

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 11 MARCH 2022

### **1. Govt looks for ways to tackle growing mountains of infectious waste**

**Source: The Nation ([Link](#))**

The Department of Health is joining up with other relevant agencies to find a way of tackling the growing mountains of infectious waste. Attaphon Kaewsamrit, the department's director-general, said on Wednesday that he had discussed this issue with the Department of Industrial Works, Department of Local Administration, Office of Energy Regulatory Commission and Nonthaburi Municipality. He said infectious waste is increasing significantly, adding that a rising number of people using ATK tests at home is also contributing to the surge. He reckons that by April, Thailand will be producing an average of 789 tonnes of infectious waste daily, while waste disposal facilities nationwide can only handle some 342.3 tonnes daily.

### **2. Government aims to double booster shot rate for elderly ahead of Songkran**

**Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))**

An ambitious vaccination campaign for the elderly will be rolled out later this month to prevent a surge in Covid-19 cases during the Songkran festival in mid-April. Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration assistant spokeswoman Sumanee Wacharasin, said on Thursday authorities will pool resources to encourage people over 60 to receive a booster shot to help maintain high levels of immunity ahead of the Thai New Year holiday. From March 21-31, the campaign will aim to get around 70% of the elderly vaccinated against the coronavirus, she said. "The communicable disease committees in all provinces have to map out a proactive plan to check people who have yet to receive a booster shot and ask them to get vaccinated as soon as possible," said Dr Sumanee, who is an official of the Department of Disease Control.

### **3. SCG rejigs investment plans**

**Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))**

The widening impact of the Russia-Ukraine war is causing SET-listed Siam Cement Group (SCG), Thailand's largest cement maker and industrial conglomerate, to review its investment plan this year as energy and raw materials prices are increasing. The company earlier vowed to allocate 80 billion baht for investments in Thailand and overseas this year. "We will delay some new investment projects, especially greenfield investments, and consider increasing more investments under merger and acquisition plans to avoid possible impact on our long-term financial management," said Roongrote Rangsiyopash, president and chief executive of

SCG. The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine is blamed for driving up global crude oil prices, causing higher energy costs in the logistics and manufacturing sectors.

#### **4. FTI wants Test & Go scheme scrapped, subsidies for fuel**

**Source: The Nation ([Link](#))**

The president of the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) on Thursday called on the government to scrap the Test & Go scheme that restricts tourism and subsidise fuel prices to shore up the Thai Industries Sentiment Index. FTI president Suphan Mongkolsuthee said the Omicron variant that led to restrictions to tourism and other business activities and rising costs due to soaring fuel prices have severely affected the Thai Industries Sentiment Index (TISI). The TISI for February fell from 88.0 in January to 86.7, he said. He said the government should boost the tourism atmosphere by scrapping the Test & Go scheme and allow foreign tourists to visit simply by showing their Covid-19 vaccine certificate. The Test & Go scheme requires tourists, who have been fully vaccinated, to undergo an RT-PCR test on the day of arrival and have an antigen kit test on the fifth day apart from showing another RT-PCR negative result 72 hours before boarding the plane.

#### **5. Commerce Ministry aims to hook Taiwanese shoppers with TopThai online store**

**Source: The Nation ([Link](#))**

The Commerce Ministry has opened a store on a popular online trading platform in Taiwan to promote Thai goods, a senior official said. Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP) director-general Phusit Ratanakul Sereroengrit said the new online outlet is called TopThai Store and it has been launched on the PChome platform in Taiwan. Phusit said the cooperation with PChome will open Taiwan's constantly expanding online market to Thai exporters and manufacturers. Its online retail market, for instance, expanded 14.75 per cent last year. Phusit said PChome is the most popular online trading platform in Taiwan. The TopThai store is aimed at creating a "good perception" of Thai products among Taiwanese shoppers, the director-general said.