

THAI NEWS UPDATE: 8 JUNE 2022

1. Saudis get 30-day visa boost

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

The cabinet 7 June decided to allow Saudi Arabian visitors to get a longer 30-day visa on arrival to help stimulate the flagging economy. Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said after the cabinet meeting at Government House that holders of Saudi Arabian passports could arrive and stay in the country for up to 30 days without having to apply for a visa beforehand. The move was a further development of successful efforts by the government and the private sector to restore bilateral ties with Saudi Arabia, Gen Prayut said, adding that this had already led to cooperation on food and labour exports and flights between Bangkok and Riyadh.

2. Thai rice exports on upward trajectory amid higher demand

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

Thailand's rice exports are expected to reach 600,000 to 650,000 tonnes in May on pending delivery contracts, following higher rice demand and the weakening baht, the Thai Rice Exporters Association (TREA) said on Tuesday. REA President Charoen Laothamatas said Thailand exported 2,291,916 tonnes of rice worth THB39.44 billion in the past four months (January-April), up 52.7 per cent and 36.4 per cent year on year, respectively. However, in April alone, Thailand exported 548,636 tonnes of rice worth THB9.97 billion, down 15.3 per cent and 10.0 per cent month on month, he said. He said the decline in April rice exports were due to rising domestic prices, which led to a hike in the export prices as a result rice importers delayed purchase and delivery.

3. More than 60,000 factories get licence fee exemption to help recovery

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

The government will exempt 60,344 factories from the annual factory licence fee to help operators recover in the aftermath of Covid-19, Industry Minister Suriya Juangroongruangkit said. Suriya said on Tuesday that he had told the Industrial Works Department to exempt the annual factory licence fee for factories under Category 2 and Category 3. The fees were scheduled to be collected on 9 June. The fee exemption has been granted for three consecutive years.

4. DDC clarifies when you should get a 5th jab

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

There is currently no official recommendation as to when a person needs to get a fifth Covid-19 vaccine jab to increase immunity as there is not enough research data to determine a suitable interval after the fourth dose, Department of Disease Control (DDC) director-general Dr Opas Kankawinpong said on 7 June. However, some may consider getting the fifth jab if they plan to travel to countries that require certain types of vaccines that they have not been inoculated with,” he pointed out. “Another reason for a fifth jab is if your immunity has not increased after four shots and you are at risk of developing severe Covid-19 symptoms, especially if you are over 60 years old or have chronic diseases,” he said. “One should always seek a doctor’s recommendation before getting the fifth dose,” Opas reiterated.