



up for their midday meal. The school guarantees healthy food

Si Thammarat prov-  
erving students just  
m vegetable scraps

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ruption Commis-  
covered that at least  
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standard lunches to

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being used for meals  
nd that the manage-  
plain where the rest  
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insisted the money  
1 and that the remain-  
n used on extra-cur-  
uch as sports.

nd that in some cases,  
udents put down for

school lunch was higher than the  
number of students actually enrolled  
in the school, suggesting the number  
of students was fabricated so schools  
could receive more funding.

Amnat Wichayanuwat, Obec sec-  
retary-general, told the *Bangkok Post*  
that stealing students' lunch money is  
unacceptable because not only does  
it mean the culprits are siphoning off  
money meant for public causes, but  
they are also putting at risk "the lives  
of the future generation".

He also pointed out that poor nutri-  
tion, especially among children, can  
have a lifelong negative impact on  
growth and development.

"Poor diets affect them both physi-  
cally and emotionally," he said.

"This includes the development of  
organs, the immune system, as well as  
the ability to perform daily activities.  
Intellectually, inadequate nutritional  
intake leads to poor brain function,  
increased susceptibility to diseases,  
and slow learning."

To tackle the problem, Obec has  
recently come up with a five-point  
strategy to ensure that school lunches  
nationwide are of good quality and has  
created a working team to analyse the  
budget allocation.

Under the five-point strategy, schools  
are required to manage the school  
lunch funding, and closely follow  
Obec's guidelines.

They must also provide meals that  
adhere to food safety standards, as well  
as consider building organic farms and  
coordinating with local communities to  
produce organic products.

Paojinda said yesterday.

He said the Department of Provin-  
cial Administration will have to verify  
a recent population survey as part of  
preparations for the polls before the  
announcement. The Election Com-  
mission (EC) will also finish drawing  
up electoral boundaries before Jan 31,  
Gen Anupong said.

Elections will be held for local lead-  
ers including the Bangkok governor,  
presidents of provincial administrative  
organisations and members of tambon  
administrative organisations. Local  
polls were suspended after the May 22,  
2014 coup with the aim of preventing  
political unrest.

Under local election rules, villages

to use their own budgets to organise the  
polls, he said. There should be no prob-  
lems if local bodies have enough funds  
to finance them, Gen Anupong said.

But if any local authority lacks the  
funds to finance an election, they  
will have to wait for allocations from  
this year's budget, which is still being  
scrutinised in parliament. After the  
budget bill is passed, the Interior  
Ministry will discuss the matter with  
the EC and seek cabinet approval for  
budget allocations.

Gen Anupong denied rumours that  
the polls will take place in March,  
saying they will only take place when  
all preparations are complete.

## TRADE

# Cabinet lines up FTAs with Bangladesh, Turkey

CHATRUDEE THEPARAT

Thailand and Bangladesh will kick off  
talks to establish a free trade agreement  
(FTA) during their 5th Joint Trade Com-  
mittee (JTC) meeting next week.

Rachada Dhanadirek, deputy gov-  
ernment spokeswoman, said yesterday  
the countries will begin negotiations  
to reduce trade barriers at the Jan 8-9  
meeting in Bangkok.

She spoke shortly after the cabinet  
approved a Commerce Ministry pro-  
posal to host the 5th JTC meeting.

The countries have already con-  
ducted a joint feasibility study on the  
FTA, Ms Rachada added, but declined  
to give details.

"If the two countries are able to forge  
an FTA, it will greatly benefit Thailand's  
trade and investment because Bang-  
ladesh is one of 57 countries that are  
members of the Organisation of Islamic  
Cooperation [OIC]," she said. Bangla-  
des is Thailand's third-largest trade  
partner in South Asia, behind India and  
Pakistan. The cabinet has also approved  
a Commerce Ministry proposal to sign  
an FTA with Turkey within this year, Ms  
Rachada said.

Meanwhile, the cabinet approved a  
Southern Border Province Administra-  
tive Centre proposal for a framework  
to promote very small power produc-  
ers (VSPP) in southern provinces. The  
framework targets generation of 256.9  
megawatts in five years with a budget  
of 19.76 billion baht.

The budget will be drawn from the  
fiscal budget, the energy conserva-  
tion fund, the private sector and state-  
owned enterprises.

Participating will be 100 community  
power plants generating 1.5-2 mega-  
watts, three plants of up to 10MW and  
one plant of up to 27MW. Community  
businesses and private companies can  
invest in the projects.

Ten percent of profits will go to fund  
education and training for locals. The  
government will also promote cultiva-  
tion of energy crops in southern border  
provinces, including bamboo, napier  
grass, acacia coconut and palm.

## Road Toll

Deaths and injuries from road accidents  
nationwide on day 6 of the 'Seven Dangerous Days'  
from Dec 27 onwards

Date	Accidents	Dead	Injured
Dec 27	464 (419)	45 (45)	464 (428)
Dec 28	509 (569)	67 (68)	525 (579)
Dec 29	550 (643)	48 (84)	558 (663)
Dec 30	485 (559)	48 (55)	484 (572)
Dec 31	542 (568)	42 (76)	567 (586)
Jan 1	547 (644)	55 (91)	577 (673)
Total	3,076 (3,422)	317 (419)	3,160 (3,501)

( ) last year New Year period casualties from  
Dec 27, 2018 to Jan 2, 2019

■ Provinces with most accumulated accidents:  
Songkhla (32) Lampang (20) Chiang Rai,  
Chiang Mai, Ayutthaya and Surat Thani (15)

■ Provinces with most accumulated fatalities:  
Ratchaburi (4) Prachuap Khiri Khan, Sa Kaeo (3)  
Bangkok, Kanchanaburi, Khon Kaen, Chiang Mai,  
Nakhon Pathom, Nakhon Ratchasima, Ayutthaya,  
Pitsanulok, Samut Prakan, Suphan Buri, Surin and  
Uttaradit (2)

■ Provinces with most accumulated injuries:  
Songkhla (35) Lampang (21) and Buri Farn (1)

■ Provinces with zero road fatalities:

Source: Road Safety Directing Ce

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ALAK KHAONUAN  
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