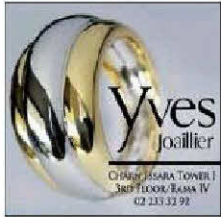




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# Bangkok Post



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## Fearful city folk brace for soaking

**BANGKOK FLOOD ROUND-UP**

- 1 Don Mueang**
  - Flooding on Vibhavadi Road expands to Don Mueang Airport. Local Road, Don Mueang police station and Song Prapa Road are under 30cm to 50cm of water.
  - Floodwater on Liao Khlong Prapa and Nawong Pattana roads recedes after earthdikes were built along Khlong Prapa.
- 2 Sal Mai**
  - Floodwater approaches Ehumdi Hospital on Pahon Yothin Road and tends to flow toward Luk Si Monument.
- 3 Luk Si**
  - Overflow from Khlong Prapa causes flooding on Chaengwattana Road from Tesco Lotus to Soi Chaengwattana 14.
- 4 Bang Phlad**
  - Strong water currents flood Charansriwong Road near Rama VII bridge and Charan Sanitwong Soi 74 and 80 after water barriers along the Chao Phraya River collapse.
  - Water runoff from Northburi's Bang Krut district flood Sitthom Road and Sorndei Pra Ph Krao Road in front of Pata department store.

POSTgraphics



**Road turns to river**  
A road opposite Patashopping mall in Bang Phlad district floods after the Chao Phraya River surged in the evening. The road is impassible to small vehicles. **PANAT LAOPASARITAKSIN**

### Efforts to drive water to east, west of capital fail

**PRADIT RUANGDIT**  
**WASSANA NANUAM**  
**AMORNROT MAHITTHIROOK**

Bangkok residents are living in fear as the authorities have been unsuccessful in trying to divert it northern, runoff to the east and west of the capital.

About 4,000 million cubic metres of flood water from Ayutthaya is expected to reach Bangkok tomorrow, Deputy Bangkok Governor Pornthep Techaratboon said yesterday.

"The problem is City Hall can drain no more than 400 million cu m of water a day," Mr Pornthep said.

The huge water mass will enter the west of Bangkok via Nakhon Pathom, Northburi and sweep into Khlong Thawi Watthana, Khlong Bangkok Noi and Khlong Bang Phlad and is expected to reach up to three metres high.

However, Mr Pornthep said there is a 2.7-metre-high railway track in Thawi

Watthana district which serves as a flood barrier in the west of Bangkok.

The water level in the Chao Phraya River reached a record high yesterday, rising to 2.3 metres above sea level against 2.27 metres back in 1995.

The river breached its banks and inundated riverside communities in Bang Phlad, Samsen and Charan Sanitwong, Bangkok Governor Sukhumbhand Paribatra warned residents living outside the city's embankments to be extra careful or evacuate to shelter centres.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra yesterday said that Bangkok has seen floodwaters converge on it from various directions.

She said runoff from the north has reached the north of Bangkok because the Royal Irrigation Department (RID) could not close the Khlong 1 sluice gate in Rangsit as the water flow was too strong and high. The raging torrents could burst through the water gate.

"The government has no intention of concealing information. We provide the public with regular updates. But too many a few factors keep cropping up," Ms Yingluck said.

She added that areas from the Chulalongkorn sluice gate down to Sal Mai district are at risk of floods despite efforts to divert water flow to the east of Bangkok.

She said there was concern for low-lying areas in the south of Bangkok and in Thon Buri.

Ms Yingluck said that in the west of Bangkok, three more drainage canals in Nakhon Pathom have been dug and dredged to help divert runoff to the Tha Chin River and on to the sea. They are Khlong Ngiew Bai in Nakhon Chaisri district, Khlong Song Khanong and Khlong Thakham in Sampran district.

But a problem had arisen as no water had flowed into the canals so far, probably because areas around the canals are flat and even. But it is hoped that the massive flow of runoff will soon surge forward into the canals, she said.

As for the problems in diverting water to the east, Phet That MP Uthen Charinyo, who chairs a working committee overseeing efforts to drain floodwater, criticised the RID for failing to address key water drainage bottlenecks.

He had two main concerns. In eastern Bangkok, near to Pathum Thani and Chachoengsao, efforts are focused on forcing water through Khlong 1-3 to Khlong 13, where it is then pushed to Khlong Saen Saep and then ultimately out to the Bang Pakong River in Chachoengsao.

But Mr Uthen said more pumps were required to move the water from low to higher areas. A lack of pumps was leading to water continuing to pool along the northern outskirts of the city.

"We've recommended that from Khlong 13 in Rangsit to where it interconnects with Khlong Hok Wa in Sal Mai district,

more pumps must be installed. It's a critical point," Mr Uthen said.

The second major flashpoint is at a 160-170 metre bottleneck where Khlong 14 and 15 reaches Khlong Hok Wa, as vegetation in the canal is impeding the flow of water.

Mr Uthen said the panel called for the area to be cleared since Friday to help ease bottlenecks in the canal system, but no action has been taken.

Defence Minister Yuthasak Sasiprapa yesterday said the 1st Army has been told to identify evacuation areas in the capital and soldiers are being sent to keep a close watch on Khlong Hok Wa.

Army chief Prayuth Chan-ocha ordered reinforcements of 40 companies from the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Armies to help flood victims in Bangkok. A joint military command has also been set up

to protect the Grand Palace, the Chitralada Palace and the Sukhothai Palace.

There are 27 flood-prone districts of the capital and they have evacuation plans in place. Sal Mai and Don Mueang would be the first two affected districts, Gen Prayuth said after taking a helicopter ride with Gen Yuthasak to inspect the flooded areas.

First Army chief Udorndej Seaturab said the government, City Hall and the RID are directly responsible for overall flood operations in Bangkok while the military is in charge of flood response.

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**THAILAND**  
Phuket, Bangkok, Pattaya

**Chumphon Raptor Migration Watch**

1st - 30th October 2011  
Khao Dinsor, Chumphon Province

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## Govt offers B25bn industrial recovery plan

**NUNTAWUN POLKUAMDEE**

The government is to propose a 25-billion-baht recovery programme aimed at allowing seven flooded industrial estates to resume operations within 45 days after the floodwaters recede.

The state would also be prepared to buy out troubled industrial estates such as Sabaratanakom and develop a new flood-proof industrial zoning plan for companies and worker housing.

This will run in parallel with medium-term investments in water management and flood prevention programmes aimed at preventing future flooding, with the current crisis estimated to have cost as much as 400 to 500 billion baht. The plans will be considered by cabinet ministers today.

Deputy Prime Minister and commerce Minister Kittiratt Nai-Rangong said a comprehensive rebuilding strategy is needed to help affected industrial zones and com-

panies hit by the floods.

He said an initial budget of 25 billion baht would be set with the aim of helping companies in seven affected industrial zones restart operations within 45 days after the floodwaters recede. Funding would also be used to help displaced workers return to work.

High-speed water pumps from Japan, China and Europe would help reduce water levels in affected industrial zones in Ayutthaya and Pathum Thani.

The state-owned SME Bank would also offer loan guarantees of up to 30% for companies seeking commercial loans to help finance rebuilding and the replacement of their machinery.

"We are already in the fourth quarter of the year. We are racing against the clock. Rebuilding will take many weeks,

and we have to finish before the start of the next rainy season in May," Mr Kittiratt said.

"With every day, the damage increases. We have to start now."

The University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce estimated on Sunday that losses from the disaster could reach as high as 500 billion baht if authorities are unable to prevent widespread flooding within inner Bangkok. Industrial losses alone are estimated at over 381 billion baht.

As it is, economic losses have been massive, with nearly one-third of the country under water, nearly one million people unemployed and the death toll at 356 and climbing.

In Ayutthaya and Pathum Thani, floodwaters remain over two metres deep in some places, with major roads across in

the affected areas all closed. The closure of major industrial estates such as Rojana, Hi-Tech and Nava Nakorn has affected local, regional and even global production for firms such as Honda, Canon, Sony and Toshiba.

Economic ministers yesterday agreed to set up working committees with representatives of the seven affected industrial estates, industry groups, the Board of Investment and the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT).

Mr Kittiratt said a "war room" for the committees would be set up at Chanchai Square to help develop action plans.

He said the goal is to draw up a master plan to prevent future flooding disasters. Foreign experts would be consulted to help consider necessary basic infrastructure and flood protection systems to safeguard the country's industrial heartland.

### MWA tells city folk to store tap water

**KING-OUA LAOHONG**

The Metropolitan Waterworks Authority has urged Bangkok residents to store tap water for use during the flood crisis.

MWA assistant governor Vikrom Suwan chomphoo yesterday said the agency had successfully reduced the water level at the entrance of Khlong Rangsit canal. If the water does not rise further, the situation in the canal will return to normal.

The dyke along the MWA's Khlong Prapa canal had broken, allowing overflow from Khlong Rangsit to flow into Khlong Prapa, which supplies city drinking water.

"Still, Bangkok residents should store tap water for use as the flooding this year is worse than expected," he said.

Factories reopen in 45 days: Page B1