

## THAI NEWS UPDATE: 9 SEPTEMBER 2021

### **1. Food exports set to rise 7.1%**

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

The Industry Ministry expects food exports in 2021 will increase by 7.1% to 1.05 trillion baht in value despite the impact of Covid-19, thanks to growing demand from the global market. Decreasing levels of food stocks in Africa, Asia and the Middle East during the pandemic also caused these regions to import more food products. From January to July, Thai food exports expanded by 4.5% year-on-year to 622.70 billion baht in value as many countries and areas, notably China, the US and Europe, eased lockdown measures as greater numbers of their citizens and residents received vaccinations against the coronavirus. "Food demand in China increased by 40% due to its economic recovery while the US and Europe will have a similar trend, with increasing imports of seafood products," said Industry Minister Suriya Jungrungreangkit.

### **2. Samui sandbox gets makeover**

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

Surat Thani -- led by Koh Samui -- is looking forward to brighter prospects in the upcoming high season as it prepares to emulate Phuket by scrapping quarantine, and plans to receive domestic travellers from next month. However, demand from international tourists may not pick up immediately while the whole of Thailand is still overwhelmed by Covid-19, said Ratchaporn Poolsawadee, president of the Tourism Association of Koh Samui. Significant changes to the reopening plan were discussed this week after the Samui Plus scheme's three islands -- Samui, Phangan and Koh Tao -- experienced lukewarm demand over the past two months when compared to the Phuket Sandbox.

### **3. Thai traders surge into crypto market**

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

The number of cryptocurrency trading accounts grew 27.6% month-on-month, vastly outpacing a 2.9% monthly increase in new stock trading accounts, as investors seek assets with higher returns to offset low deposit account interest rates, Kasikorn Research Center said. There are currently a total of 1,379,373 cryptocurrency trading accounts in the Thai market, less than half the number of stock market accounts, but with an explosive monthly growth rate. Kasikorn Research recently conducted a survey to explore the investment behaviour of high-income private company employees living in Bangkok and its vicinity. According to the survey, 69.4% of the respondents reportedly know about cryptocurrencies

and 52% of them were interested in investing in them, reflecting the growing popularity of such trading.

#### **4. Transport Ministry pushes for new Ayutthaya high-speed train station**

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

The Transport Ministry has instructed the Department of Rail Transport and State Railway of Thailand to check laws related to the building of a new train station in Ayutthaya and proceed with the project. The development of a high-speed railway from Bangkok to Nong Khai, which will then connect to the Laos-China rail line, hit a bump last year when it came to building a new station in Ayutthaya. The Fine Arts Department has decreed that the new station must be designed in such a way that it reflects the historical value of the existing station. Though the existing station is not part of Ayutthaya's area given the World Heritage Status, it is of great historical significance because it was built during the reign of King Rama V.

#### **5. Thailand still one of top three destinations for Indian tourists**

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

Thailand is one of the top three destinations that Indians want to visit, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) said citing several recent surveys. A survey on 4,000 people conducted in June by global travel group Thomas Cook found that 46 per cent of them wanted to travel overseas. It also found that apart from Thailand, the other top destinations they want to visit are Abu Dhabi/Dubai and the Maldives. An earlier survey in April by InterMiles involving 11,500 respondents found that 65 per cent were planning overseas trips. "Thailand enjoyed the status of being a very popular destination for Indian travellers before the pandemic, and it is extremely encouraging to see this will likely continue once we reopen to the Indian market," said TAT governor Yuthasak Supasorn. "Meanwhile, one of TAT's priorities is to ensure that health and safety measures are employed in Thailand for all visitors."