

Thailand's king Bhumibol Adulyade, world's longest-reigning monarch, dies at 88

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Bangkok: The world's longest reigning monarch and Thailand's king Bhumibol Adulyadej has died at the age of 88, the royal palace said in a statement today.

Thailand's king Bhumibol Adulyade

The palace said the king passed away peacefully on Thursday at Bangkok's Siriraj Hospital.

The palace statement did not mention details of mourning or succession.

Bhumibol Adulyadej (pronounced poo-mee-pon ah-dun-yaa-det) became king in 1946 and was revered in Thailand as a demigod.

He anchored the Southeast Asian country through violent upheavals at home and communist revolutions next door with a blend of majesty and a common touch.

The once-vigorous king had withdrawn from public life over the last decade due to his ill health. He lived at a Bangkok hospital and had been notably silent about the political upheaval that has shaken Thailand in recent years.

- (With inputs from AP)