

# Controversial Thailand election goes ahead

Thailand's embattled government is pushing ahead with a general election despite threats of continued violent protests and fears that the result will only deepen the country's bitter political divide

## GOVERNMENT

■ **Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra:** Sister of ousted former premier **Thaksin Shinawatra**, who lives in self-imposed exile

■ Yingluck, who led **Pheu Thai** party to power in 2011, called snap election in December in attempt to break political deadlock gripping Bangkok

Bangkok: 10,000 police deployed to secure polling stations



## ANTI-THAKSIN FORCES

■ **Protesters:** Led by former MP **Suthep Thaugsuban** (left). Demonstrations began in November after government attempts to pass amnesty bill which critics say could allow Thaksin to return without serving time in jail

■ Suthep and **Democrat Party** – main opposition led by former prime minister **Abhisit Vejjajiva** (right) – say Yingluck is a puppet of Thaksin, whom they accuse of corruption

■ **Protesters vowing to disrupt polls as part of attempt to topple government. Democrat Party boycotting election**

■ *Conflict broadly pits Bangkok's urban elite against mostly rural, much larger voting block made up of "red shirt" supporters of Thaksin*