

The Siamese cat and the Russian bear

May 1, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From Arun, April 16, 2015

A box on the left: Q-Kon: Arun Watcharasawat

Title on the right: Big bear the true friend

Top Left: “Moody’s” cuts the credit of the Russia’s bonds to “junk.”

Bear: Maew...

Siamese cat: What, bear?

A bear: Nothing... Just want to make sure whether I still have a friend.

Thai Labor Day

May 1, 2015

Categories: Labor



A few labor-related links from the past:

2005: [Remembering Bart Simpson and the Kader fire](#)

2005: [‘Nationalism’ trumps unions](#)

2004: [Thai labor movement surges to protest Thaksin privatization of state enterprises as firms are bought up by family members of the ruling party.](#)

2003: [The Thai Labor Museum Reopens](#)

[Labor posters from the past](#)

American pressure

May 1, 2015

Categories: Anti-Americanism, Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, April 16, 2015
to the right of the arrow: New US ambassador

11 Years Ago: Prachatai Defies Thaksin on Tak Bai Info

May 2, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Thai On-Line Crusader Fights Silent Battle](#)

Seven Years Ago: Thaksin Shinawatra asks Manchester City players to bow

May 3, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Thaksin and Manchester City: Thaksin Shinawatra asks players to bow](#)

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

May 3, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[The “disappeared” lawyer: The role of the justice ministry in a travesty of justice](#)

The Thai Junta Embraces Communists

May 4, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, April 16, 2015

Title: In the past... killing the Communists is not bad. At present... loving the Communist is not bad.

On a student's shirt: Student 2519

On a paper held by Chinese man: China's interests

On a paper held by Russian man: Russia's interests

Phi Nooring: Balancing world politics

A mouse: Interest comes first.

How to get publicity on Songkran

May 5, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



16-04-58

From Manager, April 16, 2015

Girl: Grandpa... if you want to be on the news during Songkran, you'd better jump on the floor and dance like this.

On the sign at right: The elders poured the water over the hands of the youths.

Caption: Girl... please teach those old men how to be on the news.

Coronation Day

May 6, 2015

Categories: Thai Holidays and Festivals

May 5 is a public holiday that celebrates the coronation of HM The King Bhumibol Adulyadej on May 5, 1950. On this day royal decorations are awarded by HM The King to prominent citizens.

News of Coronation Day in previous years:

[Thier Majesties to celebrate at Grand Palace](#) – *The Nation*, May 5, 2005

...Many activities were scheduled for the grand celebration under the theme “uniting all hearts to express loyalty” from 6pm-midnight daily at the Royal Plaza, said Suriya Souksakit, assistant to the culture minister...

[Royal honour ‘not cancelled’](#) – *The Nation*, May 5, 2005

Clarifying the absence today of the usual Coronation Day ceremony to bestow the Most Illustrious Order of Chula Chom Klao, Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam said yesterday that this did not mean the royal decoration itself would not be awarded this year...

[Caretaker PM Thaksin to assume official role on Coronation Day](#) – *TNA*, May 3, 2006

...Government Spokesman Dr. Surapong Suebwonglee said the caretaker premier would assume the prime minister’s role at a royal ceremony in honour of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on the auspicious occasion of Coronation Day which falls on May 5...

[Royal awards ceremony is cancelled](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 3, 2006

This year’s ceremony to bestow royal decorations on those who have contributed to the good of the country, to mark Coronation Day, has been called off. A highly-placed Government House source said an inconvenience had prompted the cancellation of this year’s royal ceremony in which His Majesty the King was to present selected people with the Illustrious Order of Chula Chom Klao on May 5.

A high-level source in the Cabinet Secretariat said the ceremony had previously been cancelled by the Royal Household Bureau in 1995, when HRH the Princess Mother passed away, and during the Oct 14, 1973 uprising and the Oct 6, 1976 bloodbath...

Government spokesman Surapong Suebwonglee said caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, and not his deputy Pol Gen Chidchai Wannasathit, would be the one to appear in the role of prime minister at a royal ceremony in honour of His Majesty on the evening of May 5...

Combat between Thailand and the U.S.

May 6, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From Arun, April 20, 2015

Top left: Q-Kon: Arun Watcharasawat (Column's name and the cartoonist)

Title on the right: Glyn Davies

The new US ambassador to Thailand

Caption: “Obama” has already announced the appointment of the former U.S. special representative for North Korea Policy to become ambassador to Thailand.

Amid a stumbling economy, Thailand's central bank has pulled the plug on supporting the currency

May 6, 2015

Categories: Economy

[Thailand takes a hammer to the baht](#) – CNBC, May 6, 2015

...While the BOT mentioned concerns that the baht's appreciation against its trading partners and competitors could hurt exports, "the problem with weak exports is also due to structural and cyclical factors (e.g. export product mix, shifts in the manufacturing base to lower-cost countries, and productivity)," analysts at HSBC said in a note last week.

Others noted that exports may be a less pressing concern than debt deflation, or when deflation increases an effective debt burden. Debt for the private sector, combining households and businesses, is above 160 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), HSBC noted...

In Thailand, Falun Gong refugees were arrested and abused as the Communist Party leaned in

May 6, 2015

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Pressure From China? ‘You Could Say That,’ Admit Thai Police](#) – theepochtimes.com, May 5, 2015

...The police also appeared to reveal Chinese official pressure behind the scenes in the case of Wang Hong and Wu Xiaoyan. When asked if they were being pressured by China, police replied: “You could say that.” When Zhao Guixin, the daughter of Zhao Guoliang, flew in from the United States to secure the release of the six—she was worried about their health after they started a hunger strike on April 17—Pattaya police told her they couldn’t be let go because they were under pressure from the Chinese regime, but she could try taking the case to immigration officials in Bangkok, Thailand’s capital, NTD Television reports... When the Pattaya police discovered Ms. Zhao efforts, they reportedly violently dragged the six out of their cells, handcuffed them, shoved them into police cars—Zhao was kicked in the groin and punched at this point—and transferred them to an immigration prison in Bangkok that evening...

How big Thai department stores steal entrepreneurs' ideas with impunity

May 6, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Time to end this game of THAI MONOPOLY](#) – The Nation, May 6, 2015

...The same could happen anywhere: You successfully pitch a product to a big retail chain, but as part of the deal you must reveal your recipe and techniques. You acquire a loan to expand capacity and are poised to start production, but then you find that a nearly identical item is being produced by a different company under the retail giant's umbrella. You are told that your deal is intact, but that your goods will be sold at 200 upmarket branches, while theirs will be sold in 8,000 convenience stores...

Four Years Ago: Election poster – Thaksin thinks, Pheu Thai takes action

May 6, 2015

Categories: Today in History



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[Election poster: Thaksin thinks, Pheu Thai takes action](#)

What is wrong with capitalism in Southeast Asia: spoils go to the manipulation of politics & finances combined with the rape of natural resources

May 6, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[The Bankers Forget and Forgive Indonesia's Sinar Mas](#) – Asia Sentinel, May 4, 2015

It is a reminder of the ethical void often seen at the heart of Indonesia's elite, of the mix of greed and stupidity of the investment banking industry, and of the complicity of Singapore in providing sanctuary for the ill-gotten gains of business miscreants and corrupt elites in the region...

Suthep Welcomes Five More Years for PM Prayuth

May 6, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup

[Suthep Welcomes Five More Years for PM Prayuth](#) – KhaoSod, May 6, 2015

... "If Gen. Prayuth can stay and keep solving problems and making this country and the livelihood of the people better, he can stay for three years or five years," Suthep said. "We should not only try to have what looks cool..."

Earlier: [Even the Red Shirts agree that elections can be put off for two or three more years?](#)

Also: [Four years of rule for PM Prayuth?](#)

News from our neighbors

May 6, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Myanmar: [Terrible infrastructure, unclear regulations, difficult import-export regime, skyrocketing real estate costs](#)

Indonesia: [The problem with capitalism in Southeast Asia: economic spoils don't go to innovators, but to those who manipulate politics and finances](#)

Pakistan: [Thriving stock market, stable currency and low inflation – Pakistan enjoys a rare period of optimism about its economy](#)

Weekly News Magazines, April 28-May 1, 2015

May 7, 2015

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Matichon Weekly, April 24-30 2015

Main cover reads: Super Constitution # very ‘people’

In the bubble: ‘Kalamare’ Bathing ‘Bath-sauna-massage’ # very awesome.



From Nation Weekend, April 24 2015

Main headline: Khao Yai’s mystery

Man at the top right: ‘Kanok’ calls for a vote to help the Nation on ‘judgment day.’



From ASTV Manager Weekly, April 25-May 1, 2015

Main cover reads: Tharit Fin Sukoi

Bubbles (from left-right): Cheating, face , money

Upper right corner: Comedian girl is crying. ‘Imim’ is broken hard and her business is broken up.

Bottom: “Bee Taechabol” who is brave to buy “AC Milan”

Two years ago: Govt threatens webmasters with fines & jail if they allow people to post messages criticising Yingluck

May 7, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Defend Yingluck! Govt regulator threatens webmasters with fines & jail if they allow people to post messages criticising the prime minister](#)

Ghanaian football players in Thailand now rice farmers and sex workers

May 7, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News



[‘Ghanaian players in Thailand now rice farmers and sex workers’](#) – ghanaweb.com, May 6, 2015

... *“It is true that most of the African players who go to Thailand end up doing weird jobs. Some of them earn their income from sleeping with women.*

Others also become rice farmers, even though, their primary aim of going to Thailand was to play football. It is mostly a futile venture for people to leave Ghana for Thailand to play football because it is not worth it...”

Boycott of Thai 7-11s from May 7 to 11

May 7, 2015

Categories: Analysis, Business



Above: Image from social media. It reads: 7-11, In May give a lesson to the richest–CP’s owner. We won’t die by not going there for five days.

Calls for a boycott of Thai 7-11s from May 7 to 11 are being circulated on social media.

This is mainly related to claims that big Thai chains, such as 7-11s (and also grocery chains and department stores), operate under a business model where they produce knockoff products based on products local businesses submit to them for distribution.

There is also a litany of additional complaints that include the corporate monopolization of the traditional mom and pop convenience store business as well as the business practices of CP Group.

The call for a boycott has also spread to Tesco Lotus with rumors that the chain was acquired by CP Group (parent company of CP All which runs the 7-11 chain). [Tesco Lotus released a statement denying this](#) and emphasizing that it actively supports local communities and traditional Thai crafts and production methods.

Thus far, local media appears wary about publicizing the boycott and challenging a juggernaut like CP. While always operating out of the political spotlight, CP Group is known to have a reach and power that at least equals the most powerful Thai political parties. Its scale means that it has considerable influence in government as well.

The Nation did run a cryptic article about the corporate cloning of small businesses’ products, [“Time to end this game of THAI MONOPOLY”](#), but without mentioning the boycott or the companies involved.

Only fearless Manager has a [full article on the boycott](#) at this time.

Similar: [Late last year, also Chevron found itself also having to emphasize it supports “Thainess”](#)

ร้าน 7-Eleven
กว่าครึ่ง เป็นแฟรนไชส์
ซึ่งล้วนเป็น
“ผู้ประกอบการรายย่อย”
ของพี่น้องคนไทยทุกภูมิภาค



Above, a graphic from CP to respond to the 7-11 boycott. It reads: 7-Eleven shops, half of them are franchises owned by the small entrepreneurs in Thailand.

Thailand's push for democracy falters as junta tightens up on civil freedoms

May 7, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup

[Thailand's push for democracy falters as junta tightens up on civil freedoms](#) – thenational.ae, May 7, 2015

...Today, South East Asia – and Thailand particularly – looks far different. Only Indonesia and the Philippines are still ranked as “partly free” by Freedom House, in its latest annual analysis. Thailand has regressed into a decade of political turmoil that has resulted in elected governments abusing their power and two military coups, the latest in May last year. A year on, Thailand's regression – and dismal hope for the future – exemplifies many of the challenges that democracy faces throughout the world.

...Thaksin emptied the civil service of anyone who questioned his policies, and oversaw what he called a battle against drug trafficking in which security forces killed more than 2,500 people. It emerged that many of these suspects were executed by police with no trial and that the number of dead included opponents of the government. Meanwhile, Thaksin intimidated many Thai media outlets into running only flattering coverage, according to reporters with the Bangkok Post and The Nation, another leading Bangkok newspaper.

...As the junta gradually releases some of its hold on power, and Thailand hovers between real democracy and authoritarian rule, many Thais expect a repeat of 2010 – or worse.

Bangkok Governor Sukhumbhand sues ASTV-Manager newspaper for defaming him

May 7, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok Governor Files Libel Charge Over Satirical Newspaper Article](#) – KhaoSod, May 7, 2015

...Known for its royalist and conservative editorials, ASTV Manager frequently mocks Redshirt activists and Pheu Thai politicians in its satire section, often with crude language.

On 1 July 2014, the newspaper published a “parody” piece describing in graphic detail about how a transgender anti-monarchy activist would be gang raped by male prisoners after the junta finally tracked her down. The online version of the article was later pulled.

Last March, the section “quoted” a progressive actress, Intira Charoenpura, as urging Redshirts to start a separatist campaign in northern Thailand. The piece became popular among pro-monarchy Thais, many of whom failed to realize that it was satire.

[Sukhumbhand sues over virgins, mockery and fleeing to the hills](#) – Bangkok Post, May 7, 2015

...The article said MR Sukhumbhand recommended people “go live on a mountain” if the “lemongrass women” failed to help. That was an apparent reference to [MR Sukhumbhand’s flippant remark last month](#) when he suggested people move to the hills to avoid flooding. It enraged the public.

“Phu Jad Kuan” is described as an entertainment column whose content is made up.

But Mr Wasan said the article caused damage to MR Sukhumbhand because it was published on the newspaper’s website (www.manager.co.th) and many people posted hate speech against him. Some were misled by the article and posted comments about the “governor’s stupidity”...

Time to Punish Tharit

May 8, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Naewna, April 23, 2015

Title: For a corrupt person, we don't need to wait for the NACC, just use the Section 44. It's faster.

On the sword: Section 44

On the bag: 40 million



23-04-58

From Manager, April 22, 2015

Giant: My name is Karma. Heaven sends me to replace Nong Aoi... a massage model whom you like.

Caption: Tharit shall be relieved for his whole life.

More: [The Downfall of Tharit the Chameleon](#)

2 Years Ago: Court Encircled by Buffaloes

May 8, 2015

Categories: Today in History



30/04/56

[Court Encircled by Buffaloes](#)

Two years ago courts in Bangkok were under siege by Red Shirts who threatened to overrun the venues if judges ruled against the government. The protesters demanded that judges be replaced by appointees approved by the Red Shirts.

2 Years Ago: Thaksin Blinks – Court Siege Called Off

May 9, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Thaksin Blinks – Court Siege Called Off](#)

22 Years Ago: Bart Simpson and the Kader fire

May 10, 2015

Categories: Today in History



[Bart Simpson and the Kader fire](#)

Thai Intrigue: Army raids Police Special Branch as Israelis are demonstrating wire tap devices to the police

May 10, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Thai Military, Thai Police

There was no misunderstanding. The Royal Thai Police are still personally loyal to Thaksin and are not trusted by the army.

Rumors and fears of what Thaksin can accomplish with his control of the police rank and file have been circulating for years (from 2012: [Thailand's Thaksin prepares for war](#) and [Thai army secretly plans for the worst](#)).

There are also more prosaic explanations. Since the coup, the military has been actually enforcing the law. The criminalized police are feeling the pinch and need intel to prevent the military from further shutting down their gambling and human trafficking rings.

[Army wants Prayut to use Section 44 to order declaration of sophisticated spying devices in possession](#) – ThaiPBS, May 8, 2015

The Royal Thai Army wants Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha to use his power under Section 44 of the interim constitution to order any state agency which has in possession sophisticated spying devices to declare after finding that such devices were declared just normal telecom devices to deceive the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC)...

[Army interrupts Israeli demonstration of wiretapping devices to Special Branch Bureau](#) – ThaiPBS, May 8, 2015

A group of soldiers today raided the meeting room of the Special Branch Bureau and detained nine Israeli technicians and staff while they were demonstrating electronic wire tapping devices to special branch police. But after the interruption of the planned demonstration by soldiers from the Second Calvary Division of the First Army Region, Royal Thai Police commissioner Pol Gen Somyot Phumphanmuang came out to defend the demonstration saying it was merely a misunderstanding caused by misinformation...

Update: [Prayut says Army intervention of Israeli spy device demonstration is a misunderstanding](#)

...Meanwhile spokesman of the National Council for Peace and Order Col Winthai Suwari stressed that the entry of soldiers into the Royal Thai Police compound has been coordinated but admitted it was hastily done. He said the team of soldiers interrupted the demonstration just to ask for details of some certain devices which the firm demonstrated and soldiers have no intention to detain anyone...

Update: [Thai police concede meekly to alpha army](#).

Everyone loves Article 44

May 10, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Analysis



The creation of Article 44 has excited the imaginations of those who imagine it should be wielded to tackle Thai problems bound up in corruption and bureaucracy. The junta has been barraged with pleas to use its absolute power to tackle intractable issues.

Thus far, Gen. Prayuth seems to be reticent about wielding this power to solve everyone's issue of the moment. Tackling intractable Thai problems with Article 44 would only create unrealistic expectations and more powerful enemies for the army. The result it produces would only last as long as the military can wield Article 44.

The last person to wield absolute power to hack at the old order of things was Thaksin Shinawatra himself. His “do it now and make it legal later” attitude provoked the wrath of entire Thai system. It is not a model the army can pursue unless it intends to remain in power indefinitely.

Article 44 was not principally intended to solve problems or even to enable the army to cling to power. Like the coup itself, the only intent of Article 44 is to block Thaksin activities and influence. Through martial law, and now Article 44, the junta intends to prevent Thaksin from deploying Red Shirts to pressure the junta as well as to prove to the Thai political world that Thaksin will never be allowed to influence politics again.

After the many months of pre-coup threats of secession and armed rebellion (even from ruling Pheu Thai Party members), the army must remain wary. Even the manner in which the Red Shirts instantly stood down after the coup and were ordered to cooperate with the government heightens the impression that they are, after all, merely a political pressure group that can be turned loose on command.

Gen. Prayuth has little real desire to upset the old order of things by using Article 44.

May 9: [Army wants Prayut to use Section 44 to order declaration of sophisticated spying devices in possession](#)

May 9: [Poll shows Section 44 may not resolve lottery overpricing definitely](#)

...According to Dusit Poll, Section 44 could resolve overpricing lottery ticket just in short term, while the root cause of the problem or the unfair quota allocation remains unsolved...

May 6: [Thai PM ready to exercise Section 44 to solve Rohingya-related problems](#)

May 4: [Section 44 eyed to transfer state land for SEZs](#)

May 4: [NCPO urged to lift curbs on media](#)

...The most recent one — Order No.5 — was issued under Section 44 of the interim constitution, he said. They ban criticism of the NCPO and authorities...

May 2: [EU 'pleased' with fishery effort](#)

...Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, in his capacity as head of the National Council for Peace and Order, has invoked Section 44 of the interim constitution to speed up the process of fishery reform. It calls for the establishment of an anti-IUU command centre, led by the navy chief. As well, the military will be involved in registration and monitoring of fishing vessels...

April 30: [Section 44 cannot be used to call for public referendum](#)

April 30: [PM invokes Section 44 to solve illegal fishing](#)

April 27: [Civic groups want PM to use Section 44 to solve overpriced lottery problem](#)

April 25: [LCT member backs Section 44 for fishing](#)

April 25: [Prayut says Section 44 not enough to resolve long standing fishing industry problem](#)

Prime Minister Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha has conceded that Section 44 that grants him emergency powers under the interim constitution will not be able to resolve the illegal fishing within the time frame demanded by the European Union, reasoning that the problem has been long standing and needs to be resolved in the broader perspective that will take more than six months...

April 21: EU to Thailand: [Clean Up Fishing Trade in 6 Months](#)

April 21: [PM reaffirms he will use Section 44 to deal with corrupt officials](#)

April 16: [Transport Minister may apply Section 44 to state projects](#)

April 13: [Section 44 a failure](#)

...The Samui explosion again exposes the fatal flaw of suppressive rule. Martial law was supposedly needed to crack down on and prevent violence, yet two explosions still took place in Bangkok. Now martial law has been replaced with the even more draconian one-man rule of Section 44. The government justifies it by pointing to "elements" still intent on creating trouble. Section 44 has failed its first and main purpose — to prevent violence and protect the people.

April 10: [PM Invokes Section 44 to Accelerate Bonanza Case](#)

April 9: [PM urged to exercise Section 44 to amend energy related laws](#)

April 4: [Will Section 44 help? Thai holiday travelers hit hard](#)

April 3: [PM to apply Section 44 to economic problems](#)

Thai police concede meekly to alpha army

May 11, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Thai Military, Thai Police

[Police concede meekly to alpha army](#) – Bangkok Post, May 11, 2015

...And in now typical trademark fashion when dealing with the press, the premier said they should stop right there instead of trying to dig up more dirt on this episode because it will cause a rift between the army and the police. “It’s not about mistrust,” Gen Prayut said on Friday. “They talked this thing over and have reached an understanding. Next time they should communicate better.” Amid all the denials from the prime minister and police commander of conflicts between the army and police, there is only one theory left: that is a report, quoting no sources, in Thai Post newspaper that the army is suspicious that the Special Branch – the police agency with “Excellence in Intelligence” as one of its mottoes – is trying to buy new devices to shadow soldiers...

Earlier: [Thai Intrigue: Army raids Police Special Branch as Israelis are demonstrating wire tap devices to the police](#)

13 Years Ago: Should the handicapped be allowed to become judges?

May 12, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Should the handicapped be allowed to become judges?](#)

Thai Weekly News Magazines, May 1-7, 2015

May 12, 2015

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, May 1, 2015

Main cover reads: The earthquake in human's heart.



From Matichon Weekly, May 1-7, 2015

Main cover reads: Red: The case of 'Nepal.' Lesson: the hatred of a 'whistle' class.

Yellow: The case of 'Sorayuth.' Lesson: the jealousy of a 'middle class'

A Facebook post is fro Chai Ratchawat



From Manager Weekly, May 2-8, 2015

Main cover reads: 'Somyot' not 'Sompal'

On the Facebook post: A beautiful cake is for a happy day and joyful month. HBD to our great boss.

Drinking sweet red wine.

On the cake: Pol Gen. Somyot Pumpanmuang

CJR conducts a “broad review” of exposé on the Bangkok Post, changes article title

May 12, 2015

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines

CJR

Pork, bullets, and the dismal state of journalism in Thailand

By Justin Heifetz

APRIL 15, 2015

2353 WORDS

Above: Original title: “Pork, bullets, and the dismal state of journalism in Thailand”

CJR

Pork, bullets, and my rocky stint at the *Bangkok Post*

By Justin Heifetz

APRIL 15, 2015

2774 WORDS

Updated title: [“Pork, bullets, and my rocky stint at the Bangkok Post”](#)

...Heifetz wrote that he “clashed” with another Bangkok Post reporter, Wassana Nanuam. Heifetz now says that he and Wassana “never spoke nor saw each other.” His use of the word “clashed,” while misleading, reflects his view that there was tension between the two resulting from an incident in the newsroom.

...Heifetz also suggested that Chiratas forward his request for comment to reporter Wassana Nanuam, for whom Heifetz said he lacked contact information. It is unclear whether that was ever done. In an attempt to emphasize that this piece represents Heifetz’s opinion, we have also changed the headline.

While CJR’s review did surface factual errors, none of them challenged the general thrust of Heifetz’s narrative or perspective on his time at the Bangkok Post.

Earlier: [Exposé on working at the Bangkok Post](#)

Junta vows to stay in power if public rejects new constitution in referendum

May 12, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup

[Prayut vows to stay if draft charter rejected](#) – The Nation, May 12, 2015

...Asked if he would yield to calls to stay on longer if the Kingdom was still not “peaceful”, Prayut replied that he would not be the one to decide whether the country is peaceful or not...

Earlier: [Suthep Welcomes Five More Years for PM Prayuth](#)

Earlier: [Three more years](#)

Earlier: [Even the Red Shirts agree that elections can be put off for two or three more years?](#)

Earlier: [Four years of rule for PM Prayuth?](#)

“If Thai politicians stop corruption for only two years, the roads in Thailand could be paved in gold”

May 13, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News



From an image circulated on social media:

“If Thai politicians stop corruption for only two years, the roads in Thailand could be paved in gold.” This is a quote from Mom Rajawongse Kukrit Pramoj, former Thai PM

Thai Weekly News Magazines, May 8-14, 2015

May 14, 2015

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Manager Weekly, May 9-15, 2015

Main cover reads: Drama in front of (7-11 shop)



From Matichon Weekly, May 8-14, 2015

Main cover reads: Be careful! A 'small' bomb

Top right yellow print: Referendum is in dilemma.



From Nation Weekend, May 8, 2015
Main cover reads: The 'Red' knight

4 Years Ago: Preparing for Elections in Thailand

May 14, 2015

Categories: Today in History



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

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

Four Years Ago: Preparing for Elections in Thailand

In 2011, around this time, all parties were anticipating upcoming elections. The fear from the Pheu Thai was that a very close outcome would enable the minority Democrat Party to form a collation to freeze the Pheu Thai out of power again.

In the months preceding the election there was a major push with warnings and shows of force from the Red Shirts ([Thaksin gambles on radical wildcards](#)). There were also unprecedented promises from the Pheu Thai of direct giveaways for voters (a new pro-Thaksin government could not afford another year like the People Power Party year in 2008 when the government refused to govern unless urgent reforms were made to the constitution). There was also a new round of anti-monarchy rhetoric that was intended to make sure the message internationally was that Thailand needed reform, if not revolution.

All of this was insurance to make sure that shadowy backstage forces would not be able to point to a free and fair election while preventing the majority Pheu Thai Party from forming the next government.

But there was also great confidence. Thaksin was [touted by the Pheu Thai as the master of the party](#). Even before the end of May 2011, Thaksin was openly declaring [he would be returning by the end of the year](#) to resume his highly popular war on drugs.

The eventual massive win by the Pheu Thai eliminated all fears that a coalition could block it. Within months, [Thaksin's amnesty was on the table again](#).

5 Years Ago: Shooting Sae Daeng

May 14, 2015

Categories: Today in History



[Shooting Sae Daeng](#)

Democrat Demands New Inquiry Into 2010 Grand Palace Attack

May 14, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Democrat Demands New Inquiry Into 2010 Grand Palace Attack](#) – KhaoSod, May 13, 2015

...Wachara Petchthong, a former Democrat Party MP, urged the DSI to re-open the case during a press conference at the Democrat Party's headquarters in Bangkok today. Wachara also specifically criticized former DSI chief Tharit Pengdith for dropping charges against a police colonel who he believes was the mastermind of the attack...

Attacking the NGOs

May 15, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News, The Thaksin Years



Left: From *Thairath*, February 8, 2003

Prime Minister Thaksin runs from NGOs holding signs that read: anti-violence, anti-power plant construction
They are using a water monitor lizard to attack Thaksin. These lizards are symbols of disgusting, contemptible things.
Caption: Who is playing harder?

[Who's afraid of the activists?](#) – The Economist, May 9, 2015

...Cambodia's rulers say they must "handcuff" any NGOs that stir up political trouble. You would expect authoritarian states to suffer from NGO-aversion. But many of the ostensibly more liberal Asian polities also display the symptoms, especially where prickly nationalists are in charge. When Sri Lanka's defence ministry took charge of regulating NGOs, it was described as a necessary guard against traitors. Last month India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, snarled that "five-star activists" were bent on doing down his country. A new law in Indonesia imposes tight restrictions on NGOs so as not to "disrupt the stability and integrity" of the country. And three years ago Pakistan closed down Save the Children and booted out its foreign staff, saying that spies all too often masquerade as aid-workers...

Right: From *Thai Red News*, November 27-December 3, 2009
The headline reads: When NGOs in Thailand become enemy of Pol. Lieutenant Thaksin

2014: [NGOs cooperate with the junta to stop Thaksin and real reform](#)

2005: [Thaksin: "I will respect NGOs that have no hidden agendas"](#)

2003: [The Thaksin dictionary](#)

Also: [Nationalism and Right-wing Politics during the Thaksin years](#)



Left: From *Thairath*, December 24, 2002

Cartoon title: Uninvited show

On backdrop: Thai-Malay cabinets' co-meeting
On flag carried by protester: Opposing the Thai-Malay gas pipeline
On officers' shields: Police



Paying for the Red Shirt dead

May 15, 2015

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[NACC charge Yingluck and her former cabinet of malfeasance over compensation to victims of political violence](#) – ThaiPBS, May 15, 2015

...NACC spokesman Vicha Mahakhun disclosed Thursday that the commission found that the payment of the financial compensation from the Central Fund had no legal basis because it did not concern the government's performance of duty in national administration. Nor did it concern public service or for emergency case...



31/05/56

Above: From Manager, May 31, 2013

Red Shirt leader Nattawut Saikua: What? You have already sold these dead bodies for 7 million baht to us for bringing Thaksin home. What more do you want?

Protest boards: Relatives of victims, Oppose the amnesty bills

The man to left of Nattawut is Jatuporn Prompan, another Red Shirt leader

Caption: This is what these guys really want to say.



Above: Independent Red Shirt agitator Sopmbat Boonngamanong also rankled the Red Shirt leadership by staging anti-amnesty protests at the Rajaprasong McDonalds. [More about Sombat](#)

Even pro-Thaksin editorial cartoonists [seemed to waver over whether to absolve all crimes in order to allow Thaksin to return](#)

5 Years Ago: Sunday afternoon on Silom Road

May 17, 2015

Categories: Today in History



(Photo: [I Prahin](#))

Above: Note the plume of smoke from a rocket the Reds were shooting at a helicopter

Above: Note the plume of smoke from a rocket the Reds were shooting at a helicopter

[Sunday afternoon on Silom Road](#)

May 17, 2015
Categories: Today in History

Categories: Today in History

Black May – ‘Drastic’ action to quell riot

23 Years Ago: Black May – Censorship issue of the Bangkok Post

May 17, 2015

Categories: Today in History



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

10 Years Ago: Big Brother Shocks Thailand, ‘not Thai enough’

May 17, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Big Brother Shocks Thailand, ‘not Thai enough’](#)

... "I don't understand why they dared to express their love openly before the cameras, or if they were told by the producer to do such a thing in order to get the top TV audience rating," Lt Kuthep said...

13 Years Ago: Politics in the Age of Thaksin

May 17, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Politics in the Age of Thaksin](#)

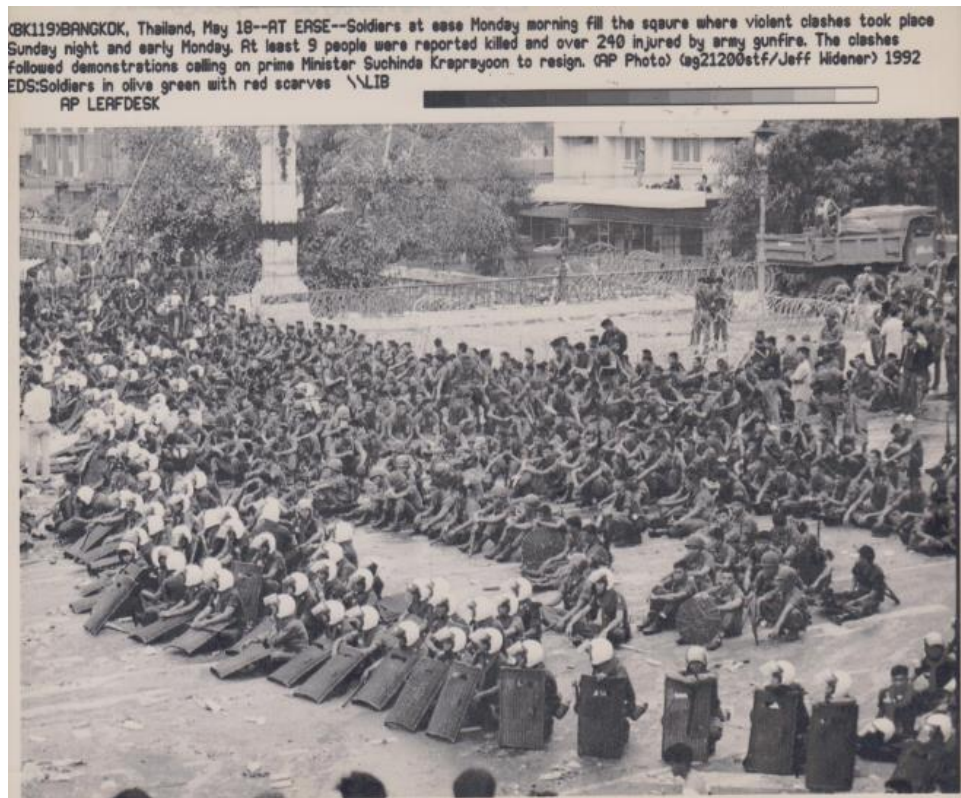
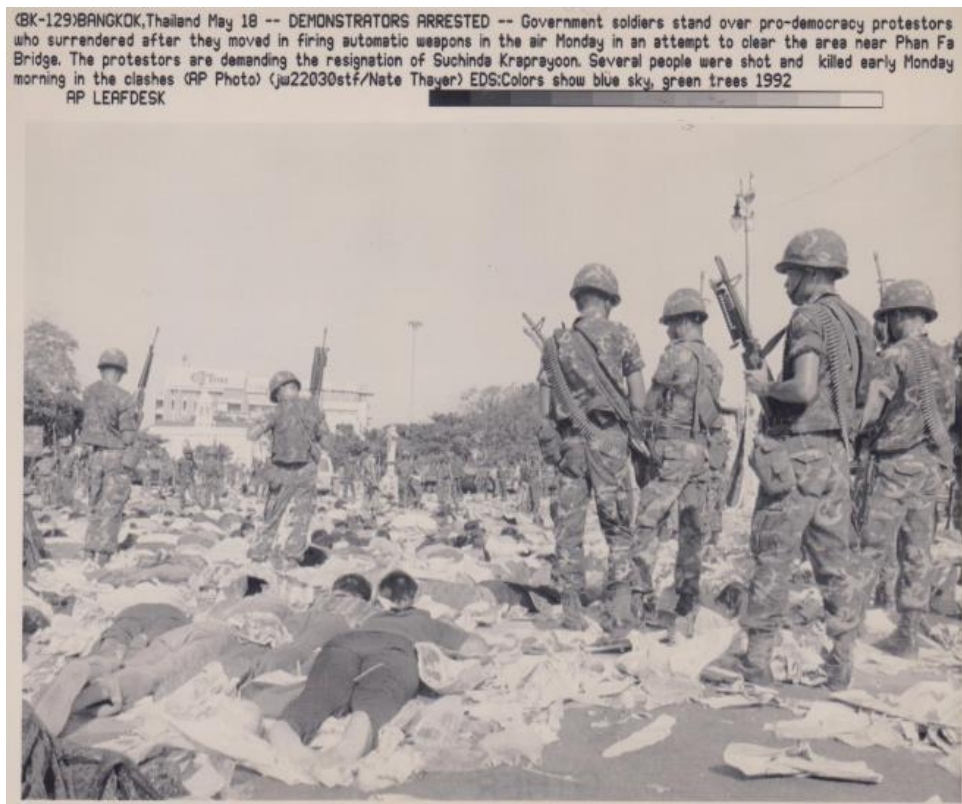
...Now, with crackdowns on foreign and domestic journalists, Prime Minister Thaksin's government seems to be retreating into Thailand's history of authoritarian rule.

Thaksin's electoral victory in January last year was something new here. For the first time, a Thai political leader asked the mass of the people to vote for him because he promised to do something for them. He understood (where his rivals did not) that major changes had occurred over the previous decade and that the Thai people were no longer afraid to demand change...

23 Years Ago: Black May

May 18, 2015

Categories: Black May 1992



GBK124)BANGKOK, Thailand, May 18--SOLDIERS ROUT DEMONSTRATORS--Pro-democracy demonstrators flee as government troops cut through barbed-wire barricades and fire their M16 rifles into the air at the Phan Fa Bridge in downtown Bangkok Monday. The troops were attempting to disperse the crowd who demanded the resignation of Suchinda Kraprayoon. (AP Photo) (ju21730stf/Jeff Hidenar)1992 Eds: Soldiers olive, many protesters in blue jeans.
AP LEAFDESK



GBK135BANGKOK, Thailand, May 20--PLEADING FOR RELEASE--Thai shockwaves plead for the release of their relative guarded by a soldier Wednesday after he was arrested following the storming of the neighborhood by troops called in to quell pro-democracy protest. Thousands of protesters venting their rage at the military-backed government gathered along a major avenue today, flashing street lights and setting fires. (AP Photo) (a42130stf/Jaron Dury 1992. SUG Thailand
AP LEAFDESK



(BK104) BANGKOK, Thailand, May 18 -- PROTESTORS STAND FIRM -- Thousands of pro-democracy protesters defied soldiers and demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Suchinda Kraprayoon as they commandeered buses to block attacking troops firing into crowds. Several people were treated at the Royal Hotel for bullet wounds as the worst violence in 16 years continues on Bangkok's streets. (AP Photo) c (ju30430-str/David Portney) 1992\\LIB
AP LEAFDESK



(BK4) BANGKOK, Thailand May 17 -- ANTI-SUCHINDA RALLY -- Tens of thousands of pro-democracy demonstrators demand the resignation of newly-installed Prime Minister Suchinda Kraprayoon during a mass rally Sunday at a park near the Grand Palace (background). (AP Photo) (ju12100-stf/Jeff Widener)
AP LEAFDESK



5 Years Ago: Red Shirt Protest May 16-18

May 18, 2015

Categories: Today in History



[Red Shirt Protest May 16-18](#)

10 Years Ago: Thaksin's Revolution – Coming full circle from Black May

May 18, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Thaksin's World – Coming full circle from Black May.](#)

Nothing is as damning as our political system's pathetic response to the Suvarnabhumi Airport bribery scandal. The government is blaming the media for "ruining" the country's reputation...

5 Years Ago: Red Protests – May 19

May 19, 2015

Categories: Today in History



Red Shirt radio is calling for buildings to be burned nationwide—especially banks. They further say there is no longer any leaders at present and people have to act on their own.

Thailand's "wildly divisive billionaire" former premier Thaksin stresses rule of law

May 19, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Ex-Thai PM stresses rule of law](#) – The Nation, May 19, 2015

...Telecoms tycoon-turned-premier Thaksin sits at the heart of a decade-long political rupture in Thailand and has lived in self-imposed exile since 2008 to avoid jail on a graft charge he says was politically motivated.

He was also toppled in a coup, in 2006, yet Shinawatra family members or affiliates have still won every Thai election since.

"The key to good governance and democracy is you have to strike a balance" between the judicial, legislative and executive branches, he said at the Asian Leadership Conference in Seoul...

[Ousted Thai PM Thaksin says no plans to mobilize supporters](#) – Reuters, May 19, 2015

...Thaksin, who was in the South Korean capital to speak at a conference, told Reuters there was no plan for his son, Oak, to take over leadership of the Puea Thai Party.

He called on the Thai people not to resort to violence.

"No, we want to see the government be a success, but it's difficult, as you can imagine," Thaksin said on the sidelines of the conference, when asked if there were any plans to mobilize his "Red Shirt" supporters...

10 Years Ago: The context of Black May and what it led to in Thailand

May 20, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Bloody Events Have Mixed Legacy](#)

...The genesis of May 1992, lest we forget, was the blatant and unmanageable corruption of the elected government of Gen Chatichai Choonhavan. Its manner of corruption led to the damning description “buffet cabinet”.

...Mr Thaksin has apparently learned from Gen Chatichai. Appearances of corruption have been actively managed for public consumption, and conflicts of interest involving the personal business interests of those elected to power may have replaced the crude corruption involving the budget. Corruption, in short, has become nuanced and sophisticated...

5 Years Ago: Who killed the Red Shirts?

May 20, 2015

Categories: Today in History



[Who Killed the Red Shirts?](#)

3 Years Ago: Red Shirt deaths: Should we forgive and forget?

May 20, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Thaksin: Let's put unity before justice](#)

Is it a mistake for the military to tackle land encroachment?

May 20, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup

[4 million rai of illegal rubber farms to be wiped out](#) – Bangkok Post, May 20, 2015

...The forest areas were taken over by investors, their proxies and local villagers. But the target priority would be investors and landlords not having land ownership documents.

Gen Dapong said he had instructed authorities to talk to the villagers found to have encroached on protected lands and find a solution to their problems.

“We cannot merely use the law against the poor. We must help find a way out for them,” he noted.

The minister said a survey found four million rai of forested areas nationwide had been encroached upon and turned into rubber plantations illegally. More than 400,000 rai was in the Northeast...

2 Years Ago: Lawyer who held Thaksin funds on trial for defrauding the former PM

May 21, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Lawyer who held Thaksin funds on trial for defrauding the former PM](#)

...Prosecutors charged K.K. of convincing the former Thai premier to open an account in his name and transfer the money to avoid it being seized by European authorities due to the political tensions that Shinawatra faced in Thailand...

After Yingluck court appearance & election delay, foreign media unloads on junta

May 21, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup

[Thailand's Shame](#) – Time, May 21, 2015

By throttling democracy, the military hurts not just the nation but all of Southeast Asia...

[Opinion: Thai citizens must challenge dictatorship](#) – DW, May 20, 2015

... A dictatorship, once established, has only one goal: to maintain and consolidate power for the ruling class. Thailand is no exception. The Thai military keeps saying that it will give back the power to the people, but there are doubts about their claims.

...So far, the resistance against the military regime has been restrained. Yingluck's supporters have been tamed and are not protesting. A forceful resistance will only materialize if the Thai people realize that the military cannot resolve the conflict...

[Happiness Eludes Divided Thailand as Farmers Struggle](#) – bloomberg.com, May 21, 2015

... "We're waiting for the election next year," said Sakhon, 66, a retired agriculture ministry official. Like many people in the region, he still supports the political movement known as the Red Shirts, who backed Thaksin and his sister. "If nothing happens we are ready to fight to have an election. We have more Red Shirts than the military has soldiers..."

[Thailand's Prime Minister: I'm not meddling with election timetable](#) – CNN, May 21, 2015

...The government pushed back the election date again this week, from early 2016 to August-September 2016 "at the earliest" because a referendum would first need to be held on a new constitution...

[Why We Don't Have Any Thailand Holdings](#) – investingdaily.com, May 20, 2015

...Most military interventions occur after a weak democratic government has made a real mess of the economy. But that's not Thailand's situation. The ousted government of Yingluck Shinawatra, successor to several governments dominated by her exiled tycoon brother Thaksin Shinawatra, was pretty economically capable.

It had a policy of spreading development beyond the capital Bangkok to rural areas in the north and east, which has been quite successful – growth has averaged about 3% since 2007, in spite of unrest, and is expected to average 3.8% in 2015-16, according to the IMF. Since Thailand suffered a massive debt collapse in 1997-98 because of the overdevelopment of Bangkok real estate, the Shinawatra policy has made sense...

[Thailand's economy tests the junta's steering skills](#) – nikkei.com, May 21, 2015

It is a harrowing time to be in Thailand's farming business. Just ask Taweewong Ieamsri, 74, a farm equipment wholesaler in a Bangkok suburb.

His income dropped more than 20% on the year in 2014, and the worst may be yet to come. So far this year, sales are down 10% compared with the same period last year...

[One Year After Thai Coup, No End in Sight for Military Rule](#) – VOA, May 21, 2015

... "There has been a political awakening in the North and Northeast. They want in, but the elites do not include them," former national security advisor Sean Boonpracong told VOA. "I see trouble down the road" ... "The downfall of the dictatorship is not a matter of doubt but a matter of time," declared Pravit Rojanaphruk on his Twitter account on Wednesday. The columnist for the English-language daily newspaper The Nation was summoned by the military shortly after last year's coup and is one of the few Thai media figures still expressing such overt opposition to military rule...

5 Years Ago: Burning Bangkok

May 21, 2015

Categories: Today in History



[Burning Bangkok](#)

Unprecedented: Gem scam suspects arrested

May 21, 2015

Categories: Gem Scam



Unprecedented: [Tuk-tuk, gems swindling suspects arrested](#) – Bangkok Post, May 21, 2015

...The gang was accused of targeting tourists wanting to visit popular tourist attractions in Bangkok such as Wat Pho and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, or Wat Phra Kaew. They used misinformation about the historic places opening hours and used persuasive tactics to get the tourists to go shopping at places that offered them commission fees, said Pol Gen Somyot.

The distorted information about the operating hours of tourist venues caused a misunderstanding among tourists and the action of the swindlers tarnished the image of tourism...

3 Years Ago: Fierce debate between Red Shirt academics & Red Shirt politicians who work for the Pheu Thai

May 22, 2015

Categories: Today in History

3 Years Ago: [Fierce debate between Red Shirt academics & Red Shirt politicians who work for the Pheu Thai](#)

Should an article on such an important issue to Thailand's history and current affairs be hidden behind a paywall?

“Bigger Angkor Wat” replica in India project revived

May 22, 2015

Categories: India



Earlier:

2012: [Angkor Wat temple replica to rise on banks of the Ganges](#)

2012: [Indian copy of Angkor Wat to be bigger than the real thing](#)

2012: [India: Replica of Angkor Wat Temple will not be constructed](#)

But now it is back:

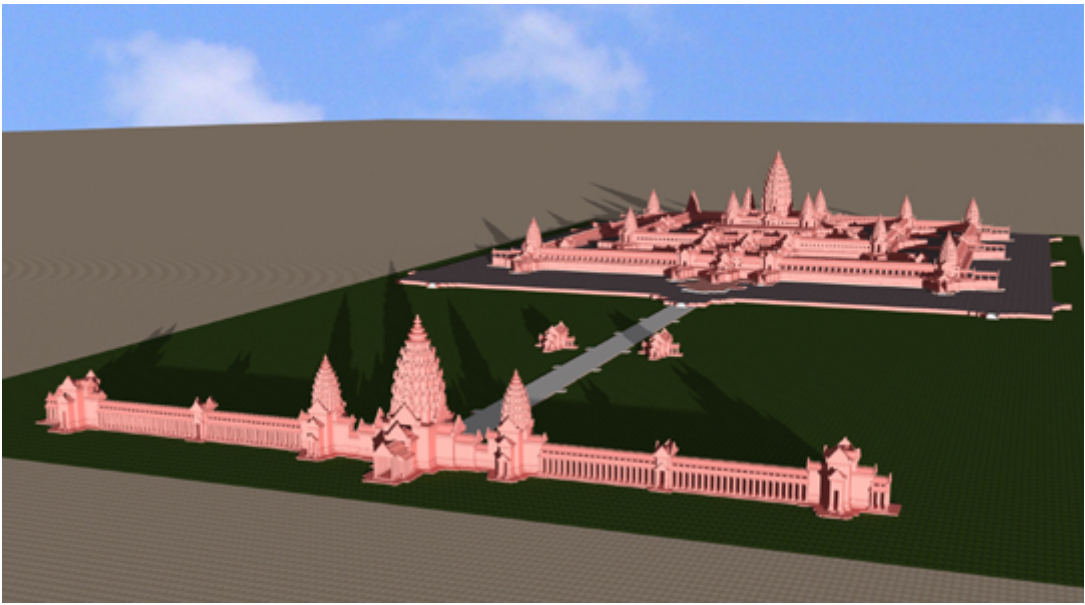
[India is building the world's biggest temple—even bigger than Angkor Wat](#) – qz.com, May 21, 2015

...Expected to be complete by 2023, Angkor's new-age rival will be owned by a private trust—the Mahavir Mandir Trust—that plans to spend Rs500 crore (\$78 million) to build the temple in the East Champaran district of Bihar. The eastern state is one of the poorest in India: In 2014, per capita income in Bihar stood at Rs31,229(\$490), compared to the national average of Rs74,380(\$1,167).

...The project was first proposed in 2012 by the Mahavir Mandir Trust—which also runs four hospitals in Bihar—as the Virat Angkor Wat Ram Mandir but later changed names after objection from Cambodia...



Above and below: [Site plans of the temple:](#)



PM says those who feel govt should do more to help boatpeople should migrate to the sea themselves

May 22, 2015

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Swap places with boat migrants, Thai PM tells critics](#) – channelnewsasia.com, May 21, 2015

... "Anyone who supports this idea (of accepting boatpeople), please contribute one baht a day or take them to your home when their case has been processed," the former army chief, who took over in a coup a year ago, told lawmakers during a speech on the budget. "Or you migrate out to the sea and bring them to live here instead," he added...

Background of the paragliding assassin captured in Thailand

May 22, 2015

Categories: India, Terrorism

[Beant assassin planned paraglider intrusion from Pak: Report](#) – TNN, May 22, 2015

Top pro-Khalistani terrorist and former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh's assassin Jagtar Singh Tara planned to use a paraglider to dump heavy ammunition on the banks of the Ravi, near Gurdaspur. The flight was to take off from Narowal, a city in Punjab province of Pakistan, in February this year. These disclosures have been made part of the report by Punjab Police on Tara's investigations. The terrorist was nabbed by sleuths of the Royal Thai Police and Punjab cops in January this year from Thailand and later extradited to India...

Thai Weekly News Magazines, May 16-22, 2015

May 22, 2015

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Manager Weekly 16-22 May 2015

Main cover reads: We will keep our promise. Give us 2 years.



From Matichon Weekly, 15-21 May 2015

Main cover reads: Sharing the merits to you. Please take a rest.
'Reform' as 'flowing waters.' Paphakaro 'referendum for what'



From Nation Weekend, 15 May 2015

Main cover reads: One year of cruelty

Red letters (another story inside the magazine): Explore the Andaman sea. Investigate the Rohingya trafficking. Politicians and the government officers involved.

Military harassment forces aid group out of Thai camp

May 22, 2015

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Military harassment forces aid group out of Thai camp](#) – *Radio Australia*, May 22, 2009

The international medical NGO, Medecins Sans Frontieres has ended its relief program for refugees in northern Thailand – blaming what it calls the Thai military's scare tactics...

Several ways for the Thai police to earn their living

May 22, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



28-04-58

From Manager, April 27, 2015

Title: Several ways for the Thai police to earn their living

Top left: Set up the check-points to collect money

Top right: Guard the massage clubs... guard the gambling den.

On posters in the left and middle: Bathing sauna massage

On a sign in the right: Mr. Kor gambling den.

Bottom left: Receive money for helping a position promotion.

Bottom right: Eating the temple's chicken.

In a red box: New!

Stop Meddling, President Obama

May 22, 2015

Categories: Anti-Americanism, Editorial Cartoons - Manager



07-05-58

From Manager, May 7, 2015

President Obama: What should we do... Thailand doesn't want to become a democracy?

No barking... no fighting... or even threatening...

May 22, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, April 28, 2015

Lizard: See what a human does!! Once they enter the parliament, they absolutely destroy our standard... See, no barking... no fighting... or even threatening... because they do like this, our image in parliament is damaged.

Caption: If former owners see this... they may be upset.

Thaksin says Privy Council ordered Suthep to protest & the military to stage a coup

May 22, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Analysis



Above: From Daily News, February 12, 2012

[Thaksin raps coup ‘masterminds’](#) – Bangkok Post, May 22, 2015

...Thaksin said in the interview that he and his younger sister Yingluck ended up being treated the same way. “I’ve told prime minister Poo that what happened to her is exactly the same as what happened to me,” he said.

Poo is Ms Yingluck’s nickname.

“The armed forces might admire Myanmar-style democracy. But it’s over in Myanmar,” he said in the interview, which was conducted in Thai...

Privy Councilor Prem Tinsulanonda has long been held up to Thaksin’s supporters as the ultimate villain in his repeated downfalls.

The Red Shirt calls to overthrow and slay “aristocrats” are meant to show they are unafraid of facing down the Privy Council and all it represents. As recently as 2013, the idea was floated that the Privy Council should be reorganized as part of Pheu Thai moves to strip power from organizations that could impede the activities of an elected government.

When prime minister in the 1980s, Prem faced down two unsuccessful coups from the so-called “Young Turks”—ambitious officers who were not only trying to overthrow the government, but top army officers as well.

Many key figures in modern politics were players during that time—[Chavalit Yongjiyut](#) (who put down the Young Turks coup in Bangkok), Manoonkrit Roopkachorn (elected to the senate after being disqualified for buying votes, he allowed the investigation against Constitution Court judges who inexplicably ruled for Thaksin in his asset concealment case), and Ekkayuth Anchanbutr (financier of the Young Turks clique and financial scammer who became an arch-Thaksin critic and later died under murky circumstances).

As former prime minister, Prem maintained enormous power after leaving office and is credited with ending both the Communist and separatist Muslim insurgencies in the Thai Deep South.

Thaksin's statements targeting the Privy Council and criticizing the junta, made as he strategically emerges in Seoul as Yingluck appears in court, indicate he is not giving up the struggle for political power.

Prem and the Privy Council rarely figure in international media accounts of Thai political turmoil, but he is a staple of the Thai media:

2005: [Privy Council president rebukes Thaksin](#)

2007: [Thaksin's First Target: UDD Surprise Raid on Privy Council President's House](#)

2007: [Banners Encouraging Prem](#)

2009: [Red Shirt Publications: It's all about Prem!](#)

2012: [Thaksin: Thai King's Advisers Key to Lese-Majeste Reform](#)

2012: [Yingluck attempts detente with Privy Council President Prem](#)

2012: [Red Shirt Publications: Prem Named as Coup Leader](#)

2012: [Thai editorial cartoon: How to Explain the Prem Meeting to the Red Shirts](#)

2012: [Thai editorial cartoon: Thaksin Confuses His Buffaloes](#)

2012: [Thai editorial cartoon: Prem Attacks the Government](#)

2014: [Thai editorial cartoon: Who is stronger? Prem or Prawit?](#)

12 Years Ago: The gangs that control motorcycle taxis

May 23, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[The gangs that control motorcycle taxis](#)

The new US Ambassador to Thailand reads the book “Four Reigns”

May 23, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, April 29, 2015

Left: The new US Ambassador to Thailand reads the book “Four Reigns.” To understand Thai society, he needs to read another book too...

Middle: Thai man: Then, he will deeply understand Thai democracy.

Foreigner: Which one?

Right: “Si Thanon Chai”

Thailand, one year on...

May 23, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup



Khon Kaen: [Students Set to be Charged for Anniversary Protest of the Coup](#) – isaanrecord.com, May 22, 2015

Bangkok: [38 students arrested after staging a symbolic anti-coup protest in front of the Bangkok Art & Culture Centre](#) – Bangkok Post, May 23, 2015

[The Strongman of Siam](#) – FP, May 21, 2015

...In other words, Thailand's latest military father figure may well find his "children" growing restless.

[One year of NCPO's rule: civilians on trial by military court](#) – Thai PBS, May 22, 2015

...Anurak was reported to have raised his three fingers, a symbolic sign of defiance against the coup, at Terminal 21 shopping mall. He was bound in his hands and his head covered in a hood as he was escorted by military personnel into a sedan toward a military barrack for interrogation. After that he was held at the detention cell of the Crime Suppression Division police for five days before he was charged in the military court...

[Thailand: Deepening Repression One Year After Coup](#) – HRW, May 22, 2015

[Thailand one year later: Stable but stuck?](#) – CNBC, May 22, 2015

[The Year of Living Crazy: Thailand One Year After the Coup](#) – <http://thediplomat.com>, May 21, 2015

...It may seem like just a cruel joke, but the reality is tragic. Thailand has become a military dictatorship enforcing authoritarian rule. Its prime minister is an army general who chairs a junta, whose military has a record of committing human rights abuses. There is no reason to believe that any of this is going to improve in the near term without strong international pressure from Thailand's democratic allies – countries like the United States, European Union countries, and Japan...

Even theater reviews: [Thailand's Banned 'King'](#) – NYT, May 19, 2015

Earlier:

Yesterday: More from the international media: [After Yingluck court appearance & election delay, foreign media unloads on junta](#)

Yesterday: [One Year Ago: Another Coup in Thailand](#)

Yesterday: [Is it a mistake for the military to tackle land encroachment?](#)

Yesterday: [Thaksin says Privy Council ordered Suthep to protest & the military to stage a coup](#)

For some perspective on what is going on (rather than just reading the same article over and over that states Prayuth is an insane dictator):

May 10: [Everyone loves Section 44](#)

April 10: [Charter drafters firm on preventing 'one-man rule'](#)

April 2: [Was Gen. Prayuth really unable to answer a "gutsy" foreign reporter?](#)

February 24: Download a free chapter from *The Thai Book, A Field Guide to Thai Political Motivations*: [Big Men Always Go Too Far](#)

February 13: [Four years of rule for PM Prayuth?](#)

January 31: [U.S. Criticism, the Junta's Reply, and the Fate of Pheu Thai Party](#)

January 23: [The Yingluck Ruling in Context](#)

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

September 11: [Is Gen. Prayuth really growing "eccentric" or "superstitious" as Time Magazine claims?](#)

Considering a human as inhuman

May 23, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, May 6, 2015

Title: Considering a human as inhuman. Only see them as the slaves and goods...!

On corpse: Rohingya

Mouse: Trying to escape from hardship to a better place.

Phi Nooring: Facing hell on earth.

12 Years Ago: Democrats to self-destruct?

May 24, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Democrats to self-destruct?](#)

Minimum wage

May 24, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Manager, May 4, 2015

Left: Man 1: What do you do?

Man 2: I'm looking for a new job because my boss refused to increase my salary so I quit.

Middle: Man 1: I'm also looking for the new job.

Man 2: What did you do?

Right: I used to be a owner who had to close a factory because I couldn't bear the minimum wage of workers.

The clown comes too late

May 24, 2015

Categories: Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Editorial Cartoons - Manager



01-05-58

From Manager, April 30, 2015

On the screen: Stopped airing.

Chavalit Yongjiyut dressed as a clown: I've heard that your channel is looking for a comedian who can make audiences laugh.

Caption: The comedian comes too late.

5 Years Ago: Aftermath of the Red Shirt Protests

May 25, 2015

Categories: Today in History



[Red Protests – May 22-23, 2010](#)

Thai people have to pay for their stupidity... again

May 25, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, May 1, 2015

Title: Thai people have to pay for their stupidity... again.

Bowornsak: Just use it for five years. Then, when the politics is stabilized, we can revise it again.

On the constitution platter above the man's head: Constitution '58

On sign held by man with glasses: Succession of work not succession of power

On chair: Establishment of the regime

On fat man: Bureaucratic polity

In circle: Accept it first, revise it later

On paper: Constitution '50

On a sword: Revise... must be dismissed

Phi Nooring: Revise the Constitution immediately

More than one version of the constitution?

May 25, 2015

Categories: Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, May 3, 2015

Gen. Chavalit: The draft constitution shall have one... two... three... versions.

12 Years Ago: Press freedom downgraded from ‘free’ to ‘partially free’

May 26, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Press freedom downgraded from ‘free’ to ‘partially free’](#)

Lottery ticket selling price

May 26, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



04-05-58

From Manager, May 3, 2015

Blind man: Even if you torture me until I die, I still insist that I can't sell at 80 baht... The cost is 100 baht... I prefer to die rather than receive a loss on selling.

On a lottery selling bag: Lottery 120 Baht

Caption: Forcing this man... torturing until he dies... you still can't sell at 80 baht.

Afraid of Chavalit as PM again

May 26, 2015

Categories: Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, May 5, 2015

Left: Jiew has already started to help Big Tu on restoring the economy. It helps the influx of fund into our country. Traders are happy.

Middle: Pooyai Ma: How does Jiew help?

A man: He just said he will come back to be the PM for his second time.

Right: People're frightened so they has started buying rice and dried food. They're afraid to be under the IMF for a second time.

5 Years Ago: Snipers on the Skytrain Tracks

May 26, 2015

Categories: Today in History



[Snipers on the Skytrain Tracks](#)

10 Years Ago: Thaksin closes community radio stations

May 26, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[A tale of two newspapers: Thaksin closes community radio](#)

We're designing our own democracy.

May 27, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, May 4, 2015

Uncle Sam: Hey... What is your country drawing?

Artist: We're designing our own democracy.

Petition the King?

May 27, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek, Editorial Cartoons - Manager



06-05-58

From Manager, May 5, 2015

Jatuporn: I will petition to the King in the case of closing Peace TV!!

On his shirt: Overthrow the elite.

On paper: A petition, Subject: To petition to the King on the case of closing Peace TV



From Komchadluek, May 7, 2015

A toad: I will petition the UN!!

13 years ago: Waterboarded 83 times at CIA prison in Thailand

May 27, 2015

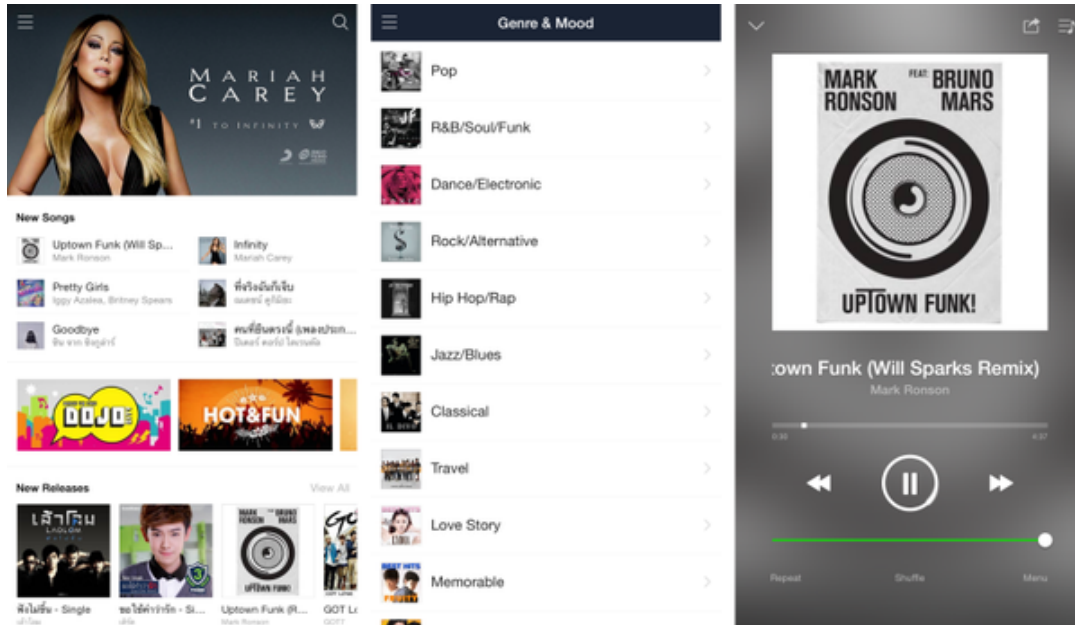
Categories: Today in History

[The story of Abu Zubaydah, waterboarded 83 times in Thailand](#)

LINE Is Testing a \$2 Per Month Music Streaming Service in Thailand

May 27, 2015

Categories: Technology



[Messaging App Firm Line Is Testing A \\$2 Per Month Music Streaming Service](#) – Tech Crunch, May 21, 2015

...Line Music is being trialled in Thailand, where Line has carried out a series of other pilots related to its shift into value-added services. The app is available for iOS and Android and is integrated into the chat app to allow users to share songs with Line friends, or post to their timeline inside the app...

Junta reverses course: No reform of the Royal Thai Police

May 27, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Thai Police

[Junta puts police reform on 'too hard' list](#) – Bangkok Post, May 26, 2015

...Of course, the police have always been the “good boys” – good at following orders without question, like the men in green.

Hence, police reform is no longer a priority issue, or even an issue of interest, for the government and the NCPO. Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said tersely last week that police reform would be left to the next government. No explanation was given why the back-peddalling now...

Earlier: [Thai police to be totally reorganised and stripped of ability to decide promotions internally](#)

Earlier: [Graphic showing the dissolution plan for the Royal Thai Police](#)

Earlier: [55% of Thais want to see the Police Commission and Royal Thai Police dissolved](#)

Earlier: [In wake of arrests of police untouchables, police chief vows to clean the organization](#)

Earlier: August 7, 2014: [The era of the independent \(and politicized\) Thai police is over](#)

Much earlier, from 2006: [Traffic police could face charges of extortion](#)

Also: [How the military coup finally brought law and order to chaotic Phuket](#)

Thaksin Shifts the Focus to Himself

May 27, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Analysis

This was a strange few days for Thaksin.

For months all eyes were on Gen. Prayuth. The narrative for Thailand had been about the “paranoid” general, his supposedly slipping power, and how a return to democracy must immediately happen to improve the economy.

Then came the Thaksin interview from Seoul ([Thaksin says Privy Council ordered Suthep to protest and the military to stage a coup](#)) that cast events in the same Thaksin-centric light that has been defining politics since before the coup in 2006.

Coupled with the [emergence of old hand Chavalit to show solidarity with the Red Shirts](#), these moves by Thaksin are the same sorts of gambits he has been running since before the 2006 coup.

For those waiting to see a pro-Thaksin strategy emerge, Thaksin’s statements are nothing new at all, and only provided a perfect pretext to shift the focus from the junta to Thaksin and seize his passports at the same time.

The Red Shirt demand for a referendum also backfired. After acceding to the referendum, elections were pushed back at least six more months and promises were made that the military would maintain power in the event of a “no” vote to manage the drafting of a updated charter.

All of this also shows there are no backstage negotiations going on. The military is simply showing its resolve, not to the Thai public or international community, but to the political class, that it has the ability to resist Thaksin influence this time.

[Thaksin may face lese majeste charge](#) – Bangkok Post, May 27, 2015

[Thai Govt Revokes Thaksin’s Passports, Citing ‘Damaging’ Interview](#) – Khaosod, May 27, 2015

[Thaksin raps coup ‘masterminds’](#) – Bangkok Post, May 22, 2015

... “The armed forces listen to privy counsellors. When they did not want us to stay in power, they ordered Suthep (Thaugsuban) to come out and ordered the armed forces to help (Suthep),” Thaksin told Choson Media in Seoul on Wednesday...

And meanwhile: [Thai elections pushed back to Sept 2016: Junta](#) – AFP, May 27, 2015

Debate can find way forward for Thai politics

May 27, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup

[Debate can find way forward for Thai politics](#) – globaltimes.cn, May 26, 2015

...The military group wants to resurrect a military-led authoritarian system, which was prevalent in the 1980s. Depending on a political alliance with the royal family and royalists, the military group can keep an eye on the legislature by appointing a certain number of senators, through which these elected political parties will be put under effective military oversight and restraint.

Thus, they argue, Thailand will be able to guarantee a stable environment and forge ahead with its middle- and long-term economic growth strategy. Besides, the system will effectively reduce pork-barrel politics and impulsive decision-making.

But the ousted Thaksin Shinawatra and his faction expect a restoration of election democracy. By relying on the financial support of capitalists and the majority farmers' votes, Thaksin and his group can have a winner-takes-all result through the polls. In this way, Thaksin's party can be the sole holder of administrative power as it was in 2005.

But the Democrat Party and urban middle-class elites want neither of these. They prefer a consultative democratic system which is different from a tyranny of the majority or a military dictatorship. They want to set up independent institutions, through constitutional review, to impose effective supervision on cabinet, parliament and the bureaucracy...

New definition of “work” for foreigners in Thailand

May 27, 2015

Categories: Uncategorized

[Thailand to Treat Foreigners Better Under Foreign Workers Act's New Interpretation](#) (pdf from Narit Law)

Their other legal articles are [here](#).

...In response to this opinion of the Council of State, in March 2015 the Department of Employment issued the Notification Re Activities Not Considered Work under the Foreign Workers Act, B.E. 2551 (2008), under which the department explicitly clarifies that the following activities are not considered the “work” under the Act. This means a foreigner that is engaged in any of these activities is no longer required to obtain a work permit from the department or to notify the department for any work with a short period of time.

- 1. Attending a meeting or a seminar.*
- 2. Attending a fair, an exhibition or a goods exhibition.*
- 3. Making any visit to observe business or to meet and negotiate a business.*
- 4. Attending special and academic lectures.*
- 5. Attending technical training and seminars.*
- 6. Purchasing goods in a good exhibition.*
- 7. Attending a meeting of a board of director of one's company...*

11 Years Ago: Thaksin's three-month anti-drugs campaign kills 2,245

May 28, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Thaksin's three-month anti-drugs campaign kills 2,245](#)

4 Years Ago: Thailand's Professional Hitmen and Why They Can't Be Put in Jail

May 28, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Thailand's Professional Hitmen and Why They Can't Be Put in Jail](#)

Not Fair

May 28, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



08-05-58

From Manager, May 7, 2015

Pheu Thai politicians on the left and Democrat Abhisit on the right: This constitution impedes politicians to take power. We must fight because it's not democracy!!

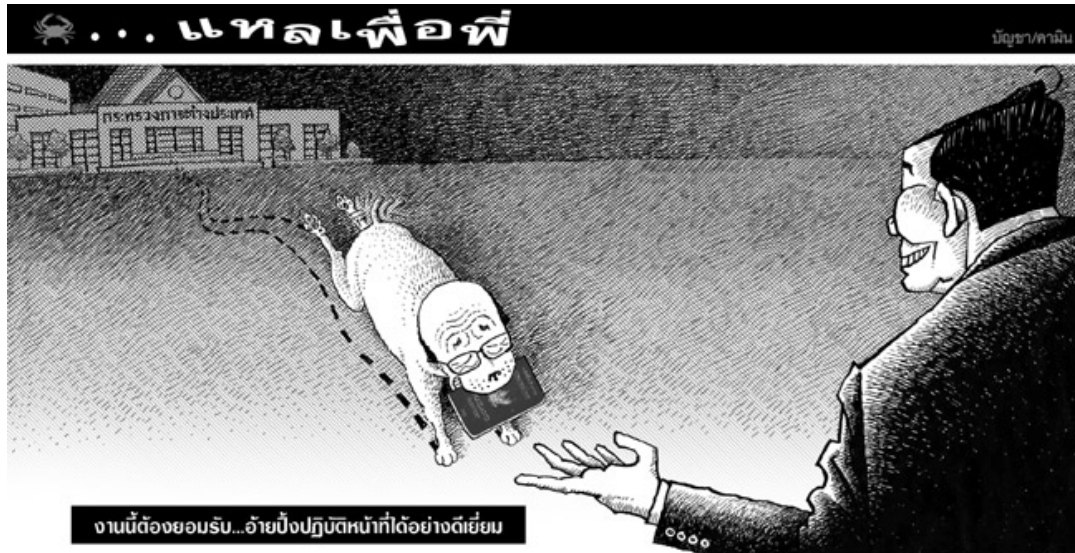
A caption on the left: Fight... because they're afraid of not being able to form the government.

A caption on the right: Fight... because they're afraid not being the opposition party?

Don't Worry Thaksin! Pheu Thai Vows to Return Passport Once It Forms New Government

May 28, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News



Above: [From Manager, December 19, 2011](#)

[Ex-FM Surapong vows to return passports to Thaksin if Pheu Thai is in next government](#) – thaipbs.or.th, May 27, 2015

Former foreign minister and a key member of the Pheu Thai party Mr Surapong Tovichakchaikul vowed Wednesday that he would return passports to fugitive former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra if his party is in the next government...

Yesterday: [Thai Govt Revokes Thaksin's Passports, Citing 'Damaging' Interview](#)

Earlier

2013: Thai editorial cartoon: [Pheu Thai Foreign Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul is No. 4 on party list for taking the heat for returning Thaksin's passport](#)

2012: Thai editorial cartoon: [Thaksin's Dog](#)

2011: Thai editorial cartoon: [The Dog Brings Thaksin His Passport](#)

2011: Thai editorial cartoon: [Who is the Foreign Affairs Minister more afraid of?](#)

2011: [Thai foreign minister to return passport to Thaksin as a "New Year's present"](#)

2011: [The Democrats reveal that Pheu Thai govt secretly issued Thaksin a new passport](#)

...He quoted the email as saying that a group of ministry officials and politicians had entered the Department of Consular Affairs, on Chaeng Wattana Road, on Oct 31, which was shut that day because of a declared holiday due to the flooding.

Those officials and politicians had unlocked the department's computerised system to prepare a passport for someone. The email sender had said the group had removed the name of the recipient from the blacklist to pave way for the issuing of a passport...

2011: Thai editorial cartoon: [Manager cartoonist predicts one of Pheu Thai's secret campaign promises is to return Thaksin's passport](#)

2010: [Thaksin obtained Cambodian citizenship in March 2009](#)

2009-2010: [Where is Thaksin?](#)

2008: [Foreign Ministry must revoke Thaksin's passport](#)

2008: [Thaksin's People Power Party returns his passport](#)

2007: [Thailand informs China that it revokes Thaksin's diplomatic passport](#)

5 Years Ago: Protest Aftermath—Police caught staging photos of detained Red Shirt leaders

May 28, 2015

Categories: Today in History



5 Years Ago: [Protest Aftermath—Police caught staging photos of detained Red Shirt leaders](#)

Thai Weekly Magazines, May 22-29, 2015

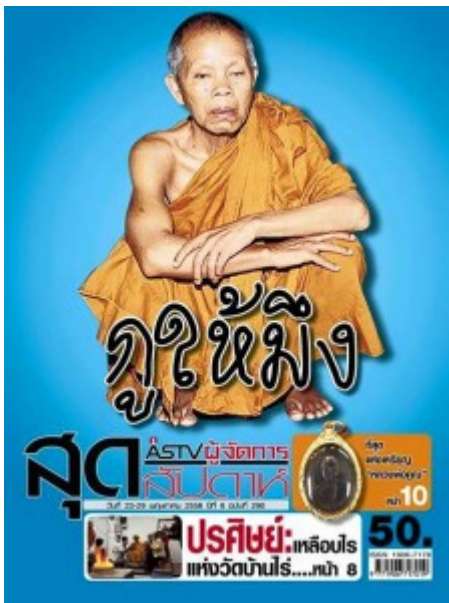
May 29, 2015

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, 22 May 2015

Main cover reads: Koon – An ordinary monk who touched peoples' hearts



From Manager Weekly, May 23-29, 2015

Main cover reads: I give it to you

White box: Follows: A gadfly and Mites of Ban Rai temple... page 8

Orange box: Luang Phor Koon's most famous amulet



From Matichon Weekly, May 22-28, 2015

Main cover reads: The more you take, the less you gain. The more you give, the most you receive.

Wear Thai traditional dress on Friday

May 29, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons – Arun



From Arun, May 12, 2015

Top right corner: Minister of Tourism promotes wearing Thai traditional dress on Friday.

Title: “Toys”

12 Years Ago: Asia finds its own way: In Praise of Thaksin

May 30, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Asia finds its own way: In Praise of Thaksin](#)

...We in Asia should not replicate the West in our economic model, which does not mean that we should reject historical and scientific facts. We should rather provide an alternative model of development, and an appropriate time frame to achieve our objective. The world will be richer if there is more than one model of development...

3 Years Ago: Yet another amnesty showdown, “My brothers, today it’s time for us to return to resume political roles & help drive the country forward”

May 31, 2015

Categories: Today in History

Yet another amnesty showdown – [Thaksin: “My brothers, today it’s time for us to return to resume political roles and help drive the country forward”](#)

From May 21, 1989: King Bhumibol's Reign

June 1, 2015

Categories: Today in History

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

3 Years Ago: Amnesty Attempt for Thaksin Crumbles After Protesters Surround Parliament

June 1, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Amnesty Attempt for Thaksin Crumbles After Protesters Surround Parliament](#)

From MICT: Why do we have to love Thai culture?

June 2, 2015

Categories: Culture and Society, Local Beliefs

Below is an amazing cartoon from the LINE account of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (it may ultimately be from the Ministry of Culture). It expresses a long-held belief that true Thai culture is being polluted by mixing in English words or by otherwise speaking incorrectly.



A. School opens.

A girl, named Sticker, says: Homework, homework, having only homework

B. Dog: What are you complaining about?

Sticker: Khaodam...

C. Sticker can't do the homework.

Sticker: A teacher has assigned me to write an essay on the topic “Why do we have to love Thai culture?”



A. Sticker: Khaodam, please don't tell anybody that Sticker likes Western culture more than Thai culture because it's modern... So, I can't write this essay...

Khaodam: I could tell even if you didn't say it.

B. Sticker: I'll go to bed... let's do it tomorrow...

C. Khaodam: Ao..



A. Voice: Sticker. Sticker...

B. Sticker: Who's calling me?

Angel: Angel...

C. I'm an angel of universal culture.



A. Sticker: Do we have an angel like this?

Angel: Of course, we do.

B. Angel: I know that Sticker has a problem with your homework related to culture. So, it's my job to help you...

C. Angel: I will help Sticker understand why we must love our culture.



A. Angel: Tonight... I will send Sticker to the opposite world where everything is transposed. The developed country will change to a developing country while the developing country will become a major power which

C. Angel: That's why I have to make you sleep and dream it again.



A. In the opposite world... Sticker is a Thai person who is visiting the U.S. without applying for a visa. She can take the plane to go there easily... because every country wants us to go.

B. In her dream, Sticker feels so happy to be a person from a developed country that every country wants to follow...

C. "Opposite world..." Dream in the dream

On the Thai map: Thailand

Arrow pointing to Thailand: Major power

On the green map: The USA

Arrow pointing to the U.S.: Developing

Above the U.S. map: Cost of living, food and accommodation are very cheap like everything's free.



A. The first thing that attracts Sticker is that American people like to use the Thai language...

Yellow building: Lookkhang Supermarket

Green building: Hang Zor Yai

White building: Hang Dokbua

Purple building: Hang Santood

B. Sticker doesn't know how much Thai language everyone in the country can understand... but they believe that having a name in Thai will help their shop become more luxurious, modern and high-class than using their language.

Yellow building: Tee tam yang yai

Pink building: Hang jaiklang

White building: Hang Bangna Yaiyai

C. Sticker goes to Daowngen Coffee Shop to listen to people talking.

Man: Patty... Do you have any khamkid?

A woman: No..John.. I think yours is somboon!

On sign: Daowngen coffee shop



It's funny to listen to those people talking. The American loves to speak their language and Thai mixed together... it's funny.

Dee ... I think your work is deemak !

Sawaddee ... Nice to meet you!

See you later... lakorn

I rak you mak

They say that for some words, when saying it in Thai it is much more meaningful.

10 Years Ago: Living in Thaksin's Thailand

June 2, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[“Sex capital Thailand upset over Miss Universe bikini babes”](#)

[Government proposes six different national anthems](#)

[Thaksin's reading list for the nation](#)

[Thai Rak Thai rocked by rebellion over Thaksin removal of Auditor General](#)

Also: [Category Archives: The Thaksin Years](#)

12 Years Ago: Thai SARS Passport

June 3, 2015

Categories: Today in History



[Thai SARS Passport](#)

How many died in the drug purges? 2275, 2245, 1329, or 72?

June 3, 2015

Categories: Chalerm Yubamrung, Drugs, Thaksin's War on Drugs, The Thaksin Years



[From Thairath, March 6, 2003](#)

Cartoon title: Are you Thai?

On the arm: Human right academics

On the knife blade: United Nations

On packet in sitting man's hand: Ya ba

On briefcase: Money derived from Ya ba trafficking

It should be remembered that, despite the international perspective that might see extra-judicial killings of drug suspects as indefensible, such policies are popular across the Thai political spectrum.

They are seen as a common sense response to the reality of provincial life where the legal system has little ability to enforce laws and the police are ensconced within the local power structure that favors the influential.

Subsequent Thaksin-directed governments even inflated the numbers of the drug dead to appeal to the public.

2004: [Amnesty International: Thailand's three-month anti-drugs campaign leads to 2,245 deaths](#)

2007: [Refuting the "2275" number](#) and positing that 1,329 deaths is more accurate (interestingly, the Royal Thai Police do admit to 72 extra-judicial killings).

2008: From [Thai elections revive drug war controversy](#)

...Thailand saw an 88 percent jump in murder cases during the main phase of Thaksin's drugs campaign, from February to April 2003, according to a 2008 report by a Thai special committee on anti-drugs policy. The report said there were 2,873 murders in the period, 1,370 of them drugs-related...

2008: Thaksin-directed governments always played up the numbers of those who could be killed: [Interior minister Chalerm Yubamrung, said: "When we implement a policy that may bring 3,000 to 4,000 bodies, we will do it,"](#)

2008: [Threats to Resume Thaksin's War on Drugs](#)

...In recent weeks, the government of Thailand has publicly threatened the resumption of killings. On 20 February, Interior Minister, Chalerm Yubamrung, told parliament that "For drug dealers if they do not want to die, they had better quit staying on that road... drugs suppression in my time as Interior Minister will follow the approach of Thaksin. If that will lead to 3,000-4,000 deaths of those who break the law, then so be it. That has to be done ... For those of you from the opposition party, I will say you care more about human rights than drug problems in Thailand."

2008: [Guidelines for the government's next war on drugs](#)

...First, policy-makers should not get involved in incitement to murder. When announcing the policy to governors and police chiefs in 2003, Thaksin referred to the results already achieved in two trial provinces: "Sometimes people were shot dead and had their assets seized as well. I think we have to be equally ruthless. If drug traders don't stop, there is a chance they will be dealt with in every way, both life and limb." He continued, "With the traders, you must use hammer and fist, that is, act decisively and without mercy. If some drug traders die, it will be a common thing."

Seven weeks later, when over a thousand had already died, Thaksin repeated that drug dealers had only two choices – to go to jail or their own funerals...

2017: [Thailand's Drug Decriminalization Edges Forward – With Little Fanfare](#)

... "You can put me on record saying this: We have tried the Philippines way, and it failed," said Mana, who's in charge of the agency's laws department, referring to the policies put in place in that country since the election of Rodrigo Duterte that have seen an estimated 13,000 slain in extra-judicial killings.

In 2003, former premier Thaksin Shinawatra declared open season on suspected drug offenders and roughly 2,800 killings ensued. About half of those killed were later determined to have been uninvolved in the drug trade...

Another controversy: [Burning Thailand: Teaching Thai School Children About Protest Arson](#)

Waiting for the tram to start

June 4, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons – Arun, Trams



From Arun, May 22, 2015

On the right corner: Digital TV

On the light blue: NBTC will collect the money for the 2nd installment of the license fee

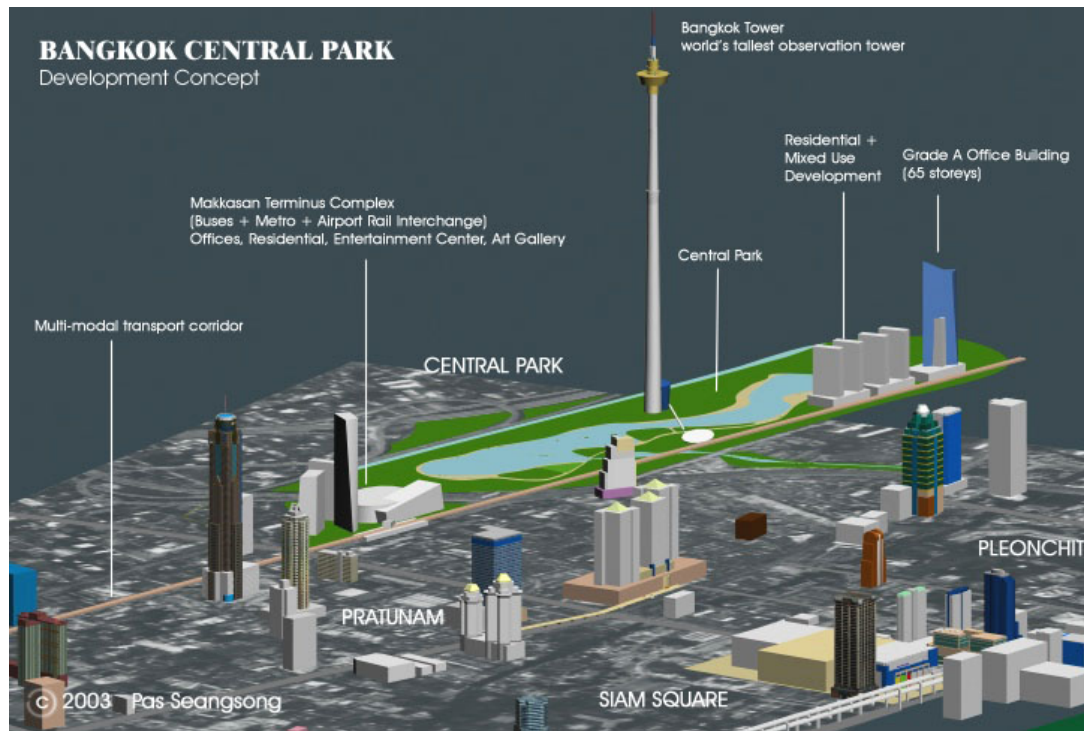
Above the train: Fare for the second installment! Fare for second installment!

On sign at right: Digital TV

12 Years Ago: Idea for a Bangkok Central Park

June 5, 2015

Categories: Today in History



[Idea for a Bangkok Central Park in the Makkasan Depot area](#)

Thailand should help the Rohingyas

June 5, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Chai



From Thairath, May 19, 2015

Uncle Sam: Go over there... That place has a lot of food.

Weekly News Magazines, May 29-June 5, 2015

June 6, 2015

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, May 29, 2015

Main cover reads: No matter what, I still win.



From Manager Weekly 30 May-5 June 2015

Prayuth : “There are two things he can’t take over, military and the royal family. He wants to destroy. If those two were destroyed, the country will be taken over by someone whom everyone knows and I don’t to say his name.”

Thaksin : “The military only listens to the Privy Councilor, because when they didn’t want us, they asked the military for help. Then, I lost power. I told PM Poo that this is like my case.”

The main cover reads : Can we strip his rank now?



From Matichon Weekly, 29 May-4 June 2015
Main cover reads: Peed... Fly beyond Longka

Following the star of humanity

June 8, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, May 22, 2015

Caption: Following the star of humanity

On the sail: Rohingya

Phi Nooring: People whom the world doesn't want.

A mouse: Victims of human trafficking

The Rohingya Problem

June 9, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, May 20, 2015

By the fly: Rohingya

Fleeing from Chavalit

June 10, 2015

Categories: Chavalit Yongchaiyudh



From Manager, May 19, 2015

Top: Rohingya: We're Rohingya people migrant from Myanmar... Are you also Rohingya?
Other boat: No...

Below: We're Thai people... migrants from the country to escape from Big Jiew.

Caption: If Big Jiew becomes the PM again... we may see this picture.

Just send me ashore, then I will go on by myself

June 11, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Naewna, May 26, 2015

Thaksin: Just send me ashore. Then I will go on by myself. Oh... Hey... Wait... Come back to help my silly sister, red buffaloes.

Caption: The red buffaloes who have not known the truth, hurry up to help your daddy Maew...

10 Years Ago: Thailand's Corrupt Airport

June 12, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Thailand's Corrupt Airport](#)

25 Years Ago: Expat life in 1990: No work permits, but watch out for the tax clearance office

June 12, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Expat life in 1990: No work permits, but watch out for the tax clearance office](#)

8 Years Ago: Veera, Weng and early Red Shirt leaders insist protests are about democracy, not Thaksin

June 12, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Veteran democracy fighters strongly deny backing Thaksin](#)

...Dr Weng, one of the leading democracy advocates who fought against the Suchinda Kraprayoon military government during the May 1992 uprising, said he was ready to leave the alliance immediately if it turns out that the group's ultimate goal is to pave the way for Mr Thaksin to return...

Weekly News Magazines, June 4-12, 2015

June 12, 2015

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, June 5, 2015

Main cover reads: The secret of Rohingya. Pinch the nails and the body's hurt.

A man on a cover: Deputy Defense Minister Udomdej Sitabutr



From Manager Weekly, June 6-12, 2015

Main cover reads: What's the problem with stripping his rank. Why don't strip?



From Matichon Weekly, 4-10 June 2015
Main cover reads: Transformer Democracy

Strange case of the condo & shopping center being built at the foot of Shwedagon Pagoda

June 13, 2015

Categories: Myanmar/Burma



(Source: Dagon 1 website image)

[Project website](#) and [video](#)

Imagine a Reality Where the Skyline Blends with Innate Spirituality;

This is Dagon City 1, where luxury, opportunity and international living coexist with absolute tranquility exclusive to Yangon.

[Ma Ba Tha Threatens Nationwide Protests Against Shwedagon Highrise Projects](#) – The Irrawaddy, June 12, 2015

Leading members of the Buddhist nationalist organization Ma Ba Tha have entered the fray in the debate over five controversial construction projects near Shwedagon Pagoda, threatening nationwide protests if the government refuses to cancel the developments...

[Saving the Spirit of Shwedagon](#) – The Irrawaddy, May 19, 2015

[Dagon City 'Will Resume', Amid Calls for Planning Overhaul](#) – The Irrawaddy, February 13, 2015

... "I can't think of anything more important to heritage conservation in Yangon than the protection of Shwedagon and views of Shwedagon, For millions of people, it's a priceless asset. With so much unused land in Yangon and so many other potential sites for medium and high-rise developments, I really don't see why there should be any development, especially one that would be over 62 feet, within the Shwedagon area," Thant Myint-U said...

11 Years Ago: Siam Square in 1992 and 2004

June 15, 2015

Categories: Today in History



[Siam Square in 1992 and 2004](#)

Nine Years Ago: Prime Minister using lawsuits to silence criticism

June 15, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Acting prime minister files more criminal and civil defamation suits](#)

4 Years Ago: “Corruption Giant” Billboard

June 15, 2015

Categories: Today in History



4 Years Ago: [Corruption Giant Billboard](#)

This is the way to bring people in to discuss the building of understanding

June 15, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, May 26, 2015

Title: This is the way to bring people in to discuss the building of understanding

On the man's shirt: Student

Phi Nooring: Only organizing the anniversary activity

A mouse: Coup d'état 22 May 57

June 16, 2015
Categories: Uncategorized

Categories: Uncategorized



Finding the right van to your destination from Victory Monument — home to the biggest fleet of commuter vans in the country — used to be no easy task. There are more than 170 routes offered by the hundreds of vans sitting at seven different service points at the roundabout, but there is zero signage. Frequent commuters may have mastered their ways around the slipshod management, but first-timers often end up going round in circles and foreign tourists simply lost in translation...

10 Years Ago: Thaksin makes an appeal for patriotism

June 16, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[PM makes appeal for patriotism](#)

...The prime minister, who admitted to being exhausted by the task ahead of him, said that he, nonetheless, has no problems with his rivals as long as they are acting for the national good.

5 Years Ago: During Red Shirt rally, Thaksin children withdraw more than 10 billion baht

June 17, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Rally billions uncovered](#)

...Thaksin's family members withdrew large sums from their accounts from April 28, when the anti-government United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD) rally intensified after soldiers fired on protesters on the outskirts of Bangkok.

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

About 4.56 billion baht was also withdrawn from the accounts of Thaksin's brother-in-law, Bannapot Damapong.

About 140 million baht was withdrawn from the accounts of Thaksin's younger sister, Yingluck, on April 28...

The road narrows for Thaksin and company

June 17, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup

[All roads lead to entrenched military rule](#) – Bangkok Post, June 16, 2015

...It's obvious the former army chief is acting with ulterior motives alongside every move implemented in the roadmap.

There is the draft charter versus a general election. People who stand in opposition to the coup camp have called for a referendum to be held on the draft constitution. Now they have found themselves in a quandary.

Reject the draft charter, which is seen as an attempt to enshrine a "guided democracy" doctrine, and they will probably not see a new poll in two years — even longer if the drafting process keeps on going.

Meanwhile if they approve it, with the hope that the highest law can still be amended one day, the results will still be the same...

Interestingly, on the same day, an opinion piece in the *New York Times* completely misses what is going on in Thailand ([The Contrecoup in Thailand](#)), oddly assuming that a "no" vote on the charter would show that Prayuth and the junta are discredited and should step down (rather than seeing the referendum, whatever the outcome, as a delaying tactic itself):

...This is a dangerous game. For one thing, Thais might vote down the constitution in a referendum. The only other time such a plebiscite was held was in 2007; the people have seen what little good came from their voting yes then; and the current draft is even less democratic than that one was. A no vote would be a severe rebuke for the junta, an indictment of its coup and a major loss of legitimacy — reason enough for General Prayuth to step down...

Use your brain to create the constitution

June 17, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, May 28, 2015

Title: You said most Thai people use only a little of their brain. Thus, you guys please use a lot of your brain.
Constitution Drafting Committee Chairman Bowornsak Uwanno: Use for 100 years without being terminated

On his tie: NRC

A sign close to him: Constitution Drafting Committee

PM Prayuth at right: Use for 100 years without termination

On the constitution in the middle: Reform version

Mouse man Phi Nooring: Think carefully

Mouse: Solve the problem as people wish

Junta gives up on the reform of the Thai police

June 18, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Editorial Cartoons - Manager, Thai Police



27-05-58

From Manager, May 26, 2015

PM Prayuth: Due to your bravery... I'm impressed and can't hold my tears... zig... zig... I can't reform you... heu... heu...

On the building in the background: Gambling house-brothel

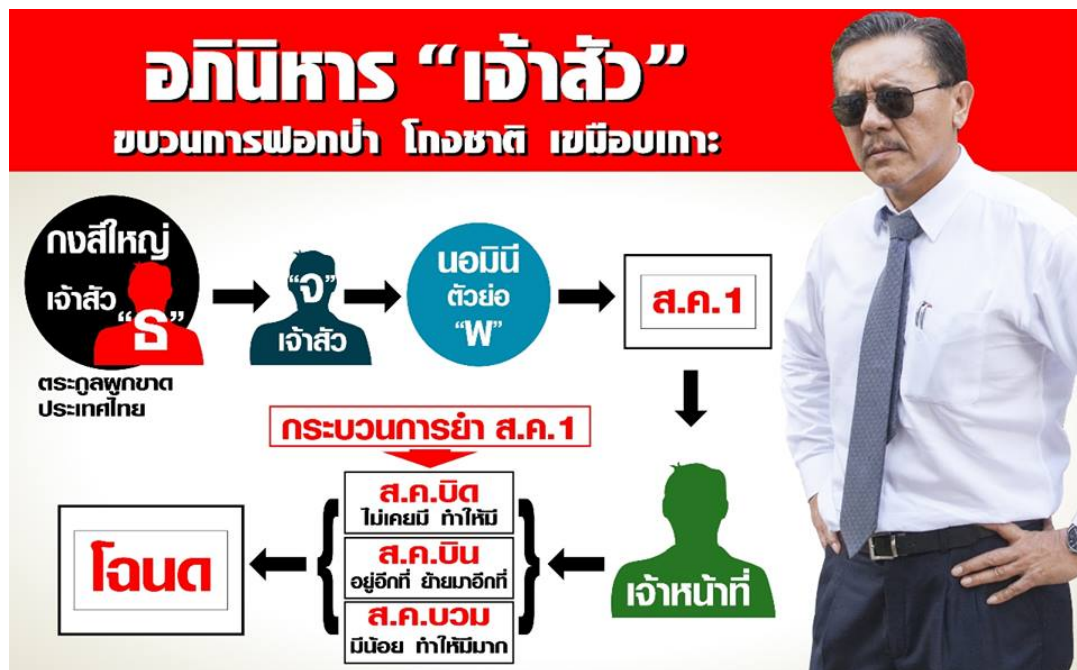
On a pink sign: Sex massages

Caption: Maybe because of this policeman helping...

Which family is taking over Koh Chang Island?

June 18, 2015

Categories: Chuwit Kamolvisit



From a social media image by Chuwit:

The power of ‘jaosua’

Forest-laundry gang corruption and taking over the island

Source of funds: Jaosua ‘Th’ a family which dominates the country → Jaosua ‘J’ → Nominee known as ‘P’ → SK1 → A process of making an illegal SK – Adding SK: don’t have it, then make it have-Flying SK: transfer from one place to another-extending SK: have a few and make it become more →title deed

Kick Thaksin's Dog

June 19, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, May 28, 2015

Dog, representing Foreign Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul: If I come back, I will bring the passport back to Thaksin!!

A man with black hair: Kamin... I feel very itchy. I want to kick it once.

A man with brown hair: You can't do that, Bancha... it will violate the animal cruelty act.

A caption: Yesterday, this dog almost made us get caught.

More about Thaksin's cousin Surapong: [Don't Worry Thaksin! Pheu Thai Vows to Return Passport Once It Forms New Government](#)

And one of the all-time best stories about the secret after-hour moves to create a new passport for Thaksin: [The Democrats reveal that Pheu Thai govt secretly issued Thaksin a new passport](#)

11 Years Ago: The Death of Democracy's Bitterest Foe

June 19, 2015

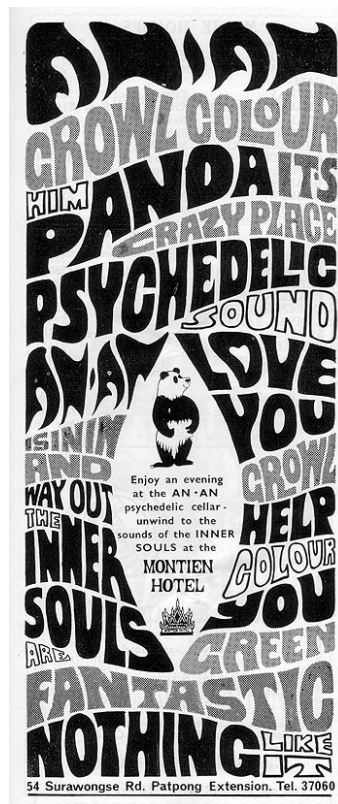
Categories: Today in History

[The Death of Thanom](#)

46 Years Ago: Groovy Bangkok

June 19, 2015

Categories: Today in History



[Groovy Bangkok 1969](#)

Weekly News Magazines, June 12-19, 2015

June 19, 2015

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, 12 June 2015

Main cover reads: Stay longer



From Manager Weekly 13-19 June 2015

Main cover reads: If staying in the power more years, don't forget to 'strip the rank.'



From Matichon Weekly, 12-18 July 2015
Main cover reads: Open KALA Referendum

11 Years ago: Thaksin turns state assets into crony wealth

June 20, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[Thaksin turns state assets into crony wealth](#)

Thaksin speaks

June 22, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, June 3, 2015

Top left: Elite bureaucrats are behind the plan to overthrow me. I know it.

Bottom left: We must have kindness to move forward.

Top right: How will the country be reconciled if I'm still persecuted?

Bottom right: I'm politically persecuted.

2011 election posters: Changing the Diapers of Politics

June 23, 2015

Categories: Elections, Today in History



Memorable posters from the 2011 election

Chuwit

[Chuwit will change the diapers of politics](#)

[How can the people become happy?](#)

Democrats

[Anti-Pheu Thai poster from the Democrats: "I will work for the people, but will not work for any specific man"](#)

But also: [Move forward with the populist policy](#)

And finally: [Strange Democrat Election Poster](#)

Pheu Thai

[Thaksin thinks, Pheu Thai takes action](#)

Bhumjaithai

[Bhumjaithai Party: Populist Policy Makes Happy Society](#)



PAD

[Thaksin = Abhisit](#)

[Vote No!](#)

[PAD Lizard](#)

[“Don’t let these animals into parliament!”](#)

And the result:

[Thai exit polls signal Red Shirt landslide](#)

and [Shinawatrass Pull Off Another Political Magic Act](#)

Govt: No idea when Thailand can comply with international aviation standard—and there's no plan for it either

June 23, 2015

Categories: Airports and Airlines

[Prajin: No idea when DCA able to meet ICAO safety standards](#) – Bangkok Post, June 22, 2015

...After meeting with concerned authorities on solutions to the ICAO's "significant safety concerns" Monday evening, ACM Prajin said the DCA still didn't have a plan on how to address the issues raised by the UN regulatory body.

He said he ordered the department to figure it out by Thursday...

Can't touch him!

June 23, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, June 5, 2015

Title: Catch me... if you can

Above the weapons: Stripping rank; revoke passports; file charges

Phi Nooring: Trying a lot of attempts

A mouse: Hunting around the world

Do you want him to extend his stay?

June 24, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



09-06-58

From Manager, June 9, 2015

Prayuth: If you want me to extend my stay... you'd better beg on your knees... Maybe I will accept it.

On the lady's shirt: Thai people

Caption: Although he seems arrogant... she knows that she doesn't have much choice.

Oh! He's like a god!

June 24, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



12-06-58

From Manager, June 11, 2015

Prayuth: I allow you to have 90 days to live... after you die... I will judge who will be in the heaven... and who will be in the hell!!

Sign behind the men at far left: NRC

Sign in the heavens: National Reform Committee

Sign in hell: Laid off

Caption: Oh! He's like a god!

Legalizing casinos

June 24, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Komchadluek



From Komchadluek, June 24, 2015

On the wall: Casino

Sending Messages: The arrest of Thaksin loyalist Kamronwit in Japan

June 24, 2015

Categories: Analysis, Kamronwit Thoopkrachang



Above: The much discussed photo of Metropolitan Police Commissioner Pol Lt General Kamronwit Thupkrajang who credited his promotion to Thaksin and had Thaksin pin on his new rank insignia.

News of the arrest of Thaksin loyalist Kamronwit Thoopkrachang in Japan while carrying a handgun and ammunition once again places the Thaksin loyalist in the news.

Kamronwit was former Commander of the Metropolitan Police Bureau (purged from his post after the 2014 coup) who gained fame by openly acknowledging that he owed his post to personally lobbying Thaksin in Hong Kong.

The arrest has generated waves of rumors about Kamronwit being set up in retaliation for the recent show of defiance by current Chief of Police Somyot Poompanmuang.

Chief of Police Somyot Poompanmuang's stunning ability to simply reject public calls by the junta to carry out their orders to strip Thaksin of his rank, even after the junta abandoned plans to reorganize the police force, demonstrates the limits of PM Prayuth's absolute power.

Somyot's further trumpeting of an old Thaksin favorite—legalization of gambling—in the face of junta opposition further underlines the continuing ability of the police to resist military influence.

In the Thai world messages are sent by employing hyper partisan figures to go after enemies. Kamronwit, an open Thaksin loyalist, has been part of this strategy when he [personally assigned 13 police officers to investigate the Democrats in 2012](#). He was also front and center when assigning an officer accused in the notorious disappearance of human-rights activist Somchai Neelaphaijit during Thaksin's time as PM to make the arrest in the [Akeyuth murder case](#).

Even if one believes Akeyuth's disappearance and murder was not connected to politics and was not ordered by Thaksin, the very strategic assignment of a police officer, notorious for his involvement in another enforced disappearance, to investigate the case was intended to send a message. The message was that Akeyuth's murder was political retaliation and that the investigation would be quickly closed. It was meant to underline the impunity of the police (and those who control them) and create a climate of fear among those who dare oppose Thaksin.

Kamronwit's arrest in Japan is most likely a fluke unrelated to any conspiracies against him. However, to some who see the incident as a message being sent, it is a strike at high-profile people who are loyal to Thaksin and a warning to those who oppose the new military order that they can be sidelined.

Update: [Jail term awaits Kamronwit in Thailand](#)

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

Below are some past mentions of Kamronwit in the media. His admission that Thaksin decided government promotions from Hong Kong made him a perennial target for editorial cartoonists.



Above: From Manager, January 1, 2014

Commander of the Metropolitan Police Bureau, Pol. Maj. Gen. Kamronwit Thoopkrachang: A third hand shot a policeman and other protesters.

2014: [Thaksin's Songkran message: Let's forgive and forget](#)

...While in Hong Kong, Thaksin is expected to meet with several former Pheu Thai Party MPs and other supporters.

He has already met with Metropolitan Police Bureau chief Kamronwit Thoopkrachang, who has drawn criticism for his outspoken admiration of Thaksin.

2014: [Thai police reshuffle confirms Thaksin Shinawatra's inner circle retain a firm grip on key posts](#)

...Metropolitan Police Bureau (MPB) commissioner Kamronwit Thoopkrachang was given the nod from Thaksin to compile the reshuffle list himself, a police source said.

Despite strong reservations from politicians, Pol Lt Gen Kamronwit's line-up appeared to have taken place without a hitch. It is believed he keeps in direct contact with Thaksin...

2013: Thai editorial cartoon – [If the amnesty bill is ratified... the person in Dubai must hang this sign](#)

2013: Thai editorial cartoon – [Adul and Thaksin](#)



2013: Thai editorial cartoon – [The Ombudsman](#)

2013: Thai editorial cartoon – [The Royal Thai Police Chief must warn Jaed](#)

2013: [Govt sends a signal – Officer accused in disappearance of human-rights activist Somchai brought in to make arrest in the Akeyuth case](#)

2013: [Do police in charge of Akeyuth investigation really owe allegiance to Thaksin?](#)

2013: Thai editorial cartoon – [Weird Logic](#)

...Reference is to a giant Chinese firecracker thrown at the security post of the Thai Rath newspaper office at the middle of the night on May 11. After a preliminary investigation, Pol. Lt. Gen. Kamronvit Thooakkrachang, Commander of the Metropolitan Police Bureau, told the press that it was likely that the unknown suspects aimed to mislead the public to believe the incident was caused by Red Shirts in vengeance of the cartoonist's hate speech against Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra following her speech in Mongolia last month. Since there was no evidence in any direction other than constant protests by angry Red Shirts over previous weeks, it seemed unusual that the police would not then assume some of the Red Shirts were involved as a likely suspect...

2013: Thai editorial cartoon – [Good news brothers...](#)

2012: Thai editorial cartoon – [They Know They Owe Their Jobs to Thaksin](#)

2012: [Thaksin's Police Chief assigns 13 cops to investigate top Democrats](#)

10 Years Ago: Discontent in Thaksin's Thailand

June 25, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[From *The Nation*: EDITORIAL: Arrogance of power breeds discontent](#)

Thai Rak Thai's strict orders to its MPs show contempt for democracy; and the Senate isn't doing anything about it...

[From *Bangkok Post*: Deserving of absolute loyalty-or else!](#)

By zapping critical websites for reasons of national security, the Thai Mai Rak Khrai government has in no uncertain terms told critics to zip it. So let me rush to say I worship our CEO, I kiss the ground beneath his feet—for reasons of personal security...

2 Years Ago: Thai Rath's cartoonist surrenders to face charges of defaming Yingluck

June 25, 2015

Categories: Today in History



[Thai Rath's cartoonist Chai surrenders to face charges of defaming the Prime Minister](#)

Reaction to the casino proposal

June 25, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



26-06-58

From Manager, June 25, 2015

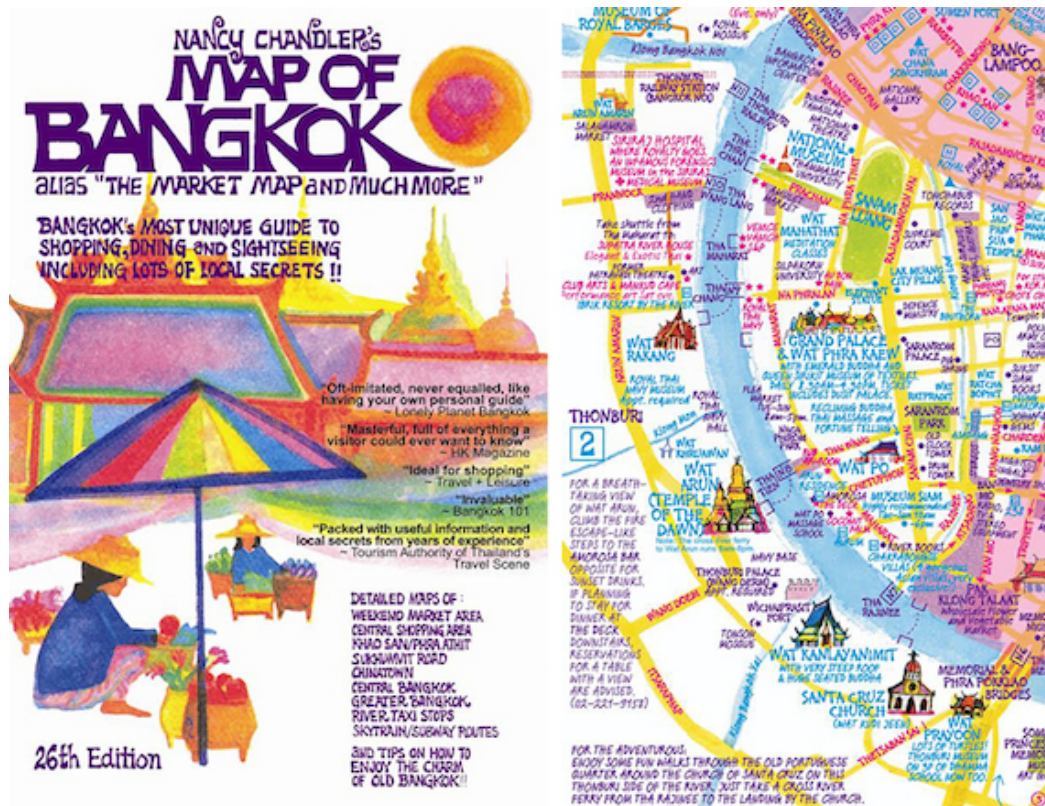
Pol. Gen. Somyot at the doorway: Sir, I've already checked the reaction of the public... towards a casino... and I'd like to report a result to you.

Caption: No need to report it?

Legendary Nancy Chandler 1938-2015

June 25, 2015

Categories: 2Bangkok News, Analysis, Communities, Maps



Before everyone was tweeting every aspect of their environment, there was a time when all expats in Thailand knew of Nancy Chandler. This was before the internet when the only resource for information on Thailand was a Lonely Planet guidebook or possibly Moon's *Southeast Asia Handbook*. Few farang women were a part of Bangkok life and even fewer embraced the disorganized and dense street life.

Against this backdrop, Chandler's take on the Thai environment was a revelation. Her delightful maps cataloged every notable food stall and picturesque alley. She reveled in the disorganization of the urban environment. Her maps were a required purchase for the visitor to Thailand and allowed one to appreciate all the city had to offer.

The maps were the equivalent of tweeting or blogging today—pointing out the little unique details of the environment that would never appear on a “proper” map. These boldly colored maps were works of art on a human scale that stood in contrast to typical maps bent on rigidly documenting streets and borders.

As the years passed, Chandler's groundbreaking style of map-making—maps that enable a walking human to discover other interesting human-scale things in an environment—was copied in many tourist maps around the world and may not seem particularly novel any longer.

But once, it was thrilling to be in Thailand, a completely alien world practically devoid of intelligible information, and crack open the latest Chandler map to find that another person loved the chaos and peculiarities of the Thai landscape as much as you did.

[Celebrating a Life Lived to the Fullest: Nancy Chandler 1938-2015](#)
[Nancy Chandler's unique printed Bangkok Maps](#)

Weekly News Magazines, June 19-26, 2015

June 25, 2015

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



From Nation Weekend, June 19, 2015

Main cover reads: Triumphal war elephant



From Manager Weekly, June 20-16, 2015

Main cover reads: Forget stripping the rank, let's open the casino

A police in the cover: Police Chief Gen. Somyot Poompanmoung
Prayuth in the green circle: Don't oppose the NCPO.



From Matichon Weekly, June 19-25, 2015

Main cover reads: Love will last long if you forgive people's mistake, if not, it will be shortened.

A man on the left: Gen. Preecha Chan-ocha

A man on the right: Gen. Teerachai Nakwanich

One Year Ago: Arun's “Grand Cycle”

June 26, 2015

Categories: Today in History



[Arun's “Grand Cycle”](#)

The big fat pig blocks the drainpipe

June 26, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Komchadluek, June 10, 2015

On the poster: Announcement. Missing governor.



11-06-58

From Manager, June 10, 2015

Man: Here ... Trash blocks the pipe.

On the sign: Bangkok drainage tunnel

Caption: An old cartoon... which still illustrates the current situation

Some things never change: Is the Thai media unprofessional or under pressure?

June 26, 2015

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines

Today: [Thailand to teach journalists how to ask inoffensive questions](#)

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Thursday he was not afraid of the press, days before the government is to hold a meeting to teach journalists how to ask questions that won't offend him. Gaffe-prone Prayuth has had a love-hate relationship with the media during the year since he seized power, at one point saying he would probably "just execute" journalists that "did not report the truth". His office later said the comment was made in jest...

10 Years Ago: [Is the Thai media unprofessional or under pressure from the government?](#)

Dig happiness out of the poor

June 26, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, June 10, 2015

Title: Dig happiness out of the poor

On a shirt of a man lying down: Labor

Words above him: Cancel the 300-baht minimum wage

Two men on the left: Farmer, Rubber farmer

On a man sitting in the chair: Civil officer

On a food he is holding: Salary increases

On plate held by Prayuth: Welfare

Man at top right eating a boot (symbolizing the military): Delicious

Phi Nooring: Return the happiness to whom?

A mouse: They don't sympathize with the labors.

Prayuth: Soon this country will just collapse. And then, you won't have salaries any more

June 26, 2015

Categories: 2014 Coup, Thai Newspapers and Magazines

[Coup leader's lament tells of Thai troubles](#) – FT, June 25, 2015

...Close observers of the general's speeches noted how he wove his familiar polemical blasts with something more melancholy. "No one writes about what I have done," he said, "or when they do, they write so little." "In the end, we cannot fix anything," continued the man whose ultra-paternalistic style has led some opponents to call him "Uncle".

"You have disrupted and brought down the whole system. It doesn't matter how many reforms or coups there are. There's no point. Things will be the same..."

[TJA denies reporters 'ordered' to attack govt](#) – The Nation, June 26, 2015

...Manop said Prayut mentioned news reporting when making the allegation, which suggested he was referring to members of the print media. As a representative of print-media organisations, Manop could not accept the accusation and take no action against it.

Manop said the print media were normally run by private companies and could be audited at any time, while journalists take salaries from companies. So to say that they took "an order" to write news was a "painful" accusation...

[PM accuses some politicians of supporting student protests](#) – Thai PBS, June 26, 2015

Also: [Some things never change: Is the Thai media unprofessional or under pressure?](#)

Why McDonald's in Thailand is the best McDonald's in the world

June 26, 2015

Categories: Food and Drink



Above: [McRice Burger](#)

[Man who has eaten McDonald's in more than 30 countries reveals who does it best](#)

Of all the McDonald's he's tried, Williams says Thailand does it best.

Here are a few reasons he thinks Thailand has the best McDonald's...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Also:

2010: [Waiing Ronald McDonald](#)

2011: [Arrow and McDonalds](#)

2008: [Thai McDonalds](#)

2006: [McRice Burger](#)

2002: [McSomtam](#)

And in recent years McDonalds in Thailand has become associated with the internal struggles of the Red Shirts. The branch at Rajaprasong became a protest venue for Red Shirts who oppose their movement being used as a tool to obtain amnesty for Thaksin: [Dotted buffaloes against the blanket amnesty](#).

And [Durian McFlurry at McDonald's Singapore](#)

11 Years Ago: List of activists killed during the Thaksin era

June 27, 2015

Categories: Today in History

[List of activists killed during the Thaksin era](#)

More money for victims

June 27, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From Thairath, June 11, 2015

Title: Less pay, but safer

On the chair: PM's office permanent secretary

A bag held by ML Panadda Diskul: 400,000 assistance

On the coffin: Victim of the political violence in 2556-2557

On another coffin: Victim of political violence in 2547-2553

A bag on the coffin: Yingluck's government pays 7.9 million per each

Tag on the bag: NACC files a charge

Phi Nooring: Justice shall come first.

A mouse: The price on people's lives is not equal.

Bangkok in 1985, 1987 & 1996

June 27, 2015

Categories: Old photos and films



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=57ObBOKZdsw>



Above: Rajaprasong Intersection, 1987: Site being cleared for the World Trade Center, later renamed Central World (at 8:11).

Above and below are some screenshots from this amazing video. The one thing we note from the 1985 and 1987 segments is the sound of Bangkok. Back then the dominant sound on the streets was the light bassy

buzz from legions of tuk-tuks.



Above: Rajaprasong Intersection, 1987: Looking south. The Erawan shrine is at the far left corner. Today, at the near left corner, is Gaysorn Plaza.



Above: Rajaprasong Intersection, 1987: Looking north. Today, Central World is on the left side.



Above: Asoke intersection, 1987: Looking west down Sukhumvit at the intersection (The “Seafood” building is on the southwest corner of the intersection).

The US has photos of the secret CIA prison in Thailand

June 28, 2015

Categories: Thai Secret Prison

[CIA photos of 'black sites' could complicate Gitmo trials](#) – NYT, June 27, 2015

...The bulk of the photographs depict black sites in Thailand, Afghanistan and Poland. There are fewer shots of prisons in Romania and Lithuania, which were among the last to be used before they were closed in 2006. A former intelligence official who reviewed some of the photographs of the prison in Thailand described them as nondescript.

"It looked like a prison," the former official said. "It all looked acceptable."

A U.S. official said there are also photographs of confinement boxes where detainees such as Abu Zubaydah, who is now at Guantanamo, were forced into for hours...

[More on the secret CIA prison in Thailand](#)

Limits of Prayuth's Power

June 28, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manger, June 18, 2015

PM Prayuth: Here you are!!

Thaksin: Oop! Cute

Caption: Want to knock down Thaksin, but uses the wrong fist.

6 Years Ago: Michael Jackson's death in the Thai-language press

June 29, 2015

Categories: Today in History



[Michael Jackson's death in the Thai-language press](#)

Afraid of a popular uprising?

June 29, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Naewna, June 12, 2015

Title: Are you afraid... are you afraid...

Red Shirt leader Weng shows a skeleton to the prime minister.

Above the skeleton: Weng uses the Oct 14, 1973 to threaten Prayuth.

Even though you know it's a only tiny shrimp, you still eat it

June 29, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



30-06-58

From Manager June 29, 2015

Caption: Even though you know it's only a tiny shrimp, you still eat it.

On a man's shirt: Daodin

Finding a cloth to patch the butt

June 30, 2015

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



Title: Finding a cloth to patch the butt

On Prayuth's butt: Economic problems

Cloth on the left: Borrow from the social welfare fund

Cloth on the right: Collect more taxes

Phi Nooring: Don't be disgraced before the world.

A mouse: A heart of the executive

13 Years Ago: Remembering the grounds of the Siam Intercontinental Hotel

June 30, 2015

Categories: Today in History



[Remembering the grounds of the Siam Intercontinental Hotel](#)

Also: [Last Day at the Intercontinental Hotel](#)

2011: Last Ditch Election Posters

June 30, 2015

Categories: Today in History



[The Democrats: We will not whitewash a certain person](#)



[Pheu Thai Instructions on How to Avoid a Spoiled Ballot](#)

Also: [A review of the 2011 election posters: Changing the Diapers of Politics](#)

