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December 22, 2023

Thai Enquirer News Summary

Political News

- All 4 drafts of the marriage equality bills have passed their first reading with a vote of 369-10, with one abstention.
 - Next up are the 2nd and 3rd readings.
 - ❖ A 39-member committee has been established to conduct a thorough examination of the four marriage equality bills for potential amendments, with the government-sponsored bill being the primary focus. The second and third readings are scheduled to commence at a subsequent meeting.
 - ❖ The majority of lawmakers from the government and opposition have expressed their support for the draft marriage equality bills during the first reading.

❖ Although the table in the parliament showed 360 votes in favor, the actual count was 369.



- After the passage of the bills, the Pheu Thai Party announced on its official Facebook page that the party has been advocating for this issue since the administration of former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra in 2012. However, these efforts were interrupted by the coup in 2014, before eventually gaining traction again during the administration of Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin.
 - ❖ PM Srettha on his Facebook "We are finally on the road to bridging the gap to equal rights for all today. Congratulations to the LGBTQIA+ community for the Same-Sex Marriage Bill passing its first reading. May love finally triumph."



- Former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra is ill and will continue to undergo treatment at the Police General Hospital after 120 days, according to Justice Minister Police Colonel Tawee Sodsong.
 - ❖ He maintained that the ex-premier was hospitalised in line with existing regulations and did not benefit from any special treatment.
 - ❖ Thaksin returned to Thailand on August 22, after 15 years of self-imposed exile overseas, to face prison terms for corruption cases stemming from his tenure between February 2001 and September 2006. On the night of his return, Thaksin was moved from Bangkok Remand Prison to the Police General Hospital for treatment of an unidentified disease. He reportedly has stayed in a suite on the 14th floor of a hospital building overlooking the Royal Bangkok Sports Club.

- ❖ Yesterday (Dec 21) marks the 120th day of Thaksin's stay at the hospital. The regulations call for written confirmation from the Corrections Department directorgeneral and the doctor in charge in case any prisoner needs to stay at a hospital for longer than 120 days.
- Winyat Chatmontree, personal lawyer of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, took to Facebook to address circulating rumors surrounding Thaksin's ongoing hospitalization.
 - ❖ The lawyer strongly condemned accusations suggesting that Thaksin's illness is fabricated, his stay at the Police Hospital is a facade, or that he is receiving special privileges above other detainees.
 - ❖ Winyat further asserted that demands for the disclosure of Thaksin's personal health information without his consent is against the law. He warned that if such behavior persists, he will seek legal action to protect Thaksin's rights.



- Democrat Party will be in the opposition for now, said the party secretary-general, Dech-it Khaothong.
 - Regarding the exodus from the party after Chalermchai Sri-on became the new leader, Dech-it stated that fewer than 100 people had left the party. He emphasized that only the resignations of high-profile members made the news, potentially leading to a misleading impression. The party anticipates gathering at least 20,000 new members as it undergoes changes over the next three months.
 - ❖ Dech-it said the party is currently 100% in the opposition, but he cannot predict the future. He added that the party plans to meet with the Move Forward Party after the new year, and the Democratic Party will surely participate in the next censure debate against the government when it occurs.



- The Anti-Corruption Organization of Thailand (ACT) has released a report on 10 infamous corruption cases, which include incidents such as the shooting of a highway police officer at a dinner party of Kamnan Nok and the smuggling of illegal frozen pork.
 - ❖ The ACT also calls for the government to declare the fight against corruption a national agenda and have the Prime Minister working at the forefront. For more details on the cases, you can refer to the provided link: http://www.anticorruption.in.th/2016/th/



- The Criminal Court dismissed a lese-majeste case against Aniwat 'Nara Crepe Katoey' Prathumthin.
 - The influencer was accused of royal defamation for creating a video that allegedly impersonated members of the royal family, which appeared on Lazada's platforms in May 2022.
 - ❖ Two other actors in the video, Kittikhun "Momdew Diary" Thamkittirat and Thidaporn "Noo Rat" Chaokuwiang, were also charged with lese-majeste. Kittikhun has fled the country, while Thidaporn was charged in a separate case from Aniwat's.

❖ Despite the court's decision that Nara's actions do not constitute lese-majeste, Nara will continue to be incarcerated in another separate personal case, according to the Thai Lawyers for Human Rights.



Economic News

- PTT Plc, Thailand's leading oil & gas conglomerate, has given greenlight to investment budget of 89.2 billion Baht for 5 years (2024 2021), with 65% investment of 58.5 billion Baht, focusing on 'natural gas business and integrated EV business' and preparing a budget of 107 billion Baht to support investment projects during the period energy transition.
- The Treasury Department announced that the base land prices for 2024 will remain unchanged.
 - ❖ The department assesses land prices every four years. The prices are a base for landowners to pay relevant taxes to the state.
 - ❖ The department's latest decision came amid moderate land price growth, falling short of the 15% threshold required for reassessment. While there are developments like new electric train lines influencing certain areas, significant land price adjustments have not been observed, the department reported. The next base price adjustment is expected in 2027.
 - ❖ Areas with the highest base prices, reaching up to 1 million Baht per square wah, include Witthayu Road (Rama IV Ploenchit), Ploenchit Road (Ratchadamri Chalerm Mahanakorn Expressway), and Silom Road (Rama IV Narathiwat Ratchanakarin).
 - ❖ In 2023, there were 9.8 million transactions of land across the country, with a total value exceeding 20 trillion Baht. This represents an increase from the 6.6 million transactions valued at 14 trillion Baht in 2022.

- Thailand's exports to Europe and the Middle East, totaling an estimated 1.31 trillion Baht, are facing disruption due to militant attacks on vessels in the Red Sea. Experts warn of higher shipping costs and delays if the situation worsens.
 - ❖ Assoc Prof Aat Pisanwanich, an international economics scholar, highlighted the crucial role of the Red Sea for global trade, with about 15% of world shipping traffic passing through the Suez Canal. This disruption could impact Thai exports via longer detours around Africa, potentially raising costs by 15%.
 - ❖ Aat emphasized the vulnerability of Thai exports worth \$37.8 billion to these regions, including farm products, car parts, and rubber. He warned that further escalation involving Hezbollah or Houthi rebels could trigger a global trade crisis.



- Yesterday, Kirati Ratchano, permanent secretary at the Commerce Ministry, called for an urgent meeting with the private sector to discuss the impact of the events. He revealed that currently, there are 100-120 ships passing through the route daily between November and December 2023, including cargo and oil tankers.
 - ❖ Kirati mentioned that cargo ships have gradually shifted their routes away from the Red Sea, and large shipping companies have turned to alternative routes. This has extended travel times by 7-14 days and raised extra costs.
 - ❖ Meanwhile, Thai Oil Public Company Limited stated that the prices of West Texas Intermediate and Brent crude oil have continuously increased due to the change in shipping routes, which saw an extended transportation time from 20 to 30 days and a 25% increase in maritime cargo transportation costs.

- In the case of Thailand, it is expected that the impact will result in an increase in fuel prices by around 0.50 Baht per liter. During the past week, oil prices have already risen by 3-4 dollars, with global diesel prices increasing by almost 10 dollars, nearly reaching the 100-dollar mark per barrel.
 - ❖ Therefore, during the New Year holiday season when oil traders traditionally withhold price adjustments for a period of 10 days from December 24, 2023, to January 2, 2024, oil companies will have to bear the burden of these increased costs.
 - Today both Bangchak and PTT announced a price increase in Benzine and Gasohol by 0.40 Baht per liter.
- Three officers at the state-owned broadcaster, the Mass Communication Organisation of Thailand (MCOT), have been transferred from their positions following the discovery of listening devices in the conference room used for the broadcaster's board meetings.
 - ❖ Police found bugging devices in the MCOT board meeting room during a sweep of its headquarters yesterday after searching the sixth floor of the headquarters at the request of the MCOT. Officials working in the affected areas were removed and the floor had been cordoned off.
 - ❖ The three transferred officers have been accused of disclosing organizational secrets. News sources suggested that the issue may be an internal conflict because the MCOT is preparing to open applications for the position of Director General between January 16 and February 6, 2024.



• Deputy Prime Minister and Energy Minister Pirapan Salirathavibhaga has expressed his personal disagreement with Transport Minister Suriya Juangroongruangkit's suggestions to increase the excise tax for benzene oil at filling stations in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region. The proposed tax hike aims to encourage residents in and around the capital to

utilize public transportation and contribute to funding the 20-Baht maximum fare policy for electric trains.

- ❖ Pirapan clarified that the transport ministry has not yet informed the energy ministry about the suggestion, and no proposal has been submitted to the Cabinet on this matter. He said any move to raise the tax would necessitate government approval but voiced his opposition, highlighting that the energy ministry's focus is on reducing taxes to lower oil prices, not increasing them.
- ❖ He also pointed out that there are other ways to help with the funding of the 20-Baht maximum fare policy.
- The SET index closed up 0.32% yesterday at 1,404.84 points (up 4.47 points), buoyed by increased buying interest in power plant and communication sectors.
 - The power plant sector surged on a combination of positive developments, such as GUNKUL securing a power supply contract with the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA), while falling natural gas prices boosted the prospects of small power producers.
 - Adding to the positive vibe, the upcoming implementation of the government's tax deduction Easy e-Receipt measure from January 1 to February 15, 2024, raised expectations for a boost in the retail sector.
 - ❖ However, the stocks of the PTT Group, including PTT, PTTEP, and PTTGC, saw declines in their prices yesterday. PTT shares closed at 35 Baht per share, down by 0.25 Baht or -0.71%, PTTEP shares at 146 Baht per share, down by 1.50 Baht or -1.02%, PTTGC shares at 37.50 Baht per share, down by 3 Baht or -7.41%. The decline was attributed to the pressure related to the government's new calculation formula for natural gas pricing, which could impact PTT's profits by over 30 billion Baht per year.

Impact Gain	Trade	Change	%Chg	Impact
DELTA	91.00↑	+1.25	1.39	+1.262
AOT	60.50↓	+1.00	1.68	+1.160
CPN	67.50	+1.00	1.50	+0.360
BBL	152.50	+1.50	0.99	+0.225
CPAXT	26.50	+0.25	0.95	+0.215
CPALL	55.25↑	+0.25	0.45	+0.182
BH	218.00↓	+3.00	1.40	+0.180
CBG	82.75	+2.25	2.80	+0.180
DIF	7.60	+0.20	2.70	+0.172
MTC	45.25	+1.00	2.26	+0.170

General News

Toyota's mess

RAIZE

YARIS / VIOS

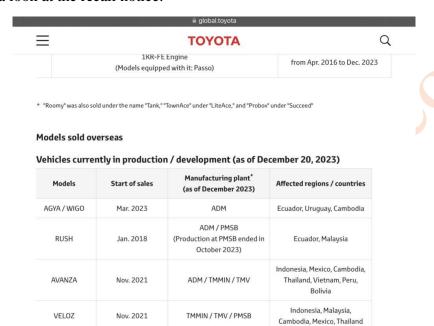
YARIS CROSS

Apr. 2021

Aug. 2022

Aug. 2023

❖ If you or someone you know is driving the newer version of Toyota's Avanza or Veloz (in Thailand), which were sold after November 2021, please ask them to take a look at the recall notice.



ADM

TMT / ASSB

TMMIN

Ecuador, Mexico

Mexico, Malaysia

Cambodia, Chile, Uruguay



- Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said the government will strive to improve the living conditions of the Thai people to instil greater confidence in starting families, especially as Thailand's birth rate has reached a 71-year low.
 - ❖ Last week, the Social Development and Human Security Ministry reported that approximately 502,000 children were born in Thailand in 2022, marking the lowest birth rate in 71 years and falling below the ministry's target of 700,000.
 - ❖ Currently, there are approximately 10.9 million Thai children, constituting about 16% of the population. In contrast, the working-age population makes up roughly 64% (42.6 million), while the elderly population comprises around 20% (13.5 million). If the declining birth rate persists, it is projected that children will make up only 13% of the population by 2040, with the working-age and elderly populations increasing to 56% and 31%, respectively. ■



Political News Headlines in Thai Media

- Former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra is really ill and will continue to undergo treatment at the Police General Hospital after 120 days, according to Justice Minister Police Colonel Tawee Sodsong.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40034011
- Deputy Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai on Thursday insisted that former prime
 minister Thaksin Shinawatra is eligible to receive medical treatment outside the prison
 due to his ailing heath, and called on his opponents not to politicise it.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40034001

- The Criminal Court on Thursday acquitted an influencer of lèse-majesté charges related to an online Lazada promotion advertisement last year.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40034005
- Man seriously wounded in Yala gun attack
 - Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2710238/man-seriously-wounded-in-yala-gun-attack
- MFP water banned for safety violation
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2710678/mfp-water-banned-for-safety-violation

Economic News Headlines in Thai Media

- The upcoming New Year's festival is expected to see the most active spending spree in four years, with an estimated 105 billion baht set to change hands, according to the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC).
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40034018
- The Bangkok electric bus and boat service concessionaire said on Thursday that it would extend the service hours of its bus and boat fleets on New Year's eve to cater to merrymakers in the capital.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40034013
- As the New Year approaches, one popular gift takes the spotlight in Thailand Danish butter cookies in a distinctive red tin.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40033987
- Thailand's exports to Europe and the Middle East, worth an estimated 1.31 trillion baht, are facing disruption due to militants attacking vessels along a major shipping route in the Red Sea, experts have warned.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/economy/40034016

- Thai bond rally may be ending
 - Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/investment/2710361/thai-bond-rally-may-be-ending
- Rice prices scale fresh 15-year high as supply risks longer
 - Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2710278/rice-prices-scale-fresh-15-year-high-as-supply-risks-lnger
- Rebranding transforms Centra by Centara into Centara Life
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2710718/rebranding-transforms-centra-by-centara-into-centara-life
- KBank predicts marginal gains
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2710693/kbank-predicts-marginal-gains
- Gulf anticipates bullish outlook for solar farms
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2710708/gulf-anticipates-bullish-outlook-for-solar-farms
- Thaicom inaugurates satellite gateway
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2710658/thaicom-inaugurates-satellite-gateway
- Listed Thai firms cash in on overseas outlays
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2710623/listed-thai-firms-cash-in-on-overseas-outlays
- Groups seek more money for seniors
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2710688/groups-seek-more-money-for-seniors

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 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.
- January 24, 2024 The Constitutional Court would announce its verdict in the iTV shareholding case against former Move Forward Party leader Pita Limjaroenrat.
- 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

Key Data

SET Index 1,404.84 +4.47

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

Stock Code

Link - http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/stocks/world-indexes/

Volume

Information on December 21, 2023

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Value

Action

CPT	50,000	0.64	Sale
FTE	10,000	1.5	Sale
GABLE	100,000	4.19	Purchase
JDF	13,900	2.18	Purchase
JDF	50,000	2.18	Purchase
LEO	470,700	0.53	Sale
MCS	45,000	6.45	Purchase
MCA	1,000,000	2.64	Sale
MICRO	100,000	2	Purchase
MBAX	5,000	3.16	Purchase

MGI	50,000	20	Sale
MGI	50,000	18.4	Purchase
MGI	100,000	16.9	Sale
PEACE	10,000	3.18	Purchase
PROUD	30,000	1.37	Purchase
SABUY	49,100	2.02	Sale
SE-ED	9,515,022	-	Transfer
SO	5,000	7.2	Sale
SCM	27,700	3.44	Sale
SPALI	400,000	17.89	Purchase
SPALI	30,000	18.1	Purchase
SPALI	400,000	17.89	Purchase
SPALI	30,000	18.1	Purchase
SUPER	150,000	0.42	Purchase
TNR	10,000	9.9	Purchase
TNR	1,600	9.9	Purchase
TSTE	1,000	9.55	Purchase
VIBHA	100,000	1.78	Purchase
KUN	907,600	0.04	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 21 December 2023							
				Unit: M.Baht			
Investor Type	Buy	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	
Local Institutions	2,968.99	7.66	3,087.00	7.96	-118.01	-	
Proprietary Trading	2,812.29	7.26	2,929.45	7.56	-117.16	-	
Foreign Investor	19,710.76	50.85	19,231.51	49.62	479.25	-	
Local Individuals	13,268.84	34.23	13,512.92	34.86	-244.08	-	
Monthly Cumulative between 1 Dec -21 December 2023							

					Unit: M.E	Baht	
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net		
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	
Local Institutions	45,623.58	8.96	39,285.89	7.72	6,337.69	-	
Proprietary Trading	38,338.73	7.53	39,867.93	7.83	-1,529.20	-	
Foreign Investors	273,054.84	53.63	274,355.29	53.88	-1,300.45	-	
Local Individuals	152,149.48	29.88	155,657.51	30.57	-3,508.03	-	
Yearly Cumulative	since 1 Jan -2	1 December	r 2023				
					Unit: M.Baht		
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net		
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	0/0	
Local Institutions	1,063,265.85	8.69	986,255.77	8.06	77,010.08	-	
Proprietary Trading	933,276.36	7.63	937,628.18	7.66	-4,351.82	-	
Foreign Investors	6,307,456.92	51.56	6,501,043.67	53.14	-193,586.75		

3,809,007.73 31.13

120,928.49

Total Trading Value 38,806.30 Million Baht

Background Information

Local Individuals

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

3,929,936.22 32.12

List of MPs - https://www.ect.go.th/ect_th/download/article/article_20190508184334.pdf

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