

**Devastating
Deluge**

Thailand in Crisis



Croc Alive on the streets of Nonthaburi!

Bangkokians no longer greet each other with “sawasdee kah” (how are you?) or “kin kao ree-ang” (have you eaten?) . These days, the standard opening line is more likely to be “ Nam Touam ree-ang?”(Is it flooded yet where you are?) Thailand has and is still battling one of the biggest disasters in her history, as she faces the ravaging waters running from the north and ready to burst into inner Bangkok. The floods in some 20 northern and central provinces has already affected more than 800,000 households, not counting the 12 million in Bangkok who have had to find high ground and refuge for themselves, their belongings, their cars Thousands of cars now line the sides of most highways in the city as most people are not taking chances with news of flash floods and the sudden surge of water coming up to 3 metres in just a couple of hours.

While this has so far only claimed 360 lives, it has affected thousands, if not several million as nine industrial estates have been submerged, meaning the loss of jobs for thousands, whole rural provinces have been submerged, homes lost, offices closed and you can imagine the domino effect of industry and business.



Wall to wall mattresses at the Thammasat evacuation centre which closed today, as waters have broken through the dykes



Taking only the Essentials; what really matters!



Aerial view of the flooding in Pathumthani, and (right) cars parked along the highway.



Having the waters run into Bangkok means that this disaster affects everyone, rich & poor & every class of society. Food supply is scarce as panic-stricken residents stock up on essentials, and this problem is compounded by the shortage fresh vegetables, fruits, eggs, & meat due to the inundation of farms as well as the main highways from north to south. Being that Bangkok is so built up, it will take weeks before the waters can recede & make their way to the sea. The government estimates that it will take perhaps six more weeks before the cleanup can begin. It's really stressful for many, many people

who have so far remained unscathed from the previous other disasters that have hit Thailand, often mainly in the provinces and rural areas.



Store shelves emptied by panic buying.