

## Thai News Update: 5 January 2021

### **1. CPF makes aggressive 'street food' moves**

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

SET-listed Charoen Pokphand Foods (CPF) is ramping up its street food business and aims to open up to 500 branches of its new Iron Pan quick-service restaurants (QSRs) over the next five years. Sunthorn Jaksukan, senior vice-president of CPF Restaurant and Food Chain, a CPF subsidiary, said street food still has a lot of potential, with a few street food chains operating in the market. "We introduced the Iron Pan brand during the outbreak and found consumer response to be very positive. We needed only six months to break even," he said.

### **2. JSCCIB regroups for 2021 forecast change**

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

The Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking (JSCCIB) plans to reassess Thailand's economic outlook in 2021 on 6 January as stronger state measures against the new outbreak have begun to affect employment in at-risk provinces. A surge in daily infections since late last year, with a record of 745 new coronavirus cases yesterday, has meant several business sectors, particularly restaurants, are suffering. The situation prompted the JSCCIB to reconsider the impact of the pandemic on the economy, said Supant Mongkolsuthree, chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI).

### **3. WP allots B100m to buy LPG cylinder factory**

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

WP Energy Plc, Thailand's second largest liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) trader, is preparing to acquire an LPG cylinder manufacturing and repair factory at a cost of 100 million baht. WP deputy chief executive Noppavong Omathikul said the new asset has production capacity of almost 400,000 units per year, which is enough to serve its LPG sales. The new factory should help the company save 60 million baht per year, covering repairing expenses of 10 million baht and new cylinder purchases worth 50 million baht.

### **4. State of emergency approved until end of Feb**

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

The Committee of the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) on Monday approved extending the state of emergency to the end of February. Approval for a 45-day extension to the emergency decree, instead of the usual month-long extension, comes as

Thailand faces a surge in new Covid-19 cases following a fresh outbreak last month. The 45-day extension will be put to the Cabinet on 5 January.

### **5. Govt to launch more relief packages as Covid surges to record high**

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

The government is seeking measures to combat the economic impact of the new Covid-19 outbreak, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said on 4 January. Prayut spoke after the daily infection rate rose to 745 cases, the highest since the virus outbreak early last year. The PM expressed concern over the impact on the 28 provinces under “maximum controls” after being hit by more than 50 cases. Provincial governors would have to decide on what restrictions were appropriate for the Covid-19 situation in their province, said Prayut.