

Thai News Update: 3 July 2018

1. Barriers To Chinese Steel Tightened

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

The government is tightening measures to prevent Chinese steel and aluminium products shipped through Thailand from circumventing US tariffs after the US inspected some and claimed the exports were really from China. Wanchai Varavithya, deputy director-general of the Foreign Trade Department, said the US has claimed Thailand is allowing other countries to use local operation sites to avoid the US anti-dumping or countervailing measures it launched to protect its local industries. On March 8, Mr Trump ordered a steep 25% tariff on steel and 10% tariff on aluminium imports to the US, citing national security considerations under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. "The claim is tariff avoidance is happening through transshipment and assembly in Thailand," Mr Wanchai said. "The department will team up with the Customs Department to restrict steel imports and exports. We will send the list of anti-dumping products and company names under the Section 232 to our customs counterparts for inspection."

2. Asia Plus Securities: Foreign Buying To Swing Back

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

Despite undergoing a significant stock market correction, foreign fund outflows are expected to subside and reverse to net purchases this month as negative factors have been accounted for, says Asia Plus Securities (APS). Foreign net sales of local equities have begun to slow down, switching to net purchases in early July, said senior executive vice-president Poranee Thongyen. After 15 days of net sales, foreign funds last Friday reversed to a net buy position of US\$350 million (11.61 billion baht) in five regional markets, namely Indonesia, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand said Mrs Poranee. All five markets recorded foreign net purchases of local equities for the first time since Jan 23, said ASP. South Korea logged foreign net purchases at \$206 million and Taiwan at \$23 million. For Asean countries, foreign net purchases in Indonesia registered \$25 million, while the Philippines and Thailand recorded foreign net purchase worth copy0 million and \$85 million, respectively. Foreign holding in Thai stocks is low, with many stocks having already undergone a significant correction and absorbed bad news, said Mrs Poranee. Statistically,

foreigners have been net buyers in July for seven out of ten years at an average of 4.39 billion baht, boosting the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) index by 1.13% on average, she said.

3. DTAC Prodded Over 2nd Auction Round

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

Total Access Communication (DTAC), the country's third-largest mobile operator, will inevitably have to bid in the second round of the 1800- and 900-megahertz spectra auctions next month in exchange for the right to continue servicing its existing 2G network users after its concession ends on Sept 15, says the telecom regulator. According to a resolution of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) board July , DTAC will have to submit bid documents with bid guarantees for each of the planned second-round auctions on Aug 8 if the company wants to express its intention to use the spectra ranges after the concession expiry date.

4. Farmers To Get Bt1,100 Per Rai Compensation For Floods Caused By Cave Draining

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

Farmers in three tambon in Chiang Rai whose farmland is flooded by water drained from theTham Luang Cave will get a compensation of Bt1,100 per rai, the agriculture minister said on July 3. Agriculture Minister Krissada Boonraj said the Chiang Rai governor reported to him that so far 1,600 rai of farmland in three tambon was inundated. Krissada said officials will survey the damage as more water would be pumped out as efforts continue to rescue the trapped footballers. Krissada said the province's emergency fund of Bt50 million will be used to pay compensations to the farmers as soon as possible, without having to seek an approval from the Cabinet. He said the Agriculture Ministry will also hand out rice grains to affected villagers so they can replant their paddy fields. The Royal Irrigation Department has also been instructed to study how to drain the water from the paddy fields. The floodwaters may be channeled to the Kham River and Mae Sai River, the minister added.

5. Joint Thai-France Forum On Smart City Development

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

The National Innovation Agency (NIA) and the Business France (Trade and Commerce Department), have held a Thai-French Smart City Forum to share knowledge and experience on

smart city development and to develop innovation districts. Pun-Arj Chairatana, director of NIA, said that the forum provided opportunities for representatives from Thailand to meet world-leading, smart-city technology companies from France to discuss technical issues related to smart city project and innovation districts that are currently being developed in Thailand. It focuses on improving the innovative potential at the regional, provincial and district levels. Three important sections will be developed: promotion and development of infrastructures facilitating the innovation ecosystem, administration of resources to create an innovation area and promotion of community participation. The NIA has set goals for the development of 15 “innovation districts” in Bangkok and other regions. Eight districts in Bangkok include Yothee, Klongsan, Pathumwan, Kluaynamthai, Ladkrabang, Punwitee, Bangsue and Rattanakosin.