

## Thai News Update: 8 March 2021

### **1. Government poised to ramp up egg shipments**

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

The government looks set to accelerate the export of eggs in a move to tackle a domestic oversupply. According to Wattanasak Sur-iam, director-general of the Internal Trade Department, with a drastic fall in foreign tourist arrivals and more students learning online as part of pandemic protocols, domestic egg consumption has sharply dropped to about 38 million eggs a day. Domestic egg production stands at 42 million eggs a day. Ex-farm prices of eggs in mixed sizes are now quoted at an average of 2.50 baht each, down from 2.80 baht prior to the outbreak of the pandemic.

### **2. Corporate giants in the race for LNG shipper licence**

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

At least three major companies -- PTT Plc, Siam Cement Group and EGCO Group -- as well as some smaller energy companies have filed for liquid natural gas (LNG) shipper licence, a news source at the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) revealed on 8 March. "However, the ERC will not issue an LNG shipper licence at the moment, as it is waiting for the Energy Policy and Planning office to finalise policies related to the natural gas business, which is expected to be finished around the end of March," the source added. Meanwhile, Wuttikorn Stithit, PTT's senior executive vice president of the gas business unit, said that PTT had filed for its second LNG shipper licence after it had received the first one for importing LNG to fuel domestic power plants.

### **3. New plan for hotel quarantine**

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

A proposal to allow foreign visitors to leave their hotel rooms after the first three days of their mandatory 14-day quarantine period will be submitted to the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA). If approved, visitors next month would only be required to spend three days in their hotel rooms. Visitors could leave their rooms after three days but they must not leave their hotel for 11 more days. The so-called Area Hotel Quarantine (AHQ) proposal targets at least five provinces considered to be the country's top tourist destinations: Chiang Mai, Phuket, Krabi, Surat Thani and Chon Buri, a meeting was told on 7 March.

#### **4. Ministry working on third phase of co-payment subsidy**

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

The Finance Ministry is in the process of designing the third phase of the co-payment subsidy scheme to maintain economic recovery momentum. The ministry is deliberating on the number of eligible recipients and monetary giveaway for each individual in the third phase, said Krisada Chinavicharana, permanent secretary for finance. Although details of the deliberations have not been finalised, the main difference between the first two phases and the third phase is the latter would permit eligible registrants to use the financial assistance for public services, such as payment for public transport, said Mr Krisada.

#### **5. WHA plans entry in digital health**

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

WHA Corporation Plc, Thailand's largest developer of built-to-suit logistics facilities, plans to catch the global trend in healthcare this year by diversifying into digital technology for health businesses, including telemedicine. The company aims to develop healthcare infrastructure as well as startups in the health technology industry. Jareeporn Jarukornsakul, WHA chairwoman and group chief executive, did not specify the exact date the new business would be established, saying only its emergence would take place "as soon as possible". This would represent the fifth core business of WHA.