

## Cambodia's bribe-seeking press corps

November 1, 2014

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodia's bribe-seeking press corps](#) – Al Jazeera, October 31, 2014

*... "An overwhelming majority of local Cambodian journalists get their income from multiple sources, because we don't get pay from the publisher. But we make money from our news," said a man who asked to be identified only as "K", a 40-year-old journalist who spent a decade working for a newspaper which published once a month.*

*The reporter, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was violating commonly accepted journalistic code of ethics, explained how he covered the illegal logging beat in Ratanakkiri and Mondolkiri, remote northeastern provinces that have dozens of registered journalists.*

*Local villagers would call in tips to K, who would then summon a group of other reporters – ostensibly his competitors – to go into the forests and try to photograph illegal loggers.*

*The loggers would often pay the gaggle of journalists \$30-\$50 each to go away and delete their photographs. If this didn't happen, K would pass the information to his newspaper's publisher, who would try to extract a bribe himself.*

*"It's not extortion, but it's called 'tea money'," he explained...*

## Thai prime minister, an ex-general, is millionaire

November 1, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup

[Thai prime minister, an ex-general, is millionaire](#) – AP, October 31, 2014

*...Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, who as army commander led a May coup d'etat, listed 128.6 million baht (\$3.9 million) in assets and 654,745 baht (\$20,000) in liabilities. Under the disclosure laws, assets belonging to spouses and children under 21 must be included. He also reported the transfer of 466.5 million baht (\$14.3 million) to other family members...*

[PM says he can justify his wealth](#) – Bangkok Post, November 1, 2014

*...Following the assets declaration, the wealth of Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwon and Interior Minister Anupong Paojinda, two core members of the Burapha Phayak faction was also of special interest.*

*Gen Prawit has declared a net worth of 87.37 million baht and no debt.*

*Compared with assets worth 79 million baht he declared after vacating office as defence minister in the Abhisit government in August 2012, Gen Prawit is about 8 million baht richer.*

*Gen Anupong has declared 37.79 million baht worth of assets and no liabilities.*

*He signed as an insurer for Phrueksapjan Pattana Co for a loan worth 258.9 million baht on May 30 last year...*

## No one wants to be a Thai police officer so the cabinet considers enforcing police conscription again

November 4, 2014

Categories: Thai Police

[Thailand considers enforcing police conscription again](#) – AFP, November 3, 2014

*...The police are unpopular with Thais who bemoan routine bribe-taking, while the recent murder of two British backpackers on a holiday island has opened the force to criticism that it is poorly trained in investigating crime.*

*The cabinet has already agreed “in principle” to conscript 5,000 to 10,000 men — aged 21 — annually across the country, a National Police spokesman said.*

*“Currently we are lacking police officers. (If approved) Police conscripts will work in areas across the country where there are high crime rates,” said Police Lieutenant General Prawut Thavornsiri, adding the order still needs full cabinet approval.*

*If rubber-stamped by cabinet, the military will oversee the police draft, he said, adding recruits were likely to be paid \$245-275 a month, slightly higher than the minimum wage of around \$220...*

## Avoid reporting on Thaksin, PM tells media

November 4, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup

[Avoid reporting on Thaksin, PM tells media](#) – The Nation, November 3, 2014

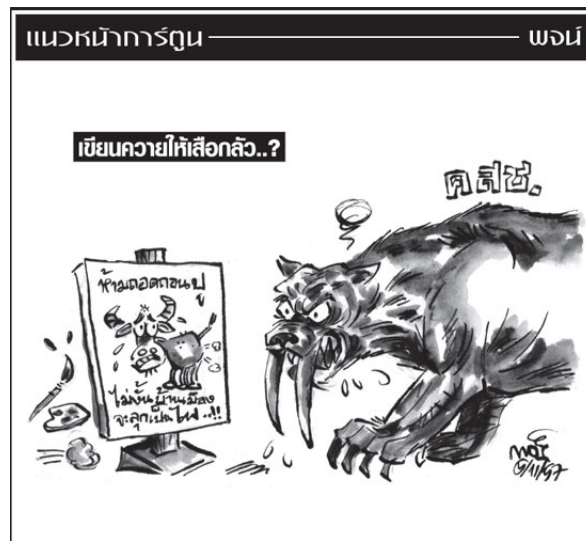
*Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on Monday urged the media to avoid reporting the moves of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, saying he is a fugitive on the run from lawsuits. He said the reports of Thaksin's moves could cause his supporters to continue their political moves...*



## Draw a buffalo to threaten the tiger?

November 5, 2014

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Naewna, November 5, 2014

Title: Draw a buffalo to threaten the tiger?

Above the tiger: NCPO

On the picture: Don't dismiss Pu or the country will be in trouble.

## Prayuth won't be able to stop the people from loving Thaksin

November 5, 2014

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, November 5, 2014

Title: No picture, no news, no conflict, done?

On the newspaper: Newspaper

On the paper on the ground: News of Thaksin

Phi Nooring (at bottom right): Thaksin haunts

Mouse: It won't stop people from loving him

## Songkhla railway station to be developed into a museum

November 5, 2014

Categories: Thai Railroads



[Songkhla railway station to be developed into a museum](#) – Spingnews, November 3, 2014

From 11 years ago: [The Songkhla Train Station](#)

Also: [The Songkhla to Hat Rai Rail line](#)

Also: [Walking the Songkhla line](#)

Also: [The missing fort of Songkhla Province](#)

Also: [Gina II run aground in Songkhla](#)

Also: [Songkhla Rail Wharf](#)

Phil Abbey has a webpage about riding trains in the south in the early 1970's which includes the [Songkhla Bullet](#) to Songkhla, the [Smuggler's Express](#) to the border, and going from [Nakorn Sri Thammarat to Hat Yai](#).

## Vehicles registered in Bangkok doubled from 4.28 to 8.55 million in 10 years

November 5, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Same roads, more cars in Bangkok](#) – Bangkok Post, November 5, 2014

*...With two months still left in the calendar year, the total number of vehicles with Bangkok licence plates registered with the Land Transport Department already has hit about 8.55 million, double the 4.28 million registered in all of 2004, Deputy Transport Minister Arkhom Termpittayaprisith said Tuesday...*

## Gen. Prayuth and the press

November 5, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup

[Prayuth Deflects Questions About 600 Million Baht Land Sale](#) – Khao Sod, November 5, 2014

*...When a reporter asked Gen. Prayuth about the land sale today, the Prime Minister shot back that the media has no business questioning him on the matter. “The land has belonged to me since I was a kid, it belonged to my father. So what’s the problem?” Gen. Prayuth said. “Please stop criticising me already...”*

[PM says CDC must listen people’s opinions](#) – thaipbs.or.th, November 4, 2014

*...While praising all the 36 CDC members of being top legal minds, the prime minister stressed the need of the CDC to listen to divergent views about how to reduce or resolve internal conflicts in the future and how to bring about good governance in government bureaucracy.*

*...e also pleaded with the media to refrain from writing anything which will be damaging to the CDC as the Constitution is constituted as the supreme law of the land...*

## We need Article 44

November 5, 2014

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, November 5, 2014

Prayuth: This is national security... we need to use Article 44!

Brown dog: They're in trouble.

White dog: Really!!

Caption: Isn't too much... even dog's poo become the big deal.

## **Nation celebrates Loy Krathong with happiness**

November 7, 2014

Categories: Loy Krathong

[Nation celebrates Loy Krathong with happiness](#) – Thai PBS, November 6, 2014

## Fire Destroys Thai Bitcoin Mining Facility

November 7, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Fire Destroys Thai Bitcoin Mining Facility](#) – coindesk.com, November 6, 2014

*A bitcoin mining facility in Thailand was destroyed in a massive fire earlier this week and foul play may have been involved. The 5-megawatt farm was operated by mining cooperative Cowboyminers and primarily relied on Spondoolies-Tech and Innosilicon hardware.*

*Cowboyminers was formed by a group of European expats living in Bangkok. The outfit tried to maintain a low profile, but at the same time the cooperative operated a relatively extensive mining operation. The facility was recently upgraded to include hundreds of new Spondoolies-Tech SP30 miners...*



## The Second Languages Of Every Part Of The World

November 7, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News, Myanmar/Burma



[The Second Languages Of Every Part Of The World In One Incredible Infographic](#) – businessinsider.com, October 31, 2014

Update: We received quite a bit of negative reaction from those who absolutely object to the contention that Burmese is the second language of Thailand (Burma being the traditional enemy and bogeyman of Thai patriotic history).

And just today we noticed this option on a Thai ATM:



## Get killed in Thailand? Your relatives will have to pay bribes to the police

November 8, 2014

Categories: Crime

[Caring Gosport woman killed while on a retreat in Thailand](#) – portsmouth.co.uk, November 7, 2014

*...Mr Breckon told coroner David Horsley of the 'blood agreement' the Thai police asked him and the father of the driver to make after he arrived in the country. Both sides had to pay money to the police.*

*He said: 'We tried to keep track of what happened to the youth.*

*'They call it 'local custom' but we might call what happened "corruption".*

*'We understand that the father paid a considerable sum to the authorities.*

*'We agreed a blood agreement where the next of kin pays a certain amount.*

*'We did not want to do that, but unless both parties did, her body would not be released for repatriation.*

*'We understand the police then went back to the other family and asked for more money. We understand certain payments were made and he was released with a caution...'*

[The holiday paradise killing young Aussie travellers](#) – thenewdaily.com.au, November 6, 2014

*...Head of the European Union delegation in Thailand David Lipman said there was widespread concern within the diplomatic community over safety issues, and he did not believe the situation was improving. He also warned about numerous rackets perpetrated against tourists, often involving jet-skis and motorbikes and conducted with the complicity of local police: "We expect proper behaviour from public officials."*

*Australia's recently retired Honorary Consul, the outspoken Larry Cunningham, said more than 50 Australians a year were dying on the island of Phuket alone, with scams and criminality increasing to such an extent that expatriates wanted to leave. Young travellers, particularly "schoolies", were being targeted by gangs and local police...*

## Tek tek, the yeti of Cambodia

November 8, 2014

Categories: Cambodia



[Tek tek, the yeti of Cambodia](#) – Phnom Penh Post, November 8, 2014

...“One ranger told me that his grandfather and friends say that tek teks used to be encountered 30 to 40 years ago, back when Ratanakkiri was something like 95 per cent covered in forest,” said McCann.

“They say the combination of the Vietnam War, with the massive ordnance dropped by US planes, plus modern deforestation and poaching did them in.”

## Historic Constitution Monument Torn Down In Buriram

November 8, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News



[Historic Constitution Monument Torn Down In Buriram](#) – khaosodenglish.com, November 7, 2014

*...The monument was built in the late 1930s as a part of a state campaign to instill admiration for the newly-founded constitutional democracy in Thailand, then known as Siam...*

## Watch 1,192 security cameras in Thailand whose owners haven't changed their default passwords

November 8, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[1,192 IP cameras: Thailand](#)

[A Creepy Website Is Streaming From 73,000 Private Security Cameras](#) – Gizmodo, November 6, 2014

*It shouldn't be so easy to peer into a stranger's bedroom, much less hundreds of strangers' bedrooms. But a website has collected the streaming footage from over 73,000 IP cameras whose owners haven't changed their default passwords. Is this about highlighting an important security problem, or profiting off creepy voyeurism—or both? ...*

## **Youths admit cheating at an early age, and many don't think it's bad, study finds**

November 9, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Youths admit cheating at an early age, and many don't think it's bad, study finds](#) – The Nation, November 9, 2014

*Dishonesty in Thailand sprouts roots at an early age – with 81 per cent of youths admitting they cheat in exams and 63 per cent saying they signed a class attendance form for an absent classmate, a new study has found.*

*And what's more, it is behaviour that most of respondents did not regard as seriously wrong...*

# From 2002: Foam is better than biodegradable for Loy Krathong

November 9, 2014

Categories: Loy Krathong

**Samak takes swipe at anti-foam lobby – Plodprasop should know better, he says** – *Bangkok Post*, November 15, 2002

[More about Samak](#)

*Apiradee Treerutkuarkul*

*Bangkok governor Samak Sundaravej has blasted Plodprasop Suraswadi, the permanent secretary for natural resources and the environment, for calling on people not to use styrofoam floats during the Loy Krathong festival.*

*"I can't believe he still lacks experience on styrofoam usage," said Mr Samak.*

*"It would be easier to clean up the river if people use krathongs with styrofoam stuffed inside. Krathongs made of banana leaves would sink faster and decompose, making the water dirty," he said.*

*"Why doesn't anyone care about daily foam use? It does no harm to use styrofoam floats for just one day," he said.*

*Environmental activists would be better campaigning against styrofoam use in daily activities, such as styrofoam lunchboxes and air conditioning units.*

*City staff were preparing 55 boats to clean up the rivers within a day of Loy Krathong next Tuesday.*

*Styrofoam retrieved from the river would be sent to a recycling factory for making lifeboats to rescue people during flooding.*

*The chief of the Environmental Quality Promotion Department said natural materials would be better than non-degradable foam.*

*Environmental Quality Promotion Department head Sirithan Pairojboriboon said the department supported natural materials, as recycling styrofoam was hard.*

*Only 2% of foam garbage created in the past two years was recycled, since the rest was too dirty and there was only one factory to accept it for recycling.*

*"Natural materials will not sink immediately but they can be picked up within 1-2 days," he said.*

*Krathongs made of foam were lighter than those made of natural materials so they would be taken quickly to the sea and stay there for decades.*

*Use of foam in making krathongs has increased almost 20% in the past two years.*

*"The city picked up 150,000 krathongs last year. The foam rubbish needed space equivalent to almost 2,000 tonnes of organic garbage," Mr Sirithan said.*

*Maneerat Chanthanapalin, an associate professor of Rajabhat Institute Suan Dusit, agreed with the department chief, saying it would be good if styrofoam garbage could be used for filling up holes on roads or making bricks.*

*She also urged people, especially youngsters, to refrain from singing the song Wan Loy Krathong wrongly by adding words to the traditional lyrics, like some singers did.*

**Foam floats in city parks** – *Bangkok Post*, November 4, 2003

*Loy Krathong revellers are free to use any materials for their floats this year, including styrofoam, as long as they celebrate outside the city's parks, Bangkok governor Samak Sundaravej said yesterday.*

*Those wishing to release krathongs in ponds at city parks must use only foam material, he said.*

*The parks will remain open till 10pm and all floats will be removed by midnight.*

*Mr Samak, who has long been at odds with environmentalists over the environmentally unfriendly styrofoam floats, asked the media not to project him as foam aficionado.*

*"Please do not say I am for styrofoam. Use any material you like. But if you want to celebrate the festival in the city's parks, please use foam floats only as they do not sink and are easy to collect when the festival is over," he said.*

*Gulf cluttered with 30,000 foam floats*

*Loy Krathong revellers polluted the Gulf of Thailand with at least 30,000 styrofoam floats, the Natural Resources and Environment permanent secretary said.*

*Floats could become trapped in ship engines or stuck in coral reefs, or be washed ashore to spoil the coastline, said Plodprasop Suraswadi.*

*Mr Plodprasop is at odds with Bangkok governor Samak Sundaravej's promotion of styrofoam floats.*

*Commentary: S a n i t u d a E k a c h a i*

*On Loy Krathong day on Tuesday, my seven-year-old daughter walked out of school at the end of the day with a small float in her hand. It was made of styrofoam and was complete with paper decorations.*

*"I'm ready for Loy Krathong tonight," she declared.*

*"But your float is made of foam. And you know that it's bad for the environment, don't you?" I asked.*

*She looked lost. Then she fired back: "But my teacher said foam is better. It's light and easy for the clean up afterward. The floats made from banana trunks sink fast and they make the water rot."*

*Why get upset, you may ask. As a mother, I should just explain to my daughter that styrofoam is very difficult to recycle and it stays in the environment for hundreds of years, so it's better to use natural materials to make floats.*

*Foam floats torpedoed by activists*

*Conservation groups have voiced strong objections to the Bangkok governor's campaigns for the use of styrofoam floats during next month's Loy Krathong festival. Srisuwan Chanya, of the Environmental Protection Foundation, said the burning of foam floats would create a health hazard.*

*Incineration of foam garbage would produce carbon monoxide. Inhaling the toxic substance from the burning method would cause respiratory problems, he pointed out.*

*Styrofoam materials may be easily produced and convenient for use, but they have a negative impact on the environment, he said.*

*The Thai Environment and Community Development Association (Magic Eyes) opposes the use of styrofoam in favour of banana trunk and leaf, which degrade naturally.*

*Joint search for best materials for floats*

*City officials are trying to prevent another war of words on what makes good floats for next year's Loy Krathong festival.*

*"We end up having to collect all the garbage anyway," said Teerachai Thiensanchai, acting chief of the Public Cleansing Office.*

*Mr Teerachai said his office would support the proposal to use natural materials such as bread, popcorn, millet, plants and vegetables, because they decomposed easier and became food for aquatic animals.*

*This would also make it unnecessary for city workers to collect them from rivers after the festival.*

*Styrofoam krathongs were suitable for ponds in public parks because there they could be easily collected, he said. He said the foam garbage could also be used as road fill.*

[More about Samak](#)

## More on the Super Tower

November 10, 2014  
Categories: Buildings



[More on the Super Tower](#) – Thairath, November 10, 2014

Earlier: [The Super Tower](#)



## How Thailand's generals outwitted 'team US' by playing the China card

November 10, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup

[Thailand's generals outwit 'team US'](#) – nikkei.com, November 5, 2014

*... "It is not economically rational to build that rail link," an executive at a major Japanese distribution company said. But the link is about more than just moving goods for China. It gives access to the ocean if an emergency arises in the South China Sea, where China has multiple territorial disputes. Still, many thought a high-speed railway that does not go through Bangkok would not bring much benefit to Thailand. The military junta thus dramatically changed the project's blueprint in a Oct. 21 cabinet meeting. Under the new plan, the railway will run through Bangkok. By changing the plan, the junta is trying to show its independence from Beijing...*

Also: [Kristie Kenney departure leaves Thailand without a US Ambassador](#) – asiancorrespondent.com, November 10, 2014

Earlier: [Remembering U.S. Ambassador Kristie Kenney](#)

Earlier: [U.S. diplomatic drift and Thailand](#)

# The Army is Watching

November 10, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup

[Army stops land reform protest march](#) – The Nation, November 10, 2014

*...The planned march was in response to the Prayut government's crackdown on forest encroachment by investors, influential figures and illegal loggers. Under the crackdown, emphasis was supposed to be placed on there being minimal impact on the underprivileged living on the land, an informed source said. However, the source said officers reportedly operated the crackdown without discrimination and allegedly threatened villagers, leaving them concerned about their ability to lead a normal life...*

[Academics Suggest Reviving Absolute Monarchy's Supreme Council](#) – Khaosod, November 10, 2014

*Several prominent academics have proposed reviving the Supreme Council of the State, a decision-making body that superseded all three branches of government during Thailand's last days as an absolute monarchy.*

*Chulalongkorn University political scientist Panitan Wattanayagorn suggested at a panel discussion on Saturday that including a Supreme Council in the new Constitution could help secure a "balance of power" between different branches of government...*

[Junta 'Will Not Tolerate' Impeachment Protests](#) – Khaosod, November 8, 2014

*...Thaworn Senniam, a leader of the Yellowshirt movement that staged street protests against the previous government, previously hinted of organising new round of protests if the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) fails to impeach Somsak Kiatsuranond and Nikom Waiyaratchapanich, who served Parliament and Senate Speakers in 2013, respectively.*

*Responding to Thaworn's threat, former Pheu Thai MP Worachai Hema also vowed to mobilise supporters of his party, known as the Redshirts, if the NLA does impeach Somsak and Nikom for their effort last year to amend the 2007 constitution to make it more democratic...*

[Redshirt Leader Decries Military 'Surveillance'](#) – Khaosod, November 8, 2014

*...Siriwat Chupamadtha, a coordinator of the Redshirts' United Front of Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD), said three plain-clothed military officers are regularly stationed at his home, workplace, and the radio station he regularly speaks.*

*"They kept telling me that they merely want to ask about how I spend my time in daily life, and how I am involved in political works," Siriwat told Matichon. "They said that I can report to them via LINE messenger on the days that they can't show up, so they would know where I am..."*

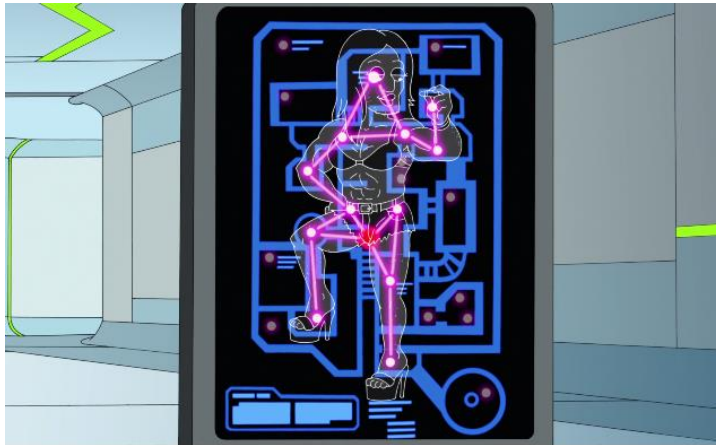
## “American Dad” in Bangkok

November 10, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News



The “American Dad” episode “CIAPOW” (broadcast on October 27, 2014) is set in Bangkok and features a joke about the monarchy. CIA agents break into the Grand Palace—among other things—and then pass through a red light district. And then a tiny Thai policeman tortures them... and the map of the Thai prison is shaped like a transvestite.



## Myanmar: ‘Permanent’ Residence for Former Citizens, Foreigners to Start Next Month

November 10, 2014

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Myanmar: ‘Permanent’ Residence for Former Citizens, Foreigners to Start Next Month](#) – The Irrawaddy, November 10, 2014

...“The system will strengthen the favorable conditions of Myanmar at right time and it will enable scholars, experts, intellectuals and investors from other countries as well as former Burmese citizens to contribute to national development,” he said, according to the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar. Dual citizenship is prohibited in Burma, according to the 1982 Citizenship Law. Tens of thousands of Burmese exiles, who fled the country for various reasons under the military regime, effectively lost their Burmese citizenship while living abroad after being granted residency or citizenship in foreign countries. The Burmese government is now reviewing citizenship applications for exiles, but has been criticized for an administrative backlog...

## Controversial decisions by key government agencies

November 10, 2014

Categories: Thai Politics

[Controversial decisions by key govt agencies](#) – The Nation, November 10, 2014

*The purpose of the independent organisations under the constitution was to prevent abuse of power by politicians, political parties or agencies. They were meant to be independent of political influence, but in the past, they were seen as being political tools to support or persecute some politicians rather than scrutinise them under the justice system. Here are some examples of their controversial resolutions or rulings that have been criticised for being politicised...*

## **The first animated movie from Thailand – The Adventure of Sudsakorn**

November 11, 2014

Categories: Film and TV



[The first animated movie from Thailand – The Adventure of Sudsakorn \(1979\).](#)

## My living hell in a Thai jail: 85 to a cell, beatings and killings

November 11, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[My living hell in a Thai jail: 85 to a cell, beatings and killings](#) – lep.co.uk, November, 2014

*...Mr Hartley, who was sent home to Heysham on a flight to Manchester last Saturday, said: “There is so much corruption over there.*

*“I went to Thailand to work with a friend, who was running a website exporting pharmaceuticals all over the world. He had been running it for six years.*

*“I only helped with e-mails and orders. I was a scapegoat. The Thai police visited the man who ran the website and demanded thousands of pounds.*

*“When he did not pay them, they arrested me two weeks later, while he was out of the country...*

## **Claim: Pakistan caught in India was trained to make bombs in Thailand**

November 11, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[BKI's Thai-trained bomb expert held, kin cry foul](#) – indiatimes.com, November 10, 2014

*Police on Sunday arrested Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terrorist Ramandeep Singh alias Sunny, who was allegedly trained in bomb making in Thailand. The arrested terrorist has reportedly been guided by Pakistan's spy agency Inter Services Intelligence (ISI)...*



## New Thai buffalo stickers for LINE

November 11, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News



Get them and use them while you can ([line://shop/detail/1051678](http://line://shop/detail/1051678)). Previously LINE removed “Red Buffalo” stickers ([Line Removes Thailand’s ‘Red Buffalo’ Stickers from Global Marketplace](#)) citing the Thai use of the buffalo to denote a stupid person and frequent use of the term to denigrate Thaksin’s Red Shirt supporters.



Ironically, the “red buffalo” insult has been co-opted by some Red Shirts and is now sometimes thought of as an endearing symbol of the rural movement.



## Military order at Bang Sen Beach

November 12, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup



Military order at Bang Sen Beach

[Here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#) (from the [2B forum](#))

## Remember the hundreds of Uighurs detained in Thailand in March? Most have vanished while in Thai custody

November 12, 2014

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Immigration detainees vanish from custody](#) – The Nation, November 12, 2014

*A large number of people from an unknown origin who had been in civilian custody in Songkhla province since March have gone missing, the chief of the provincial social development and human security office said yesterday...*

*A member of staff at the detention centre said “all the detainees had gone”, but refused to provide further information...*

Earlier: [More than 200 Asylum-Seeking Uyghurs Detained in Thailand](#)

Earlier: [Another Batch of Uyghur Asylum Seekers Held in Thailand](#)

## Thai Olympian Vanessa-Mae banned over fixed Sochi qualifiers

November 12, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai Olympian Vanessa-Mae banned over fixed Sochi qualifiers](#) – Bangkok Post, November 12, 2014

*...The findings by the International Ski Federation exposed as a sham what many fans thought was a feel-good celebrity Olympic story.*

*In February at the Sochi Games, the celebrity musician who was raised in Britain, raced for Thailand as Vanessa Vanakorn, using the last name of her Thai father. She finished last of 67 racers in the two-run giant slalom.*

*On Tuesday, FIS also banned five officials from Slovenia and Italy for between one and two years for their role in the scandal.*

*...FIS said its hearing panel “found to its comfortable satisfaction” that the status of four women’s giant slalom races were manipulated in January in Slovenia, a few weeks before the games.*

*FIS detailed several rule-breaking incidents that rigged results to help Vanessa-Mae falsely improve her results near the Olympic entry deadline...*

## 11 Years Ago: Thai Media Falls Under Thaksin's Shadow

November 13, 2014

Categories: Today in History

11 Years Ago: [Alarm as Thaksin tries to buy out media groups](#)

## Who made the biggest mess?

November 13, 2014

Categories: Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Editorial Cartoons - Manager



28-10-57

From Manager, October 27, 2014

Left, former PM Chavalit Yongchaiyudh: I caused a 70 billion-baht debt to the country during the Tom Yum Kung crisis.

Caption: He's good.

Middle, former PM Yingluck: It couldn't beat my rice-pledging scheme. The scheme caused an 80 billion-baht debt.

Caption: She's better.

Right, a regular citizen: I don't want to brag that I have to pay all debts caused by you guys.

Caption: He's the best.

## You think Thailand is your colony?

November 13, 2014

Categories: Anti-Americanism



From an image being circulated on social media: America is evil. You think Thailand is your colony? Or has Ai Maew already sold our country to you?

More about these concepts:

[Remembering U.S. Ambassador Kristie Kenney.](#)

[U.S. diplomatic drift and Thailand](#)

## 25 years ago: Drillship Seacrest capsizes in one of the world's worst oil rig disasters

November 13, 2014

Categories: Today in History

[97 Missing in Capsizing](#) – NYT, November 4, 1989

*An American-owned oil drilling ship with 97 people aboard capsized early today after a typhoon swept through the Gulf of Thailand with 100-mile-per-hour winds. Barry Lane, a spokesman for the Los Angeles-based Unocal oil company, said six survivors had been rescued in heavy seas about 270 miles south of Bangkok, but that they were Thai fishermen, not crew from the capsized Seacrest drilling vessel. No survivors of the Seacrest had been found by late this morning.*

On Wikipedia: [Drillship Seacrest](#)



## Billboard for the Super Tower

November 14, 2014  
Categories: Buildings



Above: Billboard for the Super Tower  
[More on the Super Tower](#)

## Be afraid of Thailand!

November 14, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand 'most dangerous tourist destination', claims book](#) – Telegraph, November 13, 2014

...British author Andrew MacGregor Marshall, whose book *"A Kingdom in Crisis: Thailand's Struggle for Democracy in the Twenty-First Century"*, was banned by the Thai government on Tuesday, agreed that tourists should be wary. "It's sensible to exercise extreme caution while Thailand remains ruled by an unaccountable and criminal elite," he told Telegraph Travel...

## Ousted Thai PM's rice scheme lost US\$15.8 billion, say Finance Ministry

November 14, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Ousted Thai PM's rice scheme lost US\\$15.8 billion, say Finance Ministry](#) – Reuters, November 13, 2014

*...The scheme, which paid farmers above-market rates for their crop, helped bring Yingluck to power in a landslide election in 2011 due to support from farmers mostly in the country's north and northeast...*

## Thailand is #41 in world corruption, Cambodian near the bottom at #193

November 14, 2014

Categories: Cambodia

Cambodia: [Business bribery is rife: report](#) – phnompenhpost.com, November 13, 2014

...According to the index, titled the [TRACE Matrix](#) and released on November 11, Cambodia is the fifth most at risk country for business bribery out of 197 countries. The Kingdom ranked better than only Nigeria, Yemen, Angola and Uzbekistan...

## Thaksin the business hero

November 14, 2014

Categories: Thai Politics



Part four in the animated story of Thaksin—Thaksin as an honest, struggling businessman who made billions selling computers.



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=http://www.youtube.com/embed/imCnwFa9Yp8>



[Parts 1-3 here.](#)

## Thai army complaints lead to sacking of TV host

November 15, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup

[Thai PBS replaces programme host Nattaya after NCPO's tough stance](#) – The Nation, November 15, 2014

...Nattaya hosted “People’s Voices that Need to be Heard before the Reform”.

The decision to replace her came after a group of military officers requested that the show be pulled off the air, citing an order from their “bosses” in the NCPO. Thai PBS also insisted that it was sticking by its policy of maintaining independence, adding that the show would really benefit the reform process and the general public. The statement also said the channel would provide an explanation about the programme to the military officers...

## Thailand's refugees: 'Please tell the world we exist'

November 17, 2014

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Thailand's refugees: 'Please tell the world we exist'](#) – The Star, November, 2014

*...In Thailand, that means that once the tourist visa expires 90 days after arrival, there is zero domestic legislation governing their existence. Whatever trauma asylum-seekers arrived with is compounded by a frightening new reality — a precarious future. They have no right to work, no access to schools or hospitals and they face the constant risk of arrest and indefinite detention by underpaid police who sometimes use refugees like a debit card, demanding extortion or jail...*

## **Military harassment of Thai PBS condemned**

November 17, 2014

Categories: Censorship

[Harassment of Thai PBS condemned](#) – The Nation, November 16, 2014

*...Recently, Nattaya hosted the programme in Songkhla, with villagers and activists criticising the coup in response to provocative questions. The officers met with Thai PBS executives, asking for a shift in the focus of the programme and the removal of Nattaya as host. An NCPO source said Nattaya's questions centred on whether southerners were comfortable under the NCPO and the government. The source said that the junta ordered three of its officers to meet Thai PBS chief Somchai Suwanban and seek his cooperation in the matter.*



## Working in IT in Thailand without a work permit

November 17, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Sarong it's right: Coining it in Thailand without a visa](#) – The Register, November 26, 2014

*...The Register: You're working in a – shall we say – mode not entirely supported by Thai immigration law. How's that possible? And are you afraid of the midnight knock on the door?*

*David Green: I work illegally, and I'm not comfortable with it. I have to lie to people and tell them I don't work, just in case it becomes known what I do and it gets back to immigration. I'd prefer to be able to work legally and pay tax, but there is no visa that allows for this...*

## Tiger Economy Loses Its Roar as Thailand's Exports Slump

November 17, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Tiger Economy Loses Its Roar as Thailand's Exports Slump](#) – Bloomberg, November 17, 2014

... *"It's possible that exports will lag behind other countries in the region like Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines which used to trail us in the past," said Santitarn Satirathai, a Singapore-based economist at Credit Suisse Group AG. "We have obsolete technology and other structural problems that we must fix. The question is, can Thailand do enough to keep attracting foreign and domestic investment. It is quite worrisome..."*

## Claim: Foreigners being killed in Thailand to sell their travel documents

November 18, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup, Tourism

[You Might Die Visiting Thailand Which Has Become Terrifyingly Dangerous](#) – fansided.com, November 18, 2014

...John Stapleton has visited Thailand numerous times since the 1970's and has lived on the island since 2010, though is aware of the increasing violence which has seen over 1,000 British tourists die since 2011. Needless to say it's a terrifying situation and one that doesn't look to be improving since Stapleton alleges inside corruption with the local police departments.

Why exactly are so many tourists experiencing such? According to Stapleton, passports (among other items) of travelers can be sold on the black market for thousands of dollars, a significant sum in Thailand for those struggling with poverty.



As well as the murder of British backpackers Hannah Witheridge and David Miller in mid-September, there was a bloody military coup in Thailand in May

Above: Daily Mail alerts its readers to the “bloody coup” that occurred in Thailand in May

[Thailand ‘one of the most dangerous tourist destinations on Earth’: Expat investigation lifts lid on dark side of the Land of Smiles](#) – Daily Mail, November 15, 2014

...He added: ‘Unfortunately, with millions of tourists besieging the country, the locals’ response to foreigners has gone from curiosity to contempt.

‘Overwhelmed with millions of tourists, many of whom appear to save their worst behaviour for the streets and bars of Thailand, cries of “Mai Chop Farang”, I don’t like foreigners, and “Thailand is for Thais” can be heard from one end of the country to the other...

More: [Thailand danger claim ‘exaggerated’](#) – Telegraph, November 17, 2014

...Stapleton recognizes that “the poor behaviour of countless drunken Westerners” is often to blame for anti-Western feeling that he claims is rife in the country but his self-published book still claims to tell some “unpalatable truths” about the state of Thailand’s tourist industry, “its chaotic development” since the 1960s, and the “high number of deaths of tourists and mishaps befalling foreigners.”

But Ms Cooke also pointed out that accidents, robberies and deaths are not exclusive to Thailand, and affect tourists travelling all over the world. “John Stapleton’s book title is an exaggeration and we are certain that those who come across this book will conclude themselves that Thailand is by no means the ‘most dangerous’ country in the world to visit,” she said...

Earlier: [Be afraid of Thailand!](#)

## Double standards

November 19, 2014

Categories: Thai Politics



From an image on social media

Title: On the world stage

Left: Speaking English with a few mistakes. Being criticized a lot.

Right: Website double standard society. Speaking Thai only...

## Four Years Ago: Thai editorial cartoons: Chawalit Yongjaiyuth and the royal cousin

November 19, 2014

Categories: Today in History



[Thai editorial cartoons: Chawalit Yongjaiyuth and the royal cousin](#)

## Australian journalist says he is a ‘prisoner of Thailand’

November 20, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Australian journalist says he is a ‘prisoner of Thailand’](#) – Skynews, November 19, 2014

*Journalist Alan Morison says he is a ‘prisoner of Thailand’ after Thai courts rejected a appeal to allow him to travel to Australia to visit his ailing 91-year-old father.*

*Morison, 66, formerly of Melbourne and editor of the Phuketwan website, and Thai reporter Chutima Sidasathian, face up to seven years’ jail on charges brought by the Royal Thai Navy for breaching Thailand’s computer crimes act and criminal defamation...*

## Treating Thailand as pariah hurts trade with U.S.

November 20, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup

[Treating Thailand as pariah hurts trade with U.S.](#) – sacbee.com, November 19, 2014

*...In May, when a divisive elected government was toppled in the wake of large-scale unrest in Bangkok, Kerry condemned the military government that replaced it. The U.S. then imposed sanctions in the name of “democracy.” Yet last month, a nationwide survey found that 83 percent of Thais were satisfied with their government. The new government is unpopular with the State Department, but it is very popular with the Thai people.*

*While the State Department’s stance on Thailand is not often covered in the American media, it is headline news in Bangkok. Inevitably, Thais are contrasting U.S. hostility with China’s charm offensive and the positive approach of the Japanese and other governments. They welcome China’s and Japan’s expanding investment in Thailand. Meanwhile, the U.S. is losing out on this important market.*

*Not so long ago, American products were Thai favorites, and American companies and investment were at the forefront of Thailand’s economic development. Today, Chinese products and capital are dominant. The U.S. has slipped to third place, behind China and Japan, among Thailand’s bilateral trading partners...*

## Thailand Tallies Billions in Rice Program Losses

November 20, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand Tallies Billions in Rice Program Losses](#) – VOA, November 19, 2014

*...But regional rice producing countries such as India, Vietnam and Myanmar, increased their harvests and sold more exports on the open market, better meeting demand than they had in years past.*

*That meant the Thai rice went unsold and payments to farmers were delayed. The government began stockpiling the unsold rice, which authorities now estimate at 19 million metric tons...*



# Asian Development Bank: Chiang Mai most unequal city in Asia

November 20, 2014  
Categories: 2Bangkok News



Asian Development Bank: [Chiang Mai most unequal city in Asia](#)

## **‘Mockingjay’ screening cancelled after anti-coup group reserves 160 seats in the theater**

November 20, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup

[‘Hunger Games’ sequel cancelled](#) – The Nation, November 20, 2014

*...At Scala Theatre, 160 seats had been booked by a group calling themselves the “Thammasat University Liberals for Democracy”. They reportedly named their campaign “Raise three fingers, Net popcorn and Enter the theatre” and scheduled noon showings at Scala and Lido theatres...*

## **Viral video that was instantly reviled worldwide confirmed funded by TAT**

November 20, 2014

Categories: Tourism



[Scripted drama of farang's dream vacation in Thailand is lamest type of guerrilla marketing](#)

[Viral video that was instantly reviled worldwide confirmed funded by TAT](#)

## Eight Years Ago: Thaksin's Life in Cartoon Form

November 21, 2014

Categories: Today in History



Eight Years Ago: [Thaksin's Life in Cartoon Form](#)

## Nine Years Ago: Thaksin meets the press – in court

### 9 ปีที่ผ่านมา : ทักษิณพบนักข่าวในศาล

November 21, 2014

Categories: Today in History

Nine Years Ago: [Thaksin meets the press – in court](#)

*...Whenever billionaire tycoon Thaksin, his government, or his family's and friends' companies don't like what the Thai press has to say about them, they tend to sue. Big time...*

Nine Years Ago: [Thaksin admires the Chinese press](#)

## Thai fishermen giving up fishing to participate in the lucrative human-smuggling trade

November 21, 2014

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Thai fishermen convert boats to cash in on human-smuggling](#) – Reuters, November 20, 2014

... "He is getting very rich," said Hanif, as he sorted shimmering piles of ribbon fish and mackerel. "He wanted to make as much room as possible to carry more in one trip."

Abdul Nazir, who earns about 6,000 baht a month repairing old fishing nets, added: "Fishermen around here are buying bigger boats. A few have been converted below deck to transport illegal migrants where fish and ice would normally be stored..."

## **Fugitive Thai drug lord taunts police that he has evidence of the bribery he was forced to pay them**

November 21, 2014

Categories: Crime, Thai Police

[Fugitive Thai drug lord taunts police that he has evidence of the bribery he was forced to pay them](#) – Bangkok Post, November 21, 2014

*...Benz, whose real name is Adisak Srisa-ard, 26, posted a challenge on Facebook for police to “stand up and support” the innocence of a deputy he claimed to have bribed.*

*He claimed he had met a “Deputy Theerawat” and had audio clips of a bribe being exchanged. As well, he had copied all of the banknotes he handed to police.*

*On his Facebook page, Mr Adisak taunted police by saying he had dignity for admitting he was a drug dealer. But police would not admit to taking bribes and have accused him of lying...*

## Accusations that private company that runs Angkor Wat is underreporting revenue

November 21, 2014

Categories: Cambodia

[Cambodian Parliament Panel Chief Questions Management of Angkor Wat Revenue](#) – RFA, November 19, 2014

*...Kem Sokha, deputy president of the opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP), had last year accused Apsara Authority of underreporting revenue. At the time, he said the firm earned about U.S. \$200 million from ticket sales to Angkor Wat in 2012, although little of the revenue went to the national budget. In March 2012, an anonymous group filed a corruption complaint with the country's Anti-Corruption Unit, accusing Sokimex of siphoning off most of the ticket revenue and calling the contract between the government and the company "irregular," according to The Phnom Penh Post. Bun Narith, Apsara Authority's general director, dismissed the allegations as baseless, the report said.*



## 12 Years Ago: Thaksin Dictionary

### วันนี้ 12 ปีที่แล้ว : พจนานุกรมของทักษิณ

November 21, 2014  
Categories: Today in History



[Thaksin Dictionary](#)

## **Military & police set up checkpoints in Chiang Mai to search for women who shared anti-coup message on LINE**

November 21, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Sharing Photo of Anti-Coup Messages Leads To Arrests](#) – Khaosod, November 21, 2014

*... "We warned them that if they do such action again the future, the military may summon them for detention in a military camp to adjust their attitude, in accordance with the military system," Pol.Col. Piyapan said.*

*He concluded, "This incident should be a warning to all other individuals who have not yet understood about what they should or should not post on social media..."*

## PM Prayuth: Those who use the Hunger Games gesture in public risk jeopardising their futures

November 21, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup

[Prayut brushes off 'Hunger Games' salutes](#) – The Nation, November 21, 2014

... "I'm not concerned by the three-finger protest," Prayut told reporters Friday.

But the prime minister also suggested those detained for using the salute could face further problems.

"I don't know whether it is illegal or not but it could jeopardise their futures," he said...

## **Seven years ago: “Thaksin’s cronies perfecting the art of gutter politics”**

November 23, 2014

Categories: Today in History

Seven years ago: [“Thaksin’s cronies perfecting the art of gutter politics”](#)

## 11 Years Ago: Outrage Over Thaksin Allowing Budget Airlines

November 23, 2014

Categories: Today in History

11 Years Ago: [Outrage Over Thaksin Allowing Budget Airlines](#)

## If you are born now, you will have a 30-year-debt

November 24, 2014

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, November 4, 2014

Sperm: If you are born now, you will have a 30-year-debt from the rice pledging scheme... So think about it carefully.

Also: [The Irony of Massive Government Borrowing](#)

## Yellow and Red Cooperation

November 24, 2014

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From an image on social media

Title: Yellow and Red Cooperation

Using false information about energy to overthrow the junta government with the aim to return the power to Thaksin.

## Military purge of the Royal Thai Police continues

November 24, 2014

Categories: Thai Police

[CIB chief and 7 others arrested, charged](#) – Bangkok Post, November 23, 2014

*...According to media reports, Pol Lt Gen Pongpat and Pol Maj Gen Kowit Wongrunroj are charged with lese majeste under Section 112 of the Criminal Code, bribery under Sections 148 and 149 of the Criminal Code, abuse of power under Section 157 of the Criminal Code, and violating the Anti-Money Laundering Act. Pol Maj Gen Boonsueb faces charges of demanding bribes under Section 149 and malfeasance under Section 157 of the Criminal Code. Pol Col Wuthichart is on charges of demanding and taking bribes under Sections 148 and 149 and malfeasance under Section 157 of the Criminal Code. Pol Sr Sgt Maj Surasak and Pol Sr Sgt Maj Chatrin are up on charges of violating Sections 148, 149 and 157 of the Criminal Code. Pol Col Kowit Muangnual and his wife are charged over forest destruction and encroachment in violation of the Forestry Act and illegally building structures over public waterways in violation of the Thai Waters Navigation Act. Mrs Sawong and Mr Roengsak are charged with possessing the carcasses of protected animals in violation of the Wildlife Protection and Conservation Act. All of the police officers had earlier been transferred to the police operations centre at the Royal Thai Police Office, along with Akrawut Limrat, an officer of the Crime Suppression Division who was pronounced dead at Phra Mongkutklao Hospital on Thursday after sustaining several spinal fractures in a “fall from a high place”...*

[‘Billions’ at CIB chief’s home](#) – Bangkok Post, November 24, 2014

*...Yesterday’s search reportedly turned up cash in both Thai and US banknotes amounting to billions of baht, as well as gold bars, rare Buddha images and numerous amulets along with a large number of land title deeds...*

Also: [Five Khon Kaen police officers transferred to inactive posts after students raising three-finger protest at PM](#) – ThaiPBS, November 24, 2014

*...No reason was given in the immediate transfer order but it was widely speculated that the officers were sacked for their negligence of duties when they failed to stop five Khon Kaen university students from protesting the prime minister when he visited Khon Kaen and presided over the ceremony to release a caravan of water trucks to help people suffering from water shortages last week...*

Also: [Cop arrested in kidnapping case](#) – The Nation, November 23, 2014

*A police senior sergeant major has been arrested for his alleged involvement in the kidnapping of Chinese-Cambodia businessman Chen Ji in downtown Bangkok on November 11...*



## Loy Krathong karaoke for the Thai police

November 25, 2014

Categories: Loy Krathong, Thai Police



From a graphic circulated on social media (these are the lyrics to a song):

November full moon shines,  
A girl riding on the motorcycle while a boy driving  
That we're all waiting to catch  
Our incomes increase on the Loy Krathong day  
Many many cases  
Many many cases  
We finish writing you a charge  
Please go paying the fine  
We receive money on the Loy Krathong day  
We receive money on the Loy Krathong day  
Will anyone complain about this?  
Will anyone complain about this?  
If you think it is right to do, then, keep doing it.

## From 2001: Chalerm and “the brawling brats of the Thai Elite”

November 25, 2014

Categories: Chalerm Yubamrung, Thai Politics, Today in History

[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...*

Full text:

The Untouchables

By ROBERT HORN Bangkok Monday, Nov. 26, 2001

*It usually starts with a bumped shoulder or a stomped-on foot amid the thick smoke and boozy haze of a Bangkok disco. Then comes the chilling glare and the sudden appearance of men in black safari suits—often moonlighting cops or soldiers. But the sure sign there is about to be trouble—a merciless beating, a pistol-whipping or a shooting—is when the offended party with a chest full of gold chains asks: “Do you know who my father is?”*

*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. But now the Thai public, long resigned to police corruption and military imperiousness, is scandalized by the latest case of a rich kid going too far.*

*On the morning of Oct. 29, at the Twenty Club discotheque, the three Yubamrung brothers, sons of powerful politician Chalerm Yubamrung, began trading blows with a group of plainclothes police. According to witnesses, Duangchalerm Yubamrung, the youngest of the brothers, had his party restrain Suvichai Rodwimud, a police officer awarded Crimebuster of the Year honors, as he executed him with a bullet to the head. Now Duangchalerm, a 20-year-old lieutenant attached to the army's Supreme Command until his ouster last week, is Thailand's most wanted man. But after three weeks, the suspect has yet to be found, and the skeptical Thai public is wondering if this is yet another case of selective law enforcement. “The public is watching this case to see if there is any justice in our society,” says Senator Thongbai Thongpao. But about half of Thais polled have already abandoned that notion. They believe “political interference” is helping Duangchalerm evade capture, and that he will never be brought to trial.*

*Along the strip of hostess bars, cavernous discos and massage palaces of Bangkok's Ratchadapisek Road, the Yubamrung brothers are the most infamous of the brawling brats of the Thai Elite. During the past five years, Arthan, 30, Wanchalerm, 25, and Duangchalerm have been involved in at least a dozen bar fights and shootings. Yet, until Wanchalerm's arrest last week as an accessory to the murder, they had never spent a day in jail. “They're the most notorious, but they're by no means unique,” says Andrew Hiransomboon, a nightlife columnist for the Bangkok Post. Other infamous scions include Suksant Kong-udom, son of a senator and casino tycoon, charged with shooting a diplomat's son outside a disco; Poonpol Asavahame, son of a former deputy interior minister, accused of pistol whipping a truck driver and running down a police officer who tried to give him a ticket; and Pattarapong Manasikarn, son of a former Science Minister, charged with shooting an architect to death outside a disco. None of them has ever been convicted, as a litany of witnesses later retracted stories and victims failed to press charges.*

*As the massive teakwood gates of his family's suburban Bangkok compound roll open so police commandos can search it for the third time, Chalerm Yubamrung is smoking a fat Cuban cigar and complaining about the assaults on his dignity. Chalerm, a former police captain and now a member of Defense Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh's New Aspiration Party, has done miraculously well on a public servant's salary. He and his three sons live in a 2.5-hectare, 14-building estate complete with its own football field. Back in 1991, the last military government charged Chalerm and several politicians with being “unusually rich.” He was forced into exile, but returned a year later after the military was ousted and courts ruled the charges unconstitutional. His reputation remains unsavory and he has been passed over for a Cabinet post by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Today the search of the Yubamrungs' compound comes up empty. A retired police general says Duangchalerm shouldn't hide. “There's always a way to see that witnesses change their testimony,” he says.*

*Meanwhile, the fugitive, who professes his innocence, continues to play the daddy card. In a letter his father claims was found under a pillow after the young man fled, Duangchalerm tells Chalerm he was being unjustly portrayed as a criminal “simply because your son.”*

Also: [From 2012: Chalerm & Son: Still The Untouchables](#)

## **Strange Businessweek article: Thailand's junta is afraid of the Hunger Games salute because the economy is slowing?**

November 25, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup

[Why Thailand's Junta Is Afraid of The Hunger Games](#) – Businessweek, November 24, 2014

*...Thailand's junta might be less nervous if the generals were overseeing a thriving economic recovery. Growth, however, is tepid at best: The economy will expand just 0.8 percent this year, according to a Bloomberg survey of 25 economists, down from an earlier consensus of 1.5 percent. And while economists expect next year to be better, with gross domestic product expanding 4 percent, many Thai business executives seem to be wary about conditions at home...*

## In wake of arrests of police untouchables, police chief vows to clean the organization

November 25, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup, Thai Police

[Royal Thai Police to get new facelift](#) – ThaiPBS, November 25, 2014

*Royal Thai Police commissioner Pol Gen Somyot Phumpanmuang vowed to clean the Royal Thai Police of all corruption and make it a new government agency with morality and good governance where the people can rely on.*

*“Under my era, how big he is, I will not spare but arrest him if he corrupts”, said Pol Gen Somyot at a press conference...*



[Untold riches and multiple safes of senior police officers snared in crackdown on corruption](#) – *Manager*, November 25, 2014

Update: [Reuters has English-language details of the billion baht \(USD\\$30,000,000\) stash of senior police officers](#)

Earlier today: [Reporting on the high-level arrests of untouchable police officers](#)

Yesterday: [Military purge of the Royal Thai Police continues](#)

Also: [Senior officers transferred to inactive posts after an officer under them committed suicide](#) – Bangkok Post, November 25, 2014

# Bangkok Post Reporter Retracts Interview With Yingluck

November 25, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup

**Update:** [Prayut coy on Yingluck travel ban](#) – Bangkok Post, November 26, 2014

...Gen Prayut was highly critical of an analogy Ms Yingluck used in her interview with the Bangkok Post on Monday, where she said being elected was like being “handed the car keys” to Thailand and asked to drive.

When the coup-makers seized power Ms Yingluck said it was as though someone had “put a gun to her head” and told her to get out of the car “while she was driving the people forward”.

However, Gen Prayut was unconvinced.

“Who put a gun to her head?” he asked yesterday...

**Update: Classic ThaiPBS headline:** [“PM Prayut critical of Ms Yingluck’s criticism”](#)

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha hinted yesterday that the former prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra might be barred from leaving abroad, or even had her financial transactions halted if she continued giving political comments which could lead to political unrest in the country...

[Bangkok Post Reporter Retracts Interview With Yingluck](#) – Khaosod, November 25, 2014

...Ms. Yingluck was quoted as saying that she was contemplating running in the next election, and that since her first day as Prime Minister she had expected to be ousted either by the military or by one of Thailand’s “independent agencies.” The remarks were considered unusually strong for the former PM, who is known for her modest speeches.

In the article, Yingluck went as far as criticising the military coup, which was led by former army chief Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha: “It’s the same as if the people handed me the car keys and said I must drive and lead the country. Then suddenly, someone points a gun at my head and tells me to get out of the car while I’m at the wheel driving the people forward.”

The article was later removed from the Bangkok Post’s website and its author, Wassana Nanuam, later wrote on her Facebook that the piece was not based on an interview with Yingluck. Rather, the article was drawn from bits and pieces of private conversations with the former leader, Wassana wrote...

**This sounds more like Yingluck:** [Yingluck says she won’t run in next election, wants to be a social worker](#) – ThaiPBS, November 25, 2014

...She said she still did not know her future and would like to stay in low profile.

She said it became news because it was discussed at informal speaking...

**Here is something in Thai:** [Gen. Prayuth supposedly warning Yingluck over the Bangkok Post interview](#): Her rights to travel out of the country could be curtailed if she gives interviews like the one in the Post

**Here is the retracted article:**

*Yingluck saw the coup coming – Ex-premier mulls returning to politics and a memoir*

Published: 24 Nov 2014 at 06.00 | Viewed: 14,080 | Comments: 18

Newspaper section: News

Writer: Wassana Nanuam

*Yingluck Shinawatra said she knew from the day she became prime minister her administration would end up toppled from power in a military coup, just as her brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, was.*

*Ms Yingluck, in her first public interview since she was ousted, defended her administration and rejected accusations of corruption, comparing the coup to a carjacking. She also said she has designs on a parliamentary run in 2016 if she is allowed.*

*Yingluck: ‘Carjacked’ into home-stay, and now mulling a memoir and a future return to politics. (Photo by Wassana Nanuam)*

*“I knew from the first day I was prime minister that if it wasn’t cut short by the independent agencies or the judiciary, it would be a coup,” Ms Yingluck said.*

*Ms Yingluck has come under fire for a failed rice-subsidy plan that is alleged to have cost the state 600 billion baht in losses.*

*She faces the prospect of impeachment and possibly a trial in the Supreme Court for alleged dereliction of duty in the scheme.*

*She rejected any wrongdoing and says she intends to fight the case. The rice-pledging policy benefited the farmers, she said, adding that rice-subsidy policies have been implemented by other governments.*

*The coup that ended her administration was similar to the one that brought down her brother. Thaksin was driven out of power in the Sept 19, 2006, coup by former army chief Gen Sonthi Boonyaratglin.*

*It has been six months since Ms Yingluck was ousted from power by the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), the military junta headed by former army chief Prayut Chan-o-cha who has since replaced her as prime minister.*

*“I try to keep a low profile, in keeping with the request by the NCPO. These days, I read books, meet up with friends and eat out or go shopping. But it’s not often that I do this. I don’t want to be in the news,” Ms Yingluck said.*

*She said right now, what she does in life isn’t always up to her.*

*“Since the coup, someone else has chosen the path I walk for me. I have no idea what other path they might draw up for me. I’m not at all in a position to choose,” Ms Yingluck said, addressing herself as “Poo”, her nickname.*

*Looking back, she said she has no regrets about her short tenure as premier.*

*“I did my best to fulfil my duty as a prime minister installed via an election and who preserved democracy,” she said.*

*“It’s the same as if the people had handed me the car keys and said I must drive and lead the country. Then suddenly, someone points a gun at my head and tells me to get out of the car while I’m at the wheel driving the people forward.”*

*Ms Yingluck said that if in 2016 there is a general election and she is still qualified to stand, she intends to run for parliament. The NCPO has issued a road map which includes drafting a new charter by the latter half of next year. A general election is expected at the beginning of 2016.*

*“I don’t know what the future holds,” she said.*

*Ms Yingluck said she now takes care of the house and looks after her only son, Supasek “Nong Pipe” Amornchat, to fill the time taken up for more than two years by the frenetic schedule of being prime minister.*

*Whiling away the time, she now cultivates mushrooms in her garden at her home in Bangkok. She said it is soothing to watch what she grows.*

*She is thinking about writing a book about her life as prime minister. She said she remembers “who did and said what” during her administration, which might be material for the book, if she decides to become an author.*

*She and her son went on a trip to Japan last month after they were given the green light from the NCPO. There they met with Thaksin.*

*But Ms Yingluck maintained she has no plans to escape legal cases against her.*

*“I told Gen Prayut before I took the overseas trips that he should rest assured. I won’t run away,” she said.*  
*Bangkok Post, November 24, 2014*

## Who is the liar?

November 26, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup



Source: Social media graphic from the Red Shirts

Title: Who is a liar?

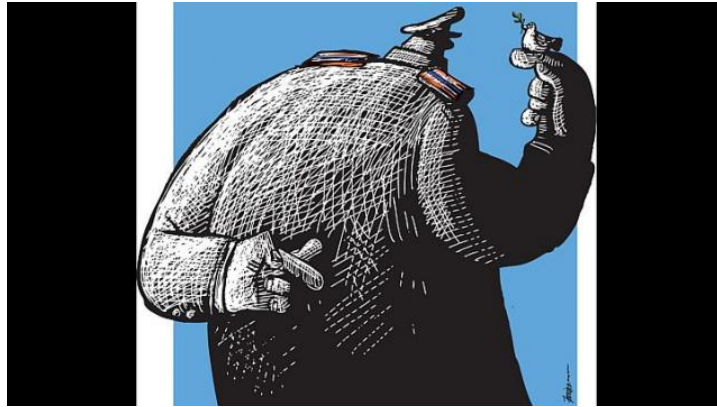
Prayuth's dad said: I don't know about selling the land. My son did it.

Prayuth said: My dad sold the land when I was young.

## Thailand: Calm or in crisis?

November 26, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup



With all the furor over students protesting the military PM, the back-stage machinations of the round-up of police untouchables, Human Rights Watch's urgent condemnation of Thai repression, and overseas pro-Thaksin cheerleaders (both Thai and foreigners) rooting for disaster on social media, it is shocking to find an article that does not claim the country is not on the verge of breakdown.

The article is correct. No Red Shirt protest will be risked again until the outlines of a new constitution or election procedures are known. Until then, the strategy is to boycott the process while not giving the military have any excuses to delay the entire process. The military will almost certainly fumble away its legitimacy while every effort will be made to destabilize the domestic economy.

[Thai politics is eerily quiet](#) – Straits Times, November 26, 2014

*Just over six months after Thailand's latest military coup, the country's politics appears calm and puzzling at the same time.*

*Events that should be taking place on the ground are not, and those that have transpired have been unanticipated and counter-intuitive...*

*Yet, if such repeated disenfranchisements through military coups were to happen elsewhere, such as in Latin America and Africa, those whose political and fundamental rights and freedoms are stripped away so blatantly would probably not take it so tamely as people have in Thailand.*

*No broad-based uprising is evident on the Thai scene, at least during the post-coup six months...*

[Thailand: Unending Repression 6 Months Post-Coup](#) – Human Rights Watch, November 25, 2014

[Student protest will grow unless their voices are heard](#) – The Nation, November 26, 2014

*...It's unlikely the junta understands that its tough action against student activists will stimulate even greater growth of a student movement. And as suppression continues, all students will unite.*



## Despite what local lawyers say, no, foreigners can't own land in Thailand

November 27, 2014

Categories: Property and Development

[Eviction threat for Australians who put life savings into Thai dream homes](#) – The Age, November 26, 2014

*...The developer, Napawan Asia Limited, had promised that buyers who paid upfront for their houses would receive titles reflecting their freehold/leasehold ownership once the development was registered with Phuket's land department.*

*...Catherine Gathani, a buyer from Hong Kong, said she was aware when finalising the contract for her home there was a mortgage on the land but Napawan Asia told her "this would be paid down as the buyers' stage payments were made, so that by the time the project was complete the mortgage would be fully paid".*

*She said buyers only discovered several years later the company had not repaid the original mortgage and that it had given the titles of the buildings to the bank as part of a debt restructuring or remortgaging arrangement.*

*Andrew Street, the British developer behind Napawan Asia, admits the company was "over-extended commercially at the commencement of the global financial crisis", which he says had a significant impact on Phuket.*

*...Mr Davies said the buyers he is speaking for have not given up hope of keeping their homes "but our position looks dire".*



*He said the buyers decided to speak publicly about their plight to warn others who may be considering investing in Thai real estate.*

Update: [Phuket developer denies December 17 deadline for eviction of buyers](#)

## Why do Thai prime ministers leave office?

November 27, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

23	Police Lieutenant Colonel Thaksin Shinawatra	LIV	February 9, 2001	House of Representatives Resolution	March 9, 2005	Term Ended: General Election
		LV	March 9, 2005	House of Representatives Resolution	September 19, 2006	1) Parliament Dissolution February 24, 2006 2) State Administration Assembly September 19, 2006
24	General Surayud Chulanont	LVI	October 1, 2006	Council for National Security	February 6, 2008	Constitution of Kingdom Thailand B.E. 2005 when there is appointment of the new Prime Minister
						

Above: From January 7, 2009: Besides the plethora of font types, sizes and colors, the [Thai government cabinet website](#) continues to show unusually worded reasons for prime ministers leaving office. I bet you didn't know Thaksin left office because of the "State Administration Assembly on September 19, 2006" (the date of the coup).

28	Miss Yingluck Shinawatra	LX	August 5, 2011	House of Representatives Resolution	May 7, 2014	- Parliament Dissolution (Dem 9, 2013) : General Election - Constitutional Court ruling
						
29	General Prayuth Chan-Ocha	LXI	August 24, 2014	General Assembly resolution National	-	-
						

Above: September, 2014: Gen. Prayuth gains office by "General Assembly resolution National."

According to the website, the last PM specified to have been appointed to office by a coup is Kriangsak Chomanan in 1977. The last PM specified to have left office due to a coup is Chatichai Choonhavan in 1991.

Also: From 2012: [Thai Government Website Gets An Upgrade: Yingluck, Yingluck, Yingluck!](#)

## Thailand blocking parts of the Human Rights Watch website

November 27, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup, Censorship

As we [noted this morning](#), there is some haphazard Thai blocking of the Human Rights Watch website today (DPA: [Thailand blocks Human Rights Watch webpage](#)).



Above: This url is blocked: <http://www.hrw.org/asia/thailand>



Above: However, the inner links of the site, like this, are not (so far): [Thailand: Unending Repression 6 Months Post-Coup](#).

This points up the way the net has always been censored in Thailand. Similarly *Daily Mail* links are sometimes accessible when accessed from Google search results.

More: [Censorship in Thailand](#)

## Digital TV boxes

November 28, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News



The sign reads: You can use the 690-baht coupon for buying the digital TV set-tops here. The price is 690 baht per each.

## Foreign Lessons for Thailand: Disband the Police & the President Who Ate His Country

November 28, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup



**Lesson for Thailand:** [Mexico president seeks to dissolve local police forces](#) – AFP, November 28, 2014

... "Society has raised its voice to say enough is enough," Pena Nieto said, echoing the anger of Mexicans who have joined a wave of protests over a case that has highlighted the country's struggle with police corruption.

...He said the measures also include the dissolution of the country's 1,800 municipal police forces, "which can easily be corrupted by criminals."

Police duties would be taken over by state agencies in the country's 32 regions. Mexican governments have previously toyed with the idea of dissolving local police...



**President Erdogan fulfilled Thaksin's dream:** [The President Who Ate Turkey](#) – Politico, November 27, 2014

...Erdogan encouraged big businesses that wanted lucrative government contracts—mostly in construction—to buy up media outlets, and, in return for good coverage of the government, the lira would flow. Those who refused to play the game were hounded, sued and fined, often exorbitant amounts.

...This is not to downplay Erdogan's achievements. He has certainly broadened Turkish politics to include classes that the previous elite had little interest in, and provided them with health care, better infrastructure and improved transportation. Turks have also felt wealthier since the AKP came to power, thanks to economic growth and the availability of consumer credit...

But Erdogan has rolled back many of these liberalizing changes, using the state at his command to crack down on dissent, intimidate his opponents and—perhaps above all—enrich and empower himself...

## East-west highway plan revived

November 28, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News



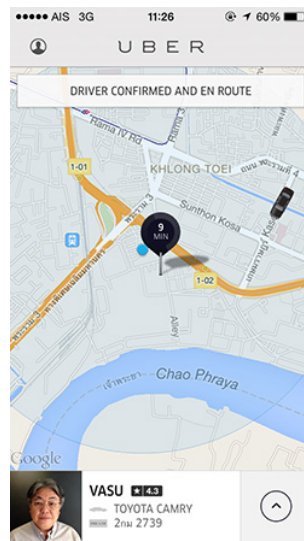
[Bangkok's east-west expressway plan revived](#) – Bangkok Post, November 28, 2014

...The highway project is divided into three sections: Transport authorities will proceed next year with the so-called N2 and N3 sections: 20.5 kilometres from the Kaset intersection adjacent to Kasetsart University via Nawamin and Seri Thai roads to Srinakarin Road. The N1 section stretches about 19 kilometres from the Bang Yai intersection to the Kaset intersection...

## Uber illegal in Thailand, drivers will face fines

November 28, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News



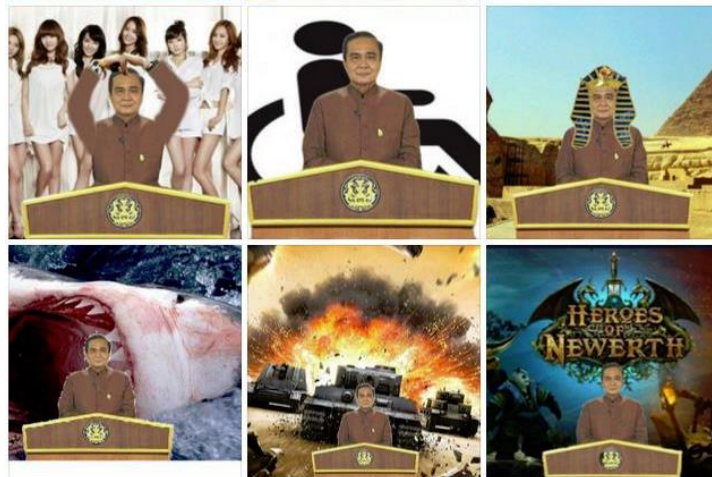
[Uber declared illegal in Thailand](#) – Bangkok Post, November 28, 2014

...The department on Friday launched a crackdown on Uber drivers, saying those stopped by police could be fined 2,000 baht for using the wrong vehicle, 1,000 baht for not charging approved fares and 1,000 baht for not having a public-vehicle driver's license...

## The Facebook page PM Prayuth says is pathetic

November 28, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup



The Facebook page PM Prayuth says is pathetic: [“Change the background for the Dear Leader”](#)

[Netizens give PM a new look](#) – Bangkok Post, November 28, 2014

...Asked whether he had seen the new “backgrounds” suggested for his TV programme (one featured a Hunger Games motif), he said he had and that all of them were pathetic.



## How many of Angkor's temples were rebuilt in the 20th century

November 29, 2014

Categories: Cambodia



[Angkor: an interactive map of Cambodia's must-see temples](#) – Telegraph, November 28, 2014

*...Far from being left to nature, most temples were painstakingly rebuilt over the past century. To what extent they have been reconstructed only becomes clear when looking at astonishing black-and-white photographs from the Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO), showing excavation work amid mounds of earth and rubble in the early 20th century.*

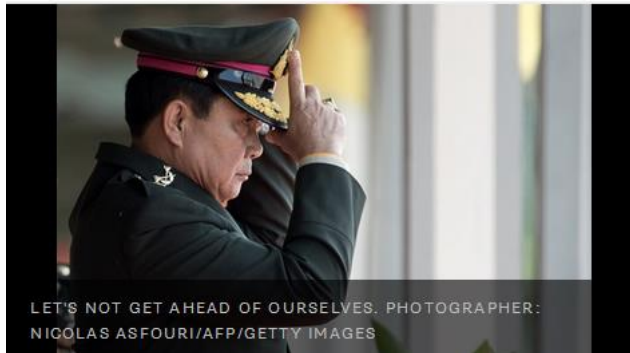
*"What visitors see now are temples that have been worked on for many years," said Andrew Booth, the author of The Angkor Guidebook, a new book that was three years in the making.*

*"I never understood how much work had been done on them," said Booth, who trawled for 10 days through 25,000 images kept by the EFEO. "Baphuon was not very well designed and started to fall down as soon as it was built. A picture from 1948 shows just a pile of rubble and early attempts to underpin it with concrete. What are now the temples were put together piece by piece by diligent academics so we can appreciate them. Hats off to them..."*

## Reports of Thailand's Revival Are Greatly Exaggerated

November 29, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup



[Reports of Thailand's Revival Are Greatly Exaggerated](#) – Bloomberg, November 27, 2014

*Thailand may still be the best place in the world to get a nose job, even after its military coup last spring. But tentative signs of an economic rebound hardly resolve the deep structural problems that continue to afflict its politics, economy and society...*

## China rebukes Turkey for offer to shelter Uygur refugees from Thailand

November 30, 2014

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[China rebukes Turkey for offer to shelter Uygur refugees](#) – todayszaman.com, November 28, 2014

*...Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency on Wednesday reported a request by Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu for Thailand to send the Uygurs there, a move that angered China, which views their move to Thailand as "illegal immigration."*

*Asked for a response on Turkey's offer, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the case was a matter for China and Thailand and "the relevant country" should stop interfering...*

## Angry Confrontation at Phuket Beach as Authorities Seize Tourists' Umbrellas

November 30, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Angry Confrontation at Phuket Beach as Authorities Seize Tourists' Umbrellas](#) – phuketwan, November 28, 2014

*...Tourists had their personal beach umbrellas seized at Surin beach today – despite even the Royal Thai Navy Commander on Phuket acknowledging that it's legal and there's no problem with them.*

*At least three couples had brollies confiscated. One woman objected, and stormed off when told she had to surrender her umbrella, saying: "I'm never coming back here again."*

*The seizure of personal umbrellas is the final farcical step to Phuket's shambolic approach to clearing the beaches – and now proposing at Patong and Kamala to restore all the clutter and chaos as soon as possible...*

## Change.org petition to relocate Human Rights Watch to the Thai deep south

November 30, 2014

Categories: Analysis, The Thai Deep South



[change.org petition to relocate NGO protesting death sentence for gunmen to the Thai deep south](#)

## Prayuth bios

December 2, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup



Above: Title: 203 days to shutdown ‘Yingluck’ and turn to the year of the NCPO

Yingluck took 49 days to become PM. However, only one wrong strategy she took caused her to be overthrown from power.

Written by: Matichon Editorial



Title: The path of Prayuth Chan o-cha: From the Eastern Tiger Military Faction to be a person riding on the tiger.

Thai history has to be written. A military from the Queen’s Royal Guards has become Thailand’s 29th PM under the power of the Eastern Tiger Military Faction.

Written by Wassana Nanuam

Disclosing the coup plan which was super secret, tricky and camouflaged.

## **Washington Post in 2003: Thaksin is an undemocratic leader tolerated only because he follows US orders**

December 2, 2014

Categories: Today in History

Washington Post in 2003: [Thaksin is an undemocratic leader tolerated only because he follows US orders](#)

## Six Years Ago: How did Thai protesters manage to march to the airport unopposed?

December 3, 2014

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008, Today in History

[How did Thai protesters manage it?](#) – BBC, December 3, 2008

*...One of the many retired generals supporting its occupation at the airport observed that it should be seen as a military, not a civilian organisation.*

*Behind the “aunties with clappers” and well-groomed young women clutching lap-dogs that are the public face of the movement are squads of hoodlums, armed with batons, metal spikes and hand-guns who man the barricades and hunt down intruders...*



## Thai police to be totally reorganised and stripped of ability to decide promotions internally

December 3, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup, Thai Police

[Major police restructuring proposed](#) – Bangkok Post, December 2, 2014

*...Mr Wanchai said the committee agreed at a meeting today that the Royal Thai Police Office (RTPO) should be totally reorganised.*

*Under the proposal, the Office of the Police Commission, which is responsible for transfers and appointments, would be abolished.*

*It would be replaced by a Police Affairs Council whose members would comprise heads of security-related government offices, heads of units in the justice process, representatives of the National Human Rights Commission and other resourceful people selected by MPs and senators...*

Also: [National Reform Council member proposes dissolution of national police of Thailand](#)

Also: [Thai Police Handed Arrested Rohingya Back to Traffickers, Say Media Reports](#)

## Wall Street Journal comes on strong in editorial: “Generalissimo Prayuth” risks “civil war”

December 3, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup

[Thailand Unravels – Gen. Prayuth takes Bangkok down a strange dead end](#) – Wall Street Journal, December 3, 2014

*...Among the methods under discussion is a permanent ban on Thaksin-affiliated politicians from holding office. Another is a Senate appointed by the royalist elite. These would make a mockery of democracy and provoke violent protests by the pro-Thaksin majority of the population.*

*That might be part of the military's plan. Since the Thaksin forces have won the last five elections, unrest that makes a return to democracy impossible could be a convenient excuse for Gen. Prayuth to hang on to power. Already members of his government have suggested the next election won't be held until 2016.*

*Many of Thailand's beleaguered royalists would like to turn the clock back to the days when military strongmen ruled in alliance with the palace. It may seem obvious to outside observers that such pipe dreams risk a civil war.*

*...Lately the junta has also taken aim at foreigners. Police harass foreign tourists on the streets. Tourist arrivals are down 9% this year and the economy is projected to grow at 1%. The Japanese and British Embassies have warned that antforeign business policies risk an exodus of capital...*

# Harvard International Law Journal: The Democratic Coup d'Etat

December 4, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup

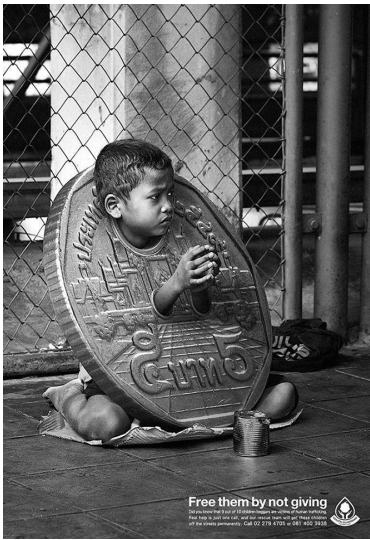
[Harvard International Law Journal: The Democratic Coup d'Etat](#)

*...To date, the academic legal literature has analyzed all military coups under an anti-democratic framework. That conventional framework considers military coups to be entirely anti-democratic and assumes that all coups are perpetrated by power-hungry military officers seeking to depose existing regimes in order to rule their nations indefinitely. Under the prevailing view, therefore, all military coups constitute an affront to stability, legitimacy, and democracy. This Article, which draws on fieldwork that I conducted in Egypt and Turkey in 2011, challenges that conventional view and its underlying assumptions. The Article argues that, although all military coups have anti-democratic features, some coups are distinctly more democracy-promoting than others because they respond to popular opposition against authoritarian or totalitarian regimes, overthrow those regimes, and facilitate free and fair elections.*

*...A democratic military coup typically features the following seven attributes: (1) the coup is staged against an authoritarian or totalitarian regime; (2) the military responds to persistent popular opposition against that regime; (3) the authoritarian or totalitarian regime refuses to step down in response to the popular uprising; (4) the coup is staged by a military that is highly respected within the nation, ordinarily because of mandatory conscription; (5) the military stages the coup to overthrow the authoritarian or totalitarian regime; (6) the military facilitates free and fair elections within a short span of time; and (7) the coup ends with a transfer of power to democratically elected leaders...*

Creative anti-begging ads

December 4, 2014  
Categories: 2Bangkok News



Above and below: Creative anti-begging ads



## Two years ago: The Burden of Being a Prominent Thai Woman—and Being Called a Slut

December 4, 2014

Categories: Today in History



22/11/55

Two years ago: [The Burden of Being a Prominent Thai Woman—and Being Called a Slut](#)

# Happy Father’s Day

December 4, 2014  
Categories: HM The King's Birthday



Charming illustrations from [Sawance Draw](#)



## **Audience with the King at throne hall cancelled**

December 5, 2014

Categories: HM The King's Birthday

ThaiPBS: [King is not sick but needs time for full recovery, doctor says](#)

ThaiPBS: [Audience with the King at throne hall today to be cancelled](#)

## Wrong year!

December 5, 2014

Categories: HM The King's Birthday



Above: Photo of Sanam Luang from December, 2013—not 2014. Photo source: [Noomplayboy](#).

One of the two photos retweeted last night of Sanam Luang (above) was apparently not from this year, but was from the 2013 celebrations. The photographer behind the 2013 photo seems to be “Noomplayboy.” Be sure to view his [spectacular HDR photographs on Flickr](#).

Below is an actual photo of this year’s event from the Bangkok Post, December 6, 2014





## This week 1, 2, 5, and 13 years ago

December 6, 2014

Categories: Today in History

2013: [Ex-PM Thaksin a Saintly Figure in Rural Thailand](#)

2013: [The “dull, almost meaningless, message from the United States” on Thai political unrest](#)

2013: New York Times: [Thai Premier Calls for Elections as Opposition Quits](#)

2012: The Economist: [“Ceaseless plotting on Mr Thaksin’s behalf” behind continual Thai political turmoil](#)

2009: [We’re sick of the Ministry of Culture](#)

2001: [Undercutting the Prime Minister](#)

## Bangkok connection to Sony hack: files leaked from St. Regis Bangkok Hotel wifi

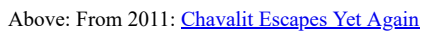
December 8, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Sony's Breach Stretched From Thai Hotel to Hollywood](#) – Bloomberg, December 8, 2014

*...It was 12:25 a.m. on Dec. 2 in Bangkok, the morning of Dec. 1 in California. Working through the high-speed network at the St. Regis — whether from a guest room, a public area like the lobby or a separate location is unknown — the hackers began leaking confidential Sony data to the Internet, according to a person familiar with investigations into the breach...*

December 8, 2014  
Categories: 2014 Coup, Analysis, Chavalit Yongchaiyudh



...Gen Chavalit said this change could lead to even wider divisions and more protests in the country.

*He asked whether it was appropriate to lower the supreme power of the King...*

As a canny top military officer and failed Thai prime minister (his bungling triggered the world-wide 1997 financial crisis), there is little reason to take his statements at face value.

Or is the entire “elected PM” recommendation a set-up by the junta to demonstrate they are examining all avenues of reform and, through Chavalit’s warning, demonstrate that it would be a danger to the King’s status (with Chavalit’s statement coming right after the King’s birthday celebrations)? This would also demonstrate that no one in conventional politics (except Thaksin himself) would benefit from having a directly elected PM.

Update: News reports seem to point to a more prosaic reason for Chavalit's warning—the failure of his influence to impact a court case. From [The Nation](#): ...Before Chavalit called a press conference to discuss the counter-coup talk, news broke that the Supreme Court had ruled that Naruemol Nanthachot, the daughter of General Samrit Nanthachot, Chavalit's close aide, was “unusually rich” and assets worth Bt86 million had been confiscated...

Past mentions of Chavalit are below.

Earlier: Chavalit Runs Away (Again).

Earlier: Chavalit and the Dominatrix – He likes humiliation

Earlier: Who made the biggest mess as PM? Chavalit or Yingluck?

Earlier: Chavolite flip-flops on reconciliation

Earlier: [Red Shirts hope Chavalit will join the Pheu Thai Party.](#)

Earlier: It has long been suspected Chavalit was behind the 2006 [New Year's bombings](#) as a post-coup attempt to destabilize the already shaky junta

Earlier: Chavalit floats the story that royalty will be soon joining the Pheu Thai Party.

## Thai coup critics in for long wait to return from exile

December 8, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup

[Thai coup critics in for long wait to return from exile](#) – The Straits Times, December 8, 2014

*...Similarly, Charupong denies being aided by Thaksin. He spends most of his time trying to muster support for the FT-HD, which has been petering out from international consciousness as foreign governments gradually come around to working with the government led by coup-maker Prayuth Chan-ocha. His assets in Thailand were frozen but he maintains a stoic front. "My life is much better than (that of) many Thais who have to live under the junta, my former colleagues in the cabinet in particular," he says. "They can't speak or move..."*

# Detention Site Green: Thailand and the CIA's secret prisons

December 9, 2014

Categories: Thai Secret Prison, The Thaksin Years

Zubaydah]-like renderees in the future.”<sup>83</sup> In November 2002, after the CIA learned that a major U.S. newspaper knew that Abu Zubaydah was in Country █, senior CIA officials, as well as Vice President Cheney, urged the newspaper not to publish the information.<sup>84</sup> While the U.S. newspaper did not reveal Country █ as the location of Abu Zubaydah, the fact that it had the information, combined with previous media interest, resulted in the decision to close DETENTION SITE GREEN.<sup>85</sup>

4. *FBI Officers Are the First to Question Abu Zubaydah, Who States He Intends to Cooperate; Abu Zubaydah is Taken to a Hospital Where He Provides Information the CIA Later Describes as “Important” and “Vital”*

(TS//█/NF) After Abu Zubaydah was rendered to DETENTION SITE GREEN on March █, 2002, he was questioned by special agents from the Federal Bureau of

The long-awaited report on CIA torture has been released ([here](#) and [here](#)). This is not a full report, but a highly redacted executive summary. Mentions directly involving Thailand relate to the well-documented captures of Hambali and Zubair in the country.

Secret detention sites are designated by color, such as Cobalt, Green, Blue, Black, and Violet with the harshest treatment seeming to occur at Cobalt. Cobalt is widely believed to be a site in Afghanistan known as the Salt Pit.

Green is thought to be the Thai prison. Events occurring in Green in the report match previous media reports such as when Abu Zubaydah lost his left eye.

Speculation about the activities that occurred in the Thai secret prison have often popped up in the press. Here are previous mentions of Thailand and the U.S. secret prison:

2014: [U.S. Torture in Thailand: The full report is coming](#)  
2014: [More mentions of the secret CIA prison in Thailand](#)  
2013: [American who ran secret waterboarding prison in Thailand bypassed for CIA promotion](#)  
2013: [Bangkok Post on the Thai secret CIA prison](#)  
2013: [Mentions of torture in Thailand: The Constitution Project's Task Force on Detainee Treatment](#)  
2013: [The 90 tapes of brutal CIA interrogations in Thailand](#)  
2013: [Uncovering CIA prison renditions from Thailand to Poland](#)  
2013: [Thai Activists want 'CIA jail' truths](#)  
2013: [Thaksin's Thailand: CIA Secret Detention and Extraordinary Rendition](#)  
2012: [US secret prison in Thailand where a prisoner was waterboarded 83 times](#)  
2012: [More details of waterboarding at the Thai secret prison](#)  
2012: [“Several months of torture” in the secret Thai prison](#)  
2012: [The story of Abu Zubaydah, waterboarded 83 times in Thailand](#)  
2012: [Waterboarding of CIA prisoners in Thailand: How the CIA destroyed tapes of “ugly visuals”](#)  
2012: [Latest on the Secret Thai Prison](#)  
2011: [Inside the CIA's secret Thai prison](#)  
2011: [In Libya, Former Enemy Is Recast in Role of Ally](#)  
2011: [The Rendition of Hambali and Riduan Isamuddin](#)  
2011: [Waterboarding in Thailand](#)  
2011: [2 CIA prison deaths draw wider investigation](#)  
2011: [High-Value Detainee's Eye Surgically Removed While He Was In CIA Custody](#)  
2011: [Warsaw prosecutors want to interview two 'CIA prison' captives](#)  
2011: [More on the Thai secret prison](#)  
2009: [District court to hear detainee case](#)  
2008: [US and Thailand: Allies in torture](#)  
2008: [CIA's secret detention program](#)  
2007: [CIA chief to drag White House into torture cover-up storm](#)  
2007: [From CIA Jails, Inmates Fade Into Obscurity – Dozens of ‘Ghost Prisoners’ Not Publicly Accounted For](#)  
2006: [Worldrights Releases Details of Written Opinion From UN Working Group](#)  
2006: [“We have no secret cell to hold terrorists” FM](#)  
2006: [Britain named for colluding in US rendition flights](#)  
2006: [Reprocessed Combatant Status Review Tribunal \(CSRT\) and Administrative Review Board \(ARB\)](#)  
2005: [The accusation about a secret prison and criticism of Matichon](#)  
2004: [Washington Post: Thaksin is an undemocratic leader tolerated only because he follows U.S. orders](#)  
2003: [CIA, Thai agencies unite against terrorism](#)  
2003: [Cat's Eye: News on the Secret Thai Prison \(dozens of articles from 2003-2010\)](#)  
2003: [Thailand joins the war on terror](#)  
2003: [Bangkok denies report of al-Qaeda interrogations at base](#)  
2003: [Thailand one of 15 “silent partners” in the US-led coalition?](#)  
2003: [NYT claims Al Qaeda detainee was held in Thailand](#)

## Director Defends 'Hitler Scene' in Thai Junta Film

December 10, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News



[Director Defends 'Hitler Scene' in Thai Junta Film](#) – KhaoSod, December 10, 2014

... "I didn't think it would be an issue," the director of the short film, Kulp Kaljaruek, told Khaosod after a clip of the scene went viral on the internet and attracted criticism.

"As for Hitler's portrait, I have seen so many people using it on T-Shirts everywhere. It's even considered a fashion. It doesn't mean I agree with it, but I didn't expect it to be an issue at all..."

[Thailand School Propaganda Film: Israeli Embassy In Bangkok Condemns Hitler Video](#) – IBT News, December 10, 2014

...The video has been screened in movie theaters across the country since Saturday to promote the military-backed government's new "12 values" school curriculum. Israel's ambassador to Thailand, Simon Roded, said he was "deeply saddened" to see Nazi symbols in an "official Thai movie..."

## Live self-sufficient lives and avoid U.S.-made goods

December 11, 2014  
Categories: 2014 Coup

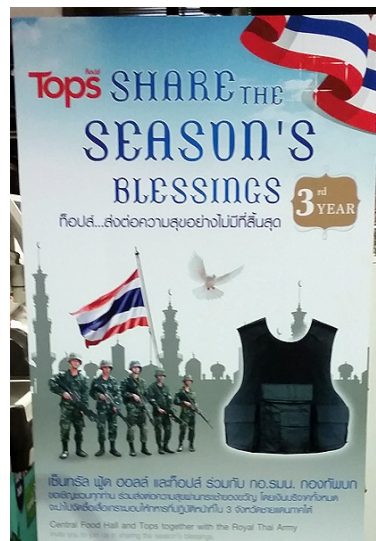


From an image circulated on social media: Live self-sufficient lives and avoid U.S.-made goods

## Support Thai troops with bulletproof vests

December 12, 2014

Categories: Signs and Billboards, The Thai Deep South



From a sign in Tops Supermarket: Tops... shares the endless happiness

Central Food Hall and Tops together with the Royal Thai Army invite you to be part of sharing happiness by purchasing New Year baskets. Money will be used to buy bulletproof vests and give them to soldiers in the southernmost provinces.



## Purple Line train route now almost complete

December 12, 2014

Categories: Mass Transit

[Purple Line train route now almost completes](#) – Thai PBS, December 12, 2014

...the route will become the first metro line that serves travel demand between the suburb and downtown areas of Bangkok.

...However he said the test run is due in June 2015 and the line should be ready for full service on August 12, 2016...

Also: [Bangkok Red Line 'will be one year late' – to start operating in 2018](#)

# The CIA Torture Report Is Causing Political Ripples Overseas

December 12, 2014

Categories: Thai Secret Prison

[The CIA Torture Report Is Causing Political Ripples Overseas](#) – Bloomberg, December 11, 2014

*...One of these countries is Thailand. A formal U.S. ally, Thailand was led in the early 2000s by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, an elected leader but a man with little interest in the rule of law. Thaksin oversaw a “war on drugs” in Thailand that resulted in the extrajudicial killing of some 2,500 Thai suspects. Thai intelligence and the CIA reportedly moved some of the highest-profile detainees in the war on terror, including Abu Zubaydah, a senior Al Qaeda figure, to a “black site” safe house in Thailand. Although Thaksin reportedly was not initially informed by Thai intelligence when the black site was created, he reportedly later was informed about it. In Thailand, Abu Zubaydah allegedly was repeatedly waterboarded, subjected to physical assaults, tortured with sleep deprivation in stress positions, and subjected to other inhumane treatments.*

*Thaksin was forced into exile by a coup in 2006, and his sister, also elected, was deposed in a coup in May of this year. Although the country remains under martial law, and Thai media are extremely wary of publishing anything critical of the government, the Thai press has covered the torture report extensively.*

*Most likely, according to several Thai sources, the military-dominated Thai government will attempt to keep the report in the news to tar Thaksin, as well as to distract attention from the rights abuses currently being perpetrated against Thais by the Bangkok regime. Coverage of the report may indeed hurt attempts by Thaksin and his party to portray themselves to the public as committed democrats who are far more enlightened than the harsh army rulers running Thailand now. The generals will have to be careful how they point fingers, however, since they have close links to Thai intelligence, and many of the military men currently running Thailand held senior army positions a decade ago as well...*

## Part 5 of the animated story of Thaksin's life

December 12, 2014

Categories: Thai Politics



Above: Thaksin's son as a precocious electronics genius

Part 5 in the animated story of Thaksin's life



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=http://www.youtube.com/embed/Bcoub6AWWJk>



## Missing Lao activist not forgotten

December 12, 2014

Categories: Human Rights



[Missing Lao activist not forgotten](#) – bangkok Post, December 11, 2014

*...CCTV footage shows him being taken away by Lao police on that evening.*

*“Today marks the 726th day ... that Sombath was taken from me and my family. Even after 726 days, the shock, the pain, the anguish have not lessened,” she said. Because the Lao government has provided no answer to his disappearance, the Sombath Initiative, founded by his friends and fellow activists, has been created to try to achieve what the authorities have failed to do – find him...*

[Sombath Somphone – Help us find our friend](#)

## **Dangerous trojan that is posting your personal data to a Thai Ministry of Education server**

December 12, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[“UK Fuels E-bill” \(ebillinvoice.com\) spam](#)

*...The Malwr report shows that it POSTs data to 203.172.141.250 (Ministry of Education, Thailand), which has been commonly used in this sort of attack (I strongly recommend that you block this IP)...*

Also [here](#) and [here](#)

## Thai Billionaire's Debt Spree Evokes Asian Crisis Memory

December 13, 2014

Categories: Business

[Thai Billionaire's Debt Spree Evokes Asian Crisis Memory](#) – Bloomberg, December 12, 2014

... “One has to wonder whether the CP Group remembers the lessons of the Asian crisis,” said Gillem Tulloch, founder of Hong Kong-based GMT Research Ltd. Tulloch has worked in Asia as a financial analyst since 1995. “There seems to be a fondness for large debt-financed acquisitions outside of their core competency.” ...The cost to insure Thailand's sovereign debt using five-year credit-default swaps has jumped 9 basis points to 89.5 this week, its biggest increase since September. That's pared its decline this year to 39 basis points. As investors seek safe havens, the 10-year government bond yield has dropped to a near six-year low at 2.78 percent...

## Thai authorities don't owe anything to the US to keep its secrets about torture

December 15, 2014

Categories: Thai Secret Prison

[Admit to past errors](#) – Bangkok Post, December 15, 2014

*...Thai authorities, who have a credibility gap at the moment, could do the same. The timing could not be better: Overall, the public opposes secret deals with foreign governments; campaigns are under way to promote reconciliation and amnesty; the mood of the moment favours disclosure of past errors in return for moral and legal forgiveness.*

*To know how US and Thai officials conspired 13 years ago to establish an illegal detention house would help to clear the air. It's scarcely believable that the government knows nothing about the US information. So, knowing that some agencies hosted the CIA's centre for brutality would be a step forward in bridging the credibility gap.*

*Thai authorities really don't owe anything to the US as it reveals its most important secrets. Rather, they owe it to Thai citizens to come clean, learn the lessons and move forward.*

## Collusion on bidding prevents top companies from participating

December 15, 2014

Categories: Buses

[Bangkok's bus fleet procurement: why Scania, Volvo opt out](#) – scandasia.com, December 15, 2014

*...Politicians, who had supervisory control over the financially-ailing Bangkok city bus agency, did not seem to be able to agree on the simple task of drawing up a coherent and clear-cut TOR to ensure a fair bidding process. A process that would produce winners capable of delivering brand new city buses which are cost-effective to operate, meet high environmental standards and provide comfort to passengers. Not to mention the fact that dubious changes made during the drafting and subsequent multiple revisions made to the TOR also gave rise to widely-publicized allegations that the whole procurement process has been rigged in favour of certain manufacturers...*



# Dissolution of the Royal Thai Police

December 16, 2014

Categories: Thai Police



From Matichon, December 5, 2014

The Legal and justice system reform committee proposes the model of reorganization of the Royal Thai Police Office

1. Dissolution of the human resource executive

Dissolution of the OPC (Office of the Police Commission)

Establishment of the National Police Affairs Council

- Head of security-related government agency
- Head of justice system/judiciary
- National Human Rights Committee members
- Persons selected by the members of parliament and senators
- Citizens who can participate in the appointment and transfer of police officers

2. Dissolution of the Royal Thai Police Office

Transfer the following agencies

- Forest police to the Forest Department
- Railway police to the State Railway of Thailand
- Tourist police to the Ministry of Tourism and Sports

## Shinawatra's farm

December 17, 2014

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, December 6, 2014

Shouts: Long live the King... Long live the King...

A red buffalo: Don't listen. Our father's day is 26 July.

On the sign: Shinawatra's farm

## 11 Years Ago Today: Purachai book ‘outrages’ TRT faithful

วันนี้เมื่อ11ปีก่อน : หนังสือของประชัยโจมดีความเชื่อมั่นของพรรคไทยรักไทยอย่างรุนแรง

December 18, 2014

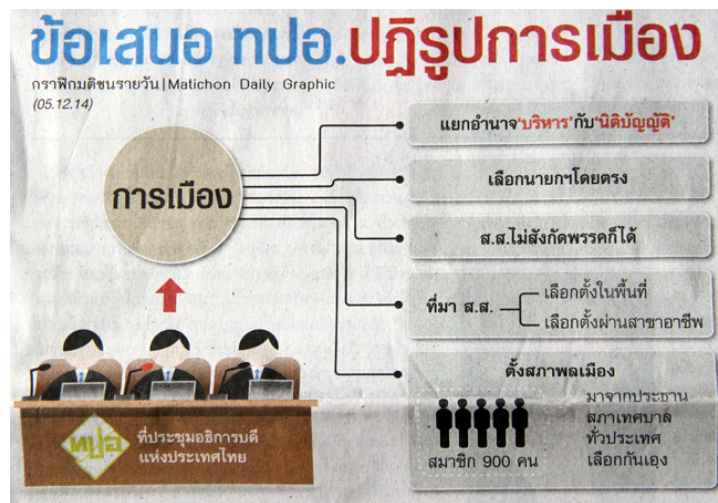
Categories: Today in History

11 Years Ago Today: [Purachai book ‘outrages’ TRT faithful](#)

## CUPT proposes model for political reform

December 18, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup



From Matichon, December 6, 2014

CUPT proposes the model for political reform

Politics

- Separation of the executive power and legislative power
- Direct election of the PM
- MPs are not required to belong to a political party
- MPs can come from national elections as well as elections within professional fields

Establishment of a People's Council: 900 members selected from heads of municipalities around the country

On the table: CUPT: Council of University Presidents of Thailand

Crime buster

December 19, 2014  
Categories: Editorial Cartoons – Arun, Thai Police



From Arun, December 5, 2014  
Title: Gen. Somyot Poompanmoung, Chief of the Royal Thai Police



## Thai newspapers on The King's Birthday

December 19, 2014

Categories: HM The King's Birthday



From BanMuang, December 6, 2014

Respect the King – Thais are happy to know that the King and the Queen stay healthy. People wearing yellow shirts show their royalty outside the hospital. The doctors from Siriraj hospital say the King and the Queen's health condition are good as their ages. A number of people wait for show their royalty to the King and his royal family on his birthday. People in the whole country wear yellow shirts. The Supreme Court seizes 68-million-baht asset – 'Narumol' a daughter of a closer assistant to Big Jew – The Supreme Court order to seize 68-million-baht assets Narumol, a daughter of Gen. Samrit Nonthachot



From Daily News, December 6, 2014

The Bureau of the Royal Household announces that the King cancels his royal activities. The doctors agree that the King is not ready to appear in the public to mark his 87th birthday.



From KhaoSod, December 6, 2014

Queen Elizabeth and President Obama send birthday wishes to the King

People in the country wear yellow shirts to show their loyalty to the King outside the Siriraj Hospital. The Ministry of Justice releases 130 prisoners.



From Komchadluek, December 6, 2014

A crowd of people wait for showing their loyalty.

Obama sends a birthday wish to the King.

People are happy to know that the King and the Queen stay healthy. They gather outside Siriraj Hospital waiting to see him appearing in the public on 5 December.

Leaders from around the world send him birthday wishes.

NACC investigates three Pol Lt-Gen. on the ten billion assets.

Pol Lt-Gen Pongpat was jailed. There is rumor on catching 'Nopporn'

NACC's panel begins probing 'Pongpat-Boonsueb and Chaithat' on the sources of the assets. Meanwhile, there is the rumour that Mr.Nopporn was caught in Cambodia. The case related to him expected to be finished by Dec 10.



From Matichon, December 6, 2014

Queen Elizabeth and President Obama send birthday wishes.

The King will appear in the public on his birthday.

A crowd of people wait to see him. The doctors from Siriraj Hospital say that his health is in a good condition for his age. The age of 88 is a lucky number in Chinese.

[More Thai newspapers on the King's birthday celebrations](#)

## Instead of blaming others, we shall start doing

December 19, 2014

Categories: Signs and Billboards



The billboard reads: Instead of “blaming” others, “we” shall start “doing.”

Chevron is proud to be a part of restoring the Pasak watershed through the King’s philosophy and local wisdom.



## **Did you know that Loxley Plc, one of Thailand's largest trading companies, is a partner in North Korea's sole internet service provider?**

December 20, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Sony hack puts spotlight on Pyongyang ISP](#) – Bangkok Post, December 20, 2014

*...Loxley Pacific has been involved in the telecoms business in North Korea since 2000, when it received a licence from the Pyongyang government to operate landline and cellular services in the Rajin Sonbong Free Economic Trade Zone.*

*The services are operated by Northeast Asia Telephone and Telecommunications (Neat&T), 70% owned by Loxley Pacific and 30% by state-owned Korean Post and Telecommunications.*

## Four Years Ago: Red-shirt resurgence looks nightmarish for Abhisit

December 21, 2014

Categories: Today in History

Four Years Ago: [Red-shirt resurgence looks nightmarish for Abhisit](#)

# Dissolve The Royal Thai Police

December 21, 2014

Categories: Thai Police

[55% of Thais want to see the Police Commission and Royal Thai Police dissolved](#) – The Nation, December 21, 2014

*An opinion survey by the National Institute of Development Administration found that 55.28 per cent of the respondents wanted to see the Police Commission and Royal Thai Police dissolved and replaced by the National Police Council in police personnel management...*

Also: [Thai police made 100 million baht in June running a World Cup betting business](#)

## **So common in Thailand, especially in the provinces: Dude, Close Your Legs!**

December 21, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[A Scourge Is Spreading, M.T.A.'s Cure? Dude, Close Your Legs](#) – NYT, December 20, 2014

*...Taking on manspreading for the first time, the authority is set to unveil public service ads that encourage men to share a little less of themselves in the city's ever-crowded subway cars.*

*The targets of the campaign, those men who spread their legs wide, into a sort of V-shaped slouch, effectively occupying two, sometimes even three, seats are not hard to find. Whether they will heed the new ads is another question...*

December 21, 2014  
Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines

[illegible]

Now they are both even lazily leading off with local news produced by foreign wire services like AFP.

## 11 Years Ago Today: Bargain land for the PM's wife

### วันนี้เมื่อ 11 ปีที่แล้ว : ต่อบราคาที่ดินให้ภรรยานายก

December 22, 2014

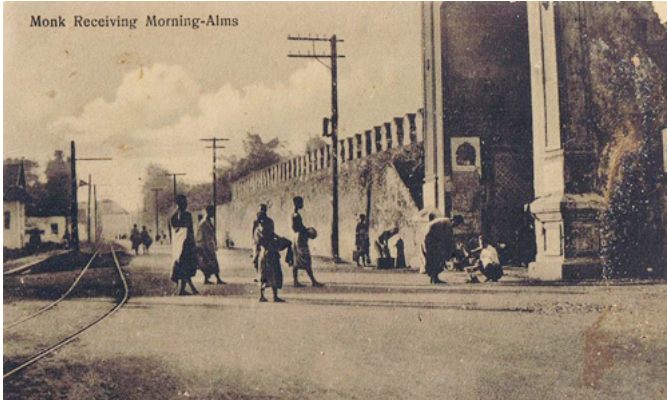
Categories: Today in History

11 Years Ago Today: [Bargain land for the PM's wife](#)

## Monks Receiving Morning Alms

December 22, 2014

Categories: Old photos and films



Monks Receiving Morning-Alms, undated postcard

## **Forbes: “Thailand’s Military Junta Destroys Democracy, Enjoys Exercising Power: Generals Postpone Elections Before Rigging Them”**

December 22, 2014

Categories: 2014 Coup, Analysis

[Thailand’s Military Junta Destroys Democracy, Enjoys Exercising Power: Generals Postpone Elections Before Rigging Them](#) – Forbes, December 22, 2014

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



## More Thai newspapers on the King's birthday celebrations

December 23, 2014

Categories: HM The King's Birthday, The Monarchy



From Bangkok Post, December 6, 2014



From Daily News, December 7, 2014

Thais rejoice the King's birthday.

Long live the King. People light up the candles and unite.

The Crown Prince makes merits for the King's birthday on 5 December at the Grand Palace.



From KhaoSod, December 7, 2014

All Thais are happy the King is getting better from his illness although doctors advise him to rest one month for recovery. People wearing yellow shirts shout 'Long live the King' and light up the candles for his birthday celebration.





From Komchadluek, December 7, 2014

Long live the King

People show their loyalty to the King while the Crown Prince attends the religious service on December 5

Thais show their loyalty due to the King's birthday. They shout 'Long live the King' loudly. The Crown Prince made merit on behalf of his father on December 5. A number of People in Hua Hin also show their loyalty at Klai Kangwon Palace.



From Matichon, December 7, 2014

'Long live the King'

People light up the candles to celebrate the King's birthday.

A crowd of people wait outside Siriraj Hospital. The doctor says the King cancelled his royal activities.

The Crown Prince attends the religious service on behalf of his father.



From Thairath, December 7, 2014

People wish for long life of the King.

Candles are lighted up

Doctors say to cancel all his royal activities

His health condition is still good.

A number of people show their loyalty by wearing yellow shirts, lighting up candles and shouting 'Long Live the King.' They also intend to make goodness as a present to the King.

[Thai newspapers on The King's Birthday.](#)



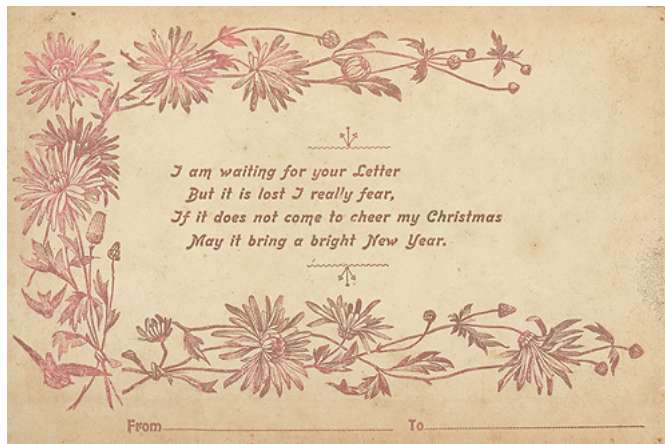
## Holiday Cards

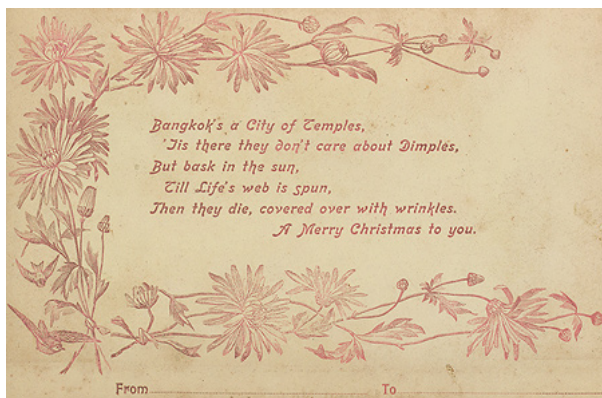
December 24, 2014

Categories: Old photos and films



Front and reverse of an undated holiday card – The credit under the photo reads: Published by the Whiteley of Bangkok – Kiam Hoa Heng & Co., and the British Dispensary







Merry Christmas from Thailand

December 24, 2014  
Categories: Christmas



Above: German postcard, circa 1900



Above: Merry Christmas from Thailand, circa 1950s?

## 11 Years Ago Today: Thailand Booms with Thaksin as Leader

### วันนี้เมื่อ 11 ปีที่แล้ว : ประเทศไทยเจริญรุ่งเรือง

December 25, 2014

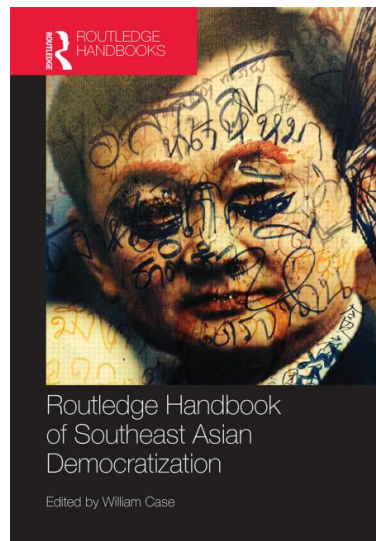
Categories: Today in History

11 Years Ago Today: [Thailand Booms with Thaksin as Leader](#)

## Defaced Thaksin image on cover of new textbook

December 25, 2014

Categories: 2Bangkok News



[Defaced Thaksin image on textbook](#) – Bangkok Post, December 24, 2014

...*"Stunted Trajectories and Unhelpful Milieus", "Wavering Social Forces", "Uncertain Institutions" and "Country Cases and Democratic Guises."*  
The cover is a poster of Thaksin that has been vandalised with expletives, believed to be Thai curse words and insults like "beast" and "dog face"...



# **It is not libel to accuse Thaksin of ordering the deaths of drug dealers or wanting to overthrow the monarchy**

December 27, 2014

Categories: Uncategorized

[Kasit acquitted in libel case](#) – Bangkok Post, December 26, 2014

*...While addressing People Alliance for Democracy protesters in November 2008, Mr Kasit said Thaksin was trying every way to seize the country and make it his personal asset.*

*He also said Thaksin had issued orders to kill Thai Muslims in the South and for extra judicial killings of drug suspects and that Thaksin wanted to become the president and topple the monarchy.*

*Thaksin filed a suit against Mr Kasit as the first defendant and Thaiday.com Co Ltd and ASTV (Thailand) Co Ltd as the second and third defendants respectively for publishing the speech...*

[Accusing Thaksin of Republicanism Not A Crime, Court Rules](#) – Khaosod, December 26, 2014

*...The Criminal Court dismissed Thaksin's libel suit today. In the verdict, judges explained that Thaksin is a public figure and subject to criticism from members of the public.*

*"Although Kasit's speech contains some impolite remarks, the speech was made to defend the interest of the nation and the monarchy," the court wrote. "It is an expression of opinion with an honest intention. The court therefore acquits the defendant of the charges..."*

## 10 years ago: The Tsunami

December 27, 2014

Categories: Today in History

[2B newsfeed: Tsunami in Thailand](#)

## 11 Years Ago Today: Purachai as PM?

### วันนี้เมื่อ 11 ปีที่แล้ว : ปรชัยในฐานะนายก

December 28, 2014

Categories: Today in History

11 Years Ago Today: [Purachai as PM?](#)