

Thai News Update: 24 June 2019

1. Central bank seen holding key rate despite flagging growth

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

Thailand's central bank is expected to keep its benchmark policy rate steady on 26 June for a fourth straight meeting, a Reuters poll showed, despite slowing growth and the way many Asian central banks have shifted toward easing policy. In the survey, 14 economists predicted the Bank of Thailand's (BoT's) monetary policy committee (MPC) will keep its one-day repurchase rate at 1.75% - half a point above the record low. One analyst forecast a quarter-point cut on weaker growth.

2. Asean leaders emphasise economic strength in face of US-China tensions

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

Southeast Asian leaders agreed on 23 June to work together on regional economy and security to strengthen their positions amid growing US-China tensions, as they wrapped up the summit. The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations will need its collective economic strength for bargaining power globally, especially amid the trade tensions between the world's top two economies, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha told a news conference, as chairman of the 34th Asean Summit.

3. Protectionism slammed as Asean leaders rally to trade pact

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha made an impassioned plea against protectionism on Sunday at a meeting of Southeast Asian leaders where the fallout from the US-China tariff war has dominated talks. A controversial repatriation plan for the persecuted Rohingya Muslim minority and ongoing disputes over the South China Sea will also be tackled by leaders at the final day of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit. But trade has topped the agenda at the

Bangkok meeting, as tit-for-tat tariffs between China and the United States cast a dark cloud over global growth.

4. High-speed airport rail in EEC moving along

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

The high-speed rail project linking Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang and U-tapao airports is moving ahead, with the environmental impact assessment (EIA) scheduled to go before the National Environmental Policy Committee for approval on Monday. According to Kanit Sangsubhan, secretary-general of the Eastern Economic Corridor Office, the EIA for the 225-billion-baht high-speed rail project linking the three airports passed vetting by the subcommittee on the environment on June 7.