

## Thai News Update: 28 February 2020

### **1. Banks start installing thermal scanners to detect COVID-19 infection**

**Source: Thai PBS World ([Link](#))**

A number of commercial banks have taken the precautionary measure of installing thermal scanners to check the body temperatures of bank visitors, for the safety of their staff and customers in wake of rising concerns over the spread of COVID-19. According to Thai PBS reporters, thermal scanners have been installed on 28 February at the Kasikorn Bank's Ratburana, Pahonyothin, Chaengwattana, KBTG and Silom branches to screen all people entering the banks. Anyone detected with a body temperature of 37.5oC or above will be barred from entering the buildings, said the bank, adding that the measure might cause some inconvenience but it is necessary. Face masks and sanitizer gels have been prepared for bank staff, while cleaners have been instructed to increase the frequency of office cleansing.

### **2. Estate operators told to impose Covid-19 preventive measures**

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

The Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) will order industrial estate operators nationwide to impose stringent measures to prevent an outbreak of Covid-19 in their zones , said governor Somchint Pilouk on February 26. Given the large volume of foreign and local workers, operators must strictly enforce the screening process, she added. Workers who have returned from high-risk countries will have to self-quarantine for 14 days while the IEAT has instructed its staff to cancel travel plans to several destinations.

### **3. Cambodia, Thailand plan temporary opening of border crossing**

**Source: Khmertimeskh ([Link](#))**

Cambodia and Thailand are planning a temporary opening of a border crossing along Stung Bot of Cambodia's Banteay Meanchey province and Thailand's Ban Nong Ian area in Sa Kaeo province. The news was shared in a meeting between Heng Rathpisidh, Cambodia's Director General of Public Works General Department, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, and Mr. Apichart Junratusup, Deputy Director of Expressway of Thailand. Heng Rathpisidh underlined

that the opening of the new border gate will facilitate goods transportation between the two neighbours.

#### **4. Thaicom 5 deorbited**

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

Thaicom Public Company Limited announced on February 27 the successful migration of its customers from Thaicom 5 to Thaicom 6 and other satellites under its operations. A statement from the company said it had overcome the technical problems in providing continuity of services to its customers. The migration and service restoration were accomplished on February 20, Meanwhile, the company completed the deorbiting of Thaicom 5 on February 20 at 4.52 pm (local time). On December 17, Thaicom 5 experienced a technical issue causing limitations to monitoring of its status.

#### **5. SEC readies SME funding support law**

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

Regulations for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups in raising funds through capital market mechanisms are expected this quarter, says the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). SEC secretary-general Ruenvadee Suwanmongkol said the effort to support SMEs and startups accessing funding resources in the capital market is in the public hearing process. The fundraising regulations for the primary market should be announced during this quarter, said Ms Ruenvadee.

#### **6. Five piers along Chao Phraya undergoing renovation**

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

The Marine Department is moving forward with the plan to improve five piers in Bangkok to serve as tourist attractions along Chao Phraya River within this year, while the second phase will cover 15 piers with a total budget of Bt850 million. Director-general Witthaya Thamuang has said that the department has spent around Bt190 million to improve the landscape and build additional facilities at five piers in Bangkok to facilitate people's marine transport and promote tourism along Chao Phraya River.

## **7. SCB waits on new Myanmar licence**

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

Siam Commercial Bank plans to open its first branch in Myanmar this year if the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) grants a bank subsidiary licence, says a SCB senior official. If approved, SCB will upgrade the existing representative office to a branch, said first executive vice-president Kamalkant Agarwal. The bank needs time to develop infrastructure in Myanmar before deciding on a new branch opening, he said, though the country has high growth potential. According to CBM regulations, those holding foreign bank subsidiary licences are allowed to operate wholesale and retail banking business and have up to 10 branches or off-site ATMs. They are required to have minimum paid-in capital of US\$100 million.