

Thai army chief calls for new elections

Thailand's influential army commander has asked the government to call new elections. The move comes after anti-government protesters took control of Bangkok's international airport in the boldest gamble yet in their four-month campaign to topple Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat

RECENT KEY EVENTS

■ **Sep 2006:** Prime Minister **Thaksin Shinawatra** ousted in military coup

■ **Dec 2007:** **People Power Party** – seen as reincarnation of Thaksin's **Thai Rak Thai** party – wins first post-coup polls

■ **Feb 2008:** Return to civilian rule

Thaksin returns from exile

■ **Aug:** Thaksin and his family flee to Britain after failing to appear in court to face corruption charges

■ **Sep:** State of emergency declared in Bangkok following clashes between pro- and anti-government demonstrators

Premier **Samak Sundaravej** dismissed by Constitutional Court for violating conflict of interest law by hosting two TV cooking shows while in office

Thaksin's brother-in-law, **Somchai Wongsawat**, chosen by parliament as new prime minister – anti-government protests continue

■ **Oct:** Sixteen killed and hundreds injured in Thailand's worst anti-government protests for 16 years

Thai Supreme Court gives Thaksin two-year jail sentence after finding him guilty of corruption over land deal

■ **Nov 25:** Anti-government protesters storm Suvarnabhumi airport, stranding thousands of travellers



People's Alliance for Democracy: Protesters accuse Somchai of being puppet of **Thaksin Shinawatra**

