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• October 19, 2023

Thai Enquirer News Summary

Economic News

- Julapun Amornvivat, Minister of Finance, will preside over the meeting of the steering committee for the 10,000-Baht handout policy today.
 - ❖ News sources within the ministry reported that the committee has already identified four sources of funding for this initiative:
 - ❖ An expected increase in revenue from the expanding economy, estimated at around 260 billion Baht in the fiscal year 2024. This growth is projected at 5%, but the revenue is expected to materialize towards the end of the year. Therefore, a portion of the funds will have to be borrowed from a state enterprise, totaling around 100 billion Baht.

- ❖ Additional income from corporate income tax and value-added tax, estimated at around 100 billion Baht.
- ❖ Implementing cost reductions within the 2024 fiscal budget, totaling around 110 billion Baht. Utilizing remaining budget allocations from 2023, amounting to around 90 billion Baht.



- Energy Minister Pirapan Salirathavibhaga revealed that the Energy Ministry is currently drafting a law aimed at providing affordable fuel for farmers and fishermen. Pirapan said he wishes to implement the law within this year.
 - ❖ The minister further disclosed that the reduction in retail benzene prices by 2.50 Baht per liter will specifically apply to Gasohol 91, as it is the cheapest type of fuel from the refineries, priced at 22.21 Baht per liter. As of yesterday, the price of Gasohol 91 stood at 37.58 Baht per liter.
 - ❖ The reduction aims to benefit individuals with low incomes. Details of the reduction are expected to be clarified within the next two weeks, according to the minister.

ลดราคาเบนซิน 2.50 บาท/ลิตร
จะมีความชัดเจนใน 2 สัปดาห์

ปรับลดเฉพาะแก๊สโซฮอล์ 91

เนื่องจากต้นทุนเขื่อนน้ำมันราคาถูกที่สุด
ปัจจุบันอยู่ที่ 37.58 บาท/ลิตร

กำหนดเวลาที่ลดลง 3 เดือน

ส่วนชนิดอื่นๆ รอปรับโครงสร้างน้ำมันทั้งระบบก่อน

- The Democrat Party is proposing that the government cancels the import parity formula, which has been in use for 50 years, for calculating the price of refined oil at the refinery as well as ending the reliance on Singapore for refined oil imports, in order to reduce benzene prices.
 - ❖ According to Pisit Leeahtam, Chairman of the Policy Committee of the Democrat Party, this measure would result in an immediate reduction of benzene prices by no more than 2 Baht per liter.
 - ❖ Additionally, he recommends that the government conduct a thorough review of the cost structure of using natural gas from the Gulf of Thailand for electricity generation. This initiative, due to the lower cost of gas in this region, could potentially lead to a further reduction of no less than 1.0 Baht per unit in electricity prices.
- Today, major commercial banks will report their quarterly results for the third quarter of 2023. These include Krung Thai Bank (KTB), Bangkok Bank (BBL), as well as medium-sized banks such as TMB Thanachart Bank (TTB) and Bank of Ayudhya (BAY).
 - ❖ Analysts anticipate notable performance from KTB and BBL, predicting that their net profits could exceed 10 billion Baht. This growth is expected both year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter.
- Thai banks are likely to report profits in the range of 1.86 billion to 1.91 billion Baht for the first nine months of this year, according to Kasikornbank's KResearch Centre.
 - ❖ The banks' financial statements for the third quarter of this year still reflect adjustments to protect their operational performance, despite benefiting from the increase in interest rates, supporting the net interest margin (NIM) of the Thai banking system within the range of 3.14-3.18%.
 - ❖ Even though the rising domestic interest rates should boost interest income and NIM, one measure of the net return on the bank's earning assets, which include investment securities, loans, and leases of the Thai banking system in the third quarter of this year, the cost of deposit mobilization is also increasing, the centre said.
 - ❖ KResearch added that the recent upward adjustments in policy interest rates and lending rates of commercial banks would help boost the NIM of the Thai banking system to be within the range of 3.14-3.18% in the third quarter of this year, up from 3.09% in the second quarter. The returns from lending are expected to benefit from the increasing proportion of high-yielding loan portfolios compared to the overall loan portfolio.

BANK \$\$\$ สมาคมการค้าทองคำ ภาคการส่งออก Q3/66				
ธนาคาร	กำไรสุทธิ(ลบ.)	YoY(%)	ค่าเฉลี่ย	ราคาเบาะแส (บาท)
BAY	8,430	4%	-	-
BBL	11,790	54%	ซื้อ	191
KBANK	10,750	2%	ถือ	140
KKP	1,580	-24%	ขาย	65.00
KTB	10,220	21%	ถือ	21.90
SCB	10,990	7%	ซื้อ	132
TISCO	1,860	5%	ถือ	109
TTB	4,570	23%	ถือ	1.80

- The price of gold witnessed a significant increase throughout the day on Wednesday, rising by over 200 Baht after the market opened at 9:16 am. Following that, the price saw three more adjustments during the first half of the day, declining by 50 Baht and subsequently increasing two more times by 50 Baht.
 - ❖ This resulted in a buying price of 33,200 Baht and a selling price of 33,300 Baht for gold bullion. As for gold ornaments, the buying price was 32,609.16 Baht, and the selling price was 33,800 Baht.
 - ❖ Jitti Tangsitpakdee, President of the Gold Traders Association, revealed that yesterday's gold price marked a new high, surpassing the previous record of 33,750 Baht in September. This escalation is in response to concerns over the situation in Israel and the cancellation of the Middle East visit by the U.S. President.
 - ❖ The continuous rise in the gold price has led to a lack of market demand. If the situation in Israel persists, it may impact the usual peak buying season at the end of the year, Jitti said.

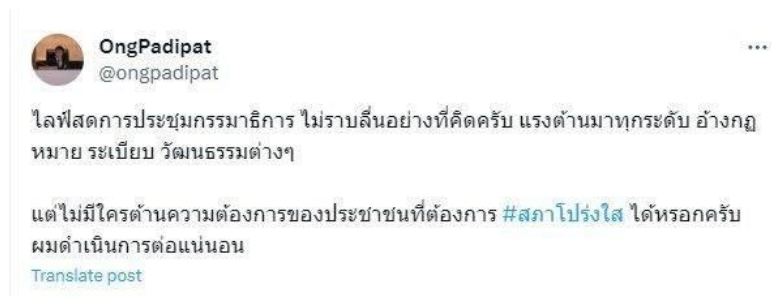
GOLD PRICE BY GTA / ราคาทองคำตามประกาศของสมาคมค้าทองคำ		
ประจำวันที่ 18/10/2566 เวลา 12:07 น. (ครั้งที่ 4)		บาทละ(บาท)
ทองคำแท่ง 96.5%	ขายออก	33,300.00
	รับซื้อ	33,200.00
ทองคำรูปพรรณ 96.5%	ขายออก	33,800.00
	ฐานภาษี	32,609.16

- Thanjira Retail Corporation Plc (TAN) began trading on the Stock Exchange of Thailand yesterday. The opening price stood at 16.80 Baht per share, an increase of 0.30 Baht per share or 1.82% from the IPO price of 16.50 Baht.

- ❖ Nevertheless, the stock experienced significant fluctuations throughout the day, reaching a high of 17.40 Baht and a low of 14 Baht, before closing at 16.40 Baht, a decrease of 0.10 Baht or 0.61%. The trading value was over 2.24 billion Baht.
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Political News

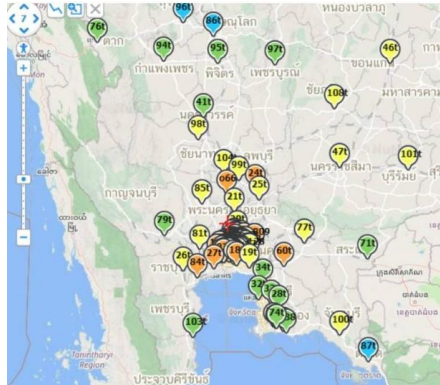
- A group of activists who call themselves the "Network of Students and People Reforming Thailand" threatened to visit incarcerated former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra at the Police General Hospital's Premium Ward if the Ministry of Justice doesn't cease the alleged privileges being extended to him.
 - ❖ The group accused the ministry of providing privileges to Thaksin by permitting his extended stay at the hospital when he should be serving his sentence in prison.
 - ❖ They also demanded that the ministry stop granting further extensions of Thaksin's external treatment and allow for human rights oversight of his health. They express skepticism regarding the authenticity of Thaksin's illness, asserting that the ministry has failed to instill public trust.
 - ❖ Thaksin, 74, is known to have high blood pressure, along with heart and respiratory issues, in addition to other age-related ailments. His daughter, Paetongtarn, confirmed that he underwent surgery last month for an undisclosed medical condition.
- First Deputy House Speaker Padipat Suntiphada revealed that his proposal to livestream each committee meeting of the House of Representatives for public viewing has encountered strong opposition from various parties.
 - ❖ Nevertheless, he remains steadfast in pushing for his planned measures, which also include substituting Thai numerals with Arabic numerals in government documents, raising the air conditioner temperature within the Parliament building by 2 degrees, from 25 to 27 degrees every Friday, permitting parliamentary officials to wear casual attire in line with the Green Parliament policy, and replacing paper meeting invitations sent by mail with PDF files.



General News

- The UN Secretary-General expressed his condolences over the loss of Thai lives in Israel, as Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin announced on Wednesday. The Israeli government confirmed the death of another Thai, bringing the total fatalities to 30.
 - ❖ The Israeli government reported the Thai victim's death to the Thai embassy in Tel Aviv on Wednesday, although the exact time of the latest victim's passing was not clear. The number of injured individuals remained unchanged at 16, while 18 were presumed to have been taken hostage by Hamas.
 - ❖ Regarding the repatriation of Thai workers from Israel, Srettha said the government could repatriate approximately 400 Thais per day and would soon be able to increase the capacity to 600 a day.
 - ❖ He also said Foreign Minister Parnpree Bahiddha-Nukara was in the process of seeking permission for the use of ports in Middle Eastern nations to repatriate Thais by sea.
- Air pollution in Bangkok rose to the “orange” level (starting to affect health) , signalling the start of the so-called PM2.5 season. Levels of particulate matter 2.5 micrometres or less in diameter (PM2.5) ranged from 24.3 to 49.8 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) across the city, according to the Pollution Control Department (PCD).
 - ❖ The PCD said the accumulation of PM2.5 in Bangkok was due to higher air pressure leading to poor air circulation. It forecast the pollution haze will remain at “orange zone” levels for another one or two days. PM2.5 pollution intensifies seasonally every year, affecting public health.
 - ❖ Natural Resources and Environment Minister Gen Patcharawat Wongsuwan has instructed authorities to prepare mechanisms, data, budgets, regulations, and communications to handle this year’s PM2.5 onslaught.

- ❖ The PCD utilizes 96 air quality monitoring stations, with 12 of them located in Bangkok, to offer a seven-day pollution forecast.



Political News Headlines in Thai Media

- A senior official of the southern office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission on Wednesday called on the government to make a decision on what should be done with an aquarium in Songkhla province left unfinished for 14 years after spending 1.4 billion baht.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40032017>
- The UN secretary-general has expressed his condolences over the loss of Thai lives in Israel, Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said on Wednesday, as the Israeli government confirmed the death of another Thai, raising fatalities to 30.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40032008>
- The pink socks worn by Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin during his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on October 17 in Beijing have garnered considerable attention from the Russian media.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40031998>
- The Israeli Embassy in Bangkok has issued a statement, expressing sadness over the deaths of Thai nationals in, what it described as, the terror attacks.

- Link- <https://www.thaipbsworld.com/israeli-embassy-issues-statement-of-condolence-over-deaths-of-thais-in-gaza-conflict/>
 - Activists demand ‘truth’ about Thaksin hospital stay.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2666723/activists-demand-truth-about-thaksin-hospital-stay>
 - Party wants court to suspend B500bn govt handout.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2666669/party-wants-court-to-suspend-b500bn-govt-handout>
 - Thai travellers warned to be safety conscious.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2666574/thai-travellers-warned-to-be-safety-conscious>
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Economic News Headlines in Thai Media

- The rule limiting the spending of the 10,000-baht handout under the digital wallet scheme to a four-kilometre radius of the registrant’s home address was likely to be amended, Deputy Finance Minister Julapun Amornvivat said on Wednesday.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/policies/40032014>
- Energy Minister Peeraphan Salirathaviphak said talks with Cambodia over the development of the overlapping claims area (OCA) in the Gulf of Thailand should be separated from negotiations on maritime border demarcation.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40032009>
- Thai banks are likely to report profits in the range of 1.86 billion to 1.91 billion baht for the first nine months of this year, Kasikornbank's KResearch Centre said.
 - Link - <https://www.nationthailand.com/business/banking-finance/40032021>
- Air pollution in Bangkok rose to the “orange” level (starting to affect health) on Tuesday, signalling the start of the so-called PM2.5 season.

- Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40032006>
 - Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, who is in China to attend the 3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, has also spent the last couple of days wooing investors.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/business/trading-investment/40032010>
 - Mama has chosen Bangkok's nightlife hub to trial its new restaurant franchise after marketing research showed that instant noodles are a huge hit with drinkers.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/business/corporate/40032007>
 - China interested in Thai landbridge project.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2666694/china-interested-in-thai-landbridge-project>
 - A series of marketing activities and events are being planned by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) to boost tourism in the fourth quarter of this year.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/tourism/40032024>
 - Activists urge end to Tak water project.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2666883/activists-urge-end-to-tak-water-project>
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Issues to be watched out for

- 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 15-17 - Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin attends APEC summit in San Francisco.
- November 29, 2023 - Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting
- December 6, 2023 - November Consumer Confidence Inflation Data
- December 31, 2023 - The last day by which Pheu Thai party has promised to bring about the 20 Baht/ride for the RED and Purple line mass transit to be operational.
- 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/opppdayCalendar>

Key Data

SET Index	1,437.85	+4.45
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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 October 18, 2023

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action
BLC	2,000	5	Purchase
BOFFICE	60,000	5	Purchase
BOFFICE	60,000	5	Purchase
CV	290,000	0.85	Sale
CV	29,400	0.86	Sale
EP	76,000	2.88	Purchase
GPI	640,200	-	Transfer
GUNKUL	1,500,000	2.8	Purchase
PCC	10,000 Revoked by Reporter	3	Purchase
PRIME	1,020,000	0.78	Sale
PRIME	1,700,000	0.73	Sale
PRIME	60,000,000	-	Acceptance of Transfer
PRIME	37,752,588	-	Acceptance of Transfer
PRIME	74,974,221	-	Acceptance of Transfer
PRIME	200,000	0.73	Sale
SUPER	400,000	0.47	Purchase
SUPER	400,000	0.45	Purchase
SVI	100,000	7.25	Purchase
THG	300	64.5	Purchase
VIBHA	200,000	2.05	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 18 October 2023						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	2,960.99	5.60	3,556.61	6.73	-595.61	-
Proprietary Trading	3,561.10	6.73	3,610.32	6.83	-49.23	-
Foreign Investor	31,829.29	60.19	29,029.30	54.90	2,799.98	-
Local Individuals	14,526.17	27.47	16,681.31	31.55	-2,155.15	-
Monthly Cumulative between 1 Oct-18 October 2023						
Unit: M.Baht						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	51,294.89	9.04	44,888.82	7.92	6,406.07	-
Proprietary Trading	41,377.61	7.30	44,060.97	7.77	-2,683.36	-
Foreign Investors	299,068.06	52.73	306,009.98	53.96	-6,941.93	-
Local Individuals	175,382.99	30.93	172,163.78	30.36	3,219.22	-
Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan -18 October 2023						
Unit: M.Baht						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	902,515.52	8.68	845,220.66	8.13	57,294.86	-
Proprietary Trading	794,238.90	7.64	795,198.58	7.65	-959.68	-
Foreign Investors	5,333,503.31	51.28	5,497,615.74	52.86	-164,112.43	-

Local Individuals	3,370,478.81	32.41	3,262,701.56	31.37	107,777.25	-
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Total Trading Value 52,885.69 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.

- 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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