

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 17 JUNE 2021

### **1. Country to reopen 'in 120 days'**

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha says his government plans to reopen the country within the next 120 days, despite the risk of a further rise in Covid-19 infections. "The time has now come for us to look ahead and set a date for when we can fully open our country and start receiving visitors," the PM said during a live TV broadcast to the nation yesterday. Gen Prayut said a speedy reopening of the country was an important way to begin mitigating the immense economic hardship inflicted by the pandemic on people who had lost their ability to earn an income.

### **2. CCSA seeks Phuket Sandbox revisions**

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

The Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration's (CCSA) sub-committee has asked the Tourism Authority of Thailand to revise the Covid-19 control plan proposed for its Phuket Tourism Sandbox programme, due to kick off on July 1. A revision is required before it can be forwarded to the CCSA's main committee on Friday, Apisamai Srirangson, assistant spokeswoman for the CCSA, said on 16 June. Suggestions made by the Department of Disease Control as well as the CCSA's sub-committee at a meeting on 16 June will be incorporated into the revision to improve the effectiveness of Covid-19 control, she said.

### **3. Thailand to ban imports of plastic scrap within 5 years**

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

PCD director-general Athapol Charoenshansa insisted on 16 June that the government had no policy of importing plastic waste. "We have urged the Thai Customs Department and related authorities to return containers of plastic waste to their country of origin," he said. However, Athapol conceded that the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry allows imports of plastic scrap to feed the industrial sector, with 150,807 tonnes shipped last year and 44,307 tonnes from January to April this year. But he said importation is gradually being reduced to zero, while the government is now actively promoting domestic recycling of plastic waste. Thailand had also banned importation of electronic waste in September last year, penalising violators with fines and imprisonment, Athapol noted

#### **4. BJC selected to be included as a member of FTSE4Good Emerging Markets and FTSE4Good ASEAN 5 indexes by FTSE Russell**

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

Berli Jucker Public Company Limited (BJC)'s credentials as a global leader in sustainability have once again been testified to by its inclusion in the FTSE4Good Emerging Markets and FTSE4Good ASEAN 5 indexes by FTSE Russell, an independent global provider of indexing, benchmarks, analytics and data solutions, announced on 21 June 2021. "We are honoured and delighted that BJC has been selected to be included as a member of the FTSE4Good Index Series in both FTSE4Good Emerging Markets and FTSE4Good ASEAN 5 indexes," commented Mr. Aswin Techajareonvikul, BJC's Chief Executive Officer & President.

#### **5. Central Pattana celebrates gender diversity, reaffirms its provision of equal opportunities**

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

Central Pattana plc., operator of 33 shopping centres across Thailand, including centralwOrld, CentralPlaza, CentralFestival, Central Phuket, and Thailand's first luxury outlet, Central Village, shows its support for gender diversity and reaffirms its position as an organisation that provides equal opportunities for all, as it values individual performance over ethnicity, race, skin colour, religion, gender, language and other characteristics, under its sustainable development approach. Central Pattana has dedicated The Panoramix screen, other areas and media channels within its shopping centres to creating awareness of gender diversity and celebrating gender diversity as the beauty of life, while striving to provide the best experience to everyone with a commitment to creating a positive force for the communities as well as the country as a whole.

#### **6. 1.6 million AstraZeneca doses being delivered this week: Anutin**

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

A total of 1.6 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine are being delivered to the Public Health Ministry this week, Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said on 16 June. A total of 1.6 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine are being delivered to the Public Health Ministry this week, Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said on 16 June. day the ministry is receiving 600,000 doses of AstraZeneca and the next lot of 1 million doses will arrive on Friday," he said. "Once the vaccines arrive, we will distribute them to every province based on population density and other risk factors in each area," he said. "The rumour that Buri Ram will be allocated more vaccines than other provinces is not true." Buri Ram is one of the major electoral bases of

Anutin's Bhumjaithai Party, with the national election in 2019 seeing the party's candidates winning all eight constituencies of the northeastern province.