin is they once served him and got money. Even now, they still receive money from him.

2. Economically, red-shirt people are able to mobilize a group of leading civilians and academics. These people still believe that Thaksin is a capable executive. However, some of the academics are innocent of supporting Thaksin. Many of them think that the lese majeste law is outdated and should be cancelled. These academics do not like the People Alliance for Democracy.

3. Socially, Thai people think that we should not cross a person when they fall and we should forgive them. Therefore, lots of people think that we should let go of Thaksin.

In fact, the one who does not stop is Thaksin. He refers to his political enemies in every of his phone-in. So, we can say that even though we stop worrying about Thaksin, Thaksin will not stop his activities.

This time, red-shirt people want to bring down the government by saying that they will gather until the government gives up. They will stay at the House and will not apply aggressive measures.

UDD members say that they are well-prepared. Currently, they can create any situation they want, anytime, anywhere.

The government believes that the gathering will not last long as members lack ideals. Unlike the PAD which had ideals and clear movements to follow.

The decision to dethrone the government could be a false one this time.

Thaksin says that the Democrat will not last more than three months. But, maybe they could stay in power for three years.

Special-class civilian – translated and summarized from *Kom Chad Luek*; Column: Editorial; February 28, 2009

Pol. Lt. Col. Thaksin Shinawatra, former Prime Minister, has become a man with several statuses, except for being a Thai civilian. He is now an escaping prisoner and a refugee. It is reported he is also a special civilian in Nicaragua and the United Arab Emirates. He is under a special diplomatic protection.

No matter which status he has, Thailand still needs him back to receive punishment. Therefore, he keeps moving. However, we know that now he is in Dubai and openly made a visit to Hong Kong to meet

politicians from the opposition, his subordinates, activists and relatives, without any fear of the law.

It is recently reported that Thaksin would give a speech at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Hong Kong on March 2, after meeting up with politicians and state officials who help hide the information of the prisoner.

This is the first time that Thaksin allows the government and its units to know where he will be. It will prove whether the government will be able to bring him down.

The government must show its strong intention to catch Thaksin to convince the public that they can count on the law. First thing first, it must consider if MP who met with Thaksin are guilty .

Thaksin will not cancel speech in Hong Kong – Thaksin cancels HK speech

February 28, 2009

Categories: A Tale of Two Newspapers

[Pongthep says Thaksin will not cancel speech in Hong Kong](#) – *The Nation*, February 28, 2009

[Noppadon: Thaksin cancels HK speech](#) – *Bangkok Post*, February 28, 2009

US report says illicit Thai drug production has ended

February 28, 2009

Categories: Drugs

[US report says illicit Thai drug production has ended](#) – *Bangkok Post*, February 28, 2009