

July 14, 2020

Thai Enquirer Summary

Political News

- The Army came out to say that it is not accountable for the visit by the Egyptian soldier who tested positive for COVID-19.
 - ❖ The defence by the military comes after social media is burning with questions on why they were allowed to enter and without a quarantine and not to mention even going to various shopping malls in Rayong
 - ❖ The defence also is because social media was burning with hashtag #อีดงกราบดินคนไทย which translates to “Daeng touch the feet of Thai people”. Daeng is the nickname of army chief - Gen Apirat Kongsompong.
 - More than 1.5 million tweets on Twitter had this hashtag.
 - ❖ Army spokesman Colonel Winthai Suwaree came out to say the Army and Army Chief Gen Apirat had nothing to do with inviting the Egyptian soldier who is a member of an Egyptian military team that made stopovers last week at U-Tapao airport in eastern Thailand and tested positive for the virus.

- ❖ The soldier and other members of his delegation passed the criteria for 11 types of foreigner allowed to access Thailand. None of the delegation had to undergo quarantine as determined by the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA), Col Winthai said.
- ❖ The CCSA announced yesterday (July 13) that the Egyptian soldier who is part of the Egyptian military team that made stopovers last week at U-Tapao airport in eastern Thailand tested positive for the disease.
- The Egyptian delegation stayed in Rayong and
 - Stayed at DVaree Diva Central Rayong Hotel
 - Visited between 11:00 to 15:00 these 2 department stores on July 10th
 - Laem Thong department store
 - Central Plaza Rayong
 - But Central came out to deny that the infected people had gone to the stores
- This gaffe prompted a major backlash from the public and also prompted schools in Rayong to be shut for the time being. As many as 11 schools have been shutdown
 - ❖ The mainstream media also played this news as the lead for the day



➤ Thai Rath's front page

- The Army responded to social media criticism by putting up a message on the Army Spoke Team Facebook page, a PR page, yesterday (July 13) evening.
 - ❖ The case drew criticism on Twitter and other social media for the laxity in enforcing isolation rules and for failing to let the public know where the infected Egyptian soldier may have been. Netizens criticised the government agency for constantly warning the public not to let their guard down but the case of the Egyptian soldier is a clear indication of a border quarantine failure by the CCSA.
 - ❖ The message says:
 - “People are criticising the Army or its commander for helping to allow an Egyptian soldier who were later tested positive for COVID-19 during his transfer to Thailand. We would like to inform you that this piece of information is not true. Please do not believe ill-intentioned people who tried to attack the Army.”
- In a related development, the government reported another imported COVID-19 case, a 9-year-old child of a diplomat from Africa country of Sudan, who is among few foreigners allowed to legally enter the country.
 - ❖ The issue with the Sudanese diplomat was worse because the diplomat was supposed to be quarantined but never did that, instead came out to stay at their condo in Sukumvit road.
 - The CCSA did not reveal the details but the condo where they were staying came out to announce that
 - The family stayed at Condo One X in Soi Sukumvit 26
 - The Condo Juristic body came out to announce this detail adding that

- The infected person lived on 19th floor
 - The condo has asked people to self quarantine if they were had in any way contact with the infected child
- The bigger issue is that the family of the diplomat likely knew that their child was infected because they took their child to hospital right away where the child is being treated.
 - ❖ The issue is 12 out of the 240+ passengers that the child took have been diagnosed positive
 - While another 47 are under observation
 - All were on flight MZ-3277 that landed in Bangkok on July 10th @ 05:40 am
- On the political developments
 - ❖ The looming cabinet reshuffle, it is quite clear that Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak's current economic team including Finance Minister Uttama Savanaya and Energy Minister Sontirat Sontijirawong will remain intact following reports that no one whom have been approached to form a new economic team has said "yes" to Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha's invitation.
 - ❖ Another report said Culture Minister Itthiphol Kunplome may lose his cultural portfolio while Buddhipongse Punnakanta could lose his seat at the Digital, Economy and Society (DES) Ministry had his performance to curb fake news failed to impress the Prime Minister. There is strong speculation that Takorn Tantasith, former secretary-general of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) may be tipped to replace Buddhipongse.

- Prime Minister and Defence Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha came out to confirm that local elections are definitely to be held this year but refused to confirm what levels of local polls will be held first. He said he will be the one who determines where local elections will be held first.
 - ❖ Gen Prayut said he is waiting for the Election Commission (EC) to inform him about its plan about local polls.
 - ❖ Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam said he plans to call a meeting with the poll agency to discuss about local elections but said he has not decided on the meeting date.
 - ❖ The Opposition Pheu Thai Party is clearly fed up with the ambiguity over the date for local polls. Pheu Thai spokesman Anusorn Iamsa-ard called for Gen Prayut to set a clear timeline for the forthcoming local polls to show his sincerity.
 - ❖ He said Pheu Thai---deemed itself as a party that has a key agenda to bring solutions to problems facing the public---plans to launch “Pheu Thai Sanjorn” [Pheu Thai Trip] campaign to 4 regions to listen to urgent problems facing local people in the 4 regions as well as Bangkok.
- Jatuporn Promphan, United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD) chairman, took to the PEACETALK Facebook Live to distance the UDD from the establishment of red-shirt villages. Jatuporn’s move came after the abolition of red-villages in 17 provinces in the north on July 11 led by former UDD key leader Suporn Attawong, now an assistant to the Prime Minister’s Office minister.
 - ❖ Donned a yellow shirt, Jatuporn vented his frustration on the Red Shirt’s Facebook Live page about allegations that the red shirts plotted to overthrow the Monarchy, that the red shirts burned down cities and that they are terrorists.

- ❖ The UDD chairman denied that his movement involved in the establishment of red villages. He said key UDD leaders were frustrated with allegations that they ordered locals to bring down portraits of the royal family to be replaced by portraits of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.
- ❖ Jatuporn said he no longer wants to see conflicts in the country as it is now time to protect the country when it is going through a tough time.



- The House committee on law, justice, and human rights plans to summon deputy national police chief Pol Gen Suwat Chaengyodsuk tomorrow (July 15) over the mysterious death of Orawan “Nong Chompoo” Wongsricha who was found dead and unclothed in a forest after she disappeared from her home in Dong Luang district, Mukdahan province, Committee chairman Sira Janejakha announced.
 - ❖ Sira said he suspected that police are now trying to find a scapegoat in order to wrap up the case. He said the case is not a sexual assault case based on Orawan’s autopsy report. The committee suspected that police may be liable for human rights violations after summoning nearly 1,000 people for interrogation.
 - ❖ The committee is looking for an explanation from Pol Gen Suwat after it summoned him for a meeting on July 15. Pol Gen Suwat is one of strong candidates to succeed incumbent national police chief Pol Gen Chakthip Chaijinda who is set to retire in September this year.

- The Senate's meeting yesterday approved the appointment of Banchongsak Wongprat as a Constitutional Court judge.
 - ❖ The Senate yesterday (July 13) voted 206-12, with 11 abstentions, for Banchongsak's appointment.
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Economic News

- The Tourism and Sports Ministry is pushing hard for a travel bubble plan, tipping 3 southern provinces to lead the planned tourism bubble comprising Thailand and its selected countries.
 - ❖ Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, the tourism and sports minister, is pushing for the Cabinet to set-up "travel bubbles" with selected partners as a lifeline for the tourism industry. Phiphat voiced grave concerns for delays to travel bubbles. He feared that 60% of Thai hotels would be forced to close their doors permanently if the travel bubble scheme is not given the greenlight to go ahead. Subsequently, the country will see the number of tourist arrivals in Thailand drop more than 60% from a record 39.8 million foreign tourists last year.
 - ❖ The ministry plans to propose to the next meeting of the economic cabinet to allow foreign visitors to visit the country without being required to undergo 14 days of quarantine after their arrival, Phiphat said, deliberating that 5 locations in 3 provinces will be discussed for pilot projects including the whole Phuket Island, Koh Phi Phi in Krabi, and Koh Samui, Koh Phangan, Koh Tao in Surat Thani.
 - ❖ The Ministry is considering Koh Chang in Trat province. Koh Samet in Rayong, Hat Yai in Songkhla as additional locations for the travel bubble scheme in the 2nd phase. Initially, the Ministry plans to partner with Penang state in Malaysia as a

selected partner because this Malaysian state is free from COVID-19 cases for more than 70 days.

- There are reports that the government plans 100 billion baht of new soft loans to help small-and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the tourist and services sector hit by the coronavirus pandemic, Finance Minister Uttama Savanayana announced yesterday (July 13).
 - ❖ He said the loans will offer more relaxed conditions than the central bank's 500-billion baht soft loan scheme.
 - ❖ The loans is to be provided by the Government Savings Bank (GSB) along with various relief measures for SMEs which the Finance Minister has said employs 80% of the total workforce.
- Centara Plaza Hotel Plc (CENTEL) is said to mull the feasibility of acquiring 200 KFC stores in the country from Restaurant Development Co Ltd (RD), 1 of 3 franchisers in the country, according to a source with CENTEL's financial advisor.
 - ❖ CENTEL already sent a team to conduct a feasibility study on the plan, the source said, adding that the planned acquisition is an add-on to existing KFC branches operated by Central Restaurants Group (CRG), a branch under Central Group.
 - ❖ Previously, Bloomberg reports that RD is exploring the sale of its KFC franchise business in Thailand for about US\$200 million (approx. 6.256 billion baht), according to people with knowledge of the matter.
 - ❖ CRG operates about 269 KFC outlets; QSR of Asia (QSA) (an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Thai Beverage Plc (ThaiBev) has 285 KFC outlets and RD 200 branches.

- Airports of Thailand (AOT) President Nitinai Sirismatthakarn ruled out chance that AOT will suffer losses in the first 4 months of the Fiscal Year 2020 (from October 2019 to September 2020). The AOT President said the high tourism season running from October 2019 to September 2020 which featured many festivals is the main reason that help drive AOT's performance for the past 8 months and cushion the company against impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak.
 - ❖ However, he admitted that AOT may face an cumulative loss for the Fiscal Year 2021 (from October 2020 to September 2021), which is high tourism season, as the Thai tourism is not ready to return to normality in the first 4 months of the new Fiscal Year. State quarantine facilities for international tourists can accommodate merely 500-600 people per day, compared to 400,000 visitors Thailand welcomed per day.
- On a regional front Singapore's government came out to announce a record plunge in its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of -41.2% for the 2nd quarter of the year amid lockdown and outbreak of the coronavirus.
 - ❖ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-07-14/singapore-slumps-into-recession-with-41-2-fall-in-quarterly-gdp?srd=premium-asia&sref=vMpMGW8x>

General News

- Thailand logged 3 new COVID-19 cases yesterday (July 13). All 3 new cases are imported from overseas including an Egyptian military officer and 2 Thai nationals who returned from Kuwait and Bahrain, with no local transmissions of the coronavirus, according to the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA).

- ❖ The new cases raised COVID-19 tallies in the country to 3,220, with the death toll remaining at 58.
 - The CCSA which comes under pressure from the public for its slow revelation about the 2 cases (Egyptian and the Sudanese diplomat) has scheduled an urgent press conference at 11.30 hours today (July 14) at Government House to explain the matter.
 - The region is set to witness a rise in tensions after the United States for the 1st time came out to make a statement about the nine-dash-line that is claimed by China.
 - ❖ The 9-dash line basically has given China the bragging rights to claim as much as 85% of South China Sea.
 - ❖ The United States came out to say that this was something that it does not agree with and that China was ‘bullying’ its way to its claims.
 - “Beijing uses intimidation to undermine the sovereign rights of Southeast Asian coastal states in the South China Sea, bully them out of offshore resources, assert unilateral dominion, and replace international law with “might makes right.””
- ✓ <https://www.state.gov/u-s-position-on-maritime-claims-in-the-south-china-sea/>

Political News Headlines in Thai Media

- Several administrative mistakes by the Thai government has public health officials on the lookout for possible signs of coronavirus in the general public despite there being no covid cases outside of state quarantine in the previous two months.

- Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/15497/government-and-administrative-foul-ups-has-public-health-officials-on-high-alert-for-covid-19-cases/>
- Thailand's government said on Monday that it had discovered three new cases in state quarantine as the country approaches two months with no cases in the general population.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/15490/thailand-discovers-3-new-cases-in-state-quarantine/>
- Natapanu Nopakun is a Deputy Director-General at the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but is better known as the face of Thailand's English-language Covid-19 public communications.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/15475/an-interview-with-the-ccsa-spokesman-on-disinformation-virus-numbers-and-spreading-the-right-message/>
- The Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) has been taking urgent measures after an Egyptian soldier confirmed to be infected with Covid-19 was found to have visited shopping malls in Rayong province.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1950752/covid-19-cases-trigger-inquiry>
- A group of people has fraudulently used the name of Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwon to lobby local agencies to secure contracts to install closed-circuit television systems nationwide, according to an anti-corruption network.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1950800/firm-used-prawits-name-to-secure-cctv-contracts>
- The Criminal Court on Monday dismissed a defamation lawsuit filed by Pol Gen Sereepisuth Temeeyaves, leader of the Seri Ruam Thai Party, against Sira Jenjakha, a Palang Pracharath Party MP, Nation Broadcasting Corporation, operator of Nation TV, and The Nation website.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1950652/sereepisuths-lawsuit-against-sira-dismissed>

- Deputy Prime Minister and economic tsar Somkid Jatusripitak could his retain his post after an upcoming cabinet reshuffle despite the resignation of his close allies from the ruling Palang Pracharath Party, sources said on Monday.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/15485/somkid-could-retain-his-post-despite-the-resignation-of-close-allies-and-struggling-economy/>
- As Thailand reels from the coronavirus-induced economic slowdown, analyst warn that a slowdown in Foreign Direct Investment could hamper the economy even further.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/15487/coronavirus-causing-sharp-drops-in-fdi-industrial-estate-investment/>
- The tourism sector in Rayong has expressed concerns that the case of an Egyptian soldier who tested positive for Covid-19 will further damage their businesses and are urging authorities to help restore public confidence.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1950756/rayong-tourism-industry-dismayed-by-egyptian-saga>
- Digital Economy and Society Minister Buddhipongse Punnakanta said his ministry was working with the Federation of Thai Industries, the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the Thai Bankers Association and CAT Telecom to give new graduates new digital skills for professional life after Covid-19.
 - Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30391220?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral
- An adviser to PM Prayut and a central bank insider are the two frontrunners in the race to be next central bank governor.
 - Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/business/30391244?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral
- The Office of the National Economics and Social Development Council (NESDC) is aiming to create employment for more than 410,000 people in a bid to develop community economies.
 - Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30391217?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral

- The government plans 100 billion baht of new soft loans to help small-and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the tourist and services sector hit by the coronavirus pandemic, the finance minister said on Monday.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/1950628/govt-plans-b100bn-soft-loans-to-help-tourism-services>
- The Office of Trade Competition Commission (OTCC) has asked Charoen Pokphand Group (CP) to submit more documents concerning the group's mega-deal to acquire 86.9% of the Thai business of Tesco and 100% of the UK retailer's Malaysian business.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1950760/cps-tesco-deal-yet-to-be-approved>
- The Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) has allowed Se Kaeo's communicable diseases committee to re-open the Aranyaprathet checkpoint to transport goods between Thailand and Cambodia.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/1950868/cambodian-border-to-reopen-for-goods>
- Bangkok Bank (BBL) is conducting a feasibility study on applying the retail business model of its Indonesian subsidiary PT Bank Permata to the bank's international network.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/1950908/bbl-to-apply-bank-permata-model-globally>
- The Foreign Ministry is urging Thai diplomats to explain to foreign importers and retailers that Thailand does not use monkeys to harvest coconuts on an industrial scale.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/1950744/govt-goes-on-offensive-to-defend-coconut-industry>
- Thailand's stock market has entered a new era in terms of share valuation, with a lower price-to-book (P/B) ratio predicted, says SCB Securities (SCBS).
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/1950856/scb-securities-lower-p-b-ratio-for-market-ahead>
- BGrimm Power Plc (BGrim), an independent power producer in Thailand, has been chosen by FTSE Russell, the UK-based global index, data and analytics provider, to join the FTSE4Good Emerging Index and FTSE4Good Asean 5 Index, the company said in a press statement.

- Link-
https://www.nationthailand.com/business/30391204?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral

Issues to be watched out for

- July 2020 – The Expressway of Thailand (EXAT)'s planned opening schedule of the new Motorway Route 7 Section from Pattaya to Map Ta Phut.
- July 19, 2020 – The Democrat Party is set to hold an annual general meeting (AGM).
- July 29, 2020 – The Federation of Thai Industries is set to hold the 2020 annual general meeting (AGM) to pick a new chairman after postponement from March 30 this year.
- July 31, 2020 – The government is expected to lift lockdown restrictions imposed under the emergency decree.
- July 31, 2020 – The reshuffle list of senior army officers is expected to be presented by the armed forces chiefs at the Defense Council Meeting chaired by Prime Minister and Defence Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha.
- August 17, 2020 – The first day of hearings for Thai Airways International Plc (THAI)'s bankruptcy case.
- August 17, 2020 – The National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC, formerly known as the National Economic and Social Development Board or NESBD) is scheduled to release 2nd quarter GDP data.
- August 29, 2020 – The deadline for farmers to return the banned agri-chemicals, paraquat and chlorpyrifos, in their possession to sellers.
- September 2020 – Recruitment of new board members of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission (NBTC) is set to kick off.
- September 21, 2020 – The National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC, formerly known as the National Economic and Social Development Board or NESDB) is to revise the 20-year national strategy at an annual meeting to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

- September 30, 2020 – The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) is set to extend the revised equity short-selling regulations from June 30 to September 30 as stock market volatility remains high in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- October, 2020 – The bidding for construction and operation for the 140-billion-baht Orange Line western extension linking the Thailand Cultural Centre with Bang Khun Non.
- October, 2020 – The Thailand Grand Prix was rescheduled after being postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Key Data

SET Index	1,342.37	-8.13
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- Link - https://www.set.or.th/en/company/ipo/upcoming_ipo_set.html

Global Commodities

- Metal -Link <http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/commodities/futures/metals/>
- Energy -Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/energy/>
- Baltic Dry Index (BDI)-Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/quote/BDIY:IND>

Global Equity Market's Movements

- Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/stocks/world-indexes/asia-pacific/>

Asian Equity Markets Movement

- Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/stocks/world-indexes/>

Information on July 13, 2020

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action
BAFS	10,000	22.7	Purchase
EP	400,000	3.63	Purchase
LPH	20,000	5.01	Purchase
LPH	21,000	4.98	Purchase
MJD	935,600	1.63	Sale
MBK	100,000	13.55	Sale
MEGA	37,000	39.5	Sale
RS	100,000	16.2	Purchase
RS	200,000	15.91	Purchase
STGT	8,000	72	Sale
STC	150,000	0.73	Sale
STC	50,000	0.74	Sale
STC	100,000	0.73	Sale
SPALI	200,000	16.3	Purchase
SPALI	200,000	16.3	Purchase
SUSCO	50,000	2.56	Purchase
KUN	50,000	0.88	Purchase
VCOM	3,000,000	2.88	Transfer

XD, XE or XM or other notifications

For list of Companies that have dividend payment and AGM meeting schedules click on <http://www.set.or.th/set/calendarofevents.do>

Trading Breakdown on the Stock Exchange of Thailand

Daily as of 13 Jul 2020						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	4,748.24	7.61	5,642.60	9.05	-894.36	-
Proprietary Trading	6,325.76	10.14	6,534.24	10.48	-208.49	-
Foreign Investors	19,628.44	31.47	19,205.57	30.79	422.87	-
Local Individuals	31,671.72	50.78	30,991.74	49.69	679.98	-

Unit: M.Baht

Monthly Cumulative between 1 - 13 Jul 2020**Unit: M.Baht**

Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	49,224.69	8.85	45,746.51	8.22	3,478.19	-
Proprietary Trading	52,469.93	9.43	51,003.07	9.17	1,466.86	-
Foreign Investors	187,063.11	33.62	188,915.92	33.95	-1,852.81	-
Local Individuals	267,641.27	48.1	270,733.51	48.66	-3,092.24	-

Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan - 13 Jul 2020**Unit: M.Baht**

Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	1,013,033.17	11.38	935,392.93	10.51	77,640.24	-
Proprietary Trading	895,000.38	10.05	893,006.06	10.03	1,994.32	-
Foreign Investors	3,120,890.43	35.06	3,339,389.08	37.51	-	-
Local Individuals	3,873,844.89	43.51	3,734,980.80	41.95	218,498.65	-

Total Trading Value 62,374.16 Million Baht**Background Information –**

The strength of each party in the Thai Parliament as of May 8, 2019 as per the report by the Election Commission of Thailand. Elections took place on March 24, 2019

- https://www.ect.go.th/ect_th/news_all.php?cid=24
- List of MPs - https://www.ect.go.th/ect_th/download/article/article_20190508184334.pdf

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