

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 29 APRIL 2022

1. Tourists give thumbs-up to new rules

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

Tourists have given positive feedback after the government's decision to scrap the Test & Go scheme, a rescinding that took effect on Sunday. The Bangkok Post interviewed some international arrivals on Sunday and found the move helped them make a decision to visit Thailand. Kyle Sutherland, a 30-year-old tourist from Canada, is visiting the kingdom with his friends for the first time. He said the axeing of the RT-PCR test requirement for hotel reservations also helped them save money.

2. Govt values workers, PM insists, as all eyes turn to wage rise

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

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha yesterday marked Labour Day with a commitment that the government will ensure job security and a better quality of life to help people develop and realise their full potential. In a speech delivered to celebrate Labour Day, Gen Prayut said the government places strong emphasis on labour development so the people have better job opportunities and more income. The labour force was instrumental in driving economic growth and the government would do its best to ensure workers were not left behind in its national development strategy, he said.

3. Japan ties in line for boost

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

The official visit by Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, the first of its kind in nine years, will not only help cement long-term Thai-Japanese relations but also spawn new trade and investment opportunities for both sides, believe some observers. A number of new memorandums of understanding and agreements are expected to be signed by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and his Japanese counterpart at their meeting on Monday. It is hoped that Mr Kishida's visit will boost economic and investment cooperation, said Chaiwat Khamchoo, director of the college of politics and governance at King Prajadhipok's Institute.

4. Nong Khai-Laos border checkpoints finally reopen after two years

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

Three border checkpoints in Nong Khai were reopened on 1 May, more than two years after they were sealed in March 2020 to prevent the spread of Covid-19. The main checkpoint is the First Thai–Lao Friendship Bridge in Nong Khai's Muang district, which connects with

the Laos capital Vientiane and serves as the channel for Laotians to enter Nong Khai. The other two checkpoints are at Nong Khai Pier and Nong Khai Train Station. Nong Khai governor Monsit Pisanthanawat said that all three checkpoints will now be open from 5am until 9pm every day. Travellers from Laos entering Nong Khai must present a vaccine certificate showing at least two doses and pass temperature screening.

5. Tak's Thai-Myanmar border checkpoint ready for reopening

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

The booths being cleaned on 1 May were at the Mae Sot-Myawaddy checkpoint at the foot of the first Thailand-Myanmar Friendship Bridge in Rim Moei village and at the foot of the second Friendship Bridge in Ban Wang Takian Tai village. Both villages are in tambon Thai Sai Luad in Tak's Mae Sot district. Border officials said they were coordinating with their peers in Myanmar and were waiting for a response from officials across the Myawaddy border. The two checkpoints have been closed since March 23, 2020, as a measure to prevent the influx of Covid-19 infections.