

Thai News Update: 9 July 2021

1. Firms eye partial lockdown

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

Local businesses favour a partial lockdown, especially in areas with severe infection numbers to reduce the economic impact. Many business leaders warn a total nationwide lockdown would cause huge losses for the country's economy and massive harm for enterprises. Sanan Angubolkul, chairman of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, said the group disagrees with reinstating nationwide restrictions to curb the spread of Covid-19, as happened during the first wave last year. He said the impact would be enormous and the business sector cannot tolerate any more total lockdowns.

2. 50 richest Thais on Forbes list add B28bn

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

Thailand's 50 richest on the 2021 Forbes list, led by the Chearavanont brothers, did well during the Covid-19 pandemic, with \$28 billion added to their combined wealth over the past 15 months. The Stock Exchange of Thailand index jumped 43% during the period, driven by the prospect of an economic recovery and an uptick in exports. The increase helped boost the combined wealth of the country's 50 richest by more than 20% to \$160 billion. The ranking of the top five on the list, whose net worth gains made up nearly half of the total increase, remains unchanged.

3. Government urged to quickly provide free vaccine to all citizens

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

The Medical Council of Thailand has urged the government to provide Covid-19 vaccine to every citizen free of charge, as well as provide messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) vaccine to medical professionals. In a statement issued on Friday, Emeritus Professor Dr Somsri Phasawas, chairperson of the council, said that the procurement of the Covid-19 vaccine should focus on securing vaccines of various types and distributing them to all people to curb the Covid-19 outbreak and protect against mutated variants of the virus. "The council promotes the principle that Covid-19 vaccine should be provided to all citizens free of charge under Section 47 of the 2017 Constitution," she said. "Also, the government should distribute vaccine of any type to the people as soon as possible to prevent the development of severe symptoms and deaths."

4. B.GRIMM Power Unveils 7 Strategies To Become a World-Class Energy Producer, Digital Business Model, Clean Energy and 10,000-MW Capacity Highlighted
Source: The Nation ([Link](#))

BGRIM is operating 48 power plants and has set its sights on raising its Power Purchasing Agreements capacity from 3,682 MW in 2020 to 7,200 MW in 2025 and further to 10,000 MW in 2030. The company also aims an annual revenue target of more than 100 billion baht with a strong financial structure. Grimm Power Public Company Limited (BGRIM) unveiled its seven strategies based on the company's vision to "Empower the World Compassionately" with BGRIM's core values of Professionalism, Positivity, Partnership and Pioneering Spirit. Dr Harald Link, Chairman and President of BGRIM, made the official announcement of the company's regenerated approach to business and growth plan with a ramped-up target to achieve Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) of 10,000-megawatt capacity by 2030. BGRIM, known as Thailand's leading industrial power producer, will seek to accomplish the strategies by continuing to embrace its traditional principles of conducting businesses with compassion.

5. Thailand among emerging economies most vulnerable to Delta variant – JPMorgan
Source: Thai PBS World ([Link](#))

Economies of Thailand, the Philippines, Peru, Colombia and South Africa are among the most vulnerable to the COVID-19 Delta variant within emerging markets, mostly due to low vaccination rates, a JPMorgan analysis found on 8 July. The analysis looks at spread of the virus' Delta variant versus the pace of vaccination, which in some countries is not accelerating enough to offset higher rates of transmission. Even if the Delta variant is shown to result in lower hospitalization and death rates, the report said, pressure on healthcare systems and a higher absolute number of deaths could occur, likely raising pressure on some governments to extend or re-impose mobility restrictions. A separate note from Oxford Economics showed strong economic activity rebounds in Latin America on the back of gains in mobility.