

Where Are We...

You probably guessed already - Yes it is Bangla Road with the picture below taken as it is today. Not a lot of change really except for the paved road.



Quote Of The Month - *Overheard in a Bangla bar.*

When I first came to Thailand 10 years ago, I drove a car and the Thais rode motorbikes. Now I ride a motorbike and the Thais drive Mercedes.

Who's Left Holding The Bag

Security officers at Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport in Montreal, Que., Canada, planted explosives in luggage for a weekly training session for bomb-sniffing dogs -- but lost track of it.

The problem: they mistakenly planted it in a real passenger's bag, rather than a special suitcase set aside for the purpose. The traveller discovered the package, labeled "TNT", in his bag when he arrived home.

(Canadian Press)
...Now you know why they need so much training.



Is it any wonder rural girls from the northeast think all foreigners are wealthy when a place like this crops up next to their humble wooden abode. At 12 million baht it was built because the owner could.

Around The Traps

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With ongoing rent, water, electricity, staff salaries and taxes, you have to sell an awful lot of drinks just to break even let alone make a living out of it. So unless there is a change of heart somewhere, it looks like John will wrap it up before the new lease is due in November.

If you have nothing to do of an afternoon and like movies, a suggestion is to drop into Anton's on Sawadirak Road in Patong and relax in their comfy cane chairs and pick a movie of your choice. Anton's is due to undergo some changes soon and will be trying to cater for the movie watchers and pool-playing crowd. Patong doesn't have anywhere to watch a movie or two in the afternoon and we will have to wait until the "Jungceylon" project is finished before we will finally have a cinema at our disposal. If what I hear from Anton is true about cheap happy hour prices for drinks, it would be a nice way to spend the afternoon during the wet season.

The reason I mention movies is because unless you are set up with UBC or satellite there is not a lot to watch on TV. Cable in Patong is plumbing new depths of a sad and sorry service, to the point where many subscribers are refusing to pay the 500 baht monthly fee. Five years ago there were two movie channels, the Discovery channel and two English language news channels on offer. This has slowly turned into zilch, and the company that has the cable concession in Patong seems oblivious to the fact that to take 500 baht per month from subscribers, you have to supply something in return.

Attempts have been made to contact other cable suppliers on the island to set up in Patong but enquiries have been met with a sorry no can do. It's a shame really when the largest congregation of English speaking tourists and expats alike stay in Patong only to receive the shabbiest service when it comes to cable. If the cable company in Patong cannot give a credible service maybe they should bow out and let someone who can give one do it.

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Motorcycle Helmets



Wearing a helmet when riding a motorbike is required by law in Thailand. As is an International license for the class of vehicle you are driving.

If you are renting a motorbike and plan to carry a pillion passenger make sure you get two helmets.

It is also a requirement to have the headlight on while riding.