

**CANNABIS TRADERS CALL FOR SUPPORT > PAGE 6**

# ENOUGH



Tourists brave the rain to reach 'taxi app drivers' instead of using the mandated taxi service at the airport.  
Photo: via Phuket Info Center

## MOVE FORWARD MP-ELECT PUSHES FOR 'TAXI APP' DRIVERS AT AIRPORT

**The Phuket News**  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

**M**ove Forward Phuket MP-elect Somchart Te-chathavorncharoen has submitted a formal request to allow private taxi drivers using taxi apps to serve tourists at the airport. If approved, the move would break a decades-long taxi cartel stranglehold on serving tourists arriving via Phuket's critical tourism portal.

Mr Somchart posted the formal request on his official Facebook page on May 25, with a message explaining, "I have sent complaints and suggestions from people in Phuket about tourists dragging their luggage

in the rain to get a taxi through an electronic system outside Phuket Airport."

The formal request is addressed to Sutthipong Kongpool, Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT), with a copy addressed to the Minister of Transport.

The letter was also copied to Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew and Monchai Tanode, General Manager of Phuket International Airport (AoT Phuket), which is operated by Airports of Thailand (AoT).

Mr Somchart explained in the letter that had received complaints of tourists dragging their luggage through the rain to reach the main road in front of the airport just so they

could use a taxi ordered by an app.

Not expressly noted in the letter, but commonly understood, is that such tourists would rather choose the inconvenience in plain refusal to use the taxi cooperative cartel drivers operating at the airport.

"Airports in Thailand should provide convenience and safety for tourists to access their legally hired cars by providing a parking for pickup point with signs for tourists inside the airport, as is done in foreign countries such as Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, India, etc," Mr Somchart wrote.

"In my opinion, inconvenience to tourists is one of the obstacles in the Phuket tourism industry.

"Please be informed accordingly to consider the complaint," he added.

The letter was signed off marking Mr Somchart "as Acting Member of the House of Representatives, Phuket Province, Region 1." Mr Somchart is the MP-elect for Phuket Constituency 1, which comprises Phuket Town (Tallad Yai and Tallad Neua subdistricts), Koh Kaew and Ratsada.

"If I receive a reply letter, I will inform people about any progress," Mr Somchart said in his post.

### BUSES TO SERVE TOURIST AREAS

Mr Somchart continued his campaign for better public transport in Phuket by meeting with Phuket Governor...

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### Crackdown on foreigners ramped up



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### Young Louise sets women's pro golf record



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# News



**Aussie risks losing leg over infection > p5**

## MP-elect targets taxis, buses

*Continued from page 1*

...Narong Woonciew last on Friday (May 26) to discuss having buses serve tourist areas and introducing more buses to transport students to and from schools as a way of alleviating the 'school run' traffic jams on the island.

Joining the meeting, at Phuket Provincial Hall, was the Chairman of the Phuket Land Transport Control Board, Mr Somchart noted.

At the meeting, Mr Somchart presented a formal request addressed to Governor Narong detailing why the bus network across Phuket needed to be improved and expanded, including into tourist areas.

Mr Somchart said he had received complaints about the lack of buses serving people across the island, namely as the routes had not been approved by local transport officials.

"Potong buses during school hours are not enough, such as in front of Phuket Wit-

tayalai School, Satee Phuket School, Chalermprakiat School [Srinagarindra the princess mother school, Phuket] and Muang Phuket School," Mr Somchart said.

"The frequency of bus trips should be increased during school hours. Many students have to sit and wait," he added.

"Passengers and tourists do not know the route information and bus schedules throughout the province. There should be public relations [campaigns] and buses should operate to coincide with the time that has been promoted," he continued.

"The passenger pickup points [bus stops] are inconsistent with the tourist context, making it inconvenient for passengers. Buses should run more often in tourist areas," Mr Somchart said.

Mr Somchart pointed out where the Phuket Provincial Transport Committee had failed to take action over bus



Phuket MP-elect Somchart Techathavorncharoen (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) presented his formal request to Governor Narong (centre) last Friday (May 26). Photo: Somchart Techathavorncharoen / Facebook

operators failing to provide services.

"There are many routes where [bus] operators do not provide service or run at [prescribed] reduced rates. But the [provincial transport] committee has not proceeded with recalling the permit to operate the service to allocate to new operators to drive.

"The Phuket Land Trans-

port Control Board has not invited entrepreneurs to provide four new routes that have already been announced in the Government Gazette in order to facilitate people and tourists," Mr Somchart noted.

Mr Somchart provided links to show that the four new routes had been approved and published in the Government Gazette.

"Potong and air-conditioned buses should not be considered competitors [to other transport operators] because they will not be able to create new routes. There are already Potong buses operating on their routes, and passengers should have a choice of which vehicle to use," Mr Somchart said.

Having a good public transport system will help to provide a sustainable solution to traffic congestion, Mr Somchart noted.

"It will help reduce the cost of living for the people of Phuket. It will also help to promote convenience for tourists who travel by themselves (FIT), which is a group of quality tourists," he added.

"It is good for Phuket's tourism industry as a whole," he added.

Mr Somchart urged the people of Phuket to support the move to improve Phuket's public transport system to improve their own lives.

"Don't just dream, we have to do what it should be, and don't care what anyone thinks about us, especially if they are those among us who do not want to step up and make things better," he said.

"We should stop saying that this country sucks, that nothing is possible," he added.

"I invite Phuket people to get up and do it together. Don't leave it to chance. Let's

change Phuket together," Mr Somchart concluded.

### BROADSIDE

Although yet to be officially sworn into his office following their strong wins in the May 14 national election, Mr Somchart and his Move Forward Phuket MP-elect counterparts have already started tackling some of the critical issues affecting tourists and residents on the island.

Of note, the national Election Commission of Thailand on May 25 confirmed that Move Forward candidates won all three Member of Parliament Seats for Phuket in the May 14 election. The Move Forward candidates won their seats each with at least one-third more votes than their nearest competitor.

Mr Somchart last week (May 23) visited Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Sermphan Sirikong and Phuket City Police Chief Col Pratuang Ponmana to discuss ongoing violent and aberrant behaviour by taxi drivers against 'taxi app' drivers in Phuket.

Also discussed was the problem of corrupt police, or people impersonating police officers, extorting monthly payments from local people.

Mr Somchart explained after the meeting that he raised the issue of Phuket taxi drivers operating with Phuket-issued 'green' licence plates verbally abusing fully legal taxi drivers using legally approved taxi apps to pick up customers.

The main concern was ongoing conflicts between taxi drivers and he expressed concern about "mafia behaviour" by prohibiting other taxis from picking up passengers in their "own queue area", he noted.

The behaviour "destroys the reputation of the province's tourism [industry]", he said.

Mr Somchart provided links to reports of a woman taxi app driver recently being accosted as she picked up a young woman passenger in front of Malin Plaza in Patong at night.

The 'green plate' taxi driver abused the taxi app driver, Ms Thitima, who explained she was fully legal. She even has the correct official stickers issued by the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) attached to each door to publicly show that her car is registered

correctly and operating fully legally as a taxi with permission from the PLTO.

Of note, the PLTO, which since early March has strongly defended 'green plate' taxi cooperative drivers on the island while conducting a sustained campaign against "illegal" taxi app drivers, has yet to even publicly recognise the incident.

Phuket Provincial Police Chief Maj Gen Sermphan confirmed that no taxi drivers or co-operatives have any legal right to attempt to enforce exclusive rights to pick up passengers at a taxi rank in a public area, Mr Somchart reported.

Such behaviour "is not supported by the law. And in the past, there has been prosecution under the Criminal Code, Section 309," Maj Gen Sermphan said.

Mr Somchart, as MP-elect for Phuket Constituency 1, which comprises Phuket Town (Talad Yai and Talad Neua subdistricts), Koh Kaew and Ratsada, urged any people who experienced such problems with taxi drivers in his constituency to take audio and video clips of the offending taxi driver and report the incident to Phuket City Police Station.

He also urged people to send the same reports to him.

### CORRUPT POLICE

Mr Somchart last week also raised the problem of corrupt police – or imposters presenting themselves as police officers – extorting, soliciting or defrauding money from people. The issue raised included "complaints about being extorted by the police to collect tribute on a monthly basis".

"The police confirmed that the police department does not extort monthly tribute. So I proposed setting up an ambush to arrest them together so that they would know which agency they came from or if they were just imposters," Mr Somchart said.

Phuket City Police Chief Col Pratuang agreed with the suggestion, he added.

Other issues discussed included the prevalence of drugs in local communities, about which Mr Somchart said he had received many complaints from local residents.

Also discussed were leaky police accommodations, Mr Somchart added.

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# MP-elect moves on Kamala landslide risk

The Phuket News  
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**M**ove Forward Phuket MP-elect Chalermpong Saengdee, who represents Phuket Constituency 2, comprising Wichit, Chalong, Rawai, Karon, Patong and Kamala, last week kept his promise to raise the issue of risk of dangerous landslides on the main road through Kamala.

Mr Chalermpong submitted a formal request to Phuket Highways Office Director Yutthana Pitak on May 23 to solve the problem of risk of landslides on Kuan Na Yak on the Patong-Kamala Road.

Mr Yutthana said he was aware of the problem and plans were already underway to resolve the issue, Mr Chalermpong reported.

"We have laid out a solution to this problem. This will be done in the same way as Kuan Sator. [on Kata Hill, between Chalong and Kata]," Mr Yutthana said.

"Right now there is a budget jam. It will take a total of B50 million for the project. Therefore, the project will be included in the fiscal year 2024 [which begins on Oct 1]," he added.

Specifically, two large boulders dangerously beside the road cannot be removed, Mr Yutthana continued.



Phuket MP-elect for Constituency 2 Chalermpong Saengdee (centre) presents his formal request for the landslide risk in Kamala to be resolved at the Phuket Highways Office. Photo: Chalermpong Saengdee / Facebook

The boulders are holding the soil in place on the steep slope beside the road, he explained. Removing them will only let the soil collapse onto the road, he said.

Mr Chalermpong also discussed other problems, including the recent flooding of the Darasamut Underpass.

The Phuket Highways Office is currently in the process of applying for budget approval to make the necessary repairs to ensure the underpass does not flood with each heavy downpour, Mr Chalermpong said.

In the meantime, a temporary pump provided by the Phuket Pro-

vincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) has been installed to help cope with any flooding issues, he said.

Mr Chalermpong also discussed the prospect of improving the street lighting at Kalim Beach. There are only two teams of maintenance personnel that take care of that area, he said.

He will also submit a formal request to open a U-turn in front of Muang Phuket School, located just south of Chalong Circle, to help prevent and reduce accidents, he added.

## King, Queen to visit Phuket

OFFICIALS ACROSS THE island have been asked to make preparations for a royal visit by His Majesty the King Maha Vajiralongkorn and Her Majesty the Queen Suthida Bajrasudhabimalalakshana on Her Majesty's birthday, tomorrow (June 3).

The visit coincides with the Buddhist holiday Visakha Bucha, which will bring a 24-hour ban on the sale of alcohol from midnight tonight (00:01am, June 3).

Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Pinsuwan announced the royal visit to Phuket last week. Provincial officials are to organise activities to honour His Majesty the King with simplicity and honour with three ceremonies scheduled to be held.

- An alms offering ceremony to offer alms to His Majesty the King will be held at the multi-purpose yard at Phuket Provincial Hall at 7:30am.

- A ceremony to pay homage to His Majesty the King and the laying the 'Phan Phum' (พานพุ่ม) in front of his image will be held at 6pm.

- A candle lighting ceremony to honour the auspicious occasion will be at the Phuket Government Center Auditorium at 7:19pm.

The public have been invited to join the events.

The Buddhist holiday Visakha Bucha marks the birth, enlightenment and death of Prince Siddhartha all occurring on the same date, but decades apart, on the ancient Buddhist calendar.



Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Pinsuwan announced the royal visit to Phuket last week. Photo: PR Phuket

Devout Buddhists rise early to visit temples to make merit and listen to sermons on the Buddha's teachings. After sunset, candle-lit processions will take place at major temples throughout the country, with devout Buddhists walking clockwise three times around the principal chapel while clasping three incense sticks, a lighted candle and lotus buds.

Alcohol sales will be prohibited throughout the country by law, except at duty-free shops at the airport. Anyone caught breaking the ban faces up to six months in jail or a B10,000 fine, or both.

With both national public holidays occurring this Saturday, all government offices including Immigration, District Offices and the local Department of Land Transportation office will all be closed tomorrow and on Monday (June 5).

The Phuket News

## Accused Jimi Sandhu killer extradited to Bangkok

ALLEGED CONTRACT KILLER MATTHEW Dupre, wanted for the shooting of Canadian gangster Jimi Sandhu in Phuket on Feb 4, 2022, has been quietly extradited to Thailand to face a murder charge.

Last week, 10 members of the CSD's Hanuman special weapons and tactics unit led by Pol Col Wichak Tarom, a deputy CSD commander, and 30 members of a Royal Thai Air Force special operations unit, left Don Mueang airport on a special Airbus A340 flight for Vancouver, Canada, to bring Dupre back to Thailand.

The special flight, with Dupre on board, returned to Thailand and landed at Don Mueang airport's Wing 6 terminal about 11pm last Sunday night (May 28).

The airport was under tight security and temporarily closed. The flight was met by about 30 other members of the Hanuman unit and RTAF ground security.

From the airport, the suspect was taken by motorcade to CSD headquarters. His detention is now under the supervision of the Central Investigation Bureau.

About 10:30pm on Feb 4, 2022, two foreign men shot Canadian mobster Jimi Singh 'Slice' Sandhu dead in the parking lot of his rented beachfront villa in Rawai. The killers were filmed entering the villa by a security camera.

Phuket and CSD police investigators identified Dupre as one of the suspects.

On Feb 11, 2022, the Phuket Court issued a warrant for the arrest of Dupre and his alleged accomplice on charges of premeditated murder, having guns and ammunition in possession without permission and illegally carrying and



Matthew Dupre, an alleged Canadian contract killer, has been extradited from Canada on a charge of murdering Canadian gangster Jimi 'Slice' Sandhu in Phuket last year. Photo: Supplied

using the guns in public.

A police investigation later found the two suspects left Thailand for Canada on Feb 6.

The Royal Thai Police foreign affairs division on Feb 15 sent a letter to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) along with the arrest warrants. The OAG was asked to coordinate with Canada for the extradition of Dupre under the Extradition Act of 2008.

The OAG subsequently took action as requested.

The Alberta Provincial Court in Canada issued a warrant for Dupre's arrest at the request of the attorney general's office of Alberta.

Dupre was arrested on Feb 20, 2022 by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at his home in Sylvan Lake, Alberta, near Red Deer.

The Court of Alberta at Edmonton later approved the extradition of Dupre to Thailand under the 1999 Extradition Act of Canada.

The second wanted suspect killer in the case, Gene Lahrkamp, 36, died in a small-plane crash in Canada in May 2022. *Bangkok Post*



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SUN JUNE 4



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

MON JUNE 5



High: +31°

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Wind 4 m/s

TUE JUNE 6



High: +32°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

WED JUNE 7



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Wind 4 m/s

THU JUNE 8



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

## Russian man charged for street wheelies

A RUSSIAN MAN has been fined B5,000 for engaging in stunt-riding on Saiyuan Rd in Rawai, an act that sparked widespread criticism from both Thai and foreign communities, leaving Phuket thousands of netizens enraged.

Chalong Police Chief Col Ekkarat Plaiduang confirmed the charges against the man, 26-year-old Russian national Anatoli Shatalov, on May 26.

"He should have been prosecuted in court today, with the primary charge being reckless riding with disregard for the safety of others," Col Ekkarat told *The Phuket News*.

The foreigner's behaviour on Saiyuan Rd resulted in multiple charges, including riding without a helmet. However, the primary offense was driving in a manner that endangered the safety of others, he said.

Under the new points system, the offense carries a four-point penalty, equating it to the most serious violations such as hit-and-run incidents and driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics.

The foreigner's stunt-riding gained attention after being reported in the Phuket media on May 21. The news quickly went viral, accumulating approximately 4,000 reactions and 500 comments by the evening of May 25. It was at this point that Chalong Police announced the apprehension of the rider.

Chalong Police provided limited details of the incident. In particular, it was confirmed that the incident happened around 11:30pm on May 20. The location was given as "Saiyuan Rd near the entrance to Soi Huaphru in Rawai".

*The Phuket News*

Photos: Phuket Times, released by Phuket Provincial Police

## Further crackdown on illegal foreigners gets underway

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

An enhanced inspection drive aimed at preventing illegal activities being carried out by foreigners in Phuket has been launched in an effort to further curb crime and improve Phuket's image to potential visitors.

The "white accommodation scheme for foreigners" was announced by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew at Provincial Hall last Friday (May 26) to clamp down on foreigners staying illegally on the island and to monitor their overall behaviour and conduct.

The project, overseen by Phuket Immigration Chief Pol Col Thanet Sukchai, will seek to engage the cooperation of landlords who have foreigners residing at their property, including rented houses, apartments, condos and hotels. Inspectors will check that such landlords are adhering to the correct immigration reporting procedures as per Section 38 of the Immigration Act and that they are not harbouring any foreigners illegally.

Landlords will also be requested to monitor the behaviour of foreigners staying at their residence to ensure nothing inappropriate is being carried out, with a specific focus on international crime syndicates that may use



Photo: PR Phuket

Phuket as a base for their illegal ventures.

As part of the drive a team of 65 personnel from Phuket Provincial Police Division 2, Tourist Police Division 3, Immigration and the Phuket Provincial Employment Office will conduct a series of checks with landlords and property owners across the island.

The drive follows a recent visit by National Police Chief Pol Gen Damrongsak Kittipraphat who was in Phuket on May 11 to inspect immigration, while also formally opening the 'Punrak Cafe' at Phuket Immigration Office in Phuket Town.

The drive will also be looking to identify any foreigners involved in any form of illegal activity outside of immigration rules, such as drug possession or dealing, officials said yesterday.

Thus far there are over 2,000

accommodation providers and landlords operating in the project, officials confirmed.

A two-tier warning and disciplinary system for foreigners committing crimes in Phuket was launched on Mar 1. Foreigners caught committing offences that do not carry a prison sentence will be issued a yellow card warning by authorities and their landlord and respective country's consulate advised as to their misdemeanour.

A second crime or an act that is considered a dangerous threat to society will see a red card issued which will also revoke the foreigner's right to remain in the country.

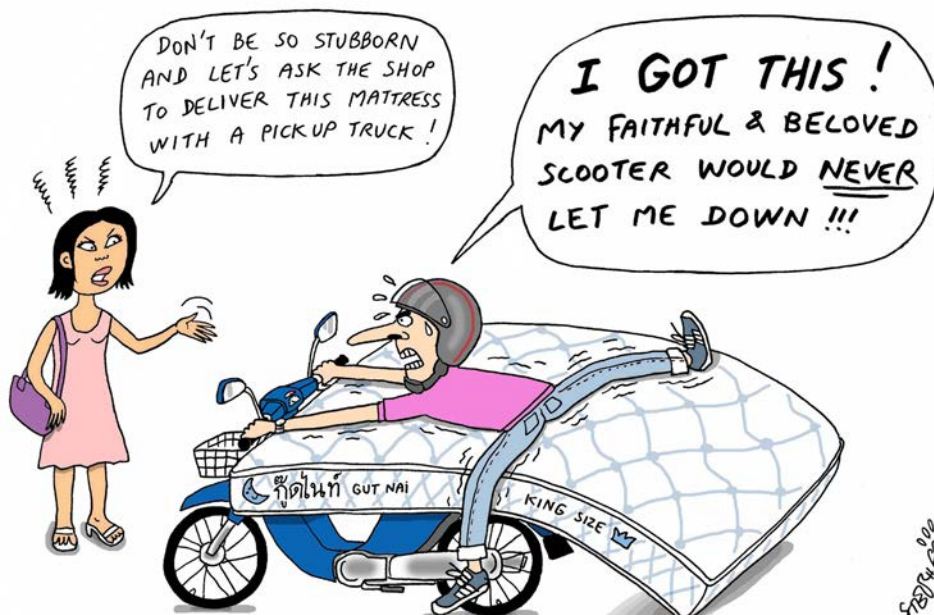
It is hoped that this crackdown on illegal behaviour will help raise confidence in the image of Phuket as a safe and desirable destination for foreign tourists to visit in future.

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By Stephff

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## Missing kids found safe

TWO CHILDREN REPORTED by their mother as missing in Rawai last week were reported as found safe, but details of what had happened to the children were not made available.

A 5-year-old boy and a 16-year-old girl failed to return home from school on May 25, prompting their mother to report them as missing persons to the Chalong Police, Phuket Info Center reported on May 26.

The last known sighting of the children was captured on CCTV near Wat Sawang Arom School in Rawai, where they were seen with two unidentified men.

Within than an hour, at 2:13pm, the centre issued an update stating that no further assistance was needed as both



The children near Wat Sawang Arom School in Rawai on May 25. Image: Phuket Info Center

the boy and the girl had been located and were confirmed safe.

No additional details were provided. Nevertheless, the original publication had already been shared over 100 times by 3pm.

*The Phuket News*

thephuketnews



# Infection risks Aussie's leg

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**S**kyrocketing medical expenses is the reason an appeal is being made for a 28-year-old Australian fighter, Timothy Schultz, who is now fighting an infection on his left leg that has posed a threat to his life.

Mr Schultz, a native of Queensland, arrived in Thailand several weeks ago to train at some of the island's gyms. However, this all changed on May 22 when he was admitted to Thalang Hospital with what appeared to be swelling of his left foot.

Within hours, doctors revealed that a severe bacterial infection had rapidly spread throughout his lower left leg. Doctors mentioned that amputation was a possibility, and while Mr Schultz has moved to Dibuk Hospital in order to get care from different medical experts, the infection has only become worse.

"Tim's lost almost all the skin from his shin down to his foot on the upper side. The infection in his lower leg is clearing, but has moved further up his leg to his knee," wrote Matt Lee-Manwar, a friend of Tim who has been



Photo: Timothy Schultz MyCause fundraising page

helping him share updates on his condition.

"The infection has led to a dangerous decline in my blood pressure and blood oxygen levels, posing an imminent threat to my life," Tim said on a fundraising page to help gather donations to cover the spiraling medical costs.

"The medical bills associated with this emergency have left me financially drained, leaving me unable to afford the

essential care and procedures I urgently require," he said.

Support has been coming in from the combat sports community on the island and abroad, as well as Mr Schultz's friends and family members. At the time of this writing, money raised totaled just under AUS\$20,000, though the cost continues to rise as Mr Schultz is receiving ongoing treatment at Dibuk Hospital in Chalong.

Mr Schultz is using his

Instagram page to provide updates on his condition, accompanied by images of the severity of the injury. There are now discussions about possibly flying Tim back to Australia to receive treatment in his home country, which would cost an additional AUD\$55,000.

To donate to Mr Schultz's MyCause page, visit 'Help me save my leg' on mycause.com.au.



Photo: PR Phuket

## DSI probes encroachment of protected Kamala forest

THE DEPARTMENT OF Special Investigation (DSI) has joined an investigation into illegal encroachment on protected forest land in Kamala.

Officers from the DSI and the Royal Forest Department (RFD) inspected the site on May 24, said Pol Lt Col Seksan Sritulakan, Deputy Director of the DSI's Regional Special Operation Division.

The team found a large rock that required a heavy machine to move blocking the way to the site where the land had been excavated and allegedly sold.

A small building at the site just had a new roof fitted and was still in new condition, showing intent to encroach on the land, Lt Col Seksan said.

"The investigation team also investigated the person who filed for the land title on the land, which is a national protected forest on Kamala Hill. The person also possesses

a rubber plantation growing in the area," he added.

At the site officers found a thick concrete wall about three metres in height separating the land from the road. Officers believe the purpose of the wall is to prevent a landslide.

"The team also found that there have already been some landslides on some parts of the land," Lt Col Seksan explained.

The investigation continued their inspection from the site along a path being cut over on Kamala Hill.

"It appears the reason to excavate the land is to create a path from Kamala to Koh Kaew to increase the value of the land," Lt Col Seksan said.

"Several plots of national forest land on Kamala Hill have been issued land title deeds following the increasing price of Phuket land," Lt Col Seksan noted.

Regardless, the officers are continuing their investigation, he said. *The Phuket News*

## Beach safety urged as Russian man drowns in Patong waves

PHUKET GOVERNOR NARONG Woonciew is urging all people visiting the beaches to heed red 'no-swimming' flags marking areas deemed by lifeguards as too dangerous to swim.

In a message to lifeguards last Sunday (May 28), Governor Narong called on lifeguards to be more strict in enforcing the 'no swimming' rule in areas marked by red flags, especially where tourists are involved.

"Officers must increase the strictness [of enforcing safety rules] to tourists wanting to swim in the water. They must take care and notify tourists that it is strictly forbidden to swim in the sea during strong wind waves or in risk areas," he said.

"This requires cooperation of citizens and tourists to obey the lifeguards on the beach. If an alarm is sounded or announced by a red flag posted on the beach, we are asking tourists to not swim in the water. This is for their safety during this period," he added.

Governor Narong's warning followed a 52-year-old Russian tourist drowning at Patong Beach last Saturday (May 27).

Maj.Chayakorn Tangsakul of Patong Police Station was notified of the incident around 7:45am after a group noticed the man's lifeless body had washed up on the shore.

Maj Chayakorn notified the Patong branch of the Phuket Charity Resuscitation Unit who went to the scene and found



Beachgoers exit the surf at Patong after receiving assistance from lifeguards on Monday (May 29). Photo: Phuket Surf Life Saving

the Russian man's body, later identified as Pavel Rafelovich.

He was declared dead at the scene and his body was taken to Patong Hospital for further examination.

Apparently he had been swimming in the sea but, due to the very challenging conditions at the time, became disoriented and ultimately drowned.

It was confirmed by authorities that the man's wife was on the shore when the incident occurred and had watched her husband drown. It was not confirmed whether any lifeguards were on duty at the time.

The couple had been staying at a hotel in Patong and had gone down to the beach early to enjoy the surf, despite heavy weather conditions making it dangerous.

Police confirmed they needed to talk to the dead man's wife further to get a thorough understanding of what happened, but stated his death appeared to be a genuine accident.

*Eakkapop Thongtub*

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# Cannabis traders call for support

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Phuket Cannabis Association is calling for support to stave off any prospect of cannabis becoming recriminalised under the coalition formed by the leading Move Forward Party.

To show their support, people were urged to sign an online petition organised by cannabis association Weed in Thailand, which represents more than 4,800 licensed cannabis operators in the country.

As of Tuesday (May 30), the petition had 6,010 signatures, comprising 3,863 citizens, 349 farms, 214 companies, 918 expats and 666 tourists. The online petition closed on Wednesday (May 31).

"The signatures to the petition will be collected from throughout Thailand. They will be printed out and handed to a lawyer, who has been fighting for the legalisation of cannabis for 10 years, to present them to the new Minister of Health," explained Poonwarit 'Thames' Wangpatravanch, President of the Phuket Cannabis Association.

"This is not just important



Photo: Phuket Cannabis Association

for Phuket, but important for Thailand as a whole," Mr Poonwarit said.

"Even though Kao Klai Party [Move Forward] said they want to criminalise it, it sounds like what Bhumjaithai wants to do with the Cannabis Act," he added.

"From this direction alone it seems like there is nothing to really worry about because it will not be back to being fully criminalised,

but what it will be is a more structured, more regulated industry, which is good for the industry as a whole. It will be more sustainable because want anything too much or too little – there needs to be a balance," he said.

"For us to be more regulated would be the best thing that can happen to us," Mr Poonwarit noted.

"I think it will be that people who do not follow the rules

would be subject to criminal legal action. I think that is a good thing, because it will only affect people who do business without licence, people who do business with underage kids and pregnant women, people who sell imported weed, which is destroying the market here in Thailand, and of course people who import illegal weed," he explained.

"So these things need to be controlled," he agreed.

"So if that is the case, why do we need the petition?" Mr Poonwarit posed. "I believe we need to be prepared. So we hope for the best, but prepare for the worst. If that comes, then we have a full arsenal in our hands [to counter the recriminalisation]," he added.

"If cannabis is criminalised again, then we will have thousands of people in support of us. We are also already working on a 'Cannabis Act' drafted by the people," he said.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

"Phuket is already the capital city of cannabis in Asia," Mr Poonwarit said with full confidence.

"The value and the volume of what is sold here legally – and illegally – is most impressive," he said.

There are more than 1,300 licensed operators in Phuket. "From what I am aware, we already have 700-800 shops [in Phuket] already open," Mr Poonwarit noted.

"Already in Thailand we have over 10,000 operators who have applied or already been issued a licence," he added.

Even if each operator sold just one gramme of cannabis a

day – the smallest baseline he could think of – the economic benefit to Phuket would still be of high importance, Mr Poonwarit noted.

According to the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the cannabis industry in Thailand is expected to be worth US\$1 billion by 2025.

"Phuket is already a tourism city. If we can increase our GDP by 5-10% with a new segment of cannabis tourism, why not? We have the infrastructure, much better than Amsterdam, where it's cold and it is wet and does not have as many places to stay. In Phuket we have a tropical climate and more than 10,000 keys, or units, where visitors can stay," he said.

"Phuket has a strong competitive advantage compared with other locations around the world regarding the cannabis industry," he said.

"Right now what we have is just the minimum. We can do more – way more – if we do it right. And we can move in more dimensions, not just the dispensaries, but also on the medical side in terms of cannabis medical tourism," he said.

## 5,000 jobs on offer at 'Job Expo Phuket'

THE PHUKET OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT of Employment will hold a major job fair this month to provide opportunities to job seekers and people looking for a career change.

The 'Job Expo Phuket 2023' will be held at the Lan Lom area of the Central Floresta shopping mall on the bypass road from 10am to 6pm on June 23-24.

Phuket Vice Governor Anupap Rodkwan Yodrabam announced the fair on May 23, joined by Pichit Singthongkam, Chief of the Phuket Employment Office.

"Job Expo Phuket 2023 is a great opportunity to allow the unemployed to apply for a job. There are more than 80 leading establishments, over 5,000 job vacancies, and with some positions people are able to know the results of the job interview immediately," Vice Governor Anupap said.

Mr Pichit explained that the theme of the event is "Creating People, Creating Jobs, Creating Careers, Pearl of the Andaman City".

"The job expo is to support government policies that want to stimulate the domestic economy and the needs of people who want to have a job and want to have a career to make money for themselves," he said.

"After the COVID-19 pandemic, the aim is to securely and sustainably improve the quality of life of all target groups of people, including the general public, new graduates, people with disabilities, the elderly, among others," he added.

"It is also a form of preparation for human resources [practitioners] to support the hosting of Expo 2028 Phuket Thailand, which will create a large number of jobs," Mr Pichit said.

Job fairs work well by directly connecting employers with job seekers, Mr Pichit



Photo: PR Phuket

noted. "They reduce costs for both parties. Employers get to learn the needs of the labour market and they see increased numbers of job applications. Job expos also highlight skills and practices required in the workplace, and job seekers can seek career guidance.

"This develops the knowledge and skills of workers so they have higher employment potential and are ready to effectively enter the labour market," he added.

Job Expo Phuket will feature job interviews on site, an exhibition of world careers in the tourism and service sectors, as well as a host of activities on the centre stage and games and quizzes with prizes to be won.

An English testing service and a professional aptitudes service will be available, as well as job registration to work abroad and career guidance and counselling.

Also to be featured at the expo are occupational talks, freelance occupation demonstrations for 20 occupations each day, franchise business shows highlighting five occupations each day and OTOP product exhibitions for 10 occupations each day.

Among the displays will be product exhibitions from Phuket prison and massage career services from the disabled club in Phuket, among others. *The Phuket News*

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# MFP to shield registered cannabis businesses

## BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The Move Forward Party (MFP) has assured registered marijuana growers and cannabis business operators that they would be protected, even when the new government re-lists cannabis as a narcotic.

The main objective of the party's plan to put cannabis back on the narcotics list under a ministerial regulation of the Ministry of Public Health is to allow all state officials, including police and the Office of Narcotics Control Board, to work fully to control the abuse of cannabis, deputy MFP leader Sirikanya Tansakun said on May 25.

Some new laws will be passed to control the use, production, growing and import and export of cannabis, which is work left undone by the caretaker government.

"I insist cannabis business operators and marijuana growers will also be protected and allowed to go about their business as usual as long as they have registered and have



Seangpirun Wongtawan, the owner of a cannabis shop in Khon Kaen, showcases her cannabis products. Photo: Bangkok Post

permission to do so. A proper announcement will be issued to ensure this," she said.

Ms Sirikanya was responding to concerns raised by groups of cannabis-related business operators and growers following MFP's promise to list cannabis as a narcotic again. The MFP made the promise in a memorandum of understanding (MoU) it signed with seven prospective

coalition partners on May 22.

Further discussions on the matter will be conducted among coalition partners when the new coalition is formed before any changes to the current legal measures used to control cannabis are proposed and implemented, she said.

At this point, business operators and marijuana growers who have registered properly with the government shouldn't

be worried, Ms Sirikanya explained.

Prasitchai Nunual, secretary-general of a civic group calling itself the Network Writing Thailand's Cannabis Future, on the same posted on Facebook an open letter intended for MFP leader Pita Limjaroenrat.

The group called on Mr Pita to handle the cannabis issue in a democratic way, saying leaping to the conclusion that cannabis must be listed as a narcotic again will adversely affect medical cannabis.

Instead of carrying on portraying cannabis as an evil product in order to justify the move to re-list it as a narcotic, the new government should discuss more seriously and openly the facts about cannabis, as the public perception of it has now been misguided by fierce anti-cannabis campaigns by two highly popular political parties, said Mr Prasitchai.

And in the next step, all parties concerned should then be allowed to take part in discussions over which forms of legal mechanisms are suitable for use to control cannabis better, he said.

## Dengue fever cases to rise

### BANGKOK

THE NUMBER OF DENGUE fever cases is expected to rise this month as Thailand enters the rainy season, with 16,650 cases and 17 deaths reported since Jan 1, the Public Health Ministry warned on Monday (May 29).

According to Opas Karnkawinpong, permanent secretary of the Public Health Ministry, the number of dengue fever cases reported this year is significantly higher than the number reported over the same period last year.

He said over half of residential areas and other public spaces such as schools, temples, factories and government offices surveyed by public health officials were fertile breeding grounds for mosquito larvae.

To prepare for the rainy season, the Public Health Ministry will work with the Education Ministry and other relevant agencies to carry out larvicide, he added.

Dr Opas said misdiagnosis has been a problem in recent months, some with fatal consequences.



Photo: Bangkok Post

With medical workers on alert for COVID-19 cases, several dengue patients have been given aspirin in an attempt to control their body temperature, which is standard practice for COVID-19 patients.

However, aspirin has anticoagulant properties, which would worsen the haemorrhaging associated with dengue fever.

Dr Opas suggested those who suspect they may have dengue fever seek immediate medical advice and avoid taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as aspirin and ibuprofen.

He emphasised that the primary symptoms of dengue fever are similar to flu, COVID-19 and leptospirosis.

Dr Opas said that the ministry would send a letter to provincial health offices to advise them on the matter. Bangkok Post

## Rights group demands investigation into murdered Lao political activist

### UBON RATCHATHANI

RIGHTS ACTIVISTS ARE CALLING on Thai authorities to impartially investigate the killing of an exiled Lao political activist who held UN refugee status.

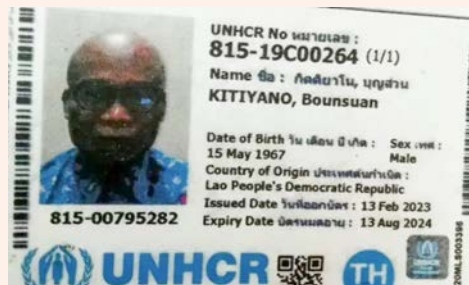
The body of Bounsuan Kitiyano was found with three gunshot wounds in the forest in Sri Muang Mai district of Ubon Ratchathani bordering Laos on May 17, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said. The initial police investigation indicated that he was shot while riding alone on his motorcycle through the forest.

Police said Bounsuan had been living in Thailand for the past five years. He reportedly had plans to go to Bangkok in the near future to file documents so that he could go to Australia as an asylum seeker.

"This cold-blooded killing of a prominent exiled Lao political activist demands an immediate response from the Thai authorities," said Elaine Pearson, Asia director at HRW. "The Thai government should urgently conduct a credible and impartial investigation into Bounsuan's death and bring to justice all those responsible."

Bounsuan, 56, was a former member of the Free Lao group and was recognised as a refugee by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). He had been involved in several protests in front of the Lao Embassy in Bangkok calling for respect for human rights.

The killing of Bounsuan in Thailand



The UNHCR refugee card of murdered activist Bounsuan Kitiyano. Photo: HRW

sends a spine-chilling message that nowhere is safe for critics of the Lao government, said HRW.

On Apr 29, an unidentified gunman shot and seriously wounded Anousa Luangsuphom, an activist and online critic of the Lao government, in the Laos capital Vientiane. Initially feared dead, it later emerged that he was alive and supporters subsequently managed to get him out of Laos for further medical treatment.

Even activists who have fled persecution in Laos to neighbouring countries have not been safe, said HRW. They pointed to Od Sayavong, a Lao human rights and democracy activist living in Bangkok, who has been missing since Aug 2019.

"The new government... has an urgent agenda to reestablish Thailand as a place where refugees are protected," Ms Pearson said, citing a consistent failure to prevent or respond to attacks against political critics of repressive governments in neighbouring countries. Bangkok Post

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# Palm ornamentals for every occasion



## GREEN THOUGHTS

Patrick Campbell

When I was a boy, I had to endure long waits on sooty railway stations – yes, it was the age of steam – whose grimy walls were plastered with posters of sun-drenched resorts with azure seas, white sands, bronzed maidens and swaying palm trees. In austerity Britain, no beach in the UK looked remotely like that: it was years later that I glimpsed my first grove of bona-fide palms as I drove a rickety ‘banger’ across southern Spain.

Those first sightings were probably of coconut palms; indeed any discussion of palm trees ought to start with *cocos nucifera*. After all, it is the most famous and the most utilitarian tree in Southeast Asia, and life without it would be unthinkable to Thais.

Every little bit has its uses – the flesh, the milk, the husk, the wood, the leaves. Most Thai curries contain coconut milk or pulp, and the juice not only makes a refreshing drink, but is the only naturally occurring liquid to have exactly the same Ph as blood plasma. When dried, the husk (copra) yields commercial oils, and the fronds make attractive and extremely durable thatching. The wood is attractively grained, and the fibres can be woven into mats and canopies. And what would we gardeners do without coconut husk as a potting mix ingredient and soil amendment? All in all, *cocos nucifera* is a treasure...

Sadly this palm is too grand for the average garden, reaching as much as 30 metres tall, but it graces many parks with distinction. Further sadly, coconut groves are a diminishing feature of the island's landscape. This inexorable decline is a consequence of the twin-pronged attack of property developers and the

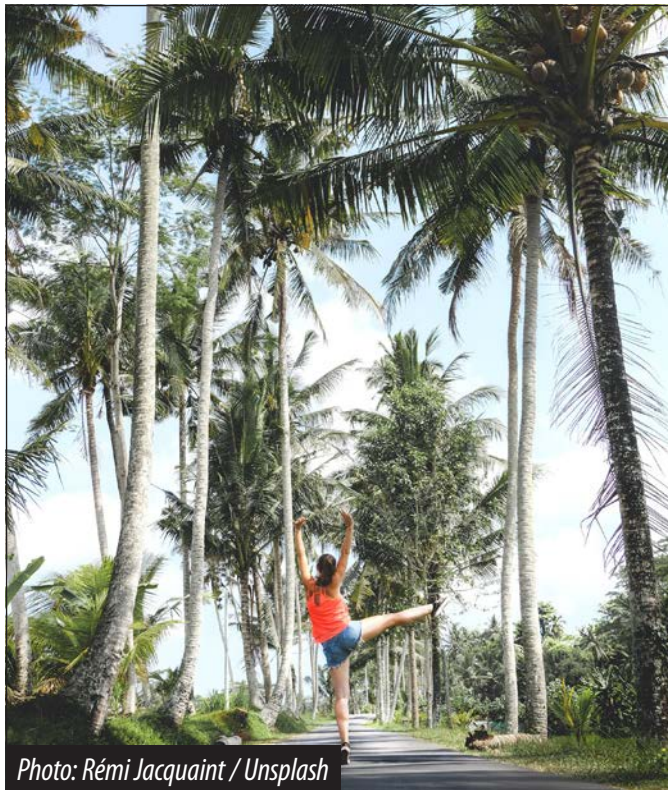


Photo: Rémi Jacquaint / Unsplash

larvae of hispine beetles.

Back to the garden and manageable palms. Of all the smaller palms, the lady palm (*rhapsis*) is probably the easiest to cultivate. One specimen will produce a clump of slender trunks which feature dark and hairy fibres. Often it is seen in garden centres with its root ball wrapped in plastic, a testimony to its durability. It is a small tree, at most three metres tall, but its great virtue is that it can survive in areas of deep shade where other sun-loving palms are difficult to grow. Its dense foliage is very eye-catching, especially when *rhapsis* is grown in clumps.

Not only is it useful for covering up those bare

patches in the garden, it is also one of the few palms that can tolerate conditions indoors. *Rhapsis* has characteristic dark green fan-shaped leaves and can be propagated by rooted offshoots. Give it plenty of moisture.

Less durable but even more striking is the genus of fan palms, or *licuala*. There are about 100 species, and some of them can be found in your local plant nursery. They have huge deeply-pleated, glossy fronds with notched edges which are nearly circular in shape. The commonest is probably *Licuala grandis*, recognisable by its deeply indented leaves. *L. orbiculis* has more symmetrical foliage and is one of the most beautiful of all the small palms. They will all grow in sun, but prefer filtered shade. What they cannot tolerate is an exposed position; the fragile, sail-like leaves need protection from strong winds.

Perhaps the most graceful of all palms is the fox-tail (*Wodyetia bifurcata*). It is a matter for regret that I did not include it in my original garden plantings, for it is a beautiful tree with little in the way of those dying and unsightly fronds that characterise some other palms. It features a slim, smooth, ringed trunk and a crown of long, delicately drooping fronds from which the leaflets radiate all around the rib. Hence the fronds' resemblance to a fox's brush. Because of its dainty appearance, it is increasingly being cultivated as an ornamental in small gardens, often situated on lawns as a specimen tree. It is also widely employed for decorating suburban avenues, on account of its neat form and low maintenance requirements. The fruits are reddish and can be used for propagation. A must for your new garden.

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: 076-61227 or 085-7827551).

# Where to in PHUKET

# eat

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# Breathing life into a classic

David Griffiths

Has there ever been a film that has divided people before it has been released as much as Disney's new real-life adaptation of *The Little Mermaid*? If you have been on social media over the past few months, it would be impossible to have not seen people projecting their predictions of the reworking of the animated family classic. Now it has been released it is easy to see that despite some cheesy moments *The Little Mermaid* is actually a pretty decent watch.

For those who don't know the story – Ariel (Halle Bailey – *The Last Holiday*) is a mermaid that yearns to know more about life on the surface – the world of the humans. Despite warnings from her friends Flounder (Jacob Tremblay – *Room*) and Sebastian (Daveed Diggs – *Hamilton*) she spends most of her time combing shipwrecks to find human artifacts. She then relies on the often-wrong information from Scuttle (Awkwafina – *Renfield*) to determine what she has found. She dreams of going to the surface but does not want to anger her father, King Triton (Javier Bardem – *Skyfall*), who forbids it after her mother was killed by humans.

Meanwhile on the surface, Prince Eric (Jonah Hauer-King – *A Dog's Way Home*) is constantly fighting against his mother, The Queen (Noma Dumezweni – *Mary Poppins Returns*) and her aide,



Halle Berry in 'The Little Mermaid' (2023). Image: IMDb

Sir Grimsby (Art Malik – *True Lies*), to be able to leave the Kingdom and explore the world in a bid to make life better for their subjects.

Ariel and Eric's worlds soon collide when Ariel rescues him from a shipwreck. Romance doesn't run smoothly though as Eric can't remember who exactly saved him. Spotting an opportunity to try and get revenge, the evil sea-witch Ursula (Melissa McCarthy – *Bridesmaids*) casts a spell that will give Ariel three days on the surface as a human but also means that if Eric hasn't kissed her during that time she becomes the property of Ursula – something that would break her father.

While this adaption does tell basically the same story as the original animated versions, it is the 'updates', so to speak, that make the heart of the

film. Director Rob Marshall (*Chicago*) uses all of his talents to bring the right mix to the film. He takes his skills as a musical director – which we have seen on show with *Chicago* and the under-rated *Nine* – and mixes it with the fact that he has been at the helm of epic films such as *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*.

It is that 'epic' feel that separates this version from the animated film, and Marshall has once again teamed up with cinematographer Dion Beebe (*Memoirs of A Geisha*) to make this film look spectacular. While the extended shots of Triton's Kingdom do stretch the film's run time, it is well worth it to see the work of Beebe, who has created something beautiful.

Of course, the big questions around *The Little Mermaid* revolve around the

cast and it must be said that they do a decent job. Halle Bailey is perfect as Ariel and it is easy to see that she has a big career ahead of her. Likewise, Jonah Hauer-King is likable as Eric and together the two do feel like they have genuine chemistry.

Javier Bardem is stoic as King Triton and shows a great brooding side and while Melissa McCarthy is under-used, she does seem to be having fun with what she is given. The stars that steal the show though are Art Malik and Awkwafina. Scuttle's lines are some of the best of the film while Malik puts in an A+ performance as the often-worried Sir Grimsby and he gets the opportunity to be the 'hero' at times and he truly embraces it.

It is hard to see too many fans of the original *The Little Mermaid* being disappointed in this adaptation. The classic songs are there, and delivered in unique reworkings, with some extras also thrown in. Yes, the story has been expanded and that works to an extent, and yes, it is different from the animated version, but if you go into *The Little Mermaid* with an open mind you will enjoy the ride.

*The Little Mermaid* is currently screening in Phuket and is rated 'G' 3/5 Stars

David Griffiths has been working as a film and music reviewer for over 20 years. That time has seen him work in radio, television and in print. You can follow him at [www.facebook.com/subcultureentertainmentaus](http://www.facebook.com/subcultureentertainmentaus)



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# POP QUIZ

1. The Dutch city of Eindhoven is the birthplace of which famous electronics company?
2. In Irish mythology, which spirit heralds the death of a family member?
3. How many bones are there in an adult human body?
4. What did Englishman Edwin Budding invent in 1830?
5. What does 'Honshu', the name of Japan's most populated island, mean?

Answers below, centre

## SUDOKU

Medium

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

## Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across
1. Muscat native
  6. Goya's "Duchess of \_\_\_\_"
  10. Dorking, e.g.
  14. Held up
  15. Cardinal
  16. Title of respect
  17. Intermittently
  20. Bug
  21. Tights
  22. Campaign
  25. Convex flower clusters
  26. U.N. agency
  30. "O, gie me the \_\_\_\_ that has acres o' charms": Burns
  32. Theseus slew him
  35. Squeal
  41. Without delay
  43. Botched
  44. Certain stanza
  45. Go bad
  47. One of three vessels
  48. Wrap
  53. Hirudinean
  56. Missile part
  58. Club-shaped tool
  63. Occasionally
  66. Defeat decisively
- Down
1. Airy
  2. "\_\_\_\_ along!"
  3. Not aweather
  4. Hardly Mr. Cool
  5. Tennyson poem
  6. Spanish 101 verb
  7. Kind of partner
  8. Flat rolls
  9. Daughter of James II
  10. Like ice cream
  11. Alphabetic system
  12. Invitation heading
  13. Domain
  18. Opposite of paleo-
  19. Sawbones
  23. Cloud
  24. Busy
  26. Prayer leader
  27. Commend
  28. Carpenters and
  29. Sounds at
- fireworks
31. Portico
  33. Kind of time
  34. Combines
  36. Astern
  37. River in southern France
  38. Ethnic cuisine
  39. Reclined
  40. It towers over Taormina
  42. Unadulterated
  46. Senescence
  48. Katzbalger, e.g.
  49. Capital west of Haiphong
  50. Dense, roll-shaped cloud
  51. Stimulates
  52. Island chain?
  54. PC "brain"
  55. Obeys
  57. Any day now
  59. Censor's target
  60. Volume
  61. Brain section
  62. Organic compound
  64. Club alternative
  65. "\_\_\_\_ Girls"

## Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Philips; 2) Banshee; 3) 206 (a baby has around 305 bones at birth); 4) The first lawn mower; 5) 'Main province'

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
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48	49	50	51	52		53		54	55			
56				57				58		59	60	61 62
63						64	65					
66					67				68			
69					70				71			

Visit: [www.ilovecrosswords.com](http://www.ilovecrosswords.com)

## Solutions to last week's puzzles:

O T I C G A L S A L L A H	2	6	4	7	5	8	9	3	1
P O O H S P A T L E A S E	7	3	5	6	9	1	2	8	4
A N T I W A R P R O T E S T S	8	9	1	2	4	3	5	7	6
L E A C H P O P E S I S	1	8	2	4	3	9	7	6	5
R O M A N T I C D E B O S E	4	7	3	1	6	5	8	2	9
A V I D A N I G O O S E	6	5	9	8	2	7	4	1	3
M A K E S L O V E N O T W A R	5	1	6	9	8	2	3	4	7
S L E E K I R A H E I R	9	4	8	3	7	6	1	5	2
S I T C O M M E N D S	3	2	7	5	1	4	6	9	8
P I S M P R O S E E R									
O C A P L O N E O S T I A									
W A G E A W A R O F W O R D S									
A L I E N I N F O M E E K									
N A C R E R E T E Y A S									

## GOT YOUR NUMBER

3

year-olds who napped after learning new verbs had a better understanding of the words when tested 24 hours later.

30

percent of people who have had a one-night stand end up in a long-term relationship because of it.

10,900

steps a day taken by employees makes them less likely to let a bad day at the office spill over into their home.

211,487

homicides in the US between 1980 and 2010 saw no arrests made at all.

300 million

US dollars a year is what the population of Japan spends on mushrooms alone.

Source: *Uberfacts*

## ISLAND VIEW



Seats available at Saphan Hin. Photo by Sutharat Khaodee

Got an unusual or particularly beautiful picture of Phuket? Email it to [exeditor@classactmedia.co.th](mailto:exeditor@classactmedia.co.th)

## This week in history

### June 2, 1962

During the FIFA World Cup, police have to intervene multiple times in fights between Chilean and Italian players in one of the most violent games in football history.

### June 3, 2017

London Bridge attack: Eight people are murdered and dozens of civilians are wounded by Islamist terrorists. Three of the attackers are shot dead by the police.

### June 4, 2018

'Day Zero' in Cape Town, South Africa, with most taps in the capital city turned off to conserve water.

### June 5, 1949

Thailand elects Orapin Chaiyakan, the first female member of Thailand's Parliament, elected as a representative for Ubon Ratchathani Province.

### June 6, 1985

The grave of "Wolfgang Gerhard" in Embu, Brazil is



Josef Mengele at Auschwitz in 1944.

exhumed and the remains are later proven to be of Josef Mengele, Auschwitz's 'Angel

of Death'; thought to have drowned while swimming in February 1979.

### June 7, 1982

Graceland opens to the public. The bathroom where Elvis Presley died is kept off-limits. The building was designated a US National Historic Landmark in 2006.

### June 8, 1949

George Orwell's 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' is published. Source: *Wikipedia*



# Trades & Services

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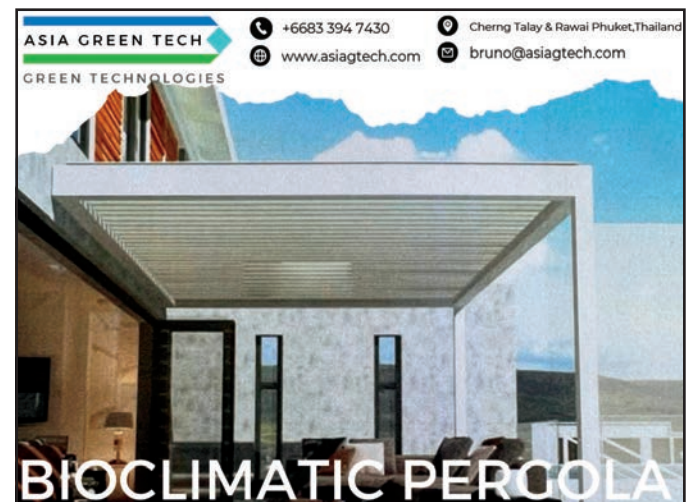
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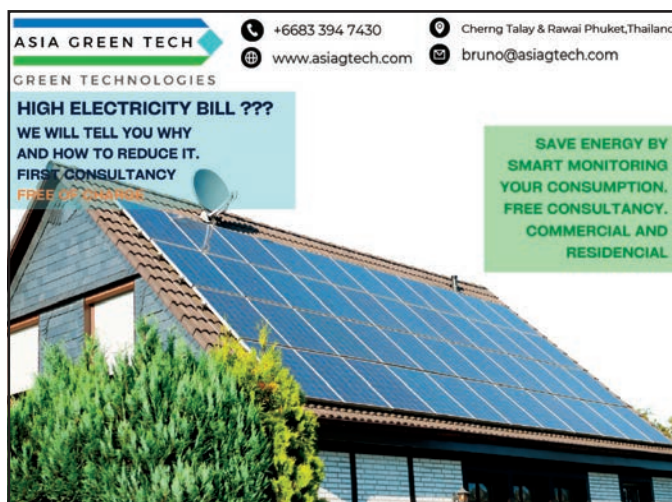
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### La Chaine des Rotisseurs Phuket Dinner - Jun 2023

The 2023 Michelin Guide-recommended Thai fine-dining restaurant, Jaras Restaurant, in Kamala, will be the venue for the Thursday June 08, 2023 dinner. An amazing menu, with paired drinks, has been created specifically for the La Chaine des Rotisseurs Phuket Dinner. Dress code - Jacket's optional for men, no jeans, with Chaine ribbon. Members - THB 6,000 p.p., limited invited guests - THB 6,900 p.p. To book your seat at this very special dinner, please visit - phuketticketmaster.com \*Pay via Bank Transfer and only pay the dinner price, booking fees only apply to other payment options. cuisine@chainephuket.com, 093 581 1494

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### Monday BBQ Night

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### Grow Boating Evening

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FRI 16 JUN

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**NAVIGATING HOTEL DISPUTES**  
9:00 - 11:00 hrs.  
Friday, 16 June 2023  
Tree House Restaurant, Blue Tree, Phuket  
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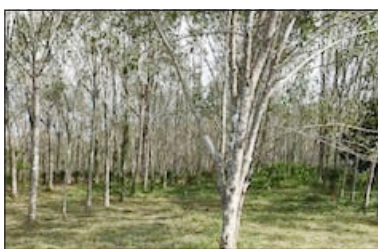
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## JOINT CHAMBERS PHUKET SUNDOWNERS HOSTED BY AUSTCHAM

Held at the Tree House at Blue Tree Phuket on Friday, May 26, the evening started with a members briefing on ways to keep your brain healthy presented by Dr Chakorn Chansakul, Neurologist from Bangkok Hospital, followed by the always well attended Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners.





# Thai shuttlers win Malaysia Masters

## BADMINTON

MIXED DOUBLES STARS Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai claimed their first title of the year at the US\$420,000 (B14.6 million) BWF Malaysia Masters 2023 in Kuala Lumpur last Sunday (May 28).

The Thai second seeds fought back from a game down to defeat fourth seeds Feng Yanzhe and Huang Dongping of China 16-21, 21-13, 21-18 in 91 minutes to capture the World Tour Super 500 title.

"I would like to congratulate Dechapol and Sapsiree for winning their first title of the year," said Thai badminton chief Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul.

"They put on a great performance today as they fought back to beat the Chinese players.

"That showed their dedication and their hunger for success and I'm sure they will be our big hopes at the Asian Games in China later this year and also at the



Photo: AFP

Paris Olympics next year."

Japan's Akane Yamaguchi won the women's singles title after beating Gregoria Mariska Tunjung of Indonesia 21-17, 21-7 in just 34 minutes, while India's HS Prannoy beat Weng Hongyang of China 21-19, 13-21, 21-18 in the men's final.

Koreans Baek Ha-Na and Lee So-Hee upset sixth seeds Pearly Tan and Thinaah Muralitharan of Malaysia 22-20, 8-21, 21-17 in the women's doubles final.

Kang Min-Hyuk and Seo Seung-Jae of South Korea won the men's doubles title after beating Man Wei Chong and Kai Wun Tee of Malaysia.

Thailand is currently hosting the \$420,000 Toyota Gazoo Racing Thailand Open 2023 at Hua Mak Indoor Stadium, Bangkok, which ends Sunday (June 4).

Bangkok Post

# Verstappen wins in Monaco

## FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato

michael@boxofneutrals.com

Max Verstappen won his second Monaco Grand Prix last Sunday (May 28) after an Aston Martin tactical misstep in a late rain shower handed him a comfortable lead.

Verstappen started from pole position alongside Fernando Alonso and held the lead off the line with a perfect start, but the pair differed in their choice of tyre for the opening stint of the race.

The Dutchman had selected the faster but more fragile medium compound, while Alonso had gambled on the more durable hard rubber.

Alonso hoped being able to run longer into the race than Verstappen without changing tyres would open the door to a safety car or late rain gifting him a cheap pit stop that might catapult him into the lead.

As luck would have it, rain appeared with 25 of 78 laps remaining.

But Aston Martin hesitated to take advantage of the opportunity. Its radar suggested the rain would be light and brief, and Alonso reported the track wasn't yet wet enough for wet-weather tyres.

On lap 54 he pitted for another set of dry-weather slicks, but as soon as he rejoined the track he realised he'd made a mistake.

The rain was coming down even heavier, and the Spaniard was forced to slip and slide his way back to pit lane



Max Verstappen battles rainy conditions at the Monaco Grand Prix. Photo: AFP

for a second tyre change.

Verstappen had retained the lead throughout and switched directly to intermediates, in doing so extending what had been an eight-second lead into more than 20 seconds.

It wasn't all smooth sailing though. His Red Bull Racing car was a handful on the treacherous track surface, and more than once he clattered into the walls, though fortunately never with enough force to cause him any serious damage.

Regaining his composure, he galloped to 27-second victory.

"It was quite hectic towards the end," Verstappen said. "I clipped a few barriers, especially on my in-lap. It was very, very difficult.

"The hard bit is that you have a good

lead but of course you don't want to risk too much – but also you don't want to drive too slow, because then you have no temperature in your tyres.

"Just trying to find a bit the middle ground initially was a bit tough, but then after a few laps I think I settled in and felt quite comfortable."

With teammate Sergio Pérez finishing 16<sup>th</sup> after starting last, Verstappen has grown his title lead to 39 points.

Esteban Ocon completed the podium for an excellent third for Alpine.

"I'm speechless at the moment," said the Frenchman. "I'm a little bit on my cloud still.

"Before the weekend, if you told us that we are going to be in the top 10, we would have been happy."

# Pajaree wins LPGA Match-Play final

## GOLF

THAILAND'S PAJAREE Anannarukarn captured her second career tour title when she defeated Japan's Ayaka Furue 3&1 in the LPGA Match-Play final last Sunday (May 28).

World number 97 Pajaree improved to 6-1 for the week at Shadow Creek in Las Vegas, Nevada, while 18<sup>th</sup> ranked Furue settled for a second consecutive runner-up finish in the event.

Pajaree, a four-time winner on the Thailand tour, took her only prior LPGA victory at the 2021 Handa World Invitational in Northern Ireland.

In the morning semi-finals, Pajaree, 24, won four of the last eight holes to defeat Sweden's Linn Grant 3&1 while Furue ousted Ireland's Leona Maguire 2&1.

In the final, Furue won the second and Pajaree took the third with pars. Pajaree parred to win the par-3 fifth and, after Furue won the sixth with a birdie, the Thai standout birdied the par-5 seventh for a 1-up edge.



Pajaree. Photo: AFP

Pajaree birdied the par-4 12<sup>th</sup> for a 2-up advantage but Furue answered by dropping her approach inches from the hole to win the par-3 13<sup>th</sup> and pull back within one.

Pajaree responded by putting her second shot inches from the hole for a birdie concession at 14 to restore her 2-up edge, then tied hole 15 with a bogey

and 16 with a par.

At the par-3 17<sup>th</sup>, Pajaree reached the green and Furue found a bunker, then blasted out a shot that struck the hole and rolled well beyond. She then surrendered the hole and the triumph to Pajaree.

"It was a great week and I'm definitely happy for everything," Pajaree said afterwards. AFP

# Trailblazer Louise continues ascent

## GOLF

Continued from page 16

...and emotional support, and even caddy-ing when required, as Marc did at the Terre Blanche Ladies Open.

The entire Landgraf family are quick to pay special thanks to her local coach Pro Golf (Prawat Prachoomsrisakul) who they say is doing an amazing job with her development, as well as her French coaches Laurent Cabanne and Thierry Abbas. They also thank Le Kempferhof Golf Club in France, the French Golf Federation team Loch Palm Golf Club, Red Mountain, Phuket Country Club and Transview Bangkok, who sponsor Louise's golf equipment.

Louise herself cites 13 time LPGA winner Brooke Henderson as her biggest inspiration.

"I look up to Brooke Henderson," she said. "She is an amazing player. I really like her attitude and the way she practices. There have been some ups and downs in her career but she always fights back.

"I really admire that fighting ability. She has been my inspiration for a really long time. I met her once and she was really kind in person, she shows me what I have to do to be there up with her."

Coming up next for Louise is a busy schedule as part of a summer tour of the United States, where she will compete in five tournaments between June 16 to July 27.

These include: FCG Collegiate at Twin Oaks, California (June 20-22); World Star of Junior Golf Championships, Las Vegas (June 27-29); FCG International Championships, St Mark golf course, San Marcos, California (July 6-7); the IMG Academy Junior World



Louise with the U-14 French International Championships trophy. Photo: Supplied

Championships, Country Club of Rancho Bernardo, California (July 11-13); and the FCG Callaway Junior World Championships, Cimarron Resort Golf Club, Palm Desert, California (July 17-19).

One thing is for ceratin – the future is definitely bright for this phenomenal young talent who has already demonstrated such huge potential. Athaya has gone on to enjoy a hugely successful career and is currently ranked number 6 in the world on the ladies' professional tour and, having already broken one record held by the Thai star, the future is Louise's to make.

While she has stated she aims to turn professional within the next five years, it would be no surprise to see Louise breaking even more records and creating even greater waves within the game before then.



# Toffees stick around as Foxes, Leeds relegated

FOOTBALL

AFP

Leicester were relegated from the Premier League just seven years after a spectacular title triumph as Everton prolonged their 69-year stay in the English top flight by beating Bournemouth 1-0 last Sunday (May 28).

Leeds will also return to the Championship after three seasons in the Premier League as their relegation was confirmed by a 4-1 defeat to Tottenham.

Abdoulaye Doucoure was Everton's hero after the Mali midfielder smashed home from the edge of the box on 57 minutes to spark jubilant celebrations around Goodison Park.

In contrast, Leicester were crestfallen as they went down, despite their 2-1 win over West Ham.

Everton began the afternoon in control of their own fate but put a raucous support of 40,000 fans at Goodison Park through the mill before securing survival.



Everton's Abdoulaye Doucoure (left) celebrates scoring the goal that preserved the club's top flight status. Photo: AFP

"There's cracks here but it's not broken and we've shown that. We've shown the fighting spirit," said Toffees' manager Sean Dyche. "We shouldn't be in this position and we've got to learn from this."

Leicester did what they had to do on the day as the Foxes won for just the second time in 17 games.

But it was too little, too late for a talented squad that badly underperformed this season.

Leeds required a series of results to go in their favour and never gave themselves a

chance as Harry Kane opened the scoring after just two minutes at Elland Road.

"It's professional suicide," said Leeds boss Sam Allardyce of his side's start. "We made critical errors at the wrong period of time."

Victory for Spurs was not enough to secure a place in next season's Europa Conference League as Aston Villa beat Brighton 2-1 to seal seventh place.

Arsenal put the disappointment of their demise in the title race behind them to round off their season on a

high as Granit Xhaka scored twice in a 5-0 thrashing of Wolves, while champions Manchester City were beaten 1-0 at Brentford.

Manchester United made sure of third place with a 2-1 win over Fulham as fourth-placed Newcastle were held 1-1 at Chelsea.

But the game of the day came at St Mary's where already-relegated Southampton and Liverpool played out a pulsating 4-4 draw.

Meanwhile, Luton Town ensured they will be playing Premier League football next season for the first time after they defeated Coventry City in a penalty shootout in the Championship Play-Off Final at Wembley on Saturday.

Luton were a non-league club just nine years ago and were close to going out of business altogether yet have risen through the divisions and will now be competing in the top league.

They join Championship winners Burnley and runners-up Sheffield United as the three teams promoted this season.

Additional reporting by  
The Phuket News



## 'Nurses Run for Well Being' promotes local healthcare

RUNNING

LOCAL NURSES AND healthcare personnel undertook a fun-run on May 21 to celebrate the Phuket healthcare system and promote healthy living across the island.

The "Nurses Run for Well Being 2023" saw over 600 people take on the 5-kilometre challenge at Suan Luang in Phuket Town.

The activity was organised by the Phuket Nurses Club to promote local healthcare facilities and personnel through exercise and to build stronger and closer relationships between healthcare personnel and the public.

It was the second year the run had been staged and plans are for it to become an annual occurrence, organisers confirmed.

There were stations present where attendees could undergo basic health checks, including blood pressure tests. Similarly,

numerous stalls offered healthy food and beverages in an effort to promote healthier lifestyles among Phuket residents.

Prizes were distributed to finishers at the finish line, while the first 150 finishers also received a 1-kilogram bag of rice.

The event was inaugurated by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciw who was joined by Dr Weerasak Lorthongkham, Director of Vachira Phuket Hospital; Saroj Angkhanapilas, Mayor of Phuket City; and Supattra Thamthittan, President of the Phuket Nursing Club.

"Nurses are extremely important personnel in the healthcare system that provide an invaluable service to the public by making patients feel comfortable and safe while in care," commented Dr Supattra.

"The importance of a healthy lifestyle cannot be understated so an activity like this run is an appropriate one to encourage a healthier lifestyle for all," he added.

The Phuket News

## Thai FA imposes stiff penalties for SEA Games final brawl offenders

SEA GAMES

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION of Thailand (FAT) has handed out lengthy bans to two players, two officials and a coach over the brawls that marred the men's final at the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Phnom Penh.

Indonesia beat Thailand 5-2 in extra time in Phnom Penh on May 16 but the match degenerated into violence as players and staff from both sides clashed on the touchline.

Thailand had three players sent off and finished the game with just eight players on the pitch.

The FAT apologised and promised a swift investigation. On May 23 it announced a one-year ban from the national team for a goalkeeping coach and two team officials.

"The fact-finding team agreed unanimously that as adults, the goalkeeping coach and team officials should be mature enough to control the situation and set a good example for the players, who



A scene from the brawl on May 16. Photo: AFP

are aged under 22," the FAT said in a statement.

"They should not lead or take part in the incident."

Goalkeeper Soponwit Rakyard – who was red-carded after he ran half the length of the pitch to deliver a diving punch – was banned from the national team for six months.

Substitute Teerapak Pruengna was also given a six-month ban.

"While they took part in the incident, they were under match pressure and have apologised, and they are young - these are reasons to decrease their penalty," the FAT said.

Indonesia went into the

final hoping to restore pride following a deadly stadium disaster and the loss of hosting the Under-20 World Cup.

But the match will be remembered for the chaotic scenes that erupted in the 97<sup>th</sup> minute when Thailand – who had been down 2-0 – scored to make it 2-2 and force extra time.

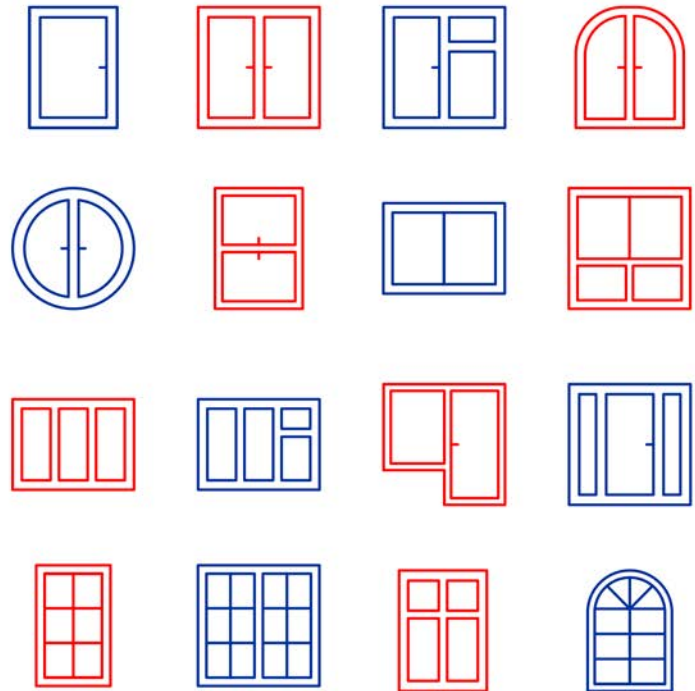
Thai officials celebrated by running over to the Indonesia bench, prompting the first melee, and there was more trouble when Indonesia retook the lead early in extra time.

Men's football at the biennial SEA Games is played between under-23 sides.

Bangkok Post



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# Sport



**Thai shuttlers win Malaysian Masters > p14**

# RISING STAR

## Louise the youngest ever female pro tour winner



Louise with the winner's trophy at the Terre Blanche Ladies Open, southern France, on Apr 15. Photo: Supplied

### GOLF

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**A**vid followers of local golf and keen readers of *The Phuket News* will need no introduction to Louise Landgraf, the young amateur golfing prodigy who has been trailblazing through the sport over recent years.

However, things have gone to an altogether different level after Phuket resident Louise made history by becoming the youngest ever female winner on the professional tour when she triumphed at the Terre Blanche Ladies Open, part of the Ladies European Tour Access Series, on Apr 15 at the age of 14 years, 2 months and 18 days.

In doing so she broke the record previously set by young Thai sensa-

tion Atthaya Thitikul who won the Ladies European Thailand Open in 2017, aged 14 years, 4 months and 19 days old.

Battling not only tough opponents but adverse weather conditions at the Domaine de Terre Blanche Golf Resort in the south of France, where high winds meant the competition had to be shortened to two rounds, Louise finished with hugely impressive scores of 69 and 74, sinking five birdies during her round to ultimately end 2 shots over par.

Entering into a three-way play-off against Pasquale Coffa of the Netherlands and Charlotte Liautier of France, Louise kept her cool and focus to win the match and subsequently claim the record.

However, proving that her mind was purely focused on her game, Louise admitted after her victory that she was unaware she had broken the

record and, while clearly delighted, maintained her typically humble and respectful manner.

"I wasn't aware I had broken a record," said Louise, who was born and raised in Phuket to a Thai mother and French father and who now competes for France. "But after I got the news I was definitely surprised because I beat Atthaya Thitikul which is pretty cool to achieve at a young age."

"That win has got her to where she is now and it is nice to follow her footsteps. She is such an amazing player, she's really consistent, that's where I hope to see myself in the next few years."

"I feel great after the win," she added. "I feel I have accomplished something really good. Especially, to win on a professional tour is something I've wanted to accomplish for a really long time."

"It definitely shows me what I am able to achieve and definitely gives me a boost of confidence in other tournaments."

"I exceeded my expectations by a long way. My dad was my caddie this week. He used to caddie for me a lot when I was younger, so it was really nice for him to join me this week."

### PRODIGIOUS TALENT

Following her record-breaking success, Louise then followed up by competing at the under-14 French International Championships at Chantilly Le Vineuil Golf Club, Chantilly, France on Apr 20-22.

Her prodigious talent shone once again as she posted scores of 71 (par), 68 (-3) and 67 (-4) to finish on a total of 7 under par and claim the overall win.

The final stop on Louise's Euro-

pean tour was the Jabra Evian Ladies Open, where she received an official invitation to compete from the Ladies European Tour following her win at the Terre Blanche Ladies Open.

Competing in an extremely tough field, Louise made the cut after 2 rounds and finished 6 over par to place a hugely credible 39<sup>th</sup> out of a total of 132 players.

The three combined tournaments means Louise is currently ranked 92<sup>nd</sup> in the Ladies' World Amateur Golf Ranking and 601<sup>st</sup> on the World Ladies Rolex Golf Ranking.

Louise, a keen year 9 student at British International School, Phuket and part of the High Performance Golf Academy, credits her father Marc and mother for supporting her and helping her to get where she is now. Both parents travel with her on overseas trips, providing logistical...

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## Phuket launches international educational golf academy

### GOLF

BLUE CANYON COUNTRY Club Phuket has partnered with the Junior Asian Golf Academy (JAGA) to establish the first full-time golf training and education institute in Phuket.

The scheme will provide opportunities for aspiring young golfers to be coached and mentored by a reputed golfing academy while aligning with a comprehensive education program.

The program covers students in grades 7-12 (equivalent to Thai

junior high school) and is run in collaboration with Canada's Northern Pre-University (NPU), which will offer the education syllabus covering subjects such as mathematics, science and languages.

Numbers will be limited to a total of 30 students per year and the course adheres to the international academic calendar, beginning this September. Tuition fees start at B550,000 per year, which may rise dependent on the intensity of the golf specific studies.

NPU is a division of the Ontario Virtual School, which offers a wide range of customisable and



Praphan Asawaaree (left) and John LaRoche. Photo: PR Phuket

personalised academic services for local and international partners and independent students. It is especially popular among elite athletes as it is flexible and can thus be adapted around sports studies. NPU aligned courses have paved the way for many

athletes to gain college scholarships and created opportunity for athletes to compete in a range of professional tournaments across a wide range of sports.

"We are delighted to partner with Blue Canyon Country Club, one of Asia's finest golf courses," commented John LaRoche, President of JAGA, on May 22.

"Through this partnership, we aim to foster the talents of young golfers and provide them with unique opportunities that encompass both skill development and quality education," he added.

"Our partnership with NPU

ensures that JAGA students receive an education of international standards to support their growth and success in their chosen field."

Praphan Asawaaree, CEO of Blue Canyon Country Club, said, "We are proud to partner with JAGA, this innovative golf academy. And as a result, we share a vision of integrating golf into instruction to give young golfers the opportunity to achieve success together."

"It aims to build the future of golf in Asia and continue to produce valuable people in the golf industry."

For more information visit [www.jaga-bluecanyon.com](http://www.jaga-bluecanyon.com). *The Phuket News*