

## THAI NEWS UPDATE:27 JULY 2021

### **1. Draft of new tax for EV industry on track**

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

The draft of a new excise tax for the electric vehicle (EV) industry is on track and is expected to be finished this year, said Lavaron Sangsnit, director-general of the Excise Department. The new tax is aimed at stimulating demand for EVs in Thailand and wooing foreign investment into the industry, Mr Lavaron added. The national committee in charge of the policy will hold a meeting on the EV industry this week to further push its development. The committee is chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Supattanapong Punmeechaow.

### **2. Foreign websites to pay VAT**

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

Around 20 large overseas online platform operators plan to register as value-added tax (VAT) payers in Thailand, says Ekniti Nitithanprapas, director-general of the Revenue Department. The move comes in response to enforcement of the e-service tax law from Sept 1, when overseas businesses providing online services in Thailand will be required to register for 7% VAT liability if their annual income exceeds 1.8 million baht. E-service businesses liable for VAT payments include those offering download services for movies, games, stickers, brokerage services and advertisements.

### **3. Food prospects still positive**

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

Japanese food and raw material suppliers remain keen on exploring opportunities to expand their products in the Thai market even though Thailand's domestic restaurant business is reeling from the pandemic. Hiroki Taniguchi, director of the Agriculture and Food Department of the Japan External Trade Organisation (Jetro) in Bangkok, said the export value of food and raw materials from Japan to Thailand fared well in the first four months of this year, with a growth of 29.2% over the same period last year.

### **4. Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex finally gets the nod as World Heritage Site**

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

Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex has been listed as a World Heritage Site, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Warawut Silpa-archa said on 26 July. The decision was made at the World Heritage Committee's Extended 44th Session that is being hosted online from Fuzhou, China from July 16-31. The 21 nations of the Unesco World Heritage Committee voted 12-9

to approve Kaeng Krachan. “To receive such a global recognition is a great achievement for Thai forest and wildlife that will help increase public awareness in nature conservation as well as increase revenue from ecotourism from both domestic and overseas tourists,” the minister said. Other sites in Asia that have been included on the World Heritage list during the 44th session are: Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan, China; Temple Rudreshwara (Ramanappa), India; Trans-Iranian Railway, Iran; and Deer Stone Monuments and related sites, Mongolia.

#### **5. Srisawad aims to provide fully integrated services**

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

Financial service company Srisawad Corporation Plc (SAWAD) has further synergised with leading insurance companies to further penetrate the insurance brokerage market by expanding services to cover all types of insurances and by underlining the "One Stop Credit and Insurance Services by Srisawad" slogan. Thida Kaewbootta, vice-president of corporate strategy at Srisawad Corporation, said the campaign targets both new and existing customers.

#### **6. Sandbox programme proposes to cut mandatory stay in Phuket to 7 days**

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

The Ministry of Tourism and Sports has revised the conditions of the Phuket "sandbox" programme on 26 July, reducing mandatory stay in Phuket to seven days, while allowing tourists to spend the balance seven days on "Sealed Routes" in five other provinces. The new timeline starts in August, subject to approval from the Centre for Covid-19 Situation Administration. Minister of Tourism and Sports Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn said on Monday that he had consulted with the prime minister to launch the "Sealed Routes", using Phuket as the main hub for tourists to expand their travel routes to other provinces.

#### **7. BMA launches widespread testing, home-isolation scheme to curb spread of Covid-19**

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

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) has dispatched a response team to test residents in high-risk areas using rapid antigen test kits. The aim is to remove infected patients from the community to curb the spread of the virus. The test kit can provide a result within 30 minutes and is perfect for identifying asymptomatic patients,” Bangkok governor Aswin Kwanmuang said on 27 July. “Patients with mild or no symptoms will be classified as green and can be allowed home isolation if they live alone and if conditions permit, or in community isolation if they have other family members,” he said.