

## Thai News Update: 28 April 2020

### **1. Lockdown to linger**

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

The Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) has decided to extend the enforcement of the executive decree, the state's most powerful weapon against Covid-19, for another month but will allow some businesses, including shopping malls and hair salons, to reopen to ease the impact of business shutdowns. Some drastic measures implemented under the decree, including the six-hour curfew from 10pm to 4am and strict travel restrictions, will remain as CCSA chief and Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha adopted what he called a "public health-led economy" by giving more weight to health safety rather than the pulse of businesses, CCSA spokesman Taweetilp Visanuyothin said after the CCSA meeting on 28 April.

### **2. Commerce Minister decides not to propose CPTPP for Cabinet consideration**

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

Commerce Ministry said on Monday (April 27) that the minister Jurin Laksanawisit has decided against proposing the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) to the Cabinet for consideration on Tuesday due to concerns about some issues and the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak. The proposal was to be made under the resolution of the Bureau of International Economic Policy led by Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak.

### **3. Incoming flights ban extended to May 31**

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

The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) on 27 April decided to extend the ban on all incoming flights for another month, on continuing worries about the coronavirus pandemic. The aviation regulator announced the extension ahead of the scheduled expiry date, April 30, on the grounds that the situation was worsening. The ban was also in support of the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration's battle to control the pandemic outbreak in Thailand, it said. The announcement did not explain why CAAT believes the situation is getting worse, with many countries now looking to relax some restrictions.

### **4. Chachoengsao, Honda to test Covid-19 tracking app**

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

Chachoengsao province and Honda Automobile (Thailand) Co will begin using a new app to track high-risk areas for Covid-19 in an effort to mitigate the spread of the outbreak. The Mor

Chana app, launched earlier this month by a group of software developers under the name Chuay Kan Group, allows individuals to log whether they are infected with Covid-19 along with their location to provide a heat map of high-risk areas. Areas shown in green on the app are low risk, while areas in red are high risk. Honda required its 18,000 employees in Thailand to download the app and record their own information, using the app to avoid high-risk areas.

#### **5. BBS consortium wins U-tapao airport bid**

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

The subcommittee handling infrastructure development projects at the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) chaired by Finance Minister Uttama Savanayana on 27 April chose the BBS consortium to win the bid to build the 290-billion-baht Eastern Airport City Project at U-tapao. Kanit Sangsubhan, the EEC Office's secretary-general, said the subcommittee will propose the winning bidder for the project to the EEC Committee chaired by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on Thursday and for cabinet approval at a later date. The BBS consortium comprises Sino-Thai Engineering and Construction, Bangkok Airways and BTS Group Holdings. The other two bidders for the project were a CP-led group -- which included Thana Holding, Italian-Thai Development, Ch.Karnchang, B Grimm Joint Ventures Holding and Orient Success International -- and the Grand Consortium, comprising Grande Asset Hotel and Property, Asia Aviation and Christiani & Nielsen Thai.

#### **6. EEC to revise this year's investment target**

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

The Eastern Economic Corridor Office (EECO) of Thailand is revising both its investment promotion target for this year and its investment promotion strategy for next year in response to the impact of Covid-19, said office secretary-general Kanit Sangsubhan. The EECO currently targets annual investment of Bt100 billion in the EEC zone, which covers Rayong, Chonburi and Chachoengsao. However, the outbreak had taken a toll on global investment and no one could tell how long the impact would last, Kanit said.

#### **7. Online expos planned in move to boost exports**

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

The Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP) is planning to pioneer three online exhibitions this year in a move to boost the country's exports, director-general Somdet Susomboon said. The expos planned are the Multimedia Online Virtual Exhibition for promoting digital-content businesses, the THAIFEX: Virtual Trade Fair for promoting food businesses and the Lifestyle Online Virtual Exhibition for showcasing lifestyle and fashion

items. The exhibitions will also include business-matching activities, he added. The Multimedia Online Virtual Exhibition will run from May 25 to 27 and expects at least a million visitors and orders worth up to Bt1 billion.

#### **8. Aid for farmers, Bt400-billion stimulus package in the pipeline**

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

The Cabinet will on Tuesday (April 28) consider a financial package to support farmers affected by both drought and the Covid-19 fallout, under which each family will be given a lumpsum of Bt15,000, Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said. He added that the authorities also plan to launch a Bt400-billion stimulus package aimed at reviving the local economy that has been hit severely by the outbreak. The Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry will propose to the Cabinet remedial measures worth Bt150 billion to help farmers.

#### **9. Bangkok Airways to take to the air from May 15**

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

Bangkok Airways will resume its domestic operations from May 15, starting with the Bangkok-Samui-Bangkok flight twice daily. All flight operations will strictly comply with safety measures and social distancing guidelines set by the Public Health Ministry and the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand, the airline said. The reopening of airports in Sukhothai and Trat and Bangkok Airways' other routes will be announced later. The health and safety measures will include onboard seat distancing, suspension of in-flight food and beverage services and a ban on consumption of personal food or drink. All crew members will wear masks and gloves when on duty and passengers themselves are required to wear protective masks at all times during flights, the airline said.