

THAI NEWS UPDATE:29 JULY 2021

1. Border trade in June up 41.68% from last year

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

Thailand's border and transit trade in June surged 41.68 per cent from same period last year, the Commerce Ministry reported on 28 July. Total border-transit trade last month was worth 146.094 billion baht. Trade with four neighbouring countries was topped by Malaysia with a rise of 15.33 per cent to 24.849 billion baht. Next came Laos (up 18.40% to 17.894 billion baht), Myanmar (31.79% to 17.139 billion) and Cambodia (20.99% to 13.494 billion). China topped the list for transit trade with a rise of 86.56 per cent to 35.740 billion baht, followed by Singapore (81.65% to 10.158 billion) and Vietnam (16.91% to 6.082 billion).

2. US, UK donating more vaccine to Thailand

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

The United States will give Thailand another 1 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine, to underline the long-standing close relations between the two countries, according to a Thai-born US senator. Tammy Duckworth announced the planned donation, on top of the previously announced 1.5 million doses, but she did not mention the timeframe or type of vaccine. "We will be sending no less than 1.5 million doses of the Covid vaccine. In fact, the goal is 2.5 million, but the first shipment is 1.5 (million)," the Bangkok-born senator said during an online forum organised by the East-West Center on 27 July.

3. Private sector sets up 450-bed field hospital at Bangna-Trad KM 5 to open in early August to support Government policy

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

As the government races to speed up care amid overwhelming demand for private and public hospital beds in the 3rd phase of the COVID-19 outbreak, hospitals under Principal Healthcare Company have worked with businesses and foundations to set up a field hospital to Ministry of Public Health standards. Principal Healthcare is cofounding the field hospital with MQDC, EEC Engineering Network, T&B Media Global, Dhanin Tawee Chearavanont Foundation, Ahriyavraromp Foundation, and Buddharaksa Foundation.

4. Parliament set to debate budget bill

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

House Speaker Chuan Leekpai says parliament will convene on Aug 18-20 to deliberate the budget bill for the 2022 fiscal year, despite the Covid-19 pandemic. He and Senate Speaker Pornpetch Wichitcholchai agreed that parliament would postpone its meetings scheduled for

this week and Aug 4-5 due to surging daily infections. As for the meetings slated for Aug 11-19, Mr Chuan said he would review the schedule again because Aug 12, which is the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit the Queen Mother, is a public holiday.

5. Thailand sees 23% rise in new businesses in first half

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

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the first half of 2021 saw 41,022 new businesses established, or 23 per cent more than the same period last year. In comparison, only 4,930 businesses shut down or 21 per cent fewer than last year. The top three sectors that attracted entrepreneurs this year were construction (3,539 companies), followed by 1,844 real-estate businesses and 1,132 ventures in the logistics sector. Of the 41,022 new businesses, 31,380 ventures had an investment of no more than a million baht, followed by 8,976 companies investing between 1-million- and 5-million-baht, 592 investing between 5 million-plus and 100 million baht, while 74 firms went beyond the 100-million-baht range.

6. Bangkok Airways to resume its first international flight (Samui – Singapore)

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

Starting from 1 August 2021, Bangkok Airways Public Company Limited will resume its first international service between Samui and Singapore in order to support Thailand's re-opening project and the Samui Plus Model project. The resumed services between Samui and Singapore will be operated by an Airbus A319 aircraft, starting with three flights per week (Monday, Thursday and Sunday). The outbound flight PG961 departs Samui Airport at 15.05hrs. and arrives Singapore International Airport at 18.00hrs. The inbound flight PG962 departs Singapore International Airport at 19.30hrs. and arrives Samui Airport at 20.35hrs.