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DARK WATERS



Black wastewater flows across the sand at Karon Beach in January this year. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

CHINA STATE ENTERPRISE TO RESOLVE PHUKET'S BEACH WASTEWATER WOES

The Phuket News
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After years of black wastewater flowing across Phuket's key tourist-popular beaches at the end of every rainy season, a Chinese state-owned enterprise has now been brought in to resolve critical wastewater problems at several locations across the island.

Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat announced the news at a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall last week.

A delegation of Chinese experts, including senior engineers from CWEG Design & Consulting Co, joined local officials at the meeting to discuss solutions tailored to Phuket's specific

"challenges", said an official report of the meeting.

At the meeting, attended by government heads and representatives from local administrative organisations, Lili Gan, Deputy General Manager of CWEG's International Business Department, discussed the differences in wastewater treatment between China and Phuket.

"In China, wastewater from combined pipes is treated separately from natural water sources. However, in Phuket, wastewater often mixes with rainwater or water from canals, making treatment 'more challenging', he said.

"To address this, there are two options: building a central pipeline to collect wastewater, or installing

new treatment systems in specific areas," he added.

Governor Sophon confirmed that CWEG, a state-owned Chinese company, will design a wastewater treatment system to counter wastewater problems in key areas.

The plan will be based on local data, including wastewater volume, the number of households, and area characteristics, he said.

Chinese experts from CWEG will take about three months to design the system, he added.

The goal is to develop wastewater treatment systems in nine locations, starting with Karon, which was described as the "most ready".

Karon Beach in January this year suffered yet another outpour-

ing of black wastewater across the beach in plain sight by international tourists enjoying the beach in the middle of Phuket's tourism high season. The health risk was widely reported abroad, and downplayed by local officials with yet more - now annual - promises to "fix the problem".

After Karon, the project will then expand to Kamala, Cherng Talay (which includes Bang Tao), Sakhu (which includes Nai Yang) and Srisoonthorn, Governor Sophon said.

"This initiative is a key step in solving the wastewater issues that affect Phuket's image as a tourist destination. By installing underground systems, more space will be available above ground for other uses," he said.

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Phuket victims of iCon scam nears 100



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News



Experts fear
for future of
dugongs > p5



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Chinese experts to resolve wastewater

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CHINA REVISITED Governor Sophon led a delegation of government and private sector leaders on a visit to three major cities in China in August to engage in discussions and explore collaborations on wastewater management and waste disposal systems.

The delegation visited the cities Chengdu, Guizhou and Xi'an during the visit from Aug 16-20.

Joining the delegation were Norasak Suksomboon (Phuket Vice Governor at the time), former Phuket Chamber of Commerce President Thanusak Phungdet and current President Kongsak Koophongsakorn along with Phuket Sports Association President Thammawat Wongcharoenyot, among others.

The intent of the tour was to investigate advanced environmental management systems in China that could potentially be implemented in Phuket.

The tour follows Dr Surasee Kittimonthon, Secretary-General of the Office of National Water Resources (ONWR), revealing during an inspection tour of Phuket last year that nearly 55,000 cubic metres of untreated wastewater is released in Phuket each day as the island does not have the capacity to treat it.

Apichart Sirisunthon, chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Land, Natural Resources and Environment, arrived in Phuket on a study tour in March this year to investigate the island's wastewater woes.

The visit by Mr Apichart followed black wastewater flowing across beaches and into the sea where tourists swim at Patong, Karon, Kamala and Bang Tao – all very popular locations for international tourists to enjoy their holiday on the island.

New 'tourism tax' will not affect residents

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The Phuket office of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MoTS Phuket) has assured that the new 'tourism tax' currently planned to come into effect early next year will not affect foreigners living or working in Thailand.

An MoTS Phuket official explained to *The Phuket News* that the planned tax still has yet to be presented to Cabinet for approval.

"We should wait for any further information because now the tourist tax [sic] has not yet gone to Cabinet, and some things may change may be made once it goes into Cabinet," the official said.

"The tourist tax may be structured similarly to entry fees," Phuket MoTS noted, referring to the entry fees endorsed by Cabinet early last year.

However, the MoTS Phuket official, who asked not to be named, assured the tax would not affect foreigners living or working in the country.

"The tourist tax will depend on the type of visa a traveller holds," the official said.

"Those with a non-immigrant or immigrant visa, or with proof such as a valid work permit showing they work in Thailand, will be exempt from paying the tax," the official assured.

"This approach ensures that individuals residing or working in the country aren't subject to the same fees as short-term tourists," the official added.

"However, it's important to stay updated, as future changes or adjustments to the policy may occur," the official concluded.



Tourists arrive at Phuket airport. Photo: AoT Phuket

NEW YEAR, NEW TAX

Collection of the B300 travel tax may start with air passengers in the first phase, with the system needing at least six months before starting, according to the Tourism and Sports Ministry.

The ministry is revising details of the programme and will submit it for Cabinet approval in January, said Tourism and Sports Minister Sorawong Thienthong, reported the Bangkok Post.

Even though the project was approved by the previous government led by Prayut Chan-o-cha in February 2023, it now requires a consensus from the new Cabinet as the administration has changed since the general election.

Mr Sorawong said it is possible collection will start with air passengers, though the tax scheme will need six months after cabinet approval to prepare the system before getting started.

Once the system settles, the second phase covering overland travel will follow, he said.

According to the ministry, air travellers account for 70% of foreign arrivals to Thailand.

The transaction system has been prepared and is powered by Krungthai Bank.

Tourists can pay via a website or an app that is being developed for the next phase, said Mr Sorawong.

Payment would be similar to South Korea's K-ETA registration system, which requires foreign travellers to register and make an online payment before entering the country.

Once the government approves this project, the ministry will start a procurement process to recruit software developers and insurance companies to offer insurance policies for foreign tourists, he said.

The insurance premium for tourists is capped at no more than B60 per person, out of B300 collected.

The duration of protection is 30 days, as 87% of tourists have an average length of stay of no more than a month, with compensation remaining the same as previous Thai tourist policies, at B1 million in the event of death from an accident, and B500,000 in case of injury.

Mr Sorawong said the ministry might make the fee B300 for all ports of entry, as the fee for land and sea arrivals is now B150.

Woman arrested for light rail investment fraud

THE METROPOLITAN Police Investigation Bureau in Bangkok (IDMB) have arrested a woman for defrauding victims out of money by claiming the funds were investment into the Phuket 'light rail' project. Two "investors" were duped out of more than B7.7 million.

The woman, named by Metro Police only as 'Ms Wongduean', 44, was taken into custody in front of a house on Nawamin 70 Rd, Tambon Khlong Kum, in Bueng Kum District, Bangkok, last Sunday (Oct 27),

Police presented a warrant for her arrest for fraud issued by Thung Song Provincial Court last Friday (Oct 25).

According to the IDMB, Wongduean allegedly deceived victims into investing in the light rail project between 2023 and 2024.

She promised high returns, claiming that a B150,000 investment could yield B10mn. Convinced by these claims, one victim transferred funds to Wongduean's account on 70 occasions, totaling B5.7mn. The victim's sister also fell for the scheme, making 30 transfers

totaling B2mn. In total, the two victims lost over B7.7mn.

When the victims realised they had been defrauded, they filed a police complaint. Investigators uncovered a lengthy criminal history associated with Wongduean, including cases of fraud, forgery, and issuing bad checks dating back to 2013.

This year alone, she was linked to six cases of embezzlement, the IDMB reported.

During her arrest, Wongduean denied any intention to deceive, claiming that the investments would eventually yield returns but required time. However,



Photo: IDMB

police have taken her into custody for further legal proceedings at Chawang Police Station.

Pol Maj Gen Thiradech Thamsuthee, Commander of the Crime Suppression Division, warned the public about the dangers of investment fraud, urging individuals to thoroughly research any investment opportunity, particularly those that

promise unrealistically high returns.

The successful arrest of Wongduean was led by Pol Maj Gen Thiradech and a team of officers from the Crime Suppression Division, who worked together to bring the suspect into custody, said the IDMB report.

Further investigation into the case is ongoing, the report concluded. *The Phuket News*

Don't let landslide deaths slide

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Phuket MP Chalermpong Saengdee has urged the public and government officials not to let the investigation into the landslide in Kata on Aug 23, which killed 13 people, fade away.

"I don't want the Phuket landslide to be 'flash in the pan'," MP Chalermpong said in a post online.

"During this period, there may have been many social events that have caused many problems to come and go quickly, even though the problems have not been resolved or progressed as much as they should. Those issues have faded from the public's awareness, and it seems that this includes the government," he said.

"For example, in the South, although we have not been affected by floods for as long as our brothers and sisters in the North, if we talk about the impacts, they are no less severe and are related to structural problems or corruption. That is, the mudslide in Phuket that caused many deaths. In this case, there are suspicions that it may be related to the illegal construction of the Big Buddha [viewpoint],



Photo: PR Phuket

causing the blockage of the waterway, which is the cause of the landslide.

"During the time that the incident occurred, this was big news throughout the country. The government also sent ministers to the area. But as time passed until now, it seems that there has been no progress. It seems that no one or any unit has to take responsibility or really investigate. Meanwhile, it seems that various risk areas throughout Phuket have not been seriously resolved. People still have to be anxious as usual

every time it rains," MP Chalermpong noted.

"Most recently, I brought this matter up for discussion with the council [parliament] again to ask about the progress of the investigation into the construction of the Big Buddha and to ask about the management of water and the environment in Phuket. Because it is a major issue that causes many deaths at a time and there is still a risk of landslides, including the recurring problem that greatly affects our people.

"Don't forget that our south-

ern region receives more rain than other regions. The more we neglect the problem, the more it is like neglecting the suffering of our people and letting them live with this problem for a long time," he added.

"I have emphasised many times that Phuket is a tourist city that generates the highest income in the country [outside of Bangkok]. Therefore, the government should not be indifferent to the quality of life of our people, which will affect the image of tourism in the future.

"If it is managed well, the people of Phuket will be relieved because there is still rain during this period. Landslides can occur at any time.

"Don't let the incidents that have already happened be just flash floods. Whatever needs to be done must be done immediately. In addition to doing it as a temporary measure for this year, in the following years, we must also plan for long-term management so that Phuket can make the most of its potential as a tourist city," MP Chalermpong concluded.

ASSURANCES

Surasee Kittimonthon, Secretary-General of the Office of National Water Resources (ONWR),

arrived in Phuket late last Friday (Oct 25) to assess the current water situation and review flood preparedness measures in the region.

He inspected the site of the deadly landslide in Kata that killed 13 people. Joining him for the inspection were DDPM Phuket Chief Mr Sopon Thongsai, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office (DDPM), and Karon Mayor Jadet Wichrasorn.

The ONWR chief stated that all relevant agencies are prepared to issue timely warnings to the public in high-risk areas and disseminate information to ensure public safety.

Tambon Karon, in particular, was identified as a high-risk zone due to its hilly terrain and dense population in lower areas, making it more vulnerable to landslides and flash floods.

Authorities are currently planning to allocate a budget for disaster prevention measures in this area, said an official report of Mr Surasee's visit.

Agencies were "advised" to inform the public about safe routes and provide real-time updates to help residents avoid dangerous areas during the expected period of heavy rainfall, said an official report of his visit.

Mai Khao bluebottles join beach hazards

THE PHUKET LIFEGUARD SERVICE has warned beachgoers of Portuguese man o' war, also known as bluebottles, found washed ashore at Mai Khao Beach.

The stinging creatures were found at the northern beach last Sunday (Oct 27), the Phuket Lifeguard Service confirmed through a post online.

Bluebottles regularly find their way onto Phuket beaches during the southwest monsoon, from May to October each year.

They were last reported as found on Patong Beach in September.

In that instance, a team of marine biologists was dispatched and in total 40 bluebottles were found and collected at the beach.

Officers from the DMCR distributed warning leaflets to the public, local businesses and tourists, urging swimmers to take extra precautions.

A sting from a bluebottle can cause intense pain and whip-like marks on the skin. For first aid, experts recommend washing the sting area with seawater and either submerging it in hot water or applying a dry cold pack for 20 minutes to relieve pain. Vinegar should not be used on bluebottle stings.

Lifeguards remain on alert to provide first aid in case of jellyfish stings and will monitor the waters closely for any further presence of the jellyfish.

Although lifeguards at Patong rescued 27 people from rip currents in September,

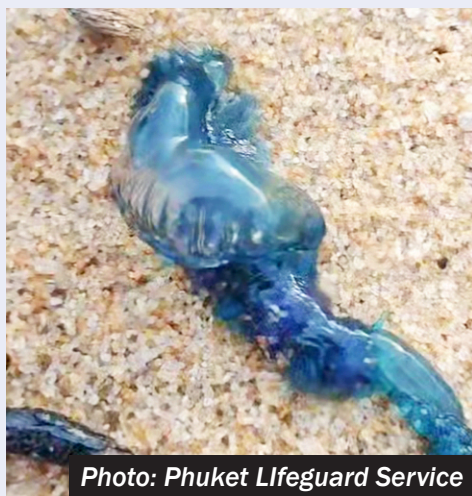


Photo: Phuket Lifeguard Service

Patong Surf Life Saving did not report any persons receiving treatment for bluebottle stings.

Two people were treated first aid for shell cuts and lifeguards did call marine life experts to take three sea turtles into care.

They also called wildlife officers to catch a python at the beach.

In total, lifeguards at Patong coordinated for 12 people to be taken to Patong Hospital, including one person injured by "water toys". There were two accidents involving "water toys" at Patong Beach last month. Six people were involved, of whom four required first aid.

Others rushed to hospital from Patong Beach included one person under "drug intoxication from a herbal plant" and one person involved in a "quarrel".

The Phuket News



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Wind 4 m/s

Immigration sweep nets a neat dozen

PHUKET IMMIGRATION have arrested a dozen foreigners found violating the Immigration Act or working illegally in a series of inspections carried out over two weeks.

Immigration officers ramped up their efforts to crack down on illegal activities involving foreign nationals over the course of half a month, from Oct 9-18, said a report by the Phuket branch of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

Officers inspected 22 locations across the island including establishments and residences where foreign nationals frequently gather.

A total of 621 foreigners were checked, and 12 foreigners were arrested for violating the Immigration Act or the Emergency Decree on Management of Foreign Workers Employment 2017, the report said.

Phuket Immigration Chief Pol Col Kriangkrai Arayaying said that officers' efforts will continue, with a focus on foreign nationals operating illegal businesses, acting as criminal influencers, or engaging in 'gang-related' activities.

Phuket Immigration is determined to target those violating the law in an effort to ensure public safety in the area, the report noted.

The arrests were not directly reported by Phuket Immigration, but the report by PR Phuket came as Pol Col Suphot Yongstar, Deputy Commander of Immigration Bureau 6, arrived in Phuket that same day (Oct 24) to inspect the main Phuket Immigration office in Phuket Town.

While in Phuket, Pol Col Suphot also visited the operations at the Phuket Yacht Control Center at Chalong Pier. *The Phuket News*



Photo: PR Phuket

iCon fraud scam hits 92 Phuket victims

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The number of victims in Phuket affected by The iCon Group pyramid scheme continues to rise, climbing to 92, with estimated losses now reaching B23 million.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum confirmed, "There are still more people in Phuket who have fallen victim to the scam... Most of these victims have filed complaints with Phuket City Police."

The number of Phuket victims has risen steadily since last week, increasing from 71 reported cases last Tuesday (Oct 22).

More victims of the scheme living abroad have now reported complaints to the Consumer Protection Police Division, with the number of victims exceeding 9,400, with combined losses reaching B2.9 billion (see page 7).

Pol Maj Gen Sinlert last week ordered all police stations across the island to expedite the summary of testimony in the case involving The iCon Group and submit it to Phuket Provincial Police.

The order came at a meeting held at the Phuket Provincial Police headquarters, attended by the superintendents of all police



Photo: PR Phuket

stations in Phuket, last Friday (Oct 25).

Also present were leading officers from Phuket Immigration, Tourist Police and Marine Police.

FREE HELP

Meanwhile, the Lawyers Council of Thailand is offering legal support to vulnerable groups who have been harmed by The iCon Group, aiming to close legal gaps and ensure justice.

"The case involving The iCon Group has affected many people, including investors and the general public. Some have been left completely bankrupt and in need of legal help," said Rungrapha Putkaew, President of the Phuket branch of the Lawyers Council of Thailand.

"The Lawyers Council of Thailand is also working with its provincial branches to assist these victims, as the case impacts a large number of people and has damaged the economy.

"There is a plan to file a class action civil lawsuit to ensure that the victims, especially those who are poor and have not been treated fairly, receive justice and compensation," Ms Rungrapha said.

"In Phuket, people affected by this case can contact the Phuket branch of the Lawyers Council of Thailand or volunteer lawyers at any of five police stations: Muang Phuket (Phuket City), Patong, Chalong, Thalung and Cherng Talay, or at the Phuket Provincial Court," she added.

"The Phuket branch of the Lawyers Council of Thailand is also available to provide legal advice to the public even before any legal case begins. If anyone has legal questions, they are encouraged to seek advice at any time. The association is committed to reducing legal barriers and ensuring justice for everyone," Ms Rungrapha concluded.

Girl, 12, held captive in Phuket

KAMALA POLICE HAVE arrested a man who lured a 12-year-old girl from Phang Nga and held her captive in Phuket for 17 days.

The suspect was named by police only as 'Mr Am', 64.

The girl was reported missing on Oct 5, after disappearing from her home in Takua Pa District, Phang Nga.

At the time of her disappearance, she was last seen wearing pink pyjamas with a 'Kitty' pattern.

Following an extensive investigation, officers from the Takua Pa Police tracked down the suspect. They had learned that the girl had been taken to a worker's accommodation in Kamala, where she was being held.



Photo: Kamala Police

Officers arrived at the abode at 3:30pm and safely recovered the girl.

Am had chained the door to his worker's accommodation to prevent her from escaping, police reported.

Am now faces charges of abducting a child under 15 years old, and he has been handed over to Takua Pa Police for further legal action.

A background check revealed that he had committed a similar crime in Phatthalung Province several years ago, police noted.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Beach volleyball spat spurs brawl

POLICE ON MONDAY CALLED in for questioning a Thai man accused of starting a fight that erupted into a brawl at Patong Beach last Sunday evening (Oct 27).

The incident gained notoriety after a video of the brawl was posted on local social media channels. The video showed the assailants attack each other with brooms and chairs, in addition to landing punches and kicks.

The video spurred a slew of comments accusing the foreign tourists, Saudi nationals, for their role in the fight. In total seven Saudi tourists were involved in the brawl.

The Thai man called in for questioning, not named by police, confirmed that the fight started after the Saudi men refused to leave the court after losing their match.



The informal rules of using the court is for the losers to leave, while the winners play the next team.

While the slurs in comments online accused the Saudi men for starting the fight, according to a post by Patong Police on Monday night, "The group of Thais were the ones who were attacked first.

"Therefore, the Thai men who were present at the incident were invited to inquire about the incident and to compile their history in order to proceed with the relevant matters," the report said.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Experts worry over dugong deaths

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A dead dugong found washed ashore near Karon Beach last Saturday night (Oct 26) marked the third dugong to be found dead in Phuket coastal waters in nine days.

Local villagers reported the discovery to fisheries officials and the Sireetarn Marine Endangered Animals Rescue Centre, based at the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) centre at Cape Panwa, at 8:40pm.

Officials identified the dugong as a two-metre-long male, weighing approximately 110kg. The animal had been dead for at least 24 hours. A cause of death has yet to be determined.

Just three days earlier, on Oct 23, the body of an adult male dugong was found in the water off Kamala beach. Kamala Police were informed of the carcass, found near the rocks at the northern end of the beach, at about 7am.

Lifeguards brought the body ashore while police called in the Sireetarn centre to investigate. Marine



Photo: DMCR

biologist Patcharaporn Kaewmong and her team arrived and confirmed the dugong was a full-grown male, weighing about 200kg and measuring 2.52 metres long.

The dugong had been dead for at least two to three days, the team noted.

An initial inspection found wounds on the back of the body, tail and both fins.

The marine biologists took the remains back to their centre at Cape Panwa

for further analysis to try to confirm the cause of death.

Meanwhile, that same morning local residents also found the remains of a sea turtle washed ashore in front of Kamala Public Park.

The turtle weighed between 30-50kg, and by its state of decomposition had been dead at least several days, locals estimated.

The dugong found at Kamala followed a dugong found dead in the water near the Tha Ton Do fishing

community, near Baan Kho En, Mai Khao, on Oct 18,

Following the discovery of the dead dugong at Kamala Dr Patcharaporn of the DMCR filed a complaint at Kamala Police Station as the dugong is a protected animal according to the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act of 1992. It was the first aquatic animal to be designated as a protected animal in Thailand.

CONCERN

The DMCR confirmed that

eight dugongs died and had washed ashore from Oct 1-24. At that time two were in Phuket, one in Krabi, two in Trang and three in Satun, reported the *Bangkok Post*.

They were all found dead except one that was found alive but died shortly later.

Five were juveniles, the other three were fully grown.

Initial findings showed three of them were emaciated and had empty or nearly empty digestive tracts, possibly linked to the deterioration of seagrass in their habitats.

One was believed to have become entangled in a fishing net from the rope marks observed around its body.

It was impossible to determine the cause of death for the other four due to the decayed state of their carcasses.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Chalermpchai Sri-on told the DMCR to speed up deploying a special team, comprising academics, researchers and state officials, to monitor and survey dugong populations and other rare marine species as

well as seagrass habitats along the Andaman coast.

Dr Thon Thamrongnawasawat, a marine ecosystem expert from Kasetsart University, warned that global warming had become a significant threat to dugongs.

Some 70 of them had died in just 22 months, exceeding the prior average of 20.25 per year.

Dr Thon said the dugong population along the Andaman coast could drop to just a few dozen due to the lack of seagrass in just five to six years.

The spate of dead dugongs found in Phuket waters follows a family of dugongs spotted off Rawai, at the southern end of the island, in August.

Local residents were ecstatic of the arrival of the dugong family. "This is a significant event for Rawai and a positive sign of our marine ecosystem's health," said Rawai Deputy Mayor Nikorn Paphakityotphat.

The public can report incidents regarding coastal or rare marine animal situations via the Forest and Marine Ranger hotline at 1362.

Dead sea turtle found with plastic in stomach

MARINE BIOLOGISTS from the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) have confirmed that a young green turtle found washed ashore at Mai Khao Beach had ingested plastic.

Officers from the DMCR's Sireetarn Marine Endangered Animals Rescue Centre were called to Mai Khao Beach on Oct 22, where a juvenile green sea turtle was discovered washed ashore.

The dead turtle had washed ashore near the area popular for people to watch aircraft take off and land at Phuket International Airport.

The turtle, with a shell 52cm long and 51cm wide, weighed 12kg, the officers confirmed.

The carcass was severely decomposed, with no visible external injuries.

However, officers performed a dissection of the remains at the scene,



Photo: DMCR

which revealed that the turtle's stomach and intestines were filled with sea grass, mangrove pods and various forms of marine waste, including plastic.

Items found inside the turtle included plastic pieces, nylon rope and other waste materials tightly packed with sea grass.

The ingestion of

the marine debris was believed to have caused intestinal inflammation, leading to the turtle's death, the DMCR reported.

The DMCR has repeatedly expressed concern over the growing threat of marine waste to sea life, urging the public to take action to protect the environment.

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Small hotels urged to register

The Phuket News
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The Phuket branch of the SME Bank along with the Phuket Boutique Accommodation Consortium (BAC Phuket) held a seminar this week to help owners and operators of small hotels apply for hotel licences before the opportunity expires.

The seminar, at The Pago Design Hotel in Ratsada on Wednesday (Oct 30), was held to guide members through the hotel licence application process, with support from relevant agencies.

The event provided resources such as document preparation, blueprints and assistance from architects and engineers to ensure businesses are ready to apply for their hotel licences within the required timeframe.

Speaking at a press conference last week to announce the event, BAC Phuket President Chinnawat Udomniyom explained the 'Final Chance' campaign for hotel licence applications.

Mr Chinnawat stressed that the event marked the 'final opportunity' for hotel owners to apply for licences before the relaxed regulations expire on Aug 18, 2025, leaving less than 10 months.



Photo: PR Phuket

He urged all hotel operators to attend the event, branded as a 'special general meeting', to understand the requirements and prepare for the licensing process.

BARRIERS

Manosit Jaengjob, Chairman of the Subcommittee for Promoting Small Hotels at the Tourism Council of Thailand, explained that many hotel operators in Phuket are currently unable to meet the legal requirements for applying for a hotel licence.

To address the issue, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment issued a special regulation for Phuket to remove some obstacles, such as requirements for vacant space.

Additionally, the rule for preparing an environmental report (IEE) has been adjusted, allowing hotels with up to 49 rooms (previously 29 rooms) to be eligible.

For hotels with more than none rooms but fewer than 49, a summary environmental report

(COP) must be prepared instead of a full report.

"The Minister of Natural Resources and Environment has already signed a new draft of this regulation, which will soon be discussed in the Cabinet meeting. This creates a great opportunity for hotel operators in Phuket to meet the conditions necessary to apply for a hotel licence once the new regulation comes into effect," Mr Manosit said.

The goal is to help small and medium-sized accommodation businesses obtain their hotel licences before the regulation expires.

SUPPORT

Ratchan Chatisutthi from the Phuket branch of the SME Bank stated that the bank has set a target to help over 500 small and medium-sized hotels in Phuket obtain business licence.

It is estimated that these small hotels can accommodate more than 20,000 tourists per day.

With an average occupancy rate of 60%, this could generate over B8.88 million in revenue per day, or about B3.24 billion per year, Mr Ratchan said.

"If these businesses are properly licensed, the government could collect over B226 million per year in VAT, contributing to

over B9.7 billion in the economy annually," he noted.

Wirayut Suwannaphakdi, from the Phuket Provincial Public Works and Town & Country Planning Office, pledged his support by saying that the department is fully prepared to support hotel operators in applying for licences before the deadline.

Senator Nipon Ekwanich, a member of the Senate Group for SMEs and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Promoting SME Entrepreneurs, emphasised that the event was an excellent opportunity for the Phuket SME Bank to collaborate with other agencies to move this initiative forward.

"Since tourism is the main industry in Phuket, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play a crucial role in driving the local economy and supporting its growth," he said.

"The committee has recently developed strategies to help SMEs grow by promoting sustainable tourism practices. This includes the 'Go Green' initiative, which supports the Carbon Footprint policy, aiming to position Thai SMEs as globally recognized businesses. These efforts also aim to help Phuket become a 'World Class Destination'," he added.

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Slew of convictions over nominees

THE CRIMINAL COURT HAS CONVICTED 23 people and companies in Phuket for using nominees, with fines of B200,000 each handed down, Auramon Supthaweethum, Director-General of the Department of Business Development (DBD), has confirmed.

Those found guilty were also handed a suspended two-year prison sentence, with a one-year probation period, and ordered to dissolve their companies, Ms Auramon announced in a statement issued on the department's website.

"The DBD urges Thai citizens who help foreigners illegally operate businesses in Thailand to stop immediately, as they risk facing legal penalties such as fines or imprisonment, as shown in this case," the statement said.

Ms Auramon explained that the DBD conducts yearly inspections of businesses at risk of violating the Alien Business Act. They work with relevant agencies to identify and punish offenders.

The focus is on cases where Thai citizens hold shares on behalf of foreigners or support foreign businesses in sectors including tourism, restaurants, hotels, real estate and logistics, particularly in tourist provinces such as Phuket, Chonburi, Bangkok and Chiang Mai.

"In the most recent case, the department investigated irregularities in the shareholding of companies in Phuket and discovered that law and accounting firms were being used to register companies in the names of Thai nationals (nominees) on behalf of foreigners.

"This allowed foreigners to run



DBD Director-General Auramon Supthaweethum. Photo: DBD

businesses not legally allowed under Thai law. The case was forwarded to the DSI (Department of Special Investigation), which, after further investigation, had enough evidence to prosecute," Ms Auramon said.

"The Criminal Court's verdict on Sept 11, 2567, serves as a warning to those who help foreigners evade Thai business laws," she added.

"The department continues to prioritise investigating nominee cases and working with other agencies to enforce the law.

"Thai citizens involved in these activities are urged to stop, as they harm legitimate Thai businesses and could face penalties of up to three years in prison or fines ranging from B100,000 to B1 million.

"Those who continue to violate court orders may also face daily fines of B10,000 to B50,000 until they comply, Ms Auramon warned.

The Director-General concluded her statement by emphasising the DBD's "commitment to solving the nominee issue and promoting legal compliance in foreign business operations in Thailand".

The Phuket News

iCon fraud case goes to DSI

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Police handed The iCon Group case file to the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) on Monday (Oct 28) so it can be treated as a special case.

The Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) transferred to the DSI 18 boxes containing the complaints of 325 victims of the alleged pyramid scheme operated by the company, which promoted online sales of its products through its agents and their sellers.

CIB Deputy Commissioner Pol Maj Gen Suwat Saengnum said there were more files in the case still to be handed over.

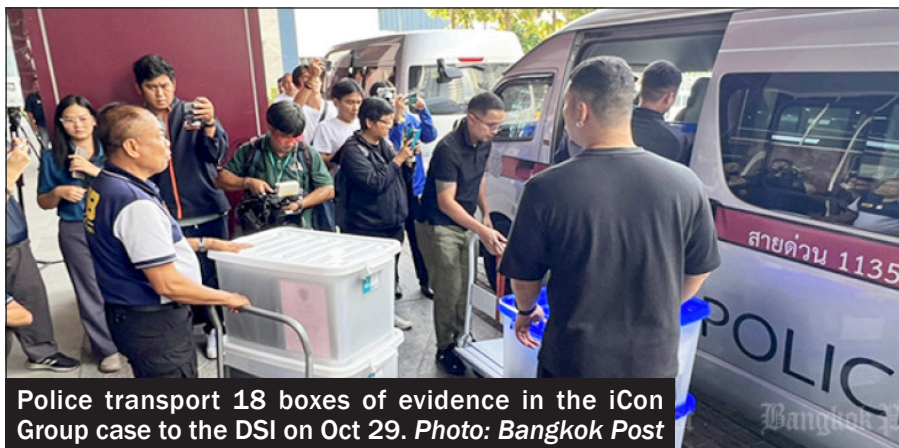
More than 9,500 complaints declaring losses totalling B2.9 billion related to the iCon business have been received from people in provinces nationwide and Thais overseas.

Pol Maj Gen Suwat said police investigators would continue working on the case until the DSI formally accepts it as a special case. He also promised full cooperation by police.

EFFECTIVENESS

Deputy Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai said earlier that letting the DSI take over the case would boost the effectiveness of the investigation.

All 18 suspects, each dubbed "boss" in the iCon marketing hierarchy, were arrested on Oct 16



Police transport 18 boxes of evidence in the iCon Group case to the DSI on Oct 29. Photo: Bangkok Post

after many people filed fraud complaints against the company, which sold health and dietary supplements.

All the suspects, including founder and CEO Warathaphon "Boss Paul" Waratyaworrakul have been charged with colluding in public fraud and putting false information into a computer system. Some are celebrities who received tens of millions of baht. They have all denied the charges.

Pol Maj Gen Suwat said police would press more charges as new evidence warrants, and so would the DSI, confirming that on Oct 22 police searched 11 more locations linked to the 18 company officers accused of public fraud, looking for additional evidence.

ISSUES

Ittidet Thaneswatana, who represents overseas victims of The iCon Group, said victims have been found in nearly 20 countries and territories, including

China, Hong Kong, Macau, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Estonia, Luxembourg, Canada and the United States.

One of the victims is Nin, a Thai woman who runs a grocery store in Hong Kong, who joined the scheme after seeing one of the company's billboards during a visit to Thailand. Upon joining the scheme, Nin paid B250,000 to her recruiter, who then encouraged her to recruit members to upgrade her status within the company.

She convinced several of her friends and relatives to sign up, only to encounter many issues such as missing products, unreasonably high prices and lower profit shares and commissions. She and her friends and relatives have not been able to sell the products and ended up losing almost B2 million in total.

Facial recognition to start in 6 Thai airports

BANGKOK

AN AUTOMATED biometric identification system using facial recognition technology will be implemented in six Thai airports later this year to let passengers show their physical ID only once, officials confirmed on Monday (Oct 28).

The system will be ready for domestic passengers on Nov 1 and for international passengers on Dec 1, and be operated by the Airport Authority of Thailand (AoT), according to AoT director Kirati Kitmanawat.

To use the system, passengers will be required to allow access to their identification information when checking in at the counter or self-service check-in at the airports.

The system will collect passengers' biometric information and travel itineraries electronically, allowing air travel-



Passengers at Phuket International Airport on Oct 15. Photo: Bangkok Post

lers to go from the baggage drop to the boarding gate without showing passports and boarding passes. Each registration is for only one journey.

The six airports that will use the system are Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Don Mueang International Airport, Chiang Mai International Airport, Mae Fah Luang/Chiang Rai International Airport, Phuket International Airport and Hat Yai International Airport.

Passenger numbers using the airports in September and October have risen almost 20% from the same period last year, and are expected to be still higher next year, Mr Kirati said.

Bangkok Post

Tak Bai massacre case over after defendants' no-show

BANGKOK

THE TAK BAI MASSACRE case is officially over, according to a court announcement on Monday (Oct 28), after all seven defendants failed to report to the judges by the stipulated deadline.

The tragic case was closed after the accused did not appear at the court before 11:59pm last Friday (Oct 25).

The court said the case had gone beyond the 20-year statute of limitations and the arrest warrants issued for the accused were no longer valid.

The last court session on the case was attended by 48 plaintiffs, their lawyers and human rights advocates with security measures tightened at the court premises.

On Oct 25, 2004, seven Muslim protesters were killed during a rally in front of the Tak Bai police station in Tak Bai district of Narathiwat



The detained protesters in Tak Bai on Oct 25, 2004. Photo: Tawatchai Khemgumnerd

province. Another 78 were suffocated to death during transport from the rally site to the Ingkayuth-aboriharn army camp in Nong Chik district in Pattani province.

The families of the victims sued seven people, including Gen Pisal Wattanawongkiri, the then army region 4 commander.

He was a Pheu Thai party-list MP until Oct 14 when he resigned from the ruling party.

Gen Pisal then took sick leave until the end of the month – despite the House of Representatives being in session – and left

for the United Kingdom.

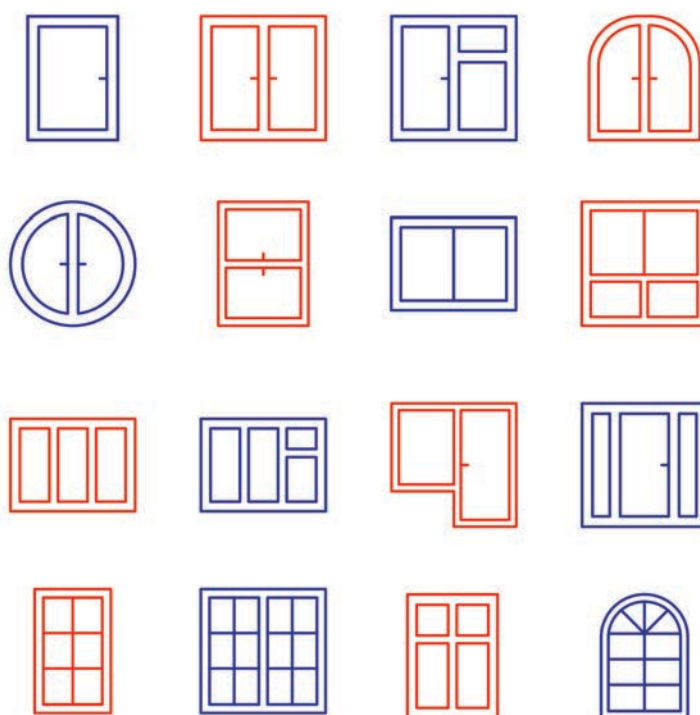
State prosecutors decided to convict eight people at the Pattani Provincial Court. But none of them have been located and now the case has automatically ended due to the expiration of the statute of limitations.

Senator Tewarit Maneechai demanded that Deputy House Speaker Pichet Chuamuangpan of Pheu Thai be held accountable for approving the leave request of Gen Pisal even after the court already agreed to take up the Tak Bai case, Thai media outlets reported.

Bangkok Post



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Branching out in your garden



GREEN THOUGHTS

Patrick Campbell

From time to time I have remarked on the problems, nay perils, of cultivating trees in your tropical garden. The topic merits another look.

When I built a villa in Rawai some 18 years ago, it occupied a plot of two-thirds of a rai. And apart from one mature specimen, a yellow-flowering acacia, which I asked the builders to spare, it was a vacant plot totally devoid of trees. So there was a pressing need to plant new ones – in the certain knowledge that they would provide pockets of shade for newly installed shrubs and smaller flowering plants.

I went first for rapid growers such as bananas and papayas, conscious they could be easily removed once other plants had become established. Bananas (musa) have always been planted in Thailand on fallow land: in part because they are considered lucky (inhabited by a female spirit called *nang tani*), but also because they are extremely fast growing – over a metre a day in ideal conditions.

Of course they have the additional virtue of producing a massive bunch of a hundred or more edible fruits within a couple of years. Just remember to choose a Cavendish strain – some native varieties contain seeds and are virtually inedible. The downside is that banana plants – which can reach four metres tall in next to no time – just as quickly become scruffy, their sail-like fronds battered by wind and turning yellow and then brown as they age. Nowadays, I have none in my garden; they have been relegated to the orchard next door.

So too papayas (carica). Just as useful initially because of their rapid rise and pleasant appearance,



Photo: Patrick Campbell

they are short-lived and best removed after cropping. The luscious fruits, which grow amid a spiral of attractive leaves at the top of straight stems, appear within three years of planting. In the context of providing shade, the papaya is less useful than the banana in that it is sparsely leafed and branched. And although it is very hardy and easily grown from seedlings, it hates soggy soil and will die a quick death in standing water.

A very different tree that was cultivated to create pockets of shade, and to attract bees and butterflies, was the citharexylum. Not an easy tree to find, the fast-growing fiddlewood has a narrow shape and thin, woody branches. Its chief merit is its tiny white flowers which hang down in terminal racemes and possess a glorious scent.

Another utility tree that featured early was the avocado (persea). Though the climate in Thailand is perfect for avocados, they are cultivated here with varying success, partly because pollination is complex. The trees possess flowers categorised as type A or B which produce pollen at different times. So fruiting can be a hazardous business. But growth is not a

problem. My solitary avocado grew with such vigour that it soon reached the roof of my three-storey house. Its dense foliage provided abundant shade and plenty of leaf-drop, but nary a single fruit...

Most of these trees no longer exist in my patch. Why? What we tend, as 'farangs', to underestimate is the sheer vitality of tropical vegetation. Trees here are riotous growers, up and away before you can say 'Jack Robinson'. And as they mature, they not only tend to deprive flowering plants of sunlight, but possess elaborate root systems that can undermine the foundations of retaining walls and even house foundations. So then comes the melancholy – and often costly – business of cutting them down.

If you want trees that are attractive, possess smaller roots and whose foliage will not become unmanageable, you might plump for palms. Initially, I planted yellow cane palms (dypsis lutescens) around my pristine swimming pool. Clump palms, they are a bit leggy now, but still there. Flanking the garden wall, the traveller palms (ravenala) lasted for a dozen years or so and looked most attractive with their fan-shaped outline, but eventually became gnarled and mis-shapen. The Bismarck palm (bismarckia) with its huge glaucous leaves is utterly spectacular, but will outgrow the average plot. Mine certainly did.

Probably the best palm for a medium-sized garden is the foxtail (wodyetia), which has a classical palm silhouette with 10 neat feather-leaved fronds, crowning a straight, smooth trunk. Understandably, it is a favourite of city planners and, like most palms, can handle dry conditions. Go for it... And don't worry about the consequences.

Patrick Campbell's book *'The Tropic Gardener'*, described in one Bangkok review as the best book on Thai gardening for 50 years, is available for B500 (half price) to personal callers from 59/84 Soi Saiyuan 13 in Rawai (Tel: 076-613227 or 085-7827551).



The December/January 2025 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

Distributed in resorts/hotels lobbies, in a high number of restaurants and coffee shops, plus inserted in one issue of *The Phuket News* each month, it is a great way to Talk to Phuket.

Want to be in it?

Health choices, where to now?

WELLTHWISE

I have a fantasy of waltzing into an international airport, looking up at the departure board and randomly choosing a flight that leaves in the next two hours. I go to the ticket counter, buy a ticket, and go straight to the departure gate. It feels wildly spontaneous, even audacious, but promises to be great fun, right?

Yes, until you realise that counter tickets are much more expensive, you have no idea of what the visa requirements are, you have no hotel reservations, you do not know what clothing is appropriate. Is it hot? Is it cold? You are ignorant of culture or customs. You know nothing of the history, or the political environment, or the economic situation. The fantasy quickly turns into a nightmare of reckless self-indulgence, expensive missteps and bad airport food. Perhaps preplanning would have been a good idea...

It seems ridiculous to think of travelling like that, and yet many people treat their health journey the same way. They show up without metaphorical reservations, luggage or visas. The mindset is often supported by thoughts like these: I don't like going to the doctor. The women in my family live forever. The men in my family drop dead of heart attacks, I can't change fate. I don't want to know. Are they freely relinquishing responsibility for their own well-being and putting it into the hands of the health gods? A healthcare power of attorney? Or is it something else?

For some, knowledge is power, for others ignorance is bliss. Somewhere in the middle is desirable; neither obsessing about 'what might happen' nor ignoring the subtle and not so subtle signals of 'dis-ease'.

As a health Coach, one of the first things that I would like to know is how recently someone has had a complete physical, and what, if anything, was different from the previous one. Why? Because for you to



Photo: Libby Heath

know where you are going, you need to know where you have been. Another valuable piece of health insight is knowing your family history. A favourite phrase 'genetics load the gun, but lifestyle pulls the trigger' captures it all. You cannot choose your grandparents but how you live your life is entirely within your control.

The book 'Outlive' by Peter Attala M.D. (my favourite book in 2023) emphasises proactive strategies for extending lifespan and healthspan. It encourages the use of data such as blood biomarkers to guide health decisions and track progress. He embraces technological advances but stresses the foundational value of lifestyle choices. In this era of gene sequencing and artificial intelligence, one can ascertain almost any

aspect of their biological risk profiles. For a health data nerd like me, this sounds like fun. For ordinary mortals, great insight and behaviour guidance can be determined from a few simple and affordable tests.

Typical exams start with vital sign measurements such as heart rate, blood pressure, oxygen saturation, height, and weight. Basic lab work typically includes complete blood counts, basic metabolic panels, lipid panels, liver function tests and urinalyses. A wealth of information can be gleaned from these tests, especially when compared with previous results. Noticeable changes can potentially be a call for action. An upward creep of cholesterol? A reduction in height? Microscopic traces of blood in your urine? A change in body mass? Something is off. Do not wait for someone to draw attention to the differential; you owe it to yourself to ask questions.

Small problems are usually easier, faster and cheaper to solve. In the era of electronic medical records, most medical reports are retrievable online. When was your last physical exam? Barring resource constraints or access to care, are you overdue? If something concerns you, ask questions from reputable sources. Be wary of internet advice. Rather than blame your grandparents for your cholesterol or your children for your grey hair, accept your current state but commit to change. Explore lifestyle changes first, and then consider the addition of evidence-based science to be part of the solution.

Whether you are flying Business Class or Coach, the plane arrives at the destination at the same time. Better health can fit into most budgets. Information and effort are the travel agents for your healthspan expedition. Choose your destination wisely and enjoy!

Libby Heath shares her insights and advice through her column 'Wellthwise' here in The Phuket News. Please note that if you have a condition that requires medical treatment, consult your doctor. Contact Libby at: BeWellthwise@gmail.com



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POP QUIZ

- 1. Which Colorado ski resort was named after the abundance of certain trees in the area?
- 2. In *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens, Miss Havisham has all the clocks in her mansion set at precisely what time?
- 3. How many American presidents have been assassinated?
- 4. The National Liberation Front of South Vietnam were better known by which term?
- 5. In meteorology, what 'catch-all' name is given to any condensation that falls under gravity?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across

 - 1. Sub
 - 5. Pitt play character
 - 9. Priest of the East
 - 13. Creative work
 - 14. Hot dog sauce
 - 15. Porters
 - 16. Not seeing eye to eye
 - 19. Butterfly wing's eyes
 - 20. Lasting impression
 - 21. "All the Things You ___"
 - 22. "___ the word!"
 - 24. Boston college
 - 26. "___ De-Lovely"
 - 29. Mets, Jets or Nets
 - 31. Get behind
 - 32. Half a dance
 - 33. Breathless
 - 35. Comfort
 - 39. Having a different opinion
 - 43. Arizona city
 - 44. Long
 - 45. Fled
 - 46. Condensate
 - 49. Miff
 - 50. Neighbor of Ida.
 - 51. Marsh marigold
 - 55. Kind of job
- Down

 - 1. Foofaraw
 - 2. Grander than grand
 - 3. Deliberate
 - 4. Sacred hymn
 - 5. Bunion's place
 - 6. Individuals
 - 7. Prepare for winter takeoff
 - 8. Go-getter
 - 9. Police, with "the"
 - 10. Assumed name
 - 11. Geo model
 - 12. Bloodless
 - 14. ___ Peninsula
 - 17. Large body muscles
 - 18. Got bigger
 - 23. Drooping
- 25. Coral formation
 - 26. Part of a nuclear arsenal, for short
 - 27. Prayer pronoun
 - 28. Wilts
 - 30. Distributes, with "out"
 - 34. Some horses
 - 36. Voluminous do
 - 37. Burn
 - 38. White-tailed eagle
 - 40. Roams
 - 41. Drain the cup
 - 42. Chant
 - 47. Panache
 - 48. Squirm
 - 51. Skins
 - 52. Expo '70 site
 - 53. Come to
 - 54. Medicine holder
 - 56. Whines
 - 59. Nile slitherers
 - 61. Six-stringed instrument
 - 62. Peak near Taormina
 - 63. Harpy
 - 65. Checks for under 21's
 - 66. Go after, in a way

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Aspen; 2) 8:40 (the time she received a letter of rejection on her wedding day); 3) Four; 4) Viet Cong; 5) Precipitation

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14					15			
16				17					18				
19						20					21		
			22		23		24			25			
26	27	28		29			30		31				
32				33				34			35	36	37
38													
39			40						41	42			
43						44						45	
			46	47	48		49					50	
51	52	53				54		55			56		
57				58			59		60			61	62
63												64	65
66													
67					68						69		
70					71						72		

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

T	O	F	T	S		U	S	A	F		L	A	C	E
A	L	L	O	T		G	L	U	E		E	R	R	S
P	L	A	Y	E	D	H	A	R	D		T	O	G	E
S	A	T	O	R	I		T	O	S	H		O	D	E
S	L	A	L	O	M		A	B	I	T				
A	P	E			R	U	G		A	L	T	H	E	A
R	U	G	E	D		G	O	O	D		L	O	O	K
E	N	S	I	L	E		A	R	M			P	E	P
C	A	R	D	S		R	E	S						
A	L	A			H	E	I	R		T	E	A	S	E
G	E	T	S	A	T	O	U	G		H	B	R	E	A
E	R	I	E		U	S	P	S		E	V	E	R	
S	T	O	W											

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

2

words are usually all that is required for people to distinguish the voice of a close friend or relative amongst other voices.

60

percent, on average, is how much of the human body is water.

150

degrees Celsius (302° F) is the cut-off point for life, theoretically. Proteins fall apart and chemical reactions cannot occur at that temperature.

28,800

kilometres per hour is how fast the International Space Station travels, taking only 90 minutes for the weightless laboratory to make a complete circuit of Earth.

10.2 billion

US dollars was Steve Jobs' net worth when he died in 2011. His wealth primarily came from his stake in Disney, not from Apple.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



All normal at Nai Harn. Photo by Sutharat Khaodee

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

This week in history

Nov 1, 1512

The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, painted by Michelangelo, is exhibited to the public for the first time.

Nov 2, 1949

The Dutch-Indonesian Round Table Conference ends with the Netherlands agreeing to transfer sovereignty of the Dutch East Indies to the United States of Indonesia.

Nov 3, 1957

The Soviet Union launches Sputnik 2 with the dog

Laika, a stray dog from the streets of Moscow, on board as the first animal to enter orbit, paving the way for human spaceflight.

Nov 4, 1979

Iran hostage crisis: A mob of Iranians, mostly students, overruns the US embassy in Tehran and takes 90 hostages (53 of whom are American).

Nov 5, 1605

Guy Fawkes is arrested while guarding a stockpile of



Laika.

gunpowder under Westminster Abbey amid a plot to assassinate King James I

in order to restore a Catholic monarch to the throne.

Nov 6, 1913

Mohandas 'Mahatma' Gandhi is arrested while leading a march of Indian miners in South Africa.

Nov 7, 1999

Australians vote to keep the Head of the Commonwealth, at that time Queen Elizabeth II, as their head of state in the Australian republic referendum.

Source: Wikipedia

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Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th

FRI1NOV



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

081 891 4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket



Friday Mussels Night

56 PM onwards: Belgian style mussels served with French Fries. All you can eat. Your choice, Your style: Marinier, Selected drinks, Provencale, Garlic & cream, Creamy curry, Blue cheese or Thai style. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 325 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381



Grow Boating Evening - November 2024

We look forward to seeing you at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm. Our drinks sponsor for the evening will be ZERO SIX ONE Co., Ltd (Thailand) who are the distributors for Acqua 3 Aqueous Ozone machines which use tap water, electricity and air to make ozone water, a cleaning solution that removes dirt, stains and odours. For more details see <https://zerosixone.weebly.com/> There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome. facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket

SUN3NOV



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Sunday Roast

12PM – 9PM: All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet Beef, Pork & Capon chicken – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, Fried mushrooms, Grilled Tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes – Gravy, Mushroom sauce, Horse radish, Mint Sauce. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 350 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

MON4NOV



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

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www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

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Monday BBQ Night

6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Fish, Prawns & Squids, salad buffet and veggies, Choice of potatoes, cold and hot sauces, Bread, Buns & garlic bread. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 395 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

WED6NOV



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081 891 4381

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shakersphuket@gmail.com

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Wednesday BBQ Night

6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Fish, Prawns & Squids, salad buffet and veggies, Choice of potatoes, cold and hot sauces, bread, buns & garlic bread. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 395 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

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TUE5NOV



5 November

From 9:30 to 14:30

Guests will enjoy free-flow selected beverages & brunch.

Venue: Casa Boho, Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort, Kamala

Dress code: At the races

BOOK TICKETS NOW

Donation: 3,000 baht

For tickets, please contact Tina Hall tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org

Melbourne Cup 2024 at Casa Boho

Fabulous Fundraiser at Funky Casa Boho, Hyatt Regency Kamala from 9:30 to 14:30. Free-flow selected beverages & brunch. Fashions on the Field - with prizes for Best Hat, Best Dressed, Best Suited, and the Chicest Couple. Exclusive prizes to bid on and raffles to win. Screening of the famous thoroughbred horse race. Dancing with resident DJ. Dress code: At the races. Venue: Casa Boho, Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort, Kamala. Donation: 3,000 baht. For tickets, please contact Tina Hall tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org Tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org

THU7NOV



Skalp Phuket AGM & Monthly Dinner - November

Our host of the month of November, Vincent Delsol, extends a warm invitation to all Skalleagues for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and monthly Networking dinner at the Pullman Phuket Panwa Beach Resort. The AGM, for members only, will commence at 5 PM in the Ton Koon Room. Together, we'll review the highlights of 2024 and elect new committee members for 2025. Following the AGM, we invite you to our monthly dinner. The evening will start with a Networking Cocktail gathering at the Edge Cabana at 6 PM, followed by a buffet dinner at 7:30 PM at the Edge Beach Club. Members 1200, Non-Members 1600. Bookings contact@skalphuket.org

FRI8NOV



PHUKET BUSINESS NETWORKING

Come and have a few at the Phuket Business Networking - 2nd Friday every month

Phuket Business Networking - Nov 2024

Make sure to bring lots of business cards, as getting to know each other is what PBN is all about. A small entry fee, THB 500 per person, that includes the first 3 drinks and a light buffet. Location - Oasis Bar, Koh Kaew, starting 5pm. Register your attendance here - facebook.com/phuketbusinessnetworking or call Jason - 086 479 7471.

SAT16NOV



LIVING IN PHUKET

Free online event connecting expats and families with services to make island life easier

An invaluable resource of information for expats

60 exhibitors are waiting for you!

FREE

SOCIAL LIFESTYLE TRAVEL EDUCATION

Living in Phuket 2024

"Living in Phuket" is designed to help Phuket's many expats and their families connect with services that make life on the island easier. Major organisations and community groups from across Phuket in one location. "Living in Phuket" represents an invaluable resource of information for expats. The 2024 event will take place in the Courtyard by Marriott Phuket Town on Nov 16, presented by UFE Phuket, Melki.BIZ, Bangkok Hospital Phuket and The Phuket News. More info - livinginphuket.org



GOLF TOURNAMENT

November 16th

3,500 Baht with dinner

Check-in: 10:00am

Check-out: 11:00am



The BDO/Rotary Club Snowbirds Charity Golf Tournament

CanCham South & Rotary Club of Patong Beach is holding its second annual BDO Snowbirds Chairty Golf Tournament at the Aquella Golf & Country Club on Saturday November 16th, 2024. This is a family-friendly networking and fellowship event, as well as a fundraiser. Proceeds will be shared evenly with the Rotary Club of Patong Beach for their Save a Child Swim Program. Last year, with BDO as our Title Sponsor, we raised over 57,000 Baht for the Program. We are thrilled that BDO has returned as our Title Sponsor this year, and our goal is to raise over 300,000 THB. The Swim Program, originating in Patong, now reaches five schools in Phuket each year, offering a vital 10-week curriculum that imparts essential swimming skills and water safety knowledge to children. Over the past five years, the Rotary Club of Patong Beach has proudly supported more than 1,000 students through this life-saving initiative, fully funding the program's operations. Link to child swim program: <https://www.rotarypatong.org/page/save-a-child-swim-program> EVENT DETAILS Date: Saturday, November 16, 2024 Venue: Aquella Golf & Country Club Day's Events: 10:00 Registration Opens 11:00 Shotgun Start 17:00 Silent Auction Opens 18:00 Dinner & prizes 21:00 Event Concludes Tickets Golf & Dinner: THB 3300 Sale ends Nov 15, 11:50 PM Ticket type Only Dinner: THB 800 Sale ends Nov 15, 11:50 AM kareneidsviki@gmail.com

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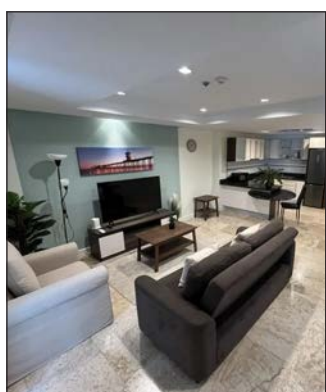




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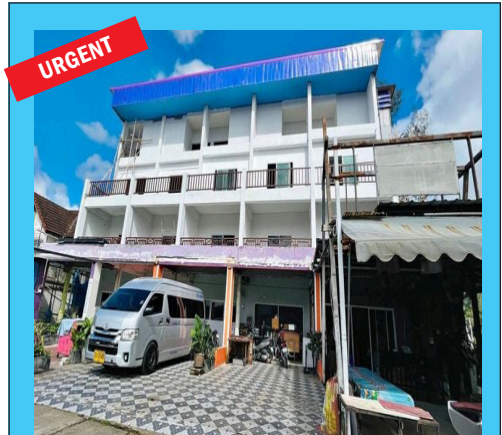
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REGGAE WAVES - A ROTARY CLUB OF PATONG BEACH EVENT

An unforgettable night at Carpe Diem Beach Club on Sat Oct 19 as reggae lovers from all over the island, and beyond, came together in support of the Thai Child Development Foundation and Rotary Club of Patong Beach activities. The evening started with an amazing array of delights from the Carpe Diem Beach Club team and ended with a live performance by Job2Do. A night to remember and all for a noble cause. To find out more of the great work being done by the Rotary Club of Patong Beach, visit rotarypatong.org



The return of the 'Angel Warrior'

MMA

PANPAYAK JITMUANGNON is set for a quick turnaround on ONE Championship's quarterly "tentpole" Lumpinee event in December, after his recent successful comeback from two years out from the sport.

Thailand's "Angel Warrior" defeated Silviu Vitez at ONE Friday Fights 83 on Oct 18, picking up a unanimous decision inside Bangkok's famed Lumpinee Stadium.

The Phuket-based fighter had not competed since a contentious December 2022 split decision loss to long-time rival Superlek Kiatmoo9 in Manila, but saw out an impressive victory under the circumstances, to a huge ovation from the crowd.

It is understood Panpayak will not have to wait long for his next outing, with the Asia-based martial arts promotion set to feature him on their next Lumpinee showcase, which will be broadcast on pay-per-view in international markets.



Panpayak. Photo: Bangkok Post

"Guys, get ready. We come for one more time this year, see you soon," his coach at Phuket Fight Club, Leo Elias, wrote in a social media post recently.

The 28-year-old fly-weight Muay Thai icon showed glimpses of his former brilliance against Spanish-Romanian Vitez, but seemed to tire in the third round, given his lack of conditioning.

"I'm satisfied with the stamina, considering I had not fought in two years," Panpayak said after the fight.

"I came back, and started again from zero. I know, and promise that I'll improve in every fight. I just need two or three more fights for my body to be adjusted to normal," he added. *Bangkok Post*

Vagabonds win Krabi Cup

RUGBY

Anthony Van Sleetuwen

In one of their best tournament performances in recent years the Phuket Vagabonds returned victorious from the annual Krabi Cup last weekend (Oct 26-27).

The hometown boys produced a fast-paced try fest throughout with an all-new backline proving too much to handle for much of the competition.

Working their way through the pool stages over two days with comprehensive wins against MCU Krabi (31-0), Krabi RFC (24-5) and Simon Rugby (17-0), the Vagabonds were met by a new look Krabi RFC for the final, with several representative players added to the roster to slow the Vagabonds' momentum.

After taking a 5-0 lead early in the final, the Vagabonds found themselves pinned in their own half for much of the match. It was only through determined defense and some incredible cover tackles that Krabi RFC were kept scoreless until the full-time siren, before they were able to equalize in the corner from the back of a scrum on the last play.

A first for many, this sent the game into a rugby penalty shootout, with each team selecting three players to seal the win through drop goals.

Despite attempts by a particular linesman to suggest otherwise, Krabi's second shot sailed wide, before new



The victorious Vagabonds. Photo: Supplied

Vagabonds recruit Milo Wills sent his kick over to seal the cup for Phuket.

The final goal capped a fantastic tournament for Milo as he also secured the Open Men's Player of the Tournament.

Milo was well supported by his backline teammates with the ever reliable and entertaining Shaun Kober taking the top point scorer with 4 tries and fly half Jacob King securing 2 tries and numerous dominant tackles which must have the opposition questioning why they kept running at him!

Further appreciation must also go to Daniil Komandir whose sideline defense continually frustrated opponents throughout the tournament.

The dynamic backline was well supported by a solid set piece platform, with a dominant lineout in particular provided by excellent efforts from Chris Brooks, Darren Parry and

Khaled Khamallah.

Finally, it was new coach Tom Kilvington, a thoroughly deserving recipient of the coach of the tournament award, whose vision and back to basics approach has the new look Vagabonds firing.

"Our victory is a testament to the commitment, heart and team spirit of all players, not only at the tournament but in training and preparation also," said Tom.

"I couldn't be prouder of each member of the team and travelling party who all played their part in the victory, and the trophy rounded off a great weekend."

The Phuket Vagabonds train Wednesday nights from 6:30pm at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) in Thalang. To get involved, contact the Vagabonds via their website: www.phuketvagabonds.com.

Bagnaia wins Thai MotoGP to close gap on Martin

MOTO GP

FRANCESCO BAGNAIA won the Thai MotoGP ahead of Jorge Martin in wet conditions last Sunday (Oct 27) to close the gap on the championship leader with two race weekends left.

Spaniard Martin's lead over Italian defending champion Bagnaia was cut from 22 points to 17 ahead of another chapter in their title tussle at Sepang in Malaysia this weekend.

Pedro Acosta was third at a rainy Buriram but this was all about Martin and Bagnaia, with the title now a two-horse race and likely to go right down to the wire.

After Malaysia, the season finale is at Valencia on Nov 15-17.

Pramac Ducati's Martin, who is trying to win the world crown for the first time, said he was happy to settle for



Bagnaia celebrates. Photo: AFP

second, coming home nearly three seconds behind.

"The level we are demonstrating - not a lot of people can understand how fast we are going even in these conditions," he said.

Bagnaia thanked his Ducati team for keeping his hopes of a third world title in a row alive, adding that he had never won in the rain before.

"It was a day to make

the difference and luckily we did it," he said.

"It's a good day for us and 17 (gap in points) is a good number for me."

Earlier, Japan's Ai Ogura was crowned Moto2 world champion as he came second in a red-flagged race won by Spain's Aron Canet.

The 23-year-old Ogura will move up to MotoGP next season. *AFP*

Classy Sainz wins in Mexico

FORMULA ONE

CARLOS SAINZ CRUISED to an emotional victory for Ferrari ahead of McLaren's Lando Norris in last Sunday's (Oct 27) incident-filled Mexico City Grand Prix as Red Bull's series leader Max Verstappen was handed two 10-second penalties on his way to sixth.

Sainz is ensuring he leaves Ferrari with his head held high as he switches next season to Williams to make way for seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton.

"I said I wanted one more win with Ferrari and to do it here with this megacrowd is incredible," the Spaniard said afterwards.

It was Ferrari's first victory in Mexico since Alain Prost triumphed in 1990 - enabling them to move ahead of Red Bull in the constructors' championship - and Sainz's second win of the season and fourth of his career.

Norris grabbed second from Charles Leclerc in the other Ferrari near the finish as the Briton enjoyed a



An emotional Carlos Sainz celebrates his win. Photo: AFP

major boost in his quest to deny Verstappen a fourth consecutive world championship.

The McLaren driver cut 10 points off the gap to Verstappen which now stands at 47 with four race weekends remaining.

Verstappen paid a heavy price for his show of ruthlessness with Norris commenting: "I knew what to expect from Max. I respect him a lot as a driver and I expected it but it was not very clean driving in my opinion."

"It was a very tough race and I spent a lot of it just trying to avoid crashes."

The stewards took a dim view of Verstappen's aggressive driving, handing him two 10-second penalties as the Red Bull driver twice forced his title rival Norris off the track.

It was the second week in succession that the two title-chasers had clashed following a penalty for Norris at the United States Grand Prix.

McLaren boss Zak Brown described this latest example of Verstappen's aggressive streak as "ridiculous".

"Enough is enough. Let's just have some good clean racing moving forwards. I think the stewards are on it, I think that's clear by the penalties that were given. The stewards did a good job this weekend."

Asked about his drivers' crown prospects Norris said: "I'm just keeping my head down, we're doing good job as a team, focus on ourselves, that's all I can do for now."

Hamilton finished fourth ahead of his Mercedes team-mate George Russell.

Kevin Magnussen finished behind Verstappen in seventh to deliver Haas's best result in Mexico ahead of Oscar Piastri in the second McLaren, who started from the back end of the grid, Nico Hulkenberg in the second Haas and Alpine's Pierre Gasly.

AFP

Haaland fires Man City top

FOOTBALL

AFP

Erling Haaland fired Manchester City to the top of the Premier League as the striker sealed a 1-0 win against Southampton last Saturday (Oct 26).

Haaland had gone three league games without a goal but he ended that mini drought in the first half at the Etihad Stadium to extend City's unbeaten run in the league at the Etihad to two years.

Liverpool began the weekend on top after winning 11 of their opening 12 games in all competitions under Arne Slot.

However, a 2-2 draw at Arsenal on Sunday sees the Reds fall one point behind Manchester City at the top of the table, with the Gunners now five points adrift of the leaders in third.

"We're in the business where you can be on top one week and then not," said Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk.

"We are in October and let's see what it brings us at the end of the season. Enjoy the ride."

Bukayo Saka and Mikel Merino scored for Arsenal, while van Dijk and Mohamed Salah replied for Liverpool.

Elsewhere, Aston Villa's hopes of pushing for the title suffered a setback as Bournemouth snatched a 1-1 draw at Villa Park, while Tottenham fell 1-0 at Crystal Palace.

Chelsea's good recent form continued as they beat Newcastle 2-1



Manchester City's Erling Haaland (centre) runs to celebrate after scoring the opening goal against Southampton. Photo: AFP

with Cole Palmer once again pulling the strings for the Blues, setting up Nicolas Jackson's opener before scoring the winner himself.

West Ham defeated Manchester United 2-1 thanks to a controversial injury time penalty that saw United manager Erik ten Hag sacked by the club on Monday.

At time of press, United were reportedly in talks with Portuguese coach Ruben Amorim to become their next manager.

The 39-year-old Sporting Lisbon manager is considered one of Europe's leading young coaches and United are reportedly prepared to pay his release clause in order to secure his services.

Brentford beat fourth-bottom Ipswich 4-3 in a thrilling clash in west

London, while second-bottom Wolves staged a superb fightback to draw 2-2 at fifth-placed Brighton.

The season may still only be nine games in but the improvement at Nottingham Forest under Nuno Espirito Santo is clear for all to see. Their 3-1 win at Leicester, with two goals from in form striker Chris Wood, saw them move up into 7th place in the table and just 2 points off Arsenal and Aston Villa.

Meanwhile, Everton forward Beto salvaged a 1-1 draw against Fulham as his stoppage-time header cancelled out Alex Iwobi's 61st minute strike against his former club at Goodison Park.

Although Everton are unbeaten in their last six games, they sit just three places above the relegation zone.



WAGC underway in Phuket

GOLF

THE 28TH ANNUAL EDITION of the World Amateur Golfers Championship (WAGC) got underway last Friday (Oct 25) at the Laguna Golf Club.

The competition runs until tomorrow (Nov 2), with play taking place at three additional local courses throughout the past week: Blue Canyon Country Club Lakes Course, Blue Canyon Country Club Canyon Course and Red Mountain Golf Club.

An official ceremony was staged at Angsana Laguna Phuket on Friday evening to inaugurate the event, overseen by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwanarat who welcomed over 400 competitors from 38 different countries ahead of the start of play.

Joining Governor Sophon at the ceremony were: WAGC President Irak Saminathan; Lertchai Wangtrakuldee, Director of

Tourism Authority of Thailand's Phuket Office; and Ratchadaporn Oin, Director of the Phuket Tourism and Sports Office.

Founded in 1995, the WAGC offers an inspiring tournament for amateur players, who represent their respective countries and compete on an individual and team basis.

A total of 38 flags were on display at the opening ceremony representing the 400 plus players involved, which Governor Sophon said emphasised unity and sportsmanship.

He further explained that aside from the golfing action, the event is an excellent opportunity to showcase Phuket as a world-leading tourist and sports destination to the hundreds of attendees who will have ample opportunity to explore the island and enjoy many of its offerings, which will also provide a welcome boost to local businesses and the economy. *The Phuket News*

Lobsters secure second win of the season

FOOTBALL

PHUKET ANDAMAN FC (PAFC) secured a hard-fought 1-0 victory against a spirited Yala City side last Saturday (Oct 26) to extend their unbeaten run under new coach Tum to three games.

The home side dominated the opening exchanges and arguably produced their most impressive football of the season so far.

However, the notoriously difficult playing surface at the Surakul Stadium, coupled with a sense of urgency that often led to rushed decisions, prevented them from capitalising on their early dominance.

The "Lobsters" created numerous opportunities in the first half, with the forward pairing of Torky and Bebe causing problems with their interchanging movement and link-up play with full-backs Ohm and Keng.

The deadlock was finally broken in the 16th minute through a well-worked set piece. Keng delivered a pinpoint free-kick into the box, and centre-back Mark rose highest to power a header past the helpless Yala City goalkeeper.

Despite their lack of attacking threat in the first half-hour – Yala City did not register a shot on target until the 30th minute – the visitors posed a constant threat down the left flank through the lively Sufiya.

The second half saw a shift in momentum as Yala City made two



PAFC celebrate their goal. Photo: Supplied

substitutions and adjusted their tactics to apply increased pressure on the PAFC midfield, making for a much more even contest.

While Phuket still had chances to extend their lead, Yala City grew in confidence and began to threaten the Phuket goal before the game became increasingly fractious.

A series of niggly fouls and growing frustration amongst the players culminated in the Yala City captain receiving his marching orders late in the match. This, unfortunately, led to the referee requiring a police escort off the pitch for the third time this season, a worrying trend that needs addressing.

In the dying moments, Yala City almost snatched a dramatic equaliser, but Bee produced a superb save to deny them.

The result sees PAFC positioned 10th in the 12-team league after 3 losses, 2 draws and 2 wins from their 7 games.

The next game is away at Songkhla on Sunday (Nov 3), kick-off 5:30pm.

Simon Causton

Patong Beach
Rotary
Club

REGGAE WAVES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

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