### Thai News Update: 26 October 2020

### **1.** Foodland to open largest supermarket in Nawamin Source: Bangkok Post (Link)

Foodland Supermarket Co Ltd, the wholly Thai-owned chain, is set to open its largest grocery store in the Nawamin area , about six months later than planned because of the pandemic. Somsak Teraphatanakul, the founder and the company's chairman, now 88, said the Nawamin outlet is the largest Foodland branch, located on a 6.5-rai plot with an investment cost of up to 1 billion baht. The five-storey building covering 2,500 square metres features a Foodland supermarket with new decoration; logistics centre; cooking school; 120-seat Took Lae Dee quick-service restaurant; Gourmet Primo Co, a business unit of Bangkok Air Catering Co (BAC); cold storage for meat and vegetables; and a new service, Grab & Go.

#### 2. FTI: Recycled plastic roads key to BCG Source: Bangkok Post (Link)

The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) stresses cross-sector cooperation such as the latest multi-party move to promote recycled plastic roads as a key to helping Thailand achieve its BCG goal. BCG, which refers to bio-economy, circular economy and green economy, shares the goal of better natural resource use while driving economic activities. "Thailand has potential to adopt BCG, but it requires close cooperation from all sectors," FTI chairman Supant Mongkolsuthree told the Bangkok Post.

#### 3. Mukdahan airport to be regional hub Source: Bangkok Post (Link)

The Department of Airports has completed a feasibility study for Mukdahan airport, which the government envisions as the northeastern region's gateway to Thailand's neighbouring countries, a source said on Monday. Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob said the airport, which will enable local residents to travel more conveniently to Laos and Myanmar, will cost about 4.535 billion baht. Separately, the source said the department had finished the study and it would now be submitted to the Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning for further consideration.

# **4.** Immigration Bureau reminds foreigners to apply for visa extension before Oct **31** Source: The Nation (<u>Link</u>)

The Immigration Bureau on 27 October reminded foreigners whose visas are expiring to submit their applications for extension of temporary stay before October 31. Late applicants will be

dealt with as prescribed by the law, the bureau said. Applications for visa extension can be submitted at each local immigration office. Terms and conditions are as specified by the Immigration Bureau. Each permission will initially be granted for up to 60 days for all visa types, effective from November 1.

# **5. DES Ministry on alert for threats to government websites from hackers Source: The Nation (Link)**

The Digital Economy and Society (DES) Ministry has increased surveillance on government websites after receiving threats from a hacking group, Minister Buddhipongse Punnakanta said on 26 October. Buddhipongse said he had received reports that a hacker group, who called themselves "Cyber Three Fingers", had announced their intention to attack the government's websites."In response, I have ordered the Thailand Computer Emergency Response Team and Electronic Transactions Development Agency to closely monitor government websites and deploy preventive measures against the attacks," he said.