

March 8, 2023

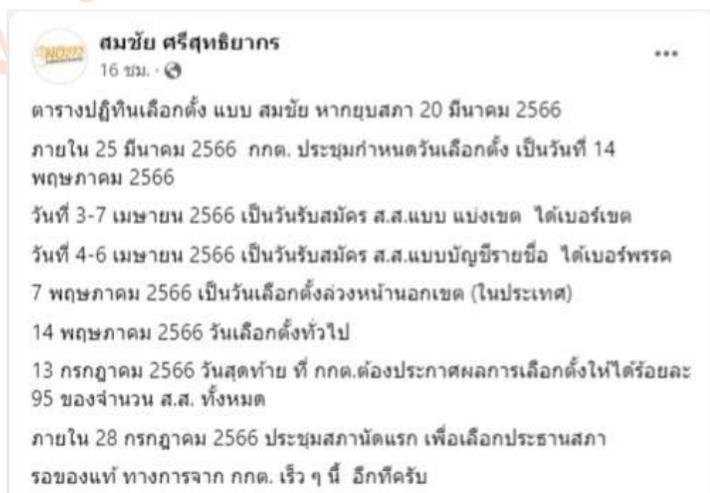
Thai Enquirer News Summary

Political New

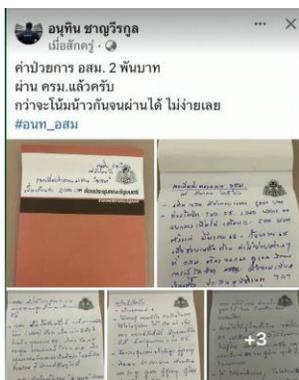
- 2014 coup leader and current Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha yesterday travelled to the Government House to preside over a weekly Cabinet meeting after being discharged from the hospital where he received treatment for swelling and inflammation in his right hand.
 - ❖ His spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri later shared a photo on social media showing Prayut working while wearing an arm sling to support his injured hand and using his left hand with medical equipment and a saline drip attached to it.



- After completing the meeting, Prayut confirmed to the press that he could still tour provinces as planned, even though his hand was still in pain. He said on March 10 he would visit Chachoengsao province, followed by Songkhla and Yala.
 - ❖ When jokingly asked if he needed to practice signing documents to dissolve the House of Representatives, Prayut responded positively that there was no need to do so as he had already discussed the matter with the government's leaders.
 - ❖ The prime minister also thanked the Cabinet for their collaboration and wished everyone good luck.
 - ❖ It is predicted that he will decide to dissolve the House of Representatives on March 20.
- Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam addressed speculation that the upcoming general election, originally slated for May 7, might be postponed to May 14 due to a delayed dissolution of the House.
 - ❖ He said a shift in the election date was indeed possible if the dissolution of the House occurred as late as March 20.
 - ❖ Meanwhile, former Election Commission (EC) commissioner Somchai Srisutthiyakon stated that if the dissolution took place on March 20, the EC would have to convene on March 25 to move the election date to May 14.
 - ❖ He said July 13 was the latest date for the EC to announce the election results with 95% of all constituency MPs elected, and by July 28, the first meeting of the House would have to be held to select the House Speaker.



- During yesterday's Cabinet meeting, Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul agreed to double the monthly allowance given to village-based health volunteers nationwide from 1,000 to 2,000 Baht.
 - ❖ He stated that the increase was intended to boost the morale of the volunteers and that it would be included in the 2024 budget, which would take effect in October.
 - ❖ While the move was welcomed by many, some political parties tried to claim credit for it. For instance, the Ruam Thai Saang Chart Party posted a picture of its premier candidate, Gen Prayut, on its Facebook page stating, “The government of Uncle Tu has done it!” along with the party's motto, “Done that – Doing that – Continuing to do it.”



- Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan, who also leads the ruling Palang Pracharath Party, evaded reporters' questions regarding rumors that two of his high-profile party members, Industry Minister Suriya Juangroongruangkit and Justice Minister Somsak Thepsuthin, are planning to defect to the main opposition Pheu Thai Party.
 - ❖ Prawit said he had no idea about the rumor and that reporters should go ask the two themselves.
 - ❖ Meanwhile, Somsak disclosed to reporters that he would quit his old party by March 20



- Self-exiled former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra came out to broadcast his bi-weekly talk on Clubhouse under this rebranded name – Tony Woodsome.
 - ❖ He said he was in Beijing then Hong Kong and now back in Dubai. During the talk he said
 - Pheu Thai government (which he said was led by his daughter – Paetongtarn) plans to
 - ✓ Raise the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) by as much as 7% if her government remains in power for the 4-year term
 - ✓ That all parties should look at ways to tackle the issue of PM2.5 which is at dangerous levels
 - ✓ That there needs to be a solution sought for the sinking of Bangkok and neighbouring provinces before it is too late, and the city is inundated by in a decade or so.



- Sonthiya Sawasdee, who previously served as an adviser to the House committee on law, justice, and human rights, lodged a petition with the Election Commission alleging that the Pheu Thai Party had breached election regulations by permitting Nattawut Saikuar, who he said was prohibited from politics, to act as a canvasser and allowing individuals who are not party members to wield significant influence over party affairs.
 - ❖ He said the Pheu Thai Party’s appointment of Nattawut as director of the Pheu Thai Family project had violated the electoral rules, citing Nattawut was once

sentenced to 2 years and 8 months in prison and banned from politics for 10 years due to his involvement in the past political demonstrations.

- ❖ He also alleged that a former cabinet minister and key figures of some provincial administrative organizations are working with the Pheu Thai Party although those people are not party members.
 - ❖ To allow non-members to work for the party was like letting others exert influence over the party, which is against the law and can result in a party dissolution, Sonthiya said.
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Economic News

- The Cabinet has made a decision to extend the tax exemption on diesel and the fuel used in electricity production for an additional 6-months, starting from March 16 and concluding on September 15, 2023. The purpose of this move is to mitigate the negative effects of soaring electricity prices on the populace.
 - ❖ As a result, it is expected that the Excise Department will lose approximately 8.05 billion baht in revenue.
 - ❖ Meanwhile, the Energy Regulatory Commission will hold a meeting today to announce the adjustment of the fuel tariff rate (FT) for the billing period of May to August 2023. It remains to be seen whether the tariff will be lower than the anticipated 5 Baht per unit, while both residential and commercial sectors are expected to be charged at the same rate.
 - ❖ On another note, PTT Station and Bangchak have increased the price of gasoline by 0.50 baht, which will be effective from today.
- Thailand's average headline inflation in February was at 3.79%, the lowest in 13 months, following a drop in fuel prices, the Commerce Ministry's Trade Policy and Strategy Office (TPSO) said on Tuesday.
 - ❖ The average headline inflation is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which in February dropped from the previous month by 0.12% to 108.05.
 - ❖ The CPI this year has dropped for the second consecutive month due to the decrease in fuel prices, which also resulted in a drop in the prices of some

products, such as instant and fresh foods, TPSO director Poonpong Naiyanapakorn said.

- ❖ However, he warned that Thailand is still at risk of higher inflation due to the drought both in Thailand and overseas, which would affect the prices of energy and foods. The TPSO will continue monitoring the situation closely, he added.
- ❖ The TPSO predicted that headline inflation in March would continue the downward trend following the continued drop in prices of fresh foods as well as retail fuel, the latter as a result of the drop in crude oil price in the global market. Headline inflation in 2023 in the range of 2-3% based on the current economic trend.

สรุปดัชนีเศรษฐกิจการค้า
เดือนกุมภาพันธ์ 2566

	ดัชนี	%MoM	%YoY	%QoQ
อัตราเงินเฟ้อทั่วไป : Headline Inflation ดัชนีราคาผู้บริโภคทั่วไป : CPI	กพ66 108.05	-0.12	3.79	4.40
เงินเฟ้อพื้นฐาน : Core Inflation ดัชนีราคาผู้บริโภคพื้นฐาน : Core CPI	กพ66 104.17	0.11	1.93	2.48
ดัชนีความเคลื่อนไหวสินค้าโภคภัณฑ์ : CI	กพ 66 52.5			กพ 66 51.3

- Deputy Finance Minister Athirat Rattanaset revealed the progress of the selection of private investors for the Orange Line electric train project, connecting Bang Khun Non to Min Buri districts.
 - ❖ He said there are three remaining disputes that need to be resolved first before the project could move on.
- Bank of Ayudhya (BAY) announced to the stock market that it has acquired 99.1% of the stocks of Nomura Pattanasin Securities Plc (CNS) from Nomura Asia Investment (Singapore) Pte Ltd. (NAIS).
 - ❖ This acquisition has been approved by the Bank of Thailand and relevant agencies, resulting in CNS becoming a subsidiary of the Krungsri Group and changing its name to Krungsri Phatthanasin Securities Plc (KCS).
 - ❖ Yesterday evening, Koraphat Vorachet, former director of Research and Service for Investment Strategy of CNS posted on his personal Facebook account that he is leaving CNS and moving to his new organization, which is KCS.
- Markets around the world went for a tailspin after US' Fed Chairman Jay Powell came out to say that the rate hikes that had only recently been slowed down could accelerate as

the economic data suggest that the overheated economy continues to churn out numbers that the FED feels needs to be tamed.

- ❖ The statement by Powell sent the US markets down and is having an impact on the markets in Asia as well.



Political News Headlines in Thai Media

- The Taling Chan Criminal Court sentenced a 26-year-old internet user to three years in jail for selling yellow duck-themed calendars on a social media platform because they were judged to have resembled the monarch.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/48446/man-sentenced-to-two-years-in-jail-for-selling-duck-themed-calendars-online/>
- Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha on Tuesday hinted that he would dissolve the House of Representatives after the Cabinet meeting next week.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40025501>
- The Democrat Party on Tuesday made a grovelling apology to Thaksin University after one of its MPs suggested it offered inferior education.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40025496>

- Bhumjaithai Party leader Anutin Charnvirakul downplays suspension of a key minister and attacks against his party, brushing them off as pre-poll mudslinging.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2522415/anutin-brushes-off-dirty-tricks-targeting-bhumjaithai>
 - Academics believe Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha is waiting for the Election Commission to complete the redrawing of constituency boundaries before dissolving the House this month.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2522511/dissolution-hinges-on-boundary-rejig>
 - House Speaker Chuan Leekpai yesterday rated the overall performance of this 25th House of Representatives as "satisfactory", saying most of the bills put before the government had been passed despite a slight hiccup during the House's final session.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2522616/chuan-satisfied-with-house-record>
 - A petition has been filed with the Election Commission (EC) seeking to disband the main opposition Pheu Thai Party based on an allegation that it has broken election rules.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2522641/suit-seeks-pheu-thais-dissolution>
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Economic News Headlines in Thai Media

- A weaker baht and improvement in many countries' production index will boost the Thai export market, the Thai National Shippers' Council (TNSC) reckoned.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/economy/40025498>
- Total bank deposits in Thailand rose 4.3% in 2022 year on year, though 98.52 million accounts or 88.88% have less than 50,000 baht, the central bank revealed on Tuesday.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/economy/40025494>

- The cabinet on Tuesday agreed to double the monthly allowance given to village-based health volunteers nationwide, from 1,000 to 2,000 baht, based on their increased workload, the health minister announced.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2522286/health-volunteers-allowance-to-double>
- PTT Exploration and Production Plc (PTTEP) has been awarded exploration and production licences at two of three new petroleum blocks in the Gulf of Thailand, which should pave the way for more domestic oil and gas supply to strengthen the country's energy security.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2522396/pttep-wins-2-new-licences-in-gulf>
- The cabinet on Tuesday agreed to waive corporate income tax and value-added tax for companies that issue digital tokens for investment, a government spokeswoman said.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2522361/firms-issuing-tokens-to-get-tax-breaks>
- The cabinet on Tuesday approved a law to allow the Bank of Thailand to regulate the business of leasing cars and motorcycles to strengthen consumer protection and tackle household debt, the Ministry of Finance said.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2522316/bot-to-regulate-auto-leasing>
- A Chinese retail giant's plan to create the largest retail and wholesale centre in Thailand has sparked fears the Kingdom will be flooded by cheap goods from China.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/economy/40025492>
- Warrix, Thailand's leading sportswear manufacturer, is transforming itself into Southeast Asia's first complete sports sciences business, with a sales target of 2.7 billion baht by 2026.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/business/corporate/40025505>
- The Thai cabinet has approved 3.19 billion baht to subsidise electricity bills of households that consume no more than 300 units of electricity per month from January to April.

- Link- <https://www.thaipbsworld.com/subsidies-for-households-300-units-or-less-of-electricity-per-month/>
 - Thailand-based chemical producer Indorama Ventures Plc (IVL) expects its revenue to rise by 5-10% in fiscal 2023, driven by growing demand, despite the prospects of a global recession.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2521821/indorama-ventures-sees-its-revenue-rising-by-up-to-10->
 - Krungsri Consumer, the unsecured loan unit under Bank of Ayudhya, aims to increase its customer base on digital platforms by 20% this year, aided by new digital service offerings.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2522591/krungsri-targets-rise-in-digital-customers>
 - SET-listed WHA Utilities & Power Plc (WHAUP), which provides utilities under WHA Corp, Thailand's biggest industrial land developer and operator, expects its rooftop solar panel installation service to grow by 24% to 300 megawatts this year, thanks to greater adoption of clean energy in the industrial sector.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2522601/whaup-solar-panel-business-set-to-surge>
 - People rushed to book hotels during the first day of the latest phase of the hotel subsidy programme, with 112,876 room nights reserved out of 560,000 available in six hours.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2522611/people-hurry-to-snap-up-hotel-rooms>
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Issues to be watched out for

- March 15, 2023 - Most likely the date for the dissolution of the parliament
- March 23, 2022 – The last day of the current House of Representatives, as per the Constitution new election of the House of Representatives has to take place 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 13, 2023 - Election Commission’s last date to announce the election results with 95% of the constituency MPs elected.
- July 28th, 2023 - The opening of the new session of the parliament with its 1st meeting after the 2023 elections to elect the speaker of the house.
- 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	1,618.51	+11.63
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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 March 7, 2023

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action
BGC	5,000	10	Purchase
CMAN	100,000	2.17	Purchase
EP	100,000	3.26	Purchase
EP	100,000	0.28	Purchase
EA	10,000	75	Purchase
JDF	91,300	2.88	Sale
LPH	20,000	5.51	Purchase
MTW	166,700	6.35	Purchase
SE	100,000	1.12	Purchase
TIGER	2,000,000	1.5	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 7 March 2023						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	4,828.96	8.39	2,684.82	4.67	2,144.14	-
Proprietary Trading	4,171.62	7.25	4,921.52	8.55	-749.90	-
Foreign Investor	32,213.01	55.98	33,581.93	58.36	-1,368.92	-
Local Individuals	16,327.29	28.38	16,352.61	28.42	-25.32	-

Monthly Cumulative between 1 Mar-7 March 2023

Unit: M.Baht

Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	24,684.54	10.20	17,575.48	7.26	7,109.06	-
Proprietary Trading	17,901.78	7.40	21,571.72	8.91	-3,669.94	-
Foreign Investors	125,439.18	51.82	131,173.32	54.19	-5,734.14	-
Local Individuals	74,036.93	30.59	71,741.91	29.64	2,295.02	-

Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan -7 March 2023

Unit: M.Baht

Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	246,718.20	8.40	250,094.55	8.51	-3,376.35	-
Proprietary Trading	217,036.56	7.39	213,910.82	7.28	3,125.74	-
Foreign Investors	1,448,960.54	49.32	1,479,862.37	50.37	-30,901.83	-
Local Individuals	1,025,208.82	34.90	994,056.38	33.84	31,152.43	-

Total Trading Value 57,545.50 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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