

Thai PM survives confidence vote

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's beleaguered prime minister survived a no-confidence vote yesterday called after months of anti-government protests crippled the capital and street battles left nearly 90 people dead.

Opposition lawmakers accused Prime Minister Vejjajiva of brutally suppressing the protests. Abhisit, defending himself during debate in Parliament on Tuesday, promised there would be an independent investigation into whether the army used undue force to clear demonstrators from Bangkok's streets.

Street clashes, grenade attacks and sniper fire over a 10-week period killed 89 people and wounded some 1,800. The months of political turmoil cost the country billions of dollars.

The thousands of Red Shirt protesters had been calling for Abhisit to dissolve Parliament immediately and call new elections, saying his government came to power illegitimately and represented a Bangkok elite indifferent to the plight of the rural and urban poor.

The prime minister has yet to set a date for elections, saying stability has to be restored before balloting can be held.

During two days of acrimonious debate, the opposition Puea Thai Party charged the army's use of live ammunition and armoured personnel carriers to break up the protests was excessive and resulted in civilian casualties.

As the military moved in to clear the protest area on May 19, rioters set fires at the country's biggest shopping mall, the stock exchange and more than two dozen other places.

No side could claim victory when faced with such losses, Abhisit said Tuesday.



Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama speaks to reporters at his office in Tokyo yesterday. Hatoyama tearfully resigned, just nine months after a stunning election win, his brief reign derailed by a row over an unpopular US airbase.

Global military spending soars despite crisis

AFP, Stockholm

Global military expenditures soared to a record high last year, unscathed by the economic downturn, with the United States accounting for more than half of increase, a think tank said yesterday.

In 2009, 1,531 billion dollars (1,244 billion euros) were spent worldwide in the military sector, a 5.9 percent rise from 2008 and a 49 percent jump from 2000, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said in its report.

"Many countries were increasing public spending generally in 2009, as a way of boosting demand to combat the recession," explained Sam Perlo-Freeman, the head of SIPRI's military expenditure project.

"Although military spending wasn't usually a major part of the economic stimulus packages, it wasn't cut either," he said in a statement.

The institute said 65 percent of countries for which data was available had hiked their military spending last year.

The United States remains by far the top military spender, dishing out 661 billion dollars to the industry in 2009, or a whopping 43 percent of the total global military expenditure.

Washington thus paid 47 billion dollars more than a year earlier and accounted for 54 percent of the global increase, SIPRI said.

RAID ON AID SHIP UN rights council approves probe

AFP, GENEVA

The UN Human Rights Council yesterday adopted a resolution setting up an independent international probe into Israel's interception of Gaza-bound ships.

The resolution, which also condemned Israel's "outrageous attack," was adopted after a vote, with 32 countries voting in favour, three against, and eight abstentions.

It "decides to dispatch an independent international fact-finding mission to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian aid and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance."

Israel reaffirms Gaza naval blockade

Frees 120 activists, Turkey gives deadline to free activists and seeks effective measure against Israel

REUTERS, BBC ONLINE, AFP, Ankara/Jerusalem

Israel's security cabinet on Tuesday said that it regretted the killing of nine people in the interception of a Gaza-bound aid flotilla but called the incident an act of defence against violent provocation.

Israel said it would continue a naval blockade of the Gaza Strip it has imposed as part of a general embargo on the territory's border crossings.

"The cabinet determines that setting limitations on boat traffic to Gaza, ruled by the Hamas terror group, is a clear act of self defence," the statement said, adding that "such was the Israeli army action against the violent provocation at sea."

Turkey warned yesterday of fresh measures against Israel if it failed to free by the evening hundreds of Turkish activists detained in a deadly raid on aid ships

bound for the Gaza Strip.

Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said he delivered the warning in a meeting with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Washington Tuesday as he sought her intervention in the crisis over Monday's boarding of the flotilla in international waters in the Mediterranean.

"I expressed our absolute determination on the following issue: if our citizens are not released in 24 hours, by tonight in other words, we will review our ties with Israel entirely," he told reporters here.

"No one has the right to prosecute people kidnapped in international waters," he said.

Turkish pressure appeared to be instrumental as Israel said it would free all the Palestinian volunteers and rushed to deport them Wednesday, while Ankara sent three planes to collect its nationals.

Turkey has already recalled its ambassador from Tel Aviv and scrapped plans for

joint military exercises, plunging already poisoned bilateral ties into deep crisis.

Israel has deported more than 120 foreign activists detained after a deadly raid on an aid flotilla trying to break its blockade of Gaza.

Israeli media reports say the families of Israeli diplomats in Turkey have been ordered to leave the country.

Turkey, formerly a close ally of Israel, has been one of the states most vocal in its condemnation of the raid.

The Turkish parliament yesterday urged the government to implement "effective" measures against Israel over its deadly raid on aid ships bound for Gaza.

The parliament "expects the Turkish government to review our political, military and economic ties with Israel and take the necessary effective measures," read a declaration adopted unanimously in the general assembly.

Flotilla Raid: In Eyes Of Witnesses

- Norman Paech, German ex-MP: "The soldiers were all masked, carrying big guns and were extremely brutal." Paech saw only three activists resisting.
- Nilufer Cetin, Turkey: was on board with her baby. She said "It [the violence] was extremely bad and brutal. The ship turned into a lake of blood. They confiscated everything, our telephones, laptops are all gone." "We were aware of the possible danger [in joining the trip] but there are thousands of babies in Gaza. If we had reached Gaza we would have played with them and taken them food."
- Dimitris Giellalis, Greece: "They came up and used plastic bullets, we had beatings, we had electric shocks, any method we can think of, they used." The boat's captain was beaten for refusing to leave the wheel, while a cameraman filming the raid was hit with a rifle butt in the eye. "Of course we weren't prepared for a situation of war."
- Aris Papadokostopoulos, Greece: "The Turkish ship [the Mavi Marmara] was in front of us... on which there was a terrible raid from the air and from the sea and from everywhere, with shooting. Some people were hit by clubs and electric shocks. During their interrogation, many of them were badly beaten in front of us,"

Source: BBC

OIL SPILL US begins criminal, civil probe

NEW STATESMAN ONLINE

The US government has begun criminal and civil investigations into the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster.

Eric Holder, the Attorney General, announced the investigation, which will be conducted by the FBI and other federal agencies. He did not say which companies or individuals would be targeted.

He said: "We will closely examine the actions of those involved in the spill."

Meanwhile, BP launched its latest attempt to try and stem the flow of oil from its well, using underwater robots to cut off the fractured pipe and seal it with a cap.

There is no guarantee that this method will work. BP's shares fell sharply yesterday following the failure of its last effort, which involved pumping mud into the well to "top kill" the leak.

INVITATION FOR TENDER

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.			
2	Agency	ICDDR,B			
3	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Director, ICDDR,B			
4	Procuring Entity District	Mohakhali, Dhaka.			
5	Invitation for	Goods & Works			
6	Invitation Ref No & Date	Memo No. ICDDR,B/ Mohakhali/ VE/ 10/55, Date: 04-05-2010			
7	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
8	Budget and Source of Funds	HNPS- GoB			
9	Development Partners	HNPS			
10	Project / Program Name	Vertical Extension and Renovation of Research and Hospital Building – ICDDR,B, Dhaka, Bangladesh			
11	Tender Package No.	Package No. 55			
12	Tender Package Name	Supply, Fitting and Fixing of Plumbing materials including Pumps			
13	Tender Publication Date	June 03, 2010			
14	Tender Last Selling Date	June 16, 2010			
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	June 17, 2010	Time: 11:30 AM		
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	June 17, 2010	Time: 12:00 PM		
17	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address			
	- Selling Tender Document	Treasury Unit, Cash Counter-2, Ground Floor, IPH Building, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka between 10:00 AM to 03:30 PM			
	- Receiving Tender Document	Procurement & Materials Office, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.			
	- Opening Tender Document	Procurement & Materials Office, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.			
18.	Pre-tender meeting	Pre-Tender meeting will be held on June 13, 2010 at 12.00 PM in the Finance Conference Room, Procurement & Materials Office, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.			
19	Eligibility of Tenderer	<p>a. The tenderers shall have minimum 5 (Five) years of general experience on civil construction works including supply, fitting and fixing of plumbing materials. Tenderer having valid Trade License, VAT and TIN No.</p> <p>b. Tenderers shall have experience in the execution of similar nature of works of Tk 30 (Thirty) lac in single work order within the last 3 (Three) years in Bangladesh. Evidence regarding successful completion of works in the form of Work order/Award and Completion Certificate must be submitted along with tender document.</p> <p>c. Tenderer must have qualified & experienced Technical Personnel and essential equipment for fitting and fixing of Plumbing works.</p> <p>d. Tenderers are required to submit price quotation correspond to 100% of the required items and quantities.</p>			
20	Price of Tender Document	Tk. 500.00 (Taka five hundred) only			
21	Pkg no.	Identification Goods	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in Months
	55	Supply, Fitting and Fixing of Plumbing materials including Pumps	ICDDR,B, 68, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.	Tk. 1 (One) lac in the form of Pay Order, Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee in favour of ICDDR,B, Dhaka from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh.	6 (Six) months
22	Name of Official Inviting Tender		Md. Abu Masum		
23	Designation of Official Inviting Tender		Manager, Procurement		
24	Address of Official Inviting Tender		Gyanaloy Project, Finance Department, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.		
25	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender		Tel: 8860523-32, Ext: 3735	Fax: 9860620	e.mail: masum@icddr.org
26	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.				
27	Special Instruction : (a) All activities in connection with the said procurement of Goods & Works will be guided as per rule of "The Public Procurement Rules 2008" . (b) If it is not possible to receive & open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received and opened on the following working date at same time and same place. (c) Notification of Award and Contract agreement will be established subject to the availability of funds.				

INVITATION FOR TENDER (GOODS)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.			
2	Agency	ICDDR,B			
3	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Director, ICDDR,B			
4	Procuring Entity District	Mohakhali, Dhaka.			
5	Invitation for	Goods			
6	Invitation Ref No & Date	Memo No. ICDDR,B/ Mohakhali/ VE/ 10/59, Date: 04-05-2010			
7	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
8	Budget and Source of Funds	HNPS- GoB			
9	Development Partners	HNPS			
10	Project / Program Name	Vertical Extension and Renovation of Research and Hospital Building – ICDDR,B, Dhaka, Bangladesh			
11	Tender Package No.	Package No. 59			
12	Tender Package Name	Supply of CAT-6 (UTP) Cable for PABX System			
13	Tender Publication Date	June 03, 2010			
14	Tender Last Selling Date	June 16, 2010			
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	June 17, 2010	Time: 11:30 AM		
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	June 17, 2010	Time: 12:00 PM		
17	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address			
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19	Eligibility of Tenderer	a. The tenderers shall be Supplier/ Agent / Distributors having valid Trade License, VAT and TIN No. b. Tenderers shall have experience in the execution of similar nature of works of Tk 7 (seven) lac in single work order within the last 3 (Three) years in Bangladesh. Evidence regarding successful completion of works in the form of Work order/Award and Completion Certificate must be submitted along with tender document. c. Tenderers are required to submit price quotation correspond to 100% of the required items and quantities. d. 3 Miter sample of CAT-6 (UTP) Cable for PABX System to be submitted along with the tender.			
20	Price of Tender Document	Tk. 500.00 (Taka five hundred) only			
	Pkg no.	Identification Goods	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in Months
21	59	Supply of CAT-6 (UTP) Cable for PABX System of ICDDR,B, Dhaka-1212.	ICDDR,B, 68, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.	Tk. 50 (Fifty) thousand in the form of Pay Order, Bank Draft or Bank Guarantee in favour of ICDDR,B, Dhaka from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh.	2 (Two) months
22	Name of Official Inviting Tender		Md. Abu Masum		
23	Designation of Official Inviting Tender		Manager, Procurement		
24	Address of Official Inviting Tender		Gyanaloy Project, Finance Department, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.		
25	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender		Tel: 8860523-32, Ext: 3735	Fax: 9860620	e.mail: masum@icddr.org
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