

THAI ENQUIRER



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April 19, 2024

Thai Enquirer News Summary

Political News

- Finally, a decision was made to remove the suspended Deputy National Police Chief Pol Gen Surachate Hakparn from the Royal Thai Police force.
 - ❖ Surachate was serving in an inactive post at the Prime Minister's Office, ever since he was alleged to have been involved in money laundering cases and failed to report to the police station where the cases were filed.
 - ❖ Additionally, 4 of his subordinates have also been suspended from the police force. They are:
 - Pol Col Kittichai Sangkhathaworn

- Pol Lt Gen Krit Pariyaket
 - Pol Sgt Natthawut Wadwaew
 - Pol Sgt Natthanan Chuchak
- ❖ Pol Gen Surachate is facing allegations of accepting bribes and involvement in money laundering related to the Minnie illegal online gambling ring, which is currently under investigation by the National Anti-Corruption Commission. Moreover, he is implicated in the BNK Master illegal online gambling website, which is a case being handled by the police. These 2 investigations are believed to be interconnected.
 - ❖ Before the suspension, Pol Gen Kittirat Phanphet, Acting National Police Chief, met with Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin at the Government House to discuss legal matters before imposing the suspension on Pol Gen Surachate.



- Senator's study Trip in the last few days in office.
 - ❖ The Senate, which thinks it is holier than thou, as it says it does everything for 'country' is under fire for using 81 million Baht for 'overseas study trip'.
 - The 250 senators were appointed by the military junta to continue the military's stronghold on appointing the Prime Minister, but their term ends on May 10th.
 - ❖ Several Senate standing committees have scheduled overseas trips under this budget. These include the Senate Committee on Military and National Security, which plans to attend a bilateral meeting in Kazakhstan and Georgia from May 2 to 9, the Senate Committee on Tourism, which plans to visit Croatia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina from May 14 to 23, and the Senate Committee on Labor, which will travel to New Zealand from April 26 to May 3.

- ❖ Gen Bunsang Niampradit, chairman of the Senate Committee on Military and National Security, defended these trips, saying they are necessary for information gathering and that the allocated budget is not excessive. He further clarified that the trips are not intended for leisure or personal gain, emphasizing that the Senate did not use any funds to travel abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ On the other hand, Senator Seri Suwanpanon disagreed with the trips, saying that the senators' terms are due to end in May, so these trips might not be necessary.



- The progress of the cabinet reshuffle has recently gained momentum, with expectations that the new ministers will submit their backgrounds to the Cabinet Secretary's Office within the next week.
- ❖ After verifying qualifications and if there are no issues, Prime Minister Srettha will sign the royal command before the end of April.

โอกาสสูงสุด	วาทกรรมคนใหม่	โยกกระทรวง
<p>บพ. อดิศักดิ์ ศรีแก้ว สว. สาธารณสุข</p> <p>สุทิน คลังแสง สว. กษัตริย์</p> <p>พวงเพ็ชร ชุนละเอียด สส. ประจำสำนักนายกรัฐมนตรี</p> <p>เกรียง กัลป์ตินันท์ สส. มาลาโย</p> <p>ไอชา พรหมมา สส. ราชประสงค์-สาทร</p> <p>กฤษณา จินะวิจารณ์ สส. คลองเตย</p> <p>อนุชา นาคาศัย สส. ราชประสงค์-สาทร</p>	<p>พิชัย ชุมพวนิช สว. คลัง</p> <p>เผ่าภูมิ โรจนสกุล สส. คลัง</p> <p>พิชิต ชินนาม สส. ประจำสำนักนายกรัฐมนตรี</p> <p>พล.อ.ณัฐพล นาคพาณิชย์ สส. ภาณุรักษ์</p> <p>ไผ่ ลิกค์ สส. ราชประสงค์-สาทร</p> <p>อรรถกร ศิริลัทธยากร สส. ภาณุรักษ์</p> <p>สุชาติ ชนกลั่น รองพระเอกภพ</p>	<p>เศรษฐา ทวีสิน นายกฯ + สว. ภาณุรักษ์</p> <p>สุริยะ จึงรุ่งเรืองกิจ สว. คนนาหมื่น + รองนายกฯ</p> <p>สมศักดิ์ เทพสุทิน สว. สาธารณสุข</p> <p>จักรพงษ์ แสงมณี สส. ลำปาง</p> <p>สส. ประจำสำนักนายกรัฐมนตรี</p> <p>สุดาวรรณ หวังศุภกิจโกศล สว. การท่องเที่ยวและกีฬา</p> <p>สว. วัฒนาธรรม (กำลังพิจารณาต่อรองอยู่)</p> <p>เสริมศักดิ์ พงษ์พานิช สว. วัฒนาธรรม</p> <p>สว. การท่องเที่ยวและกีฬา (รอรัฐมนตรีโยกกระทรวง)</p>

- Yesterday Prime Minister Srettha said that during the cabinet meeting, none of the cabinet members inquired about a potential cabinet reshuffle.
 - ❖ He emphasized that the most effective defense against removal from the cabinet is for ministers to stay focused on their work. Additionally, he expressed gratitude to the media for reporting on speculation regarding the cabinet reshuffle, noting that such reports encouraged ministers to remain committed to their responsibilities.
 - ❖ When questioned about the possibility of relinquishing the finance minister role to assume the defense minister position, he responded that anything was possible and would depend on circumstances.
 - ❖ Regarding inquiries about the Pheu Thai Party's purported deal involving a ministerial swap for a House Speaker position, Srettha stated he was unaware of such an agreement and told reporters to inquire with Pheu Thai leader Paetongtarn Shinawatra instead.
- Reports that current Minister of Public Health – Chonlanan Srikaew, would be made the House Speaker, and that incumbent House Speaker Wan Muhamad Noor Matha would be asked to resign from the post prompted Wan Nor to tell reporters that he is not deeply attached to any position of power, neither in the past nor the present, but he is determined to ensure that the legislative branch is not interfered with by other branches.
 - ❖ He emphasized that the House Speaker's position should remain neutral and uninfluenced by any party.
 - ❖ Wan Noor explained that he was nominated and voted into the position by lawmakers. If he were to resign due to political interference, parliament would lose its legitimacy. While the prime minister has the power to reshuffle the cabinet, the House Speaker's term is stipulated in the charter, and a House Speaker cannot be replaced unless the term expires or due to resignation.



- Chaiwat Limlikitaksorn, Director-General of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, has sparked controversy by posting a video on social media alleging that the recent wildfires in 17 northern provinces, particularly in Chiang Mai, were intentionally set to create smoke pollution and disrupt government control.
 - ❖ Chaiwat claimed that the wildfires were initiated in areas controlled by the main opposition party, specifically 10 districts under the Move Forward Party.



- ❖ In response to these allegations, Nitiphon Phiwmoh, a list MP from the Move Forward Party, refuted the claims, stating that the party has been working in collaboration with the Progressive Movement Foundation since before the onset of the wildfire season and the severe PM 2.5 pollution in the northern region.
 - ❖ He also criticized Chaiwat's accusations as baseless, highlighting that wildfires occur every year in the northern region.
- Former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's return to Thailand will follow a model similar to Thaksin's and will be in accordance with regulations, according to Pichit Chuenban, Thaksin's former lawyer and adviser to Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin.
 - ❖ “When the time comes, there are procedures that must be followed, and the law clearly states what needs to be done: steps 1, 2, 3, and 4. So, there's nothing complicated about it,” he said.
 - ❖ Pichit did not comment on the timeline but stated that the return of Thaksin and Yingluck from self-exile does not represent a double standard in the justice system, as their actions are and will be carried out in accordance with regulations.



- Meanwhile Justice Minister Thawee Sodsong rejected the notion that there is a “Thaksin Model” for self-exiled individuals to return to Thailand, and stated that the return of Yingluck would be handled in accordance with regulations applicable to everyone.
 - ❖ He said that if Yingluck were to return, she would be transported from the airport directly to court and then to prison, as dictated by regulations. When asked whether Yingluck would be required to adhere to the same rules as other inmates, such as cutting her hair, he responded that this would be determined by the prison regulations for female inmates.
 - ❖ During Thaksin's return, he was permitted to greet his supporters at the airport without being handcuffed or forced to cut his hair later. Authorities cited his age and health as reasons for not applying restraints or requiring a haircut.
 - ❖ In response to a question about whether Yingluck would also spend only a few hours in prison before being transferred to a hospital outside, similar to the "Thaksin Model," Thawee stated that such a model does not exist.



- Pheu Thai list MP Chusak Sirinil has requested House Speaker Wan Muhamad Noor Matha to clarify the procedure Parliament should follow for charter amendment after the Constitution Court dismissed the petition seeking clarification on whether Parliament has the authority to amend Section 256.
 - ❖ He stated that the current House Speaker should reconsider former House Speaker Chuan Leekpai's decision to reject the introduction of the draft bill to amend Section 256 in June 2021.
 - ❖ Regarding the court's ruling, which stated that amending this section would effectively replace the charter and therefore require a referendum prior to amendment, Chusak said this ruling might have made the possibility of conducting two referendums impossible, potentially leading lawmakers to opt for the government's proposal of three referendums instead of two.

❖ Chusak outlined the three questions for the referendums as follows:

- Do you support a new charter?
- Do you agree that Section 256 should be amended to facilitate the establishment of the charter drafting committee?
- Do you accept the new charter?



Economic News

- The Oil Fuel Fund Committee is scheduled to hold a meeting today, chaired by Minister of Energy Pirapan Salirathavibhaga, to discuss strategies for addressing the impending diesel fuel price increase following the expiration of the diesel excise tax reduction measure on April 19 (today).
 - ❖ With the tax reduction measure coming to an end, the diesel fuel price is expected to immediately surge by 1 Baht per liter on April 20, from the current price of 30.44 Baht per liter to 31.44 Baht per liter.
 - ❖ To mitigate the impact of this price hike, the Oil Fuel Fund Committee has proposed several potential solutions, including having the fund subsidize the price increase by 0.50 Baht per liter, temporarily absorbing the entire 1 Baht per liter price

increase, and negotiating with the Ministry of Finance to seek an extension of the diesel excise tax reduction.

- ❖ The Ministry of Finance has been implementing a diesel excise tax reduction measure since February 18, 2022, to alleviate the burden on consumers and businesses amid rising global oil prices. The total amount of excise tax reduction provided so far amounts to over 178 billion Baht. The current excise tax rate for diesel is 4.77 Baht per liter. It is estimated that every 1 Baht reduction in diesel excise tax results in a monthly revenue loss of 2 billion Baht for the government.



- Today, 5 Thai banks are scheduled to release their financial results for the first quarter of 2024. These banks include SCB X Plc (SCB), Krungthai Bank Plc (KTB), TMBThanachart Bank Plc (TTB), Bank of Ayudhya Plc (BAY), and Kiatnakin Phatra Bank Plc (KKP).
- ❖ Yesterday Bangkok Bank Plc (BBL) has announced its Q1/2024 consolidated financial statement through the Stock Exchange of Thailand.
- ❖ BBL reported a net profit 10.524 billion Baht in the first quarter of 2024, an increase of 3.9%. This was primarily due to an increase in net interest income from a rise in yield on earning assets in line with the interest rates trend, offset by the increase in cost of deposits from the rise in deposit interest rates. Net interest income in the first quarter of 2024 amounted to 33.422 billion Baht, increased by 11.1% from the rise in yields on earning assets following the interest rates trend.
- ❖ This was offset by an increase in the cost of deposits from rising deposit interest rates. The net interest margin stood at 3.06%.

Headline: Financial Performance Quarter 1 (F45) (Unreviewed)
Security Symbol: BBL

Announcement Details

Summary of operating result form (F45)

Company name	BANGKOK BANK PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED	
Quarter	Quarter 1	
(In thousands)		
Financial Statement	Quarter 1	
Status	Unreviewed	
Ending	31 March	
Year	2024	2023
Profit (loss) attributable to equity holders of the Company *	10,523,651	10,129,289
EPS (baht)	5.51	5.31

*For consolidated financial statements

❖ Other financial institutions that reported their Q1 results were the likes of

▪ Kiatnakin Phatra Bank Plc (KKP)

Headline: Financial Performance Quarter 1 (F45) (Unreviewed)
Security Symbol: KKP

Announcement Details

Summary of operating result form (F45)

Company name	KIATNAKIN PHATRA BANK PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED	
Quarter	Quarter 1	
(In thousands)		
Financial Statement	Quarter 1	
Status	Unreviewed	
Ending	31 March	
Year	2024	2023
Profit (loss) attributable to equity holders of the Company *	1,506,023	2,084,864
EPS (baht)	1.78	2.46

*For consolidated financial statements

▪ CIMB Bank (Thailand) Plc (CIMBT)

Headline: Financial Performance Quarter 1 (F45) (Unreviewed)
Security Symbol: CIMBT

Announcement Details

Summary of operating result form (F45)

Company name	CIMB THAI BANK PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED	
Quarter	Quarter 1	
(In thousands)		
Financial Statement	Quarter 1	
Status	Unreviewed	
Ending	31 March	
Year	2024	2023
Profit (loss) attributable to equity holders of the Company *	626,106	830,132
EPS (baht)	0.02	0.02

*For consolidated financial statements

- Transport Minister Suriya Juangroongruangkit reaffirmed the government's commitment to implementing a 20-Baht flat fare policy for all electric trains in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region within 2 years. Currently, this policy is only applied to the MRT Purple and Red electric train lines.
 - ❖ In September 2023, Suriya said the policy would be extended to all lines by September 2025, and he reiterated that this goal remains achievable. He previously said that successful implementation of the policy hinges on developing a unified ticketing system for all lines, with negotiations underway with private companies.
 - ❖ Yesterday, he stated that a draft bill proposing the establishment of a fund to compensate private companies for the flat fare policy will soon be submitted to the cabinet.
- The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) index closed lower yesterday (April 18, 2024) at 1,361.02 points, a decline of 5.92 points or -0.43%. Total trading value reached 53.9 billion Baht.
 - ❖ The SET index bucked the trend of regional markets, despite initially rising in line with them during the morning session. The lack of fresh positive drivers, however, led to a downward trend in the afternoon. The index briefly dipped below the crucial 1,350-point support level before rebounding.
 - ❖ Energy, petrochemical, and agricultural sectors were the primary drag on the market. The energy sector saw a significant decline following a drop in crude oil prices. Analysts, however, remain cautious about the potential escalation of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

Impact Loss	Trade	Change	%Chg	Impact
PTTEP	159.00↑	-5.00	-3.05	-1.65
GULF	40.75	-1.25	-2.98	-1.21
PTT	34.25↑	-0.50	-1.44	-1.18
EA	31.25	-2.25	-6.72	-0.69
ADVANC	197.00↑	-2.50	-1.25	-0.62
TRUE	7.85	-0.15	-1.87	-0.42
PTTGC	39.00	-1.00	-2.50	-0.37
SCB	105.00	-1.00	-0.94	-0.28
CRC	34.50↑	-0.50	-1.43	-0.25
STA	17.40↓	-1.40	-7.45	-0.18

- Analysts at J.P. Morgan downgraded its projections for both the SET index and the MSCI Thailand index yesterday. They now expect the SET index to reach 1,500 points by the end of 2024, a downward revision from its previous target of 1,700 points. Similarly, the MSCI Thailand index is now projected to hit 500 points, down from the earlier forecast of 550 points.

- ❖ The downward revisions stem from concerns over Thailand’s sluggish economic performance observed in recent months. While the tourism sector is expected to continue supporting the country’s growth, J.P. Morgan highlighted weaknesses in the automotive production and sales segments.
- ❖ Additionally, they also pointed out the negative impact of declining public expenditure and the slowdown in loan growth, which has even turned negative.
- The 172.3 billion Baht from the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) that could be used to fund the 10,000 Baht digital wallet policy is not a loan; it is part of the bank's budget, according to the Council of State’s secretary-general, Pakorn Nilprapunt.
 - ❖ Pakorn explained that in order to meet the criteria, the 172.3 billion Baht must be allocated to registered farmers, and it will be the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance to ensure that the recipients are indeed farmers, as has been done with previous support measures.
 - Last week, the government said that this budget would be used to fund the 10,000 Baht digital wallet policy as part of the handout to 17 million farmers.
 - ❖ When asked whether the government's request to the Council of State to verify if using the BAAC's budget would violate the State Fiscal and Financial Discipline Act would further delay the policy, if matters are handled through a cabinet meeting, the Council of State could provide their suggestions promptly. However, if it is an official request, it must follow proper procedures, which could take longer—typically requiring 2-3 meetings before the Council of State can provide an official response.



- An opposition MP warned that if the government's 10,000 Baht digital wallet policy fails to meet its economic growth target, it could worsen the country's readiness for future risks.
 - ❖ The government anticipates that the policy will increase Thailand's GDP growth by 1.2-1.6%. According to the World Bank's latest report on Thailand, the policy could contribute to a near-term growth increase of approximately 1%.
 - ❖ Move Forward Party-list MP Chulapong Yukate said ongoing geopolitical conflicts in the Middle East and Europe could intensify, potentially impacting global economic recovery. Thailand needs a buffer against these risks.
 - ❖ He argued that allocating 500 billion Baht for economic stimulus might not be justified, as it may not achieve the growth targets, given that the state's current tax collection is only around 13.7%, down from 17% in the past, and considerably lower than the 35% seen in developed countries. In essence, he suggested that the government would be overspending relative to its revenue.



- Thailand's Suvarnabhumi Airport is ranked at 58th in the Skytrax World Airport Awards 2024, an improvement from last year's 68th placing. The international airport ranking website places Doha Hamad Airport at the top of the list. Singapore Changi, last year's winner, dropped to 2nd place this year.
 - ❖ Airports of Thailand (AOT) adds that their satellite terminal one (SAT-1) received 4 stars this year, for the architecture, cleanliness, overall atmosphere, facilities and automation. These automatic systems include check-ins terminals, bag drop, self-boarding gates and the passenger validation system.
 - ❖ Don Mueang International Airport is ranked tenth among the World's Best Low-Cost Airline Terminals. The rankings are based on traveller questionnaires conducted from August 2023 to March 2024.



- Paetongtarn Shinawatra, chairperson of the National Soft Power Strategy Committee, led a delegation to welcome Bénédicte Epinet, Managing Director of Comité Colbert, a prestigious French private organization representing over 90 luxury brands, on Thursday.
 - ❖ The meeting aimed to explore opportunities for collaboration in the fashion industry between Thailand and France, enhance Thailand's soft power, elevate Thai fashion, and expand international distribution channels.



- Italy's major motorcycle manufacturer, Ducati Motor Holding, is investing 400 million Baht in a new factory in the Amata City Rayong Industrial Estate, thereby increasing its production capacity in Thailand to 20,000 units per year.
 - ❖ Previously, Ducati was producing around 10,000 units per year in a rented factory. The new investment will cover the costs of land purchase and relocation. This new facility will mark Ducati's first production factory in Asia and will cover an area of 96,000 square meters, expected to employ 253 people.
 - ❖ This investment is intended to support Ducati's goal of making Thailand one of its export hubs. Ducati sold 58,000 units last year and anticipates sales of more than 65,000 units this year. In Thailand, the Federation of Thai Industries' Automotive Club projects sales of around 15,000 big bikes in 2024.

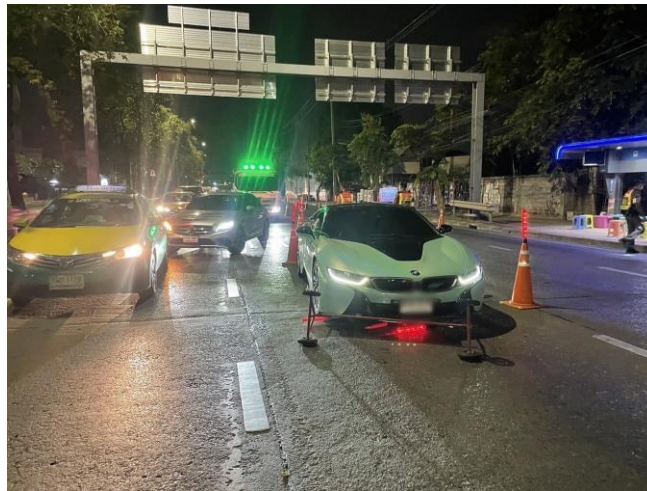


- Toshiba Thailand affirmed its Thai workforce that Toshiba Corporation's plans to restructure its global operations and reduce its workforce by 5,000 employees, equivalent to 7% of its Japanese workforce, will not affect its operations in Thailand and Thai employees.
 - ❖ Toshiba Thailand also revealed that it is dedicated to expanding its product lineup, strengthening its marketing activities, and actively promoting sales in the Thai market.
- The Thai Cabinet has agreed to a visa free exemption for Kazakhstan permanently with an agreement likely to be signed as early as April 23 when the Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister – Murat Nurtleu, visits Bangkok.
 - ❖ Under the plan travellers from Kazakhstan would be able to stay in Thailand without visa for a maximum of 30-days and a maximum of 90-days within any 180-days period.
 - ❖ Thai travellers to Kazakhstan would be adhering to similar rules in that country.



General News

- A 46-year-old man reported to be the son of a deputy minister was arrested for drunk driving early this morning but was eventually released after paying a 20,000-Baht fine.
 - ❖ The man driving a BMW was pulled over by police at 3:30 AM on Soi Ratchadaphisek 31. However, he reportedly sped through the checkpoint before colliding with a metal barrier.
 - ❖ Despite the clear signs of intoxication, the driver refused to cooperate with the police officers and declined to take a breathalyser test. The police, however, conducted an alcohol test using an alternative device, which revealed the man had a blood alcohol content of 183 milligrams per cent, far exceeding the legal limit of 50 milligrams per cent.
 - ❖ Subsequently, the driver was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and failing to comply with the orders of a traffic officer. He was then taken to the Prachachuen Police Station and paid a fine before being let go.



- Jessada "Sia Jade" Kengrungruang, a Thai partner of J&B Metal and a primary suspect in the cadmium case, admitted to purchasing illegally transported cadmium tailings from Bound and Beyond's landfill in Tak with the intention of exporting them to Laos.
 - ❖ However, he claimed to possess the necessary licenses for transporting, storing, and destroying the cadmium tailings, despite regulations prohibiting their transport out of Tak.
 - ❖ Jessada, who is an uncle of Bangkok Councillor Phattharaphon Kengrungruangchai from the main opposition Move Forward Party, faces four charges, including violations of the Factory Act and illegal possession of dangerous substances. The

factories in Samut Sakhon's Bang Nam Chuet and Khlong Maduea subdistricts, as well as Bangkok's Bang Sue District where the cadmium tailings were discovered, were not authorized to store the tailings by law.

- ❖ Jessada denied having paid any bribes for the transportation and storage of the tailings. He believes that he is a victim of foul play by someone who lost in the initial auction of the slag.



Political News Headlines in Thai Media

- Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin did not rule out the possibility of him concurrently holding the Defence portfolio when he reshuffles the Cabinet, saying it would depend on time and opportunity.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40037349>
- Noppadon Pattama, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the House of Representatives, issued the committee statement on April 18, stating that the situation in Myanmar is gradually changing.
 - Link- <https://www.khaosodenglish.com/politics/2024/04/18/thailand-urges-myanmar-to-take-more-positive-steps-by-releasing-aung-san-suu-kyi/>
- Red Shirt's Return Sparks Hope for Democratic Renewal
 - Link- <https://www.khaosodenglish.com/opinion/2024/04/18/red-shirts-return-sparks-hope-for-democratic-renewal/>
- New push to punish MPs, officials who avoid summonses

- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2778279/new-push-to-punish-mps-officials-who-avoid-summons>
 - DPM stands by call for 3 referenda
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2778294/dpm-stands-by-call-for-3-referenda>
 - Senator blasts PM chief's 'election ploy'
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2778204/senator-blasts-pm-chiefs-election-ploy>
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Economic News Headlines in Thai Media

- Indorama allots \$1.89bn capex for 3 years
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2778554/indorama-allots-1-89bn-capex-for-3-years>
- The Cabinet on Thursday approved the budget bill for fiscal 2025 with government spending totalling 3.752 trillion Baht, Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/economy/40037348>
- The Industry Ministry has prepared a stringent plan as well as a backup plan to transport smuggled cadmium waste back safely to its original disposal pit in Tak province, Minister Pimphattra Wichaikul said on Thursday.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40037345>
- The Finance Ministry is studying how to make estate tax regulations “more appropriate” to try to increase revenue, the ministry’s top official said on Thursday.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/economy/40037342>
- The Thai cabinet approved 1.8 billion Baht in financial assistance to the Lao government today, for the maintenance and improvement of the R12 highway, which will shorten the journey time from Thailand’s Nakhon Phanom province, through Laos, to the Vietnamese border in Quang Binh province.

- Link- <https://www.thaipbsworld.com/thai-cabinet-approves-1-8-billion-Baht-for-road-maintenance-in-laos/>
 - One of Thailand's most important tourist cities, Phuket generates over 300 billion Baht in tourism revenue and has set itself a target of 400 billion Baht for this year. However, it is unable to address numerous issues in the city because of inconsistent regulations.
 - Link- <https://www.khaosodenglish.com/politics/2024/04/18/pm-will-consider-whether-phuket-should-become-a-special-city/>
 - Final high-speed rail contracts to be signed soon
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2778099/final-high-speed-rail-contracts-to-be-signed-soon>
 - Visa waiver for Kazakh tourists made permanent
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2778079/visa-waiver-for-kazakh-tourists-made-permanent>
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Issues to be watched out for

- April 23, 2024 - FTI executives meet to elect the new President
- May 3, 2024 - The date set by the Constitutional Court for Move Forward to submit its statement of defense in the dissolution case.
- May 7, 2024 - April 2024 Consumer Confidence Inflation Data
- May 20, 2024 - NESDC press conference Thailand's GDP Q1/2024
- June 5, 2024 - May 2024 Consumer Confidence Inflation Data
- June 12, 2024 - Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting
- July 5, 2024 - June 2024 Consumer Confidence Inflation Data

- August 5, 2024 - July 2024 Consumer Confidence Inflation Data
- August 19, 2024 - NESDC press conference Thailand's GDP Q2/2024
- August 21, 2024 - Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting
- September 5, 2024 - August 2024 Consumer Confidence Inflation Data
- October 7, 2024 - September 2024 Consumer Confidence Inflation Data
- October 16, 2024 - Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting
- November 5, 2024 - October 2024 Consumer Confidence Inflation Data
- November 18, 2024 - NESDC press conference Thailand's GDP Q3/2024
- December 6, 2024 - November 2024 Consumer Confidence Inflation Data
- December 18, 2024 - Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting
- January 6, 2025 - 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/opofdayCalendar>

Key Data

SET Index	1,361.02	-5.92
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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 April 18, 2024

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action
BOFFICE	23,600	4.9	Purchase
CCET	1,602,300	2.34	Purchase
EP	200	2.66	Purchase
PG	4,500	9.4	Purchase
RAM	10,000	30.5	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 April 2024						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Unit: M.Baht	
	Value	%	Value	%	Net Value	%
Local Institutions	3,470.19	6.44	3,778.96	7.01	-308.77	-

Proprietary Trading	2,669.61	4.95	4,460.35	8.27	-1,790.74	-
Foreign Investor	31,529.05	58.49	31,869.66	59.12	-340.60	-
Local Individuals	16,238.69	30.12	13,798.58	25.60	2,440.11	-
Monthly Cumulative between 1 Apr –18 April 2024						
Unit: M.Baht						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	37,447.33	8.98	43,245.14	10.37	-5,797.82	-
Proprietary Trading	25,944.75	6.22	26,691.74	6.40	-746.98	-
Foreign Investors	220,072.88	52.77	217,045.07	52.04	3,027.81	-
WLocal Individuals	133,579.79	32.03	130,062.80	31.19	3,516.99	-
Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan -18 April 2024						
Unit: M.Baht						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	286,508.48	9.02	298,479.12	9.40	-11,970.64	-
Proprietary Trading	217,148.30	6.84	220,788.03	6.95	-3,639.73	-
Foreign Investors	1,677,041.51	52.81	1,743,339.91	54.90	-66,298.39	-
Local Individuals	995,051.90	31.33	913,143.13	28.75	81,908.77	-

Total Trading Value 54,028.31 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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