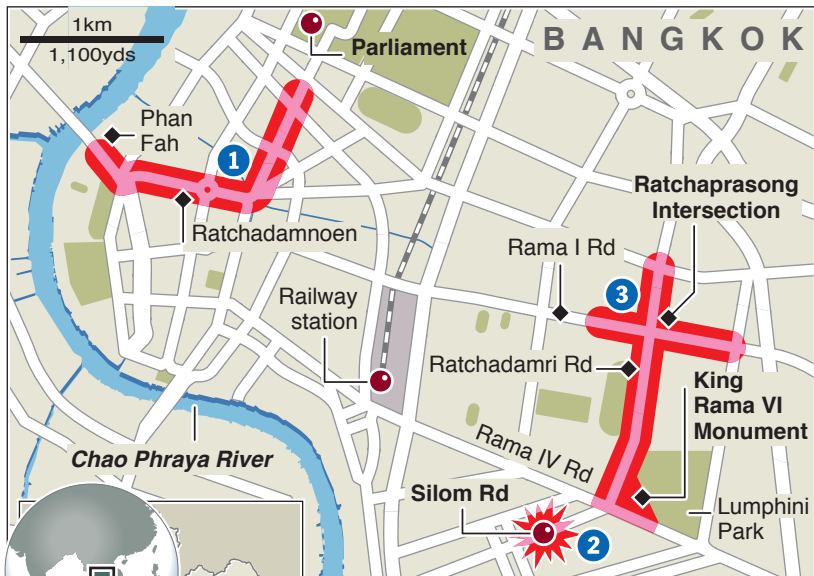


Thai “red shirts” prepare for confrontation

Bangkok is gripped by tension, rumour and fear as anti-government “red shirt” protesters, hunkered down in their fortified encampment in the Thai capital’s commercial heart, brace for a possible crackdown by security forces under pressure to drive them out



1 April 10: 25 people killed and at least 521 injured when Thai troops clash with thousands of red shirt demonstrators in Bangkok’s worst political violence in 18 years

2 April 22: Rocket propelled grenades fired at troops from red shirt barricades at King Rama VI Monument. One person killed, 80 injured

3 Ratchaprasong: About 8,000 red shirt protesters have occupied Bangkok’s shopping district for three weeks. Red shirts claim **Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva** came to power illegally and want him to resign and call elections