

Thaksin, wife face trial in Thailand

by UPI

BANGKOK -- Ousted Thailand Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his wife could face arrest warrants if they don't appear at their trial on corruption charges. The Bangkok Post reported the couple, who have been living in Britain in self-imposed exile since the bloodless coup in their country last year, have been summoned to appear for an initial hearing Tuesday on a land purchase case before a supreme court panel. The report said the proceedings were expected to go ahead even if the couple fail to show. However, a court official was quoted as saying the court may either issue arrest warrants against the two or suspend the case until they show up. Thailand's attorney general also may seek their extradition from Britain, the report said. Thaksin has been charged with abusing his position as prime minister to influence the land deal, which his wife was accused of closing for a price below prevailing market value. Several other allegations are pending against Thaksin, but all of them have been denied by his attorneys.

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