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OPENING THE GATE



Starting today (Oct 1), visitors no longer need special permission to come onto the island, but they must be vaccinated and must have tested negative for COVID-19. Photo: PR Phuket

‘ISOLATION’ FROM MAINLAND COMES TO AN END AS VISITORS ALLOWED BACK ONTO THE ISLAND

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Starting today (Oct 1), all domestic visitors are allowed to enter Phuket as long as they have been fully vaccinated and have tested negative for COVID-19.

The move became official after Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew issued an order (Phuket Provincial Order No. 5745/2564) late Thursday last week (Sept 23), following him verbally announcing the policy change earlier the same day.

The new order is to remain in effect until further notice.

Phuket has been under “isolation” from the mainland since Aug 3, when

Governor Narong brought into effect an order allowing onto the island only essential deliveries, emergency workers and people conducting essential business on Phuket, including travelling to Phuket to leave via the airport.

The “island isolation” protocol has been maintained through successive provincial orders issued since then, with domestic tourists finally allowed onto the island, with conditions, since Sept 8.

Defending the move to introduce the “island isolation”, Governor Narong on July 30 said that the raft of new restrictions imposed on the island was the only way to contain the rising number of local infections on the island. At the time Phuket aver-

aged 35-39 new cases a day.

“Therefore, such announcements and orders must be issued to control travel in the country to have only those who really need it. This is how to save Phuket, save Sandbox and save Thailand,” Governor Narong said at the time.

However, at the time that the new order was issued on Sept 23, even with the “island isolation” protocol in effect Phuket, officials had been publicly recognising over 200 new cases a day for weeks. Only earlier this week did the number of new cases each day fall below 200.

Under the new order, to come into effect today (Oct 1), all people coming onto the island – by land,

sea or air – must be vaccinated with two doses of Sinovac, Sinopharm or Sputnik V vaccine, or one dose of AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson vaccines at least 14 days before arriving.

Alternatively, arrivals will be allowed onto the island if they have recovered from being infected with COVID-19 no more than six months earlier.

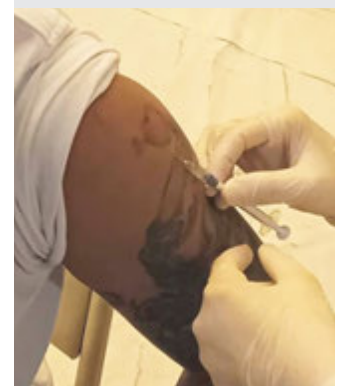
All arrivals must show evidence of testing negative for COVID-19 by RT-PCR or antigen test with confirmed results from a hospital or laboratory issued not more than seven days prior to arrival.

People who are registered on a house registration document...

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Phuket launches new method for booster jabs



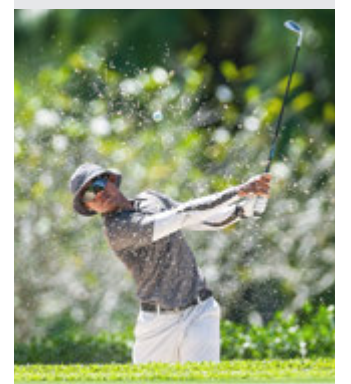
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News



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Phuket launches new jab method

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Medical staff at the Indoor Sports Stadium at Saphan Hin last Friday (Sept 24) began administering third-dose 'booster' injections using the subdermal method, injecting the vaccine just under the skin, instead of the intramuscular method, injecting the vaccine into muscle, as used previously.

The new method was used to administer third-dose 'booster' injections of AstraZeneca to those who had already received two injections of the Sinovac vaccine in what is now the new policy for the provincial government in administering booster injections.

Phuket is the first province in the country to use the new method, following approval by the Ministry of Public Health.

The approval was granted following a study conducted by medical officers at Vachira Phuket Hospital that showed using just 20% of the standard dose of AstraZeneca vaccine by injection the vaccine just under the skin proved just as effective in boosting immunity to the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

In announcing the results of that study on Sept 15, Dr



Medical staff are now using the subdermal method for providing the third-dose booster jabs. Photo: PR Phuket

Chalermpong Sukontapol, Director of Vachira Phuket Hospital, together with Dr Supalak Laongpetch and Dr Withita Jaeng-iam, initiators of the research project, explained that the study involved 242 volunteers aged 18-60 who had received two doses of Sinovac vaccine.

The results showed that the immunity of those who received the subcutaneous vaccination was on average slightly higher than that of those who received the conventional vaccination.

Participants who received

subcutaneous injections had approximately 17,662.3 AU/ml, while participants who received intramuscular injections had 17,214.1 AU/ml. Both groups had a higher rate of immunity than the minimum threshold of 840 AU/ml.

The side effects of subcutaneous vaccinations were less common than with conventional injections, such as fever or headache, the researchers noted.

"The subcutaneous injection causes more irritation and redness at the injected area, it is not worrying," Dr

Withita said.

Doctors will vaccinate around 200,000 residents and those people living on the island without the house registration, aiming to complete the process by the middle of October, Dr Withita said.

"When done, a second group consisting of migrants and foreign residents will be inoculated," she added.

The post-injection time is now also less, Dr Withita said.

"Only 10-15 minutes of observation is needed following the jab, instead of the previous 30 minutes, as

acute side effects, such as low temperature, exhaustion, and headaches are less likely than in the conventional method, with an equivalent immunity boost, based on scientific research," she explained.

The subcutaneous injection will allow doctors to administer approximately four times more shots of vaccine than in the conventional method, speeding up the prevention of the spread of the Delta variant of the COVID virus, Dr Withita added.

While health officials were leading the country in launching the new method of administering vaccination injections, Phuket quietly passed a milestone in the mass vaccination campaign, with more than 74% of the more accurate target population of 547,584 having received two vaccination injections.

As of Tuesday (Sept 28), according to the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) 407,499 people in the province have received two vaccination injections, representing 74.42% of the island's population to be vaccinated, while 430,836 still had received one vaccination injection (78.68% of the target population).

The PPHO also reported that 146,253 people in Phuket had received a third-dose booster jab, representing 26.71% of the 547,584 people recognised as living on the island.

The 'Official COVID-19 Information Center' operated by the Phuket office of the Ministry of Interior, has called for people in Phuket to check their eligibility to receive the booster injections.

First, to receive the booster shots people must register through the PhuketMustWin website.

The first groups to receive priority are those registered as Phuket residents and who have any of the seven conditions placing them at greater risk of serious infection. The registrants must also have received two vaccination injections of Sinovac (organised through the PhuketMustWin website) in June or July.

The second priority group are those registered as Phuket residents and have received two vaccination injections of Sinovac (organised through the PhuketMustWin website) before June 15.

The notice did advise, "If the conditions are not met, wait for the next round."

Island isolation draws to a close as economic pressure mounts

Continued from page 1

...(tabien baan) as living in Phuket may bring their own antigen test kit (ATK) approved by the Thai Food & Drug Administration and use that to be tested at the Phuket Check Point or any seaport checkpoint. Officers will issue a document confirming their test results which can be used to present to officials for no more than seven days.

Children under 5 years old traveling with parents or guardians and persons traveling in a medical emergency vehicle as an emergency patient, lifeguard, rescue worker are exempted from the above requirement to be vaccinated, the order noted.

Children from 6 years old to people under 18 years old who are not eligible for vaccination must show evidence of testing negative for COVID-19 by RT-PCR or antigen test method no more than seven days before arriving. Again, an FDA-approved



Phuket Governor Narong Woonciw announced the easing of the restrictions onto the island late last week. Photo: PR Phuket

antigen test kit may be brought to the checkpoint and the young person may be tested there.

For students under 18 years of age who are unable to receive vaccination against COVID-19 and need to travel into and out of Phuket for study purposes, the agency affiliated with the educational institution or

provincial educational institution shall issue the same form of identification that has been in use for months. The form can be shown to the staff when traveling into and out of Phuket. The students will also need to present a certificate issued by the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office confirming

the student has tested negative by RT-PCR or antigen test method. The certificates will be valid for no more than one month.

Those who have an appointment according to court proceedings prosecutor or investigating officers (defendants, witnesses, accused, released convicts on probation) must have clear evidence that if postponing such appointments will seriously damage the trial process to be able to travel to Phuket. They must test negative for COVID-19 by RT-PCR or antigen test no more than seven days prior to arrival.

Travelers traveling under the tourism pilot project (Sandbox 7+7 Extension) or people traveling outside of Phuket by sea to other pilot provinces as a one-day round trip with boat drivers, guides and crew are allowed to leave and re-enter Phuket as long as the tourists and the crews satisfy the requirements of the passengers being fully vaccinated and the boat drivers, guides and ship crews testing nega-

tive in their weekly screening for COVID-19 by ATK (Antigen Test Kit) method.

All people entering Phuket must download and install the Mor Chana app on their phones and enable location sharing at all times.

All arrivals must also register their travel details through the gophuket.com web platform before arriving and be issued a QR code that they are to show to the Communicable Disease Control Officer at the checkpoint before being allowed to enter Phuket.

"Patients who intentionally conceal travel information or report false information to communicable disease control officers, causing obstacles to disease investigation and control, resulting in the spread of pathogens may be considered a violation or failure to comply with the order of the communicable disease control officer which is also an offense under the Communicable Diseases Act B.E. 2558," the order warned.

Police raid bars in Patong

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After bars in Patong had been selling alcohol to visitors for over a month, police last week moved in to start charging venue operators for breach of the provincial order banning the sale of alcohol.

The move flew in the face of the tacit permission granted by the Patong Police and Patong Municipality, with bars along Bangla Rd open and selling alcohol.

It also came more than a week after Weerawit Kreuasombat, President of the Patong Entertainment Business Association (PEBA), publicly admitted that some bars were breaking the provincial order – but with tacit permission from the Patong Police and Patong Municipality.

According to a report released by Phuket Provincial Police on Sept 22, all police stations in the area have now been ordered to “strictly inspect, control and supervise various places in accordance with the measures ordered by Phuket Province [the provincial government] according to Phuket Provincial Order No. 5409/2564, regarding the measures to close the place or prohibit activities that are at risk of spreading the disease [COVID-10] in accordance with the Communicable Diseases Act 2015, Sections 34(6), 51”.



Police raided certain bars for illegally selling alcohol. Photo: Phuket Provincial Police

As such, officers from the Patong Police, under orders by Patong Police Chief Col Sujin Nilabordi, raided the Sweetie Bar on Bangla Rd at 10:10pm on Sept 20, said the report.

Also according to the report, officers “had learned from the news that [the bar] was secretly selling alcoholic beverages to tourists”. Apparently Patong Police officers had no idea this was happening on Bangla Rd until a news report was published.

Therefore, Col Sujin ordered Patong Police Deputy Chief Lt

Col Panu Siripokhapat to lead five other officers to raid the bar, said the report.

The bar was found to be selling alcohol to patrons, and the operator is now to be charged for breach “distributing liquor or alcoholic beverages in violation of the Phuket Provincial Order 5409/2564 regarding the measures to close the venue or prohibiting activities that are dangerous”, said the report.

Of note, according to the report, no other venues were inspected that night.

The next night (Sept 21), however, Col Sujin “learned from the news” that another bar, the Twenty One bar on Nanai Rd, was secretly “selling alcohol to tourists”, the report continued.

This time Lt Col Detnarong Buakaew, also a Deputy Chief at Patong Police Station, along with four other police officials inspected the bar at 9:45pm.

Officers found the venue to be in breach of the provincial order and the operator was also charged with illegally selling alcohol.

Apparently Col Sujin that night also “learned from the news” that Harry’s Restaurant had been illegally selling alcoholic beverages to tourists, the report noted.

Lt Col Detnarong and his four accompanying officers inspected the venue and found it in breach of the provincial order.

As with Sweetie Bar and Twenty One bar, the operator was also charged with illegally selling alcohol.

According to the report, Pol Maj Gen Saksira Phuak-am, a Deputy Commander of the Region 8 Police, and currently acting as Commander of Phuket Provincial Police, has instructed police in all areas in Phuket to increase “rigorous inspections of establishments to strictly prevent violations of communicable disease prevention measures and ask for cooperation from the people”.

The Provincial Police asked people to report “any wrongdoing: by calling the police national hotline 191.

Of note, the report made no mention of the bars breaking any laws by being open. The charges were only for selling alcohol.

All bars and other entertainment venues have been ordered to remain closed by a nationwide ban ordered from Bangkok.

In Phuket, all bars and other entertainment venues were ordered to close in April and have not been allowed to reopen since.

Suwat promotes tourism safety

NATIONAL POLICE chief Pol Gen Suwat Jangyodsuk was in Phuket last Sunday (Sept 26) to promote the ‘Old Phuket Town Smart Safety Zone 4.0’ project underway to make the heart of Phuket Town a safe haven for local residents and tourists.

As with the visit by Pol Lt Gen Surachate ‘Big Joke’ Hakpam, currently serving as a ‘Level 9 Adviser’ to the Royal Thai Police attached to the Prime Minister’s Office, in Phuket on Sept 16, Gen Suwat repeated that the project was to “to create a safety zone, build confidence and bring peace of mind to the people”.

Joined at a press conference by Phuket’s highest-ranking police officers, Gen Suwat explained his 12-point plan for the project, including 28 CCTV cameras being installed at 12 locations along Thalang Rd along with four “SOS” alarm points where people can call for help.

The CCTV footage along with communications, including radio communications of police officers in the 1.02-square-kilometre designated safety zone will



National police chief Pol Gen Suwat Jangyodsuk was in Phuket last Sunday (Sept 26) to promote the Old Phuket Town safety zone. Photo: PR Phuket

be coordinated through a central control room, he added.

The public safety project also includes drone patrols and Segway patrol officers, and officers on patrol by motorbikes will use PCX ‘clean energy motorbikes’ to perform patrols. Officers patrolling the safety zone will also be issued 30 smart card readers with smartphones to identify persons with outstanding arrest warrants issued against them.

Gen Suwat has taken particular interest in public safety in Phuket following the murder of 57-year-old Swiss tourist Nicole Sauvain-Weisskopf near the Ao Yon Waterfall. Ms Sauvain-Weisskopf had entered Thailand

under the Phuket Sandbox scheme. Her body was found near the waterfall on Aug 5.

Of note, Gen Suwat made no mention of any officers raiding any bars in Phuket for illegally selling alcohol, in defiance of a nationwide ban for all bars and other entertainment venues to remain closed during the current COVID-crisis.

Pol Gen Suwat and Pol Lt Gen Surachate have now both visited Phuket to publicly promote the project to make Phuket Old Town safer, despite no reports by police of any increase in crime there. Also, the officers have yet to announce the budget dedicated to completing the project.

Eakkapop Thongtub

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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

www.foreca.com

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Wind 4 m/s	Wind 4 m/s	Wind 7 m/s	Wind 11 m/s	Wind 11 m/s	Wind 7 m/s	Wind 7 m/s

Man arrested for brutal beating, rape

Eakkapop Thongtub
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Police have arrested a Myanmar man for raping a Thai woman he had hired as a maid at his rented home on the east side of Phuket Town.

Officers from the Phuket City Police led by Lt Tawan Nuankaew arrested the man, named on his non-Thai national ID card as Nyi Nyi Naing, age 42, at a rented house off Srisuthat Rd, in Moo 7, Rassada, on the way to the fishing port area, at about 12:35pm on Sept 21.

In placing Nyi Nyi Naing under arrest, officers presented arrest warrant No. 264/2564 issued by the Phuket Provincial Court that same day in relation to Criminal Case No. 2321/2564.

Nyi Nyi Naing was taken to Phuket City Police Station for questioning and to be charged with rape under Section 276 of the Criminal Code, which states, "Anyone who forcibly commits intercourse with another by threatening in whatever manner, by

**Nyi Nyi Naing, who works as a migrant labour broker, was arrested at his rented house in Rassada on Sept 21. Photo: Phuket City Police**

exercising forcible violence, whilst the latter is being in a state of unable to resist, or by making the latter mistake him for a different person, incurs a penalty of imprisonment from four years to twenty years and fine from eight thousand baht to forty thousand baht."

The arrest came after the victim, a 47-year-old Thai woman originally from Sa Kaeo, went public about her ordeal, posting on a well-known Facebook page details of how she was deceived to arrive at the house to work as a maid and then raped and held captive throughout the night of Aug 27.

She also accused the police of inaction in investigating her attacker after she reported the incident the next day.

Before the police placed Nyi Nyi Naing under arrest, reporters had already arrived at the woman's house, also located on the east side of Phuket Town, at about 10am to interview her.

The woman presented the police complaint filed and the medical report of her examination at Phuket Provincial Hospital, also located in Rassada, attesting to her physical injuries.

The woman explained that a friend had told her that Nyi

Nyi Naing was looking for a person to do his laundry and ironing. When she arrived at the house she was greeted and a meal was waiting ready for her.

However, after talking about the work, he launched into an attack and repeatedly punched and kicked her, she said.

He threatened her to call the police, saying that they would not do anything because he already paid them a lot of money, she added.

Nyi Nyi Naing works as a migrant labour broker, providing workers for fishing boats in Phuket.

Throughout that night, from 9pm to 4am, she was raped and repeatedly beaten, the woman explained.

At one time he covered her mouth with tape. He also placed a clear plastic bag over her head and threatened her with a knife, she said.

After her attacker had fallen asleep, she searched but found no way to escape as the door to the house was locked.

Finally, after about 9am, Nyi Nyi Naing's colleagues arrived at the house to wake

him for work. When he left he forgot to tell his subordinates to lock the door, she added.

She made her way around to the back of the house to avoid the neighbours from seeing her just as a precaution, she continued. She walked barefoot to a friend's place nearby.

Her friend took her to Phuket City Police Station to report her ordeal. The officer who attended to her only received her complaint and gave her a form to be completed by doctors confirming a medical examination had been performed, she added.

She was left to go to the hospital by herself, the woman noted.

The woman's account of her ordeal posted on Facebook spurred outrage online.

MajChakkrit Thammaraksa of the Phuket City Police responded online, posted publicly as a comment that he had received the complaint and an investigation was underway.

Officers were collecting evidence in order to obtain an arrest warrant so that her attacker could be arrested, he said.

Immigration allows COVID visa extensions

FOREIGNERS STAYING IN Phuket on the 60-day 'COVID visa' can now apply through to Nov 26 to extend their stay in Thailand, Phuket Immigration has confirmed.

The so-called 'COVID visa' was launched amid the pandemic last year so foreigners stuck in Thailand can stay in the country until they choose to go home or more options to fly home become available.

The 'visa', initially launched to allow stays of 30 days, now allows foreigners to stay for 60 days at a time, but still forcing foreigners to renew their 'visa' every two months at a cost of B1,900.

An announcement posted by the Phuket Immigration Office on Sept 23 explained, "Short term visa extension for the reason of COVID-19 pandemic, an alien can submit an application until 26 November 2021. Each permission will be granted for a period not exceeding 60 days."

Phuket Immigration over the past year has urged foreigners to not leave it until the last minute to renew their permits to stay under the 'COVID visa', in order

**The notice issued by Phuket Immigration.**

to avoid crowds and long queues at the immigration offices on the island.

"Foreigners can come to immigration offices to extend their visa early within 45 days before the expiry date, so please come early to avoid congestion and rush," one officer told *The Phuket News*.

The officer also confirmed that extensions to COVID visas are dated from the date the current 'visa' is set to expire – not the date that the foreigner applies for the extension.

At last report, Phuket Immigration noted that the extension of COVID visas will continue "for as long as the COVID-19 pandemic is still happening and has not been resolved".

The Phuket News

Villager finds big bucks 'whale poop'

A LOCAL RESIDENT WHO WAS jogging along Mai Khao Beach last Thursday (Sept 23) believes he may have discovered a lump of sperm whale ambergris they may be worth as much as B30 million.

Yongyuth Limsuebcheu, a 66-year-old resident of Moo 4, Mai Khao, explained that he was jogging along the beach when he saw a large, round lump wash ashore in front of the Maikhao Dream Villa Resort & Spa.

Mr Yongyuth went to inspect the object. Curious, he poked it, and found the lump to consist of an oily, honey-like substance that stuck to his finger.

"It was similar to the golden-yellow whale poop that I had seen on TV news," Mr Yongyuth said.

He hurriedly brought the lump back to his home and studied it further, settling on his presumption that it was whale ambergris.

Ambergris comes in various colours: grey, black, yellow, orange and even a white marble colour. Ambergris forms as a secretion of the bile duct in sperm whale's intestines, and is discharged as fecal matter, leading many people for years to believe it was "whale poop".

Considered a rarity to find, in

**Mr Yongyuth and the lump that might be worth B30 million. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub**

Eastern cultures ambergris is used for medicines and potions and as a spice; in the West it was used to stabilise the scent of fine perfumes.

A large lump of ambergris found by fishermen in Oman in 2016 weighed some 80kg and was reportedly worth US\$3 million.

Mr Yongyuth confirmed that the lump he found weighed 19.5kg.

"If it is real sea amber or whale ambergris it will be worth up to B1.5 million per kilogram, representing the value for this lump of amber worth almost B30mn," Mr Yongyuth noted.

Expert marine biologists from the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) have been notified of the find. They now have possession of the possibly very valuable lump and are examining it to confirm whether or not it is indeed ambergris.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Veg fest under COVID rules

The Phuket News
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The Jui Tui Shrine, one of the main Chinese shrines in the heart of Phuket Town that takes part in the Phuket Vegetarian Festival each year, has banned any food and other vendor stalls from being set up in front of the temple along Ranong Rd to avoid any further outbreak of COVID-19 infections.

The confirmation came via a public notice issued by the shrine administrators on Sept 22.

The move marks the first time any administrators of Chinese shrines in Phuket that serve as a focal point of activities during the annual festival banning food stalls or other market vendors from setting up in front of the temple during the festival.

In years past, thousands of people thronged to the Jui Tui Shrine each day during the festival to take part or observe the ceremonies taking place.

The food stalls set up along Ranong Rd have served as an essential adjunct to the festivities. Many other vendor stalls, such as those selling white clothing for people tak-



Volunteers scrub the forecourt to a Chinese shrine in Phuket Town as part of the preparations for the upcoming Vegetarian festival. Photo: Phuket City Municipality

ing part in the festival, have also proved very popular over the years, with the streets in front of the shrine closed to vehicular traffic.

The notice issued by the Jui Tui Tao Bo Keng Foundation noted, "In response to the measures of the province under the circumstances that still has the number of infections and deaths increasing day by day, the Jui Tui Shrine and its Executive Committee foresees that the safety in the health, hygiene and lives of

everyone at the heart of the Vegetarian Festival and its ritual is important."

The notice asked people "to refrain from establishing shops and selling food or products around Ranong Rd, in front of Wat Kajorn Rangsarn and on Soi Phuthon for this year."

"Next year, if the situation has improved, the Vegetarian Festival and the walking street in front of Jui Tui Shrine will definitely come back in a big way."

The move to ban stalls in front of the shrine followed Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew on Sept 21 announcing the COVID prevention measures to be in effect during the festival.

The festival will begin with the raising of the 'Go Teng' poles being raised at participating shrines at sunset on Oct 5, allowing the Nine Emperor Gods to descend from the heavens. The festival will conclude with the lowering of the Go Teng poles on Oct 15.

Only those directly involved are allowed to join the ceremonies practiced inside the shrines, and all D-M-H-T-T-A COVID prevention measures must be strictly observed.

All Ma Song spirit mediums and their assistants must be fully vaccinated and must test negative for the virus by ATK (antigen test kits) before the start of the first day of the festival, and test negative again Day 5 of the festival.

All rituals and processions must be reduced accordingly "to the extent necessary" and the number of Ma Song and their assistants participating must also be reduced "as necessary", and the Ma Song are to "refrain from performing miracles".

All people must have their temperature screened before entering the shrine area. All participants in all ceremonies must wear masks at all times, and must strictly maintain social distancing.

Shops are prohibited from selling firecrackers other than those used during the festival. The lighting of fireworks and playing with firecrackers in a dangerous way are prohibited.

Kitchens and stalls serving vegetarian fare must be organ-

ised to reduce congestion and in accordance with the health regulations and guidelines

For any activities, the number of people attending must not exceed 100, and all attendees must wear a mask and observe social distancing at all times.

"If an infected person is found in the ritual area or a kitchen or a cooking place or at the shops around the shrine, staff from a local medical facility must take the infected person for treatment and refrain from contact with the person in accordance with health measures," Governor Narong said.

"The area will be closed for at least three days and washed with disinfectant. After that, the operators can resume their work," he added.

"High-risk contacts must be quarantined as ordered by disease control officials, and if more than 10% of the participants are found to be infected, officials are to consider reducing the activity and reducing the number of participants.

"If more than 20% of the participants are found to be infected in a continuous cluster, the event will be cancelled," Governor Narong said.

Stolen 72-year-old jumbo finally goes home

STOLEN 18 YEARS AGO and found working at an elephant camp in Phuket, the 72-year-old elephant Pang Yo was reunited with her overjoyed owner in their native Surin province last Saturday (Sept 25).

Pang Yo was stolen from Chob Riang-ngern on Jan 25, 2003 and subsequently sold to an elephant camp in Phuket for B1.4 million.

Mr Chob gathered documents to prove his ownership of the elephant and showed them to the kraal owner in Phuket who refused to return the pachyderm, reported the *Bangkok Post*.

Ownership of Pang Yo led to an arduous court battle that finally ended last Wednesday (Sept 22) when the Supreme Court ordered the elephant be returned to its rightful owner.

After a 25-hour journey by road, Pang Yo arrived back in Surin to a joyful reunion with Mr Chob, who said the elephant will not be used as a beast of burden.

"She's old now. She needs to take it easy," he said, his eyes brimming with tears of joy.



Pang Yo was kept at the Amazing Bukit Safari Camp in Chalong while the custody battle played out. Photo: The Phuket News / file

Pang Yo has been moved to an elephant study centre on the Surin campus of Rajamangala University of Technology. It will be her permanent home where she will be a living example for the study of elephants.

"We may have grown apart just a bit but it's well worth the 18 years of waiting. No one will ride her and she won't be put to work," Mr Chob said.

While the custody battle was fought in court, Pang Yo was kept at the Amazing Bukit Safari Camp in Chalong, where before the COVID pandemic she

worked providing tourist rides and given the name Namphet.

The elephant was at the camp when Somsak Reangngern from Surin province filed his claim of ownership, in March 2017, claiming that the elephant was stolen, somehow arrived in Krabi, and sold from there.

The camp has always maintained that the elephant is called Namphet and presented registration documents of their own to prove ownership.

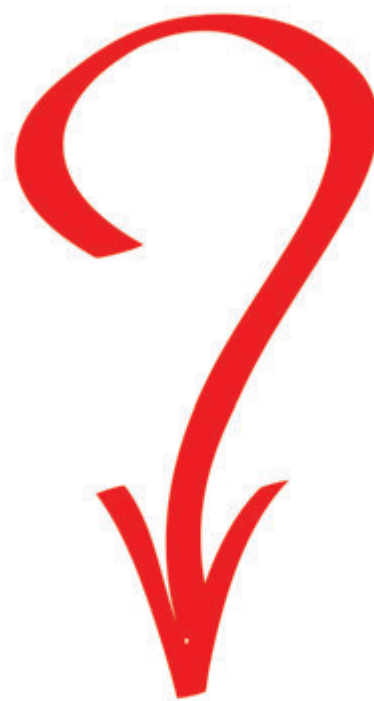
Col Thada also confirmed that the criminal court is still hearing the charge of presenting false documents in order to claim ownership of the elephant.

At last report in 2018, Lt Col Thada Sodarak of the Chalong Police confirmed that the criminal court is still hearing the charge of presenting false documents in order to claim ownership of the elephant.

"My job is working on a criminal charge of 'making fake documents', as filed by the owner of Namphet, Mr Pichai Pausuphachareu," he said. *Bangkok Post*



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Appeal to open bars, sell alcohol

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew has submitted a formal request to the national government to allow Phuket to ease certain COVID restrictions – including allowing alcohol to be sold and bars and entertainment venues to reopen in order to help alleviate the financial hardship suffered by the residents on the island.

The appeal, issued on Monday (Sept 27) and addressed to the Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA), was titled “Policy recommendations and guidelines for adjusting disease control measures in workplaces or at risk locations” and specifically referred to the regulations issued under Article 9 of the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations.

In his letter, Governor Narong pointed out that the Phuket Provincial Government has implemented all the COVID prevention restrictions as required, all in accordance with the rules set out by the Ministry of Health



Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew. Photo: PR Phuket

and the Ministry of Tourism and Sports.

However, he also pointed out that Phuket had been designated only as an ‘Orange’ level controlled zone – not a ‘red’ or ‘dark red’ zone – and hence could allow restaurants or other food or beverage outlets may allow food and beverages to be consumed on the premises, but with the sale and consumption of liquor or alcoholic beverages prohibited in the venue.

“Phuket Province has brought in such measures as to order the ban on the sale of liquor and for people to refrain from drinking alcohol or alcoholic beverages in

restaurants,” he noted.

“However, as restaurants and food establishments in hotels and other food or beverage outlets serve Phuket Sandbox tourists, the tourists are affected. The service is inconsistent with the guidelines for promoting tourism in Phuket, which has strict disease control measures,” Governor Narong said.

“In addition, due to the situation regarding the epidemic of COVID-19 in the past, the CCSA has set measures that all service places and places that are at risk of spreading disease have been closed. This group of entrepreneurs have not been able to open a

business since the beginning.

“There are still food or beverage outlets that are unable to open, but need to open and want to open in accordance with the disease control measures so they can serve tourists traveling according to the Phuket Sandbox project and general tourists are directly affected,” he said.

“Business owners discussed together and organised a small group meeting with relevant government agencies and they have recommended a policy and guidelines for adjusting disease control measures in the workplace so that food or beverage outlets will be able to sell liquor or

alcoholic beverages in the shop within the specifications of the law, with more stringent public health measures than the government has set.

“The measures were proposed to the Phuket Communicable Disease Committee at meeting No. 55/2021 on September 16, 2021, in order to appropriately manage and enforce epidemic control measures in places at risk of COVID-19 disease and in accordance with the situation occurring, which is different in each area,” Governor Narong added.

“Because Phuket Province has implemented a project to open a pilot area for tourism Phuket Sandbox to drive the country’s economy, we have therefore agreed to submit the policy recommendations and guidelines for adjusting disease control measures in an establishment or a place that is at risk of spreading the disease. The CCSA may consider easing the enforcement measures, the measures with food or beverage distribution establishments,” Governor Narong concluded.

The letter included two pages of regulations proposed by the committee, which

included even stronger provisions set out by the MoPH for restaurants to be able to operate under COVID-19.

The proposed measures also included all staff being tested for COVID on their first day of work and retested every seven days thereafter.

“If the spread of COVID-19 is found at any store or area, the store must be closed for three days and until the premises are cleaned and sterilised,” the recommendations noted.

“If it is found that an employee or service users have been infected with COVID-19, to close the shop immediately for 14 days to screen all employees and search for high-risk contacts, so they can undergo further quarantine and recover, and report to public health officials to check their timeline [of movements], so officials can assess the risks and continually determine other measures,” the recommendations added.

The proposal noted that allowing the industry to reopen would create more than 90,000 jobs in Phuket, and benefit other businesses in the area where tourists are known to frequent.

We Travel Together Phase 3 extended

REGISTRATION FOR PHASE 3 OF THE government’s We Travel Together tourism campaign will commence next month, after a meeting of Cabinet ministers approved the campaign’s extension to Feb 28, 2022. The Cabinet has also approved changes to the Tour Travel Thai campaign’s guidelines.

Government Spokesman Dr Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana said on Sept 22 that the Cabinet meeting approved the Tourism Authority of Thailand’s (TAT) proposal to adjust the details of the third phase of the We Travel Together and Tour Travel Thai campaigns.

The time frame for both campaigns is now extended to Feb 28 next year and people can exercise their privileges no later than Jan 31. The TAT is to complete the disbursement process in a month.

There are two changes made to the Tour Travel Thai campaign. First, interprovincial travel is now permitted every day. Secondly, the number of tour itineraries from each agency is raised from 15 to 30, and the TAT has set up a registration platform for them.

As for Phase 3 of the We Travel Together campaign, registration was opened from Sept 24 to Oct 1. People are expected to exercise the campaign’s privileges next month.

In the third phase of the campaign, the government will subsidize 40% of hotel expenses, or up to B3,000 per room per night. People who qualify will receive food coupons of up to B600 a day. Concerning air travel, the government will refund 40% of the ticket price, or up to B2,000 or B3,000, under conditions set by each province.



Image: NNT

Regarding the Tour Travel Thai campaign, the government will contribute 40% of the tour package price, or up to B5,000 per person.

Government Spokesman Dr Thanakorn said that the COVID-19 situation was improving, as the number of new infections was decreasing each day and the changes made to both campaigns is expected to help stimulate domestic tourism.

The government would like tourism-related businesses, such as accommodation, shops and restaurants, to strictly follow disease-control measures of the Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) and provincial communicable disease committees.

Their cooperation will help limit the spread of COVID-19 while stimulating the economy. If the COVID-19 situation worsens, the TAT can call off both campaigns, he said. NNT

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Storm Dianmu causes widespread flooding

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation confirmed on Tuesday (Sept 28) that storm Dianmu had caused flooding in 30 provinces, left six people dead in its wake, with two others missing since it made landfall on Sept 23.

The report said the storm caused flooding in Chiang Mai, Lamphun, Lampang, Tak, Sukhothai, Phitsanulok, Phetchabun, Phichit, Kamphaeng Phet, Loei, Khon Kaen, Chaiyaphum, Yasothorn, Nakhon Ratchasima, Buri Ram, Surin, Si Sa Ket, Ubon Ratchathani, Prachin Buri, Sa Kaeo, Chanthaburi, Nakhon Sawan, Uthai Thani, Chai Nat, Lop Buri, Suphan Buri, Sing Buri, Ang Thong, Ayutthaya and Nakhon Pathom.

As of Tuesday, Dianmu had killed six people – five in Lop Buri and one in Phetchabun. Two other people were still missing, one in each of the two provinces.

Flooding had disappeared in Chiang Mai, Lamphun,



Storm Dianmu has caused flooding in 30 provinces and left six people dead. Photo: DDPM

Lampang, Buri Ram, Nakhon Pathom, Yasothorn and Surin.

Meanwhile, authorities in Bangkok, Nonthaburi and Pathum Thani were told to brace for possible flooding after the Royal Irrigation Department decided to increase the discharge rate of the Chao Phraya Dam in Chai Nat in anticipation of more heavy rain.

Thanakorn Tantikul, director of the Ayutthaya irrigation project, said the decision was taken to prevent floods in the northern part of the country, as a monsoon trough makes its way down the length of the

country towards the Central Plains and upper South.

He said provinces downstream of Chai Nat have been advised to prepare for a possible surge of water from the dam, which may cause floods in low-lying areas.

On Monday, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha posted on his Facebook page, saying while the intense downpours brought on by tropical depression Dianmu have begun to recede, heavy rain was still reported in isolated pockets, thus the risk of flash floods and/or landslides remained high.

“The government is doing its best to assist all people. Plans are also being prepared to prevent floods in the lower parts of the country, including Bangkok and its adjacent provinces,” Prayut said.

He said the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation has been instructed to come up with a plan to deal with the nation’s flooding issues. The department was also instructed to dispatch officials and equipment – such as water pumps and rescue boats – to help those affected by floods.

Some floods reported in the capital may have been caused by the rising water levels along the Chao Phraya River, compounded by the heavy rain brought on by Dianmu, which caused around 2,500 cubic metres per second of rain to flow through the dam in Chai Nat.

Chaiyaphum governor, Wichian Chantaranothai, said on Monday all but two districts in the province were inundated, before adding the floods were the worst Chaiyaphum has seen in 50 years.

Ministry set to launch national shipping line

BANGKOK

THE MINISTRY OF Transport is planning to open a national shipping line by June next year, in a bid to reduce reliance on foreign ships and promote the export and import sector.

The move is in line with the government’s push to promote Thailand as a hub for maritime trade, which it aims to achieve by improving logistical connections between the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea.

On Monday (Sept 27), Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob revealed that the Port Authority of Thailand (PAT) has been instructed to launch a feasibility study on a national shipping line by next month.

The study’s results will be vetted by all relevant committees, before they are submitted to the cabinet in February next year.

Mr Saksayam said that

the Marine Department has been instructed to work with the PAT to set up the shipping line, which will help boost the nation’s export and import capacity and bring down shipping costs.

Ultimately, the government will have three separate companies handling domestic, regional and international shipping. The new domestic company will cover the transport of goods all along the Gulf of Thailand.

The East Co Ltd will handle regional shipping to Vietnam, Cambodia, South Korea, Japan and eastern China and the West Co Ltd will provide freight service on international routes from Ranong to the Bay of Bengal Initiative Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIM-STEAC) region – comprising Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand – and onwards to Africa and Europe.

Bangkok Post

B230mn paid out in jab compensation

BANGKOK

A TOTAL OF 464 PEOPLE WHO HAVE died or become severely and permanently disabled following COVID-19 vaccinations have so far been financially compensated by the government’s no-fault compensation programme for vaccine recipients.

Since the launch of the programme on May 19, a total of 3,626 out of all 4,065 requests for the compensation received by the National Health Security Office (NHSO) have been approved, said Dr Jadej Thammatacharee, secretary-general of the NHSO, on Monday (Sept 27).

A total of B230.79 million has been paid in compensation for serious side effects including 464 linked deaths and severe disabilities, said Dr Jadej.

As of Monday, another 287 requests for compensation were still being examined by the NHSO’s area committees tasked with inspecting reported COVID-19 vaccination adverse events and deciding on the compensation payment, he added.

A total of 1,252 requests have been rejected after these area committees ruled they did not fit the criteria for receiving the financial compensation, he said.

The criteria are broken into three levels of the severity of reported side effects of the vaccine experienced by vaccine recipients, he said.

Illness requiring continuous treatment is compensated for at most B100,000 per case, while the maximum compensation



A health worker conducts COVID-19 antigen tests on people in Bangkok. Photo: Somchai Poomlard

for partial disabilities following COVID-19 vaccination is set at B240,000, he said.

At most B400,000 is offered in case of death or severe permanent disabilities, he said.

Somkit Punnasiri, a resident of Ayutthaya province whose 70-year-old sister died on July 13 after she had received a COVID-19 vaccine shot, said the process for claiming the financial compensation was very convenient.

Local health officials who visited her at her sister’s funeral assisted her in filing the request for the compensation and only about three weeks after that she had received the B400,000 compensation on Aug 8, said Ms Somkit.

She later gave all the money to the 70-year-old husband of her dead sister who is currently unemployed, she said.

Each of the area committees handling compensation requests consists of a number of medical experts and members of the public, said Dr Jadej. Bangkok Post

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Crotons can brighten your garden. Photo: The Phuket News / file



The camouflage graptophyllum pictum. Photo: Mokie

How does your garden grow?



GREEN THOUGHTS

Patrick Campbell

As readers of these columns can attest, for years, I included a 'Tip for Gardeners' to my weekly peregrinations about plants. Due to space restrictions, the practice was discontinued. Now, making up for lost time, I propose to devote this article entirely to hands-on advice.

When I planned my first Thai garden 18 years ago, I little dreamed just how fast plants would grow in such a fructuous environment. In both my London and Spanish plots, flowering shrubs had matured slowly, and pruning was rarely needed; here in Phuket, not only was I soon out buying double-handed shears to cut away the riot of thicker branches, but within a decade had to dispose entirely of a number of splendid trees. The lesson? Unless you have a seriously large plot, or need quick shade for tender understory plants, avoid planting fast growing trees.

So inevitably down and out went my champaca, avocado, traveller and Norfolk Island palms, my neem and crape myrtles. And while I hung on to large, floriferous shrubs such as oleander, tecoma stans [yellow bells] bougainvillea, and climbers such as Rangoon creeper, Bengal vine, allamanda, and passion flower, they all needed, and still need, to be regularly kept in check.

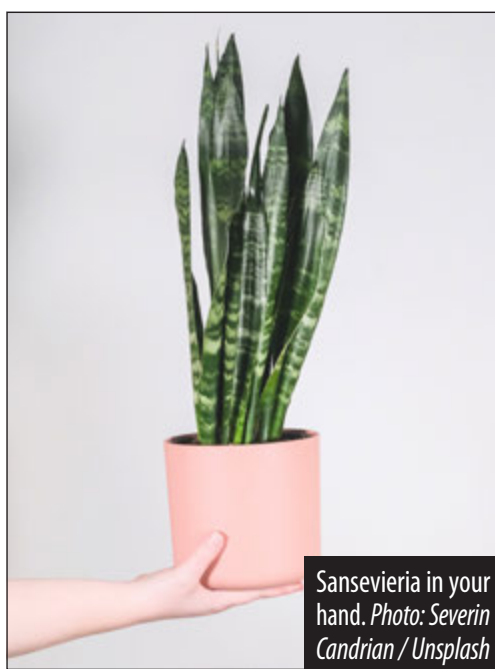
By the way, there is an art to



Jatropha. Photo: Neelix

pruning. Remove spindly, diseased or overlapping branches first, cut the stems on the slant above a bud or growing point, and if you are trimming or thinning an entire tree or shrub, prune to retain or even improve the overall shape. For instance, never hack the crown out of a tree; it will respond by growing lots of bushy, unsightly twigs. Remember too that those woody cuttings, planted in decent soil, treated with hormone rooting powder and kept moist and shaded, may find a second existence as new stock.

Talking of soil, Phuket is not well endowed with the stuff. At best, the top soil – a richly organic medium which contains almost all the nutrients demanded by your plants, is only a few



Sansevieria in your hand. Photo: Severin Candrian / Unsplash

inches deep on the island. Have a look at any new excavation, and you will see exposed only a narrow stratum of dark soil. The building process compounds the problem; that foot or so of topsoil is inevitably scraped away or polluted by construction. What remains? Subsoil compounded of sand and clay which looks nice, but which is both sterile and poorly aerated. Over the years, the most repeated question from readers has been, "Where can I get some decent topsoil?" My answer: Cross his palm with silver and beg a load from the foreman of a building site.

Failing that initiative, mix bags of the fibrous stuff you buy in white sacks with your existing soil; the result will be a more friable, and better draining mixture. Using organic fertilizer or your own compost as an amendment is even better: it has the advantage of being richer in the key nutrients of nitrogen, potassium and phosphate. These amendments work in two ways: added to clay, they lighten the mixture, add porosity and improve drainage. In sandy soils they add bulk and improve water retention. Talking of nutrients, you can, of course, buy chemical fertilizer in the form of blue, green or white granules. A 16-16-16 formula is suitable for most plants. But if you want more flowers, go for a lower first number – say 1-34-32. Sprinkle sparingly and preferably before rain. Liquid foods are great but pricey. Incidentally, I will let you into a secret. Bags of topsoil and a wide range of fertilizer as well as hard-to-come-by rooting powder and humus in the form of worm castings, are available from the govern-

ment store on Chao Fa East Rd opposite Dowroong Wittaya School.

If you are an apartment dweller with a patio or balcony, you are likely the proud possessor of plants in containers. And you will probably know from experience that glazed receptacles are best. Terracotta clay pots look attractive, but their porosity means that evaporation is a constant problem. Glazed pots in shades of blue or green are especially attractive, but they are expensive. I like those that have a matt brown glaze: they are available at most garden centres, and come in a range of sizes. Rectangular concrete containers are a viable alternative, but are heavy and discolour quickly. In any event, always place a saucer under your pot; it will prevent staining and will hold water in dry conditions. I prefer plastic platens: they allow you to slide heavy containers around concrete or sand-wash surfaces. And you will probably need to reposition your pots from time to time.

Clearly, your choice of plant will be largely determined by your site. If you have a sunny balcony, consider sun lovers such as desert roses [adenium] bougainvilleas, crown of thorns [euphorbia], super-hardy ixoras. Partial or chequered shade will probably mean some foliage plants, such as sansevieria [the toughest variety I know], graptophyllum [caricature plant] or codiaeum. Costus or jatropha will both add a splash of continuous colour. In full shade, try caladium, zamioculcas, dieffenbachia or aglaonema.

A herb garden is a great idea, especially if you like cooking, but begin with easy-to-grow species such as basil, mint, chili and cumin. And try a climber or two if you have a balustrade or parapet. At the other end of the scale, avoid shrubs or small trees that have taproots; a pot is too constraining for these most vigorous of growers. And remember that each and every one of your potted charges will need more TLC – more watering and more fertilizer than plants in open ground. Just don't overindulge the watering can. Over to you, Claude...

The information in this article and much more is to be found in my book 'The Tropic Gardener'. Described in one Bangkok review as the best book on Thai gardening for 50 years, it is available for B500 (half price) to personal callers from 59/84 Soi Saiyuan 13 in Rawai (Tel: 076-61227 or 085-7827551).

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The essence of Dark Fiber

PHUKET MUSIC SCENE

Andy Tong Dee

Gary Crause is well known in Phuket as a music producer, running his Legend Music company in central Phuket. He also heads up the Phuket Academy of Performing Arts (PAPA) which grooms wannabe pop and rock stars for success.

What he is less well known for is his own band Dark Fiber. It was first formed several years ago, comprising just Gary, Rob Cooke on guitar and a female vocalist who has long since moved on. Self-described as “Indie Disco”, it was not a performing band, being dedicated solely to the downloaded music market where it had some success with its first 1970s disco-style album, *Fibrate*.

Now jump forward 10 years to the *Lean on Me* music festival, which Gary organised in March this year. Twelve bands played, performing predominantly covers, reflecting Phuket's professional performing music scene where original music is routinely entirely absent.

However, Gary fielded an updated Dark Fiber line up on the day, playing an all-original set, with one of his former PAPA students Rannze Davies, now a PAPA teacher, delivering strong



Rannze Davies delivers her vocal performance at the Lean On Me festival. Photo: Stephane Audiger

vocals, and his son Blaze on bass. Original Dark Fiber member Rob Cooke contributed some wonderfully gritty guitar, adding a cutting edge to the disco beat.

I thought that Dark Fiber was one of the best bands of the day, if not the best. It may well have shocked other performers that day into realising what Phuket could become if we really wanted it to – a vibrant and creative place where visitors can come and hear new and exciting original songs in English.

Suitably energized, Dark Fiber plunged into the recording studio

right after the festival, producing a brand-new album, *Disco Tools*. This has definite echoes of Depeche Mode, Yazoo and A Flock of Seagulls as well as newer influences like Dua Lipa and The Weekend.

Co-writer and producer Rob Cooke remarks, “Logically, as it’s 10 years later, we went for a very ‘80’s sound this time around.”

Gary Crause added, “We’ve been busy with life and helping others create their music so Dark Fiber was pretty much put on hold. Also we have not really had a consistent line up until the introduction of Rannze on vocals.”

The album’s 11 tracks explore the darker sexual crevasses of the human mind exploring such topics as domination, prostitution, casual sex, erotic kinks and adultery with some good old-fashioned heart-break thrown in for good measure.

While it contains no profanity, much of the subject matter may bring a blush to the cheeks of the more conservative. “We’ve always tried to make Dark Fiber songs sexy and quite ethereal. This time round we turned that up to 11,” said Gary.

However, the 10-minute *Hang Up The Phone (Ode to Doug)* stands out as very different. It’s written about the emotional effects a family takes on when they lose someone close through suicide. Rannze remarked, “When I got the demo from Gary to learn the vocal melodies, I could really hear how he was struggling to get the words out. It was all very emotional.”

Dark Fiber may be a band focused on producing downloaded music, but I really hope we’ll see them out of the studio and back on a stage in Phuket again somewhere soon. If they do, I’ll let you know!

Disco Tools is now available online from retailers including Spotify, iTunes and Apple Music.

Andy Tong Dee is an expat live music enthusiast living in Phuket. Find out more about Phuket’s live music scene at www.phuketmusicscene.com.

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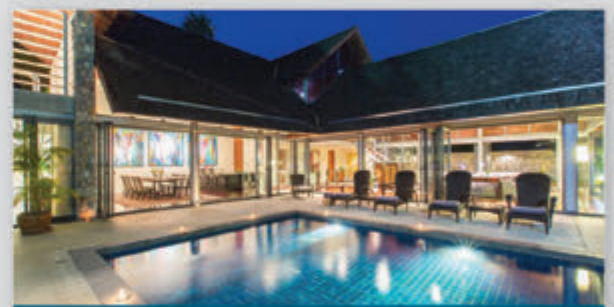
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POP QUIZ

1. Lalisa 'Lisa' Manoban of K-Pop band 'Blackpink' is how many years old?
2. 'Skull & Bones' is the secret society of which renowned university?
3. Which is the seventh planet from the sun?
4. "The lady's not for turning," was said by which British Prime Minister?
5. What is the capital of the Falkland Islands?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Hard

		3						
	2		7			6		1
		6	3		1			
	8			5				
6		2	1		9	4		3
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Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

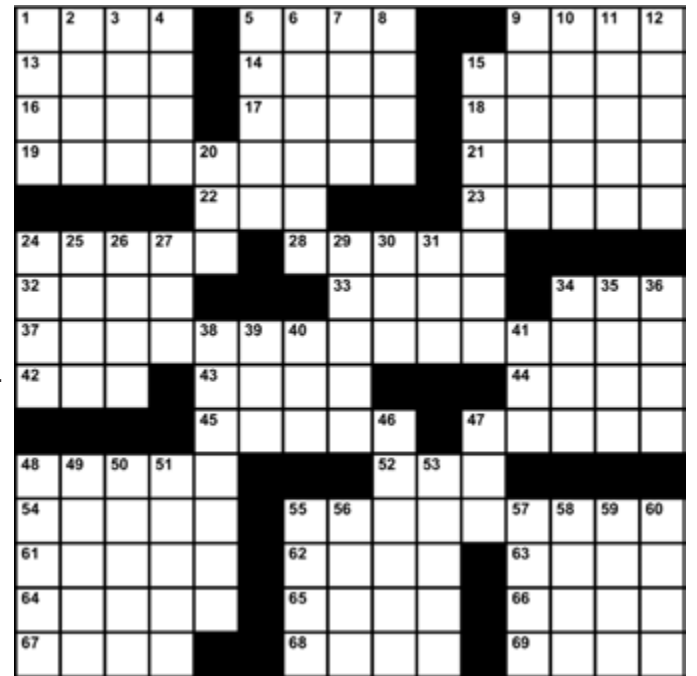
Across

1. Farm young
5. School whose motto is "Light and Truth"
9. Major-leaguers
13. Grand Ole ____
14. Coll. major
15. Pick up the tab for
16. Game delayer
17. Blab
18. Busybody
19. The Great
21. The Great
22. Luau dish
23. Cuckoo
24. Prize money
28. Volume expression
32. Oil grp.
33. Boxer Oscar ____ Hoya
34. Colo. clock setting
37. Small guy and big guy battling it out
42. John, Paul and George: Abbr.
43. Novelist and food
44. Swing around
45. Bedeck
47. Gumption
48. Mideasterner
52. Durable wood
54. Sorkin of "The West Wing"
55. Key West cocktail

61. Shampoo brand
62. "Aunt" with a "Cope Book"
63. Ages
64. Out of favor (with)
65. Moravian, e.g.
66. Backgammon equipment
67. Cheek
68. It's under a foot
69. Government safety org.

Down

1. Ancient marketplaces
2. Milky gem
3. Indy winner Luyendyk
4. Wildcat
5. Kind of question
6. Biting
7. Individual
8. M.I.T. grad: Abbr.
9. Be exultant
10. Oscar de la ____
11. Like Cheerios
12. Gaww (at)
15. Normal
20. Gibbon, for one
24. Miniature sci-fi vehicles
25. ____ the crack of dawn
26. Accelerates
27. Biol., e.g.
29. Cow part
30. Beseech
31. United Nations agcy.
34. African country
35. Flabbergast
36. What you used to be
38. Emptied
39. Disaster relief, e.g.
40. Army cpl., for one
41. Internet provider, for short
46. Everyday
47. Caribbean music
48. Desert sight
49. ____ Kea
50. Egyptians, for example
51. Brightened stars
53. Mojave plant
55. Bungle, with "up"
56. "Alice's Restaurant" chronicler Guthrie
57. Change the decor
58. "A Severed Head" author Murdoch
59. Dash gauge
60. On a deck, perhaps

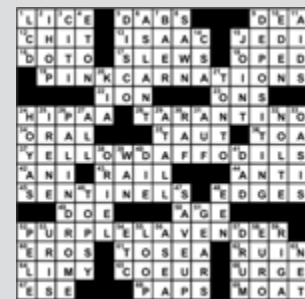


Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) 24; 2) Yale University; 3) Uranus; 4) Margaret Thatcher; 5) Stanley

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



8	3	6	2	9	1	4	5	7
5	2	4	6	3	7	1	9	8
7	9	1	8	5	4	2	6	3
3	6	9	4	2	5	8	7	1
1	8	5	3	7	9	6	4	2
2	4	7	1	8	6	9	3	5
9	1	8	7	4	3	5	2	6
4	7	2	5	6	8	3	1	9
6	5	3	9	1	2	7	8	4

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

in every 30 million lobsters is yellow.

2

percent of the world's population only has green eyes, scientists have estimated.

37

percent of British workers think their jobs are meaningless.

70

cents is all that legendary singer Billie Holiday had in the bank when she passed away, but she had \$750 taped to her leg.

975

psi is the average biting force of a grizzly bear – enough to crack a bowling ball.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Softly the evening came with the sunset at Palai, Chalong. Photo by Luke Gullins

Got an unusual or particularly beautiful picture of Phuket? Email it to exceditor@classactmedia.co.th

This week in history

Oct 1, 1964

Japanese Shinkansen (bullet trains) begin high-speed rail service from Tokyo to Osaka.

Oct 2, 1789

George Washington sends proposed Constitutional amendments (The United States Bill of Rights) to the States for ratification.

Oct 3, 1849

American author Edgar Allan

Poe is found delirious in a gutter in Baltimore under mysterious circumstances; it is the last time he is seen in public before his death.

Oct 4, 1997

WikiLeaks is launched by Julian Assange.

Oct 5, 1607

Assassins sent by Pope Paul V attempt to kill Venetian statesman and scientist Paolo Sarpi,



The dark side of the Moon.

who survives 15 stiletto thrusts.

Oct 6, 1976

Massacre of students gathering

at Thammasat University in Bangkok to protest the return of ex-dictator Thanom, by a coalition of right-wing paramilitary and government forces, triggering the return of the military to government.

Oct 7, 1959

U.S.S.R. probe Luna 3 transmits the first ever photographs of the far side of the Moon. (See photo.)

Source: Wikipedia

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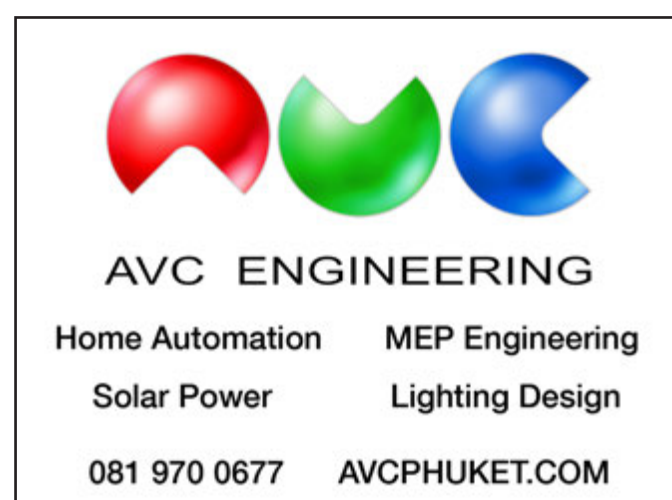
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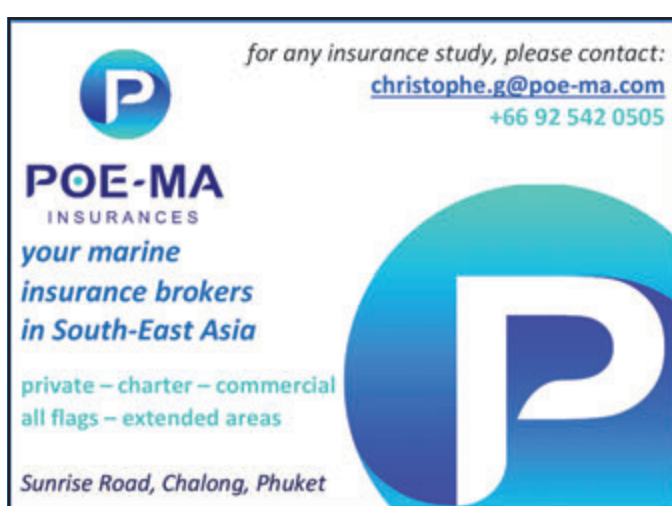


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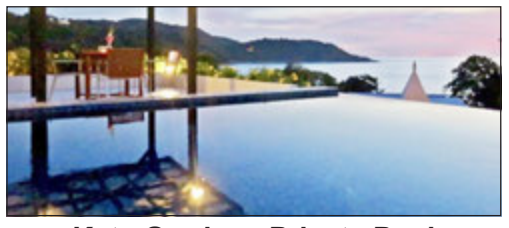
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Jason Beavan

Young guns shoot down Europe

Americans recapture Ryder Cup in emphatic style

GOLF

AFP

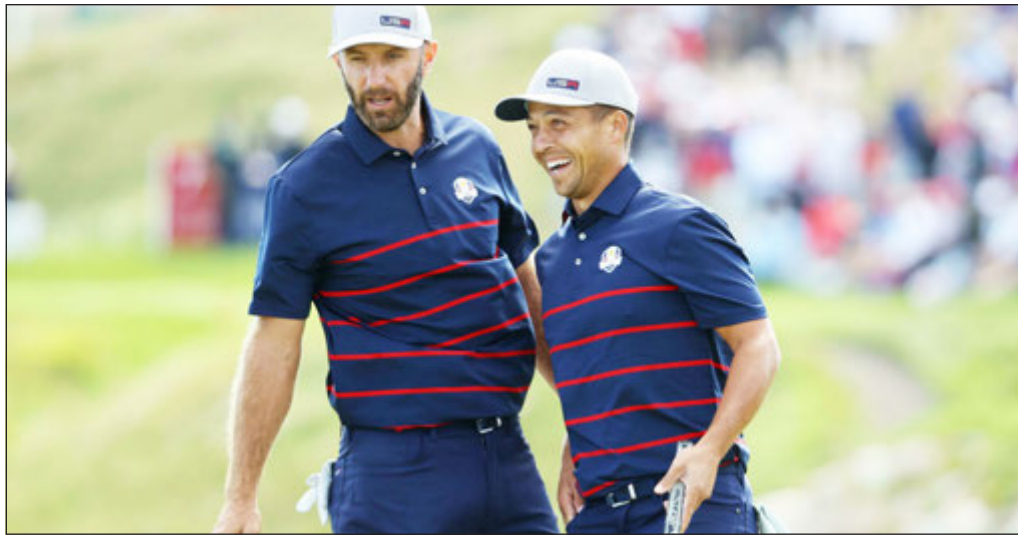
A new era of American golfers sent a message last Sunday (Sept 26) with a record-setting Ryder Cup blowout of Europe and their young and talented core looking ready to dominate for years.

With eight under-30 players and six Ryder Cup rookies, the Americans completed a 19-9 rout of Europe at Whistling Straits that signaled a generational change to the world.

Farewell Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson. Say hello to Tokyo Olympic champion Xander Schauffele, two-time major winner Collin Morikawa, US PGA playoff champion Patrick Cantlay and Scottie Scheffler, 20-something stars.

"We have a lot of young guys, they're going to be on teams for a long time and I wanted to send a message," said Cantlay. "Everyone has that killer instinct and we're going to bring that to future Cups."

"This is going to be the



Dustin Johnson (left) and Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion Xander Schauffele were both key players as the US regained the Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits. Photo: AFP

next era of Ryder Cup teams for the US side."

The most lopsided victory since the US-Europe format began in 1979 served notice that a squad with nine of the world's 11 top-ranked players was on a mission.

"This is a new era for USA golf," US captain Steve Stricker said. "They are young. They are motivated. They wanted it. They come with a lot of energy, a lot of passion, a lot of game. It's exciting to see. This is a very special

group of guys."

Third-ranked Morikawa, 24, and fourth-ranked Cantlay, 29, each delivered 3.5 points. Fifth-ranked Schauffele, 27, had 3 points and world number 21 Scheffler, 25, had 2.5, the last in a 4&3 singles win over Spanish world number one Jon Rahm.

And they were all rookies along with 11th-ranked Harris English, 32, and 16th-ranked Daniel Berger, 28.

"We showed the world what we can do as a team and

I think it's the precedent for the future of American golf," said US veteran Tony Finau.

Pals Cantlay and Schauffele figure to be a US pairs powerhouse for years and the clubhouse chemistry promises a tighter bond than prior eras.

"I think the young guys on this team get along really well," Cantlay said. "We sent out rookies four out of the first five (singles) matches. That's unheard of. Everybody gets along."

Morikawa delivered the

Cup clinching half-point in a tie with Norway's Viktor Hovland and Cantlay beat Ireland's Shane Lowry 4&2 while Scheffler's upset and Bryson DeChambeau's 3&2 win over Sergio Garcia silenced Europe's winningest players for the week when it mattered most.

"It's a different group of guys. It's a lot more fun than years past," four-time major winner Brooks Koepka said. "It's a very close-knit group of guys. Everybody is a bit younger and everybody has known each other for 15-plus years it feels like."

Europe veteran Lee Westwood delivered high praise to the conquerors.

"It's not just the strongest US team I've seen, but they all played well, to a man," he said. "Everybody performed and turned up this week. Looks like they are a team."

SIGNS OF THE FUTURE

At the next Ryder Cup in 2023 in Italy, the new-look Americans will try to win the trophy away from US soil

for the first time since 1993.

"We've lost a lot looking back at the past. But that's the past. We're hopefully what the future is going to be like," Morikawa said. "Hopefully we can turn that tide in our favour for however many years I'm able to play this."

The American rookies went 3-2 with one tied in singles after going 11-2-2 in foursomes and four-ball pairs matches, the best win rate for any rookies for either side since the US-Europe format began in 1979.

"That rookie thing, it seems like with this group is overrated," Stricker said. "Four of those six have experience in the Presidents Cup. They were ready."

And their rivals had better be ready for what's coming.

"We've all known each other for a long time," US veteran Jordan Spieth said. "Other than a couple of us, we've known each other since high school or even grade school. We are having a blast off the course and that's feeding into our rounds as well."

Hamilton victorious but Verstappen the real winner

FORMULA ONE

LEWIS HAMILTON notched up his 100th grand prix victory at the Russian grand prix last Sunday (Sept 26) but the milestone will give him only so much solace after failing to exact maximum damage on title rival Max Verstappen.

No team other than Mercedes has ever won a grand prix in Russia, but Lando Norris of McLaren ran the German marque close in an unexpectedly nailbiting race in Sochi.

With six laps to go rain struck, light at first but intensifying late. With so few laps to run both Norris and Hamilton, engrossed by an exclusive battle, refused team requests to pit for intermediate tyres, neither wanting to blink.

But almost the entirety of the field was peeling into the pits by lap 48 of 53, including Max Verstappen, the then title leader and the man Hamilton really had to beat.

Mercedes upped the urgency on team radio and Hamilton relented. Norris, however refused to heed McLaren's calls.

Hamilton came in on lap 49 and retained second place. On lap 50 conditions deteriorated further,



Lewis Hamilton on his way to his 100th F1 victory. Photo: AFP

and on lap 51 Norris spun off the track, rotating backwards just in time to see Hamilton sail through the corner and into the lead.

The young Briton pitted at the end of the lap and finished a despondent seventh.

Hamilton was of course pleased with his victory ton and to return to the championship lead with a two-point margin, but it's sure to be with a pang of disappointment.

After crashing in the pit lane in the pole shootout and dropping to seventh on the first lap, Hamilton took victory only thanks to the rain.

Worse still, Verstappen's recovery to second place from a back-of-grid penalty for an engine change meant Hamilton lost another opportunity to open a points gap.

Combined the two Mercedes

stronghold races saw a measly five-point turnaround in Hamilton's favour when the team would have been hoping for between 14 and 20 to the Briton.

Of the seven remaining races Red Bull Racing can reliably count Mexico and Brazil to its column plus probably Turkey and the to-be-announced race in Qatar. Mercedes typically excels in Abu Dhabi and Hamilton has a formidable record in the United States. The brand-new super-fast circuit of the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix is difficult to call.

Hamilton also faces the prospect of an engine-change penalty in the near future, with Mercedes worried about reliability.

It's going to take everything Hamilton's got to win this title fight, and he won't always be able to rely on the rain to seal the deal. Michael Lamonato



The press conference announcing the tournaments. Photo: Bangkok Post

Thailand to host back-to-back Asian volleyball club tournaments

VOLLEYBALL

THAILAND WILL HOST BACK-to-back international volleyball tournaments in Nakhon Ratchasima from today (Oct 1) until Oct 15, organisers said on Monday (Sept 27).

The PPTV 2021 Asian Est Cola Women's Club Volleyball Championship and the PPTV 2021 Asian Est Cola Men's Club Volleyball Championship return after being cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The two championships are jointly organised by the Tourism and Sports Ministry, Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT), the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF), Nakhon Ratchasima province, the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) and the Thailand Volleyball Association (TVA).

"Thailand wants the tournaments to show it is ready to open the country, restore confidence among foreigners and boost the economy," Tourism and Sports Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn said.

The two championships will be held under the "bubble and seal" measures to ensure safety for athletes and other parties involved.

The Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship from Oct 1-7 features seven teams from four countries.

In Pool A are Nakhon Ratchasima QminC VC (Thailand), Zhetysay (Kazakhstan) and Choco Mucho (Philippines), while Pool B features 2019 runners-up and 2020 Thai League champions Supreme Chonburi, Altay (Kazakhstan), Rebisco Philippines and Saipa (Iran).

The men's event will take place from Oct 8-15 with 10 teams from nine countries.

Pool A comprises Nakhon Ratchasima QminC VC (Thailand), CEB Sports Club (Sri Lanka), Burevestnik Almaty (Kazakhstan), Kazma Sport Club (Kuwait) and South Gas (Iraq).

Pool B features Sirjan Foulad Iranian, Al-Arabi Sports Club (Qatar), Diamond Food (Thailand), Rebisco Philippines and AGMK (Uzbekistan).

Bangkok Post

Kane rues missed chance as Spurs slump continues

FOOTBALL

Kieran Canning

Harry Kane knew he could ill afford to waste another season of his prime years at Tottenham, but Spurs' refusal to entertain Manchester City's interest has left the England captain stuck in a side going nowhere fast.

Yet to score in the Premier League this season, Kane cut a frustrated figure as Spurs were blown away in the first-half of the north London derby last Sunday (Sept 26) to lose 3-1 to Arsenal and fall into the bottom half of the table.

Any semblance of optimism around the club after keeping Kane against his will and winning Nuno Espirito Santo's first three league games in charge has quickly vanished.

Three consecutive defeats, by a combined score of 9-1, have been the reality check of where Spurs stand and why Kane wanted to leave to add trophies to individual accolades and goalscoring records.



Harry Kane is still yet to score in the Premier League this season. Photo: AFP

Had Kane have had his way, he could have been leading the line for City this weekend as they beat Chelsea to show they remain the side to beat in the title race.

City faced Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League this week while Spurs host Slovenian side NS Mura in the Europa Conference League.

That was not the level Kane envisaged playing at when he signed a six-year contract in June 2018 just months before Tottenham moved into a new £1.2 billion

(B55bn) stadium and reached the Champions League final for the first time.

But they do not have the team or manager to match those surroundings.

Nuno was finally hired, nearly three months after Jose Mourinho was sacked, when initial approaches to bring back Mauricio Pochettino and for Antonio Conte failed.

However, there are already doubts as to whether the former Wolves manager is the man to bridge the gap to the top four in the manner Pochettino did to qualify for

the Champions League four years on the spin between 2016 and 2019.

Any chance of overhauling one of the established top four of City, Chelsea, Manchester United or Liverpool would depend on Kane finding his best form.

But he looks mentally and physically drained from a summer of transfer speculation and the disappointment of England's Euro 2020 final defeat on penalties to Italy.

With supporters back in stadiums and the after-effects of the failed European Super League project lingering, Spurs chairman Daniel Levy feared he would face a fans revolt if he sold last season's top scorer in the Premier League.

But even with Kane, Tottenham have gone backwards in the past two years.

The chance to sell the 28-year-old and rebuild the squad with the windfall was passed up.

On the evidence of the first two months of the season, that has been an opportunity missed for both player and club. AFP

Fernandes vows to stay on penalties

FOOTBALL

BRUNO FERNANDES says he will keep taking penalties despite the spot-kick miss that condemned Manchester United to a 1-0 defeat against Aston Villa.

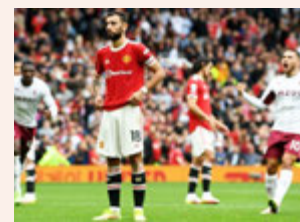
Fernandes was given the chance to snatch a dramatic equaliser in the final seconds at Old Trafford on Saturday (Sept 25) after Kortney Hause put Villa ahead in the 88th minute.

But the Portugal midfielder, who had scored 21 of his previous 22 United penalties, blasted the spot-kick high over the bar and Villa held on to win.

United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer backed Fernandes after the match, but the presence of Cristiano Ronaldo in the team could mean the 27-year-old has to stand down from the role soon.

"Nobody is more frustrated and disappointed than me for missing the penalty and the consequent defeat," Fernandes said on Instagram.

"I've always assumed my responsibilities and



Fernandes after his penalty miss. Photo: AFP

I've always embraced them under pressure in moments like this.

"Today, I failed. But I took a step forward and faced the challenge with the same ambition and responsibility as when, on the many other occasions, the ball ended up in the net.

"Criticism and contrasting opinions are a big part of football. I've learned to live with it, even using them to drive me on, and I consider it all a very important part of my commitment to never stop trying to improve and to become the best player I can possibly be.

"Today I once again took the responsibility given to me almost since I joined United and I will take it again without any fear or dread whenever called upon." AFP

Joshua wants Usyk rematch '110%'

BOXING

ANTHONY JOSHUA SAID HE WAS "110%" likely to activate a rematch clause with Oleksandr Usyk after losing his world heavyweight titles to the Ukrainian in stunning fashion in London last Saturday (Sept 25).

Usyk gave a boxing masterclass in recording a unanimous points victory to deprive Joshua of his World Boxing Association, International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Organization belts in front of the dethroned champion's home crowd of more than 66,000 at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Victory extended Usyk's unbeaten professional record to 19 wins and scuppered the prospects of an all-British world heavyweight title unification bout between Joshua and Tyson Fury.

It also meant Usyk became just the third cruiserweight world champion after Evander Holyfield of the United States and Britain's David Haye to also take a heavyweight title, with the 34-year-old achieving the feat in just his third professional contest in the heavyweight ranks.

The contract for this bout, however, contained a rematch clause. And Joshua is determined to face Usyk again.

"A 100%, 110%," he told a post-fight press conference. "I'm ready to get back to training."

Joshua suffered a badly swollen right eye which required medical attention in a



Usyk (left) and Joshua. Photo: AFP

fight where only the bell appeared to save him from a last-round knockout.

"I couldn't see in the ninth round," explained Joshua. "My eye was shut, but it was a good experience, because in adversity, you've just got to learn to control yourself... it's the first time it's happened in a fight."

Usyk, three years older than Joshua, also made light of giving away three inches (7.62 centimetres) in height as well as nearly 20lbs (nine kilograms) in weight during his latest triumph in London following a heavyweight gold medal at the 2012 Olympics – a Games where Joshua took the super-heavyweight title.

"London is a really lucky city for me but not a single professional victory can be above an Olympic gold," said Usyk via a translator.

Joshua's promoter, Eddie Hearn, suggested any rematch would be in Britain, in February or March.

Hearn added: "Anything can happen, but AJ will, I promise you, be much, much better than that in the re-match." Julian Guyer, AFP

Phuket News

English Premier League Predictions

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Sport



Hamilton's centenary win in Sochi > p14



Thanakorn Tosi holds aloft the trophy after winning the Thailand PGA One Day Tour on Sept 13 which started the month-long 'Sandbox Swing' tournaments. Photo: Thailand PGA

SWINGING SUCCESS

GOLF

Ben Tirebuck
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Chaiyaporn Uitrakul sank a 33-foot birdie playoff putt to win the SAT-Thailand PGA One Day Tour 2021 at the Blue Canyon Country Club on Monday (Sept 27).

It was the first professional title for the 19-year-old Hua

Hin native who had finished tied at 3 under par on a score of 68 after 18 holes with both Chakphat Horsangchai and Setachok Phumpuay. Chaiyaporn received B25,000 for his win.

The match was part of the "Sandbox Swing" tournaments which include a total of eight competitions taking place in Phuket between Sept 13 and Oct 10.

Thanakorn Tosi, a rookie

from Bangkok, won the opening championship and a prize of B25,000 when he overcame Kittikhun Putisanon and Satchawat Sriprasit in a playoff to win the Thailand PGA One Day Tour on Sept 13.

It was only the third professional tournament for 23-year-old Thanakorn who turned pro at the end of last year.

The Singha-SAT TDT Blue Canyon, which took place on Sept 14-15, was won by

Phurinat Songphaiboon with the 27-year-old from Bangkok sinking two birdies in his final two holes to win by two strokes from Wichayapat Sinsang and claim the B100,000 winning prize.

Wanchai Luang Nitikul finished on a score of 66 to win the Singha-SAT Blue Canyon Championship on Sept 19, one stroke ahead of Kosuke Hamamoto. It was Wanchai's first Thailand PGA Tour cham-

pionship that saw him net prize money of B240,000.

Chon Buri native Settee Prakongvech scored an impressive 10 under par to win the Singha All Thailand Championship with a final round 67 on Sunday (Sept 26). Settee received B450,000 in what was his second All Thailand Golf Tour victory after his win at the Singha All Thailand Memorial in 2019. He also earned five world

ranking points for his efforts.

Atiruj Winaicharoenchai, Suteepat Prateptienchai and Sarun Sirithon finished 8 under to claim second and B191,000 each.

At time of press, three championships were still yet to be played; the Singha-SAT TDT Phuket 2021 (Sept 28-29), the Singha-SAT Phuket Classic (Sept 30-Oct 3) and the B3 million Singha Laguna Phuket Open 2021 (Oct 3-10).

Phuket to host Muay Thai World Championships

MUAY THAI

IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED THAT the island of Phuket has been chosen to host the 2021 International Federation of Muaythai Associations' (IFMA) Youth and Senior World Championships.

The announcement was made at a meeting last Thursday (Sept 23) at the Blue Tree Water Park complex in Cherg Talay, chaired by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew.

Blue Tree will serve as the host venue for the tournament which has been confirmed to take place between Dec 1-12 and which will invite over 800 participating athletes from 80

countries worldwide.

Governor Narong was joined by Daniel Steinke, the General Manager of Blue Tree, at the Blue Tree Club House to welcome representatives from relevant Phuket Provincial Government departments including Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO, or *OrBorJor*), and PPAO Deputy President Anuphap Wetwanitsanong.

The Amateur Boxing Association of Thailand and IFMA will jointly organise the event in accordance with government policy as one of the projects to promote sports tourism with the goal of creating a good image and building confidence with

tourists and foreign investors, said Governor Narong.

The Governor added that the event would help create increased local employment opportunities and raise income which would in turn be distributed within the local community.

"The PPAO is ready to support this event," commented Mr Anupap.

"It is a great opportunity to promote the identity of Thai art and culture, of which Muay Thai is a world-famous component," he added.

"It is also a very good opportunity to help promote and push Phuket as a preferred tourism destination following the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic."

IFMA President Dr Sakchye Tapsuwan and Secretary General Stephan Fox made a detailed presentation on the event, highlighting in particular the association's strict policy on prioritising the health and safety of all participants at the core of their work.

They were joined by representatives of the Amateur Muay Thai Association of Thailand, IFMA Technical Delegate Ajarn Paiboon Srichaisawat and IFMA's Local Organising Committee partner Brite Panther, led by CEO Vit Suthithavil.

While the main meeting took place at Blue Tree, which will serve as the official competition venue, further site visits were conducted



Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew and officials at the meeting last Thursday (Sept 23). Photo: Supplied

at hotels and other venues across the island.

The announcement comes after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) granted the IFMA full recognition at the 138th IOC session in Tokyo in July meaning Muay Thai will be certified as an official Olympic sport in future. *The Phuket News*