

THAI NEWS UPDATE:14 JULY 2021

1. PTT acquires 41.6% stake in Indian energy company

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

Global Power Synergy Plc (GPSC), a power generation arm of Thailand's national oil and gas conglomerate PTT Group, has paid 14.82 billion baht to acquire a 41.6% stake in Avaada Energy Private Co (Avaada), one of the leading renewable energy companies in India. GPSC invested through its subsidiary Global Renewable Synergy Co (GRSC), which has already completed the acquisition of the 41.6% holding of an approximately 3,744 megawatts (MW) solar power portfolio. The deal expands its renewable energy portfolio in line with the group's renewable energy target of 8,000 MW in 2030.

2. DHL Express Thailand launches next-day cactus export service to Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam and Cambodia

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

DHL Express Thailand has introduced Cactus Export Service to provide next-day delivery of delicate plants like cactuses from Thailand to Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam and Cambodia. Cactuses have become increasingly popular in Southeast Asia. This new service will allow local business owners to capture the opportunities of this increasing demand and expand their reach across the region. DHL Express provides cactus business owners with access to direct routes from Bangkok Hub and Gateway to the four destination countries. Full tracking visibility is enabled across the entire supply chain and supported by DHL Express' own fleet of planes, ground transport and logistics facilities.

3. FDA approves over the counter test kits

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

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) now expects Covid-19 antigen test kits to be made available for sale over the counter by next week, after an announcement by the Public Health Ministry authorising over-the-counter sale of this medical device was published on Tuesday in the Royal Gazette. The kits, however, will not be allowed to be sold over the internet, said Dr Paisal Dunkhum, secretary-general of the FDA. Only authorised medical institutions, medical clinics, medical technology clinics and pharmacies with a licensed pharmacist on duty will be allowed to sell the test kits, he said. About seven out of all 24 companies whose products have been registered with the FDA for sale in Thailand have agreed to adjust their Covid-19 test kits to make them suitable for self testing, he said.

4. Cabinet approves B42bn aid

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

The cabinet has approved a 42-billion-baht package of financial assistance for people and businesses affected by the government's partial Covid-19 lockdown, currently implemented in Bangkok and nine other provinces to contain the coronavirus outbreak. Of the 42 billion baht required to finance this new compensation programme, 30 billion baht will come from the government's loan decree for Covid-19 relief purposes while the other 12 billion baht will be drawn from the government's budget. The package was approved following strict Covid-19 control measures including a 9pm-4am curfew that were imposed on Monday in the 10 provinces considered "dark-red zones" in terms of the severity of the Covid-19 situation. The provinces are Bangkok, Nakhon Pathom, Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani, Samut Prakan, Samut Sakhon, Narathiwat, Pattani, Yala and Songkhla.

5. Thailand aims for the stars as draft Space Affairs Act gains Cabinet approval

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

A Cabinet meeting on 13 July approved the draft Space Affairs Act, said Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation Minister Anek Laothamatas. The act aims to promote the country's space-related technology as well as cooperation and investment among domestic and overseas parties in the space industry that could benefit the country both economically and socially," he said. "It will help Thailand catch up with rapidly growing space technology and provide an opportunity for global space institutes to transfer their knowledge and experience to Thai personnel at professional, college and school levels," Anek added

6. KMITL produces special ventilator bags for emergency services

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

The King Mongkuts Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL) recently produced 100 special emergency transport ventilators or Ambu bags to supply to 50 hospitals across the nation. MITL's special KNIN II Ambu bags are smaller with an inbuilt battery, which makes them easy to use in emergencies. The production of the devices was financed by the Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation Ministry.

7. Requirements for foreign tourists arriving on Samui from Thursday

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

Surat Thani on 13 July issued Covid-19 rules for foreign travellers visiting three resort islands – Koh Samui, Koh Pha-ngan and Koh Tao – under the Samui+ Model. From Thursday (July 15), foreigners will be allowed into Thailand via Samui International Airport provided: • They avoid

areas at risk of Covid-19 infection for at least 14 days. • They come from a low- or medium-risk country based on criteria set by the Public Health Ministry. The traveller will have to prove they have stayed in the said country for at least 21 days before entering Surat Thani.

8. State certain EEC will reach investment goal

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

Despite the escalating number of Covid-19 infections and fragile economic prospects, the government remains confident that the actual investment value in the government's flagship Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) scheme will reach 300 billion baht by this year or next as expected. Kanit Sangsubhan, secretary-general to the EEC Office, said his office is scheduled to propose on Friday to the Eastern Economic Corridor Policy Committee's meeting chaired by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha the introduction of additional investment promotion zones to help boost investment. The EEC is part of the government's strategy to move Thailand towards a high-tech economy.