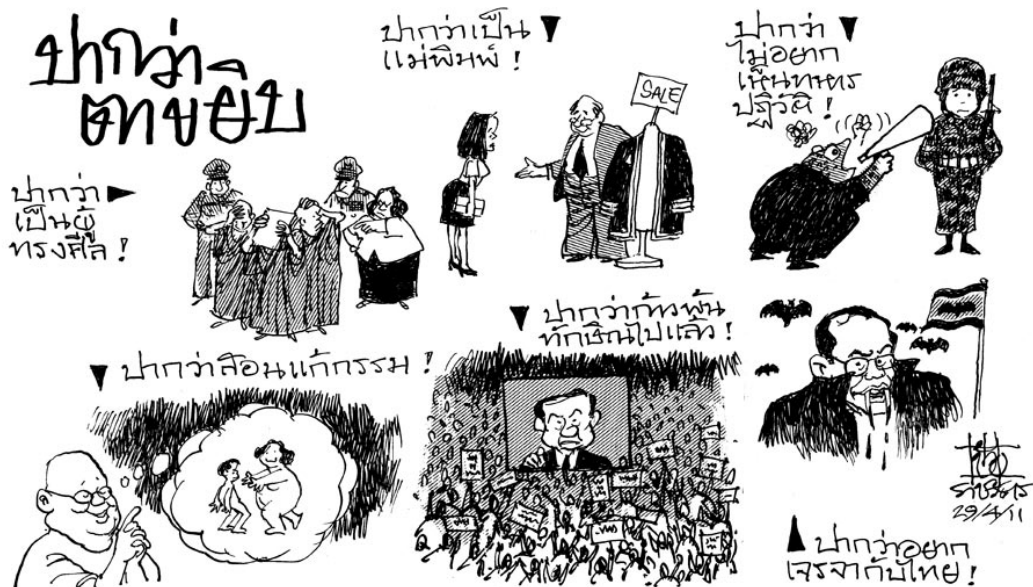


The Mouth Speaks, the Eyes Blink

May 1, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Thairath, May 1, 2011

The headline reads: The mouth speaks, the eyes blink

Top left: Telling others that they are monks

Top middle: Telling others that they are the students' role model.

The word on the academic gown reads: Sale

Top right: Saying that they don't want to see the army staging a coup

Bottom left: Saying that he/she teaches the way to solve the karma result

Bottom middle: Saying that they step over Thaksin already

Bottom right: Saying that he wants to negotiate with Thailand

Elections in communist Laos promise little change

May 1, 2011

Categories: Laos

[Elections in communist Laos promise little change](#) – nbc29.com, April 29, 2011

...And despite the lack of change, many voters are choosing with care.

“Despite the absence of competing parties, many Lao voters take their vote quite seriously – even if it is candidates’ education, experience and even appearance, rather than their policies, that make up minds,” Creak said.

Montreal has literally become a “Bangkok of the West”

May 1, 2011

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[Leaked cables paint unflattering portrait of Montreal](#) – torontosun.com, April 29, 2011

Massive telemarketing fraud. Brazen video piracy using hidden camcorders in theatres. Trafficking of underage girls for exploitation in strip clubs and prostitution rings.

Montreal has literally become a “Bangkok of the West,” a North American hot spot for questionable sex trade activities and other criminality, American diplomats suggest in newly leaked cables...

Burmese ‘Rampage’ In Thailand Chicken Factory

May 1, 2011

Categories: Labor, Myanmar/Burma, Refugees and Migrants

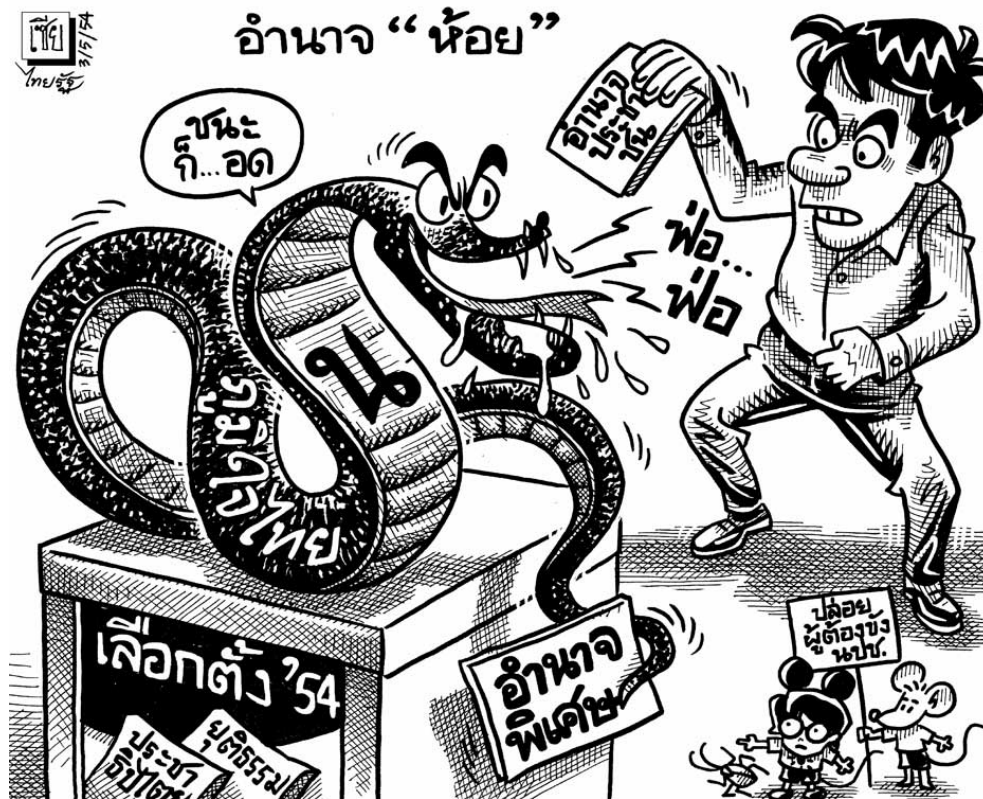
[Burmese ‘Rampage’ In Thailand Chicken Factory](http://www.eurasiareview.com) – www.eurasiareview.com, April 30, 2011

...“We asked the how they would solve the case and they couldn’t give an answer so the Burmese went on a rampage,” said one of the nearly 5,000 Burmese migrants working in the factory. “They destroyed about four cars and four motorbikes and dumped them into a fish pond...”

Snake at the Ballot Box

May 2, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, May 2, 2011

The cartoon headline: The power of Hoy

The word on the cobra: Bhumjaithai

The letter on the cobra: N

The cobra says: If win, then lose

On the sign being held by the snake: Special power

On the box under the snake: Election 2011 – Democracy – Justice

On the sign being held by the man: Power of the people

The letter close to the snake's head: FOR FORR

On sign being hold by the mouse: Release the UDD prisoner

Philippines optimistic on winning cigarette case against Thailand

May 2, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Philippines optimistic on winning cigarette case against Thailand](#) – www.mb.com.ph, May 1, 2011

Cambodia's army condemns Thailand for 10 straight days of arms attacks

May 2, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

[Cambodia's army condemns Thailand for 10 straight days of arms attacks](http://news.xinhuanet.com) – news.xinhuanet.com, May 1, 2011

..."The repeated invasions of Thai troops into Cambodia have caused gradual damage to Cambodia, it is an unacceptable act," said the statement. "The Royal Cambodian armed forces (RCAF) strongly condemn this latest series of the attacks on Cambodia..."

Implications of Bin Laden's Death on Al Jazeera

May 2, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

As usual, Al Jazeera has very best coverage of a breaking story, particularly plenty of analyses of the implications: [Al Jazeera Watch Now](#).

Why Doesn't China Democratize?

May 2, 2011

Categories: China

[Why Doesn't China Democratize?](#) – The Irrawaddy, May 2, 2011

...The problem is that despite its market mechanisms, China's economy "is not really capitalist at all," and so its citizens remain deprived of the individual autonomy essential to cultivating a democratic culture...

The “disappeared” lawyer: The role of the justice ministry in a travesty of justice

May 3, 2011

Categories: Human Rights



[The role of the justice ministry in a travesty of justice—an analysis of the Court of Appeal acquittal of all police in the Somchai Neelaphajjit case and the situation of his family](#) – AHRC, May 3, 2011

...The case against all defendants was dismissed. The one policeman of the five convicted in the Criminal Court, Pol. Maj. Ngern, had his conviction overturned. Thus, there is now no longer even a single state officer who has been found guilty of an offence in this case, despite officials at the highest levels of government, including the former premier, Pol. Lt. Col. Thaksin Shinawatra, stating publicly that they knew that state officers were responsible, and despite the court of first instance also having indicated the same...

American teenagers don't know who Osama bin Laden is

May 3, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Who is Osama bin Laden?](#) – Boing Boing, May 3, 2011

...In a company blog post today, Yahoo reported that two-thirds of people searching for “Who is Osama Bin Laden?” today were teenagers. Yes, that’s right, a non-insignificant number of teenagers in America do not know who Osama bin Laden is...

Human rights group questions aspects of Bangkok bloodshed

May 3, 2011

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Human rights group questions aspects of Bangkok bloodshed](#) – M and C, May 3, 2011

...A report released by New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) cast doubt on government denials that snipers were used, and also questioned protesters' claims that they were a purely peaceful movement...

[Thailand: Investigate Abuses Connected to Political Violence](#) – HRW, May 2, 2011

[Descent into Chaos – Thailand's 2010 Red Shirt Protests and the Government Crackdown](#) – HRW, May 2, 2011

USTR Releases Annual Special 301 Report on Intellectual Property Rights

May 4, 2011

Categories: Intellectual Property/Piracy

USTR Releases Annual Special 301 Report on Intellectual Property Rights – www.ustr.gov, May, 2011
...Twelve countries – China, Russia, Algeria, Argentina, Canada, Chile, India, Indonesia, Israel, Pakistan, Thailand, and Venezuela – are on the Priority Watch List. These countries will be the subject of particularly intense bilateral engagement during the coming year...

Washing Death

May 4, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, May 4, 2011

The cartoon headline reads: Karma is not washable, revisable, cuttable

The skulls are saying: was killed inside Pathumwanaram Temple – was killed at Ratchaprasong – was killed at the Kokwua intersection

On the bathtub: Good at talking – Not good at administration – But wants to return to be PM

Don Mueang Airport to become a retail-wholesale center

May 4, 2011

Categories: Airports and Airlines

[Don Mueang Airport to become a retail-wholesale center](#) – thailand-business-news.co, May 1, 2011

Increasing Income: Pheu Thai Pre-Election Sign

May 4, 2011

Categories: Elections



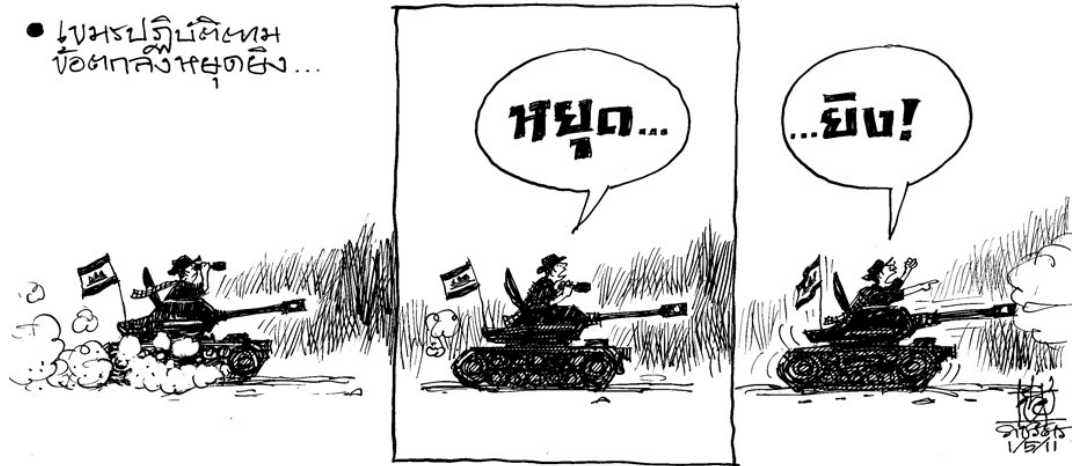
(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Taking care of the country's assets wisely – Increase the income of the people firmly – Pheu Thai Party

Cambodia and the Ceasefire

May 4, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, May 4, 2011

Left: Cambodia follows the ceasefire deal

Middle: Stop...

Right: ...Shoot!

Conergy builds another solar park in Thailand with 100% own components

May 4, 2011

Categories: Energy

[Conergy builds another solar park in Thailand with 100% own components](#) – 7thspace.com, May 1, 2011

Thailand's Front Line

May 4, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, May 4, 2011

The cartoon caption reads: Listen to instead of the wedding bells ringing

On the forum: Symbol of 7th-Cycle Anniversary for HM

May 4, 2011

Categories: The Monarchy

On the forum: [Symbol of 7th-Cycle Anniversary for HM](#)

Analysis: Cambodian PM reaps gains from Thai border battles

May 4, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

[Analysis: Cambodian PM reaps gains from Thai border battles](#) – Reuters, May 4, 2011

Seeking and Searching: Pheu Thai Pre-Election Sign

May 5, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Searching for the halt in debt – Seeking jobs for workers – Searching for money for pay – Seeking new opportunity for Thai people – Pheu Thai Party

Tidbits from Wikipedia

May 5, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[The 1804 Silver Dollar given to Rama III](#)

...This coin was kept in Anna's family for several generations, until in the 1950s it was sold by a pair of British ladies claiming to be Anna's descendants. This coin was displayed as part of the "King of Siam" collection at the Smithsonian Institution in 1983, where it was given the name "the King of Coins." It was purchased by an anonymous collector in 2001, who purchased the entire set of coins from the King of Siam collection for over \$4 million...

[The man who falsely confessed to the murder of JonBenet Ramsey is now a woman](#)

Obama and Osama

May 5, 2011

Categories: Anti-Americanism, Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, May 5, 2011

The words on the chart: The popularity points of Obama

Pheu Thai strong in Northeast

May 5, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Pheu Thai strong in Northeast](#) – Bangkok Post, May 5, 2011

...The pollsters said 63.9% said they would vote for Pheu Thai, 20.7 per cent of respondents said they would support the Democrats, 9.1 per cent of them backed Bhumjaithai, 5.3 per cent supported Chart Pattana Puea Pandin, 0.7 per cent said New Aspiration (Kwamwang Mai), 0.3 per cent pointed to Matchima Thipatai and 0.1 per cent were for Pracharaj...

Hand Stuck in the Box

May 6, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Khaosod, May 6, 2011

The soldier says: I can take it.

On the box: election

Toothpick ATM thefts net millions

May 6, 2011

Categories: Crime, Scams

[Toothpick ATM thefts net millions](#) – Bangkok Post, May 2, 2011

...Police do not know how many millions he has allegedly stolen from ATM machines over the years. But they say Mr Wasan's bank records going back three months suggest he was making at least 150,000 baht a day, allegedly from ATM thefts...

Slaves and Unpaid Servants in Thailand: Kaa-gao Dtao Liang

May 6, 2011

Categories: Language, Local Beliefs

[Slaves and Unpaid Servants in Thailand: Kaa-gao Dtao Liang](#) – womenlearnthai.com, May 5, 2011

Thaksin thinks, Pheu Thai takes action: Pheu Thai Pre-Election Poster

May 6, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Thaksin thinks, Pheu Thai takes action – “The experienced doers” support – Pheu Thai Party

Earlier: [Somchai unveils Pheu Thai’s slogan: “Thaksin thinks, Pheu Thai acts”](#)

Vietnam quashes rare Hmong uprising lasting days

May 6, 2011

Categories: Refugees and Migrants, Vietnam

[Vietnam quashes rare Hmong uprising lasting days](#) – AP, May 5, 2011

...Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Nguyen Phuong Nga said the Hmong from Muong Nhe district began gathering since May 1 after hearing a rumor that a supernatural force would appear to bring the people to the promised land where they would find health, happiness and wealth...

Prayuth: Pheu Thai-led govt acceptable

May 6, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Prayuth: Pheu Thai-led govt acceptable](#) – Bangkok Post, May 6, 2011

The military will accept the outcome if the Pheu Thai Party is able to form the next government after the general election, army chief Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Friday...

Prayuth: Pheu Thai-led govt acceptable

May 6, 2011

The military will accept the outcome if the Pheu Thai Party is able to form the next government after the general election, army chief Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Friday

He said the army supports the election and all political parties were welcome to campaign for votes in the military barracks.

If the Pheu Thai Party is acceptable to the majority of Thai people, they army would have no reason not to accept it, Gen Prayuth said.

“Don’t look down on the Thai people. Let’s give them the opportunity to think, elect and make their own decisions. Don’t give them too many guidelines. They are duty-bound to elect good people to take care of the country,” he added.

Gen Prayuth said this to a meeting of commanders of army units from throughout the country. The meeting was called to brief them on the army’s policies and the army’s six-month work achievements.

The army chief said all unit commanders have been told to support the coming election, especially by providing security as requested.

However, they have been told to avoid involvement in election procedures, particularly the vote-counting process.

“The army will provide full cooperation to make sure the election is clean and fair. All army personnel and their family members are encouraged to go to the polls. All political parties are equally welcome to campaign in military units. I have made this a policy for all to comply with,” Gen Prayuth said.

Also:

Pheu Thai want PM’s poll promise

May 9, 2011

The Pheu Thai Party wants a written promise from the prime minister to let it form the next government if it wins the election.

Pheu Thai spokesman Prompong Nopparit yesterday called on Prime Minister and Democrat Party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva and Deputy Prime Minister and Democrat Party secretary-general Suthep Thaugsuban to sign a promise to let Pheu Thai form the next government if it is successful.

Mr Prompong said his party had conducted an opinion poll and found that 81.5% of respondents believed Pheu Thai’s policies were realistic.

However, voters questioned the government’s policies on consumer product price controls and drug suppression.

He also urged the Democrat Party to remove billboards about its performance in government, to be fair to its competitors in the election.

Mr Prompong asked Mr Abhisit to investigate the Interior Ministry's recent order to transfer more than 300 district chiefs. He said the order might have been made for political gain.

In response, Democrat Party spokesman Buranaj Smutharaks said the 2007 constitution allowed MPs to independently choose the prime minister and the formation of the next government should be in line with the intention of the constitution.

Pheu Thai Party had nominated Pol Gen Pracha Promnok, former list MP for the Puea Pandin Party, as a prime ministerial candidate competing with Mr Abhisit.

Dr Buranaj added that if the Pheu Thai Party was able to win enough votes to form the government, the Democrat Party would have no problems with it.

The Man Who Shouldn't Be Shown

May 7, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, May 7, 2011

Headline on the newspaper: Poll indicates that Pheu Thai absolutely wins over the Democrats

Privy Councilor Prem is thinking: Hurrh... It seems that after the election, we need to help that kid again. When will he be grown up enough to help himself... this is boring.

Return Happiness to Thais: Pheu Thai Pre-Election Sign

May 7, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Return Happiness to Thais – Return democracy to the people – Pheu Thai Party

Yellow-shirts set to end rally

May 7, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Yellow-shirts set to end rally](#) – Bangkok Post, May 7, 2011

...“The meeting of World Heritage Committee is likely to take place in late May or early June. Whatever the meeting results will be, the yellow-shirt protesters will definitely disperse after the meeting ends,” Maj Gen Chamlong insisted...

Chlorpyrifos: Toxin ‘likely’ cause of Sarah Carter’s death

May 8, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Toxin ‘likely’ cause of Sarah Carter’s death](#) – www.stuff.co.nz, May 8, 2011

...The fact traces of chlorpyrifos were found three months after Carter’s death and after the room was cleaned suggested there was a high concentration when she was staying there.

“I think she has been killed by an overzealous sprayer who’s been acting on the instructions of the hotel owner to deal with bed bugs,” McDowall said.

Even a slight mistake in the dosage of chlorpyrifos, which has been banned for indoor use in many countries, could be lethal, he said...

FLASH: Thai PM says plans to hold general election on July 3

May 8, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

FLASH: Thai PM says plans to hold general election on July 3 – Reuters Breaking News, May 8, 2011

Marking 125 Years Since the Great Gauge Change

May 9, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Marking 125 Years Since the Great Gauge Change](#) – SLashdot, May 9, 2011

...This month ends with the 125th anniversary of one of the most remarkable achievements in technology history. Over two days beginning Monday, May 31, 1886, the railroad network in the southern United States was converted from a five-foot gauge to one compatible with the slightly narrower gauge used in the US North, now known as standard gauge...

Thaksin: I'll return at the end of the year

May 9, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thaksin: I'll return at end of year](#) – The Nation, May 9, 2011

Fugitive ex-pm Thaksin Shinawatra said yesterday he would return to Thailand around November this year to celebrate New Year and declare a second round of the war on drugs...

"I will definitely come back at the end of this year. Just when my plane touches down at Suvarnabhumi Airport, drug traders will stop trading..."

Thaksin: I'll return at end of year Year

Fugitive ex-pm Thaksin Shinawatra said yesterday he would return to Thailand around November this year to celebrate New Year and declare a second round of the war on drugs.

Thaksin has been at the centre of controversy over the summary execution of thousands of suspects allegedly relating to the narcotics trade following his war on drugs policy during his administration. He stopped short of saying anything about turning himself in to face fraud and corruption charges after fleeing the country in August 2008.

Thaksin made the remarks during an address to a seminar panel organised by the Pheu Thai Party as part of its election campaign at Wat Sapan in Bangkok's Klong Toey District.

Klong Toey community leader Prateep Ungsongtham asked the Pheu Thai what were the party's antidrug policies and how could it prevent drug smuggling from neighbouring countries without hurting ties with them. Prateep also revealed she had asked young drug sellers: Who supplied the drugs? And they told her state officials did.

Thaksin said he felt sad for some police officers who bought their way to higher posts. "They want to climb so they seek loans, extort and do whatever they can to get money to give to people in Government House. If the Pheu Thai Party gets to form the government, the party will do away with this ill-practice," he said.

He also said if the Pheu Thai takes the government reins, the party would declare war on drugs for a second round. "We will solve the problem within 12 months. We will start from a soft to hard approach. We will not order police to kill anyone. Police must first stop drug dealing, and witness protection measures are a must, as they would help us obtain information. We also need military officials to help solve the problem in an integrated way.

"Thaksin said he could talk to neighbouring countries to end problems. "When I was in the government, we had good relationships with our neighbours. If I were still in the government, there would not have been clashes," he said.

"I will definitely come back at the end of this year. Just when my plane touches down at Suvarnabhumi Airport, drug traders will stop trading. We must give officials incentives. Giving them money on the table is better than under the table. Officials want to have integrity but they cannot earn enough to eat. We also take action against large traders and let small drug traders earn a living in the right way by fuelling our economy," he said.

Meanwhile, House Speaker Chai Chidchob has warned Thaksin against helping the Pheu Thai in its election campaign since it could result in the party being dissolved.

Chai said people whom the Election Commission has banned from taking part in election campaigning include party executives of dissolved parties. If they helped any party rally for votes, that party faced being dissolved."

I think Thaksin knows the law. He probably took the opportunity to before the Royal decree on dissolving the House was announced in the Royal gazette. After that he may try to evade the law or exploit legal loopholes," Chai said.

Also: [How many died in Thai drug purges?](#)

Remote Indian state hooked on Korean pop culture

May 9, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Remote Indian state hooked on Korean pop culture](#) – AFP, May 9, 2011

When separatist rebels in the remote Indian state of Manipur banned Hindi movies a decade ago, they had little idea it would trigger a cultural invasion from a country more than 2,000 miles away.

But when Bollywood was forced out, the Koreans moved in...

Why Pheu Thai Party invited UDD leaders to join the election

May 10, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Komchadluek, May 10, 2011

Left: I know the reason why Pheu Thai Party invited UDD leaders to join the election.

Middle: Ehh! What is the reason. I also want to know.

Right: Pheu Thai announces to be the leader of the establishment of the one party-led government.

Nightlife Areas 10 Years Ago

May 10, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Maps of Defunct Nightlife Areas](#) – Bangkok Eyes, May, 2011

The allegations made against Fifa members

May 10, 2011

Categories: Sports

[The allegations made against Fifa members](http://www.independent.co.uk) – www.independent.co.uk, May 10, 2011

...Worawi Makudi: The FIFA member from Thailand wanted to be given the TV rights to a friendly between England and the Thai national team. "I said TV rights should go to the federation of the country staging the game; that was what he believed was the critical thing to making the arrangement a success," said Triesman. The FA have since cancelled the friendly which had been planned for June...

Pheu Thai Promises: Tablet Computers for the Kids!

May 11, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The future of Thai children towards the new guarantee for lives – Increase the loan budget for education – Study first and pay back later – One Tablet PC per child, students have computers to use – Free WIFI-free public internet – Pheu Thai

Chiang Mai: Full story on Thai deaths ‘not likely’

May 11, 2011

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[Full story on Thai deaths ‘not likely’](#) – www.stuff.co.nz, May 5, 2011

...60 Minutes has done more in the last few weeks than what the Thailand authorities have done in months,” he said.

...Despite four tourists, including Ms Carter, dying in similar circumstances at the Downtown Inn it has remained open.

“In New Zealand that building would have been shut down immediately. It’s just a different world over there and they rely so much on tourism that they try to protect it and hide things,” Mr Eliason said...

Father refuses to accept Thai experts' findings

May 11, 2011

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[Father refuses to accept Thai experts' findings](http://www.nzherald.co.nz) – www.nzherald.co.nz, May 11, 2011

... "They've basically just shown that they'd prefer to cover it up rather than to put it out it in the open," Richard Carter told NZPA.

...Mr Carter said the findings did not surprise him at all.

"They did absolutely nothing for over three months and most of the things that they have done have lacked any thoroughness or integrity.

"I wouldn't place a lot of faith in the Thai health authorities..."

Richard Riot Denies Blaming Thailand

May 11, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

[Richard Riot Denies Blaming Thailand](#) – malaysianmirror.com, May 11, 2011

... "I was asked twice whether I blamed Thailand and I replied 'No'.

"So I don't know how come it was published in the papers that I blamed Thailand," he told reporters here...

Cambodian scientist discovers new species of blind and legless lizard

May 11, 2011

Categories: Cambodia, Wildlife and Nature

[Cambodian scientist discovers new species of blind and legless lizard](#) – www.fauna-flora.org, May 9, 2011

First on record in Cambodia and the first reptile to be both discovered and formally described in a scientific journal by a Cambodian national...

Storm at Dusk

May 11, 2011

Categories: Weather



View looking west across Bangkok (above) and then an eerie red glow suffused the city before the rain started (below).



Thaksin gambles on radical wildcards

May 11, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thaksin gambles on radical wildcards](#) – [www.atimes.com](#), May 12, 2011

...Therdpoum noted that in revolutionary theory a united front (the UDD in this case) gathers up anti-government forces in a display of popular resistance while shadowy fighters (the so-called “Men in Black” who launched grenades and opened fire on security forces) provoke, discombobulate and fracture their opponents. A political party (the Thaksin-controlled Pheu Thai) then moves into the ensuing political vacuum to seize power as the discredited government collapses.

...The UDD, on the other hand, not only failed to distance itself from the vicious “Men in Black” but last year saw several of its leaders boast of violence inflicted against officials or warn of destructive deeds to come. Outspoken UDD leader Jatuporn Prompan, who’s also a Puea Thai party member of parliament, has continued the fiery rhetoric that has effectively redrawn the boundaries of political invective in Thailand. Last month, he made a speech that allegedly tilted against the monarchy, causing a former prime minister and army commander, Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, to resign from the party...

Asian man jumps to death from world's tallest building

May 12, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Asian man jumps to death from world's tallest building](http://www.montrealgazette.com) – www.montrealgazette.com, May 10, 2011

...Local news reports said the man, believed to be in his 30s, became the first to commit suicide from the 160-storey building...

Pheu Thai Promises: For the People

May 12, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Thai people must become self-reliant in economy with their own dignity – The fund that helps the economic self-reliance (creating the new small entrepreneurs) – Reduction of taxes/increase write-offs for the first home – Reduction of taxes of the first car – Pheu Thai Party

Thailand's 20-year-old Condominium Act is obsolete

May 12, 2011

Categories: Property and Development

[Thailand's 20-year-old Condominium Act is obsolete](#) – www.property-report.com, May 12, 2011

...Under the 1991 Condominium Act, foreigners are allowed to purchase freehold condominium units at up to 49 per cent of the total saleable area of a building, but as non-residents they must transfer the funds to pay for the property from overseas. In order to transfer ownership of property at the Lands Department, a non-resident is required to provide a Foreign Exchange Transaction Form, a document certifying the transfer of funds from overseas in a foreign currency for the purpose of purchasing the property...

Chuwit Launches Love Thailand Party

May 12, 2011

Categories: Chuwit Kamolvisit, Thai Politics



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: January 3, 2005 – Quash the cheating people, expose the evil people, do not fear the influential!

[Chuwit launches Love Thailand Party](#) – Bangkok Post, May 12, 2011

Former massage parlour baron Chuwit Kamolvisit called a news conference to launch his Rak Prathetthai (Love Thailand) Party on Thursday...

All the earlier Chuwit news is [here](#).

World's Largest Model Airport Completed In Hamburg, Germany

May 13, 2011

Categories: Airports and Airlines



(Photo: miniature-wunderland.com)

[World's Largest Model Airport Completed In Hamburg, Germany -150 Square Meters Costing \\$4.8 Million](#)
– singularityhub.com, May 11, 2011

Pheu Thai Promises: Ending Flooding

May 13, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Goodbye! Flood and drought – Creating the linkage of water nationwide – Creating dams to prevent floods in Bangkok and its vicinity

Chatichai fondly recalled

May 13, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Chatichai fondly recalled](#) – The Nation, May 13, 2011

The deeper our political divisions, it seems, the more Chatichai Choonhavan – the late prime minister – is remembered for his ability to reconcile opposing sides...

Royal Ploughing Ceremony: Good harvest, abundant food predicted

May 13, 2011

Categories: Thai Holidays and Festivals

[Royal Ploughing Ceremony: Good harvest, abundant food predicted](#) – Bangkok Post, May 13, 2011

...The oxen were each then offered seven bowls of food and their choices were used to make predictions.

The seven bowls held grass, paddy, maize, sesame seeds, soy bean, water and liquor.

The oxen ate grass, an omen that the country would enjoy an average water supply, plentiful rice harvests and an abundance of fruits and staple foods this year.

The oxen also drank liquor, indicating that communications would be convenient, foreign trade would flourish and the economy would prosper...

A Thai Director Dreams of History

May 13, 2011

Categories: Film and TV

[A Thai Director Dreams of History](#) – WSJ, May 13, 2011

...It's in northeast Thailand, the region Mr. Apichatpong hails from. In the 1960s to early '80s, the government brutally persecuted villagers suspected of sympathizing with communist factions, and the videos are "a small collective memory," he says, of the village's painful past...

Elephants help autistic children in Thailand

May 13, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Elephants help autistic children in Thailand](http://www.cbsnews.com) – www.cbsnews.com, May 13, 2011

Pheu Thai Promises: New Mass Transit Lines

May 14, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Developing the new system of transportation – 10 Skytrain lines – 20 baht ticket for round trip – Double track rails to connect all directions in the system – The high speed rail project from Bangkok to Chiangmai-Korat-Huahin – the Airport Link to Chacherngsao-Chonburi-Pattaya – Pheu Thai Party



Virgin Australia's Asian airline partner: Malaysia, Singapore or Thai?

May 14, 2011

Categories: Airports and Airlines

[Virgin Australia's Asian airline partner: Malaysia, Singapore or Thai?](http://www.ausbt.com.au) – www.ausbt.com.au, May 13, 2011

Pre-election billboard: “Don’t let these animals into parliament!”

May 14, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[PAD told to remove ‘nasty’ billboard](#) – Bangkok Post, May 13, 2011

The People’s Alliance for Democracy (PAD) must remove its campaign billboard stating “Don’t let animals into parliament!” because it was “improper” and unauthorised, police said on Friday...

[More about the “Tiger-lion-bull-rhinoceros” reference](#)

PAD told to remove ‘nasty’ billboard

The People’s Alliance for Democracy (PAD) must remove its campaign billboard stating “Don’t let animals into parliament!” because it was “improper” and unauthorised, police said on Friday.

Police spokesman Prawut Thavornsiri said the “Vote No” campaign billboard put up near the PAD’s rally site on Ratchadamnoen Avenue was improper and must be removed. A verbal warning would be given to the PAD.

The billboard also has illustrations of men in suits whose heads are of various types of animals, said Pol Maj Gen Prawut.

This billboard, an advertisement, had not been approved by any of the proper government agencies.

Police would inform the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration about this illegal billboard and ask the Election Commission whether the act of putting up that election-related advertisement was also in contravention of election regulations, said Pol Maj Gen Prawut.

He also said copies of a list of about a 100 known hitmen along with their photos would be distributed to police stations across the country, as part of efforts to increase security in the run-up to the July 3 election.

The hitmen on the list were all wanted by police in connection with at least one previous murder, said Pol Maj Gen Prawut.

Taiwan fraud rings move into Southeast Asia

May 14, 2011

Categories: Scams

[Taiwan fraud rings move into Southeast Asia](#) – AFP, May 14, 2011

...He estimated that dozens of young Taiwanese are now held in Thai prisons on fraud charges.

“I believe that some were lured to Thailand by false job deals only to become pawns of the fraud rings and were slapped with heavy prison terms up to 20 years,” Chang said.

Fraud rings usually pick young people who have never gone abroad, speak no English and are from humble backgrounds like Chen’s son so they are more easily manipulated, he said.

Taiwan’s foreign ministry, on the other hand, has said many young people arrested in Thailand were aware of the nature of their “job” but fell for the fat salaries and luxury houses promised by fraud rings...

Coming to MK: The Rise Of The Robo-Waiter

May 14, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Coming to MK: The Rise Of The Robo-Waiter](#) – www.npr.org, May 13, 2011

...And they cost much more than humans, especially in Asia, where a 10-hour shift of taking orders and running food trays typically pays less than \$10. The two waiter bots at Bangkok's Hajime Robot Restaurant, for example, cost a total of \$930,000.

What Asia's robo-waiters may herald, however, is the ATM-ing of restaurants...

Old Politicians Make Merit

May 15, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, May 15, 2011

The four men—Chawarat Charnweerakul, Chai Chidchob, Chavalit, and Banharn—are saying: On the occasion of Visakhabucha Day, we make merit for the nation by ending our political roles and will to stay home raising our grandsons and granddaughters.

The caption reads: You have become elderly, then why don't you want to make merit?

Pheu Thai Promises: Minimum Wage for Graduates

May 15, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Increase the wages of bachelor degree graduates to 15,000 baht – Increase the minimum wage to 300 baht per day – Pheu Thai Party

Police Website Detailing the 112 Hitmen

May 15, 2011

Categories: Crime, Thai Police

[Police Website Detailing the 112 Hitmen](#) – May 15, 2011

[112 ‘killers’ on police wanted list](#) – The Nation, May 15, 2011

Unveiling the world of Arabs in Thailand

May 15, 2011

Categories: Books

[Unveiling the world of Arabs in Thailand](#) – Bangkok Post, May 15, 2011

It's not often that American writers take to Arab/Islamic culture and write sympathetically about it. But a new book, *Siamese Arabesques: Tales Of The Islamic World With Thai Twists*, strives to do exactly that, painting a fascinating mosaic of the cultures and cuisines, trials and tribulations of people from all over the Arab/Islamic world who now call Thailand home...

A Sad Day for Muay Thai as Thai Fights European Excursion Fails To Impress

May 15, 2011

Categories: Sports

[A Sad Day for Muay Thai as Thai Fights European Excursion Fails To Impress](#) – asiancorrespondent.com,

May 15, 2011

...In Thailand sporting audiences are used to having to sit through lengthy introductions to people who, for whatever reason, have a high status in society but in Europe giving the stage to a politician rather than, say, a rock band just seemed a little quaint...

Chart Pattana Pua Pandin Party Sign

May 16, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Knowing loss – Knowing victory – Knowing forgiveness – The power of Thailand shapes the nation – Chart Pattana Pua Pandin Party

Anantara Announces 2011 King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament Dates

May 16, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Anantara Announces 2011 King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament Dates](#) – May 16, 2011

Concise overview of Thailand's "complex" telecom industry

May 16, 2011

Categories: Business

[Concise overview of Thailand's "complex" telecom industry](#) – www.zdnetasia.com, May 16, 2011

It's one of the world's few markets without public 3G, its mobile industry combines government-owned and privately-held companies, yet despite the confusion and chaos mobile is huge in Thailand...

Migrant workers face Thai action

May 16, 2011

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Migrant workers face Thai action](#) – phnompenhpost.com, May 16, 2011

Thailand has ordered that an estimated two million migrant workers from Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos register their presence by a deadline set two months from now or face legal action or deportation...

Bangkok Haunt

May 16, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok Haunt](#) – May 16, 2011

Bangkok, a city often described as exotic, fascinating, polluted, vibrant, precious, chaotic, seedy, colorful and hotter than hell, is also Asia's most haunted city....

Rumblings in the Bangkok Underground

May 17, 2011

Categories: Subway

[Rumblings in the Bangkok underground](#) – Bangkok Post, May 16, 2011

...The party which controls the Transport Ministry wants someone it can trust to sit in the top job at the MRTA. Mr Prapas has more experience in overseeing the agency but he is seen as a candidate affiliated with Pheu Thai Party. Bhumjaithai hasn't forgotten that he ran in an election for Bangkok governor in 2008 under the banner of the People Power Party, the predecessor of Pheu Thai.

...The MRTA will be responsible for construction bids of all the lines under its responsibility. That should be enough to shed light on why the party wants to keep this agency under its control...

FIFA's Worawi plans legal action against Triesman over bribery accusations

May 17, 2011

Categories: Sports

[FIFA's Worawi plans legal action against Triesman over bribery accusations](#) – AP, May 16, 2011

...Worawi, who is also head of the Football Association of Thailand, denied Triesman's accusations that he demanded the television rights to a proposed Thailand-England friendly in exchange for supporting England's bid to host the 2018 World Cup...

Thailand proposes new border routes with Myanmar

May 17, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Myanmar/Burma

[Thailand proposes new border routes with Myanmar](http://www.mysinchew.com) – www.mysinchew.com, May 16, 2011

...Deputy Commerce Minister Alongkorn Ponlaboot said that Thailand is first encouraging for the opening of the Singkorn Checkpoint, which connects the Andaman Sea, through Myanmar's Mergui Town, with the Gulf of Thailand, through the Kingdom's upper southern Prachuap Khiri Khan Province and the Ranong Port...

What's the Population of Myanmar?

May 17, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Flawed math behind Myanmar 'democracy'](#) – atimes.com, May 17, 2011

...To understand the disparities in counting Myanmar's population, one has to know that estimating Myanmar's population is predominantly part of the system of authoritarian control. To monitor society, authorities have long employed a Draconian system of household registration...

\$9600 Train Trip to Chiang Mai and Back

May 17, 2011

Categories: Thai Railroads

[On a roll in luxe-class](#) – www.smh.com.au, May 15, 2011

...Our Epic Thailand trip arcs its way through north-eastern Thailand before returning to Bangkok via the northern capital of Chiang Mai. I'm intrigued to see how the E&O manages the tricky feat of combining adventure and indulgence...

Looming suspicions over Dahal's Bangkok visit

May 17, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Looming suspicions over Dahal's Bangkok visit](#) – www.reviewnepal.com, May 17, 2011

The mysterious visit of the UCPN Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal to Bangkok has left various suspicions in Nepalese politics. Not only the Dahal's party, Maoist, but also the coalition partners and other parties have been suspecting that his recent visit to Bangkok will not remain as he and his insider claims...

Making merit doesn't have to involve money

May 18, 2011

Categories: Buddhism

[Khop Fa sees the light](#) – The Nation, May 17, 2011

...Nui, 28, who now runs a firm called A Thing Book Publisher, didn't think dharma could be measured rationally, nor any of the rituals of Buddhist belief.

He doubted there was any overt power in the scent of incense or the pouring of holy water. He wondered why people wish for material things when they tham boon – make merit...

Is it time to ban tiger farms?

May 18, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Is it time to ban tiger farms?](#) – www.u.tv, May 17, 2011

...Steven Galster, the founder of the Bangkok-based conservation group Freeland, says farms maintain a market for tigers and tiger products by illicitly supplying cubs for pets, and bones and penises for traditional medicine.

Aside from the economic and legal arguments, there is also the ethical question of how humans should treat animals. At the Sri Racha zoo near Pattaya, cubs paced back and forth in tiny cages and adult tigers leapt through flaming circus hoops and paraded around on two legs to the music of the Can Can. The breeders had ensured the existence of tigers, but at what cost to their essence?...

On the Forum: Democrat Candidates

May 18, 2011

Categories: Elections

On the Forum: [Democrat Candidates](#)

Sign at Voice TV

May 18, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Please join the donation to support the flood victims in the South via Voice bank account “Voice TV for flood victims” – Account number 127-4-839-222 – Bangkok Bank Soi Aree branch – www.voicetv.co.th

Anniversary of Black May

May 18, 2011

Categories: Black May 1992



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Black May 1992 headlines

[Black May 1992 headlines](#)

[Black May – Even dogs turn their backs on this field](#)

[Black May – Shootings were in self-defence, says spokesman](#)

[Black May – City braces for more riots](#)

[Black May – Where peace took its last turn](#)

[Black May – Disastrous End-Burning-Chaos in the city](#)

[Black May – Bloody battles rage in City](#)

[Black May – Young doctor tells of battles to save life](#)

[Black May – Enough: End this terrible tragedy](#)

[Black May – Censorship issue of the Bangkok Post](#)

[Black May – ‘Drastic’ action to quell riot](#)

[Black May – Huge Protest in City](#)

Eyewitness accounts

[Part I – Background & A night on the bridge](#)

[Part II – Crossing the lines](#)

[Part III – A hot afternoon](#)

[Part IV – The shooting starts](#)

[Part VI – Soldiers advance through Banglampoo](#)

[Part VII – Aftermath](#)

[Tomas’ Black May story](#)

Also: Black May 1992 videos [Royal Hotel](#) – [9 videos](#)

Interesting contemporary editorial about the events

[Bloody events have mixed legacy](#)

And the 1991 coup

[1991 coup headlines](#)

[1991 coup – Rift over assassination probe was the catalyst](#)

[1991 coup – Power belongs to the people, nobody else](#)

[1991 coup – Newswatch one of the victims of clampdown](#)

[1991 coup – Taped confession aired to justify the takeover](#)

Thai group buy Foxes stake

May 18, 2011

Categories: Sports

[Thai group buy Foxes stake](#) – www.skysports.com, May 18, 2011

Asia Football Investments have taken the sole ownership of Leicester City, buying the remaining 20% of shares in the club.

The Thailand-based consortium completed their takeover in October last year, taking control of an 80% stake...

Myanmar: Internet cafés: Burmese government bans CDs, USB sticks and floppy disks

May 19, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar: Internet cafés: Burmese government bans CDs, USB sticks and floppy disks](#) –
www.speroforum.com, May 17, 2011

Wear Helmets

May 19, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards, Thai Police



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Suthisarn people altogether wear the safety helmets – 100% – best wishes from the Police Colonel Paisarn Wongwatcharamongkol, the Suthisarn Police Chief – support the campaign to cut accidental rate by–Muang Thai Insurance

Cambodia tries to bring order to its address books

May 19, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia tries to bring order to its address books](#) – CSM, May 17, 2011

...until now it had been up to the city's residents themselves to display addresses on their properties – which resulted in a lack of consecutive order, odd and even numbers switching sides of the street, and sometimes more than one property on the same street sharing the same address..

On the forum: Pheu Thai Party List Candidates and Burning Down Udorn Thani Provincial Hall

May 19, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[20 Pheu Thai Party List Candidates](#)

[One Year Anniversary of Red Shirts Burning Down Udorn Thani Provincial Hall](#)

Democrat vs Pheu Thai Mass Transit Plans

May 19, 2011

Categories: Mass Transit

Democrats – [12 mass transit lines with support from ex-BMA Governor Abhirak and Ajarn Samart Rajpholasit](#)

Pheu Thai – [10 mass transit lines with a 20 baht flat rate with support from ex-MRTA governor Praphat](#) (to be announced in detail next week)

We previously had [pointed out how the Pheu Thai mass transit promises mirrored Thai Rak Thai mass transit promises that were touted before the election and cancelled afterwards.](#)

The hottest thread right now: Local Writer Takes on ThaiVisa Forum Members

May 19, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Why Thailand's sexpat community hates Thaksin Shinawatra](#)

Political Party Numbers for the Election

May 19, 2011

Categories: Elections

[JULY 3 GENERAL ELECTION – Result of lot drawing](#) – The Nation, May 19, 2011

[Ten red leaders to figure in Pheu Thai party list](#) – The Nation, May 19, 2011

Nurse's shooting returns to fore in tense Thailand

May 19, 2011

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Nurse's shooting returns to fore in tense Thailand](#) – FT, May 19, 2011

...A number of unofficial investigations, including one by Human Rights Watch, have condemned the army for excessive force, including using concealed sniper teams for what amounted to crowd control. HRW concluded that Ms Kamolkate was shot by soldiers firing from an elevated train track. During last year's demonstrations, the Red Shirts did have an armed wing equipped with automatic weapons and grenade launchers, but only in relatively small numbers. Some 10 soldiers died, but most of those killed were demonstrators armed with not much more than catapults and a few petrol bombs...

Reaping Rewards With Big Thai Projects

May 19, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Golden geese in the golden land](#) – The Nation, March 30, 2009

Over four years ago when the new airport opened, there was a storm of allegations over corruption. There was the small matter of a Bt1.71 billion gap between the purchase price and the selling price for the CTX baggage scanners. But there were others too: a Bt1 billion contract for ground services awarded to a Singapore-registered company whose owner was traced to a derelict house in the Bangkok suburbs; Bt4 billion for wiring and ducting to a company with no track record; half a billion for luggage trolleys of unbelievably chunky quality; Bt5 billion for operating security guards; Bt3 billion for limousine services; an allegation that Thaksin's sister demanded a bribe of Bt300 million for the car park concession; an advertising concession to Thaksin's son; and an Bt8 billion contract for building drains allocated to the family of another minister...

Political meddling in the baby leopard, panther, and bear smuggling case

May 19, 2011

Categories: Crime

[CIB fears political meddling in animal smuggling case](#) – Bangkok Post, May 19, 2011

...Kittipong Khawsamang, deputy chief of the CIB's natural resources and environmental crime suppression division, said his agency resolved to take over the case after Racha Thewa police told him "that a politician has pressured them to return the passport to the suspect". An initial investigation had found the suspect was an alleged member of a huge wildlife trafficking ring with links to an international crime network...

50 Percent Kickbacks Required to Win a Project

May 19, 2011

Categories: Crime

[Private sector to stop offering bribes](#) – Bangkok Post, May 19, 2011

...Mr Dusit said business operators have to pay under-the-table kickbacks to people in power amounting to as much as 50 per cent of the cost of a project if they want to win a contract. This compares to the 2 or 3 per cent demanded 20 or 30 years ago...

Private sector to stop offering bribes for contracts

Published: 19/05/2011 at 05:26 PM

Twenty-one private organisations have formed a network to fight against the corruption which now plagues the country more seriously than ever before, Thai Chamber of Commerce chairman Dusit Nontanakorn said on Thursday.

Mr Dusit said business operators have to pay under-the-table kickbacks to people in power amounting to as much as 50 per cent of the cost of a project if they want to win a contract. This compares to the two or three per cent demanded 20 or 30 years ago.

Giving and taking bribes is tantamount to plundering the nation, because every baht from the state's coffers should be spent for the country's development, he said.

"What is worrying is that the Thai people think corruption is acceptable. This thinking is very dangerous. If this is allowed to continue, Thailand will collapse sometime in the future," Mr Dusit said.

He said the anti-graft network has been set up by 21 private organisations – including the Thai Chamber of Commerce, Thai Bankers Association, Securities and Exchange of Thailand and Federation of Thai Capital Markets.

The network will on June 1 declare an end to "offering bribes".

Corruption involves both offering and taking bribes, he said. Refusing to offer bribes is a starting point and will make corruption more difficult, Mr Dusit said.

He said the network will organise a seminar with the theme "Opposed to Corruption – a Turning Point of Thailand" on June 1, during the lead-up to the July 3 election.

This may serve as a warning to politicians who volunteer to represent the people in parliament to end corrupt practices, because the private sector will stop making offers, Mr Dusit said.

The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) chairman Payungsak Chartsutthipol said the private sector's biggest wish is that the new government should show leadership skills and an ability to coordinate with all political groups to bring about reconciliation.

Mr Payungsak said the new government must focus on creating national unity immediately after the general election because the private sector wants the country to move forward.

"The new administration must have good economic policies, especially those relating to the daily minimum wage of workers," he said.

In addition, the new government must give special attention to inflation issues, as many other countries were now facing the problem of surging inflation,.

Even though Thailand's inflation rate is now below three per cent, the government must keep a close watch on it, he said.

The FTI chairman said if the economy is good, people's living standards will also improve. The government then will have more tax revenue to be used for the country's development.

Asked about the populist policies proposed by several political parties, Mr Payungsak suggested there should be great care in properly implementing such policies, as they would affect most people.

Populist policies should remain in place only for a suitable period of time. If they continued too long the market mechanism could be distorted, he said.

Italian woman seeks answers for brother's death in Bangkok

May 19, 2011

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Italian woman seeks answers for brother's death in Bangkok](http://www.radioaustralia.net.au) – www.radioaustralia.net.au, May 19, 2011
...The whole operation was staggering in its incompetence – you had scared young conscripts blazing away at the tents in Lumpini Park without any fire control. There wasn't the command and control you would expect during such an operation – totally uncoordinated...

No Car Racing!

May 20, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Car racing in public place faces jail punishment and seizure of the car – Best wishes from Dindaeng police station, Region 1, Metropolitan Police

Wear Helmets

May 20, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards, Thai Police



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Suthisarn people altogether wear the safety helmets – 100% – Best wishes from Police Colonel Paisarn Wongwatcharamongkol, the Suthisarn Police Chief – support the campaign to cut off the accidental rate by Muang Thai Insurance

Experts fly out to defend jail, justice system

May 20, 2011

Categories: Crime

[Experts fly out to defend jail, justice system](#) – www.smh.com.au, May 20, 2011

...Two Thai nationals charged with the murder of Mr Mitchell will fight extradition from Bangkok, claiming that they will not receive a fair trial in Melbourne and that the Victorian jails they will be held in are Third World standard...

In a first, Venezuela suspends driver's license

May 20, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[In a first, Venezuela suspends driver's license](#) – Reuters, May 19, 2011

Car-friendly Venezuela, where gasoline is almost free and troublesome highway rules rarely imposed, has suspended a bus driver from the roads for a year in the first case of a suspended license in the OPEC nation...

Steve Hands interviews Chris Coles for Traversing the Orient Magazine

May 21, 2011

Categories: Art

[Steve Hands interviews Chris Coles for Traversing the Orient Magazine](#) – bangkok-noir.blogspot.com, May 20, 2011

Opportunity for a Local Man

May 21, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Asking for the opportunity for a local man in the area who understands the problems and knows his duty in parliament- Mr. Mana Kongwutipunya

Your Democrat MP

May 21, 2011

Categories: Elections



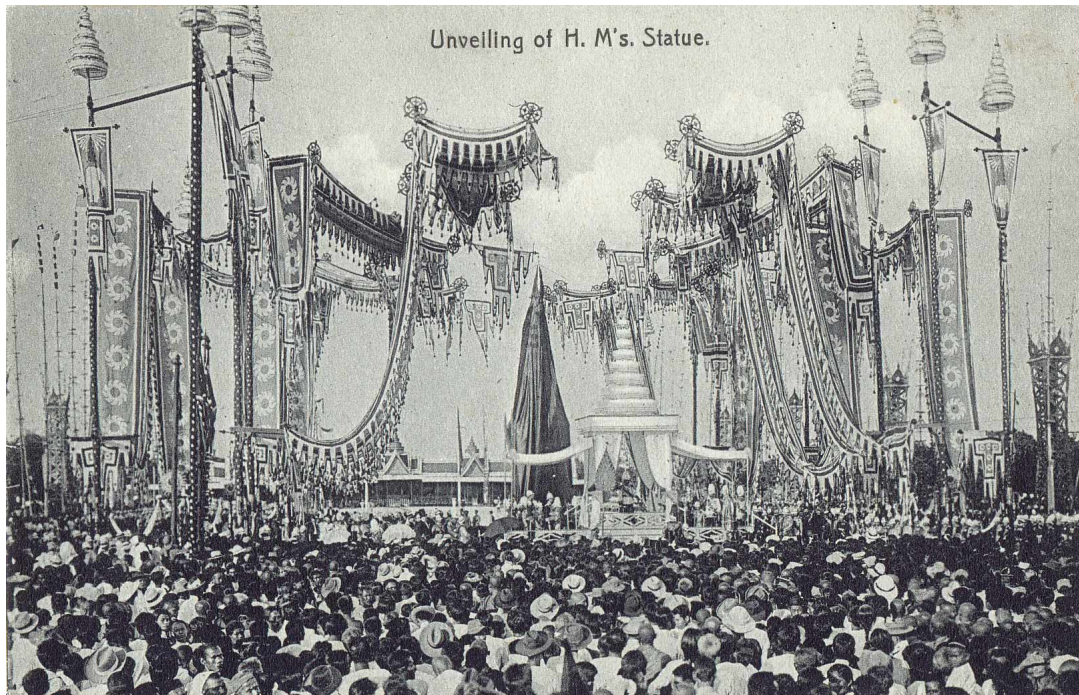
(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Whole for parliament work – For local work, 100 percent – Thana Cheeravinit – Your MP – the Democrat Party

Unveiling of H.M.'s Statue

May 21, 2011

Categories: Old photos and films



“Unveiling of H. M.’s Statue” from an undated postcard we acquired. Click on the image for the larger view. Anyone know the date and details of this event?

Venerable Shrine

May 22, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From ThaiRath, March 22, 2011

Left: The MPs swore faithfulness to the deity of the Parliament. Don't they feel fearful about the result of their oath?

Middle: The Shrine says: Not fearful if the deity gives punishment to them, they will flip their tongue.

The man says: What will they say, venerable shrine?

Right: I do not listen to you.

The long, risky road from North to South

May 22, 2011

Categories: North Korea, Refugees and Migrants

[The long, risky road from North to South](http://www.independent.co.uk) – www.independent.co.uk, May 21, 2011

...While the North Koreans are classed as illegal immigrants by the Thai authorities, they are nevertheless passed on to the care of the South Korean embassy in Bangkok rather than being sent back to Laos or China. The embassy processes the migrants and flies all but suspected North Korean spies on direct flights to Seoul, where government agencies and local church groups help the new arrivals settle in...

City traders vow to sue UDD, govt

May 22, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[City traders vow to sue UDD, govt](#) – Bangkok Post, May 21, 2011

...For the red shirts' memorial gathering on Thursday, the UDD told the RSTA and police that protesters would not block roads and would end the rally as planned.

"They broke all the agreements. We're in trouble again and again," Mr Chai said.

"If the government can't handle this issue and lets demonstrations happen everywhere, it should not manage the country anymore. We pay tax but the protests infringe on our rights and cost us money..."

Cambodia's up-and-coming seaside towns

May 22, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia's up-and-coming seaside towns](#) – WP, May 21, 2011

Foreigners Can Complain

May 22, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Cannot think of anything else, just tell the Bangrak district, the Bangrak District Office. It is open to listen to opinions and complaints through the 7-11 in the Bangrak District area – 24 branches, 24 hours – Tell the Bangrak District Office, tell at 7-11

Choose the Number That You Like

May 23, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, May 23, 2011

Cartoon headline: Choose the number that you like

On sign the sign Yingluck holds: 1

On her shirt: Puea thai

On the hooded figure's body: Order crackdown on the people

On the sign he holds: No. 10 Democrat

On the cobra: N

The man is spray painting on the wall: April

Words at the bottom: Idea from a young engineer

Interviewing Nuon Chea

May 23, 2011

Categories: Cambodia, Film and TV

[Keeping enemies closer](#) – The Nation, May 21, 2011

...A Communist Party activist since his student days at Bangkok's Thammasat University in the 1940s (when his Thai name was Runglert Laodee and he even briefly worked for the Finance Ministry), Nuon Chea holds firm to his ideology. He still believes that Cambodia would have benefited by being rid of money and social classes, which the Khmer Rouge attempted to do by emptying cities and forcing citizens to work on farming collectives.

However, he says, the movement was undermined by traitors and interference by Vietnam and the US...

“Informal union between a strong opposition political party and a formidable street protest movement”

May 23, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics, Thailand in the International Media

[Red Shirts Reappear Ahead of Poll](#) – IPS, May 22, 2011

Why not throw the 112 professional hitmen in prison?

May 23, 2011

Categories: Crime

[Friends on high keep hitmen out of police range](#) – Bangkok Post, May 22, 2011

...Under the protection of the camps it is virtually impossible for local police to obtain evidence, and often their inquiries or attempts at making arrests are hindered by the influential figures...

The full text:

Friends on high keep hitmen out of police range

The release of a list of 112 wanted assassins underscores the dilemma facing authorities who know their enemy, and are also aware of the powers that protect them

By the police's own admission Thailand has over 110 hitmen, so why _ a reasonable person might ask _ are they not behind bars if law enforcement agencies know who they are?

A week ago, the Royal Thai Police released a list of 112 hitmen and offered a cash reward of 100,000 baht to anyone who might provide information leading to an arrest. A "Most Wanted" poster was also paraded for the press featuring 50 faces of known gunmen.

The call for public help in tracking the guns-for-hire ahead of the July 3 national election was sparked by the shooting of former Pheu Thai MP for Samut Prakan, Pracha Prasopdee, who the previous Tuesday suffered bullet wounds to the back and head.

Mr Pracha later said he was convinced the attempted assassination was politically motivated, although police have yet to confirm the theory.

"I know who ordered the contract on me. A son of a politician has passed on a message via a senior official that when I am no longer an MP, he will shoot me. Barely two days after the House dissolution, I was shot," Mr Pracha said.

HAIL OF BULLETS: A policeman examines the car of former Pheu Thai MP for Samut Prakan Pracha Prasopdee, below, who was injured when a gunman opened fire on his car in Phra Pradaeng district

Pol Lt Col Panmanee Nontakote, who has researched hitmen in Thailand, agrees that it's probably the work of professional gunmen. "Considering what happened to Mr Pracha, we can see that it's almost the same as the killing patterns in the past," said the officer, who has studied hitmen in Thailand, including their motivation, psychology, occupations and associations with influential business and political figures.

Pol Lt Col Panmanee is deputy commander of the Research and Assessment Unit at the Royal Thai Police Office. The research project was launched following Thaksin Shinawatra's 2004 war on drugs and the former prime minister's probing of "influential figures".

The researchers, who interviewed 15 convicted hitmen, wanted to learn more about the underworld of professional killers so that police investigators could better plan how to detect and arrest them.

According to the research, political disputes at both the local and national levels was the main motive for the professional killings. The other was conflicts over business investments involving influential figures.

Psychologically, the hitmen were found to have big egos coupled with a sense of loyalty to family, friends and employers which attracted them to settle disputes by force.

One of the professional killers said he started his career as an act of revenge for a friend.

But some of the researchers weren't convinced by the claims of the "brave, loyal, friend" argument, saying many of the victims were shot from behind and the killers simply had an urge to kill.

Although some of the hitmen came from poor backgrounds, others did not. Some were even from wealthy families, such as owners of big orchard farms.

Some of the killers were found to be police or military officers.

As to the question of why the hitmen weren't arrested, the researchers found that they were often kept protected in so-called "gunmen camps" usually run by influential business or political figures.

In the camps, their weak position is underlined, as they need the protection of their bosses, who provide them with a sanctuary in return for their killing skills.

The researchers found that such a dependency formulates a patronage relationship under which a hitman will always be beholden to their boss's demands, making it virtually impossible for them to leave the business.

Hiring hitmen is usually done under a loose contact. Paymasters contact the hitmen's bosses or brokers, who then arrange the killer. Virtually none of them know who originally ordered the contract.

No hitman works alone. They will have a few peers help them plan the killing and offer back-up, such as driving the vehicle and disposing of weapons.

Once the assignment is completed, the researchers found, the hitmen return to the camps.

Under the protection of the camps it is virtually impossible for local police to obtain evidence, and often their inquiries or attempts at making arrests are hindered by the influential figures.

While the public might consider the hitmen poster released last weekend a joke, Pol Maj Gen Winai Thongsong, deputy commissioner of the Central Investigation Bureau, said it was an important tool in tracking the killers.

He said that more eyes trying to detect the killers' movements helps police greatly in their attempts to locate them.

TRIGGER TERRORS: A list of hitmen issued by police as part of steps to tackle poll-related violence.

The poster, released regularly since 2005, has returned mixed results.

In 2005, photos of 50 hitmen were released and 24 of those arrested. In 2007, 40 were identified, resulting in seven arrests.

Police have also been trying to develop a database of gunmen camps nationwide in the hope that it will give them a clearer picture of the networks and parties involved.

So far, up to 100 gunmen camps, some belonging to local and national politicians, have been studied and recorded. Some are located in the southern provinces of Songkhla, Surat Thani, Phatthalung, Nakhon Si Thammarat and Phetchaburi; central provinces such as Uthai Thani and Nakhon Sawan; and the eastern provinces of Chon Buri and Chanthaburi.

"With this database, we can keep an eye on them and let them know that we know them," said Pol Maj Gen Winai. "We just hope this will help reduce the opportunity for them to commit a crime."

Pol Lt Col Panmanee said it would be difficult to bring the shady profession to an end, as there were too many powerful people involved.

As long as there are political and business conflicts, the gun-for-hire business will flourish and new faces will replace old ones.

A DEBT OF GRATITUDE PAID IN DEATHS

Before becoming a hitman, Joke was a construction worker. He came from a poor family _ his mother had to take care of him, his brother and two sisters alone, and took any job she could find. Because the family was

so poor, Joke's education ended at Grade 4, when he left school to find work.

Joke took a variety of labouring jobs until he met a luk pi, or older "brother", who took him under his wing. The luk pi worked at a modest restaurant where he helped supervise security. One day he asked Joke to kill one of his rivals. Joke felt he owed a debt of gratitude to his luk pi, so he agreed to do it. He was just 17.

Joke had learned how to use a gun at a military camp near his home. When he was young, he would often play with some of the men on the base, who sometimes allowed him to fire an M16.

After becoming a hitman, he continued to take orders from his luk pi, who also gave contracts to other hitmen. Joke would usually travel to and from a shooting on the back of a motorcycle driven by an accomplice. He used a 9mm pistol, and received 50,000 baht before a job, and more afterwards.

Once he finished a job, he fled upcountry, staying with relatives or taking labouring jobs until the heat died down. He would then return to his luk pi. Over the years, Joke hardly ever saw his family.

Once he fled to the Thai-Cambodia border, where he decided to steal vehicles and sell them in Cambodia to make a living. Joke was arrested at the age of 23 and put in jail for the murder of another rival of his luk pi. At the age of 34, when our researchers met him in jail, he said that "the more he killed the less guilt he felt".

Cambodia's royal oxen fail to predict rice harvest

May 23, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia's royal oxen fail to predict rice harvest](#) – AFP, May 21, 2011

...While still taken seriously by many rural Cambodians in this deeply superstitious country, ploughing ceremony predictions have been called into question in recent years.

Front and Back of the Hand

May 23, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, May 23, 2011

The title at the top of the cartoon reads: Be careful of the flipping

Left: Poo will take Brother Sin to return home.

Right: Brother Sin will take Poo to live abroad.

Under the hand on the left: From...

Under the hand on the right: To...

Phuket's Expat Crimes List Grows Longer

May 23, 2011

Categories: Crime

[Phuket's Expat Crimes List Grows Longer](#) – phuketwan.com, May 22, 2011

...The list is compiled in the office of Phuket Police Commander Major General Pekad Tantipong and the fact that it can be published is an indication of the transparency now being applied to police cases involving expats as both alleged perpetrators and victims...

Thailand's Prime Minister and 190,000 lost Twitter followers

May 23, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thailand's Prime Minister and 190,000 lost Twitter followers](#) – www.zdnetasia.com. May 23, 2011

...A reasonable argument has been made that the Prime Minister was wanting to avoid using his Prime Ministerial influence during the election and therefore, with his Twitter account having been started and grown popular during his time in office, he created a new one which makes no reference to his position as PM, instead using “DP” an abbreviation of Democrat Party...

Aquino traveling light in Thailand

May 23, 2011

Categories: The Philippines

[Aquino traveling light in Thailand](http://www.mb.com.ph) – www.mb.com.ph, May 23, 2011

Asian dynasties in need of deeper gene pools

May 23, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Asian dynasties in need of deeper gene pools](http://www.theaustralian.com.au) – www.theaustralian.com.au, May 23, 2011

...Asia is replete with such clones. After the colonial era, dictators installed themselves in much of the region, mostly with military backing. Since then, Asia has steadily democratised.

But the process has got stuck. In so many countries, the lists of candidates at elections bear an uncanny resemblance to those at the last few polls. That's because, of course, the names are the same. They're family...

Thailand must learn the lessons of history

May 23, 2011

Categories: Black May 1992, Human Rights

[Thailand must learn the lessons of history](#) – Asian Human Rights Commission, May 23, 2011

...Almost two decades have passed since the gruesome massacre. Many questions still remain unanswered. Even the final death toll is still being disputed while the families of those who went missing continue their long and agonizing search for truth and justice...

Cambodia's Micro-credit Trap

May 23, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia's Micro-credit Trap](#) – www.asiasentinel.com, May 23, 2011

...In 2005 he was presented with an opportunity to borrow US\$500 from Credit Microfinance Institution, a firm established by the Christian charity World Relief US in 1993, to set up a small food stall in Trapaing Krasaing commune where crowds of garment workers pass on their way to work. His decision that day to take the money would stay with him for years.

Since then, borrowing more and more from private lenders to pay back microlenders, he has fallen into a complicated web of debt now so severe that he is considering selling his house and about 50 square meters of land, together worth around US\$6,000...

Democrat Party Pre-Election Poster

May 24, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The government works hard for the people – The Office of the Prime Minister

Democrat Party Pre-Election Poster

May 24, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The government aims at working hard for the people – The Office of the Prime Minister

From May 21, 1989: King Bhumibol's Reign

May 24, 2011

Categories: The Monarchy

From May 21, 1989: [King Bhumibol's Reign](#)

...In an age when monarchs elsewhere serve a ceremonial rather than a political function, King Bhumibol is a crucial stabilizing and unifying force. He has helped his 55 million people weather decades of crises, including a Communist insurgency, the rapid industrialization of recent years and a series of military coups engineered by a powerful army that has dominated if not run every Government in Thailand for more than 50 years...

Cambodia lightning deaths, between superstition and prevention

May 24, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia lightning deaths, between superstition and prevention](#) – asiancorrespondent.com, May 24, 2011
...“Some farmers believe that a person who is killed by lightning is because that person did something that makes him worthy of it,” explains Sakhan. “If a man has two women, it means that one must be removed by the angels...”

Malaysia durians challenge Thai dominance in China

May 24, 2011

Categories: Food and Drink

[Malaysia durians challenge Thai dominance in China](#) – washingtonexaminer.com, May 24, 2011

Malaysia will start exporting durians to mainland China from July, challenging Thailand's virtual monopoly on shipments of the spiky, stinky delicacy...

Disappearing Article? “B10bln baht cash disappears from system”

May 24, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Not only did the cash disappear, but the article disappeared from the Bangkok Post website as well shortly after its posting Tuesday morning:

[B10bln baht cash disappears from system](#) – Bangkok Post, May 24, 2011

About ten billion baht cash has been found to disappear from the money circulation system ahead of the July 3 general election, Sorasit Suntornkes, an assistant governor at the Bank of Thailand, said on Tuesday afternoon...

All that we can retrieve from the cache:

About ten billion baht cash has been found to disappear from the money circulation system ahead of the July 3 general election, Sorasit Suntornkes, an assistant governor at the Bank of Thailand, said on Tuesday afternoon. “About 10 billion baht cash was withdrawn from various banks in nearly all regions of the country. But it was not spent in the system. The cause of the money disappearance is being checked,” Mr Sorasit said.

He added that it is suspected that the disappeared money would be...

UPDATE – 16:16, May 24, 2011

The article has returned, rewritten as a denial: [BOT denies ‘B10bn disappeared’ remark](#)

...Mr Sorasit insisted on Tuesday that he did not make any public comment on this topic and did not give out any figures to reporters either...

Earlier articles related to the big money that is involved in Thai politics:

Earlier: [Shinawatras withdraw B1bn cash – Accounts siphoned ‘to avoid tax levy’](#) – Bangkok Post, March 29, 2010

Almost one billion baht has been withdrawn from several commercial bank accounts held by the Shinawatra family since the Feb 26 Supreme Court verdict on the assets seizure case, Finance Minister Korn Chatikavanij says...

Earlier: [Rally billions uncovered](#) – Bangkok Post, June 17, 2010

...Some 4.23 billion baht was withdrawn from the bank accounts of Thaksin’s son Panthongtae and 6.63 billion baht from the accounts of his daughter Pinthongta starting from April 28...

Earlier: [The World’s Worst Daughters](#) – FP, August 4, 2009

...Bad behavior: When Pinthongta Shinawatra became the richest stockholder in Thailand in 2004, few observers were surprised. Before Thaksin was deposed in a military coup in 2006, his family benefited tremendously from the rampant nepotism during his five-year term as prime minister, with his own children netting millions. Along with her brother Pangthongtae, she made a large profit by buying 329.2 million shares in a Thai communications company for 1 baht each from one of the family’s offshore holding company, and selling them for almost 50 times their value to a Singaporean company. The ensuing transaction netted \$464 million, and Pinthongta’s father kept the transaction hidden from Thai tax officials...

Thai lemongrass curry-flavored jelly beans anyone?

May 25, 2011

Categories: Food and Drink

[Thai lemongrass curry-flavored jelly beans anyone?](http://www.independent.co.uk) – www.independent.co.uk, May 24, 2011

The eccentric candymaker who created the gourmet jelly bean is pushing the confectionary envelope again with a new line of candy that claims to replicate the tastes of Thai lemongrass curry and Indian mango chutney – in bonbon form...

Wikipedia edits for a normal day in May 2011

May 25, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Wikipedia edits for a normal day in May 2011](#) – Wikipedia, May, 2011

NHK Footage of Wartime Thailand (1941-1944)

May 25, 2011

Categories: History

- 02-1941 [Japanese officials inspecting Thai-French Indochina conflict fighting grounds in Cambodia](#)
- 05-1941 [Bangkok military parade in celebration of victory over French Indochina](#)
- 12-1941 [Japanese troops entering Bangkok](#)
- 06-1942 [Victory Monument opening ceremony](#)
- 07-1942 [High-ranking Japanese official visiting Bangkok](#)
- 01-1943 [Thai and Japanese officials signing treaty](#)
- 03-1943 [HMS Sri Ayudhaya and crew](#)
- 04-1943 [Group marriage ceremony at Government House](#)
- 07-1943 [Yuwachon Taharn marching + Government Savings Bank + Musical and dance school](#)
- 07-1943 [Japanese PM Tojo in Thailand and SE Asian countries](#)
- 08-1943 [Thai troops marching in celebration of the annexation of four Malaya states](#)
- 09-1943 [Japanese PM Tojo in Bangkok](#)
- 04-1944 [RTAF officers training with newly received Japanese fighting aircraft](#)
- 09-1944 [B-29 raiding Bangkok](#)

Ebert's Review: The Hangover Part II

May 25, 2011

Categories: Film and TV

Ebert's Review: [The Hangover Part II](http://rogerebert.suntimes.com) – rogerebert.suntimes.com, May 24, 2011

...I'm no expert, but I've been to Bangkok, and while the city no doubt has a seamy side, let it be said that much of 'The Hangover, Part II' plays like an anti-travelogue paid for by a rival tourist destination — Singapore, maybe...

Red Shirt leader threatens to sue each time the Democrats accuse them of terrorism

May 26, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Reds linked to terrorism a fact: Democrat spokesman](#) – The Nation, May 25, 2011

... "The red leaders were linked to riots at the Asean Summit in 2009 and sabotage and terror incidents in 2010 and these same leaders later became Pheu Thai candidates," he said.

Suthep did not smear Pheu Thai because his remarks were a factual summation of incidents that happened, he said...

[Natthawut threatens to sue each time Democrats say terrorism](#) – The Nation, May 25, 2011

...As evidence, Weng cited Suthep's remarks branding the red shirts as terrorists in connection with the last year's riots.

Thai Pavilion at the Venice Biennale

May 26, 2011

Categories: Art, Navin

[Thai Pavilion at the Venice Biennale](#) – www.e-flux.com, May 25, 2011

...Typically approached from a site-specific geo-cultural viewpoint, Navin Rawanchaikul is renowned for dynamic art works that involve direct interventions, social commentary, and an innovative style of integrating community or individual experiences into eccentric fictional tales. Incorporating everyday culture relevant and current to the chosen environment, Navin explores the negotiation between local circumstances and trends of globalisation...

Morgan Stanley Says It's Bearish on Thai Stocks After Rally

May 26, 2011

Categories: Economy

[Morgan Stanley Says It's Bearish on Thai Stocks After Rally](#) – [www.sfgate.com](#), May 24, 2011

[Malaysia CIMB says puts Thai listing on hold](#) – [www.reuters.com](#), May 25, 2011

Accused Terrorists as MPs

May 26, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, May 26, 2011

On the left side: “How do you feel that the political party brings football, tennis players, boxers, singers to be their MP candidates?”

Middle: So far, so good.

Why?

Right: It's good when compared to the party that bring accused terrorists to be their MP candidates.

Cambodian Press Conferences

May 27, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Komchadluek, April 27, 2011

Left: It is obvious that the Cambodian soldiers follow Thai television usually.

Middle: Hey! How do you know that?

Right: The Cambodian soldiers cry like “Reya” during the press conference on TV

The Democrats and the Common People

May 27, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The poster reads: Democrat Party – Vote the Jatuchak MP Atthawitch Suwanphakdi – Move on with the policy for the people

Drug use spreads in Thailand's central provinces: Police

May 27, 2011

Categories: Drugs

[Drug use spreads in Thailand's central provinces: Police](#) – MCOT, May 26, 2011

...Provincial Police Region 1 covers the central provinces of Samut Prakan, Pathum Thani, Ayutthaya, Nonthaburi, Saraburi, Lop Buri, Ang Thong, Chai Nat and Sing Buri.

UDD Leaders And Lawyer Amsterdam Condemn Judicial Creeping Coup

May 27, 2011

Categories: Robert Amsterdam, Thai Politics

[UDD Leaders And Lawyer Amsterdam Condemn Judicial Creeping Coup](#) – eurasiareview.com, May 26, 2011

...UDD acting Chairman, Thida stated that “we must bring to the attention of international monitoring body the ongoing use of Thai laws to deprive the Thai people of their representatives at this crucial moment of Thai history”. In instructing Amsterdam to take all necessary measure, she went on to say that with 40 days left to go in the campaign, it is already clear that Thai authorities are resorting to the Court to stuff the ballot box...

‘Hangover’ star Justin Bartha regrets ‘disgusting’ Thai sex club research visit

May 28, 2011

Categories: Film and TV, Thailand in the International Media

[‘Hangover’ star Justin Bartha regrets ‘disgusting’ Thai sex club research visit](#) – ANI, May 27, 2011

...”I saw some dirty (stuff) in Thailand that got burned into my eyes. I honestly can’t say what because it is so disgusting I feel ashamed for going. I shouldn’t have gone,” the Herald Sun quoted Justin telling Bullett Magazine...

Sanan Drifts Into a Dream

May 28, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, May 28, 2011

The words on the bottle: Warning: wine drinking makes someone to drift in a dream

The caption reads: Should warn the drinker

Is Burma China's Satellite State? The Answer is Yes

May 28, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Is Burma China's Satellite State? The Answer is Yes](#) – The Irrawaddy, May 27, 2011

...It is believed that over the last 20 years, hundreds of thousands of Chinese have migrated to Burma. Many of them have obtained Burmese nationality cards through corrupt immigration officials. China's persistent presence in Burma is significant—many local Burmese have begun learning Mandarin to help secure jobs, prompting a joke in Burma that the future leaders of the country will be fluent in Chinese next time they visit Beijing...

Thai media intrigued by bachelor Aquino

May 28, 2011

Categories: The Philippines

[Thai media intrigued by bachelor Aquino](#) – globalnation.inquirer.net, May 27, 2011

...Another Thai lady reporter, who asked not to be named because of company policy, said Aquino's work ethics may have prevented him from pursuing a serious relationship.

"I bet he's hardworking that's why he has no time for love," she said...

Buriram Football Club Billboards

May 28, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards, Sports



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Two football club billboards from Buriram

Above: The billboard reads: Together support Buriram PEA – Buriram FC Buriram Highway Office

This is an interesting phenomenon: professionally organized and presented modern football clubs complete with international style logos and calls to locals for support. Ominously, these groups are owned by political figures—here Newin and his wife who are prominently displayed on the billboards. In the future, expect this sort of football club to supply its supporters to enforce local political will and reinforce the power positions of provincial kingpins.

Below: Buriram PEA–Buriram FC



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Ratchada-Suthisarn Mini Marathon

May 29, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Inviting everyone to celebrate the 84 years anniversary for Skywalk and tunnel jogging – “Ratchada-Suthisarn Mini Marathon” 27 March 2011 4.30 am. on Ratchadapisek Road – the Suthisarn Police Station

Cambodia Plans US\$3 Billion New Town In Phnom Penh's Peninsula

May 29, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia Plans US\\$3 Billion New Town In Phnom Penh's Peninsula](#) – [bernama.com](#), May 27, 2011

...

The would-be new town dubbed the Chroy Changvar, or “City of the Future” project will cover the area of 387 hectares in Russei Keo district's Prek Leap area, just across Cambodia-Japan Friendship Bridge (Chroy Changvar Bridge) from the central Phnom Penh...

Democrats and Country People

May 29, 2011

Categories: Elections



The sign reads: Move on the populist policy – Increase benefits for the farmer – Income guaranteeing project by 25% – the Democrat Party

Youth, With Hopes and Bliss Intact

May 29, 2011

Categories: Art

[Apichatpong Weerasethakul: Primitive](#) – NYT, May 28, 2011

...The exhibition's main attraction, a quartet of loops projected on four different walls in the gallery's central space, is less readily comprehensible. The longest piece, at 28 minutes, is "Making of the Spaceship," which takes place in a rural village. Scenes of boys devising plans and beginning to build an orb-shaped construction of wood planking over a metal armature are interspersed with views of ordinary life. Though not explained in the film, the exhibition catalog tells us that they are creating a time-traveling machine...

Detained Burma VJ's Birthday Marked with Film Screening

May 29, 2011

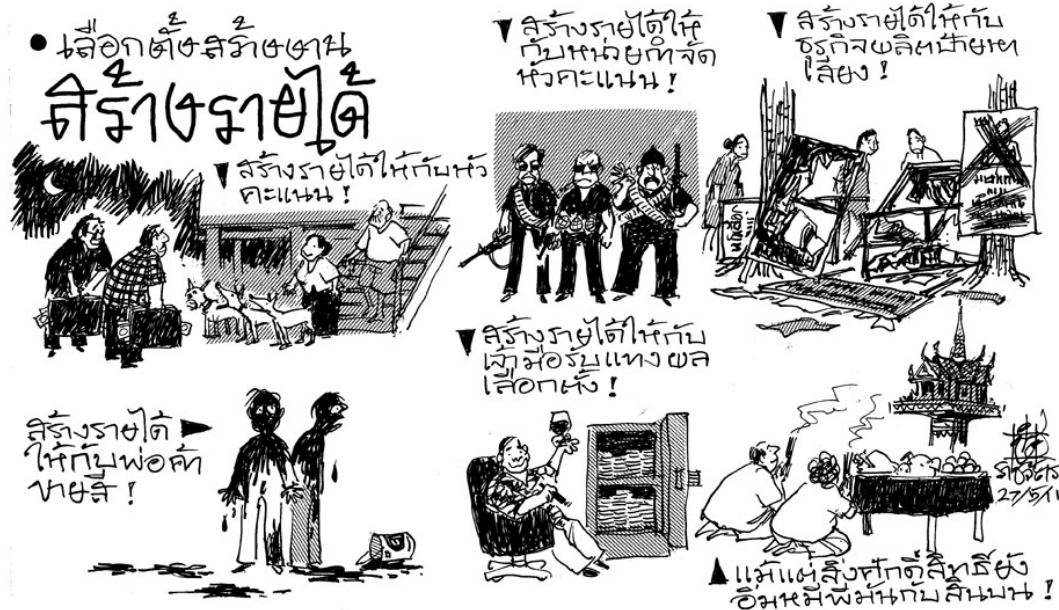
Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Detained Burma VJ's Birthday Marked with Film Screening](#) – The Irrawaddy, May 26, 2011

The Election Generates Jobs and Income

May 29, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From ThaiRath, May 29, 2011

The cartoon headline reads: The Election Generates Jobs and Income

Top left: Generating income for the election canvasser

Top middle: Generating income for the team to get rid of election canvassers

Top right: Generating income for the election sign producing business

Bottom left: Generating income for the painting color merchants

Bottom middle: Generating income for the gambling boss on election results

Bottom right: The deity also gains from the offerings from wish makers

Former managers of Hat Yai hotel complain about police siege, to contest its sale

May 29, 2011

Categories: Thai Police

[Former managers of Hat Yai hotel complain about police siege, to contest its sale](#) – The Nation, May 29, 2011

...They also plan to file a complaint tomorrow to the Crime Suppression Division (CSD) to investigate a “siege” at the hotel by some 50 men last Monday, which prompted many guests to check out and the hotel to be closed since then. They claim local police did nothing about the incident.

They said the men surrounded the hotel, blocked its doors and advised the hotel guests to leave...

I can do better

May 30, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

This sign from Buriram reads: It is time for change – “I am certain that I can do and I can do better” – Suthin Luiton – Bhumjaithai Party

Thaksin A and Thaksin B

May 30, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

Amusing letter to The Nation: [Thaksin A and Thaksin B](#) – The Nation, May 30, 2011

Thaksin Interview: Exiled in Dubai – but still he dreams of Thailand

May 30, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thaksin Shinawatra: Exiled in Dubai – but still he dreams of Thailand](#) – The Independent, May 30, 2011
...Despite comments made by PT that it hopes to enact an amnesty that would allow Thaksin to return to Thailand, he claims that having served six years as premier he harbours no ambitions to return to the office and would rather his sister took charge. “I will go home just in the case that things are settled down. I will not add any more problems for the country. If things have settled down and if I can be any to the country then I will go. Otherwise I am quite settled abroad now. In the beginning I may feel upset but now I am settled...”

Returning the Nation to a Future Past

May 30, 2011

Categories: Analysis

Part 1 [Returning the Nation to a Future Past](#)

Part 2 [Scenarios for Government](#)

Part 3 [The Fate of the True Believers](#)

Part 4 [Possibilities for Violence](#)

Part 5 [The Upshot: Resurgence of the Military](#)

Part 1 of 5

Although it is very early to make predictions about the election, it is possible to imagine, in broad outlines, some possible outcomes. The election result will in no way settle the political schism, but instead is being treated as a tactic for all sides to position themselves.

At the time of writing, there are indications that the Pheu Thai are winning the hearts of the people with engaging candidates and enticing promises. However, there are several weeks to the election and many variables are yet to be played out. Thai voters can be pragmatic and the hope of the establishment may be that even those who dislike the current government may decide to pick one of the alternative parties rather than the Pheu Thai.

Here are some possible outcomes.

Part 1 – Scenario: Pheu Thai Forms a Government on Its Own Terms

If Pheu Thai forms a government entirely under its own terms, it could be a repeat of 2008 when Thaksin's People Power Party held power.

2008 was an unusual and chaotic year where many boundaries were broken and precedents set. It was the golden chance for Thaksin to return. The People Power Party government did very little governing, but insisted the country was in crisis and constitutional amendments were first needed before anything else could be done. By August, court cases and protest by the PAD began to paralyze the government.

That year also marked the explosion of anti-royalty websites and rallies where threats were made. These actions threatened the way the state positioned itself and justified its role. These kind of attacks overall should be seen as a way of needling the establishment if it does not accede to the demands of the government or political party.

As the year ended, it was likely a shock for the party as the military, courts, and People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) were able to stymie the elected government and its attempted moves on Thaksin's behalf. While there are many interpretations of exactly what was really going on that year, the end result was essentially a coup—albeit a non-coup coup.

A Pheu Thai government, formed with its own majority, would once again raise the specter of this type of year and the attendant unease of the establishment with Pheu Thai intentions in a number of areas.

On one hand it is likely the Thaksin camp has learned the limitations of this approach. On the other hand, if Thaksin senses a reticent military, it may feel emboldened to halt the government once again and push for an immediate solution to enable his return. This option is more feasible at this point since the PAD are fragmented and dispirited (unlike the Red Shirts, it is not possible to merely sponsor thousands of yellow shirts people and bus them in to town—we may know for sure later this year one way or another).

If a strong Pheu Thai government does come to pass, the establishment will almost certainly reply with legal challenges (of which there are many to choose from) to disband the party. Possibilities for these cases

are numerous and have not been acted upon. It may be that cases to disband the party are being held as a kind of blackmail to moderate the ruling government's actions.

The Pheu Thai could fight back with a number of provocative actions. Just one example is the move to allow selected provinces to directly elect their own governors. This would undoubtedly benefit Thaksin and make it harder for Bangkok authorities to mute popular sentiment for him. Whether the action would only be a threat (used as leverage in other areas) or an actual push for elected governors is not clear. Either way this strikes at the heart of the centralized Thai state—especially when pro-Thaksin provincial governors were alleged to have been behind the burning down of provincial town halls after the end of the Red Shirt siege in Bangkok in 2010.

It could be that instead of holding the government in stasis as they did in 2008, a Pheu Thai led government would push through some of its promises to reinforce its position and gain legitimacy against any attempt to unseat it. It could put forward the friendly face of Yingluck to insist that reconciliation has been achieved and it was time for amnesty to absolve all.

Depending on the resolve from the establishment, it is equally possible a Pheu Thai government could be more aggressive than ever and push for immediate pro-Thaksin measures on the heels of a big election win.

[Part 2 – Scenarios for Government](#)

Exiled Thai PM denies plans to retake power

May 30, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Exiled Thai PM denies plans to retake power](#) – ABC, May 30, 2011

...Mr Thaksin says he will return to Thailand before the end of the year if conditions are right.

More Bhum Jai Thai Billboards

May 31, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Proud to be born as Buriram people



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Together protect the institute – Amnesty to innocents – End social breakup – Populist policy – Bhumjaithai Party – Happy society



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The development in Buriram today – Bhumjaithai Party – Choose our party – Party for Buriram people

Cambodia's king seen as a 'prisoner' in his palace

May 31, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia's king seen as a 'prisoner' in his palace](#) – sfgate.com, May 29, 2011

As the sun sets and the last tourist departs his vast, fairy-tale palace, the gentle, dignified man is left almost alone with memories of happier times, before he became the reluctant king of Cambodia — and perhaps its last...

Chuwit's Back!

May 31, 2011

Categories: Chuwit Kamolvisit, Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Bored by politics, but must go for the election – I ask to be the opposition party against corruption – Vote Chuwit altogether in every zone-the whole nation – Rakprathedthai Party

Hand in the Box

May 31, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From KhaoSod, April 29, 2011

The word on the back of the figure: Mr. Dubai big boss

The word close to the headless figure: Pheu Thai

As Thais vote, a struggle with education

May 31, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[As Thais vote, a struggle with education](#) – Reuters, May 30, 2011

...”If you look at history textbooks, it’s littered with myths about ancient warriors and old-time enmities with neighboring countries. It’s still driven by nationalism without a global perspective on how Thailand fits into the world,” said Charnvit Kasetsiri, a historian who has campaigned to improve the social science curriculum.

...The teacher asked the boy to re-read a passage in which the prince explains how Thai people originated from southern China between Sichuan and Yunnan provinces. Looking up from the text, he asked: “How did he find out where our ancestors came from? Did he go there and talk to people in Yunnan and Sichuan?” The teacher brushed it aside, instead telling him to continue reading to improve his speed...

Scenarios for Government

May 31, 2011

Categories: Analysis

Part 1 [Returning the Nation to a Future Past](#)

Part 2 [Scenarios for Government](#)

Part 3 [The Fate of the True Believers](#)

Part 4 [Possibilities for Violence](#)

Part 5 [The Upshot: Resurgence of the Military](#)

Part 2 of 5

Scenario: A Government Including a Minimized Pheu Thai

As noted in the earlier analysis ([The Crusade to Minimize Thaksin](#)), a diverse grouping that includes the Pheu Thai would be the ideal for the establishment in the longer term view. A Pheu Thai Party with a large majority would not be amenable to such a plan, but a moderate showing for the party would open the door to an old-style coalition government dominated by parties like Bhumjaithai, Chatthaipattana, and a grab bag of others.

The intent of this grouping would be to minimize Pheu Thai's goal of acting on Thaksin's behalf. At the same time it would allow the establishment to claim that some sort of reconciliation has been achieved with the inclusion of the Pheu Thai in a government. It would blunt the need for Red Shirts to agitate against the government again.

This could be a Sanan or Purachai led government, both of whom are aggressively promoting themselves as acceptable middle path leadership figures. Sanan, given the depth of his connections, could possibly bridge the gap between almost any of the parties.

Purachai could incite MPs factions within the Pheu Thai to covertly abandon the Thaksin cause and be part of a government eager to pass effective legislation. This sort of duplicity among Pheu Thai MPs—that is the willingness to ride Thaksin to power, but then going slow on bringing him back—is the key issue threatening Thaksin's ambitions.

Disregard vows by parties that they will never deal with another party. There are no permanent enemies in Thai politics. The bizarre political parings in the present government show that this historical trend is more pronounced now than ever before.

Thaksin would likely only opt for this sort of grouping as a last resort. This is why it is key that Yingluck lead a Pheu Thai-dominated government. Any other figure risks the party spinning out of Thaksin control. If a diverse coalition government does come to pass, it would only be because Pheu Thai (and Thaksin) are convinced that establishment threats of a coup or other measures to prevent it coming to power are very real.

This scenario of mixing parties would lead to a fractious and weak grouping as the Pheu Thai side tries to exert itself. Pushing against this would be the same establishment power that has kept the current government of odd fellows together.

If this sort of government becomes gridlocked over Thaksin issues, it might cause other unusual events to happen. One might be a peculiar scenario where Red Shirt or Pheu Thai rallies are held to protest against the government they are a part of.

If this sort of government is created, and if Thaksin can be isolated, then amnesty or pardons would be on the table only as part of a Thai-style political end game.

It is important to understand that in the Thai world, reconciliation means pardons or amnesty where all are absolved and no one is questioned. As Yingluck herself said, “everything must be returned to square one, to the principle of equal justice.”

This is not about truth-telling commissions or holding anyone accountable. It is all about a return to unity and not blaming anyone. This is why reconciliation is always about amnesty. Beyond the fact that the Pheu Thai goal is to enable Thaksin’s return to power, the Thai political solution is to reset the clock—not the open airing of grievances which is seen as a blemish on society. This was exactly the Thai-style solution for the 1992 crisis.

To a Western viewpoint this can seem very unfair and dissatisfying. If at some point in the future there is an amnesty and if you as a Westerner are feeling dissatisfied, then you know Thai-style reconciliation has been reached.

Scenario: A Government Excluding the Pheu Thai

A government excluding Pheu Thai would create the same situation as now, but with more urgency for Thaksin to take action. This is the worst possible outcome for Thaksin—status quo.

It would emphasize to his MPs that the establishment is, and will continue to be, successful at waiting Thaksin out. Add in a compromise PM like Sanan at the helm and it would further muddy the message that the non-Pheu Thai government must step down. Every day the new government remained in power would further cement this impression.

This would mean the Red Shirts would be called out on the streets again to close Rajaprasong and threaten Thai-style “dissatisfaction.” There could also be bombings or other unconventional responses to rattle the state.

Overseas Thaksin/Red Shirt lobbyists will be screaming that a fix was on and an injustice was happening, but the international community has shown little sympathy for Thaksin’s return. In this scenario Thaksin would have to act fast or his fortunes would be severely impaired.

[Part 3 – The Fate of the True Believers](#)

ABC Video Interview: Thaksin denies Thai leadership plans

May 31, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thaksin denies Thai leadership plans](#) – ABC, May 31, 2011

Thailand among Asian countries banned for travel to Saudi Arabia

May 31, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand among Asian countries banned for travel to Saudi Arabia](#) – menafn.com, May 31, 2011

Saudi authorities have imposed a travel ban on a number of countries including Thailand and urged travel and tourism agencies not to promote travel to these blacklisted Asian nations...

Fifa clears Worawi of wrongdoing

May 31, 2011

Categories: Sports

[Fifa clears Worawi of wrongdoing](#) – Bangkok Post, May 31, 2011

...Despite the Fifa ruling, Mr Worawi said he will sue Lord Triesman.

Mr Worawi, who is in Zurich to attend Fifa meetings, said yesterday: "I am still angry at and upset by Lord Triesman's unfair accusation which tarnished my and my family's reputation..."

Prisoners in Thailand kept ‘shackled and cramped’

May 31, 2011

Categories: Crime

[Prisoners in Thailand kept ‘shackled and cramped’](#) – BBC, May 31, 2011

...The other horror, he says, is the widespread use of shackles.

These are welded on to the ankles of long-term prisoners and are not removed, even during illness, until the sentence is served.

The United Nations has criticised the practice. The Thai foreign ministry has promised to end it. The constitutional court ruled the practice was wrong.

But the reality of the over-crowding and a ratio of warders to prisoners of about one to 45, makes the practice hard to stamp out...

Cambodia: now with dibamids!

June 1, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia: now with dibamids!](#) – scienceblogs.com, May 29, 2011

Iran Vows to Unplug Internet

June 1, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Iran Vows to Unplug Internet](#) -WSJ, May 30, 2011

Iran is taking steps toward an aggressive new form of censorship: a so-called national Internet that could, in effect, disconnect Iranian cyberspace from the rest of the world...

What is the good thing from your party?

June 1, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From June 1, 2011

Left: Is there a good thing from your party that makes you believe that it will conquer the Pueu Thai Party?

Middle, Abhisit says: Yes, certainly Pueed

Right: The debate!

Bhum Jai Thai “Paying respect to every vote”

June 1, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Another billboard from Buriram. The sign reads: Bhumjaithai Party – “Paying respect to every vote that you vest reliance in me. Every vote will not be useless” – Boonjong Wongtrairat

The Fate of the True Believers

June 1, 2011

Categories: Analysis

Part 1 [Returning the Nation to a Future Past](#)

Part 2 [Scenarios for Government](#)

Part 3 [The Fate of the True Believers](#)

Part 4 [Possibilities for Violence](#)

Part 5 [The Upshot: Resurgence of the Military](#)

Part 3 of 5

During the coup year in 2006, men went to agitate against the coup under no particular banner. Their mission was to trigger a crackdown to discredit the coup makers and thus set the conditions for amnesty to clear everyone.

For most Thai politicians this tactic would be enough to taunt the government with, but Thaksin was too savvy and internationally minded for that. For international acceptability and maximum leverage, aging socialists and communists were resurrected to give Thaksin's goals a plausible rationale beyond his own near-term goals. These people are true believers who had once dreamed of a Siamese republic. Others in their number still have quixotic dreams of a socialist state in which the property of top families would be reapportioned to the poor.

These men have been perhaps the most open about acknowledging Thaksin's patronage and the disconnect between Thaksin's goals and their own. However, they have made it clear that they were focusing on creating a new egalitarian movement beyond the very near term crony capitalist goals of Thaksin and his family.

The recent turn of events must be discouraging. In Red Shirt rallies the threat of revolution is gone. The true believers sit patiently listening to exhortations to remember who are behind the shootings, that the Red Shirts must vote for the Pheu Thai Party and, if the Pheu Thai Party cannot form a government, this would be unfair and the Red Shirts will become dissatisfied again.

It may be that in the coming years there will be real attempts by some parts of the Red Shirt movement to exert their independence from Thaksin and fulfill some of the social welfare dreams they have been talking about.

However, the Thai establishment has a talent for absorbing and absolving groups which threaten it (for instance the students who fled to the forests after the 1976 crackdown). At the same time, Thaksin has every reason to make sure the Red Shirts continue to support his political parties and provide the muscle on the ground in Bangkok in key times if need be. It will likely be hard for the Red Shirts to break away and stand as an independent movement for change.

In any event, the present government may have a short tenure. Next year with the mass of politicians returning after their five year ban we will see agitation for elections once again. While it is true that the banned politicians have merely ruled through proxy MPs, there will be a great desire for many of these kingpins to openly strut on the political stage again.

An influx of political players coming back on the scene again is yet another political dilution of Thaksin control. It further means that the upcoming new government may be his best chance to urgently push through the measures necessary to return while he still has control.

[Part 4 – Possibilities for violence](#)

US: Coming months key for Thailand ties

June 1, 2011

Categories: Analysis

[US: Coming months key for Thailand ties](#) – AFP, May 31, 2011

Drugged Out – Thailand’s Drug Scourge

June 1, 2011

Categories: Drugs

[Drugged Out – Thailand’s Drug Scourge](#) – Time, May 31, 2011

...But what should be a proud moment for Thai and American antinarcotics officials is freighted with embarrassment. Four suspects — two men, two women, all handcuffed — are also paraded. They had been arrested the day before in Fang, near the border with Burma, along with Preeda Trakulpreeda, 41, who the authorities say is a major Thai heroin trader. But Preeda somehow escaped while in the custody of six or seven armed police. “It doesn’t look good,” admits a sheepish Colonel Narat Sawettana, DSI deputy director-general, who is investigating the escape.

Compounding matters, corrupt officials often give big-time traffickers tip-offs about police or military raids, says a former DEA agent with many years of experience in Thailand who spoke on condition of anonymity. “Realistically, if you intercept 1 in 20 or 30 loads coming into Thailand, you’re doing O.K., because of the corruption factor,” he says. “Also, look at the seizures: some are enormous by American standards. But who goes to jail? Usually some mope that’s hired to take a truck from point A to point B. Even if the big guys are arrested — which is extremely rare — they never go to jail. Never.” And the suspects paraded at press conferences like this one today? “Nothing but transporters,” says the ex-DEA man. “They’re what we used to call roadkill...”

[Thailand’s Drug Scourge: Photographs](#)

‘Baby-leopard smuggler’ flees Thailand

June 1, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[‘Baby-leopard smuggler’ flees Thailand](#) – BBC, June 1, 2011

Earlier: [CIB fears political meddling in animal smuggling case](#) – Bangkok Post, May 19, 2011

...Kittipong Khawsamang, deputy chief of the CIB’s natural resources and environmental crime suppression division, said his agency resolved to take over the case after Racha Thewa police told him “that a politician has pressured them to return the passport to the suspect”. An initial investigation had found the suspect was an alleged member of a huge wildlife trafficking ring with links to an international crime network...

11 Extinct Animals That Have Been Photographed Alive

June 2, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[11 Extinct Animals That Have Been Photographed Alive](#) – Fragile Earth, May 2011

Thailand hires 3 foreigners to fight case at ICJ

June 2, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thailand hires 3 foreigners to fight case at ICJ](#) – Bangkok Post, May 31, 2011

New Republic: Optimism Spells Democracy's Decline

June 2, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[New Republic: Optimism Spells Democracy's Decline](#) – NPR, May 31, 2011

...In country after country, a familiar pattern has repeated itself: The middle class has indeed reacted negatively to populist leaders who appeared to be sliding into authoritarianism; but rather than work to defeat these leaders at the ballot box or strengthen the institutions that could hold them in check, they have ended up supporting military coups or other undemocratic measures...

Money enticing more drug mules

June 2, 2011

Categories: Drugs

[Money enticing more drug mules](#) – www.odt.co.nz, June 1, 2011

Culture Ministry alerted by religious tattoo patterns

June 2, 2011

Categories: Local Beliefs

[Culture Ministry alerted by religious tattoo patterns](#) – NNT, May 31, 2011

...Religious tattoo patterns are very popular among foreign tourists and can be as expensive as 20,000 baht each. Some of the tourists deem religious tattoo patterns a fashion without any religious respect while some probably have those tattoos because of ignorance...

Possibilities for Violence

June 2, 2011

Categories: Analysis

Part 1 [Returning the Nation to a Future Past](#)

Part 2 [Scenarios for Government](#)

Part 3 [The Fate of the True Believers](#)

Part 4 [Possibilities for Violence](#)

Part 5 [The Upshot: Resurgence of the Military](#)

Part 4 of 5

Violence in the Thai world indicates an out of kilter equation where one side has become disadvantaged or feels they are losing their status. This is ultimately what is behind coups as well as the garden variety political intimidation bombing (PIBs). As we move forward and the true lay of the voting landscape becomes clearer, it could be that one side or another could calculate that they would be unable to maintain their prominence after the election and opt for alternative methods.

Thai elections are always the occasion for increased political violence, minor PIBs and assassinations. However, if there is any unusual change in the pace or scale of violence it would indicate one side is feeling disadvantaged. It would be clear who is behind it and what it means despite the denials of those involved. It would indicate severe loss of confidence that the election would achieve its desired result.

On the pro-Thaksin side, the unease could be in being locked out of government again. They are already rolling out the narrative that if they cannot form a government it shows the election was rigged and also that the courts are politically biased (anticipating court challenges to the party).

The establishment has much to lose and a tough set of actions to carry out to attain its goals. It would be very difficult for the military to stage a traditional coup. Indeed the military has shown since the 2006 coup that they will go to any length not to stage a putsch. Through court cases and the political injection of alternate PM candidates, they may be able to blunt the ability of Pheu Thai to act for Thaksin. The establishment unease would stem from having to deal with a massive Pheu Thai election win and being unable to restrain the party once it is in power.

However, in this political season, there are so many high hopes on all sides for victory (of one sort or another) that it seems unlikely any side would desire to disturb the events with violence. During election seasons the real effective power is in working in the background—especially in putting together coalition governments designed to achieve certain levels of effectiveness. Violence would simply discredit the acting party (since everyone would be able to detect the factor causing the unease and know who was behind it).

[Part 5 – The Upshot: Resurgence of the Military](#)

Thai Vote May Spur Inflation, Forcing Higher Rates as Thaksinomics Returns

June 2, 2011

Categories: Economy

[Thai Vote May Spur Inflation, Forcing Higher Rates as Thaksinomics Returns](#) – Bloomberg, June 2, 2011
...Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva has pledged to raise the minimum wage by 25 percent, give cash to the elderly and guarantee farmers' incomes to appeal to voters loyal to exiled former premier Thaksin Shinawatra. The opposition Pheu Thai party, led by Thaksin's sister, has promised tablet PCs, rice- price guarantee schemes, high-speed trains, dams, and a new city...

US, Thai militaries begin non-lethal training

June 2, 2011

Categories: Thai Military

[US, Thai militaries begin non-lethal training](http://www.dvidshub.net) – www.dvidshub.net, June 2, 2011

Marines and sailors with Special Operations Training Group and Military Police Support Company, both from III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF, and nearly 150 personnel with the Thai military and police forces, began training May 30 as part of the Non-Lethal Weapons Executive Seminar 2011...

Cambodians rally as ‘Avatars’ to save one of the region’s last great rainforests

June 3, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodians rally as ‘Avatars’ to save one of the region’s last great rainforests](#) – mongabay.com , May 31, 2011

Grand river cruises set to return

June 3, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Grand river cruises set to return](#) – phnompenhpost.com, May 27, 2011

...Several international companies are gearing up to service the region with new river cruise itineraries and even new ships, starting next month when Pandaw River Cruises kicks off its seasonal seven-day voyage program from Siem Reap to Ho Chi Minh City and vice versa...

A Brief Tour of the Cambodian Sex Industry

June 3, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[A Brief Tour of the Cambodian Sex Industry](#) – Slate, May 19, 2011

The Upshot: Resurgence of the Military

June 3, 2011

Categories: Analysis

Part 1 [Returning the Nation to a Future Past](#)

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Part 5 of 5

There are many figures who have major stakes in the status quo. Even those who believe in a social revolution of some sort would be dubious about it occurring as a result of a one-party government run by a billionaire again.

That means that looking past the near term events, the legacy of Thaksin's rule and his agitation from abroad may be the return of the military into the political sphere.

This is predicated on the idea that neither the military nor any of the political groupings are likely to let events transpire so that Thaksin can return scot free. Even major politicians in the Pheu Thai have the most to gain from first returning to power on Thaksin coattails, then dragging their feet and then blaming others for the lack of his return. The power and position they would have in a sitting government would be far superior to a future where Thaksin and a cadre of others usurp their roles and push everyone a rung further down on the political ladder (again, this is why a Thaksin family member must end up as PM).

In the middle-term future, there may be more bombings, shootings, more street fighting and even claims again of civil war, but ultimately, when the dust settles, it may be that the victor is once again the military in its traditional role of political interloper and "protector of the nation."

Observers on every side of the political equation have begun to question the military role already—especially as the military is no longer blundering into the debate with tanks on the street, but with subtle, behind-the-scenes machinations and threats. Even if some saw military action as necessary to prevent a Thaksin return and an end to the present Thai political system, they have to acknowledge that events are once again returning the nation to a future past: weak coalition governments under the watchful eye of a military always wanting a political role without having to resort to a vote.

Of course, none of this is happening during a Cold War era and technology is democratizing expression in Thailand. The entire Thaksin experience has redefined the relationship between political parties and the populace they represent. Open protest, while still not accepted as in the West, has become the norm.

In this environment, the look of a military dominated political system on the ground would be different from the past and perhaps not even obvious. Even now the Pheu Thai and Red Shirts seem to be having little traction with the concept of "silent coup." It is hard to define this if you cannot point to tanks rolling through the streets.

So if and when the Thaksin schism in politics ends someday, all civilian political eyes will look to the military (as well as one other pressing issue) in terms of making sure these institutions are minimized and are least able to check any actions a civilian government wants to take (whether they be rural reform or gross profiteering).

Back to Part 1: [Returning the Nation to a Future Past](#)

Thailand in Tough Fight Against Wildlife Corruption

June 3, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

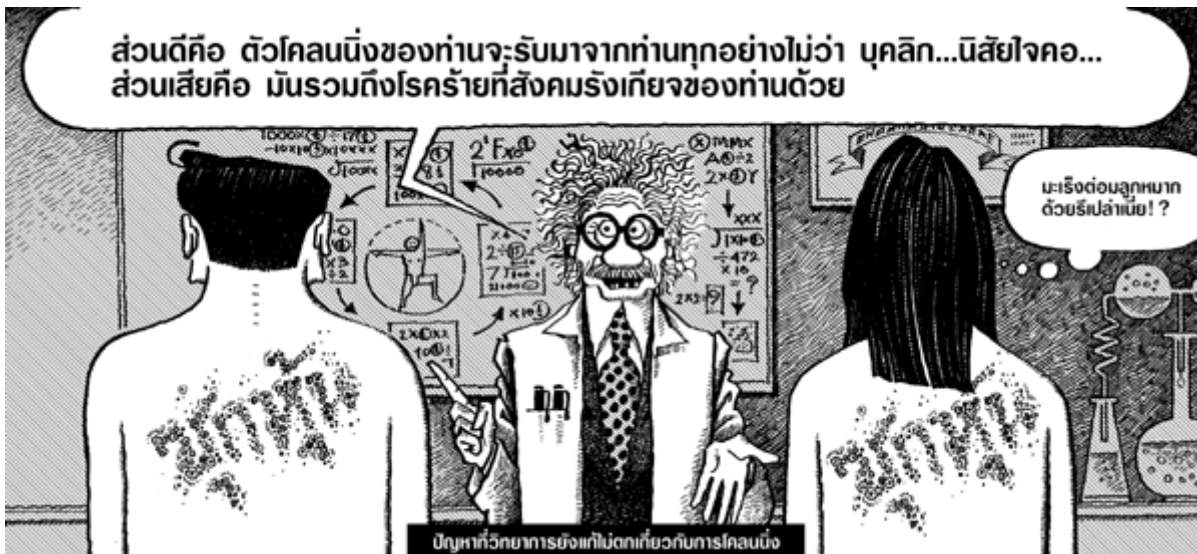
[Thailand in Tough Fight Against Wildlife Corruption](#) – voanews.com, June 2, 2011

...Police say that upon his arrest Mahmood showed them photographs on his mobile phone of himself with former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in an apparent attempt to demonstrate his powerful connections...

The Cloning of Yingluck

June 4, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, June 4, 2011

The Einstein character says: The good part is the clone of you will have whatever you have—character, personality. The bad part is it will include the desperate sickness that the society is disgusted with you.

On Thaksin's body: Tax avoidance of shareholding

On Yingluck's body: Tax avoidance of shareholding

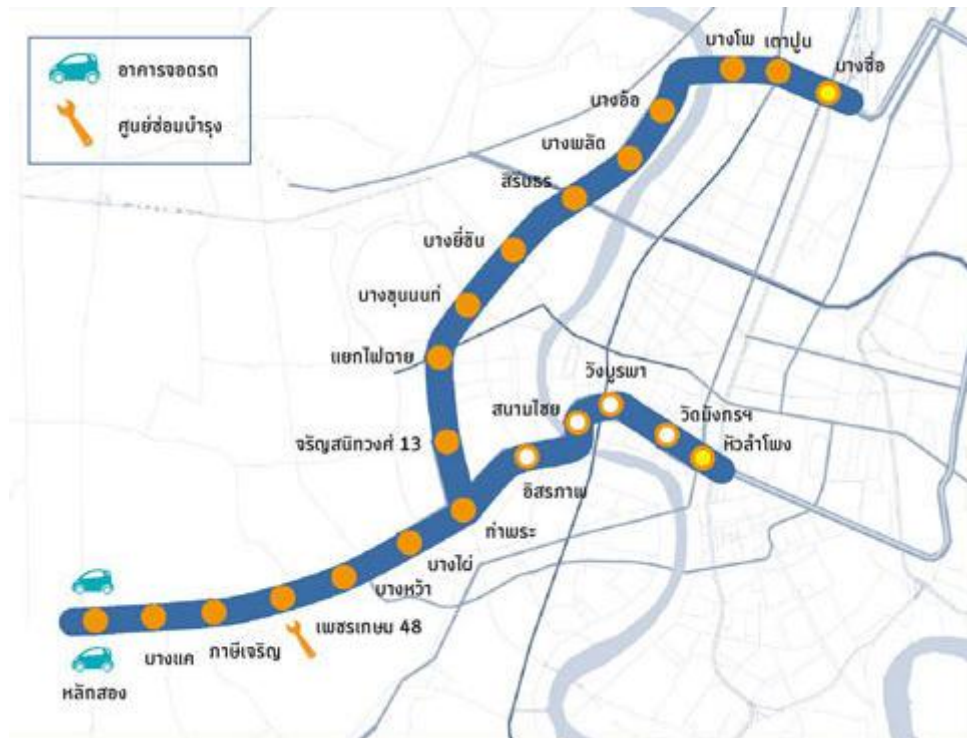
Yingluck is thinking: Including prostate cancer?

On caption reads: The cloning problem that the lecturer is still not able to solve

Blue Line and Purple Line Maps

June 4, 2011

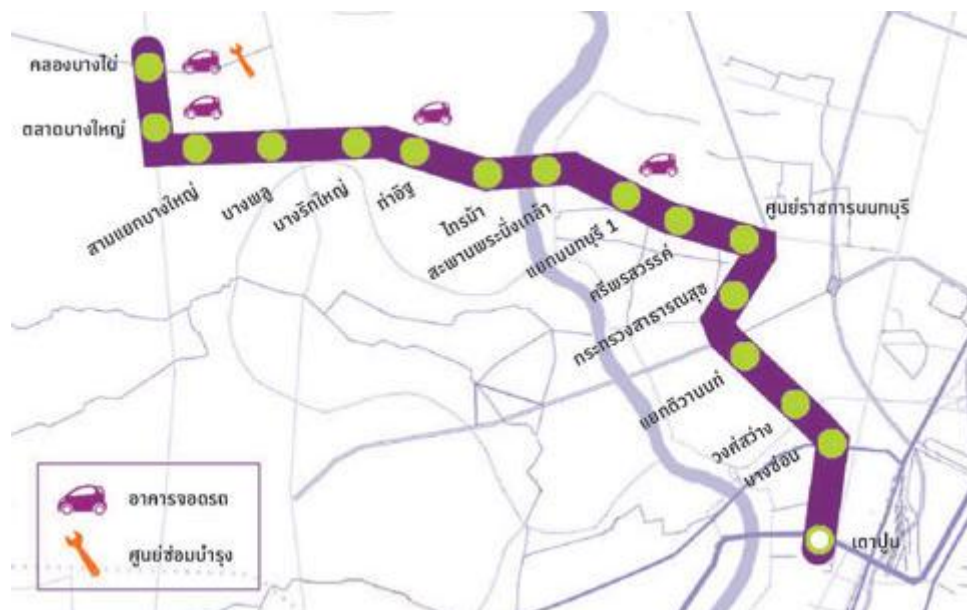
Categories: Mass Transit



Above: Blue Line

The lower line (left to right): Laksong – Bangkae – Paseechareon – Petchkasem48 – Bangwah – Bangpai – Thaohra – Isaraparp – Sanamchai – Wangburapa – Mungkorn Temple – Hualumpung

The upper line from Thaphra (up and to the right): Charansanitvong 13 – Faichai intersection – Bangkhunnin – Bangyeekhan – Sirithorn – Bangplad – Bangor – Bangpho – Taopoon – Bangsue



Above: Purple Line

Left to right: Taopoon – Bangsorn – Wongsawang – Tiwanon intersection – Public Health Ministry – Nonthaburi governmental offices – Sripornsawan – Ninthaburi 1 intersection – Phranangklaio Bridge – Saima – Tha-it – Bangrakayai – Bangploo – Bangyai intersection – Bangyai market – Klongbangpai

The Thai-language brochure these come from is [here](#). And a website for the Purple Line extension is [here](#).

Wear Your Helmet or the Driver Pays Double

June 4, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: If motorcycle passengers do not wear safety helmet, the driver will pay charge twice

Myanmar crucial to conservation of rare sandpiper

June 4, 2011

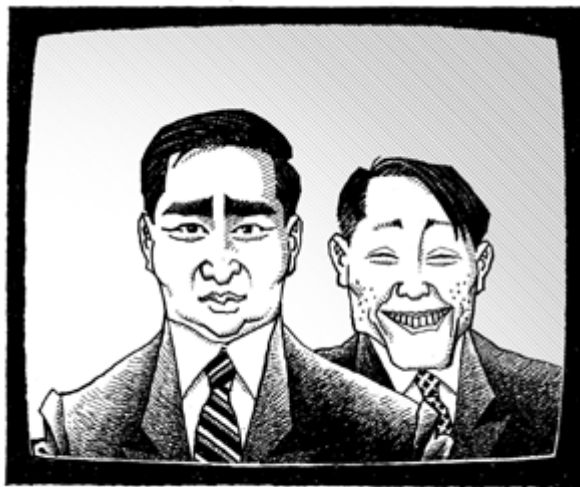
Categories: Myanmar/Burma, Wildlife and Nature

[Myanmar crucial to conservation of rare sandpiper](http://www.mmtimes.com) – www.mmtimes.com, May 30, 2011

False Check

June 4, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



วอลเปเปอร์



วอลเปเปอร์ของวอลเปเปอร์

From Manager, May 10, 2011

Left: Wallpaper

Right: Wallpaper of the wallpaper

The old woman is saying: I was arrested for a bad cheque

More on the [“Mr. Wallpaper of Thailand”](#)

On the forum: Thai Fortune Teller's Political Prediction

June 4, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

On the forum: [Thai Fortune Teller's Political Prediction](#)

Nearly 100 Fantastic Pieces of Journalism

June 4, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Nearly 100 Fantastic Pieces of Journalism](#) – theatlantic.com, May 4, 2011

Strange Democrat Election Poster

June 4, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Source: [Andreas Hörstemeier](#))

[Andy](#) writes: *while walking through Thonburi today, I spotted one really strange election poster showing just a ruler and the Democrat Party header. In fact, there were three of this kind all close to each other, and the other two even lacked the header, only had the ruler (which has a small Democrat label as well). Can you make any sense of it? Or is it maybe even a fake poster as a fellow Tweeter suspected? Have only seen that at only one location, on Arun Amarin road in Bangkok Yai district so far.*

Malaysian women launch 'The Obedient Wife Club'

June 4, 2011

Categories: Malaysia

[Malaysian women launch 'The Obedient Wife Club'](#) – AFP, June 4, 2011

Slandering to Destroy Pheu Thai

June 5, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, June 5, 2011

The cartoon title: Do not instigate political crimes

On the ripped up poster: Exercise the right to vote

Above the television: Slandering to destroy Pheu Thai

On the TV: TV of death

Sign being held by the mouse: Do not try to cheat in the election

Pheu Thai Promises For Farmers

June 6, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Allowing farmers to have a credit card for buying production material – Selling project for unhusked rice at 15,000 baht per a cart – 2,000 baht per one cart for jasmine rice – Pheu Thai Party

On the forum: 300 kg Stingray

June 6, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

On the forum: [Interesting mention from the Thai-language press about a 300 kg stingray that died as a result of the sugar spill](#)

UN urges Cambodia to tackle free speech concerns

June 6, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[UN urges Cambodia to tackle free speech concerns](#) – AFP, June 4, 2011

Call for observers in the case of torture and murder of Mr. Kiattisak Thitboonkrong; strengthening Witness Protection is needed

June 6, 2011

Categories: Human Rights

[Call for observers in the case of torture and murder of Mr. Kiattisak Thitboonkrong; strengthening Witness Protection is needed](#) – www.humanrights.asia, June 6, 2011

...witness hearings of the defendant will continue in the case of Mr. Kiattisak Thitboonkrong, who was one of the 28 victims of the Kalasin Killings. This is the first case in which the DSI has charged police for the murders that characterised the notorious 'war on drugs' and its aftermath in Kalasin...

Join in the Merit Making

June 7, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Inviting to join in the merit-making ceremony by offering food to 12,600 monks on May 8, 2011 at the Rajadamri Road, Central World at 6 am. 081-40117572/082-4584222

Cambodians Get a Taste of Western Television

June 7, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodians Get a Taste of Western Television](#) – NYT, June 1, 2011

High-Value Detainee's Eye Surgically Removed While He Was In CIA Custody

June 7, 2011

Categories: Thai Secret Prison

[High-Value Detainee's Eye Surgically Removed While He Was In CIA Custody](#) – pubrecord.org, June 5, 2011

...Abu Zubaydah woke up at a black site prison in Thailand and discovered that his left eye had been surgically removed.

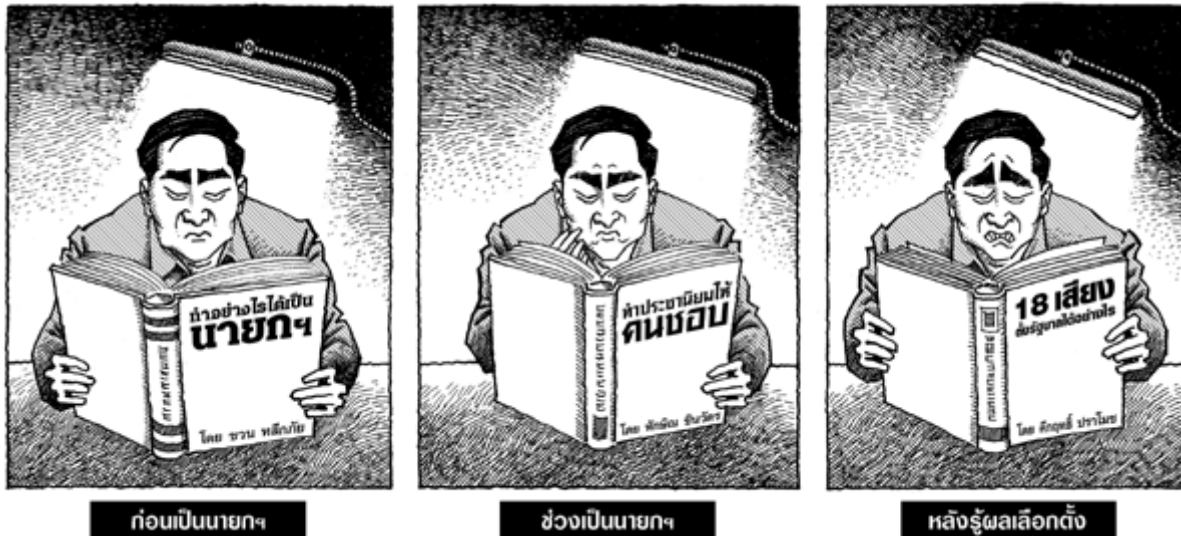
...In the report, the then-FBI Inspector General Glenn Fine said Soufan's colleague, FBI special agent Steve Gaudin, identified by the pseudonym "Gibson," disclosed to his fiancé in 2002 or 2003 that he accompanied Soufan to the black site prison in Thailand to "interview a notorious terrorist."

Soufan had interrogated Zubaydah at the CIA's black site prison in Thailand in April 2002, before CIA contractors took over, and had tended to his wounds...

Abhisit Getting Nervous

June 7, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, May 7, 2011

Left: Before taking the PM position – Abhisit is reading a book entitled: How to become PM by Chuan Leekpai

Middle: During his time as PM – Abhisit is reading a book entitled: Populism to promote people's approval by Thaksin Shinawatra

Right: After knowing the election result – Abhisit is reading a book entitled: How to form the government with 18 votes by Kukrit Pramoj

How much we're gonna get paid?

June 7, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons

● ประชธิปไตยแบบไทยๆ



From ThaiRath, May 16, 2011

The title: Democracy in Thai style

Left: To vote for the government ruling party... how much we're gonna get paid?

Middle: To vote for the opposition party... how much we're gonna get paid?

Right: To vote no... how much we're gonna get paid?

Thailand heading back to the old days

June 7, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thailand heading back to the old days](#) – www.todayonline.com, June 7, 2011

...From this perspective, the current election battle has very much to do with the continued power struggle between Thaksin and his enemies. Little emphasis has been put on questions of how to move Thailand forward and how reconciliation can be achieved.

The coming polls, while exciting many Thais, are unlikely to bring stability and normalcy back to Thai political life. If anything, they will only drag Thailand back to the pre-coup era when two power blocks – the Thaksin and anti-Thaksin factions – fought to maintain their positions of power.

Cambodia's land activist monk banned from Phnom Penh's pagodas

June 7, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia's land activist monk banned from Phnom Penh's pagodas](#) – monstersandcritics.com, June 6, 2011

Cambodia's religious hierarchy has barred a prominent Buddhist monk who works with victims of land-grabbing from staying at pagodas in the capital, national media reported Monday...

Special report – Defiance in Thailand’s “red shirt villages”

June 7, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Special report – Defiance in Thailand’s “red shirt villages”](#) – Reuters, June 9, 2011

...”If Pheu Thai wins and they don’t let us form a government, Yingluck should rest first. Brothers and sisters, you come out,” veteran red-shirt leader Nattawut Saikua told a recent rally of about 30,000 supporters in Udon Thani. “Attack. Attack,” he added to waves of applause. “Let’s get this over with and finish the fight. Then we will bring Yingluck back to become prime minister...”

I'm Sex

June 8, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Thairath, May 18, 2011

Cartoon headline: The administration of International Sex Affairs

On the sign inside the man's hand: The International Monetary Found Chief

Words written on the man: IMF Kahn

PAD Signs

June 8, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards, Thai Politics



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

PAD sign from their rally site downtown in mid-May. The sign reads: Politicians are billionaires – Local villagers are in debt – Is it Thailand?

This battle is great – Let's come out to help, fellows who love the country

‘Anti-tourists’ heed call of danger to visit world’s badlands

June 8, 2011

Categories: Tourism

[‘Anti-tourists’ heed call of danger to visit world’s badlands](http://today.msnbc.msn.com) – today.msnbc.msn.com, June, 2011

Democrat Campaign Poster

June 8, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Please vote Jermmas Juengkertsiri as Constituency MP Bangkok Zone 1 – Sunday 3rd July 2011 8.00-15.00 hours – Democrat Party

Red moon eclipse visible in Thailand June 16

June 8, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Red moon eclipse visible in Thailand June 16](#) – The Nation/Asia News Network, June 7, 2011

A perfect lunar eclipse will be viewable in Thailand on June 16 for 3.39 hours – the longest in the past four years.

The spectacle will begin at 1:22am, reach full stage at 2:22am and end at about 4am, Saran Posayajinda, a senior government astronomer, said yesterday...

Thailand heroin detox ‘effective’

June 8, 2011

Categories: Drugs

[Thailand heroin detox ‘effective’](#) – BBC, June 6, 2011

...The report states 95% of patients are drug-free after treatment. This compares with 38% of NHS patients...

Chuwit: How can the people become happy?

June 8, 2011

Categories: Chuwit Kamolvisit, Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: When politicians say the word about honesty and frankness – How can the people become happy? I urge to be in the opposition party – Vote Chuwit every zone-the whole nation–Rakprathedthai Party

Police to probe Bt10 billion vote-buying fear: Suthep

June 8, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Police to probe Bt10 billion vote-buying fear: Suthep](#) – The Nation, June 7, 2011

[BOT Chief Dismisses Report On Cash Flown Out](#) – Bernama, June 7, 2011

Earlier: This accusation over the 10 billion baht was first made by Sorasit Suntornkes, an assistant governor at the Bank of Thailand, then quickly retracted. The local press also obliged by removing the article with the original claim and replacing it with a denial: [Disappearing Article? “B10bln baht cash disappears from system”](#)

THAI Receives His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 84th Birthday Anniversary Flag and Official Emblem

June 8, 2011

Categories: HM The King's Birthday, The Monarchy

[THAI Receives His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 84th Birthday Anniversary Flag and Official Emblem](#) – www.thaipr.net, June 8, 2011

...The flag and the emblem will be used by the government, private organizations, media and Thai people to decorate buildings, to publicize the auspicious Royal Ceremony, and to express public loyalty to His Majesty the King...

Ahmadiya asylum-seekers in Thailand get a break

June 9, 2011

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Ahmadiya asylum-seekers in Thailand get a break](http://www.radioaustralia.net.au) – www.radioaustralia.net.au, June 7, 2011

...Thailand doesn't have a national refugee law, so any foreigners who enter the country without proper documents are subject to arrest, prosecution, detention and deportation under immigration laws, even if they are registered with the UN as asylum-seekers or refugees...

The “Connecion”

June 9, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The signage all around the MRTA park and ride at Lat Prae reads “The Connecion.”

Pakistanis freed on bail from Thai jail

June 9, 2011

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Pakistanis freed on bail from Thai jail](#) – dailytimes.com.pk, June 7, 2011

...The detainees, about a third of whom are children, were arrested last December even though all but two were granted official refugee status by the United Nations because they face persecution in their homeland, where they are considered non-Muslim...

From Not the Nation: Abhisit Promises To Look Less Awkward In Photos If Re-Elected

June 9, 2011

Categories: Humor

From Not the Nation: [Abhisit Promises To Look Less Awkward In Photos If Re-Elected](#)

...A second phase of the plan involves bringing in selected working-class people to live with Abhisit in his house on Sukhumvit Soi 31 for a month to teach him about Thai culture, linguistic idioms and everyday activities.

Suthep declined to comment on rumors that Abhisit was considering an artificial tan.

‘The Hangover Part II’: Follow the wolf pack’s Thailand trail

June 9, 2011

Categories: Film and TV

[‘The Hangover Part II’: Follow the wolf pack’s Thailand trail](#) – CNNGo, May 26, 2011

Don notes: Note the backroom scene with the ladyboys was actually filmed in Los Angeles! As was some scene of “ladies” chasing the heroes through the streets, which seems to have been cut out of the Thai version. (I’ve heard 12 minutes has been trimmed from the version shown here.)

Pheu Thai: Think Creatively For Every Thai

June 9, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Pheu Thai Party – Pheu Thai for the future of Thailand – Kawee Na Lampang – Think creatively do with innovation for every Thai – Number 1 – Zone 6 Dindaeng-Phyathai

Defaced Democrat Poster

June 9, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Democrat Party moves on with the populist policy – Thana Cheeravinit, the constituency MP candidate for zone 6, Dindaeng, Phyathai

Worawi denies corruption forced Robson out

June 9, 2011

Categories: Sports

[Worawi denies corruption forced Robson out](#) – AP, June 9, 2011

The fallout from corruption allegations involving Thailand's senior football official had nothing to do with Bryan Robson quitting suddenly as national coach, according to the man at the center of the accusations...

The Rak Santi Party

June 10, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Rak Santi Party – Please vote Dr. Amarisa Tansathit – Zone 2 Pathumwan-Bangrak-Sathorn

Abhisit vs Yingluck

June 10, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, May 14, 2011

Left: Oh... this lady is very cool. She can knock down the man.

Right: Hoah!... What a man! He is not a gentleman baiting the girl.

The caption reads: Fighting with a girl is difficult

On the forum: Election News Roundup From the Thai-Language Press

June 10, 2011

Categories: Elections

On the forum: [Election News Roundup From the Thai-Language Press](#)

Pheu Thai Party for Thais, for Thailand's future

June 10, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Pheu Thai Party for Thais, for Thailand's future – Kavee Na Lampang – Think creatively – Act with innovation for every Thai person – Zone 6 Dindaeng-Phyathai

From Not the Nation: Pheu Thai Nominates Thaksin's Sister For PM In Stunning Display Of Meritocracy, Progressive Thinking

June 10, 2011

Categories: Humor

From Not the Nation: [Pheu Thai Nominates Thaksin's Sister For PM In Stunning Display Of Meritocracy, Progressive Thinking](#)

...“With Yingluck's candidacy it should be clear to everyone that we're ready to break away from the old politics of elitism, nepotism, cronyism and the shady dealings of powerful families...”

From Not the Nation: [Thailand's First Female PM?](#)

...“I'm proud of my country for promoting gender equality among billionaires...”

CCTV sign

June 10, 2011

Categories: Security, Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: This spot is under CCTV watch, part of anti-crime campaign – 9 policies of the people's development to reduce crime

Abhisit in the Country

June 10, 2011

Categories: Elections



The sign reads: Moving on the populist policy – Increase the benefit from the farmers' income guaranteeing project by 25 percent – Number 10 Democrat Party

Gem Scam: 463/9-12, Look-Luang Rd

June 10, 2011

Categories: Gem Scam



From an email: ...I was in Bangkok May 3-5 with my boyfriend, we are currently still traveling in Thailand. We have had some trouble since arriving. We were touring temples May 4 and were approached by the "Tourist Police" who informed us that the Golden Temple was closed. He had a tuk tuk driver take us to the Lucky Buddha, Sapphire Expo and Happy Buddha for 40 baht.

We were taken by tuk tuk to the Premier Sapphire Factory Export Center Co LTD and purchased a ring. The address is 463/9-12 1st Floor, Look-Luang Rd, Mahanak, Dusit Bangkok 10300 Thailand. We later found out it was fake. We also looked into the operation at our hotel this morning and found the [following information](#). This is exactly what happened to us. We received paperwork for refund of 80% of the value but we are still waiting for this to go through. We were told it would take 15 days, although we are not sure how accurate this is....

In 2003 it was Imperial:



By late 2004 it was Blue Dragon:



Name of this shop in the past:

Imperial Jewelry Export Co. Ltd. (last report mid-2003)

Ma Mere Gems Collection Co., Ltd. (last report December, 2000)

Blue Sapphire Gem Co., Ltd. (last report October, 2000)

TGJ Thai Center Co., Ltd. (last report July, 2000)

Other information about this location is [here](#) and [here](#).

The picture that appears in every house with love, loyalty from the heart

June 10, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, June 10, 2011

The people are singing: ...is the picture that appears in every house with love, loyalty from the heart

The sign on the front of the house: Red Village

Cambodia to send 51 soldiers to Thailand for joint exercise despite border row

June 10, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

[Cambodia to send 51 soldiers to Thailand for joint exercise despite border row](http://www.thailandnews.net) -www.thailandnews.net, June 9, 2011

Center opens to protect rare turtle in Cambodia

June 11, 2011

Categories: Cambodia, Wildlife and Nature

[Center opens to protect rare turtle in Cambodia](#) – AP, June 9, 2011

...The critically endangered Cantor's giant soft-shell turtle is one of the rarest freshwater turtles in the world. Scientists last saw one in the Cambodian wild in 2003, and small numbers have been seen in neighboring Laos, while it appears to have disappeared from Vietnam and Thailand...

Courting the Khmer – Cambodia struggles to play China off against its other neighbours

June 11, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Courting the Khmer – Cambodia struggles to play China off against its other neighbours](#) – economist.com,

June 9, 2011

...As one of the poorest countries in South-East Asia struggles to end its dependence on foreign aid, the Chinese presence has become pervasive...

Thai Developer Touts Burma Port Project

June 11, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Thai Developer Touts Burma Port Project](#) – The Irrawaddy, June 8, 2011

“A gateway to Indochina and south China” and “a short-cut pioneer of global transformation”—that is how the Thai conglomerate responsible for developing the Dawei (Tavoy) port project in southern Burma described the complex in Bangkok on Wednesday...

Vote Purachai

June 11, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Rak Santi Party stands with dignity on the Asean stage – Vote Purachai – Cross both 2 ballot tickets for number 12 – Vote the Rak Santi Party – Making sacrifices for Thailand

Stop the drugs that are a disaster of the nation

June 11, 2011

Categories: Drugs, Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The billboard reads: Following HM's royal intention – Stop the drugs that are a disaster of the nation – Informing about drug information call 1386 – The Office of the Narcotics Control Board, the Ministry of Justice

Thai King helps small farmers

June 11, 2011

Categories: Thailand in the International Media, The Monarchy

[Thai King helps small farmers](#) – www.mb.com.ph, June 8, 2011

If Thai farmers are progressive in their various agricultural projects today, you can credit that in a big way to King Bhumibol Adulyadej. More than 50 years ago, he set up the Chitralada Agricultural Projects right in a portion of the 100-hectare compound of the Royal Palace...

Fear

June 11, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From ThaiRath, June 11, 2011

The caption reads: From now on, the ghost does exist

Top universities a ‘breeding ground’ for Tories, warn Islamic groups

June 12, 2011

Categories: Humor

[Top universities a ‘breeding ground’ for Tories, warn Islamic groups](#) – newsthump.com, June 7, 2011

Democrats: Move on the populist policy for the people

June 12, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Democrat Party – Move on the populist policy for the people – Ornanong Kanchanachusak – MP candidates for Pathumwan-Bangrak-Sathorn

Police Van

June 12, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards, Thai Police



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Metropolitan Police Headquarters – Ready to serve the people – Bangkok safe from crime – [If you notice illegal things, please call 191 or P.O. Box 191 or www.thaimetropolice.com]

French diplomat's residence in Hong Kong sold for US\$74.5 million

June 12, 2011

Categories: China

[French diplomat's residence in Hong Kong sold for US\\$74.5 million](#) – property-report.com, June 8, 2011

The French government sold its Hong Kong diplomat's residence in the highly-sought after Peak district for a staggering HK\$580 million (US\$74.5 million) in the city's surging market...

Ripped Democrat Party Poster

June 13, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Democrat Party – Vote MP candidates for Pathumwan-Bangrak-Sathorn – Ornanong Kanchanachusak – Move on the populist policy for the people

Bhumjaithai: Dare to make it for Thai people

June 13, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Bhumjaithai Party does what it says it will do – Vote no. 16 – “Granting awards to the good deed doers” – The welfare budget for social volunteers – Dare to make it for Thai people – the Bhumjaithai Party

Thailand extradites fraud case Briton to UAE

June 13, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thailand extradites fraud case Briton to UAE](#) – news.malaysia.msn.com, June 12, 2011

...The move has political overtones as Bangkok has long been pushing the UAE over the fate of fugitive former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, who spends much of his time in Dubai...

Thai attempt to protect popular beach from future tsunami with wooden fence

June 13, 2011

Categories: 2004 Tsunami

[Thai attempt to protect popular beach from future tsunami with wooden fence](#) – MSNBC, June 12, 2011

The real power is in our hands

June 13, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From ThaiRath, June 13, 2011

The cartoon headline: The real power is in our hands

On the voting booth: 3 July 2011-election

On the ballot box: Love democracy

At the top under the first face on the left: Watch the election cheating tricks

The three signs, left to right: Special power, Cheating tactic-fraud poll, authority sets up scenes

On the sign being hold by the mouse: Voting to begin within 18 days.

The other mouse says: Bring back justice

Small Parties with No Policies

June 13, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From ThaiRath, June 13, 2011

Left: The big parties begin the election with big policy announcements.

Middle: The small parties are still quiet and have no policy announcement.

Why?

Right: They wait until they know who will form the government and then announce that their policies are the same.

Leftover Election Poster

June 14, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: An alternative in politics with the heart for the people – A collection of ideology from academicians/businessmen/handicapped/those left behind/elderly to reduce gaps – Increase wage rate for 8,000 tambons equally – Allocating land for earning a living for the family of handicapped/outreached/elderly – Allocating budget for earning a living for family of handicapped/outreached/elderly – Credit loan for family of handicapped/outreached/elderly – The Palung Sungkom Thai Party.

Bhumjaithai: “This country should have no jobless people”

June 14, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Bhumjaithai does what it says it will do – Vote no. 16 – “This country should have no jobless people” – The budget to creates one million jobs for employees – Dare to make it for Thai people – The Bhumjaithai party

The young generation asks for the opportunity to serve the people

June 14, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Pheu Thai Party – Pheu Thai for the future of Thailand – The young generation asks for the opportunity to serve the people – Please vote no. – Anuttama Amornwiwat – To be MP of the zone 7 of Bangkok

No!

June 14, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: 3 July – Do not let these animals into parliament – VOTE NO X

From Not the Nation: Prachatai Film Reviewer Arrested For Giving ‘My Best Bodyguard’ 2 Stars

June 14, 2011

Categories: Humor

From Not the Nation: [Prachatai Film Reviewer Arrested For Giving ‘My Best Bodyguard’ 2 Stars](#)

...According to a DSI spokesperson, Tasawan may face further charges for calling the film “predictable.”

Thai Students Encouraged To Wear Traditional Dresses Once A Week

June 14, 2011

Categories: Culture and Society

[Thai Students Encouraged To Wear Traditional Dresses Once A Week](#) – [bernama.com](#), June 13, 2011

Do we remember the burning of Thailand?

June 14, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Do we remember the burning of Thailand?](#) – Bangkok Post, June 12, 2011

...Think about the ramifications: There's a group of people who were willing to burn the country down to the ground to further their political agenda. This was a heinous and treasonous crime.

I don't need the court to tell me who's guilty or not. I was there, listening to the speeches on the stage. I was there, interviewing the red shirts on the streets. I was there, on the back of a motorbike weaving through the smoke and ruins – passing cheering and taunting thugs screaming out vengeance and satisfaction...

Abhisit Targets Fewer Than Half Seats in Thai Election as Popularity Slips

June 14, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Abhisit Targets Fewer Than Half Seats in Thai Election as Popularity Slips](#) – Bloomberg, June 14, 2011

Abhisit warns of threat to Thai stability

June 15, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Abhisit warns of threat to Thai stability](#) – FT, June 14, 2011

...“There is a risk of instability. And you just have to ask why, as political parties, as representatives of the people, do you want to risk the country’s future just to whitewash one man?” he told the FT...

Bhumjaithai: “Allocating land for 1 million for laborers”

June 15, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Bhumjaithai does what it says it will do – No. 16 – “Allocating land for 1 million for laborers” – Giving rights to van drivers/motorcycle drivers – Stands for street vendors – Dare to make it for Thais – The Bhumjaithai

Thai Politician Chuwit Kamolvisit: A Man. His Dog. Their Park.

June 15, 2011

Categories: Chuwit Kamolvisit, Thai Politics

[Thai Politician Chuwit Kamolvisit: A Man. His Dog. Their Park.](#) – womenlearnthai.com, June 13, 2011

Eating Hometown, Eating City, Even Eating Signs

June 15, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Eating hometown, eating city, even eating signs – is not a good sample for the young generation. The curriculum of “no cheating when you grow up” starts now in schools under the Bangkok Education Service Area Office – www.growinggood.org.

Malaysia Spends \$600,000 On Six Facebook Pages

June 15, 2011

Categories: Malaysia

[RM1.8 million for six Facebook pages](#) – freemalaysiatoday.com, June 14, 2011

...Mamit said that the reason why each application cost so much was because of the tasks associated with them.

“These cover creative works, concepts and ideas, design, flash programming and coding, testing and debugging, uploading and launching of application, system server development and maintenance, development of database from the contest, campaign management and monitoring as well as online advertisements and fan recruitment in Facebook and Google,” the deputy minister said.

...This reasoning, however, was rubbished by Loke, who called it “ridiculous”.

...Showing reporters the Cuti-Cuti 1Malaysia Facebook page on an Ipad, he added: “Anyone can do this. (...) Everyone knows that Facebook pages are free, and you don’t need servers or designs (for them).”

Thailand's PM fights uphill reelection battle

June 15, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thailand's PM fights uphill reelection battle](#) – csmonitor.com, June 14, 2011

...Analysts warn, however, that a PTP-led government could be unstable due to resistance from the military and other forces opposed to the rehabilitation of Mr. Thaksin, who held power before the coup. Conversely, a military-backed coalition that shuts out PTP may trigger mass protests by Thaksin's antigovernment "red-shirt" supporters in Thailand, a longtime US military ally...

Sugar Rising on Worst Thai Port Congestion: Freight Markets

June 15, 2011

Categories: Business

[Sugar Rising on Worst Thai Port Congestion: Freight Markets](#) – bloomberg.com, June 14, 2011

Thailand, the world's second-biggest sugar exporter, is driving up global prices as the worst port congestion in memory restricts shipments...

Adoring Jatuporn

June 15, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, June 15, 2011

Jailed MP Jatuporn Prompan says: Touch the muscle

The prison official says: Yes sir, Mr. next interior minister.

The caption reads: The popularity of Puea Thai continues to rise... The man who receives benefit from the story.

Thailand to host World Economic Forum in May 2012

June 15, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok ready to host next WEF](#) – thejakartapost.com, June 14, 2011

Myanmar nukes? Defector's tale stokes suspicions

June 15, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar nukes? Defector's tale stokes suspicions](#) – AJC, June 15, 2011

...Robert Kelley, a former IAEA director and nuclear weapons inspector who interviewed Sai Thein Win and assessed the evidence he provided for the 2010 documentary, is confident it does, although engineering drawings were unprofessional and the manufactured items appeared crude. The method identified for enriching uranium, molecular laser separation, was highly unlikely to succeed...

Bangkok Port's wharf closure snarls cargo clearance

June 15, 2011

Categories: Business

[Bangkok Port's wharf closure snarls cargo clearance](http://www.reuters.com) – www.reuters.com, June 6, 2011

...An executive of the Thai National Shippers' Council, grouping 2,700 private importers and exporters, also said efficiency at Klong Toei had long been hampered by the labour union's refusal to allow private firms in to help improve operations...

Bhumjaithai: Reducing VAT by 2%

June 16, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Bhumjaithai does what they say will do – Vote number 16 – Gaining for all – Cheaper commodity prices – Reducing VAT by 2% – Dare to make it for Thais – Bhumjaithai Party

PAD Rally Site Signs

June 16, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards, Thai Politics



The sign reads: PAD in Phang-nga comes to fight for not spoiling one's life in a lifetime – Vote No



The sign reads: The village of Ratri-Veera



The sign reads: The village of Ratri-Veera, Moo2 – Narathiwat-Bangkok-Nonthaburi-Sattahip-Chonburi-Nongmon-Tak-Aran -Trang-Nakorn Si Thammarat-Samui-Krabi



Top left: Wicked deceitful MP

Top right: Promiscuous... wicked coming

Below left: Animal parliament

Below right: Slippery



The upper sign reads: Stupid – coward – fake – good but mouth –Apreesith – For justice do not vote for any party – VOTE NO – Be careful for the breeding of wickedness and the son of a bitch.

The lower sign: Won Non Kook – MOU2000 jail – No feeding a toddler



The sign reads: The Ruam Palung Rak Chart group – Trang PAD – Welcome for every PAD



The sign reads: Hard to choose as they are both wise – Cross the no vote box – Vote no

In Cambodia, Comedians Double as Government Propagandists

June 16, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[In Cambodia, Comedians Double as Government Propagandists](#) – theatlantic.com, June 15, 2011

...The country's dozens of "colonel comedians" underscore the extent to which Hun Sen and his CPP have consolidated power over the past two decades, successfully marginalizing not just rival politicians but also dissenting artistic and cultural voices...

Vote Chuwit to be in the opposition against corruption

June 16, 2011

Categories: Chuwit Kamolvisit, Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: No. 5 – Vote Chuwit to be in the opposition against corruption – Every zone in the country – Rakpratedthai Party

Spiegel Interview with Thaksin Shinawatra

June 16, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Spiegel Interview with Thaksin Shinawatra – ‘Thailand Must Be United Again’](#) – [spiegel.de](#), June 15, 2011

...Thaksin: All the polls have her ahead. But I am seriously worried about her. The political culture in Thailand is very violent. We are sure the government will try to rig the elections to prevent her from winning.

...SPIEGEL: When you were prime minister, many critics of the monarchy were also convicted.

Thaksin: When you're in power, you can sometimes fall for the temptation to use this power. However, the king talked me out of it.

SPIEGEL: Why won't the king step in and sort things out now?

Thaksin: He is very old and sick, and he's surrounded by the wrong people...

Nauseating Colors

June 16, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From ThaiRath, June 16, 2011

Left: The political party uses color to represent symbol of the party during the canvassing.

Middle: The Democrat uses blue, Pheu Thai uses red, and other parties' makes me feel nauseated when taking a look at it.

Why?

Right: They change colors like a lizard.

At the bottom of the last frame: Doctor Somcharn from Ubonratchatane

As Thai opposition gains, populist reformer waits in the wings

June 16, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[As Thai opposition gains, populist reformer waits in the wings](#) – Reuters, June 16, 2011

...Olarn, architect of the opposition Pheu Thai Party's economic platform, said his 1.5 trillion baht (S\$60 billion), four-year programme would help his party carry out "bottom-up" economic reforms and speed income redistribution in Thailand.

...The richest 20 per cent of Thailand's population earn about 55 per cent of the income while the poorest fifth get 4 per cent, among Asia's widest income disparities, says the World Bank...

Thai Ch Karnchang wins bid for Bangkok rail project

June 16, 2011

Categories: Mass Transit

[Thai Ch Karnchang wins bid for Bangkok rail project](#) – Reuters, June 16, 2011

One Night in Bangkok Can Lead to Quite a ‘Hangover’ for Thailand

June 16, 2011

Categories: Film and TV

[One Night in Bangkok Can Lead to Quite a ‘Hangover’ for Thailand](#) -WSJ, June 16, 2011

...”What’s it like?” asked Supol Sripan, general-director of the country’s tourism department, on a recent Thursday afternoon.

Well, it shows his nation’s capital as chock-full of drug-dealing mobsters, drunken bar fights and hazily remembered sex in the back rooms of brothels. In the movie there are also car chases through teeming streets, and a chain-smoking monkey.

“Hmm,” Mr. Supol sighed. “Well, I suppose it’s true. We have all those things...”

Full Steam Ahead For China's Rail Links Abroad?

June 17, 2011

Categories: Thai Railroads

[Full Steam Ahead For China's Rail Links Abroad?](#) – www.wnyc.org, June 14, 2011

...Chinese media have reported that China plans to first complete a line through Laos, Thailand and Malaysia before arriving in Singapore. China is reportedly also planning branches of the network stretching into Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar. A separate network may eventually extend through western China and Central Asia toward Europe...

Bhumjaithai – Giving words and following by taking action

June 17, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Bhumjaithai – Giving words and following by taking action – “The good life is having a job”
– Budget for one million positions for employment – Dare to create for Thais – Bhumjaithai

Yingluck Lead in Thai Vote Unsettles Investors

June 17, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Yingluck Lead in Thai Vote Unsettles Investors](#) – Bloomberg, June 17, 2011

...“People know very little about her thoughts,” said Kongkiat Opaswongkarn, chief executive officer of Asia Plus Securities Pcl (ASP), Thailand’s third-biggest brokerage. “She reports directly to Thaksin. The slogan the party uses, ‘Thaksin thinks, Pheu Thai implements,’ will be exactly the way it is...”

Succeeding in the intention of M.L. Kurkrit Pramot

June 17, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Succeeding in the intention of M.L. Kurkrit Pramot – Your one vote is significant – Thailand has to step forward – I am ready to volunteer – Suwit Khunkitti, President of Kitsangkom party–Deputy PM for 6 term – Minister to 7 ministries for 11 terms

From Not the Nation: What Are The Best-Selling Expat-Authored Books?

June 17, 2011

Categories: Humor

From Not the Nation: [What Are The Best-Selling Expat-Authored Books?](#)

...How to Do Business in Thailand: A Repackaged Catalog of My Failures...

Google focuses on Thailand and its digital potential

June 17, 2011

Categories: Business

[Google focuses on Thailand and its digital potential](#) – asiancorrespondent.com, June 16, 2011

Threatened Madagascar Reptiles and Amphibians Being Sold in Thailand

June 17, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Threatened Madagascar Reptiles and Amphibians Being Sold in Thailand](#) – PRWEB, June 15, 2011

Thailand's pet dealers are supplying large numbers of Madagascar's most threatened reptiles and amphibians to local and international markets, despite unanswered questions over the legality of the imports, a new TRAFFIC report has found...

New Politics Party: No reconciliation with any type of corruption

June 17, 2011

Categories: Elections



The sign reads: New Politics Party – Reforming Thailand – No reconciliation with any type of corruption – Somsak Kosaisuk, New Politics Party leader – 20 X

Abandoned Skyscraper – Fifty Levels of Awesome Abandoned Building

June 17, 2011

Categories: Buildings



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: PAD Vote No banner on the Sathorn Unique building

[Abandoned Skyscraper – “Sathorn Unique” – Fifty Levels of Awesome Abandoned Building](#) – abandonedjourney.com, June 15, 2011

Also on Sathorn Road: [Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy](#)

Planking Monk

June 17, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News



Above: Planking monk from Komchadluek, June 18, 2011

[Health Department Warns of “Planking” Perils](#) – TAN, June 16, 2011

Update: [Cash reward for ID of ‘planking monk’](#) – The Nation, June 18, 2011

...”In the IT age, monks can use new media for the propagation of Buddha’s teachings, not to spread planking pictures,” he said.

Thailand to Establish Benchmark Rice Price With Physical Market

June 18, 2011

Categories: Business

[Thailand to Establish Benchmark Rice Price With Physical Market](#) – Bloomberg, June 17, 2011

Thailand, the world's largest rice supplier, plans to establish a global benchmark price by allowing buyers and sellers to bid for shipments through a privately run centralized auction, the government said...

Poster at PAD Rally Site

June 18, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Governor Sanit Nakasuksri (Srakhaew Governor) and Maj-Gen Walit Rojanapakdi (Burapha Troop Commander), can you please explain to the people WHO is the person that this group of men do things for and which country they support? Or are they bad enough to betray the homeland because of their greed and lured by capitalists and have no love for the land. Or is Cambodian Hun Sen their father? And then who is the person to take responsibility for... these buffaloes!

Thaksin = Abhisit

June 18, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: July 3rd is the day for slapping politicians' skulls – VOTE NO – On the 3rd put the mark on "No Vote" box X

Pheu Thai Truck

June 19, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Think newly, do with innovation for every Thai again – No. 1 Kawee Na Lampang – Cross 1 number on both ballots

3G Billboard

June 19, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The billboard reads: 3G happiness of the Thai people for better future – CAT

The Bhumjaithai Party in Nakorn Sawan

June 19, 2011

Categories: Elections

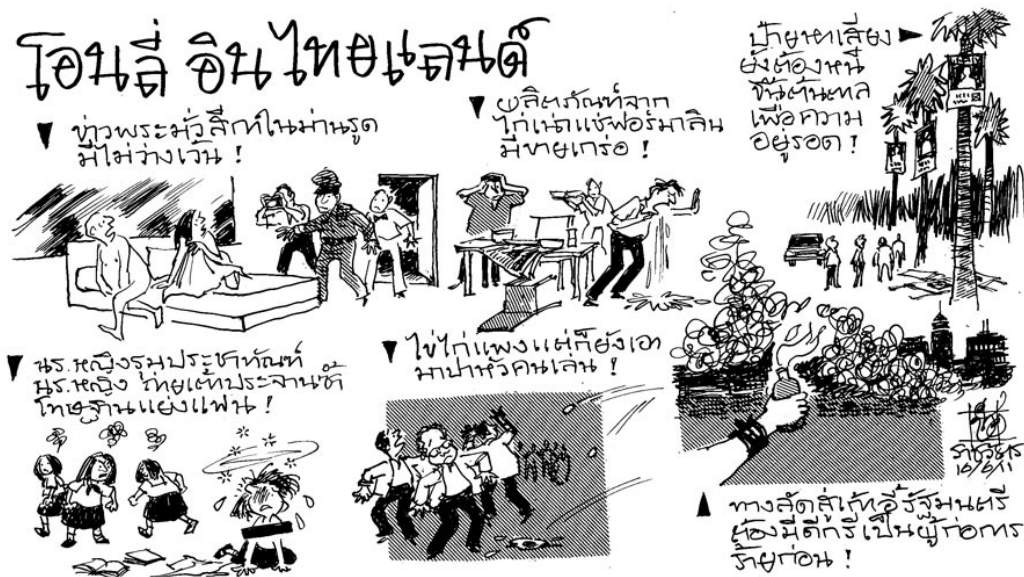


The sign reads: On 3rd July 2011 from 8am-3 pm – Songsak Songsermudomchai (Pae-Yim) – Please vote to be MP – NakornSawan Zone 2 – The Bhumjaithai Party – We do what we said – Dare make it for Thais

Only in Thailand

June 19, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, June 19, 2011

The cartoon headline is "Only in Thailand"

Top left: There is news about lustful monks and ladies in motels continuously

Top middle: Contaminated chicken products coated with formalin are widely sold

Top right: Election signs need to be relocated to the top of sugar palm trees

Bottom left: Girl gang hurts a student and taking nude VDO clips because of love affairs

Bottom middle: Expensive eggs were used to throw at the heads of someone

Bottom right: Fast track to ministerial posts are related to the status of terrorists

Puma blames long hours for mass Cambodia faint

June 19, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Puma blames long hours for mass Cambodia faint](#) – AFP, June 18, 2011

...While rare, mass faintings occasionally happen in Cambodian garment factories and are often blamed on employees' poor health and bad ventilation in the workplace...

Pheu Thai wants better ties with China: Thai PM hopeful

June 19, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Pheu Thai wants better ties with China: Thai PM hopeful](#) – Xinhua, June 17, 2011

...”China and Thailand are like one family, I would like to build better relations with China.” the 44-year-old politician said in an interview with Xinhua at her Pheu Thai Party headquarters in Bangkok...

Leave it to the plankers – try ‘pubpeab’

June 19, 2011

Categories: Local Beliefs

[Leave it to the plankers – try ‘pubpeab’](#) – Bangkok Post, June 19, 2011

...Pubpeab is a traditional way of sitting mostly used in formal settings or to pay respect to elders, monks or Buddha images. The campaign slogan posted on the page is: “Have you pubpeabed today? It’s not dangerous, it’s Thai beauty. Your superiors will love you!...”

Bullying, Provocations, and the Common Touch

June 19, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Stop bullying, Pheu Thai told](#) – The Nation, June 19, 2011

...”Tomorrow, I will go to Samut Prakan and Nonthaburi, and I expect to see bullying again. It’s fine if they bully me and the Democrat Party. But on election day, people will tell them they have no time left to bully Thailand,” he said...

[UDD attacks Abhisit over ‘provocations’](#) – Bangkok Post, June 19, 2011

...”Mr Abhisit can’t blame the UDD for the mischief because it is he who keeps provoking the red shirts,” Mrs Tida said, adding that the UDD had repeatedly asked its supporters not to disrupt the Democrats’ election campaigning...

Something from Thaksin’s lobbyist claiming the Democrats seem to prefer being aloof from the people: [Yingluck, Abhisit, and the Common Touch](#) (of course this situation is because of the ongoing physical attacks on the Prime Minister that began in 2009)

[Building by persuasion](#) – The Nation, June 19, 2011

...The cab driver told of how life is just easier with Pheu Thai in control. Making a living is easier. Everything just seemed easier. There’s a trust. There’s a relationship. When a Pheu Thai MP talks to you, you understand what he or she is saying. He or she speaks the language of the people. You can always pick up the phone or knock on the door. Pheu Thai MPs are always around, always accessible. If you need a string pulled, a connection made or some cash, Pheu Thai MPs provide. Pheu Thai takes care of the people...

Disrespecting Quran causes Narathiwat prison riot: activist

June 19, 2011

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[Disrespecting Quran causes Narathiwat prison riot: activist](#) – The Nation, June 19, 2011

...Speaking to The Nation, Artef, the former head of the Student Federation of Thailand, said he has been informed by an inmate inside the Narathiwat prison that some of the guards conducting the search in the dorm had committed the act that was deemed offensive to Muslim inmates...

Prayuth and Suthep

June 20, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, June 20, 2011

Suthep is saying to Commander-in-Chief Prayuth: If the vote is not for us, he will come.

The caption reads: The only man who still fears this threatening word.

Asking for new thinking and creating innovation for every Thai again

June 20, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Pheu Thai Party – Pheu Thai for the future of Thailand – Asking for new thinking and creating innovation for every Thai again – Yingluck Shinawatra, the party list MP candidate – Mr. Suchart Traisaengrujira, Nakornsawan Zone 1, Number 1 – Please vote both person and the whole party

PHL wants to keep ties with Thailand despite WTO ruling on export row

June 20, 2011

Categories: Business

[PHL wants to keep ties with Thailand despite WTO ruling on export row](#) – gmanews.tv, June 19, 2011

Despite Malacañang's elation over the World Trade Organization's siding with the Philippines in the tobacco export dispute with Thailand, the Palace last Friday expressed hope the ruling would not strain relations between the two countries...

Elect Ping Ping

June 20, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: Stuart)

The sign reads: The Chart Pattana Pua Pandin Party – Please vote Mr. Sophon Dumnui and the Chart Pattana Pua Pandin Party – Zone 5 Dusit Ratchathewi – Number 2 – On 3rd July 2011 please exercise your right vote number 2 for both ballot cards – Spirit of winner and loser and forgiveness is power of the nation

PAD Lizard

June 20, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: 3 July – Do not let animals enter parliament – Vote NO – Exercise your vote right, cross the no vote box

The sprayed painted words read: I Sondhi

Honest Chuwit and Dog

June 20, 2011

Categories: Chuwit Kamolvisit, Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: When you need honesty No. 5- Chuwit – the Rak Prathed Thai Party – Party list every province nationwide

The “mistake” on ballots the renders the Pheu Thai logo nearly invisible

June 20, 2011

Categories: Chuwit Kamolvisit, Thai Politics



The mistake on the election ballots (above) that renders the Pheu Thai logo (to the right of the “#1”) nearly invisible. Note the tip of the pen for scale. This was discussed on the Channel 3 program Stories to Share Weekend , a news recap program.

Below Chuwit rants and raves over rice farming issues. He really is the model of a Thai “big man” who rambles on and on never expecting to be questioned or interrupted.

NS508

คุณรู้ลึกอย่างไรกับเพลงกิ้ง ? SMS 4888399 (วันท/ส)

พืชมงคล	สปีด	สปีด	สปีด
1	100	100	100
2	100	100	100
3	100	100	100
4	100	100	100
5	100	100	100
6	100	100	100
7	100	100	100
8	100	100	100
9	100	100	100
10	100	100	100
11	100	100	100
12	100	100	100
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92	100	100	100
93	100	100	100
94	100	100	100
95	100	100	100
96	100	100	100
97	100	100	100
98	100	100	100
99	100	100	100
100	100	100	100

พืชมงคล 1 สปีด 15.98% พืชมงคล 2 ไม่สปีด 84.04%

วันนี้ ทางบ.อาหารสัตว์(จีนซอง)

Yingluck says she cannot tell red shirts to stop bullying Abhisit

June 20, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Yingluck says she cannot tell red shirts to stop bullying Abhisit](#) – The Nation, June 20, 2011

...She said the Pheu Thai did not send the red-shirt people to bully Abhisit and she could not tell the red-shirt people to stop...

Muay Thai bout between girls under 10 sparks outrage in Australia

June 20, 2011

Categories: Sports

[Muay Thai bout between girls under 10 sparks outrage in Australia](http://www.dailymail.co.uk) – www.dailymail.co.uk, June 20, 2011

...’I have three daughters aged under 10 and like many mums and dads across Queensland, I was absolutely appalled at the image of children of this age being put in a boxing ring,’ minister Phil Reeves said.

‘If reports about a \$100 cash prize for the winning child is correct, then I find the whole situation even more disgraceful...

Analysis: Thai army takes sides as divisive election nears

June 20, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Analysis: Thai army takes sides as divisive election nears](#) – Reuters, June 19, 2011

...Sources close to Pheu Thai and the military say that could be averted, and that Thaksin and the generals are discussing an arrangement under which Pheu Thai could govern in return for an assurance the top brass would not be purged...

Democrats in Nakorn Sawan Province

June 21, 2011

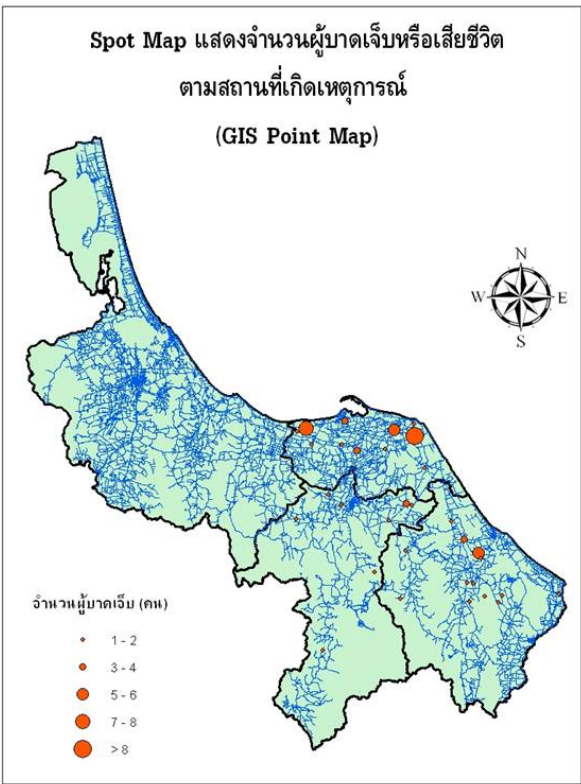
Categories: Elections



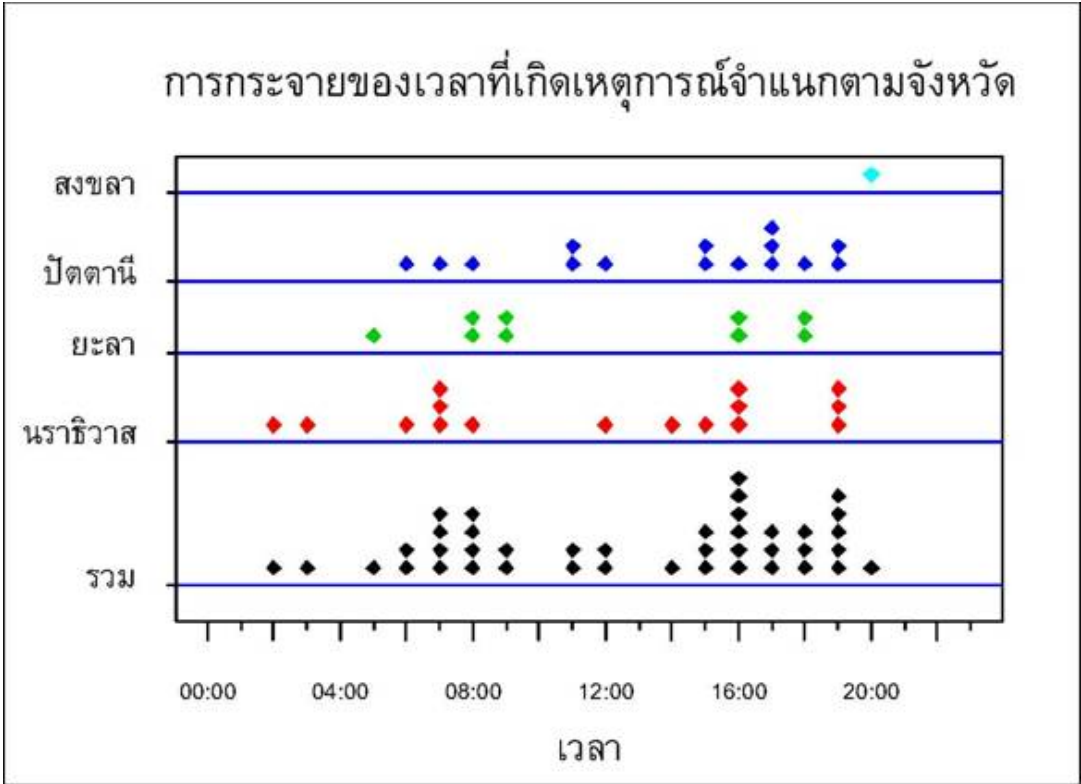
The sign reads: Moving on the populist policy – Vote Songkran Chitsuthipaporn – Number 10 to be MP Zone 1, Nakorn Sawan province – Democrat Party

Deep South Violence Statistics – February 2011

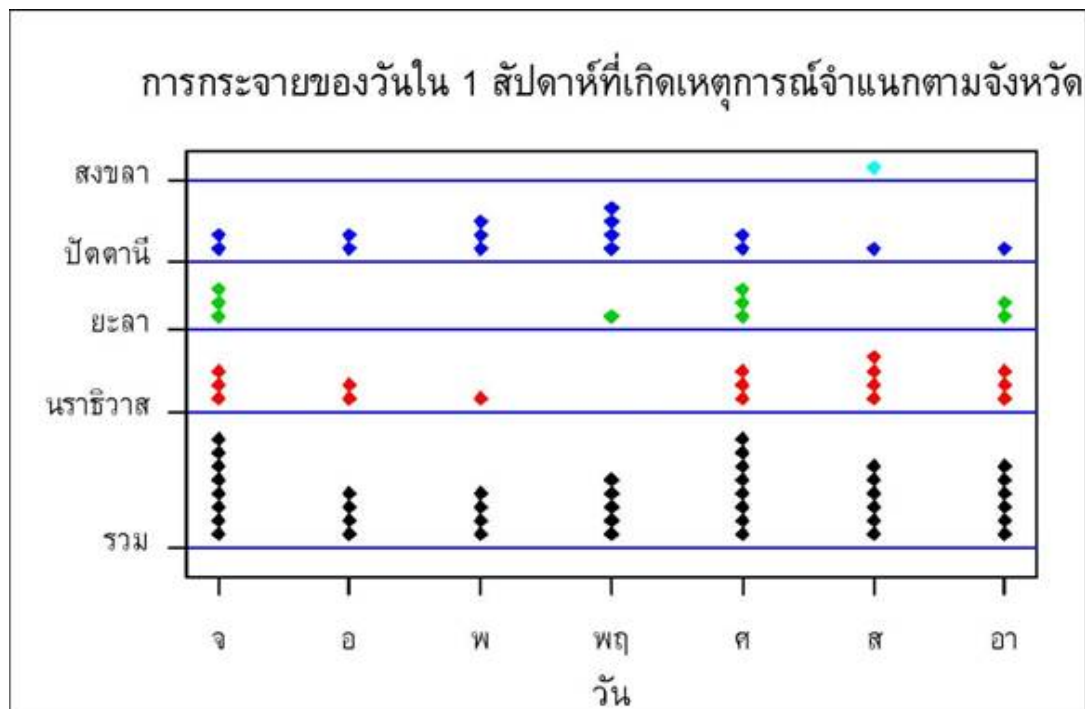
June 21, 2011
Categories: Deep South Violence Statistics



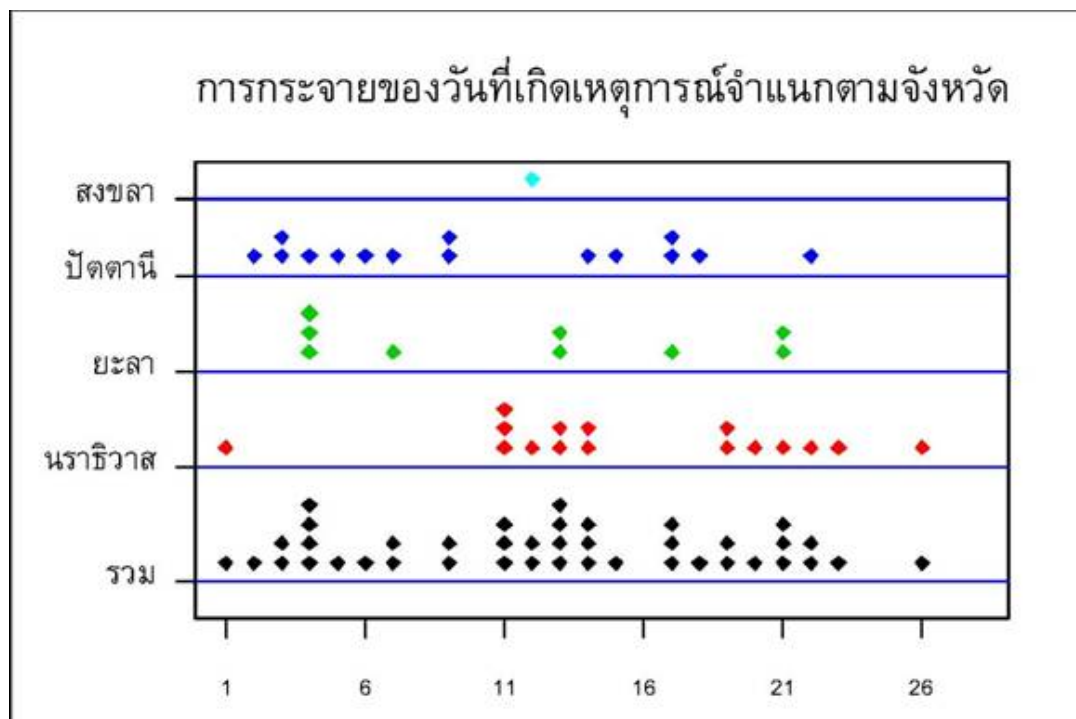
Map of four provinces in the deep south (Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat) showing numbers of the dead and injured by location.



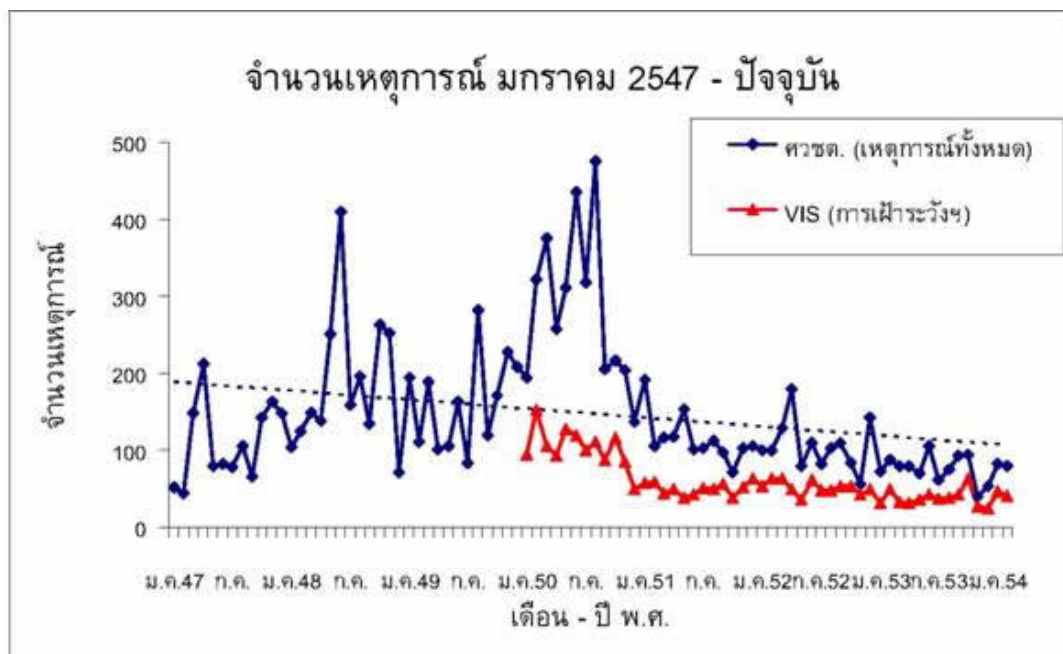
This chart shows violent incidents classified by the hour of the day (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black



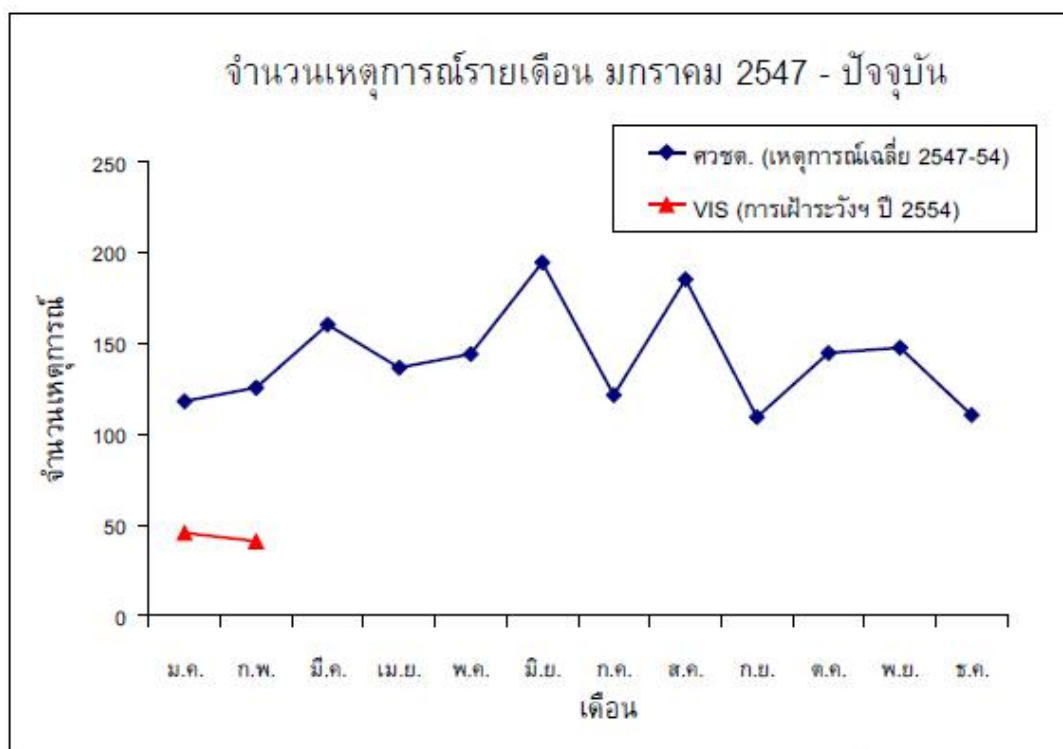
This chart shows violent incidents classified by day of the week (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). The days of the week start with Monday on the left. Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black



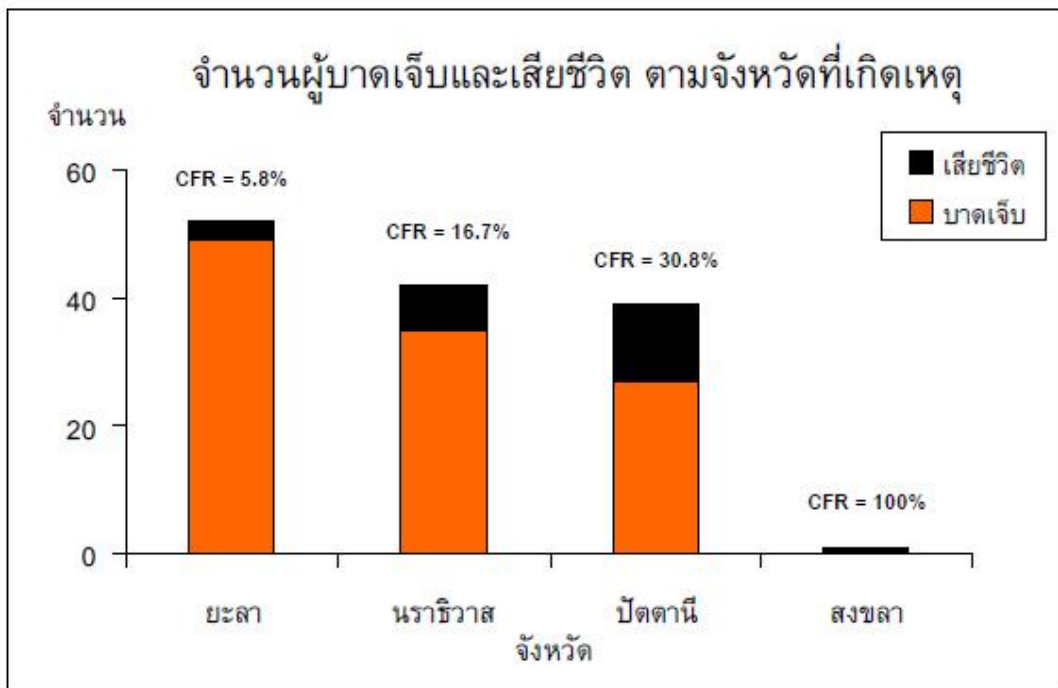
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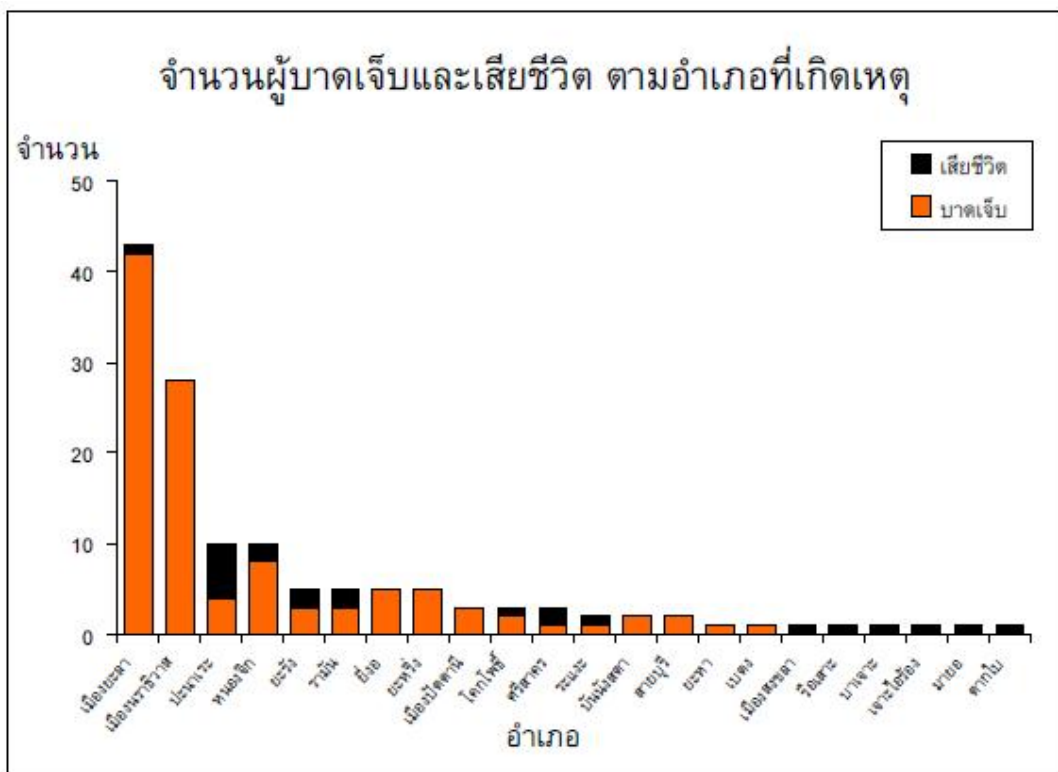
Numbers of violent incidents since January 2004. Across the bottom are the years (2547 is 2004, 2548 is 2005, 2549 is 2006, 2550 is 2007, 2551 is 2008, 2552 is 2009, 2553 is 2010, 2554 is 2011). The blue line shows the number of all violent incidents that took place as reported by the Deep South Coordination 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).



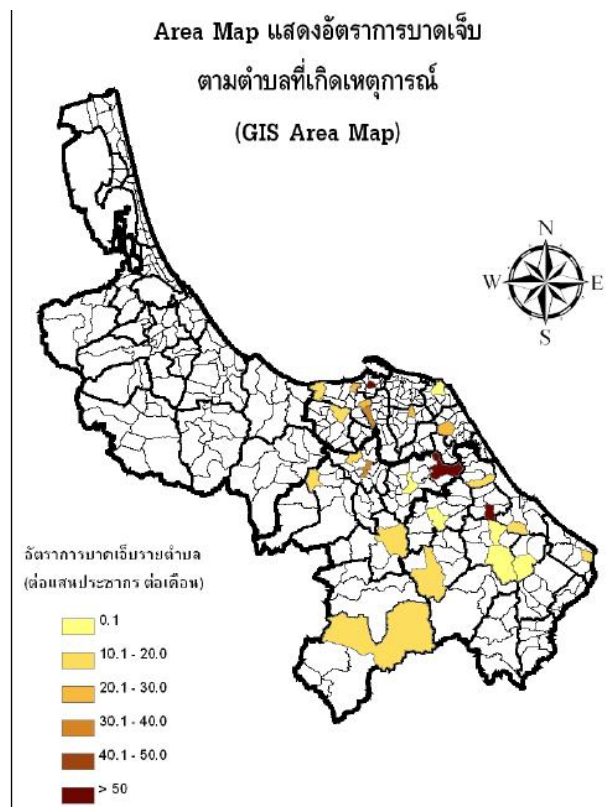
The blue line shows the average monthly level of violent incidents from 2004 up to the present. The red line shows the information provided to the Violence-related Injury Surveillance in the present year. The y-axis shows the numbers of events from 0-250. The x-axis shows the months of the year from January to December (left to right).



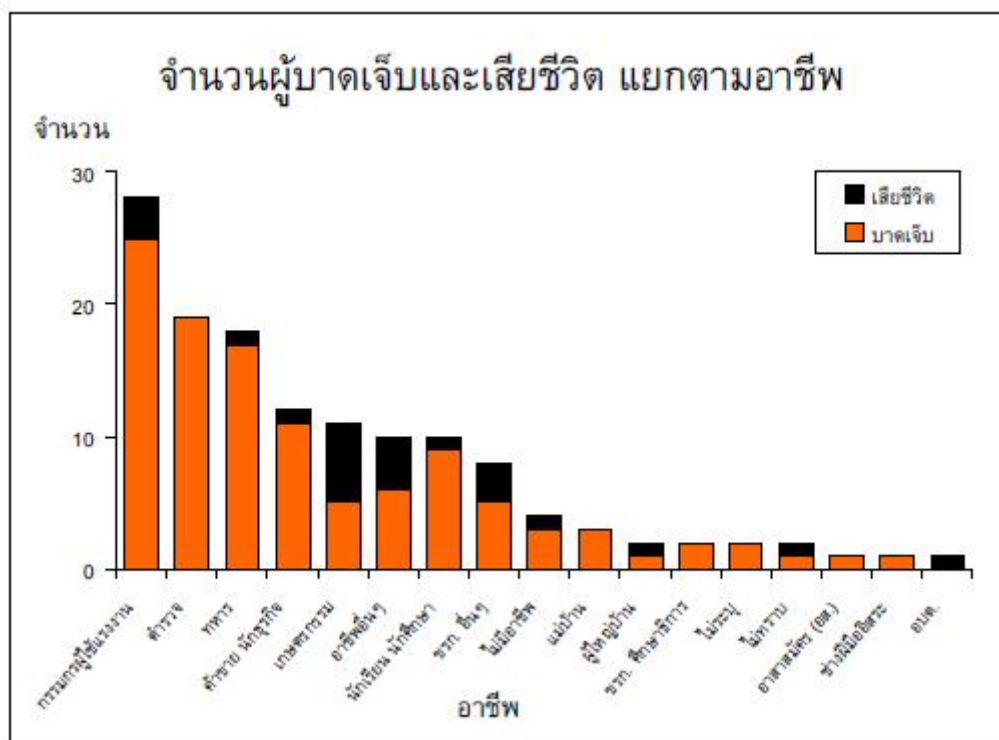
The numbers of injured and dead reported from each province where the events occurred (Yala, Narathiwat, Pattani and Songkhla). Black= dead, red=injured. The CFR (Case Fatality Rate) of each province is above each bar.



The toll of dead and injured (y-axis), classified by the districts where the incidents took place (x-axis). Black= dead, red=injured. The district ranged from left to right on the X-axis are: the city of Yala, the city of Narathiwat, Panare, Nongchik, Yarang, Raman, Yeengo, Yaring, the city of Pattani, Koakpoh, Sisakorn, Rangae, Bannungsata, Saiburi, Yaha, Betong, the city of Songkla, Ruesoh, Bacho, Chor-airong, Mayor, Takbai



Map of four provinces in the deep south (Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat) showing the number of injury rate (100,000 population per month) by tambon (village). Starting at light yellow, the levels are 1-10, 10-20, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, and greater than 60.

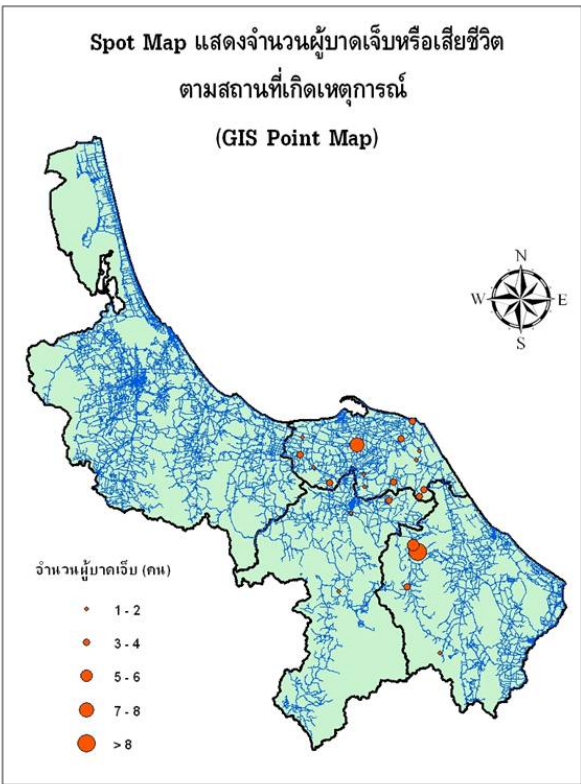


The numbers of dead and injured, classified by the victims' profession. Black= dead, red=injured. From left to right: laborers, police, soldier, businessmen merchants, agriculturist, others, student college students, other officials, unemployed, housewives, village chief, education officials, unidentified, unknown, defense guard volunteer, freelance craftsman, tambon local administration workers.

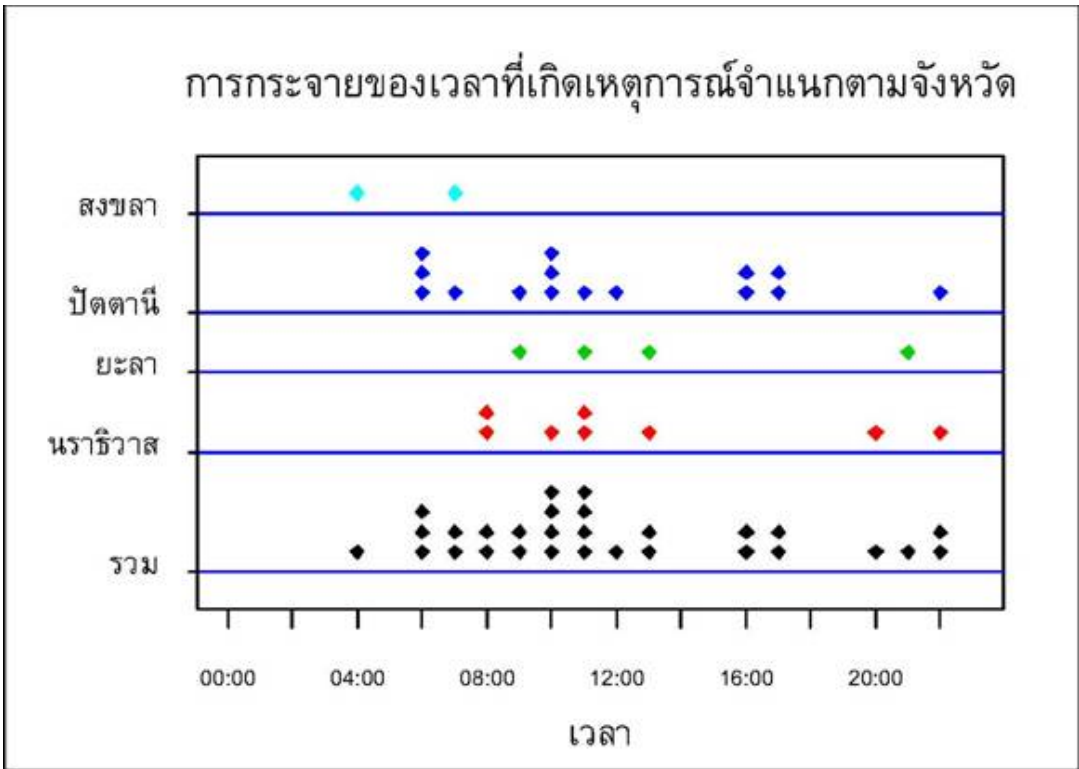
Source: Deep South Violence-related Injury Surveillance statistics

Deep South Violence Statistics – March 2011

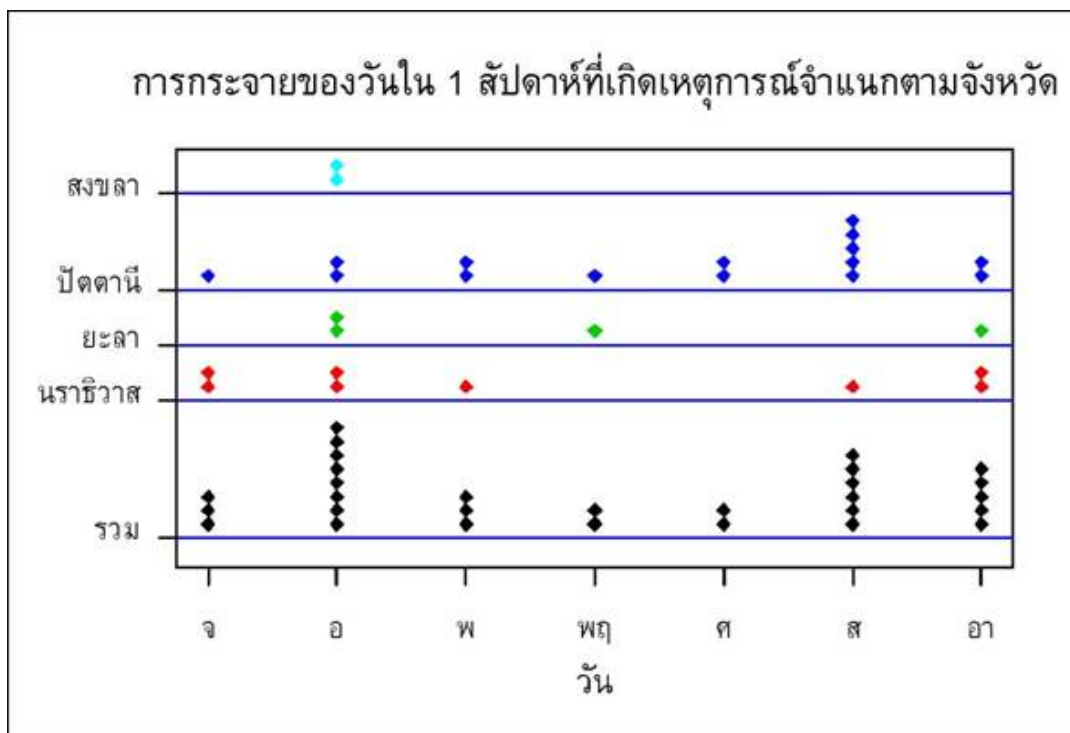
June 21, 2011
Categories: Deep South Violence Statistics



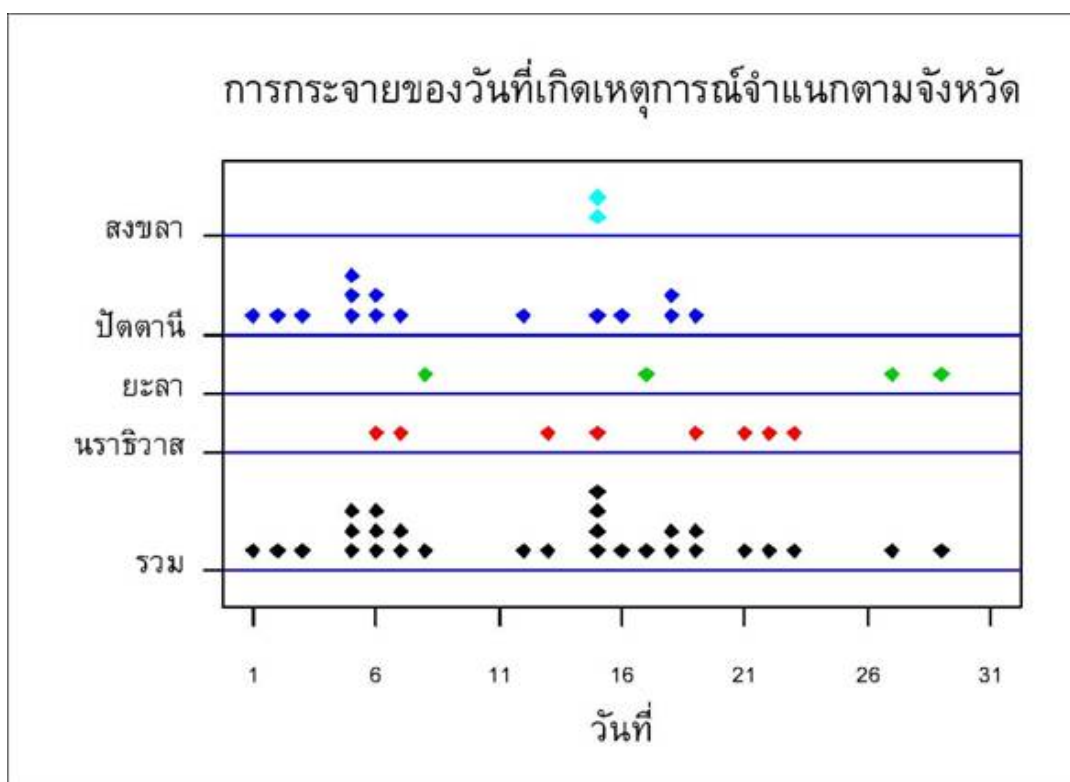
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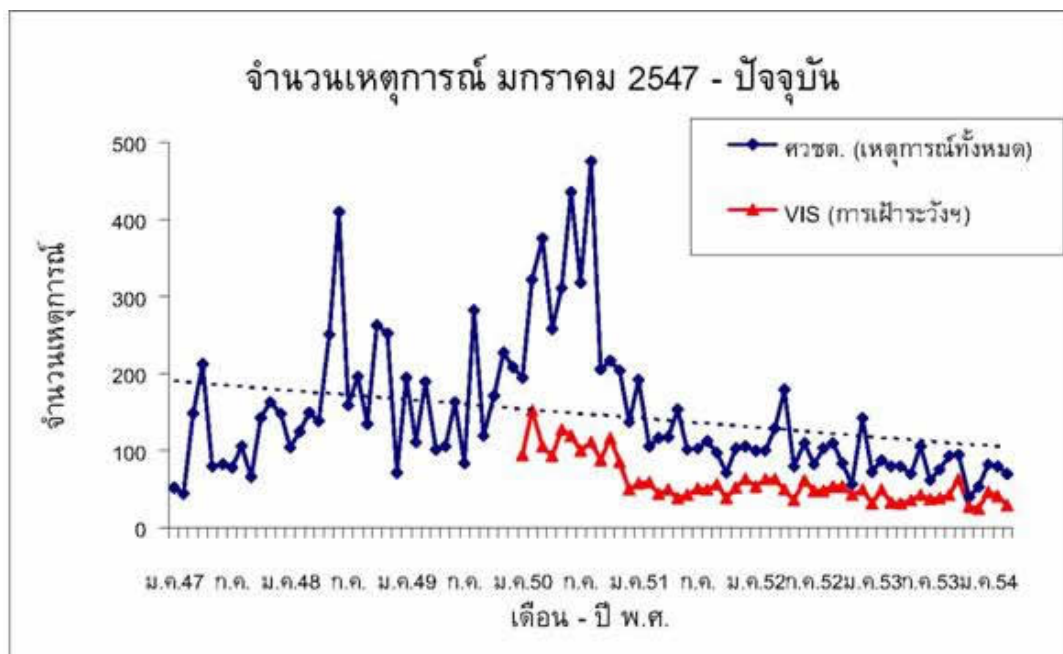
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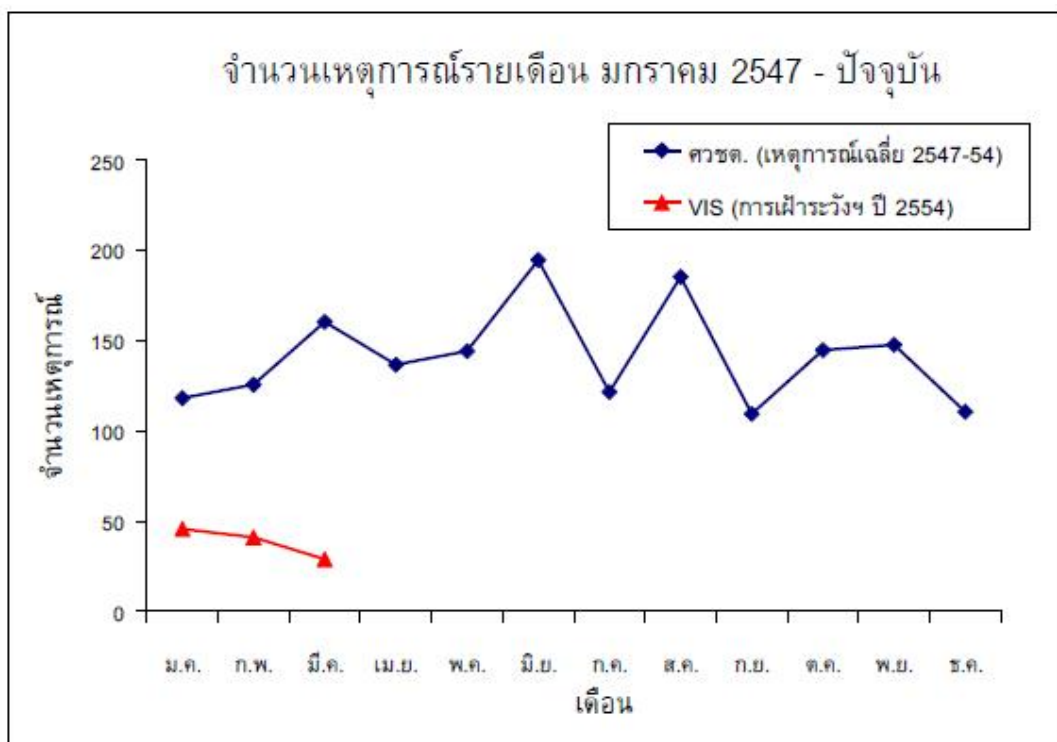


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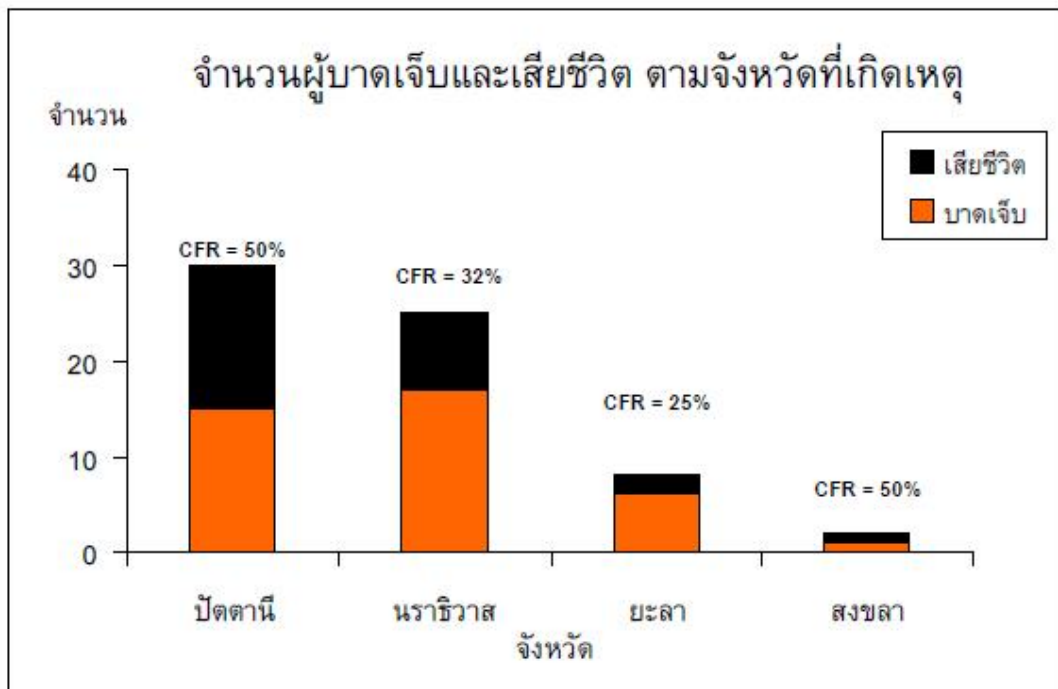


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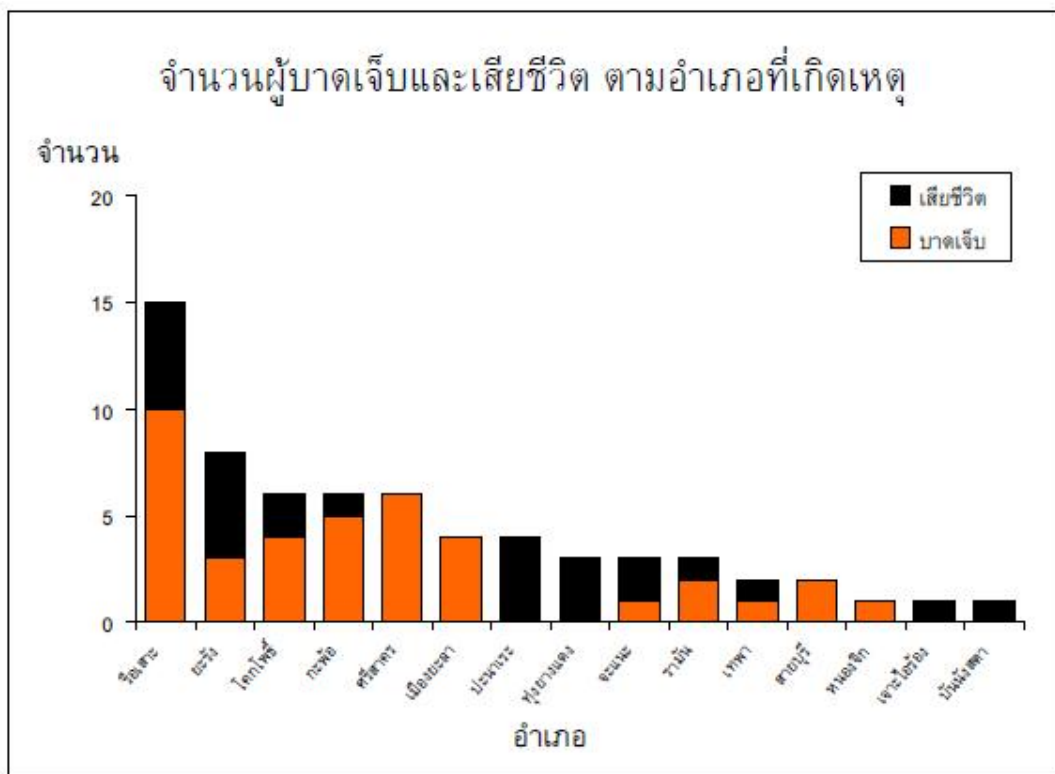
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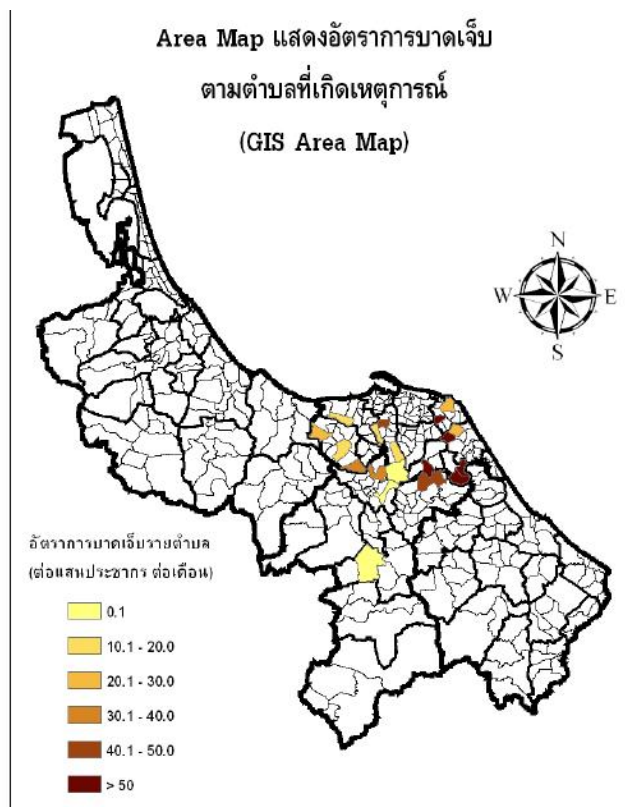
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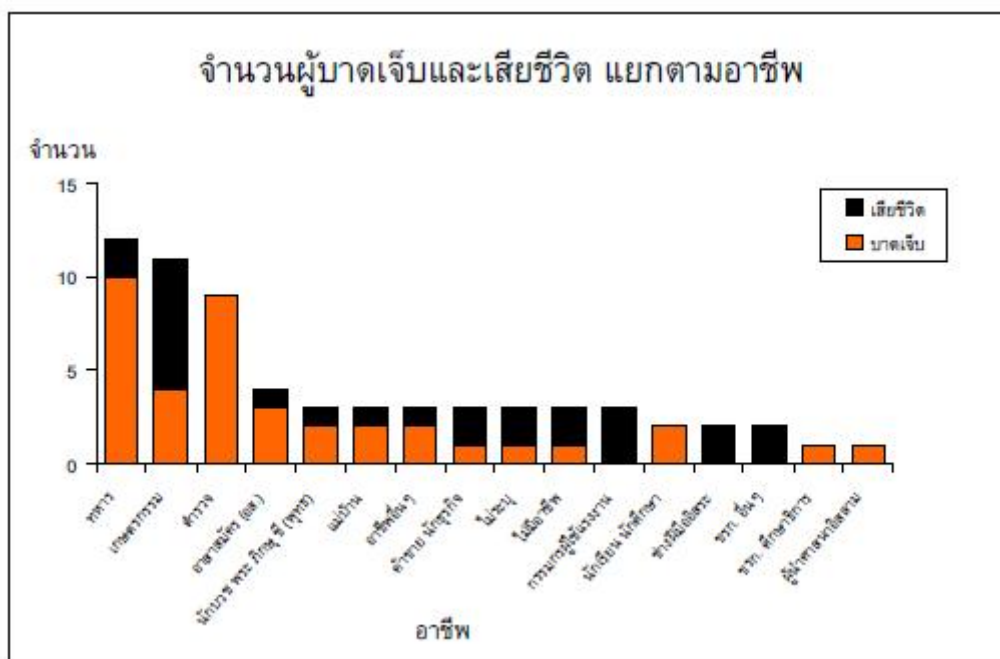
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The toll of dead and injured (y-axis), classified by the districts where the incidents took place (x-axis). Black= dead, red=injured. The x-axis show the data of district, ranged by Ruesoh, Yarang, koakpoh, Kapoh, Sisakorn, city of Yala, Panare, Thungyangdaeng, Chanae, Raman, Thepa, Saiburi, Nongchick, Choairong, Bannungsata (from left to right)



Map of four provinces in the deep south (Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat) showing the number of injury rate (100,000 population oer month)by tambon (village). Starting at light yellow, the levels are 0.1, 10-20, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, and greater than 50.



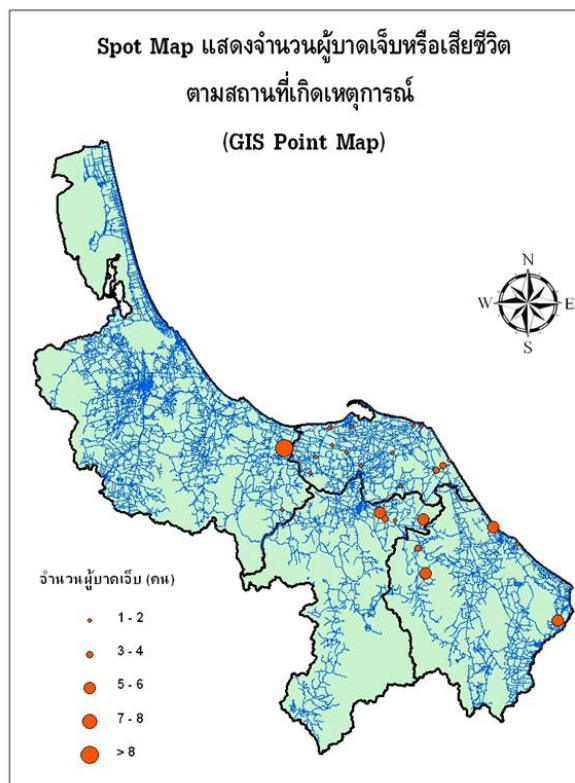
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Source: Deep South Violence-related Injury Surveillance statistics

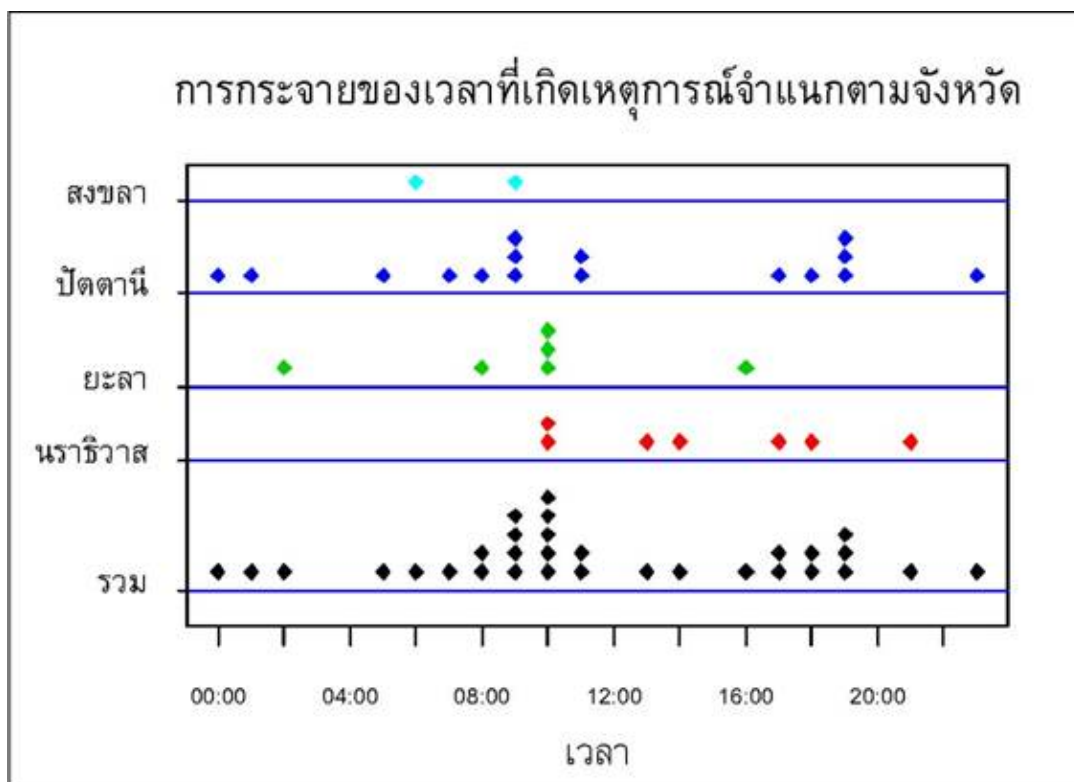
Deep South Violence Statistics – April 2011

June 21, 2011

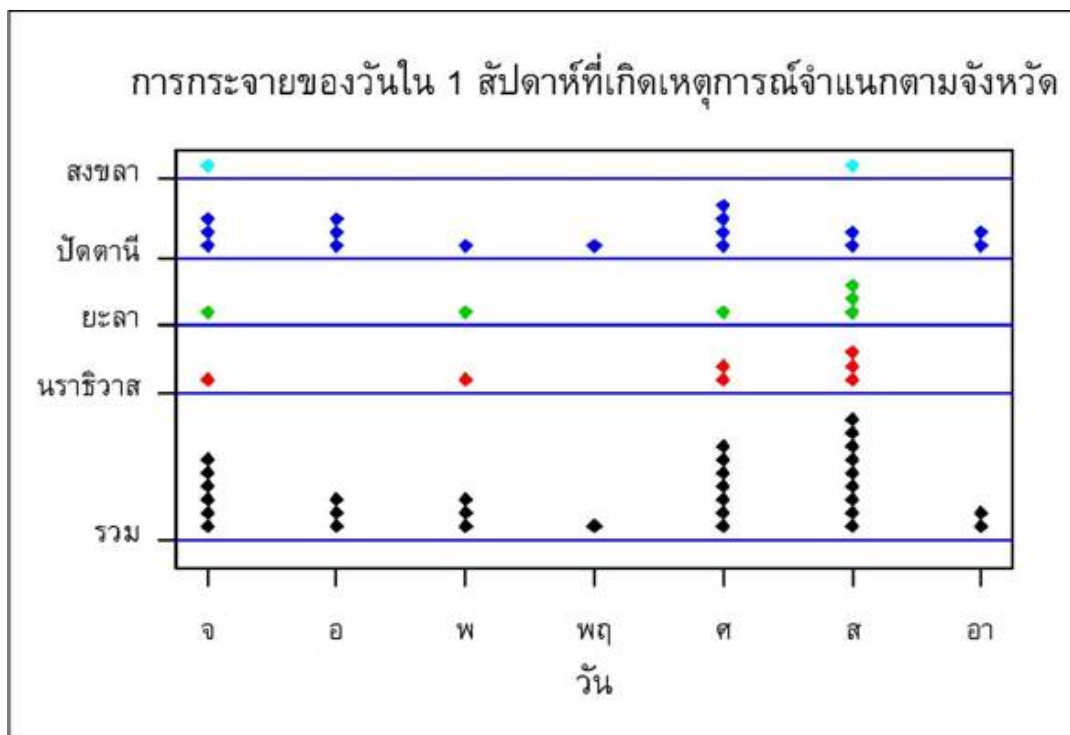
Categories: Deep South Violence Statistics



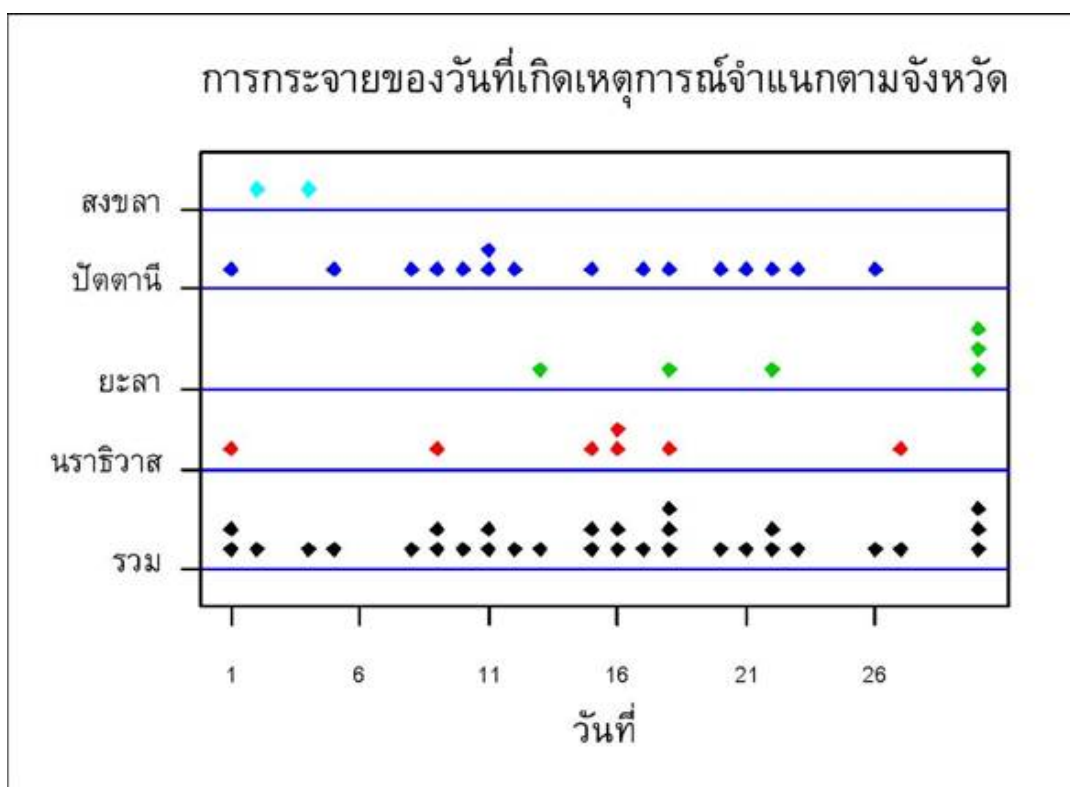
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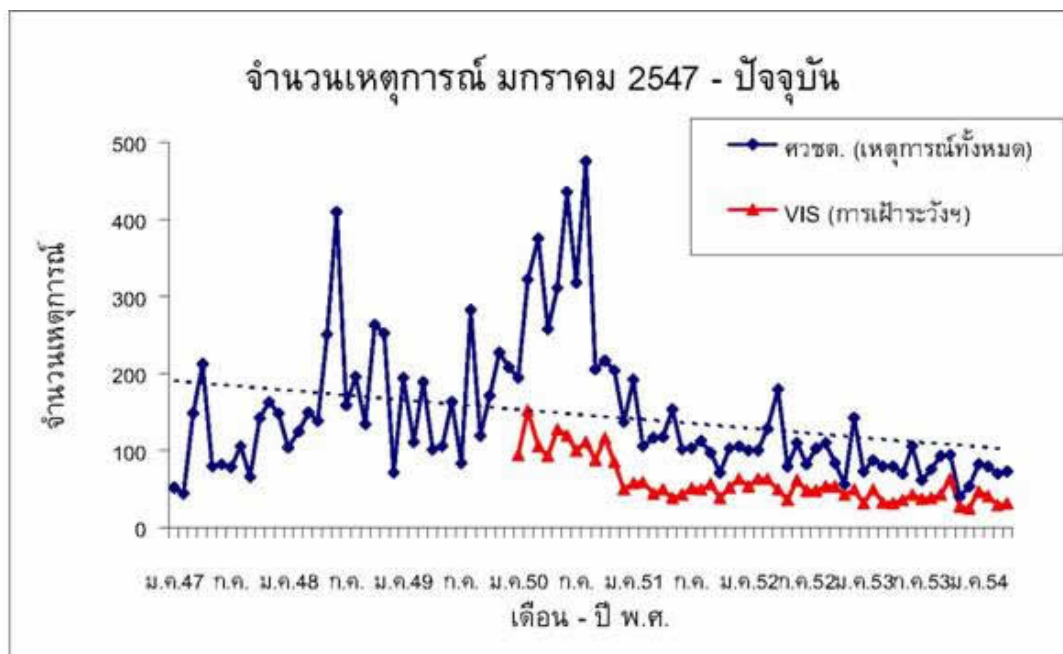
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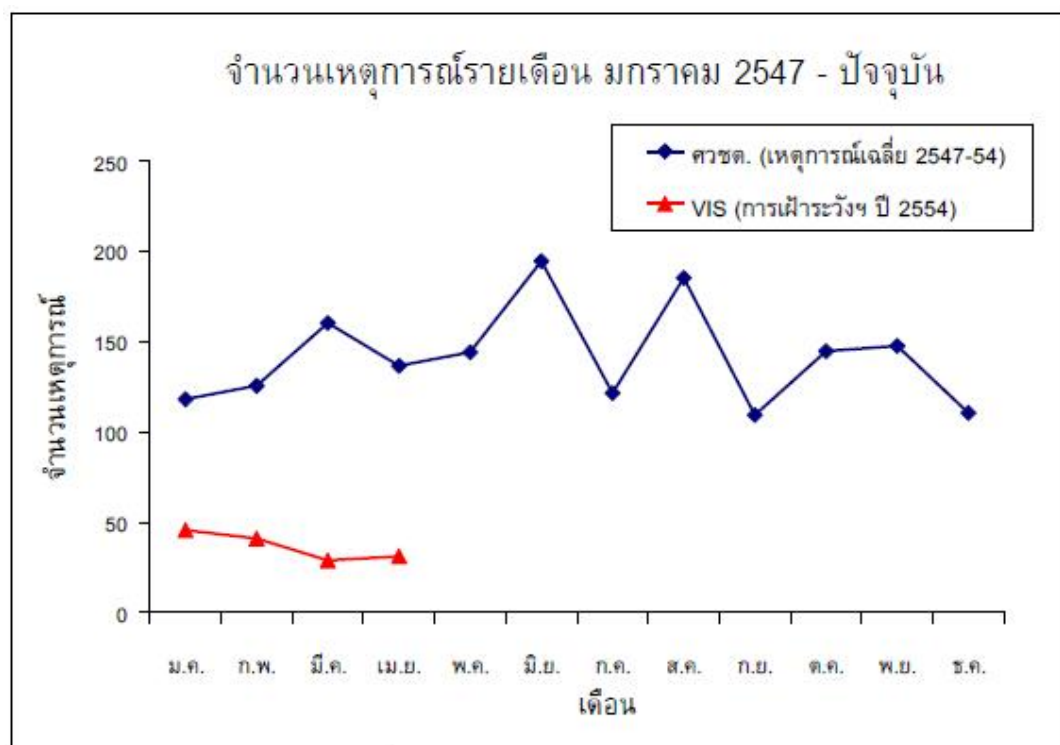
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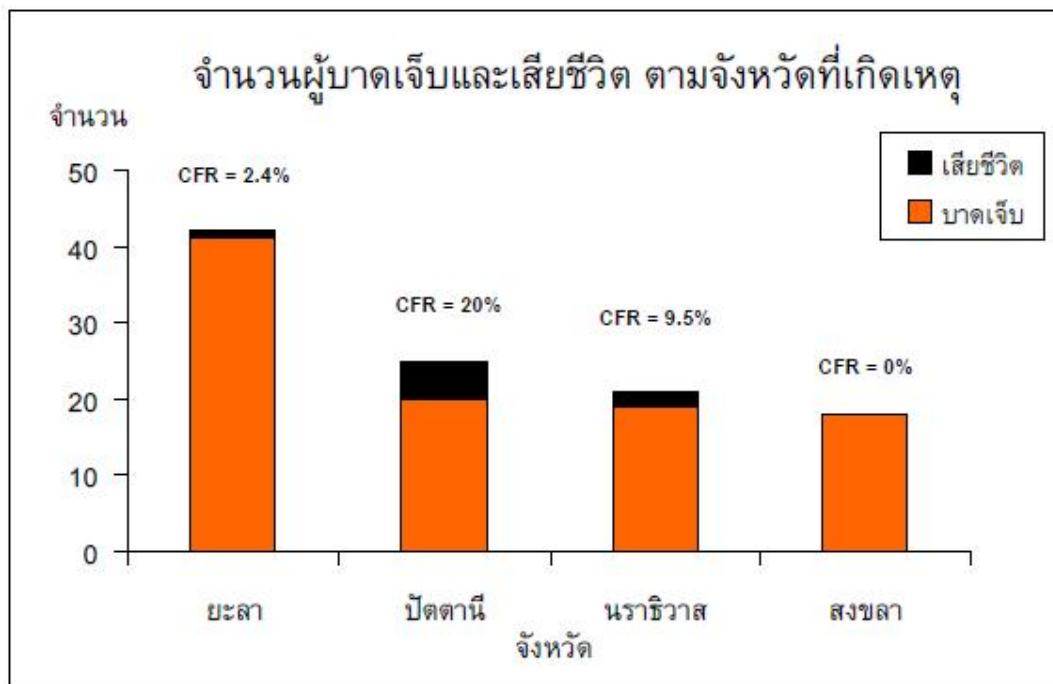
This chart shows violent incidents classified by day of the month (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black



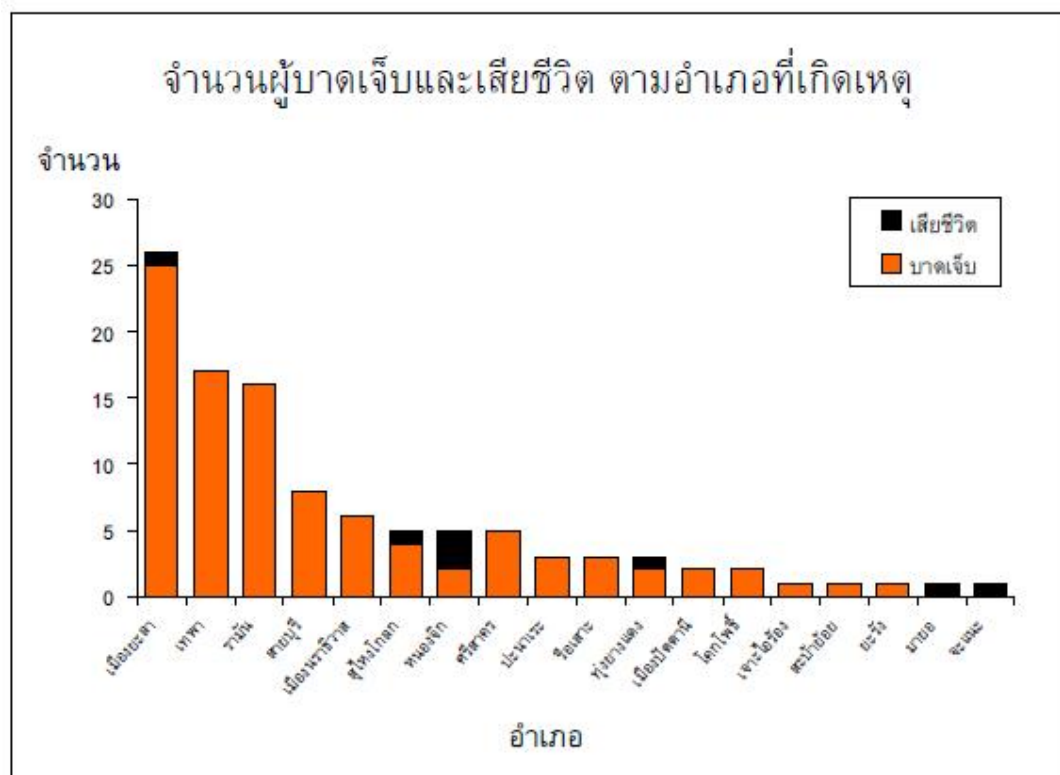
Numbers of violent incidents since January 2004. Across the bottom are the years (2547 is 2004, 2548 is 2005, 2549 is 2006, 2550 is 2007, 2551 is 2008, 2552 is 2009, 2553 is 2010, 2554 is 2011). The blue line shows the number of all violent incidents that took place as reported by the Deep South Coordination 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).



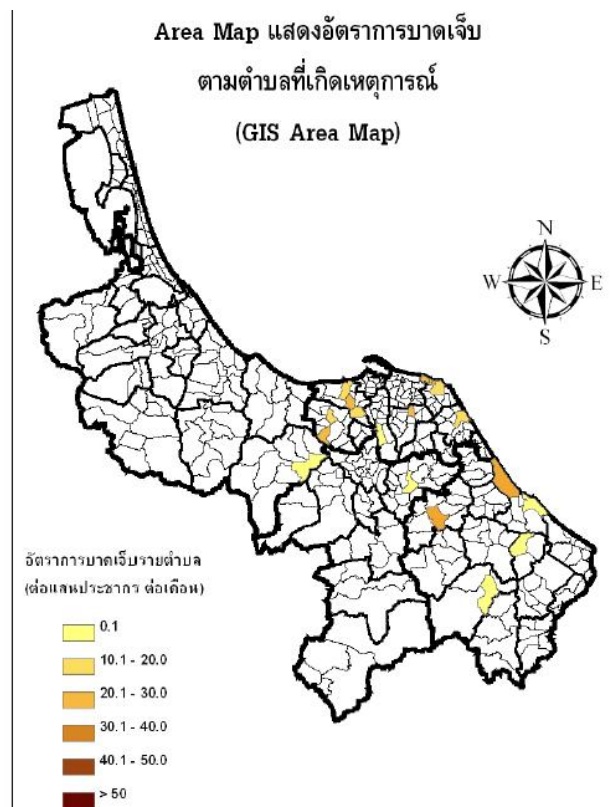
The blue line shows the average monthly level of violent incidents from 2004 up to the present. The red line shows the information provided to the Violence-related Injury Surveillance in the present year. The y-axis shows the numbers of events from 0-250. The x-axis shows the months of the year from January to December (left to right).



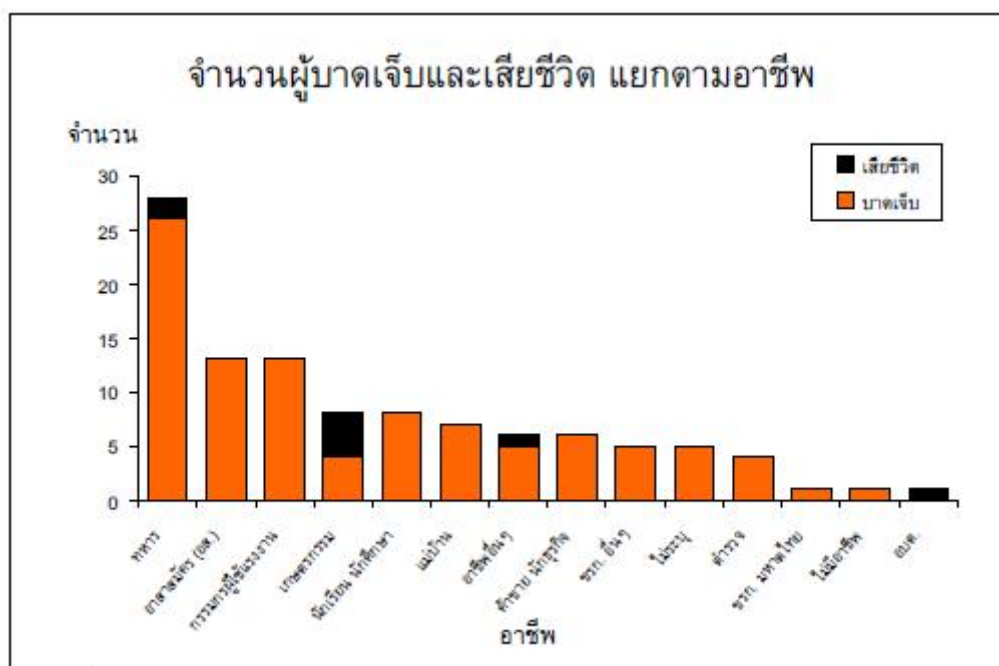
The numbers of injured and dead reported from each province where the events occurred (Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat and Songkhla). Black= dead, orange=injured. The CFR (Case Fatality Rate) of each province is above each bar. The y-axis shows number ranged from 0-50



The toll of dead and injured (y-axis), classified by the districts where the incidents took place (x-axis). Black= dead, red=injured. The district from left to right are: The city of Yala, Thepa, Raman, Saiburi, City of Narathiwat, Sungaikolok, Nongchick, Sisakorn, Panare, Ruesoh, Thungyangdaeng, City of Pattani, Koakpoh, Choaorong-Sabayoi-Yarang-Mayor-Chanae



Map of four provinces in the deep south (Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat) showing the number of injury rate (100,000 population per month) by tambon (village). Starting at light yellow, the levels are 0.1, 10.1-20.0, 20.1-30.0, 30.1-40.0, 40.1-50.0, and greater than 50.



The numbers of dead and injured, classified by the victims' profession. Black= dead, red=injured. From left to right: Soldier, defense guard volunteers, laborers, agriculturists, student college students, housewives, others, businessmen merchants, other officials, unknown, police, interior officials, unemployed, tambon local administration workers.

Source: Deep South Violence-related Injury Surveillance statistics

Making the Capital City Elegant

June 21, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Pheu Thai Party – Pheu Thai for the future of Thailand – Solving the repetition of flooding problems – Making the capital city elegant – Land reclamation for 10 kilometers – Building dams to prevent floods in Bangkok – New cities for reducing town density – Generating 100,000 jobs – Creating public parks and clean sea to promote tourism in Bangkok – No.1 – Please vote both candidate and party

Demand and Pray

June 21, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, June 21, 2011

The title reads: The group of fake speech people

At the bottom of the left frame: At that time

At left the Red Shirts yell: Dissolve parliament and return the power to the people.

At the bottom of the right frame: At present

At right the Red Shirts pray: Oh deity, please help us to enter parliament.

The Election Commission Prays

June 21, 2011

Categories: Analysis, Editorial Cartoons, Elections



From Manager, June 21, 2011

The members of the Election Commission pray: Oh, may there be an earthquake and lava flow in the country that we visit and the plane cannot return from there until after 3rd July.

The caption reads: The tourism group prays for different things than others.

Loyal to the King – Exiled Thai Prime Minister Awaits Chance to Return

June 21, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Loyal to the King – Exiled Thai Prime Minister Awaits Chance to Return](#) – www.spiegel.de, June 20, 2011

\$526k lost to monk scam in Malaysia

June 21, 2011

Categories: Malaysia, Scams

[\\$526k lost to monk scam in Malaysia](#) – Petaling Jaya/The Star, ANN, June 21, 2011

...The victims said the bogus monk informed them that the money would be paid to the “super monks” for their prayers and predictions of lucky numbers.

“These victims usually realise they have been cheated when the predicted lucky numbers they have paid for did not win,” Chong said...

Trial for Americans murdered 30 years ago convenes in Cambodia

June 21, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Trial for Americans murdered 30 years ago convenes in Cambodia](#) – theepochtimes.com, June 20, 2011

...The possible dismissal of Case 003 has outraged tribunal watchers. “As long as Hun Sen maintains influence over this court and protects high-level Cambodian government officials from investigators, we will never have any real justice,” says Don Bittner, a cousin of murdered American yachtsman Lance McNamara...

On the forum: YouTube Videos of Red Shirt Threats

June 21, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

On the forum: [YouTube Videos of Red Shirt Threats](#)

The Failed State Index 2011

June 21, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[The Failed State Index 2011](#) – FP, June 21, 2011

[The list of countries](#) – Thailand is #79.

Bangkok's Lucrative Hangover: Sex, Drugs and Popular Sequels

June 21, 2011

Categories: Film and TV

[Bangkok's Lucrative Hangover: Sex, Drugs and Popular Sequels](#) – Time, June 21, 2011

...While brainless foreign movies get the prime-ministerial seal of approval, Thai filmmakers receive scant government attention — except from prudish censors. In his 2006 film *Syndromes and a Century*, Thai director Apichatpong Weerasethakul showed monks playing a guitar and with a radio-controlled toy. The censors told him to cut these scenes. Apichatpong balked, and it was two years before a heavily edited version of the movie was released in Thailand...

Pheu Thai: Frank speech – Touching the people – Mindfully perform the task

June 22, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Pheu Thai Party – Pheu Thai for the future of Thailand – Frank speech – Touching the people – Mindfully perform the task – Serving the people – M.L. Nattapol Devakula – No. 1 – Zone 2 Pathumwan Bangrak Sathorn

Suppress Corruption

June 22, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Vote wherever you reside – Prachasanti Party – Suppress corruption – Please vote partylist MP candidate No. 33 Dr. Tuptimsiam Sanguandetkul

New Generation for No. 14

June 22, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: New generation – Insightful vision – Positive thinking – Second partylist candidate No. 14 – Suvipa Khunkitti – 3rd July 2011 at 8.00-15.00 hrs.

Please Modify Your Representative

June 22, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: Tony)

The sign reads: New Aspiration Party – The path of Thailand – Adminstrating education – Developing areas – Create good quality to be the dignity of Ratchaburana and Thingkru residents to reach excellence – The MP candidate of New Aspiration Party No. 34 – The election constituency 26 (Ratchburana-Thungkru) – “Ratchburana-Thungkru still faces problems that need to be solved – You do not have to worry – I have the way out, choose the good man to serve – Sunday 3rd July 2011 8.00-15.00 hrs.

Thinner Adam Freeman checks into the 'Bangkok Hilton'

June 22, 2011

Categories: Crime

[Thinner Adam Freeman checks into the 'Bangkok Hilton'](#) – Daily Telegraph, June 22, 2011

...It is understood NSW police were negotiating with Freeman for him to return on his own, away from the glare of publicity but Freeman rejected the offer and decided to stay in Thailand...

2% or 30% Undecided?

June 22, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

Suan Dusit poll as [reported by the Bangkok Post](#): ...102,994 eligible voters in all 375 constituencies throughout the country between June 4-18
...Only 2.38 per cent said they were still undecided...

ABAC poll [as reported by The Nation](#): Some 10 million voters, accounting for 30 per cent of those planned to cast ballots, remain undecided for the July 3 vote, Abac Poll said in a survey released on Wednesday. The nationwide survey was conducted on a sample group of 5,349 respondents in 28 selected provinces to gauge the sentiment on party-list candidates between June 1 and June 21 ...

Myanmar: Fashion's defiant turn

June 22, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Fashion's defiant turn](#) – LA Times, June 22, 2011

...”Decadent alien culture such as scanty dresses is unacceptable,” the New Light of Myanmar newspaper, a regime mouthpiece, lectured recently. “Appropriate measures need to be taken by one and all to protect our own culture...”

Where healthcare stands in Thailand, elsewhere in Asia

June 22, 2011

Categories: Health

[Where healthcare stands in Thailand, elsewhere in Asia](#) – www.themalaysianinsider.com, June 22, 2011

...But critics say the benefits are unequally distributed. Some 65 billion Thai baht are spent each year taking care of five million civil servants, while 48 million Thais under the universal coverage plan spend a combined 89 billion Thai baht.

Hospitals also prefer taking care of civil servants because of the guarantees of high levels of reimbursement, critics say, adding that such an unequal system results in widely differing standards of care.

Problems also include an exodus of best doctors to private hospitals which cater exclusively to foreigners, rich locals with private insurance and civil servants...

Thai Election Aftermath May Test Economic Resilience That Lured Dow, Ford

June 22, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thai Election Aftermath May Test Economic Resilience That Lured Dow, Ford](#) – Bloomberg, June 22, 2011

The economic resilience that saw companies from Ford Motor Co. (F) to Dow Chemical Co. (DOW) invest in Thailand even amid its worst political violence in two decades may be tested next month as polls indicate a win for the party removed from power twice in the past five years...

Populist Policy Makes Happy Society

June 23, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Good life – Having jobs – Budget for employment of 1 million positions – If you like, just click like to vote for us – No. 16 – Bhumjaithai Party – Populist policy makes happy society – We do what we promise – Dare to make it for Thais

Chart Pattana Pua Pandin Party in Nakorn Sawan

June 23, 2011

Categories: Elections



The sign reads: On 3 July 2011 between 8 am and 3 pm – The spirit of winners and losers in the game and forgiveness will the power of the nation – The Chart Pattana Pua Pandin Party – Please vote – Dr. Pinyo Niroat – As the MP of Nakorn Sawan province, Zone 1 – Cross the number 2

Red and Blue Buffaloes

June 23, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: It is hard to choose because they are both wise – Vote No -3 July – Enter the election booth and cross the no vote box

Chuwit will change the diapers of politics

June 23, 2011

Categories: Chuwit Kamolvisit, Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Vote Chuwit No. 5 – Politics is like a diaper–the more you change, the better – Rak Prathed Thai Party – Party list – Every province nationwide

Insurance for Posters

June 23, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, June 23, 2011

Left: Are you interested in buying insurance?

Are you a sales representative? How many types do you have?

Middle: Life insurance, health insurance, accident, fire, everything except one thing.

What?

Right: No guarantee for the election sign.

“I will work for the people, but will not work for any specific man”

June 23, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The signs, left to right:

“I will work for the people, but will not work for any specific man” – Spirit of democracy – Vote no. 10 for both ballots 10

“I will work for the people, but will not work for any specific man” – Listens and accessible for the people – Vote no. 10 for both ballots 10

“I will work for the people, but will not work for any specific man” – welcome on the world stage – Vote no. 10 for both ballots 10

“I will work for the people, but will not work for any specific man – Devoted – Patient to step over crisis – Vote no. 10 for both ballots 10

Democrat Promises in Nakorn Sawan

June 23, 2011

Categories: Elections



The sign reads: Move on the populist policy – Increase the minimum labor wage by 25 percent within 2 years – Increase the special drug control officers by 2,500 to fight drug addiction – Increase the low interest loan budget for undergraduate students by the amount of 250,000 baht per person per year – Increase benefit from the farmers' income guaranteeing project by 25% – Democrat Party

Abhisit warns against amnesty for the 91 protester deaths

June 23, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Amnesty and the 91 deaths – PM Abhisit Vejjajiva writes his latest open letter in his Facebook on Thursday](#)

– The Nation, June 13, 2011

...They should be asking Mrs. Yingluck Shinawatra and the Pheu Thai Party the question: What would their amnesty mean for the 91 deaths? Would those 91 deaths simply be glossed over in return for amnesty for politicians and the return of Baht 46 billion? ...

Cambodians shoved aside as foreign firms cash in on gold rush

June 24, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodians shoved aside as foreign firms cash in on gold rush](#) – www.interaksyon.com, June 23, 2011

...The illegal O'Clor mine is located in Prey Meas, which translates as the "Gold Forest", and is a treacherous five-hour drive from the province's main town of Sen Monorom.

Stripped of its vegetation to make way for a large pit, the mining village's brown, barren landscape is dotted with wooden shacks, piles of litter and shallow pools — a sharp contrast to the green and hilly surroundings...

Born today and having a million within 20 years

June 24, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Chart Pattana Pua Pandin Party – Happiness multiplied by 2 – Born today and having a million within 20 years – please vote 2

Vote Working Man Suwit

June 24, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Kitsangkom Party – Vote experience – Vote working man Suwit – Vote Kitsangkom Party – Please vote for both the person and party number 14 – Deputy PM for 6 terms – Minister of 7 ministries for 11 terms

The Chart Thai Pattana for the development of Thailand

June 24, 2011

Categories: Elections



The sign reads: The Chart Thai Pattana for the development of Thailand – Politics without conflicts – Somchai Ting Mitsu Chareonchaikit – MP Nakorn Sawan candidate Zone 2 – 21 X – 3rd July 2011 at 8 am-3 pm

Vote Big Hoy

June 24, 2011

Categories: Elections



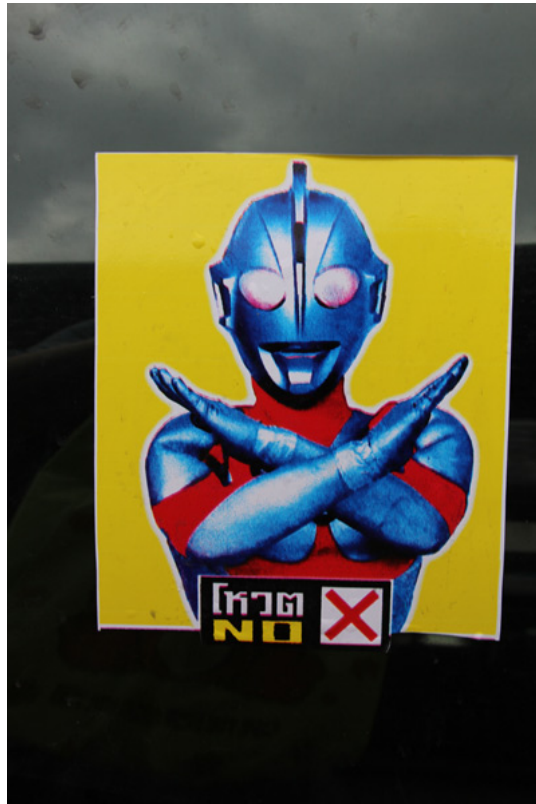
(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Palung Kon Keela Party No. 36 – I ask to be Sports Minister – Vote Big Hoy, party leader of the Palung Kon Keela Party

Ultraman No!

June 24, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Can sacred Thai traditions be made modern?

June 24, 2011

Categories: Local Beliefs

[Can sacred Thai traditions be made modern?](#) – BBC, June 23, 2011

Thai elections revive drug war controversy

June 24, 2011

Categories: Drugs, Thaksin's War on Drugs, The Thaksin Years

[Thai elections revive drug war controversy](#) – AFP, June 24, 2011

... "I wish I could kill them," food vendor Somporn said of the former prime minister and the policemen he blames for the death of his son, found tied to a tree in a public park in the northeastern town of Kalasin. Pravit Sattawut died seven years ago, aged 21 — killed, rights groups suspect, by the town's police as part of Thaksin's notorious crackdown on drugs, which outraged critics for its alleged extrajudicial murders and abuses...

25 June 2011 :: 10:06:20 am 55423

Thai elections revive drug war controversy

KALASIN, June 24, 2011 (AFP) — Five years after he was toppled from power, the legacy of Thaksin Shinawatra's "War on Drugs" still haunts relatives of the dead who are horrified at the idea of his return.

"I wish I could kill them," food vendor Somporn said of the former prime minister and the policemen he blames for the death of his son, found tied to a tree in a public park in the northeastern town of Kalasin.

Pravit Sattawut died seven years ago, aged 21 — killed, rights groups suspect, by the town's police as part of Thaksin's notorious crackdown on drugs, which outraged critics for its alleged extrajudicial murders and abuses.

The anger of Pravit's father goes against the grain here in the Thai northeast.

This is the heartland of support for Thaksin, a tycoon-turned-premier who now lives in exile but has said he hopes to return to Thailand by the end of the year if his political allies win a July 3 election.

Before a coup deposed him in 2006, Thaksin won over rural hearts with his populist platform. His get-tough approach to tackling the searing trade in drugs, particularly methamphetamines, was also hugely popular.

Now his youngest sister is running to be premier, and widely seen as his political proxy.

Yingluck Shinawatra told AFP in a recent interview that she would "handle the drugs policy with care (for) human rights" — but some fear abuses could resume if her party wins with Thaksin as its de facto leader.

Thailand saw an 88 percent jump in murder cases during the main phase of Thaksin's drugs campaign, from February to April 2003, according to a 2008 report by a Thai special committee on anti-drugs policy.

The report said there were 2,873 murders in the period, 1,370 of them drugs-related.

Benjamin Zawacki, Amnesty International's Thailand researcher, said it was "quite frightening" to think that those behind the drugs war could soon return to the frontline of Thai politics.

"As the same political actors look like they're going to come back to relevance, it becomes more relevant again — not just the last 'War on Drugs' but a future one," he said.

The government at the time said most of the victims were drug dealers shooting each other, but it appeared to condone the deaths and encourage police to take a zero tolerance approach.

"The drug sellers have been ruthless with the Thai people, with our children, so if we are ruthless with them it is not a big deal," Thaksin said as he launched the 2003 campaign, which called on authorities to draw up blacklists of suspects.

Many of the killings took place after those who were blacklisted left police stations where they had gone to turn themselves in or to clarify their status, according to Amnesty.

In Pravit's case, he was arrested in Kalasin town in February 2004 for getting into a fight, then released on bail before returning to the police station the next day to collect his mobile phone, his father Somporn said.

He never saw his son alive again.

"The doctor said he died from suffocation. The next day I opened the coffin and found bruises on his ribs, like someone had beaten him," he said.

Pravit had been jailed before for drugs possession, but had gone through a rehab programme and was a month off being certified clean when he died, according to Somporn. His girlfriend was also two months pregnant.

Today, a large plaque in front of Kalasin's town hall, dated 2002, proudly proclaims a "drugs free province" after an initial hardline campaign in the area, which earned praise from Thaksin and inspired his nationwide approach.

But activists say deaths such as Pravit's led to a legacy of ongoing police brutality and impunity, with just a handful of Thai police prosecuted in connection with the country's drugs war.

"The systematic cover up by high-ranking police officers at all levels has allowed abusive officers to remain in power and continue to terrorise the public," said Sunai Phasuk, a Thai analyst with Human Rights Watch.

Rights groups recognise at least 27 such cases in Kalasin that implicate police during Thaksin's premiership, and Sunai said there could be many more that have not come to light because of "ingrained impunity".

Only one of these cases has reached court: Six policemen have been charged with the premeditated murder of a 17-year-old found hanging in July 2004 several days after his arrest for stealing a motorbike.

His aunt Pikul Phromchan, an activist seeking justice in the Kalasin deaths, lives in fear for her life under witness protection while the case drags on — the hearing was recently delayed until December.

"I fight as best as I can but I don't have much hope in the justice system," she said.

Also: [How many died in the drug purges? 2275, 2245, 1329, or 72?](#)

Yingluck Shinawatra, party list MP candidate

June 25, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Pheu Thai Party – Pheu Thai for the future of Thailand – Yingluck Shinawatra, party list MP candidate – Ready to serve people – Number 1 – Please vote both the person and party list

Behind the sign is one for Purachai: End the national crisis – Stop dividing into colors – Vote a good man to be PM – Purachai Piensomboon No. 12 – Rak Santi Party

Big Smile

June 25, 2011

Categories: Elections



The sign reads: On 3rd July from 8am-3 pm – Songsak Songsermudomchai (Pae Yim) – Please vote number 16 – To be MP of Nakorn Sawan zone 2 – The Bhumjaithai Party

Ryan Gosling Joining Nicolas Winding Refn's 'Only God Forgives'

June 25, 2011

Categories: Film and TV

[Ryan Gosling Joining Nicolas Winding Refn's 'Only God Forgives'](#) – www.slashfilm.com, June 23, 2011

The spirit of winners and losers in the game

June 25, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Chart Pattana Pua Pandin – Please vote Mag Apirak Areemit and the Chart Pattana Pua Pandin Party – Zone 9 Chatuchak – Number 2 – 3 July 2011 please exercise your vote right – Vote number 2 for both ballot cards – The spirit of winners and losers in the game and forgiveness will the power of the nation

Chart Thai Pattana Party discounts car prices by 100,000 baht

June 25, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Pradit Pataraprasit, Party List MP candidate – Please vote number 21, Chart Thai Pattana Party – Everyone has their own home and car – The first car price will be discounted by 100,000 baht

Sports Boom

June 26, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Chart Pattana Pua Pandin – Sports Boom -1 district, 1 sport center – The happiness multiplies by 2 policy – please vote No. 2

Do you like riding on buses?

June 26, 2011

Categories: Buses

Do you like riding on buses? Some people do! [Criss-crossing Bangkok on buses](#)

Land of the Lost

June 26, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Land of the Lost](#) – Time, July 4, 2011

Sonthi Boonyaratglin must have armor-plated gonads...

[Lucky Yingluck](#) – The Economist, June 23, 2011

...In contrast to the smiley-feely Ms Yingluck, Mr Abhisit and his deputy and finance minister, Korn Chatikavanij, are both Oxford-educated technocrats, less polished at working a crowd. Mr Abhisit has looked less stiff on the stump than in past elections, though it doesn't come naturally. One recent afternoon, he walked the length of a market in Bangkok, shaking hands, posing for photos with vendors and residents, a yellow garland draped around his powder-blue shirt and windbreaker. Supporters foisted gifts on him; cakes, flowers and the odd baby. He smiled—but it might as well have been a wince. Arriving at a community centre where former drug addicts had gathered on plastic chairs, he launched into a detailed analysis of why Mr Thaksin's hardline policies against dealers did not work. He lost the audience's attention...

Glory days of Myanmar soccer just not coming back

June 26, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Glory days of Myanmar soccer just not coming back](#) – AFP, June 26, 2011

...In a half-deserted Yangon stadium recently, a handful of Manaw Myay FC fans — almost outnumbered by armed police — could barely contain their anger at their club's poor performance.

“Mothers go home!” one fan shouted at his team as they trudged off the pitch after the 7-2 thrashing by Naypyidaw FC...

Myanmar: a nation on cusp of change

June 26, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar: a nation on cusp of change](#) – IANS, June 26, 2011

...’Hastening slowly’, as an Indian diplomat put it, Myanmar is on its way to joining the rest of the democratic world...

“Having water, having money”

June 27, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Bhumjaithai – Follows the speech given – “Having water, having money” – Building the water irrigation path to plantation, paddy fields for farmers – Dare to make it for Thais – The Bhumjaithai

No Political Conflict

June 27, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Chart Thai Pattana for Thailand development – No political conflict – Number 21 – Driving economic impulse – Having good quality of life – Chumpon Silapaarcha, Chartthai Pattana Party leader

Thai Wisdom, Foreign Vision

June 27, 2011

Categories: Elections



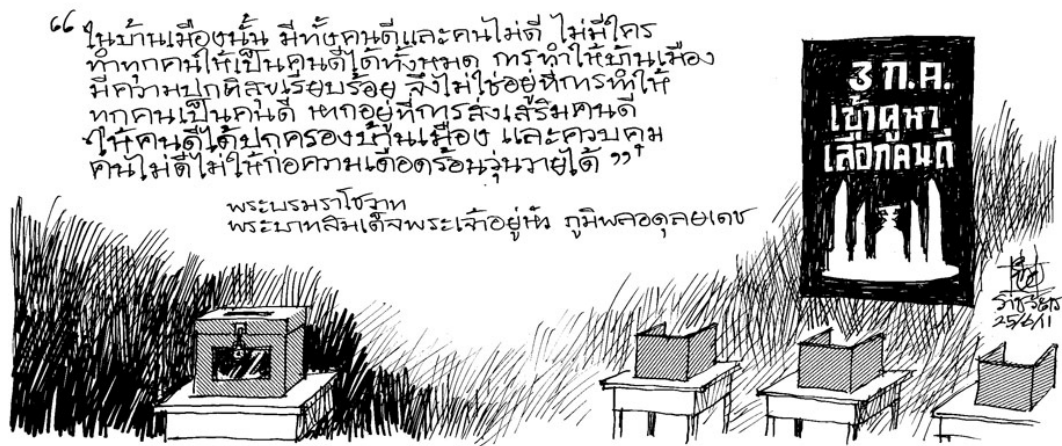
(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Liberal Party – Number 22 – Putthachart Chuayram, Party leader and party list MP candidate – Thai wisdom, foreign vision

Vote for Good People

June 27, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From ThaiRath, June 27, 2011

The cartoon reads: In each country, there are both good and bad people. No one can make all of them good. Having peaceful countries does not depend on making people good, but rather on supporting good people to run the country and preventing bad people from causing problems.

A speech by His Majesty the King Bhumipol

On the poster: On July 3, walk into the election booth and vote for good people

The Pracha Santi Party

June 27, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Pracha Santi Party – The nation returns to peace by respecting the law – Tossapol Banluesin, No. 33 – MP candidate for Bangkok constituency 4 Klongtoey and Wattana – Sunday 3rd July 2011 8.00-15.00 hrs.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Pracha Santi Party – The nation returns to peace by respecting the law – Prawit Pohkrachang no. 33 – MP candidate for Bangkok Constituency 6 Dindaeng Phayathai – Sunday 3rd July 2011 8.00-15.00 hrs.

At heart of Thai election, a fugitive rallies

June 27, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[At heart of Thai election, a fugitive rallies](#) – Reuters, June 27, 2011

... "Be prepared. Good things are about to come," billionaire former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra said from his Dubai mansion in a telephone call to a Buddhist temple where 38 communities declared their allegiance to Thaksin, formally becoming "Red Shirt Villages" in solidarity with the red-shirted movement that backs him.

In a sign of his support, the number of "Red Shirt Villages" has doubled to more than 700 in two northeastern provinces since a Reuters report uncovered the phenomenon on June 7...

Human Rights Organizations urge Thai Government to criminalize torture as a crime

June 27, 2011

Categories: Human Rights

[Human Rights Organizations urge Thai Government to criminalize torture as a crime](#) – humanrights.asia,

June 27, 2011

...As the state party, Thailand has the obligation to prevent and punish act of torture. However, Thailand has not implemented its obligation to any measures, whether legislative, executive or judicial in order to prevent acts of torture, to protect witnesses, to remedy victims of torture, and most of all, measure to punish offenders...

Thai PM warns against ‘instability’ and ‘more conflict’

June 27, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thai PM warns against ‘instability’ and ‘more conflict’](#) – BBC, June 27, 2011

In the middle of a hard-fought election campaign Thailand’s Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva says that any attempt by the opposition Pheu Thai party to bring back Thaksin Shinawatra ‘will bring more instability’...

Building the Dustless Road

June 28, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The billboard reads: Bhumjaithai – Making promises and following up by taking action – Building the dustless road – Nationwide – Dare to create for Thais – Bhumjaithai



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: A typical dusty road in Roi Et

End color divisions

June 28, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Chart Pattana Pua Pandin – One vote from you – End poles – End color divisions – Harmony with Thai fellows – 2 – Turning faces to see each others to create for Thailand – 3rd July 2011 please exercise your right – Cross No.2 both ballots

Myanmar tilts towards civil war

June 28, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar tilts towards civil war](#) – atimes.com, June 29, 2011

Which companies may win or lose from the Thai election?

June 28, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Which companies may win or lose from the Thai election?](#) – Reuters, June 28, 2011

...After the collapse of a tender for new 3G bandwidth amid regulatory wrangling, True signed deals with CAT Telecom that extended its concession by 15 years and enabled it to be the first to launch nationwide 3G services on an existing network.

The government's Office of Auditor-General and National Anti-Corruption Commission is probing the True-CAT deal and some analysts think True will suffer if Pheu Thai wins.

True is part of unlisted food conglomerate Charoen Pokphand Group, which is among big donors to the Democrat Party...

People Must Respect the Law

June 29, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: No 33 – The Pracha Santi Party – Please vote the constituency MP and party list candidate – Seree Suwanpanon, party leader – the country is in peace, must respect the law – www.civil-peaceparty.com

Increasing Income

June 29, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Chart Thai Pattana Party- No. 21- Chumpon Silapaarcha party leader – Creating reconciliation – Building economy – Increasing income – Making a better quality of life

The Rak Santi Party – No bias – Impartial

June 29, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Rak Santi Party – No bias – Impartial – No.12 – Cross two places on the ballot – Prof. Pol. Col. Purachai Piemsomboon]

The Prachasanti Party

June 29, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Prachasanti Party – Thanchai Roongjiraroj (Hia Kuang) No. 33 – MP candidate of Zone 2 Pathumwan Bangrak Sathorn

Getting Older With Pheu Thai

June 29, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Yingluck Shinawatra – The Pheu Thai pension for the elderly

Age 60-69 years old – 600 baht/month

Age 70-79 years old – 700 baht/month

Age 80-89 years old – 800 baht/month

Age 90 years old and over – 1,000 baht/month

Pheu Thai Party – No. 1 – Please vote both person and party

Thailand's Fickle Democracy

June 29, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thailand's Fickle Democracy](#) – NYT, June 28, 2011

...Yet this election is about Thailand's repeated failure to agree on what constitutes democracy and on how democracy fits with the older institutions — the monarchy, the military and the centralized bureaucracy...

Thai Polls Outcome May Spike Rice Price

June 29, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thai Polls Outcome May Spike Rice Price](#) – Bernama, June 28, 2011

...Yingluck Shinawatra, who is leading the favoured party and expected to be named as the first woman Prime Minister in Thailand, plans to restore a policy introduced by her elder brother, former Thailand Prime Minister, Thaksin Shinawatra, to buy unmilled rice at 15,000 baht (RM1,500) per metric tonne, twice higher than the current price...

Google Transparency Report

June 29, 2011

Categories: Censorship

Google Transparency Report – June 30, 2011

[Main page](#) – [Thailand page](#) – [Overview from Arstechnica](#)

We received a request from the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology in Thailand to remove 43 pieces of content because they were mocking or criticizing the king in violation of Thai lèse-majesté laws. We restricted Thai users from accessing these videos...

In Thailand, money can buy anything, including a vote

June 29, 2011

Categories: Elections

[In Thailand, money can buy anything, including a vote](#) – Reuters, June 29, 2011

...”Canvassers sell (candidate) lottery tickets to voters and offer them a big reward if their candidates win in the election,” he said, adding that election fraud was ingrained...

Thai “ladyboy” pictures confuse election officials

June 29, 2011

Categories: Elections

[Thai “ladyboy” pictures confuse election officials](#) – Reuters, June 29, 2011

...”The picture may show a woman but it says ‘mister’ on the card. Or the picture may show a teenage boy and the person now looks like a woman...”

Former clients of Somchai Neelaphaijit counter-charged for allegedly making false statements when they raised the issue of being tortured

June 29, 2011

Categories: Human Rights, The Thai Deep South

[Former clients of Somchai Neelaphaijit counter-charged for allegedly making false statements when they raised the issue of being tortured](#) – www.humanrights.asia, June 29, 2011

...The Asian Human Rights Commission would like to invite court observers to attend the hearings in this case in order to provide support for victims of torture, whose rights are now further violated by being counter-charged for attempting to secure justice...

Latest Net Meme: The Three Levitating Chinese Government Officials

June 29, 2011

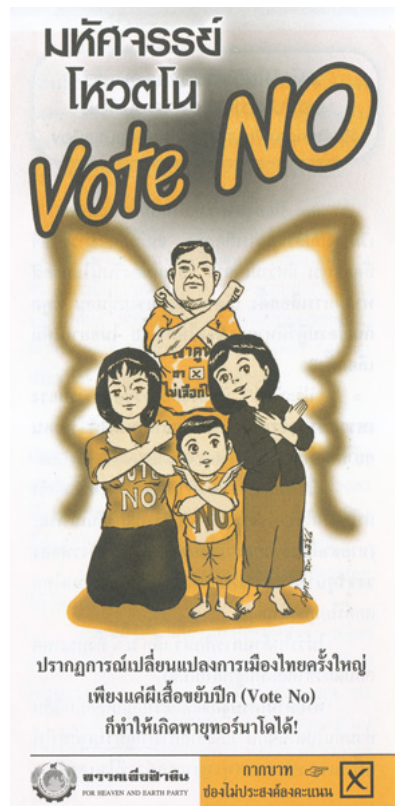
Categories: China

[The Three Levitating Chinese Government Officials](#) – www.zonaeuropa.com, June 26, 2011

Vote No Miracle

June 29, 2011

Categories: Elections



The pamphlet cover reads: Vote No Miracle – The great change phenomenon of Thailand merely moves the butterfly wings (Vote No) leading to the Tornado! – Cross the no vote box

Adjusting the salary of officials to the level of the private sector

June 30, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Chart Pattana Pua Pandin – The policy of happiness multiplied by 2 – Adjusting the salary of officials to the level of the private sector – Please vote 2

Move forward with the populist policy

June 30, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Move forward with the populist policy – The Democrat Party – No. 10 – Onanong Kanchanachusak – Bangkok Zone 2 Pathumwan Bangrak Sathorn – Sunday 3rd July 2011 8.00-15.00 hrs.

Fugitive ex-leader Thaksin dominates Thai election

June 30, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[Fugitive ex-leader Thaksin dominates Thai election](#) – AFP, June 29, 2011

With his vast riches and family ties, fugitive former Thai leader Thaksin Shinawatra may be on the verge of a remarkable comeback, despite being convicted of graft and wanted on terrorism charges.

But if his opposition Pheu Thai Party wins this weekend's election, as polls suggest is likely, the controversial ex-premier will have to savour victory from afar...

The Conspiracy Theory

June 30, 2011

Categories: Elections



The pamphlet reads: The Conspiracy Theory – Recommended for every Thai reader

Thailand's Moment of Truth: A Message for the Nation

June 30, 2011

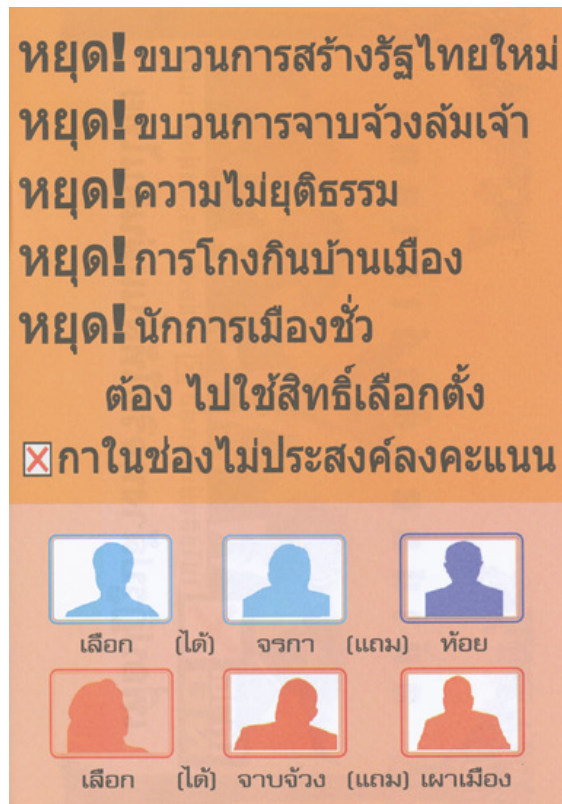
Categories: Thai Politics

[Thailand's Moment of Truth: A Message for the Nation](#) – spreadtheflame.com, June 27, 2011

A PAD pamphlet

June 30, 2011

Categories: Elections



The pamphlet reads:

Stop! the movement to create the New Thai State

Stop! the movement to overthrow the monarchy

Stop! the injustice

Stop! the corruption

Stop! the wicked politicians

Vote... (get) Joraka (plus) Hoy

Vote... (get) lese majeste (plus) city burning

Updated Abhisit Poster: We will not whitewash a certain person

June 30, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: “I will work for every person, but will not whitewash for a certain person.” – Accepted on the global stage – Vote number 10 on both list

Thailand fights cancer-causing parasitic worms

June 30, 2011

Categories: Food and Drink, Health

[Thailand fights cancer-causing parasitic worms](#) – Reuters, June 30, 2011

...Just one tablet of praziquantel, which is given free, can get rid of the worms but that does not solve the problem as people get infected repeatedly if they continue to eat raw seafood...

No. 6 for a Sports Career!

June 30, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Palung Chon Party No. 6 – Our home, our party – Building the sports society to develop a career

Pheu Thai Instructions on How to Avoid a Spoiled Ballot

June 30, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Watch out for the spoiled ballot – Vote Pheu Thai – Mark X in the box beside the word Pheu Thai Party on the party list MP vote ballot (the green card) – Pheu Thai Party – No.1 – Please vote both person and party

Kitsangkom Party – No blood taking and non-violence

June 30, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Kitsangkom Party – Monruedee Soythamma – MP candidate for Dindaeng Phyathai – Step further – No blood taking and non-violence – Vote Kitsangkom – Sunday 3 July 2011 – SAP – Social Action party

Wall of Posters

June 30, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The signs read:

When you need honesty – 5 – Chuwit – Rakprathedthai Party

Vote Chuwit – 5 – Politics is like a diaper – The more you change, the better – Rak Prathed Thai Party

When you need honesty – 5 – Chuwit – Rakprathedthai Party – Party list, every province nationwide

Pheu Thai Party – Pheu Thai for the future of Thailand – Frank speech – Down to earth – Works seriously –

Serving the people – ML. Nattapol Devakula 1 – Zone 2 Pathujmwan Bangrak Sathorn

Cambodia maids barred from ‘abusive’ Kuwait

June 30, 2011

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia maids barred from ‘abusive’ Kuwait](#) – Reuters, June 30, 2011

...Human Rights Watch says domestic workers in Kuwait who try to escape abusive employers face criminal charges for ‘absconding’ and are unable to change jobs without their employer’s permission...

A ‘Thaksinomics’ renaissance in Thailand

June 30, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

[A ‘Thaksinomics’ renaissance in Thailand](#) – Reuters, June 30, 2011

...With inflation already accelerating, and the economy slowing, some economists question whether Thailand is ready for a new round of “Thaksinomics,” as the signature expansionary policies of ousted prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra are known.

But that looks inevitable, regardless of who wins.

“Everyone seems to compete over how much more they can hand out than the other party without looking at the bigger picture — the long-term sustainable growth,” Bank of Thailand Assistant Governor Paiboon Kittisrikangwan told Reuters in an interview...

Fight to become rich

June 30, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Raising a family with punch – Vote number 16 – Fight to become rich – Creating professional sports training – The Bhumjaithai Party – Populist policy leads to social happiness – Do according to whatever said, dare make it for Thais

Dunkley Sentenced, Then Set Free

June 30, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Dunkley Sentenced, Then Set Free](#) – The Irrawaddy, June 30, 2011

...“He was detained for 44 days, therefore he has completed his sentence for physically assaulting a woman, and he paid 100,000 kyat for the charge of violating the Burmese immigration law,” a source said...

Move on with reconciliation

June 30, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Chart Thai Pattana Party – No. 21 – Move on with reconciliation

New Aspiration Party is the victory of the people

June 30, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The New Aspiration Party, the path for Thailand – Reforming democracy is the survival of the nation – Vote no. 34 – “The Politician is the core of ideology” – Chingchai Mongkoltham – New Aspiration Party leader – Vote New Aspiration Party is the victory of the people

Pheu Thai Election Admin Center

June 30, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: Jromerz)

The sign reads: Pheu Thai – The election facilitating center of the Pheu Thai – Election zone 29, Bangkok, Taweewattana district

Bhumajaithai Party for Sports

June 30, 2011

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Thank you for every vote that helps generate income for us – Vote no 16 – “Fight and then become rich” creating the professional sport training center – The Bhumajaithai Party – Populist policy brings social happiness – Do according to what we say, dare to make it for Thais

