

Emergency rule at Thai airports

Thailand's government has declared a state of emergency at Bangkok's two main airports, which have been taken over by protesters. The move comes after Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat rejected a call by army leader Gen. Anupong Paochinda for new elections to end the political deadlock

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 25-27:** Protesters storm both Bangkok airports, stranding thousands of passengers

Airport occupation:

Protesters demand overthrow of current government

