

Robbing Hood

If Preecha Jaiboon had known what it was going to lead to, then maybe he would have left the bag where it was. He found two bags that had fallen out of an armoured vehicle while riding home one morning. The bags contained nearly 10 million baht (approx A\$330,000). Being a good Samaritan he took off with the loot and started distributing some of it to the needy in his district. Around fifty of his neighbours shared in 3 million baht by the end of the day.

Unfortunately, the security van staff that had lost the cash were being accused of stealing it and were in custody. Despite their protestations, nobody believed they hadn't concocted a scam to relieve their bank of some money. But when police heard about some unusual wealth from a formerly poor suburb, they figured what happened.

They turned up at 50-year-old Preecha's friend, Somchai Insuwan's, house a couple of days later and found 900,000 baht hidden in the bathroom and another 500,000 baht in the attic, plus a gold necklace, a gold bracelet, a mobile phone and a DVD player, all brand new. Preecha had left the cash there for safekeeping.

Police arrested both Preecha and Somchai and appealed to all those folks who received money to hand it back. Much of it was, but there is still about 1 million baht outstanding.

Ghosts Keep The Kiddies In Check

Young children around the world are usually told stories by their parents about monsters and boogie men that will come out and get them if they do bad things.

In Thailand's northern province of Lampang, schools are running a pilot project promoting belief in "ancestor ghosts" in order to discourage children from taking drugs and engaging in premarital sex.

The idea is basically the same; if you indulge in the above retribution by the

ghosts of dead ancestors will surely follow. Ghost expert (never realised there was such a title), Adul Dunagdeethaweerat explained to the Nation newspaper that prior to the program, students didn't think they could learn anything from the older generation because of their (older generation) lack of formal education.

Now with the older generation putting the fear of ancestral ghosts into the youngsters' imagination, families have grown closer together.

Yep, keep 'em scared...

Thai Embassy Re-opens In Cambodia

The Thai Embassy in Phnom Penh has reopened a year after it was burned down during anti-Thai riots. Cambodian youths went on a rampage against anything Thai after a comment attributed to a Thai actress in local newspapers suggested that Angkor Wat should be returned to Thailand.

Local authorities at the time did little to stop the destruction while the Thai government had to airlift its citizens out of the country. Relations between the two countries were suspended soon after.

The embassy has been re-opened after settlement of a US\$6 million damages bill.

Phuket Air Traffic Increases

Air passenger traffic to Phuket has broken the half-million mark for the first time with 509,841 visitors coming and going in January.

This is the first time the half-million figure has been exceeded in a single

calendar month. During the same period last year 390,109 people arrived or departed Phuket airport.

The figures don't take into account those arriving on the island by car or bus.

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- > KOKOS เปิดบริการ จ. - ศ 9:00-17:30
- > งาน Education Fair 17-18 Oct 2003 ณ Alexander Library
- > นักเขียนไทยสามารถติดต่อคุณเพ็ญภา ภากรณ์ (ที่ปรึกษาไทย)

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