

Daily Thai News Summary: 28 July 2016

1. Ray of hope for exporters

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

Thailand's exports have started to see signs of recovery and contracted less than expected in June, boosted by shipments of cars and car parts, hard-disk drives and gold. Imports decreased by 10.1% to \$16.2 billion after edging up 0.5% in May following a 14.9% plunge in April. Thailand had a trade surplus of \$1.96 billion in June -- the 14th straight month with a surplus. Deputy Commerce Minister Suvit Maesincee said brighter prospects are expected for exports in the second half of the year, driven by higher shipments of cars and key industrial products alongside a recovery of farm product prices in line with higher oil prices.

2. Country Group sets aside Bt 6 Bn for investments

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

Country Group Holdings (CGH), the newly restructured company owned by the Taechaubol family, has reserved Bt6 billion to acquire businesses and invest in potential opportunities both locally and overseas. Under its plan, the listed group targets the entire business growing by double digits annually over the next few years, and becoming a top-50 company on the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) by 2020. Tommy Taechaubol, chief executive officer of CGH, yesterday said that the group had completed a two-year restructuring process turning it from a securities brokerage firm into an investment holding company. Meanwhile, the new holding company, which has already increased its registered capital from Bt2.36 billion to Bt4.33 billion, is looking for companies to acquire with a targeted internal rate of return of 15 per cent, he said.

3. SCB lends BT 6 Bn to Jasmine, keen on telcos, power plants

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

SIAM COMMERCIAL BANK has facilitated a working-capital loan of Bt6 billion to Jasmine International for the listed company's expansion of its broadband business, with telecom operators and power plants identified as promising industries for the bank's support this year, chief executive officer and president Arthid Nanthawithaya said yesterday. Jasmine International

is a new customer for SCB, and one that is in its view in a strong sector and could strengthen the bank's digital business, he said.

Asked about the possibility of the bank investing in Jasmine's stock, in light of SCB's purchase of a 3-per-cent stake in listed renewable-energy company Gunkul Engineering, Arthid said it would consider such investment on a case-by-case basis. The bank yesterday signed a project-finance deal worth Bt4.5 billion with Gunkul Engineering for the company's construction of a wind farm with a capacity of 67.5 megawatts. Gunkul will set up an infrastructure fund with a planned initial value of Bt5 billion, with SCB being financial adviser for the deal. Telecoms and power plants are currently seen as promising industries by SCB and, apart from Gunkul, the bank has many project-finance deals related to power plants in the pipeline, its CEO said.

4. Intelligent elderly care system launched in Saensuk, Chon Buri

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

SAENSUK MUNICIPALITY in Chon Buri yesterday officially launched its intelligent elderly-care patient-monitoring pilot project, which has been on trial since January, with the aim of providing insights to help the government optimise nursing resources and operate healthcare services more efficiently. The pilot project is part of the Saensuk Smart City programme and is supported by Dell, Intel and IoT City Innovation Centre. It aims to improve the quality of care for the municipality's ageing population through leveraging Internet of Things technologies.

Saensuk Smart City was launched in 2014 as a three-year pilot project with the objective to provide smart facilities for both residents and tourists. Since around 15 per cent of Saensuk's 46,000 registered residents are senior citizens, Mayor Narongchai Khunpluem said the local government recognised the need to provide more efficient care for the elderly, most of whom are living at home alone during the day with minimal supervision. The project is enabled with IoT applications including wearable devices, gateways, servers and a cloud system. Under the initiative, elderly people wear a small Bluetooth-enabled smart device either as a bracelet or a necklace, designed and developed by Burapha University and BAESLab. The smart device monitors the number of steps, movements, walking distance and sleeping patterns, and can alert healthcare practitioners when unusual activity is detected such as an abrupt fall, or the panic button is activated.

5. PayPal.Me caters to small merchants

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

PAYPAL will next month launch PayPal.Me, a contextualized peer-to-peer digital payment service, to ride the growth of social commerce in Thailand. PayPal.Me is a new payment platform suitable for small merchants. They can set up their own user profiles that are associated with a personalized URL. The social-commerce merchant can place a link for PayPal.Me on social media such as Facebook for customers to pay. Rahul Shinghal, general manager of PayPal Southeast Asia, said yesterday that social commerce was an exciting segment for PayPal and Thailand showed the fastest growth in Southeast Asia. PayPal is a global payment revolution to help build trust between small sellers and buyers, he said.

The company could not give a figure on the growth rate in Thailand, under company policy, but about 10,000 merchants in Thailand applying for membership in PayPal are small merchants. Globally, PayPal had 188 million active customer accounts, which the company defined as having been used every month. Shinghal said travel, gems and jewellery, and fashion were the three focus segments of PayPal in Thailand.

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