

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 7 MAY 2021

1. Govt unveils B225bn relief plan

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

Nattaphon cited the government's plan to vaccinate 50 million people by the end of the year, a span of only eight months. This meant 60,000 people per day would have to be jabbed in Bangkok from May to August, he added. Officials were preparing vaccination sites in 50 districts across the capital to meet that goal, Nattaphon said. Bangkok is in the dark-red zone (maximum restriction) that has been prioritised for vaccinations. "The PM has ordered the Public Health Minister to hasten vaccine procurement and jab as many people as soon as possible. Many vaccine doses will arrive by the end of May and be quickly administered in the dark-red zone," said Nattaphon.

2. Cases must drop for sandbox scheme

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

The number of Covid-19 cases in Phuket must reach zero before it reopens to foreign tourists on July 1 as scheduled under the sandbox scheme, says Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, the tourism and sports minister. The government is also planning to initiate a plan to collect 300 baht from foreign tourists starting next January to set up a tourism fund for emergency use. "We have to speed up inoculations, particularly in Bangkok, to achieve herd immunity by the fourth quarter. The number of daily infections should be below 200 by the end of this month to restore international tourism confidence," said Mr Phiphat. Once the spread is under control, the government will resume travel bubble discussions with Singapore, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Laos and Malaysia, he said.

3. Singha eyes investment in industrial park

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

SET-listed property firm Singha Estate plans to invest 2.42 billion baht to develop World Food Valley industrial estate on 1,790 rai in Ang Thong's Chaiyo district. The investment includes 510 million baht for the entirety of shares of Park Industry Co, which owns the estate, and 1.72 billion baht for development of the estate and other costs. Chutinant Bhirombhakdi, chairman of Singha Estate, said the company's acquisition of the industrial estate is closely linked to three power plants in which the firm acquired a stake. "This purchase gives us competitive strength and creates a highly resilient business," he said.

4. All expats in Thailand eligible for vaccine: Disease Control Dept chief

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

He was responding to questions related to Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha's speech earlier this week. The premier had said everybody in Thailand will get inoculated on a voluntary basis as per international standards. "The PM was referring to all persons living in Thailand, regardless of whether they are Thai or foreigners," he said. "If a person wants a vaccine, they will get it no matter what their nationality." Opas added that 70 per cent of the population must be inoculated to build herd immunity against the virus. "Currently, about 70 million people are living in Thailand – 67 million are Thais and 3 million are foreigners," he said. "That means about 50 million people in Thailand need to be vaccinated for herd immunity, and the government has plans to procure a total of 100 million doses to achieve this.

5. Development aims to break the mould

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

Magnolia Quality Development Corporation (MQDC) plans to launch the first three residential projects at The Forestias, a 125-billion-baht mixed-use development on Bangna-Trad Road, with a concept of sustainability, well-being and intergeneration. Kittiphun Ouyiamaphun, project director of The Forestias, said MQDC is determined to make The Forestias a new global prototype for a township development that helps people live healthier lives. "Residents can stay close to nature and integrate nature into their daily life," he said. "We have thought carefully about managing light and air quality in the residential components and in the selection of materials used inside and outside them."

6. PTTEP to keep making acquisitions

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

PTT Exploration and Production (PTTEP), the oil and gas drilling arm of PTT Plc, plans to keep acquiring new petroleum production assets in the Middle East and Southeast Asia to increase petroleum reserves and bolster sales. The company wants to focus on facilities that have started or are near starting operations. The recent purchase of a 20% stake in Oman's Block 61 from BP Exploration (Epsilon) serves as a model, said PTTEP senior vice-president Orachon Ouyiamapun. PTTEP concluded the US\$2.45 billion (72 billion baht) deal in March. More asset acquisitions means further investment opportunities for PTTEP in the two regions, said Ms Orachon.