

December 8, 2020

Thai Enquirer Summary

Political News

- Just a week ago when Thai Enquirer reported that the outbreak of the virus case in Tachileik, messages bombarded @ Thai Enquirer, saying that we were being too sceptical and pessimistic.
 - ❖ Today the country is heading towards a phase of fear as the porous borders between Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia are all taking a toll
 - Thais working in these and nationals of these countries are all sneaking into Thailand and 58 people were caught in Ubon Ratchathani province that borders Laos
 - 100's of Thais from 'Kings Roman' casino in Laos that borders Chiang Saeng (that also has border with Myanmar) are trying to sneak into Thailand after reports emerged that there was a reported case of the virus in that casino.
 - ❖ Read more details about the outbreak in our General News section of this summary.

- On the political front the student movement group - Khana Ratsadon (People's Movement), protesters Parit "Penguin" Chiwarak, Panupong "Mike" Jadnok, Shinwatra Chankrajang, Panusaya "Rung" Sithijirawattanakul are seeking public support at Muang Nonthaburi police station at 10:00 hrs today to face lese majeste charges.
 - ❖ On his Facebook page, Parit called for the public to be his witness when him and others showed up at the police station to face lese majeste charges today because he has heard a rumour that the police plan to arrest them and resort to violence against them. He wants the public to be a witness to possible police brutality. Parit said police have informed their lawyer in advance that the protesters will be detained.
 - Parit also posted a summons against him. The summons was issued on December 4 by the Muang Phitsanulok police station for lese majeste following a complaint lodged by Naengnoi Assawakittikorn, a former Ruam Phalang Prachachart Thai Party, who filed lese majeste charges against Parit and Panusaya.
 - ❖ Panusaya posted a similar message on her Facebook page calling on the public to witness the event today. She said she hoped that Muang Nonthaburi police would treat her and fellow protest leaders fairly, unlike how they were treated by police at the Chanasongkhram police station. Panusaya was also faced a lese majeste charge filed by Naengnoi.
 - ❖ Pro-democracy activist Somyot Pruksakasemsuk was also summoned by the Chanasongkram Police Station to face lese majeste charges. Somyot posted a copy of the summons on his Facebook. He said him and fellow activists like Parit were charged of violating Article 112 of the Criminal Code at a protest on September 19 and 20.
 - ❖ Thai Lawyers for Human Rights (TLHR) said in its report that 9 other activists including Patsaravalee "Mind" Tanakitvibulpon and Chanin Wongri will travel to

Thungmahamek Police Station to face lese majeste charges at 09:30 hrs today for staging a mass rally in front of the German Embassy on October 26.

- ❖ From November 30 to December 7, 20-24 activists were slapped with 12 charges; some have faced sedition charges under Section 116 and the lese majeste charge under Section 112 of the Criminal Code. Parit faces most charges of 7 counts, according to TLHR lawyer Noraset Nanongtoom.
- The pro-democracy Free Youth group revved up protest sentiment against the government as the group vowed to do so following the Constitutional Court's ruling that spared embattled Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha for his extended stay in an army housing unit. On its Facebook page, the group announced a new movement called the RT (Reform Thailand) movement inviting all classes of people who have been suppressed in society to join its rally.
 - ❖ The page said, "This is a totally new movement that aims to raise awareness about social classes of those labour workers who face an oppression. Regardless of whether you are students, office works, ordinary people with no uniforms, farmers or state officials. All of us are labour workers who have been oppressed."
 - ❖ RT Movement have:
 - ✓ No leaders
 - ✓ No stage
 - ✓ No guards
 - ✓ No portable toilets
 - ✓ No negotiation rooms
 - ✓ No bargaining seeking process



The new Logo of the protest movement

- The Constitutional Court announced its decision to dismiss a complaint filed by Sonthiya Sawasdee of the Phalang Pracharath Party against student activists of the Free Youth group, now the Khana Ratsadon (People's Movement), for holding a rally without permission in the violation of the public assembly law B.E.2558 that demanded a dissolution of the House and offended the monarchy.
 - ❖ Sonthiya wants Free Youth leaders to be charged with sedition and violation of the constitution's Section 6 on the monarch. However, the court decided to throw out Sonthiya's petition, citing a lack of sufficient fact to support his accusations and told him to supply additional evidence.
- The Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) is said to issue a classified document demanding Pol Maj Gen Suwat Saengnum, the CSD commander, to appoint an investigation panel to expand the investigation in relation to a bribery case concerning Sakulthorn Juangroongruangkit, the younger brother of Progressive Movement leader Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, about his role in a case for which 2 people were jailed for taking bribes.
 - ❖ Police investigators found Sakulthorn's name was mentioned while studying a Criminal Court ruling from November 2019.
 - ❖ The bribery case was sent to the Criminal Court for Corruption and Misconduct Cases, which in November 2019 convicted Prasit Aphaiphoncharn, a Crown Property Bureau official, and Surakit Tangwithoowanich, of taking bribes and forging documents while acting as land-lease deal middleman.
 - ❖ Both were found to have been in contact with Sakulthorn, who is the chief executive of Real Asset Development. The 2 men were said to have convinced Sakulthorn that they could help him bypass the Crown Property Bureau's land-leasing process in return for a payment of 20 million baht. The court found them

guilty of fabricating documents to try to trick Mr Sakulthorn into paying them money.

- On the superstitious side, Chiang Mai-based astrologer Warin Buawiratler, aka “National Security Council (NSC) astrologer, has made a good prediction for Thailand’s politics at the year-end.
 - ❖ Warin predicted that Thailand’s political tensions will start to ease at the end of the year and the degree of the political conflict next year will not as severe as this year. He also predicted that the government of embattled Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha will complete its terms of office and make a comeback in the next election predicted to be in 2022 as the fastest, with the 3 generals remaining at the helm of the next government.
 - ❖ The NSC astrologer also foresaw a cabinet reshuffle next year, especially 1-2 economic cabinet posts to boost the government’s economic performance. The reshuffle will likely be based on expertise and talent, not party quotas.
 - ❖ Warin also sees some changes in the new cabinet, with some former members of the opposition Pheu Thai Party switching to the government side. Such a move will help tone down political conflicts to a certain extent.
 - ❖ He said Thailand will face more natural disasters across all regions next year while the world will suffer heavy floods and earthquakes. It will take Thailand at least 5-6 months to recover from an economic fallout as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Warin said.

- Deputy Prime Minister Supattanapong Punmeechaow, also the Labour Minister, has come out to give his reassurance to the public that the government has the ability to push gross domestic product (GDP) growth above 4 per cent. Supattanapong said in response to the Bank of Thailand (BoT) Governor's fear that Thailand's economic expansion next year will be below 4 per cent as the main economic key drivers, the tourism and exports sectors, will not reel back from an economic decline.
 - ❖ BoT Governor Sethaput Suthiwart-Narueput told reporters at a briefing on Friday that Thailand's GDP could underperform next year if tourism remains weak, even as this year's economic performance may beat sharply reduced forecasts.
 - ❖ The BoT governor said all reasonable policy options are on the table in such a situation, although there's currently no need for the central bank to pursue quantitative easing. Monetary policy will remain accommodative and focused on growth, while fiscal stimulus should remain in place until the middle of next year.
 - ❖ Supattanapong said the government keeps assessing economic conditions and are ready to increase additional economic stimulus measures when it sees signs of an economic expansion of less than 4 per cent.
- The Thai Chamber of Commerce (TCC) confidence index, a gauge of nationwide business sentiment, edged up slightly to 33.7 per cent in November from 33.2 per cent in October as economic activities in all provinces showed signs of a slow recovery.
 - ❖ Thanawat Polvichai, director of the Economic and Business Forecasting Centre at the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC), voiced concerns about the bearish business sentiment stemmed from the latest surge of coronavirus cases brought upon by Thai returnees from Myanmar who skipped compulsory quarantine. The prospect has affected business sentiment in the provinces where new infections are found, Thanawat said. He is confident that economic impacts will be short-term but the government must keep the situation under control.

- ❖ The UTCC predicted that money circulated in the economy by as much as 130-150 billion baht during New Year spending, close to 140 billion baht recorded during last year spending.
- Hospitality operators in Chiang Rai province are set to file lawsuits against a group of female workers from Tachilek who returned through illegal crossings as they want these returnees to pay more than 20 million baht in compensation for damages they have caused for the industry for the spread of COVID-19.
 - ❖ Kitti Tissakul, adviser of the Association of Northern Tourism Federation, said, citing the result of a meeting with tour, hotel, restaurant and rental car operators in the province.
 - ❖ The amount of compensation damages accumulated to more than 20 million baht as a result of legal action from business operators during November 29-December 7.
- Low-cost carrier Nok Air plans to present its business rehabilitation plan to the Ministry of Transport with a plan to add a fleet of 22 aircraft through rental contracts, says Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob.
 - ❖ The budget carrier will start receiving the new fleet from next year to allow the airline to open new routes. The airline is seeking the ministry's permission to allow it to increase hours to use airports.
 - ❖ This week, the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) will hold a meeting with executives of all airlines to gather their suggestions and business revival plans as a result of the pandemic.
- A group of taxi drivers is pushing for Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha to expand the government's co-payment scheme to cover taxi drivers. Previously, the group also petitioned the Ministry of Finance to include them in the scheme.

- ❖ Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob said the matter rests with the Finance Ministry's consideration following reports that the same group plans to petition his ministry on December 9 for help.
 - ❖ Fiscal Policy Office (FPO) policy adviser Pornchai Triraveja, as the Finance Ministry's spokesman, said the 2nd phase of the co-payment scheme will be forwarded to the cabinet for approval today and is ready for the new registration on December 16, 2020. The number of shops that registered to participate in the 2nd round of the scheme is getting close to the target of 1 million stores set by the ministry.
 - The Tourism and Sports and Public Health ministries are ready to launch the first medical marijuana tour in Southeast Asia next year as they finalised a draft programme for plantations across Thailand.
 - ❖ The goal of the tour is to increase awareness of marijuana for medical purposes and inform those who are interested in growing the plant of the laws, said Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, the tourism and sports minister.
 - ❖ Eight provinces have plantations that could be part of the tour, comprising Mae Hong Son, Lampang, Samut Songkhram, Sakon Nakhon, Nakhon Ratchasima, Buri Ram, Phatthalung and Chon Buri.
 - “In the early stages, the programme aims to educate locals who would like to form a community enterprise and bid to become authorised cannabis growers. This programme will pave the way for a basic understanding of marijuana and its economic benefits,” said Mr Phiphat.
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- Thailand has recorded 21 new COVID-19 cases, including 9 Thai nationals returned from Myanmar's border town of Tachileik, and zero fatalities over the last 24 hours, bringing the tally to 4,107 cases with 60 deaths.
 - ❖ The 9 Thais, who worked at an entertainment outlet in Tachileik, entered the kingdom via the border checkpoint at Mae Sai district in Chiang Rai, the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) said.
 - The other 12 cases were also imported, comprising 6 Thais; 4 returned from the United Kingdom and 2 from Singapore. Six foreigners; 2 from the United States and one each from Estonia, India, Germany and the United Arab Emirates.
 - ❖ Chiang Rai is now plagued by virus cases from Tachileik township. To date, there are at least 38 cases linked to 4 women who worked at the 1G1-7 Hotel in Tachileik, including 16 who sneaked into the kingdom bypassing immigration checks, 14 in quarantine facility and 2 local transmissions.



- ❖ Dr Sophon Iamsirithaworn, director of the Communicable Diseases Division, renewed calls for passengers on the same flights as infected women to

immediately go to a hospital if they develop symptoms such as a fever, cough, runny nose, or impaired sense of smell and taste.

➤ Flights from Chiang Rai on the list are:

- Nok Air flight DD8817 on November 28
- Thai Lion Air flight SL533 on November 29
- WE137 of THAI Smile on November 29
- Thai Lion Air flight SL545 on November 30.

❖ All 4 flights carried passengers whose tests were later positive for the virus. There were cases now found to have been in Singburi province (where the passenger used the same bathroom that an infected person had used at the airport).

- Flooding in the southern region has claimed three more lives, raising the total to 24, as Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on Monday visited the hardest-hit province, Nakhon Si Thammarat.

❖ The Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department on Monday reported that a woman drowned in Phrasaeng district of Surat Thani and two women drowned in Sathing Phra district of Songkhla, on Sunday.

❖ The latest fatalities raised the death toll to 24 in a region that has been pounded by rain brought by the southern monsoon over the Gulf of Thailand since Nov 25. The southern floods are the most extensive in recent years.

❖ The deluge has resulted in 555,194 households being flooded out as of Monday. Nakhon Si Thammarat is the hardest hit with 19 deaths and about 180,000 houses swamped.

- Over the past long weekend, pro-democracy group Free Youth launched their new logo. Using a stylized R and T for Restart Thailand, the logo was provocative to say the least.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/21417/our-writers-weigh-in-on-free-youths-controversial-new-logo/>
- The Pheu Thai Party will not join the parliament's reconciliation committee, its leader said.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/21398/pheu-thai-will-not-join-the-parliaments-reconciliation-committee/>
- The US Senate Foreign Relations Committee urged the Thai government to protect and uphold democratic values in Thailand, the committee's press release said on Friday.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/21389/us-senators-urging-the-prayut-government-to-uphold-democracy-and-human-rights-in-thailand/>
- Thailand's governing parties are fielding three candidates for seats on the 21-member Reconciliation Committee, initiated by parliament to resolve the current political conflict.
 - Link- <https://www.thaipbsworld.com/coalition-parties-field-three-candidates-for-seats-on-reconciliation-committee/>
- Air force drones are being used on aerial patrols along the border with Myanmar, especially over natural crossings, to detect illegal border crossers and prevent the spread of Covid-19.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2031423/air-force-drones-used-for-border-covid-surveillance>
- More than 100 Thais in Myanmar's Tachileik town have contacted officials to return to their country, while some young women are still trying to sneak in through natural channels, an official said.
 - Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30399214?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral
- The main opposition Pheu Thai Party is restructuring itself to solve internal conflicts while the departure of Khunying Sudarat Keyuraphan is seen as a tactic to help the party win more MP seats in the next election.

- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2030983/pheu-thai-insiders-say-sudarat-unlikely-to-switch-camps>

Economic News Headlines in Thai Media

- The Ministry of Commerce said on Friday that the consumer price index (CPI) continued to decline but also saw a smaller contraction in nine months.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/21376/consumer-price-index-continues-to-contract-in-november/>
- The price of gold over the next two weeks is expected to fluctuate within a small range, while in the long term it will show a downward tendency, Gold Traders Association chairman Jitti Tangsitpakdee said on Monday.
 - Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30399222?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral
- The operation and maintenance (O&M) project of M6 Motorway (Bangpa-In - Nakhon Ratchasima) for a distance of 196 kilometres, and the M9 Motorway (Bangyai - Kanchanaburi) for a distance of 96km are currently undergoing plan adjustment, the Department of Highways said.
 - Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30399217?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral
- The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) resolved on Monday to reduce the fuel tariff (Ft) from January to April 2021 by 2.89 satang per unit, or charge Ft at 15.32 satang per unit.
 - Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30399215?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral
- The Department of Trade Negotiations has received approval from Parliament for its draft on agricultural products quotas for export to the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK) after Britain left the EU, also known as Brexit.

- Link-
https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30399212?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral
- The East Economic Corridor Office (EECO) has joined hands with Bank of Ayudhya to open the “Krungsri EEC Office”, with an aim to draw Japanese investors.
- Link-
https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30399205?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral
- The Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) will disburse Bt20.4 billion to some 2.4 million farmers on Wednesday after the Cabinet approved an additional budget of Bt28 billion for the government’s rice price guarantee scheme.
- Link-
https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30399201?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral
- Padeang Industry (PDI), which is engaged in the renewable energy business, is investing Bt2.8 billion to pick up a 51 per cent stake in two hotels -- Four Seasons Bangkok at Chao Phraya River and Capella Bangkok – which will be opened completely in 2021.
- Link-
https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30399194?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral
- The Department of Internal Trade (DIT) is taking action against stores that are abusing privileges under the government's subsidised shopping scheme.
- Link-
https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30399158?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral
- Nok Airlines expects to enter positive performance next year, as the government will likely ease the 14-day mandatory quarantine measure to curb Covid-19 infections, the airline’s chief executive officer Wutthiphum Jurangkool said.
- Link-
https://www.nationthailand.com/business/30399050?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral

- Despite three cases of local transmission, New Year countdown activities can be held as long as they take place under health safety standards, says Gen Nattaphon Narkphanit, head of the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration's (CCSA) panel on the easing of Covid-19 restrictions.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2030987/new-year-countdowns-given-govt-ok>
- Extra information concerning alleged irregularities inside Thai Airways International (THAI) will be given to the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) on Dec 14.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2030647/thai-airways-inquiry-to-get-major-new-evidence>
- Credit Suisse Expects SET at 1,660pts in 2021, Driving by Banking-PetChem-Tourism Stocks
 - Link- <https://www.kaohoon.com/content/407376>
- Thailand will next year launch an online arbitration service for intellectual property disputes in a bid to make the country a regional hub for settling such issues.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2031599/ip-arbitration-cases-go-online>
- Bangkok ranked the seventh most affordable office market to fit out in Asia-Pacific at US\$713 or 21,390 baht per square metre, 170% less expensive than Tokyo, the most expensive, according to property consultant JLL Thailand.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2031731/bangkok-scores-well-in-fit-out-survey>
- Thailand's economy is forecast for clear recovery momentum in 2022 as domestic demand will remain weak in 2021, says CIMB Thai Bank (CIMBT).
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2031723/recovery-unlikely-until-2022>

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 2-13, 2020 – The 37th Thailand International Motor Expo 2020 at IMPACT Challenger, Muang Thong Thani.
- December 9, 2020 – The Bank of Thailand (BoT) will hold a briefing to unveil additional measures to contain the baht.
- 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	1,449.83	+11.51
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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 7, 2020

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action
SUN	200,000	4.08	Purchase
SUN	100,000	4.08	Purchase
TNDT	4,100	3.16	Purchase
STANLY	2,000	160	Purchase
TSTE	500	6.8	Purchase
TTI	1,000	17.7	Purchase
THG	115,000	23.9	Purchase
THG	104,000	24	Purchase
THG	151,000	24.1	Purchase

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 4 Dec 2020						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	7,379.64	8.92	5,963.08	7.2	1,416.56	-
Proprietary	10,880.79	13.14	10,521.75	12.71	359.04	-

Unit: M.Baht

Trading						
Foreign Investors	30,204.10	36.49	29,003.74	35.04	1,200.36	-
Local Individuals	34,312.34	41.45	37,288.30	45.05	-2,975.96	-
Monthly Cumulative between 1 - 4 Dec 2020						
Unit: M.Baht						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	26,734.84	8.3	23,209.11	7.21	3,525.73	-
Proprietary Trading	41,136.67	12.77	41,742.54	12.96	-605.87	-
Foreign Investors	125,861.18	39.08	122,082.05	37.91	3,779.13	-
Local Individuals	128,301.43	39.84	135,000.42	41.92	-6,698.99	-
Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan - 4 Dec 2020						
Unit: M.Baht						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	1,552,007.50	10.48	1,496,528.75	10.1	55,478.76	-
Proprietary Trading	1,597,462.16	10.78	1,581,517.84	10.68	15,944.32	-
Foreign Investors	5,325,371.81	35.95	5,588,499.14	37.73	-	-
Local Individuals	6,337,939.78	42.79	6,146,235.52	41.49	263,127.33	-

Total Trading Value 82,776.88 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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