

May 31, 2021

Thai Enquirer Summary

Covid-19 News

- Thailand recorded one of the highest number of infection today with 5,485 infections
 - ❖ Community Infection - 3,532
 - ❖ Prison Infections - 1,953
 - ❖ Total New Discharged - 3,101
 - ❖ Total New Death - 19



- ❖ Month of May
 - Total Infections - 88,607
 - Total death - 825

- This comes as some of the major companies are now experiencing an outbreak with the Saraburi plant of Charoen Pokphang Food Plc (CPF) close to 400 cases and more than 1,000 more employees are yet to be tested for the virus.

❖ CPF came out to say that it has tested 1,000's of its products randomly and they all tested to be safe, but like usual it is likely that their products may be boycotted by consumers amid fears that the products may be infected. The CP Foods factory has about 5,800 employees. About 3,400 workers have been tested so far.

- The discovery has prompted provincial authorities to order closure of the factory for 5 days from Sunday to Thursday to stem the spread of the outbreak, according to the provincial government.
- Previously salmon and other seafood products that were coming from highly infected countries were boycotted around Asia amid fear of the virus remaining alive in frozen food products.



- Other companies have also had to shutter its plants

❖ Sri Trang Gloves (Thailand) Plc

- 2 plants of STGT have found infected cases

- ✓ Surat Thani province

- ✓ Trang province,

- both in the lower south region. Combined the two plants have 43m pcs/day capacity out of the 90m pcs/day total.

Management assures that operations will not be disrupted for long.

❖ Cal-Comp Electronics (Thailand) Plc

➤ Calcomp electronics facility in the Petchaburi province (upper southern region) reported nearly 1700 infections. The plant has been sealed off since 21 May (for 14 days) and staffs are on quarantine.

- Meanwhile demand for the 1-million SinoPharm vaccine that is to be imported by Chulabhorn Royal Academy (CRA) has now reportedly reached 2-million
- There is a rush for vaccines and as many as 62 provincial Administration Organisations (PAO) reportedly rushed to book for vaccines with the Chulabhorn Royal Academy (CRA) following reports that the CRA is seeking to import the 1st lot of Covid-19 vaccines from Sinopharm in June.

❖ Deputy Interior Minister Niphon Bunyamanee has come out to say that PAO could seek to secure alternative vaccines for certain groups of people in their areas if they have enough budget. As a result, the Public Health Ministry (PHM) does not have to take care of the groups targeted by PAO. He told provincial governors to coordinate information with the PHM to avoid confusion.



- Deputy Prime Minister Anupong Paochinda has come out to say that
 - ❖ The local administration can buy the vaccines themselves by law BUT the Office of the Auditor General has said that it can't be done.

- Another big news is the death of the Ukrainian ambassador to Thailand Andrii Beshta, 44, who was declared dead on Lipe Island in Satun province.
 - ❖ Beshta died a sudden death in his hotel room at a resort on the island early morning yesterday. His death was not Covid-19 related, according to Satun provincial authorities, citing that the result of his swab test for Covid-19 was negative.
 - ❖ His son told local police that the former ambassador went to sleep around 23.00 hrs on Saturday, then woke up at 4:30 hrs and felt violently ill.
 - ❖ The ambassador vomited until he lost consciousness and passed away soon after.
 - ❖ Police said they suspect Beshta may have suffered a heart failure. They have launched an investigation though initial findings suggested no foul play. There is no immediate comment from Ukrainian officials.
 - ❖ Beshta had been the Ukrainian ambassador to Thailand since 2016. He had previously been posted to Thailand from 2007 to 2011. He started working in Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1998 and was posted to the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations in New York.

- Looking to get vaccinated and tired of waiting for the Thai government to get the job done?

- ❖ Well there are people who are flying to United States to get vaccinated and Thai Enquirer just carried a news story about a man who flew to San Francisco to get vaccinated and had detailed his experience of getting it done.

➤ <https://www.thaienquirer.com/28045/a-thai-mans-quest-for-a-vaccinee-led-him-to-the-united-states/>

- Karma is a bitch, so they say:

- ❖ China, which was the epicentre of the virus that has now grounded the world to a standstill has now started to report the highly contagious and deadly B.1617.2 (Indian variant). The Wuhan Virus has now met its match.
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Political News

- Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha and his cabinet ministers are set to address upcoming house assembly as the lower House's debate on the budget bill for the 2022 fiscal year is set to be kicked off on the 1st day today.
 - ❖ Ahead of the debate, opposition Pheu Thai Party MP and deputy leader Yutthapong Charassathien has come out to say that Pheu Thai will vote to shoot down the budget bill.
 - ❖ 55 MPs have been assigned to dissect the government's proposed spending bill, especially the inappropriate allocation of a budget to finance public health amid the ongoing outbreak and economic woes, Yutthapong said.
 - ❖ He attacked the government for allocating a massive budget for the defence for arms and 2 more Chinese-made submarine deals.
 - ❖ Yutthapong said Gen Prayut could expect Pheu Thai MPs' lining up to grill him his failure to deliver his promise for the government's mass vaccination drive

starting on June 7 for at least 50 million Thais. He said there is no doubt that Gen Prayut will be able to fulfil his promise due to the lack of vaccines, especially the AstraZeneca vaccine.

- ❖ He went on to say that the Chulabhorn Royal Academy's plan to import alternative Covid-19 vaccines to administer to the public demonstrates the government's vaccination plan failure.
- ❖ The opposition Kao Klai (Move Forward) Party said it has prepared 21 MPs to scrutinise the budget bill, according to Move Forward spokesperson Sutthawan Suban Na Ayuthaya.
- ❖ Sutthawan decried cuts in welfare budgets including a 20-billion-baht cut in the state welfare card scheme; a 20-billion-baht cut in the social security budget and a 1.8-billion-baht cut in the gold card scheme, compared to a relatively small cut back on defence budgets for arms and submarine procurement projects.
- ❖ Move Forward said the way the government's spending plan for the next fiscal year was laid out cast doubt on transparency and erode its trust in Gen Prayut to continue his rule.
- In a separate issue, opposition Pheu Thai Party MP and deputy leader Yutthapong Charassathien has claimed that Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha is planning to propose to the cabinet the extension of BTS' operation concession contracts for the Green Line skytrain by another 40 year on June 1 after Bangkok Mass Transit System Plc (BTSC), as the operator of the BTS skytrain, put up a sign asking City Hall to pay its overdue debt worth around 30 billion baht.
- ❖ Yutthapong accused Gen Prayut of pushing an extension of the Green Line concession urgently to please tycoon business people while his government is acting slowly to find vaccines to protect Thais amid escalation of the outbreak.

- ❖ Yutthapong urged the Prime Minister to answer him which agenda is more important.
- In a related development, Saree Aongsomwang, secretary-general of the Foundation for Consumers, said she suspected that the maximum fare ceiling at 65 baht on the Green Line was not calculated based on fact-based information about operating costs of the Green Line. She said the fare ceiling is 39.35% higher than the daily minimum wage of workers.
 - ❖ Saree said based on information from BTS Group Holdings itself, the Green Line skytrain has operating costs per trip were 19.10 baht, 16.30 baht and 13.50 baht in 2019, 2018 and 2017, relatively. Therefore, it is possible for the government to set the fare at 25 baht per round trip.
- As the House of Representatives is almost ready for the new parliamentary session today to debate on the budget bill for the fiscal year 2022 scheduled from May 31-June 2, strict Covid-19 prevention measures have been laid down.
 - ❖ Parliament speaker Chuan Leekpai has issued an order for MPs to keep their face masks on during the debate but said they are allowed to take them off while speaking if they wish.
 - ❖ A clear acrylic barrier has been set up near the podium to separate the Prime Minister, government and opposition MPs. MPs were told to clean microphone and podium every time after their speeches.
- On protest news, the Criminal Court is set to examine bail applications submitted by pro-democracy protest leaders Anont Nampha, Panupong “Mike Rayong” Jadnok for their role in installing a new plaque to symbolise people’s power at Sanam Luang on September 19 last year. The court’s examination will take place at 10.30 hrs tomorrow.

- ❖ The protesters' lawyer Krissadang Nuttajaras submitted bail requests seeking temporary release of the 2 activists on May 21. On the same day, the court also scheduled to a bail hearing for Chukiat "Justin" Saengwong, another Ratsadon group activist, who has been detained on charges of violation of the lese majeste law under Section 1123 of the criminal code for his involvement in a rally led by the Restart Democracy (Redem) group in Sanam Luang (royal field).
 - ❖ Ratsadon protester Singer Chai-amorn Kaewwiboonpan, aka "Ammy the Bottom Blues", posted on his Facebook that he will go and take Panupong home, implying his confidence that Panupong will be granted temporary release.
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Economic News

- The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) has pledged to secure Covid-19 vaccines from the Chulabhorn Royal Academy (CRA) for employees of the private sector, FTI vice-chairman Kriengkrai Thiennukul said.
 - ❖ Kriengkrai said 6,217 member companies covering 1.04 million members are ready to pay for vaccines according to its latest survey. Hence, the body plans to secure 300,000 doses of vaccine urgently for the industrial sector, from its target of securing 500,000-10 million doses of vaccines. The FTI also informed its need for 1 million doses of vaccines with the Labour Ministry.
 - ❖ The industries in an urgent need of vaccines are:
 - 1) Industrial estates in highest-risk areas identified as the red-zone where major clusters of infections were located and caused operations to be suspended, affecting workers' wages, supply chains and Thai shipments. The FTI has its concern on an electronics factory in Phetchaburi.

2) Hygienically sensitive areas such as meat processing and frozen plants.

❖ Meanwhile, Thai Chamber of Commerce chairman Sanan Angubolkul said 1 million TCC members covering a wide range of sectors from the trade, manufacturing to service sectors, want their employees to be vaccinated urgently. He said the TCC had coordinated with state agencies to speed up vaccination programs and vaccine stations outside hospitals urgently.

• The export sector is facing an acute labour shortage as a result of the 3rd wave of the outbreak.

❖ The new wave of the outbreak has caused a severe labour shortage in the export industry, says a source who is an exporter. Export operators were forced to increase wages by 1.5% of the daily minimum wage for workers and overtime by 2-3 hours per day.

❖ Skilled workers are now being pay 50-100 baht more than their usual rates, the source said, adding that operators are now facing wage rise of around 500-1,000 baht per worker per day.

❖ Meanwhile, Labour Minister Suchart Chomklin promised to allow migrant workers from 3 countries including Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia to alleviate the labour shortage situation within July after the government completes its vaccination target of 70-80% of the entire population in the next 2-3 months.

• The Thai National Shippers' Council (TNSC) is upbeat on the outlook of Thai exports after Thai shipments rose to a record high in 36 months.

❖ Chaichan Chareonsuk, chairman of the TNSC, said Thai export value in April rose 13.09% to US\$21.429 billion, the highest in 36 months or 3 years, pushing up total shipments with the 1st four months (January to April) of this year to \$85.577 billion.

- ❖ The TNSC predicted that Thai exports will see an expansion above 4% this year, above the Commerce Ministry's estimate of 4%.
 - The Employers' Confederation of Thai Trade and Industry (EconThai) warned of unemployment spike if the spread of the Covid-19 outbreak is not reined in any time soon.
 - ❖ EconThai vice-chairman Tanit Sorat said the number of unemployed Thais will likely spike to more than 1.8 million estimated from December 2020-March 2021 if the outbreak is not quickly contained.
 - ❖ Apart from many laid-off formal workers, informal workers, new graduates and migrant workers are the groups that will likely become unemployed, Tanit said, warning that the outbreak will prevent migrant workers from returning to the labour market at the normal level. As a result, industries that likely to feel the pinch are the construction sector, the tourism and service sectors, Tanit said, pointing that the body will keep a close watch on more risk factors from May to June.
 - ❖ Tanit further warned that retail jobs are also at risk in the next couple of months as people are not spending. This may send some retailers go out of business.
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Political News Headlines in Thai Media

- According to some Thai politicians, the good vaccine is what's available. I don't believe so!
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/28045/a-thai-mans-quest-for-a-vaccine-led-him-to-the-united-states/>
- There is a reoccurring term in Thai politics that is simple on its surface but should be more closely scrutinized.

- Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/28052/opinion-why-the-definition-of-a-good-person-in-the-thai-context-must-be-redefined/>
- The stepping up by Chulabhorn Royal Academy this week to help procure Covid-19 vaccines has highlighted government inflexibility and failure, members of the opposition said Friday.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/28022/cra-involvement-in-vaccine-procurement-is-slap-in-the-face-for-government-opposition-says/>
- The Thai government is asking people not to call a new strain of Covid-19 detected in the UK the “Thai variant” as it originated in Egypt.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/28006/thai-government-says-dont-call-it-the-thai-variant/>
- Proposed amendments to the Official Information Act are aimed at protecting state secrets, contrary to the law’s original goal of securing the public’s right to access government data, critics warn.
 - Link- <https://www.thaipbsworld.com/govt-moves-to-restrict-freedom-of-information-is-a-mandate-for-corruption-critics-warn/>
- The Rural Doctors Society has accused the government of concealing information about the real situation facing supplies of the AstraZeneca vaccine promised for this week.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2124095/govt-accused-of-concealing-vaccine-data>
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has clarified that Thailand has entered into an agreement on exchange of vaccines, which was different from joining the Covax Facility.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40001471>
- The Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (DES) plans to sue Accap Assets for allegedly defaming the government over claims regarding the import of Sinopharm vaccine for Covid-19.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40001444>
- Authorities worry large numbers of Thais in Malaysia may cross back illegally in light of a new nationwide lockdown in the neighbouring country.

- Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2124019/govt-frets-about-illegal-returnees-fleeing-malaysia-lockdown>
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Economic News Headlines in Thai Media

- Over the last two weeks, Thai companies have been questioned over Covid-19 outbreaks in their workplace.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/28050/opinion-corporations-have-chosen-to-remain-open-it-will-cost-lives-and-suffering/>
- Salaikate Wattanaphan, former president of the Supreme Court, has denied any involvement in the bribery case linked to a tax dispute involving a Thai subsidiary of automaker Toyota, Toyota Motor Thailand (TMT).
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2123723/ex-judge-denies-bribe-tie>
- Apart from the impact on the economy, the Covid-19 pandemic has also upset peoples mental health, according to a Suan Dusit Poll survey released on Sunday.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40001476>
- The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is planning to revive tourism by launching "Amazing Thailand Grand Sale 2021".
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40001474>
- Bangkok ranked among the most overworked cities in the world, along with Hong Kong, Buenos Aires, Singapore and Seoul, according to the "Cities with the Best Work-Life Balance 2021" rankings by Kisi.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40001439>
- The Central Bankruptcy Court on Friday postponed the hearing on Thai Airways International's rehabilitation plan to June 15.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/in-focus/40001418>

- The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) Index closed at 1,581.98 on Friday, down 0.98 points or 0.06 per cent. Transactions amounted to THB99.50 billion with an index high of 1,595.45 and a low of 1,579.53.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/business/40001422>
- SET-listed BEC World, the operator of Channel 3, is hoping for a business turnaround this year, supported by rejigged news programmes as it offers content for over-the-top (OTT) platforms and other countries via licensing, production of original series and increasing the subscription base of its CH3 Plus app.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2123503/bec-invests-in-news-content-for-growth>
- SET-listed WHA Utilities & Power Plc (WHAUP), which provides utilities under WHA Corp, Thailand's biggest industrial land developer and operator, expects its 2021 total revenue to soar by 25% from 2.6 billion baht last year thanks to higher sales.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/2123531/whaup-upbeat-on-revenue>

Issues to be watched out for

- March 31-June 30, 2021 – The deadline extension to file personal income taxes for the 2020 tax year.
- May, 2021 – The 66th Bangkok Gems & Jewelry Fair (BGJF) Virtual Trade Fair is set to be held.
- May, 2021 – The new parliament house will be officially inaugurated.
- May 28, 2021 – Thai Airways International Plc (THAI) expects final approval for its business rehab plan by the Central Bankruptcy Court.
- May 31-July 2, 2011 –Parliamentarians are expected to debate the 1st reading of a budget bill for the year 2022 fiscal year.
- June, 2021 – Siam Bioscience to start mass production plan of Covid-19 vaccines.
- June, 2021 – 6,174 private firms including around 1 million employees said they want the vaccine distribution provided by the private sector in addition to the government’s plan to inoculate factory workers.

- June, 2021 – Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC)’s debt holiday is due to expire.
- June, 2021 – Thai Airways expects the bankruptcy court to hold hearings to consider and approve the plan and also appoint an administrator.
- June 9-11, 2021 – The 2022 budget appropriation bill is expected to be tabled for parliament deliberations.
- June-September, 2021 – Thailand plans to administer 1st doses of AstraZeneca vaccine to 36 million people, according to the Public Health Ministry.
- July, 2021 – TMB-Thanchart Bank (TMB-TBank) expects to complete the integration of the 2 financial entities.
- July 1, 2021 – Vaccinated tourists can visit Phuket without undergoing mandatory quarantine.
- July 27, 2021 – The Criminal Court for Corruption and Misconduct Cases scheduled for a hearing in a lawsuit filed by BTS Group Holdings against the governor of the Mass Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand (MRTA) for illegally amending the bidding terms and cancelling bidding for the construction of the western extension of the Orange Line.
- September 1, 2021 – The government will collect value-added tax from Netflix, Youtube, Google, Facebook as well as other e-commerce services.
- October, 2021 – Bangkok governor election is set to be held.
- October – December, 2021 - The 2nd doses of AstraZeneca would be administered.
- October 1, 2021 – The quarantine measure will be lifted in Krabi, Phang Nga, Pattaya and Chiang Mai.

Key Data

SET Index	1,581.98	-0.98
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- Link - https://www.set.or.th/en/company/ipo/upcoming_ipo_set.html

Global Commodities

- Metal -Link <http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/commodities/futures/metals/>

- Energy -Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/energy/>
- Baltic Dry Index (BDI)-Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/quote/BDIY:IND>

Global Equity Market's Movements

- Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/stocks/world-indexes/asia-pacific/>

Asian Equity Markets Movement

- Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/stocks/world-indexes/>

Information on May 28, 2021

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action
ASN	1,000	3.82	Purchase
CCET	500,000	3.22	Sale
CHAYO	500,000	16	Sale
EP	100,000	5.2	Purchase
ILM	60,000	16.8	Sale
ITEL	410,000	-	Acceptance of Transfer
LPH	20,500	5.16	Purchase
MINT	4,709,404	0.68	Sale
MINT	180,368	0.65	Sale
MINT	580,812	0.66	Sale
MTI	30,000	90.44	Purchase
NSL	250,000	14.6	Purchase
NSL	250,000	15.1	Sale
PIMO	571,428	1.19	Sale
PRINC	2,800,000	4.5	Transfer
QLT	40,000	4.38	Sale
SIRI	500,000	1.3	Sale
CFRESH	454,000	2.22	Sale
CFRESH	200,000	2.22	Sale
SICT	250,000	4.27	Sale
SICT	150,000	4.47	Sale

STGT	150,000	45.75	Sale
STGT	182,000	46	Sale
STGT	220,000	46	Sale
STGT	20,000	46.65	Sale
SUN	100,000	5.95	Purchase
SUSCO	73,100	3.24	Purchase
III	11,000,000	8	Sale
III	4,000,000	8	Sale
III	3,000,000	8	Sale
III	3,000,000	8	Sale
III	5,000,000	8	Sale
III	2,000,000	8	Sale
III	12,000,000	8	Sale
AUCT	500,000	10.7	Transfer
WAVE	200,000	0.65	Sale

XD, XE or XM or other notifications

For list of Companies that have dividend payment and AGM meeting schedules click on <http://www.set.or.th/set/calendarofevents.do>

Trading Breakdown on the Stock Exchange of Thailand

Daily as of 28 May 2021							Unit: M.Baht
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net		
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	
Local Institutions	7,096.29	7.13	6,430.07	6.46	666.22	-	
Proprietary Trading	8,802.72	8.85	8,402.77	8.44	399.95	-	
Foreign Investors	36,938.90	37.12	38,247.82	38.44	-1,308.92	-	
Local Individuals	46,670.32	46.9	46,427.56	46.66	242.75	-	
Monthly Cumulative between 1 - 28 May 2021							Unit: M.Baht
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net		
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	
Local Institutions	109,528.72	6.16	108,988.14	6.13	540.58	-	
Proprietary Trading	151,306.86	8.51	152,496.40	8.57	-1,189.54	-	
Foreign Investors	688,335.08	38.7	722,834.69	40.64	-34,499.62	-	

Local Individuals	829,339.92	46.63	794,191.35	44.65	35,148.57	-
Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan - 28 May 2021						
						Unit: M.Baht
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	655,725.57	7.23	692,183.57	7.63	-36,458.01	-
Proprietary Trading	919,508.32	10.14	917,218.78	10.11	2,289.53	-
Foreign Investors	3,246,746.43	35.8	3,314,274.57	36.55	-67,528.15	-
Local Individuals	4,246,554.14	46.83	4,144,857.52	45.71	101,696.62	-

Total Trading Value 99,508.23 Million Baht

Background Information –

The strength of each party in the Thai Parliament as of May 8, 2019 as per the report by the Election Commission of Thailand. Elections took place on March 24, 2019

- https://www.ect.go.th/ect_th/news_all.php?cid=24
- List of MPs - https://www.ect.go.th/ect_th/download/article/article_20190508184334.pdf

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