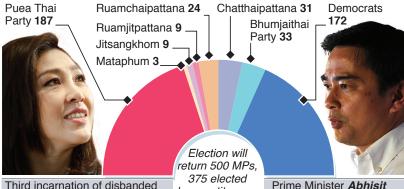
Exiled Thaksin holds key to Thai election

Thailand's general election will feature 42 parties, but looks set to be dominated by former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra – currently in self-exile in Dubai. His Puea Thai Party and its red-shirt supporters lead opinion polls, but may fail to win an outright majority

SEATS IN RECENTLY-DISSOLVED PARLIAMENT



Thai Rak Thai and PPP parties — controlled by Thaksin, led by his sister Yingluck Shinawatra. Strong support in north and northeast but powerful enemies in military and establishment

by constituency, 125 by party list 33 seats in

capital Bangkok
47 million
eligible voters

Vejjajiva came to power in 2008 after Thaksin's PPP was legally dissolved for electoral fraud. Popular with middle class in Bangkok and south