

August 3, 2022

Thai Enquirer News Summary

Economic News

- 2014 coup leader and current Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha came out to confirm that the Thai economy was continuously improving and the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022 is likely to be at 3.3% and was expected to increase to 4.2% next year.
 - ❖ The main factors of the improvement were the recovery of private consumption, the purchasing power of high-income individuals, and the increase in foreign tourists, which was anticipated to jump to 6 million people by year-end.
 - The number of tourists is expected to rise by 2 million people during this month alone and would reach 19 million in 2023.
 - ❖ Exports and Imports have also seen a rise while inflation continues to be above 7% forecast, but would fall to 2.5% in 2023, according to Prayut.
- Khomgrich Tantravanich, secretary-general of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), revealed that the ERC agreed to increase the fuel tariff rate for Sep-Dec 2022 from 68.66 satangs per unit to 93.43 satangs, causing the electricity rate to reach a new high of 4.72 Baht per unit.

- ❖ This, however, only reflects the cost of energy and not the debt of over 83 billion Baht owed to the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT).
 - ❖ Such increase, Khomgrich stated, was in accord with the citizens' opinions that were collected earlier. In the meantime, the EGAT would subsidize 100 billion Baht for the difference to aid citizens.
 - ❖ PM Prayut previously directed the ERC to extend the fuel tariff rate increase for another time, but the ERC needed to do it now according to the stacking debt of the EGAT.
 - The poultry association recently announced an increase in farm egg prices by 0.10 Baht per piece, which raised the total price per piece from 3.40 Baht to 3.50 Baht, effective August 3, to cope with the rising chicken food cost.
 - Reports are emerging that the planned merger of the 2nd and 3rd largest mobile phone operators – True Corporation Plc (TRUE) and Total Access Communication Plc (DTAC), is set to be decided by the National Broadcasting & Telecommunication Commission (NBTC), by August 10th.
 - ❖ Today as many as 10,000 signatures protesting against the planned merger is set to be handed to relevant authorities and more people are being urged to file the petition via www.change.org.
 - Bangkok South Criminal Court recently accepted a libel lawsuit filed by GULF Energy Development Plc against Rangsiman Rome, party-list MP of the Move Forward Party, after he referred to the company in the censure debate against Digital Minister Chaiwut Thanakmanusorn on July 3 and allegedly used incorrect information and post that information on his Facebook, causing damages to the company.
 - ❖ GULF asked for 100 million Baht in compensation for the damages while the first testimony will commence on October 10
 - Prapas Kong-Ied, director-general of the Treasury Department, revealed that the Central Administrative Court ordered to suspend the concession deal of the EEC Eastern water pipeline between the Treasury Department and Vongsayam Korsang company, which was supposed to happen today. The suspension is effective until further notice.
 - ❖ The Central Administrative Court previously dismissed all three petitions from Eastern Water Resources Development and Management Plc (EASTW).
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Political News

- All eyes are on the Ruam Thai Sang Chart Party today as its leader Pirapan Salirathavibhaga, adviser to the prime minister, has called for a general meeting at the Rajpruek Club to possibly announce the party switching of certain politicians.
 - ❖ According to the latest reports, Democrat member Samart Maluleem, former Bangkok MP, resigned from the party on July 1 and decided to join Ruam Thai Sang Chart on August 1 in order to make his debut at the party general meeting.
 - ❖ Anwar Salaeh, Pattani MP of the Democrat Party, commented on this incident that Samart was the proof of unsolved conflicts in Democrat and that he was not the last one who wanted to switch parties.



- Meanwhile, Anek Laothamatas, Minister of Higher Education, who was also the leader of the Ruam Palang Party (Action Coalition Party), stated that his party would move forward even if some members such as Duangrit Benjathikul Chairungrueng, former secretary-general of the party, had resigned from the party to join Ruam Thai Sang Chart.

- ❖ As for the co-founder of Ruam Palang Party Suthep Thaugsuban, he affirmed that he would remain in the same party even if his step-son - Akanat Prompan, has already switched to Ruam Thai Sang Chart.
- The ruling Palang Pracharath Party (PPRP) will hit another roadshow under the theme “Palang Pracharath Palang Pheu Chart Thai” on August 6 from 4 PM to 7 PM at a courtyard opposite to Chic Chic Market in Nong Khai province. The million dollar watch borrower from dead friends, who is also PPRP leader Gen Prawit Wongsuwan, will be on stage to promote his campaigns in preparation for the coming election.
 - ❖ Certain PPRP ministers including Suriya Jungrunreangkit, Minister of Industry, are scheduled for an intimate chat with citizens about the golden age of industries in the north-eastern region and the EEC scheme while Chaiwut Thanakmanusorn, Minister of Digital Economy and Society, will be talking about the digital economy.
 - Sources said that the PPRP will debut its Roi Et, Nong Khai, and Nong Bua Lamphu constituency candidates as well.
 - ❖ Pol Gen Chakthip Chaijinda will be the main figure in this roadshow as he is in charge of the upper north-eastern region.
- Meanwhile, the Pheu Thai Party will also go on a campaign rally at least once a month to promote its “Pheu Thai Family” campaign. The party will hit another stage on August 7 at the GMS International Convention and Exhibition Center in Chiang Rai province.
 - ❖ This will be led by Pheu Thai Party leader Chonlanan Srikaew and Pheu Thai Family leader Paethongtarn Shinawatra.
- Paiboon Nititawan, party-list MP of the Palang Pracharath Party, came out to oppose a division-by-500 party-list calculation, saying he was ready to complain to the Constitutional Court if the division-by-500 was to be used instead of 100. He also confirmed that PPRP agreed with using one ballot paper as already agreed upon.
 - ❖ Meanwhile the leader of the New Palang Dharma Party, Rawee Maschamadol as the committee to examine the election bill stated that the coalition party agreed to pass the election bill in its 3rd reading while the disagreement about the party-list division formula would be sorted out by the Election Commission and the Constitutional Court.
 - ❖ According to Rawee, the majority of the committee to examine the election bill accepted division-by-100 but did not say that 500 was wrong. And when the

parliament voted to revert to using 500, the Election Commission must accept the result.

- The House committee scrutinising the 2023 budget bill will decide on Wednesday on a request by the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) for a budget to fund its F-35A fighter jet procurement scheme.
 - ❖ Somchai Srisutthiyakorn, vice chairman of the committee, said on Tuesday the panel is split over the issue after reviewing the RTAF's appeal and documents, in which the air force insists the budget request is valid but has agreed to have it slashed by 50%.
 - ❖ The RTAF is seeking 758 million Baht from the 2023 coffers for the F-35A fighter jet procurement scheme estimated at 7.4 billion Baht. The remainder would be carried over until fiscal 2026.
 - ❖ A sub-committee on durable products, state enterprises, ICT equipment and revolving funds recently reached a unanimous decision to exclude the air force's request from its 2023 spending plan.
 - ❖ Mr Somchai said air force representatives did not show up in person to defend the request and sent documents instead. Nonetheless, the RTAF said it could accept 379 million Baht due to the current economic situation.
- Vorayuth Yoovidhya (nickname – Boss), is back in the news and this time it is for another case of him being high on cocaine being dropped as the authorities did not take an action.
 - ❖ He only has 1 case against him for his drunk driving and killing a cop and dragging the cop for hundreds of meters on Sukhumvit road, remaining in the files.
 - ❖ This 'careless' driving case has a statutory limit that ends on September 3, 2027 and any day after that. His hit-and-run case that started in 2012 will eventually come to an end after September 3, 2027.



COVID-19 News



Infection data for today are as follows

Total New PCR Infections = 2,432

Total New Death = 32

Total New Recovery = 2,472

Total infections so far since outbreak = 4,596,559

Total deaths so far since outbreak = 31,463

Total in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) = 917

Total number on life support (ventilator) 478

The government's data on 'Positive testing' numbers as a percentage of the tests it undertakes stands @ 8.89%.

Details of data for each day can be found @ <https://ddc.moph.go.th/covid19-dashboard/> (All information is in Thai language)

Political News Headlines in Thai Media

- Prime Minister Prayut Chan o-cha on Tuesday denied the speculation that the new Ruam Thai Sang Chart Party was his backup party while Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan said that another new party, Ruam Phan Din (Thailand Together Party), is an ally of the government.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/42316/prayut-denied-connection-with-new-parties-while-prawit-said-they-are-allies/>
- The Thai air force chief on Tuesday insisted on the need to use the 2023 fiscal budget to buy new F-35A fighter jets from the United States despite last month's veto by a sub-committee of the House of Representatives.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/42311/thai-air-force-chief-still-wants-to-buy-new-fighter-jets-from-the-us-despite-objections-from-a-house-sub-committee-citing-national-security/>
- With the general elections right around the corner the ruling coalition parties are looking at every possible way of trying to scuttle the plans by the Pheu Thai party to be able to return to power, a desperate move that makes political analysts feel as though the ruling Phalang Pracharath party (PPRP) is already accepting that it is the underdog in the next polls.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/42302/analysis-prayuts-fear-of-pheu-thais-landslide-is-an-indirect-admission-of-being-the-underdog/>
- The charge of cocaine abuse brought against Red Bull heir Vorayuth "Boss" Yoovidhya during the high-profile hit-and-run case in 2012 has now lapsed because the statute of limitations has expired under recent changes to narcotics offences laws, Office of the Attorney General spokesman Prayut Petcharakhun said on Tuesday.

- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2359691/cocaine-charge-against-fugitive-red-bull-scion-has-lapsed>
 - PATTANI: Two defence volunteers were injured by the explosion of an improvised bomb while they were providing security for teachers in Mai Kaen district on Tuesday morning, police said.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2359602/two-injured-by-bomb-in-south>
 - A failure to amend the organic law on the election of MPs by the Aug 15 deadline would leave the method of calculating the list MPs in the hands of the Election Commission (EC), according to Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2360031/divisor-decision-may-fall-into-ecs-hands>
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Economic News Headlines in Thai Media

- The ongoing deliberation by the National Broadcasting & Telecommunication Commission (NBTC) for the merger of 2 of Thailand's leading mobile phone operators, True Corporation Plc (TRUE) and Total Access Communication Plc (DTAC), should be made more transparent by having all issues made public in order to make it transparent process, Thailand Consumers Council demanded.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/42333/thai-consumers-council-opposes-true-dtac-merger-urges-nbtc-to-disclose-results-of-subcommittees-transparently/>
- Nok Airlines has defended the hour-long evacuation of passengers from the plane that crashed off the runway after landing at Chiang Rai on Saturday night, saying it was in strict compliance with safety procedures.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2359559/nok-air-cites-safety-for-slow-evacuation-of-passengers>
- The international arbitral tribunal has postponed till Dec 31 its decision on a dispute between the government and Australia's Kingsgate Consolidated Ltd over the Chatree

gold mines, during which time negotiations between the two parties are expected to have wrapped up.

- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2359841/arbitral-tribunal-delays-ruling>
- Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob has given a 14-day deadline to conclude an investigation into the collapse of a Rama II U-turn bridge beam that fell onto three passing vehicles, killing two and injuring two others.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2359961/14-day-deadline-to-conclude-u-turn-bridge-collapse-probe>
- Vietnam on Tuesday imposed an anti-dumping levy of 47.64% on some sugar products imported from five Southeast Asian countries but originating in Thailand for a period of four years, the country's trade ministry said.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2359679/vietnam-imposes-47-64-anti-dumping-tax-on-thai-sugar-for-4-years>
- State-owned energy firm PTT Plc said on Tuesday it had agreed to sell its coal unit to Indonesia's PT Astrindo Nusantara Infrastruktur Tbk for \$471 million, as the company moves out of the coal business entirely.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2359644/ptt-sells-coal-business-to-indonesias-astrindo-for-471m>
- Thailand's exports are expected to rise between 6% to 8% this year, compared with a previous forecast for a 5% to 8% increase, helped by a weak Baht and increased global demand, the national shippers' group said on Tuesday.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2359611/exports-seen-up-6-to-8-this-year-shippers>
- The Expressway Authority of Thailand (Exat) on Tuesday started testing its barrier-less and card-free toll system on the Bang Na-Chon Buri expressway.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40018435>
- The Cabinet on Tuesday approved a budget of 1.249 billion Baht to train people in part-time occupations to help them through economic hardship.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40018433>

- Starting October 30, Russia's national airline Aeroflot will resume daily direct flights from Moscow to Phuket.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40018430>
 - Both stations will be an extension into Muang Thong Thani and Muang Thong Thani Lake for a total distance of approximately 3 kilometres.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/business/40018427>
 - The cabinet yesterday allowed the Public Pawnshop Office (PPO) to continue overdrawing so it will have enough money to help ease state-run pawnshops' liquidity, deputy government spokeswoman Rachada Dhnadirek.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2359826/state-run-pawnshops-get-2-years-credit>
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Issues to be watched out for

- July, 2022 – The wage committee is set to meet to calculate the new minimum wage rate.
- No later than mid-July, the opposition plans to file a petition to the Constitutional Court of Thailand on Gen. Prayut Chan-o-cha's position for his 8-year term limit.
- August 5, 2022 – Trade Policy and Strategy Office makes its monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for the month of July 2022.
- August 10, 2022 – The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) makes the decision on the policy rate.
- August 24, 2022 – Gen. Prayut Chan-o-cha's 8th anniversary as a Prime Minister.
- August 24-26, 2022 – The House of Representatives discusses the 2nd reading and 3rd reading of the 2023 annual budget bill.
- August 29-30, 2022 – The Senate discusses the 2023 annual budget bill

- September 5, 2022 – Trade Policy and Strategy Office makes its monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for the month of August 2022.
- September 18, 2022 – Prorogation of a 1/2022 session.
- September 28, 2022- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) makes the decision on the policy rate.
- October 5, 2022 – Trade Policy and Strategy Office makes its monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for the month of August 2022.
- November 1, 2022 – Opening of a 2/2022 session.
- November 5, 2022 – Trade Policy and Strategy Office makes its monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for the month of October 2022.
- November 18-19, 2022 – APEC Thailand 2022
- November 30, 2022 – The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) makes the decision on the policy rate.
- December 6, 2022 – Trade Policy and Strategy Office makes its monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for the month of November 2022.
- January, 2023 – The hike in the daily minimum wage is set to become official.
- February 28, 2023 – Prorogation of a 2/2022 session.
- March 24, 2022 – The current House of Representatives' expiration of the time of office, the Constitution particularizes the new election of the House of Representatives within 45 days.

Key Data

SET Index

1,589.16

-4.08

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 August 2 , 2022

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action
LEO	811,900	-	Acceptance of Transfer
LEO	1,500,000	-	Purchase
LEO	75,000	-	Purchase
LEO	200,000	-	Purchase
LEO	40,000	-	Purchase
LEO	500,000	-	Purchase
LEO	200,000	-	Purchase
LEO	429,400	-	Purchase
LEO	100,000	-	Purchase
RAM	50,500	54.25	Sale
RAM	49,500	54.5	Sale
RAM	50,000	55	Sale
RAM	50,000	55.25	Sale
SABUY	50,000	18	Sale
SMIT	290,000	4.74	Purchase
SMIT	120,000	4.61	Purchase
SMIT	190,000	4.63	Purchase

XD, XE or XM or other notifications

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

Trading Breakdown on the Stock Exchange of Thailand

Daily as of 2 August 2022						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	4,678.74	7.87	7,189.18	12.09	-2,510.45	-
Proprietary Trading	5,241.37	8.81	5,048.12	8.49	193.25	-
Foreign Investor	29,840.81	50.18	27,158.28	45.67	2,682.53	-
Local Individuals	19,703.53	33.13	20,068.86	33.75	-365.33	-
Monthly Cumulative between 1-2 August 2022						
Unit: M.Baht						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	14,104.93	9.95	16,036.17	11.32	-1,931.25	-
Proprietary Trading	11,674.12	8.24	11,667.12	8.23	7.00	-
Foreign Investors	69,733.78	49.20	65,197.72	46.00	4,536.06	-
Local Individuals	46,208.42	32.61	48,820.24	34.45	-2,611.82	-
Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan -2 August 2022						
Unit: M.Baht						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	800,135.14	7.44	900,878.74	8.38	-100,743.60	-

Proprietary Trading	923,186.19	8.59	922,156.51	8.58	1,029.69	-
Foreign Investors	5,129,842.04	47.71	5,007,955.18	46.58	121,886.86	-
Local Individuals	3,897,970.21	36.26	3,920,143.16	36.46	-22,172.95	-

Total Trading Value 59,464.45 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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