

## Thai News Update: 29 April 2020

### **1. PM hints at restriction relaxation as some Bangkok businesses reopen**

**Source: Thai PBS World ([Link](#))**

Lockdown restrictions will be eased in four stages, separated by 14 days, and this will be applied nationwide, according to Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha after 28 April's cabinet meeting. He insisted that public safety and health management are the key elements in determining what will be allowed to reopen. He warned, however, that those that do resume operations could be closed again if there is a new wave of COVID-19 infections. The cabinet today approved the CCSA's proposal to extend the state of emergency, including the night curfew, until the end of May, but did not decide upon which businesses will be allowed to reopen. Meanwhile, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) has worked out a list of businesses and places that will be allowed to resume operations at the end of this month.

### **2. Safety guarantee added to lure tourists back to 'Amazing Thailand'**

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

The government is launching a new tourism measure to boost confidence for domestic and international travellers after the Covid-19 crisis. The "Amazing Thailand Safety and Health Administration" campaign aims to lift standards in the industry by certifying the safety of tourism businesses. The campaign and certification were discussed last week in a meeting between the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), ministries of Public Health and Tourism and Sports, government agencies, and the private sector, revealed Thapanee Kiatphaibool, TAT deputy governor for tourism products and business.

### **3. Cabinet approves plan to create regional hub of 'next-gen' food**

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

The Cabinet on Tuesday (April 28) approved an action plan to drive economic growth by transforming Thailand into Asean's production hub for so-called next-generation processed food. The plan lays out measures for the first phase of processed food industry development, from 2019-2027. It covers rice, livestock, bio-food and health food products. Also incorporated are packaging and digital technology for food innovation. The action plan will see the creation of a new generation of food makers who focus on innovation, value-added products and also intelligent packaging. The plan will be funded by Bt6.671 billion from the 2020-2023 fiscal budget along with private investment of Bt2.224 billion.

#### **4. Cabinet agrees to widen govt cash aid**

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

The cabinet on 28 April approved 5,000-baht handouts over the next three months for 10 million farming households affected by the economic impact of Covid-19, according to an official. Government spokeswoman Narumon Pinyosinwat on 28 April said the handout is worth 150 billion baht and it will come from the one-trillion-baht loan the government is seeking to acquire to finance its Covid-19 economic relief programmes. Ms Narumon said 5,000 baht will be disbursed every 30 days from May to July to 8.43 million households registered under the Department of Agricultural Extension, the Livestock Department, and the Fisheries Department.

#### **5. BMA gives green light for activities to resume in eight areas**

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

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) has agreed to allow the reopening of eight areas of activities but not decided on the date yet, Pongsakorn Kwanmuang, a spokesman for the BMA, said. After the executive meeting, BMA is preparing to issue relief measures, since the current one will end on April 30, with eight types of locations to be opened as follows: 1 Restaurants: People can eat there but seats must be kept 1.5 metres apart and alcoholic beverages are barred; timings must adhere to the Emergency Decree.

#### **6. Ministry organises e-sport competition**

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

The Tourism and Sports Ministry has teamed up with the private sector to organise an e-sport tournament online to enable people to witness or participate in such activities while at home and raise funds for the Thai Red Cross Society, Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn said today (April 28). He said the ministry has cooperated with various organisations, such as the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the Thailand E-Sports Federation, PTG Energy, Garena Online (Thailand) and Netease Games.

#### **7. SET gains as many countries allow some businesses to resume**

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

The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) Index opened at 1,283.03, up 8.04 points or 0.63 per cent, on Wednesday (April 29) morning. A stock analyst at Krungsri Securities expected the index to fluctuate between 1,265 and 1,290. He said the market gained support from many countries, such as the US, in Europe and Thailand allowing some businesses to resume operations after the number of Covid-19 cases started decreasing. “On Tuesday [April 28], the

number of new Covid-19 cases in Thailand was only seven, while investors expected the Federal Open Market Committee [FOMC] to maintain the interest rate at 0-0.25 per cent,” the analyst said.

### **8. Cabinet green-lights tax breaks to lure more factories**

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

The Cabinet on Tuesday (April 28) approved a special tax package to woo manufacturing plants to Thailand. Ministers gave the green light to tax breaks for investors proposed by the Finance Ministry, government spokeswoman Naruemon Pinyosinwat said. The ministry will offer tax deductions on investments in automation and hiring and training high-skilled workers. The tax break varies between 50 and 150 percent of their actual expenses, she said. The expenses must be accrued between January 31, 2019 and December 31, 2020.