

## Thai News Update: 22 April 2021

### **1. Sputnik V to be made available in Thailand**

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

Russian President Vladimir Putin has personally vowed to support Thailand's Covid-19 battle and will therefore be selling it his country's Sputnik V vaccine, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha announced on 22 April. The PM revealed on his Facebook page that Mr Putin had agreed to make the Sputnik jabs available to Thailand via a "government-to-government" contract. Gen Prayut also invited the private sector, including the Federation of Thai Industries, the Thai Bankers' Association and the Thai Chamber of Commerce, to a meeting next Wednesday to discuss ways they could help secure more vaccines.

### **2. Public Health Minister confirms Thailand will buy 10 million doses of Pfizer vaccine**

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

Anutin said he had met Pfizer representatives on 22 April to negotiate the purchase of the vaccines. Pfizer said it was ready to supply 10 million doses to Thailand but was unable to give a timeframe for delivery. "I asked the company to send a delivery schedule urgently along with prices and conditions of purchase," said Anutin. The Public Health Ministry has confirmed it is ready to amend regulations to speed up the purchase even though the Pfizer vaccine is not yet registered in Thailand. The Pfizer purchase can be made under the special law to buy vaccines for emergency situations, Anutin said. He confirmed talks with Pfizer representatives are going well and the US-based company is expected to send vaccine to Thailand as soon as possible

### **3. Private sector eyes purchase of 5 million Covid-19 vaccines to provide free jabs**

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

SCCIB has set up its own teams for dealing with the vaccine issue, especially since the government has been slow in rolling out the shots. The teams are studying the best venues for administering Covid-19 jabs, such as department stores, banks or industrial estates. They also plan to help the government disburse vaccine information and developing a vaccine passport system.

### **4. Development plan targets adding value**

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

The next national economic and social development plan should focus on narrowing income disparity and reducing poverty through innovation, creating a knowledge-based economy and

value-added development, says the state planning unit's chief. According to Danucha Pichayanan, secretary-general of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), the country's 13th national economic and social development plan, which spans from 2023 to 2027, aims to transform Thailand in key four areas. The first goal is to transition the country from natural resource-based industries towards a knowledge-based or high value-added economy that is environmentally friendly.

#### **5. TPCH eyeing Energy For All participation**

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

MAI-listed TPC Power Holding (TPCH), a power business arm of engineering and construction service provider Thai Poly Con Plc (TPC), has announced its participation in an auction for the Energy for All renewable power scheme this year, held as part of government attempts to help the sluggish economy amid the pandemic. While TPCH aims to increase power generation capacity based on clean fuel, its participation also helps the government create jobs for villagers. Energy for All, which was introduced in 2019, encourages communities to co-invest with companies in power plants and sell fast-growing plants as fuel. TPCH managing director Cherdsak Wattanavijitkul said the company will bid for 12 projects, with combined capacity of 40 megawatts. Of the total, 10 will use biomass as fuel while another two will be run by biogas. He said the company already made agreements on joint development with local communities in the South, the North and the Northeast.

#### **6. 153 tourist attractions closed amid Covid-19 wave**

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

The 21 provinces where these sites are located are: Chiang Mai, Mae Hong Son, Nan, Tak, Phitsanulok, Uthai Thani, Lampang, Lamphun, Nakhon Sawan, Uttaradit, Phetchabun, Bangkok, Ayutthaya, Ratchaburi, Phetchaburi, Prachuab Khiri Khan, Kanchanaburi, Suphanburi, Lopburi, Saraburi and Chonburi. Among the famous attractions that have been closed are: Huai Nam Dang National Park in Chiang Mai (until April 30), Si Nan National Park in Nan (until June 30), Umphang Wildlife Sanctuary in Tak (until April 30), Chae Son National Park in Lampang (until further notice) and The Grand Palace and Temple of the Emerald Buddha in Bangkok (until further notice).

#### **7. Exhaustive checks for Phuket arrivals**

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

Authorities on 22 April began screening people wanting to enter the resort island as part of measures to contain the spread of Covid-19. Provincial governor Narong Woonciew inspected

the screening process at the Tha Chatchai checkpoint, the main point of entry by land, where authorities are stopping every vehicle. That operation will continue until the end of the month. Mr Narong said there were some problems in the early stages of the operation but reinforcements from the police and local authorities helped smooth the workflow. People arriving from the 18 provinces designated red ("maximum control") zones must prove they have received two doses of the Covid-19 vaccine or have a Covid-free certificate following an RT-PCR test, issued within 72 hours of arriving.