

Thai junta orders free World Cup TV for all

14th June, 2014



Thailand has seen its fair share of upheaval and turmoil in the past few years. In an attempt to quell public unrest over the next month, the ruling military junta has ordered national broadcasters to air all games of the soccer World Cup for free. Many Thais are under curfew but the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) believes they will be happy if they can watch World Cup games for free. This will please poorer Thais who could not afford the special digital box needed to view the games. The NCPO arranged that all matches would be televised for free on the army-owned stations. It is not such good news for the satellite channel RS, which paid over \$20 million for the broadcasting rights.

NCPO leader Prayuth Chan-ocha said the move is to "return happiness to the Thai people". It is part of the junta's "happiness campaign" aimed at winning hearts and minds following last month's coup. The campaign has also seen free concerts and free haircuts for the poor. The junta is also promising to subsidise farmers, cap the costs of basic foods and start major infrastructure projects. Many soccer-mad Thais will have to watch the free games at home as there is a late-night curfew in most of the country. Thailand's national team is ranked 149th in the world rankings and has never qualified for the World Cup Finals. The tournament began on June the 12th and will finish on July the 13th.

Sources: *Bangkok Post* / *BBC* / *CTVNews.ca*

Writing

Governments should focus on happiness and not wealth. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

fair share / upheaval / past few years / broadcasters / under curfew / televised / rights / happiness / free concerts / subsidise farmers / infrastructure / rankings / qualified

True / False

- The article says Thailand has seen an unfair share of unrest. T / F
- The Thai junta has ordered Internet providers to show live TV. T / F
- Poorer Thai people could not afford the equipment for the World Cup. T / F
- The article says the Junta will pay a satellite channel \$20 million. T / F
- The junta wants to make Thais happier with free World Cup games. T / F
- The junta has also given people free haircuts. T / F
- The Thai football team is in the world top 100. T / F
- Thailand last qualified for the World Cup in 1978. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. turmoil | a. give back |
| 2. quell | b. watch |
| 3. free | c. support |
| 4. view | d. limit |
| 5. channel | e. calm |
| 6. return | f. got through |
| 7. aimed | g. station |
| 8. subsidise | h. disorder |
| 9. cap | i. targeted |
| 10. qualified | j. no charge |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of Thailand's "happiness campaign"?
- What does your country do to make you happy?
- Should major sporting events be free on TV?
- What unrest has your country seen in recent years?
- What free things do the poor get in your country?
- Do you think free World Cup TV will make the junta popular?
- How popular is the FIFA World Cup in your country?
- Would free movies be better than free World Cup games?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Thailand has seen its fair | a. air all games |
| 2. In an attempt to quell | b. costs of basic foods |
| 3. broadcasters to | c. owned stations |
| 4. free on the army- | d. and minds |
| 5. \$20 million for the | e. share of upheaval |
| 6. return happiness | f. broadcasting rights |
| 7. winning hearts | g. curfew |
| 8. cap the | h. public unrest |
| 9. a late-night | i. for the World Cup Finals |
| 10. never qualified | j. to the Thai people |

Discussion – Student B

- Is it better for a government to focus on happiness or wealth?
- What has your government done to win your heart and mind?
- What do you think of military coups?
- Do you think governments should cap the price of basic foods?
- How would you feel if there was a curfew in your country?
- How interested are you in the World Cup?
- What things should all governments provide for free?
- What questions would you like to ask the junta's leader?

Spelling

- its fair share of hvpalaeu and turmoil
- an attempt to llequ public unrest
- Many Thais are under frwuec
- could not adorff the special digital box
- eelistvde for free
- \$20 million for the dsatbgincoar rights
- happiness agnpcmai
- last month's pcuo
- sdiubesz (USA) / siubised (UK) farmers
- urertnufscira projects
- never idlfagieu for the World Cup Finals
- The ttuernonam began on June

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. g
6. a	7. i	8. c	9. d	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Public transport

You think public transport is the most useful thing to make available for free. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so useful about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): the Internet, healthcare or loans.

Role B – Internet

You think the Internet is the most useful thing to make available for free. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so useful about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): public transport, healthcare or loans.

Role C – Healthcare

You think healthcare is the most useful thing to make available for free. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so useful about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): the Internet, public transport or loans.

Role D – Loans

You think loans are the most useful things to make available for free. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so useful about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): the Internet, healthcare or public transport.

Speaking –

Rank these with your partner. Put the free things you want most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| • phone calls | • education |
| • public transport | • museums |
| • Internet | • movies |
| • healthcare | • water |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.