

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 28 JUNE 2021

1. PM calls meeting to map out further aid

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha called an urgent meeting of the government's economic team on 28 June to map out relief measures for those affected by the latest measures to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic. Government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri said the meeting will discuss financial relief for businesses and individuals after construction camps were ordered closed and some businesses ordered to shut for 30 days over the weekend. Some believe the government may postpone the rollout of Khon La Khrueng ("Half-Half") co-payment scheme which is scheduled to start on Thursday. A government source said it is possible the Finance Ministry may suggest a postponement due to construction worker camps in Greater Bangkok being shut down and dine-in services prohibited in the latest round of measures to curb viral outbreaks.

2. Laos to join meetings on rail link

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

Thailand and China have agreed to seek to hold a monthly tripartite meeting with Laos to review updates on the progress on their plan to connect the Thai-Chinese high-speed rail system in Thailand with Vientiane. The agreement was reached at the 29th meeting of the joint committee on Thai-Chinese rail cooperation, held online on Friday. The meeting was co-chaired by Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob and Ning Jizhe, vice chairman of the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission. After discussing a proposal made by the Thai side to seek a tripartite meeting with Laos to provide regular updates on the progress of the proposed connection of the new line with Laos -- between Nong Khai and Vientiane -- both sides agreed that it should become a monthly feature, said a source at the Transport Ministry.

3. PTTEP stepping up search for additional gas supply

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

PTT Exploration and Production Plc (PTTEP) is expediting plans to supply natural gas from sources other than the Erawan block after losing hope it can access the area because of a legal dispute involving US-based Chevron Corp, says a source at PTTEP who requested anonymity. Last year, PTTEP predicted it might not be able to enter the gas field in the Gulf of Thailand to install production facilities as planned. Known as G1/61, Erawan is operated by Chevron,

but its concession expires in April next year. PTTEP, which won the auction for the G1/61 concession in December 2018, can begin operations starting in 2022.

4. Suvarnabhumi to go digital next month as AOT works on upgrading six airports

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

Airports of Thailand (AOT) is working on digitizing six airports, starting with Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport, in a bid to get ready for a potential influx of tourists once the world reopens next year. So far, AOT has developed the Greenfield system which allows passengers to use various services, such as check-in and baggage loading, via smartphone or automatic devices," AOT president Nitinai Sirismatthakarn said on 28 June. He added that the new technology should be set up in six airports by next year, including Suvarnabhumi Airport, which should have the new system in place by July this year. He added that the new system should be installed in Phuket International Airport by April or May next year. "Passengers who do not have baggage can check-in via a kiosk at the airport or via the AOT smartphone application at home," he said.