

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 30 JUNE 2021

1. Just hours to go: Phuket Airport all set to welcome 533 international passengers on 1st day of reopening

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

Five international flights are set to touch down at Phuket Airport tomorrow, July 1, the first day of the Phuket Sandbox scheme to reopen the island province to foreign visitors, airport director Thanee Chuangchu said after a final inspection on 29 June, expecting 533 international passengers to arrive on the first day. Under the sandbox, foreigners who can verify they have been fully inoculated against Covid-19 and test negative can fly into Phuket and move around freely in the province without having to quarantine. After spending 14 days in Phuket and if they still test negative, they can then travel to other parts of Thailand.

2. Tourism council predicts 1.4m foreign arrivals

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

Foreign tourist arrivals could tally 3 million this year under the best-case scenario, while the tourism confidence index in the second quarter plunged to its lowest point as 2 million people lost their jobs, according to the Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT). "In addition to faster vaccination for 10 pilot tourism areas, the key factors that affect the volume of tourists are the readiness of Bangkok, which is the aviation hub of Thailand, and whether the Chinese government will allow tourists to take overseas trips by October," said Vichit Prakobgosol, TCT vice-president. The areas selected to reopen for tourism comprise: Phuket, Krabi, Phangnga, Surat Thani, Chiang Mai, Chon Buri, Phetchaburi, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Buri Ram and Bangkok.

3. Central to put tenant products online

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

Central Pattana on 29 June said it plans to allow its thousands of mall tenants to sell through its digital platform, as the country's most severe coronavirus outbreak keeps shoppers at bay. Central Pattana, the country's largest mall owner, has 33 shopping centres in Thailand, where malls must operate shorter hours due the coronavirus restrictions and restaurants can take only take delivery orders. "Since customers are not coming to store, we are bringing it to them," Piyawan Leelasompop, head of corporate marketing of Central Retail Corporation, told reporters. The platform, currently run by Central Retail Corp, will allow 15,000 tenants to sell through an app, via phone and instant messaging.

4. Govt to open additional 'hospitels' for 'green' group

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

City Hall will open more hospitels, or hospital-cum-hotels, to provide 4,424 beds for Covid-19 patients in the "green" group, or those with mild or no symptoms. The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) is working with private hospitals, hotels and a training centre in setting up the hospitels, which will be transformed from small hotels left vacant as a result of the pandemic. Starting today, officials will begin moving patients from a field hospital at Ratpipat Stadium 1 in Thawi Watthana district to the Twin Tower Hotel, which serves a hospitel. Fifteen patients will be moved to there each day, Bangkok governor Aswin Kwanmuang said.

5. Energy Ministry has sights on manufacturing 225,000 EVs per year by 2025

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

The Energy Ministry is promoting domestic manufacturing of 225,000 electric vehicles, or EVs, per year by 2025, equal to 10 per cent of current total manufacturing capacity as part of its long-term plan to secure energy stability, Minister Supattanapong Punmeechaow said on 22 June. He was speaking at a seminar titled "EV: New Business Opportunity in Thailand's Automotive Industry", organised by the Thansetthakij newspaper. "The government has set up the National Electric Vehicle Policy Committee to not only promote the EV manufacturing industry, but to also create an environment that will nurture the growth of electric vehicles in Thailand," he said.