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SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026

5 MIN READ

A heavy news week dominated by southern security and northern floods — two stories that will shape next month's parliamentary session.

This week: coordinated attacks hit 51 sites across Narathiwat, Pattani and Yala, Nan floods affect nearly 20,000 people with ฿6,700 relief payments starting Sunday, and SET closes the week at 1,613.78 amid thin volume.

DID YOU KNOW?

Thailand's National Economic and Social Development Council publishes quarterly society reports that include granular data on informal debt held by rural households — the Q2 2026 edition, due August 24, will break out micro-loan penetration by province for the first time since 2019.

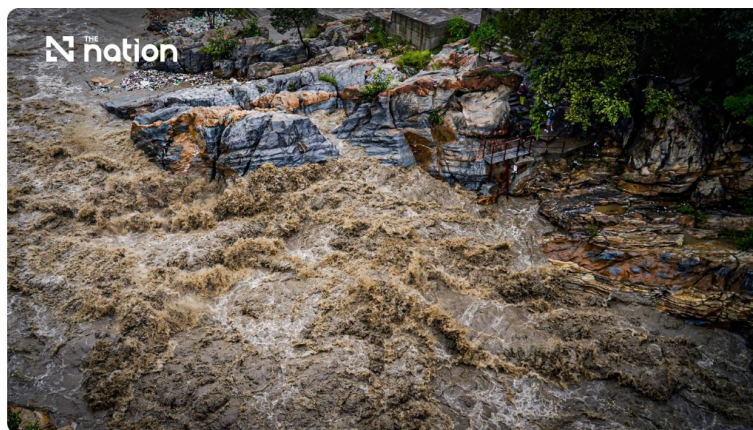
BAHT CHECK

Mon, 24 Aug 2026 00:02:31 UTC

1 USD	1 EUR	1 GBP	1 AUD	100 JPY
฿32.66	฿38.15	฿44.56	฿23.41	฿20.55

THE WEEK IN THAILAND

1. 51 attacks rock Deep South in single night



Coordinated bombings, arson and raids struck more than 70 locations across Narathiwat, Pattani and Yala on Saturday night, wounding three civilians and damaging government vehicles and telecom infrastructure.

- **PM Anutin** convened security chiefs Sunday morning before flying north to inspect Nan floods.
- **Narathiwat** imposed a 10:15pm–6am curfew; officials link the surge to intensified anti-narcotics sweeps.
- **Sihasak Phuangkitkeow** admitted intelligence gaps despite prior warnings.

BOTTOM LINE

The escalation forces extra budget scrutiny on the ฿340.7 billion Deep South allocation as the House returns August 25.

↳ [The Nation](#) · [Washington Times](#)

2. Nan floods affect 19,987 people; relief from Aug 30

Heavy rain from the monsoon trough and upstream runoff flooded seven districts in Nan, killing two and displacing households across six provinces total.

- **TMD** warned of continued downpours through August 28 in North, Northeast and Central regions.
- **Government** approved ฿6,700 one-time payments per affected household, first tranche August 30–September 1.
- **Deputy PM Yotsanan Wongsawat** deployed 700+ soldiers for mud clearance and road reopening.

BOTTOM LINE

Downstream provinces must accelerate runoff monitoring; flash-flood risk remains elevated for Bangkok and central plains this coming week.

↳ [Thai Enquirer](#) · [The Nation](#)

3. Political amnesty law passes, Section 112 excluded

Thailand enacted a new amnesty covering politically motivated acts from 2005 to 2025 but carving out lèse-majesté, corruption and serious violence cases.

- **NIDA Poll** showed 62.75% of respondents view local exam collusion as the top stability threat to the Anutin government.
- **House** reconvenes August 25 facing ฿400 billion loan decree and 2027 budget.

- **People's Party** plans no-confidence motion.

BOTTOM LINE

The amnesty clears some legacy cases but leaves corruption scandals and charter reform as live flashpoints for the new session.

↳ [The Nation](#)

MONEY & MARKETS

4. SET closes week at 1,613.78 after mixed sessions



The index ended August 21 up 0.24% for the week but traded in a tight 1,609–1,626 range amid light foreign flows.

- **August 17 close** hit 1,626.44 on export optimism before giving back gains.
- **Turnover** remained thin; bank and property stocks underperformed.
- **YTD gain** stands at 28.15% despite August volatility.

BOTTOM LINE

Foreign inflows have narrowed; operators should watch the August 26 MPC decision and September export print for direction.

↳ [SET Thailand EN](#) · [MarketWatch](#)

5. PTT plans ฿1 trillion investment through 2030

PTT Exploration and Production will drive the bulk of the five-year capex, expanding LNG capacity from 3.7 million to 10 million tonnes.

- **Focus** includes upstream gas and clean-energy transition assets.
- **Timeline** aligns with Thailand's energy-security push amid Middle East supply risks.
- **Jobs** expected in eastern seaboard and EEC corridors.

BOTTOM LINE

The plan signals sustained energy-sector spending even as fiscal deficits widen; suppliers in petrochemicals and logistics should position now.

↳ [Thai Enquirer](#)

6. Tourism arrivals reach 18.5 million YTD, -3.2% YoY

Foreign visitors through early August generated ฿896 billion in revenue despite flight disruptions and safety concerns.

- **Per-head spend** rose, offsetting volume softness.
- **Chinese** and ASEAN markets led recovery; European long-haul lagged.

- **TAT** revised full-year target to 30–34 million.

BOTTOM LINE

Revenue resilience is real, but operators relying on volume should hedge against slower Q4 arrivals if southern security headlines persist.

↳ [Bangkok Post](#)

POLICY WATCH

7. Finance Ministry accelerates automotive excise-tax overhaul

New structure will favour manufacturers using local parts, directly targeting Chinese EV brands that have captured 70% of the electric segment.

- **Sales** of traditional ICE vehicles fell 26.2% year-to-date.
- **Japanese** makers lobbied Anutin during his Australia trip for continued support.
- **Deadline** for draft rules expected before year-end.

BOTTOM LINE

Japanese and Thai-part suppliers gain clarity; Chinese-brand importers face higher effective costs from 2027.

↳ [Thai Examiner](#)

8. PM Anutin concludes Australia-NZ trade mission

Anutin met 70+ Australian business leaders and pledged to keep Thailand neutral while expanding clean-energy and digital ties ahead of 2027 diplomatic anniversary.

- **Six-day mission** included 14 Thai firms seeking

investment and technology links.

- **Jet-fuel export** easing for Australia under discussion.
- **Clean-energy** cooperation highlighted as priority.

BOTTOM LINE

The trip resets commercial diplomacy after US tariff pressure; Australian firms eyeing ASEAN hubs now have fresh ministerial backing.

↳ [The Nation](#)

WORTH YOUR TIME

9. Bangkok International Children's Theatre Festival



Multiple venues across Bangkok host performances and workshops from August 21–30. Family-friendly programming and English subtitles available for most shows.

↳ [Bangkok Art City](#)

10. Food & Hospitality Thailand (FHT) 2026

BITEC exhibition halls 1–4, August 19–22 (extended

displays through early September in some zones). Trade-focused but open to serious food professionals and buyers.

└ [Aira Bangkok](#)

11. Thailand International Mask Heritage

Loei province, August 23–27. Cultural exhibitions and performances celebrating regional mask traditions — worth the overnight for northern-corridor travellers.

└ [Discovery Thailand](#)

ALSO WORTH A LOOK

- Thailand Mask Heritage — Loei, Aug 23-27 — regional mask culture and performances
- FHT 2026 trade displays — BITEC through early September — hospitality sourcing for operators
- Children's Theatre Festival — Bangkok venues, through Aug 30 — English-subtitled family shows

THE WEEK AHEAD

12. MPC meets August 26; no public holidays

BOT widely expected to hold policy rate at 1.00%. Markets and banks open normally; watch for any signal on inflation pass-through from energy costs.

└ [BOT](#)

13. Heavy rain risk persists through August 28

TMD maintains warnings for North, Northeast and Central regions; downstream runoff monitoring active in Nan and Chao Phraya basin.

↳ [The Thaiger](#)

ONE THING WORTH KNOWING

14. Deep South budget totals ฿340.7 billion since 2004



Parliamentary data show 23,536 violent incidents and 7,790 deaths recorded through 2025 despite the long-term allocation.

↳ [The Nation](#)

See you next Sunday.

— ThaiOutlook

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