

## Thai News Update: 1 February 2021

### **1. Bangkok allows many businesses, venues to reopen but bars to remain closed**

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

Bangkok Governor Aswin Kwanmuang on 20 January evening allowed 37 types of venues in the province to reopen after they had been ordered to close in the aftermath of the second Covid-19 wave. The governor's announcement follows approval on 29 January from the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) for relaxation. The order, approved by the provincial communicable disease prevention committee, will take effect on February 1. However, pubs, bars, karaoke booths, massage parlours, cockfighting or other types of animal fighting stadium, and child-care centres located in Bang Khun Thian, Bang Khae, Bang Phlat, Chom Thong and Thonburi districts will remain closed.

### **2. DPO targets 500 'Milk Land' shops in five years, eyes 10 per cent boost in sales**

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

The Dairy Farming Promotion Organisation (DPO), a state enterprise under the Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry and producer of Thai-Danish milk, is planning to open 500 branches of "Milk Land" nationwide within the next five years to sell its milk products. "After DPO had appointed Tea Story Rama IX to manage its subsidiary -- Thai-Denmark Milk Land -- in May 2020, the number of Milk Land branches has jumped from 102 to 132 in less than a year," said DPO's acting director, Suchart Jariyalertsak. "We aim to open at least 70 new branches yearly and hope to achieve 500 in five years and will increase DPO's revenue from milk sales by 10 per cent.

### **3. Tourism minister remains upbeat on attracting 5 million visitors**

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

It is feasible Thailand could receive 5 million international arrivals this year, half the original forecast of 10 million as the pandemic continues to ravage the tourism industry worldwide, according to the Tourism and Sports Ministry. "If we can attract 5 million tourists this year under the current circumstances, that would be a success," said Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, the tourism and sports minister. To reach 10 million arrivals, a significant number of conditions would have to be met in both Thailand and origin countries for tourists, he said. Government sentiment and local sentiment between Thailand and countries such as China, India or Malaysia, for example, would need to be strong enough for tourists to feel comfortable

visiting. Visitors from these three countries accounted for 40% of the 39.8 million foreign arrivals to Thailand in 2019.

#### **4. Commerce launches new site**

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

The Commerce Ministry has launched the MOC Online One-Stop Service, gathering 85 services covering new business registration, intellectual property, international and internal trade, earlier provided by nine agencies under the ministry, on one site. Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit said on 29 January the new service covers four areas comprising 22 services related to business registration; 11 services for intellectual property; 28 services related to international trade; and 24 services regarding internal trade issues. The new online service was developed after the ministry consulted with all stakeholders, including farmers, manufacturers, exporters, service providers and general business operators.

#### **5. BGRIM ramps up its solar projects**

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

Thailand's largest private energy firm, B.Grimm Power Plc (BGRIM), is increasing its solar power development this year through a number of projects and partnerships related to rooftop and floating solar farms. BGRIM recently partnered with Univentures BGP Co Ltd (UVBGP) to install 400-500 megawatts of clean energy over the next three years, with a focus on rooftop and floating solar farm projects. The firm is also working with the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand to build the world's largest hybrid floating solar plant at Sirindhorn Dam in Ubon Ratchathani. The 45MW project is over 80% complete and is expected to feed energy to the state grid by mid-2021.