

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 3 JUNE 2021

1. Foreigners get jab next week

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

The government has assured that all foreign nationals living in the kingdom who have registered for vaccination will start receiving the Covid-19 vaccine from next Monday. Sophon Iamsirithaworn, Disease Control Department deputy director general, said on 2 June that vaccination for all foreign diplomats in the country would be carried out the same day as the government's mass vaccination programme, based upon an advanced reservation system. "Currently, we have started vaccinating diplomats and their families, and international organisations -- such as UN staff, in which they have registered in advance to get a vaccine from designated hospitals," Dr Sophon said.

2. Parliament passes B3.1tn budget bill at first reading

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

Parliament on 2 June passed by a narrow margin the first reading of a 3.1 trillion baht budget bill for the 2022 fiscal year starting Oct 1, aimed at reviving an economy hit by coronavirus outbreaks. The budget is crucial to Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha's government as it deals with the Southeast Asian country's latest, most severe outbreak yet. After a three-day debate, the bill passed with 269 votes in favour, 201 against and two abstentions. "The budget bill will help drive our economy out of this economic crisis caused by the outbreak as well as quickly restore growth," Gen Prayut told the House of Representatives.

3. Thailand to import 11 million Sinovac doses from June to August: Anutin

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

So far we have received 6 million doses of the Sinovac vaccine, 5.5 million of which were through purchase and 500,000 of which were donated by the Chinese government," he said. "Sinovac will complement the main vaccine that will be used in Thailand, AstraZeneca, to fulfill the goal of obtaining at least 100 million doses," Anutin said. "From June to August, a total of 11 million doses of Sinovac will arrive – at the rate of 2.5 million to 3 million doses per month. In June alone we expect to receive 2.5 million doses, 500,000 of which will arrive on Saturday, one million at the middle of the month and another million at the end of the month," he explained. The World Health Organisation approved Sinovac on June 1 for emergency use. Vaccines from Pfizer and partner BioNTech, AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson and Moderna have also been cleared by WHO for emergency use.

4. US provides Thailand with \$30m Covid assistance, reaffirms commitment in helping kingdom battle virus

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

Sherman visited Thailand on June 1 and 2 for “strategic discussions” with Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai and representatives from international organisations. The two countries agreed on the importance of continuing to work together to combat the pandemic. Sherman reaffirmed the deep importance the United States places on bilateral economic, security, and cultural ties between the two nations, which span more than two centuries, and highlighted decades of health cooperation, the statement said. The visit, which came on the heels of the US-Thai Strategic Dialogue and the deputy secretary’s meetings at the Asean Secretariat, “was an opportunity for both sides to exchange views on defeating the Covid-19 pandemic, deepening security cooperation, increasing trade and investment, and expanding people-to-people ties”.

5. CP All plans to open 700 7-11 stores

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

CP All Plc, the operator of 7-Eleven convenience stores, plans to spend 11.5-12 billion baht this year to expand its business. Kriengchai Boonboapichart, the company's chief financial officer, said 4-4.1 billion baht of total spending is for investment in new projects, subsidiaries and distribution centres, 3.8-4 billion is slated for store expansion, 2.4-2.5 billion is for store renovations, and the remaining 1.3-1.4 billion is for fixed assets and IT systems. The company plans to open 700 new convenience stores this year, on par with last year. Some 155 new 7-Eleven stores were opened in the first quarter this year.

6. AZ heralds supply to Thais

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

AstraZeneca has announced the official launch of its supply chain in Thailand, with the first doses of locally produced Covid-19 vaccine ready to be rolled out. The firm said it will deliver the first locally-produced vaccine to the Public Health Ministry within days. It did not say exactly when the company will deliver the vaccine, but a company source told the Bangkok Post that the company will deliver the first batch of 1.8 million doses to the Public Health Ministry this week so the ministry can use it as the key vaccine under the government's mass vaccination campaign starting next Monday. The supply chain was established in partnership with Siam Bioscience, a Thai manufacturer which specialises in biopharmaceutical medicines, to support "broad and equitable access" to the vaccine in Southeast Asia, the company said.