

Thai News Update: 28 September 2020

1. 310 Thais fly home from China, India and Taiwan

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

Thai Airways International flew home more than 300 Thai nationals from China, India and Taiwan on 25 September. Sqn Ldr Anirute Sangrit, THAI vice president, Flight Operations Department, and head of THAI Operations Control Centre, said the airline partnered with the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Royal Thai Embassies in Beijing and New Delhi, the Royal Thai Consulates in Guangzhou, China, and Chennai, India, as well as the Thailand Trade and Economic Office, Taipei, to operate three repatriation flights. THAI also delivered cargo on the roundtrip flights.

2. Ministries to extend, rejig travel campaign

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

The Finance and Tourism and Sports ministries are preparing to extend and adjust conditions of the We Travel Together tourism campaign until year-end to encourage domestic travel in the final quarter. Launched on July 15, the domestic tourism stimulus policy is part of the government's effort to spur domestic travel, as foreign tourists are still barred from entering the country due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The government subsidises 5 million nights of hotel accommodation at 40% of normal room rates, with the subsidy limited to 3,000 baht per night for up to five nights. Tourists are responsible for the other 60%. Subsidies for other services, including food, are capped at 600 baht per room per night. The subsidised tourist facilities must be outside the tourists' home provinces to qualify and are limited to 40% of actual expenses, with tourists paying the rest.

3. Opportunity knocks

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

Although sentiment among consumers and investors has not recovered from bruises of the Covid-19 pandemic, the business world is seeing more mergers and acquisitions (M&A) as conglomerates are taking advantage of the economic slowdown to restructure their businesses or capture prime assets at a discounted rate. Funding for the deals depends on a company's financial status, and includes using operating cash flow, bond issuance, bank loans and capital increases. Recently three large SET-listed companies in Thailand announced major upcoming deals: Central Retail Corporation Plc, Charoen Pokphand Foods Plc and Thai Union Group Plc.

4. India opens dumping probe on Thai copper tube, pipe exports

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

India is investigating imports of copper tubes and pipes from Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam to determine whether producers in these countries were receiving unfair subsidies, the government said. The investigation by India's Directorate General of Trade Remedies, the investigative arm of the commerce ministry, could result in these imports facing countervailing duties, said a government circular posted on Friday. The probe covers imports shipped between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020. "The Authority has also received the import data of customs of the subject goods during the past four years which indicate increased imports mainly from Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam collectively account for more than 90% of total imports of subject goods," the circular said.

5. Five-year National Rice Strategy aims to make Thailand 'world leader'

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

The five-year Thai Rice Strategy for the period 2020-24 is ready, Jurin Laksanawisit, deputy prime minister and the minister of commerce, said. The strategy prepared by a subcommittee will be proposed to a meeting of the National Rice Policy and Management Committee (NRPMC) before seeking approval from the Cabinet. The goal is to make Thailand a world leader in the production and marketing of quality rice and rice products, in four areas: foreign marketing; domestic marketing; production and processed products; and innovations from rice, Jurin said.

6. Investments by glove-makers a boost for Songkhla's rubber growers

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

Southern Region Industrial Estate in Songkhla province has welcomed nearly Bt6 billion investment from rubber glove manufacturers and is expected to support rubber produce in the southern region at over 40,000 tonnes per year, said Somchint Pilouk, governor of Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT). "The IEAT recently signed a contract with Singhaseni Group and Atgene Global Link Ltd, who wish to lease 83 rai [13.2 hectares] of land in the Southern Region Industrial Estate to build a rubber glove manufacturing factory," she said.

7. CPW, AIS to launch A-Stores

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

SET-listed digital product distributor Copperwired (CPW) says it is working with Advanced Info Service Plc (AIS), Thailand's largest telecom operator, to open A-Store shops in universities to target students purchasing mobile devices and accessories. "The first store is

likely to be opened in the fourth quarter," CPW chief executive Paramate Rienjaroensuk said in an "Opportunity Day" online presentation of the firm conducted by the Stock Exchange of Thailand. He did not go into detail about the location of the first shop. Up to 10 shops could be established by the second quarter of next year, he said.

8. Dusit adds Asai hotel in Chinatown

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

Dusit Thani has introduced Asai Bangkok Chinatown, the first hotel in the lifestyle segment under the Asai brand, to its portfolio. Besides safety and hygiene, sustainability, wellness and local experiences will become even more important for tourists, and Asai can serve these purposes, said Suphajee Suthumpun, group chief executive of Dusit International. While Dusit Thani is well known for its full-service brand, it's diversifying to attract other potential markets -- particularly millennials, the age group born between 1981 and 1996.