

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 11 JULY 2022

1. Thai tourism sector booming again after Test & Go, Thailand Pass lifted

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

Thailand has seen as many as 2.21 million foreign tourists in the first half of this year thanks to the scrapping of the Test and Go and Thailand Pass schemes. Citing the Tourism and Sports Ministry's data from January 1 to July 6 this year, government spokesman Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana said on Sunday that most visitors came from India (249,466), Malaysia (277,146), Singapore (137,739), the United Kingdom (128,369) and the US (112,791).

2. Longchamp distributor resumes expansion in H2

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

PP Group, the official distributor of Longchamp luxury lifestyle fashion goods in Thailand, has resumed its business expansion in the second half after pandemic infections eased and tourists started to return to Thailand. According to company president Suvadee Phungbunphra, PP Group plans to open two new concept boutiques in Bangkok in the third and fourth quarters this year. The new Longchamp concept was introduced in France over the past few months and is set to be gradually rolled out in other countries.

3. Govt agrees to boost US ties

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

Thailand and the United States on Sunday agreed to strengthen cooperation and advance their partnership as both nations prepare to mark the 190th anniversary of their ties next year. Trade and investment, climate change, clean energy, human trafficking and regional support and cooperation were among the top items discussed during a meeting between Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Sunday. Mr Blinken paid a courtesy call on Gen Prayut at Government House after arriving in Bangkok for an official visit.

4. Blinken in Bangkok to discuss security, strengthening trade ties

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

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in Bangkok on Saturday met Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai on Sunday morning. He met Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha later in the day. Blinken's visit was previously slated for December last year, but it was cancelled after a member of his press team tested positive for Covid-19. The secretary of state was welcomed

on Saturday night by Chettaphan Maksamphan, director-general of the Department of American and Pacific Affairs. Before arriving here, Blinken was in Bali to attend the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting.