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May 17, 2024

Thai Enquirer News Summary

Political News

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement at 0:59 a.m. on May 17, stating that it has been informed of the deaths of 2 Thai hostages, out of the 8 who have been held hostage by Hamas militants in Gaza since the October
 - ❖ The deceased are Sonthaya Akrasri and Suthisak Rintalak, who are believed to have died early in the incident in October 2023. The government has reiterated its call for the immediate release of all remaining hostages, including 6 remaining Thais.





❖ Meanwhile, Prime Minister Srettha posted a message of condolence on the X application while on a working visit to Milan, Italy.



- The family of Netiporn "Bung" Sanesangkhom, an activist who died while being detained under the Lese Majeste law, received her body yesterday after an autopsy was conducted to determine the cause of death.
 - ❖ The body was transported from Thammasat University Hospital to Wat Sutthaphot in Lad Krabang for religious ceremonies.





- ❖ The Prison Hospital has yet to provide Netiporn's medical treatment report, which was requested during the five days leading up to Netiporn's death. Additionally, Kritsadang stated that he is still waiting for CCTV footage from the prison.
- Two political activists, Panusaya Sithijirawattanakul and Patsaravalee Tanakitvibulpon, submitted a petition to the government, demanding that those arrested on political crime charges be granted bail and a transparent investigation into the death of remanded activist Netiporn Sanesangkhom, aka "Bung Thalu Wang".
 - ❖ The petition also urges parliament to speed up the promulgation of an amnesty law covering all political offenders.
 - ❖ The 2 activists, from the Thalu Fah group and United Thammasat and Demonstration group, carried a poster, featuring the Pheu Thai party's election campaign promise to give political offenders the right to bail. They also played

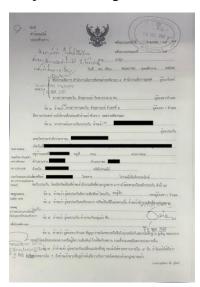
recordings of both former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra and Pheu Thai party leader Paetongtarn talking about these rights.

* Regarding the death of Netiporn, at Thammasat University Hospital on Tuesday, Panusaya questioned the reluctance of the Corrections Department to release the video of Netiporn while she was being transferred from the department's hospital.





- The Criminal Court denied bail for youth activists Tantawan 'Tawan' Tuatulanon and Natthanon 'Frank' Chaiyamahabutr, who are charged with sedition for allegedly trying to disrupt a royal motorcade. They have been incarcerated in pretrial detention for 93 days now. The court stated there was no reason to change its previous order to deny bail.
 - ❖ The Supreme Court also denied bail for activist Mongkol 'Bas' Thirakhot, who was sentenced to 50 years in jail for lese-majeste due to 27 social media posts deemed as royal defamation.
 - Next month, on June 25, the Criminal Court is set to provide its verdict against prominent pro-democracy activist Parit 'Penguin' Chiwarak. He has been charged with lese-majeste for a social media post in 2021. This will be the first verdict out of a total of 25 lese-majeste cases against him.



- More details are emerging on the gathering of the various coalition partners where former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra dined with members of Pheu Thai Party and coalition parties.
 - Thaksin reportedly spoke with Somsak Thepsuthin and reached an understanding with Interior Minister and Bhumjai Thai Party leader Anutin Charnvirakul on the need to push forward the cannabis policy and to continue in a coalition government.
 - ❖ Thaksin also reiterated his support for Anutin's position as Interior Minister but asked him to delegate tasks more clearly, citing internal problems within the ministry, with ministry staff not responding to orders from Pheu Thai ministers. Anutin reportedly agreed to cooperate on all matters.
 - ❖ Thaksin also spoke with Agriculture Minister Thammanat Promphao, entrusting him with coordinating the work of Pheu Thai Party MPs in the Ministry of Agriculture.
 - ❖ In addition, he spoke with senior Pheu Thai MPs, particularly from the Isan region, about the cabinet reshuffle, which they felt had overlooked them. Thaksin indicated that the cabinet reshuffle was not over.
- Paetongtarn Shinawatra, leader of the Pheu Thai Party, posted a family photo, showing the ceremony for laying down the main pillar of her house.
 - ❖ The ceremony was attended by her father Thaksin Shinawatra, along with Khunying Potjaman Damapong.





- The investigation into the allegations against suspended national police chief Pol Gen Torsak Sukvimol and deputy national chief Pol Gen Surachate Hakparn, as well as the conflict in the Royal Thai Police, will be extended by another 30 days, according to Pol Gen Winai Thongsong, the chairperson of the committee overseeing the investigation. Initially, the investigation was expected to be completed within 60 days, or by May 20.
 - ❖ However, it will now be extended by 30 days to thoroughly investigate the alleged financial connections between illegal businesses and the two officers.

- Suspended Deputy National Police Chief Pol Gen Surachate Hakparn said he is gathering 20,000 signatures to submit a petition for investigating a member of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC).
 - ❖ This move comes after Pol Gen Surachate's request to the NACC and the House Speaker to investigate Commissioner Suchart Trakulkasemsuk for allegedly displaying impartiality, which constitutes severe ethical misconduct.
 - ❖ He noted that Suchart has sought support from influential politicians, including Gen Prawit Wongsuwan, to secure his position within the NACC. Pol Gen Surachate also accused Suchart of possessing unusually high wealth.
 - ❖ Pol Gen Surachate expects to complete the gathering of 20,000 signatures within two weeks.







• Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin has arrived in Italy after a day visit to France yesterday. He led a group of Thai business executives to attend the Thailand-France Business Forum in Paris. The event is organized following his official visit to France in March.





- ❖ Srettha also attended a luncheon hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron. The two leaders discussed a wide range of issues, such as the progress of an FTA between Thailand and France, the potential issue of visa-free access for Thai citizens to the Schengen Area, or increasing flight connections and promoting cultural exchanges.
- ❖ Srettha revealed that President Macron also gave him his personal phone number.
- Following a 2-hour meeting with Sethaput Suthiwartnarueput, Governor of the Bank of Thailand (BoT), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Pichai Chunhavajira revealed key discussion points regarding interest rates.
 - ❖ Pichai emphasized that the BoT and its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) are responsible for setting interest rates based on their judgment and analysis to achieve the inflation target range of 1-3%, which is reviewed annually.
 - * "We need to let the BoT do its job," Pichai stated. "We might need to wait another 6-9 months to see if inflation falls within the target range before further discussions. However, both parties agree that the bigger issue is limited access to capital for citizens and businesses, regardless of whether interest rates rise or fall."
 - ❖ However, Pichai proposed that the BoT revise its approach to better support businesses, particularly SMEs, households, and existing borrowers facing difficulties in securing loans.



- The National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) is scheduled to release the Q1 2024 GDP figures and the 2024 Thai economic outlook on May 20.
 - ❖ In their previous announcement, NESDC projected Thailand's economy to grow by 2.2-3.2% in 2024, expanding from 1.9% in 2023. Many parties are closely watching NESDC's announcement, as a lower-than-expected growth rate could lead to a downward revision of the full-year 2024 forecast.
 - ❖ Previously, several economic agencies have adjusted their GDP forecasts for 2024. The Fiscal Policy Office (FPO) has revised its forecast down to 2.4% from 2.8%, while the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry, and Services (JSCC) has lowered its forecast to 2.2-2.7%.
 - ❖ This is due to a number of negative factors, particularly in the tourism sector. Although the number of tourists is expected to recover this year, spending per head remains at only 45,760 Baht, still 4.5% lower than the 2019 average of 47,895 Baht.

		เสดาไทย
ııusıu		เ ฐกิจไทเ
	ปี 2566	ปี 2567 (คาดการณ์)
ซีดีพี	1.9	2.2 - 3.2
การบริโภคภาคเอกชน	7.1	3
การอุปโภคภาครัฐบาล	-4.6	1.5
การลงทุนภาคเอกชน	3.2	3.5
การลงทุนภาครัฐ	-4.6	-1.8
มูลค่าการส่งออก (ดอลลาร์)	-1.7	2.9
เงินเฟ้อ	1.2	0.9 - 1.9
ดุลบัญชีเดินสะพัด (%GDP)	1.3	1.4

• Surapol Opasatien, CEO of Credit Bureau of Thailand, posted on his personal Facebook page analyzing the home loan situation and NPL trends for Q1/2024. He found that the home loan rejection rate is very high, with only 50 out of 100 applications passing initial screening. This is because banks are tightening their income assessments. In 2023, there

were 3.3 million accounts, but in the 1st quarter of this year there were only 590,000 accounts.

❖ On the other hand, home loan NPLs in Q1/2024 already reached 200 billion Baht, an increase of 18%, and Gen Y holds 83,281 NPL contracts worth 124 billion Baht.



- The Oil Fuel Fund (OFF) Board has approved a reduction in the diesel fuel subsidy from 2.58 Baht per liter to 1.94 Baht per liter, effective May 17, 2024. This adjustment is aimed at lowering the OFF's daily diesel fuel expenses from 164.05 million Baht to 123.14 million Baht. Consequently, the retail price of diesel fuel will increase by 50 satang per liter to 31.94 Baht per liter.
 - ❖ As of May 12, 2024, the OFF's financial position is in deficit at 110.29 billion Baht, with the diesel fuel account in deficit at 62.71 billion Baht and the LPG gas account in deficit at 47.57 billion Baht.

สิ้นสุด	ณ วันที่ 12 พ.ค. 67	น้ำมัน	LPG	รวม	เงินเรียโร **	เงินกู้	ฐานะกองทุน รวม
สินทรัพย์ :	เงินฝากธนาคาร	1,342	*	1,342			1,34
	เงินฝากที่กรมบัญชีกลาง กระทรวงการคลัง	3,900		3,900		9,163	13,06
	เงินโดนให้บัญชี LPG	23,153		23,153			23,15
รายได้ค้างรับ :	ลูกหนี้-รายใต้ต้างรับจากผู้ประกอบการค้าน้ำมัน *	1,320		1,320			1,320
	ลูกหนี้-รายได้ด้างรับจาก LPG โรงกลั่นและโรงแยก *	3-0	757	757			75
	ลูกหนี้-รายใต้ด้างรับจากผู้จำหน่าย LPG	-	341	341			34
สินทรัพย์รวม		29,715	1,098	30,813		9,163	39,97
หนี้สิน :	เงินรับโอนจากบัญขึ้น้ำมัน	(*)	23,153	23,153			23,15
	เจ้าหนึ่-เงินขดเชยราคาก๊าช LPG ที่ใช้เป็นเชื้อเพลิง	-	4,078	4,078			4,07
	เจ้าหนึ้-เงินชดเชยน้ำมันเชื้อเพลิงประเภทต่างๆ	17,671	-	17,671			17,67
	เจ้าหนึ่-เงินขดเชย ตามมาตรการปรับอดราคาขายปลีกน้ำมัน	6		6			
	เจ้าหนึ่-เงินงบบริหาร และสนับสนุนโครงการ	31		31			3:
เจ้าหนึ่	- ผินกู้ขึ้น	74,726	21,444	96,170		9,163	105,333
หนี้สินรวม		92,434	48,675	141,109	-	9,163	150,27
ฐานะกองทุน	น สทธิ	-62,719	-47,577	-110,296	-	-	-110,296

❖ In response to the OFF's decision, Bangchak and PTT Station have announced a 50 satang per liter increase in the prices of diesel fuels, bringing the new price to 31.94 Baht per liter. Meanwhile, the retail prices of benzine and all types of gasohol will

be reduced by 40 satang per liter, except for gasohol 91, which will be reduced by 20 satang per liter.



- The number of unemployed people increased to around 410,000 in Q1 of 2024, representing an unemployment rate of 1%, compared to 329,000 or 0.8% in Q4 of 2023, according to the National Statistical Office of Thailand.
 - ❖ There were 59.1 million people aged 15 and above, with 40.23 million in the workforce. The number of employed people in Q1 2024 was 39.58 million, with 19.58 million in the service and trade sector (up 2.1% year-on-year), 10.93 million in the agriculture sector (down 5.7% YoY), and 9.07 million in the manufacturing sector (up 2.3% YoY).
 - ❖ Of the 410,000 unemployed people, around 206,000 were previously employed, and around 202,000 had never been employed before. Among the 206,000 who were previously employed, 125,000 worked in the service and trade sector, 65,000 in the manufacturing sector, and 16,000 in the agriculture sector.
 - ❖ More than 70% of those who had never been employed before were aged between 15 and 24, with the remaining being 25 or older.

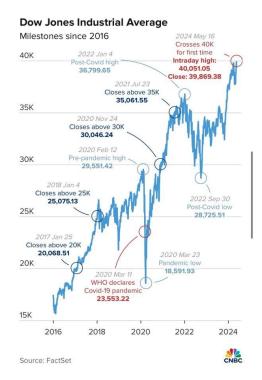


 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce Phumtham Wechayachai revealed that the Guangzhou Office of the Trade Promotion Department, Thailand and the Chanthaburi Provincial Commerce Office have collaborated with the Chinese online platform FreshJN to invite two Chinese influencers, Li Kai and Li Wen Long, to live stream the sale of durian from Chanthaburi province under the Thai Fruit Festival project for three days, from May 13-15, 2024.

❖ The two influencers generated sales of 20 million yuan, or over 100 million Baht for the province.



- CRC Thaiwatsadu under Central Retail, a retail business of construction materials and home decoration products under the brand Thaiwatsadu and BnB home announced the success of the year 2023 with sales surpassing the target of over 40 billion Baht, with a total investment of 7 billion Baht.
- Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) crossed the 40,000 mark for the 1st time ever during the intraday trade yesterday, although it closed down slightly.
 - ❖ A graphic of its recent peak should give a good indication of how things may turn out.



General News

• A Naga fireball nearly hit a plane flying at an altitude of 8,000 feet, according to a Facebook post from "บันทึกไม่ดับของคนขับเครื่องบิน."

❖ The page owner highlighted the potential danger posed by this type of fireworks, particularly in the northeastern region of Thailand. They also called for relevant authorities to take immediate actions.



- Three Thai people got very lucky as they won jackpots in the lottery yesterday.
 - ❖ The first winner won the special 1-year lottery first prize worth 111 million Baht in the draw on May 16. The winner is a resident of Nakhon Pathom province and received the 111 million Baht prize all by themselves.
 - ❖ In another draw, there were two first-prize winners. The first winner is a deliveryman from Trat province who received 30 million Baht from five first-prize tickets. Another is a merchant in Trang province who received 72 million Baht from 12 first-prize tickets.





Political News Headlines in Thai Media

- Election Commission says it has ensured there is no chance of conspiracy or vote-fixing during the poll.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/news/politics/40038071
- Activists seek amnesty for all political cases after Netiporn's death.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/news/politics/40038064
- The National Statistical Office (NSO) said on Thursday it has devised a system of collecting reliable data on the number of LGBTQ+ Thai citizens, so government bodies can finally devise suitable policies.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/news/general/40038070
- Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, of the Progressive Movement, will detail his plans this
 weekend for the former south Paris residence of the late former Thai prime minister Pridi
 Banomyong.
 - o Link- https://www.thaipbsworld.com/new-resident-to-announce-plans-for-pridis-former-paris-home/
- Cannabis backers urge minister not to turn back clock
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2794124/cannabis-backers-urge-minister-not-to-turn-back-clock

Economic News Headlines in Thai Media

- Finance Minister Pichai Chunhavajira has promised that the government would work in harmony with the Bank of Thailand (BOT) in spite of the previous row over interest rate.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/business/economy/40038078
- May 31 is the "final deadline" for illegal lenders to join the government's debt settlement programme, or they will face strict legal action, Deputy Interior Minister Chada Thaised said on Thursday.

- o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/news/politics/40038075
- The Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand (JFCCT) has voiced concerns over a Thai government plan to raise the minimum daily wage to 400 Baht nationwide, warning of inflation and negative impacts on the economy.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/news/general/40038081
- Thailand would continue to expand cross-border payment collaboration worldwide, to make it convenient for Thais and foreigners in terms of time and cost, a senior Bank of Thailand (BOT) official said on Thursday.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/news/general/40038080
- Ownership titles of 3,938 condominium units worth a total of 18.02 billion Baht were transferred to foreign buyers in the first quarter of this year.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/business/property/40038077
- Retail property development and investment company Central Pattana is to expand its digital project in the Bang Na area with a new data centre.
 - o Link- https://www.nationthailand.com/business/tech/40038061
- US: Child labour issues in Thai shrimp industry resolved
 - Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2794162/us-child-labour-issues-in-thai-shrimp-industry-resolved
- New skywalk would link 5 hospitals to BTS
 - o Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2794175/new-skywalk-would-link-5-hospitals-to-bts
- Thai rice prices at 3-month peak
 - Link- https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2794154/thai-rice-prices-at-3-month-peak

Issues to be watched out for

•	May 20, 2024	-	NESDC press confer	rence Thailand's GDP	Q1/2024
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- May 15-24, 2024 Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin is in Paris/Milan and Tokyo
- June 2, 2024 The date set by the Constitutional Court for Move Forward to submit its statement of defense in the dissolution case.
- 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
- September 2025 The deadline set by Transport Minister Suriya Juangroongruangkit that his ministry will implement a 20-Baht flat fare policy for all electric trains in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region.

For information on Opportunity Day of various companies click on the link – https://www.set.or.th/streaming/oppdayCalendar

Key Data

SET Index 1,377.72 +7.28

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 May 16, 2024

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action
ALT	30,000	1.44	Purchase
ALT	5,600	1.44	Purchase
ALT	4,000	1.45	Purchase
AMA	15,700	4.04	Purchase

AMA	10,000	4.04	Purchase
APP	600	2.04	Purchase
ATP30	100,000	0.97	Purchase
BKD	50,000	1.25	Purchase
BKD	250,000	1.25	Purchase
EP	14,200	2.7	Purchase
EA	10,000,000	27.25	Sale
FPI	160,000	2	Purchase
FTI	44,000	2.14	Purchase
FTI	301,100	2.13	Purchase
FTI	678,900	2.14	Purchase
KCG	50,000	10.67	Sale
MGC	170,000	4.89	Purchase
MTI	18,500	106.5	Purchase
RCL	1,360,000	25.98	Purchase
RCL	640,000	26.25	Purchase
SELIC	50,000	2.94	Sale
SKR	50,000	10.3	Purchase
SMT	1,000,000	0.01	Sale
SUPER	100,000	0.31	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 16 May 2024							
Unit: M.Baht							
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net		
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	
Local Institutions	3,676.31	7.14	5,326.33	10.35	-1,650.01	-	
Proprietary Trading	3,401.67	6.61	3,423.53	6.65	-21.87	-	
Foreign Investor	29,162.52	56.67	25,596.79	49.74	3,565.73	-	

Local Individuals	15,222.13	29.58	17,115.98	33.26	-1,893.85	-

Monthly Cumulative between 1 May -16 May 2024

Unit: M.Baht

Investor Type	Buy		Sell Net				
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	
Local Institutions	37,782.04	8.66	35,993.15	8.25	1,788.89	-	
Proprietary Trading	29,613.48	6.79	28,168.39	6.46	1,445.09	-	
Foreign Investors	229,424.57	52.61	230,344.24	52.82	-919.66	-	
WLocal Individuals	139,292.76	31.94	141,607.07	32.47	-2,314.32	-	

Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan -16 May 2024

Unit: M.Baht

Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	359,502.19	9.08	363,875.33	9.19	-4,373.14	-
Proprietary Trading	268,769.81	6.79	272,276.42	6.88	-3,506.61	-
Foreign Investors	2,095,442.97	52.91	2,161,775.18	54.59	-66,332.21	
Local Individuals	1,236,645.04	31.23	1,162,433.09	29.35	74,211.96	-

Total Trading Value 51,503.71 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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