

August 5, 2022

Thai Enquirer News Summary

General news

- A massive fire broke up at a well-known Mountain B in Sattahip District of Chonburi province at 01:25 hrs this morning.
 - ❖ Initial reports suggests that there were at least 13 casualties and 41 injured. The gruesome incident made many recalls an almost similar fire incident at Zantika Pub in Ekamai district of Bangkok, on January 1, 2009, that killed 67 people and injured 225 people.
 - ❖ The video of the incident was posted on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/100010507680944/videos/350496013948048/>), showing a fierce blaze engulfing the facility amid horrible cries of agony. Several unfortunate pubgoers were seen covered in flame while exiting a small front entrance of the pub.





Political News

- The Senate whip spokesman Kamnoon Sittisamarn revealed that the reason the meeting to discuss the election bill had to be one day instead of two was that the Senate would have to hold a meeting on August 9 as they had for several weeks they have cancelled their own meetings.
 - ❖ Regarding how the three parliament whips suddenly concluded on having a one-day meeting on August 10 instead of two days on August 9 and 10 to consider the election bill.
 - ❖ Kovit Puang-Ngam, party-list MP of the Phalang Thong Thin Party, said that this might be the first time that the bill might be dropped due to the bill lapsing its deadline to be passed, so he urged the house speaker Pornpetch Wichitcholchai to change back to having a two-day meeting.
 - ❖ New Palang Dharma Party (NPDP) leader Ravee Maschamadol commented regarding the house meeting collapse on August 3 that one coalition party was trying to play a dirty game to drop the division-by-500 party-list calculation by making it overdue the 180-day completion period. Ravee claimed that one coalition party told its members to go home to make the quorum unfulfilled, causing the

meeting to collapse on August 3 and paving the way for a 100 division to be revived.

- Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam, addressed the controversy surrounding 2014 coup leader and current Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha's 8-year premiership, saying if anyone was still curious, they could file a complaint with the Election Commission, which would then refer the matter to the Constitutional Court for a ruling.
 - ❖ Meanwhile, Srisuwan Janya, secretary-general of the Association of Thai Constitution Protection Organization, will today file a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsman to refer Prayut's 8-year premiership matter to the Constitutional Court after Prayut's premiership was about to surpass 8 years on August 24.
- Massive banners showing the millions of dollar worth watches from his dead friends - Deputy PM Gen Prawit Wongsuwan's pictures and his famous quote but in a better version, "I don't know, I don't know. But no more drought" were seen across Nong Khai province yesterday to welcome Prawit' and his PPRP ministers' visit.



- ❖ Two ministers including Suriya Juangroongruangkit, Minister of Industry, and Chaiwit Thanakmanusorn, Minister of Digital Economy, lined up to take the stage in front of Chic Chic Market to promote PPRP campaigns and debut their newest Nong Khai MP candidates. The overall vibe was peaceful and void of interruptions, according to reports.
- PM Gen Prayut visited to Kanchanaburi province to update on the water shortage improvement project and the bank development of Khwae Noi and Khwae Yai rivers to promote tourism by building a skywalk on the bank of Khwae Yai river.

- ❖ During the visit, Gen Prayut has asked the public for patience amid high living costs, including rising fuel prices, saying the government is doing its best to improve the situation.
- ❖ A villager asked him about the impact of rising fuel costs and the prime minister admitted it is a problem. "I don't want to make any excuses, but we have to consider where the problem comes from," he said. "Fuel is controlled by global prices."
- ❖ In the afternoon, the prime minister inspected the progress made on the new skywalk construction project in Muang Kanchanaburi district. Located in the city's old town district, the 130-metre skywalk -- which is suspended 15m above the ground -- will offer magnificent views of the confluence of the Khwae Yai, Khwae Noi and Mae Klong rivers.



Economic News

- According to Kobsak Potrakool, Chairman of the Federation of Thai Capital Market Organizations (FETCO), the China-US conflict was of greater concern than the Russia - Ukraine conflict because China's economy was 10 times larger than Russia's based on the proportion of international investment,
 - ❖ If the conflict escalated, many industries and supply chains would be affected because Taiwan was the main semiconductor manufacturer that distributed its products worldwide. Kobsak stated that the recession would worsen so Thailand needed to be prepared by promoting tourism and investing in the country's infrastructures to attract foreign investors.
- Marisa Sukosol Nunbhakdi, the Thai Hotels Association (THA) president, said 67% of hotels had to keep their wage rates static as revenue in the past month had not significantly

picked up, even though the number of foreign arrivals last month topped 1 million for the first time in more than two years.

- ❖ The Hotel Business Operator Sentiment Index, surveying 118 hotels in July, found that 67% of hotels had revenue at 50% or less of the pre-pandemic levels. The hotel segment that outperformed others in the industry, gaining revenue of more than 50%, were 4- and 5-star hotels at around 31%.
- Wuttipoom Churangkoon, CEO of Nok Airlines Plc or NOK, revealed that NOK needed to adjust a rehabilitation plan after its Don Mueang - Chiang Rai flight DD108 skidded off the runway at Chiang Rai Airport, causing damage to the plane and requiring maintenance for 2-3 months.
 - ❖ He said NOK also needed to compensate the passengers with a large sum of money, but it did not have to re-submit a rehabilitation plan to the Central Bankruptcy Court as the main point of the plan remained the same, which was to pay off the debt.
- EV Primus Company Limited, a car dealership for DFSK or DONGFENG and SERES from China, recently launched a new Chinese EV car brand called "VOLT."
 - ❖ Pittaya Thanadumrongsak, managing director of EV Primus, said that the VOLT brand would primarily have two designs including VOLT For-Two (an EV car with three doors and two seats starting at 325,000 Baht) and VOLT For-Four (the one with five doors and four seats starting at 385,000 Baht).
 - ❖ The prices benefited from the government's policy of lowering the excise rate from 8% to 2% for every EV car, as well as 70,000 Baht in support funds from the government. VOLT cars will be available for online booking on August 4 and are expected to sell 1,000 units within this year.
 - ❖ The EV market is getting lively again as another Chinese EV car company is preparing to launch the "BYD" car on August 8.



COVID-19 News



Infection data for today are as follows

Total New PCR Infections = 2,253

Total New Death = 34

Total New Recovery = 2,483

Total infections so far since outbreak = 4,600,978

Total deaths so far since outbreak = 31,526

Total in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) = 911

Total number on life support (ventilator) = 482

The government's data on 'Positive testing' numbers as a percentage of the tests it undertakes stands 8.35%.

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

- With general elections slated to take place in less than 8-months from today the deliberation on the methodology of what rules would be applied for the elections is yet to be decided by the member of parliament (MP) and the government of 2014 coup leader General Prayut Chan-o-cha.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/42386/opinion-flip-flopping-politicians-look-at-their-own-vested-interests-as-move-forward-shifts-away-from-its-core-ideologies/>
 - The Thai Sang Thai Party (TST) has vowed to push for better state welfare for the elderly, saying it plans to offer all elderly people a monthly allowance of 3,000 baht.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2361557/tst-makes-elderly-welfare-vow>
 - If the bill on the election of MPs -- which in its current form will see the number of votes received by each party divided by 500 to determine the number of party-list seats -- isn't passed by its third reading on Aug 15, parliament will adopt an alternative method to work out the matter, said Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam yesterday.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2361451/list-formula-may-revert-wissanu>
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Economic News Headlines in Thai Media

- Thailand's Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) granted operating licenses to four more digital asset operators after the Zipmex saga.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/42373/sec-approves-four-new-digital-asset-operators-despite-problems-faced-with-zipmex/>
- The Housing Finance Association said that it recorded a stronger sales of non-performing asset (NPA) loans during the recently held 'Home-Loan-NPA Grand Sale 2022' which surpassed 5.4 billion Baht as demand for 2nd hand condominium and houses priced under 3-million Baht continues to see strong demand.

- Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/42371/demand-for-non-performing-assets-in-housing-sees-a-sharp-increase-despite-gloomy-property-outlook/>
- Thailand's property sector braces for possible turbulence as interest rates are set to rise during this month but demand for the sector continues to remain sustainable albeit the areas in demand continues to be in 5-key areas.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/42355/bangkoks-ladphrao-is-most-sought-after-residential-area-among-local-thais-prompting-sharp-increase-in-land-prices/>
- Thailand's drug problem has reached a new high as the supply of methamphetamine pills, or Yaba, has flooded the market and the price of each tablet has dropped to as low as 10-20 Baht.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/42351/thailands-methamphetamine-drug-supply-pushes-prices-to-as-low-as-10-Baht-tablet/>
- The Ministry of Labour has allowed Thai employers of illegal migrant workers from four neighbouring countries to register their employment online by August 15, deputy government spokesperson Rachada Dhnadirek said on Thursday.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40018524>
- Thai shrimp farmers are calling for a review of the Department of Fisheries' permission for shrimp imports from Ecuador and India, a source said on Thursday.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40018522>
- Thai International Airlines (THAI) cancelled its flights to and from Taipei on Thursday after China began its live-fire military exercises in six zones around Taiwan in a diplomatic tit-for-tat against the United States.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40018521>
- A Nok Air plane stranded in slushy mud at Chiang Rai's Mae Fah Luang Airport was successfully tugged and hoisted back onto the runway at 4am on Thursday.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40018501>
- Malaysia's ban on chicken exports is expected to end on Aug 31, Agriculture and Food Industries Minister Ronald Kiandee told parliament on Thursday.

- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2361221/malaysias-ban-on-chicken-exports-expected-to-end-on-aug-31-minister>
- Thailand's leading energy conglomerate B.Grimm Power Plc (BGRIM) and EDL-Generation Public Co (EDL-Gen) of Laos have signed an agreement to collaborate on wide-ranging power-related ventures and meet Asean's clean energy demands.
- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2361567/bgrim-edl-gen-ink-development-deal>

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	1,598.75	+4.02
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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 August 4 , 2022

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action
JMT	312	14.3	Sale
KKP	419,100	65	Purchase
TPCH	10,000	7.7	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 4 August 2022						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	6,647.48	9.62	7,069.79	10.23	-422.31	-
Proprietary Trading	6,809.54	9.86	5,615.40	8.13	1,194.14	-
Foreign Investor	31,470.26	45.55	32,674.92	47.29	-1,204.66	-
Local Individuals	24,160.48	34.97	23,727.65	34.34	432.83	-
Monthly Cumulative between 1-4 August 2022						

Unit: M.Baht						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	24,162.97	9.23	27,370.06	10.46	-3,207.09	-
Proprietary Trading	23,099.36	8.83	21,510.80	8.22	1,588.56	-
Foreign Investors	124,474.55	47.56	121,251.22	46.33	3,223.32	-
Local Individuals	89,970.33	34.38	91,575.12	34.99	-1,604.80	-
Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan -4 August 2022						
Unit: M.Baht						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	810,193.19	7.45	912,212.62	8.39	-102,019.44	-
Proprietary Trading	934,611.43	8.60	932,000.18	8.57	2,611.25	-
Foreign Investors	5,184,582.80	47.69	5,064,008.69	46.58	120,574.12	-
Local Individuals	3,941,732.12	36.26	3,962,898.05	36.45	-21,165.93	-

Total Trading Value 69,087.76 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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