

KING BEGINS HIS FINAL JOURNEY

EPA/DIEGO AZUBEL

THE NATION

INSIGHTFUL, IN TREND, INDEPENDENT

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FAREWELL TO OUR BELOVED MONARCH



NATION

Thais from all walks of life gather around Arun Amarin Intersection yesterday to pay their respects to the body of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, as he was moved from Siriraj Hospital to the Grand Palace.

Grief-stricken mourners line royal procession route

THOUSANDS MASS ALONG STREETS AS HIS MAJESTY'S BODY WAS TAKEN FROM SIRIRAJ HOSPITAL TO THE GRAND PALACE

THE NATION

WAILS of grief followed the royal procession of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's body as it slowly moved from Siriraj Hospital to the Grand Palace late yesterday afternoon.

Thousands of His Majesty's loyal subjects crowded along the route, some camping for hours under the scorching sun to show once again their undying love and loyalty for him.

The late king passed away peacefully at the age of 89 on Thursday.

His loyal subjects were in a sombre mood, dressed in black and white, mourning the passing of the country's greatest monarch.

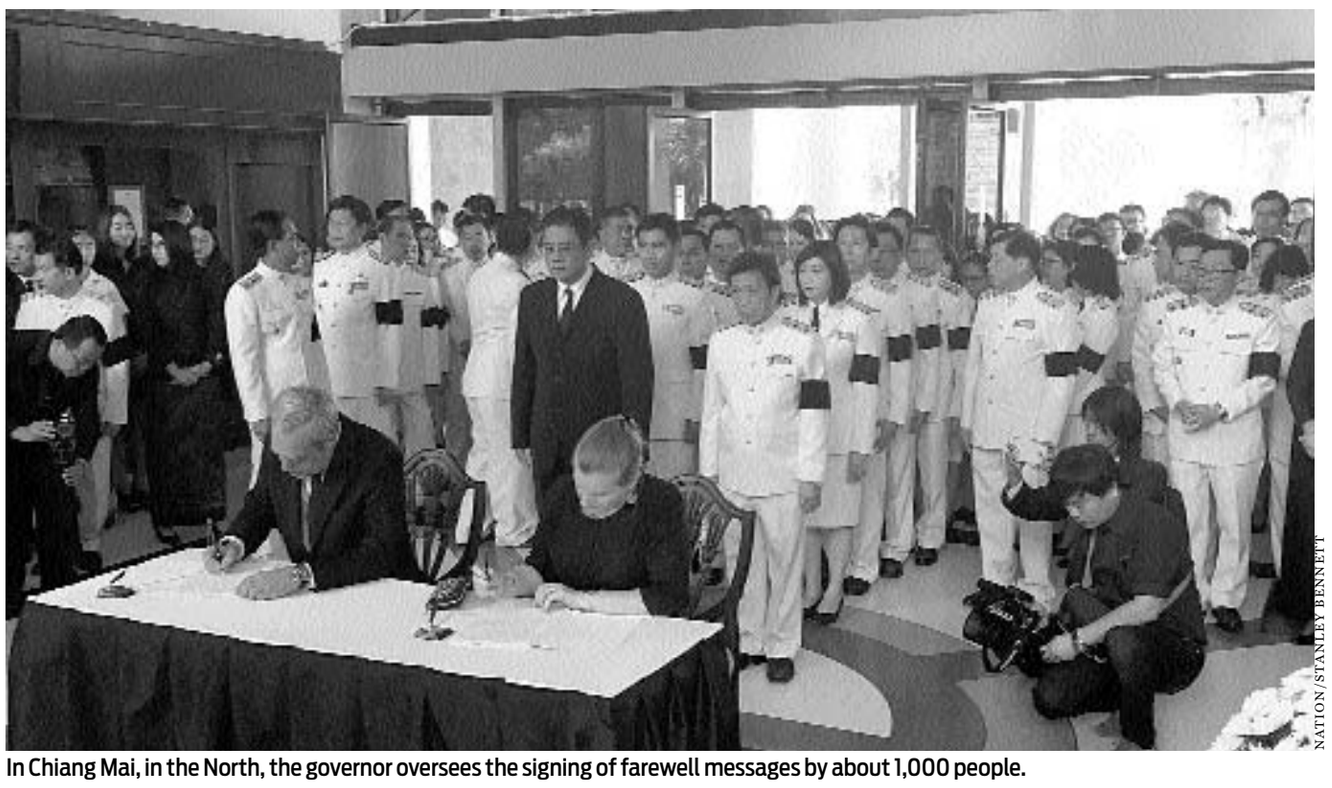
Since the news of his passing spread, Thailand has plunged into deep grief.

Along the royal-procession route, there was a moment of complete silence as the van carrying His Majesty's body moved past onlookers. There was a tear in everyone's eyes and sadness in their faces as the van drove by.

Somkuan Chiew-on, 68-year-old pensioner, was among the crowd of weeping mourners.

"I thought I could accept what happened. But the second I saw the van carrying his body, I burst into tears. It was more depressing than I had ever imagined. It hurt to witness this sad event with my own eyes. I also suddenly realised that everything will not be the same anymore," Somkuan said.

HM Queen Sirikit, HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn and other royals were part of the procession to bring the late king's body to the Grand Palace.



NATION/STANLEY PENNEFTI

In Chiang Mai, in the North, the governor oversees the signing of farewell messages by about 1,000 people.

The royal procession moved out of Siriraj Hospital via its Gate 8. It then turned right into the Arun Amarin Road and followed the route over the Arun Amarin bridge, Boromratchachonnee Road, crossed the Somdet Phra Pinklao Bridge, Rajdamnoen Nai Avenue and Na Phra Lan Road before accessing the palace compound.

Even after the royal motorcade entered the Grand Palace and was out of sight, some of the crowd quietly sat where they had camped out for hours and cried.

"It's too early. I used to wait and welcome the King along roads. He waved his hands to greet his people. But this time, he did not wave anymore. It's heartbreaking," Chanida Patikaraphong, the 40-year-old businesswoman from Bangkok said at the end of the procession.

"I feel empty and breathless," said Boonwan Phrachankarn. The 72-year-old travelled from the southern province of Surat Thani alone and stayed in Bangkok at her granddaughter's house.

Many of the loyal subjects along the route yesterday said they would come to the Grand Palace again today to stay close to the King's body.

Inside the Grand Palace, the royal bathing ceremony for the late King took place in the evening. It was followed by the prayer ritual. The Crown Prince took part in both ceremonies.

They were part of the crowd that formed a long line in front of the Grand Palace in the morning to take part in a water-pouring ceremony for their much-revered monarch. The ritual was performed before a portrait of the king.

Inside the hall, those who joined the bathing ceremony sobbed even harder when they approached and poured water in front of the picture of HM.

"Everyone who saw his picture could not hold back our tears when pouring the water and thinking about him," said Jongrak Julprasertwong, 80, from Bangkok, who travelled to the Palace alone in the early morning.

Public Health Ministry's permanent secretary Dr Sopon Mekthon said all state hospitals were instructed to prepare for Thais who might need additional care as they tried to cope with the immense grief from the passing of their much-beloved King. "A medical and public health emergency operation centre and a mental health crisis emergency centre have been set up to monitor people's health around the clock under the leadership of deputy permanent secretary Dr Kiattiphum Wongrajit," Sopon said

Kiattiphum said grieving people should stay in a group and try to change their sorrow into positive energy such as praying or doing good deeds for His Majesty's merit including donating blood, donating organs or volunteering in social services. As the late King was a great inspiration to all Thais, many of his loyal subjects have already made a pledge on social media to follow in his footsteps and serve the national interest.

Ceremonies at official halls around country to mark King's passing

THE NATION

WITH the country in mourning for the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol, provincial administrators and residents wearing black and white gathered at city halls or district and municipal offices to take part in the ceremonial "bathing" of the portrait of His Majesty.

People showed up at city halls and district offices in provinces such as Chiang Mai in the North, Khon Kaen in the Northeast, the resort island of Phuket on the southern Andaman coast and Yala in the deep South, to bid farewell to the beloved monarch.

State offices will fly flags at half-mast for 30 days as part of the mourning period.

With the Cabinet having declared yesterday as a special holiday, many loyal subjects attended prayers or make merit for His Majesty.

Newspapers flew off the shelves from early morning, as people tried to get a souvenir or historic record of their beloved monarch's departure by collecting yesterday's editions with extensive coverage of the historic event in stories and pictures.

In Phitsanulok's Muang district, residents swept all newspapers from shelves. Wholesale bookstore, Siang Thip Book Centre, reported a 50 per cent hike in newspaper sales in a single day. Phitsanulok's Channel 5 photo editor Bancha Wajasuwan, who owns Bancha Museum that featured a large collection of His Majesty's portraits, said he bought all newspapers yesterday to keep because it was such an historic event.

In Rayong's Muang district, Prasitsilpa Book Centre owner Kanda Jinanthuya said people showed up since early morning to buy newspapers to keep a record of His Majesty's passing.

In Chon Buri's Sri Racha district, local couple Prawin and Thanyanan Amphudsa displayed at their home more than 10,000 images of His Majesty and members of the royal family that they have collected over the past three decades. They wanted to express their love and loyalty to the monarch.

They said they planned to set up a LCD screen in front of their grocery shop to let people see the King's hard work for the Thai people.

Thanyanan said she was grateful for the King teaching his self-sufficiency economy philosophy that enabled her family to have a constant income.

She broke into tears when she first heard the announcement of His Majesty's passing. "I just cried out loud despite people looking at me," she said, adding that she was so grief-stricken that she couldn't sleep at night.

Sompong Kuankrathok, 60, a security guard based in Nakhon Ratchasima, said tears poured down his cheeks when he heard Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha confirm His Majesty's passing on the radio. "We, Thais, will always be in gratitude for His Majesty. He will be in our hearts forever," Sompong said.

Provincial police have teamed up with soldiers from the Second Army Region to patrol and keep order at symbolic sites and community areas in Nakhon Ratchasima, plus transport hubs and malls, to boost people's morale and prevent any problems.


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in mourning the loss
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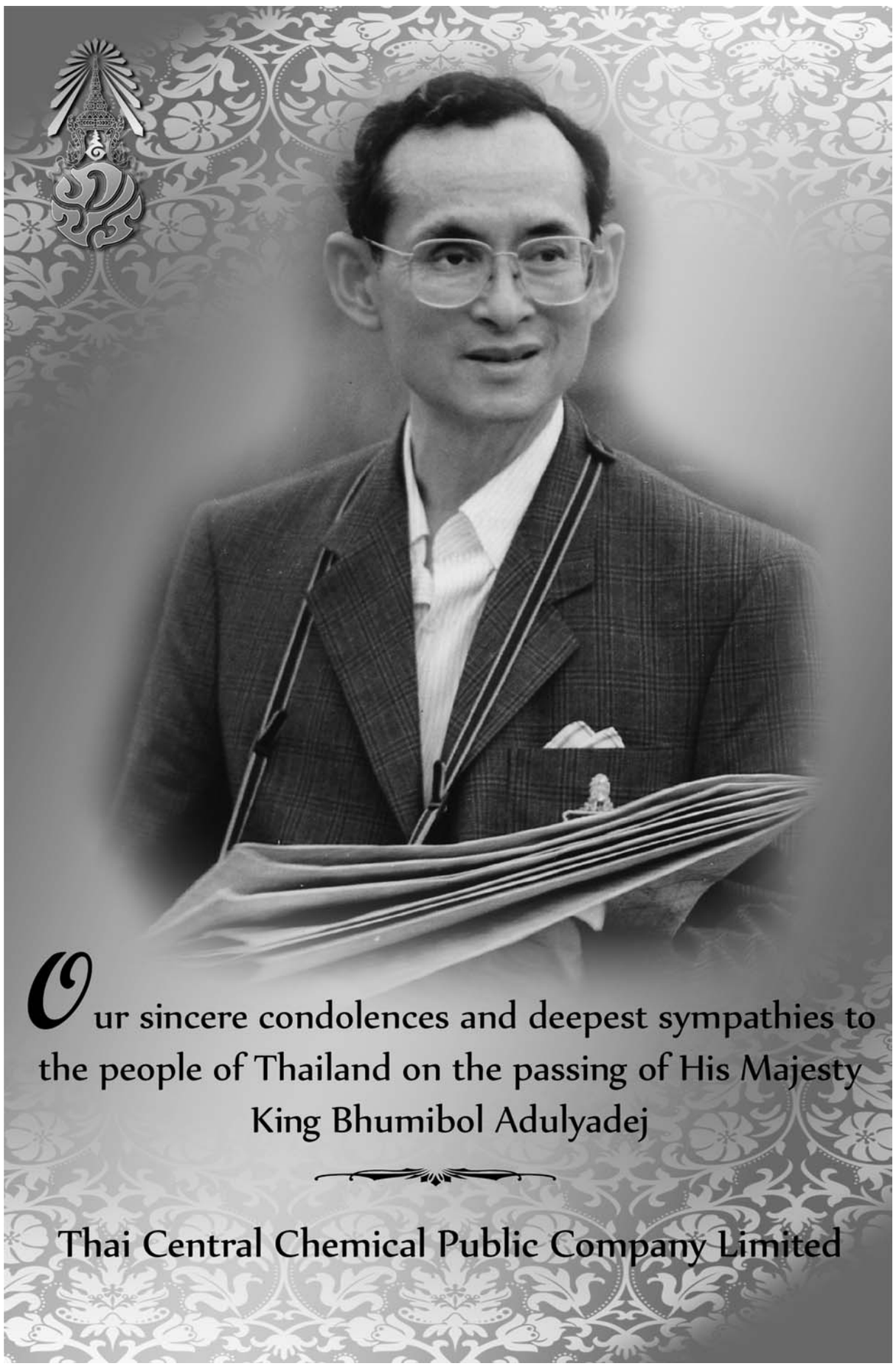
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FAREWELL TO OUR BELOVED MONARCH

No official announcement on Regent pro tempore

LEGAL EXPERTS SAY PRIVY COUNCIL CHIEF GENERAL PREM TINSULANONDA HAS TAKEN ROYAL ROLE TILL NEW MONARCH IS APPOINTED

THE NATION

WITH no official statement, the question of who will fill the position of Regent pro tempore remained unclear yesterday.

However, as a consequence of the provisional constitution, statesman and Privy Council President General Prem Tinsulanonda is supposed to take the title after the passing of His Majesty the King on Thursday.

Section two of the provisional constitution refers to the rules of secession to the throne to chapter two of the 2007 Charter which was scrapped after the 2014 coup.

Article 23 of the 2007 Constitution states: "In the case where the Throne becomes vacant and the King has already appointed His Heir to the Throne under the Palace Law on Succession, B.E. 2467, the Council of Ministers shall notify the President of the National Assembly. The President of the National Assembly shall then convoke the National Assembly for the acknowledgement thereof and shall invite such Heir to ascend the Throne and proclaim such Heir King."

The NLA did not do that during its session on Thursday night. Members only held a nine-minute period of silence to mourn the passing of the King.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said later that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn preferred to "wait for a proper time" to ascend to the throne as the country was still mourning the passing of His Majesty the King.

"The Crown Prince prefers to join the entire nation in expressing his grief at this time," Prayut said. "He asked that the process of accession to the throne be held back until a proper time. He is aware of his duties as heir to the throne and will continue carrying out his royal responsibilities in his capacity as Crown Prince."

Therefore, according to the Article 24 of the 2007 Constitution, the president of the Privy Council shall be Regent pro tempore, pending the proclamation of the name of the royal heir.

Yesterday, local media needed to withdraw reports on the matter, which quoted National Legislative Assembly vice-president Peerasak Porjit as saying that General Prem automatically became Regent pro tempore.

The reason behind the withdrawals was unclear and representatives of the concerned media organisations were not available for comment yesterday.

Legal expert Verapat Pariyawong, a visiting scholar at SOAS School of Law at the University of London, said: "According to constitutional rules, the President of the National Legislative Assembly shall convoke the Assembly for the acknowledgement of the heir to throne and invite the heir to ascend the throne to be proclaimed King.

"Pending such proclamation, the President of the Privy Council shall act as Regent pro tempore. In such a case that the said Regent can no longer perform duties as President of the Privy Council, and the Privy Council is required to select a Privy Councillor to act as its President pro tempore. In addition, Article 6 of the palace succession law also provides that the ascension to the throne shall be without question and shall proceed immediately."

Prem, 96, became a member of the Privy Council after stepping down as prime minister in 1988 and was appointed chief of the council in 1998.



NATION

A file photo showing Privy Council President General Prem Tinsulanonda meeting with youths from the deep South on October 12 in Bangkok.

FAREWELL TO OUR BELOVED MONARCH

Thais in LA and Massachusetts mourn 'world's best monarch'

REUTERS
LOS ANGELES

MANY members of Los Angeles' bustling Thai community mourned the death of the country's revered King, Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The King died in Bangkok's Siriraj Hospital after 70 years of rule. He had been in poor health for several years but his death shocked Thailand and plunged it into mourning.

In Southern California, home to the largest Thai community in the world outside of Thailand, the sentiment was no different. About 100,000 people of Thai descent came to the United States in three major waves starting in the 1950s and continuing to the present, according to Thai Community Development Centre executive director Chancee Martorell.

About 50,000 reside in Los Angeles County, mainly dispersed between two major clusters within the city of Los Angeles – the east Hollywood community known as Thai Town and the northeastern corner of the San Fernando Valley, she said.

Stella Boonyawan grieved over the news outside the Buddhist Wat Thai Temple in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley after praying for the late king.

"I just know that I loved my King, he is the King that helped everybody – helping the poor, everything, you know?" Boonyawan, a Thai expatriate, said. "You'll never find a king like our Thai King, in the whole world. Our King [was] the best."

King Bhumibol, a king worshipped as a father-figure and who was born in the United States, guided the nation through decades of change and turmoil.

Nikki Hwonsuwan, a waiter at the Thai Patio on Hollywood Blvd, the main thoroughfare through Thai Town, said she and her family were in mourning.

"My King passed away, so I was ... so depressed," she said. "I think it was the time that he needed to rest."

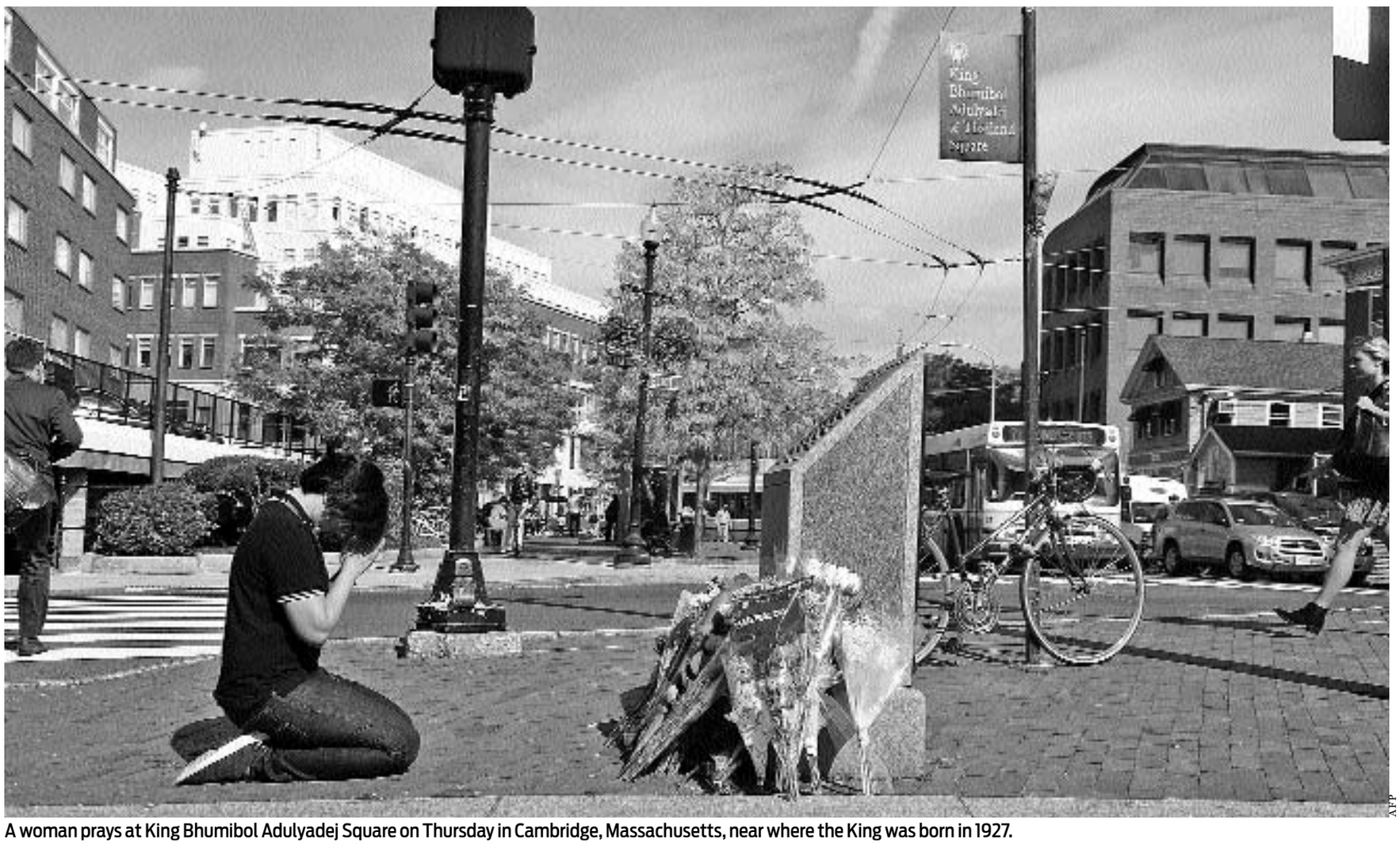
Meanwhile in Cambridge, Massachusetts, many Thais gathered at King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand Square in front of Mt Auburn Hospital, where he was born on December 5, 1927.

Mourners placed bouquets of flowers there to express their grief for the loss of their beloved King.

Do's and don'ts

What to do and what not to do during the national mourning period

- Wear black or wear white.
- Refrain from celebrations and festive activities.
- Postpone entertainment activities.
- Foreigners are advised to maintain a low profile and act respectfully.
- Behave with a sombre demeanour when in public.
- Avoid overt celebrations in public.
- Avoid wearing bright colours; neutral colours are the most appropriate.
- Do not wear revealing or bright-coloured clothing.
- Follow directives issued by the authorities.
- Reconfirm business appointments in case of possible cancellations.



A woman prays at King Bhumibol Adulyadej Square on Thursday in Cambridge, Massachusetts, near where the King was born in 1927. AFP

World leaders pay tribute

NOTES OF CONDOLENCE POUR IN FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE, EXTOLLING KING'S TIRELESS WORK

THE NATION

CONDOLENCES have poured in from world leaders and international organisations after His Majesty the King's death.

UK's Queen Elizabeth II has sent a private message of condolence to Her Majesty Queen Sirikit and HRH the Crown Prince. The message will remain private. Following the demise of HM the King, Queen Elizabeth is now the world's longest-reigning monarch.

British Prime Minister Theresa May also expressed her sincere personal condolences to the Royal Family and the people of Thailand. She said His Majesty had guided the Kingdom "with dignity, dedication and vision throughout his life".

"He will be greatly missed," she added. "Our thoughts are with the people of Thailand at this difficult time."

UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said the King was greatly respected at home and around the globe "for his wisdom and dedication". He said: "I offer the people of Thailand and the Royal Family my profound sympathy at this sad time."

South Korean President Park Geun-hye said: "On behalf of people and the South Korean government, I offered my deepest condolences and consolation to the bereaved family and the people of Thailand on the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej."

Park said there was a special connection between His Majesty the King and the Republic of Korea as it was under his reign that Thailand participated in the Korean War.

"As the 'father' and spiritual leader of Thailand, His Majesty led Thailand for 70 years, during which he has lived the history of Thailand from the birth of the modern Thailand in 1932 to the present."

She said the King's leadership, which brought the Thai people together in unity and harmony, would be forever remembered. "His Majesty has enjoyed profound respect for his unstinting love of the Thai people, in particular, for this life-long devotion to the most poor and needy, and I pray that his soul rests in eternal peace."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the King had modernised and strengthened his country during his seven decades on the throne. She said he had worked tirelessly for the welfare of Thais and steered the country through political and economic crises.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said His Majesty the King had contributed significantly to the friendship between Thailand and Germany. For seven decades, he added, the King decisively shaped the destiny of Thailand. "I was deeply saddened to learn of his death," he said. "King Bhumibol tirelessly devoted himself to peace and to the well-being of the Thai people. For this, he was extraordinarily revered by everyone in Thailand."



PARK GEUN-HYE

Nurtured countries' friendship

Steinmeier said the King "had a share in nurturing the deeply-rooted friendship between our countries, as well as between both peoples". He added: "The world has lost an exceptional monarch and a head of state who played an important role far beyond Asia."

German Ambassador to Thailand Peter Pruegel said the world had lost an outstanding monarch and head of state whose significance reached far beyond Asia. "The King has significantly determined Thailand's destiny for more than 70 years and has been working tirelessly for peace and for the prosperity of the Thai people."

During his long reign, Pruegel added, the King continuously modernised the country with a special focus on sustainable development and turned it into one of the leading countries in Southeast Asia. The envoy sent his heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family and the Thai people.

"As Germany and Thailand have enjoyed a long-standing friendship for over 154 years, Germany is therefore joining the Thai people with deep sympathy in mourning the passing of the King," he said.

In a message to Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, Russian President Vladimir Putin said: "HM the King is associated with an important period in Thailand's recent history that saw great economic development and a stronger position on the international stage.

"Over the decades of his reign, he earned Thai people's sincere love and earned great authority abroad. He will be remembered in Russia as a principled supporter of developing friendship and cooperation between our countries."

Russian Prime Minister Dimitry Medvedev told his Thai counterpart that His Majesty the King's entire life was an example of selfless service to his country and people. "I would like to reiterate his large personal contribution to consolidating the traditional friendship and partnership between Russia and Thailand," he said.

US Secretary of Defence Ash Carter said he joined President Barack Obama in offering his condolences to the Royal Family and all Thais. "His majesty served his nation tirelessly, and his dedication to the people of Thailand will be remembered by future generations," he said.

"As His Majesty's legacy is being honoured around the world, I want in particular to recognise His Majesty's contributions to the long-standing alliance between our two nations. His efforts to promote peace and stability both within Thailand and throughout the region have greatly benefited the Thai people and the global community, and will have a lasting impact."

US Secretary of State John Kerry said he wished to offer his deepest condolences to the Royal Family and all Thais, saying that for more than 70 years the King had led Thailand with "integrity and compassion, always mindful of the needs and aspirations of the Thai people". He said the King was one of America's most valued and trusted friends, and was the only monarch in history born in the US.

"The Bhumibol Adulyadej Square in the city of Cambridge, in my home state of Massachusetts, marks his birthplace and will remain an enduring memorial to the special bond he created between our peoples. He will be long remembered and will be deeply missed."

In Hanoi, Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and National Assembly Chairwoman Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan said that under the King's reign Thailand had grown strongly and Thai people had enjoyed prosperity. "As a neighbour and a strategic partner of Thailand, Vietnam treasures the King's contributions to enhancing cooperation between the two countries," they said in a joint statement.

They expressed their hope that Queen Sirikit, the Royal Family and the people of Thailand would overcome the huge loss and continue to bring the country forward as the King desired.

Unicef also expressed great sadness. "Beloved by his people, and a tireless champion for development and improving the lives of people in Thailand, His Majesty was also a committed advocate for investment in children as the foundation of the country's development," it said.

TAT offers advice for foreign visitors during mourning period

THE NATION

THE Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) yesterday offered suggestions to foreign visitors to Thailand during this official period of mourning following His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's passing.

• Many Thais will be wearing black or white clothing as a sign of mourning. This is not required of visitors but if possible, they should wear sombre and respectful clothing when in public.

• Visitors should refrain from behaving in an inappropriate or disrespectful manner.

• Tourist attractions will be open as usual with the exception of Wat Phra Kaew (Temple of the Emerald Buddha) and the Grand Palace, as they will be the venue of the Royal Funeral Rites.

• The government has asked for the cooperation of entertainment venues such as bars and nightclubs in considering appropriate measures for their business operations during this time. The decision will be left to the individual owners.

• Most traditional and cultural events will be taking place as usual, although the celebrations may be changed as a mark of respect. The events may be dedicated to the memory of His Majesty.

• All transport, banks, hospitals and other public services will be operating as usual.

• The authorities have stepped up safety and security measures for all Thais and visitors to facilitate their travel around the country.

• For enquiries, contact the local TAT office.

Embassies urge respect for Thai sensitivities

THE NATION

SOME foreign countries have advised their tourists and expatriates in Thailand to exercise caution during the current period when Thais across the country mourn the passing of His Majesty the King.

The British Foreign Office issued a statement advising British tourists in Thailand to ensure proper behaviour during their stay in the Kingdom.

The statement said: "You should respect the feelings and sensitivities of the Thai people at this time. Access to entertainment, including restaurants, bars and shopping areas may be restricted and you should behave respectfully when in public areas.

"If possible, wear sober clothing when in public; check local media regularly and follow the advice of local authorities."

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Tourism also urged its citizens in Thailand to obey laws and customs during this period.

The European Association for Business and Commerce informed it members it had decided to postpone a speech dinner with the governor of the Bank of Thailand, originally planned for Monday at Sofitel Bangkok Sukhumvit.

It will inform members at the earliest when the function will be held.

Canada also urged its citizens to show respect for the grief of Thais during this time and refrain from any behaviour that may be interpreted as festive, disrespectful or disorderly.

It said government offices, banks and other institutions may be closed or offer limited services in coming days.

Bangkok is expected to see an influx of people from the provinces to attend ceremonies during the mourning period, which could cause traffic disruptions.

Tourists were advised to monitor local media for more information about possible traffic disruptions and road closures.

During the mourning period, organisers of entertainment and festive events have been urged to scale things down.

The Thai Hotels Association said many events and meetings planned at hotels would have to be postponed or rescheduled.

A representative of Centara Hotels and Resort said hotels in the group could reset events or celebrations upon client request.

The management and associates of Hyatt Regency Hua Hin and The Barai said it had received some requests to postpone bookings from guests from the Bangkok market as well as a few cancellations from government and embassy sectors.

The hotel will waive penalties for guests and clients who need to change their travel plans, as they understand their concerns and feelings during this mourning period.

FAREWELL TO OUR BELOVED MONARCH



PHOTOS/COURTESY OF THE BOOK "KING BHUMIBOL AND THE THAI ROYAL FAMILY IN LAUSANNE"

The Princess Mother and Prince Bhumibol during the family's time in Switzerland.

AN EXEMPLARY CHILDHOOD

THE SON OF THE KING'S TUTOR IN LAUSANNE RECALLS THEIR TIME IN SWITZERLAND

CHUSRI NGAMPRASERT
THE NATION

SEVERAL books have been written over the years about His Majesty the King of Thailand, covering everything from the royal projects and his talent in art, science, sport, craftsmanship and music. Few, though, have done more than touch on his years in Switzerland, the country in which the King spent much of his youth and where he and his siblings were educated.

Lysandre C. Seraidaris bridged that gap with his book "King Bhumibol and the Thai Royal Family in Lausanne". Seraidaris is the youngest son of Cleon C. Seraidaris, a young lawyer who became the private tutor to two monarchs of Thailand, King Ananda and His Majesty King Bhumibol.

Cleon C. Seraidaris was working towards his law degree at the University of Lausanne when he was introduced to Princess Mahidol and her three children by his close friend Rasmi Suriyong, a Siamese Prince, in 1935.

"A grandson of King Rama IV told my father that he would like to introduce him to his cousin, just in case he could help them. Shortly afterwards, Princess Mahidol asked my father if he'd be willing to become the tutor of the boys," Seraidaris said.

"Lausanne is a charming university city. Other cities have industries and international organisations but Lausanne has prestigious schools and universities and that's why the royal family decided to come to the town. You can be a famous person but live a quiet life in Lausanne. People do not bother you."

Seraidaris explained that his father steadfastly refused to write of his experiences prior to his death in 1997, saying that his professional life and memories did not belong to him but to His Majesty.

"My father always said 'I will not write if His Majesty does not ask me to do so'. It just happened that His Majesty encouraged me to write. I was very proud that His Majesty trusted me. He thought this book would be good for history. The King offered to make corrections if there were any mistakes but he didn't need to correct anything," he explained.



The two Kings with Cleon Seraidaris at Champex in 1937.

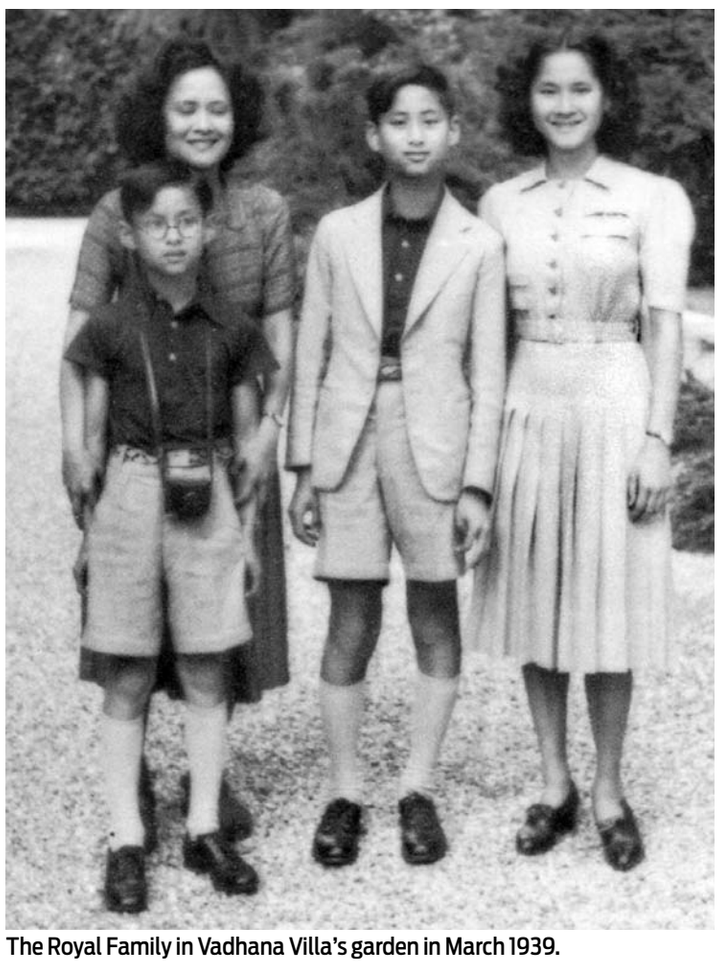
Seraidaris Senior was also proficient in woodworking having learned at l'Ecole Nouvelle and with his father-in-law, a professional cabinet-maker. He passed on the high art of woodworking, known only to the elite elderly craftsmen to the young monarchs.

"They learned to make things by hands from my father. My father was acting in a way like a father, passing on his knowledge to the children.



Tito, the two Kings' faithful companion during their childhood.

"They used to talk about sports and ask the same sort of questions that children pose to an adult. My father was there everyday from early morning until late evening to answer all their questions, supervise their education, lead them to the right schools and to the right teachers as well as to help them learn about life," Seraidaris said.



The Royal Family in Vadhana Villa's garden in March 1939.

"My father took them to school, talked to the teachers, collected them from school and taught them some sports. The two kings loved the outdoors and enjoyed skiing, cycling, skating, climbing the mountains and picking mushrooms. They were interested in everything. My father called them perfect students. You can see in my book the weekly reports on which the teachers commented 'extremely good'.

"I remember my father as a kind and well-respected person. Even at 90, he was always keen to learn something new. He used to say he wanted to learn one thing everyday. That's why he got along so well with the royal family. They share the same outlook. My father and the two kings, they developed together.

"My father considered himself so privileged to be a tutor of two kings and on top of that, one of the most admired kings in the world. It was a privilege that fell to no one else. That's why I thought it was worth writing a book."

Unlike other heads of state, the two monarchs didn't attend boarding school as their mother felt it was more important for them to understand life outside the palace.

"They behaved like kings but they were living with their mother because she wanted them to have a normal family life. This, she felt, would help them to understand the lives of ordinary people and thus be able to work for the people. By knowing what the problems are, they can find solutions.

"I don't know whether it also comes from Swiss education but King Bhumibol likes perfection. He likes work to be well done, which is a Swiss quality," Seraidaris told The Nation. "Actually, I think Prince Mahidol of Songkhla and Princess Mahidol were also like this and their children inherited that trait. That's why they coped so well with Switzerland. I think they felt at home."

The royal family was greatly appreciated by the people of Lausanne and often stopped on the street to say hello to the people they knew.

"The wife of the owner of the Chinese restaurant told me that King Bhumibol had picked cherries at Vadhana Villa and brought her a basketful. She was so touched because, as she said, the King could have told any of his people to buy cherries and deliver them but he chose to do this himself. She also told me how she slipped and the King helped her up. She never forgot that moment," Seraidaris said.

The King's gentleness didn't only touch the heart of the wife of the owner of the Chinese restaurant in Lausanne. His more than 70 years of hard work outside the palace and his gentleness also touched the heart of millions of Thai people. His love for his people will surely never be forgotten.



The two Kings and Cleon prepare for a bicycle ride at La Clairiere, Arveyes, in the summer of 1940.



Our sincere condolences
and deepest sympathies
to the people of Thailand on the passing of
His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej

Siam City Cement and Its Group Companies

FAREWELL TO OUR BELOVED MONARCH

Guidelines issued for all broadcast and print media

TELEVISION CHANNELS AGREE TO SUSPEND NORMAL PROGRAMMES FOR 30 DAYS WHILE NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES WILL PRINT ONLY GREY

WATCHIRANONT THONGTEP
THE NATION

TV CHANNELS have returned to normal programming after televising the procession ceremony of His Majesty the King's body from Siriraj Hospital to the Grand Palace for the official mourning ceremony last night.

Government Spokesman Lt-General Sansern Kaewkamnerd said yesterday that networks would simulcast from the Television Pool of Thailand when special programmes are televised concerning His Majesty the King's rituals.

Lt Gen Sansern, also acting chief of the Public Relations Department, earlier requested broadcasters to suspend their normal programmes for 30 days to help simulcast related programmes from the government media pool for 24 hours.

The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC)'s Broadcasting Committee also issued a guideline for free-to-air TV broadcasters during this 30-day period.

Under this guideline, TV programmes and advertising must not contain improper scenes such as entertaining, dancing or violent acts. TV presenters, hosts and announcers must dress in white or black and act properly.

As well, information related to the King's passing must be approved by authorised bodies. Criticism or analysis is not allowed. Pictures and the tone of broadcasts must be proper. TV programmes must be stopped and simulcasts from the media pool must be shown when required for special programmes.

In response to the government's guidelines, the media and entertainment sector jointly postponed and cancelled all entertainment-related activities and events for one month to pay tribute to the King's demise.

Triluj Navamarat, president of the Media Advertising Association of Thailand (MAAT) told *The Nation* that after studying the announcement from the government regarding media trading and advertising during the national mourning period, advertising via mainstream media such as television, radio and newspapers would be cancelled for at least three days. Entertainment programmes would be replaced by documentaries about His Majesty the King and His Majesty's royal duties or informative/news programmes.

Urgent meeting convened

On Thursday night, media associations and related media owners convened an urgent meeting regarding the guidelines.

The guidelines were circulated internally among media owners, plus media outlets and advertising agencies and their clients.

Under the original guideline for media owners, all TV and radio programmes would be stopped and simulcast from Channel 11 for at least seven days until further notice.

As well, all newspaper content and ads must be published in grey, while magazine covers must also be printed in grey. The colour of inside content is still subject to government direction.

This guideline also applies to online and out-of-home media. Digital billboards will shut off power at night, while in-store and transit light boxes will be turned off.

YouTube will shutdown for at least seven days while other websites must be grey and other Thai media outlets will likely follow the government announcement.

Meanwhile, media and advertising agencies have to stop all commercial advertising for three days while event organisers must stop all on-ground activities and entertainment for 30 days.

The guidelines also suggest that it is up to advertising agencies to change existing spots or ad placements into condolence advertisements.

In response to the guidelines, social media giant Facebook announced that it had turned off all ads for Thailand during the period of mourning. However, ads would continue as normal in other countries and Thai advertisers could continue to run ads outside the country.

BEC-Tero Entertainment will postpone four events scheduled to be held in October and November. For example, Lipovitan-D Presents Moderndog 22 on October 15, the King's Cup FB Battery River Kwai Half Marathon Thailand Championship 2016 on October 16, Thailand Music League 2016 on October 22 and Grand Ex's Grand Concert Hua Hin on November 26.

GMM Grammy's One 31 digital TV station announced it would postpone its press conference on MX Muay Xtreme yesterday, while sister company "Scenario" has cancelled "Lod Line Mangkorn The Musical" for all of this month.

TV announcer reveals 'most difficult moment'

THE NATION

IT FELL to Weerasak Khobkhet on Thursday to read the one news report Thais had been dreading to hear. For the 44-year-old NBT news announcer it was his toughest moment, as he struggled to overcome pain and grief to perform his duty of informing the people.

"Assigned to announce the worst news to all Thai people, I asked myself if I could do it. I wondered if I was capable of handling it successfully, because within seconds of hearing the sad news from the Royal Household Bureau, I had burst into tears. I must admit it was the most difficult moment in my life: to give Thai people the saddest news," he told Thai Rath Online.

"It was obviously very painful for me to do this duty. When I myself had broken into tears after learning the news, other Thais must have had the same experience. More energy was badly needed to accomplish this assignment," said Weerasak, who began his career in 1994.





"Just before the crucial moment, I lowered my head, gathered my concentration and sought a morale boost from colleagues. I asked them if I could handle it, because I was still uncertain if I would be able to go through with it. After that, my colleagues and I got our act together and focused hard to seek peace of mind. I found each move I made very difficult. I found carrying this piece of paper and reading the news to all Thais one of the toughest challenges, even though I have been working on this duty for years.

"I raised my hands and prayed for His Majesty just to let him know that I need to work for him. This was my last chance to do so and I just wanted to do my best. Although it was terribly painful, I just needed to do it for the beloved King. While announcing the news, I tried to carefully handle every second of the moment.

"Shortly after I finished reading the sad news, I broke down again. It's the saddest moment of my life. It was also the most difficult assignment of my life. Although we knew it was a reality we would have to face one day, it is still painful."

FAREWELL TO OUR BELOVED MONARCH

EDITORIAL

Let His Majesty's torch GUIDE US FORWARD

OUR MOURNING NATION MUST UPHOLD HIS WISHES AND DREAMS

The tears were real and the grief was genuine. What is left for the Kingdom to do is turn them into something more. His Majesty the King's life-long wish to see his nation prosper in the proper, sustainable way and united in a non-harming, non-aggressive and non-violent way must be pursued. The monarch always carried this great hope for this land, and, on Thursday, he passed the torch to all of us.

Thais' loyalty has always been unquestionable. Yet the time has come for all of us to take it a step further. The love, the feeling of immense loss and the collective numbness that seems to blur the immediate path ahead must become meaningful. For them to be meaningful, we only have to really look at what he advised us repeatedly over many years. He believed in our strengths and goodness, and so should we.

Tangibly and intangibly, His Majesty reigned over Thailand. He visited the remotest villages, bringing them much-needed help. He studied many subjects related to the poor so he could play a part in helping them find solutions. Artificial rain showered dry terrain. Anti-flood schemes were proposed when swollen waters threatened livelihoods. Agricultural projects were initiated to enable countless farmers stand strong and unassisted.

The rains, the roads and the farms are touchable, but his unifying power and dream are not quite so. It's the latter that requires our greatest efforts to uphold them. He will be watching, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha suggested during his sombre national address Thursday evening, but there's a subtle difference between doing it because the King will be watching and doing it because our hearts tell us it's the right thing to do.

All of His Majesty's efforts and wishes for Thailand came straight from his heart. There is no better way to repay his for this than to carry on his legacy, not as a dictated duty but as heartfelt actions. No one obliged His Majesty to lose sleep thinking about how to fight floods or make dry land green, so we probably should do the same. A great future demands sincerity, which was what the King had to give, and what grieving Thais, in truly honouring him, must express.

He preached perseverance and tolerance. It was hard to do for a man in his situation – living in a world where ideologies clashed and some citizens even challenged his institution. But the tears were real and the grief was genuine, and that can only mean that His Majesty walked the talk.

His was a life of sacrifices. His 70-year reign offered not even the slightest evidence of any unfilled period. There was no luxurious "home entertainment" where he lived. He used pencils to draft his designs and make plans for the Thai people until they were worn down to stubs. Visiting a Starbucks or attending an Eagles concert were impossible for him. Thais were more familiar with pictures of him holding his camera and a map than any depicting life at the palace.

As one man in front of Siriraj Hospital on Thursday pointed out, none of us could ever do what he did. But the torch is with us now and, for what he did to be really and continuously meaningful, we shall use it to guide our way along the immediate path ahead. The way ahead might be full of sadness and obstacles, but the torch is bright enough, and we the current bearers certainly have the full confidence of the one who gave it to us.



ARUN'S CARTOON

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WE WELCOME YOUR VIEWS on anything newsworthy. Please include your name and address on your letters. We reserve the right to edit all letters for clarity, content and length.

Legacy of a unifying ruler lives on

Thai people have suffered a great loss with His Majesty the King's passing on Thursday. The sight of people weeping and wailing openly in mourning will be witnessed all across the country and beyond.

Despite the political division that occurred in the past few decades of his reign, His Majesty was unwavering in his hard work and dedication for his people – not anywhere in particular, but all across the country.

That is why Thais from all walks of life – rich and poor, young and old, rural folks and urban citizens alike – are gathering as one to share deep mourning at the loss of "Our Great Father".

Let's hope His Majesty's legacy remains a guiding light for all of us Thais – to make our country as peaceful and prosperous as it has been for the most part of its eight-century history!

Vint Chavala
Bangkok

One of history's great leaders

Thursday was indeed a day of great sadness with the news that His Majesty has passed away. But, while His Majesty has left us, he remains within us in spirit.

For 70 years the King lifted the hearts of all who enjoyed the privilege of living under his leadership. But His Majesty's legacy lives on to enrich Thailand and the world, and for that we must be thankful. There have been but few great leaders throughout history, but His Majesty King Bhumibol of Thailand ranks among the highest.

Thank you, Your Majesty.

JC Wilcox

A reign of rapid progress

His Majesty the King was the nation's father and a unifying figure. All of the region can see how he devoted himself to the development of Thailand with his heartfelt efforts and wise leadership.

During his reign Thailand went from being a frontline state and potential next domino in the Vietnam War years to a state that enjoyed decades of rapid growth.

We join in the sorrow of our Thai friends in mourning the loss of their revered King.

Associate Professor Simon Tay
Chairman of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs

Forever in people's hearts

Deepest condolences to the Thai people on the loss of their beloved King. He had a tremendous reign, made difference in the lives of his people – a great man who deserves his place in history and his people's hearts.

Andrew Sheng
Distinguished Fellow of Fung Global Institute, Hong Kong

Send us your views in an instant!

E-mail your opinion, with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject box, to: **letters@nationgroup.com**

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Thailand goes BLACK IN MOURNING

AGENCIES

Thailand, a country often associated with the bright colours of its various social movements, was predominantly dressed in black yesterday as the official mourning period began following the passing away of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Train commuters, convenience store workers and even joggers in central Bangkok's Lumpini Park took to wearing black to mark the passing of the country's deeply revered King.

People camped out overnight in front of Bangkok's Siriraj Hospital,where the King died on Thursday afternoon, and others were continuing to arrive from outside the capital to pay their last tributes.

Woraporn Jukkhom travelled to Bangkok from Lampang province, 600 kilometres north, as soon as she heard the news on Thursday night.

"I just had to be here," she said.

"This is our last chance to say goodbye."

Thailand plans to observe 100 days of official ceremonies and religious rites.

Meanwhile, embassies in Thailand have advised tourists to respect the feelings of the Thai people.

Embassies in Thailand have advised tourists to respect the feelings of the Thai people. The government has declared one year of official mourning and asked Thais to wear black and avoid "festivities" for 30 days.

The government has declared one year of official mourning and asked Thais to wear black and avoid "festivities" for 30days.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-ocha, however, has called on businesses to stay active. The Cabinet declared a government holiday for mourning yesterday but the Stock Exchange of Thailand and banks operated normally.

Britain's Foreign Office said in an advisory those travelling to Thailand had to be respectful of people's feelings.

"You should respect the sensitivities of the Thai people at this time; access to entertainment, including restaurants, bars and shopping areas may be restricted and you should behave respectfully when in public areas," it said.

Tropical Thailand, with its beaches, Buddhist temples and night life, remains a magnet for travellers despite weathering more than a decade of unrest, including two coups, floods in 2011 and a wave of bombs in tourist towns in August.

The country expects a record 33 million visitors this year.

The government has not announced specific restrictions on nightlife but it is at least likely to be subdued.

"We recommend the following for residents and tourists: exercise caution and observe public order laws ... maximum respect for the sentiment of the Thai people," the Italian Embassy in Bangkok said.

The government said it had increased security around the country following the King's death.

"Stupid behaviour right now is totally out of the question," said Didier Arnault, a French national living in Bangkok's historic quarter near royal palaces.

THE NATION

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FAREWELL TO OUR BELOVED MONARCH

Social media filled with pain and paeans

PEOPLE EXPRESS THEIR GRATITUDE AS THEY SLOWLY COME TO TERMS WITH THE PASSING OF THE KING













KORNCHANOK RAKSASERI
@AIM_TH

Thai social media have been at their busiest ever. People freely shared their feelings and memories as the country mourned the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

@praewnoiijb wrote: "The Land of Smile is now very sad."

Video clips, songs and pictures related to his life flooded the timeline, mostly in black and white. They were earlier in yellow and pink, the colours believed to bring good health to the beloved King.

Thais in Bangkok and abroad shared pictures of their gatherings and commemorations, especially at Siriraj Hospital, the Grand Palace and the King Bhumibol Adulyadej Square in Massachusetts, US, where the King was born.

Foreign leaders, including the prime ministers of Malaysia, Singapore and India used Twitter and Facebook accounts to send their condolences to Thais.

A lot of Thais shared Facebook posts of King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of Bhutan who led his people in prayers for HM King Bhumibol both before and after the passing of the revered monarch.

Posting a picture of HM King Bhumibol and his dog, @Vitle_vi wrote, "The greatest king, you are the heart of all Thai people. Respect from the Cambodians."

The hashtags #KingBhumibol, #May I be your humble servant forever and #IwasBornInTheReignOfKing RamaIX rose to the top in Thai social media timeline.

Joy Achariya Angsuvarnsiri posted: "Yesterday was the last night in the reign of King Rama IX. This morning is in the reign of King Rama X.

"His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej Mahitalathibet Ramathibodi Chakkrinaruebodin Sayamminthrathirat Borommanatbophit... (King Rama IX) ascended the throne on June 9, 2489 BE when he was 19. He passed away at 3.52pm at Siriraj Hospital on Thursday October 13, 2559 BE at the age of 89.

"He was the world's longest-reigning monarch being at the helm for 70 years. It is my greatest merit to have been born and lived happily under his reign for 38 years."

#IwasBornInTheReignOf KingRamaIX"

A lot of people posted similarly of their pride, how they would share with their children and noted that they wanted Facebook to remind them with this post every year.

Somluck Srimalee wrote: "When I was a kid, I used to feel why the Father never visited his people in Bangkok. I envied those in the provinces who had a chance to see him. But when Bangkok faced a major flood, I saw him taking a boat to visit Bangkok residents. In the darkest time during the economic crisis in 1997, His Majesty gave us the wisdom of his sufficiency economy philosophy.

Vorraphop Junburanasiri wrote: The time has come for Thai people to be strong on our own. We don't have the Father of the Nation to guide us. It's time we pursued his dream and make this country developed."

Aliza Alice Napartivaumnuay posted a drawing and wrote: "How fortunate we are to have been born under your reign. You have taught us so much about how we should care about each other and care about nature. Your passion, words, and actions have been instilled in me and I shall do my best in every way possible to do as much good as I can in my lifetime."

On Thursday night, many posted that they could not sleep. Some wished that the King's death was just a nightmare that was not true. Others gave moral support by writing that the King was now resting happily with his parents and siblings in heaven.

Many also wrote about their observation that the sky had been strangely gloomy earlier this week but returned to normal yesterday. They referred to the scene described by MR Kukrit Pramoj in "Four Reigns" when HM King Rama V passed away.

@belinvida_: "I envy the sky, it has taken back the angel."

@aqunaa: "Since I left my room today, I haven't stopped looking up at the sky."

@_pxxs's message has been shared widely. It says, "After listening to the Royal Household Bureau, I said to my brother, 'There is no miracle'. He said, 'We have enjoyed the miracle for 70 years already'."

@Len_deeR: "I used to wonder how we can love a person we never met. Now I know."

@skymantaf posted a picture and described: "14 October 1973, weapons were used to suppress the people calling for democracy. [HM King Bhumibol] ordered opening of the Chitralada.Palace's gate so people could come in and be safe."

@sny_km: "Yes, it's like being heartbroken all the time."

@aelwasikan: "Never before have I seen money and felt sad."

@skxsjxexo: "I wore my earphones, played loud music, I didn't follow the news, I didn't look at my phone. Nothing helped. I couldn't stop my tears."

Thon Thamrongnawasawat wrote: "Who said time will heal [the pain]? I feel worse. I don't want to go anywhere, just hide my face in the pillow."

@wiw_FCRitz: "Always our beloved King."

@kasih388: "HM [King Bhumibol] did not only leave us grief, but also loads of good examples for us to follow."

@JaneViff: "[HM King Bhumibol] said HM the Queen was his smile. I wonder how his smile is now?"





FAREWELL TO OUR BELOVED MONARCH



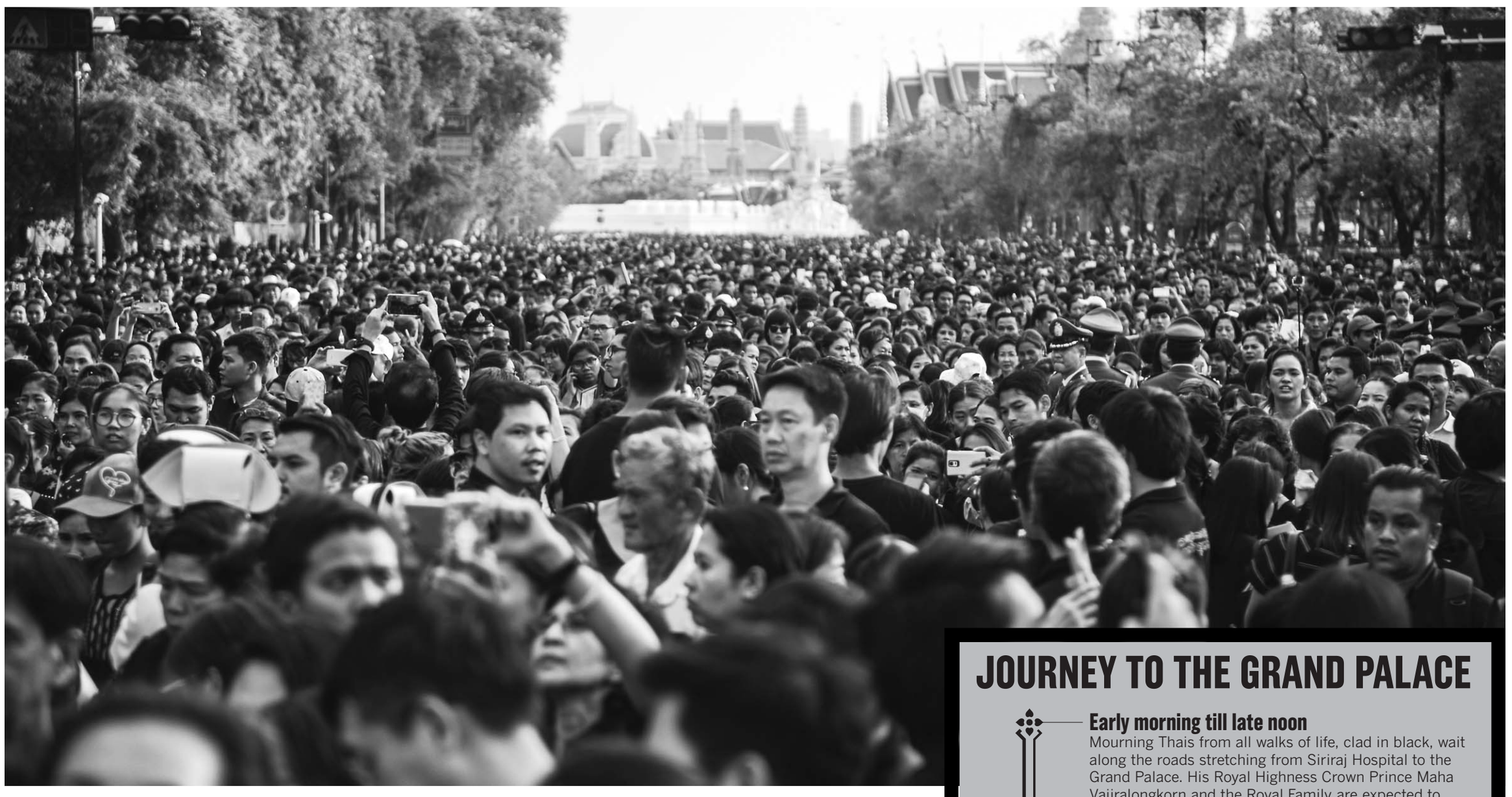








TEARFUL ADIEU









JOURNEY TO THE GRAND PALACE

Early morning till late noon
Mourning Thais from all walks of life, clad in black, wait along the roads stretching from Siriraj Hospital to the Grand Palace. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn and the Royal Family are expected to arrive before HM the King's body is taken for the Royal Funeral Rite at the Grand Palace and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha. Many mourners had camped out since midnight.

3.57pm:
HRH the Crown Prince arrives at the Chalermprakiat Building at Siriraj Hospital with the Royal Family.

4.35pm:
HM the King's body is taken from Siriraj Hospital in a motorcade to the Grand Palace. Accompanied by Somdej Phra Wannarat, the chief monk of Thamayut Buddhism, the king's body is carried in a simple ambulance van, followed by vehicles of Royal Family members.
The motorcade crosses Chao Phraya River at Somdet Phra Pinklao Bridge and approaches the Grand Palace from the eastern side of Sanam Luang city square, and continues on Na Phralan Road – where the Grand Palace is on the left.
On both sides of the road, grieving crowds bid a final farewell to their revered King. Many hold yellow flags. Some hold the King's portrait.

5pm:
The motorcade with the King's body arrives at the Grand Palace and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha. A sea of grieving mourners in black await the procession.
HM the King's body is taken through the Viset Chaisri Gate for the Royal Funeral Rite at Dusit Maha Prasat Throne Hall.
HRH the Crown Prince presides over the bathing and merit-making rituals for the funeral rites.

Source: The Nation NATION GRAPHICS

FAREWELL TO OUR BELOVED MONARCH



Tens of thousands of mourners pay obeisance as His Majesty the King's motorcade takes his body from Siriraj Hospital to the Grand Palace yesterday. Below centre, PM Prayut Chan-o-cha attends a royal bathing rite.





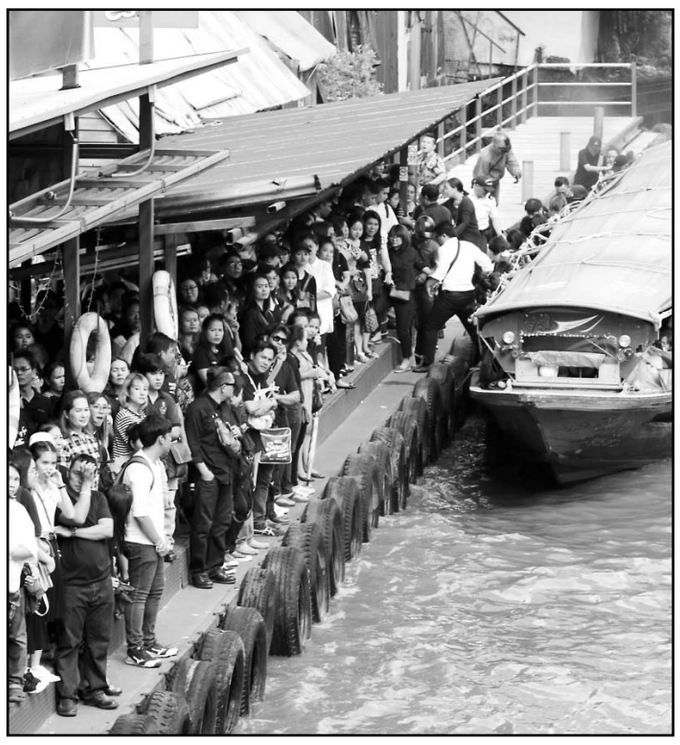












FAREWELL TO OUR BELOVED MONARCH

WHAT MOURNERS SAY

THE NATION'S JUTHATHIP LUCKSANAWONG AND PRATCH RUJIVANAROM INTERVIEW LOYAL SUBJECTS AT SIRIRAJ HOSPITAL AND OUTSIDE THE GRAND PALACE TO GET THEIR THOUGHTS ON HIS MAJESTY KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ.

Professor Rapee Sagarik

Bow to thee, my dearest king
Now my heart is not with me
For thee, I would do anything
Thinking of the past
I cry blood, not tears
It cuts deep inside
Unexpected loss, oh my dear king
Missing you, all musical
instruments are bleeding
The memory of thee will
never be forgotten





Chiranan Pitpreecha, poet, writer, social activist l

REMEMBER the decisive moment in the early morning of October 14, 1976 – that was 43 years ago. His Majesty the King allowed pro-democracy students fleeing a violent army crackdown to take refuge in his palace and made a call for calm. He was undoubtedly the most revered unifying figure of the nation, as evidenced in many other occasions. The 70 years of his benevolent reign will be remembered forever."



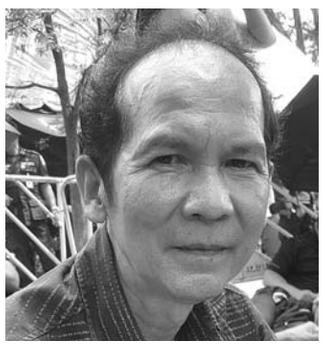
Dr Wiwat Salyakamthorn, president of the Agri-Nature Foundation and the Institute of Sufficiency Economy.
"Sickness and death are as natural as birth. We should follow Father's example and seek to accelerate goodness. The results of our perseverance and determination will stay with us forever."



Kittisak Chupian, 27, vendor in Bangkok
"My father and I distributed free food and water to all those who came for the procession today. We are buying food and water with our own money and some donation from friends. My intention is I want to do a good thing for our King. Even though he has already passed away, but I want to remind everyone that his legacy still remains and we should remember him and pay respect to him by doing a good thing and follow his teaching."



Chotikar Kaewchalachumpon, 38, merchant, Samut Sakhon.
"I am so sad that our King has passed away. We always thought that he would be the pillar for our country for longer than this. He's just like the father of the nation and now he's gone, it's like losing my own father."



Somchin Vijitsuk, 62, retired civil servant, Nan
"The King had a very high moral authority. His many royal projects helped many villages including mine. Many years ago, he ordered the Department of Irrigation to build three water reservoirs in Nan, which helped resolve the drought and flood problems in the province. That is an example of his contribution."



Apichet Panliang, 21, soldier, Nakhon Pathom
"I love my King very much. When I heard the news of his death, my only wish was to be with him at the hospital. So, I walked from my home in Nakhon Pathom. It took me 10 hours to cover this distance of 50.3 kilometres. I did it to demonstrate my respect to our King. He did a lot of hard work for all of us and my tiredness from the long walk cannot be compared with the hardships he underwent during his 70 years of reign."



Nares Yuktranun, 56, businessman, Bangkok
"I cycled 20 kilometres from my home to witness this once-in-a-lifetime event where I can show respect to my King ... Other [cycling] club members and I had planned to cycle for one million kilometres combined for his speedy recovery. However, he died before we could achieve our goal. Our accumulative cycling distance was just a few thousands [kilometres]. The King's passing came too early."



Aorapim Prawansuk, 49, businesswoman, Bangkok.
"I love my King. I feel very sad that he is no more. I know this day would have come no matter what, but I did not expect it to be so soon, so I showed up at the procession ceremony today."



Jiraporn Doungthanet, 47, civil servant, Bangkok.
"I am very sorry that my King has passed away so quickly. I always went to Siriraj Hospital to wish him health every time he went to the hospital. Every time my wish was successful, but not this time and what I can do now is to pray for him and wish him a good journey to heaven."



Tik, 57, civil servant, Bangkok.
"I am grieved to hear this news, so I have come to Siriraj Hospital today to express my loyalty to the late King for one last time."



Nattakorn Yodpayung, 55, salesman, Bangkok
"He will always be in my heart despite his physical departure. His presence made Thai people happy. The King never thought of himself. The public interest was always his priority."



Nathapat Sommut, 49, company worker, Nonthaburi
"It is very difficult for me to say anything about him as I am so sorry to learn he left his people. I saw King Bhumibol put his effort into developing our country. Not only me but all Thais grieve. I begged for a miracle to revive the King. I could not sleep last night. It hurts."



Somthawin Thiantham, 54, vendor, Bangkok.
"I'm at a loss for words. I feel so sad that I cannot explain it in words. He is the soul of the country and now he has gone."



Thatsanai Namnart, 39, company employee, Bangkok
"This is a great loss for our nation. I was crying when I first heard the news of the King's passing. I am sure that the whole country is in tears. It is the time that we should love each other more than ever and bring harmony to the country to honour our late King."



Ittipol Chanton, 52, production house owner, Bangkok
"I come here because I consider the monarch to be a living angel. I came to send him to Heaven. I believe that if I am a good man, I will be born under his reign again in my next life."



Ole Martin Vik Solhiem, 48, businessman from Norway
"Even though I am a foreigner, but I do know that the King of Thailand was a great man and I feel sorry for his death like millions of Thai people. Therefore, I attended the procession ceremony to express my respect to him one last time."



Tanaporn Yasaporn, 59, maid, Samut Sakhon
"Since the time I heard the news that our King had passed away, I've been in a state of shock. I would have liked to go to Siriraj Hospital immediately, but I couldn't make it because I have my granddaughter to take care of. Therefore, today my family and I have all come here to pay our respects to the late King."



Waraporn Sueasungko, 28, government official, Bangkok
"He is a source of inspiration and motivation. He is the centre unifying all Thai people's hearts."



Bussakorn Ariyasupong, 60, retiree, Bangkok.
"Since the King was ill, I prayed for him every day, wishing his condition would improve. The news of his death cut into my heart like a knife. I am heartbroken. I feel lost, because I did not expect he'd be gone so soon."

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