

Thai News Update: 26 November 2020

1. Thailand to sign vaccine procurement deal with AstraZeneca on Friday

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha will oversee the signing of a reservation and procurement deal for Covid-19 vaccine between Thailand and AstraZeneca, a British–Swedish pharmaceutical company, on Friday, said deputy government's spokesperson Traisuree Taisaranakul. The signing ceremony will be held at Government House. This follows the Cabinet's agreement to set aside more than Bt6 billion for the procurement of vaccines.

2. Ministry allows use of some parts of hemp, cannabis plants, but recreational use still banned

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

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has finalised the regulation draft that will remove cannabis and hemp from Thailand's list of narcotics, permanent secretary of the Public Health Ministry, Dr Kiattiphum Wongrajit said. The draft will soon be presented to Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul for approval before being announced in the Royal Gazette. "The ministry hopes that the removal of cannabis and hemp from narcotics list will help promote their cultivation as cash crops among local farmers as well as advance their applications in medical and healthcare industries," he added.

3. Prayut urges US businesses to boost EEC investment

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on Wednesday invited the US private sector to invest more in Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC). The premier met with representatives of 28 companies under the US-Asean Business Council (USABC) at the Foreign Affairs Ministry. He also spoke to another 11 USABC members via video, said government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri. Prayut hailed the EEC as a key engine driving the Thai economy.

4. SEC to ease rules on foreign investment in line with BOT regulations

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

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has said it will improve regulations, so local investors have the opportunity to investing overseas. The Bank of Thailand (BOT) recently eased regulations on investing in foreign securities by increasing investment limits and expanding financial products, among others. The move aims to offer more investment opportunities to the public and help them diversify their portfolios.

5. Energy Ministry unveils plans to boost use of electric vehicles

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

Energy Minister Supattanapong Punmeechaow said on Tuesday that the Centre for Economic Situation Administration (CESA) will on December 2 consider the policy on exchanging old vehicles for new ones. Initially, it was proposed that the new vehicles in the exchange scheme must be electric and locally made in a bid to cut down on pollution and PM2.5 particles. A government source said the exchange scheme aimed to drive the country's electric vehicle (EV) industry as well as improve the environment.

6. Experts have advice for govt on how to 'move Thailand forward'

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

The Pid Thong Lang Phra Foundation, which is dedicated to promoting the sufficiency economy vision of King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great, organised a seminar "Rethinking to Push Thailand Forward" in collaboration with seven organisations on Wednesday. Representatives from the Puey Ungphakorn Institute for Economic Research, the Bank of Thailand, the Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives, Mahidol University, the National Institute of Development Administration, the Institute of Public Policy and Development and ThaiPublica exchanged research and ideas on improving Thailand after the Covid-19 fallout, a situation that has amplified the country's social and economic problems from the impact of megatrends, or the driving forces that define the world today and that of tomorrow in major aspects such as an ageing society, climate change and digitalisation.