

## MOVE TO FORM GOVERNMENT Thailand's Pheu Thai joins military rivals

### House to vote on new PM today

REUTERS, Bangkok

Thailand's Pheu Thai Party yesterday vowed to deliver on a raft of election promises and change the constitution, as it unveiled an 11-party alliance that includes some military-linked rivals that will try to form a coalition government this week.

Thailand's bicameral parliament has been deadlocked for weeks on forming a government, after the anti-establishment election winner Move Forward succumbed to conservative resistance in parliament, leaving second-placed Pheu Thai to take up the effort.

While the proposed alliance is a step towards ending the stalemate, the pact between the populist Pheu Thai and some of old military-linked enemies could prolong concern about a new bout of instability after nearly two decades of on-off turmoil.

Parliament will vote today on the prime ministerial bid of Pheu Thai's Srettha Thavisin, a 60-year-old real estate mogul who was thrust into politics only a few months ago.

"We are confident that Srettha will pass the vote," Pheu Thai leader Cholan Srikaew told a press conference.

"We must quickly work to restore the economy and come up with policies that will develop mechanisms for the stability of politics, the economy and society," he said, after announcing how many cabinet portfolios each party would get.

Pheu Thai's pact includes parties created by generals who were behind 2006 and 2014 coups against its governments, and engineered re-writes of a constitution to make it extremely difficult for election winners not favoured by the conservative establishment to form governments.

Most Thais disagree with the idea of a coalition government that includes military-backed groups, an opinion poll showed on Sunday.

Cholan acknowledged the political divisions in the alliance but said rival forces had a duty to the public to not delay the formation of a government.

The alliance comprises 314 lawmakers and Srettha needs 375 votes from the combined upper and lower houses of parliament to be endorsed as premier and form the next government. It will be counting on support from non-alliance members, including from the upper house Senate, to get it over the line.

Meanwhile, Thailand's Police and Corrections Department officials will arrest former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, 74, as soon as he disembarks his private jet at Don Mueang Airport today, sources have said.



A handout obtained from the Cypriot government's Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) late on Sunday, shows the rescue operation of migrants in Mediterranean waters east of Cape Greco in southeastern Cyprus. Cypriot authorities rescued 86 migrants after their boat got into difficulty 12 nautical miles off the Mediterranean island's southeast coast.

PHOTO: AFP

## Won't be bullied to take sides in global issues

### S African President Ramaphosa vows as he readies to host BRICS summit

AFP, Johannesburg

South Africa will not be forced to side with any global powers, President Cyril Ramaphosa vowed Sunday as he readied to host a summit of major emerging economies.

The meeting in Johannesburg this week of BRICS nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – will seek to widen their influence and push for a shift in global geopolitics.

South Africa's hosting of the summit has turned a spotlight on its ties with the Kremlin, especially as it has refused to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"While some of our detractors prefer overt support for their political and ideological choices, we will not be drawn into a contest between

global powers," Ramaphosa said in a televised state of the nation address.

"We have resisted pressure to align ourselves with any one of the global powers or with influential blocs of nations," he said.

Ramaphosa will be joined at the BRICS summit by China's President Xi Jinping, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Russia will be represented by Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, with President Vladimir Putin participating online.

Putin decided against attending in person as he is the target of an International Criminal Court arrest warrant that South Africa is in theory bound to enforce.

## LOC IN KASHMIR Civilian killed by Indian gunfire: Pak

REUTERS, Muzaffarabad

Police in Pakistan-administered Kashmir said yesterday a civilian was shot dead by Indian forces along Himalayan region's disputed boundary, the second such incident since June despite a ceasefire accord.

Riaz Mughal, Superintendent of Police in Kashmir's Kotli region, said a 62-year-old man was hit by "unprovoked" Indian shooting while he was cutting grass near the Line of Control (LoC) – the de facto border between the two countries.

The Indian military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

## Tropical Storm Hilary releases fury on California

REUTERS, Los Angeles

The first tropical storm to hit Los Angeles in more than 80 years unleashed furious floods across parts of Southern California more accustomed to drought, as officials urged the public to stay safe as they began to count the cost of damage.

The National Weather Service downgraded the hurricane to a tropical depression but not before California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency for much of Southern California, with flash flood warnings until at least 3:00 am yesterday.

Mountain and desert areas could get 5 to 10 inches (12 to 25 cm) of rare rain, as much as the deserts typically see in a year, forecasters said.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said she was still worried that people could let down their guard if Hilary left them initially unharmed but later bands of the storm swung back to surprise those who were not prepared.

Hilary's center was expected to move quickly across Nevada yesterday, with the storm forecast to dissipate later in the day, the weather service said.

## REPUBLICAN DEBATES Trump says he won't take part

REUTERS, Washington

Former US President Donald Trump on Sunday said he would skip the upcoming Republican primary debates, citing his large lead in opinion polls as evidence that he was already well-known and liked by voters ahead of the 2024 election.

Trump has for months suggested he would likely pass on Wednesday night's debate in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, arguing that it did not make sense to give his Republican rivals a chance to attack him given his sizeable lead in national polls.

On Sunday, a CBS poll showed he was the preferred candidate for 62 percent of Republican voters, with his closest rival Florida Governor Ron DeSantis at 16 percent. All other candidates in the primary race had less than 10 percent support.



## Russian FM Lavrov to visit Dhaka on September 7

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23-24 to attend a minister-level meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) as well as to meet the PM and the foreign minister. However, the visit was called off because of his other priorities.

The visit comes when the world sees rising polarisation, especially due to the Russia-Ukraine war, with the West putting huge pressure on Russia, including sanctions.

Russia is also trying to strengthen the BRICS, an alliance of the emerging global economies – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa – that was created as an alternative to the West-led International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Against the backdrop of Washington's expelling of many Russian banks from SWIFT following Russian invasion of Ukraine, Russia and China are trying to introduce

other currencies for financial transactions.

"BRICS has launched the expansion process for becoming one of the pillars of a new, more just polycentric world order. Our grouping has many like-minded countries. BRICS is seen as a positive force that can strengthen the solidarity of Global South and Global East," said Lavrov, who will also be attending the BRICS summit starting today in South Africa, according to a tweet by the Russian embassy in Dhaka.

During his visit to Dhaka, issues including the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, trade and investment, Rohingya crisis, among others, may be discussed, the diplomatic source said.

Global geopolitical issues, including supporting Russia in the UN, may also come up for discussion, he added.

## UK judge jails child-killer nurse for life

AFP, London

A British nurse was jailed for life yesterday, with no prospect of release, for murdering seven newborn babies and attempting to kill six others while they were in her care.

Lucy Letby, 33, was convicted of killing five baby boys and two baby girls, making her the UK's most prolific child serial killer in modern history.

She was arrested following a string of baby deaths at the neonatal unit of Countess of Chester Hospital in northwest England between June 2015 and June 2016.

The prosecution said Letby attacked her prematurely born victims, often during night shifts, by either injecting them with air, overfeeding them with milk or poisoning them with insulin.

## Four more doctors arrested

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They said they visited the CID headquarters in Dhaka, but the officials didn't provide any information about their whereabouts or why they were detained, reports UNB.

On August 13, CID told a press briefing that it arrested 12 members of a "question paper leaking racket", from Dhaka, Tangail, Kishoreganj, and Barishal.

Of them, seven are physicians, including Yunusuzzaman Khan Tarim, 40, the owner of Three Doctors Coaching Centre in Khulna, who was arrested Friday.

The CID in a press release yesterday said it found transactions of Tk 25 crore in the bank accounts of Dr Tarim and his wife.

Dr Tarim engaged in leaking medical college entrance exam question papers and arranged illegal admission of numerous students to government medical colleges, it added.

Dr Lewis is an alumnus of Khulna Medical College and a teacher at Tarim's coaching centre. Currently, he works as a medical officer at an NGO.

Dr Lamia stood 11th on the national merit list for the medical college admission test during the 2015-16 session. She was a student at Tarim's coaching centre.

However, despite her impressive result in the entrance exam, Lamia

initially failed in all subjects of the four final professional examinations. She later passed the exams after several attempts.

There were allegations that Lamia's husband, Sheikh Osman Gani, paid Tk 15 lakh to Dr Tarim to secure Lamia's admission, the CID claimed.

Additionally, the admissions of Dr Sharmistha and Dr Nazia to Khulna Medical College raised suspicions, as they allegedly acquired leaked question papers from Dr Tarim, the CID also claimed.

So far, the number of arrests in the case now stands at 28, with 14 of them giving confessional statements before a Dhaka court.

The CID has been investigating the case since July 2020, when they first busted the medical question leaking racket.

The racket leaked question papers at least 10 times between 2001 and 2017, earning crores of taka, CID chief Mohammad Ali Mia said at a press briefing at the CID Headquarters last week.

The people who have been arrested helped hundreds of students to enrol in medical colleges through illegal means, he added.

The question papers of medical and dental college admission tests were leaked repeatedly from the printing press under the Directorate General of Medical Education (DGME), according to the CID.

One Jasim Uddin Bhuiyan Munnua was the mastermind of this racket.

His cousin Abdus Salam, a machine operator at the DGME press, used to leak questions for many years, with help from influential DGME officials, while Jasim used to spread the leaked questions all over the country, using a strong network, said CID officials.

## Probe, trial

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investigation. Mufti Hannan was the only person who was made to say his name ... He [Hannan] later denied it and gave an affidavit which was not accepted."

The grenade attack was launched on an anti-terrorism rally organised by then opposition AL on August 21, 2004, in front of its central office on Bangabandhu Avenue, killing 24 people and injuring scores.

Condemning the grenade attack, Fakhruul termed it one of the most heinous acts in Bangladesh politics.

"Tarique Rahman, Abdus Salam Pintu, and Lutfozzaman Babar were not involved in the attack, they have been implicated for political reasons. This has been done without any proper investigation," he added.

At the briefing, Fakhruul also disclosed the programmes to mark the 45th founding anniversary of the BNP on September 1 after a joint meeting of the party and its associate bodies.

### Gazipur City Corporation

Zone-06, Gazipur  
gcc.gov.bd

সেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি  
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Date: 20.08.2023

Memo No. 46.19.0000.129.07.001.23.582

#### Invitation for Tenders (Works)

e-Tender Notice No. 01/2023-2024 (Works)

e-Tender will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

Package No.	Tender ID No.	Source of funds	Description	Online tender notice publication date	Online tender closing date
GCC/Z-06/T-01/2023-2024/01	863581	Own fund	Construction of RCC Drain from Dhaka-Bypass to Mim Design Factory near Dhaka-Mymensing Highway via Kashem Neta's house. (Remaining part of JICA's work).	21.08.2023	11.09.2023
GCC/Z-06/T-01/2023-2024/02	863582	"	(a) Construction of RCC Road from South side of Barkot Sharoni's Pond to Sayod Ali Matbor Road via east direction Khondokar Aminul Hoque's house under Gazipur City Corporation Ward No. 17. (b) Construction of BC Road from Sardi Road to Tin Shorok Road via Ikhu Gobeshona via Monindro Goshami's House via Goshami's pond under Gazipur City Corporation Ward No. 17.	21.08.2023	11.09.2023
GCC/Z-06/T-01/2023-2024/03	863584	"	Part-1) Construction of RCC Road from Jugitola Nekibari Main Road to south direction of Mr. Mizanur Rahman's House, (B) Construction of RCC Road from north side of Brothers Fashion to Sahid Hurmut House Road, in under Gazipur City Corporation at Ward No. 14. (c) Construction of Uni-Block Road from Haque Market Bason Sarkar house opposite side of Baitul Mamur Jame Mosque to Md. Abdus Sobahan Shek house in under Gazipur City Corporation at Ward No. 14. Link-1: Construction of Connecting Road by Uni-Block from Barkot Sharoni road to Sayod Ali Madbor Road, under City Corporation at Ward No. 17 Part-2) Construction of a permanent Tarun/gate at the head of Shaheed Barkat Government Road on Dhaka Joydevpur Highway.	21.08.2023	11.09.2023

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) is required. The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

AKM Harunur Rashid  
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GD-1267