THAI NEWS UPDATE: 5 AUGUST 2021

1. Central Pattana' wins big at 2021 All-Asia Executive Team Awards Source: Bangkok Post (Link)

Central Pattana Plc (CPN), operator of centralwOrld, CentralPlaza and CentralFestival shopping centres, Central Phuket, and Thailand's first luxury outlet, Central Village, has won four of the prestigious Institutional Investor's 2021 All-Asia Executive Team: Rest of Asia (Asia ex-Mainland China) awards. Central Pattana was ranked top for Best CEO, Best CFO and Best IR (Investor Relations) and ranked second for Best ESG (Environment, Social, Governance) in the Asian region, excluding Mainland China and Japan, in the Sell-Side category and Property sector.

2. EEC investment to hit B2.5tr in 2027 Source: Bangkok Post (Link)

The government expects private investment in the state flagship Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) scheme to reach as much as 2.5 trillion baht in 2027, playing a key role in driving economic growth during that period. Kanit Sangsubhan, secretary-general of the EEC Office, said his office is feeling upbeat that private investment in the EEC will stay at an average of 500 billion baht a year between 2023 and 2027, up from 300 billion baht a year between 2019 and 2023. "The private investment worth about 500 billion baht a year is believed to be enough to boost the Thai annual economic growth to reach an average 5% a year between 2023 and 2027," Mr Kanit said.

3. Food group expands into ready-to-eat products Source: Bangkok Post (Link)

Pataya Food Group, the producer and marketer of Nautilus canned fish, has diversified its business to ready-to-eat products as a part of an effort to boost the group's sales to 10 billion baht over the next three years. Sudatip Kiatsrichart, the group's executive director, said starting from this year the company will gear toward expansion in the health food market which is worth more than 100 billion baht. The company recently entered Thailand's ready-to-eat cereal market by launching Nautilus Xten healthy meals to tap into a growing market of health-conscious consumers both in Thailand and abroad, with a particular focus on China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

4. Bangkok rolls out 24-hour Covid hotlines in all 50 districts Source: The Nation (Link)

Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) is rolling out 24-hour Covid-19 hotlines to cover all 50 districts of the capital, in a bid to tackle the growing outbreak, BMA Governor Aswin Kwanmuang said on 4 August. Due to the rapid increase in the number of Covid-19 infections, the BMA has set up 'Covid-19 District Hot Lines' in cooperation with the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission [NBTC], and National Telecom Plc [NT], along with True, DTAC, AIS mobile network companies." Twenty hotlines will connect directly to each of 50 district offices, with staff available to take calls 24 hours a day, he added.