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December 19, 2023

Thai Enquirer News Summary

Economic News

- Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin will chair today's Cabinet meeting after returning from a trip to Japan. He will then take a brief vacation between December 19-22 after finishing the meeting.
 - ❖ One of the primary focus for today's meeting agenda will be the Ministry of Energy's consideration of the Energy Regulatory Commission's (ERC) proposed electricity rates for the 1st quarter of 2024 (January to April).
 - ❖ It is expected that the ministry will maintain the current 3.99 Baht per unit rate for residential consumers using less than 300 units per month, while capping the rate at 4.20 Baht per unit for those who use more than 300 units per month.

- ❖ In a bid to further alleviate financial pressure, the government also plans to announce measures aimed at stabilizing diesel prices at 29.94 Baht per liter as a "New Year's gift" for the Thai people.
- The Ministry of Finance is also expected to propose a package that reduces excise taxes on wine and local spirits. This strategy aims to boost Thailand's appeal as a shopping and tourism destination within the region, potentially attracting travelers seeking competitively priced alcoholic beverages.
- Concluding his official visit to Japan yesterday, Prime Minister Srettha outlined the ambitious Thailand Landbridge project to nearly 30 leading Japanese company executives. The PM highlighted the project's potential as a regional crude oil distribution hub, while promising significant cost savings and substantial economic benefits.
 - ❖ At the core of the presentation, Srettha emphasized that the project can save over 6% in crude oil transportation costs. He stated that this substantial saving can benefit various businesses, particularly those within the New S-curves industries.
 - ❖ The PM also projected that the Landbridge project will create no fewer than 280,000 jobs and contribute to staggering annual GDP growth of 5.5% for Thailand, amounting to around US\$ 670 billion.
 - ❖ The development process for the Landbridge will span from 2025 to 2040 through an international bidding process. A 50-year contract will be awarded to the winning bid to ensure streamlined project execution.
 - ❖ Furthermore, Prime Minister Srettha also discussed business plans with executives from Panasonic Holdings Corporation, inviting the company to expand its investments in battery production facilities for automobiles in Thailand.

ตู้สินค้า	ประหยัดต้นทุนขนส่ง	ประหยัดเวลา	
สินค้าไทย ลาว กัมพูชา เมียนมา และจีนตอนใต้ ใช้ Landbridge ไปเอเชียกลาง ตะวันออกกลาง	35%	14 วัน	
ญี่ปุ่น จีน และเกาหลีใต้ ไปเอเชียกลาง ตะวันออกกลาง	4%	5 วัน	
จากจีนด้านตะวันออก เช่น ได้หวัน เวียดนาม ฟิลิปปินส์ ไปเอเชียกลาง และตะวันออกกลาง	4%	5 วัน	
เป็นจุดกระจายน้ำมันดิบจากตะวันออกกลาง	อย่างน้อย 6%		



• Chai Watcharong, spokesperson for the Prime Minister's Office, announced that a report summarizing the government's accomplishments over the past 90 days is currently being compiled by the Public Relations Department. This comprehensive overview is expected to be accessible to the public by mid-2024.

Chai acknowledged that the current economic picture is a result of actions taken 1-2 years ago, and he pointedly attributed certain challenges to decisions made by the previous government.



- While the report remains forthcoming, the government's performance has drawn mixed reactions. Senator Wanchai Sornsiri voiced strong criticism, awarding Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin a mere "4 out of 10 points".
 - ❖ Wanchai stated that Srettha's administration lacks tangible achievements and that he is managing the government like a private company. The senator accused Srettha of disregarding the complexities of public administration and legal frameworks, citing several projects of the PM such as the digital wallet scheme, off-system debt resolution program, and salary hike for civil servants, that he said could not truly address the need of the public.

- ❖ Wanchai also compared Srettha to former PMs Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha and Thaksin Shinawatra, stating he is not experienced enough to run the country like these 2 leaders.
- As of December 18, over 100,467 people have registered in the government's informal debt resolution program, with a total debt amount exceeding 6 million Baht.
 - ❖ Bangkok remains the epicenter of registrations, with 6,322 debtors signing up. 5,253 creditors have also signed up, with a combined total debt of 511.82 million Baht.



- The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) announced the results of the semi-annual SET index review for SET50 and SET100 indices for the period of the first half of 2024 (January 2 June 30, 2024).
 - ❖ KCE Electronics Plc (KCE) will be added as index constituents SET50, while Ngern Tid Lor Plc (TIDLOR) will be removed from the constituents.
 - As for SET100 Index, 10 securities consisting of AEONTS, ICHI, ITC, M, MOSHI, RBF, SAPPE, SISB, TKN, TOA will be added as index constituents. Meanwhile, ACE, CKP, MBK, PSL, SABUY, PTG, STEC, THANI, TIPH, TOM were removed from the SET100 Index.
 - ❖ INTUCH and DELTA were the 2 securities in the SET50 Index that remained in the constituents following wide speculations earlier that they will be removed.
- The problems in the middle east have prompted shipping lanes to be more cautious in ploughing through the Suez Canal prompting a spike in the crude oil prices and thus prompting a rise in domestic oil prices.

❖ Oil tankers have to deviate from the conflict zone, and this has pushed oil prices to rise by as much as 4% up until this morning.



Political News

- Move Forward Party (MFP) has officially been appointed as the opposition leader by Royal Command, according to MFP leader Chaithawat Tulathon.
 - ❖ The official inauguration ceremony is scheduled to take place on December 20 at 8:30 AM.

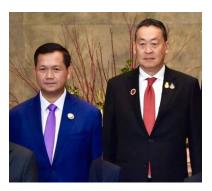


• The Marriage Equality Bill is expected to be deliberated in Parliament on December 21, as announced by the government whip today, following their agreement to forward the bill to the Cabinet.

- ❖ The bill was initially introduced by the main opposition Move Forward Party during the previous administration and successfully passed its first reading. However, it was shelved after the dissolution of the previous parliament ahead of the May election.
- The current government, led by the Pheu Thai Party, revived the bill in October. The responsibility now falls on the current set of lawmakers to deliberate on it. With both the government and the main opposition party advocating for its passage, the bill stands a good chance of becoming law.
- ❖ If the draft bill is approved, Thailand will become the first country in Southeast Asia to legalize same-sex marriage, following in the footsteps of Taiwan and Nepal as the third Asian nation to do so.
- The Criminal Court yesterday postponed the reading of the verdict against 29 former coleaders of the People's Alliance for Democracy to January 17 after many defendants, including Chamlong Srimuang, fell ill.
 - ❖ The 29 defendants have been accused of treason and terrorism in relation to their protests against the Somchai Wongsawat administration at Don Mueang International Airport between November 24 and December 3, 2008.



- Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet is scheduled to visit Thailand to attend the joint Thai Cambodian cabinet meeting in February to discuss bilateral cooperation, especially cross-border trade between the two countries.
 - ❖ PM Srettha told media about the Cambodian leader's planned visit after the two discussed it during their time at the Asean-Japan special summit in Japan.





General News

• His Majesty the King's second eldest son, Vacharaesorn Vivacharawongse, returned to New York on December 18 at 21:30 hrs after touring Thailand for the past few days. He stated in his Facebook account that he wishes to return for the 3rd time in the near future.





- ❖ During his stay in Thailand, he had his Thai ID card made and his last digit of his ID card (985) was the punting number for the lottery draw on December 16.
 - To everyone's surprise the last 2 digits of his ID card 85 were the number for the winning 2 digits.



- The personnel of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) will be working from home on days when PM 2.5 concentration exceeds 75 µg/m³ in more than 15 districts, the administration said. The BMA assures that this decision will not impact their services to the public.
 - Simultaneously, 133 companies and institutions, totaling more than 50,000 employees, have expressed their intention to enable remote work. The BMA believes that this initiative will contribute to alleviating the issue of fine toxic dust by reducing the number of people commuting within the city.
 - ❖ In addition to this measure, the BMA has conducted inspections on 350 factories, 119 cement plants, and 525 construction sites in the capital to ensure compliance with air pollution regulations. Furthermore, they have scrutinized 279,204 vehicles for black smoke emissions, identifying 2,898 violators to date.
 - ❖ The Traffy Fondue platform has received 6,749 complaints related to air pollution, with 1,318 grievances directed at restaurants and street food vendors for non-compliance with regulations.
- Cold wind from China is expected to sweep down to Thailand, potentially causing a temperature drop of 5-8 degrees Celsius in the Northeast, 4-6 degrees Celsius in the North, 3-5 degrees Celsius in the Central region (including Bangkok) and the East, and 2-4 degrees Celsius in the upper southern region between December 20-25, according to the Thai Meteorological Department's announcement.
 - ❖ Heavy rain is also anticipated in the lower southern region between December 22-25, and strong tides of 2-4 meters are expected in the Gulf of Thailand during the same period.

(สำเนา)



ในช่วงรับที่ 20.25 ธ.ค. 66 ปริเวณทวายกลากาศลุขที่ของอากาคเมินกำลับมาตักรอกหนึ่งทากประเทศจีน เลยเรื่องสามากคลุขบรระทที่เพระสะเขาสนให้ อักษณะส่วนให้ทำให้ประเททียมมีเกากเรียกงากไม่มีสมมาร์ สะภาค สะวันอกเมือนหนึ่ง 6 จะทางสหร้อง อาการสามาร์ส

สำหรับมวรุนตะวินอกเลียงเพนิสที่ต้องกลุยเล่าวโทยมอะภาคโดงมีกำลังมะที่น ประกอบกับในช่วงรับที่
22-25 8.4.6 ที่เย่นการแกลกากคร้าก็ก็จะเราก็กระจะเลิงไม่โดยเล่ารับมากับเกลี่ยงมีการใหญ่ของเล่าของเล

จึงขอให้ประชาชนติดตามประกาศจากกรมอุดุนิยมวิทยา และสามารถติดตามข้อมูลที่เว็บไซต์กรมอุดุนิยมวิทยา http://www.tmd.go.th หรือที่ 0-2399-4012-13 และ 1182 ได้ตอดด 24 ขั้วโมง

> ประกาศ ณ รับที่ 18 สีบาคม พ.ศ. 2566 เวลา 11.00 บ. กรมอุดุนิยมวิทยาขอออกประกาศฉบันค่อไปใน วันที่ 19 ชีบาคม พ.ศ. 2566 เวลา 05.00 บ. (ดงชื่อ) การวี สิทธิชั่วภาค (นางสาวกรวรี สิทธิชั่วภาค)



- Tham Luang-Khun Nam Nang Non National Park in Chiang Rai province, which is famous all over the world for the rescue of the 13 Wild Boars football team, or 12 boys, and their coach trapped in a cave, has opened winter tourism under the name "National Parks to Remember" in chambers 2 and 3.
 - ❖ Attapol Charoenchansa, acting director-general of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, said that the tourism is organized in groups of no more than 10 people, with experts and park officials providing assistance throughout the journey.
 - ❖ The service fee for Thai tourists is 950 baht per person, and 1,500 baht per person for foreign tourists, not including equipment and insurance. The cave is open 2 rounds per day, with each round lasting approximately 2.30 hours.
 - ❖ The cave is only open during the summer and winter seasons for safety reasons. Tourists will also need to undergo a preliminary health check. He believes that foreign tourists will be interested and have already booked their tickets in large numbers.





- A recent compilation of data reveals a concerning trend of road accidents on Rama II
 Road in Bangkok. From 2018 to 2023, a total of 2,242 accidents have been reported,
 resulting in 1,303 injuries and 130 fatalities. This translates to an average of over 448
 accidents and 26 deaths per year, highlighting the urgent need for improved safety
 measures on this vital transportation artery.
 - ❖ The latest tragedy occurred on December 15, 2023, when a steel beam collapsed during the construction of an expressway bridge, claiming the life of one worker.



Political News Headlines in Thai Media

- Top court's pick gets nod
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2708264/top-courts-pick-gets-nod
- Legal issues 'make charter rewrite hard'
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2708314/legal-issues-make-charter-rewrite-hard

Economic News Headlines in Thai Media

- The recent meeting between Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin and executives from major Japanese carmakers including Honda, Nissan, Isuzu, and Toyota brings to light a pressing question: Why hasn't Thailand, a nation with robust manufacturing capabilities and a strategic geographical position, cultivated its own indigenous car brand?
 - Link- https://www.thaienquirer.com/51364/why-are-there-no-indigenous-thai-car-brands/
- SMK likely has 60 days to solve woes
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2708274/smk-likely-has-60-days-to-solve-woes
- Debt plan to 'return B500bn'
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2708309/debt-plan-to-return-b500bn
- Sabuy to ask DSI for probe
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/investment/2708344/sabuy-to-ask-dsi-for-probe
- Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin has extended an invitation to Panasonic Holdings Corporation to invest in energy storage technology in Thailand on the sidelines of the three-day summit commemorating the 50th year of Japan's ties with ASEAN nations.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40033912
- Speaking after visiting the areas, Interior Minister Anutin Charnvirakul claimed on Monday that the 4am extension of operating hours for entertainment venues in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Chon Buri, Phuket and on Koh Samui is beneficial, including generating more income.
 - Link- https://www.thaipbsworld.com/interior-minister-visits-late-closing-night-entertainment-areas/
- The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) is planning to establish a national platform for streaming Thai TV content online.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/economy/40033915

- Grab Thailand launched "My Food and Grocery Trend 2023," which studied the behaviours of users in six countries in Southeast Asia, including Thailand, for ordering food and purchasing products in their daily lives.
 - o Link- https://www.khaosodenglish.com/news/2023/12/18/somtam-ranks-in-the-top-order-of-grab-thailand-2023/#google_vignette
- Thailand has 44m registered vehicles
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2707904/thailand-has-44m-registered-vehicles
- B.Grimm invests in Laos plant
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2707611/b-grimm-invests-in-laos-plant

Issues to be watched out for

- December 19-22 Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin takes his 1st vacation (coinciding with the possibility of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra being allowed to go back and serve the rest of his prison term @ home).
- December 20 Constitutional Court calls for a hearing on the 42,000 iTV shares held by former leader of Move Forward party Pita Limjaroenrat.
- December 25 Constitutional Court set to hear the case of the dissolution of the Move Forward party for proposing the amendment of Article 112 (Lese Majeste law) during the May 2023 election campaign.
- January 5, 2024 December & Fiscal Year 2023 Consumer Confidence
 Inflation Data
- January 17th 2024 The Constitutional Court has also set the date of January 17th 2024 as the date to look into the case of false asset declaration and other allegations made against the former Minister of Transport Saksayam Chidchob.

- January 17, 2024 The Criminal Court is set to read out the verdict against 29 former co-leaders of the People's Alliance for Democracy after many defendants, including Chamlong Srimuang, fell ill on December 18th verdict day. They are accused of shutting down the 2 main airports in Bangkok during their protest in December 2008.
- February 7, 2024 Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting
- April 10,2024 Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting
- June 12,2024 Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting
- August 21,2024 Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting
- October 16,2024 Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting
- December 18,2024 Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting

For information on Opportunity Day of various companies click on the link –

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

Kev Data

SET Index 1,393.41 +2.38

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 December 18, 2023

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action
ALT	7,000	1.65	Purchase
ALT	1,000	1.67	Purchase
ALT	5,900	1.64	Purchase
ALT	1,000	1.65	Purchase
AMA	72,000	3.99	Purchase
AMA	20,000	2.06	Sale
AMANAH	20,600	2.06	Sale
AMANAH	57	2.06	Sale
BAREIT	5,000	9.3	Purchase
ВЈСНІ	2,130,000	1.03	Purchase
CPT	50,000	0.63	Sale
CPT	50,000	0.63	Sale
CPT	14,800	0.64	Sale
EP	200	2.64	Purchase
FTE	10,000	1.5	Sale
FTE	10,000	1.5	Sale
HTC	438,100	16.01	Sale
JDF	45,900	2.2	Purchase
JDF	4,100	2.18	Purchase
JDF	2,800	2.18	Purchase
JDF	5,400	2.2	Purchase
JDF	20,000	2.2	Purchase
LEO	21,400	4.22	Purchase
LEO	17,200	4.22	Purchase
MICRO	50,000	1.94	Purchase
MGC	20,000	6.15	Purchase
MBAX	5,000	3.1	Purchase
NCAP	4,000	2.58	Sale
NCAP	22,600	2.68	Sale

PEACE	235,200	3.23	Purchase
PG	23,400	8.9	Purchase
PROUD	30,000	1.36	Purchase
PROUD	40,000	1.38	Purchase
RAM	50,000	33	Sale
SAF	31,700	0.84	Purchase
SAF	13,500	0.85	Purchase
SEAFCO	20,000	2.64	Purchase
SKY	20,000	26	Sale
SKY	10,000	26.25	Sale
SKY	20,000	26	Sale
SKY	20,000	26	Sale
SKY	30,000	26	Sale
SKY	20,000	26	Sale
SKY	4,200	26	Sale
SKY	10,000	25	Sale
SKY	20,000	25	Sale
SKY	20,000	25	Sale
SKY	2,000	0.68	Sale
SUPER	100,000	0.42	Purchase
SUPER	4,250,000	0.42	Purchase
TMILL	900	3.86	Purchase
TMILL	41,000	3.82	Purchase
TRITN	20,000,000	0.13	Purchase
VL	700,000	0.84	Purchase
ZEN	51,500	9.41	Sale
ZEN	27,000	9.25	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 18 December 2023			
		Unit: M.Baht	
Buy	Sell	Net	

Investor Type	Value	%	Value	0/0	Value	0/0
Local Institutions	2,636.03	8.51	2,565.19	8.28	70.85	-
Proprietary Trading	2,707.76	8.74	2,378.41	7.68	329.36	-
Foreign Investor	15,092.14	48.71	15,758.50	50.86	-666.36	-
Local Individuals	10,547.63	34.04	10,281.47	33.18	266.16	-
Monthly Cumulative between 1 Dec -18 December 2023 Unit: M.Baht						aht
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	33,671.40	8.54	29,054.85	7.37	4,616.56	-
Proprietary Trading	29,681.06	7.52	31,076.27	7.88	-1,395.22	-
Foreign Investors	217,858.21	55.22	218,190.44	55.31	-332.24	-
Local Individuals	113,283.82	28.72	116,172.93	29.45	-2,889.10	-
Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan -18 December 2023						
					Unit: M.B	aht
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	1,051,313.68	8.67	976,024.73	8.05	75,288.95	-
Proprietary Trading	924,618.69	7.63	928,836.53	7.66	-4,217.84	-
Foreign Investors	6,252,260.29	51.59	6,444,878.83	53.18	-192,618.53	
Local Individuals	3,891,070.56	32.11	3,769,523.14	31.10	121,547.42	-

Total Trading Value 30,990.59 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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