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19th – 20th September 2013
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Cops warn of arson

Piya says South rubber protest poised to flare

POST REPORTERS

Protesting rubber farmers in Nakhon Si Thammarat's Cha-Uat district have threatened to torch government office buildings and capture senior officers, Royal Thai Police spokesman Piya Uthayo claimed yesterday.

Citing intelligence reports, Pol Maj Gen Piya said some groups intend to use violence and burn government office buildings. They are also planning to capture senior officials, such as the provincial governor and district office chief, he said.

Police are keeping a close watch on those groups, Pol Maj Gen Piya said, adding that Royal Thai Police chief Adul Saengsingkaew had stressed the need for riot police to comply with international crowd control principles in handling the protest.

Riot officers must try to keep a distance between themselves and the protesters to avoid clashes, he said.

But if the protesters use violence which endangers the public, the authorities must step up the scale of crowd control measures according to the extent of the threat.

Riot police must comply with the law by warning the protesters of crowd control measures, such as the use of tear gas.

There must also be a senior official responsible for directing crowd control operations and who is accountable for the decisions, Pol Maj Gen Piya said.

He said police had to use tear gas to disperse the protesters who blockaded the Khuan Nong Hong intersection in Cha-uat district on Monday, as they refused to move despite being issued with a tear gas warning.

The protesters threw acid at police so the police had to use tear gas to



Rubber farmers use burnt police vehicles yesterday to block a road near Khuan Nong Hong to protest over low rubber prices. PATIPAT JANTHONG

public disaster prevention law, which has been invoked to handle the protesters, will be extended for another 24 hours.

Under the law, the governor has declared Khuan Nong Hong intersection off-limits to the public.

The law is intended to keep members of the public away from the protest site for their own safety. It was not a measure to limit their freedom of movement, Mr Wiroj said.

A source at the cabinet meeting yesterday said Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra was worried the protest could adversely affect foreign confidence in the country's economy.

the rubber farmers' protest.

Ms Yingluck said at a meeting yesterday that the protest was a local issue and the authorities should still deal with them under the public disaster prevention law.

Deputy secretary-general Thawat Boonlathong said the government will not yet issue a harsher security law under the Internal Security Act (ISA) area.

The government has asked Wiroj and police to control the protest.

The ISA will not be used, local authorities recommended.

West pushes UN on Syria

Western powers are poised to press for a UN resolution to rid Syria of chemical weapons, one day after a report by the world body described a "chilling" sarin gas attack there.

World, P5

4 held for BTS wire theft

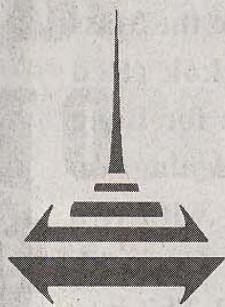
Four men have been arrested for allegedly colluding in the theft of copper wire from beneath BTS Skytrain tracks.

Round-up, P2

School staff protest pay

School employees under the Office of the Basic Education Commission protested at Government House and the Education Ministry yesterday demanding a pay rise.

National, P4



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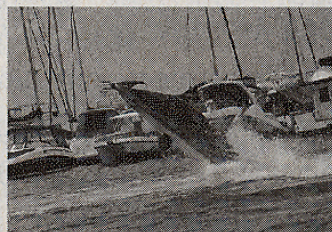
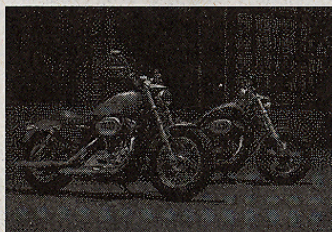
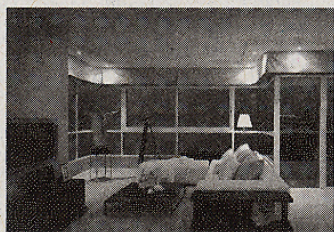
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