

Top two Thai parties rush to form govt

The top two political parties in Thailand's general election on Sunday are tussling to form the next government, even though the full electoral results will be known only by May 9.

The Pheu Thai Party, which won the most constituencies, yesterday said it will hold a news conference today together with parties "on the side of democracy".

It said parties opposing the ruling junta already had a majority in the 500-seat Lower House and won six million more votes than the faction trying to return former general Prayut Chan-o-cha to the prime minister's post.

The pro-junta Palang Pracharath, which won the highest number of votes, also said that it will form the next government.

"We are confident that we can do that," its secretary-general Sontirat Sontijirawong said yesterday, as the party races to form a coalition.

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Members of the Singapore silat team posing for a photo at a dinner reception at the Istana yesterday. They were among 209 athletes and officials who were hosted by President Halimah Yacob in recognition of their efforts and achievements at five major overseas Games last year.
ST PHOTO: DESMOND FOO

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UK lawmakers to vote today on Brexit options

British lawmakers will vote today on a range of options for exiting the European Union, after seizing control of the Brexit process from the government on Monday.

Prime Minister Theresa May, however, has not given up hope and is expected today to offer Conservative Party lawmakers her resignation date in a last-ditch attempt to get her twice-rejected withdrawal agreement through.

Meanwhile, two eurosceptic lawmakers indicated yesterday they might agree to support Mrs May's deal rather than risk Parliament cancelling Brexit. Their comments came in the wake of raised expectations that lawmakers can end an impasse on Britain's exit from the EU.

Possible options include Mrs May's deal, a no-deal Brexit, another referendum, revoking the Article 50 divorce process, a free trade agreement with a Customs union, and staying in the EU's single market.

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