

New York Times corrects opinion article about Thailand

September 1, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

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."

[NY Times corrects opinion article about Thailand](#) – The Nation, September 1, 2013

The 2Bangkok analysis of this: [The strange editorial about Thai politics in the New York Times](#)

New York Times: Hit-and-Run Case Seen as Reflection of Inequality in Thailand

September 3, 2013

Categories: Chalerm Yubamrung, Crime

[Hit-and-Run Case Seen as Reflection of Inequality in Thailand](#) – New York Times, September 3, 2013

...Pornanand Glanprasert, the older brother of the dead policeman, said in an interview on Monday that he was not so sure.

“If you are common people like us, I think the case is already finished,” Mr. Pornanand said.

Mr. Vorayuth, he said, “is powerful, has many connections and a lot of money.”

“He is going to try very hard not to be charged — or at the very least to get a suspended sentence or no punishment at all,” he said.

Some things never change: Chalerm and “the brawling brats of the Thai Elite”

[The Untouchables](#) – Time, November 26, 2001

...In Thailand, being from the right family too often counts for more than being right. The scions of privileged military and business families have sometimes literally gotten away with murder. There are scant repercussions when a well-to-do ne’er-do-well has a few too many drinks and throws a few too many punches, even when some unlucky Thai ends up dead...

Is Thai Airways Sixth President since 2000 already gone?

September 4, 2013

Categories: Airports and Airlines

[Is Thai Airways Sixth President since 2000 already gone?](#) – traveldailynews.asia, September 2, 2013

...After sacking Piyasvasti Amranand, a former energy minister, who was the airline's President from October 2009 to May 2012, the function of Acting President was already assumed by Chokchai Panyayong, by then Vice president in charge of strategy and business development. Last week, Thai Airways Unions asked rather for the resignation of the airline's chairman Ampon Kittiampon rather than President Sorajak Kasemsuwan. Mr. Kittiampon is a controversial figure. He was criticized last year by media to have pushed Mr. Amranand to resign rather on political motivation than on his real achievements.

Meanwhile, Thai Airways International can pride itself for a new record. The State-owned airline (51% are in the hands of Thailand's Ministry of Finance) has seen six Presidents from 2000 to 2013!...

Thailand's figurehead Prime Minister

September 4, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics

[Yingluck – the PM who's always missing](#) – The Nation, September 2, 2013

...Former deputy national police chief Vasit Dejkunchorn, who initiated the anti-government Thai Spring group, recently questioned Yingluck's trip to the provinces while the amnesty bill was going through its first reading in the House.

On August 7-8, the House was debating the bill proposed by Pheu Thai MP Worachai Hema and the premier was on a train to Nakhon Pathom, where she chaired a meeting on a railway development plan. She then travelled to Nong Pho Dairy Cooperative in Ratchaburi and observed wild elephants at the National Park in Prachuab Khiri Khan.

In his article, Vasit said that as Yingluck did not have the experience or the debating skills to counter arguments raised by opposition MPs, her older brother preferred that if she kept herself busy with other activities on the day.

The current 24th House of Representatives has had five regular sessions and one extraordinary session so far. Though Yingluck tried to attend House meetings early in her term, she started skipping them soon after. She has also only answered three queries – one put forward by a government MP and two others by Democrats...

Bangkok TV Soap Opera Attracts Muslim Anger and Scrutiny

September 4, 2013

Categories: Film and TV

[Bangkok TV Soap Opera Attracts Muslim Anger and Scrutiny](#) – scoop.co.nz, September 2, 2013

...The soap opera “Fah Jarod Sai” or “Where the Sky Meets the Sand” stars Thai actors in a superficial melodrama portraying an imaginary Arab-style royal officer who falls in love with a girl who is half-Thai, half-French, in a fantasy kingdom named Hinfara...

17,000 Saudis visit Thailand despite ban

September 4, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[17,000 Saudis visit Thailand despite ban](#) – Gulf News, September 2, 2013

...Saudi Arabia imposed the ban following the “blue diamond” affair of 1989 when a Thai national broke into the palace of a Saudi prince and stole close to 100kg of jewellery, including a fabulous blue diamond. Soon afterwards, three Saudi diplomats in Bangkok were shot execution-style in two different attacks on the same night, and two days later, a Saudi businessman was killed...

Frost & Sullivan Forecasts Myanmar's Automotive Market To Grow at CAGR of 7.8 Per Cent to Reach 95,300 Units in 2019

September 4, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Frost & Sullivan Forecasts Myanmar's Automotive Market To Grow at CAGR of 7.8 Per Cent to Reach 95,300 Units in 2019](#) – PR Newswire, September 3, 2013

Myanmar's automotive market is likely to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.8 per cent (2013-2019), driven by a growing economy, infrastructure development and increasing income...

What Myanmar Must Do To Free Itself Of China

September 4, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[What Myanmar Must Do To Free Itself Of China](#) – Forbes, September 2, 2013

...“China is corrupt and rotten to the core,” one Myanmar businessman told me earlier this year. The Chinese have taken Myanmar’s resources on terms approaching theft. By 2010, Myanmar’s rulers were convinced that they needed an offsetting great-power relationship. So beginning with Aung San Suu Kyi in November that year, they began freeing political prisoners. A new constitution followed, as did multi-party elections early last year. But few in the West noticed that the constitution left the military free of civilian control and did not mention ethnic group rights. Instead, the U.S. government ignored the non-Burman ethnic groups...

Manchester City: Half a decade later things are different from the dark days at the end of Thaksin's era

September 4, 2013

Categories: Sports

[Five years on, Manchester City's blue moon is still rising](#) – manchestereveningnews.co.uk, September 2, 2013

...Half a decade later things are a little different from the dark days at the end of Thaksin's era when it felt as though the Blue moon would never rise again. On the pitch City are looking to reclaim the Premier League title they landed in 2012 for the first time in 44 long years...

Archery Gives Bhutan Its Sporting Chance

September 4, 2013

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Archery Gives Bhutan Its Sporting Chance](#) – NYT, September 3, 2013

...Probably the most surprising part of the tournament was how casually everyone — archers, spectators, dancers and even stray dogs — carried themselves around lethal arrows being flung the length of one and a half football fields with varying degrees of accuracy. Dancers wandered onto the pitch throughout the match, arrows whistling yards over their heads. Archers stood feet from the target while their teammates aimed almost directly at them.

“People have confidence in our archers,” Prince Jigyel Ugyen explained during a break in the action. “I’m not sure that’s a good thing.” Indeed, archery injuries are among the most common reasons for hospital admissions in Bhutan, officials said.

One possible reason is that drinking is encouraged during tournaments, as is the competitors’ near-constant chewing of pan, a mild narcotic that stained their teeth red. Taunting opponents is common, and on rare occasions archers stand in front of the target and get shot rather than allow a competitor to win crucial points, though that has become even less common with the more powerful and accurate compound bows...

Which “highly influential” Thai figure still holds the priceless Saudi Blue Diamond?

September 4, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[After Decades Of Silence, Optimism In Al-Ruwaili Case](#) – Khao Sod, September 3, 2013

[Trial Centres On Authenticity Of ‘Al-Ruwaili Ring’](#) – Khao Sod, September 3, 2013

Thailand extends costly rice-buying scheme

September 4, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand extends costly rice-buying scheme](#) – AP, September 3, 2013

...The rice-buying scheme, a flagship policy of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's government, has accumulated losses of at least \$4.46 billion since it was introduced in 2011. Attempts to lower the payments faced resistance from farmers, whose votes helped Yingluck's party win a commanding victory in 2011 elections.

Despite the purchasing limit, which was introduced for the first time, the government will pay 30 billion baht (\$933 million) more than it did in the last harvest year...

Portland mountain biker finds big brother watching him in Myanmar

September 8, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar is a new adventure hot spot, but a Portland mountain biker finds the downside: big brother](#) – oregonlive.com, September 7, 2013

...Most everything south of Mawlamyine, a former British outpost on the Thanlwin River, is off-limits to travelers while the landowners figure out exactly which property deals or luxury resorts will be most profitable. This all goes unquestioned, partly because locals are still allowed access, and partly because questions have been outlawed for quite some time...

Weekly News Magazines, August 16, 2013

September 8, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, August 16, 2013

Cover reads: Weed-flower Queen



From Matichon Weekly, August 16, 2013

Cover reads: Good person, good story; Thai people chanting: love 'Nong May'



From ASTV Manager Weekly, August 17, 2013
Cover reads: Not slutty, don't chat shitty

Weekly News Magazines, August 23, 2013

September 9, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Matichon Weekly, August 23, 2013

Cover reads: Just get out on the street whenever they want to. And scold me when I refuse to join them.



From ASTV Manager Weekly, August 24,
Cover reads: Pae Lim delivers it, dare the cockroaches

She didn't lie this time!

September 9, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



10/09/56

From Komchadluek, September 9, 2013

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra: Montenegrin people have high incomes... They'd like to visit Thailand sooo much... So I've to travel there to invite them to Thailand in order to increase our country's income.

Caption: She didn't lie this time!

No Quorum

September 10, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, September 10, 2013

MP: Mr. President, I call for a quorum count.

On the sign: Parliament

Banharn with Miss Teen Thailand

September 11, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



12/09/56

From Komchadluek, September 11, 2013

Left: Banharn Silpa-acha: I'd like to ask Khun Anand to join in political reform.

Middle: Banharn: I'd like to ask Khun Sondhi... Khun Chamlong to join in political reform.

Right: Banharn: I want to ask Nong Manao to join in the political reform.

Newcomer in Exile

September 12, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, September 12, 2013

Thaksin: Oh!!! Welcome, newcomer...

Thailand doubles rubber subsidy, farmers yet to cancel weekend

September 12, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand doubles rubber subsidy, farmers yet to cancel weekend](#) – AP, September 10, 2013

...After the drop in prices last year, the government spent 22 billion baht buying rubber from October 2012 to May 2013 and built up stocks of 210,000 metric tons of rubber sheet without making much impression on global prices.

That \$690-million rubber subsidy program was axed after criticism it was costly and distorted the market. Similarly, a government rice intervention scheme has come under intense scrutiny after incurring losses of at least \$4.46 billion since it was introduced in 2011.

Thailand has tried to enlist Indonesia and Malaysia, the next biggest exporters, in restricting shipments but has not had much success. Demand from companies in China and from tire makers has proved to be a bigger factor in setting prices...

Learning from South Korea: transforming Bangkok's sewage canals

September 12, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok needs to discover its Seoul](#) – Bangkok Post, September 12, 2013

...I was told by a Seoul Tourism Organisation representative that the canal used to be very polluted and full of human waste and trash after migration at the end of the Korean War (1950-1953). The area around the stream became a slum and water could no longer be used for consumption as it could harm people's health. The solution was to cover the stream with a concrete floor in 1958. About 20 years later, an elevated highway was built on top as the city geared toward modernisation...

In 2003, the expressway was removed and the concrete floor was demolished. It took about two years and a budget of \$386 million (about 12 billion baht) to turn the stream, which is 4.6m below street level, into the fresh and clear Cheonggyecheon of today...

Murder of Journalists Continues to go Unpunished in Cambodia

September 12, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Murder of Journalists Continues to go Unpunished in Cambodia](#) – Reporters Without Borders, September 11, 2013

...Hang Serei Oudom is the eleventh journalist to be murdered in Cambodia since 1994 and is now the eleventh journalist whose murder has been met with impunity.

Cambodia's King Under Criticism for Not Intervening in Election Dispute

September 12, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia's King Under Criticism for Not Intervening in Election Dispute](#) – RFA, September 11, 2013

...But Prince Sisowath Thomico, a CNRP member and former adviser to King Sihamoni, said the monarch may be wary of using his influence to break the deadlock as it may risk endangering the monarchy itself. The CPP, he said, has at least twice made direct threats against the institution of the monarchy—once in 2005, when Hun Sen warned the king his throne was at stake if he did not endorse Cambodia-Vietnam border treaties, and again in 2006, when senior party member Cheam Yeap said the CPP could abolish the monarchy just as it had reinstalled it.

“Who holds the power at present?” Prince Thomico asked. “Who controls the army, the police, the armed forces?”

He said Hun Sen could “stage a coup to depose the monarchy at any time...”

No Need for Overseas Trips

September 13, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, September 13, 2013

Left: I only see goods prices going up nowadays. But I don't see the government does anything to help lower the prices.

Yes, it did!! The government already did it.

Right: Which goods?

It lowered import tax on brand-name products. No need to fly afar to buy them anymore.

Remembering the Thaksin Years: Bad karma derives from those who made it

September 13, 2013

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



From Thairath, September 13, 2001

Cartoon title: Bad Karma... Derives from those who made it

On arm on the right: Terrorism

The demands from BRN

September 15, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Post Today, September 15, 2013

On the wall: Southern insurgency, 5 demands from BRN

The man is Lt. Gen. Paradorn Pattanatabut, secretary-general of the National Security Council (NSC)

The high cost of living is just a perception

September 16, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, September 16, 2013

Caption: The high cost of living is just a perception.

On the bombs: Egg, gas and petroleum

Don't be afraid, my leader...

September 16, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



17/09/56

From Manager, September 16, 2013

Somsak Prisananuntagul: Don't be afraid, my leader... What you faced at Baan Phra Arthit was the toughest. People here are only good at using a razor blade to slash.

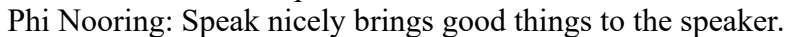
The man with the axe in his head is former PM Banharn Silpa-archa.

A man with glasses at the far left is former PM Chuan Leekpai.

A building is the Democrat Party's office.

Caption: Still... continue visiting

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



Conflict and Skepticism

September 16, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Various



19/08/56

From Manager, August 18, 2013

Blue sign reads: People must come out first

Symbol at right corner: The Democrat Party

Top caption: Having demanded from other people all along

Green sign reads: The Democrat must come out first

Right corner: People

Bottom caption: Begin to be demanded



20/08/56

From Manager, August 20, 2013

Man: Frogs... bullfrogs are croaking... meaning it's going to rain.

Left: Nature's sign for the country people

Man: Rhino is out wandering meaning there is a parliamentary meeting.

Right: ...for the Bangkokians



21/08/56

From Manager, August 20, 2013

Caption: The audience doesn't understand the hero.

On backdrop: Likay on the parliamentary system

Audience, from left: Just get off the stage... stop playing; Stop playing; Get down... get down...

The hero, former PM Abhisit: No, I cannot get off the stage... You don't understand, there must be a hero and a villain in Likay... without the hero, it won't be a Likay.



23/08/56

From Manager, August 22, 2013

Left sign: Parliamentary spokesman

Right sign: Senate spokesman

Parliamentary spokesman: Why do you look so familiar... Have we ever met before?

Senate spokesman: Eh!... I'm hanging by your side... Don't you remember?

Caption: Both are Khai Maew



From Thairath, August 22, 2013

Left title: In the olden time...

Left: Quiet man, or I'll call a police to take you out!

Right title: Present time...

Parliamentary spokesman: Sit down the Opposition! If not, I'll call the riot police to take you out!!!

Do High-Speed Trains Derail?

September 17, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, September 17, 2013

Left: Ai Joi: Ai Theng, I have good news for you. So many derailments now. Once it changes to the 2.2 trillion high-speed trains, it'll be comfy and worry-free for you.

Middle: Ai Theng: Because high-speed trains don't derail?

Ai Joi: Yes they do...

Right: ...But the farthest South they'll go is Hua Hin. So the real Southerners like you won't have a chance to use them.

Suspect in US Mass Shooting Had Interest in Thai Culture

September 17, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Suspect in Shooting Had Interest in Thai Culture, and Problems With the Law](#) – NYT, September 16, 2013

Heart-warming video shows baby elephant trying desperately to wake up sleeping dog with his trunk

September 18, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=http://www.youtube.com/embed/leGv4j9CBy4>



[Heart-warming video shows baby elephant trying desperately to wake up sleeping dog with his trunk](#) – Daily Mail, September 17, 2013

...The playful elephant, filmed in Northern Thailand, tries a number of tactics to wake up his tuckered friend, who seems to be oblivious as he continues to sleep through them all...

Not a dry eye in the house: The Thai mobile phone advert that has everyone reaching for their hankies

September 18, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=http://www.youtube.com/embed/A5U0UNKQ08g>

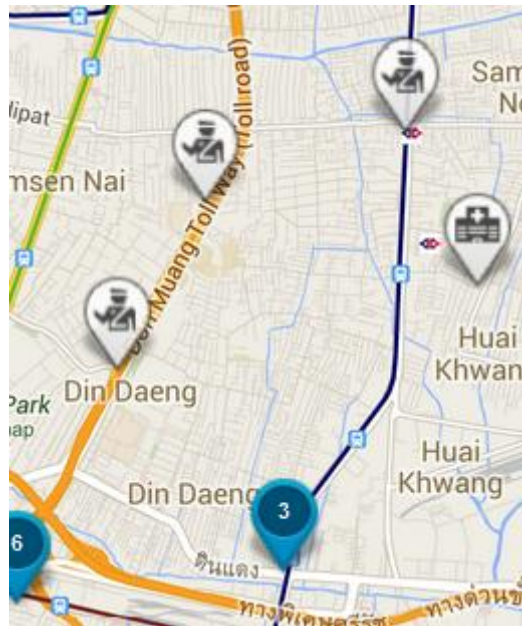


[Not a dry eye in the house: The Thai mobile phone advert that has everyone reaching for their hankies](#) –
Daily Mail, September 16, 2013

More on Bribespot

September 18, 2013

Categories: Crime



[Bribespot: Fighting Corruption in Thailand One Click at a Time](#) – VOA, September 12, 2013

...As it is in many developing countries, bribery is ubiquitous in Thailand. A Transparency International survey found that one-fourth of those in the country acknowledged making a payoff at least once a year. But the government's Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) said it only received about 4,000 complaints annually through its telephone hotline, Website and walk-in center...

[Bribespot Thailand](#)

Myanmar's mock stars: A censored nation gives rise to rock 'n' roll bizarro world

September 18, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar's mock stars: A censored nation gives rise to rock 'n' roll bizarro world](#) – NBCNews, September 18, 2013

...Within six notes — and even after six beers — both could identify the iconic guitar intro to “Enter Sandman” by Metallica. It is, after all, the best-known riff by one of the most popular metal bands ever. But in Myanmar, the isolated nation formerly titled Burma, the song is known by an entirely different name: “Exits” by the square-jawed, tatted-up rocker Lay Phyu...

How eccentric were the generals who conducted the 1988 coup in Burma?

September 18, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[The Strange Birds behind the 1988 Myanmar Coup](#) – The Irrawaddy, September 17, 2013

...Long before Gen Saw Maung lost his hold on power, he seemed to be losing his grip on reality. Gen Kyaw Win recalled how Myanmar's top general once started engaging in a conversation with a Buddha image at a famous shrine in Upper Myanmar. After that, he began declaring himself the reincarnation of the 11th-century warrior-king Kyansittha and claimed he could see into the future...

The Strange Birds behind the '88 Coup

Posted: 16 Sep 2013

Retired Gen Kyaw Win is a keen observer. These days, he devotes what's left of his failing eyesight to his two passions: photography and bird-watching. But in the past, when he served as number two in Myanmar's once dreaded spy agency, he was regularly witness to far more intriguing things.

In April 1992, when Gen Saw Maung, the leader of the military regime formed in 1988 to "restore order" after crushing pro-democracy protests in a bloody coup, was informed by then military intelligence chief and junta Secretary One Gen KhinNyunt that he had been "permitted to retire due to health reasons," Gen Kyaw Win was there.

"Don't abandon us," the visibly shaken Gen Saw Maung said to Gen KhinNyunt, fearing that he and his family were about to be placed under house arrest.

Long before Gen Saw Maung lost his hold on power, he seemed to be losing his grip on reality. Gen Kyaw Win recalled how Myanmar's top general once started engaging in a conversation with a Buddha image at a famous shrine in Upper Myanmar. After that, he began declaring himself the reincarnation of the 11th-century warrior-king Kyansittha and claimed he could see into the future.

"He didn't sleep at all," Gen Kyaw Win said of his former boss, who was clearly suffering from a nervous breakdown and had become dangerously paranoid (on one occasion, Gen Kyaw Win said, the senior general brandished his revolver at some soldiers who had come to welcome him and his wife to a reception).

At one point, then Col Kyaw Win saw Gen Saw Maung summon regional commanders based in northern Myanmar to Mandalay to demand to know if they still supported him.

In fact, Gen Saw Maung owed his powerful position to Gen Ne Win, the dictator who had been forced to step down after massive protests calling for his ouster took place around the country. Gen Saw Maung, who was then serving as commander in chief of the armed forces, was called to the former dictator's residence along with his deputy Gen Than Shwe and Gen Ne Win's trusted spy chief Gen KhinNyunt. Their orders were to stage a coup.

After the military seized power on Sept. 18, 1988, Gen Saw Maung triumphantly declared that he had "saved the nation", but the sullen Gen ThanShwe didn't utter a word.

From the beginning, Gen ThanShwe was aloof from the other members of the junta, preferring the company of loyal subordinates. Among them was Gen Kyaw Win, who had served under the taciturn general in Shan State in the early 1980s, and stayed close to him throughout the remainder of his military career.

During all their years together, however, Gen ThanShwe never discussed politics with Gen Kyaw Win. But in a sign that even early on he did not trust Gen KhinNyunt, he assigned Gen Kyaw Win to act as the spy chief's deputy.

Reporting back on Gen KhinNyunt words and actions was not difficult: All of the top leaders slept at the War Office from 1988 until the capital was moved to Naypyitaw in 2005. Gen Kyaw Win and other trusted aides would often massage Gen ThanShwe in his bed until he fell asleep. The powerful general also liked listening to their gossip and jokes, and sometimes, even after it seemed that he had already drifted off to sleep, he would laugh out loud at some amusing anecdote the officers were sharing among themselves.

Gen Kyaw Win also knew that his boss had a deep-seated distrust of intellectuals and didn't like having educated people around him. Despite being a graduate of Yangon University, however, Gen Kyaw Win seemed to have won his trust.

Another thing he knew about Gen ThanShwe was that he regarded Myanmar, a nation wedged between the world's two most populous countries, India and China, as uniquely vulnerable. For this reason, he believed that it needed a special military budget to build a strong army and acquire nuclear weapons. With money from state-owned enterprises and the sale of natural gas, he moved the capital to central Myanmar and built tunnels and launched a nascent nuclear weapons program.

Meanwhile, Gen KhinNyunt and his feared Military Intelligence Service were busy running torture chambers and chasing after dissidents. This part of their operation was sanctioned by Gen ThanShwe; but the dossiers they were collecting on corruption within the regime apparently wasn't.

In the early days, Gen ThanShwe was regarded as quite clean. But from around the early 2000s, several ministers and powerful generals had begun seeking favors. Usually, they just paid visits to his home, where they could count on a friendly welcome if they came bearing gifts for his family. This has been called "kitchen politics"—currying favor with Myanmar's top family through the back door.

Gen Kyaw Win's disapproval of this development made him and other aides who believed it was part of their job to "keep the businessmen at bay" less than popular with Gen ThanShwe's wife DawKyaingKyaing and other close relatives. But the senior leader continued to entrust him with important missions, such as maintaining contacts with intelligence agencies in neighboring countries and acting as a messenger between himself and opposition leader DawAung San SuuKyi, who was then under house arrest. His most important duty, however, was to continue monitoring Gen KhinNyunt.

Once regarded as a natural successor to Gen ThanShwe, the spy chief never imagined that he would one day be removed from power, despite warnings from his subordinates that he was vulnerable to just such a fate.

The trouble came as powerful generals and commanders in the army's infantry units learned that they were secretly being investigated. Infantry and intelligence units were always at loggerheads, and it became clear that Gen KhinNyunt's intelligence unit was building a state within a state. For years, Gen Than Shwe was urged to put the spy chief in his place—something he had probably wanted to do all along.

Of course, Gen Kyaw Win played a role in Gen KhinNyunt's downfall, making sure that all of his reports on his immediate superior reached his real boss via Gen Shwe Mann, the current speaker of Myanmar's Lower House of Parliament, who was then the joint chief of staff of army, navy and air force and the third most powerful member of the junta.

To neutralize Gen KhinNyunt, Gen ThanShwe appointed him prime minister and asked him to hand his duties as spy chief over to Gen MyintSwe, one of Gen Than Shwe's loyal subordinates and now chief minister of Yangon Region.

But Gen KhinNyunt refused to play along, and later, Gen ThanShwe learned that he had threatened at a cabinet meeting to expose corruption among military commanders and ministers.

In the end, Gen ThanShwe didn't have to do a thing. "Do what you have to do," he said, and soon the problem was taken care of. The infantry commanders, who had a plan in place and had long waited to hear these words, moved swiftly. They arrested Gen KhinNyunt and threw everyone close to him into prison. Within hours, Gen KhinNyunt's spy network was dismantled.

That was in October 2004. When Gen KhinNyunt, who had been summoned to the office of the junta's number two Gen Maung Aye shortly after getting off a plane in Yangon, was told to "go home," he replied

sarcastically that he was “delighted” to do so. He knew he had no choice: All of the other senior junta members—except Gen ThanShwe—were there. He was escorted back to his home, and after years as one of Myanmar’s most feared men, he became just another prisoner of one of the world’s most repressive regimes.

Although Gen ThanShwe left the dirty business of dealing with Gen KhinNyunt to his subordinates, he was in full control of what came after. He reinforced his own power base, locked up more dissidents, and pushed ahead with drafting a constitution that would cement the military’s role in Myanmar politics. Finally, after holding a rigged election in 2010 that delivered a landslide victory to the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party, he stepped out of the limelight and remains comfortably retired in his fortress-like mansion in Naypyitaw.

During his tenure as Myanmar’s supreme leader, Gen ThanShwe also placed Gen Ne Win under house arrest. Unlike Gen KhinNyunt, Gen ThanShwe was not close to the former dictator. After Gen Saw Maung, who died of heart failure in 1997, was forced to step down, Gen ThanShwe never bothered to visit the mastermind behind the 1988 coup. Perhaps he had hated him all along.

Gen KhinNyunt, once dubbed Myanmar’s “prince of evil” by the foreign media, was released from house arrest in early 2012, and now lives as a private citizen. When asked to account for some of the things he did when he was still in power, he insists he was just following orders. Those orders came, of course, from Gen ThanShwe.

Gen Kyaw Win witnessed all of this and more. Now more interested in his avian friends, however, he says he has nothing to say about the current role, if any, of his former boss in Myanmar’s political affairs. But for those of us who have watched Gen Than Shwe eliminate his rivals one by one over the past two decades, it’s difficult to imagine that he isn’t still keeping an eagle eye on everything from his safe, secluded perch, ready to swoop down on anyone who threatens his talon-like hold on power.

This story first appeared in the September 2013 print issue of The Irrawaddy magazine.

Believe it or not, other cities want to copy Bangkok's successes in traffic and overcrowding

September 18, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

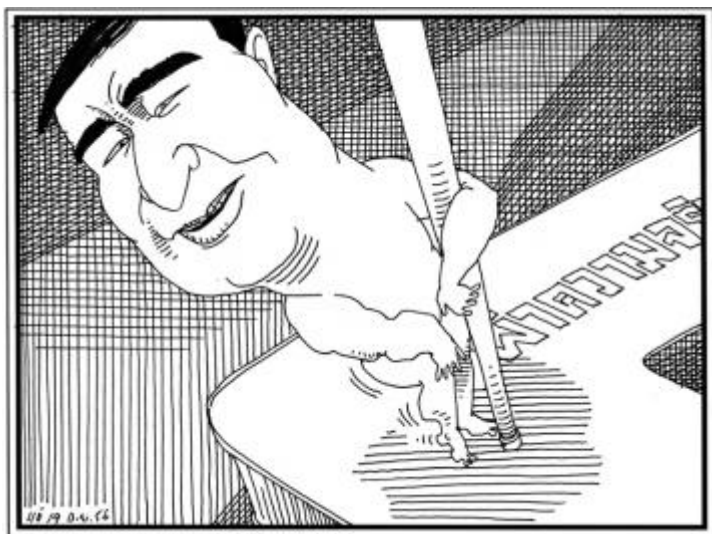
[Jokowi to Imitate Bangkok to Overcome City Problem](#) – beritajakarta.com, September 17, 2013

...“I wanted to imitate Bangkok to overcome city problems, like transportation, flood, etc. I think the problem in each big city is almost the same. So we learn from each other,” said Jokowi, after he received the visit of M. R. Sukhumband Paribatra, Governor of Bangkok Municipal Administration, at Jakarta City Hall, Tuesday (9/17)...

Strike Open the Truth

September 20, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Khaosod, September 20, 2013

On the ledge: Strike Open the Truth

Infrastructure in Laos – One night to Bangkok

September 20, 2013

Categories: China, Laos, Thai Railroads

[Infrastructure in Laos – One night to Bangkok](#) – The Economist, September 19, 2013

...In the short run, China and Thailand are focusing on linking their markets via Laos either where the country is narrowest, or, say, east of the opium-growing Golden Triangle, where Thailand and Laos meet Myanmar. It is in fact a century-old route of Yunnanese trade with the Thai cities of Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai. In December the newest of four “Thai-Laos Friendship Bridges” spanning the Mekong river is to be inaugurated at Huay Xai. The bridge, paid for by China and Thailand, is meant to cut travel time on the planned 1,900km (1,200 miles) Kunming-Bangkok Expressway...

Thailand's Reconciliation Forum: How To Do It Better

September 21, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand's Reconciliation Forum: How To Do It Better](#) – Analysis – eurasiareview.com, September 20, 2013

...Firstly, they should insist that the host of the forum be a neutral international entity, such as the Geneva-based Henry Dunant Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. The HD Centre has ample experience in conflict resolution in the ASEAN region as it was instrumental in mediating in Aceh in Indonesia and Mindanao in Philippines. Southeast Asia's own Bali Democracy Forum could also serve as a platform for the reconciliation dialogue. If the parties involved insist on the forum being held in Thailand it would be more important that the neutral organiser be respected and accepted by all sides to the conflict.

Secondly, the funding for the forum and, most importantly, the honorarium for these international mediators, should not be from the current government's coffer; or Mr Thaksin's pocket. Many private companies and trade associations in Thailand should be ready to fund this forum if approached.

Thirdly, invited international figures must advise the current government to halt any effort that would further widen the rift in Thai society. For the 2 September event, the major sticking point was the Amnesty Bill that is being rushed through the parliament. The Bill, according to the government, aims to bring about reconciliation by providing a blanket amnesty to all those convicted or are to be convicted on politically – related charges...

Double-standard justice

September 25, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, September 25, 2013

Cartoon title: A lesson to prove the democratic power

On the hammer: Double-standard justice

On the men holding the hammer: Selected senators; Democrat Party

On the hammer's handle: Sloppy constitution court judges

On the funeral wreath: Dictator's slaves

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

In hand of Premier Yingluck Shinawatra: Government by the people

In hand of Somsak Kiatsuranont: Legislature

In hand of Nikom Wairatpanich: Elected senators

Phi Nooring: Fighting against outlaw force

Mouse: Seeking chances to oust the government

Wall Street Journal: Thailand Will Likely Struggle to Get Back to No. 1 in Rice Exports

September 25, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand Likely Will Struggle to Get Back to No. 1 in Rice Exports](#) – WSJ, September 22, 2013

...So how does Thailand find itself playing catch-up in a game it once dominated?

Two years ago, the Thai government wanted to boost the income of rice farmers, one of the ruling party's key voting constituencies. So it bought rice at 50 percent prices above the market rates and shoveled it into storage sites, predicting that this would goose up market prices.

But that isn't what happened. India and Vietnam jumped in to pick up the business with cheaper prices.

Thailand was left with excess supplies and debt from the costly subsidy program and storage costs...

Reducing Thailand's rice mountain

September 27, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Reducing Thailand's rice mountain](#) – oxfordbusinessgroup.com, September 25, 2013

... Figures vary as to how much rice is held in stock, with some private reports putting the figure at up to 17m tonnes, though state agencies say it is below 10m tonnes. This could shrink further when shipments for recent contracts begin. Since the scheme was introduced, the government has paid almost \$19bn, buying unmilled rice direct from farmers at \$473 per tonne, though the cost to the state climbs to some \$700 per tonne when the expense of milling, transport and storage are taken into account.

Prior to the scheme's being launched, Thailand sold 8m-10m tonnes to overseas buyers each year, though this fell to just under 7m tonnes in 2012 as high prices resulting from the pledging scheme meant the country lost out to rivals such as India and Vietnam. This could again be the case in 2013, with both competitors pricing their rice well below the rates quoted by Thailand. According to data from the Thai Rice Exporters Association, export volume was down 5.1% for the first seven months of the year, and by 5.6% in terms of earnings...

Rapid Mammal Extinctions in Thailand's Fragmenting Wilderness

September 27, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[In Fragmented Forests, Rapid Mammal Extinctions](#) – NYT, September 26, 2013

In 1987, the government of Thailand launched a huge, unplanned experiment. They built a dam across the Khlong Saeng river, creating a 60-square-mile reservoir. As the Chiew Larn reservoir rose, it drowned the river valley, transforming 150 forested hilltops into islands, each with its own isolated menagerie of wildlife...

UN probe revives hope for Thai ‘abducted by N. Korea’

September 27, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News, North Korea

[UN probe revives hope for Thai ‘abducted by N. Korea’](#) – FoxNews, September 26, 2013

...”Anocha is the child of poor people from the country so the authorities don’t think it’s important,” he added.

International human rights campaigners are urging the Thai government to step up pressure on Pyongyang to reveal what happened to Anocha...

Everything is Fine at Samet

September 27, 2013

Categories: Tourism



Above: Billboard near Don Muang Airport touting Samet tourism. The billboard is apparently sponsored by PTT. PTT was responsible for the [Rayong oil spill](#) that impacted Samet Island in July-August 2013. Also: [PTT's Oil Spill Situation Updates](#)

Weekly News Magazines, September 6, 2013

September 28, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, September 6, 2013

Cover reads: Close Thaksin



From Matichon Weekly, September 6, 2013

Cover reads: Close highways-railways... Oust Poo



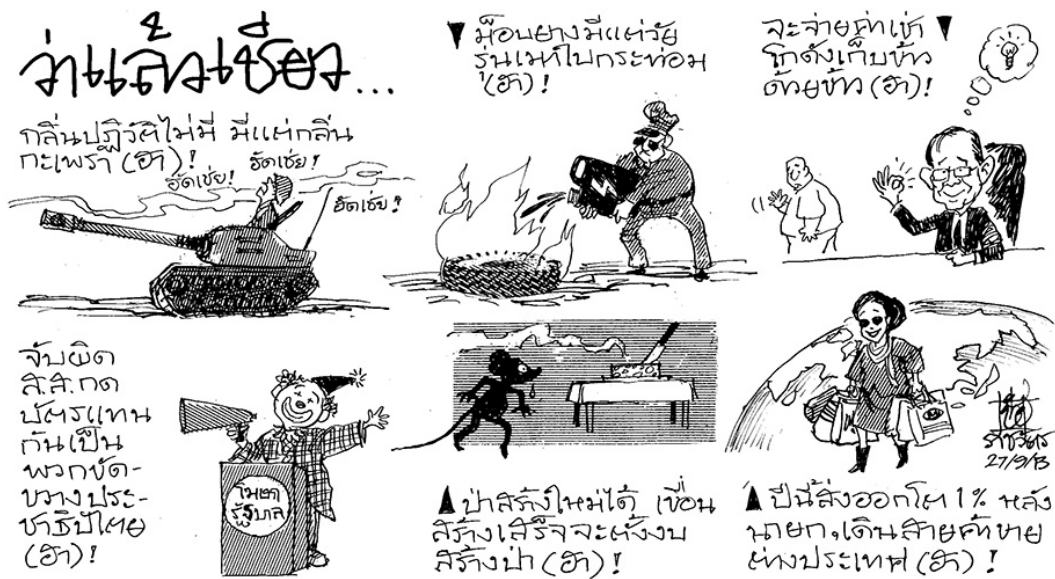
From ASTV Manager Weekly, September 7, 2013

Cover reads: Luang Phi Namfon, Big Bro from Nakhon Chaisri camp

Told ya...

September 29, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, September 29, 2013

Cartoon title: Told ya...

Top left: No smell of a coup, only that of kraprao (ha)

Soldier: Sneeze! Sneeze! Sneeze!

Top middle: Para-rubber protesters are just mere teenagers who are high on krathom

Top right: Going to pay for rice warehouses' rents with rice

Bottom left, on podium: Government spokesman

The spokesman: Pointing out MP who inserted MPs' ID cards for other peers is deemed as obstructing the democratic system

Bottom middle: Forests can be regenerated. Once the dam construction is complete, a budget for forest regeneration will be set.

Bottom right: This year export grow by 1% due to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's ceaselessly traveling around the world on a trade agenda.

Thai anti-dam activist interview that was censored on Thai TV available in full on YouTube

September 29, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=http://www.youtube.com/embed/LyvvrnSwRj8>



[Censored tape is on YouTube now](#) – The Nation, September 29, 2013

...The company was also urged to cut some parts considered provocative. It said the tape was amended accordingly, but in the way that it did not tarnish the company's standpoint. However, the edited tape could not win the approval.

The company thus posted the tape on YouTube, urging viewers to judge if the tape was biased...

Weekly News Magazines, September 13, 2013

September 30, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, September 13, 2013

Cover reads: Mourning the ‘Same Sweetheart’



From Matichon Weekly, September 13, 2013

Cover reads: Broken brake, ‘off the runway’



From ASTV Manager Weekly, September 14, 2013
Cover reads: Reform Kaan Mung

Just easy like that

October 1, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, October 1, 2013

Cartoon title: Just easy like that

Left: The military draft dodging case, the CRES, 100 dead bodies, the Thai Strength to Strength corruption case, destroyed image in the Parliament, only good at speaking rudely... don't really know how to work, etc.

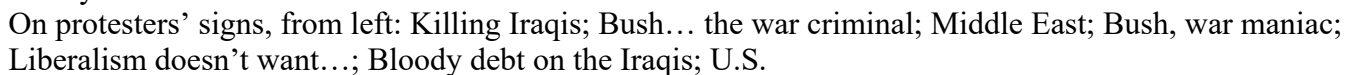
Middle, hooded figure: It's this bad. How can I make the southern voters to elect me back to the premiership? Do you have any idea, sir?

Chuan Leekpai: Easy...! I've an idea.

Right, Chuan: Blaming everything on Thaksin!

Words on the hooded figure: order to suppress the people; 100 dead bodies.

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



Weekly News Magazines, September 20, 2013

October 2, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, September 20, 2013

Cover reads: On foot against the dam



From Matichon Weekly, September 20, 2013

Cover reads: Mr. 2 Trillion



From ASTV Manager Weekly, September 21, 2013

Pheu Thai asserting control of top-ranking army positions which were responsible for overthrowing Thaksin

October 2, 2013

Categories: Thai Military

[Thai army: new line-up, same fault-lines](#) – atimes.com, October 1, 2013

...A soldier-by-soldier analysis of which senior officers have been promoted and assigned to which positions in the military hierarchy, however, points to a potentially destabilizing rise in factionalism – a reflection of Yingluck's Peua Thai party's bid to assert more civilian control over the top-ranking army positions which were responsible for overthrowing her elder brother, former premier and current de facto party leader Thaksin Shinawatra in a September 2006 coup...

Give me a budget. Then, I can build a dam...

October 3, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, October 3, 2013

Deputy PM Plodprasop Suraswadi: Give me a budget. Then, I can build a dam... Leave me, please!!!

On the hand: Seub Nakhasathien Foundation

Adul and Thaksin

October 3, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager, Kamronwit Thoopkrachang, Thai Police



04/10/56

From Manager, October 3, 2013

National Police Chief Gen. Adul Saengsingkaew: Lucky, when they took this picture, I went to a toilet.

Caption: Adul is saved again.

Weekly News Magazines, September 27, 2013

October 3, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, September 27, 2013

Cover reads: 2013 Heroines



From Matichon Weekly, September 27, 2013

Cover reads: 'Smart people's' activity, Smart Gentlemen



From ASTV Manager Weekly, September 28, 2013

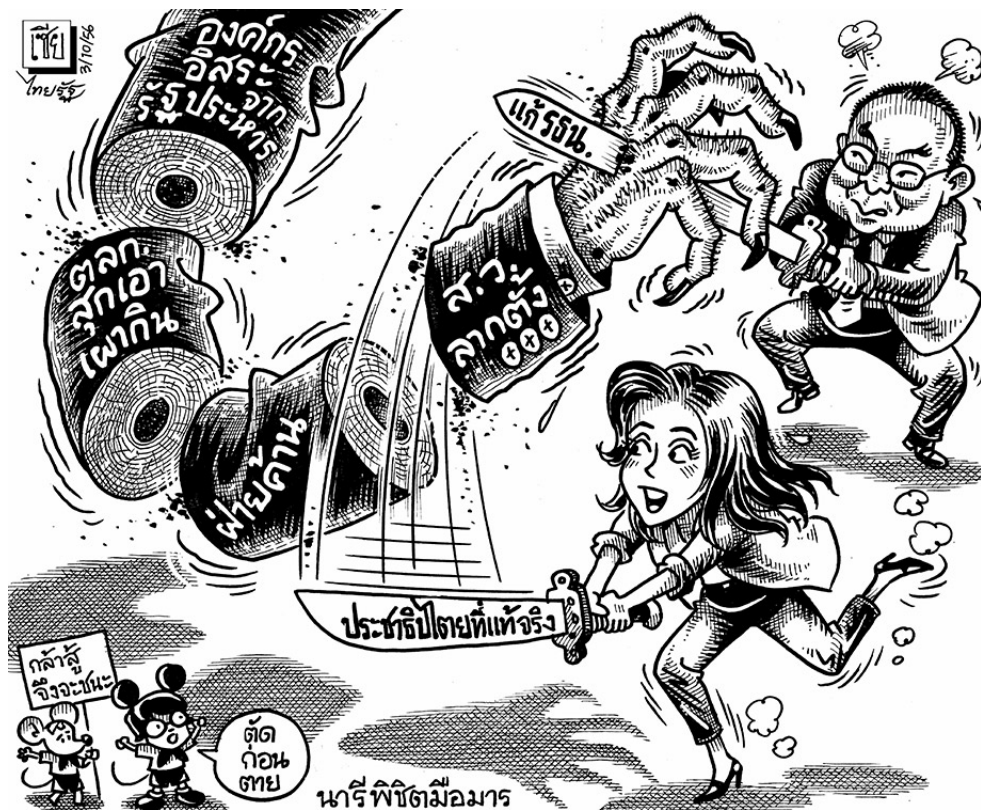
Cover reads: EHIA Pluak... Oops!

Deputy Prime Minister Plodprasop Suraswadi, dressed as a historical Thai figure, says: Free “anti-Mae Wong Dam construction” sticker included

The lady to conquer the demon

October 3, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, October 3, 2013

Cartoon title: The lady to conquer the demon

On chunks of Demon's arm, from top: Independent organizations from the coup; sloppy Constitution Court judges; the opposition in the Parliament; appointed senators

On sword in the hands of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra: The true democracy

On sword in the hands of the House Speaker Somsak Kiatsuranont: Constitutional amendment

Phi Nooring: Cut before dying

Mouse: Must dare to fight to win

Sovereignty belongs to the people

October 4, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Khaosod, October 4, 2013

Title: Sovereignty belongs to the people.

PM is held hostage while people are becoming victims

October 4, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, October 4, 2013

Title: PM is held hostage while people are becoming victims

Bags held by PM Yingluck: 2014 budget, building Thailand's future in 2020

On the knife: Constitutional Court judges have a double standard

On the arm holding PM Yingluck: Overthrow the government

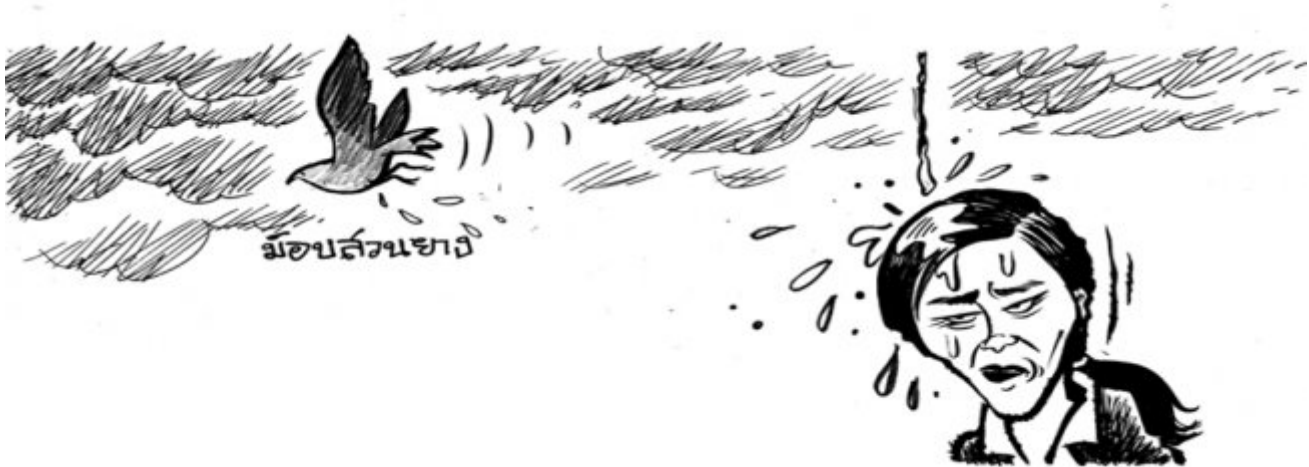
On arm at bottom: 100 dead bodies

Phi Nooring at right: illegal power

Para-rubber mob

October 5, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, September 18, 2013

Underneath the bird: Para-rubber mob

‘Police nearly tricked me into a confession’

October 6, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[‘Police nearly tricked me into a confession’](#) – spaldingtoday.co.uk, October 5, 2013

...“During the only time I met the vice-consul, he said I was ‘in no different position to an accused paedophile’ and the embassy wouldn’t intervene unless I could not get a fair trial.

“And they gave me a ‘what to do in a Thai jail’ book...”

Haphazard renovation work threatens Bagan temples

October 6, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar's ancient temple city faces modern danger](#) – breccorder.com, October 6, 2013

...Pichard helped restore the temples after a huge earthquake struck the region in central Myanmar in 1975, but was forced to leave the site in the early 1990s when the rulers effectively closed the country to the outside world.

After asking Buddhists for donations, the junta then started rebuilding the temples, many of which were just piles of bricks.

Around 2,000 have so far been renovated, many with hastily done stone and plaster work, using bright orange bricks and other modern materials...

Oak to inherit the power

October 6, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



08/10/56

From Manager, October 6, 2013

On the building: Pheu Thai Party

Voice from inside the building: Good feedback, boss... Thai people say Khun Oak's name across the country.

On the newspaper, from left: Oak to inherit the power, Oak, hereditary prime minister

People: Oak!

Revise the constitution

October 7, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Various



From Post Today, October 7, 2013

The red crab is holding the constitution: on which is written: Revise the constitution

Words by the tornado: elected senators, the opposition, and independent entity

Overthrowing the PM

October 7, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, October 7, 2013

Title: Only create political discourse, but with no future...

PM Yingluck is holding posters saying 'building the future of Thailand in 2020' and 'revise the Constitution'

The hooded man: People... please help me to fight against the dictator.

On the hooded man's shirt: 'order to kill people' and '100 dead bodies'

The other man is holding a paint can with 'overthrow the government' On his head: Democrat Party. The man's head is in the shape of former PM Chuan Leepai

Papers around the hooded figure: Disturb the parliament and call for rallies, become PM with the military's support, support the coup d'état, military exemption, order to end the demonstration, and April-May 2010

Phi Nooring: A professional for slandering

Mouse: Create a political discourse to destroy the government.

Thailand Has No Easy Options to Pay for Rice Subsidy

October 7, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand Has No Easy Options to Pay for Rice Subsidy](#) – WSJ, October 7, 2013

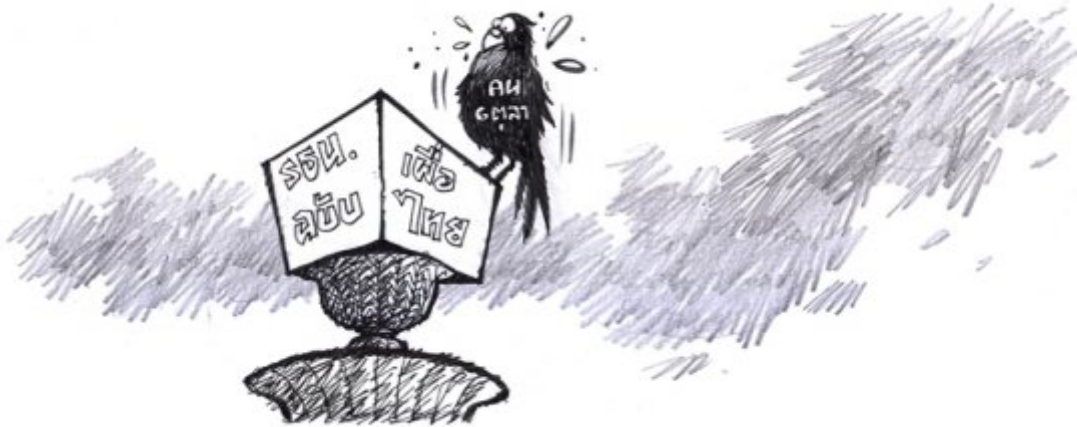
...Since the Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra launched the rice subsidy program in 2011 – a populist campaign to help local farmers by buying rice at as much as 50% above market price – the Cabinet has approved a total budget of \$16 billion, taken from a state-run bank, to fund the program.

But the government has already spent about \$21.4 billion in total since then, Commerce Minister Niwatthamrong Boonsongpaisal told reporters last month. The Commerce Ministry, which manages the program, has paid some \$5 billion from rice sales back to the bank...

The Pheu Thai Party's version of the constitution

October 8, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek, October, 1976



From Komchadluek, October 8, 2013

On the block on the constitution platter: The Pheu Thai Party's version of the constitution

On crow: The October 6 people

Groveling for Thaksin's son

October 8, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



09/10/56

From Manager, October 8, 2013

Phanthongtae Shinawatra: Dad... you shouldn't have released the news that I'd inherit your power...

Myanmar shows why Mark Zuckerberg's next five billion are a long way from joining Facebook

October 8, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

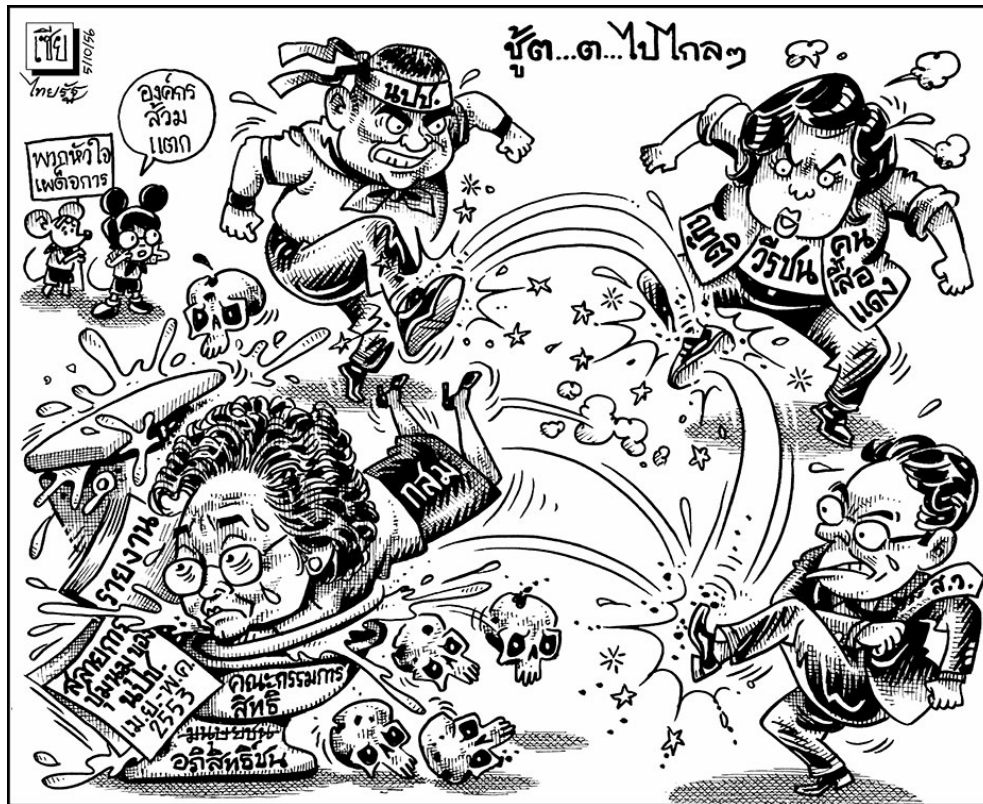
[Myanmar shows why Mark Zuckerberg's next five billion are a long way from joining Facebook](#) – qz.com, October 7, 2013

...According to IDC's figures, it won't be until 2016—a full three years after Myanmar opened up its mobile sector—that more smartphones will be sold in the country than simpler, feature phones. There are three main reasons for this: First, Myanmar remains a poor country and even the cheapest smartphones cannot compare with basic voice-and-text models that go for less than \$20 new, and even less second-hand...

The broken-down toilet organization

October 9, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, October 9, 2013

Cartoon title: Shoooot it far away

Banner on head of man kicking: UDD

On shirt of woman kicking: Relatives of the Red Shirt heroes

On necktie of man kicking: Senators

On skirt of woman being hit into the toilet: NHRC

On papers in front of Ms. Amara: Report on the dispersal of the UDD during the April-May 2010 protest

On the toilet: National Privileged People Commission

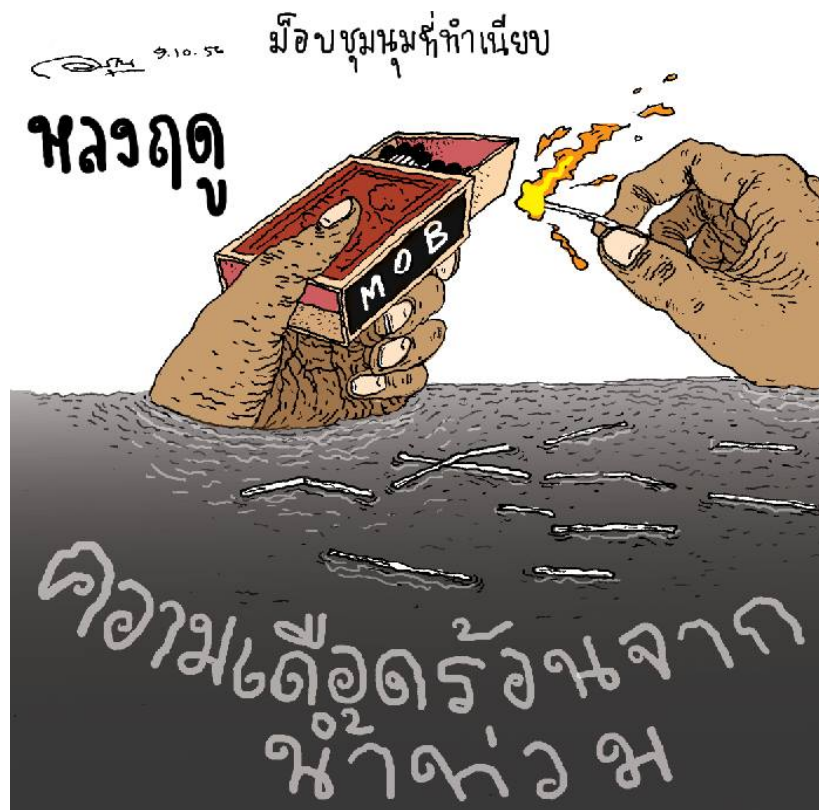
Phi Nooring: The broken-down toilet organization

Mouse: Dictator-hearted people

A rally at the Government House, Inappropriate time

October 9, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From Arun, October 9, 2013

Title: A rally at the Government House, Inappropriate time

On the water: A grievance from flooding

I will abolish the 2007 Constitution which is not fair for me!

October 9, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, October 9, 2013

Thaksin to his sister PM Yingluck: Wait and see. I will abolish the 2007 Constitution which is not fair for me!!

On the tree: 2007 Constitution

Our happy retirement in a Thai sex haven

October 9, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Our happy retirement in a Thai sex haven](#) – The Telegraph, October 8, 2013

...Graham and Felicity Smith, 70 and 69, and Wendy and John Khan, 64 and 60, say that beyond the tourist traps is a tolerant and peaceful community no more debauched than others.

“In other countries there’s sex for sale but it’s just hidden,” says Graham. “Here, it’s not. It’s totally different to how it’s portrayed...”

Thailand's Health Ministry Battles Big Tobacco Over Graphic Health Warnings

October 9, 2013

Categories: Health

[Thailand's Health Ministry Battles Big Tobacco Over Graphic Health Warnings](#) – VOA, October 8, 2013

...But new regulations that were due to come into effect on October 2 were blocked by international tobacco companies led by Philip Morris with a legal injunction.

The companies argue the ministry exceeded its legal authority and failed to consult thousands of retailers and manufacturers. They also claim the larger warnings undermine the use of trade marks to differentiate products in the market...

The Missing Picture: Cambodia's Unseen Horrors

October 9, 2013

Categories: Cambodia, Film and TV



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=http://www.youtube.com/embed/equqLZ-Ms-w>



[Cambodia's Unseen Horrors](#) – NYT, October 8, 2013

...Yet none of this tells us what was really going on. To make up for the pictures we don't have, Panh uses small clay figurines, hundreds of them, painted, clothed, with individual expressions on their faces, and placed in meticulously detailed dioramas that he seems to have reconstructed from the memories of his youth...

In Cambodia, monks get political after unpopular elections

October 9, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[In Cambodia, monks get political after unpopular elections](#) – globalpost.com, October 8, 2013

...omaly, who wears glasses and is virtually attached to his smartphone, detailed some of his recent exploits. In September, he and dozens of monks showed up outside the Royal Palace to petition King Norodom Sihamoni to delay the opening of parliament. He has cajoled others to join rallies via Facebook, and attended, by his count, 10 politically oriented demonstrations...

Blood sugar: Oxfam accuses Coke and Pepsi of fueling land grabs

October 9, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Blood sugar: Oxfam accuses Coke and Pepsi of fueling land grabs](#) – globalpost.com, October 8, 2013

...In the jungles of southeastern Cambodia, Kong vividly remembers the day in May 2006 when a bulldozer arrived without warning to prepare their rice paddy for a large-scale sugar cane plantation.

Kong had farmed the land since 1979, he said, just after the fall of the Khmer Rouge regime, under which an estimated 1.8 million Cambodians perished in fewer than four years. In its drive to create a communist, agrarian society, the regime had killed intellectuals, blown up the national bank and destroyed all documents of land ownership, leaving millions of farmers vulnerable to evictions as they still lack proper land titles.

“Before the plantation came, life was good and I could save some money for my family. Now I have to fish, but I just make a little bit, enough to get by from one day to the next,” Kong said...

Cambodian Idol and Cambodia's Got Talent set to air

October 9, 2013

Categories: Cambodia, Film and TV, Myanmar/Burma

[MIPCOM '13: "Idol," "Got Talent" heading to Cambodia](#) – realscreen.com, October 8, 2013

The feelings of those who ever had faith in Phra Mitsuo

October 9, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



10/10/56

From Manager, October 9, 2013

Caption: The feelings of those who ever had faith in Phra Mitsuo

People in white: We already stopped... when will you stop?

Stopping a coup

October 10, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, October 10, 2013

Military officer: Now, there is a new law banning vehicles older than seven years from driving in Bangkok. Go back and bring a new one to stage a coup.

No one can stop Yingluck!

October 10, 2013

Categories: Analysis, Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, October 10, 2013

Title: Higher speed... can't stop.

On the bag PM Yingluck is holding: To develop the country

Posters around her say: Appeals, rumors, slander, conduct a mob , overthrow the government

On the man at bottom right, Prasong Sunsiri: Old veteran

He stands on a poster that reads: Freezing the country

Phi Nooring: Destroy them all.

A mouse: Nari subdues all devils.

The Democrat Likae

October 10, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



11/10/56

From Manager, October 10, 2013

Sign on the backdrop: The Democrat Likae

Abhisit: My dear Alongkorn brother, don't you lose your confidence... We just keep performing our Yikae ...And someday, when people are bored with other theatrical performances, they'll then turn around to watch our Yikae ...because we're classic.

Very silly

October 11, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



19/09/56

From Manager, September 18, 2013

Left: E-ngo... e-ngo... e-ngo... e-ngo... e-ngo...

On the man's shirt: Thai people

On the ball: 2.2 trillion baht debt

Right: PM Yingluck and her brother former PM Thaksin say: I-ngo... i-ngo

Caption: The revenge of E-ngo

Cambodia's evolution vividly captured in 'River Changes Course'

October 11, 2013

Categories: Film and TV

[Review: Cambodia's evolution vividly captured in 'River Changes Course'](#) – LA Times, October 10, 2013

Apple to Toyota Seen Gaining From Thai Transport Upgrade

October 11, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

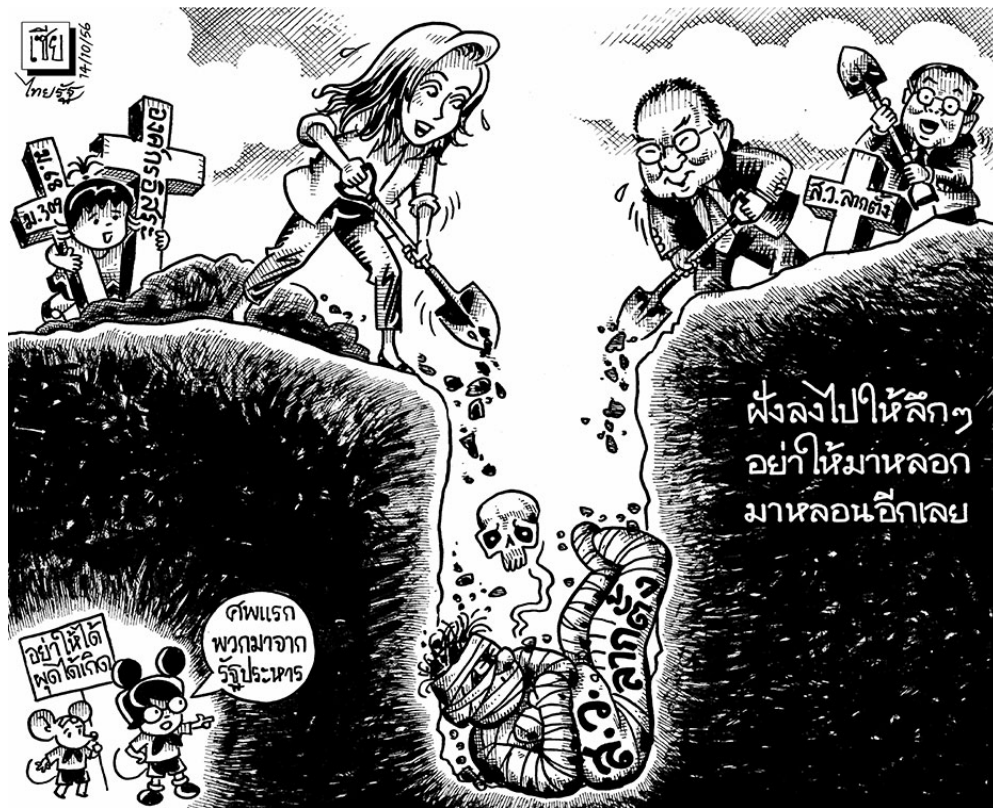
[Apple to Toyota Seen Gaining From Thai Transport Upgrade](#) – Bloomberg, October 10, 2013

Thai floods severed global supply chains for companies such as Apple Inc. and Toyota Motor Corp. in 2011. The country is debating whether to spend \$75 billion on its roads, rails and waterways to avoid another disruption...

Changing the Constitution

October 12, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, October 12, 2013

Title of the cartoon at right: Bury it so deeply that it cannot come back to haunt us

On the left cross carried by the girl: Section 68; Section 309

On the right cross carried by the girl: Independent organizations

Cross on the right side of the grave: Appointed senators

On body at the bottom of the grave: Appointed senators

Phi Nooring: The first body is those appointed by the coup d'etat.

Mouse: Don't let them have a chance to be born again.

Another good example of this sentiment is here: [The lady to conquer the demon](#)

China dashes Thai hopes of cutting huge rice stockpile

October 12, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[China dashes Thai hopes of cutting huge rice stockpile](#) – gulfnews.com, October 11, 2013

...Chinese premier Li Keqiang said purchases over the next five years will be from private firms, making no mention of 1.2 million tonnes that had been flagged by the Thai government last month as sold in a government-to-government deal. His comments came in an article published by Thai media on Friday, according to the Chinese central government website which published the article in full...

Thai community gathers for first market day

October 12, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai community gathers for first market day](#) – Gulf News, October 11, 2013

Beer Tycoon To Build ‘Bangkok Snow Town’

October 12, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Beer Tycoon To Build ‘Bangkok Snow Town’](#) – Khoasod, October 12, 2013

...“We would like to develop Asiatique on both river sides, as the prestigious riverside shopping venue in Asia,” Said Ms. Wanlapa, “the company will hold events promoting the plan throughout the rest of the year...”

Thai people 40 years ago would not understand Thai people nowadays

October 13, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager, October, 1973



14/10/56

From Manager, October 13, 2013

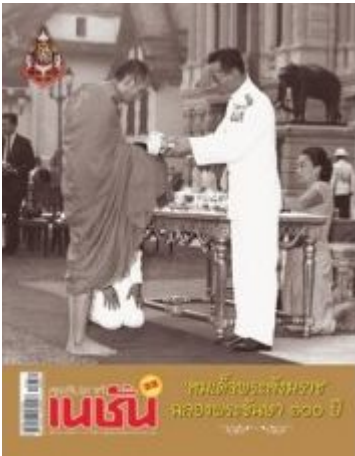
Student: Even though Thanom-Praphas were less dictatorial and corrupt than Thaksin... hundreds of thousands of us came out to oust them... Thaksin has viciously done this much to our country, why you still remain idle? What a shame!

Caption: Thai people 40 years ago would not understand Thai people nowadays.

Weekly News Magazines, October 4, 2013

October 13, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



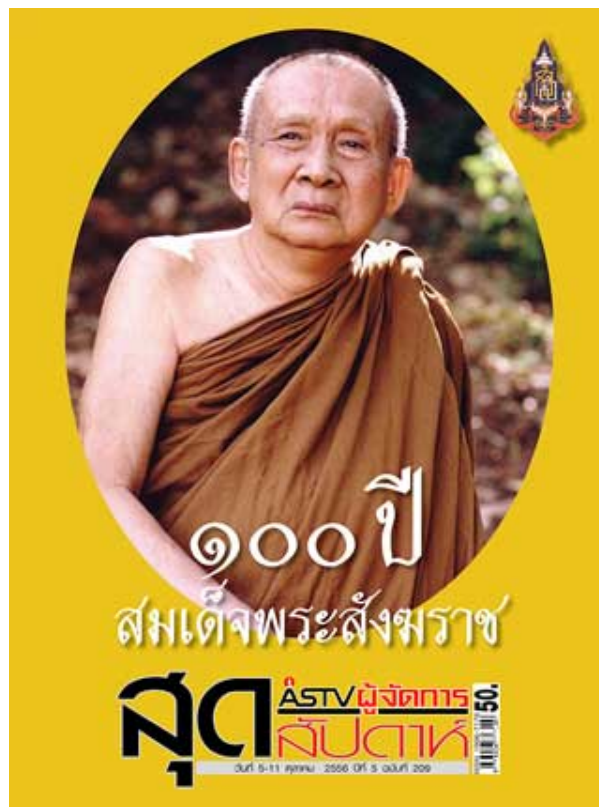
From Nation Weekend, October 4, 2013

Cover reads: His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch celebrating 100th anniversary



From Matichon Weekly, October 4, 2013

Cover reads: Through water, through fire



From ASTV Manager Weekly, October 5, 2013
Cover reads: 100 years, His Holiness Supreme Patriarch

Thaksin is not a terrorist

October 14, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, October 14, 2013

TV news: The attorney general said that Thaksin is not a terrorist because he's abroad...!!

Osama bin Laden: Why wasn't this guy the U.S.'s attorney while I was alive!!

The Economist: Thai off-budget spending bill equivalent to combined annual economic output of Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos & Cambodia

October 14, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Infrastructure spending in Thailand – Fast train coming](#) – The Economist, October 12, 2013

...In the past 20 years, train passenger numbers have collapsed from 88m per year to 46m. The government, it would seem, is no longer willing to tolerate the slide. The big idea is to spend 2 trillion baht (\$64 billion) by 2020 towards upgrading the country's creaking infrastructure. Another 3 trillion baht will come due as interest on the loans, accumulating over the next 50 years.

...A fortnight ago parliament passed a bill that permits the government to take on off-budget debt equivalent to the combined annual economic output of Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia.

...The case against the infrastructure plan, which everyone agrees is needed in principle, starts not with debt but with corruption. Thailand's government agencies are notorious for their procurement contracts' lack of transparency...

Asia's Lands of Charm and Cruelty

October 14, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Asia's Lands of Charm and Cruelty](#) – NYT, October 14, 2013

...In Thailand in 2010, a renegade general was assassinated while I was interviewing him.

... When in 2010 the sniper shot the renegade Thai general, Khattiya Sawatdiphol, and he collapsed at my feet, my first instinct was to put on my ballistic helmet, which I was holding in my hand. (A friend in the U.S. military later darkly joked that I should have read the instruction manual: Helmets work best when worn on your head.)

My second instinct was to write up the story, an important development in the political crisis that was gripping Thailand at the time.

I sent my dispatch and minutes later my wife saw the news of the shooting on nytimes.com.

“Next time,” she said, “you should probably tell your wife first.”

People Prefer Products That Help Them ‘Save Face’ in Embarrassing Moments

October 14, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[People Prefer Products That Help Them ‘Save Face’ in Embarrassing Moments](http://psychologicalscience.org) – psychologicalscience.org, August 13, 2013

...Additional research revealed that participants who actually used the “restorative” facial cream after re-experiencing an embarrassing moment reported lower embarrassment ratings, and they were more likely to seek out social interaction. Wearing sunglasses, however, did not seem to alleviate feelings of embarrassment.

“Although embarrassment leads people both to hide their face and to restore their face, only by restoring their face can their embarrassment be decreased, as evidenced in their greater desire to participate in social activities,” Dong explains. “It is interesting to speculate that people who wear cosmetics on a daily basis may be more tolerant of potentially embarrassing behavior...”

Couples' Parliament

October 15, 2013

Categories: Analysis, Editorial Cartoons - Manager



01/10/56

From Manager, September 30, 2013

President of the Parliament: Senator, please stop debating with members of parliament. It's so loud and it is disturbing them.

Caption: Next year, it will be a couples' parliament.

2Bangkok.com Editor Ron Morris' book, [The Thai Book: A Field Guide to Thai Political Motivations](#), is available in the Kindle Store.

Dark influences outside of the system

October 15, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, October 15, 2013

Cartoon title: New person... same heart

On giant left arm: The coup's legacy

On giant right arm: Dark influences outside of the system

On chair: Election Commission

On blindfold: Double standard

Paper in right hand of man: An order

On sword blade: Take care of politicians

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

Phi Nooring: Looking for a chance to wag the government

Mouse: Justice made to order

Tiny axe

October 15, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Post Today, October 15, 2013

On the tree: Thaksin's regime.

Loan sharks and rural debt in Thailand

October 15, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Rural debt in Thailand – Turning the tide](#) – The Economist, September 19, 2013

...After spending a fair bit of time and effort to stabilise rural incomes in the face of plummeting agricultural prices, the government of Yingluck Shinawatra, Thailand's prime minister, has now turned its attention to dealing with predatory lending practices. It is part of a wider effort, set in motion by her predecessor, to reform state-dominated rural credit markets.

Thailand has made great strides in improving access to financial services: 73% of the population now have a bank account and only 3% have no access to formal finance whatsoever. But lending by loan sharks has proved hard to stamp out...

Thailand's Oscar Submission 'Countdown' to Get U.S. Release

October 15, 2013

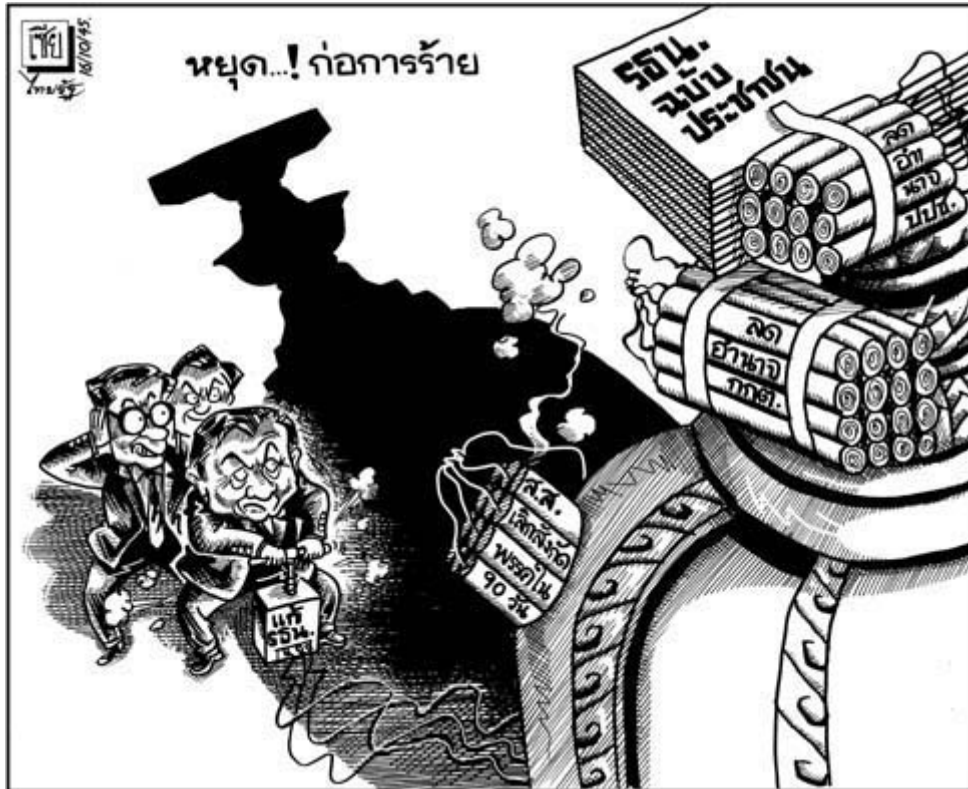
Categories: Film and TV

[Thailand's Oscar Submission 'Countdown' to Get U.S. Release](#) – Hollywood Reporter, October 14, 2013
...A horror thriller from debut writer-director Nattawut “Baz” Poonpiriya, Countdown stars French-Thai actor David Asavanond as a sadistic otherworldly drug-dealer named Jesus who terrorizes three Thai students who procure his services for a party on New Year’s Eve...

Remembering the Thaksin Years: Stop Terrorism Against the Constitution

October 16, 2013

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



October 16, 2002

Cartoon title: Stop...! Terrorism

On constitution: Constitution of the people

On stacks of dynamites from top: Cut down power of NACC ; cut down power of the Election Commission; revoking regulation that MPs must belong to political parties at least 90 days before an election

On dynamite igniting device: Constitution amendment

Remembering the Thaksin Years: Thaksin Painted as a Nazi

October 16, 2013

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



From Thairath, circa 2002

Title: National (chaotic) agenda

A book held by Thaksin: Bureaucratic reform

Man with ink: Scholar

Man with Nazi flag: Opposition

Man with Nazi hat: Senator

Cambodia's Internet Only 'Partly Free,' US Watchdog Says

October 16, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia's Internet Only 'Partly Free,' US Watchdog Says](#) – VOA, October 16, 2013

The US-based watchdog Freedom House has rated Cambodia's Internet freedom "partly free," with limited access for some users, the closing of at least three popular political blogs and the closure of some Internet cafes in recent years...

Thai man arrested after trying to donate methamphetamine to flood relief center

October 16, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai man arrested after trying to donate methamphetamine to flood relief center](#) – AP, October 16, 2013

...Jakrit Mukpradab, showed up with 11 methamphetamine pills in a small plastic zip-lock bag at a donation tent in the seaside district of Sattahip in Chonburi province on Monday, saying he wanted to help fellow Thais affected by the flooding...

Being a monk in Myanmar: Personal transformation in a changing country

October 16, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Being a monk in Myanmar: Personal transformation in a changing country](#) – CNN, October 15, 2013

...Foreigners then were viewed with suspicion, and arranging to enter the forest retreat of Chanmyay Yeiktha, one of the most traditional of the country's monasteries, took some string-pulling.

I eventually found myself shaved and robed and sitting in the little hut that would be my home for the next six weeks...

Record Thai Rice Hoard Expanding Global Supply Glut: Commodities

October 16, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Record Thai Rice Hoard Expanding Global Supply Glut: Commodities](#) – Bloomberg, October 15, 2013
...“I’ve rented more land, expanding farms by more than double, to reap the benefit of good prices from selling paddy to the government,” said Uthai Thongsaensuk, a 45-year-old farmer in the northeastern Thai province of Udon Thani. “My friends also boosted plantings as we earn more...”

Is the Thailand ETF's Run Over? Is Thailand in a recession?

October 16, 2013

Categories: Economy

[Is the Thailand ETF's Run Over?](#) – zacks.com, October 15, 2013

Another Cambodian Sex Slave Story Connected with the Somaly Mam Foundation Revealed to be Fabricated

October 16, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Sex Slave Story Revealed to be Fabricated](#) – cambodiadaily.com, October 12, 2013

...According to Ms. Ratha, Ms. Mam had told her that the story she was to recount for the filmmakers was true, but was the life-story of another young girl, Sokha, who had been too traumatized to speak about her past.

Ms. Ratha said that she agreed with Ms. Mam to tell Sokha's story because then it was not really like lying. That Sokha was also featured in the same documentary telling a totally different story of rape and brothels was a huge shock to Ms. Ratha...

A stinky ‘Venice’ of Asia

October 16, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Fast and malodorous: Bangkok’s ‘khlong’ boat network](#) – AFP, October 15, 2013

...Pam, the archeology student, said her mother can remember a time when the canals were clean, but was astonished by a contemporary comparison to Italy’s Venice and its renowned aquatic transit system.

“This, like Venice?” she said, with a look of disgust as she caught a whiff of the untreated sewage sloshing in the fetid canal.

Stuck in the buffalo's ass

October 16, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



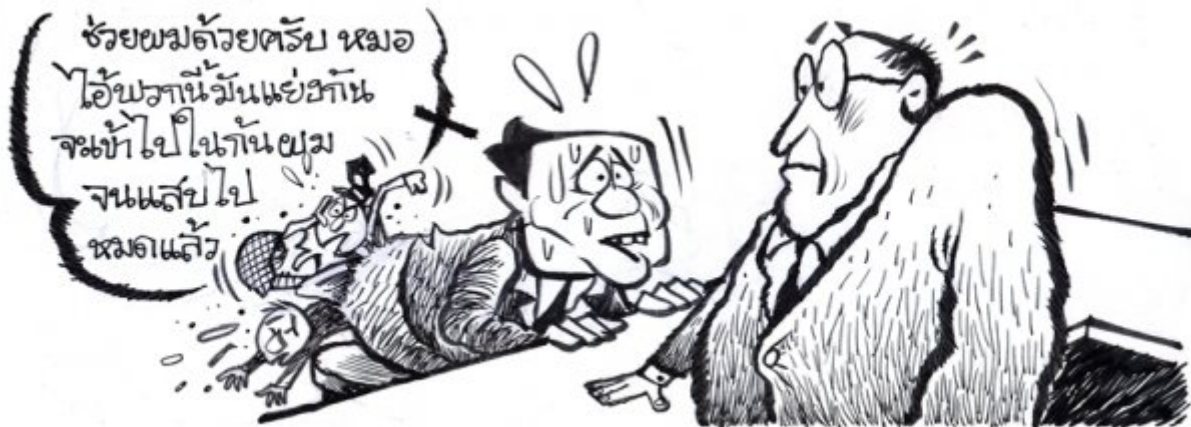
16/10/56

From Manager, October 15, 2013

Red buffalo: How dare you call this a shit, you old-fashion thinker? It's gold.

Stuck in the buffalo's ass is Thaksin.

Caption: These people don't think it's shit.



From Komchadluek, October 16, 2013

Thaksin: Doctor, please help me. These people are trying to get inside my ass and it hurts badly.

Armed Man at Rally Confirmed as Hun Sen Bodyguard

October 16, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Armed Man at Rally Confirmed as Hun Sen Bodyguard](#) – cambodiadaily.com, October 16, 2013

...Photographs discovered Tuesday on social media profiles attributed to Mr. Choeurn and his friends, however, added to the mystery about his real line of work.

The photographs show him variously standing alongside Hun Manet—Mr. Hun Sen's eldest son—members of the military and Prime Minister's bodyguards and, in one case, with his arm around former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Mr. Shinawatra, who is wanted in Thailand, has been offered safe-passage and sanctuary in Cambodia by Mr. Hun Sen for a number of years...

Chao Mool Kham

October 17, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



18/10/56

From Manager, October 17, 2013

Left: Chao Mool Muang – what the Red Shirts see

Right: Chao Mool Kham – what the vest sees

The lady is riding a dragon

October 17, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, October 17, 2013

Title: The lady is riding a dragon

On the box carried by PM Yingluck: Thai-Chinese trade relations

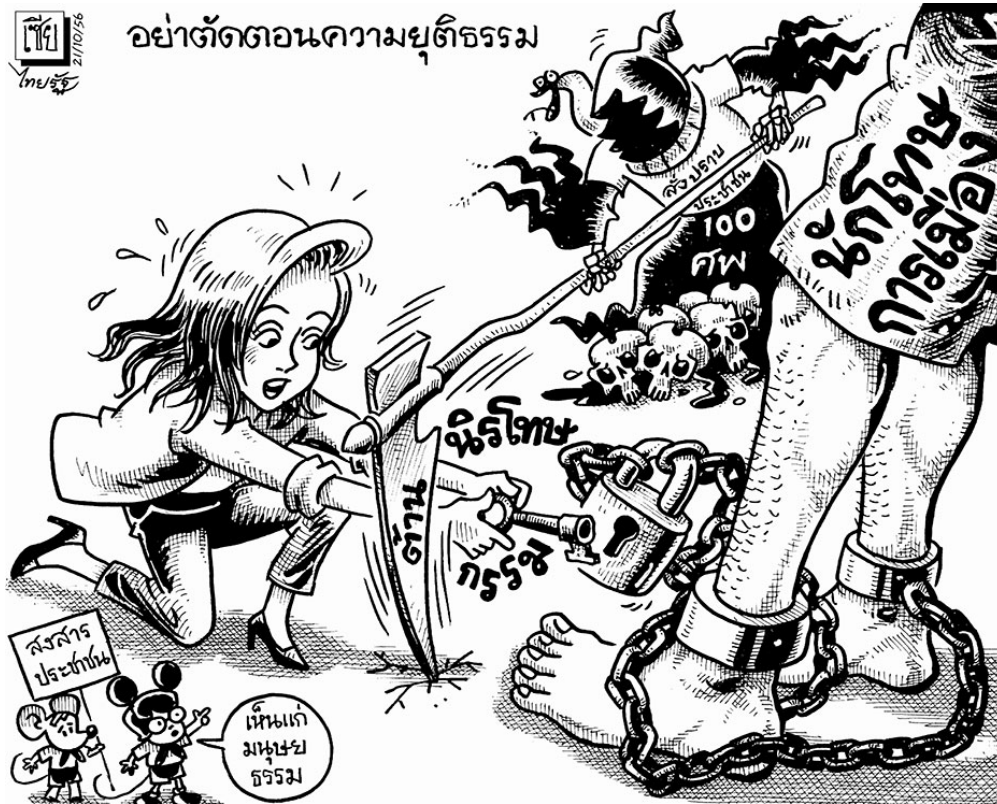
Man at bottom left is Chinese Premier Li Keqiang

On the hooded man: Order to kill people, 100 dead bodies

Don't stop the justice

October 18, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, October 18, 2013

Title: Don't stop the justice.

PM Yingluck is trying to unlock the chain of a person on whose shorts is written "political prisoner"

Word above the chain: amnesty

On the hooded figure: order to kill people, 100 dead bodies

On the scythe: Oppose

Phi Nooring: Please think about humanity.

A mouse: Please think of the people.

Weekly News Magazines, October 11, 2013

October 18, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, October 11, 2013

Cover reads: Lesson of life, 'Mitsuo'



From Matichon Weekly, October 11, 2013

Cover reads: Mitsuo has 'arrived'



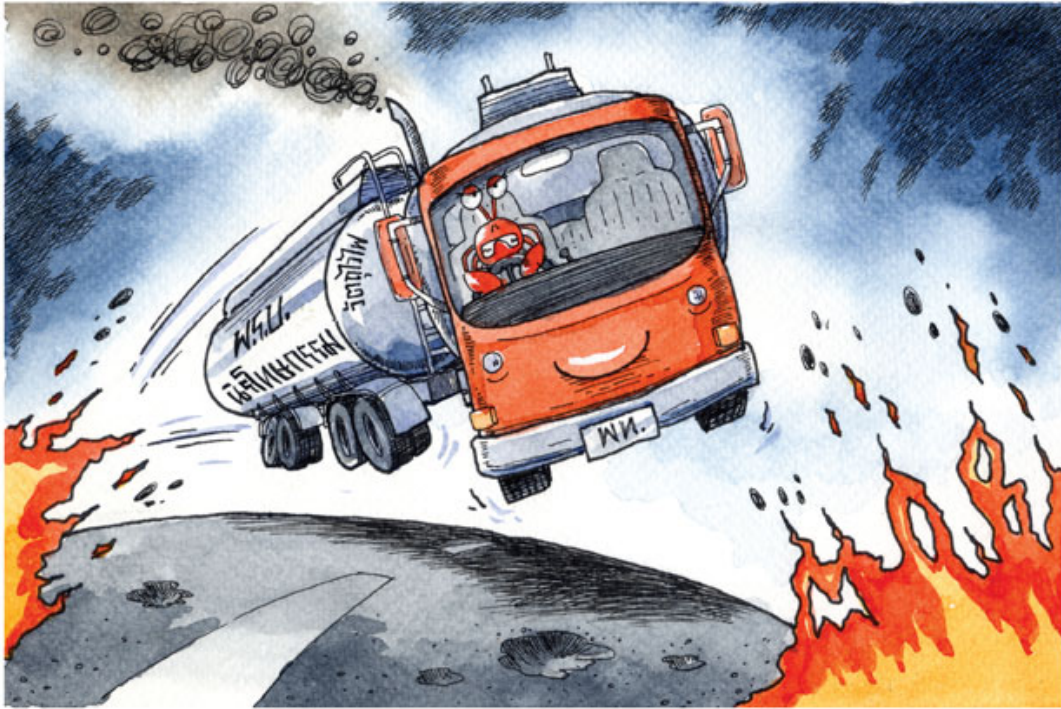
From ASTV Manager Weekly, October 12, 2013

Cover reads: Thrilling journal. The first time of young man and woman

Flammable materials

October 20, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Thaksin Amnesty



From Post Today, October 20, 2013

A red crab (representing PM Yingluck) is driving a fire truck with the words 'flammable materials' and 'the amnesty bill'

On the vehicle registration plate: Pheu Thai Party

Even it hurts, you must be patient...

October 20, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia, Thaksin Amnesty



From Thairath, October 20, 2013

Title: Even it hurts, (you) must be patient...!

PM Yingluck and a man hold a book, on which is written 'the House committee for consideration of the amnesty bill, are attempting to unlock the jail to help prisoners.

The word inside the jail: Amnesty

Feet on the left are written 'UDD' 'Ururong rally,' 'Democrat Party,' and '100 dead bodies'

Phi Nooring: Release our brothers and sisters from the jail first.

A mouse: Don't be duped by the opposition.

I'm gonna wash my hands in a golden bath!!

October 21, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, October 21, 2013

Thaksin: Believe me. I'm gonna wash my hands in a golden bath!!

Your death helps bring back Thaksin

October 21, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager, Thaksin Amnesty



22/10/56

From Manager, October 21, 2013

Man: You're dead for nothing anymore, son... Your death helps Thaksin to return home smartly... get all of his corrupted money back, plus destroy the justice system of this country completely...

Woman: Don't forget the 7.5 million baht

Caption: Relatives of dead Red Shirt... relay the good news fast

Similar cartoons: [We demand democracy and 7.75 million baht!](#) and [Why won't the Red Shirt families back amnesty? They were paid 7 million baht...](#)

Adelaide couple recall kidnap attempt on their two young children on holiday in Thailand

October 21, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Adelaide couple recall kidnap attempt on their two young children on holiday in Thailand](#) – Sunday Mail, October 19, 2013

...When the family got to their resort they reported the incident to the local tourist police, but they appeared disinterested when they were told the woman was not Thai. Mr Strange said he regretted not taking a photograph of the woman before she fled to give to police. to provide to police.

He had “no idea” where the woman would have taken the girls because the island is only small, and added: “You could read anything into it, you just don’t know... who knows. It just didn’t seem organised enough to be something professional...

It's all in the open now: Amnesty for Thaksin

October 21, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Amnesty push risks conflict, govt told – Rights advocate blasts ‘overt’ bid to aid Thaksin](#) – Bangkok Post, October 21, 2013

...The original version of the bill put forward by Pheu Thai MP for Samut Prakan Worachai Hema would not have granted an amnesty to ousted premier Thaksin Shinawatra and the protest leaders and authorities responsible for the red-shirt protest crackdown, but would have included all others convicted of crimes relating to political violence.

But the panel voted to approve revisions to Section 3 of the bill to grant a blanket amnesty to all people involved in political unrest, including protest leaders, soldiers, and authorities responsible for ordering the crackdowns...

[Worachai: committee has own reasons for changes](#) – Bangkok Post, October 20, 2013

...Why were relatives of victims killed in the 2010 rallies not given a chance to tell the committee of their views?

They came to the parliament and sent documents to the committee.

But they insisted they also wanted to meet and talk with the committee members, didn't they?

What is the difference between speaking to them and handing them documents? The point is that the committee saw their documents and did not accept them. What should we do then? How could we force the committee to accept the documents?...

Also: These earlier analyses from June and August still hold true. Now is the best and perhaps last chance for the government to accomplish the only thing that it was formed to do—dismantle the institutions that prevent Thaksin from returning to political prominence.

August: [Analysis: The strange editorial about Thai politics in the New York Times](#)

June: [The Wheel Begins to Turn: Weekly Rallies and Disapproving Academics](#)

Thailand facing economic headwinds

October 21, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand facing economic headwinds – New Thai investment trust manager warns of problems facing south-east Asian country as it slips into recession](#) – FT, October 18, 2013

...Aditthep Vanabriksha said Thailand had experienced two consecutive quarters of negative growth this year meaning it fell into a technical recession for the first time since 2008.

He said the situation was not helped by a number of government initiatives that attempted to bolster the economy, including a farming initiative that pushed up the price of rice and a subsidy on cars that ended last year, meaning sales have slumped in 2013.

Meanwhile, the central bank dropped rates to weaken the Thai baht after it reached a 16-year high earlier in the year, but soon after the money started flowing out of emerging markets amid fears the US Federal Reserve would reduce support for its own economy...

Thai Stocks Tumble on Amnesty Bill

October 21, 2013

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thai Stocks Tumble Most Worldwide on Amnesty Bill: Bangkok Mover](#) – Bloomberg, October 21, 2013

...The benchmark SET Index (SET) dropped 2.4 percent to 1,448.54 at the close in Bangkok, its biggest decline since Sept. 23 and the steepest drop among global equity gauges tracked by Bloomberg...

The flooding is good

October 22, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, October 9, 2013

Top left: When will the flood be ended? We've almost starved to death.

Top right: Dad: This ... is a reward for your idea to stop the flood.

Son: Ohh!! Why did you kick me, daddy?

Bottom left: Dad: We have to wish for more flooding!

Son: Why?

Bottom right: Because our Red Shirt government will urge to borrow 350 billion baht and give it to us faster.
Ha, ha, ha.

Stomping on their faces

October 22, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager, Thaksin Amnesty



21/10/56

From Manager, October 20, 2013

On the building: Pheu Thai Party

Man in the building: Don't worry boss... most of the Thai people don't realize that you're stomping on their faces... they still remain idle.

On people's faces: Amnesty Bill



23/10/56

From Manager, October 22, 2013

Man in black suit: Why don't you stomp them with both of your feet, boss?

Thaksin Shinawatra: Leave one for Hun Sen... on November 11.

On the man's face: Amnesty Bill

On the man's shirt: Idle Thais

Clothes on your back: Inside Cambodia's garment industry

October 22, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[Clothes on your back: Inside Cambodia's garment industry](#) – thestar.com, October 20, 2013

...The garment industry is the glue that holds Neang's household together, as it is the glue that binds the country's economy. While a fraction of the size of the Bangladesh garment industry in dollar terms, the value of Cambodian garment and textiles exceeded 80 per cent of the country's \$5.5 billion (U.S.) in exports last year. Add footwear — Nike, Adidas, Puma, etc. — and the figure exceeds 90 per cent. The top 20 Canadian consignees accounted for just over \$121 million of that, with Walmart Canada Corp., Loblaws Inc. and Reitmans (Canada) Ltd. topping the list...

The answer is easy! Release people in jails and let Thaksin come home!

October 22, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia, Thaksin Amnesty



From Thairath, October 22, 2013

Cartoon title: Difficult problem... easy answer!

Top left: ...Release friends from jails...

Top middle: ...Come back home smartly...

Top right: ...The persons who ordered to kill must be punished...

Above Suthep: tweet

Under Death's arm: 100 dead bodies

In hands of man in the front: Amnesty Bill, the till the end of the soi version.

Phi Nooring: Move forward to find justice

Mouse: Help each other to get out of the crisis

No to the Pheu Thai Party's Blanket Amnesty

October 22, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand: No Blanket Amnesty for Rights Abusers](#) – HRW, October 22, 2013

...Current Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, Thaksin's sister, had pledged that she would investigate and prosecute all those responsible for the 2010 violence, including soldiers and their commanders.

"To appease the military and promote a political agenda, Prime Minister Yingluck and her Pheu Thai Party are apparently willing to throw out the window the solemn promises they made to ensure justice for victims of political violence" Adams said...

Earlier: [Red Shirt deaths: Should we forgive and forget?](#)

Earlier: [Thaksin lobbies to forgive and forget the deaths and political events of recent years](#)

Earlier: [Back to the brink in Thailand](#)

Earlier: [Thaksin Ditching the Red Shirts](#)

Thai Rocker Carabao Plays in Rangoon

October 22, 2013

Categories: Music

[Thai Rocker Carabao Plays in Rangoon](#) – The Irrawaddy, October 21, 2013

...The rock star is famous among the Burmese because he released an English-language song about democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi in 2010, the year she was released from house arrest.

His Rangoon performance will include appearances by famous Burmese singers as well as Miss Myanmar International Nang Khin Zay Yar and other national winners of Miss International pageants in Singapore, Thailand, Mongolia, Estonia, Italy and New Zealand...

Bring Thaksin back and punish Abhisit

October 23, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, October 23, 2013

Cartoon title: Justice... press your claim if you want it

Sign on the left: Amnesty (1/2 Soi)

1. Instantly release the political prisoners; 2. Take Thaksin back home smartly; 3. Get Mark and Thuag to punish them

The hooded figure: Maew will come back to claim his 47 billion baht!

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

The skulls: And we're asking for our lives... back.

In front of skulls: Victims of the cruelty, April-May 2010

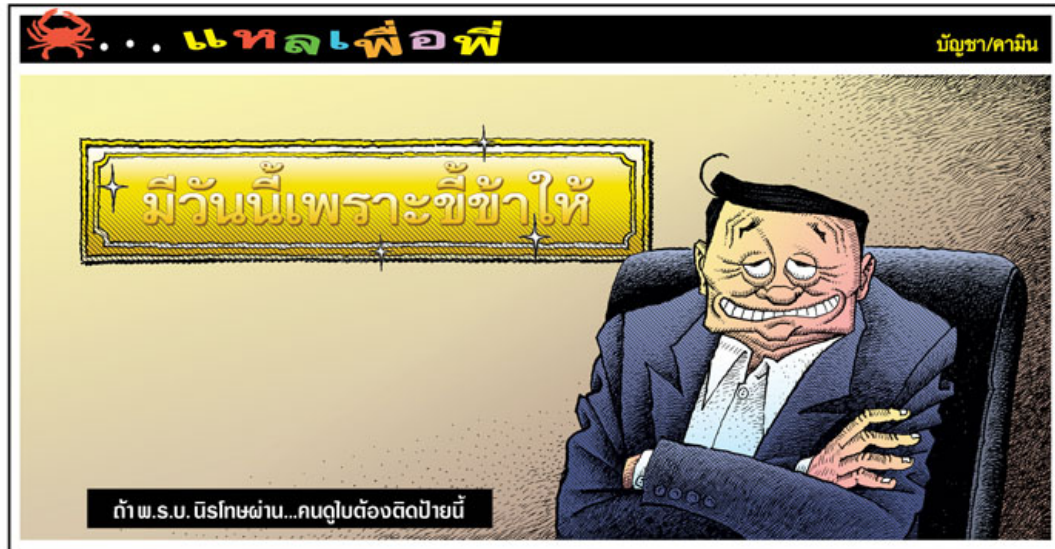
Phi Nooring: Will follow them in every life

Mouse: Criminals with big connections

If the amnesty bill is ratified... the person in Dubai must hang this sign

October 23, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager, Kamronwit Thoopkrachang, Thaksin Amnesty



24/10/56

From Manager, October 23, 2013

Caption: If the amnesty bill is ratified... the person in Dubai must hang this sign .

The sign reads: I have today because of my lackeys.

Remembering the Thaksin Years: Crucifying Thaksin

October 23, 2013

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



From Thairath, circa 2002

Title: Easy to set a fire... heavy blaze

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is crucified on a cross with a tape said “truth” on his mouth.

Above the cross says “Nationalism” and papers in the fires say “Thai media”

A Left oil bucket: Senator

A right oil bucket: The Opposition

Tycoon Plans Salvage Attempt of Sunken Dhammazedì Bell

October 23, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Tycoon Plans Salvage Attempt of Sunken Dhammazedì Bell](#) – The Irrawaddy, October 22, 2013

...Chit San Win, who wrote several books about the history of the bell, was the first to organize a salvage attempt in 1987 and has made several attempts since, including an effort carried out in 1996 with the support of then-Military Intelligence chief Khin Nyunt.

He told The Irrawaddy that unless Khin Shwe's project involves state-of-the-art salvaging technology operated by overseas experts it was doomed to fail, adding that the bell had never been located.

"I don't believe the bell can be recovered without the use of the latest technology, because according to my experience, using local technology won't work," Chit San Win said, adding that he supported Khin Shwe's project...

CAMBODIA: Brands concerned at association's audit

October 23, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[CAMBODIA: Brands concerned at association's audit](#) – just-style.com, October 21, 2013

A group of major brands that source garments from Cambodia – including Gap, H&M, Levi Strauss, Nike and Puma – have raised their concerns at attempts by local manufacturers to “undermine” plans to publicly disclose details of factory audits...

Myanmar's aviation industry booms despite grim safety record

October 23, 2013

Categories: Airports and Airlines, Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar's aviation industry booms despite grim safety record](#) – Reuters, October 21, 2013

...But the appalling safety rate has hardly dented a broader trend in Myanmar's aviation industry: spectacular growth. After decades under the thumb of xenophobic generals, one of Asia's last frontiers of commercial aviation is opening up.

Passenger numbers are surging as new airlines spring up and foreign carriers rush in. Some officials and executives talk grandly of turning Myanmar into a regional hub.

The country, however, appears ill-prepared for the pace of change, putting both safety – and the prospects of many hopeful airlines – at risk...

Dotted buffaloes against the blanket amnesty

October 24, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager, Thaksin Amnesty



25/10/56

From Manager, October 24, 2013

Jatuporn: Only having a dot and eating McDonalds doesn't mean that you are not a buffalo. Don't pretend like you're progressive... Don't forget that you're in *our* barn.

Sign close to the dotted buffalo: The amnesty bill sucks

Caption: The owner must subdue (the dotted buffalo)...

More: [All about detained Sombat Boonngamanong, a rebel Red Shirt](#)

If I blow a whistle...

October 24, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From Arun, October 24, 2013

Cartoon title: Bird... waiting to devour the remains?

No holds barred

October 24, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek, Thaksin Amnesty



From Komchadluek, October 24, 2013

Thaksin: Once you decide to perform an operation on the country, you'd better do it until the end. Don't be afraid!!

Do Thai sex workers want to be “rescued?”

October 24, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai anti-trafficking measures prove controversial](#) – dw.de, October, 2013

...Still, many American evangelical groups in Thailand are focusing on the sex trade problem, offering women an alternative to sex work. Critics argue that these groups fail to address the root causes of sex work, including poverty and a lack of education, and are too quick to assume that none of the women have a choice. They also suggest that evangelical groups are largely motivated by the prospect that reformed sex workers will convert to Christianity.

...people employed in sex work in the country have criticised the way both the Thai authorities and American evangelical organisations are approaching the issue. The American lead anti-sex trafficking agenda, they say, is actually endangering the wellbeing of poor migrant sex workers and their families...

As Opposition to the Regime Mounts, Cambodia's Capital Braces for Bloodshed

October 24, 2013

Categories: Cambodia

[As Opposition to the Regime Mounts, Cambodia's Capital Braces for Bloodshed](#) – Time, October 22, 2013

...Nonetheless, discontent over land rights, deforestation, extractive industries and rampant corruption is running high, and a groundswell of opposition is developing as people sense that change may finally be possible. "It is remarkable, the absence of CPP supporters in public, on TV or radio," says prominent political analyst Lao Mong Hay.

Even when CPP supporters are encountered, they may not be what they appear to be. TIME spoke to a group of Phnom Penh residents who said they festooned their homes with progovernment banners purely for the benefit for visiting officials, and that they really supported the opposition...

New York Times: Left to Languish, Costly Fire Trucks Present a Reminder of Thai Dysfunction

October 24, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Left to Languish, Costly Fire Trucks Present a Reminder of Thai Dysfunction](#) – NYT, October 24, 2013

...In the decision last month, the Thai Supreme Court sentenced Pracha Maleenont, the former deputy interior minister, to 12 years in prison and Athilak Tanchukiat, the former head of Bangkok's Fire and Rescue Department, to 10 years. The court said the Steyr ladder trucks that were bought were 67 percent more expensive than Mercedes ladder trucks bought in a previous procurement. And fire trucks with the capacity to carry 2,000 liters, or more than 500 gallons, of water were each bought in the Steyr deal for 18 million baht, or about \$580,000 — six times the price of a similar Isuzu fire truck previously bought in Thailand, the court said.

...“In Thailand, the odds are pretty good that a no-bid government contract could involve money flowing to politicians,” it said. “Whether the foreign suppliers might be party to any possible corruption is not certain...”

Till the end of the soi

October 25, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From Arun, October 25, 2013

Cartoon title: Till the end of the soi

Man in Pheu Thai blazer (talking to Thaksin): Boss... I've come 'till the end of the soi. Huge numbers of people are waiting here. What next, sir?

Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi finally collects her 1990 Sakharov EU human rights prize in person

October 25, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi finally collects her 1990 Sakharov EU human rights prize in person](#) – AP, October 22, 2013

...In Tuesday's stirring ceremony, European Parliament President Martin Schulz said that "23 years later, we welcome you here and it is a great moment..."

In Burma, a Vexing Vexillology

October 25, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[In Burma, a Vexing Vexillology](#) – The Irrawaddy, October 21, 2013

...Some have noted that the white star is the shared symbol of all branches of the Burmese military, also known as the Tatmadaw. Others have theorized that the consolidation of 14 stars into one symbolizes unity—or for critics, a “unified” Burma at the expense of a more decentralized federal state...

Weekly News Magazines, October 25, 2013

October 25, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, October 25, 2013

Cover reads: The last bullet



From Matichon Weekly, October 25, 2013
Cover reads: 'Poo' climbing up 'cutting board'



From ASTV Manager Weekly, October 26, 2013
Cover reads: Tom Yam Red. Where's my money?!

Stop the whitewash law!

October 25, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News, Signs and Billboards



The sign reads:

Strike Open the Truth

Stop the whitewash law!

Wichuthis School, Soi Prachasongkroh 13, Prachsongkroh road, Din Daeng

Saturday, October 26, 2013 at 16:30

Life behind bars in Bangkok's notorious Klong Prem prison

October 25, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Life behind bars in Bangkok's notorious Klong Prem prison](#) – Telegraph, October 25, 2013

...The cells all measured approximately 1.5 metres x 3.5 metres including a small bathroom area at the back which consisted of a tap and a hole in the floor for a lavatory. This was partitioned off from the remainder of the room by nothing more than a waist-height wall.

Each cell held three to four prisoners but there were no chairs or beds. Instead, inmates slept side by side on the floor, and if they were lucky there was a small TV in the corner. They spend 13 hours a day in this claustrophobically confined space...

Absolve the people immediately

October 26, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia, Thaksin Amnesty



From Thairath, October 26, 2013

On wall at left: This alley is under control of an oligarchy.

Red Shirts, wearing headbands with UDD on them, are holding signs that say: No amnesty bill for whom ordered to kill people; Don't forget this place has dead bodies.

On the back of the man's jacket: Pheu Thai SET ZERO

On the basket: Amnesty bill

Papers in the basket: Release political prisoners; Thaksin; Release Mark and Thuag

On the street sign: Absolute Democracy

The wall on the right: This alley is too dark and long. We have to walk together.

Phi Nooring: Be careful, it will probably be ended at the beginning of the alley.

A mouse: Absolve the people immediately.

Myanmar's Lawless Land

October 26, 2013

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar's Lawless Land](#) – thediplomat.com, October 23, 2013

...The development surge and the laws that enable it have also seen the seizure of swathes of natural resource-rich land in border areas where ethnic communities are being dispossessed by “development projects” initiated by powerful interest groups – the military, corrupt officials and business elites...

His Holiness Phra Yannasangwon, the Supreme Patriarch

October 26, 2013

Categories: Buddhism, Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From Arun, October 26, 2013

His Holiness Phra Yannasangwon, the Supreme Patriarch, the Head of all Members of the Sangha, the 19th Supreme Patriarch of Ratanakosin City

Police detain and fine 40 student activists calling for educational reform

October 26, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Police detain and fine 40 student activists](#) – The Nation, October 25, 2013

...the police had also tried to press charges on him and his friends for violating the Internal Security Act currently declared in the Dusit district, where they were arrested. He said the police were also thinking of charging them with disturbing the motorcade of HRH the Crown Prince, but later dropped the idea. Piyarath said his group would file a complaint against the officers who apprehended them as their “police vehicle” did not have a licence plate, which the officers said had fallen off...

What right do you have to order us dead?

October 27, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, October 27, 2013

Cartoon title: What right do you have to order us dead?

From left: The Attorney General sued us for ordering protesters killed in April-May 2010, causing almost 100 deaths and more than 2,000 injuries.

Middle: It's a political persecution. We'll fight to death. We want to ask for a chance to prove ourselves.

Skulls stuck on the sickle: Don't give it to anyone.

Right, woman on the right nicknamed Nong Ked: You don't give us any chance to defend, but give us death sentences. What right do you have to order your people to shoot ?

Front left boy, Nong Choe: You want a chance for yourself, but don't want others to have it.

On shirt of the boy on the front right: Nong Isa

Road signs, front left: Bon Kai; front right: Ratchprasong Intersection; back left: Dindaeng; back right: Kok Wua Intersection

On shirt of volunteer medic: Nong Ked

On shirt of boy on the left: Nong Choe

On shirt of boy on the right: Nong Isa

On skulls: Wat Pathumwanaram's sanctuary area

Mouse: Don't whitewash murders

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

Weekly News Magazines, October 18, 2013

October 28, 2013

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, October 18, 2013

Cover reads: Friends after all



From Matichon Weekly, October 18, 2013
Cover reads: The real ones



From ASTV Manager Weekly, October 19, 2013

Cover reads: A society full of shits

In the white circles, top left: Khi Kham

Top right: Khi Yong ; Khi Bae

Middle: Khi Khaa

Bottom right: Khi Hug Thong

Getting Maew

October 28, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



29/10/56

From Manager, October 28, 2013

Left: Thai people criticize us all over the Net.

Right: That we're so slow... in killing Thaksin.

Caption: Al Qaeda has been severely criticized lately.

On the Boil: Thailand's Government Rice Subsidy

October 28, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[On the Boil: Thailand's Government Rice Subsidy](#) – The Irrawaddy, October 28, 2013

...It explains why an estimated 4 million rice farmers registered for this scheme in October 2011, the first year it was unveiled, according to agriculture officials. They were drawn to the windfall from this pro-poor policy aimed to tap the farmers' vote, the largest constituency in the country. It offered farmers in Baan Non Somboon an answer to the perennial costs of paddy production. The latter ranged from the spike in fertiliser and pesticides to oil.

Yingluck's rice policy is in step with the raft of unprecedented pro-poor policies that were implemented during the five years that her twice-elected elder brother, former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, governed, till he was ousted in a September 2006 military coup. That first incarnation of populism assured a 1 million baht village fund for small loans, imposed a debt moratorium and unveiled a universal health care scheme...

All about amnesty...

October 29, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Eerie parallels between two Octobers](#)

Justice or impunity, amnesty or licence to kill, reconciliation or oblivion, the numb comfort of forgetting or the sour, endless curse of remembering. Take your pick, for the parliamentary push for the “blanket” amnesty bill that could cleanse the legal sins of everyone from the military to snipers to protesters to ex-PMs – Thaksin Shinawatra and Abhisit Vejjajiva – has raised the political temperature and confirmed the social cracks we still have to brave.

To recap: Thaksin, pushing the bill that would help him return to Charan Sanitwong, said the country needs to be reset. The anti-Thaksin camp is fuming that the bill would constitutionally absolve the Dubai resident and even pave a tricky path for other corrupters to escape punishment...

[Abhisit and Suthep charged on bloody crackdowns](#)

[Suthep vows to fight Thaksin regime from the streets](#)

[Mutiny over amnesty hard to believe](#)

[Govt, Pheu Thai Party play risky game on amnesty](#)

[Thaksin stares down mutiny over amnesty](#)

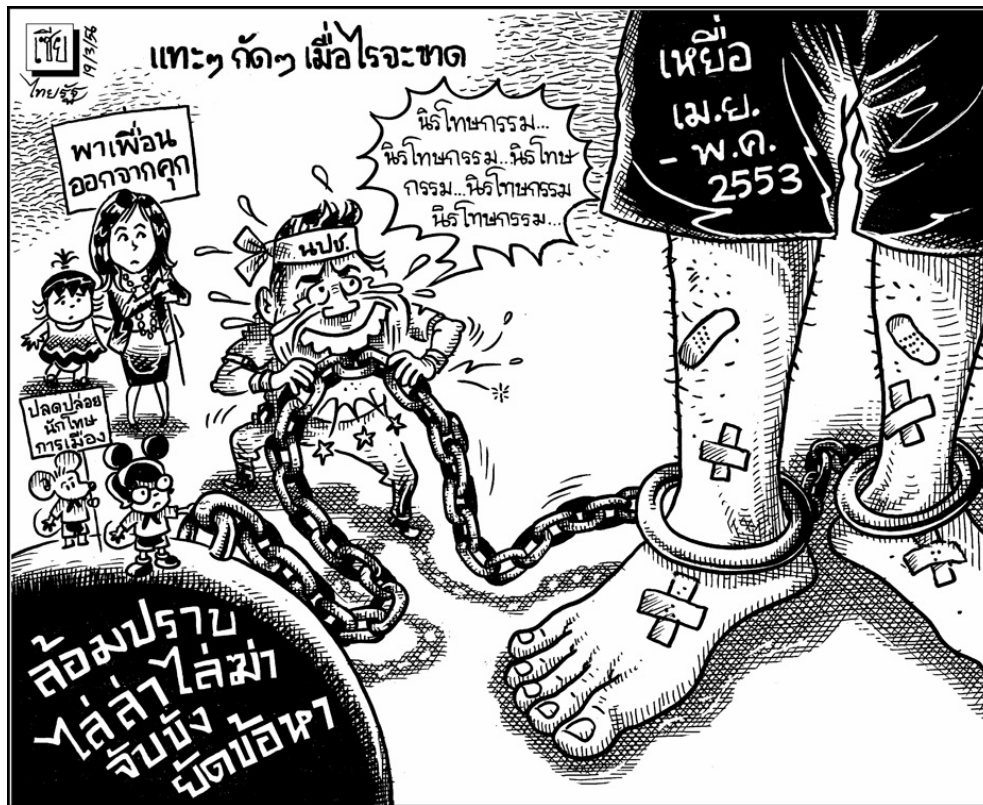
[Reds: No blanket amnesty](#)

[Thaksin expresses support for the controversial amnesty bill, saying the country needs “resetting back to zero” for the sake of future generations](#)

[Governors, chiefs ordered to explain ‘Democratic nature’ of amnesty measure](#)

[Yingluck-led panel would decide who gets amnesty](#)

[Bill ‘not to whitewash Thaksin cases’](#)



From Thairath, March 16, 2013

Cartoon title: Just chewing, when will it be broken?

On the headband: UDD

Man biting chain says: Amnesty... amnesty... amnesty... amnesty... amnesty...

On shorts of giant man: Victims of the April-May 2010 incidents

On chained ball: Ambushing suppression; chasing to kill; putting in jails; false accusations

Sign carried by Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra reads: Take our friends out of jail.

Man mouse: Release political prisoners.

Earlier this month:

[Human Rights Watch: No to the Pheu Thai Party's Blanket Amnesty](#)

[Amnesty push risks conflict, govt told – Rights advocate blasts 'overt' bid to aid Thaksin](#)

[Worachai: committee has own reasons for changes](#)



From Manager, May 23, 2012

Words on the car: Aristocracy

The context of Thaksin and amnesty

2003: [The perils of ‘doing a Thaksin’](#)
2007: [Injustice for Thaksin? The drug-war dead must weep](#)
2007: [Thaksin’s war on drugs kin still wait for justice – Mass killing of tribesmen remains unsolved](#)
2012: [Red Shirt deaths: Should we forgive and forget?](#)
2012: [Thaksin lobbies to forgive and forget the deaths and political events of recent years](#)
2012: [Back to the brink in Thailand](#)
2012: [Cartoon: Thaksin Decides He Needs the Red Shirts Again](#)
2012: [War on drugs: Thai police compensated for committing murder in the line of “duty”](#)
2013: [Cartoon: Why won’t the Red Shirt families back amnesty? They were paid 7 million baht...](#)
2013: [Cartoon: Amnesty brings justice back to the people](#)
10 Years Ago: [Thaksin’s ‘war on drugs’](#)

Also: These earlier analyses from June and August still hold true. Now is the best and perhaps last chance for the government to accomplish the only thing that it was formed to do—dismantle the institutions that prevent Thaksin from returning to political prominence.

August: [Analysis: The strange editorial about Thai politics in the New York Times](#)

June: [The Wheel Begins to Turn: Weekly Rallies and Disapproving Academics](#)

Thai locals show photos of alleged “dragon” snake

October 29, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News



[Thai locals show photos of alleged “dragon” snake](#) – MCOT, October 29, 2013

The Laos moonscape—extreme deforestation, Chinese domination, enforced disappearances, and a mega railroad project

October 29, 2013

Categories: Laos

[The future of Laos: A bleak landscape – A secretive ruling clique and murky land-grabs spell trouble for a poor country](#) – The Economist, October 26, 2013

...Deforestation stretches all the way to the Chinese border. It is so recent and so extreme that scientists from Sweden's Lund university picked Laos as a testing ground for a new method of monitoring economic activity from space. By combining night-time satellite images with land-use data, they can estimate, with surprising accuracy, changes in agricultural and non-agricultural activity. For Laos, it also means monitoring the impact of Chinese and Vietnamese cash from space...

Does Thailand have the world's tallest living man?

October 29, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok



[Sanook reports](#) a 257cm tall man (8 feet 5 inches) who was forced to sit down for his national ID photo as he is unable to walk. He weighs 225kg (496 lbs).

This would make him taller than [Sultan Kösen](#) who measures 251 cm (8 ft 3 in).

Naomi Campbell Looks Really Different On Vogue Thailand Cover

October 29, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News



[Naomi Campbell Looks Really Different On Vogue Thailand Cover](#) – Huffington Post, October 28, 2013

Thailand's Rural Boom Yields Mercedes and \$6,000 Jacuzzis

October 29, 2013

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand's Rural Boom Yields Mercedes and \\$6,000 Jacuzzis](#) – Business Week, October 28, 2013

...For much of Thailand's recent history, the powerhouse of Southeast Asia's second-biggest economy has been its glitzy capital. Now, a convergence of local and international currents is reshaping the nation's economic geography.

In the northeast, rising incomes, property prices and consumer spending have sent economic growth surging by 8 percent annually, or double the rate of Bangkok, according to Siam Commercial Bank Pcl.

Meanwhile, further to the south, Thailand's burgeoning auto industry — in 2012 the 10th-biggest manufacturer in the world — has brought such prosperity to a region known as the eastern seaboard that one province, Rayong, has become twice as rich as Bangkok in terms of per capita income, according to government data...

Have you found a whistle yet, bro?

October 30, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager, Thaksin Amnesty



31/10/56

From Manager, October 30, 2013

Abhisit: Have you found a whistle yet, bro?

Suthep: Not yet!...I don't know where I threw it. I haven't thought that we will use it though.

A man standing close to Abhisit is Democrat Party's member Sathit Wongnongtoey.

Caption: Tonight, will we hear a whistle?

Do we have to listen?

October 31, 2013

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, October 31, 2013

Left: We have to listen to the World Court of Justice’s judges’ ruling with calmness for the sake of each others’ peace...

Right: We’ll deny any rulings by the Thai court of justice for the sake of the country’s reconciliation...

