

# Thailand goes to polls today

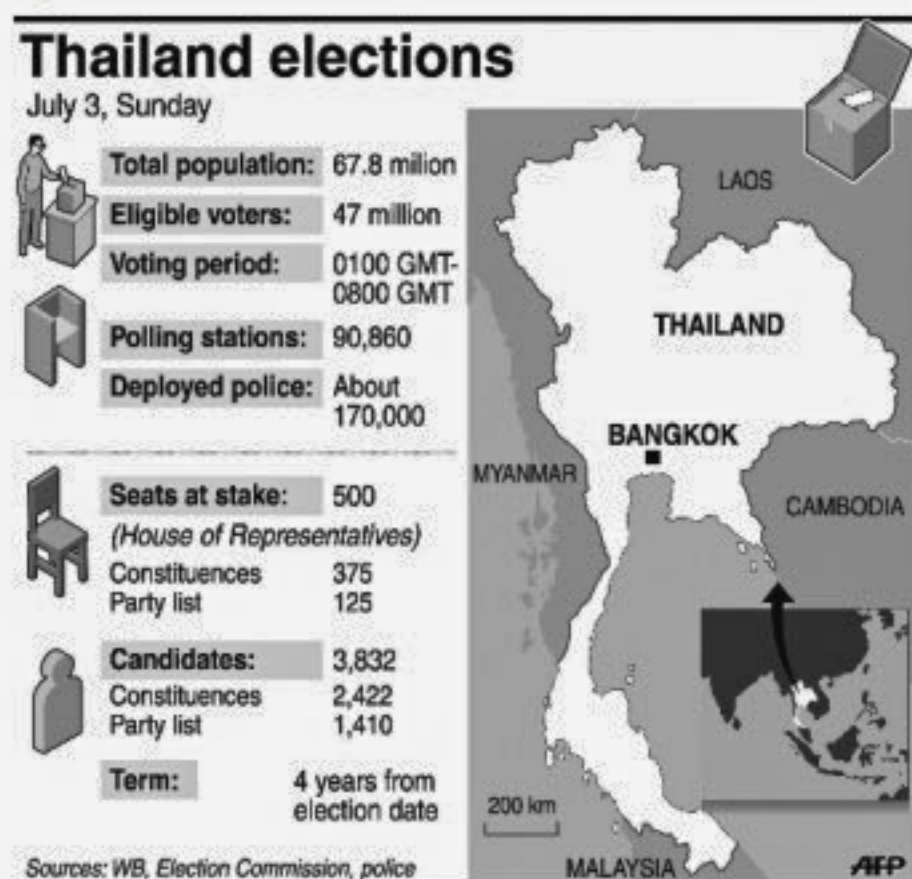
AFP, Bangkok  
Thailand's rival political camps launched a last-minute appeal for votes yesterday on the eve of a hard-fought election seen as crucial to the future of the kingdom after years of often bloody unrest.

About 170,000 police are to be deployed to protect polling stations for the tense vote, which comes little more than a year after Bangkok was rocked by its worst civil violence in decades.

Polls show the main opposition Puea Thai Party, allied to fugitive former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, enjoying a lead over current leader Abhisit Vejjajiva's ruling Democrats ahead of today's election.

The two main parties drew their campaigns to a close with election convoys through central Bangkok, the site of deadly clashes between opposition protesters and security forces last year.

As the two main rival camps criss-crossed the capital in trucks, many voters were leaving the city to return to their hometowns to cast ballots.



After 6:00pm any campaigning is banned, including by "tweeting" or making other online social network comments.

"Any candidates or even ordinary people who convince others to vote for someone face a six-month jail term or a 10,000-baht fine (\$324) or both," said national police spokesman Major General Prawut Thavornsiri.

# Iran to seal its Pak-Afghan border

AFP, Tehran

Iran will completely seal off its eastern borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan by 2015 to prevent drug smuggling and infiltration of armed groups, media quoted the police chief yesterday as saying.

"About 90 percent of Iran's eastern borders have already been sealed," Arman newspaper quoted General Esmaeil Ahmadi Moghaddam as saying.

"The remaining 10 percent, in the region of Saravan (near the southeastern border with Pakistan) will be closed within three years," he said. "The border will be sealed even to pedestrians."

According to official figures, some 3,700 members of Iran's security forces have been killed in a three-decade long battle with drug traffickers.

# Syrian president sacks Hama governor

28 civilians killed in Friday's protest across country

AFP, Damascus

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad sacked the governor of Hama yesterday, a day after half a million rallied against the regime in the hotbed city, as activists said the crackdown on dissent claimed 28 new lives.

Anti-regime dissent billowed on Friday in response to a call by a Facebook group for massive protests to demand the ouster of Assad and his autocratic regime.

In Hama alone there were 500,000 people on the streets, activists said, calling it the single largest demonstration of its kind since the pro-democracy movement erupted on March 15.

Assad reacted to the affront by sacking the governor of Hama, a city with a bloody past where an estimated 20,000 people were killed in 1982 when the army

put down an Islamist revolt against the rule of his late father, Hafez al-Assad.

Most of Friday's victims were killed in Idlib province, where troops backed by tanks have swept through villages all week to crush dissent.

"Sixteen people were killed" in Idlib on Friday, Ammar Qorabi, the head of the National Organisation for Human Rights, said yesterday.

Another 10 people were killed when security forces opened fire to disperse protests in several cities, including eight in the central protest hub of Homs and two in the Damascus neighbourhood of Qadam.

One person was reported killed in Syria's second-largest city Aleppo and another in the Mediterranean coastal city of Latakia.

Varying reports had put the turnout in Hama alone at more than half a

million. Homs was the focus of a report released yesterday by the New York-based rights watchdog Human Rights Watch, which denounced a rising death toll there and security forces for "terrorising people."

Citing Syrian rights groups and witnesses, HRW said 21 people had been killed in a government crackdown in Homs since June 17.

"Syria's authorities accuse protesters of being 'armed gangs,' but it is their security forces who terrorise people," said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East director at HRW.

More than 1,360 civilians have been killed in the government's crackdown against pro-democracy protests since mid-March, according to human rights groups, while thousands have been arrested.

# W Bengal CM visits hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee yesterday made an unscheduled visit to a government-run children's hospital in Kolkata where 18 infants died on Wednesday and Thursday, and expressed concern at the high infant mortality rate in the state.

"I have learnt that 40,000 infants die in our state every year. This is shocking. We rank fourth in infant mortality among the states after Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala," she said.

A government inquiry into the death of babies had said yesterday that there was no medical negligence but the infrastructure was not up to the mark at eastern India's largest paediatric referral hospital.

Mamata visited the wards and spoke to doctors, nurses and guardians.

The government would set up another children's hospital in the state, she said.

# Al-Qaeda was struggling

Seized documents show Laden had many worries

AFP, Washington

In the final months of his life, Osama bin Laden was concerned about mounting problems facing al-Qaeda and making a concerted effort to rebuild the terror network, The Washington Post reported yesterday.

Citing unnamed US officials who have completed a review of the trove of files collected at bin Laden's compound in Pakistan, the newspaper said the al-Qaeda leader was receiving e-mails from followers lamenting the toll being taken from CIA drone attacks and the network's financial plight.

The documents were seized during a US commando raid in the Pakistani on May 2, in which Laden was killed.

Bin Laden warned affiliates in Yemen and elsewhere that it was too soon to create an Islamic state, the report said.

The al-Qaeda leader concluded that there wasn't "enough steel" in the group's regional support structures to warrant even tentative steps toward reestablishing the caliphate.

"The trove makes it clear that bin Laden's primary goal -- you can call it an obsession -- was to attack the US homeland," The Post quotes an unnamed senior US counterterrorism official as saying. "He pushed for this every way he could."



Osama bin Laden

# Blast kills 13 Afghan family members

AFP, Kandahar

A roadside bomb struck a minibus carrying a family of Afghan refugees yesterday, killing up to 13 people including women and children, officials said.

The deceased were from the same family, who were returning from Pakistan through the remote province of Zabul, in the volatile south of Afghanistan, when the blast hit.

The area borders Pakistan, where Taliban-led militants have hideouts from which they launch violent incursions into Afghanistan.

Roadside bombs planted by Taliban-led militants are a frequent cause of casualties among civilians.



An Indian activist from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) holds a gas canister on her head while protesting against the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) ruling party during a demonstration against fuel price hikes in Hyderabad yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

# Women's greater role

FROM PAGE 20

economic problems by sharing and practicing the best activities, said the former Indian diplomat, adding, "Women are the anchor of families and now they should be the anchor of the society."

Shirin Sharmin, state minister for women and children affairs of Bangladesh, said women are very much linked to natural resources like water, energy and agriculture. Therefore, scaling up their contribution to policy-making and establishing green economy is very relevant.

Women influence around 85 percent choices of consumer products, which indicate their massive role in shaping up the economy, said the state minister.

In her keynote speech, Indian green activist Vandana Shiva said the patriarchal and capitalistic way of green economy is never going to save the nature, as the system wants to turn the whole globe into a raw material and consume the resources.

Women have the practice of growing varieties of indigenous crops, fruits and vegetables which have more food value than that of the mono-crops being introduced by the global agro-business giants, she said.

Citing the example of genetically modified golden rice, Shiva said home-grown crops that our women cultivate can produce up to 1,400 units of vitamin A per 100 grams of

food whereas golden rice can produce 33 units of vitamin A per 100gm. Women have inherent knowledge and skills to produce food and preserve nature -- qualities that should be promoted.

The mono-crop culture is turning corns into fuel and creating global food crisis while the agrobusiness conglomerates are trying to make it look like that they have the technology to feed the world, she said.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said women of South Asia can bring immense changes through networks, solidarity and bondage. "Women have proved that there is nothing impossible," she said urging all women to assist each other going beyond borders.

Afghanistan National Assembly Member Shinkai Zahine Karokhail said terrorism and extremism are huge problems of the region and close cooperation of Saarc nations is a must to eradicate the menace.

Pramila Acharya Rijal, chairperson of Saarc Chamber Women Entrepreneurs' Council, Nepal, Sri Lanka's Supreme Court Justice Shiranee Tilakawardane, Atiq Rahman of Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, Khushi Kabir of Nijera Kori, Uchita D Zoysa of Centre for Environment and Development, Sri Lanka, Pakistani journalist Mariana Baabar also spoke at the programme.

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০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কার্যালয়
০২	স্বাক্ষরকারী দপ্তরের নাম	প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কার্যালয়, ঢাকা
০৩	কি জন্য আহ্বান	প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কার্যালয়ে ব্যবহারের জন্য চেশনারী ও বিবিধ ব্যবসায়ী ক্রেতাদের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্বাচন
০৪	আহ্বানের সূত্র	৬১.৩৯.১৬.০০.০০.২৫.২০১০-
০৫	তারিখ	২৮-০৬-২০১১
০৬	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্নত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি
০৭	বাজেট ও সোর্স অফ ফান্ড	রাজস্ব খাতের বাজেট
০৮	দরপত্র প্যানেলের নাম	প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কার্যালয়ে ব্যবহারের জন্য চেশনারী ও বিবিধ ব্যবসায়ী ক্রেতাদের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্বাচন
০৯	শিডিউল ক্রেতাদের স্থান, সময় ও মূল্য	প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্বাচন প্রক্রিয়ার পর প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কার্যালয়ের ডাক ও বিতরণ শাখা থেকে ৫০০/- টাকা মূল্যে (অনেকেরতবেগ্য) দরপত্র সিডিউল পাওয়া যাবে (অফিস ঠিকানাঃ প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কার্যালয়, ঢাকা)
১০	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৮-০৭-২০১১ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা
১১	দরপত্র খোলা/স্থগণের তারিখ ও সময়	উপস্থিত দরপত্রাদানের সম্মুখে (যদি উপস্থিত থাকেন) ১৮-০৭-২০১১ তারিখ বেলা ২.০০ ঘটিকায় খোলা এবং মূল্যায়ন করা হবে
১২	দরপত্র খোলার অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কার্যালয়, ঢাকা
১৩	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারীর ও খোলার দপ্তর	পরিচালক-১৫, প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কার্যালয়
১৪	দরদাতাদের যোগাযোগ	হালদালাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালদালাদ আরকর রিটার্ন, হালদালাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালদালাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ব্যাংক কর্তৃক আর্থিক সহকারী সনদপত্র/সম্প্রতি কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র সত্যায়িত করে দিতে হবে।

১৫	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবি	ঃ	কবির বিন আনোয়ার, পরিচালক(প্রশাসন)
১৬	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	ঃ	প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কার্যালয়, ঢাকা
১৭	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	ঃ	৮১৫১২৮৫
১৮	নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারী সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন	ঃ	
১৯	দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও মূল্যায়ন	ঃ	পার্কিং প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা ২০০৮ অনুসরণ করা হবে

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**Invitation for Intl. Tender for Procurement of Relief Valve and Gas Bag**

Date of Issuance of IFT: 23/06/2011

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division.				
2.	Agency/procuring entity	Petrobangla/Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd.				
3.	Invitation for	Procurement of Relief Valve and Gas Bag.				
4.	Invitation Ref. No. and date	(i) PD.2312/390-MECD/RV(RE) & (ii) PD.2312/390-MECD/BAG(RE) dated 23/06/2011.				
5.	Procurement method	Open tendering method: A single stage two envelope tendering procedure will be followed for the IFT under which the tenderer shall submit at a time two separate sealed envelopes, one for the technical proposal and other for the Financial Proposal all together in a single sealed envelope.				
6.	Source of fund	Under cash foreign exchange (company's own cash fund).				
7.	Tender selling date	Tender document will be sold from 10.00am to 1.00pm on every working day up to 26/07/2011.				
8.	Tender closing date & time	At 11.30am on the date as listed below.				
9.	Tender opening date & time	At 2.00pm on the date as listed below.				
10.	Name & address of the office(s) for:					
a)	Selling of tender document	Tender document will be available from 29/06/2011 on payment of price (non-refundable) as per list below from following offices: i) Accounts Department, Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd., 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. ii) Accounts Department, Petrobangla, PetroCenter, 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215. iii) Accounts Department, BAPEX, 80/A-B, Shahjalal Tower (8th Floor), Shiddeswari Circular Road, Malibagh, Dhaka.				
b)	Receiving of tender	i) Purchase Department (12th Floor), Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd., 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215. ii) Purchase Department, Petrobangla, 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215. iii) Office of Company Secretary (5th Floor), BAPEX, 80/A-B, Shahjalal Tower, Shiddeswari Circular Road, Malibagh, Dhaka.				
11.	Eligibility of tenderer	All bonafide manufacturers/suppliers or their authorized agents.				
12.	List					
SI No.	IFT No.	Short description of materials	Tender security amount (BDT or equivalent foreign currency)	Delivery time	Price of tender document	Tender closing/opening date
(1)	PD.2312/390-MECD/RV(RE)	Relief Valve	Tk. 85,000.00	90 days	US\$ 30.00 or Tk. 2,000.00	27/07/2011
(2)	PD.2312/390-MECD/BAG(RE)	Gas Bag	Tk. 15,000.00	90 days	US\$3.00 or Tk. 200.00	27/07/2011
13.	a) Should the submission date of tenders happen to fall on holiday, tenders shall be received and opened at the same time & place on the first subsequent working day. b) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any and reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.					

Titas/PR-197/2010-11  
GD-2880

Deputy General Manager (Purchase)  
Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd.