

Constitutional Court To Rule On Yingluck Case Tomorrow

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BANGKOK, May 6 (Bernama) -- Thailand's Constitutional Court will announce tomorrow its decision in the abuse of power case against caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

Four witnesses including Yingluck testified for about four hours today amid tight security in a case that will decide whether Yingluck will stay as interim Prime Minister or be removed.

Yingluck arrived at the court at about 10.30am and left around 1.10pm without talking to the press.

She is charged with abuse of power in the transfer case of the National Security Council (NSC) chief Thawil Pliensri in 2011.

In her defence, Yingluck denied abusing her powers, saying she did not get any benefit from the case and that the transfer was for the benefit of the country's administration.

Security was tight with riot police and army personnel deployed in the area around the Court with her supporters threatening action if she is found guilty and removed as Prime Minister, while anti-government groups are also planning some actions.

The anti-government groups have camped near the Government complex in Chaeingwattana for months.

Whatever the decision, there is likely to be reaction by both groups which are planning large rallies next week .

The case is one of two legal threats to Yingluck's position as the interim Prime Minister.

The other one brought by the National Anti-Corruption Commission is the charge of dereliction of duty in handling the rice subsidy scheme where the government owes farmers billions of baht in payment that have been overdue for many months now.

If Yingluck is removed by the court, it raises the possibility that the general election that is scheduled to be held on July 20 will be postponed .

The opposition Democrat Party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva has proposed a six months delay for the general election planned for July to enable political and electoral reforms take place.

However, the ruling Pheu Thai Party which is the favourite to retain power has rejected the proposal.

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