

Thai News Update: 1 March 2019

1. 51.4m Eligible To Vote, Led By Working Group

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

A total of 51.4 million people are eligible to vote in the March 24 election, dominated by those aged 26-45, according to official Interior Ministry data. The figure was based on the national census as of Feb 1. The constitution requires the data of the month before an election be used. A breakdown by age group shows 19.6 million, or 38%, are those aged 26-45, followed by those aged 46-60 (14.4 million or 28%), those aged 61 or more (10 million or 20%) and first voters or those aged 18-25 (7.3 million or 14.2%).

2. THAI: Stranded Passengers To Be Cleared Within 3 Days

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

Thai Airways International plans to move 3,000 passengers stranded at Suvarnabhumi airport by the India-Pakistan border clash to their destinations within three days. All Thai Airways International flights between Thailand and Europe were cancelled on 27 February night and early 28 February after Pakistan closed its airspace. Thera Buasri, director of ground operations control, said on Friday about 4,000 THAI passengers had been affected. About 3,000 passengers remained stranded at Suvarnabhumi airport. Arrangement were being made to get them all to their intended destinations within three days.

3. South Asia Crisis Threatens Exports

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

Escalating tension between India and Pakistan is expected to affect Thailand's exports in the short term, say senior ranking officials in the Commerce Ministry. Banjongjitt Angsusingh, director-general of the International Trade Promotion Department, said importers are expected to ramp up their stocks because of the conflict between the neighbouring countries. "Thailand's shipments both to Pakistan and India are mainly by ship, which are not affected by the mounting tension," she said. Pakistan is Thailand's second-largest trading partner in South Asia after India and 38th globally.

4. Firms Urged To Use New Hong Kong FTA

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

Thai businesses are being urged to take advantage of privileges offered under the Asean-Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement (AHKFTA) to expand trade and investment in Hong Kong, especially for restaurants, content creation and construction. Auramon Supthaweethum, director-general of the Trade Negotiations Department, said on 28 February at a seminar on "Hong Kong: The Major Gateway for Business to China" that with the AHKFTA scheduled to come into force by the second quarter this year, Thai entrepreneurs should prepare to tap into the pact's privileges to ramp up their trade and investment in Hong Kong.

5. Ministry, ILO Launch Scheme To Improve Labour Standards

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

The Labour Ministry and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) are collaborating under a three-year programme to promote sustainable supply chains and standardised employment conditions in the food and vehicle-parts sectors. Thailand's economy and society in general can benefit significantly by adopting sustainable supply chains and decent work conditions, Labour Minister Pol General Adul Sangsingkeo said yesterday. Progress in these areas will not only provide benefits via strengthened corporate social responsibility, but will also help the Kingdom overcome challenges in international trade, he said. The minister was speaking at the launch of the "Decent Work for Sustainable Enterprises in Global in Global Supply Chains in Thailand" programme.