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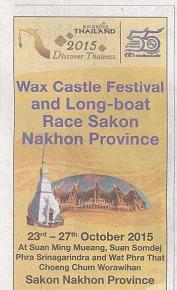
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2015 + 30 BAHT

Prayut calls for calm after Phuket street riots



People inspect the damage at Thalang police station after a night of rioting in which nine cars were torched and 13 others vandalised during a protest against the deaths of two young men. They died after a police in a police chase. PATTARAPONG CHATPATTARASILL

Protest drama in photos: Page 4



Two probes set up after night of violence

POST REPORTERS

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha yesterday pledged justice would be delivered after the weekend's Phuket riot sparked by the deaths of two young men, as probes were launched to find the facts behind the province's worst street violence in

Government spokesman Sansern Kaewkamnerd said yesterday Gen Prayut promised fair treatment to the families and the officers involved and insisted the gov-

ernment would not protect wrongdoers.

The prime minister expressed his condolences to the families of the victims who lost their loved ones and urged the public to refrain from damaging property. "The government will ensure fair treatment to all sides, but at this point it will not discuss the details and it will let authorities con-cerned do their job," he said.

The violence erupted on Saturday night about 11pm following a stand-off lasting several hours at Thalang police station when angry protesters hurled rocks and molotov cocktails into the station compound. Windows were shattered and several cars were burned or vandalised.

Dozens of residents gathered outside the station on Saturday afternoon to protest against the police, after hearing two men had been killed after police chased their motorcycle.

Police say the youngsters' motorcy-cle had breached a police checkpoint. They gave chase but crashed into the

One of the victims was identified as Pathomwat Panarak, 22, and the other identi fied only as a 17-year-old. According to police, Mr Pathomwat had a record of drug abuse while the other was clean.

Police insist the crash was an accident and they found 50 speed pills and about one kilogramme of krathom, a mild stimu-

But the residents and the victims' families and friends were unconvinced. They accused the police of overreacting and intending to crash the motorcycle which caused deaths.

They turned up at the station and demanded to see a group of four officers involved in the incident.

The four are Pol Lt Suchart Luecha, Pol Snr Sgt Maj Prasai Phuengphol, Pol L/Cpl Kanthaphol Khongnukate, and Pol L/Cpl Phanuwit Kaewsang. The tension grew when police refused to bring out the four and more people joined the protest.

By evening, the protesters swelled to several hundred and they blocked Thep kasattri Road in front of the station, paralysing traffic in Phuket town. The sound of firecracker explosions were heard and teenagers on motorbikes circled the area.

Further violence broke out when gunshots rang out, apparently from inside the station. The protesters threw rocks and homemade firebombs into the compound, according to witnesses

Police Region 8 Bureau, which oversees Phuket police, issued an urgent order transferring the four officers out of the province to ease tension, but to no avail. The protesters demanded criminal charges be laid against them.

deployed at 1am yestergy. Two hours later after negotiations 7ith the army, the protesters agreed to disperse and return for talks with authrities at 9am. The stand-off lasted 15 burs. Fourteen police officers were injurd in the attack on the station.

In one-hour talks brkered by Maj Gen Thinachat yesterdy, he said the army would set up a joir committee to investigate the incident, arl rehabilitation would be provided.

Phuket governor Chmroen Thip ayapongthada said the inuiry would be completed within 30 days

The panel, which wold also comprise the prosecution, loal administration, and the military wold establish if the drugs were planted ad if the crash was deliberate.

Meanwhile, police spoesman Pol Gen Prawut Thawornsiri said he Royal Thai Police would also set up another panel to probe into the four polici as to whether they overreacted. The prob would involve the autopsy results of thevictims which

He said police would also check CCTV footage to find those who instigated the crowd into rioting, and tke legal action against them.

Thaweesit Panarak, Pathomwat's father, admitted his sonwas a former drug convict, but he was keptical about the speed pills found on hs body, "I don't think think he had the drigs. And even if he had, the police overrected," he said. Suksri Kaentakhian, he mother of

the 17-year-old victim, said she would not settle for anything less than criminal charges. "They should be fired from the Troops from the Army Circle 41, led by service and charged. Transferring them Maj Gen Thinachat Chindangern, were out of the area isn't enough," she said.

Rebels reject peace talks in deep South

INTERVIEW: BRN says it wants 'international mediation' to be guaranteed, writes Anthony Davis

he dominant insurgent faction in Thailand's southern separatist conflict emerged last week to reject the Malaysian-led peace talks being held with the Thai government

However, the hard-line National Revolutionary Front or Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN) also signalled its willingness to open substantive negotiations, provided interna tional mediation can be guaranteed.

In a rare opening to independent news media, representatives of the usually secretive BRN stressed repeatedly the party was not involved in the talks hosted by the Malaysian government and views them as a "negative phenomenon".

Initiated in May after months of ground work, the talks have brought together Thai negotiators headed by recently retired Gen Aksara Kerdphol and an umbrella organisation of several separatist factions known as 'Mara Patani' which Malaysian officials have implied includes representatives of

Meetings have raised hopes that common ground might be found in a conflict which since 2004 has left at least 6,500 dead and more than 10,000 wounded in the majority Malay-Muslim provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat and parts of Songkhla. There has even been discussion of setting up possible ceasefire or "safety"

"Let me be very clear about the current peace process: the BRN is categorically not involved," said one BRN official.

"The way in which this process has been set up is flatly rejected by BRN."

But he added the party was not opposed to peace negotiations "provided such talks follow international standards and norms".

In an interview in a regional capital outside Thailand, four officials of the BRN's "Information Department" discussed the party's views on negotiations that might end the bloodshed as well as noting concerns over the extremist ideology of the Islamic State (IS) in the violence-plagued

A spokesman who introduced himself simply as "Yusuf", said the party's senior leadership, a shadowy underground group known as the Dewan Pimpinan Parti or Party Leadership Council, had authorised them to meet a media correspondent familiar with the conflict.

Speaking in Malay, Yusuf said the BRN's rejection of the talks with Mara Patani hinged on several issues

There are many aspects of this process that we see as unsettling and many of these things are caused by the fact the process bears no relation to the earlier peace process of 2013," he said.

The talks initiated in 2013 by the Yingluck Shinawatra government had involved the BRN but were halted late that year following the collapse of an attempted Rama-dan ceasefire in July and August, and the BRN's issuing of five demands in a You-Tube post to which Bangkok has yet to formally respond. These included demands for international mediation, detainee releases, and Bangkok's recognition of the BRN as a liberation — rather than separatist - movement.

Yusuf added the BRN now believes the current process - which involves three other separatist factions based outside Thailand and three individuals claiming to represent the BRN — is beyond repair. He said it would be better to scrap it in favour of a new initiative which could include separatist parties and southern civil society organisations in addition to the BRN

But the real sticking point in the BRN's call for renewed dialogue with the government will be its insistence on interna tional mediation.

"We welcome Malaysian involvement in any peace process. But for Malaysia to be acting alone is insufficient," Mr Yusuf said. "There needs to be other international actors involved as, bluntly speaking, we are deeply suspicious of any form of dialogue with the Thai government which does not involve the international community.

"We do not feel this is in any way a peculiar position," he added. "Wherever there is political dialogue [between bel-ligerents], you will find the involvement

If anyone in the Thai military imagines this might all be over in a few years, I would simply urge them to wait and

of the international community, be it in the shape of other states or international non-governmental organisations. This is entirely normal.

The Thai government has consistently maintained the conflict is an internal matter to which the government is responding with improvements to the justice system and efforts at accelerated economic development in the region. Any suggestion of international intervention will almost certainly remain taboo for Bangkok, not least given a marked decline in violence over the past year and hopes that distrust of the state among local Muslims is waning

While conceding that violence had dropped, BRN officials rejected the suggestion the insurgency was being weak ened by improved counter-insurgency operations and a lack of popular support. They asserted the party was expanding its political campaign both inside southern Thailand and internationally while maintaining military pressure.

"Any decline you see in military operations may be temporary and the party is evolving and growing," they said. "The this government went all out to pressure us but we remain active. If anyone in the Thai military imagines this might all be over in a few years, I would simply urge them to wait and see.'

Referring to the potential attraction of IS-inspired Islamist radicalism in the border region, Mr Yusuf said the BRN projected an ideology that had nothing to de with religious extremism and was "obviously concerned".



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An electrician repairs the wiring inside the Thalang police signboard that were destroyed during the riot. PHOTOS BY PATTARAPONG CHATPATTARASILL

Chase deaths stoke Phuket protest rage



Youngsters react after the governor and the residents held talks over the riot yesterday.



The charred wrekage of a car, out of several set ablaze by rioters, sits in the police



Governor Chamroen Thipayapongthada speaks to residents to defuse tension after the riot, promising a probe into the two deaths.







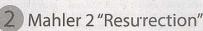
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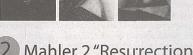
6 November 2015 / 7.00 p.m. / PMH (Pre-Concert Talk 6.15 p.m.) 7 November 2015 / 4.00 p.m. / PMH (Pre-Concert Talk 3.15 p.m.) Gudni A. Emilsson Conductor:

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Concerts: 13 November 2015 / 7.0(p.m. / PMH (Pre-Concert Talk 6.15 p.1.) 14 November 2015 / 4.0(p.m. / PMH (Pre-Concert Talk 3.15 p.1.)

Conductor: Alfonso Scarano Soloists: Sooyeon Kim, Soprano Barbora Polášková, Mezo Soprano Mahidol University Choi Thai Traditional Music Gustav Mahler: Symphony No. 2 in C minor "Resurrection



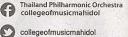


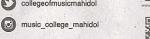


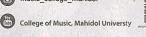


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