

Daily Thai News Updates: 26 August 2016

1. BJC eyes total packaging lead

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

Berli jucker (BJC) aims to be the country's leading provider of total packaging solutions, including glass, cans, paper and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles, within five years. "To reach this milestone, we need to respond to increasing demand not only from future expansion of BJC and its affiliates such as Thai Beverage but also from outside clients, particularly those who are expanding overseas," Pattaphong Iamsuro, president of the company's packaging supply-chain business, said recently.

"As we are in the packaging supply-chain industry, having a strong base in glass and can production appears not to be enough for future growth and evolving demand in the market, particularly in food and beverage businesses." He said options would range from the company's own investment to joint ventures to mergers and acquisitions. He said several deals were under negotiation, with at least one expected to be sealed by the end of this year, but no further details could be revealed at this stage.

2. Minimum export rice price mulled

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

THE Commerce Ministry is considering mandating a minimum export price for rice after a plunge by Bt2, 000 a tonne in the past two weeks. Such a minimum price would be the first in Thai history. Thailand is the world's largest rice exporter. Chutima Bunyapraphasara, permanent secretary of the ministry, admitted that the measure would affect the world market price. An investigation will be launched and the measure will be seriously considered only if the ministry finds that irregular factors were behind the recent price decline. "If the government finds any irregularities, the minimum price will be set. This is to prevent rice traders from pushing farmers to lower their prices, with the aim of dumping [rice on] the market," she said. The market price for 5-per-cent white paddy rice is now Bt8,400-Bt9,000 per tonne.

3. CPN sets Bt60 bn for new malls

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

CENTRAL Pattana has earmarked Bt60 billion for the development of shopping complexes between this year and 2018 in five local and foreign locations, including Mahachai in Samut Sakhon and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, its first overseas project. The three-year plan will increase its shopping centres from 30, including the latest mall that opened last month in Nakhon Si Thammarat, to 34, and its retail space from 6.7 million square metres to about 8 million. Of the

five new shopping malls, three will be CentralPlazas in Nakhon Si Thammarat, Nakhon Ratchasima in September next year, and Mahachai in the third quarter of next year. The Central Phuket complex is set to open in December next year with a 10,000sqm aquarium, which is claimed to be the largest in the country. The Bt8.5-billion Central i-City complex in Kuala Lumpur is scheduled to debut in 2018. The project is a joint venture with I-Berhad, a real-estate developer in Malaysia.

4. Temasek to meet Prayut on future of satellite

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

Executives of Temasek Holding, a major shareholder of Thailand's InTouch Holdings, plan to meet Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha on the future of the country's satellite industry and the Thaicom case. An executive at InTouch who asked not to be named told the *Bangkok Post* that Temasek leaders have made an appointment to meet the prime minister to introduce themselves as well as to talk about the Singapore investment company's long-term investment plans in Thailand. The planned meeting follows the government's scheme to formulate a new investment model for the satellite industry to replace the licensing regime. Four options are being considered. They are a wholly owned state enterprise, a public-private joint venture with the state owning a majority stake, flexible forms of public-private joint ventures and the existing licensing model but with higher operating costs.

5. SEC seeks reform for SET board

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

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has sought the Finance Ministry's permission to increase the number of board seats on the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) to six from five as part of the stock exchange reform. If the board revamp is approved, the number of the SET's board of governors to be named by brokers will be reduced from five to four. Stock market stakeholders including the Association of Investment Management Companies, the Government Pension Fund, other institutional investors and retail investors will nominate who sits on the board under the regulator's quota, while the SEC's board will pick what it terms "public directors", said SEC secretary-general Rapee Sucharitakul. "There is no change in the way the board operates. The amendment is only to make clear, by law, how the board is appointed and the ratio between public directors and directors named by brokers," he told the *Bangkok Post* in an exclusive interview.

By Nandini Malhotra

