

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 10 MAY 2021

1. Thai govt has THB300 billion in hand to tackle Covid crisis until Sept 30

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

Last Wednesday (May 5), the Cabinet earmarked THB225.50 billion to tackle the third wave of Covid-19 infections, which has been more severe and more widespread than the previous two waves. The money will be used to bolster several measures such as Rao Chana (We Win), Mor33 Rao Rak Kan (Section33 We Love Each Other), Khon La Khrueng (Let's Go Halves) as well deposits in the state welfare card to help ease people's burden and stimulate the economy. Budget Bureau director Dechapiwat Na Songkhla said the funds will help the government deal with the crisis until the end of the 2021 fiscal year on September 30. He added that if the crisis continues into next year, the government can use the THB89 billion earmarked for the 2022 emergency budget as well as the Finance Ministry's reserve capital of THB50 billion.

2. AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccines made by Siam Bioscience pass quality testing in Europe and U.S., first batch delivery is near

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

Mr. James Teague, Country President, AstraZeneca (Thailand) Ltd., said: "We have seen a series of significant and promising progress in AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine development in Thailand during the past weeks. First, the Thai Food and Drug Administration approved Siam Bioscience as a manufacturing facility for COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca. Last week, the samples of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca made by Siam Bioscience passed the full tests the standard set by the Department of Medical Sciences (DMS) for requirements such as chemical composition and safety.. And today, I am happy to be able to inform you that the samples from test batches of the COVID-19 vaccine made by Siam Bioscience had passed the quality testing at AstraZeneca's designated laboratories in Europe and in the U.S. These significant progresses mean that we are getting closer to deliver the first batch of the vaccine to the government of Thailand."

3. Thailand Post boss eyes digital shift

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

SET-listed Energy Absolute (EA), a Thai renewable power generation firm, is pushing ahead with the commercial launch of its battery-run boat service on the Chao Phraya River despite state travel restrictions to curb the third wave of the pandemic. The cruisers, named Mine Smart Ferry, started service in late April following a trial run offering free service to passengers from

December, said EA chief executive Sompote Ahunai. The company teamed up with mostly state-owned Krungthai Bank to offer Europay, Mastercard, and Visa electronic payment platforms for contactless payment for passenger convenience.

4. Exim Bank beefs up new target

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

The Export-Import Bank of Thailand (Exim Thailand) has upgraded its target for new loans this year to 145 billion baht from 138 billion, even with the economy suffering from the pandemic. President Rak Vorrakitpokatorn said he is confident the bank can achieve the new target. Exim Thailand plans to design loan packages to fit the specific demand of segments of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It also wants to relax loan conditions to help clients more easily access loans, he said.

5. EA officially launches electric boat service

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

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