

## Unit 7

# Political News

### What Is Political News?

Political news covers such political events or issues as elections, no-confidence or censure debates, political parties, parliamentary meetings, corruption, impeachment, social welfare for children and women, political campaigns, lobbies, coup d' état, foreign policy, the national budget, political protests, riots, labor issues, strikes, and political activities performed by government officials.

### Related Vocabulary:

**People:** attaché, politician, Premier (Prime Minister, PM), deputy prime minister, Cabinet, (Cabinet reshuffle, Cabinet shake up, Cabinet line-up), ally (alliance), candidate, government, coalition government, political party, core member, Democratic party, Conservative party, Labor party, Communist party, opposition party, majority party, coalition party, faction, government spokesman, House Speaker (president of the parliament), minister, senator, party leader, party member, parliament member (MP), dissident, secretary-general, delegation, delegate, diplomatic corps, charge d' affairs, lobbyist, village headman, sub-district headman, voter, ghost voter, guerrilla, rebel terrorist, separatist, junta, troop, trooper, Khmer Rouge, peace keeping force, top brass.



to merge	to sweep all the seats
to be transferred to an inactive post	
to keep a low profile	to urge
to step down	to negotiate
to appoint	to be newly appointed
to stage an election	to denounce
to announce	to campaign
to take an oath of allegiance	to be sworn in
to voice opposition	to reform
to disqualify	to discredit
to schedule	to investigate
to snap	to rap
to snub	to find fault with
to discuss	to oust
to strengthen the relations between the two countries	
to review the honour guard	to get green lights
to chair a meeting	to petition

**Adjectives:** mandatory, parliamentary, eligible, current, military, civilian, martial, neutral, extreme, bilateral, newly-appointed, newly-elected, rural, remote, urban, leading, eminent, prominent, executive, competitive, contradictory, aggressive, controversial, ministerial, deligatory, standard, sub-standard, **scandalous**, presidential, deadlocked, identified, unidentified, nationwide, worldwide, high rank.

11/15

**Adverbs:** unanimously, bilaterally, simultaneously, nationally, internationally, globally, actually, properly, wrongly, deliberately, individually, unnecessarily, eventually, initially, recently, finally, mutually, significantly, importantly, generally, commonly.

## Political Headlines

The following are some political headlines. Pay attention to the number and choice of words in each headline.

<i>Sanan hints at year-endpolls</i>	(6 words)
<i>NAP hits back at PM over vote-buying charges</i>	(9 words)
<i>Chuan to advocate recovery plan and <b>foreign</b> aid strategy</i>	(9 words)
<i>MP denies guilt in hit-and run-charge and refuses to quit</i>	(12 words)
<i>Vetoed bills cleared by the cabinet</i>	(7 words)
<i>Prapat spurns indirect toll cut proposal</i>	(6 words)
<i>Unregistered supplies used in health scam</i>	(6 words)
<i>Investigation leads to 30 corrupt <b>officials</b></i>	(6 words)
<i>Samak looks for ways to expel rebels</i>	(7 words)
<i>NAP top brass likely to retain their posts</i>	(8 words)
<i>Suthep, <b>Snan</b> defend airport</i>	(4 words)
<i>PM to boost <b>lendings</b> to farmers</i>	(6 words)
<i>Academics asked to help govt</i>	(5 words)
<i><b>Surin</b> in bid to end “non-interference”</i>	(6 words)
<i><b>Anand</b> wants govt to seek new solutions</i>	(7 words)

## Identifying Political News

### *The Cabinet*

*Premier denies reports of Cabinet reshuffle*

*The Nation. Reuters*

*Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai yesterday denied reports that a Cabinet reshuffle was imminent, saying none of his coalition partners had expressed any intention of changing its ministerial line-up.*

*“I have checked with all government parties, and they seem surprised by such reports, ” Chuan said.*

*He also denied knowledge of reports that some MPs were planning to defect to his Democrat Party. However, Chuan hinted his party was ready to help MPs from the Prachakorn Thai Party’s “cobra “faction who faced expulsion from their party.*

*“They have supported the government, so we will have to take care of them when problems occur, ” Chuan said.*

(From *The Nation*, Monday, June 15, 1998)

## Vocabulary:

**Nouns:** Prime Minister Cabinet reshuffle coalition partners  
ministerial lineup member of parliament faction  
expulsion intention cobra

**Verbs:** to deny to express to plan to defect  
to hint to check to face

## idioms and expressions:

to deny doing something or to deny + a noun  
none of + a plural noun  
to defect to to be ready to

## The 5 Ws and H:

**who:** Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai

**What:** Reports say that there would be a Cabinet reshuffle and **PM Chuan Leekpai denied it. He also said that he was** ready to help the “Cobra” faction from Prachakorn Thai Party.

**Where:** At the Government House

**When:** Yesterday

**Why:** There would be no Cabinet shake up because none of the government coalition partners had shown any sign of changing their ministerial posts. Also Chuan wanted to help the “Cobra” faction because its members had supported the government.

**How:** The news of the Cabinet reshuffle came from some unidentified reports. PM Chuan Leekpai checked with the government parties to make sure that none of them wanted the ministerial line-up.

### *A No-Confidence Debate*

*Opposition raps government in no-confidence debate Bangkok — Opposition leaders last night accused the government of ignoring corruption in land distribution, police promotions and skytrain construction, calling for a vote of no-confidence in the entire cabinet.*

*“This government has sold the nation, sold its face and robbed every taxpayer in this country,” Prachakset Party leader Arun Damnerncheep said in a nationally televised debate in the National Assembly.*

*Opening the debate on a motion of no-confidence in the government, Arun focused on corruption in the land department which he said has allowed large agribusiness corporations to purchase huge tracts of land set aside for small farmers.*

*“Land reform under this government has benefited only the big companies, The small farmer has been cheated of his land and turned into a wage slave of agribusiness,” he said.*

*He said Prime Minister Chairat Champasiri should resign to take overall responsibility while Interior Minister Tirapol Tongrakdee and Agriculture Minister Chirikul Na Sukhothai should be charged with corruption.*

*In reply to accusations, Chirikul demanded documentary proof, saying he would be happy to launch an investigation if “the charges are anything more than hot air.”*

(From *English by Newspaper*, p. 126)

**Vocabulary:**

**Nouns:**

opposition (party)	no-confidence	debate
corruption	land	distribution
police promotions	skytrain	construction
the Cabinet	taxpayer	
motion	wage	slave
accusation	documentary	proof
hot air	refonn	

**Verbs:**

to rap	to accuse
to sell	to rob
to focus on	to purchase
to reform	to <b>turn</b> into
to be cheated	to resign
to charge	to demand



to benefit

to launch

**Idioms and expressions:**

to accuse someone of something (of doing something)

to rob someone of something

to focus on

to set aside for

to be cheated of

to turn into

in reply to

anything more than hot air

**Who:**

Opposition party.

Prime Minister **Chairat** Champasiri, Interior Minister Tirapol Tongrakdee and Agriculture Minister Chirikul Na Sukhothai

**What:**

Opposition party, Prachakaset leader **Arun** Damnemcheep accused Prime Minister **Chairat** Champasiri and his two ministers of ignoring corruption in land distribution, police promotions and **skytrain** construction. Thus he should resign. Agriculture minister Chirikul Na Sukhothai wanted documentary proof from the opposition to confirm his corruption charge. He said he was happy to be investigated.

**where:**

In a no-confidence debate at the Parliament.

**When:**

Last night when the censure debate was nationally televised.

**Why:**

The opposition party wanted the PM to resign to show his overall responsibility. Minister Chirikul Na Sukhothai demanded documentary proof so that he could set up an investigation team for the accusation.

*How:* The opposition called for a vote of no-confidence in the entire Cabinet. Minister Chirikul Na Sukhothai was happy to set up an investigation over the charges.

## Activities

### Exercise 1

Arrange the following information in the correct order to make a good political news story by writing **1,2,3.. . .** in the space provided.

..... Thanusak said he submitted a recording of the meeting to prove that the party leader and executive board violated party regulations and to show that the meeting did not comprise 40 to 50 members as claimed by some party members.

..... Prachakorn Thai MP Thanusak Lekuthai of Uttaradit said the party's executive board meeting on Monday violated party regulations, the political party law and the Constitution.

..... **Prachakorn Thai rebels petition election panel**

..... Thanusak ruled out seeking emergency protection from the Civil Court, saying that would be unnecessary since he believed the Election Commission would take the group's complaint into consideration,

..... The party's Regulation 43 stipulates that punishing any party member needs the consent of at least 20 party members. The meeting on Monday, however, was based on only **Sanit**

Srisamdaeng's proposal. Monday's meeting also violated the party's Regulation 45 which states that accused member must be given the chance to prove their innocence.

(From *The Nation*, Thursday, June 11, 1998)

## Exercise 2

From the political news above, identify the 5 Ws and H.

*Who:* .....

.....

*What:* .....

.....

.....

*Where:* .....

.....

.....

*When:* .....

*Why:* .....

.....

*How:* .....

.....

### Exercise 3

Remove all the unnecessary words in the following sentences. You may need to rewrite some of them.

1. The Cabinet held a meeting for the purpose of checking plans for the new budget.

.....

2. PM Chuan Leekpai decided to make a journey to Malaysia to join the APEC summit.

.....

3. The no-confidence debate will be held beginning at 9 am. in the morning.

.....

4. Voters are asked to bring I.D. cards with them.

.....

5. The committee gave its approval.

.....

6. It was the consensus of opinion that the debate was cancelled.

.....

7. When PM Chuan Leekpai delivered his speech, all the representatives in the Parliament were in silence.

.....

8. At this point in time, the government can solve the traffic problem.

.....

9. The government is now in a very unique situation.

.....

10. For a period of one month this year, the Democrat Party had its office renovated.

.....

#### **Exercise 4**

Choose the best headline for the following lead.

A group of “young blood” New Aspiration Party  
MPs plans to quit and set up a new political party  
If their recent push for party reforms fails.

..... *Young blood NAP sets up new political party*

..... *Young MPs leave NAP*

..... *NAP expels young blood group*

..... *Young blood N.A.P reforms party*

..... *Young reformers likely to quit NAP*

Saraburi-- The Chat Thai Party yesterday held its annual meeting with its leader, **Banharn Silpa-archa**, emphasising the party’s role in developing the agricultural sector to help the country out of the economic slump.

- ..... *CTP holds annual meeting*
- ..... *Banharn meets with CTP members*
- ..... *Banharn develops agriculture*
- ..... *Agricultural sector causes economic slump*
- ..... *Banharn lays emphasis on agricultural sector*