

January 18, 2021

Thai Enquirer Summary

Political News

- The weekend was dominated by 2 major dramatic political events:
 - ❖ There was a “ping pong bomb” that went off at pro-democracy protesters’ site on Rama IV Road in Bangkok, near Samyan Mitrtown complex on Saturday evening
 - ❖ The other is the overnight missing of one of pro-democracy security guards.
- The details are
 - ❖ Regarding the 1st event, 4 people were injured in the incident -- 2 police officers, a citizen and a reporter of The Standard news. Five people were arrested soon after the explosion occurred at around 18:00 hrs on Saturday and taken to the Region 1 Border Patrol Police camp in Pathum Thani for questioning.
 - The Metropolitan Police Bureau (MPB) believes that the perpetrators threw the explosive device from a vehicle on the flyover heading towards Hua Lampong railway station, according to MPB deputy commissioner Pol Maj-Gen Piya Tawichai.

- The device was similar to the type used on November 25th in front of The Avenue Ratchayothin following a rally by the Ratsadon protesters, he added.
- The MPB then issued arrest warrants for at least 2 suspects identified as Baiboon Thaipanich, 20, and Phanupong Pongthanu, 20, for the violations of the State of Emergency Act and the Disease Control Act.
- ❖ The other incident is the alleged abduction of one of “Free People” guards. Mongkol Santimethakul, who was involved in a rally at the Victory Monument early on Saturday. Free People guards said Mongkol went missing after joining a rally campaigning to abolish the royal defamation law at the Victory Monument on Saturday.
 - The rally ended with several people detained in the scuffle near Victory Monument and banners denouncing the royal insult charge confiscated by the police.
 - The alleged abduction prompted the Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC) to come out to deny involvement after the Free People guards and Ratsadon guards rallied in front of the ISOC head office in Dusit district to demand the release one of the guards who has been missing since Saturday night.
- The Internet Dialogue on Law Reform (iLaw) announced on its social media account iLawFX that Mongkol has been released in the Bangpoo area near BTS Kheha in Samut Prakan province.
- ❖ Mongkol and his lawyer went to notify the police at the Muang district police station. Mongkol will be sent for physical and psychological evaluation, according to his lawyer. However, it is still unclear if those men who allegedly

abducted Mongkol are security officials. Initially, Mongkol was released unharmed.

- ❖ Mongkol said he was abducted by 4-5 strongmen identified themselves as ISOC officials from a convenient store near his house. He said he was taken by force into a van. Mongkol said during his abduction he was asked to sign a document but he refused to cooperate because he was not allowed to read the content in the document. Mongkol's abduction came to light following a post on his Facebook page which read: "Help me"



- The reconciliation committee formed by the Thai parliament speaker to resolve political tensions is due for its 1st meeting today to select chairman and other key positions.
 - ❖ Democrat list MP Therdpong Chaiyanant, as a committee member, said the committee is scheduled for the 1st meeting at 13:30 hrs today at the parliament to select key positions including the chairman.
 - Rumours are swirling that Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha's close associate like Deputy Defence Minister Gen Chaichan Changmongkol is likely to be given the chairmanship's post. However, Therdpong denied having the knowledge of the rumour, saying that whoever selected as the chairman still has the same voice as committee members.
 - Therdpong also dismissed concerns that violence that erupted during a pro-democracy rally near Victory Monument on Saturday would pose a

challenge to the committee's role. He said the committee will take into consideration of protesters' demand to proceed with the reconciliation process.

- The opposition Pheu Thai Party already showed signs of disharmony among its leaders amid its plan to bring a no-confidence motion against the government by the end of this month.
 - ❖ The issue is that Pheu Thai deputy party leader Yutthapong Jarassathian who was assigned to lead the party's censure debate this time reportedly failed to call a meeting to brief details of the debate in order to formulate the attack plan with important figures like Suthin Khlangsaeng, who is the opposition chief whip, Pol Capt Chalerm Yubamrung, who heads the party's committee on special affairs, as well as those MPs who are close to Khunying Sudarat Keyuraphan such as Capt Anudith Nakornthap, Pheu Thai MP for Bangkok Jirayu Huangsap and Pheu Thai MP for Nan Chonlanan Srikaew.
 - ❖ Yutthapong's lack of action prompted criticism that some MPs may not be allocated fair time slot during the debate.
 - ❖ Yutthapong said he plans to ask the government to slash the defence budget. Yutthapong himself came out to ask Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha to answer why all arms procurements projects in the 2022 fiscal year remain intact while so many people have been hardest by the pandemic. The Pheu Thai MP said the procurement plans by the 3-armed forces under the Fiscal Year 2022 could be broken down into:
 - The Navy's procurement of 2 submarines worth 25 billion baht from China.

- The Army's procurement of 2 attack helicopters worth 4.22 billion baht, Stryker tanks worth 1.02 billion baht and an airplane at a cost of 1.35 billion baht.
 - The Air Force's light attack aircraft valued at more than 4.5 billion baht and armoured vehicles at a cost of more than 1 billion baht as well as its air force-based space operation centre at a cost of 1.47 billion baht.
 - ❖ Yutthapong said the armed forces' arms procurement budget which stood at around 38 billion baht can be instead used for the 3,500 baht cash handouts for 2 months for another 5.43 million Thais affected by the Covid-19 pandemic instead.
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Economic News

- The cabinet is set to decide on numbers of eligible people for the 3,500-baht cash handouts for 2 months at the cabinet meeting tomorrow.
 - ❖ A report from the Ministry of Finance said 35-40 million people are expected to receive the handouts under the budget earmarked at around 210 billion baht, according to a source with the ministry.
 - Those who will receive the 7,000-baht handouts automatically without being required to apply online for the handouts are 14 million welfare card holders and the 15.3 million people who have downloaded the Pao Tang app.
 - ❖ Prior to the registration for the cash handouts, Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-ocha came out to instruct the Finance Ministry to take care of the registration system to prevent a possible crash that happened during the 2nd phase of co-payment scheme.

- ❖ As for the 50-50 co-payment scheme, the government will open the 2nd phase of the scheme on January 20 from 06:00 hrs to allow additional 1.34 million people to register online on the website www.คนละครึ่ง.com
 - The implementation of the 2nd phase of the co-payment scheme will allow registrants to start spending from January 25-March 31, 2021.
- The Ministry of Finance came out to warn the public not to register on these following mobile apps in which the ministry said they are fake.
 - ❖ The Ministry said these fake apps aimed to lure people to a new round of the cash handout “Rao Chana (We Win)” scheme.
 - ❖ Finance Ministry spokeswoman Kulaya Tantitemit said these apps have nothing to do with the government’s “Rao Chana” scheme, advising them not to share information from these fraudulent apps.

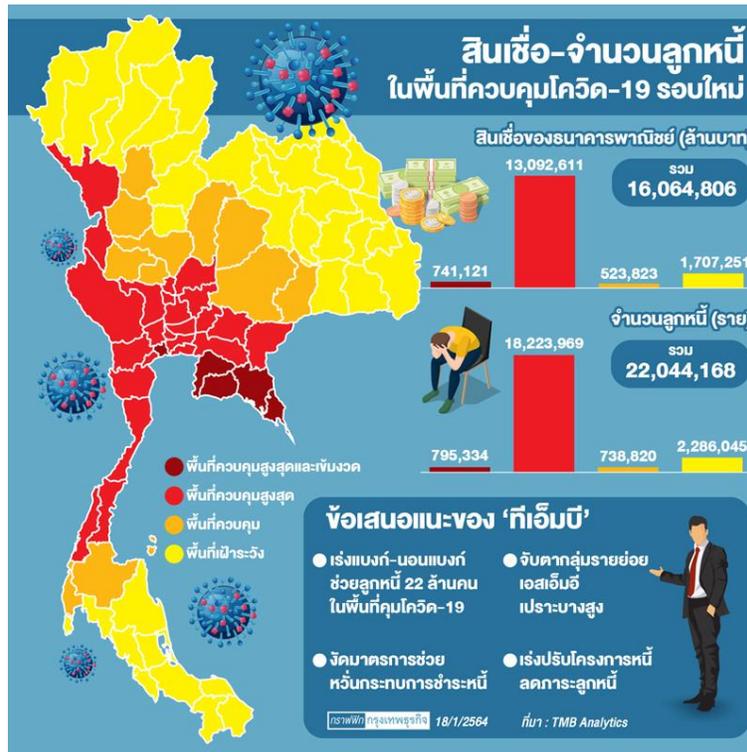


- The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA)’s plan to raise the BTS maximum fare on the Green Line electric train to 158 baht, starting next month, has hit a snag following heavy criticism from several parties including the Ministry of Transport.

- ❖ The BMA plans to offer a brief discount to 104 baht to ease the burden on city commuters during the Covid-19 outbreak.
- ❖ Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob has called on City Hall to halt raising the BTS sky-train maximum fare ceiling until proper solutions are reached by all involving parties, according to a source with the Ministry.
- ❖ Meanwhile, Kittiphan Panchan, deputy director-general of the Department of Highways, who serves as director-general of the Department of Rail Transport, said it would send a letter to the BMA to ask it to revise its plan to raise the maximum fare on the Greenline immediately, saying that the planned hike of the fare is not in line with the cabinet's resolution on November 26, 2018, and the current economic conditions.
- ❖ The House's standing committee on transport voiced opposition to the BMA's plan to raise its fare on the Greenline to 104 baht, says Sophon Sarum, the chairman of the House committee on transport. He added that the committee from the start disagreed with the maximum fare of 65 baht throughout the 68.25-km route. It asked the BMA to clarify its fare hike plan since November last year. City Hall has yet to provide any explanation and now it plans to hike further fare on the line.
- ❖ The committee plans to summon those involved in the issue on January 21, Sophon said, adding that the committee will oppose the fare hike plan amid the virus outbreak and submit its opposition to the government.
- ❖ Pheu Thai Party MP from Maha Sarakham Yutthapong Charassathien said the opposition would submit a censure debate motion to censure individual ministers tentatively scheduled on January 25. One of the topics that the opposition would debate was the Green Line.

- The upcoming initial public offering (IPO) of PTT Oil and Retail (PTTOR) will likely cause prices of other stocks in the energy sector to drop during the subscription period after institutional investors rebalance their portfolios, analysts say.
 - ❖ The subscription period may provide an opportunity for retail investors to buy up shares in other listed energy firms with strong fundamentals before the market corrects.
 - ❖ PTTOR is poised to meet the fast-track criteria to be listed on the SET50 at the end of the first trading day and will likely be larger than the top 20 ranked firms in the index because of its large market capitalisation.
 - ❖ The company is the retail arm of state-owned oil and gas conglomerate PTT Plc and best known for operating Cafe Amazon coffee chains. It announced its IPO price range of 16-18 baht per share last week, offering up to 3 billion newly issued ordinary shares.
- TMB Analytics found the new wave of the Covid-19 outbreak had caused commercial banks' loans in 28 provinces declared as a red zone to rise drastically.
 - ❖ TMB Analytics sees commercial banks' loan ratio in the 28 red-zone provinces rising to 13.83 trillion baht, accounting for 86.11 per cent of total loans standing at 16.06 trillion baht, Naris Sathapholdeja, senior director of TMB Analytics, revealed.
 - ❖ The number of debtors in the 28 red-zone provinces rose to 19.01 million from the 22.04 million in the entire system. Commercial banks' loans in the 5 provinces of maximum control---Samut Sakhon, Rayong, Chon Buri, Chanthaburi and Trat---rose to 741 billion baht with 790,000 debtors, with retail debtors accounting for 52 per cent, representing loans amounting to 380 billion baht or 570,000 baht per head.

- ❖ The Bank of Thailand (BoT) expects the outbreak resurgence to affect around 4.7 million workers in the red-zone provinces, most of which are workers in the informal sector and freelancers, says BoT senior director Chayawadee Chai-Anant.



- The Cooperative League of Thailand (CLT) feared the new wave of the Covid-19 pandemic would derail Thai Airways International Plc (THAI)'s rehabilitation plan, as concerned by CLT President Poramet Intarachumnum.
 - ❖ With THAI owing around 87 billion baht to 84 cooperatives, the CLT is scheduled a new round of negotiation with the airline to consider a new framework for the airline's debt repayment under the rehab plan which will be submitted to the Bankruptcy Court in February.
 - ❖ The CLT insists on its original proposal that it wants the principal repayment first and it is flexible on interest repayment depending on circumstances.

- The public will have to wait and see if the Cabinet's meeting tomorrow will allow an extension of the collection of personal income tax and corporate income tax for 2020 due in March this year.
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General News

- The Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) reported 374 new cases in the past 24 hours, raising the total number of confirmed cases in Thailand to 12,054 and the death toll remains at 70, according to The Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA).
 - ❖ CCSA spokesman Dr Taweessin Visanuyothin said 7,817 cases had been found in the second wave since December 18. He said there was a downward trend, but peak daily numbers were seen in the red-coded areas, including Bangkok.
 - ❖ Of the 374 new cases, 364 were local transmissions -- 321 cases through active case detection and 43 cases linked to those visiting high-risk areas, and 10 imported cases.
- Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha came out to assure the public that the authority would not rush to approve the COVID-19 vaccine. He said he would not let Thais be guinea pigs as he put it, "I have an important policy, that is, to ensure that the vaccine is safe, so that it can be used for Thai people"
 - ❖ Thailand is expected to receive its 1st batch of the COVID-19 vaccine from China's Sinovac Biotech in February.
 - ❖ The 1st shipment of 200,000 doses is expected to arrive by the end of February and 800,000 doses by end of March and one million doses by end of April.

- This week a blanket of PM2.5 dust particles is expected to cover most parts of the Northern region and Bangkok, as the seasonal breeze has been weak since last week.
 - ❖ The AIR4THAI website, has confirmed that Bangkok and adjacent provinces are being affected by PM2.5 smog. The air quality index in the area has ranged from moderate to unhealthy with 50 to 113 micrograms per cubic meter. However, the PM10 dust particle volume was even higher at 154 micrograms per cubic meter which is also unhealthy.
 - Udom Tantiprasongchai, the founder of Orient Thai and One-To-Go airlines best known for founding the country's first low-cost airline, died of heart disease on Saturday. He was 66.
 - ❖ A chanting rite for Udom will be held at Wat Thep Sirintharawat until Saturday at 6pm, while his cremation will take place on Jan 24 at 5pm.
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Political News Headlines in Thai Media

- This past weekend, Thai police violently arrested unarmed protesters, took high school students into custody, and abducted a student from his dormitory at midnight. They didn't even charge the student they abducted, just said they wanted to bring him in as a witness. At midnight. From his dormitory.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/22975/opinion-behold-the-greatest-police-force-in-the-world/>
- Thailand's government said on Sunday that it had discovered 374 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours with the country now reporting over 12,000 Covid-19 cases since the pandemic began.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/22974/thailand-discovers-374-new-coronavirus-cases-over-12000-now-infected/>
- Two people were arrested Saturday for protesting against the government's use of the lese-majeste law, at the Victory Monument intersection in downtown Bangkok.

- Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/22960/two-arrested-after-weekend-bangkok-protests/>
- Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha said on Friday that he is open to the idea of legal gambling venues in Thailand, to help curb the spread of Covid-19 at underground venues.
- Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/22947/pm-legalized-gambling-could-be-on-the-cards-to-curb-covid-19-spread/>
- As Winston Churchill once said, history is written by the victors.
- Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/22909/opinion-in-an-age-of-disinformation-we-must-become-more-savvy-and-responsible/>
- Police have detained four people suspected of allegedly exploding a ping-pong bomb on Rama IV Road in Bangkok, near Samyan Mitrtown complex, the site of a gathering of pro-democracy protesters on Saturday evening.
- Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30401357?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral
- The "Bad Student" group of high school students as well as student organisations from 50 educational institutions nationwide organised activities to mark Teachers' Day at a park outside the Education Ministry on Saturday.
- Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30401354?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral
- Legalising casinos will not stamp out illegal gambling and may cause more social problems in Thailand, the Stop Gambling Foundation (SGF) has warned.
- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2052475/anti-gambling-lobby-wary-of-reforms>
- Pheu Thai MP Yutthapong Charassathien has asked the government to slash the military's budget for arms purchases to help those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2052483/arms-budget-intact-as-more-suffer>

Economic News Headlines in Thai Media

- The latest outbreak of Covid-19 in Thailand could pull economic growth lower than the 3.2 per cent estimated by the government for 2021, the central bank said Friday, citing the renewed impact of the pandemic across sectors.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/22954/growth-forecast-overly-optimistic-bank-of-thailand-warns/>
- Navatane Golf Course was closed for three days after a caddy has been infected with the coronavirus, it said Friday.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/22924/bangkok-golf-course-closed-after-caddy-tests-covid-positive/>
- Siam Commercial Bank is setting up operations in Myanmar becoming the only Thai bank to operate a wholly-owned subsidiary in the neighbouring country.
 - Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/business/30401303?utm_source=category&utm_medium=internal_referral
- Udom Tantiprasongchai, best known for founding the first low-cost airline in Thailand, has died at 66.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2052367/founder-of-first-low-cost-airline-in-thailand-dies>
- Nok Air estimates it can sustain its business for another six months, although the uncertain market outlook makes predictions difficult.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2051907/nok-air-six-months-liquidity-remaining>
- Central Retail Corporation (CRC), the SET-listed retail arm of Central Group and the country's biggest mall operator, insists on continuing its domestic investment despite the fresh outbreak.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2051827/crc-unfazed-by-new-covid-outbreak>

Issues to be watched out for

- January, 2021 – The opposition is planning to file a no-confidence motion against the government, the 2nd round of a censure debate the current administration is facing.
- January, 2021 – The parliament is set to deliberate the charter amendment bills in the 2nd reading.
- January 2021 – The World Bank will review Thailand's economic growth outlook.
- January, 2021 – Charoen Pokphand Foods Plc (CPF) is preparing to issue 5 series of debentures with tenors of 2 years to 12 years to retail, institutional and high net worth investors.
- January 18, 2021 – The reconciliation committee to ease the political tensions is scheduled for the 1st meeting at 13.30 hrs.
- January 27, 2021 – The Constitutional Court is set to rule on Democrat Party MP for Nakhon Si Thammarat Thepthai Senpong's MP status following the Election Commission's petition.
- February, 2021 – The Legal Execution Department plans to open the auction for the Dhara Dhevi Hotel Chiang Mai next month at a price of 2.116 billion baht.
- February, 2021 – A law amendment bill that allows women with pregnancies of not more than 12 weeks to get an abortion is to take effect.
- February, 2, 2021 – Thai Airways International Plc (THAI) said it will submit a rehabilitation plan to the Central Bankruptcy Court, postponed from the original schedule on January 2, 2021.
- February 3, 2021 – The Bank of Thailand (BoT)'s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)'s next meeting to review policy interest rate.
- February 10, 2021 – PTT Oil and Retail Business Plc (OR) shares will be listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, with the offer price of 16-18 baht per share.
- February 28, 2021 – Tentative date for municipality elections and the election of tambon administrative organizations (TAOs).

- February 28, 2021 – The current parliamentary session is scheduled to end.
- March 28, 2021 – Elections for the mayors and councillors of municipalities of all levels - tambon, muang and nakhon - throughout the country.
- March 31, 2021 – The government’s half-half co-payment scheme is set to end.
- April, 2021 – Thai Airways International Plc (THAI) expects the Central Bankruptcy Court to consider its rehab blueprint for approval.
- April 2021 – The Batong Airport is scheduled to be opened after being postponed from February due to the resurgence of the Covid-19.
- 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.
- June, 2021 – Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC)’s debt holiday is due to expire.

Key Data

SET Index	1,519.13	-16.85
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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 January 15, 2020

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action
ADB	100,000	1.03	Purchase
DHOUSE	700,000	0.59	Sale
HANA	180,000	45	Transfer
ICN	300,000	3.2	Sale
KEX	300,000	59.67	Sale
KOOL	20,000,000	-	Transfer
KOOL	15,000,000	-	Transfer
MICRO	50,000	5.2	Purchase
MICRO	50,000	5.2	Purchase
MICRO	50,000	5.25	Purchase
MICRO	50,000	5.2	Purchase
PDJ	59,000	1.32	Purchase
PDJ	19,000	1.33	Purchase
PDJ	70,000	1.34	Purchase
TFG	2,694,600	5.24	Purchase
TFG	3,562,900	5.68	Purchase
TFG	181,800	5.55	Purchase
THG	12,000	26.75	Purchase
THG	238,000	27	Purchase
III	50,000	2.2	Sale
WIJK	183,000	2.43	Purchase
WIJK	50,000	2.44	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 15 Jan 2021

Unit: M.Baht						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	5,731.42	5.65	9,575.65	9.44	-3,844.23	-
Proprietary Trading	9,991.09	9.85	10,886.29	10.73	-895.2	-
Foreign Investors	34,275.51	33.8	34,851.41	34.37	-575.91	-
Local Individuals	51,415.88	50.7	46,100.55	45.46	5,315.33	-
Monthly Cumulative between 1 - 15 Jan 2021						
Unit: M.Baht						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	89,227.89	8.24	93,990.35	8.68	-4,762.45	-
Proprietary Trading	117,674.92	10.87	116,247.30	10.74	1,427.63	-
Foreign Investors	369,237.36	34.11	363,296.94	33.56	5,940.42	-
Local Individuals	506,387.91	46.78	508,993.51	47.02	-2,605.60	-
Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan - 15 Jan 2021						
Unit: M.Baht						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	89,227.89	8.24	93,990.35	8.68	-4,762.45	-
Proprietary Trading	117,674.92	10.87	116,247.30	10.74	1,427.63	-
Foreign Investors	369,237.36	34.11	363,296.94	33.56	5,940.42	-
Local Individuals	506,387.91	46.78	508,993.51	47.02	-2,605.60	-

Total Trading Value 101,413.90 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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