

Thai court bans popular politician Dissolves his Move Forward Party

AFP, Bangkok
Thailand's most popular politician was banned from politics for 10 years and his party dissolved yesterday over his attempt to reform the kingdom's archaic royal defamation laws.

The Constitutional Court in Bangkok voted "unanimously" to dissolve the Move Forward Party (MFP) and ban its executive board, which includes its former leader Pita Limjaroenrat, for 10 years, judge Punya Udchachon said.

Pita, 43, led the reformist MFP to a shock first place in a general election last year.

He struck a chord with young and urban voters with his pledge to reform Thailand's strict royal defamation law, which rights groups say has been misused to stifle pro-democracy groups.



Supporters at the Move Forward Party (MFP) headquarters react after Thailand's Constitutional Court ruled that former MFP leader Pita Limjaroenrat was to receive a decade-long ban and dissolve his party after challenging royal defamation laws, in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Harris, Walz debut White House ticket

Vow to 'fight for future' in Philadelphia rally

AFP, Philadelphia
Kamala Harris made her debut Tuesday evening with new White House running mate Tim Walz, who unleashed a stinging rebuke of their Republican rival Donald Trump, questioning his commitment to the country and skewering his record in office.

Hours after being announced on the Democratic ticket, the Minnesota governor took the stage with Vice President Harris in the crucial swing state of Pennsylvania, and signaled his intent to press the case aggressively against Trump.

election day, most Americans don't know who Walz is -- and he gave voters a glimpse of his personal story, describing his military service, his experiences as a public school teacher and his record in politics.

He spoke of his upbringing in the small town of Butte, Nebraska where he worked on the family farm and where community was a "way of life" with neighbors striving together "for the common good." In their first campaign appearance together, Harris and Walz offered a glimpse of how they might appeal to voters as a duo -- one a trailblazing Black and South Asian former senator from California, the other



"Donald Trump -- he sees the world differently. He doesn't know the first thing about service because he's too busy serving himself," Walz told a crowd of around 10,000 wildly cheering supporters in Philadelphia.

He accused Trump of deliberately weakening the economy for his own ends, mocking law and order, and sowing "chaos and division".

"He drove our economy into the ground, and make no mistake: violent crime was up under Donald Trump. That's not even counting the crimes he committed," Walz added, earning roars of laughter and boisterous applause.

With less than three months to go until

a white ex-congressman from the blue-collar US heartland. Harris, 59, described Walz as "a leader who will help unite our nation and move us forward, a fighter for the middle class, a patriot who believes, as I do, in the extraordinary promise of America."

A former attorney general of California, Harris has sought to draw a contrast between her past as a prosecutor and Trump's criminal record, which extends to 34 felonies, with over a dozen more charges pending. But she told the crowd: "This campaign -- our campaign -- is not just a fight against Donald Trump. Our campaign -- this campaign -- is a fight for the future."

Harris draws more support among Black voters Says analysis of Reuters polling; Trump up slightly among white voters

REUTERS, Washington

Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris is drawing more support from Black voters than President Joe Biden did when he was in the race this year, while Republican Donald Trump's support among white voters has risen somewhat in recent months, according to an analysis of Reuters/Ipsos polling.

The analysis, which examined more than 10,000 responses from seven nationwide Reuters/Ipsos polls conducted since May, points to significant strengths and vulnerabilities for Harris, the US vice president who took over Biden's campaign when the president dropped his re-election bid on July 21.

Harris would be the first Black woman elected president, as well as the first Asian American, if she were to defeat Trump in the November 5 election.

Some 70 percent of Black voters polled in July picked Harris over Trump on a hypothetical ballot, up from 59 percent who backed Biden in May and June polls. Trump's share of the Black vote rose marginally to 12 percent in July from 9 percent in May and June.

Trump, meanwhile, is seeing increased support from white voters. Some 50% picked Trump in July polls, up from 46% in May and June. Harris had the support of 38% of white voters in July, compared to 36% in May and June.

The race remains essentially tied, with Harris and Trump each getting 43% support in an aggregate of last month's polls. Biden and Trump each had 40% in the polls conducted in the previous two months.

The analysis examined poll responses gathered throughout July on a hypothetical Harris-Trump contest and included responses from before Biden, 81, ended his bid. All responses on Harris, however, were gathered after Biden's June 27 debate against Trump, when the president's faltering performance led Democrats to call on him to end his campaign.

White voters make up the biggest racial bloc, accounting for 72% of all voters in the 2020 election, according to the Pew Research Center, though their share of the electorate has dropped sharply in recent decades.

Ukraine now opening '2nd front' in Africa: Russia

AFP, Moscow

Russia said yesterday that Ukraine is now opening a "second front" in Africa after Mali and Niger broke off diplomatic relations with Kyiv, accusing it of support for "terrorist groups".

"Unable to defeat Russia on the battlefield, the criminal regime of Volodymyr Zelensky has opened a second front in Africa," Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told the RIA Novosti news agency. Zakharova accused Ukraine of "pandering to terrorist groups in countries on the continent friendly to Moscow".

Tuareg-led separatists have said they killed 84 fighters from Russia's Wagner mercenary group and 47 Malian soldiers in an attack last month in northern Mali.

Mali accused a senior Ukrainian official of having admitted Kyiv's role in the attack and broke off diplomatic relations on August 5.

PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

Lanka's Rajapaksa scion enters race

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's ruling party nominated a scion of the controversial Rajapaksa family yesterday to challenge the incumbent president in next month's polls, the first since the country's unprecedented economic meltdown.

The Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party named Namal Rajapaksa, 38, as its candidate in the September 21 election at a Buddhist ceremony at their party office in the capital Colombo.

"After careful consideration, the party decided to make Namal Rajapaksa our presidential candidate," SLPP Secretary Sagara Kariyawasam said.

Namal, a former sports minister under his father Mahinda Rajapaksa's presidency, which ended in January 2015, said circumstances forced him into the fray.

His uncle, Gotabaya, also won the presidency in November 2019, but was forced to resign and flee the country in 2022 following months of protests over corruption and mismanagement.

It was widely expected that the 38-year-old Namal would run only at the 2029 presidential polls because of the lasting impact of the country's economic ruin under Gotabaya.

"Now we have to sit and plan the campaign, because this is something that I didn't expect," Namal Rajapaksa told AFP shortly after the formal announcement of his candidacy.

He put his name forward after the expected candidate, businessman Dhammika Perera, dropped out on Tuesday citing "personal reasons".

VENEZUELA POLLS DISPUTE

Opposition leader defies court summons

AFP, Caracas

Venezuela's opposition leader Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia said yesterday that he will not attend a Supreme Court hearing on the disputed re-election of President Nicolas Maduro.

"If I go" to the Supreme Court, "I will be jeopardizing not only my freedom but more importantly: the will of the Venezuelan people expressed on July 28," said Gonzalez Urrutia, branded a "criminal" by Maduro and who has not been seen in public for over a week, in a post on social media platform X.

Meanwhile, Venezuela's Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino on Tuesday reaffirmed the military's "absolute loyalty" to Maduro.

The comments came after opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez and leader Maria Corina Machado urged members of the armed forces "to stand at the side of the people," in a letter published on Monday.

"We ratify our absolute loyalty to citizen Nicolas Maduro Moros," Padrino, an army general, said during a broadcast on state television, where he was flanked by other top brass of the military and the police.

These "fatuous and irrational calls seek to break our unity and institutional integrity, but they will never achieve it," Padrino added.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Education
National Curriculum and Textbook Board
69-70, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
www.nctb.gov.bd

Record Number: 37.06.0000.303.07.001.23.1 Date: 07 Aug 2024

Subject: Invitation for Corrigendum e-Tender (OTM)

This is to notify to all concerned tenderers that the following tenders have been published by National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) through the e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) regarding textbook Secondary Class-8 printing, binding and supplying for the Academic Year 2025.

| Tender Date and Time | | Corrigendum Date and Time | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening: | 06/08/2024; 14:00pm | Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening: | 12/08/2024; 14:00pm |

Interested tenderers may visit www.eprocure.gov.bd website to get the details of the Tender. This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, you are requested to go through the www.eprocure.gov.bd web Portal.

07-08-2024
Moss. Nazma Akther
Secretary

GD-128

CRITICISM OF ARMY Russian military blogger jailed

AFP, Moscow

A Russian military blogger who criticised Moscow's conduct in the Ukraine conflict was sentenced to six and a half years' jail for spreading "fakes" about the army, Moscow's court service said yesterday.

Andrei Kurshin, a former soldier, accused Russia of cutting water to civilians near the Ukrainian city of Kryvyi Rig and of bombing a maternity hospital in posts on his "Moscow Calling" Telegram channel.

Kurshin was found guilty of "knowingly spreading false information about Russia's armed forces", according to an article of Russia's criminal code listed by Moscow's court service.

"The court has decided punishment in the form of imprisonment for the term of six years and six months, serving the punishment in a general regime penal colony," it said.

Kurshin fought alongside Russian separatists in east Ukraine when fighting broke out in 2014, but later wrote more moderate posts on social media critical of the army, the Mediazona news outlet reported.

Shortly after Moscow launched its military assault on Ukraine in February 2022, authorities banned criticism of Russia's troops.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Cumilla
E-mail: eecom@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.1933.410.07.001.24-5160

Date: 07-08-2024

e-Tender Corrigendum Notice No. 01
of

Contract No. e-GP/CRD/ADP/EMRB/WP-02/2023-2024,
Tender ID No. 1004890

invited by this Office will be as follows:

| SL. No. | Field name | Old value | New value |
|---------|--|------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Document last selling date & time | 12/08/2024 16:00 | 27/08/2024 16:00 |
| 2. | Opening date & time | 13/08/2024 12:00 | 28/08/2024 12:00 |
| 3. | Last date & time for tender/proposal security submission | 12/08/2024 17:00 | 27/08/2024 17:00 |
| 4. | Closing date & time | 13/08/2024 12:00 | 28/08/2024 12:00 |

This corrigendum will be the part & parcel of the Tender Document. All other terms and conditions of the Tender Document will remain unchanged. The Corrigendum Notice-01 will be the part of the Tender Document. For further information please visit the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd.

07/08/2024
Suniti Chakma
ID No. 602147
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Cumilla
☎ : 01730-782641

GD-127