

\$3 Million Set for Thai Tomb, Cultural Village Project in Burma

July 1, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[\\$3 Million Set for Thai Tomb, Cultural Village Project in Burma](#) – The Irrawaddy, June 1, 2013

...Since February this year, Thai experts have visited Amarapura Township, Mandalay Division, to excavate a stupa and verify whether it was the historic tomb of former Siamese King Uthumphon.

“According to historical records and our findings, we, both Burmese and Thai experts, can now say the tomb belongs to Uthumphon,” Mickey Heart, who has been granted full authority on the project by the Uthumara Memorial Foundation, a section of the Association of Siamese Architects, told reporters on Saturday...

Jatuporn shuffled to Red Shirt chief to push for amnesty law

July 1, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics

[Jatuporn to be new UDD chairman](#) – Bangkok Post, July 1, 2013

...The UDD would fight for justice for people fighting political cases in the courts by pushing for an amnesty law and fighting for compensation for them from the government. It would also support all of the constitutional amendment bills now in the parliament.

He said the meeting did not raise for discussion the issue of why Mr Jatuporn was not included in the new cabinet lineup, because the cabinet reshuffle was the prime minister's exclusive power. The UDD meeting was scheduled long before the cabinet change, he said...

[Thida to resign to pave way for Jatuporn](#) – The Nation, July 1, 2013

... "Since Jatuporn has lost his hopes of winning a Cabinet seat, everyone wants him to lead the people's democratic army. From now on, the UDD will be more active and hold rallies around the country," Worachai said...

Defending the government water project

July 2, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, July 2, 2013

Cartoon title: Borrow a helper's hands to box

Arrow pointing to man on the left: Prachathipod

On paper in hands of man on the left: The 35 billion baht water management project

On shirt of the man wearing sunglasses: The media

Above the media's head: Left jab, right jab

At leg of the media: K-watom

On the hooded figure's robe: Order to suppress the people; 100 dead bodies

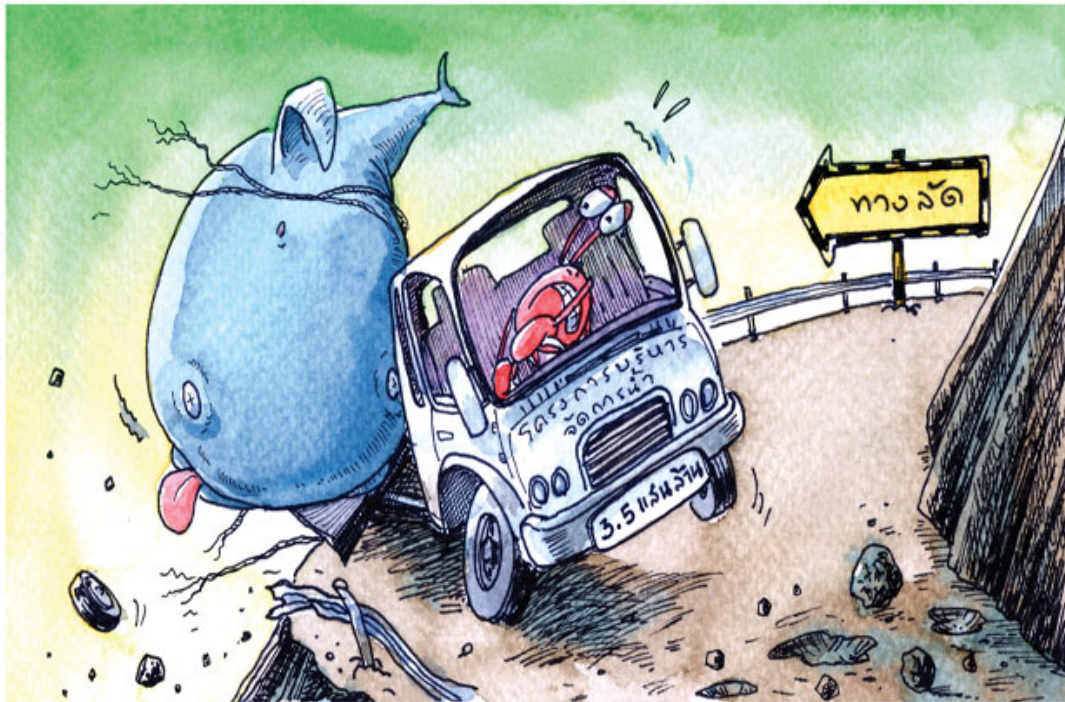
Phi Nooring: Who cons whom?

Mouse: Make up news to destroy the country

The Whale

July 2, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Post Today, July 2, 2013

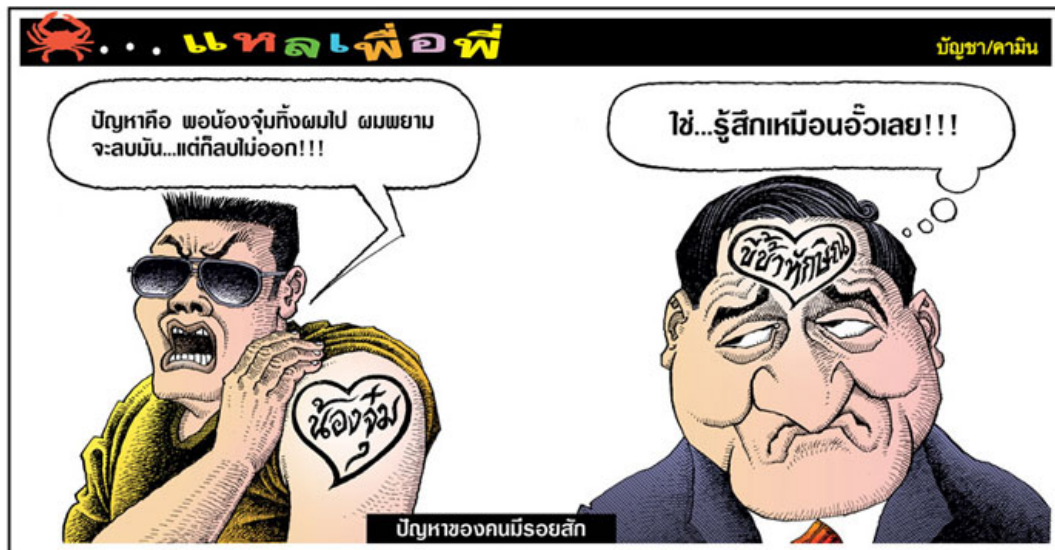
On the front of truck: The 35 billion baht water management project

Road sign: Shortcut

Thaksin's Lackey

July 2, 2013

Categories: Chalerm Yubamrung, Editorial Cartoons - Manager



01/07/56

From Manager, July 1, 2013

Tattoo on arm of man on the left: Nong Joom

Man: The problem is when Nong Joom left me, I've tried to have it erased... but I can't!!!

Right: Tattoo on Chalerm's forehead: Thaksin's lackey

Chalerm: Yes... I feel exactly the same!!!

Caption: The problems of people with tattoos



02/07/56

From Manager, July 2, 2013

Left: She demoted me from deputy prime minister to labor minister.

Left caption: Negative thinking

Right: She promoted from a lackey... to a laborer.

Right caption: Positive thinking

Reverse direction on the rice mortgage

July 3, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, July 3, 2013

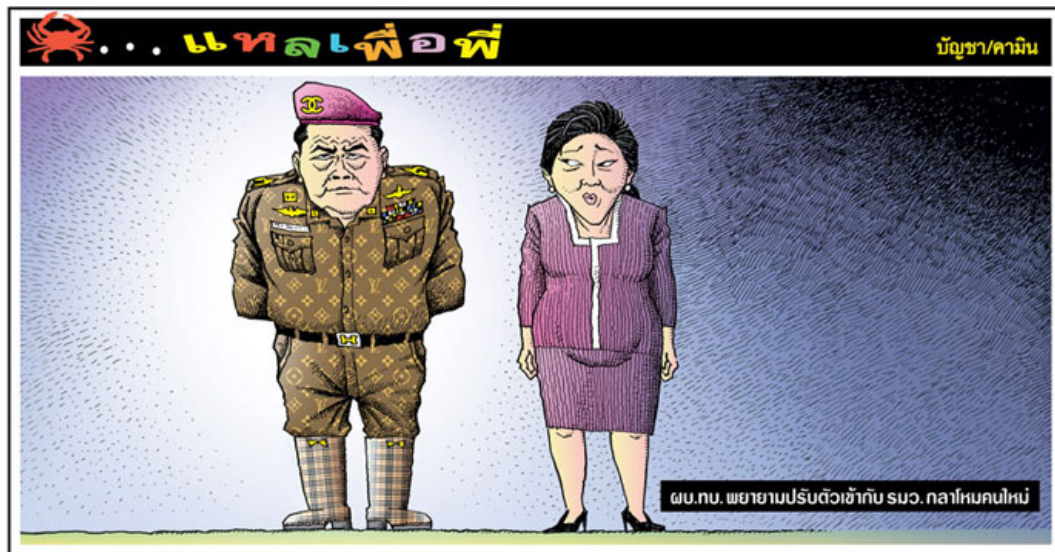
On the dead whale: The 12,000 baht per ton rice mortgage price

Man on the whale: Hey!! Let's help turn it over. The government reverses the order on the 15,000 baht per ton now.

Trying to get along with the new Defense Minister

July 3, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



03/07/56

From Manager, July 3, 2013

Caption: The Army Commander-in-Chief's trying to get along with the new Defense Minister

The first in history

July 3, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, July 3, 2013

Title: First person in history

PM Yingluck Shinawatra: I'm the first female PM who also is the Defense Minister.

Next to her is Army Chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha

Hooded man: I was the first person who ordered the military to kill people two years in a row. I was the first PM who came from the military. I was a first PM who exempted the military.

On the shirt of the hooded man: Ordered to kill people, 100 deaths.

Phi Nooring: Progressive military

A mouse: Not accept the coup d'état

White lie principles

July 4, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, July 4, 2013

Left: Mr. Kittiratt said that to reduce the rice pledging price from 15,000 baht per ton to 12,000 baht per ton is to follow financial principles.

Middle: ...Then why did he change to adhere to the price at 15,000 baht?

Right: To follow the white lie principles.

Furious Chalerm

July 4, 2013

Categories: Chalerm Yubamrung, Thai Politics



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=>



[Chalerm's frustration goes online](#) – Bangkok Post, July 3, 2013

..."He lied to Pol Lt Col Thaksin and Yingluck and I was eventually replaced by Pol Gen Pracha Promnok as deputy prime minister. This was because Thawee told them that I had opened a gambling den..."

Forbes: Thailand's Richest

July 4, 2013

Categories: Business

[Tourism, IPOs Boost Fortunes Of Thailand's Richest](#) – Forbes, July 3, 2013

...Previously listed under Raksriaksorn, Vichai switched his last name when the monarchy bestowed upon him the honorific Srivaddhanaprabha, which means “light of progressive glory.” An apt description given his past year, but many others also are basking in the glow...

[Thailand's Richest Newcomer Is A Retailer Who Made His Fortune In Nation's Poorest Area](#) – Forbes, July 3, 2013

...Siam Global's hangar-size stores, of which he has 23 so far, cater to small contractors and do-it-yourselfers, who are using their increased purchasing power to upgrade their living quarters. Their shopping trips have pushed up sales and generated investor interest. Siam Cement, Thailand's largest conglomerate by market cap, bought a third of Siam Global last year; Witoon pocketed \$190 million. Its shares rose 129% in the past year and are up more than eightfold since its 2009 listing, enough to make him the year's richest newcomer, with a net worth of \$700 million...

Hitler Fried Chicken in Bangkok

July 5, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics

[Fried chicken takeaway called 'Hitler' opens in Thailand and comes complete with logo of Nazi leader in a bow tie](#) – Mail Online, July 5, 2013

Update: [Thai Hitler Chicken story as reported in Daily Mail is from 2011](#)

Update: [Thailand: 'Colonel Hitler' Chicken Shop a Viral Hoax?](#)

Cambodia's Dictatorship: As Hun Sen prepares to consolidate power, pressure grows for US to cut aid

July 5, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[As Cambodia's ruler prepares to consolidate power, pressure grows for US to cut aid](#) – AP, July, 2013

Lawmakers and human rights activists are pushing for a cut in the more than \$70 million in annual U.S. aid to Cambodia if its prime minister, Hun Sen, extends his 28-year rule in unfair elections this month...

Thailand's rice scheme moves past the ridiculous to the absurd

July 5, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand's rice scheme moves past the ridiculous](#) – Reuters, July 5, 2013

...Keep paying 15,000 baht and run the risk of increasing the economic damage, or cut the payment and run the risk of losing political support.

Given the twists and turns of this saga, nothing would surprise me now, but if I had to hazard a guess, I would imagine the government will view political support as its top priority.

Myanmar's tallest man to receive treatment

July 5, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar's tallest man to receive treatment](#) – mmtimes.com, July 4, 2013

Local experts have formed a group to provide medical treatment and holistic healthcare to Myanmar's tallest man, 7'8" Win Zaw Oo...

Jub!

July 6, 2013

Categories: Chalerm Yubamrung, Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, July 6, 2013

Left, Chalerm Ubumrung: Boss, you appointed me deputy prime minister with the police on my side. I supervised my men arresting this and that...

Middle, Chalerm says: ...I enjoyed 'jub' . Then why did you transfer me to the Labor Ministry?

Middle, Thaksin Shinawatra says: I understand that you like to 'jub' ...

Right: ...So I'd like you to have supervising with jub kung .

Raising the quality of farmer's lives

July 6, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, July 6, 2013

Title: Even if it's heavy, I still can carry it...!

Commerce Minister Niwatthamrong wears a shirt that says Commerce

Words on the rice bags: Rice pledging scheme is the quality of farmer's lives.

A hooded man: Overthrow the government, stop the rice pledging scheme

On the shirt of the hooded man: Order to kill people, 100 deaths.

Phi Nooring: Moving forward. Don't stop.

A mouse: Do a good thing for farmers.

Obstructive hands for developing the country

July 7, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, July 7, 2013

Title: Obstructive hands for developing the country

From left:

Hand with a white mask: 100 deaths, oppose everything

Hand with saw: Relieve from job

Hand with a bomb: Wants to overthrow the government

Hand with a time bomb: Independent entities

Hand with a saw: Double standards

Hand with a saw: Justice

Mouse man: Loser's hand

Mouse: Hands of a dictator's supporters

Great profiles of the top three letter writers to the Bangkok Post

July 7, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[We've got mail: 'Postbag' letter men open up](#) – Bangkok post, July 7, 2013

...Readers of this newspaper's "PostBag" will undoubtedly recognise the names of three letter writers who fit this bill: Burin Kantabutra, Eric Bahrt and Dom Dunn.

When he was still in office, Thaksin Shinawatra met Mr Burin at a business function.

When they were introduced, Mr Burin recalls, the former prime minister recognised his name immediately:

"Oh, yes, you're the letter writer..."

Weekly News Magazines, June 28, 2013

July 8, 2013

Categories: Uncategorized



From Nation Weekend, June 28, 2013

Cover reads: Fire in the rain, the person behind the scene



From Matichon Weekly, June 28, 2013

Cover reads: Poo Spring, major 'cabinet' reshuffle to avoid the downturn



From ASTV Manager Weekly, June 29, 2013

Cover reads:

Top: Simple Life Simple Love

Bottom: “Big Too” plays a messenger boy role ordering Channel 5 to censor the world-class con, K Water?

Rohingya detainees in Thailand face dire conditions

July 8, 2013

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Rohingya detainees in Thailand face dire conditions](#) – Gulf Times, July 7, 2013

...Calling them “illegal immigrants,” authorities have put 1,554 Rohingya men in overcrowded immigration detention centres (IDCs). Some 404 women and children are being held in government-run shelters where, according to HRW, reports of trafficking are emerging...

Throw the voice to test the path

July 9, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, July 9, 2013

Cartoon title: "Throw the voice to test the path"

The sign reads: The way back home in style

Above the device: Secret clip

Bad news for those who like to have secret orgies

July 9, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



09/07/56

From Manager July 9, 2013

Caption: Bad news for those who like to have secret orgies

Man on the far right: Hey!!... A clip on us was released!!

Sign outside the window reads: The defense hotel

On bedside table: Chong Cao

Lessons for Cairo From Jakarta, Manila and Elsewhere (Thailand)

July 9, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Lessons for Cairo From Jakarta, Manila and Elsewhere](#) – NYT, July 8, 2013

...Thailand offers a salutary lesson: Even after more than two decades of democratic government the military can intervene when it feels its interests have been threatened. The 2006 military coup took everyone by surprise. Yet just as in Egypt today, there were many liberals who embraced the military-led junta because they felt that the army was turfing out a corrupt government. But the legacy of that intervention is a deep societal divide that has bred violence and proven impossible to reconcile...

Thailand's Full Moon Parties Have Become a Trashy Disgrace

July 9, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand's Full Moon Parties Have Become a Trashy Disgrace](#) – Time, July 8, 2013

...Hippies from across the globe used to quietly gather at this idyllic enclave, drifting in on clouds of marijuana smoke to sit on a beach, strum a battered guitar and simply be. Today, however, the only blue spray you'll see might be the lurid curaçao cocktail expelled from the guts of a retching 20-something. This onetime Eden has degenerated into a modern day Gomorrah awash in tawdry techno, cheap fast food and wasted Millennials...

Thailand's Pen-ek Ratanaruang on Risking It All to Film the Paradoxes of Thai Democracy

July 9, 2013

Categories: Film and TV

[Thailand's Pen-ek Ratanaruang on Risking It All to Film the Paradoxes of Thai Democracy](#) – HR, July 8, 2012

...Paradoxocracy, co-directed with Pen-ek's longtime friend and producer, Pasakorn Pramoolwong, begins with the 1932 Siamese Revolution — which transformed Thailand from an absolute monarchy to a constitutional one — and works its way up to the present day, chronicling the country's major political revolutions, movements, and countless coups along the way. Using a combination of archival footage, voice-overs and interviews with 15 unnamed academics, activists and political leaders, the film presents the directors' personal journey to come to an understanding of how their country arrived at its current state of near-constant political division and dysfunction...

The mouse helps the lion

July 10, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, July 10, 2013

Left: Deputy Defence Minister Yuthasak Sasiprapa: The clip voice was dubbed. I had never talked about the politics or military reshuffle.

Middle: Deputy Defence Minister Yuthasak: We just talked about a fable. Then, people made it become the news.

A man: What's the name of the fable, Sir?

Right: Deputy Defence Minister Yuthasak Sasiprapa: The mouse helps the lion.

To use the old mouse, a lion has to wait longer

July 10, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



10/07/56

From Manager July 10, 2013

A mouse: I don't have any power to cut this rope. I need to go back and eat 2-3 Cordyceps Sinensis first.

Caption: To use the old mouse, a lion has to wait longer.

Remembering the Thaksin Years: Cold-hearted parents

July 10, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia, The Thaksin Years



January 16, 2003

Caption: How many now?... Cold-hearted parents

Squar, the first exclusively Myanmar language social media website, has launched this week

July 10, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar's first home-grown social media site launches](#) – bnionline.net, July 9, 2013

...Myanmar currently has an internet penetration rate of about 1.5 percent of it's total population of 60 million, according to World Bank figures. That number is expected to sky rocket over the next couple of years following the decision to invite two foreign telecoms partners, Ooredoo and Telenor, into Myanmar on the 27th of June...

Cambodian Authorities Say They'll Arrest Sam Rainsy If He Returns

July 10, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodian Authorities Say They'll Arrest Sam Rainsy If He Returns](#) – RFA, July 8, 2013

...

Sam Rainsy fled to France in 2009 after being convicted of various offenses the opposition leader says were politically motivated and for which he had been ordered to serve a total of 11 years in prison.

"Sam Rainsy left the country of his own volition to avoid conviction," Kiet Chantharith told RFA's Khmer Service...

Cambodia's sugar rush leaves farmers feeling bitter at 'land grab'

July 10, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia's sugar rush leaves farmers feeling bitter at 'land grab'](#) – Guardian, July 9, 2013

...Standing by a rickety wooden fence that separates her clapboard home from the field in front of us, Yoen Sarin, 29, waves her hand in an arc. "My land extended from there to just over there." She narrows her eyes. "The company tried to bulldoze their way closer but I built this fence, and even though they've already knocked it down twice, I'm not moving. I keep rebuilding it."

Yoen Sarin is just one of thousands of Cambodian farmers who claim they are losing their land and livelihoods to big sugar plantations, some of which are directly supplying the EU through companies such as Tate & Lyle Sugars...

Xinhua: Thaksin's plan to return to Thailand suffers setback

July 11, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics

[News Analysis: Thaksin's plan to return to Thailand suffers setback](#) – Xinhua, July 10, 2013

...Some pro-government legislators said that it could take two or three years before Thaksin could eventually come home. Most of them, however, are almost sure that Thaksin will return. "No matter if the content in the voice clip is proven as authentic or fake, many people have already lent an ear to it," one legislator said...

How Aids care went ‘a dumping ground for the dying’ to offering all-inclusive home-based care

July 11, 2013

Categories: HIV-AIDS

[HIV in Thailand: how we moved our Aids care into the community](#) – Guardian, July 10, 2013

For over 10 years, the Human Development Foundation – Mercy Centre’s Aids hospice was the first, largest and only free Aids hospice in Bangkok, Thailand. At first, Mercy was known as a dumping ground for dying people. Then we changed our general policy and, apart from the truly indigent, only accepted patients with their relatives’ involvement. Over the years as the treatments improved, our hospice became a place of hope for the future where people could recover and go back to the community and their family...

Thai rice will become really rotten because of those blabbermouths

July 12, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath July 12, 2013

Title: Thai rice will become really rotten because of those blabbermouths

PM Yingluck is carrying rice bag printed 'love farmer.'

On the man with glasses: Media

On his saliva: Spreading the news

On the hooded man's robes: Order to kill people, 100 deaths

On his saliva: Thai rice

On the back of the man on the left: Destroy the Thai rice market to overthrow the government

On his saliva: contains toxic chemicals

A man on the right: Slander

Phi Nooring: Real destroyers of the country

Mouse: Destroy Thai rice and destroy the country.

Fall into rice bucket

July 12, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai

● ข้าวไทยมีหลายขนาด...



▲ ข้าวเหนียวคั่วคั่วเพราะ
หยาบไม่ออกบรรจุ
กระสอบ!



▲ ข้าวหอมคนกลางคน
คนบรรจุทั้งร้องรับ
เพราะทั้งนี้ทั้งนั้น!



▲ ข้าวส่งออกจบลง
ด้วยพระยากระป๋อง
ในตลาดโลก!

From Thairath, June 20, 2013

Cartoon title: Thai rice in various sizes

Left: The rice is rotten in warehouses because it cannot be sacked and sold!

Middle: Some amount of rice were sold to middle men to put in rice buckets waiting for them to fall into.

Right: Exported rice ends up falling into a can in the world market

Weekly News Magazines, 5 July, 2013

July 12, 2013

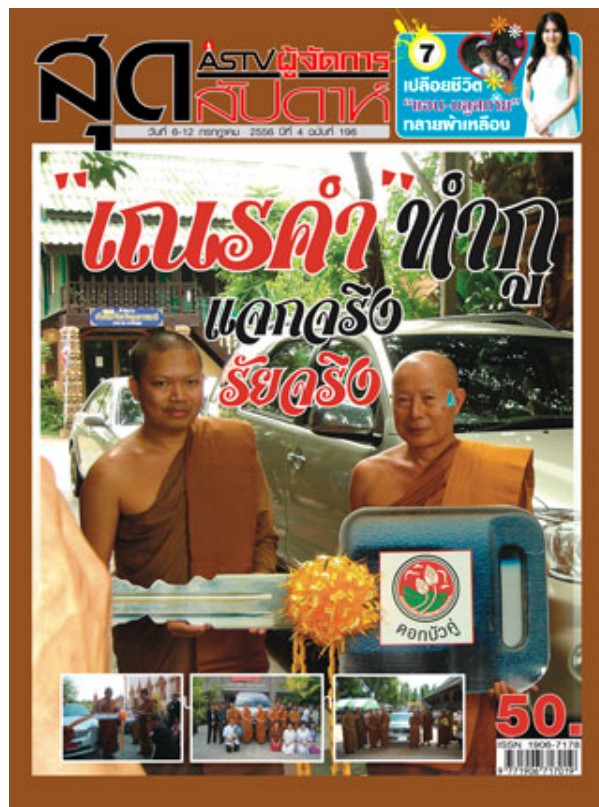
Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, July 5, 2013
Cover reads: Soul mate 'Annsumalin'



From Matichon Weekly, July 5, 2013
Cover reads: 5th sense



From ASTV Manager Weekly, July 6, 2013

Cover reads: “Nen Kham” Causing Me giving a reward for real – a real jinx
On giant car key is a brand name of a consumer product, Twin Lotus.

Shrimp Prices Jump as Disease Hits Farms in Thailand

July 12, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Shrimp Prices Jump as Disease Hits Farms in Thailand](#) – WSJ, July 11, 2013

...But the disease is deadly to shrimp; in many outbreaks, it can kill all affected crustaceans before they reach maturity and can reproduce, providing a powerful reminder about how animal diseases can threaten food security and prices...

Bloomberg: Thailand Needs to Invest in People, Not Rice

July 12, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thailand Needs to Invest in People, Not Rice](#) – Bloomberg, July 12, 2013

...Granted, the program isn't bankrupting Thailand. The country's \$346 billion economy can handle the \$4.4 billion the government blew on rice purchases last year. But Yingluck's recent priorities bear troubling similarities to those her exiled brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, championed from 2001 to 2006. His vaunted "Thaksinomics" never amounted to more than a Tammany Hall-like doling out of cash in return for rural votes...

Remembering the Thaksin Years: Everyone Joins Thai Rak Thai

July 13, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia, The Thaksin Years



From Thairath, July 12, 2003

Title: Hot items are limited.

Sudarat Keyuraphan hands out t-shirts with the logo of the Thai Rak Thai Party.

The man behind Sudarat is holding a paper that reads “Bangkok Poll”

On the men grabbing the shirts: famous persons, transferring parties, former Member of Parliament

It's the apocalypse for these people

July 13, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, July 13, 2013

Cartoon title: It's the apocalypse for these people

From phone in man's hand: A clip of man 1 talking to man 2

On the robe of the hooded figure: Order to suppress the people; 100 dead bodies

One man yells: Yutthasak takes Chong Cao!

Man on the left in the front: Thaksin is taking over the military forces!

On his shirt: The lots who are trying to oust the government

Man on the right in the front: Thaksin plans to return home!

On his shirt: Hate Thaksin

Mouse man: Try to calm down

Mouse: Brutally psycho

Time: How Thailand's Botched Rice Scheme Blew a Big Hole in its Economy

July 14, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[How Thailand's Botched Rice Scheme Blew a Big Hole in its Economy](#) – Time, July 12, 2013

...When he saw Thailand's pledge to hike up the price of rice, he says he and virtually every global trader knew how to respond. With the click of a mouse, or sometimes a quick phone call, his traders in Dubai could switch their purchases from Thailand to suppliers in India, Pakistan, Myanmar, or Vietnam. "It doesn't take five minutes," he says. "There are no government-to-government contracts. There are only business-to-business contracts. I can buy anything from anywhere..."

The Ombudsman

July 15, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia, Kamronwit Thoopkrachang



From Thairath, July 15, 2013

Title: Indecisive organization

Left: Title of the picture: "Having today is because my brother gave it to me."

Left: The Ombudsman: Damage the Thai police force's credibility and act against their discipline.

On the edge of the frame is "Idea by: Noy cartoonist"

Right: The Ombudsman says: Being honorable, those Members of Parliament have strong discipline.

In the frame it shows a number of controversies that occurred in parliament.

A Democrat MP with mobile phone: Watching nude photos

Democrat MP close to the speaker: Throwing document folders

Democrat MP with a chair: Dragging a chair

Democrat MP fighting choking another man: Taking the pulse.

Phi Nooring: Having today is because of CNS.

A mouse: Those who are honorable for the dictator.

Cambodia: A united opposition takes aim at one of Asia's strongest ruling parties

July 15, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Not quite the usual walkover – A united opposition takes aim at one of Asia's strongest ruling parties](#) – Economist, July 13, 2013

...Sensibly, the opposition does not dispute the economic growth. Rather, it argues that the benefits of the boom go to an ever smaller elite consisting of the families of Mr Hun Sen and his cronies.

...To redress the economic imbalance, the CNRP proposes a populist programme borrowed, in parts, from a former Thai prime minister, Thaksin Shinawatra (who happens to be a chum of Mr Hun Sen). Mr Kem Sokha promises an old-age pension of \$10 a month and a minimum wage of \$150. The costs of such programmes appear to have been badly thought out, if at all...

More Falling in Thailand

July 16, 2013

Categories: Falling

[Dane falls from 23rd-storey balcony](#)

[Russian dies after 6th floor fall inside Central Festival Pattaya Beach](#)

[Aussie Rings In 2012 In Pattya Gets Drunk & Falls To His Death](#)

[Young German Falls To His Death From 7th Floor](#)

[German tourists severely injured in fall from 4th of Pattaya hotel](#)

[Scot dies after Thai flats fall](#)

[Aussie survives 18-storey hotel plunge](#)

[Englishman Dies after fall from Pattaya Balcony](#)

[Australian Man Fell To His Death In Pattaya](#)

More: [Falling in Thailand](#)

Reuters: Hundreds of thousands of tons of rice are being smuggled from Cambodia and Burma into Thailand

July 16, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Smuggling Rice to Thailand: Like Coals to Newcastle](#) – Reuters, July 15, 2013

Hidden in 18-wheeler trucks, carts and pick-up vans, hundreds of thousands of tons of rice are being smuggled from Cambodia and Burma into Thailand, although the country holds enough stocks to meet half the world's annual trade in the commodity...

BBC on imported meat: there's got to be a better way than flying chicken nuggets from Thailand

July 16, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[School meal chicken 'from Thailand'](#) – BBC, July 15, 2013

...Alison Johnstone, Green MSP for the Lothian region and the party's food spokeswoman, said: "There shouldn't be so much of a divide between the pioneer councils and the food laggards when it comes to something as important as our children's meals.

"I have long-standing concerns about imported meat and there's got to be a better way than flying chicken nuggets from Thailand..."

Reuters investigation: Thai authorities implicated in Rohingya Muslim smuggling network

July 17, 2013

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Special Report: Thai authorities implicated in Rohingya Muslim smuggling network](#) – Reuters, July 17, 2013

...A Reuters investigation, based on interviews with people smugglers and more than two dozen survivors of boat voyages, reveals how some Thai naval security forces work systematically with smugglers to profit from the surge in fleeing Rohingya. The lucrative smuggling network transports the Rohingya mainly into neighboring Malaysia, a Muslim-majority country they view as a haven from persecution...

The Royal Thai Police Chief must warn Jaed

July 18, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager, Kamronwit Thoopkrachang



19/07/56

From Manager July 18, 2013

Left: Pol. Lt. Gen. Kamronwit's forehead reads 'Thaksin's lackey'.

Pol.Gen. Adul: Jaed... Having it tattooed on your forehead like that is ludicrous when people look at it!!!

Right, Pol. Gen. Adul : Here! It must be done like this!

Pol. Gen. Adul's chest reads 'Thaksin's lackey'.

Caption: The Royal Thai Police Chief must warn Jaed

Must be rid of obsolete things

July 18, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, July 18, 2013

Cartoon title: Must be rid of obsolete things

Left: Garbage of the religion

Items: The banished Kham ; be promiscuous and a con ; Luang Poo's teachings; deceitful; sacred objects

Right: Political garbage in democracy

Paper hanging from the bin: Elected senators

Papers in the bin from front left: Independent organizations, dictators' slaves; waiting to topple the government; justice of a coup d'état; 100 dead bodies

Garbage on the ground, from left: destroy the rice mortgage project; release news on rotten rice; intervene with executive authority, overlapping the legislature

Bag on the right side of bin: obstruct the constitution amendment and amnesty

Phi Nooring: Living will make the country deteriorate.

Mouse: The movement harmful to people.

iPad in parliament

July 18, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, August 18, 2013

Top Left: Why does your honorable MP watch the porn pictures on iPad during a parliamentary debate?

Top Right: I am searching for information for the budget debate.

Bottom Left: How are the porn pictures linked with the budget debate?

Bottom Right: It shows that people are poor and don't have much money to buy clothes. Thus, we have to increase the budget for helping them to buy more clothes.

Good news and bad news

July 19, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, July 19, 2013

Left: Good news and bad news. Good news is that the government's going to open a hotline-1569-to encourage tips on the whereabouts of rotten rice.

Middle: And what is the bad news?

Right: The government will sue those who ever tips it off on the rotten rice for undermining Thai rice.

Yingluck and foreign visits

July 20, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, August 20, 2013

PM Yingluck: No matter what... I'm gonna stay until the end of office term because there are still many countries that I haven't visited yet.

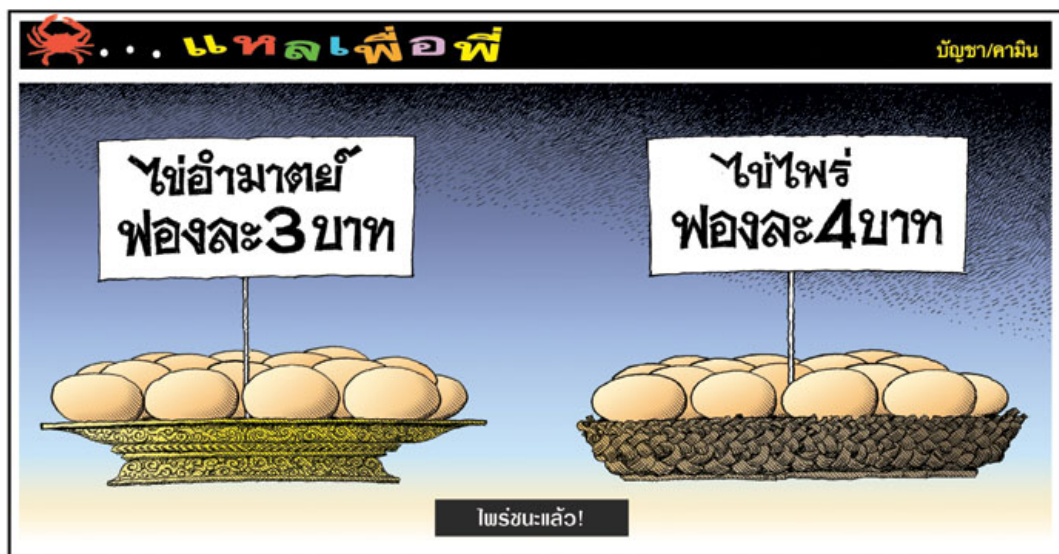
Leftovers from May

July 22, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons

We overlooked posting a batch of editorial cartoons from May 2013. Since most readers seem to like Thai editorial cartoons (they give a unique look into the usual and quirky Thai world), here they are, albeit a bit late.

There are some readers who hate them—the Yellows who do not want us to translate *Thairath* cartoons by Sia and the Reds who do not want us to translate *Manager* cartoons. We think most readers appreciate seeing them all.



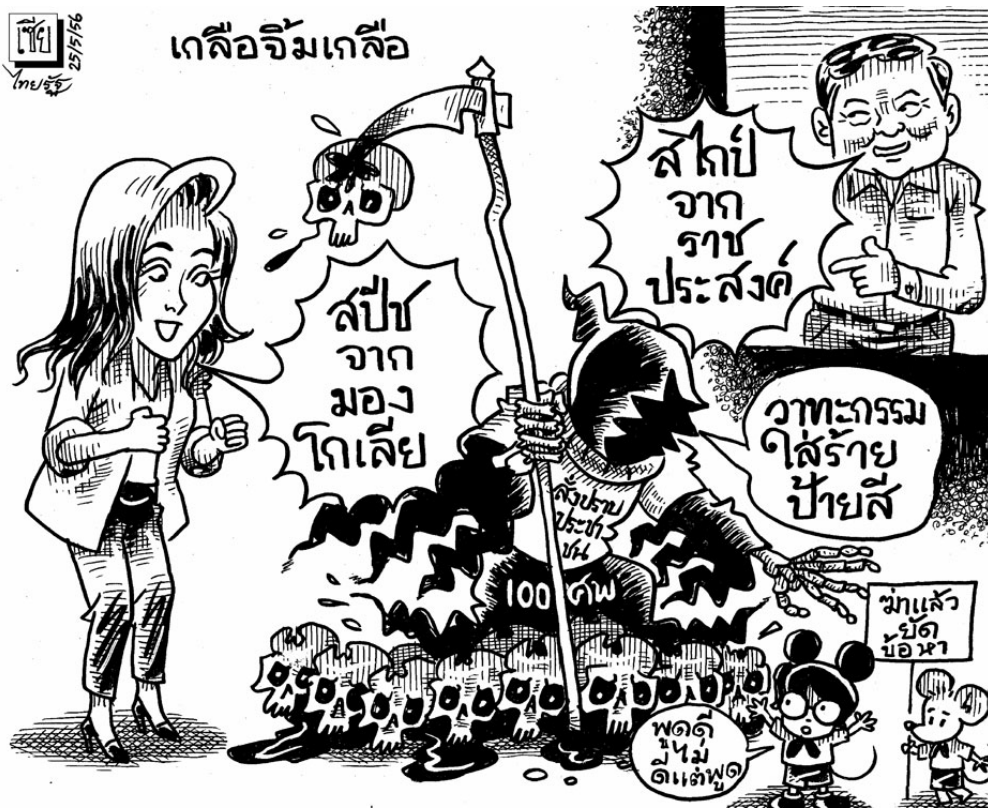
30/05/56

From Manager, May 30, 2013

Left sign: The elite eggs, 3 baht each

Right sign: The peasant eggs, 4 baht each

Caption: The peasants have won!



From Thairath, May 22, 2013

Cartoon title: An eye for an eye

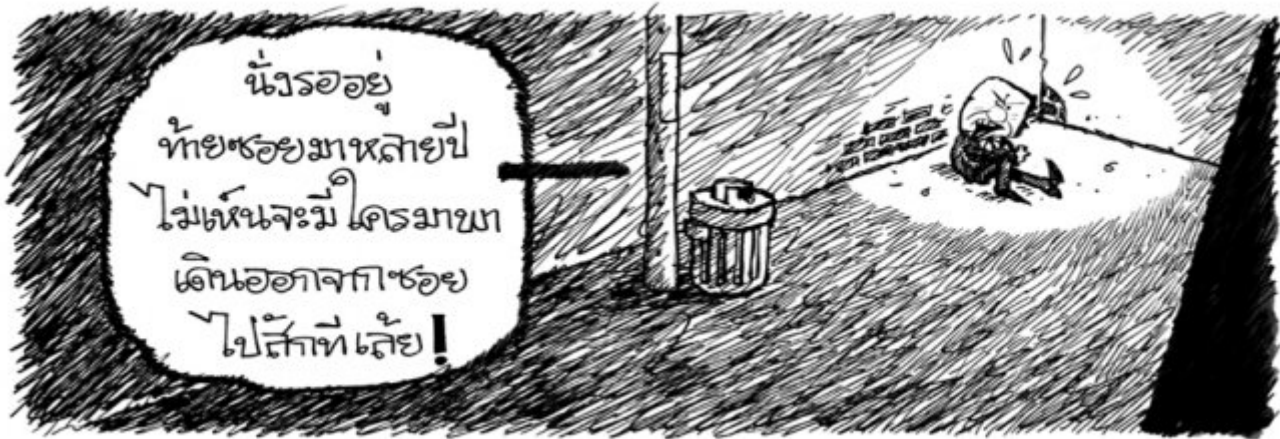
Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra: Speech from Mongolia

Thaksin Shinawatra: Skype from Ratchaprasong

On the hooded figure's robe: Order to suppress the people; 100 dead bodies

Phi Nooring: Say good things, but don't just good at saying.

Mouse: Killed and then falsely accused.



From Komchadluek, May 27, 2013

Thaksin Shinawatra: I sit waiting at the end of the soi for many years. I still don't see anybody who will bring me out yet!



29/05/56

From Manager, May 29, 2013

Yingluck Shinawatra: I've never thought of discharging you, Commander-in-Chief

Gen. Prayuth: And I've never thought of staging a coup against you, Ma'am.

On wine bottle: Warning, drinking wine makes people tell lies.

(Ron Morris' book on the Thai political universe, [The Thai Book: Protest, Democracy, Big Men, Coups, Bombs, Killing People and Forgiveness](#), is available from Villefort Publishing.)

Gulf Times: As it stands now, investors should be wary of Thailand

July 22, 2013

Categories: Uncategorized

[As it stands now, investors should be wary of Thailand](#) – Gulf Times, July 20, 2013

...Under the surface of the country's smiling attitude are seething troubles, and many economists advise investors to watch the short and even mid-term development in the country from a distance...

Weekly News Magazines, July 12, 2013

July 22, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, July 12, 2013

Cover reads: Chong Cao clip, one clip gets them all



From Matichon Weekly, July 12, 2013

Cover reads: Wikileaks 'Chong Cao' formula



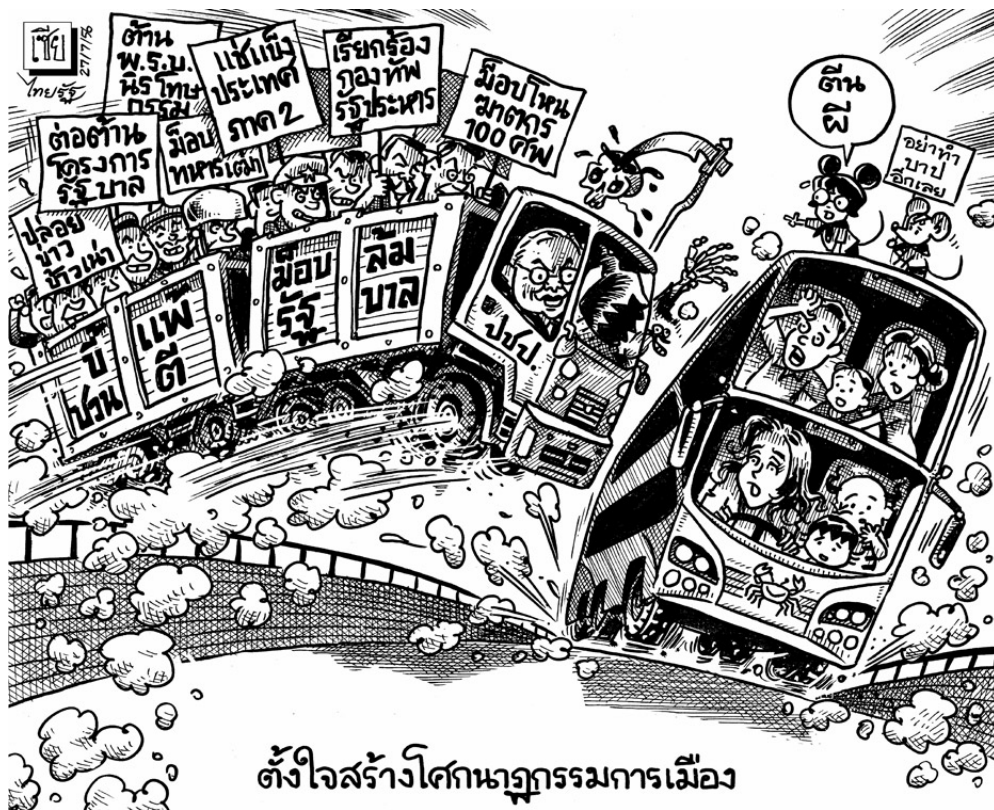
From ASTV Manager Weekly, July 13, 2013

Cover reads: A whore just sells her body, but bastard men sell their dignity.

Intend to create political tragedy

July 24, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, July 24, 2013

Cartoon title: Intend to create political tragedy

On the cab of the truck: Democrat Party

On side of truck, from left: Sore losers; a mob to topple the government

Signs carried by angry people, from left: Make up news of rotten rice; oppose the government's projects; mob of old soldiers; oppose amnesty bills; freezing Thailand part II; demand for a military coup; mob supporting the murder of 100 dead people

The driver of double-decker bus is Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

Phi Nooring: Ghost feet

Mouse: Don't commit any more sins.

Death Day

July 25, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



26/07/56

From Manager, July 25, 2013

Caption: The Special One... plenty of hosts

People: Let them celebrate his birthday... as for us, we're waiting to celebrate his death-day... we promise it'll be no less grand...

Weekly News Magazines, July 19, 2013

July 26, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, July 19, 2013

Cover reads: The National Hormones Day



From Matichon Weekly, July 19, 2013

Cover reads: Moral rice; moral 'Khon khon khon'



From ASTV Manager Weekly, July 20, 2013
Cover reads: Woh. 5 Kala Hoy

Saudis violate Thailand travel ban

July 26, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Saudis violate Thailand travel ban](#) – MENAFN, July 24, 2013

...Many people who are preparing to travel to Thailand during the Eid Al-Fitr holiday know nothing about the penalties awaiting them if they go to Thailand, including a financial penalty and a two-year travel ban based on a decision made by a committee at the Passport Department.

Traveling to Thailand is no longer confined to tourism, but expands into medical treatment, particularly in the field of orthopedics, as well as businesses covering the importation of clothes, accessories and electrical appliances, which necessitates reconsideration of the ban to meet the needs of citizens in terms of business, medical treatment and tourism, the paper said.

It is to be recalled that the negligence of Thai authorities to investigate a number of security cases, where some Saudi citizens were victims, led to the deterioration of relations between the Kingdom and Thailand for more than 20 years.

The Kingdom clearly asked Thailand to achieve justice in these cases in accordance with international treaties and conventions...

Hun Sen: Father of Modern Cambodia

July 27, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[The strongman's son: Cambodia's new political dynasty](#) – AFP, July 26, 2013

...How do you replace a strongman premier who has run the country almost single-handedly for decades? Well, maybe with his son.

Although he has vowed to stay in power for another decade or more, signs are growing that 60 year old Prime Minister Hun Sen is grooming his children to inherit a political dynasty...



Above: From CAPDI full page ad in the June 22-23, 2013 International Herald Tribune

There is also glowing praise for Hun Sen, "Hero of the "Cambodian Model," in CAPDI's full page ad in the June 22-23, 2013 edition of the International Herald Tribune. We could not find the text live on the net, but here is a scan from the ad highlighting Hun Sen as the "Father of Modern Cambodia."

<p>statesman Deng Xiaoping, Malaysia under Dr. Mahathir, Singapore under Lee Kuan Yew, or Timor Leste.</p> <p>The "Cambodian Model"</p> <p>Since its liberation in 1979 from the murderous Khmer Rouge, who killed more than 2 million Cambodians, Cambodia under Premier Hun Sen has pursued two-pronged approaches based on promoting peace, reconciliation, and poverty alleviation. Success in both have sparked growing interest in what is now widely acknowledged as the "Cambodian Model."</p> <p>Genuine peace and reconciliation have routed and finished the Khmer Rouge, helping to integrate their remnants into the united Cambodian Armed Forces and political mainstream, resulting in a tolerant, inclusive and pluralistic Cambodian society. In this context, the role of the Father of Cambodian Independence, the late legendary King Norodom Sihanouk, is pivotal and deserves more than special mention.</p> <p>Burying the brutal past apart, another tribute to Premier Hun Sen's political acumen is the drastic reduction in poverty to less than 19% today, from the almost entirety of the population in the 1980s, and from the day when only 70 people were counted in Phnom Penh.</p>	<p>Despite the Asian economic crisis, Cambodia maintained double-digit growth during 2003-2008, maintaining 7.3% growth rate in 2012.</p> <p>Chairing the ASEAN Summit in 2012, which President Obama also attended, and currently hosting the 37th Session of the 190-states World Heritage Committee, under Deputy Premier Sok An, in Phnom Penh testify to a country once known for its "killing fields" into what is now known as the "Cambodian Model." Hun Sen has deservedly been called the "Father of Modern Cambodia."</p> <p>In Aceh, North Sumatra, in 2005, Indonesia's then-Vice President Jusuf Kalla was able, with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's <i>unstinting</i> support, to end a Muslim rebellion that had lasted 60 years.</p> <p>In Timor Leste—which broke away from Indonesia in 2002, after a long and bitter independence struggle—the nationalist heroes, <i>Xanana Gusmao</i> and <i>Jose Ramos-Horta</i>, ascribe the good present-day relationship with Jakarta to the fact that neither side allowed past grievances to come between them, in their desire for reconciliation.</p> <p>In the Philippines, in 1992 and 1996, President Fidel Ramos and Speaker <i>de Venecia</i>, conciliated field officers</p>
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Above: From CAPDI full page ad in the June 22-23, 2013 International Herald Tribune

[CAPDI highlights Asian “models” of reconciliation: East Timor and Cambodia](#)

...CAPDI Chairman Emeritus Prime Minister Hun Sen skillfully and courageously achieved the impossible: with support from the late King Norodom Sihanouk. He integrated Cambodia's four warring armies in the now united Cambodian Armed Forces, including integration of the Khmer Rouge, which was responsible for the genocide killings of more than two million Cambodians; and the opposing political parties in a united Cambodian government, while continuing to prosecute those responsible for war crimes in concert with the U.N. Tribunal. Hun Sen, together with Deputy Prime Minister Sok An, are now leading Cambodia's modernization and economic development...

[Cambodia Economy Is Projected To Grow By 7.6% This Year, Its Tourism Industry 12%](#) – IBT, July 25, 2013

...Gross domestic product is projected to reach approximately \$15.19 billion, and GDP per capita would reach \$1,036. The growth would be driven by garment exports, agriculture, tourism and construction...

International Rice Research Institute: China cadmium scandal could save Thai rice scheme

July 27, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[China's Bad Earth](#) – Wall Street Journal, July 27, 2013

Industrialization has turned much of the Chinese countryside into an environmental disaster zone, threatening not only the food supply but the legitimacy of the regime itself...

[The China factor in the global rice market](#) – International Rice Research Institute, May 28, 2013

...According to the report, the authorities found 0.21 to 0.4 milligram of cadmium per kilogram of rice in half of the 18 samples tested in the past 3 months relative to the permissible level of 0.2 mg of cadmium per kilogram. This news comes at a time when there is an excess supply of rice in the global market. This must be music to the Thai government, which is desperately looking for buyers to offload some of its bulging mortgage stocks...

The fishy video

July 28, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[‘Al-Qaeda’ issues Thaksin threat](#) – Bangkok Post, July 28, 2013

...It showed three men in Arab-type clothing, one armed with what appears to be a toy rifle, with the “leader” in the centre, reading the death threat...

[‘Al-Qaeda’ Video Threatening Thaksin’s Life Dismissed As Fake](#) – Khaosod, July 27, 2013

...Lt.Gen. Paradorn Pattanabutr, secretary-general of the National Security Council, told Khaosod that the “amateurish” video is clearly not a work of Al-Qaeda or any other Islamist organization.

“The people who made this clip are no other than the same group who want to overthrow Mr. Thaksin,” Lt.Gen. Paradorn declared...

From 2008, a similarly fishy video: [“Thailand United Southern Underground” ceasefire](#)

Democrats just as bad

July 28, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



29/07/56

From Manager, July 28, 2013

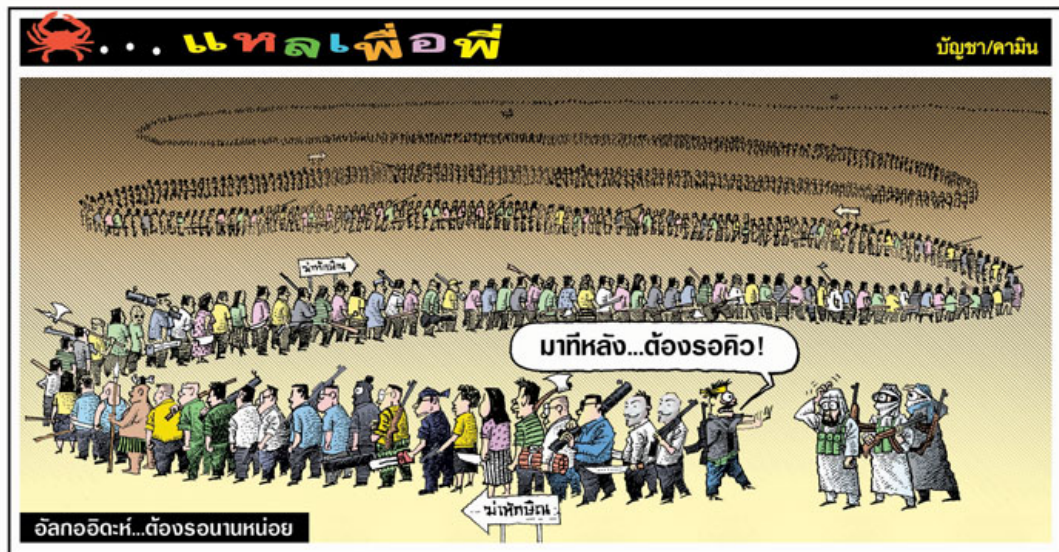
Suthep Thuagsuban: Come out in big numbers, brothers and sisters... topple this government, and then let us form the next government... so that Ai Hoy devour important ministries... and we will charge you with terrorist allegations... while I'll continue to devour palm oil.

Caption: Listen carefully to Thuag's whistle blowing to call for a mob

Those who want to kill Thaksin

July 29, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, July 29, 2013

A man: You're a latecomer. Have to wait in a queue.

Sign: Kill Thaksin

Caption: Al-Qaeda has to wait longer.

All creatures shall be according to what they did

July 29, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, July 29, 2013

Left: All creatures shall be according to what they did

Right: All creatures shall be as your greater number of men drag you to

Cambodia Leader Hun Sen Extends Rule Amid Strong Opposition Gains

July 29, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia Leader Hun Sen Extends Rule Amid Strong Opposition Gains](#) – WSJ, July 28, 2013

...Mr. Hun Sen's party secured a fresh five-year term by winning 68 seats in Cambodia's 123-member legislature, compared to 55 seats for the main opposition party, according to preliminary results, Cambodia Information Minister Khieu Kanharith said. The result means the ruling Cambodian People's Party would lose its two-third parliamentary majority, a setback that gives opposition forces greater sway in the law-making process...

[Cambodia's elections are rigged. So why is the country's opposition still taking part?](#) – The Star, July 27, 2013

...In this year's election campaign, the CPP has trumpeted the stability, economic growth, and infrastructure development it has brought to Cambodia — powerful rhetoric in a country with recent memories of civil war and genocide.

"War will take place if are elected," Hun Sen recently told a crowd, according to the Cambodia Daily. "There will be both an internal war and external war, especially a war with Vietnam..."

[Cambodia's Rainsy: aristocrat or man of the people?](#) – AFP, July 28, 2013

... His education and "aristocratic background" mean he is not well versed in the language of the masses, unlike Hun Sen, said independent analyst Lao Mong Hay, a former researcher for the Asian Human Rights Commission.

"He is a man of the people up to a point," Hay said, adding that Rainsy was the first Cambodian politician to lead workers' demonstrations for their rights in the mid-1990s...

Thaksin and Amnesty

July 30, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, July 30, 2013

On the right is Democracy Monument, symbolizing the constitution. On it are the words: Amnesty Bill

The Labor Minister and the al-Qaeda clip

July 30, 2013

Categories: Chalerm Yubamrung, Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, July 30, 2013

Left: When this clip is released, Thai people will discuss whether it is real.

Middle: Man 1: The government will ask the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology to investigate it.

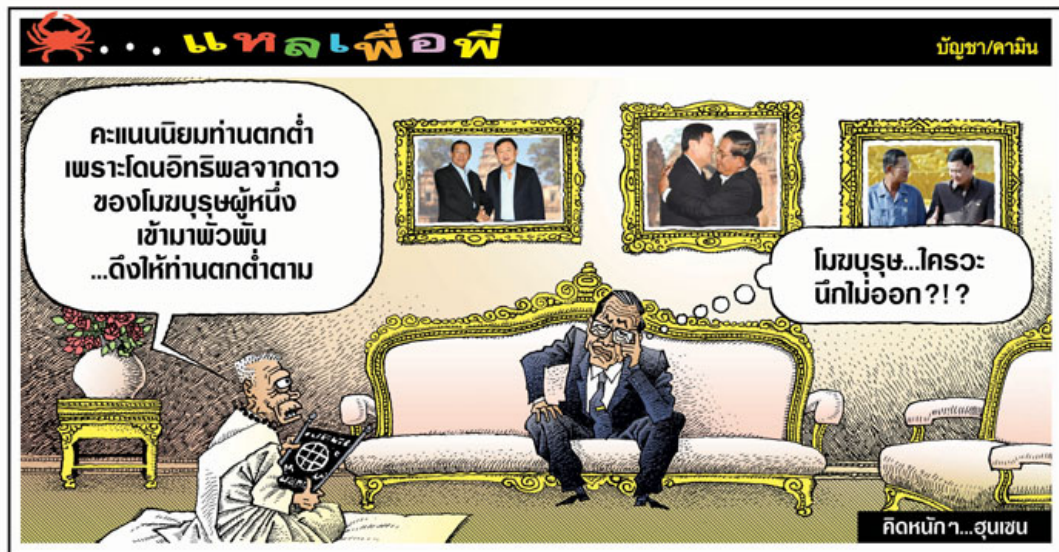
Man 2: Hey! You're wrong.

Right: Now the Ministry of Labor has a minister who is responsible for checking whether this clip is doctored.

Hun Sen and Thaksin

July 30, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



31/07/56

From Manager, July 30, 2013

An astrologer: Your popularity declines due to the influence of a wicked person whom you are involved with.

Hun Sen: A wicked person... I can't figure out who he is.

Pictures on the wall show former PM Thaksin and Hun Sen.

Caption: Think carefully... Hun Sen.

Be Home by 10 pm!

July 30, 2013

Categories: Signs and Billboards



The billboard reads: 10 p.m. now. Are you home yet? 22 hr. all in the family's home, creating happy Thai society.

The farmer's happiness is the Democrat Party's hardship

July 30, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, July 4, 2013

Title: The farmer's hardship is a national hardship, but the farmer's happiness is the Democrat Party's hardship.

Sign held by a farmer: Maintaining rice pledging price at 15,000 baht per ton until the end of the season.

On the bag held by a farmer: Improving the quality of Thai farmer's lives.

On the sign held by a farmer close to a hooded man: The farmer is the backbone of the country.

The hooded man: Spreading news to destroy the Thai rice market, attempting to stop the rice pledging scheme, making false overestimated losses to destabilize the government

On the shirt of the hooded man: Order to kill people, 100 deaths.

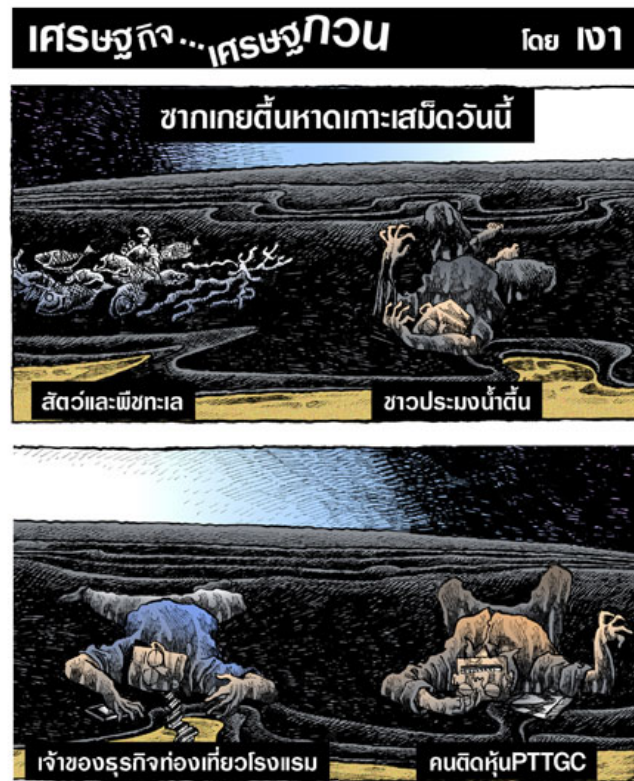
Phi Nooring: A real national traitor

A mouse: Stop hurting the farmer

Debris rushed onto the beach

July 30, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, July 30, 2013

Carton title: Debris rushed onto Samet Beach today

Top left: Marine creatures

Top right: Fishermen fishing in the shallow water area

Bottom left: Owners of tourist business and hotels

Bottom right: Shareholders of PTTGC stock

Thailand Makes Bitcoins Illegal Because Its Laws Are Too Old-Fashioned

July 31, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand Makes Bitcoins Illegal Because Its Laws Are Too Old-Fashioned](#) – Fast Company, August 30, 2013
Thai Bitcoin exchange, Bitcoin.co.th, has published a notice on its site saying it is ceasing operations indefinitely due to a ruling by the nation's authorities: Starting tomorrow, Bitcoins are illegal in Thailand...

[Virtual currency Bitcoin blocked in Thailand](#) – AP, July 30, 2013

...Vitalik Buterin, a writer for Bitcoin Magazine, said Bitcoin's fate in Thailand may give the electronic currency more credibility in some circles. But he was concerned it didn't bode well for Bitcoin in China. "Thailand is not exactly a bastion of liberty..."

Good news brothers...

July 31, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager, Kamronwit Thoopkrachang



01/08/56

From Manager, July 31, 2013

Kamronwit: Good news brothers... it's not guilty even if we beat up protesters to death... I just asked my mom!!!

Caption: Kamronwit got a green light.

The oil spill

August 1, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, August 1, 2013

Man: What!!! Stocks fall. What are you doing? Solve it quickly.

Shouting at the theater

August 1, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, July 9, 2013

Title: People from this party like shouting at the theater.

Left: Past in 2489

A man: Whatever happens, let's blame Mr. Pridi.

Caption: Shouting at Chalerkrung theater.

Right: Present in 2556

A hooded man: Whatever happens, let's blame Thaksin and PM Poo .

Written on a hooded man: Order to kill people

Caption: Talk show at Scala theater

Don't make the Prime Minister get angry

August 1, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



05/07/56

From Manager, July 5, 2013

Akeyuth: Khun Supa, be careful. Don't make the Prime Minister get angry.

Caption: Akeyuth shall give her a warning about this.

Label on the table: Deputy Finance Permanent Secretary

Blowing whistles to mobilize those whose blood spills into their eyes

August 1, 2013

Categories: Analysis, Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, August 1, 2013

Cartoon title: Blowing whistles to mobilize those whose blood spills into their eyes

In Premier Yingluck Shinawatra's hands: Amnesty

On death's sleeve: 100 dead bodies

Words in front of the whistle: Provoke a mob outside of the parliament to topple the government

Headband on man with mask: Fake Al Qaeda

On back of old man: Old soldiers

Headbands on men in the forefront, from left: Mob; freezing

Phi Nooring: Help dismiss their own cases

Mouse: Stop committing sins

Thailand Emerges as Bright M&A Spot

August 1, 2013

Categories: Business

[Thailand Emerges as Bright M&A Spot](#) – WSJ, July 30, 2013

...Thailand is shining particularly brightly, as its ambitious tycoons indulge in multibillion-dollar shopping sprees and overseas firms are attracted by the country's growth story. That has helped propel the country, normally a quiet corner in the M&A universe, into the upper echelons of deal activity in Asia. And with Southeast Asia ticking closer to becoming a regional free-trade bloc, the number of deals involving Thailand is set to pick up...

Weekly News Magazines, July 26, 2013

August 1, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, July 26, 2013

Cover reads: Little prince



From Matichon Weekly, July 26, 2013

Cover reads: The last dream of the freezing prince



From ASTV Manager Weekly, July 27, 2013
Cover reads: 'Sayan's' fans' unchanged promising love

I mean a budget for PR and the organization's image!

August 2, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From Thairath, August 2, 2013

Cartoon title: The way to make the seawater become clear

Top, man at desk: How come it's been days and why is the seawater not clear yet? Increase the budget.

Standing man: We increased both manpower and chemical substances, sir.

Bottom, man at desk: Nooo... I mean a budget for PR and the organization's image!

Standing man: Oh... yes, sir.

Amnesty brings justice back to the people

August 2, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, August 2, 2013

Title: Seeing through the visible hands

Left to right on the signs: Amnesty brings justice back to the people; Stop impeding the country; Stop supporting the old veterans to freeze the country and overthrow the democratic government

On protestors' shirts: RBD

On the hand: 100 years

On the shadow of the arm: Call for a coup d'état.

On the shadow of the sign: Don't help overthrow the 100-deaths case

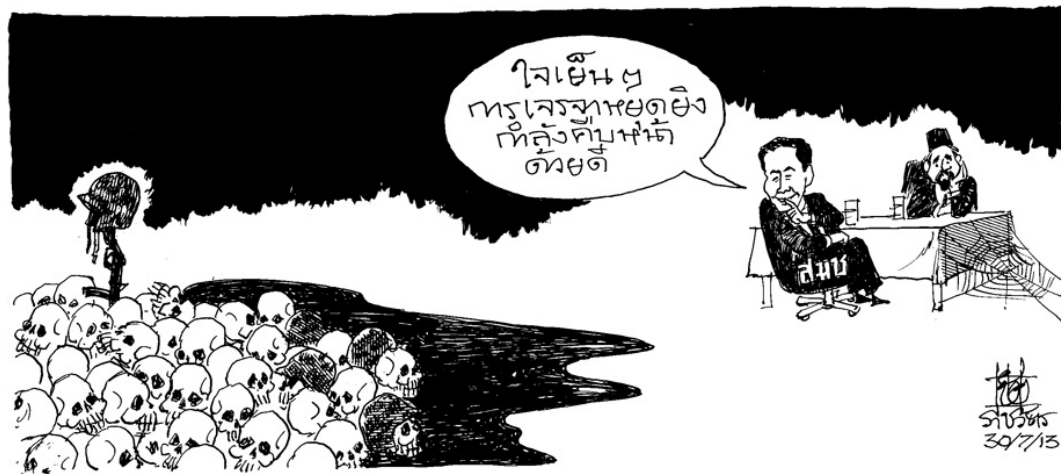
Mouse man Phi Nooring: Good people will not kill people.

Mouse: Stop destroying the country.

Calm down, the peace talks are in progress

August 2, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, August 2, 2013

Paradorn: Calm down, the peace talks are in progress.

Bloomberg: Thai Amnesty Push Risks Protests as Stocks Slide

August 2, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai Amnesty Push Risks Protests as Stocks Slide](#) – Bloomberg, August 3, 2013

...Yingluck's coalition plans to release a statement saying that no provision in the amnesty bill will benefit Thaksin, Noppadon Pattama, his spokesman, said by phone yesterday. He said he was unsure if the law covered those facing charges known as lese-majeste, which mandates jail sentences as long as 15 years for defaming, insulting or threatening the king, queen, heir apparent or regent.

The government is aiming to prevent any violence that could be used as a pretext for a military coup, Noppadon said, adding that Yingluck's administration has a good working relationship with senior generals...

Burmese Dawei port project – vanity project or visionary undertaking?

August 2, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Build it and they might come – A planned Thai mega-project in Myanmar runs into difficulty](#) – The Economist, August 3, 2013

...Dawei's proximity to Bangkok and the cheapness of Myanmar's labour and land are attractive. And, crucially, the port would be a long way north and west of the potential chokepoint for shipping at the Strait of Malacca. Boosters of the project in Thailand suggest, somewhat implausibly, that it will increase annual Thai GDP by 2%. The hope is that the Thai middle class could soon be driving their Japanese cars over the mountains and through the jungle into Myanmar. In anticipation of a new gateway for international trade and tourism into South-East Asia, land prices in some parts of Thailand's Kanchanaburi province have already begun to rise...

Thai air drummer becomes internet hit

August 2, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=http://www.youtube.com/embed/yH8jgmT1tLA>



Weekly News Magazines, August 2, 2013

August 4, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, August 2, 2013

Cover reads: Rushing waves weeping



From Matichon Weekly, August 2, 2013

Cover reads: ‘Dead’ Land



From ASTV Manager Weekly, August 3, 2013
Cover reads: Traveling to Klai Kangwon

Talk about courage... these two should have traded their uniforms

August 5, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



15/07/56

From Manager July 14, 2013

Caption: Talk about courage... these two should have traded their uniforms

Tampon

August 5, 2013

Categories: Chuwit Kamolvisit, Editorial Cartoons - Manager



06/08/56

From Manager, August 5, 2013

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra: Khun Pongthep brings former prime minister to the table first... then the other former prime ministers will follow.

Man in brown suit is Cabinet Minister and Agricultural and Cooperative Deputy Minister Varathep Rattanakorn, the other is Deputy Prime Minister Pongthep Thepkanchana.

Caption: When Chuwit said Banharn was a used diaper... it's better.

Thais Cast a Wide Net for Diverse Tourists

August 5, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thais Cast a Wide Net for Diverse Tourists](#) – NYT, August 4, 2013

... It is the only Asian country, travel industry analysts say, that has a government-sponsored campaign — “Go Thai. Be Free.” — aimed at gay and lesbian travelers.

Thailand, which is overwhelmingly Buddhist, is also marketing itself to Muslims as a place where food prepared according to Islamic precepts is readily available and where “halal spas” offer separate facilities for women and men. All the leading shopping malls and the beach resort city of Pattaya have Muslim prayer rooms — a far cry from the widespread anti-Muslim feelings in neighboring Myanmar...

Thailand called out by Human Rights Watch over amnesty bill

August 6, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand called out by Human Rights Watch over amnesty bill](#) – UPI, August 5, 2013

... "Worachai's amnesty bill is an insult to the victims and families of the 2010 violence," Adams said. "It is totally unacceptable that those who committed serious abuses, including soldiers who pulled the triggers and commanders who gave the orders, would remain untouchable through an amnesty."

[Thailand: No Amnesty for Rights Abusers](#) – HRW, August 5, 2013

...Worachai's proposal fails to address the need to hold both military personnel and elements of the UDD, particularly armed "Black Shirt" militants, accountable for violence and serious abuses in 2010. A Human Rights Watch report, "Descent into Chaos: Thailand's 2010 Red Shirt Protests and the Government Crackdown," concluded that excessive and unnecessary force by the Thai army caused many deaths and injuries during the 2010 political confrontations. The security forces were responsible for the majority of deaths and injuries...

Thai police summon Facebook users over coup-rumor posts, threaten to jail people for ‘liking’

August 6, 2013

Categories: Censorship

[Thai police summon Facebook users over coup-rumor posts, threaten to jail people for ‘liking’](#) – AP, August, 5, 2013

... “Those who ‘liked’ and ‘shared’ the posts will also face charges, so we would like to ask the public to contemplate very carefully about the way they use social media,” Pisit added...

Nobody is too old to try new things

August 7, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



08/08/56

From Manager, August 7, 2013

Chuan Leekpai: Mark... I've just realized that politics on the street is much more satisfying than in the parliament... I should have done this a long time ago!!

Abhisit Vejjajiva: Same here... Mr. Chuan.

At left corner in brown suit is former prime minister Suthep Thaugsuban.

Caption: Nobody is too old to try new things

Netizens insist ‘likes’, shares are not crimes

August 7, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[TPBS newsman to explain his Facebook postings on Friday](#) – The Nation, August 7, 2013

[Netizens insist ‘likes’, shares are not crimes](#) – Bangkok Post, August 7, 2013

[Vietnam, Thailand Act To Suppress Social Web Activity We Take For Granted](#) – Fast Company, August 7, 2013

[Govt’s social media warning slammed](#) – The Nation, August 7, 2013

Loosen the political knots

August 7, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From Arun, August 7, 2013

The letters spell “Security Act”

At the teet

August 8, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From Arun, August 8, 2013

Top right corner: Thai mother

Cartoon title: Sweetheart... I'm hurt..!

On shoulder strap: Thailand

Banner on baby's head: Politicians

8 8 88 in the new Myanmar

August 8, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

['It Was a Tragic Scene to See the Dead Bodies of Our Brothers and Sisters'](#)

[In 1988, a Brief Renaissance for Burma's Journalists](#)

[What We Were Fighting For](#)

...As a student at that time, I can clearly remember the exhilaration of knowing that the entire nation was behind us, that we could not possibly lose. But we were wrong. Though people came out into the streets in their millions all over the country, the military would not stand down. Too accustomed to holding power, and believing that only they could lead the way out of the crisis that they had created, the generals gave the order: shoot, shoot to kill...

[88 Commemorative Painting by Win Pe Sold at Charity Auction](#)

[Gingerly, Filmmaker Tests Limits of Freedom in Burma](#)

[Burma's Internet Delays Continue Ahead of 88 Uprising Anniversary](#)

[Lessons of '88'](#)

Cambodian military mobilised nationwide “in order to ensure political stability and security”

August 9, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Armed units deployed](#) – phnompenhpost.com, August 8, 2013

...“ have been mobilised from nationwide in order to ensure political stability and security until the official formation of the new government,” Kheng Tito, spokesman of the National Military Police, said.

“Not to worry, this is an advance measure of the armed forces to prevent any bad situation that may happen during the caretaker government period. We have to ensure security and social stability until there will be new government...”

An increasingly unpopular government sticks to its worst and most costly policy

August 9, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[An increasingly unpopular government sticks to its worst and most costly policy](#) – The Economist, August 10, 2013

...Naysayers warned that the scheme would be impossibly expensive. But Thaksin advisers said that withdrawing rice from world markets in this way would force up the price. Since Thailand was the world's biggest exporter, the government would be able to cash in later by selling its stockpiles of grain at a profit. So much for the weird theory. In practice, other countries have undercut Thailand, whose exports have tumbled (by about 4m tonnes, or a third, in the first full year of the subsidy scheme). India and Vietnam have overtaken Thailand as the biggest exporters. Unable to find buyers, the Thai government has been forced to stockpile 18m tonnes of the stuff and counting—equivalent to nearly half the annual global trade in rice...

Covering up rumors, politician style...

August 10, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai

● ดับข่าวลือ แบบนักการเมือง ...



From Thairath, August 10, 2013

Covering up rumors, politician style...

Left: Rumors said chicken has bird flu. Eat some chicken!

Middle left: Rumors said the mortgaged rice is rotten. Eat some rice!

Middle right: Rumors said the sea water was contaminated with poisonous substances. Eat some crab meat!

Right: Rumors said the parliament is “shoeiful” . Sniff a shoe!

Thai police admit “scare tactic” in warning those who “like” anti-govt posts deemed harmful to national security

August 10, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics

[Scare tactic successful, says crime suppression chief](#) – The Nation, August 10, 2013

...He said the netizens' campaign was not illegal in itself and the four people summoned for posting or distributing statements about a possible coup and calling on people to hoard food and supplies ahead of political rallies against the government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra had not yet been treated as suspects.

“We are seeking to resort to a psychological impact in terms of crime prevention, and not wanting them to go to jail,” he said...

Thailand's nightmare slave island where traffickers imprison Burma's Rohingya

August 10, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Nightmare island where traffickers imprison Burma's Rohingya](#) – Channel 4, August 8, 2013

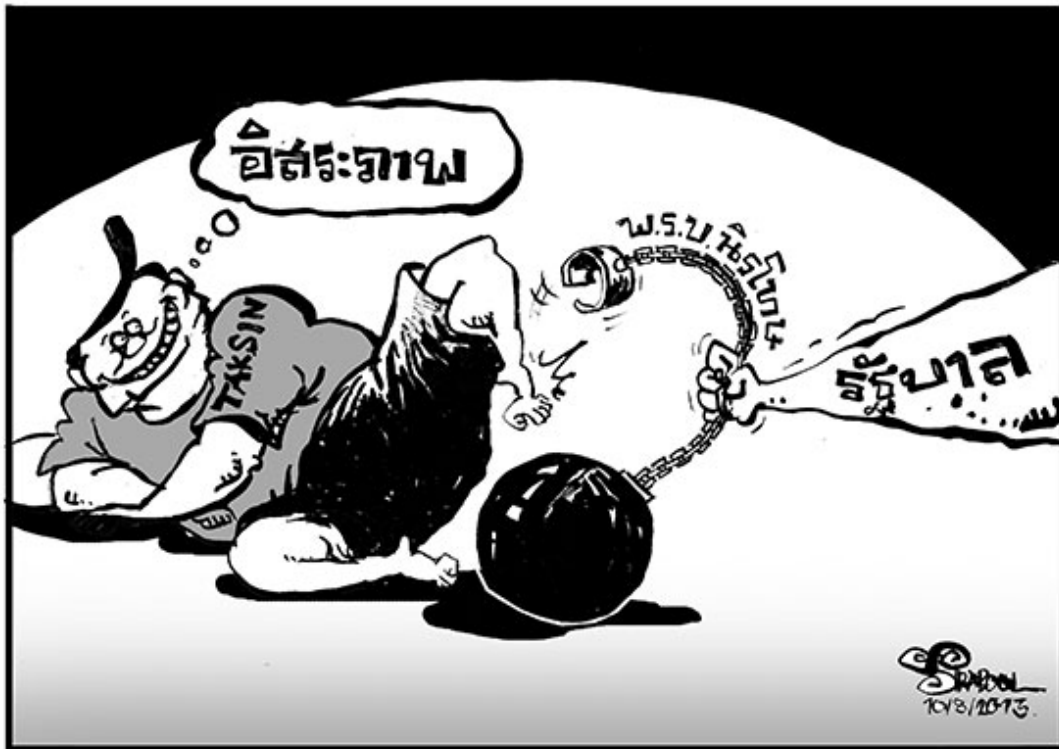
...Local people and senior police officers, speaking off the record, told us the southern section of this beautiful island is gangster territory – the hood of human traffickers, who run a number of secret prisons from the jungle floor.

It is here that desperate migrants from neighbouring Burma are incarcerated, beaten and extorted – and risk being sold as slave labour to fishing fleets...

Amnesty for Thaksin

August 10, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Various



From Naewna, August 10, 2013

Thaksin thinking: Freedom

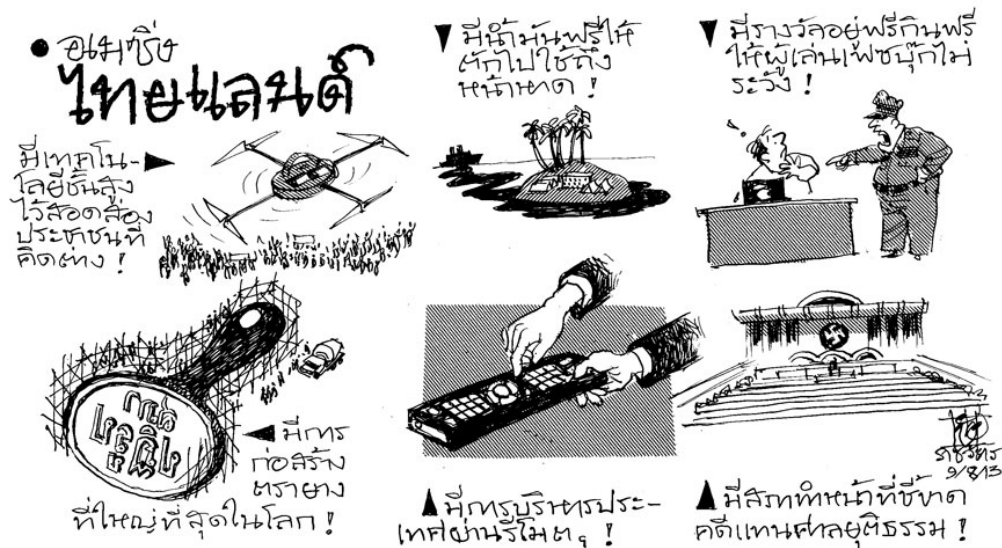
On the arm: Government

By the chain: Amnesty bill

Amazing... Thailand

August 11, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, August 11, 2013

Cartoon title: Amazing... Thailand

Top left: Having high technology to spy on people with different thoughts

Top middle: Providing free oil right on the beach

Top right: Offering free accommodations to people who are too carefree using Facebook.

Bottom left: Creating the world's biggest rubber stamp. The stamp reads: Reform Council.

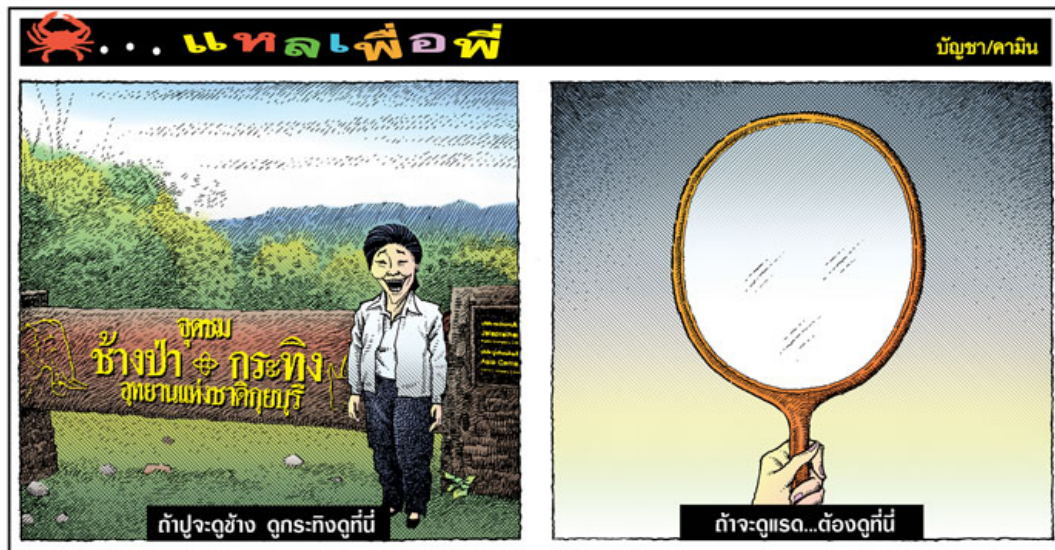
Bottom middle: Governing the country via a remote control

Bottom right: The parliament acts as a final judge in lieu of the court.

Insult Yingluck

August 11, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



12/08/56

From Manager, August 11, 2013

Left: On the sign: View point, Elephant and Gaur, Kui Buri National Park

Caption: If Poo wants to see elephants and guars, she can see them here.

Right: If Poo wants to see rhinoceroses, she must see them here.

Second time murder

August 11, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, August 11, 2013

Title: Second time murder

Amara Pongsapich, chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), is holding a gun with "NHRC's report" on it.

Hooded figure: 100 deaths, order to kill people

Left sign: Live fire area

Right sign: Khok Wua Intersection, Ratchaprasong Intersection

Phi Nooring: Too cruel than any word can express.

A mouse: Don't protect the murderers.

Big Father Jiew waiting for his invitation

August 12, 2013

Categories: Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Editorial Cartoons - Manager



13/08/56

From Manager, August 12, 2013

Khunying Pankrua Yongjaiyuth: Pa... you're so excited that you cannot sleep since you've learned that they're going to invite you to join the reform council... Dressed up... and looking out...

Caption: Big Father Jiew won't miss this charade

Thai police to “study the conversations” in LINE to see if they violate the law or threaten national security

August 13, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics

[Police seek to check Line posts](#) – The Nation, August 13, 2013

...”We have been talking to them a lot, but they do not want to cooperate. When they want anything, they expect to get it, but when we ask them for something, they rarely help us. They have taken a lot from Thailand but refused to cooperate with Thailand. I won’t let them go if they make any mistakes,” he warned...

Thaksin, “the Berlusconi of Asia”

August 13, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics

[Jeff Bezos, meet your fellow media plutocrats](#) – foreignpolicy.com, August 12, 2013

Among the media barons who have successfully made the transition from industry to politics, only Thaksin Shinawatra comes close to the success — and infamy — Berlusconi has garnered. Through a canny — and, some say, corrupt — use of government concessions, Shinawatra built a media empire from scratch that at its height (it’s now owned by a Singaporean holding company, though the family is still a powerhouse) included a majority stake in the country’s only private television network, a significant chunk of its largest mobile phone operator, a 40-percent stake in a major Internet provider, and a 41-percent stake in a satellite communications firm. But his good fortune was not to last. Elected prime minister in 2001, he was thrown out in a coup in 2006 amid charges of corruption and an anti-democratic governing style. Tellingly, his critics in the intelligentsia liked to call him the “Berlusconi of Asia.”

Bullying power of the strawberry ice-cream gang

August 14, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, August 14, 2013

Cartoon title: Bullying power of the strawberry ice-cream gang

On suit of woman on the left: Molly

Molly: Deaf, old man

On hooded figure's robe: Order to suppress the people; 100 dead bodies

On old man's suit: Pichai

On paper in front of Pichai: Participate in the political reform council's debate

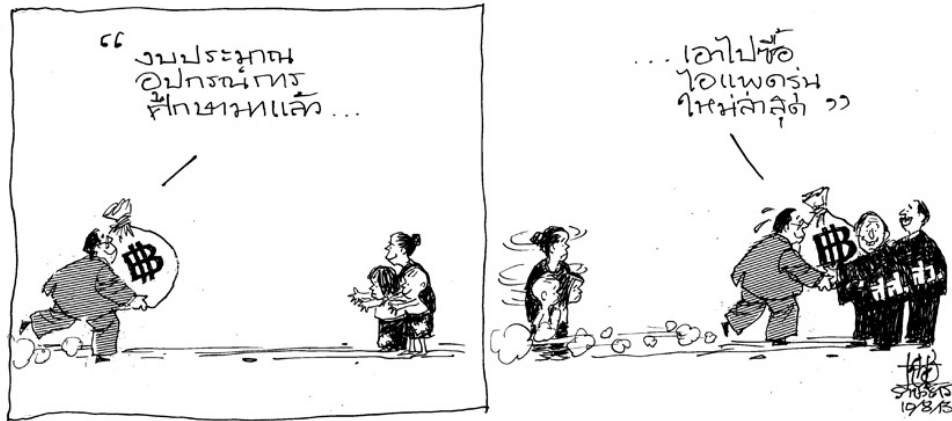
Phi Nooring: Former Party's leader

Mouse: Aggressive and insane

iPads for MPs

August 14, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, August 14, 2013

Left: Budget for educational material is coming...

Right: ...spend it for buying the new latest iPad.

On the two mens' shirts: MP

Advice to Yingluck from a monk

August 15, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



16/09/56

From Manager, September 15, 2013

Left: Monk: If you don't like people calling you e-ngo, you should not attend the meetings of the House of Representatives and go abroad more often.

PM Yingluck: Can it help?

Right: No!!... People will call you e-rad instead.

Same same

August 15, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, August 15, 2013

Cartoon title: Same same

Left: Insert black chemical paper into this device, and it will produce a legal dollar bill!

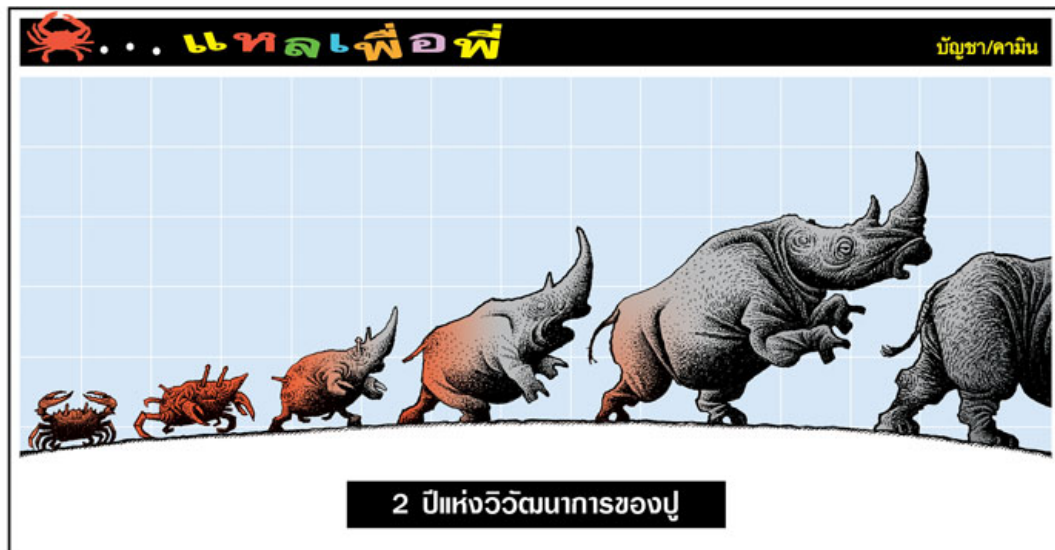
Right: Put a dirty man into this machine, he'll come out legally innocent.

On the right machine: Amnesty Act

Two years of the crab revolution

August 15, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



16/08/56

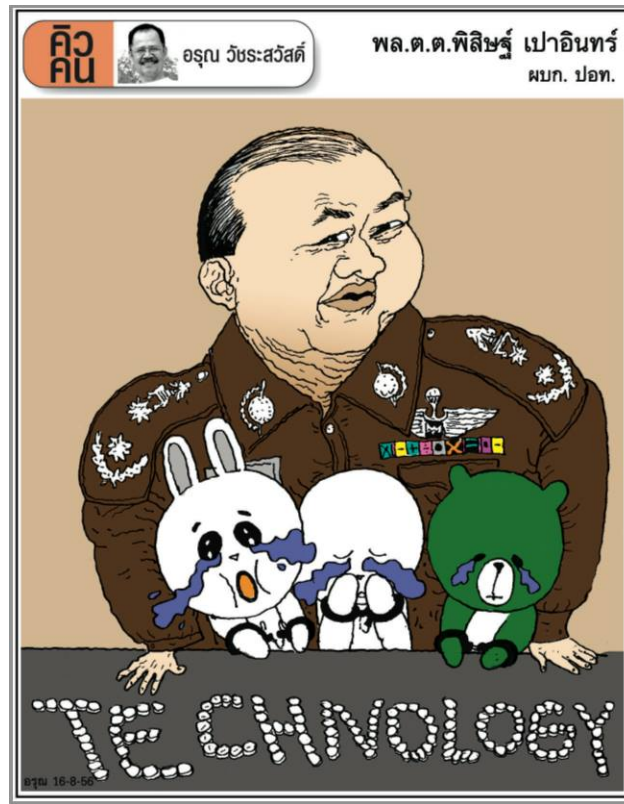
From Manager, August 15, 2013

Caption: Two years of the crab revolution

LINE under arrest

August 16, 2013

Categories: Censorship, Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From Arun, August 16, 2013

Top right: Pol.Maj.Gen. Pisit Pao-in, director of the Technology Crime Suppression Division

Thai Documentary ‘Censors Must Die’ Gets Screening Approval From State Censorship Board

August 16, 2013

Categories: Censorship, Film and TV

[Thai Documentary ‘Censors Must Die’ Gets Screening Approval From State Censorship Board](#) – Hollywood

Reporter, August 15, 2013

...Thailand’s film censorship board has approved the release of Censors Must Die, a local documentary made to lampoon and expose the bureaucratic irrationalities of the censorship board itself...

Great Rum From Where? Yes, Thailand

August 16, 2013

Categories: Food and Drink

[Great Rum From Where? Yes, Thailand](#) – Forbes, August 15, 2013

...Phraya plays a lot on Eastern philosophy in its marketing, and claims adherence to the ancient Asian way of viewing the world as governed by four natural elements, Fire, Earth, Air and Water. The Fire comes in the form of the charred oak barrels the rum is aged in. The Earth is responsible for the quality of the sugar cane, grown in Thailand's Nakhon Pathom. The Air is the tropical climate of the region, and the aging warehouses are buildings set on stilts over cool lagoons to moderate the hot weather. The water is, well, water, naturally occurring near where Phraya is distilled...

Thai Badminton Star Defeats Police Chief in Unlikely Mismatch

August 16, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News, Kamronwit Thoopkrachang

[Thai Badminton Star Defeats Police Chief in Unlikely Mismatch](#) – blogs.wsj.com, August 15, 2013

...This frenzy of attention prompted Lt. Gen. Kamronwit to repeatedly deny that Wednesday's match wasn't a stunt designed to cash in on 18-year-old Ms. Ratchanok's sudden popularity. Rather than furthering any political ambitions, as pursued by several other prominent officers before him, the trim police chief says he has played the game enthusiastically for years and wanted to give something back...

Surapong denies Blair paid B20m

August 16, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics

[Surapong denies Blair paid B20m](#) – The Nation, August 16, 2013

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul has denied a news report that the government has paid 20 million baht to hire former British prime minister Tony Blair to attend its forum promoting reconciliation...

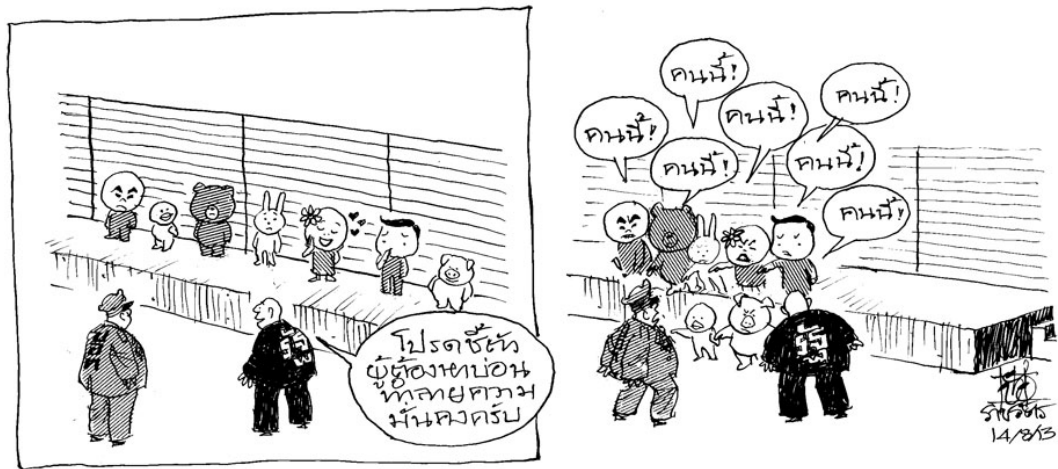
[Blair's dirty money: As his tentacles reach Mongolia, how the ex-PM is making millions from some of the world's most evil regimes](#) – dailymail.co.uk, June 14, 2013

...How else should we view the inexorable rise of his shadowy and quasi-political network of businesses, whose tentacles stretch from his smart offices next to the American Embassy in London into every corner of the globe?...

LINE lineup

August 16, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, August 16, 2013

Left frame: Government man says: Please identify a suspect who is a threat to national security. The other man has TCSD on his coat meaning "Technology Crime Suppression Division."

At right all the Line sticker characters point to the TCSD man and say: This guy!!!

Today... who is the most in trouble?

August 17, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, September 17, 2013

Title: Today... who is the most in trouble?

Signs held by people on the left: Stop stirring up trouble. Rubber farmers are satisfied with the government's assistance.

Signs held by people on the right: Real rubber farmers, Northern rubber farmers, Southern rubber farmers and Northeastern rubber farmers.

A sign held by a man destroying a police car: Ordered mob

Phi Nooring: Subjugation

Mouse: To overthrow the government

Weekly News Magazines, August 9, 2013

August 19, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, August 9, 2013

Cover reads: Long Live



From Matichon Weekly, August 9, 2013

Cover reads: Go home, 'children'.



From ASTV Manager Weekly, August 10, 2013
Cover reads: Told yah!!

Easy to say, hard to believe

August 20, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai, Kamronwit Thooprachang



From Thairath, July 28, 2013

Easy to say, hard to believe

Top left: The court ruled guilty, but asked Mom and she said not guilty

Top middle: The rice is not contaminated, but should be washed before being cooked

Top right: Inform the authorities if anyone has a lead on rice mortgage corruption; Whoever makes a revelation will be guilty for undermining the reputation of Thai rice

Bottom left: Attach a chip on every rice sack to prevent corruption though even rice can disappear

Bottom middle: Sold rice under the G-G trade but some 80,000 baht worth of checks were found

Bottom right: Insisting that the Chong Cao clip was modified, then why pressuring the Big Chong Cao to resign?

Blow the whistle!

August 20, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, August 5, 2013

Cartoon title: The PM wants to start counting one, but the opposing groups count backward

Sign carried by Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra reads: Political reform, country development

Sign carried by man behind Yingluck reads: Amnesty, restore justice to Thai society

Noise from whistle blown: Incite a mob outside the Parliament, try to overthrow the government, overturn the 100 deaths case

Banner on head of left man under the platform reads: PAD

Banner on head of right man under the platform reads: Freezing

Phi Nooring: Toward decline

Mouse: Advancement obstructing people

We believe in the chaos-parliamentary system

August 20, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, August 20, 2013

Title: We believe in the chaos-parliament system.

MP from the Opposition: Booing...

MP from the Opposition: Screaming...

On the hooded man: 100 deaths

Phi Noon-ring: Use the street politician's means

A mouse: Destroying the image

Time is valuable

August 20, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, August 20, 2013

Left: Why do people criticize that buying 75,000 baht clocks is too expensive?

Middle: Politician: All the wise men in this world accept this.

Reporters: Accept what?

Right: Time is valuable.

Sometimes a majority cannot win

August 21, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Various



From Post Today, August 19, 2013

Title: Sometimes a majority cannot win.

Right: Government

Tiger: Opposition

On the rope: Parliament game

Cambodia “postpones” some military co-operation with the US, tilts to China

August 21, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia’s U.S. military move raises eyebrows in D.C.](#) – blouinnews.com, August 19, 2013

...If Cambodia is not the central battleground where the U.S. and China vie for influence, it’s certainly a testing ground both for the strength of China’s soft power and the U.S.’s much-vaunted strategic pivot to the region...

Thai Government's Tough Job: Selling Rice

August 21, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai Government's Tough Job: Selling Rice](#) – WSJ, August 21, 2013

...Tuesday's tender is the third offer by the Thai government to sell rice to traders. With a staggering amount of 17 million tons of rice sitting in its warehouses – a result of the subsidy program where the Thai government buys the grain from farmers at above-market prices – the Thai government is under growing pressure to sell its huge stockpiles...

Thailand is a useful case study for Southeast Asia, as it suffers from the same malaise that has hit its neighbors

August 21, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Reversal of Fortune for Bangkok](#) – WSJ, August 20, 2013

...Rumors of a coup flew in Bangkok a few weeks ago, leading the police to detain several people for their Facebook posts. Prime Minister Yingluck's party tabled a bill to amnesty those who committed crimes during the civil strife since 2006, and that has royalists on alert to stop her brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, from returning from exile. Some investment is on hold, waiting to see how this plays out.

The lesson for Thailand and its neighbors is the familiar one that they need to tread a careful path among the great powers. Since they can't avoid being whipsawed by U.S. and Chinese policies, the best recourse is to put their own houses in order so investors won't panic when the money flows reverse direction.

Thai Baht Slumps to One-Year Low, Stocks Decline on Recession

August 21, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai Baht Slumps to One-Year Low, Stocks Decline on Recession](#) – Bloomberg, august 20, 2013

...“Thai economic growth may slow further in the third quarter as domestic consumption and exports are very weak,” said Voravan Tarapoom, the Bangkok-based chief executive officer of BBL Asset Management Co., which oversees about \$12 billion of assets. “The weak economy may damp the outlook for Thailand’s equity market for most of this year...”

Tobacco brands slip into Myanmar without fanfare

August 21, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Tobacco brands slip into Myanmar without fanfare](#) – AP, August 21, 2013

...British American Tobacco, the world's second largest cigarette manufacturer, shepherded a select audience of government officials to a low key ceremony last month where it formalized a \$50 million investment over five years to produce, market and sell its brands in Myanmar. Its factory, to be built on the outskirts of Yangon, will create about 400 jobs.

Japan Tobacco, No. 3 globally, quietly inked a deal nearly a year ago with local partner tycoon Kyaw Win. Company spokesman Royhei Sugata said a factory was being built, but refused to discuss details, from the project's scale or brand name to the plant's location.

China's largest tobacco producer is also setting up a multi-million dollar joint venture...

Man who sold fake bomb detectors to Thai military jailed

August 21, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Kent businessman jailed for seven years over fake bomb detectors](#) – Guardian, August 20, 2013

...Gary Bolton, 47, hawked the bogus kit to military and police clients in countries including Mexico, Thailand, Pakistan, China, India, the Philippines, Singapore, Egypt and Tunisia despite it being based on a novelty golf ball finder...

Thailand, conservative but tolerant, may legalise gay marriage

August 21, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand, conservative but tolerant, may legalise gay marriage](#) – Reuters, August 21, 2013

...Homosexuality was decriminalised in 1956 but considered a mental illness as recently as 2002. Many Thai Buddhists believe homosexuality is a punishment for sins committed in a past life...

Chalerm Does Care

August 22, 2013

Categories: Chalerm Yubamrung, Signs and Billboards



STOP human trafficking, laborer abuse, relating to addictive drugs
Police Captain Dr. Chalerm Ubumrung, Minister of the Labor Ministry
Road sign on left corner: Chaeng Wattana
Tel: 1694 Department of Employment's Hot Line

UK scientist who accused Thai govt official of plagiarism has reported receiving death & kidnap threats

August 22, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[‘Death threats’ in Thailand for UK whistleblower](#) – timeshighereducation.co.uk, August 22, 2013

...Dr Ellis told THE that the death threats were the latest escalation in years of surveillance and harassment that had included an investigation of his tax affairs and raids of his home by immigration officials. He was also bombarded with rocks by motorcycle-riding assailants as he drove to a court hearing in 2011, an incident captured by CCTV cameras...

Chalerm Does Care, Part 2

August 23, 2013

Categories: Chalerm Yubamrung, Uncategorized



STOP... Human tracking, relating to addictive drugs, abusing laborers

Rapidly expand social securities coverage

Hot Line Insurance 15...

Police Captain Chalerm Ubumrung, Minister of the Labor Ministry

Analysis: The strange editorial about Thai politics in the New York Times

August 23, 2013

Categories: Analysis

The New York Times

August 22, 2013

Can Egypt Learn From Thailand?

By JONATHAN TEPPERMAN

BANGKOK was rocked by anti-government demonstrations earlier this month — familiar sight.

But that bad news shouldn't overshadow the good. Disruptive protests may have lashed Thailand just a short while ago, but in the last two years, they've become an anomaly gone from a virtual wreck to a booming, and relatively stable, success story. Figuring out how Thailand managed to do that is important, and not just for Thailand's 65 million citizens. For a country as polarized as Egypt, other bitterly divided societies might learn from Thailand's example.

To get a sense of how far and fast Thailand has come, consider its recent past. More than a decade ago, Thailand was the land of a thousand smiles. Thailand spent most of the last decade fighting with

Above: [Can Egypt Learn From Thailand?](#), *The New York Times*, August 22, 2013

Analysis: The strange editorial about Thai politics in the *New York Times*

In recent years, coverage of Thai political events in the international press has been more nuanced and comprehensive than ever before.

So it is surprising to read that the “trouble really began in 2006...” in Thailand in an op-ed in the *New York Times* ([Can Egypt Learn From Thailand?](#)) as well as that Yingluck is a political peacemaker. The op-ed piece is not even from a professed Thaksin lobbyist, but by the managing editor of *Foreign Affairs*. While not telling us anything about the real state of Thai politics, it may cast some light on how outsiders see Thai politics.

The op-ed is certainly out of place coming during a time when the government, already in power and able to do most anything it wants, has brought it foes back onto the street and stoked controversy by again pushing amnesty and constitutional amendments designed to cement its power. The writer's sentiments might have held true earlier this year before the government and its Red Shirts started intimidating the courts, but now the government is in the middle of another battle royale over efforts to confer amnesty on its exiled leader.

This is a brief overview of the dynamics of what is actually happening:

From its earliest pronouncements, the Pheu Thai-led government has given the impression that its first priority is to enable a Thaksin return (this might also be interpreted as the scheming of political figures, like Chalerm, to curry favor with the real party boss).

Various centers of power, both in the government and outside of it, have their own concerns and agendas. However, they all face the prospect that, if Thaksin returns, he will undoubtedly become prime minister again.

In a political world that has had the expectation that political factions take turns holding power and graciously swap MP positions from election to election, the return of Thaksin would be a sea change for Thailand. Having defeated a coup and numerous attempts of the traditional Thai state to hobble him, his return would be an acknowledgement that his political ascendancy cannot be stopped.

The fear is that a Thaksin return would lead to something akin to Singapore or Malaysia in past decades where one party—holding sway over the media, military and business—has the clout to remake and reform the nation to its own liking. It is this fear of a loss of power that unites many disparate influences that see their prerogatives weakened by this possibility.

It is likely that even some government MPs would prefer normal governing to high-risk legislative gambles for Thaksin's sake—after all they are already in a sitting government. However, time and again the government risks it all to push through amnesty.

The current anti-government movement does not seem to be based on widespread public sentiment. Protests have been relatively small. Only late last year the government handily put down a similar attempt to unseat it so they are likely confident of handling the situation. There does not seem to be widespread public agitation or even deep interest in parliament and amnesty.

For those who oppose Thaksin, they simply wish for stalemate. This is the easiest outcome—allow the government to legislate as long as it does not try to change the rules for Thaksin's return. Allow the government to slowly lose popularity over time. Every missed chance at amnesty would convince politicians that Thaksin will never be allowed to return to power.

This is also the reason that Thaksin has to act now rather than later. He can no longer wait for another year or a better time. There is no better time. That is why the government must finally pass some sort of amnesty as soon as it can.

So let's take the *New York Times* op-ed piece at face value. It betrays a very U.S.-centric way of seeing the world. This is the American view that there is an innate desire in people for representative democracy—it is what people naturally aim for. However, as we have seen in Iraq, Egypt and much of the Arab Spring nations, while the U.S. attempted to interpret these movements as a desire for freedom and democracy, they were actually more about one disadvantaged political sphere trying to take their turn at power and disadvantaging all others. This might be the start of democracy, or better than what it replaced, but the societal impulse for openness, inclusion, and accountability is usually lacking.

The Pheu Thai in Thailand, the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, even Erdogan of Turkey were voted in and thus seemed to be what the people wanted. All rode a wave of popular support and have a public image based on a contrast with previous restrictive or unrepresentative regimes. Like Morsi in Egypt, the Pheu Thai and Thaksin's Red Shirts are cheered by their supporters when they attempt to enact measures that strengthen the executive and weaken judicial and other checks on the sitting government's actions.

The fear of the courts in particular is not unfounded in Thailand as courts have emerged as a method of dissolving political parties. Also, a case can be made that the corrupt and relatively chaotic way of doing things in Thailand could be straightened out by a couple decades of Malaysian or Singaporean-style one-party rule. Certainly the Thai opposition has shows little innovation or relevance in Thaksin-dominated Thailand.

The West can only hope that these proto-democratic movements can someday generate a functional multi-party system.

The *Times* op-ed also shows us how some in the international community see Thailand and what they expect of the nation. Thailand might not be afforded its nuances and contexts such as “Thaksin overreached for power during his time as prime minister.” Or that Thai concepts of fairness trump the rightness or wrongness of the situation. Or that democracy is suspect in the Thai world and must be moderated by outside forces because of long-held feelings about family and the nature of corruption.

These are all real arguments as well as twisted rationales informed by the deeply different Thai worldview. But for many Western observers, Pheu Thai was elected and that is the end of it. Thailand is not big enough

nor important enough in a global sense for much more consideration.

Did the “trouble really began in 2006” with the coup as the op-ed suggests? No. It starts and ends with Thaksin and his ambition to influence and direct Thailand’s sitting government. And it also hinges on a traditional Thai mistrust of democracy made real by Thaksin’s time as prime minister from 2001 to 2006.

But if Thaksin were totally removed from the political landscape, what are we left with? The political opportunist MPs of the government that circled their wagons around the Thaksin cause? Or going back to the 1990s with the Democrats and Banharn and Chavalit and even Chalerm? After all these years, is this all the Thai political world has to offer its constituents? No wonder Thaksin remains popular.

The Thai government is making progress on its goals. Amnesty is finally on the table as are constitutional amendments. Rumors are flying that the great unelected powers of the Thai world have made a grand bargain. The result may eventually mean a Thaksin return as prime minister.

But Thaksin as PM again is not really the messy “compromise” of democracy that a U.S.-centric worldview supposes. It is something many nations seem to lurch to on a twisting road to proper representation for all—an underrepresented majority demanding their turn at power to rule unopposed and enjoy the spoils of political battle.

And earlier article with more background on the buildup to what is happening now: [The Wheel Begins to Turn: Weekly Rallies and Disapproving Academics](#)

Update: It seems even the New York Times could not stomach the many false assertions in the op-ed:

Correction: August 30, 2013

An Op-Ed article last Friday about Thai politics contained several errors. Thailand’s economy is in recession, not “booming.” Antigovernment protests in 2010 occurred in the spring, not in January, and protesters were killed by the military, not the police. The prime minister since 2011, Yingluck Shinawatra, has proposed establishing a fully elected Senate and making it harder for courts to disband political parties; she has not “avoided challenging the Constitution.”

Our democracy uses a majority to settle a dispute

August 24, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, August 24, 2013

Left: Somsak: Our democracy uses a majority to settle a dispute.

Middle: Foreigner: You mean that you count MP's hands when voting?

Right: Somsak: No, we use the parliament police's hands to remove the opposition from the room.

(Sent by Khun Nik Pongphoo from San Francisco)

What ever happened to the 9-year-old Karen twins who led “God’s Army” to seize a Thai hospital in 2000?

August 25, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[No magical army, says twin](#) – Bangkok Post, August 25, 2013

...The 200-strong guerilla force comprising God’s Army bandied legends that while Luther commanded 250,000 invisible soldiers, Johnny commanded 150,000. The twins were supposedly born with mythical black tongues, a sign of legendary power.

In 2000, images of the young twins smoking cigarettes—the first photographs of the Htoos to be released—hit news stands across the globe and propelled the rebels to a degree of international notoriety. The two became most known for the God’s Army capture of a hospital in Ratchaburi the same year—where the army demanded the Thai government cease from shelling Karen border outposts, while holding hundreds hostage...

Well-Mannered Thai Party Throws Down Its Gloves in Government Protests

August 26, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics

[Well-Mannered Thai Party Throws Down Its Gloves in Government Protests](#) – NYT, August 25, 2013

...In a country with a history of military coups and other democratic disruptions, the Democrat Party for years lived by the mantra “I believe in the parliamentary system,” the words of Chuan Leekpai, a former prime minister who is now the party’s elder statesman.

... “We want to awaken the masses,” said Nipit Intarasombut, a lawmaker who leads the Democrats’ radical faction that advocates aggressive street demonstrations. “It’s a new era for the party,” he said. “People today are fearful. But once we can mobilize hundreds of thousands of people on the streets, the fear will disappear...”

‘Drugs planted on Melbourne couple’ in Thailand

August 26, 2013

Categories: Crime

[‘Drugs planted on Melbourne couple’ in Thailand](#) – Yahoo, August 26, 2013

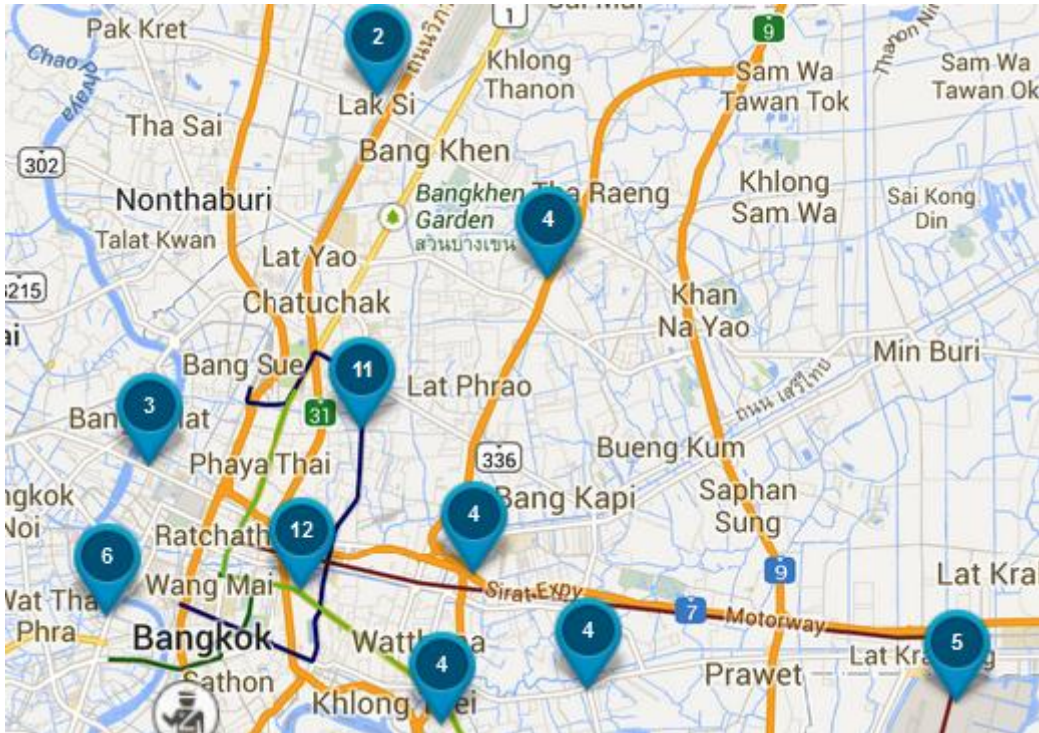
...”We do think it was about money more than anything,” Georgia told Fairfax Radio.

“We’re just very lucky that we didn’t board that flight. Who knows what would have happened to us if we did.”

Meet Bribespot Thailand: the non-profit helping users to map corruption

August 27, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News



[Meet Bribespot Thailand: the non-profit helping users to map corruption](#) – [ventureburn.com](#), August, 2013

Have you ever bribed a police officer? Have you ever been requested to pay a bribe in order to get something done? Or have you ever encountered a bribing incident happening to others around you? Well, if you live in Thailand, I'd assume you were lying if you answered no. According to Corruption Perceptions Index 2012, Thailand ranks number 88 out of 174 on the most corrupt countries list. If you're sick and tired of the bribing "norm," join Bribespot Thailand's effort...

[Bribespot Thailand](#)

BBC: Is Thailand's car buying scheme a wise move?

August 29, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=http://www.youtube.com/embed/0p7uq03jb8c>



Al-Jazeera: Violence in the Thai south is still ongoing, but a new radio station aims to change that

August 29, 2013

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[Thai radio station promotes debate](#) – aljazeera.com, August 28, 2013

...I watched as Media Selatan's showcase programme, Hari Dunia Ini in the local language, Pattani-Melayu or The World Today in English went to air, and it immediately became clear that these journalists are very serious about providing listeners with a range of opinions so they can make up their own minds about issues. They started by interviewing Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the evacuation of Thai students from the political turmoil in Cairo. Later on in the show they discussed an infrastructure project, which they argued is a waste of money because the community doesn't need it...

BBC: Thailand's rice price scheme: A policy too far?

August 30, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=http://www.youtube.com/embed/fu8vWOW6YSo>



[Thailand's rice price scheme: A policy too far?](#) – BBC, August 29, 2013

In the latest in our series on Thailand's populist, big-spending programmes – known as Thaksinomics – we look at the price guarantee for the country's rice farmers.

It was a promise made by the governing Pheu Thai party during the election campaign two years ago.

The policy involved buying the entire rice crop at a fixed price – and as a result the government has accumulated a vast stockpile of the food, which if sold at today's prices would incur a loss.

The BBC's South East Asia correspondent Jonathan Head reports on one of Thaksinomics' most controversial policies.

Yesterday: [BBC: Is Thailand's car buying scheme a wise move?](#)

Thailand seeks balance between growth and debt

August 30, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand seeks balance between growth and debt](#) – oxfordbusinessgroup.com, August 29, 2013

...As most of the measures set out by the government target business development rather than ramping up domestic consumption, the impact on private debt and the risk of higher levels of NPLs should be limited. However, apart from the commitment to fast track the release of funds from the budget, especially those set aside for infrastructure and development projects, many of the other measures may take time to implement in full and longer still before they have an impact. As such, the effects of the government's stimulus programme are more likely to be felt late in the year or into 2014, meaning the package may not bring the short-term boost to growth hoped for it.

Dunkin' Donuts Thailand under fire for 'racist' ad campaign

August 31, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News



[Dunkin' Donuts Thailand under fire for 'racist' ad campaign](#) – LA Times, August 30, 2013

A human rights group on Friday criticized a Dunkin' Donuts advertising campaign running in Thailand that features a model whose face is painted black to sell a chocolate doughnut.

Dunkin' Donuts Thailand recently started running ads for its “Charcoal Donut,” which features a model wearing blackface makeup and bright pink lipstick and holding up a bitten doughnut. The translated Thai slogan reads: “Break every rule of deliciousness...”

It was only a matter of time: UK student mauled by 400lb tiger in Thailand at the Tiger Temple sanctuary

August 31, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Student, 19, mauled by 400lb tiger in Thailand at popular tourist attraction](#) – Daily Mail, August 30, 2013

Enjoying the trip of a lifetime to Thailand, university student Isabelle Brennan strokes a young tiger at a popular tourist attraction – one of the few places in the world where you can pet the deadly animals while they sleep.

But just minutes after this photo was taken, another 400lb tiger leapt into the frame, knocking the 19-year-old to the ground with its paw and sinking its teeth into her thigh.

She was saved when keepers at the Tiger Temple sanctuary in West Thailand jumped between her and the animal, while her sister and travelling companion Georgie, 21, dragged her to safety...

