

Highlights

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While Singapore was out for National Day holiday yesterday, China announced it would impose tariffs on an additional US\$16b of US imports (including chemicals and medical equipment) in retaliation to the US\$16b of US tariffs coming into effect on 23 August, while Russia also threatened to hit back for the new round of sanctions announced by the US for the 4 March nerve attack on an agent. Global Asian markets are likely to open with a risk-off tone this morning - note that S&P500 closed lower (albeit within 1% of its record high) and the 10-year UST bond yield also rallied 3bps to 2.93% yesterday, while oil prices slumped. Today's economic data calendar also comprises US' July CPI, UK and HK 2Q18 GDP growth, Malaysia's June industrial production and S'pore's June retail sales. Watch the RBA monetary policy statement release later this morning. The US and Japan trade talks are also ongoing in Washington, but market is not anticipating significant progress for now. More hawkish rhetoric from Fed speakers, with Barkin opining that "it is difficult to argue that lower than normal rates are appropriate when SN unemployment is low and inflation is effectively at the Fed's target", while Evans tips growth to bounce back from a weak 1Q18 and opined that policy could become "somewhat restrictive" in 2020. CPI growth accelerated further to 2.1% yoy in July from 1.9% yoy in June. S The faster growth of CPI was mainly attributable to the strong growth of oil prices. The Bank of Thailand decided to keep its policy rate at 1.50% unchanged as widely expected. The rate has been held at current level since early 2015. E Similar to previous meetings, one of the seven policy committee member voted for a rate hike to 1.75%, suggesting the pressure for policy-makers to eventually raise rates should growth tailwinds intensify into end-year. BSP hiked 50bps (the first 50bp hike since July 2008) and noted that "latest baseline forecasts have shifted higher over the policy horizon, indicating F some risk of inflation exceeding the target in 2019" and "reiterates its strong commitment and readiness to take all necessary policy actions to address the threat of high inflation". The RBNZ kept its OCR unchanged at 1.75% but the tone was more dovish as the central bank delayed its forecast for the rate hike to 3Q 2020 (ie. one NN year later than its May forecast), citing that the "direction of our net OCR move could be up or down", and also cut its 2018 growth forecast. RBNZ also noted that NZD could become an upside risk to the OCR. June retail sales likely rose 0.8% yoy (1.8% mom sa), compared to 0.1% yoy SG (0.1% mom sa) in May. Crude oil continue to stage further falls into yesterday, after the previous day's notable >3.0% plunge seen in both WTI and Brent as investors were concerned over further trade war tensions. Crude oil is likely poised to see CMD further declines especially if additional tariffs on imports are imposed in the coming weeks. On oil production news, Iraq reported its highest crude oil

production in 13 months in July to 4.46 million barrels per day, underpinning market-watchers' anticipation over potentially stronger supplies into 2H18.



Major Markets

- US: Wall Street closed mostly lower on Thursday as weak energy and industrial shares weighed on the market. Dow Jones slipped to 25,509.23 (-0.29%), while the S&P500 fell 0.14% to close down at 2,853.58. The tech-rich Nasdaq composite (+0.04%) climbed to 7,891.78, buoyed by major tech stocks, notably Amazon (+0.64%), Apple (+0.79%) and Alphabet (+0.25%). The VIX Index rose to 11.27 on Thursday, as compared to 10.85 on Wednesday. On the Treasury front, the 2y yield fell by 2.3bp to 2.645%, while the 10y yield dipped to 2.926% (-3.4bp).
- **Singapore:** The STI had closed down 0.40% at 3326.74 on Wednesday and may test the 3320 support today amid weak market cues from Wall Street overnight and Nikkei and Kospi opening softer this morning. With the UST bonds rallying up to 4bps lower amid the risk-off sentiments, the SGS bond market may also trade with a better bid tone today.
- China: Inflationary pressure remains benign at this juncture and may not impede the PBOC from implementing accommodative monetary policy. However, whether any escalation of trade war would translate into imported inflation will be closely monitored in the near term. Elsewhere, PPI growth decelerated from 4.7% yoy in June (the highest in 2018) to 4.6% yoy in July, better than expected. Due to trade concerns, the growth of PPI peaked in June. As the slowdown in PPI growth was rather moderate, China's industrial profits and fiscal revenue are likely to hold up well in the near term. This will help to ease the concerns over corporate debt burdens and allow more room for further fiscal stimulus.
- **Thailand:** Despite the growth upgrade seen in the previous monetary policy meeting, the Bank of Thailand decided to keep its policy rate at 1.50% unchanged as widely expected. The rate has been held at current level since early 2015. Similar to previous meetings, one of the seven policy committee member voted for a rate hike to 1.75%, suggesting the pressure for policy-makers to eventually raise rates should growth tailwinds intensify into end-year. Specifically, the Bank of Thailand had previously upgraded its growth outlook to 4.4% for the year ahead, while the Finance Ministry has recently hiked its growth expectation to 4.5% in late May.
- We note that recent policy statements have been generally upbeat on growth and the current BOT statement remains similarly upbeat as well. The statement cited that exports and tourism "continued to improve in tandem with global economic growth". Exports are also expected to "achieve higher growth than previously assessed", coupled with continued expansion of private consumption supported by improvements in employment. Inflation outlook remains largely unchanged however, amid some downside risks on lower fresh food prices. The statement however emphasised risks of lower tourism arrivals following the recent Phuket tour boat sinking incident. Other risks are centered on uncertainties surrounding the US foreign trade policies and geopolitical risks.
- We opine that the decision to hold rates unchanged remains to be a prudent one. Policy-makers' move to keep rates accommodative at this juncture is seen with poorerthan-expected incoming data. These include June's exports at a notable slowdown of 8.2% on a year-on-year growth basis (vs 17.6% y/y seen in January) as shipment growth faces a higher base print in 2H17. Further signs of growth moderation can also be seen from the slower manufacturing PMI (50.1 in June vs 50.2 in July) while Thailand's Business Sentiment Index (BSI) declined to 52.0 in July 2018, down from 52.8 in the previous month. On the inflation front as well, the softer core inflation print at



0.79% in July (down from 0.83% in June) likely did little to spur further monetary tightening.

- In a nutshell, Thailand's growth outlook has remained positive to date despite growing investor concerns surrounding the US-Sino trade barbs. Thailand's external environment still remains supportive of overall growth, albeit naturally seeing further slowdown as we approach high growth base seen in 2H17. Some upside risk to exports could be on the cards, given the Commerce Ministry's observation that Thailand's exports of food products could potentially be a beneficiary from the US-Sino trade tensions. Specifically on this, Minister Sontirat Sontijirawong commented that seafood exports could "help boost total Thai exports this year at more than 8%, and even rising at a double-digit rate this year." Despite the softer-than-expected core inflation seen of late, BOT still expects inflation pressures to "edge up given the gradual build-up in demand-pull inflationary pressures". All-in-all, we keep our Thailand growth outlook at 4.2% y/y in 2018, while anticipating policy-makers to eventually inject a 25bps token hike in 4Q18.
- **Malaysia:** Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng has announced that he will "propose to Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad that an open inquiry be held" to investigate the situation regarding around RM18bn of funds not being in a "trust account specifically meant for repaying GST claims". Previously, the Finance Minister had claimed that the "Barisan Nasional government pilfered the trust account and entered cash GST collection directly into the consolidated fund as revenues to be spent freely".
- Indonesia: Jokowi has announced his vice-presidential running mate for next year's presidential elections as Ma'ruf Amin, the head of the nation's influential clerics' council. The pair will be facing off against former general Prabowo Subianto and Jakarta Deputy Governor, Sandiaga Uno. The Jakarta governor election last year had seen Anies Baswedan beat Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, who was later jailed after being found guilty of blasphemy.
- **Philippines:** The 2019 inflation forecast was revised up from 3.3% to 3.7%. Governor Espenilla also sounded hawkish, saying that" the economy is on strong footing and it can take adjustments like this".

Bond Market Updates

- Market Commentary: The SGD swap curve steepened on Wednesday, with swap rates for the shorter tenors trading slightly higher (within 1bps) while the longer tenors traded 1-2bps higher. The Bloomberg Barclays Asia USD IG Bond Index average OAS was unchanged at 137bps while the Bloomberg Barclays Asia USD HY Bond Index average OAS tightened 3bps to 470bps. 10Y UST yields fell 3bps to close at 2.93% on Thursday following the USD18bn 30-year bond auction which was relatively well received. The 30-year bond auction came on the heels of Wednesday's bumper USD26bn 10-year bond auction, which saw stronger than expected demand from investors and kept 10 year yields below 3.00%.
- New Issues: Tuspark Forward Ltd has priced a USD350mn 3-year bond (guaranteed by Tus-Holdings Co Ltd) at 8.50%, tightening from its initial price guidance of 8.75%. Powerlong Real Estate Holdings Ltd has priced a USD250mn re-tap of its PWRLNG 5.95%'20s (guaranteed by certain non-PRC subsidiaries of the issuer) at 9%, in line with its initial price guidance.



Key Financial Indicators

Foreign Excha	ange		<u>Ney Fill</u>	ancial II	uicators	Equity and	d Commodity	
· • • • • • •	Day Close	% Change		Day Close	% Change	Index	Value	Net change
DXY	95.504	0.43%	USD-SGD	1.3677	0.34%	DJIA	25,509.23	-74.52
USD-JPY	111.080	0.09%	EUR-SGD	1.5766	-0.39%	S&P	2,853.58	-4.12
EUR-USD	1.1527	-0.71%	JPY-SGD	1.2312	0.25%	Nasdaq	7,891.78	3.46
AUD-USD	0.7373	-0.78%	GBP-SGD	1.7539	-0.11%	Nikkei 225		-45.92
GBP-USD	1.2824	-0.45%	AUD-SGD	1.0084	-0.43%	STI	3,326.74	
USD-MYR	4.0745		NZD-SGD	0.9049	-1.54%	KLCI	1,804.95	0.22
USD-CNY	6.8210	-0.21%	CHF-SGD	1.3765	0.32%	JCI	6,065.26	-29.57
USD-IDR	14416	-0.16%	SGD-MYR	2.9890	0.05%	Baltic Dry	1,704.00	
USD-VND	23280	-0.02%	SGD-CNY	5.0005	-0.24%	VIX	11.27	0.42
Interbank Offe	er Rates (%)					Governme	ent Bond Yields	s (%)
Tenor	EURIBOR	Change	Tenor	USD LIBO	R Change	Tenor	SGS (chg)	UST (chg)
1M	-0.3690		O/N	1.9163		2Y	1.92 ()	2.65 (-0.02)
2M	-0.3370		1M	2.0634		5Y	2.19 ()	2.81 (-0.02)
3M	-0.3190		2M	2.1855		10Y	2.46 ()	2.93 (-0.03)
6M	-0.2680		3M	2.3405		15Y	2.75 ()	
9M	-0.2150		6M	2.5170		20Y	2.77 ()	
12M	-0.1760		12M	2.8278		30Y	2.86 ()	3.07 (-0.04)
Fed Rate Hike	Probability					Financial	Spread (bps)	
Meeting	Prob Hike	2-2.2	5 2.25-2.	5 2.5-2.7	5 2.75-3		Value	Change
09/26/2018	100.0%	92.0%	6 8.09	% 0.0%	6 0.0%	LIBOR-OIS	30.24	-0.45
11/08/2018	100.0%	89.5%	6 10.39	% 0.2%	6 0.0%	EURIBOR-OI	S 3.86	-0.04
12/19/2018	100.0%	31.1%	62.09	% 6.8%	6 0.1%	TE	D 30.24	
01/30/2019	100.0%	29.2%	60.19	% 10.1%	6 0.5%			
03/20/2019	100.0%	12.9%	6 42.8°	% 38.1%	6 5.9%			
05/01/2019	100.0%	11.5%	6 39.79	% 38.6%	% 9.2%			
Commodities	Futures			A/ 1	0 (10)			
Energy		Fu	itures	% chg	Soft Commoditie	es	Futures	% chg
WTI (per barrel)				-0.19%	u ,		1.077	-0.19%
Brent (per barrel)		72.07		-0.29%	0.29% Cotton (per lb)		0.8726	0.09%
Heating Oil (per gallon)		2.1119		-0.18%	0.18% Sugar (per lb)		0.1084	0.28%
Gasoline (per gallon)		1.9999		-0.97%	0.97% Orange Juice (per lb)		1.6435	0.09%
Natural Gas (per MMBtu)		2.9550		0.20%			2,129	-0.98%
Base Metals		E,	itures	% chg	Grains		Futures	% chg
	.+)			-		50	5.8650	-0.80%
Copper (per m	,			0.53% Wheat (per bushel)				
Nickel (per mt)	,		-1.20%	Soybean (per bus	,	9.040	-0.71%	
Aluminium (per mt)		2,062.3		-1.22%	-1.22% Corn (per bushel)		3.8275	-0.58%
Precious Meta	als	Fu	itures	% chg	Asian Commodi	ties	Futures	% chg
Gold (per oz)		1.	,219.9	-0.09%	Crude Palm Oil (N	MYR/MT)	2,246.0	-0.53%
Silver (per oz)			5.462	0.19%	Rubber (JPY/KG)	,	174.5	0.29%

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters

(Note that rates are for reference only)



Economic Calendar

Date Time		Event		Survey	Actual	Prior	Revised
08/09/2018 05:00	NZ	RBNZ Official Cash Rate	Aug-09	1.75%	1.75%	1.75%	-
08/09/2018 07:01	UK	RICS House Price Balance	Jul	4%	4%	2%	3%
08/09/2018 07:50	JN	Money Stock M2 YoY	Jul	3.10%	3.00%	3.20%	3.10%
08/09/2018 07:50	JN	Core Machine Orders MoM	Jun	-1.00%	-8.80%	-3.70%	
08/09/2018 09:30	СН	PPI YoY	Jul	4.50%	4.60%	4.70%	
08/09/2018 09:30	СН	CPI YoY	Jul	2.00%	2.10%	1.90%	
08/09/2018 10:00	PH	GDP YoY	2Q	6.60%	6.00%	6.80%	
08/09/2018 14:00	JN	Machine Tool Orders YoY	Jul P		13.00%	11.40%	
08/09/2018 16:00	PH	BSP Overnight Borrowing Rate	Aug-09	4.00%	4.00%	3.50%	
08/09/2018 16:00	PH	BSP Standing O/N Deposit Facility Rate	Aug-09	3.50%	3.50%	3.00%	
08/09/2018 20:15	CA	Housing Starts	Jul	219.0k	206.3k	248.1k	246.2k
08/09/2018 20:30	US	Initial Jobless Claims	Aug-04	220k	213k	218k	219k
08/09/2018 20:30	CA	New Housing Price Index MoM	Jun	0.10%	0.10%	0.00%	
08/09/2018 20:30	US	Continuing Claims	Jul-28	1730k	1755k	1724k	1726k
08/09/2018 20:30	US	PPI Final Demand MoM	Jul	0.20%	0.00%	0.30%	
08/09/2018 20:30	US	PPI Ex Food and Energy MoM	Jul	0.20%	0.10%	0.30%	
08/09/2018 20:30	US	PPI Final Demand YoY	Jul	3.40%	3.30%	3.40%	
08/09/2018 20:30	US	PPI Ex Food and Energy YoY	Jul	2.80%	2.70%	2.80%	
08/09/2018 21:45	US	Bloomberg Consumer Comfort	Aug-05		59.3	58.6	
08/09/2018 22:00	US	Wholesale Inventories MoM	Jun F	0.00%	0.10%	0.00%	
08/10/2018 06:30	NZ	BusinessNZ Manufacturing PMI	Jul		51.2	52.8	52.7
08/10/2018 07:50	JN	ΡΡΙ ΥοΥ	Jul	2.90%		2.80%	
08/10/2018 07:50	JN	GDP SA QoQ	2Q P	0.30%		-0.20%	
08/10/2018 07:50	JN	GDP Annualized SA QoQ	2Q P	1.40%		-0.60%	
08/10/2018 07:50	JN	GDP Deflator YoY	2Q P	0.00%		0.50%	
08/10/2018 09:30	AU	RBA Statement on Monetary Policy					
08/10/2018 12:00	MA	Industrial Production YoY	Jun	3.20%		3.00%	
08/10/2018 12:30	JN	Tertiary Industry Index MoM	Jun	-0.30%		0.10%	
08/10/2018 13:00	SI	Retail Sales YoY	Jun	1.20%		0.10%	
08/10/2018 14:45	FR	Industrial Production MoM	Jun	0.50%	-	-0.20%	
08/10/2018 14:45	FR	Industrial Production YoY	Jun	1.40%	-	-0.90%	
08/10/2018 15:30	ΤН	Foreign Reserves	Aug-03			\$204.9b	
08/10/2018 16:00	IT	Trade Balance Total	Jun			3378m	
08/10/2018 16:30	UK	Visible Trade Balance GBP/Mn	Jun	-£11,950		-£12,362	
08/10/2018 16:30	UK	Trade Balance Non EU GBP/Mn	Jun	-£3,600		-£3,491	
08/10/2018 16:30	UK	Trade Balance	Jun	-£2,500		-£2,790	
08/10/2018 16:30	UK	Industrial Production MoM	Jun	0.30%		-0.40%	
08/10/2018 16:30	UK	Industrial Production YoY	Jun	0.70%		0.80%	
08/10/2018 16:30	UK	Manufacturing Production MoM	Jun	0.30%	-	0.40%	
08/10/2018 16:30	ΗK	GDP YoY	2Q	3.90%	-	4.70%	
08/10/2018 16:30	UK	GDP QoQ	2Q P	0.40%	-	0.20%	
08/10/2018 16:30	UK	GDP YoY	2Q P	1.30%	-	1.20%	
08/10/2018 20:00	IN	Industrial Production YoY	Jun	5.60%		3.20%	
08/10/2018 20:30	CA	Net Change in Employment	Jul	17.0k		31.8k	
08/10/2018 20:30	US	СРІ МоМ	Jul	0.20%		0.10%	
08/10/2018 20:30	CA	Unemployment Rate	Jul	5.90%		6.00%	
08/10/2018 20:30	US	CPI Ex Food and Energy MoM	Jul	0.20%		0.20%	
08/10/2018 20:30	CA	Full Time Employment Change	Jul			9.1	
08/10/2018 20:30	US	CPI YoY	Jul	2.90%		2.90%	
08/10/2018 08/15	СН	Money Supply M2 YoY	Jul	8.20%		8.00%	
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Source: Bloomberg



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