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MONDAY, JULY 13, 2015 + 30 BAHT

Govt defends guards for Uighurs on jet

China had to 'enforce strict security steps'

BANGKOK POST AND AGENCIES

Thai authorities have come out to defend China's treatment of the Uighur migrants it deported to that country after a picture showing Uighurs seated on a plane with black hoods over their heads and flanked by police went viral on social media.

The Uighurs, each of whom is accompanied by a guard, were among those sent to China by the Thai government last week.

According to the state television broadcaster of China, CCTV, the Uighurs sent from Thailand, and who ended up on the plane, were mainly from the country's western Xinjiang region and were attempting to enter Turkey and join the jihad in Syria and Iraq. Thirteen of them were also terror suspects.

The Thai government sent 109 Uighurs to China last week.

No details were available on where the



Uighurs being deported from Thailand are seated inside a plane flanked by police wearing face masks at an unidentified location in China on Thursday, in this still image taken from CCTV. REUTERS

picture was taken or where the Uighurs ended up.

Thailand's government deputy

spokesman, Weerachon Sukhondhapatipak, yesterday said the Chinese authorities "deserved to be understood" for the way

they handled the migrants on the plane.

Chinese authorities needed to enforce strict security measures to prevent any resistance or attempts to hijack the aircraft, Maj Gen Weerachon said.

"It is part of the Chinese authority's security measures," he said, adding that Beijing has assured Thailand it will ensure justice for migrants suspected of breaking the law when they arrive back to face trials.

Thailand has been criticised by the UN, the European Union and human rights groups for repatriating the 109 Uighurs back to China, where activists say they face persecution.

All of the Uighur migrants held by the government should have been sent to Turkey, which has accepted Uighurs in the past.

While human rights activists have condemned the Chinese authorities' treatment of the migrants, Beijing has said it is ready to welcome observers from Thailand and international organisations to witness the trials.

Angkhana Neelapajit, chairwoman of the Working Group for Peace and Justice, slammed Chinese authorities for the degrading treatment of the deported

migrants on the plane.

"It is an inhumane and cruel act to deport the migrants with hoods over their heads," Ms Angkhana said.

The treatment is the opposite of the assurance given by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha that the Chinese authorities would treat the deported Uighurs migrants well, she said.

Even though Thailand is a signatory to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishments, the government failed to comply to it with its deportation of the Uighurs to China, Ms Angkhana said.

"Uighurs accused of committing offences are still considered innocent until proven guilty in court, and they should deserve better treatment and their human dignity should be respected," she said.

Thailand's decision to send more than 100 Uighurs to China last week also sparked outrage in Turkey.

A total of 180 ethnic Uighur refugees out of a group of more than 350 held in Thailand since early this year have now been sent to Turkey, and 109 deported to China.

The group sent to Turkey comprises 144 children and 36 women, and to China, 85

men and 24 women.

A further 52 remain in Thailand while their nationalities are being verified.

Prime Minister Prayut will today chair a meeting of the National Security Council, during which a final decision is expected on whether Thai authorities will be sent to China to monitor the condition of the Uighurs.

Maj Gen Sansern Kaewkamnerd, another deputy government spokesman, said the government has taken the best course of action to deal with the Uighur migrants.

The migrants entered the country illegally and there is evidence some of them committed transgressions in their country of origin.

Once their nationality is verified, the government has no choice but to send them back, Maj Gen Sansern said.

Migrants who are not guilty of any wrongdoing and will be sent to a country of their choice once their nationality is checked, he said.

Govt faces Uighur backlash: Page 3
Think Pragmatic: Page 11

Creditors, Athens race to reach deal

BRUSSELS: Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras called for an "honest compromise" to stay in the euro last night as his creditors questioned whether he'll make good on his promises.

Finance ministers were divided over granting Greece a third bailout. "The situation is extremely difficult if you consider the economic situation in Greece and the worsening in the last few months, but what has been lost also in terms of trust and reliability," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said.

Mr Tsipras won a stay of execution as he arrived at the summit and a meeting of the 28 EU leaders was cancelled. BLOOMBERG

Full report: Page 9
Opinion: Page 10

DROUGHT



Irrigation authorities instruct workers to speed up replenishing water supplies in Khlong Rapeepat to ensure there is enough water for the Provincial Waterworks Authority's Thanyaburi branch, Pathum Thani to produce tap water. PHOTOS BY APICHT JINAKUL

PWA suspends tap water supply

POST REPORTERS

The Provincial Waterworks Authority's (PWA) plant in Pathum Thani's Thanyaburi district has suspended supplying tap water to households in Thanyaburi, Lam Luk Ka and Nong Sua districts due to the water shortage.

Pathum Thani governor Pongsathorn Sajjacholaphan has declared the three districts disaster zones.

Local administration bodies have been instructed to use water and fire trucks to deliver clean water to residents.

Residents from Khlong 5 to Khlong 15 in Thanyaburi district and everyone in Lam Luk Ka and Nong Sua districts will be affected by the suspension of tap water.

The decision was made after Khlong 13, which supplies raw water to the Thanyaburi plant, dried up.

"Pathum Thani is now suffering the heaviest drought in 30 years. All the main rivers and tributaries have dried up," Mr Pongsathorn said.

The Thanyaburi plant usually supplies tap water to more than 50,000 households in the three districts.

The governor said the provincial authority has asked the Royal Irrigation Department to pump water from the Chao Phraya River into canals to send water through Chulalongkorn watergate to Khlong 1 and then to Khlong 13.

Residents in Muang, Sam Khok and other districts have not been affected

because plants in those areas can take water directly from the Chao Phraya River to produce tap water.

Meanwhile, residents in Lop Buri have struggled to gain access to tap water for three days after the water level in the Chai Nat-Pasak irrigation canal dropped.

The drop in the water level was caused by farmers pumping water from the irrigation canal to their crops, irrigation authorities said.

Regional Irrigation Office 10 authorities said they had submitted letters to the governors of four provinces, Nakhon Sawan, Chai Nat, Lop Buri and Saraburi, asking farmers not to use water in the canal for agricultural purposes, but it did not work.

The Regional Irrigation Office 10's chief



Residents in the Khlong 12 area of tambon Bung Nam Rak, Thanyaburi district in Pathum Thani province bring plastic buckets and containers to receive water from Sanan Rak municipality yesterday.

Phanukit Dissapung said authorities are trying to replenish the water supply in the Chai Nat-Pasak irrigation canal to ensure there is enough for tap water.

The Irrigation Department's deputy director-general Suthep Noiphairoj said a sub-committee on water analysis and

monitoring will meet today to discuss water discharges from the four main dams: Bhumibol in Tak, Sirikit in Uttaradit, Kwae Noi Bamrung Dan in Phitsanulok and Chai Nat and Pasak Jolasid in Lop Buri.

The main topics of discussion will be climate assessment and rainfall, he said.

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Beijing	24	37	clr
Brunei	23	33	my
Chengdu	23	33	cdy
Guangzhou	26	35	clr
Hanoi	24	31	clr
Ho Chi Minh City	27	33	cdy
Hong Kong	27	33	clr
Jakarta	24	31	my
Karachi	30	35	my
Kuala Lumpur	25	34	clr
Kunming	17	28	cdy
Manila	26	32	my
Melbourne	5	12	my
New Delhi	22	28	my
Seoul	24	35	cdy
Shanghai	24	29	my
Singapore	26	33	clr
Sydney	10	19	my
Taipei	26	31	my
Tokyo	21	30	cdy
Xian	22	33	cdy

The Americas

City	Min	Max	WF
Boston	20	32	clr
Brasilia	16	28	cdy
Buenos Aires	11	16	my
Chicago	20	26	cdy
Dallas	24	36	clr
Lima	16	22	cdy
Los Angeles	17	26	fog
Mexico City	12	23	cdy
Miami	27	31	cdy
New York	22	31	clr
Ottawa	12	24	cdy
San Francisco	14	18	my
Santiago	7	15	my
Vancouver	17	24	clr
Washington	23	32	clr

Europe, Africa & Middle East

City	Min	Max	WF
Amsterdam	14	21	my
Athens	20	33	clr
Belgrade	16	32	clr
Berlin	14	25	cdy
Cairo	23	34	clr
Cape Town	10	12	my
Copenhagen	13	18	my
Dubai	33	42	my
Frankfurt	17	26	cdy
Geneva	17	30	clr
Johannesburg	7	20	clr
Kuwait	31	47	clr
Lisbon	17	27	clr
London	16	20	cdy
Moscow	20	27	cdy
Paris	15	24	cdy
Qatar	30	42	clr
Rome	22	35	clr
Vienna	16	31	clr
Warsaw	10	25	clr
Zurich	16	28	clr

THAILAND WEATHER

BANGKOK

Cloudy with scattered thundershowers.
Min. 25°C Max. 38°C
Rise: 5:57am Set: 6:50pm
Rise: 3:21am Set: 4:24pm

FORECAST LEGEND

- Sunny
- Partly cloudy
- Thundershowers
- Rain
- Cloudy
- Windy
- Waves
- Cold

WEATHER TODAY

A monsoon trough lies across the upper North and the upper Northeast. Decreasing rain over the North. A strong southwesterly monsoon over the Andaman Sea, the South and the Gulf of Thailand will bring more rain to the southern west coast. Wind waves up to 2-3m high in the Andaman Sea and the Gulf.

Region	Min	Max	WF
North	24	38	Cloudy with widely scattered thundershowers.
Northeast	24	37	Cloudy with scattered thundershowers.
Central	25	38	Cloudy with scattered thundershowers.
East & Coastal	26	36	Cloudy with scattered thundershowers and isolated heavy rain. Waves 2-3m.
South (east coast)	23	35	Cloudy with scattered thundershowers. Waves 2-3m.
South (west coast)	23	33	Cloudy with widespread thundershowers. Waves 2-3m.

BANGKOK AIR QUALITY INDEX: July 10, 2015

Index	Category
0-50	Good
51-100	Moderate
101-200	Unhealthy
201-300	Very unhealthy
Over 300	Hazardous

Ambient Air Quality Index: 22-72
Roadside Air Quality Index: 29-78
Worst Area: Chatuchak 78



Workers at the Mae Klong fish market in Samut Songkhram province wait for fish to arrive on the wharf. They are affected by the government's rules against illegal vessels and fishing equipment. Thousands of fishing vessels have opted to stay in port to avoid harsh penalties. CHANAT KATANYU

Trawlers face labour shortage

Owners push for fresh migrant registrations

POST REPORTERS

Trawler operators in some coastal provinces have asked the government to start a new round of migrant registrations to fill job vacancies after many workers quit during the clampdown on licences.

Somsak Kwan-on, who operates the trawler *Sor Saksachon* 97 in Hat Yai district of Songkhla province, said several trawler operators in the province face crew shortages after they temporarily closed their businesses when the new regulations curbing illegal fishing took effect. Some migrant crew members grew sick of waiting, especially those worried their

trawler owners would run out of money to pay them.

While some trawlers have now complied with the government's regulations and can go back to sea, they are unable to fish because they do not have enough crew, Mr Somsak said.

Many trawlers stayed in port rather than risk penalties when the regulations took effect on July 1. Many operators also had to cover the living costs of their crew during this time.

"Things went from bad to worse. We can't fish because we don't have enough crewmen and we must cover their costs," Mr Somsak said, adding his five crew quit after they received their salaries.

He urged the government to provide a new round of registration services for migrant workers.

It is difficult for operators to look for new workers now because the registration

drive ended on June 29, Mr Somsak added.

A number of migrant crewmen have turned their backs on the fishing industry to look for better paid jobs elsewhere, Mr Somsak said.

Ting Poonpon, 65, a fishing boat operator in Chachoengsao's Bang Pakong district, said several boats in the province remain docked due to a lack of crew.

She asked the government to bend the rules and allow relatives aged under 18 of fishermen to work on the boats until the next migrant registration starts.

Ms Ting also said it is unfair that operators are forced to take responsibility for the registration costs of the migrant workers.

"Migrant workers work with us for a couple of weeks and then leave the job to look for one that offers better pay," she said.

Meanwhile, Somchai Sapsinphaiboon, the president of Phan Thai Norasing

fishermen group in Samut Sakhon, is calling on the government to lift its ban on some types of "destructive" fishing gear when the trawlers are only fishing for small aquatic animals, such as krill.

Small fishing boats, with only 1-2 crew, can use push nets to catch small fish and the gear would not harm marine life, he added. Tiny shrimp is abundant in the coastal provinces — Samut Sakhon, Samut Songkhram and Samut Prakan — with about 700 small fishing boats in total plying their trade in those areas.

Under the current fishing law, four destructive types of fishing gear, consisting of the otter trawl, push net, day anchovy purse seine, and anchovy falling net, cannot be used without a licence. The Department of Fisheries stopped granting licences for otter trawl and push nets in 1981 and the other two forms of fishing gear in 2000.

Murder solved after sister hunts truth

Relatives refused to believe girl had died from illness, writes Wassayos Ngamkham

Where it not for the determination of her sister to see justice done, the murder of Nanthawan Wichaiyuan in Surat Thani eight months ago might have gone unsolved after local police concluded she had died from an illness.

On Dec 8 last year, the student at Suratthani Rajabhat University's International School of Tourism was found lying near her motorcycle by a deserted road off a main street near the Si Surat bridge in Muang district. She was barely alive and foaming at the mouth, and died on the way to hospital.

Local police initially believed Nanthawan, 21, died of a natural illness. They discounted the robbery theory, as she was still wearing a golden necklace and ring, although her mobile phone and handbag were missing. Police concluded there was no evidence of foul play.

But the girl's elder sister Nanthanari, 25, refused to believe it. She knew her sister would never have travelled to such a desolate spot alone. Her dogged determination persuaded police to review the case, which led to the arrest of a woman last Wednesday for Nanthawan's murder.

Ms Nanthanari said she knew early on her sister's death was suspicious. If her sister had suddenly fallen ill, where was her mobile phone, handbag and motorcycle keys? Why were there bruises on her neck and wrist? And why was her hair and some of her clothing wet?

On Dec 15, she petitioned the Muang district police chief to re-examine the case. But police found no new clues and insisted Nanthawan had died from an illness. They argued that after falling ill, she probably lost consciousness and fell near a river, which accounted for the wet clothes and hair.

Ms Nanthanari remained doubtful and sent a petition letter to the Provincial Police Region 8 commander. But it was a Facebook post which she wrote on Jan 31 that made the difference.

Posting under the headline "Waiting without hope", she wrote about her fight to get a review of her sister's case. The post attracted a large following and a chorus of public voices calling on police to dig deeper into the girl's death.

On Feb 11, Nanthawan's relatives were informed of an autopsy report from Surat Thani hospital which said the girl was suspected to have drowned as experts found bacteria which live in water in her lungs. For the family, this was a clear indication she might have been murdered.

However, local police told the family they still believed Nanthawan died of an illness, perhaps a side-effect of her taking diet pills. They offered no evidence to support this theory. They also said an opportunist robber could have found her sick at the scene and taken her missing belongings.

But they could not explain why she had supposedly driven to the desolate spot. "Crimes often occur in that area," Ms Nanthanari told the officers.

"It's impossible my sister went there."

She filed a complaint asking the Crime Suppression Division to look into the case. A joint investigation team was set up and the trail led to a fortune teller, Anchali Ramachit, 29 — the last known person to have seen Nanthawan.

Ms Anchali had earlier been treated as a witness, but police felt her account did not help

their investigation. She then left Surat Thani soon afterwards. Police became suspicious and discovered she had been seen near the scene where Nanthawan was found. They tracked her down in Phichit and arrested her last Wednesday, and she allegedly confessed to the murder.

Pol Lt Gen Decha Butnamphet, chief of Provincial Police Region 8, said Ms Anchali admitted taking the girl to the river to perform a rite to rid her of bad fortune. She duped Nanthawan out of 30,000 baht and was afraid she might later complain and demand her money back. When the victim became thirsty, Ms Anchali allegedly gave her water laced with acid and Nanthawan collapsed into a convulsion after drinking it.

After the confession, Surat Thani police denied ignoring Ms Nanthanari's requests to review the case. It just took them "a little time" because they had to do their work carefully, the officers said.

Contact Crime Track: crimetrack@bangkokpost.co.th

ONCB to curb teen 'upper drinks' trend

KING-OUA LAOHONG

Authorities are stepping up efforts to curb supplies of medicines commonly used by some teenagers to make stimulants.

Officials will randomly check drug stores in the areas where the youths are known to abuse the medicines supplied by pharmacies, Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) secretary-general Permphon Chavalit said.

Bangkok has more than 4,000 drug stores. The move came after reports emerged that teens use allergy pills, painkillers and cough medicine to mix with other beverages to produce stimulant drinks, which make them feel high.

The ONCB will also discuss with state agencies ways to classify such medicines as requiring further control, Mr Permphon said.

Sales of the medicines will be permitted in certified drug stores or in pharmacies that meet Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards, he said.

The ONCB will specify the areas which should be under close observation, particularly drug-prone areas in Bangkok, Mr Permphon said.

The Royal Thai Police Office and the FDA will deploy officers to check pharmacies in such areas as well as ordinary drug stores, he said.

The ONCB will seek cooperation from drug store owners and take drastic action against those who violate the law, Mr Permphon said.

The Information and Communication Technology Ministry will also be asked to address the issue as the medicines are sold online and teenagers can easily learn how to consume them, he said.

If drug stores are found supplying the medicines to youth who misuse the drugs, legal action will be brought against them.

Clarification

In the story, "Promenade project set to undergo EIA", published in the *Bangkok Post* on July 10, Taiwhut Khankaew, the director of the Building Control Division of the Bangkok Metropolitan Public Works Department, was quoted as saying the project's term of reference (TOR) was endorsed by the Council of Architects of Thailand and its affiliated organisations. In fact, the document only included recommendations from these groups.

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