

December 15, 2020

Thai Enquirer Summary

Political News

- Embattled Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha yesterday threatened to impose another nationwide lockdown should the Covid-19 pandemic situation in the country get worse.
- ❖ Gen Prayut's comment came following reports that people fail to comply with the Public Health Ministry's COVID-19 restrictions to prevent the Covid-19 at the Big Mountain Music Festival 2020 concert in Khao Yai over the weekend.
 - The crowded concert of about 30,000 people prompted the Nakhon Ratchasima Governor to issue an order to call off the festival's 2nd day due to the law that are in place as preventive measure for Covid-19.
 - Gen Prayut's comment came after some members of the opposition came out to say that the shutdown order is politically motivated as the singers supported solidarity with the student protest movement.
- ❖ Prayut denied criticism that the Nakhon Ratchasima Governor's shutdown order was justified. Criticism rose after some netizens questioned the shutdown order of the music festival that it may be linked to the government crackdown on pro-democracy activists.

- Nevertheless, he said New Year celebrations and countdown events will be allowed to proceed but with strict rules such as mask wearing and social distancing in place, especially in Bangkok.
- ❖ The shutdown order became a hot issue after social media users shared footage of pro-democracy content at the festival. The content included protest songs, yellow rubber ducks, 3-fingered salutes, and a fake corpse allegedly representing forcibly “disappeared” activists.
- Meanwhile, the communicable diseases committee chaired by provincial governor Wichien Chantharanonthai yesterday asked police in Pak Chong district to press charges against organisers of the Big Mountain Music Festival with defying an order to shut down the show. Provincial police chief Pornchai Nalawachai said they would be charged with defying the committee's order to shut down the festival.
- Deputy Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, also the Public Health Ministry, yesterday urged the Thai people to strictly adhere to social distancing and other health guidelines against Covid-19 when celebrating the upcoming New Year season.
 - ❖ He said the authorities will not stop people from organising or participating in New Year celebrations and countdown events but people will be required to strictly observe the Covid-19 restrictions.
- On a separate issue, Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha has come out to say that he was not concerned by the opposition’s threat to bring a no-confidence motion against him and his ministers in a censure debate.
 - ❖ Gen Prayut’s comment came after the opposition Pheu Thai Party threatened to unveil information that would shock the public during the upcoming no-confidence debate targeting Gen Prayut and the 2 generals, Gen Prawit Wongsuwan and Gen Anupong Paojinda, early next year.

- ❖ When asked about Pheu Thai's announcement, Gen Prayut replied,
 - "I will not be shocked. I am not a scaredy-cat. For goodness sake, all the facts are already there."
 - He asked the opposition to bring on the censure motion.
- The formation of the proposed reconciliation committee comprising 21 members from 7 groups to work out solutions to the political conflict is getting closer to take shape as the government, political parties and the Senate are expected to submit their lists of representatives within this week, says Parliament speaker Chuan Leekpai.
 - ❖ Chuan hopes to see the panel hold its 1st meeting before the end of this year to brainstorm ideas to find solutions to the ongoing political conflict.
 - ❖ A report said the government plans to send Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana, a secretary to PM's Office Minister Anucha Nakasai, and Suporn Atthawong, vice minister of the Prime Minister's Office, as its representatives to sit on the proposed panel.
 - ❖ The coalition parties have nominated Niroj Sunthornlaekha, a Phalang Pracharat Party MP for Nakhon Sawan, Sora-at Klinprathum, chief adviser to Bhumjai Thai Party and Therdpong Chai-anant, a Democrat Party list MP.
 - ❖ However, there is a rumour that Therdpong has now been removed from the list of candidates.
 - ❖ Previously, the government planned to send 2 representatives from the cabinet and 2 government MPs to join the proposed panel. The 2 MPs are said to come from 3 key coalition parties the Phalang Pracharat Party (PPRP), Bhumjai Thai and the Democrats. However, the Democrat Party does not get its candidate on the list because it is the 3rd largest party in the coalition bloc.

- Pro-democracy leader and human rights lawyer Anon Nampa yesterday reported to Bang Pho police to face lese majeste charges under Section 112. Anon was unfazed by the charges after already facing 4 counts. He said he and other core leaders of the pro-democracy Free Youth group are unconcerned by criminal charges brought against them and are ready to rev up protest in 2021.
 - ❖ Anon said, “This year has been just an overture. This battle is a long fight in order to ingrain our ideology to the new generation. We will not see a victory in 1 or 2 days. This is a fight for our ideology”.
 - ❖ The Free-Youth Facebook page announced to ramp up protest against the dictatorship and royal establishment. In its latest post, the page hails the communist system as the only method to fight capitalism.
- The government yesterday agreed to put on hold the planned Chana Industrial Estate in Songkhla as it plans to spend more time analysing the environmental impacts after intense lobbying by local villagers from Chana district of Songkhla.
 - ❖ The resolution came after the government sent Deputy Agriculture Minister Capt Thamanat Prompao to negotiate with Chana residents who has been carrying out a rally for the 5th consecutive day since December 10.
 - ❖ Capt Thamanat promised that that the future industrial development project will take into account feedback from the public and academics, without the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre (SBPAC).
 - ❖ Deputy Prime Minister Gen Prawit Wongsuwan will report the outcome of the negotiation to the cabinet tomorrow, says Capt Thamanat who will visit Chana area on December 16.

- ❖ Locals opposed to the Chana Industrial Estate project in Songkhla yesterday moved from Chamai Maruchet Bridge to Rama 5 Road near Rajamangala University of Technology Phra Nakhon after the government agreed to postpone the planned construction.
 - The Emergency Situation Administration Committee (ESAC) chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan yesterday decided to extend the state of emergency in the 3 southern border provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat for another 3 months decree on the grounds that the insurgents still have the capability to threaten security in the 3 provinces.
 - ❖ The state of emergency is enforceable across the three provinces, except in Mae Larn and Mai Kaen districts of Pattani, Betong district of Yala and Su-ngai Kolok, Sukhirin and Si Sakhon districts of Narathiwat.
 - ❖ The ESAC also acknowledged the plan, by the 4th Region Internal Security Operations Command to exempt further areas covered by state of emergency to accommodate economic development projects in the region.
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Economic News

- The Ministry of Finance plans to revise up Thailand's economic growth outlook for 2021 as it sees a smaller contraction.
 - ❖ A full-year GDP contraction was forecast at 7.7 per cent this year by the Fiscal Policy Office, with growth of 4.5 per cent projected for next year due to improved economic conditions indicated by the GDP in the 3rd quarter, says Kulaya Tantitemit, acting director-general of FPO.

- ❖ The Finance Ministry's revision came after the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) announced that GDP contracted by 6.4 per cent year-on-year in the 3rd quarter, a far better forecast than that made by the Ministry.
- ❖ Kulaya said the domestic economic outlook next year showed a clear tendency to improve from this year attributed to government stimulus schemes including the second phase of the co-payment scheme means an injection of 45 billion baht into the economy from January to March next year. This figure excludes 21 billion baht given to the state welfare card programme. These schemes are expected to boost GDP growth by 0.2 per cent next year.
- A proposed reduction in workers' and companies' social security contributions from 5 per cent to 3 per cent of wages will be put up to the cabinet for consideration, says Minister Suchart Chomklin.
 - ❖ Suchart will ask the cabinet's meeting today to approve a reduction in workers' and companies' social security contributions from 5 per cent to 3 per cent of wages from January to March. The reduction will cost 21 billion baht.
 - ❖ Social security contributions were cut to 2 per cent from September-November this year in a move to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak.
- Deputy Prime Minister and Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit yesterday talked with representatives of the private sector and 15 involving agencies to address the problem of the shipping container shortage for exporters and higher shipping fees for containers.
 - ❖ The ministry has agreed to offer a certain subsidy for import fees for empty and used containers for a period of 6 months. This would begin in January and continue through June 2021. However, the exact rate of the subsidy has not yet been decided upon. Speaking after visiting Bangkok Port in the Klong Toey area and talking with executives of the Port Authority of Thailand, Jurin said after

visiting Bangkok Port in the Klong Toey area and talking with executives of the Port Authority of Thailand.

- ❖ The ministry acknowledge the shortage of containers as Thailand is expected to face a shortage of over 1.5 million containers. It came out with a number of measures to address the problem such as:
 - 1) Reduce local port charges and booking spaces for export containers at key ports.
 - 2) Increase other possible channels, such as bulk carriers, and would accelerate the processes to permit ships measuring 400 metres to enter Laem Chabang deep seaport.
- ❖ Poj Aramwattananont, vice-chairman of the Board of Trade, said the government's plans are just to relieve the shortage to a certain extent. His agency estimated that this year Thailand will face a shortage of over 1.5 million containers.
- ❖ Poj noted that a strong baht is, in fact, a bigger and greater problem for Thai exports is now. The baht's strength directly affects Thai export competitiveness notably for farm products which use largely local raw materials.
- The Bank of Thailand (BoT) rushed financial institutions to submit data on non-performing loans (NPLs), especially for loans to small-and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to it by December 31 to prevent a rise in NPLs in the banking sector this year.
- ❖ Ronadol Numnonda, deputy governor for financial institutions stability, said NPLs data from financial institutions would help the Central Bank to follow up closely on NPL situation and provide assistance to them in order to restructure the NPL rate in the financial system quickly.

- ❖ The Bank of Thailand has asked financial institutions to accelerate contacting with 57 billion or 6 per cent of SME loans provided by commercial banks and non-bank companies categorised as SME borrowers that banks and non-bank companies have been unable to contact.
- ❖ If these debtors still have a liquidity crunch and cannot resume repaying debt, they are still eligible to apply for debt relief measures, on a case-by-case basis, until June next year, says Ronadol. They will not be classified as an NPL under the troubled debt restructuring scheme's relaxed conditions, he added.
- The 37th Thailand International Motor Expo ended with orders of 33,753 cars during the 13 days event (from December 2 to 13) at Impact Muang Thong Thani in Nonthaburi province.
 - ❖ The orders were down 9.9 per cent year-on-year from last year, says Kwanchai Paphasaphong, the event organiser.
 - ❖ Toyota had the highest number of car orders, 5,445 units, followed by Honda (4,508), Mazda (4,018), Isuzu (3,076) and Nissan (2,666).
 - ❖ There were 4,946 orders placed for motorcycles, down 31.7 per cent from last year's expo. Yamaha took the most with 1,033 units, followed by Honda (911), GPX (702), Vespa (458) and Kawasaki (383).
- Thailand is planning to build and launch its own spacecraft to orbit and explore the moon within 7 years, the Minister of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation said yesterday.
 - ❖ Innovation Minister Anek Laothamatas told the press during a press conference of "Covid-19 Vaccine For Thais" at Chulalongkorn University auditorium that besides Thailand's own Covid-19 vaccination, the Thai government is going to officially announce a spacecraft project in the middle of January next year. The

spacecraft will be launched and orbit the moon in the next 7 years, according to the Minister. Thailand would be the fifth country in Asia to send its own spacecraft to the moon, after ones from China, India, Japan, and South Korea.

- ❖ The project is initially planned for 7 years and may primarily be established under a fund from the Thai people. More details for funding will be announced later, he added.

General News

- Bangkok recorded the world's 4th worst air quality on Air Visual, a popular app monitoring pollution, and PM2.5 levels are on the rise in the capital.
- ❖ Air pollution worsened as PM2.5 level intensified, exceeding the Pollution Control Department's permitted "safe" level of 50 microgrammes per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), which is double World Health Organization (WHO)'s recommendation.
- ❖ The area with the highest PM2.5 count was Bang Phlad district, registering $91\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, according to the PCD's air monitoring station. Ratchathewi district recorded PM2.5 at $46\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, the only district in Bangkok below the accepted safe level.



❖

➤ Air quality @ 07:00 am this morning around Sathorn

- Click on the link below to see the latest data on the air quality

❖ <https://aqicn.org/city/bangkok>

- Thailand recorded 28 new cases of COVID-19 including one locally transmitted case, and zero deaths over the last 24 hours, bringing the total reported infections to 4,237 and 60 fatalities.

❖ A total of 27 imported COVID-19 cases were reported including 6 Thais who returned from Myanmar's border town Tachilek.

❖ The locally transmitted case involved a 27-year-old medical personnel at a private hospital in Bangkok who had close contact with a confirmed patient.

❖ To date, 7 medical personnel in Bangkok tested positive for the virus, Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) spokesman Dr Thaweesilp Wissanuyothin said.

❖ Two Thai men, aged 23 and 27, – a tattoo artist and an employee at a casino, four Thai women aged between 33 and 37, working at an entertainment outlet, who returned from Tachilek via Mae Sai at Chiang Rai's border checkpoint on Friday were tested positive for COVID-19, he added.

- Chulalongkorn University has launched a fund-raising campaign to build a factory and make Covid-19 vaccines on campus.

❖ The campaign, dubbed "Covid-19 Vaccine for Thais", aims to raise 500 million baht to build a factory at the campus in Samyan, says Chulalongkorn president Bandit Euaporn.

- ❖ "We don't want to be the only owner of the vaccine, we want it to belong to all Thai people," Mr Bandit said on Monday. "That is why we have launched this campaign, to raise public awareness that everyone can play a part in fighting the virus. Moreover, the knowledge base that we have won't only be useful in dealing with Covid-19, but for other emerging diseases in the future."
- The politician family of Nakorn Pathom – Sasomsub saw one of their key members pass away yesterday.
 - ❖ Chaiya Sasomsub, former minister in many governments passed away yesterday at the age of 67.
- Thailand's answer to Michelin Guide.
 - ❖ Thailand's media house – Bangkok Post, seems to be launching the local version of 'Michelin Guide' with fast food chains.
 - As they say a picture says a thousand words, so here is the picture to say it all



- - Should the next stop to review be the chicken at KFC?

Political News Headlines in Thai Media

- Thailand's government said on Monday that it had discovered 28 cases of coronavirus in the last 24 hours, including one local transmission in Bangkok.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/21527/28-new-cases-of-coronavirus-discovered-on-monday-including-one-local-transmission-in-bangkok/>
 - Human-rights lawyer Arnon Nampa, who is also one of the core protest leaders, told the press on Monday morning that pro-democracy rallies next year will focus on far more serious issues.
 - Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30399579?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral
 - Sereepisuth Temeeyaves, leader of the Thai Liberal Party, announced on Monday that he fully supported calls for amendments to the lese majeste law, adding that the issues of “defamation” and “insult” should be removed from this law.
 - Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30399573?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral
 - Former public health minister Chaiya Sasomsap succumbed to acute kidney injury on Monday. He was 68.
 - Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30399582?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral
 - The Criminal Court on Monday approved the prosecution's request to withdraw a case against Rangsiman Rome, a Move Forward Party MP, on the grounds the same charges against six other defendants had already been dismissed.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2035151/unlawful-rally-case-against-move-forward-mp-rangsiman-withdrawn>
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Economic News Headlines in Thai Media

- The share price of CP ALL Plc (CPALL) on Monday reached its four-month high following news that the company's management is preparing to issue loans to complete the Tesco Lotus deal within this month.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/21537/cp-all-hits-four-month-high-on-news-of-tesco-deal-loans/>
- The Ministry of Finance is considering extending the postponement of the new Land and Building tax to 2021 after previously waving 90 per cent of tax bills until the end of 2020.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/21529/government-considers-extending-land-and-building-tax-break/>
- Smog from agricultural burning and industrial output could stay until the end of the year due to the lack of wind and rain, the Thai Meteorological Department (TMD) said on Monday.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/21530/smog-problem-could-stay-until-the-end-of-the-year-says-the-meteorological-department/>
- Chiang Rai authorities on Monday assured the rest of the kingdom that the Covid-19 situation in the northern province was under control.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2035275/chiang-rai-assures-it-is-safe-to-visit>
- The merger of CAT Telecom and TOT will be completed on January 7, 2021, after the Cabinet approved an extension from December 14 specified earlier.
 - Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30399570?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral
- The price of gold dropped by Bt50 per baht weight in the morning trade on Monday after rising Bt100 per baht weight at closing on Saturday, the Gold Traders Association reported.
 - Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/business/30399565?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral

- Concerts and other activities planned to celebrate New Year are allowed but organisers and revellers must strictly follow rules made to prevent the spread of Covid-19, Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said on Monday.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2035139/end-of-year-festivities-allowed-if-coronavirus-rules-enforced>
 - Energy authorities and the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) are drafting a Thailand Integrated Energy Blueprint (TIEB) to set up a zero-carbon emission goal in response to the growing trends of renewable energy and electric vehicles (EVs).
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2035191/blueprint-for-zero-carbon-goal-underway>
 - The Finance Ministry is investigating alleged corruption in the government's co-payment scheme which subsidises half the cost of purchases, known as Kon La Krueng and the latest tourism stimulus campaign known as Rao Tiew Duay Kan (We Travel Together).
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2035259/co-pay-scheme-probed-for-graft>
 - The Telecommunications Association of Thailand (TCT) yesterday launched a centre to coordinate efforts to combat cyberthreats in the telecom industry and to serve as a venue for information-sharing about the issue.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2035311/tct-opens-cyberthreat-combat-centre>
 - The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is partnering with famous dating app Tinder to promote domestic trips for single tourists.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2035339/tat-partners-with-tinder-to-trap-singles>
 - The Thai stock market is estimated to continue its positive momentum supported by four key factors, with the Stock Exchange of Thailand index expected to hit a limited upside at 1,500 points, said Trinity Securities.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2035411/trinity-predicts-positive-set-momentum>
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Issues to be watched out for

- December 2020 – The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI)’s “Faster Payment” scheme to increase liquidity for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) during the pandemic is set to end.
- December 2020 – Kerry Express (KEX) announces IPO price with IPO trading expected on the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) by the 4th week.
- December 16, 2020 - Bangkok’s 1.8-kilometre Gold Line monorail on the Thonburi side of the Chao Phraya River will open.
- December 20, 2020 – Tentative date for elections of Provincial Administrative Organizations (PAOs) in 76 provinces.
- December 30, 2020 – The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) for 3,500 products from the 119 designated beneficiary countries and territories are set to end.
- February, 2020 – A law amendment bill that allows women with pregnancies of not more than 12 weeks to get an abortion is to take effect.
- February 28, 2021 – Tentative date for municipality elections and the election of tambon administrative organizations (TAOs).
- April, 2021 – The central bank plans to officially implement the new rule on the rate of penalty imposed on loan defaulters in a bid to ease borrowers’ burdens and motivate them to repay their debts.

Key Data

SET Index	1,476.13	-6.54
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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 December 14, 2020

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action
BOFFICE	30,000	10.4	Purchase
CPN	40,000	57	Sale
EP	85,900	4.8	Purchase
ETE	2,000,000	1	Purchase
HREIT	20,000	7.65	Sale
MBK	14,000	11	Sale
MTI	70,900	82.6	Purchase
MTI	15,100	83.92	Purchase
ORI	250,000	8.02	Sale
PTG	10,000	17.7	Purchase
PTG	10,000	17.6	Purchase
SAK	110,000	7.2	Purchase
SAK	40,000	7.07	Purchase
SAK	30,000	8.86	Purchase
SWC	4,000	4.72	Sale
SWC	6,000	4.7	Sale
SFT	220,000	4.74	Sale
TSR	50,000	3.76	Purchase
TSR	54,000	3.68	Purchase
THG	7,000	24.8	Purchase
THG	111,200	24.9	Purchase
THG	199,700	25	Purchase
THG	182,100	25.25	Purchase
TMT	33,500	5.93	Purchase
TNITY	300,000	0.21	Sale
AUCT	50,000	9.65	Purchase
UTP	100,000	13.1	Purchase

UTP	50,000	13.2	Purchase
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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 14 Dec 2020						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	6,493.72	6.05	9,997.26	9.31	-3,503.55	-
Proprietary Trading	11,557.11	10.77	11,203.28	10.44	353.83	-
Foreign Investors	42,611.57	39.69	45,574.29	42.45	-2,962.72	-
Local Individuals	46,689.87	43.49	40,577.43	37.8	6,112.44	-
Monthly Cumulative between 1 - 14 Dec 2020						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	48,753.41	7.21	51,973.16	7.69	-3,219.76	-
Proprietary Trading	80,372.69	11.89	80,389.07	11.89	-16.37	-
Foreign Investors	262,554.76	38.83	257,623.88	38.1	4,930.88	-
Local Individuals	284,564.74	42.08	286,259.50	42.33	-1,694.75	-
Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan - 14 Dec 2020						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	1,574,026.07	10.38	1,525,292.80	10.06	48,733.27	-
Proprietary Trading	1,636,698.18	10.79	1,620,164.36	10.68	16,533.81	-
Foreign Investors	5,462,065.39	36.01	5,724,040.97	37.74	-261,975.58	-
Local Individuals	6,494,203.09	42.82	6,297,494.60	41.52	196,708.50	-

Total Trading Value 107,352.26 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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