

January 20, 2023

Thai Enquirer News Summary

Political New

- Prime minister and 2014 coup leader - Prayut Chan-o-cha, visited Ratchaburi province yesterday together with a group of his followers including Minister of Interior - Anupong Paochinda, Minister of Labor - Suchart Chomklin, and Pirapan Salirathavibhaga, leader of the Thai Saang Chart Party (RTSC).



- ❖ Prayut was greeted by a lot of his supporters such as Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, Minister of Tourism and Sports, and Pareena Kraikupt, former Palang Pracharath party (PPRP) MP, however, a few MPs in the area were missing such as Boonying

Nitikanchana, MP for Ratchaburi for PPRP, who had met with deputy prime minister Prawit Wongsuwan a few days earlier.

- ❖ Through her confidant, Boonying said she could not go there because she was not responsible in the area.
- ❖ In the evening, Gen Prayut opened the Chinese New Year Festival. He demonstrated his cooking skill by making a stirred fried noodle, a signature dish in Ratchaburi, in a giant wok before he traveled back to Bangkok.
- ❖ Also present at the event were officials from the Chinese embassy in Thailand.



- Meanwhile the infamous ultra-expensive watch borrower from dead friends, Gen Prawit, was swarmed by reporters asking him about him outrunning Gen Prayut in a campaign visit to Ratchaburi and his followers bickering about Gen Prayut trying to claim all the credit for the invention of the state welfare card program.
 - ❖ Unfortunately, Prawit sternly shook his head and did not answer any questions. He then walked off and headed for the government house.
 - ❖ According to his schedule, Prawit will visit Phitsanulok and Nakhon Sawan provinces today and again outrun Prayut who will visit Nakhon Sawan on January 30.
- Narumon Pinyosinwat, leading member of the PPRP, said an increase in the allowance for the state welfare cardholders to 700 Baht per month would benefit more than 18 million people in 2023.
 - ❖ The program would need a budget of 12 billion Baht per month or 150 billion Baht per year. The budget calculation and sources had already been prepared. Narumon

said her party would continue to announce more policies, the next one being the policy on public land.

- House president Chuan Leekpai convened with representatives from the coalition and opposition parties yesterday to find a solution to the adjournment of the House meeting due to a lack of quorum.
 - ❖ Chuan asked both sides to at least attend the House meeting and declare themselves present because when it came to voting, they could still just vote No if they disagreed with any proposed laws.
 - ❖ He said it was not wise to skip the meeting because it was similar to running away from responsibility.
- Meanwhile, a special House meeting will take place from January 24-25 to deliberate on the draft National Education Act and the proposed amendments from the opposition parties to amend Article 159 to require the prime minister to also be an MP and Article 272 to eliminate the Senate's power to choose the prime minister.
 - ❖ As for the general debate, the government insisted it could go ahead if it took place between February 15-16, citing it could not start early next month as requested by the opposition because some ministers needed to travel abroad.
- Yesterday Deputy House speaker Suchart Tancharoen chaired the meeting to debate the bill on establishing a tax court proposed by the Cabinet. Suchart then called for a vote on the bill, but it turned out that he was 70 lawmakers short even after waiting for 15 minutes.
 - ❖ The quorum required for a House meeting on that day was 216 out of 431 MPs following the resignation of Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana, who recently stepped down from his party-list MP position.
 - ❖ Seeing so, Suchart eventually gave up and declared the meeting adjourned at 17:04 hrs. due to a lack of quorum, setting a new record of the shortest House meeting ever.
 - ❖ The House of Representatives broke a new record on January 18 by being adjourned after only 22 minutes due to a lack of quorum.
- Former election commissioner Somchai Srisutthiyakorn and political activist Veera Somkwamkid petitioned the Election Commission (EC) to investigate the Ruam Thai

Saang Chart Party (RTSC) over five alleged violations of the election law involving the RTSC's major meeting on January 9.

❖ The alleged violations include:

- the hiring of about 100 buses and passenger vans to transport people to the meeting to create a backdrop for Gen Prayut as he applied for membership of the RTSC
- the distribution to supporters of about 4,000 sets of party T-shirts, hats, and flags worth over one million Baht
- the hiring of a band to entertain the attendees
- the speech given by RTSC's member Trairong Suwankiri, which Somchai and Veera, said was violent and contained remarks about the Monarchy
- the meeting itself, which the two claimed, was for campaigning and was not an extraordinary meeting

❖ Somchai and Veera urged the EC to complete an investigation within a month. The violation carries a jail term of 1-10 years, a fine of 20,000-200,000 Baht, and a disqualification from running for any political positions for 20 years for the party's members and party's executives.

• The Bhumjai Thai Party headed by Deputy PM and Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul topped the list of party donations in November, as the countdown to a general election began.

❖ Bhumjaithai received 26 million Baht from 85 donors, outshining the opposition-leading Pheu Thai as well as the RTSC or United Thai Nation Party of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha.

❖ Pheu Thai meanwhile received donations to the tune of 16 million Baht in November.

❖ United Thai Nation, which Prayut joined recently to seek another term, received three million Baht from three donors. Meanwhile Palang Pracharath led by Deputy PM Prawit Wongsuwan is banned from receiving donations due to its status as the ruling party.

❖ Other parties that received donations in November included:

- Kla Party 800,000 Baht
 - Democrat Party 598,000 Baht
 - Move Forward Party 251,591 Baht
 - Thai Civilized Party 250,000 Baht
 - New Path Party 200,000 Baht
 - Prachachart Party 50,000 Baht
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Economic News

- Supattanapong Punmeechaow, Minister of Energy, revealed that the National Energy Policy Committee had approved the maintaining of the wholesale price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) at 19.9833 Baht per kilogram (excluding VAT), with the target retail price of 408 Baht per 15 kilograms for one more month, effective from February 1-28, 2023.
 - ❖ Additionally, the committee also approved the increase of LPG retail price by 15 Baht per 15 kilograms in March, with a price of 423 Baht per 15 kilograms, effective from March 1-31.
 - ❖ The freezing of the wholesale LPG price in February will affect the liquidity of the Oil Fuel Fund, whose LPG account is already in the negative territory of 44.79 billion Baht and is losing around 813 million Baht every month.
 - ❖ The fund's negative balance is close to reaching the 48 billion Baht limit, which is why the LPG price has to be increased in March, said Supattanapong.
 - ❖ The increase is also driven by the fluctuation of global crude oil prices, which stood at \$698 dollars per barrel as of January 16, comparing to the retail price of LPG at 450 Baht per 15 kilograms.



- Today PTT and Bangchak Petroleum along with other service stations have increased the pump prices by 0.60 Baht per liter for all types of gasoline and gasohol. The diesel price remains unchanged.
- Supattanapong added that the committee also approved a measure to mitigate the electricity bill between January-April 2023, which was affected by the rising fuel tariff rate (FT) currently standing at 93.43 satang per unit.
 - ❖ He said 19.66 million electricity users in the residential sector, who used less than 300 electrical units, would receive a discount of 67.04-92-04 satang per unit. The estimated budget was 7.5 billion Baht.

ผู้ใช้ไฟฟ้าไม่เกิน 300 หน่วย (19.66 ล้านราย)	ได้ส่วนลดค่า FT	ค่า FT ที่ต้องจ่าย
1-150 หน่วย	92.04 satang/unit	1.39 satang/unit
151-300 หน่วย	67.04 satang/unit	26.39 satang/unit

ค่า FT ที่เรียกเก็บปกติ ต.ค. - เม.ย. 66 = 93.43 satang/unit

- A source from the financial industry reveals that PTT Oil and Retail Business Plc (OR) is currently in negotiations to acquire 25% (75 million shares) of Zen Corporation Group Plc (ZEN) from AGB Siblings Holding Company Limited. However, there is no summary yet regarding the price or other terms and conditions of the deal.
 - ❖ As of the end of Q3 2022, OR has cash and cash equivalents totaling 18 billion Baht, which is sufficient to acquire Zen's shares without the need for additional funding.
 - ❖ The estimated cost of the acquisition, as calculated by the book value of ZEN at 4.08 Baht, is 300 million Baht. However, if calculated based on the current stock exchange rate of 16.70 Baht, the cost would be more than 1.2 billion Baht.

- ❖ ZEN currently operates 11 food brands, comprising 7 Japanese restaurants and 4 Thai-Isan restaurants.



Political News Headlines in Thai Media

- Pheu Thai and Move Forward said they want to reform the military, including the lifting of conscription, should they come into power after the next election.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/47542/opposition-parties-call-for-an-end-to-mandatory-conscription/>
- The House of Secretariat on Thursday released figures that showed MPs of Pheu Thai, Palang Pracharath and Democrat parties topped the list of those skipping a meeting on Wednesday, leading to disruption in the second reading of the cannabis bill.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40024165>
- The Bhumjaithai Party headed by Deputy PM and Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul topped the list of party donations in November, as the countdown to a general election began.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40024146>

- The Department of Special Investigation (DSI) on Thursday dissolved its intelligence operational unit following revelations that several of its officers demanded bribes from suspected members of a Chinese triad to allow them to evade justice, the DSI announced on Thursday.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40024149>
 - Former election commissioner Somchai Srisutthiyakorn and political activist Veera Somkwamkid have asked the Election Commission (EC) to investigate the United Thai Nation (Ruam Thai Sang Chart) Party over alleged violations of the election law.
 - Link- <https://www.thaipbsworld.com/election-commission-urged-to-investigate-united-thai-nation-party/>
 - Prime Minister's Office Minister Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana has resigned as a member and list-MP of the Palang Pracharath Party (PPRP) to join the United Thai Nation (UTN) party supporting Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2486510/thanakorn-resigns-as-pprp-mp>
 - Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha will speak on a pre-election campaign stage for the first time as a member of the United Thai Nation (UTN) Party in Chumphon on Jan 28, a source in the party said.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2486779/prayut-to-rally-in-chumphon>
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Economic News Headlines in Thai Media

- Almost 120,000 telephone numbers and 60,000 bank accounts operated by criminals were frozen last year, government spokesperson Rachada Dhnadirek said on Thursday.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40024161>

- State agencies will closely monitor prices of foods and products in the countdown to Chinese New Year to prevent unfair price hikes, government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri said on Thursday.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40024147>
- Strong recovery of Thailand's tourism, with an expected influx of Chinese visitors, and strong domestic demand for consumer products have made the Thai stock market the most attractive in Southeast Asia, according to JPMorgan Chase & Co, an American multinational financial services company.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/economy/40024164>
- The new CEO of PTT Oil and Retail Business Plc (OR) on Thursday pledged to pursue a green business strategy and provide opportunities to local communities to ensure sustainable growth for the company.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/business/corporate/40024150>
- Minor International Plc, the country's largest hospitality company, is targeting revenue growth of at least 20% this year, its chief executive says, banking on a strategy of higher room rates and the return of Chinese tourists.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2486579/hospitality-giant-minor-targets-20-revenue-growth>
- Thailand's consumer spending over the Lunar New Year period could rise 13.6% to 45 billion baht (US\$1.36 billion), a three-year high, as the economy recovers and China's border reopening bolsters tourism, a university survey showed on Thursday.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2486469/thai-lunar-new-year-spending-seen-at-3-yr-high-as-tourism-rebounds-utcc-survey>
- Charoen Pokphand Foods (CPF), the SET-listed flagship of food and agribusiness conglomerate CP Group, is keen to invest in the Middle East to tap into the sheer size of the region's population and the people's high purchasing power.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2485864/cpf-eyes-prospects-in-the-middle-east>
- Global financial services firm J.P. Morgan has upgraded its rating for Thailand's stock markets to overweight from neutral because of returning Chinese tourists, with the SET Index forecast to hit 1,800 points this year.

- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2485919/j-p-morgan-bullish-on-thai-bourses>
 - SCB X, the holding company of Siam Commercial Bank, is interested in setting up a virtual bank, aiming to explore new business opportunities.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2486824/scb-x-keen-on-novel-banking-opportunity>
 - Oishi Group Plc wants to become an international franchiser, starting by selling branches of its Japanese restaurants in Bangkok for the first time this year.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2486899/oishi-eyes-international-franchise>
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Issues to be watched out for

- January 2023 – The hike in the daily minimum wage is set to become official.
- January 31st, 2023 – The Ministry of Finance announced its own GDP data
- February 15-16 – The possible date for the general debate without voting against the government of Prayut Chan-o-cha by the opposition.
- February 20, 2023 – The National Economic & Social Development Council (NESDC) set to announce the Q4 2022 and Fiscal Year 2022 GDP data
 - ❖ <https://www.nesdc.go.th/download/forthcoming.pdf>
- February 28, 2023 – Prorogation of a 2/2022 session.
- February 28, 2023 – Possible date for the dissolution of the parliament by 2014 coup leader Prayut Chan-o-cha to hold elections.
- 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.

- April 28th, 2023 – The Ministry of Finance announced its own GDP data
- April 29th 2023 – The possible date for elections if parliament is dissolved by February 28th 2023 (by law elections has to be held within 60-days after house dissolution).
- May 7th, 2023 - Election Commission says elections must be held by this date if the government completed its term (which falls on March 23, 2023)
- July 31st, 2023 – The Ministry of Finance announced its own GDP data
- October 31st, 2023 – The Ministry of Finance announced its own GDP data

Key Data

SET Index	1,688.48	+3.04
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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 19 ,2023

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action
AIRA	1,050,408	2	Sale
BE8	17,500	64.75	Sale
CCET	106,900	2.36	Purchase
CGH	2,000,000	0.82	Purchase
DCON	1,313,400	0.44	Purchase
EKH	70,000	2.25	Purchase
GSC	800,000	1.77	Purchase
GSC	35,300	1.75	Purchase
GULF	1,652,700	54	Purchase
GULF	1,000,000	54	Purchase
GULF	581,900	53.75	Purchase
HTC	53,800	29.5	Sale
ILM	19,500	19.2	Sale
NCAP	30,000	4.04	Sale
NCAP	15,900	0.86	Sale
NCAP	30,000	4.04	Sale
ORI	2,300,000	11.8	Purchase
ORI	1,000,000	11.9	Purchase
ORI	750,000	11.8	Purchase
ORI	800,000	11.8	Purchase
PPM	5,000	2.26	Purchase
PRAKIT	2,000	12.5	Purchase
PDJ	50,000	3.7	Sale
PCC	700,000	3.39	Purchase
RBF	415,000	15.01	Sale
SABUY	35,000	6.7	Sale
SABUY	1,430,000	12.03	Sale
SICT	378,200	8.22	Purchase
SIMAT	100,000	2.35	Purchase
STC	200,000	0.77	Sale
STC	1,000	0.77	Purchase
STC	500	0.78	Purchase
SVT	202,200	3.44	Sale
SUSCO	4,000,000	2.02	Transfer
SYNEX	25,000	15.9	Sale
TIGER	100,000	2.12	Sale
TIGER	100,000	2.08	Sale
TSTE	16,200	7.5	Purchase

TSSTE	7,000	7.55	Purchase
TSR	30,000	4.36	Purchase
TSR	10,000	4.4	Purchase
TSR	10,000	4.4	Purchase
TSR	30,000	4.38	Purchase
TSR	20,000	4.38	Purchase
TSR	30,000	4.36	Purchase
TSR	20,000	4.36	Purchase
TSR	50,000	1.66	Sale
TSR	26,000	1.65	Sale
TSR	50,000	1.64	Sale
TSR	4,000	1.65	Sale
TSR	20,000	1.66	Sale

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 19 January 2023						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	4,870.46	9.21	5,169.90	9.77	-299.43	-
Proprietary Trading	4,273.44	8.08	4,583.98	8.67	-310.54	-
Foreign Investor	27,921.35	52.79	26,206.34	49.55	1,715.01	-
Local Individuals	15,828.54	29.93	16,933.57	32.01	-1,105.04	-

Monthly Cumulative between 1-19 January 2023						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	85,573.17	9.29	100,280.77	10.89	-14,707.60	-

Proprietary Trading	67,020.00	7.28	64,773.26	7.03	2,246.74	-
Foreign Investors	466,198.83	50.62	443,980.27	48.21	22,218.56	-
Local Individuals	302,216.66	32.81	311,974.36	33.87	-9,757.70	-
Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan -19 January 2023						
Unit: M.Baht						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	85,573.17	9.29	100,280.77	10.89	-14,707.60	-
Proprietary Trading	67,020.00	7.28	64,773.26	7.03	2,246.74	-
Foreign Investors	466,198.83	50.62	443,980.27	48.21	22,218.56	-
Local Individuals	302,216.66	32.81	311,974.36	33.87	-9,757.70	-

Total Trading Value 52,943.53 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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