

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 16 JUNE 2021

### **1. Thailand preps to resume EU talks**

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

Thailand aims to settle a joint understanding document that paves the way to kicking off talks for the long-awaited free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union (EU) this year. According to Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit who met Pirkka Tapiola, the EU ambassador to Thailand, on 14 June, the joint understanding document will be used as a framework for the FTA talks by the two governments which are expected to commence next year. Auramon Supthaweethum, director-general of the Trade Negotiations Department, said the joint understanding document covers trade in goods, trade in services and investments, as well as other areas of interest, such as intellectual property, government procurement and e-commerce.

### **2. New rules set for hospitals offering vaccine booking**

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

The Department of Health Service Support (HSS) announced this week that it has set five rules for private hospitals to follow when advertising vaccine registrations. The vaccine brand advertised must be registered and approved by the Thai Food and Drug Administration. • Hospitals must first seek permission from HSS or provincial health offices before launching vaccine booking campaigns. • If hospitals take money for advance booking but then cannot deliver the jabs, all booking fees must be returned to people...

### **3. THG set to import Moderna**

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

SET-listed Thonburi Healthcare Group Plc (THG) will import 5 million doses of Moderna vaccines through the Government Pharmaceutical Organisation (GPO) in the third or fourth quarter this year in a bid to help solve the vaccine shortage. The company expects to get approval from the GPO within the coming month. THG wants to buy a total of 10 million doses but will first bring in half. Boon Vanasin, chairman of THG, said Thailand should use various types of vaccines to fight variants of the Covid-19 virus. Moreover, the variety of vaccines will help build herd immunity faster.

#### **4. State retains price control on 51 items**

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

The government has retained its price control on 51 products and services while pledging to come up with more stringent measures on four products including vegetables and fruits, as well as imported steel bars and DDGS (distiller's dried grains with solubles). The meeting of the Central Committee on the Prices of Goods and Services chaired by Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit yesterday decided to maintain the price control list for 51 items, 46 of which are products and five services. The list would be later proposed for cabinet approval.

#### **5. TAT signs pact to make Thai tourism sector more environmentally friendly**

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

TAT signed the MoU with Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organisation (TGO) and Thai Ecotourism and Adventure Travel Association (TEATA) in a ceremony broadcast on the 7 Greens Facebook page on 14 June. TAT governor Yuthasak Supasorn said the aim is to build awareness among tourism operators to ensure the tourism industry can run in line with the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) economic development model. "We will also apply technology and innovations to tackle climate change and work on cutting down on greenhouse gases caused by tourism by at least 50 million tonnes," he said. TGO executive director Kiatchai Maitriwong said tourism activities contributed 8 per cent of the country's greenhouse gas emission

#### **6. Govt vows to offer relief measures for household debts**

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

In a bid to ease the burden on people, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha urged the Cabinet on 15 June to come up with measures to ease debt problems both in the short and long term. He said many borrowers need help such as students, guarantors, teachers, government officials with car and motorcycle loans, credit cards and personal loans, etc. Prayut said short-term measures to be launched within six months will include a reduction in interest burden and debt restructuring. The Bank of Thailand will also be asked to review the interest ceiling and come up with guidelines. "We will also consider mediating to stop legal action against borrowers, will launch soft loans to help small and medium-sized enterprises and increase the number of pawnshops to take care of low-income people," he said.