

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 12 MAY 2021

1. Cabinet approves B45bn of projects to help economy

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

The cabinet on Tuesday approved 45 billion baht of projects aimed at reviving the economy, the prime minister said, as the tourism-reliant country struggles with a third wave of coronavirus infections. The projects would improve the local economy and community, Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha told reporters, without giving further details. It follows an economic relief package worth 255 billion baht approved last week. The cabinet also approved a draft budget bill for the 2022 fiscal year starting in October, which forecasts spending of 3.1 trillion baht and a deficit of 700 billion baht, government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri said in a statement. Parliamentarians are expected to debate the first reading of the bill between May 31 and June 2, he said.

2. PM wants Covid-19 vaccinations to become top priority

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

So far, about 1.6 million people aged 60 and above and those with seven types of underlying health conditions have signed up for vaccinations. Of this number, more than 500,000 are in Bangkok and over 200,000 in the northern province of Lampang. The government has opened registration channels via the Mor Phrom (Doctors Ready) Line application and at provincial health offices and public hospitals since May 1. "The vaccines procured by the government have passed the Public Health Ministry's safety standard and are effective against the virus. They are the same kinds of vaccines that have been given to tens of millions people in several countries with low occurrences of severe side effects," Prayut pointed out.

3. "Purra" Thailand's First mineral water Certified By Aquacert

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

Purra" is Thailand's first-ever mineral water to be certified by Aquacert (France), which ensures every manufacturing process, making Purra world-class mineral water that consumers can confidently consume. The brand also aims to build the brand further by making the brand more contemporary with new label designs in 2021. Mr. Thitiporn Dhammabhimukkul, Chief Marketing Officer of Boonrawd Trading Co., Ltd., revealed that manufacturing quality products is always the company's focus. The company is determined to manufacture an international-standard product to build Purra's credibility and respond to consumers' needs. "2021 is another important year for Purra as the brand receives Aquacert Institute's certification, which ensured that all of our mineral water manufacturing processes are up to the

standard, building consumer confidence. Purra is also Thailand's first and only mineral water brand to receive this certification."

4. Bumrungrad vaccinates doctors, staff

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

Bumrungrad International Hospital announced it has vaccinated 100% of its doctors and 50% of its frontline staff, a total of 2,000 people, since receiving vaccinations from the Thai government. It expects 80% of its staff to be vaccinated by the end of this month. Frontline staff includes nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, medical technicians, radiologists, interpreters, orderlies, customer relations and financial officers, and maids. The hospital is also raising awareness about Covid-19 vaccines among staff and the general public via communications channels. It is also providing vitamins C plus, D, E and zinc to staff members to boost their immune systems.

5. PTT forecasts stronger gas demand

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

Gas demand in Thailand is expected to return to pre-Covid 19 levels at 4,800 million standard cubic feet per day (MMSCFD) this year even though the country has encountered two outbreaks that have led to travel restrictions, says PTT Plc. Last year, the pandemic caused demand to decrease by 10% to 4,300 MMSCFD but in the first quarter of 2021, demand grew by 8% year-on-year to 4,600 MMSCFD despite the second wave of Covid-19 earlier this year. The third wave, which began in April, has threatened to further reduce fuel consumption even further. According to the Department of Energy Business, consumption of almost all fuel types contracted by 7.7% in the first three months of the year.