

WORLD AGENDA

DECEMBER 2008

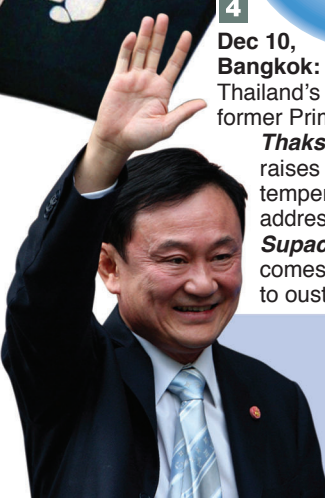
1 Dec 1-10, Poznan: Poland hosts 190 nations at UN climate change talks aimed at crafting a global agreement by December 2009 on carbon-capping mechanisms to succeed the *Kyoto Protocol* in 2012. U.S. President-elect *Barack Obama* has said he will not attend



2 Dec 2, Washington: The bosses of America's top three automotive firms, *General Motors*, *Ford* and *Chrysler*, submit a detailed plan to Congress for spending \$25 billion they have requested to rescue their companies. The "Big Three" argue that their collapse could lead to millions of Americans losing their jobs



3 Dec 8, Horn of Africa: The EU launches an air and naval force to guard one of the world's busiest – and now most dangerous – shipping lanes. At least 35 ships and 600 sailors have fallen victim to pirates off the coast of Somalia this year



4 Dec 10, Bangkok: Thailand's exiled former Prime Minister *Thaksin Shinawatra* raises the political temperature when he addresses a rally at the 35,000-seat *Supachalasai* stadium. The move comes amid a growing campaign to oust the current administration

6 Dec 28, Dhaka: *Sheikh Hasina* (right) and *Begum Khaleda Zia* (far right), former premiers who have both spent time in jail on corruption charges, are the main contenders in parliamentary elections which could return Bangladesh to democracy



5 Dec 3, Oslo: The U.S., China and Russia are expected to refuse to be among the more than 100 countries to sign an international treaty to ban cluster bombs. The weapons scatter bomblets which threaten lives for many years after conflict

7 Dec 16, Bloemfontein: Dissidents from South Africa's ruling party, the *ANC*, launch a new party. Members of the *Congress of the People*, led by former Defence Minister *Mosiua Lekota* (left), are upset by the election last year of *Jacob Zuma* to replace *Thabo Mbeki* as ANC president



8 Dec 20, Zurich: *Evander Holyfield* aims to become the oldest man to claim a world heavyweight boxing title and the first to win it five times when he returns to the ring aged 46. He takes on 35-year-old Russian *Nikolai Valuev*



Pictures: AP, Getty Images
Research: Kate Edgley