

THAI NEWS UPDATE:16 JULY 2021

1. Long-stay visas, EVs to help spur economy

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

Deputy Prime Minister Supattanapong Punmeechaow is planning to propose to the cabinet a plan to allow rich foreigners to enjoy long-stay visas in Thailand. According to Mr Supattanapong, the Centre for Economic Situation Administration (CESA) approved in principle on June 4 a scheme to offer long-stay visas to four groups of foreigners -- rich global citizens, wealthy retirees, rich professionals working in Thailand, and highly skilled professionals. These groups will be entitled to a visa of up to 10 years and have the ability to own land and property.

2. Shippers eye industrial Covid control

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

A group of Thai exporters is growing concerned about the rising number of infections, particularly in the industrial manufacturing sector, pointing out if the infection rate is not controlled it may affect the country's export performance this year. Chaichan Chareonsuk, president of the Thai National Shippers' Council (TNSC), said he is afraid Thai exports in October may be adversely affected if the government fails to contain the Covid-19 spread over the next two months.

3. Thai Red Cross to offer 1 million free Moderna jabs

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

The Thai Red Cross will import one million doses of Moderna's mRNA vaccine and offer it for free to the public. The plan was revealed to a parliamentary panel by the secretary-general of the Thai Red Cross chief on 15 July. Dr Tej Bunnag told the Extraordinary Committee on Budget Expenditures that his organisation – one of five government agencies authorised to procure Covid-19 vaccine – had already negotiated the deal with US-based Moderna. The Government Pharmaceutical Organisation (GPO) would take responsibility for importing the vaccine, he added.

4. Dusit opens new hotel in Hua Hin

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

Hotel developer Dusit International opened its latest hotel today, known as the DusitD2 Hua Hin, in the hope that tourism arrivals will pick up soon. Located just a 7-minute walk from Hua Hin's main beach and local attractions like the Cicada Market and Bluport Hua Hin Resort

Mall, the hotel contains 152 rooms and suites in total ranging from 30 to 92 square metres, including select rooms equipped with pet-friendly amenities for up to two pets. The launch marks Dusit's third hotel in Hua Hin. The Dusit Thani Hua Hin, a deluxe beachside resort, has been operating for 30 years. Dusit also recently began managing the Seapine Recreation Centre, next to Suanson beach.

5. TAT expects sandbox schemes to give tourism a big boost

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

The pilot tourism sandbox programme in Phuket that started on July 1 has been a great success. From July 1-14 the province has welcomed 5,742 tourists, nearly reaching the same level as in May, which had 6,512 tourists,” TAT Governor Yuthasak Supasorn said on Thursday. “Meanwhile, we tested all visitors and found that only 10 were infected, which is lower than expected and is easily manageable.” Yuthasak added that on Thursday, Koh Samui in Surat Thani also opened under the sandbox programme, followed by Koh Phi Phi and Railay Beach in Krabi as well as Khao Lak and Koh Yao in Phang Nga.

6. Locally made Favipiravir tablets used for Covid treatment get FDA approval

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

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved for use in Thailand Favipiravir tablets -- administered to Covid-19 patients -- researched, developed and manufactured by the Government Pharmaceutical Organisation (GPO). The GPO will start manufacturing Favipiravir tablets in August and will start delivering to hospitals immediately,” Dr Nanthakan Suwanpidokkul, a drug specialist at GPO, said on Thursday. “In the early phase, we can produce at least 2 million tablets of 200mg per month at the GPO’s factory in Bangkok, but in the following months we will expand the manufacturing to our Pathum Thani factory to further increase the output.”

7. Koh Samui receives first foreign travellers in more than a year

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

The first batch of foreigner travellers under the Samui Plus model touched down at Koh Samui International Airport at 11.35am on 15 July. However, all foreign nationals on board the flight from Bangkok were journalists rather than tourists, as the reopening of Surat Thani’s resort island got off to a slow start. Tourism and Sports Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn said Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha will preside over the Samui Plus opening ceremony in a videoconference at 6pm. Also expected at the conference are Phiphat, Tourism Authority of

Thailand (TAT) Governor Yuthasak Supasorn, Surat Thani Governor Witchawut Jinto and Koh Samui Tourism Promotion Association chairman Ratchaporn Poolsawas.