

Thai News Update: 7 June 2019

1. Investors Seen Voting For Stability

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

Foreign capital is expected to move into the Thai bourse with the prospect of political clarity arising from the return of Prayut Chan-ocha as prime minister, the chief of the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) said. SET president Pakorn Peetathawatchai said capital had already begun flowing into Thai stocks after a rebalancing by index compiler MSCI that had made them more attractive to foreigners. That development, combined with the legislature's vote for Prayut to keep his job and the increased likelihood that he can form a new government, will boost the confidence of foreign investors, Pakorn said

2. Thai Solar Gains Partner For Japan Plant

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

Thai Solar Energy will work with Trina Solar, the biggest supplier of photovoltaic modules, to develop a solar energy plant in Japan. The companies yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the project and the document also aims to establish a foundation for future cooperation in Southeast Asia between Trina Solar and Thai Solar Energy, one of Thailand's largest solar developers. "We consider this MOU as the formal alignment of both our interests. With the size of this project, the use of the latest solar technology and the choice of such a developed market as Japan, both Thai Solar Energy and Trina Solar are showing our ambition in Asia," said Yin Rongfang, Trina Solar's executive vice president.

3. Consumer Confidence Sinks For Three Moths In A Row In May

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

Thailand's political situation, the US-China trade war and low agricultural product prices have dragged down confidence of Thai consumers to its low in 19 months, according to University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce. Thanavath Phonvichai, director of the university's Centre for

Economic and Business Forecasting, said that Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) in May headed down in a third straight month, sliding from 79.2 to 77.7, the lowest in 19 months since November 2017. The decline of the index for the past three months, from March to May, reflected downtrend of the Thai economy with no clear signal of a recovery.

4. CP Foods Launches Project To Eliminate Coal Usage

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

Charoen Pokphand Foods PCL (CP Foods) on Thursday announced a project to phase out coal usage from all its operations in Thailand in response to UN sustainable development goals. In a press release, the he company also reported the progress of its sustainability goals and recent sustainability initiatives. Sooksunt Jiumjaiswanglerg, Chief Executive Officer - Agro Industrial Business and Co-President of CP Foods, said the company has a strong commitment to promote an eco-friendly supply chain, reducing carbon footprint and promote sustainable energy in an effort to tackle global warming.

5. World Bank Trims Growth View to 3.5%

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

The World Bank has cut its Thai economic growth forecast for 2019 to 3.5% and plans to review the economic outlook again after a new cabinet line-up is announced. The global lender is gathering economic data and waiting for a list of economic ministers and policies, said economist Kiatipong Ariyaratya. "The ministers' name list is one of the key factors used to assess Thai economic momentum," he said, adding that economic continuity, particularly in big-ticket infrastructure investments, should be a core policy to support economic expansion. The World Bank plans to announce its economic growth estimate revision for 2019 next month.

6. Jitters as NPLs Hit Latest High

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

The state planning unit is keeping a close watch on domestic consumer loans after non-performing loan rates hit a 13-quarter high in the first three months this year. The National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) reported on Thursday that non-performing consumer debt rose 9% year-on-year in the first quarter this year to 126.4 billion baht. It

accounted for 2.75% of total loans and 27.8% of total non-performing loans (NPLs), the highest since the first quarter of 2016. This resulted in the highest proportion of NPLs among finance segments. Personal loans under the agency's supervision were still at a high level, while credit defaults for more than three months of credit card loans declined by 3.6% after 0.3% growth in the previous quarter.

7. NESDC Advises Promotion Of E-Sports For Development

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

The government is being advised to promote and upgrade systems for e-sports, a promising new business that produced 22 billion baht in revenue in 2018. Chutinat Wongsuban, deputy secretary-general of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), said the government should pay more attention to helping e-sports by supporting game developers, offering them assistance and tax measures. "E-sports has been increasing in popularity over the past decade in Thailand," she said. "The local game market and e-sports are growing steadily." In 2017, there were 18.3 million gamers in Thailand, accounting for one-fourth of the population, while spending on the game market tallied 22 billion baht in 2018, which ranked 19th in the world, up from 19.7 billion in 2017.