

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 27 MAY 2022

### **1. Govt seeks monkeypox vaccine**

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

The government is seeking to secure a supply of smallpox vaccine from the World Health Organization (WHO) to bolster the public's immunity in the event of a viral outbreak, Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said on 26 May. Although Thailand has yet to record or detect any case of monkeypox infection, the increasing number of foreign arrivals in the country will heighten the risk of contagion, he said. Mr Anutin made the request on May 5 in a discussion with WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on the sidelines of the 75th World Health Assembly in Geneva.

### **2. Thailand, Japan eye bolstering regional ties**

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida began talks in Japan's capital on 26 May in which they are expected to agree on enhancing regional ties through a US-led Indo-Pacific economic framework launched earlier in the week. Mr Kishida expressed Japan's cooperation for a successful Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit meeting to be held in November in Bangkok chaired by Thailand. The United States and 12 other members of the Indo-Pacific economic framework (IPEF) aim to set standards for the digital economy, ensure secure supply chains and help make major investments for clean energy transition, though how the negotiations will proceed is still unclear. At the outset of the talks, which was open to the press, Mr Kishida said, "I would like to exchange views on how we can further develop our bilateral relations and realise a free and open Indo-Pacific."

### **3. Prayut and Kishida focus on EEC in talks to boost Thai-Japan ties**

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida agreed to boost economic, investment and tourism ties between Thailand and Japan during their talk in Tokyo on 26 May. The meeting was a follow-up after the two countries agreed a new defence deal during Kishida's visit to Bangkok on May 2. Thailand and Japan also agreed to elevate their relationship to a "comprehensive strategic partnership", deepening bilateral security ties amid China's growing regional influence and assertiveness. Following up on Thursday, Prayut thanked Japan for agreeing to set up more Kosen engineering vocational schools in

Thailand to create an Asean economy skills hub. Meanwhile, Kishida said Japan's technology and innovation sectors are ready to boost investment in Thailand's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC). Japan is spearheading efforts to make the EEC a regional centre of electric vehicle manufacturing.

#### **4. Thailand seeks cooperation from Vietnam to boost rice price**

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

An adviser to the agriculture minister said on 26 May that Thailand would seek cooperation from Vietnam to leverage the bargaining power of the two major rice-producing nations. Alongkorn Pollabutr, chairman of the committee steering Agricultural 4.0 policies and chairman of the Agritech and Innovation Centre, said he would discuss the details of plan with Vietnam in August. Alongkorn unveiled the cooperation plan with Vietnam while he was giving an opening speech at the Agritechnica Asia & Horti Asia 2022 held at Bitec Bang Na Exhibition Centre. At the event, Alongkorn welcomed Vietnam's Deputy Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Tran Thanh Nam who was invited to attend the fair, a cooperative venture between Thailand's Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry and the German Agriculture Society.

#### **5. Saudi Arabian teams to visit Thailand for trade, investment discussions**

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

Saudi Arabian delegations from both the public and private sectors are scheduled to visit Thailand from July 4-7 to discuss trade and investment between the two kingdoms, Board of Trade of Thailand chairman Sanan Angubolkul said on 26 May. This is a good opportunity to build mutual confidence in trade and investment. Thailand has the potential to become a hub in Asean for Saudi Arabian trade and investment," Sanan said. "The Board of Trade is confident that Thailand is well prepared to serve as Asean's hub after recent roadshows," he added. The executive was referring to visits to Saudi Arabia by Thai delegations from the Board of Investment, the Eastern Economic Corridor and the private sector.