

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 7 JUNE 2021

1. Oil giant PTT invests in plant protein to power growth

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

State-controlled PTT Plc, the country's largest company by market value, has invested in a venture to make plant-based protein, including so-called faux meat, as part of its objective to become less dependent on fossil-fuel businesses. The oil-and-gas giant formed a 300 million baht partnership with NR Instant Produce Plc, which specialises in making protein from jackfruit, with commercial operations scheduled to start by the end of 2022. Although the project involves a small investment for a company with a market capitalisation of 1.2 trillion baht, it reflects the fact that "non-traditional" products are gradually becoming part of the norm, according to Senior Executive Vice President Buranin Rattanasombat. PTT, which currently gets more than 95% of its revenue from energy refining, processing, trading and retailing, has also made recent investments in electric-vehicle and life-science businesses.

2. Andrographis paniculata added to national medicine list to treat Covid patients with mild symptoms

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

The notification was published by the National Drug System Development Board to drive and promote the use of herbal medicines in the health service system. The five medicines are: Thamlai Phra Sumen, hemorrhoid relief pills, Andrographis paniculata extract pills that contain andrographolide not less than 4 per cent by weight (w/w), Andrographis paniculata extract, and powdered Andrographis paniculata. The medicines from Andrographis paniculata herbs, such as Andrographis paniculata extract and powdered Andrographis paniculata, can be used to treat Covid-19 patients with mild symptoms, the state body has said.

3. TAT pushes domestic tourism with promotions through website

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

The promotions can be availed until noon, June 10. Many entrepreneurs in the tourism industry, who have passed the Amazing Thailand Safety and Health Administration standards are offering discounts on accommodation, food, tour packages and transportation with starting price at THB55. For example, THB55 standard rooms at hotels under Red Planet, THB555 buffet on Chao Phraya Princess cruise, 50 per cent discount on Thai Lion Air flights and one free seat after booking one interprovincial bus seat with Nakhonchai Air.

4. Panel mulls online food delivery fee revamp

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

The government is setting up a working panel to study an appropriate structure for the gross profit (GP) or commission fee applied to food vendors by online food delivery platforms to prevent operators from profiteering. Online food orders have surged during the pandemic. Wattanasak Sur-iam, director-general of the Internal Trade Department, said Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit recently ordered the department to study the GP structure after many small and medium-sized restaurants and food vendors complained about exorbitant fees. The working panel is chaired by Mr Wattanasak, with other members including representatives from consumer protection agencies, drivers, food vendors, restaurants and platform operators.

5. Hong Kongers can fly direct to Phuket from July as Thailand seeks to kick-start tourism sector

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

Direct flights between Hong Kong and Phuket will resume on July 2 as Thailand seeks to restart its tourism industry amid an easing Covid-19 outbreak, the South China Morning Post has learned. But travel industry stakeholders on Friday said whether tourism could be revived between the two destinations would depend on the governments reaching a consensus over quarantine-free arrangements. "It will be feasible if there is a quarantine-free arrangement between the two governments, similar to the air travel bubble between Singapore and Hong Kong," said Tommy Tam Kwong-shun, chairman of the Society of IATA Passenger Agents, a coalition of the largest travel agents in Hong Kong.

6. Thai Airways to start European flights to Phuket in July

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

Thai Airways International will start direct flights from five European cities to Phuket in July in line with a plan to reopen the island for tourists. The airline said on its Facebook page the carrier will introduce direct flights from Zurich, Paris, Copenhagen, Frankfurt and London to Phuket from July 2. The timing was in sync with the government's confirmed decision on Friday to reopen Phuket for international tourists on July 1 on condition that they are fully vaccinated and stay on the island for 14 days before travelling to other locations in the country. Qatar Airways has announced four weekly flights from Doha to Phuket beginning on July 1. The Gulf state airline already operates 12 flights a week between the Qatari and Thai capitals.