

April 2, 2021

Thai Enquirer Summary

Political News

- Push for charter changes in parliament and a planned rally this Sunday by former leader of the United front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD) outside parliament are taking centre stage again. These events are expected to raise Thailand's political temperature this weekend.

- ❖ Reports have come out that the Phalang Pracharat Party (PPRP) is planning to file a motion to amend the constitution section-by-section in parliament on April 7.
 - PPRP list MP and deputy leader Paiboon Nititawan said the party will submit its own charter amendment bill seeking changes to 5 articles in 13 sections with the support of 100 MPs. The core coalition party expects the parliament to consider its motion seeking revision of charter amendments on a section-by-section basis and vote in support of them in the 3rd reading at the end of July without having to pass a referendum, Paiboon said.

 - Under its own amendment version, the PPRP is seeking to revise the one-ballot paper system to 2-separate ballots. This amendment is to change the number of constituency MPs to 400 and party-list MPs to 100, Paiboon elaborated, adding that other sections on the list are Section 29 to

guarantee that people will have better rights freedom in the justice process, Section 144, Section 185, Section 270, etc.

- The PPRP, however, will not touch the sections regarding the Senate's power or change the clause that will allow senators to join MPs in a vote in parliament to pick a prime minister, Paiboon said.
- Meanwhile, the Democrat Party MP is expected to lead other 2 coalition parties to push for charter amendments section-by-section as well.
 - ❖ Democrat Party MP for Nakhon Si Thammarat Chinnaworn Boonyakiat, as Democrat Party chief whip, revealed that he as representative of the Democrat Party whip had a meeting with Supachai Jaisamut and Paradorn Prissanantakul, representatives of the Bhumjai Thai Party, and Nikorn Chamnong, the Chart Thai Pattana Party's representative, agreed on pushing 6 proposals including:
 - 1) Section 256 of the constitution to make the charter easier to amend. Section 256 says a charter amendment requires the support of at least one-third all 250 senators, or 84.
 - 2) Section 272 of the constitution to curb the Senate's role in joining MPs to vote for prime minister.
 - 3) Issues regarding the freedom, rights and liberty of communities.
 - 4) Issues regarding checks and balances of the executive power and governance.
 - 5) Issues regarding decentralisation of power.
 - 6) Revision to the electoral system from a single-ballot system to 2 separate ballots for constituency and party-list MPs.

- Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha came out to comment on UDD chairman Jatuporn Promphan scheduled this Sunday. Gen Prayut warned Jatuporn that even former red shirt leaders disapproved of his rally plan. The Prime Minister said the decision now rests with Jatuporn himself but asked him not to break the law or cause trouble or damage to the country like in the past. He said Jatuporn should have learned a lesson from the past.
- The former UDD leader who disapproved of Jatuporn's rally plan that Gen Prayut was talking about is Anon Saennan, the former red shirt leader who set up red-shirt villages. Gen Prayut then turned to ask any journalists who were born before 2010 to re-imagine the political demonstrations that year.
- Piyabutr Saengkanokkul, secretary-general of the Progressive Movement, another opponent of Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha, is ramping up an effort to topple the Prime Minister.
 - ❖ Piyabutr will launch a signature collection campaign under the slogan "just give one name to eradicate the Prayut system". The event will be held on April 6 at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre.
 - ❖ Piyabutr expects to spend 6 months from now to lead a caravan of supporters to all regions to collect 1 million signatures supporting charter amendments section-by-section, targeting the Senate, reform of justice system and independent bodies, the 20-year strategic plan and reform of the justice system. The Progressive Movement leader will kick off his caravan in Bangkok and travel to 4 provinces, namely Chiang Mai, Phitsanulok, Khon Kaen and Pattani. He expects to complete his road tour at the end of 2021 and submit his version of charter amendment drafts to parliament next.
- Co-leader of Ratsadon (People's Movement) group Patsaravalee "Mind" Tanakitvibulpon and 2 other activists reported to Bang Pho police station to acknowledge the lese majeste charge under Section 112 while student activist Thatthep "Ford" Ruangprapaikitseree,

who has also been charged for the same offence, failed to travel to meet prosecutors, fuelling rumours that he may have fled the country to seek political asylum aboard.

- ❖ Prosecutors scheduled to meet the 4 defendants on May 21 to announce their decision whether to indict them in court.
 - ❖ Investigators at Bang Pho Police Station plans to ask the Criminal Court to issue an arrest warrant for Thatthep's arrest.
 - ❖ Meanwhile, the Criminal Court is scheduled to decide today whether it will approve a temporary release on bail for "Toto" Piyarat Chonthep, a leading member of the We Volunteer (WeVo) guard group, today. Piyarat was charged with illegally assembling for criminal acts.
 - Today the Administrative Court will decide on the payment of 35 billion baht compensation that former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has to repay for allowing corruption to take place in the rice pledging scheme that prompted the Ministry of Finance to suffer losses of as much as 35 billion baht.
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Economic News

- Kris Ungwithoonsathit, chairman of Thai-Myanmar Business Council, called on the Thai government to provide urgent financial assistance to business operators in Myanmar in the wake of Myanmar's mounting political violence that forces Thai businesses to halt operations.
 - ❖ Thai operators conducting businesses in Myanmar are suffering credit crunch and want the government to boost their liquidity urgently, Kris said, adding that most of them are small- and medium-sized enterprises who were forced to halt operations temporarily. They want the government to issue soft loans to them.

- ❖ The Ministry of Commerce responded to the demand and said it would coordinate with relevant agencies and resume talks with the Council again in mid-April.
- The Anti-Corruption Organisation of Thailand (ACT), an anti-corruption watchdog, submitted an open letter to Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob, opposing the planned upgrade of Terminal 2 at Suvarnabhumi Airport.
 - ❖ In its letter, the anti-graft watchdog voiced strong opposition to the Airports of Thailand (AoT)'s plan to proceed with the North expansion project amid the cabinet's endorsement of the plan on March 23, 2021 after it acknowledged a report by the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) recommending the expansion schemes for Suvarnabhumi airport should proceed in line with a cabinet resolution dating back to 2010.
 - ❖ ACT called on the ministry to reconsider the expansion plan by taking in opinions of the Office of the National Economics and Social Development Council (NESDC), the Council of Engineers Thailand (COET) and the Architects Council of Thailand and other stakeholders on the impact of the upgrade plan.
- Government revenue for the first 5 months of this fiscal year fell 11.1 per cent short of target, according to a source with the Finance Ministry.
 - ❖ For the October-to-February period government revenue stood at 842.187 billion baht, 105.521 billion baht lower than target, equivalent to 14.7 per cent or 145.064 billion baht lower than that of the same period of last year, the source said.
 - ❖ Collections by the 3 main tax agencies totalled 868.556 billion baht, down 112.639 billion baht year-on-year. Collections at the 3 main tax agencies were 93.510 billion baht short of target.

- ❖ Kulaya Tantitemit, director-general of the Fiscal Policy Office (FPO) as the Finance Ministry spokesperson, said the revenue shortfall in the first 5 months of the current fiscal year is due to the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.
- ❖ She revealed that total spending via the government's co-payment scheme which ended on March 31, 2021 has registered 14,793,502 people in total, with total accumulative spending of 102.065 billion baht. The scheme targeted 15 million people.
- Consumer spending during the upcoming Songkran holiday is expected to plunge to a 9-year low at 112 billion baht, lower than the earlier estimate of 140 billion baht, the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC) said yesterday.
 - ❖ Most people are choosing to spend this time staying with their family as they remain worried about the outbreak as well as the government's suspension of water-splashing activities," said the university president Thanavath Phonvichai, citing a survey of 1,256 households.
 - ❖ The Covid-19 outbreak would put a downward pressure on consumer spending despite the government's incentives. These factors will force Thais to spend less and shorten many holiday trips to just 5 or even 3 days, he added.
 - ❖ The latest forecast put this year's Songkran spending 16.6 per cent lower than 2019. No figures were available for 2020, as the holiday was completely cancelled under lockdown.
- The credit card club of the Thai Bankers' Association has proposed the central bank maintain a minimum debt payment measure for credit cards to help alleviate the financial burden on consumers during the country's uneven economic recovery.

- ❖ Atis Ruchirawat, managing director of General Card Services Ltd, which runs Central The 1 Credit Card, and chairman of the club, said the card providers proposed the Bank of Thailand keep the minimum debt payment rate at 5 per cent once the central bank's financial relief measures for individual borrowers expire on June 30. Normally the minimum rate is set at 10 per cent. The central bank has periodically discussed with financial institutions including credit card providers about an extension of its debt relief measures for retail loans.
- ❖ "Regarding higher minimum debt payment of 8 per cent, the regulator may need to implement other debt refinance schemes to help borrowers who still cannot pay. Whether to extend the debt relief measures or introduce other relaxation measures is the central bank's consideration," he said.
- The Thai Chamber of Commerce (TCC) vowed to ramp up support for the government's distribution of its vaccine program.
 - ❖ TCC chairman Sanan Angubolkul announced after a discussion with more than 50 TCC company members about the issue that the private sector will take up imitation to help speed up distribution of Covid-19 vaccines to the public to help the economy to rebound in a fast pace.
 - ❖ The private sector voiced growing concerns about the slow pace of vaccinations and insufficient distribution in Thailand, Sanan said, adding that the private sector is ready to stand by to help provide spaces or former nurses to offer Covid-19 jabs to the public in a fast pace.
 - ❖ The TCC will send a letter to request a meeting with relevant state agencies to lay out a contingent plan for vaccine distribution within April, Sanan said, stressing that the faster the vaccine can be distributed to the public, the faster Thai economy will recover.

General News

- Two military-owned shopping malls in Yangon burned down early yesterday morning.
 - ❖ The Gandamar Wholesale Shopping Center and Ruby Mart in Yangon went up in flames hours before dawn early hours of yesterday (at around 2.00 hrs).
 - ❖ Both properties are said to be owned by the country's military, and Gandamar Wholesale is located in a highly secure area controlled by the security forces.
 - ❖ Fire brigade members were trying to put out the fire until 9.00 hrs.



- Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha is said to instruct the Royal Air Force to prepare a fleet of C-130 transport aircraft to evacuate Thais stranded in Myanmar if the situation worsens.
 - ❖ Gen Prayut said he has assigned a mission for the Air Force join hands with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to bring Thais in Myanmar back home if the violence there intensifies, said air force spokesman AM Thanat Chanamphai.
- Thailand logged 26 new Covid-19 cases, 21 infections in the greater Bangkok area and 5 imported cases, raising the total to 28,889.

- ❖ Of the 26 new cases, 21 are locally-acquired infections, including 8 cases found during proactive screening and 13 among those under observation and treatment.
- ❖ Arrivals from abroad and in state quarantine included 5 new cases, from Myanmar, Sweden, Lebanon, Qatar and Norway.
- ❖ Cumulative infections, since early last year, are 28,889, including 25,787 locally-acquired infections and 3,102 imported cases. 27,548 people have recovered and 1,247 are still being treated in hospitals. The death toll remains at 94. Cumulative infections since December 15, which marks the start of the 2nd wave, are 24,652, including 1,328 imported cases.
- The Ministry of Public Health will next month be launching "Mor Prom," a phone app that lets people book their Covid-19 vaccines.
 - ❖ "I would like all Thai people to download the application to reserve their Covid-19 vaccination," Dr Kiattiphum Wongrajit, the ministry's permanent secretary, said on Thursday. The app, expected to launch on May 1, allows users to book their free jabs at designated state hospitals and public health stations, from June.
 - ❖ In another development, Department of Disease Control (DDC) director-general Opas Karnkawinpong said a post-mortem would be performed on a 71-year-old monk who died a few hours after receiving the AstraZeneca vaccine. The monk, from Wat Samphanthawong temple in Bangkok, was reported to have had severe diabetes and high blood pressure. He had been given the jab at 10am on Wednesday and was found dead in his monastic cloister at 2pm.

Political News Headlines in Thai Media

- A 21 year old Thai activist faces life in prison for threatening the queen, here is his story

- Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/26024/wrong-place-wrong-time-right-movement/>
- Activists fighting for the rights of the Karen ethnic group took aim at a popular singer Thursday for taking the side of a former park official who has been implicated in burning down a local village and charged with the murder of a community campaigner.
- Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/26046/karen-activists-lash-out-at-singers-defence-of-former-park-chief/>
- A new television soap opera about corruption within the Thai justice system is now making waves across the country, online and offline, for its provoking screenplay and message.
- Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/26035/new-thai-soap-opera-wins-plaudits-for-questioning-justice-system/>
- Pro-democracy protester leaders told Thai Enquirer this week that the student-led movement have not yet to discussed whether or not it would join a rally called by Jatuporn Promphan, one of the leaders of the Red Shirts movement, on April 4.
- Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/26021/protest-leaders-open-to-joining-former-red-shirt-leader-but-will-not-drop-royal-demands/>
- The referendum bill is expected to sail through the third reading in parliament, said Senator Wanchai Sornsiri, spokesman of a parliamentary committee vetting the bill.
- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2093407/referendum-bill-to-pass-3rd-reading>
- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) yesterday asked the authorities to be cautious in using Covid-19 preventive measures and laws against protesters.
- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2093403/tread-carefully-officials-told>
- Bang Pho police on Thursday submitted to public prosecutors an investigation file into a lese majeste case linked to the demonstration outside parliament on Sept 24 last year, in which five protesters were accused of offending the monarchy.
- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2093415/lese-majeste-suspects-in-cops-sights>

- An adviser to the House Speaker says a House committee cannot invite the Supreme Court president to testify about why the court denied a bail application by the Ratsadorn group protest leaders.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2093427/mps-cannot-ask-judges-to-elaborate>

Economic News Headlines in Thai Media

- Thai consumer spending during the Songkran holiday in 2021 is expected to plunge to a nine-year low at 112 billion baht, lower than the earlier estimate of 140 billion baht, the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC) said Thursday.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/26048/songkran-spending-likely-dampened-by-ban-on-water-fights/>
- Shares of TWZ Corporation (TWZ), an IT product distributor, rose sharply for a second consecutive day on Thursday with shares rising by 18.18 per cent to 0.13 baht per share.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/26040/twz-a-it-company-shares-climb-on-news-that-it-would-enter-the-hemp-trade/>
- Phuket locals were queuing at five Covid-19 vaccination centres on Thursday as the holiday province prepared to reopen to foreign tourists on July 1.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30404404>
- The US Embassy in Bangkok marked April Fool's Day on Thursday by launching the so-called "Kin(Ameri)can" app, which offers American favourites at a huge discount.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30404402>
- The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) Index closed at 1,595.12 on Thursday, up 7.91 points or 0.50 per cent. Total transactions amounted to Bt76 billion with an index high of 1,600.60 and a low of 1,590.33.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/business/30404408>
- New Digital Economy and Society (DES) Minister Chaiwut Thanakhamanusorn is considering whether to postpone the full enforcement of the Personal Data Protection Act

(PDPA) slated for this June to help unprepared small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that could be affected by the legislation.

- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2093467/new-minister-ponders-delay-of-personal-data-protection-act>
 - Thai Oil Plc (TOP), Thailand's largest oil refinery by capacity, is planning to partner with petrochemical operators in Southeast Asia to jointly add value to its refined oil products and supply them as feedstocks for the downstream petrochemical industry.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2093559/top-to-fast-track-value-added-deals>
 - RS Group is allocating 1.4 billion baht to strengthen its revenue this year via a two-pronged approach with a focus on cannabis and hemp-based products.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2093523/rs-group-allots-b1-4bn-to-mas-new-brands>
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Issues to be watched out for

- January 25-March 31, 2021 – The implementation of the 2nd-phase of the co-payment scheme will allow registrants to start spending.
- March 22 –April 4, 2021 – The 42nd Bangkok International Motor Show is to be held in Nonthaburi's Impact Arena, Muang Thong Thani.
- March 31-June 30, 2021 – The deadline extension to file personal income taxes for the 2020 tax year.
- April, 2021 – The Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB) scheduled a meeting to assess Thailand's economic outlook in 2021.
- April 2021 – The government is set to launch “area quarantine” plan to open Thailand to foreign tourists.
- 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.
- April 7, 2021 – Parliament is set to convene a new session.
- April 7-8, 2021 – Tentative dates for an extraordinary parliamentary session to allow MPs and senators to proceed with the debate on a national referendum bill.
- April 10-15, 2021 – The Songkran Holiday.
- April 19-20, 2021 – World Cannabis Day at Bangkok's Carlton Hotel.
- May, 2021 – The 66th Bangkok Gems & Jewelry Fair (BGJF) Virtual Trade Fair is set to be held.
- May 7, 2021 – Thai Airways International Plc (THAI) is expected to hold a creditors meeting to inspect and vote for the rehab plan.
- May 13, 2021 – The public prosecutor set a new hearing of 13 people involved in the protest in front of the German Embassy in Bangkok on 26 October 2020. The hearing has been postponed as the prosecutor said it had yet to finish the paperwork needed to file the case against the protesters.
- June, 2021 – Siam Bioscience to start mass production plan of Covid-19 vaccines.
- June, 2021 – Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC)'s debt holiday is due to expire.
- July, 2021 – TMB-Thanachart Bank (TMB-TBank) expects to complete the integration of the 2 financial entities.
- July 1, 2021 – The government plans to open Phuket fully without mandatory quarantine.
- September 1, 2021 – The government will collect value-added tax from Netflix, Youtube, Google, Facebook as well as other e-commerce services.
- October, 2021 - Bangkok governor election is set to be held.

Key Data

SET Index

1,595.12

+7.91

- 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 March 31, 2021

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action
ASIAN	3,000,000	20.5	Sale
ASIAN	351,400	22.7	Sale
BDMS	20,000	21.2	Purchase
BOFFICE	50,000	9.6	Purchase
BOFFICE	31,200	9.65	Purchase
CPL	26,600	1.29	Purchase
CHAYO	30,000	11	Purchase
ETE	100,000	1.47	Sale
ETE	100,000	1.48	Sale
ETE	100,000	1.5	Sale
ETE	100,000	1.5	Sale
ETE	100,000	1.5	Sale
EKH	500,000	6.05	Sale
EKH	200,000	5.88	Sale
EKH	300,000	5.86	Sale
EMC	63,000	0.29	Purchase
EMC	4,400,000	0.13	Purchase

HPT	1,743,800	0.31	Sale
HPT	823,200	0.33	Sale
JMART	287,900	43	Purchase
JMART	712,100	43	Purchase
LPH	10,000	4.99	Purchase
MPG	218,233,520	-	Acceptance of Transfer
MTC	20,000	70.75	Sale
RT	80,000	2.52	Purchase
COLOR	37,000	1.53	Purchase
COLOR	5,000	1.45	Purchase
COLOR	61,600	1.5	Purchase
COLOR	28,300	1.49	Purchase
COLOR	10,100	1.48	Purchase
COLOR	19,900	1.47	Purchase
COLOR	75,800	1.48	Purchase
STGT	2,500	41	Purchase
SFLEX	50,000	5.7	Purchase
TEAMG	150,000	2.42	Sale
TM	296,400	2.89	Sale
TM	580,100	3.19	Sale
TSTE	36,600	7.01	Purchase
TMT	15,000	8.82	Purchase
VIBHA	3,000,000	0.35	Sale
KUN	400,000	2.26	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 1 Apr 2021						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	5,403.70	7.02	4,810.00	6.25	593.7	-
Proprietary Trading	8,469.30	11.01	8,180.30	10.63	289	-
Foreign Investors	26,405.91	34.32	25,358.40	32.96	1,047.51	-

Unit: M.Baht

Local Individuals	36,662.24	47.65	38,592.45	50.16	-1,930.21	-
Monthly Cumulative between 1 - 1 Apr 2021						
						Unit: M.Baht
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	5,403.70	7.02	4,810.00	6.25	593.7	-
Proprietary Trading	8,469.30	11.01	8,180.30	10.63	289	-
Foreign Investors	26,405.91	34.32	25,358.40	32.96	1,047.51	-
Local Individuals	36,662.24	47.65	38,592.45	50.16	-1,930.21	-
Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan - 1 Apr 2021						
						Unit: M.Baht
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	445,108.84	7.69	467,281.10	8.07	-22,172.25	-
Proprietary Trading	619,132.04	10.7	614,967.89	10.62	4,164.15	-
Foreign Investors	2,052,316.08	35.45	2,080,937.96	35.95	-28,621.88	-
Local Individuals	2,672,389.63	46.16	2,625,759.65	45.36	46,629.98	-

Total Trading Value 76,941.15 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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