

Thai red shirts storm EC

AP, Bangkok
Thousands of defiant anti-government demonstrators fanned out to other parts of Thailand's capital and threatened businesses with ties to the government yesterday after ignoring police orders to leave Bangkok's paralysed commercial district.
About 100 protesters pushed their way into their newest target, the Election Commission, in anger that the commission has yet to rule on whether the ruling Democrat Party violated laws on financial donations, which could lead to the party's dissolution. No violence was reported and all protesters inside and outside the building left the area after a compromise was reached.
The protesters, mostly farmers from impoverished provincial areas, have sworn not to let up their pressure until Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva steps down and calls new elections.

Jatuporn Prompan, a protest leader, said demonstrators would maintain bases within both Bangkok's commercial heart and the separate historic quarter of the city where they began to encamp March 12 and also branch out to other locations.
Jatuporn also threatened that big businesses would be "in big trouble" if they didn't sever their connections to the government.
Another protest leader, Kwanchai Praipana, led at least 10,000 followers to the Election Commission and after a tense confrontation, with the Red Shirts pressing up against the building, he entered to meet with the commissioners.
In the first substantial compromise reached by the opposing sides, the commission agreed to rule on the allegation against the Democrat Party on April 20 rather than the scheduled April 30. The deal was brokered by a senior police officer.

Israel allows commercial goods into blockaded Gaza

AP, Gaza City
A Gaza border official says Israel has allowed a commercial shipment of shoes and clothes into the blockaded Palestinian territory for the first time since 2007.
Raed Fattouh says 10 truckloads of shoes and clothes entered the Hamas-run strip Sunday. He says many of the goods were damaged after more than two years in storage.
It was the first non-humanitarian shipment of such items, though an Israeli army spokesman says Israel allows such items into Gaza occasionally as part of UN-coordinated aid shipments.

Pope's immunity could be challenged in Britain

AP, London
Protests are growing against Pope Benedict XVI's planned trip to Britain, where some lawyers question whether the Vatican's implicit statehood status should shield the pope from prosecution over sex crimes by paedophile priests.
More than 10,000 people have signed a petition on Downing Street's web site against the pope's 4-day visit to England and Scotland in September, which will cost U.K. taxpayers an estimated 15 million pounds (\$22.5 million). The campaign has gained momentum as more Catholic sex abuse scandals have swept across Europe.
Although Benedict has not been accused of any crime, senior British lawyers are now examining whether the pope should have immunity as a head of state and whether he could be prosecuted under the principle of universal jurisdiction for an alleged systematic cover-up of sexual abuses by priests.
Universal jurisdiction a concept in interna-

tional law allows judges to issue warrants for nearly any visitor accused of grievous crimes, no matter where they live. British judges have been more open to the concept than those in other countries.
Lawyers are divided over the immunity issue. Some argue that the Vatican isn't a true state, while others note the Vatican has national relations with about 170 countries, including Britain. The Vatican is also the only non-member to have permanent observer status at the UN.
Then again, no other top religious leaders enjoy the same UN privileges or immunity, so why should the pope?
David Crane, former chief prosecutor at the Sierra Leone war crimes tribunal, said it would be difficult to implicate the pope in anything criminal.
"It's a fascinating kind of academic, theoretical discussion," said Crane, who prosecuted Sierra Leone's Charles Taylor when he was still a sitting head of state. "At this point, there's no liability at all."

Suicide bomber kills two police in Russia

AP, Nazran
A suicide bomber blew himself up at a police station in a restive Russian province yesterday, killing two officers and wounding two others, officials said.
The bomber's car later also exploded, wounding an investigator.
The attack occurred a week after two suicide bombers killed 40 rush-hour commuters and wounded 121 on the Moscow subway in the first terror attack in the Russian capital since 2004. Authorities have blamed militants from the North Caucasus.
In Monday's attack in the North Caucasus province of Ingushetia, the attacker approached the police headquarters in the town of Karabulak and detonated his explosives, said regional prosecutor Yuri Turygin.

China dismisses Mekong dam criticism

AFP, Hua Hin
China rejected criticism yesterday of its dams on the shrinking Mekong River, telling Southeast Asian leaders that it was not to blame for a regional drought affecting millions of people.
At a landmark meeting with the heads of four Southeast Asian nations, Beijing's Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao denied activists' criticism that the hydropower dams had exacerbated decades-low water levels downstream.
"Statistics show that the recent drought that hit the whole river basin is attributable to the extreme dry weather, and the water level decline of the Mekong River has nothing to do with the hydropower development," he said.
The leaders of Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam -- the member-states of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) -- convened in the Thai coastal town of Hua Hin to discuss management of the river, on which more than 60 million people rely.
China -- itself suffering the worst drought in a century in its southwest, with more than 24 million people short of drinking water -- attended the talks as a dialogue partner of the MRC, as did military-ruled Myanmar.
"China itself is also a victim of the present severe drought," Song told the summit, where the four MRC states signed a treaty pledging to prioritise tackling climate change and responding to drought.
The so-called "Mighty Mekong" has dropped to its lowest level in 50 years in northern Thailand and Laos, alarming communities who depend on the critical waterway for food, transport, drinking water and irrigation.



Children walk along the Mekong river in Phnom Penh yesterday. Southeast Asian nations on the Mekong River pledged to step up cooperation over the shrinking waterway amid fears China's dams are exacerbating a severe regional drought.

115 Chinese trapped miners rescued

AFP, Xiangning
More than 100 Chinese miners were pulled out alive after being trapped for over a week in a flooded coal mine, where some ate sawdust and strapped themselves to the shafts' walls with their belts to avoid drowning while they slept.
Rescued miners wrapped in blankets, some with their light-sensitive eyes covered but their feet bare, were hurried to waiting ambulances that sped wailing to nearby hospitals. One clapped on his stretcher and reached out his blackened hands to grasp those of rescuers on either side.
Rescuers in tears hugged each other yesterday at the scene, which was broadcast live on national television. The sudden surge in rescues was a rare piece of good news for China's mining industry, the deadliest in the world. A rescue spokesman said 115 survivors had been pulled out as of 4:30 pm local time (0830 GMT, 4:30 am EDT).
"A miracle has finally happened," Liu Dezhen told reporters Monday morning, after the first nine miners were taken out shortly after midnight. "We believe that more miracles will happen."
Rescuers have been pumping water out of the flooded mine since last Sunday, when workers digging a tunnel broke into an old shaft filled with water. The first signs of life from underground came Friday, when tapping could be heard coming up the pipes. Divers first headed into the tunnels over the weekend but found high, murky water and emerged empty-handed.
As the water level continued to drop, rescuers with rubber rafts squeezed through the narrow, low-ceilinged passages late Sunday and pulled out the first nine survivors just after midnight. Eleven hours later, the large wave of rescues began.

Russia still hopes diplomacy to solve Iran standoff

AFP, Moscow
Russia still hopes for a diplomatic solution to the standoff over Iran's nuclear programme, a deputy foreign minister said yesterday, as the West steps up pressure for new sanctions against Tehran.
"We still have not lost hope for a solution to the Iranian nuclear problem through dialogue with Iran," Sergei Ryabkov, Russia's point man on Iran nuclear talks, told the Interfax news agency.
He insisted concerns that Iran was working to develop an atomic bomb had not yet reached a critical threshold after which Russia would turn to new sanctions to force a change in the Islamic republic's stance.
"Nothing is happening today which would give grounds to talk of a 'new page' or a 'new chapter'. Normal discussions are going on, as they have always been and will be," he was quoted as saying.

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Tel: 9665602, Fax: 9665602; Website: www.buet.ac.bd/iict/

No.: GD-BUET/IICT/TGTDL/2010-01 Date: 4/04/2010

Invitation for Tender

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the eligible suppliers under the provisions of the Public Procurement Rules-2008 for the Goods and related Services and under the terms and conditions outlined below and detailed in the Tender document:

1	Procuring Entity Name	IICT, BUET
2	Invitation for	Tender for Goods for two lots
3	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method
4	Budget and Source of Funds	TGTDL, GOB (Through BRCT, BUET)
5	Project Name	Prepaid Gas Meter Project for TGTDL
6	Tender Package No.	GD-BUET/IICT/TGTDL/2010(01)
7	Tender Package Name	The Procurement of Server, Workstation, Laptop, Laser Printer, Dot-matrix Printer, Slip Printer, On line UPS and Off line UPS for the Prepaid Gas Meter Project of TGTDL.
8	Tender Publication Date	07/04/2010
9	Tender Last Selling Date	27/04/2010 within office hour
10	Tender Closing Date and Time	28/04/2010 at 12:00 Noon
11	Tender Opening Date and Time	28/04/2010 at 12:15 PM. Tenderer's authorized representative(s) are allowed to attend, if any.
12	Name & Address of the office	IICT, BUET, 4 th Floor, Civil Engineering Building, Dhaka-1000
- Selling Tender Document		Time: between 9:30 AM and 5:00 PM on all working days.
- Receiving Tender Document		Interested Tenderers may view the documents at the website of IICT, BUET.
- Opening Tender Document		Website: www.buet.ac.bd/IICT/
13	Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	N/A
14	Eligibility of Tenderer	The Tenderer shall be the authorized dealer/distributor/reseller/ bonafide supplier having minimum 3 (three) years of overall business experience and at least 2 (two) years specific experience of supplying, installing, commissioning, operating of similar goods and providing support service to Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous bodies/ private or multinational organization in Bangladesh.
15	Black Listed/Debarred Bidders	Black listed/debarred bidder from any Govt./Semi Govt./ Autonomous Organization will be considered as ineligible to participate in the tender.
16	Brief Description of Goods or Works	Procurement of server, workstation, Laptop Laser printer, Dot-matrix Printer, Slip Printer, UPS etc.
17	Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	Tk. 500/= (five hundred) only (non refundable) payable in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft favouring "Director, IICT, BUET" from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh.
18	Lot No.	Identification of Lot Location Tender Security Amount (Tk.) Completion Time in days
1	1	Servers, Workstations, Laptop Computer Online and Offline UPS BUET Tk. 40,000.00
2	2	Laser Printer, Dot-matrix Printer, Slip Printer BUET Tk. 20,000.00
19	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Prof. Dr. S. M. Lutful Kabir
20	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director
21	Address of Official Inviting Tender	IICT, BUET, 4 th Floor, Civil Engineering Building, Dhaka-1000
22	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	9665602 9665602 lutfulkabr@iiict.buet.ac.bd
23	Special instructions	a. Each Tender must be accompanied by a Bank Draft/Pay order as per PPR issued from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in Dhaka City amounting to mentioned tender security money deposited in favour of the "Director, IICT, BUET" as a Tender security without which no Tender will be considered for evaluation. If a bidder participates in more than one Lot, Tender security may be accompanied by only one Bank Draft/Pay order equal to the security money of the Lots. b. The Procuring Entity (PE) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without showing any reason at any time prior to contract award.

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