

Thai News Update: 1 March 2021

1. Airlines get nod to transit

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

International passengers will be allowed to transit Thailand from 1 March, the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) has announced. The authority has also authorised an easing of some restrictions on domestic flights. International passengers have for some time been banned from transiting at Thai airports or using them to transfer to other flights as part of the government's Covid-19 containment measures, said Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob. The change to the transit/transfer flights policy was made following calls by airlines for Covid-19 relief measures, he said.

2. Finance Ministry prepares assistance for state staff

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

The Finance Ministry is preparing to provide a financial remedy to 137,000 government contract employees to help with the cost of living, says the Fiscal Policy Office (FPO). The government previously rolled out financial remedy measures to assist different groups affected by the pandemic crisis, including those not covered under the social security system and Government Pension Fund. Yet a portion of government contract employees, mostly those whose monthly salary does not exceed 15,000 baht, has yet to receive any financial help, said Kulaya Tantitemit, director-general of the FPO. To assist these low-income government contract employees, the Finance Ministry is mulling a financial remedy measure.

3. Anutin gets first Covid jab as vaccinations finally begin

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

Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul became the first person in the country to get a shot of vaccine against the novel coronavirus on 28 February morning when Thailand rolled out Covid-19 vaccinations for the first time. Mr Anutin received the vaccination at 7.30am at Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute on Tivanon Road in Nonthaburi, with Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha in attendance. The shot was administered to Mr Anutin's arm by Dr Yong Poovorawan, a medical professor in pediatric hepatology at the Faculty of Medicine of Chulalongkorn University. It was the Chinese-made CoronaVac formula developed by Sinovac Life Sciences, which has been judged safe for people aged 18-59.

4. Ministry order allows use of parts of cannabis, hemp plant as food ingredients

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

Use of the whole cannabis and hemp plants as food ingredients is prohibited but parts of them are allowed under some conditions, the Ministry of Public Health said in an announcement on food ingredients that are prohibited for sale or import for the safety of consumers. The criteria for using cannabis and hemp as food ingredients caught public attention after the government removed the plants from Thailand's narcotics list in order to boost their potential as economic plants. The announcement, signed by Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul on February 25, listed 80 items of prohibited food ingredients from plants and animals, while cannabis and hemp are listed as No. 18.