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**September 12, 2023** 

## Thai Enquirer News Summary

### **Political News**

- Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin and his ministers will resume their policy announcement in Parliament for the last day today.
  - The meeting is expected to commence at 09.00 hrs.
- Yesterday Prime Minister Srettha arrived at Parliament at 07:59 hrs to lead the government policy announcement, marking the first day of the 2-day 5<sup>th</sup> joint session of the Parliament.
  - ❖ During the debate he stressed that his key urgent agenda would be for
    - > Solve the rising debt problem among the people
    - > Lower the prices of energy
    - > Implement the 10,000 Baht digital wallet policy

- ➤ Rewrite the constitution without touching issues in regard to the monarchy.
- ❖ Before attending the meeting, the new prime minister paid tribute to the Phra Siam Devadhirat Shrine, Phra Suea Mueang, Phra Song Mueang, and Phra Phum Chaimongkol of Parliament.





❖ He was also briefly seen adjusting and preparing himself before the meeting.



- PM Srettha started the policy announcement by likening the Thai economy to an ailing patient severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with symptoms worse than neighboring countries.
  - ❖ With the risk of regression, he said the country needed an immediate economic stimulus, which was the 10,000 Baht digital wallet, which would serve as a catalyst to jumpstart the economy.
  - ❖ He also mentioned four short-term policies that could create quick impact, including:
    - > Providing debt relief for farmers.
    - ➤ Reducing electricity, cooking gas, and fuel prices while adjusting the energy pricing structure.
    - > Promoting income generation from tourism to stimulate the short-term economy.
    - ➤ Drafting a more democratic constitution, with no amendments to sections regarding the monarchy and holding a referendum to allow people to participate in the drafting process.



- Srettha further emphasized that the government would focus on establishing new foundational structures and infrastructure over the next 4 years as part of the government's long-term policies.
- Sirikanya Tansakun, the deputy leader of the Move Forward Party, compared the quality of the Srettha government's policy announcement to that of Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha, stating that it lacked a clear timeline for policy implementation and specific targets to aim for.
  - ❖ She further emphasized that the announcement failed to include many key electoral pledges that the Pheu Thai Party had made, such as a minimum wage of 600 Baht per day, a monthly salary of 25,000 Baht for university graduates, a 20-Baht flat fare for mass transit train passengers, and more.
  - ❖ Sirikanya identified two possible reasons for these changes: firstly, the government may be apprehensive about making commitments they cannot fulfill, and secondly, it could be due to the coalition nature of the government, as it consists of several parties with conflicting interests.



- Acting Leader of the Democrat Party Jurin Laksanawisit derided the standards of the Srettha government, saying it did not measure up to Srettha's stature.
  - ❖ He highlighted that over five electoral pledges of the Pheu Thai Party had been abandoned, including the 25,000 Baht monthly salary for university graduates, the 600 Baht minimum daily wage, the flat 20 Baht fare for mass transit train users, measures to reduce income disparities, and financial assistance for families earning less than 20,000 Baht per month.
  - ❖ In terms of agricultural policies, Jurin questioned whether the new government, by choosing not to implement the Democrats' income guarantee policies for crop prices, will be able to support farmers when crop prices suddenly drop.
  - ❖ Jurin also sarcastically praised the government for not pursuing the rice-pledging scheme, unlike the Yingluck administration, because the scheme was the root cause of corruption, and it resulted in Thailand accumulating a debt burden of over 884 trillion Baht.



• Transport Minister Suriya Juangroongruangkit has come out to say that the 2 state-owned and operated mass transit lines – Red and Purple, would see the implementation of the 20 Baht across the network within 3-months or year-end.



• Meanwhile the plans to implement the 10,000 Baht digital wallet is not going to raise funds by selling any state-owned enterprises or assets, says Deputy Finance Minister – Julapun Amornvivat.

- Yesterday at the Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters, General Chalermphon Srisawat, the Commander-in-Chief, presided over a meeting of top military officials. The meeting served as a farewell to him before his retirement on September 30. On September 29, all top military officials will participate in a formal handover ceremony to pass on their duties to the next generation of leaders.
  - ❖ It was reported that General Chalermphon affirmed at the meeting that it was a good sign that a civilian had been appointed to head the Ministry of Defense. He was referring to Suthin Klangsaeng, the new Defense Minister.

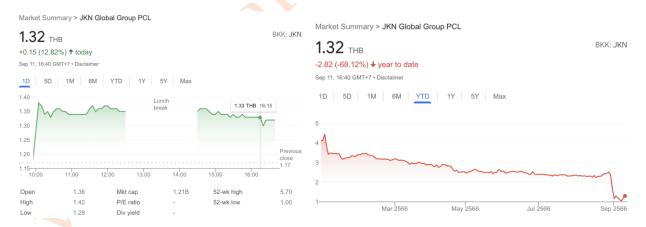


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### **Economic News**

- Transport Minister Suriya Juangroongruangkit stated in Parliament yesterday that the 20 Baht fare cap per ride on 2 state-owned routes -the MRT's Purple Line with 16 stations and SRT's Red Line with 13 stations will be implemented in 3 months' time, or by the New Year.
  - As for the Green Line, Suriya said that it falls under the responsibility of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), but the Transport Ministry is willing to provide support if requested.
  - ❖ He also said that he and the ministry will review the MR-Map project and the Land Bridge project, retaining good ideas while addressing problematic ones before proceeding with them.
- Sornphon Tulyasathien, Head of Corporate Strategic Planning Department of the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET), explained that the Thai stock market adjusted downward yesterday due to pressure from global markets, not because of the policy announcement of the new government.

- ❖ He said investors are concerned, particularly about a Fed interest rate hike and the Chinese economy.
- ❖ The Thai stock index had adjusted upward for six consecutive days in August, reaching 1,576.67 points, after the successful establishment of the government on August 23, Sornphon stated.
- SET Index has since the appointment of Prime Minister Srettha risen by as much as 15.09 points but foreign investors continue to be net sellers.
  - ❖ As of yesterday, foreign investors have sold 12.74 billion Baht worth of Thai shares on the local bourse despite a clarity on the political picture.
  - Even yesterday foreign investors were net sellers of 2.6 billion Baht.
- Shares of JKN Global Group Plc (JKN), a company that has the rights to host the Miss Universe pageant, surged by nearly 13% after reports emerged that it has joined hands with ultra rightwing news channel TOP News.
  - Not many details were available of the venture but this was enough to push the shares of JKN to rise after having dropped for the few trading sessions (after the company announced that it had defaulted on the bond payments earlier this month).



 Yesterday, the stock price of Global Power Synergy Plc (GPSC) decreased by 2.93% or 1.50 Baht to 49.75 Baht, with a trading value of 1.07 billion Baht. Analysts said investors reacted with concern over the potential impact of the government's electricity price reduction policy, which will be discussed at the Cabinet meeting on September 13.

- ❖ However, Yuanta Securities believed that the reduction would not affect power plants if it is only provided to assist specific groups of people or businesses. The firm urged investors to wait for the clear details of the policy to be announced after this week's meeting.
- Thepparat Theppitak, the president of Electricity Generating Plc (EGCO), revealed that EGCO Compass II, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary registered in the United States, has entered into an agreement to acquire shares of Lotos Infrastructure Partners in order to hold 50% of the latter's portfolio of the combined cycle power plants, consisting of three plants with a total generating capacity of 1,304 megawatts.
  - ❖ The transaction is expected to be completed within this year, which will raise EGCO's generating capacity by an addition of 1,000 megawatts.
  - ❖ Brokers estimate that the investment will generate a profit of around 652 million Baht per year for EGCO.
- Oil retailers have raised the price of gasoline while kept the diesel prices as the Cabinet is set to deliberate on the price of diesel tomorrow.
  - ❖ Gasoline operators announced an increase in the retail prices of gasoline by 30 satang per liter today.



### **General News**

• Pol Col Wachira Yaothaisong, a superintendent at the Highway Police Division and the immediate superior to Pol Maj Sivakorn Saibua, who was shot dead in Nakhon Pathom last week, shot himself at his residence in Pathum Thani province on Monday afternoon.

- ❖ Pol Colonel Wachira was among the 25 police officers present at the birthday party of Praween Chankhlai, an influential figure in Nakhon Pathom, also known as "Kamnan Nok", when police officer Pol Major Siwakorn Saibua was shot dead last Wednesday.
- ❖ Arrest warrants were issued for 6 of them after being accused of aiding the alleged culprits and destroying evidence. They were arrested on Monday morning.
- ❖ Wachira's suspected suicide was most likely caused by stress as he had previously been diagnosed as suffering from depression. He came under fire from the public as he was the one who had invited Siwakorn to the party.



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### **Political News Headlines in Thai Media**

- You should never idolize politicians. Or anyone, really, for that matter.
  - o Link- https://www.thaienquirer.com/50680/opinions-the-problem-when-you-idolize-politicians/
- The opposition camp parties denounced the new government's policies announced in Parliament on Monday as "impractical".
  - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40030955
- In a move, described as a win-win, deputy police commissioner Pol Gen Roy
  Ingkapairote will be appointed National Security Council (NSC) chief, paving the way
  for Pol Gen Torsak Sukvimol to become the new police commissioner, an informed
  source said.

- Link- <a href="https://www.thaipbsworld.com/pol-gen-roy-tipped-to-be-new-national-police-chief/">https://www.thaipbsworld.com/pol-gen-roy-tipped-to-be-new-national-police-chief/</a>
- Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin presented the government's policy to Parliament on September 11, 2023, outlining two time periods: the short term and the medium to long term, to address the economic and social situation, by describing the bleak picture of Thailand he inherited after nine years from Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha.
  - o Link- <a href="https://www.khaosodenglish.com/news/2023/09/11/srettha-thavisin-presents-the-governments-policy-to-parliament/">https://www.khaosodenglish.com/news/2023/09/11/srettha-thavisin-presents-the-governments-policy-to-parliament/</a>

## **Economic News Headlines in Thai Media**

- The approximately 2.7 million unregistered residents in Bangkok may not get to exercise their rights to fully use the planned 10,000 baht digital handout.
  - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40030947
- Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin has announced his government's intention to implement five urgent measures to revive the Thai economy, free it from stagnation, and help the people escape the current income crisis.
  - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/economy/40030948
- The Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) views the Pheu Thai Party's digital wallet handout policy as merely a short-term measure to boost the Thai economy.
  - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/economy/40030945
- One of Hong Kong's top hotel chains has launched a strategy to attract more Thai travellers, as the island city recovers swiftly post-pandemic.
  - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/business/corporate/40030958
- The Ministry of Commerce will be leading a team of Thai trade delegates to the first round of the Thai-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, scheduled from September 18-22 in Brussels, Belgium.
  - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/business/trading-investment/40030957

- Thailand has secured the second position as the best country in the world to start a business in 2023, as per rankings published in the US News and World Report.
  - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/business/trading-investment/40030954
- Pico-finance reform on the cards.
  - o Link- <a href="https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2645255/pico-finance-reform-on-the-cards">https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2645255/pico-finance-reform-on-the-cards</a>

### Issues to be watched out for

- September 11-12, 2023 Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin to present his vision to the Parliament before he can start the work.
- September 13<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Cabinet meeting where Srettha would be able to make decisions on whatever the policy they want to undertake.
- September 18-26, 2023 Srettha Thavasin set to attend the UN General Assembly.
- September 27, 2023 Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting
- October 5, 2023 September Consumer Confidence Inflation Data
- October 13, 2023 Public Holiday 'HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej' Memorial Day.
- October 23, 2023 Public Holiday Chulalongkorn Day
- October 31, 2023 The Ministry of Finance will announce its own GDP data.
- November 6, 2023 October Consumer Confidence Inflation Data
- November 29, 2023 Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting
- December 6, 2023 November Consumer Confidence Inflation Data

- January 5, 2023 December & Fiscal Year 2023 Consumer Confidence
   Inflation Data
- For information on Opportunity Day of various companies click on the link –

https://www.set.or.th/streaming/oppdayCalendar

#### **Key Data**

SET Index 1,540.94 -6.2

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 - <a href="http://www.bloomberg.com/energy/">http://www.bloomberg.com/energy/</a>

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 September 11, 2023**

# Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action	
CPT	54,300	0.72	Sale	
CPT	137,800	0.71	Sale	

MICRO	50,000	3.06	Sale	
MICRO	50,000	3.16	Sale	
MBAX	20,600	3.9	Sale	
QLT	9,500	4.68	Purchase	
CFRESH	83,174,600	1	Acceptance of Transfer	
CFRESH	83,174,600	1	Transfer	
SUPER	30,452,000	0.48	Sale	
SUPER	10,000,000	0.48	Sale	
SUPER	4,612,500	0.48	Sale	
SUPER	5,185,000	0.48	Sale	
TCMC	1,800	1.71	Purchase	
TRT	671,500	2.26	Sale	
TRT	Revoked by Reporter	2.26	Sale	
TRT	Revoked by Reporter	2.26	Sale	
TRT	Revoked by Reporter	2.26	Sale	
UTP	60,600	11.9	Purchase	
VRANDA	17,500	6.65	Sale	
WARRIX	300,000	10.5	Purchase	

# XD, XE or XM or other notifications

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

# Trading Breakdown on the Stock Exchange of Thailand

Daily as of 11 September 2023										
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Unit: M.Baht Net					
investor Type	Value	0/0	Value	%	Value	%				
Local Institutions	3,425.40	8.23	3,639.05	8.75	-213.65	-				
Proprietary Trading	3,438.29	8.26	3,200.07	7.69	238.23	-				
Foreign Investor	19,984.48	48.04	22,585.48	54.29	-2,601.00	-				
Local Individuals	14,753.29	35.46	12,176.86	29.27	2,576.43	-				
Monthly Cumulative between 1 Sep-11 September 2023										
					Unit: M.B.	aht				
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net					
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%				
Local Institutions	24,708.68	7.93	26,022.81	8.35	-1,314.13	-				
Proprietary Trading	26,339.74	8.45	24,955.17	8.01	1,384.58	-				
Foreign Investors	148,008.80	47.51	157,380.37	50.51	-9,371.57	-				
Local Individuals	112,506.69	36.11	103,205.56	33.13	9,301.12	-				
Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan -11 September 2023										
					Unit: M.B	aht				
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net					
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%				
Local Institutions	796,963.86	8.72	742,789.57	8.13	54,174.30	-				
Proprietary Trading	698,886.34	7.65	698,093.80	7.64	792.53	-				
Foreign Investors	4,673,987.54	51.14	4,818,556.73	52.72	-144,569.20	-				
Local Individuals	2,969,437.25	32.49	2,879,834.89	31.51	89,602.37	-				

Total Trading Value 41,608.60 Million Baht

Background Information -

According to the report by the Election Commission of Thailand as of May 8, 2019, the strength of each party in the Thai Parliament following the elections on March 24, 2019.

- <a href="https://www.ect.go.th/ect\_th/news\_all.php?cid=24">https://www.ect.go.th/ect\_th/news\_all.php?cid=24</a>
- List of MPs https://www.ect.go.th/ect\_th/download/article/article\_20190508184334.pdf

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