

Thai News Update: 4 July 2018

1. Export Hopes High Despite Trade Rows

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

The spectre of trade protectionism has failed to dent optimism for sustained strength in exports in the year's second half, say business leaders, even though some concede that certain types of products could be caught into the fallout of an escalating conflict. In keeping with this balanced view, the business figures say they are bullish on the Thai economy despite the unfolding moves in the trade conflict. They believe that trade tensions between the US, China, Europe, Canada, Mexico and India will have a only a limited impact on Thai exports. Preedee Daochai, chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking, said on July 3 the committee had revised up its projection for export growth this year to 7-10 per cent, from a previous estimate of 5-8 per cent. The threat of a trade war involving some of the world's major economies is expected to have only a small impact on Thai exports while the global economy continues to expand, he said. The panel also revised up its forecast for the Kingdom's economic growth for this year to a range of 4.3-4.8 per cent, from 4-4.5 per cent previously. Ghayapad Tantipatpong, chairman of the Thai National Shippers' Council, said exports of washing machines to the United States have declined, falling to U\$83 million in the first five months of this year, from \$136 million in the same period last year. Exports of solar cell plunged to \$65 million, down from \$151 million.

2. Thailand Post Readies Bt10 Bn Service Boost

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

Thailand Post plans to invest about Bt10 billion on infrastructure such as that for automated services over the next five years, with expectations of reaping more than Bt45 billion in revenue over the period. The postal operator has joined with Research University Network (RUN) to examine ways to improve its business processes and services in a later stage of the plan. Samorn Terdthampibopn, president of Thailand Post, said the company is continuing to provide new services to boost growth and serve the market. It plans to announce a cash-on-delivery (CoD) service in August, providing more convenience for e-commerce businesses. She said that a

memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed with RUN would see research and development carried out in order to improve organisational processes and the business as a whole. The arrangement would also help to raise the company's business efficiency, reduce the cost of investment in the long term and create a long-term sustainable business, Samorn said. Samorn said that the five-year, Bt10 billion investment plan would see the company lay down infrastructure such as that for fully automated services for sorting management and improved process management, along with improvements in its services and productivity.

3. New Banknotes To Debut On King's Birthday

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

The Bank of Thailand plans to launch a new series of banknotes, codenamed Series 17, on July 28 as part of the national celebrations for His Majesty the King's 66th birthday, Bank of Thailand governor Veerathai Santiprabhob announced July 3. The printing of the Series 17 notes has won approval from the King already and they will be in circulation from July 28 onward, said Mr Veerathai, adding that this means the public will be able to withdraw the new series banknotes from commercial banks and financial institutions from then on. New designs will feature on the 500 baht and 1,000 baht notes. The front of both the banknotes in this series will contain a portrait of the King dressed in Royal Thai Air Force uniform as the main picture.

4. Bot Warns Of High Volatility For Baht

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

Bank of Thailand governor Veerathai Santiprabhob has warned that the baht's volatility will remain high in the foreseeable future, prompted by tightened monetary policy in advanced economies and tit-for-tat trade tariffs among economic behemoths. Foreign exchange volatility should persist, affecting both money and capital markets across the globe, but the situation is not worrisome as Thailand has buffers, including high foreign reserves, a current account surplus and low foreign-denominated debt, he said. "The baht has retreated less rapidly than other regional currencies," said Mr Veerathai. The yuan has been at the centre of the regional foreign exchange storm over the past few days, driven by the escalating trade spat between the world's top two economies, he said.