

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 14 JUNE 2021

### **1. PM unlocks five activities in Bangkok from June 14**

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

In a Facebook post, the PM said the approval, with conditions, was given because the epidemic situation was at a controllable level, and as people in Bangkok had begun to receive vaccination in large numbers. The relaxation will take effect from 14 June. The Bangkok authority will issue orders regarding preventive measures for the five types of places to be strictly followed. Those failing to adhere may be ordered to close. Prayut said the decision was made to balance virus control and the economic situation as many are seeking resumption of their livelihood.

### **2. Govt refloats national shipping line plan**

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

The Port Authority of Thailand (PAT) will conduct a feasibility study into setting up a "National Maritime Navigation Line", Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob said on 12 June. The shipping line, which would be created as an affiliate of the PAT, would boost infrastructure deployment for the government's southern land bridge and the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) schemes until work is completed and the projects are up and running in 2027 and 2025 respectively, he said. The proposed state-owned maritime navigation line will also help Thai exporters and importers to rely less on foreign companies for freight transport services, he said.

### **3. BGRIM equips dairy with solar hardware**

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

B.Grimm Power Plc (BGRIM) is installing rooftop solar panels with a capacity of six megawatts for Alaska Milk Corporation, the largest dairy manufacturer in the Philippines, as part of its plan to grow its solar power business. The company set a goal this year to install rooftop solar panels with generation capacity totalling 100MW for factories and commercial buildings. BGRIM president Harald Link said the company wants to tap into growing demand for clean energy resources this year, both domestically and internationally.

### **4. Thai Credit Retail Bank educates and finances micro SMEs**

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

The economic situation and the Covid-19 pandemic are widely affecting all sectors and one of them is the small entrepreneur, or micro SME. Although it is a relatively large group, the individual size of the business is small, hence it is difficult to access financial services, the bank said. "Illegal lenders" is a solution that small entrepreneurs often choose, paying high

interest rates on loans, resulting in growing debt. Thai Credit Retail Bank launched Tang To Know-how, a financial literacy programme for small entrepreneurs, especially merchants' group. Participants in the Tang To Know-how programme are able to be inspired about their potential and the possibilities for their businesses and actually take the pertinent steps towards making their dreams a reality, Gunara said.

#### **5. 'No quarantine' under Phuket Sandbox: TAT**

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

There will be no quarantine for foreign visitors under the Phuket Sandbox scheme and their two-week confinement to the island will suffice, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) chief said on 12 June. The TAT is involved in reviewing the Tourism Sandbox scheme ahead of the island reopening to foreign tourists on July 1. The reopening plan for the island, known as the "Phuket Sandbox", is meant for fully vaccinated tourists from countries with a low or medium risk of Covid-19 transmission. The island is pinning its hopes of a revival on the scheme, while other resort areas are watching closely as they too seek a route to reopen to tourists. TAT governor Yuthasak Supasorn paid a visit to the island yesterday during which he made the remarks.