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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2013 ♦ 30 BAHT

Authorities seizing Pracha assets

3-billion-baht fire truck and boat
seizure deal.

Pracha was handed a 12-year prison
term and Pol Maj Gen Athilak a 10-year

Pracha said Amlo will look
at the court's ruling for sections related
to illegally gained assets.

There is a clear indication of ill-
gotten assets, the agency will assign its
investigation committee to proceed with
the matter, he said.

Pracha said financial institutions will be
asked to provide information about the
assets for asset confiscation con-
sideration.

Pracha said he did not
know if the National Anti-Corruption
Commission (NACC) had made any
findings about alleged unusual wealth
in connection with the fire vehicle pro-
secution case.

Pracha said a criminal case like the fire truck

and boat deal, Amlo will step in to con-
sider asset confiscation after the case is
finalised, he said.

Based on the asset declaration report
filed by Pracha to the NACC one year
after leaving office as the tourism and
sports minister on Sept 19, 2007, he
had assets worth 623.9 million baht
and liabilities worth 3.72 billion baht.

His spouse had assets worth 55.9
million baht and zero debts.

The breakdown of the assets showed
he had 218.1 million baht in bank depos-
its, 148.6 million baht worth of invest-
ments and 82 plots of land worth 154.9
million baht. Pracha also had 1 million
shares worth 100 million baht in Malee-
nont Tower Co.

The ex-minister was a founding mem-
ber of TVB Three Network, which was
set up in 1996. The company was partly
owned by TVB (Overseas) Co, which
had a registered address in Bermuda.

Pracha is a board member of 20 com-
panies including Bangkok Entertain-
ment Co, operator of Channel 3, PM
Energy Co, Wave Entertainment Co and
Thai Solar Energy Co.

He was among five people indicted
by the NACC for malfeasance and price
collusion over the purchase of 315 fire
trucks and 30 fire boats for the Bangkok
Metropolitan Administration. Pracha
oversaw City Hall while he was deputy
interior minister.

Chakkrit Srivali, deputy chief of the
Information Department at the Foreign
Ministry, said no request had been sub-
mitted to ask the ministry to help bring
Pracha back following the conviction.

He said immigration authorities are
likely to be able to confirm if Pracha has
left the country. According to Mr Chakkrit,
there has been no request from the Justice
Ministry seeking the cancellation of Pra-
cha's passport.

Meanwhile, Pol Col Pichai Kriangwat-
tanasiri, director of City Hall's Disaster
Prevention and Mitigation Department,
said the BMA cannot do anything with
the fire trucks and boats as a result of
the court ruling.

He said the vehicles will remain where
they are until the international court of
arbitration rules on the dispute.

He said that as far as he knows the
fire truck engines are in good condition
while other parts have deteriorated over
time. If the BMA would commission
the vehicles, repair work would cost
millions of baht, he said.

A source in the BMA's legal affairs
department said the ruling is considered
to be in favour of City Hall, which has
a number of cases pending in court.

Stoking flames of corruption: Page 3
'No business repercussions': Page B1

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

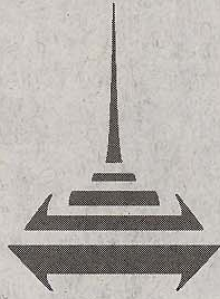
Ministry puts 3-week cap on egg prices

The Commerce Ministry has frozen egg
prices, set by egg producers, at 3.5 baht
each for three weeks to help ease soaring
living costs.

The price cap will see the retail price
of hens' eggs pegged at between 3.9 and
4 baht each against prices which had
surged to 5 baht for the largest size (Size
0) and over 4 baht for smaller sizes.

The move came as around 300 pro-
testers rallied in front of the ministry
yesterday demanding it curb the rise in
consumer product prices following the
government's hike in cooking gas prices

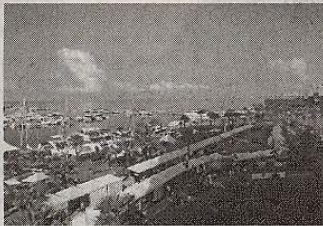




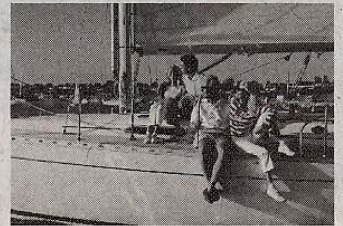
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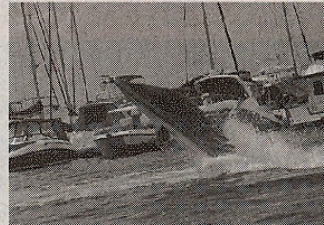
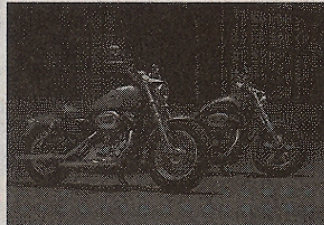
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