

Thai News Update: 15 November 2018

1. Boi Approves Grant For Mazda Hybrid Evs

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

Japanese carmaker Mazda Motor Corporation is poised to produce hybrid electric vehicles (EVs) in the country after the Board of Investment (BoI) granted a 11.48-billion-baht investment application. On 12 November the BoI is scheduled to have a board meeting chaired by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, and it will consider many applications, including those for the EV scheme. Chanchai Trakarnudomsuk, president of Mazda Sales Thailand, a local unit of the Hiroshima-based firm, said this investment plan includes the assembly of finished hybrid EVs and five vital EV parts -- batteries, traction motors, battery management services, AC/DC converters and inverters.

2. 27 Eateries Awarded Michelin Stars, Jay Fai Retains Star

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

Twenty-seven food shops and restaurants in Bangkok and other provinces have been awarded stars in the latest Michelin Guide, with street food eatery Jay Fai retaining its one-star rating awarded last year. Michelin on 14 November released its Michelin Guide Bangkok, Phuket and Phangna 2019, the second Michelin Guide to Thailand, and the first to cover food outside Bangkok. Of the 23 one-star establishments in the 2019 edition, Le Du and Gaa are the only ones in Bangkok that progress from the "Plate"- a designation given to restaurants for a good meal with fresh ingredients and capable preparation - to one star, while eight are new entries. Of the new entries, five are in Bangkok: Canvas, Methavalai Sorndaeng, R-Harn, Saawan and Sorn.

3. Boi Promises 'Golden Year' With Package

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

The Board of Investment (BoI) plans to meet to consider a new investment package on 12 November to make next year "the golden year of investment". Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak assigned the BoI to design a new investment package during his recent trip to China.

Mr Somkid said many Chinese firms showed their intention to invest in Thailand, with a scale of investment of 10 billion baht per company. Mr Somkid said the new investment package will be enforced immediately once the BoI's board approves it.

4. Pact With Eurasia Imminent

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

Thailand and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which consists of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, are scheduled to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 12 November to enhance trade and investment and pave the way for free trade agreement (FTA) talks. Commerce Minister Sontirat Sontijirawong said Tigran Sargsyan, chairman of the Eurasian Economic Commission, will visit Thailand and have a courtesy call with Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha during Nov 16-21.

5. PTT Warms To Cold Storage For Fruit Alley

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

SET-listed PTT Plc, the national oil and gas conglomerate, plans to propose a business plan to its board for the government's Eastern Fruit Corridor (EFC) scheme, hoping to invest in cold storage for farm products. The EFC is an offshoot of the flagship Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) scheme. The EFC is aimed at stabilising fruit prices and helping local farmers. President and chief executive Chansin Treenuchagron said the EFC project was initiated by the government, but business operators also see its potential.

6. Thai Union Launches Marine Oil Refinery In Germany

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

Thai Union Group PCL, one of the world's leading seafood producers, has successfully commissioned its US\$24 million Thai Union Marine Nutrients tuna oil refinery. The refinery in Rostock, Germany, produces highly refined tuna oil which is considered one of the best sources of omega 3 and DHA, ingredients critical to health and infant development. Thai Union said it was now the only refiner of high-grade tuna oil with complete end-to-end supply chain and production

management. Initial oil extraction is completed by Thai Union in Samut Sakhon before being shipped to Rostock via Hamburg.