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# THE GIFT



Patong Entertainment Business Association President Weerawit Kreuasombat stands alongside Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin during his visit to Bangla Rd in August. Photo: PR Phuket / file

## NIGHTLIFE VENUES TO BE ALLOWED LATE CLOSING AS 'NEW YEAR'S GIFT'

**The Phuket News**  
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Deputy Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, who also serves as Minister of Interior, on Monday (Oct 30) confirmed that the government will allow bars and nightclubs to operate until 4am starting from the New Year holiday period onwards in an effort to stimulate the economy.

Mr Anutin arrived in Phuket last week to explain that the ministerial guidelines to allow nightlife venues to remain open to 4am are to be ready by Dec 15 – in time for venues and local officials to prepare for the late closing during Phuket's peak period during the tourism high season.

Mr Anutin revealed the prospective deadline after a meeting held at

Phuket International Airport with the provincial governors from all six Andaman coast provinces on Oct 26, making it clear to the provincial governors that "all sectors must work together to build confidence in the safety for tourists to strengthen the economy through tourism in a stable and sustainable manner".

The six southern Andaman provinces are outstanding in tourism and make Thailand a top destination for tourists around the world, the Deputy Prime Minister said.

"It is important to increase the number of tourists, and provide for the safety in both life and property of both local people and tourists," he said, according to an official report.

"Therefore, confidence must be built," Mr Anutin continued. "Therefore, we emphasise that every

province has in place comprehensive safety measures."

Regarding the 4am closing regulation, Mr Anutin asked the provincial governors to use local mechanisms to listen to people's opinions.

"Another important part is business operators and local residents. We must cooperate in strict compliance with the law to create safety and confidence for citizens and tourists," he added.

"If all operations are carried out according to the specified time period, it is likely that such guidelines will be released around December 15, 2023, which is considered another government policy that will create an even distribution of income at all levels.

"It will create an opportunity to stimulate the economy for the province and Thailand," Mr Anutin

concluded.

Mr Anutin's comments in Phuket came just hours after Deputy Government Spokesperson Traisuree Taisaranakul said an agreement for the Interior Ministry to draft the new late-closing regulation was achieved at a meeting chaired by Interior Ministry Deputy Permanent Secretary Chamnanwit Terat.

The meeting was attended by representatives from concerned agencies including the Tourism and Sports, Transport, Finance, Social Development and Human Security, Public Health, Labour and Justice ministries, the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), the Royal Thai Police, the Office of Narcotic Control Board (ONCB) and the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA).

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## News



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# MP questions Patong Tunnel delay

The Phuket News  
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Phuket MP Chalermpong Saengdee has questioned the delay in proceeding with the construction of the Patong Tunnel with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, with the Deputy Minister of Transport present.

MP Chalermpong presented his case to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Oct 26, explaining that Patong as a tourist destination is a main source of income, and safe access to the town is vital.

"Each year there are a large number of both Thai and foreign tourists coming to visit. But aside from tourists, there are many residents in the area, most of whom live in Kathu subdistrict, who each day travel back and forth between Kathu and Patong to work to earn money to support the family.

"Traveling to Patong City is mostly done by car and motorbikes. There are only three routes. The Kamala-Patong Road (Route 4030) and the Karon-Patong Road (also Route 4030) are considered the long way (round) if traveling from Phuket Town.

"Wichit Songkhram Rd (Route



Photo: Chalermpong Saengdee / Facebook

4029) is the shortest distance, making it popular for traveling by citizens and tourists. But it is a route that must pass through steep mountains. There are dangerous curves on the slopes, especially during the rainy season. Accidents often occur, causing traffic and property damage. Road users are injured, and many times there are deaths of both Thais and foreigners," Mr Chalermpong explained.

"Not long ago there was an accident involving a pickup and a truck. Tourists have accidents, falling off the mountain, and there are many other similar accidents," he added.

Mr Chalermpong pointed out that the idea for building a tunnel between

Kathu and Patong was raised more than 20 years ago.

"In fact, there has been a study of the construction of the Kathu-Patong tunnel a long time ago, since the time of the late former Mayor of Patong, Mr Pian Keesin, in 2000.

"If built at that time, the budget would be B2.4 billion, but the project was delayed, and until now there hasn't been any progress yet," he said.

"Out of necessity and the needs of the people in the area plus the fact that Patong is a world-known tourist city, traveling to and from there is therefore considered an urgent and important matter that today Patong people and the public in general can't

wait for any longer," he said.

"Today, I would like to ask the President and pass on to the Deputy Minister of Transport that the government, through the Ministry of Transport, carry out the Kathu-Patong tunnel construction project joining Wichit Songkhram Rd and Phra Metta Rd (in Patong)," he added.

Mr Chalermpong explained the plans currently set out to build the 1.85km tunnel and to develop the supporting main roads to provide access to and from the tunnel.

"When will this project be done? And what will the government do to solve the problem [of traffic accidents] while waiting for the construction of the Kathu-Patong tunnel? How will they protect people's lives from accidents that frequently occur on this route? Ministry of Transport, how will you fix this problem?" Mr Chalermpong posed.

Mr Chalermpong thanked the Speaker and the Deputy Minister for Transport.

"I also have related questions. I would like to ask the President and pass on to the Deputy Minister of Transport that Luang Pu Supha Road in Chalong Subdistrict is another route that connects Patong with Phuket Town. This project

has been under construction since 2022," he said.

"But the current road condition is heavily damaged. It is hardly usable. The road used the budget of the local government organisation [PPAO] for construction. But if it is improved to be usable, It will become one of the options for people traveling to Patong. Is this possible?" he asked.

"Will the government, through the Ministry of Transport, be able to carry out the project to improve said road for our brothers and sisters in Patong, and brothers and sisters in Phuket? And if so, how?"

The project ground to a halt in April after 13 companies failed to enter a bid, ahead of Phuket losing its bid to host a World Specialised Expo in 2027-8.

The same day that Phuket lost its World Expo bid (June 21), the Expressway Authority of Thailand (EXAT) announced that the relevant law had been passed for the government to expropriate the land needed to build the Patong Tunnel. Acquiring the land was expected to take about 24 months, EXAT explained.

However, since then all government agencies involved in the project have fallen silent about any progress on the project.

## Late nightlife closing expected to boost tourism industry revenues

Continued from page 1

This initiative followed a Cabinet resolution on Oct 13, directing the Interior Ministry to work with relevant agencies to explore ways of extending the operating hours of entertainment venues in certain tourist areas to spur tourism and spending during high seasons.

### LATE ARRIVAL

Patong nightlife operators have been calling for later closing times for nearly two decades, with some signs of finally making progress under previous Tourism & Sports Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn.

The move to allow 4am closing received overwhelming support during Mr Phiphat's visit to Bangla Rd last year.

While Mr Phiphat prudently said that many factors, including the impact on the local community, needed to be considered, the government was looking into allowing later entertainment venue closing times in popular tourist areas.

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin encountered similar support for extending nightlife trading hours during his visit

to Bangla Rd in late August.

### PRAISE

Local businessman Preechavude 'Prab' Keesin, owner of the Pisona group of companies and son of former Patong Mayor Pian Keesin, praised the move to finally allow late trading for nightlife venues.

"We are pleased to support and are fully ready to support the extension of the opening hours of entertainment venues until 4am, and call on the government to look at the reality of the context of foreign tourists' access to services in Phuket," he told *The Phuket News*' Thai-language sister-newspaper *Khao Phuket*.

"We also agree that extending entertainment hours until 4am will greatly stimulate the economy of Phuket and Thailand, and help to distribute income to citizens who provide services related to tourism as well," he added.

"It will definitely help the economy. When the potential of late trading is increased, we have more time to make more money. More taxes will be collected, more people will have employment, and more people will have more



PM Srettha receives a bouquet from Patong businessman Preechavude 'Prab' Keesin during the PM's visit in August. Photo: PR Phuket / file

confidence in committing to investment and the economy," Mr Prab said.

Even if launched for just a trial period in tourism areas in the country, Mr Prab expects great returns from the policy change. "In terms of stimulating the economy, I personally believe that from the original B2 trillion expected to be generated from tourism may become B4trn or even B6trn in the future," he said.

### SAFETY

Mr Prab noted that extending the trading times for nightlife venues will actually help to improve safety for tourists in the town.

"When entertainment venues close at midnight or 1am,

tourists will buy drinks at convenience stores and then sit and eat and drink on the beach. This creates a risk of crime, and even increases the risk of tourists drowning at night. It affects the protection and safety of tourists in various aspects. We want to have sustainable tourism driving the economy and community of Patong as a destination for tourists around the world," he said.

Mr Prab denied that nightlife operators were leveraging to allow venues to remain open 24 hours a day.

"We don't have to open 24 hours a day; 4am is enough. If we close at 4am, it leaves staff with enough time to get home without disturbing anyone,

and staff who are parents will be able to get home in time to take their children to school," he said.

### SUPPORT & OBJECTIONS

The Public Health Ministry has declared that it has no objections to the government's proposal to extend the operating hours of nightspots, though it says preventive measures must be in place when the regulation is introduced.

Public Health Minister Dr Cholnan Srikaew said last Saturday (Oct 28) that the ministry is ready for the proposed regulation because its approval must be based on three criteria: clear zoning for entertainment venues; target groups; and preventive measures (for health concerns), reported the *Bangkok Post*.

However, Wissanu Srithawong, a manager for public policy of the StopDrink Network, said the policy is likely to do more harm than good. If the government is really set on it going ahead, proactive measures should be put in place first, he said.

Citing surveys, he also claimed most people do not

support it. Mr Wissanu said the number of people who are expected to benefit from the regulation is relatively small and the policy itself will affect more than 70% of people who do not drink.

He said ameliorative measures are a must if the government insists on pushing ahead. One idea is to create a fund, with money drawn from the liquor and related industries, to provide compensation to anyone affected.

He said the fund should start with B5 billion to B10bn per year. It could cover expenses for those who need medical treatment to help them quit drinking.

"Healthcare agencies are still debating who should pay for medication to help treat alcohol abuse, estimated at B100,000 per head.

"The B5-10bn fund is a good start because drinking doesn't only cause injuries and deaths but also financial problems and family issues," he said.

He said night entertainment venues are part of the problem and so they should pay, adding how much each industry should contribute should be studied.



# SWAT ends villa siege

## All nine arrested in raid to be blacklisted, deported

**Eakkapop Thongtub**  
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Nine people arrested at a luxury villa at Laem Singh will be prosecuted then banned from re-entering Thailand for life after a Special Operations and Tactics (SWAT) Unit brought to an end an hours-long siege that began when two Phuket Immigration officers were assaulted by a private security detail.

The incident began at about 11:15am on Oct 26, when two Phuket Immigration officers arrived at the villa, located on a hill in the Laem Singh area, in Cherg Talay, to execute an arrest warrant for an Indian man overstaying in the country.

However, a large number of foreign private security personnel prevented the officers from entering the villa and making the arrests. The bodyguards obstructed the officers and assaulted them. In the assault, the three immigration officers were injured by one of the men wielding a baseball bat.

The Immigration officers retreated and the bodyguards blocked the entrance to the villa with two cars. One of the bodyguards was report-



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

edly carrying a weapon that was similar to a firearm.

The Immigration officers called for backup, and the Phuket Provincial Police SWAT team soon arrived, starting a siege that lasted four hours. The SWAT team eventually entered the villa grounds and secured the area.

At the villa, there were almost 20 cars and an ambulance. Inside the villa were various wild animals such as a lion cub, pythons and mar-

parrots. Park officials were called in to inspect permits for keeping such animals. Offices also found inside the home more than 30 drones.

The officers took all the foreigners arrested at the scene to Cherg Talay Station, where during questioning police learned that the villa was being rented by an Indian man and his Ukrainian wife. They had been staying at the villa for about three months. Apparently the villa, on a plot of about 10 rai with sea views,

is valued at about B500 million.

Responding to claims online that the Immigration Bureau was trying to play down the incident, Pol Lt Gen Itthiphol Itthisanron-nachai, Commander-in-Chief of the Immigration Bureau, himself arrived in Phuket the next day (Oct 27) to hold a press conference and provide a "morale boost" and financial assistance to the three officers injured while attempting to serve the overstay notice.

The six men arrested for the assault on the three immigration officers were named as India-Vanuatu dual national Nikhil Arora, 36 (staying on a Privilege visa) along with five Indian nationals: Sanjay Shetty, also named Bunts Balakrishna Shetty, 30 (15-day stay); Arshdeep Singh Bedi, 28 (60-day stay); Charmanna Kolumadanada Uthappa, 25 (60-day stay); Nitin Khanna, 39 (15-day stay); and Manoj Kumar, 32 (60-day stay).

Also confirmed as charged with overstay were Russian national Shkodo Georgii, 33 (overstay of 60 days); Indian national named as 'Kartik Kartik', 29 (two days overstay) and fellow Indian national Yuvraj Saxena, 25 (also two days overstay).

"Police are to file criminal pro-

ceedings had been instructed for all criminal charges to be prosecuted and to revoke the visas for foreigners," Pol Lt Gen Itthiphol said, according to one official report.

"Everyone involved is to be blacklisted and deported from the country, along with a public relations campaign for foreigners to acknowledge that when coming to Thailand they must adhere and strictly comply with the law," he added.

The owner of the villa, unnamed in the reports, will be fined for breach of Section 38 of the Immigration Act, which requires property owners and managers to report to Immigration any foreigners staying at their properties, Pol Lt Gen Itthiphol also said.

"Officers have been ordered to carry out action in criminal cases and the Immigration Act is to be strictly enforced, especially against foreigners who behave illegally and are not afraid of the law," he added.

"I would like to warn foreigners who behave like this. The work of the officials has already been carried out in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. Unwanted and incorrect behaviour that pose a threat to society must be dealt with in strict accordance with the law," he said.

## Regional dialogue spotlights fight against child sex abuse

AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR to Thailand Angela Macdonald and Royal Thai Police Deputy Chief Pol Gen Surachate Hakparn were in Phuket last week to take part in the 'Countering Child Sexual Exploitation Regional Dialogue Thailand 2023' held at the SAii Laguna Phuket resort in Cherg Talay.

The event, held Oct 23-27, hosted law-enforcement officials and representatives of NGOs from nine countries, namely Thailand, Australia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam.

Gen Surachate, who also serves as Director of the Police Crime Suppression Division, explained at the event, "This meeting is to focus on international collaboration, working across borders and strengthening regional cooperation to combat child sexual abuse and various other forms of child exploitation.

"The collaboration is between the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and law enforcement agencies in Southeast Asia to cooperate and increase expertise in various fields,



Photo: Australian Embassy

aiming to develop regional capacity to combat child sexual abuse to be most effective," he added.

Joining the event was Helen Schneider, Commander of the Australian Federal Police and Commander of the AFP's Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation and Human Exploitation.

Gen Surachate highlighted the long-established collaboration between the Royal Thai Police and the Australian Federal Police. "It has always been very good in various aspects, whether it is Operation Taskforce Storm or the establishment of a transnational crime prevention and suppression network to coordinate between agencies," he said. Royal Thai Police task forces often travel to Australia for training, he added.

"The Royal Thai Police

Office has given great importance to the problem of child abuse. It has established the Center for the Protection of Children, Women, Families, and targeted prevention and suppression of human trafficking and the fisheries sector," Gen Surachate said.

In the first nine months of 2023, the Royal Thai Police investigated 411 cases of child abuse. During the same period last year, there were 482 cases, he noted.

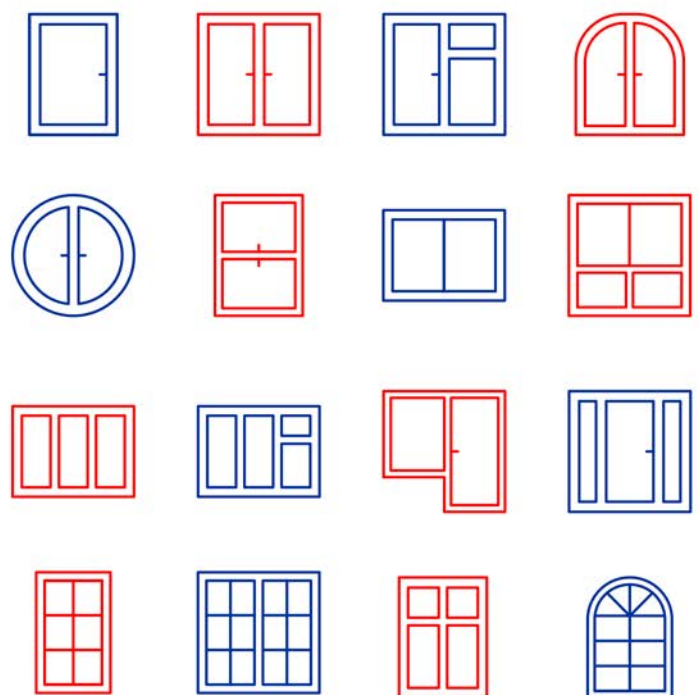
The highest number of arrests were for possession of child pornography (164 cases), followed by sexual abuse (154 cases) and human trafficking (75 cases). The number of human trafficking cases was the highest in nine years, Gen Surachate said.

"Last year, the Royal Thai Police launched its 'D.A.R.E 2 C.A.R.E.' project to educate children and youth in educational institutions, and in 2023 it has been expanded to parents and communities to enable parents and communities to participate in preventing their children from being abused," Gen Surachate explained.

Eakkapop Thongtub



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## PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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SAT NOVEMBER 4



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SUN NOVEMBER 5



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

MON NOVEMBER 6



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE NOVEMBER 7



High: +32°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

WED NOVEMBER 8



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Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

THU NOVEMBER 9



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## Taxis afire over illegal drivers

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

More than 100 public transport drivers, including drivers of metered taxis, 'green plate' taxis and passenger vans, gathered at Phuket Provincial Hall last week to call for the provincial government to ramp up action against private cars being used illegally as taxis through taxi apps.

Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Pinsuwan met with a selection of taxi driver representatives at the Damrongdharma Center (Provincial Ombudsman's Office) to receive the formal complaint, submitted by Manatsanan Na Thalang.

Legal taxi drivers were suffering because of people illegally using private cars as taxis, she said, adding that the drivers requested that the complaint be brought to the Phuket Governor's attention so he could order the Phuket Land Transport office (PLTO) to take action.

Present at the meeting to represent the PLTO was Kornphithak Asanasuwan, who



Photo: PR Phuket

defended the PLTO's action against illegal taxi drivers.

Every issue regarding taxi drivers that has been brought up has been met and resolved, Mr Kornphithak assured, according to an official report of the meeting, held on Oct 24. A letter has been sent to the Department of Land Transport regarding issues such as the matter of registration and the large number of cars in Phuket being used as taxis, he added.

According to the PLTO official statistics, as of Aug 31, 2023, there were 4,300 'green plate' taxis registered in Phuket. There were a further 6,800 "non-regular buses" (public service vehicles with

no fixed route, meaning cars, vans and buses issued 'yellow' licence plates), as well as 600 metered taxis, 514 tuk-tuks and now 1,100 private vehicles permitted to provide taxi services through taxi apps.

However, Mr Kornphithak at the meeting admitted that some people had been found using fake stickers to mark their private cars as legal 'taxi app' cars. All legally registered 'taxi app' cars must bear stickers issued by the PLTO to publicly identify the vehicle as legally registered to provide taxi services.

"If you find any, take a photo and contact the transportation office [PLTO] so they

can check," he said.

During the last fiscal year (Sept 30, 2022-Oct 1, 2023), the provincial transportation office had received more than 1,000 complaints about taxis and issued the full B2,000 fine and issued 90-day suspension of the driver's licence in each case, Mr Kornphithak said.

"Every case in Phuket province will be like this, and proceed according to every law. This is for the benefit of the people of Phuket Province and is fair to all parties," he said.

## DOUBLE BARREL

Meanwhile, at a separate meeting held at the PLTO offices near Saphan Hin that same day (Oct 24), local taxi drivers were warned of what behaviour was acceptable ahead of the upcoming tourism high season.

Present for that meeting was PLTO Chief Adcha Buachan.

Also present were Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Pol Col Jirasak Siemsak and Capt Pongsakorn Itsombat of the Phuket branch of the Internal Security Opera-

tions Command (Isoc), which serves as the political arm of the Thai military.

Rounding out the meeting as intermediaries were Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Somprat Prabsongkram, who chaired the meeting, along with Subchacha Intharit, Director of the Phuket Damrongdharma Center, and Ratchadaphon Oin of the Phuket Tourism and Sports office.

Pol Col Jirasak made it clear that police will conduct strict random inspections of drivers. Public transport vehicles "must be alcohol-free and weapons-free", he said. "This is to build confidence in tourism," Pol Col Jirasak added.

"We ask for cooperation from public transport operators to enforce strict supervision of public transport drivers, that they have polite behaviour in both speaking and providing services to passengers with a service mind [sic]," he said.

According to the official report of the meeting, the transport drivers present were "ready to proceed as specified by government agencies".

## Governor orders stress cracks in underpass barrier to be repaired

THE PHUKET HIGHWAYS Office will carry out repairs to cracks in a barrier at the Darasamut Underpass as soon as possible following an order from the Phuket Governor.

Governor Sophon Suwannarat ordered the Phuket Highways Office to investigate after photos of the cracks were posted on social media on Oct 25, reported the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

The Phuket Highways District reported that the cracks occurred on the concrete surface above the main barrier concrete where an expansion bolt was drilled. Further cracks occurred every two to three metres and gaps in the concrete were found, the Highways Office confirmed.

The expansion bolt is part of the main support for a large steel beam that hangs over the traffic lanes below. The Highways Office will install further supports for the steel beam and use non-shrinking



Photo: PR Phuket

concrete to fill the cracks, said the report.

While repairs are being made, the Phuket Highways Office will also repair a section of the concrete barrier on the southbound lanes at the tunnel.

The barrier was damaged when it was struck by a vehicle, leaving a four-metre gap in the concrete barrier, which has long been filled with the plastic "Jersey barriers", also called concrete step barriers.

The Phuket Highways Office will carry out the repairs as "quickly as possible with public safety in mind", concluded the report.

The Phuket News

## NZ drug charge fugitive nabbed

A NEW ZEALAND MAN, WHO was apprehended by Immigration Police at Phuket International Airport last week, was found to have a prior history of arrests in Kenya, Cambodia and Malaysia, along with an outstanding warrant in Thailand. The warrant was the reason for his immediate arrest upon arrival on the island.

Immigration Police officers stationed at Phuket airport reported the arrest of a man on an outstanding warrant on Oct 24. The suspect, apprehended around 11.30am, was not identified in the report and no additional information was provided except that he would be transferred to Pattaya Court for further legal action.

The man's identity was reported by the Thai newspaper *Matichon* as Selby Dean Freeman, a 40-year-old New Zealand national. Phuket Immigration then shared the *Matichon* report on its Facebook page.

According to *Matichon*, Mr Freeman arrived in Phuket from Singapore and was apprehended on warrant No. 838/2009 issued in Pattaya on Aug 25, 2009.

In January that year, the New Zealand man was charged with



Selby Dean Freeman after his most recent arrest in Phuket on Oct 24. Photo: Phuket Immigration Checkpoint

Category 1 drug possession but fled after having been released on bail, *Matichon* explained.

The Aug 25 warrant thus included charges of both illegal drug possession and fleeing prosecution.

It was not explained why Mr Freeman decided to visit Thailand again 14 years later. Yet all the information about him and biometric data were in the database, leading to his arrest.

Mr Freeman's arrest in Phuket was not his first since fleeing Thailand to evade prosecution in 2009.

He was arrested in Cambodia and handed over to Malaysian officials to face drug charges, and was arrested in Kenya on cocaine and cannabis charges. *The Phuket News*



# Tour boat spots recently discovered Omura's whale

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Tourists on a sightseeing boat in the Surin islands have spotted a rare whale that was first recognised in the wild only eight years ago.

National park officers at the Mu Ko Surin National Park confirmed the sighting, of an Omura's whale, in the Surin Islands archipelago with a post online on Oct 26.

The post showed a video of the whale surfacing, with excited cheers of "Sut Yoht!" ("Fantastic!") by the Thai crew on board the boat.

Park officers confirmed it was the first time that an Omura's whale had been sighted in the park's waters.

The Omura's whale (*Balaenoptera omurai*) is similar to the Bryde's whale (*Balaenoptera edeni brydei*), and is protected in Thailand, the park officers explained in the post.

They grow to 20 metres long, weighing up to 20 tonnes. Omura's whales are found alone or in pairs, but may group together for feeding.



Screenshot: Nawa Bintea / Mu Ko Surin National Park

The whales have been seen "lunge feeding" on krill and small fish.

Omura's whales are found in tropical to warm regions, in both offshore and coastal zones. Most are found in the eastern part of the Indian Ocean and the western Pacific Ocean.

However, Omura's whales have been confirmed as seen in Thai waters, from Prachuap Khiri Khan to Songkhla in the Gulf of Thailand, and they have been seen along the Andaman coast. A group

of four have been previously photographed near the Racha islands, south of Phuket.

The Omura's whale was first described by three Japanese scientists, Shiro Wada, Masayuki Oishi and Tadasu K. Yamada, in 2003, and named in honour of Japanese cetologist Hideo Omura, who passed away in 1993, the park officers explained.

However, Shiro et al had first recognised Omura's whales only from dead specimens in 2003. It was not until 2015 that the first specimens

were recognised alive in the wild. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) does not even have enough data to determine whether Omura's whales are endangered.

Omura's whales had previously been mistaken for Bryde's whales as both species look similar. Scientists now know that Omura's whales are not related to the Bryde's whale at all.

The dorsal fin of the Omura's whale is similar to that of a Bryde's whale, but is more curved and located more towards the tail. Also the head of an Omura's whale has one convex ridge. Bryde's whales have three.

The body of an Omura's whale is a light-coloured grey-black, and they may have a whitish to pink belly. They also have 80-90 light-coloured grooves under the chin, extending past the navel.

The left side of the jaw is black, but the right side is faded or white. The jaw is filled with 180-210 pairs of short and wide teeth that are white, yellow or black.

## New Sunday market set to debut in Phuket Town

A NEW WALKING STREET market is set to debut in the historic Old Town of Phuket this weekend, local officials have announced. The new Chartered Walking Street event will be taking place every Sunday, starting Nov 5.

The launch of the new Chartered Walking Street market on Phang Nga Rd was confirmed by Phuket City Municipality on Oct 17. However, the announcement went largely unnoticed due to the Phuket Vegetarian Festival taking centre stage at that time. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) signing between the involved parties, which occurred on Oct 19, faced a similar fate.

It wasn't until the third announcement on Oct 26 that the Chartered Walking Street market gained attention. Phuket City Municipality officially introduced the new weekly event through a notice posted on Facebook at 9.43am, just minutes before a meeting to discuss the organisational aspects of the market.

On the same day the Phuket City Municipality also shared a link to the Chartered Walking Street's Facebook page, surprisingly created



The inaugural Chartered Walking Street market will debut on the first Sunday of November (Nov 5). Image: Phuket City Municipality

as early as mid-September, with regular content updates since then.

The inaugural market will debut with an opening event at 4pm and extend into the evening, coinciding with the popular Lard Yai market on Thalang Rd, which runs just north of Phang Nga Rd.

Like the Lard Yai market, the new Chartered Walking Street market will predominantly feature local street food, arts and crafts, and souvenirs. Entertainment will include street music and cultural performances. A stage will be set up in front of the Sinthavee Hotel, with stalls offering food, drinks, clothing and souvenirs on both sides of the stage. The section of Phang Nga Rd will be closed to traffic. *The Phuket News*

## Veg Fest shrines fail to pass food hygiene standards

AT LEAST SEVEN CHINESE shrines assessed by health officials during the Phuket Vegetarian Festival failed to pass food hygiene requirements, officials have revealed.

Confirmation of the failed food hygiene standards at venues catering to hundreds if not thousands of local residents and tourists during Phuket's most attended festival came at a meeting of the Phuket Provincial Administration Committee chaired by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat on Monday (Oct 30).

Certificates were given to 12 shrines that passed the food sanitation assessment in the kitchen during the Phuket Vegetarian Festival 2023, held from Oct 15-23, said an official report of the meeting.

The assessment included the food and food preparation areas at the shrines as well as those in the immediate vicinity of each shrine where food was served to people attending or taking part in shrine activities.

"If the process of preparing and cooking food is not clean, it may affect the health of consumers," said the report.

The Phuket Provincial



Photo: PPHO Environmental Health Group

Public Health Office (PPHO) conducted an assessment of food sanitation standards in the kitchens of 19 shrines, of which only 12 were approved and issued certifications, the report said.

The 12 shrines certified as meeting food hygiene standards were named as: Sam Kong Shrine, Jong Ong Shrine, Lor Rong Shrine, Saphan Hin Shrine, Khao Rang Shrine, Yok Ke Keng Cho Chu Kang Shrine (Soi Phaniang), Kuan Yu Na Bon Shrine, Thi Kong Bua Thep Anusorn Shrine, Naka Shrine, Sapam Shrine, Bang Khu Shrine and Tha Ruea Shrine.

The official report did not name the shrines that served food to local residents and tourists while not complying with food hygiene standards during the festival, or mention

any action taken against those shrines for serving potentially unsafe food during Phuket's most popular festival specifically renowned for the food served.

Earlier last month as the festival began, the PPHO's Environmental Health Group reported inspecting several shrines as the festival began, with assessments led by PPHO Deputy Chief Supalak Damrongchua conducted on Oct 16-18.

Shrines in Muang District confirmed as inspected included the Lim Hu Tai Su Shrine, Jeng Ong Shrine, Sui Boon Tong Shrine, Tao Bo Keng Shrine, Pud Jao Shrine, Kiew Tian Keng Shrine and the Bang Neow Shrine.

Further shrines in Thalang District inspected included Kuan Te Kun Shrine (Sapam), Sam Pai Kong Shrine (Bang Khu), Ngo Hien Tai Te Lao Chia Shrine (Ban Khian), Tae Kun Shrine (Pasak), Sam Ong Hu Shrine (Cherng Talay) and the Tha Ruea Shrine. However, no mention was made of which shrines failed to pass the health and safety standards.

*The Phuket News*



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Photo: NNT

## Foreign investment for 2023 hits B84bn

IN THE FIRST NINE months of 2023, foreign investment in Thailand significantly rose, exceeding B84 billion.

Deputy Minister of Commerce, Napintorn Srisanpang, confirmed the figure in a report on foreign business operations under the Foreign Business Act.

During the period, the number of foreign investors increased to 493, marking a 13% rise from the previous year. This comprised 166 investors via business license channels and 327 via business certification channels, with a cumulative investment sum of B84 billion, and a 41% rise in jobs created, benefiting 5,703 Thais.

The predominant investing countries were Japan, with 111 investors at nearly B23 billion, followed by the United States, Singapore, China and

Hong Kong.

Investments mainly funneled into sectors including petroleum exploration, electric train project management, medical equipment and supplies, onshore natural gas pipeline construction and design services for metal molds in automotive parts production.

Within the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) area, foreign investors contributed 20% to the total investor count, with an investment value of B16.14 billion, representing 19% of the overall investment.

Officials project that foreign investment will continue to rise in the final quarter and throughout 2023, potentially exceeding the government's targets, thereby catalyzing a swifter recovery of the Thai economy.

*National News Bureau of Thailand*

# TAT pushes 'responsible' ecotourism campaign

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has concluded the second edition of its 'The One for Nature' project with a series of online and on the ground responsible tourism initiatives that underline Thailand's direction towards high-value and sustainable tourism experiences, following the success of the campaign's first edition in 2020.

The occasion was marked with an event at Chalong Pier on Oct 23, joined by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwanarat and Nithee Seepree, TAT Deputy Governor for Marketing Communications.

"The campaign corresponds with the TAT's Corporate Plan 2023-2027, which aims to elevate TAT's position as the strategic leader in driving Thailand towards experience-based and sustainable tourism. Activities under 'The One for Nature' campaign are conceptualised to strengthen the awareness of Amazing Thailand as a

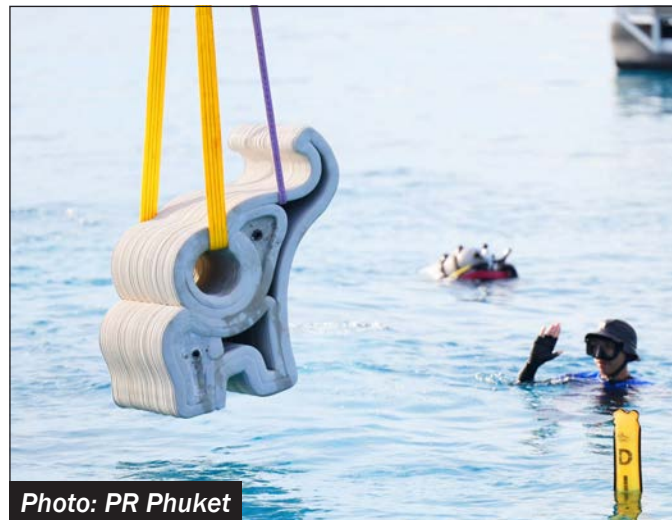


Photo: PR Phuket

quality destination for sustainable tourism that appeals to environmentally conscious travellers," Mr Nithee said.

In its second edition, 'The One for Nature' campaign offered environmentally conscious travellers from all over the world the opportunity to immerse themselves in even more abundant natural surroundings once again after natural sights across Thailand have rejuvenated and restored their natural beauty.

The campaign kicked off with online and on the ground activities from August to

September. The one-month online campaign, which garnered 10,369,360 impressions, invited travellers to join an activity via [www.tourismthailand.org](http://www.tourismthailand.org) by uploading their own photo of their favourite travel destination in Thailand and share on social media for their friends to vote.

The top two participants with the highest votes were awarded an exclusive four-day/three-night sustainable tour package. Each package included round-trip flight tickets for two, accommodation, meals, and activities. The

third, fourth, and fifth-place winners also received prizes.

On the ground responsible tourism activities were arranged at Bali Hai Pier in Pattaya, Chon Buri, and the Walking Streets in Chiang Mai and Phuket, where travellers joined in recycle and 'turn trash into treasure' workshops.

The campaign concluded in Phuket with a collaboration between TAT, the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, and SCG. Artificial reefs shaped like an elephant were constructed using marine-friendly materials for marine ecosystem rehabilitation and were placed under the sea at Racha Yai island, south of Phuket, by Racha master diver volunteers and the Racha Phuket Hotel.

At the event on Oct 23, Governor Sophon explained, "This project is another important force in helping to revive the country's tourism industry to return to sustainable growth by using ecotourism as a driving force to create good awareness of tourism in Thailand."

## Brave Generation Academy Expands to Phuket: Revolutionising Education for the Young Minds of Thailand

### ADVERTORIAL

BRAVE GENERATION Academy (BGA), a renowned educational institution focused on personalised learning and innovation, is thrilled to announce the opening of its first Hub in the vibrant city of Phuket, Thailand. Already in eight other countries around the globe (and coming soon to the UK and Australia!) BGA has partnered with Yedda Blue to bring its revolutionary educational model to the local community, offering young Learners an educational experience like no other.

The foundation of BGA's educational model lies in its three core dimensions: Knowledge, Skills, and Community. With a focus on a holistic curriculum, BGA offers internationally recognised curricula, including the American Curriculum and the British International Curriculum. These allow the Learners to pursue higher education opportunities around the world. They also



focus on the space beyond academics, fostering the development of crucial skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity, enabling Learners to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

BGA's commitment to transforming education is evident through its unique hybrid approach, combining self-directed learning, flexible scheduling, and through our Hub, a dynamic co-learning environment. The Hub in Phuket provides a diverse range of collaborative spaces, creating an immersive peer-to-peer atmosphere where students can interact, engage, and learn from one another. With a limited number of mixed-age Learners per Hub, BGA ensures personalised attention, promoting a sense of belonging and creating a supportive community. The

Hub also boasts cutting-edge learning software, enabling Learners to access educational content from anywhere and at any time.

With the opening of BGA's Hub in Phuket, the local community gains access to a transformative educational experience that prioritizes individual growth, flexibility, and collaborative learning. Parents and Learners in Phuket can now embark on an educational journey that goes beyond traditional boundaries, enabling young minds to thrive and embrace their full potential.

*To learn more about Brave Generation Academy and the enrollment process, visit <https://www.bravegenerationacademy.com/thailand> Join the brave generation and embrace a new era of education in Phuket.*

## Marine Dept moves ahead with 'Andaman Marine Hub' plan

NARINSAK SATTHAPRASIT, DEPUTY Director-General of the Marine Department, was in Phuket last week to promote the Marine Department's push to develop the Andaman coast into a 'marine hub'.

The Marine Department is preparing a master plan for developing marine tourism and maritime transportation (Maritime Hub) by creating integrated and developed community ports in the southern provinces on the Andaman coast, to raise the level of tourism and future economic growth in Phuket, Mr Narinsak told a conference at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on Oct 25.

Phuket Governor Sophon Suwanarat chaired the opening of the conference, which was attended by Natchaphong Pranit, Director of the Regional Harbor Office, Phuket Branch, and representatives of other government agencies, along with representatives from the private sector.

The first step is to carry out a study to create a master plan for the development of the ports in the southern provinces on the Andaman coast, namely in Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi, Ranong, Trang and Satun, Mr Narinsak said.

"Regarding water transportation infrastructure, economic expansion and the expansion of the world's population has resulted in the expansion of international tourism and domestic tourism, especially sea tourism along the Andaman coast," Mr Narinsak said.

"And all six provinces on the Andaman coast have many outstanding international tourist attractions. There are sandy beaches,



Photo: PR Phuket

seasides, beautiful islands, as well as ecotourism activities," he added.

"Sea and coastal tourism operators all use passenger boats to take tourists to various islands and attractions, from high-end yachts to speed boats, large passenger boats and even sports yachts and large cruise ships traveling from abroad to bring tourists to maritime and coastal tourist attractions.

"In addition, all six provinces have the potential to transport goods. The area is a centre for tourism and sustainable maritime transport, and we can create added value for agricultural products that have potential in the area," he continued.

Governor Sophon supported the plan. "This will stimulate income generation in the area. We are ready to raise the status and quality of life of the community to be strong and more stable, and give the people in the area, and nearby areas, a better quality of life. This will affect the sustainable development of Thailand's competitiveness in the future," he said. *The Phuket News*



# More Thai hostages as Israeli conflict escalates

## BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Three more Thai workers were confirmed to have been taken hostage during the Hamas attack on Israel, raising the total to 22, Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said on Monday (Oct 30).

Mr Srettha confirmed that a member of the Cabinet was due to leave for the Middle East on Monday on a mission to seek the release of the Thai workers, without elaborating or naming the minister.

The prime minister said the situation in Israel had deteriorated as the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) had begun a retaliatory ground offensive, making it more difficult for people to travel in the conflict area. Thai workers who were still in Israel should quickly contact Thai authorities and register for evacuation, before the situation turns worse, Mr Srettha said.

Thai officials were engaged in talks for the release of the Thai hostages, with the armed forces supreme commander in Malaysia as part of the process, Mr Srettha explained.

Asked whether Thai workers had been targeted by Hamas, the PM said he did not think so because Thailand was not involved in the Israel-Hamas conflict.

"We are not a target of any group. We are more like victims of the war.



Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin at Udon Thani airport on Monday (Oct 30). Photo: Bangkok Post

We have been more affected because there are more workers from Thailand in Israel than from other countries," Mr Srettha said.

"So I have tried calling on Thai workers to quickly return home because in this situation travel has become more and more difficult.

"Today I will talk to Foreign Minister Parnpree Bahiddha-Nukara, and get an update of the situation. More people may have to leave, for negotiations," he added.

Asked about Thais who may have been stranded near the Gaza Strip, Mr Srettha admitted some were still listed as missing. "We are assessing the situation. But, with the ground offensive, communications are out, making it more difficult," he said.

Mr Srettha said he was very unhappy to learn that many of the Thais still in Israel wanted to continue working there, but still hoped they would change their minds, adding that the government is ready to arrange more flights for them.

He also said he was checking a report that a video clip of a Hamas militant attempting to behead a Thai worker was shown to a United Nations forum by the Israeli ambassador. He said such a disclosure should not have been made.

"This is not good. The war is cruel enough. Doing that was like pouring fuel onto the fire. Thailand is a neutral country and not part of the conflict. We only want our people to be safe and the hostages released as soon as possible," he explained.



Photo: Bangkok Post

## Fertility crisis looming, says Public Health Minister

### BANGKOK

A FERTILITY CRISIS could slash the Thai population in half over the next six decades, prompting the Ministry of Public Health to take serious action to put it into the national agenda to promote pregnancy.

Dr Cholnan Srikaew, Public Health Minister, said on Monday (Oct 30) that every province risks suffering the effects of the changing age demographic.

On average, the fertility rate (TFR) for a Thai woman is 1.16, meaning one woman has about 1.16 children throughout her lifetime. Between 1963-1983, the average was about 1 million births a year, but in 2021 the total of newborn babies was only 485,085, which was also lower than the death rate of 550,042.

The main causes are associated with economic, social, educational and environmental

problems, with only 10% due to health problems, said Dr Cholnan.

This year will be the first in which workers aged 20-24 years old will be outnumbered by retirees aged 60-64 years old, an age gap that will only grow wider and lead to labour shortages and a higher budget to take care of the health of the elderly.

"We have been working to promote pregnancy into the national agenda so that the government will do its job to invest in human resources development, including providing financial assistance to newborn babies and assistance for infertility problems," Dr Cholnan said.

Dr Kua Wongboonsin of the College of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn University, explained that the Thai population will fall to 33mn people in 2083, or half the current 66mn, if measures are not taken. Bangkok Post

## Wild Boars captain took own life, UK inquest concludes

### BANGKOK

THE CAPTAIN OF THE YOUNG 'Wild Boars' football team that was dramatically rescued from a flooded cave in Chiang Rai in 2018 took his own life while at a school in England, a UK coroner's inquest has concluded.

Duangphet 'Dom' Phromthep, 17, was found unconscious at Brooke House College in Market Harborough, Leicestershire, on Feb 12. He died two days later at Kettering General Hospital.

Prof Catherine Mason, senior coroner for south Leicestershire, recorded a conclusion of suicide following an inquest on Oct 4, British media reported last Friday (Oct 27).

"Duangphet was not known to mental health services, and it is not known why he took the actions that he did," said Prof Mason.

"It could not have been foreseen or prevented," she wrote of the death. "The police investigation has found no evidence of third-party involvement or suspicious circumstances."

The sudden death of Duangphet came as a shock to his family and friends. At the time, the cause of death was not known.

His ashes were returned to his grieving family in Thailand on Mar 4 following his cremation in England.

Ian Smith, the principal of Brooke House College, said its community "remains united in grief" over the death and that Duangphet



Duangphet 'Dom' Phromthep. Photo: Bangkok Post

would be "hugely missed".

"As a college, the health, wellbeing and welfare of our students is our absolute priority," Mr Smith added.

In June and July 2018, Thai and international rescue teams mounted an operation to rescue 12 local footballers aged between 11 and 16 and their 25-year-old coach from the flooded Tham Luang cave in Mae Sai district of Chiang Rai.

Duangphet, then 13, was the boy who first shouted out to the rescuers for help. A complex and dangerous rescue followed and one Thai rescuer died in the operation.

Duangphet won a scholarship to study at the football academy in Leicestershire in August last year.

If you or anyone you know is in need of emotional support and counselling, please contact the Samaritans of Thailand at their 24-hour hotline 02-113-6789 (English & Thai) or the Thai Mental Health Hotline at 1323 (Thai). Bangkok Post

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# Hollywood strike fallout reaches Phuket

David Griffiths

**T**his week five films have been released into Phuket cinemas, only one is American and that is a re-release of *'The Hunger Games: Catching Fire'* – a film that was released a decade ago. Yes, the strikes that have been crippling Hollywood's film industry for the past few months have finally had an effect on cinemas here.

The strikes began back in May when the Writers Guild of America (WGA) voted to go on strike over an on-going pay dispute with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television (AMPT). That dispute was largely over the fact that the WGA felt that its members weren't receiving enough financial compensation for their work from the major streaming platforms.

The striking writers were then joined by the actors in July when the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) also felt that their members were not being paid enough for reruns on streaming platforms. They also had an added gripe wanting protection for actor's whose likeness might be created by an AI for film and television projects.

Hollywood and cinema chains around the world breathed a sigh of relief when WGA reached an agreement with AMPT that saw writers return to work, but SAG-AFTRA voted to stay on strike with their needs not being met. In a worrying move the decision by SAG-AFTRA to remain on strike now has many leading film and TV journalists in the US predicting that the strike may last well into 2024.

The strikes have already had a crippling effect on Hollywood. Blockbuster films including *Strays* (starring Will Ferrell and Jamie Foxx) and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem* (starring Seth Rogen and Jackie Chan) took massive hits at the box office after the strike meant that the actors could not



go out and promote the movies to the public.

Even the normally popular comic book movies took a hit with DC Comic's *Blue Beetle* recording the studio's worst-ever first weekend return. That has to have the bosses at Disney worried with Marvel's *The Marvels* being released in cinemas in just a couple of weeks' time.

The strike has also seen eagerly anticipated blockbusters such as *Kraven The Hunter*, Zendaya's *Challengers* and *Dune Part 2* have their release dates moved from this year to next. In a move that would back up the US media's claim that the strike will go well into next year, this week it was announced that Tom Cruise's *Mission: Impossible: Dead Reckoning Part 2* will now be released in May 2025 rather than June next year.

That Hollywood chaos has also seen promised television shows cancelled and films such as *Gladiator 2* and *Deadpool 3* put in limbo as their productions had already started but now their studios lay dormant.

The flow-on effect is now being felt in cinemas right around the world with American productions beginning to slow up. But AFCA-accredited film journalist Kyle McGrath says that is not something that should be considered all bad.

"I think in a way we have seen a positive as cinemas have been able to diversify their focus more due to the strikes," explains McGrath. "Often Asian, local and other varieties of film would only receive screenings at certain niche cinemas which specialised in that. But now films which wouldn't be getting much coverage are being exposed to a larger audience."

"In turn this could help the audience expand their horizons," he goes on to say. "Also and perhaps this will open themselves up to types of movies they would normally turn their noses up at or just have no interest in."

McGrath has also felt the effects of the strike, though, with both his popular radio show and podcast *The Popcorn Conspiracy* that he is co-host of being affected by the fact that many actors can no longer appear on the shows to promote their current movies. Emails from publicists containing lines like "my client has sadly had to cancel his interview on your show in fears that it would be seen as a violation of the SAG-AFTRA strike" are now almost a daily occurrence.

In the past week we have seen more talks between SAG-AFTRA and AMPT break down while the strike reached the White House with America's First Lady Jill Biden endorsing the actor's fight, so it does seem that Phuket cinemas may only see one or two Hollywood releases a week for quite some time to come.

*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. He is also an accredited reviewer for Rotten Tomatoes. You can follow him at [www.facebook.com/subcultureentertainmentaus](https://www.facebook.com/subcultureentertainmentaus)*



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# A day of Remembrance

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

**T**he Phuket Veterans are hosting Phuket's first Remembrance (Armistice) service on Saturday, November 11, this year. Everyone is welcome to come along to pay their respects and give thanks to those who made the ultimate self-sacrifice for the freedom that we enjoy today.

It is important that, as we remember those who lost their lives or were injured in conflict, their story is passed on to future generations, so children are very much welcome too. Here, *The Phuket News* speaks with Steve Pearce, founder of the Phuket Veterans (International Veterans Association), about the event.

## Exactly who are the Phuket Veterans?

Phuket Veterans, formerly known as the International Veterans Association (IVA), are made up of former military personnel from around the world who are now living or spending much of the year in Thailand.

In addition to the former military service members, the Phuket Veterans also include former emergency 'blue light' services workers, such as paramedics, firefighters and police. The PV also has some associate members who support the group and enjoy the many social events we have.

Our current membership comes from about 14 different countries so far. As part of the group, and away from the social and community support we undertake, we have a welfare team that are trained in mental health first aid. The 'Welfare Team' of volunteers will respond when needed, and will try to guide veterans who may be struggling to get back on their feet or get the professional help they may need.

## What will happen at the Remembrance (Armistice) day service?

The Remembrance service will be held at the Clubhouse/community centre at the Land & Houses Park gated community in Chalong, just behind Wat Chalong. The service is traditionally timed to coincide with the ending of World War 1, as the Armistice agreement was signed at 11am on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, 1918. As such, the service will start at 10:30am and will last about 45 minutes. If people get there a bit early, light refreshments will be available before and after the service. There is loads of parking available too. Don't worry, it won't be a stuffy affair or a military overload.

## Who can come along?

Absolutely anyone. Wars and conflicts around the world have shaped the way we get to live our lives, for good or for bad. Either way, people lose their lives defending our beliefs and freedoms. It is important that the history is not lost just because the subject is uncomfortable to hear. Events like the Remembrance service give us a chance to simply say thank you and to remember those who served and died. It certainly isn't glorification of war.



Photo: Jelleke Vanooteghem / Unsplash

## Are schools involved?

We are very lucky to have the support of Headstart International School choir (CAPA) to perform at the service this year. Thanks to the school directors, Headstart School supports the Poppy Appeal every November.

## What is the 'Poppy Appeal'?

The poppy is a well-recognised symbol of peace and remembrance these days. After the guns stopped and WW1 was officially over, the thousands of fallen soldiers in the fields of Flanders in Belgium were recovered, but some remained where they fell. The gruesome site was soon replaced naturally by hundreds of thousands of beautiful poppies that grew there.

The Royal British Legion (RBL) adopted the poppy as their official emblem. They do some incredible work supporting veterans and their families in times of need. Hundreds of former servicemen and women benefit from the RBL charity each year.

We are very lucky to have a RBL branch here in Thailand. Their Welfare team have on several occasions assisted Phuket Veterans in helping stricken veterans on Phuket.

The RBL annually raises funds by receiving donations for poppies that are worn by the donors to show support. Poppies and poppy wreaths will be available on the day of the service from the RBL stall at the clubhouse, and also from many bars, pubs and restaurants around the island. Even if people can't make the service, please consider picking up and wearing your poppy and making a small donation.

After the service there will be a short poppy-wreath-laying ceremony by the lake.

## What happens after the service?

The fun bit. Following Remembrance services in places like the UK and Australia, there is often a reunion or gathering where stories of daring deeds and adventures are told and retold or just made up, by old soldiers over a beer or two. This year we will try to continue

that tradition by meeting up in the Green Man pub in Chalong for a family afternoon starting at midday. Again, everyone is welcome to come along.

The schedule times for the event are:

1030hrs - Service begins  
1120hrs - Service ends (approx)  
1120hrs - Light refreshments available  
1200hrs - The 'Reunion'

## If I want to come along, what to wear?

If you have never been to a Remembrance service before, don't worry. Your attendance is more important than what you are wearing. In cooler climates these services can be quite formal. However, here in Thailand it is either very hot or very wet, so come as you feel comfortable. Having said that, some of the more conventional amongst us will know that jackets and ties are customary for Remembrance services. Veterans and service members may wear their medals, former unit head-dress and regimental or unit ties.

Also, some people may have service medals at home that were earned by loved ones and family members. If you would like to represent them on the day, you may wear their medals too. It is customary for them to be worn on the right side of the chest.

## If someone wishes to join the Phuket Veterans, what do they need to do?

Easy. Just send an SMS to 089-5870819 to let us know the best number to contact you, and a good time to call you back. People can also learn more about us at [www.phuketveterans.com](http://www.phuketveterans.com) or by viewing the Phuket Veterans Facebook page. Don't forget the Rpyal British Legion donations page is at [www.poppysshop.org.uk](http://www.poppysshop.org.uk)

*Thank you to Steve Pearce for making this article possible.*



## The December/January 2024 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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## POP QUIZ

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

Answers below, centre

## SUDOKU

Hard

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

## Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

- Nile bird
- \_\_\_\_-ran
- Fire-extinguishing agent
- Faux
- Le \_\_\_\_, city in Switzerland
- Bowl
- Listening
- Sweep
- Roams
- \_\_\_\_-ski
- Conflicts
- Tax prep. expert
- Common truism
- Dead center?
- Wise one
- Cursor mover
- Sandwich type
- Old printing marks
- \_\_\_\_ maison (indoors): Fr.
- View in northern Italy
- Honoring
- French beverage
- Pout
- Alternative to a convertible
- Kind of bean
- Chart type
- Be charged too much

Down

- Sitter's handful
- Fluffy scarf
- Aloof
- Word with bum or bunny
- Eukaryotic organism
- When repeated, a 1997 Jim Carrey comedy
- Firm
- Lose fuel
- Attractive
- Liberal pursuits
- Floral ring
- Sean \_\_\_\_ Lennon
- Palindromic girl's name
- Beak
- Make, as money
- Function
- Country club figure
- Border
- Blood clots

- Prosperity
- PC "brain"
- Dance bit
- Belgium village
- Female antelope
- Control
- So far
- Cash for incidentals
- Clay, now
- Hack
- Select, with "for"
- "Humph!"
- CBS symbol
- \_\_\_\_ Zeppelin
- Class-conscious grp.
- Royal wish
- Maja painter
- Saharan nomad
- Hand-me-down
- Guru
- Prefix with legal
- Privy to
- Crash site?
- Tumult
- Bark
- Ornamental flower, for short
- Social worker?
- \_\_\_\_-di-dah
- Pencil holder
- Safari sight

## 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
49					50	51				52				
53					54					55				
					56					57	58			
59	60	61						62				63	64	65
67							68					69		
70							71					72		

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

## Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

## 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.

28,000

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.

500,000

US dollars a year is still earned by the song 'Whoomp! (There It Is)'. It was released in 1993.

Source: *Uberfacts*

## ISLAND VIEW



Sunrise on Rawai Beach. Photo by Brian Constable

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

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 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.



Laika, the first earthling to orbit the Earth.

Nov 7, 1999

Australians vote to keep the Head of the Commonwealth, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, as their head of state in the Australian republic referendum.

Nov 8, 1492

The Ensisheim meteorite, the oldest meteorite with a known date of impact, strikes the Earth around noon in a wheat field outside the village of Ensisheim, Alsace, France.

Nov 9, 694

At the Seventeenth Council of Toledo, Egica, a king of the Visigoths of Hispania, accuses Jews of aiding Muslims, sentencing all Jews to slavery. Source: *Wikipedia*



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**La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Phuket Dinner - Nov 2023**

Contemporary Australian Dinner. An amazing menu that brings Melbourne to the Andaman, with paired drinks, has been created specifically by Chef Oat for this months La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Phuket Dinner. Held at HEH Restaurant in Talat Yai on November 15, from 6pm. Dress code - Jacket's optional for men, no jeans, with Chain ribbon. Members - THB 5,000 p.p., limited invited guests - THB 5,500 p.p. To book your seat at this very special dinner, please visit - phuket-ticketmaster.com \*Pay via Bank Transfer and only pay the dinner price, booking fees only apply to other payment options. (By attending this event, you consent to being photographed, and these photos may be used for promotional and advertising purposes. If you have any concerns, please inform the Chaîne Phuket committee.)

**Friday Mussels Night**  
6 PM onwards: Belgian style mussels served with French Fries. All you can eat. Your choice, Your style: Marinere, 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

**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 raddish, 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

**Melbourne Cup 2023 at Casa Boho**

Fabulous Fun Fundraiser at Funky Casa Boho at the Hyatt Regency Kamala - The Melbourne Cup 2023. From 9:30 to 14:30, guests will enjoy free-flow selected beverages & brunch with: - Fashions on the Field to find the most stylish guests - with prizes awarded 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. Casa Boho is the perfect party venue, with aircon, ocean breezes and panoramic views across Kamala Bay. Dress code: At the races. Hats a must! Venue: Casa Boho, Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort, Kamala. Donation: 3,500 baht. For tickets, please contact Tina Hall tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org Phuket Has Been Good To Us must raise 450,000 baht from this fundraiser to pay for an English Teacher for 2024, so PLEASE join us for this party with a purpose



**Grow Boating Evening**  
We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm on Friday the 3rd of November. We are delighted to announce that our drinks sponsor for the evening will be the Thailand International Boat Show 2024 (TIBS) which will take place at the award-winning Royal Phuket Marina between 11 – 14 January 2024, with over 6,000 visitors and more than 100 exhibitors expected to attend. See www.thailandinternationalboatshow.com There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant for all attendees and as always, all your favourite beverages will be available from the bar. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee and if you know anyone you think would be interested in coming, please invite them along. To join our mailing list click this link https://facebook.us16.list-manage.com/subscribe... Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/growboatingphuket Grow Boating is kindly supported by our media partner The Phuket News, Live 89.5 radio and Phuket News TV. See www.thephuketnews.com

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**JOBS**

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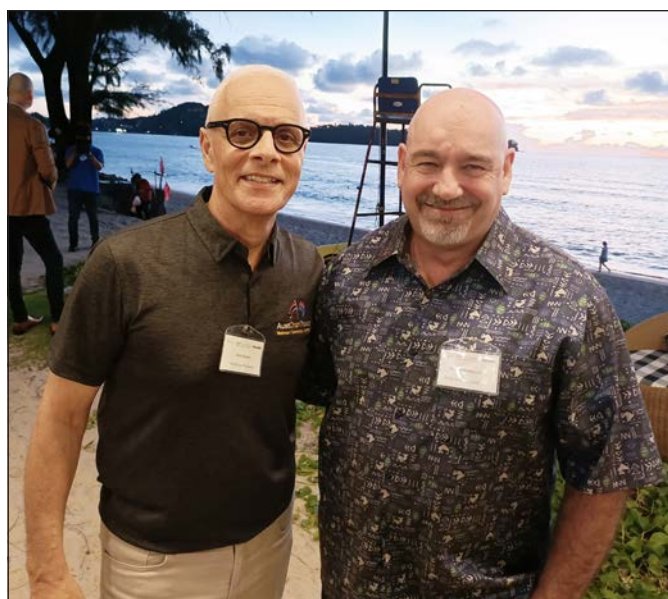
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## SKÅL INTERNATIONAL PHUKET DINNER - OCTOBER

The monthly Skål International Phuket Dinner was hosted at Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort on October 26. This exclusive event is tailor-made for hoteliers, tourism, and travel professionals. It's an opportunity to connect, collaborate, and celebrate in an atmosphere that perfectly mirrors the spirit of Skål International. To find out more visit - [facebook.com/SkalPhuket](https://facebook.com/SkalPhuket)



## JOINT CHAMBERS PHUKET SUNDOWNERS BY AUSTCHAM THAILAND - OCT 2023

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, British Chamber (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber (GTCC), Thai-Italian Chamber (TICC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber (NTCC), Phuket Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Swedish Chamber, hosted the Phuket Sundowners at SAii Laguna Phuket on October 27. Lots of new connections and catching up with familiar faces in the Australian-Thai business community. Attendees also got to know Austcham corporate sponsor, Meinhardt, an engineering consultancy service which offers full engineering consultancy services.



# Springboks retain World Cup

## RUGBY

AFP

Defence, discipline and set-piece mastery again proved key as South Africa ran out back-to-back winners of the Rugby World Cup in France last Saturday (Oct 28).

The Springboks, with iconic captain Siya Kolisi to the fore, beat New Zealand 12-11 in a gripping final for a record fourth title, the All Blacks reduced to 14 men on 29 minutes after the sending off of skipper Sam Cane for a high tackle.

It was the Boks' third successive knock-out victory by a single point: they edged hosts France 29-28 in a thrilling quarter-final and England 16-15 in the semis thanks to a last-gasp Handre Pollard penalty.

Pollard hit four penalties in the final to underline the importance of an accurate goal kicker and cap an amazing recall to the Bok squad after missing the initial cut through injury.

Coach Jacques Nienaber and director of rugby Rassie Erasmus, who was in charge when South Africa won in Japan four years ago, continued their effective use of a forwards-heavy bench, the so-called 'bomb squad', but insisted they were not "geniuses" when it came to selection.

"From 2018 we thought we had the ability to win the 2023 World Cup,"



South Africa's players celebrate their World Cup win in Paris last Saturday (Oct 28). Photo: AFP

the departing Nienaber said, with the Boks now facing a rebuild into the next World Cup in Australia in 2027, but sure to rely on the bedrock of their gameplan.

South Africa, who lost to Ireland in pool play, faced five of the other top six teams in the world rankings in France.

There had been great expectations for the French and the Irish, who topped their pools, the hosts notably beating the All Blacks in the opening game of the tournament eight weeks ago.

Wales and England also finished

top in their respective pools, meaning a northern hemisphere group sweep for the first ever time.

Then came two monumental quarter-finals: the Boks edging France and New Zealand outsmarting Ireland in a clash of the top four teams in the world thanks to a lop-sided draw made in December 2020.

Wales crashed to Argentina, who went on to lose to England in the third-place play-off.

So the William Webb Ellis Cup stays in the southern hemisphere, England the sole team from the north to have won it, back in 2003.

Australia failed to shine in France, losing pool games to Fiji and Wales to seal an historic early exit.

Coach Eddie Jones, irascible as ever, resigned on Sunday after a tumultuous 10 months in charge to leave Rugby Australia with everything to do in the coming four years.

### A TALE OF TWO TIERS

The next edition of the tournament has been expanded to 24 teams from the current 20, opening up the door of opportunity to more Tier II nations, but also raising the prospect of more heavy one-sided results.

Of the Tier II nations in France, only Fiji reached the knockout stages, beating Australia in the pool for the first time in 69 years on the way, but they also lost to Portugal.

World Rugby also announced plans for a new bi-annual international competition from 2026, comprising a top division of 12 teams from the Six Nations and the southern hemisphere's Rugby Championship.

Two further countries – thought likely to be Japan and Fiji – will be invited to make up the dozen, and matches will be played in July and November.

There will be a second division also made up of a dozen teams, although promotion and relegation will not come into operation until 2030.

The introduction of a bunker system whereby a yellow card can be upgraded to red by an off-field television match official, as was the case for Cane in the final, has proved controversial.

There have been differing results in officiating around the tackle, leaving many teams and supporters frustrated at what they see as unfair decisions.

"The game has got a few issues it's got to sort out," said New Zealand coach Ian Foster.

"That's not sour grapes. There were two different situations with different variables and one was a red card (Cane), one was a yellow (Kolisi on Ardie Savea)."

## Martin wins Thai MotoGP thriller

### MOTOGP

SPAIN'S JORGE MARTIN won a thrilling Thailand MotoGP race last Sunday (Oct 29) to close the gap on Francesco Bagnaia to 13 points in the world championship, with three legs of the season to go.

Italy's Bagnaia crossed the line third, behind Brad Binder, but was awarded second place after the South African was penalised one position for exceeding track limits on the final lap.

The trio had been involved in a titanic tussle over the closing laps with the lead changing hands before pole-sitter Martin, on a Pramac-Ducati, pipped his rivals and celebrated wildly as he crossed the line.

The Spaniard managed the race masterfully from pole position, conserving his tyres to leave him with enough grip to withstand the late onslaught from the fast-finishing KTM rider Binder and factory-Ducati pilot Bagnaia.

Martin took the full 37 points available for winning



Martin (centre) crosses the finish line. Photo: AFP

the 13-lap sprint and 26-lap main event at the Buriram International Circuit.

Bagnaia, attempting to defend his world title, came into the weekend with a 27-point cushion in the championship but saw that slashed by Martin.

Marco Bezzecchi was fourth on a VR-46 Ducati, Aleix Espargaro crossed the line fifth and Fabio Quartararo sixth.

Espargaro was later penalised three seconds by stewards, relegating him to eighth, for running with tyre pressures lower than permitted.

The riders now head to Malaysia's Sepang circuit in two weeks' time with the championship duel looking likely to go to the wire.

The season rounds off in Qatar and Valencia later this month. AFPw

## Verstappen sets new win record

### FORMULA ONE

MAX VERSTAPPEN WON A RECORD-breaking 16<sup>th</sup> grand prix for 2023 after under-pressure teammate Sergio Pérez crashed out of the first lap of his home Mexico City Grand Prix last Sunday (Oct 29).

"It's been another incredible season," Verstappen said, reflecting on his 16<sup>th</sup> win, the most of any driver in a single season in F1 history. The win also drew the Dutchman level with Alain Prost on 51 Formula One victories overall.

"The car has been unbelievable to drive in most places. When you as a team work really well together and you try not to make too many mistakes over the whole season, then you can achieve something like this," Verstappen added.

The world champion started behind pole-getter Charles Leclerc and Ferrari teammate Carlos Sainz but got a better start than both, sandwiching himself between the red cars on the long run down to the first corner.

Sainz dropped back into third, opening space on the left side of the circuit for the surging Pérez, who had got the best launch of the lot from fifth.

It gifted the Mexican a chance to sweep around the outside of all three cars to take an unlikely lead in much the same way Verstappen had done to the Mercedes teammates in 2021.

But Pérez attempted to claim the corner before he was fully past Leclerc immediately to his right. The pair made heavy contact that sent the Red Bull Racing driver airborne and into the run-off zone.

His car was badly damaged, and though



Verstappen celebrates his record-breaking win in Mexico. Photo: AFP

he was able to limp back to pit lane, the team could do nothing to get him back into his home race, breaking the hearts of more than 100,000 fans inside the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez.

Verstappen escaped the incident unscathed and was able to sprint away to a dominant margin of more than 17 seconds by mid distance before cruising home to a 13-second victory.

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton came in second, ahead of Leclerc and Sainz. The result shrinks Hamilton's gap to Pérez for second in the drivers championship to just 20 points with three rounds remaining.

Lando Norris finished in fifth place, with George Russell and Daniel Ricciardo sixth and seventh respectively.

Oscar Piastri finished eighth in his damaged McLaren, having taken hits at the start of the race in a duel with Yuki Tsunoda that saw the pair twice make contact before the Japanese driver spun himself out of the race.

Thai driver Alex Albon drove a strong race from 14<sup>th</sup> to ninth for another two points for Williams ahead of Esteban Ocon in 10<sup>th</sup>.

Michael Lamonato



# City stress class divide after Old Trafford stroll

## FOOTBALL

AFP

Manchester City underlined the vast gulf in quality between themselves and Manchester United last Sunday (Oct 29) as the defending Premier League champions strolled to an easy 3-0 win at Old Trafford.

Pep Guardiola's team made the most of the early running and were awarded a penalty after VAR spotted a foul on Rodri by Rasmus Hojlund as the ball was crossed into the area from a free-kick.

It was the first spot-kick Manchester City have been awarded at Old Trafford since 1992.

Erling Haaland stepped up to tuck home his 12<sup>th</sup> goal of the season in all competitions, adding another in the second-half before Phil Foden completed the scoreline.

Manager Guardiola said it was one of City's best performances of the campaign.

"I had a feeling that at this part of the season we are play-



Erling Haaland celebrates after opening the scoring at Old Trafford last Sunday (Oct 29). Photo: AFP

ing better than at this point last season," he said afterwards.

"When we come here to Old Trafford we perform well – last season we lost, this season we won, so good."

The win sees City placed third in the table, level on 24 points with Arsenal who crushed Sheffield United 5-0 with goals from Fabio Vieira, Takehiro Tomiyasu and an Eddie Nketiah hat-trick.

Tottenham remain top on 26 points after a 2-1 win at Crystal Palace last Friday where a Joel Ward own goal

and a strike from captain Son Heung-min secured the victory.

Liverpool swept Nottingham Forest aside 3-0 with Diogo Jota, Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah all on target to ensure Jurgen Klopp's side maintain their 100% home record in the Premier League this season.

High-flying Aston Villa, in fifth spot, won their 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive home league game, beating struggling Luton 3-1 while Brighton drew 1-1 with Fulham.

Chelsea slipped into the bottom half of the table after a 2-0 loss to Brentford, meaning they have just one home win from their past 13 games in the league.

"I'm not happy and think the players also and the whole club is not happy about the run (at home)," said manager Mauricio Pochettino.

"It's a long time that we need to be more consistent here and very disappointed with this. We feel the responsibility that we need to change the dynamic."

Dominic Calvert-Lewin scored the only goal of the game as Everton beat West Ham 1-0 to give themselves breathing space above the relegation zone.

Bournemouth came from behind to beat fellow strugglers Burnley 2-1 and secure their first league win of the season thanks to a fine solo effort from Antoine Semenyo and a sensational lob from distance by Philip Billing, while Wolves and Newcastle United fought out an entertaining 2-2 draw in the Saturday evening game.



Photo: PPHO

## Thousands turn out for stroke awareness fun run

### PHUKET

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE turned out for the 'Sang Nam Jai Thai Nation' fun run events at Saphan Hin and Kamala Beach last Sunday morning (Oct 29), held as part of a national series of events to promote awareness of strokes and their debilitating effects.

The annual event is held in honour of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen, with this year marking the ninth event, held under the theme "Thailand without Strokes".

Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat and his wife Ms Busadee led the host of officials marking the start of the main event at Saphan Hin, organised through the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO).

Phuket had the second-highest number of registrants of all 77 provinces in the

country, and the highest turnout of all provinces in Southern Thailand, the PPHO reported. A total of 16,982 people throughout the South registered to join the event.

The event at Kamala saw local participants proceed along a five-kilometre course, with the choice of walking or running. A similar-length course from Saphan Hin led through the streets of Phuket Town.

"Cerebrovascular disease is an important public health problem in the world and in Thailand," PPHO Chief Dr Kusak Kukkiattikoon noted.

"In Phuket, in 2022 there were 1,191 stroke patients and 129 deaths from strokes, and so far in 2023 there have been 1,107 stroke patients and 53 deaths," Dr Kusak added.

The aim of the event was to promote awareness of strokes, and to encourage people to exercise and live healthy lifestyles, he concluded.

The Phuket News

## Captain Buttler stumped by England World Cup misery as champions toil

### CRICKET

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS England have suffered an awful World Cup campaign, leaving their captain Jos Buttler stumped.

Only an unlikely mathematical miracle will save England who are rock-bottom of the 10-nation tournament having won fewer games than even non-Test playing Netherlands.

"Answers on a postcard. There's some top players in there who were a long way short of their best," said Buttler after his side suffered a fifth defeat in six games against India last Sunday (Oct 29).

"Very disappointing. At the halfway stage chasing 230 we fancied ourselves. It is as good as we have been with the ball throughout the tournament. But it's the same old story. It is a about executing your skills. Chasing 230 there wasn't scoreboard pressure – we are falling short," he added.

After restricting the hosts to 229, England were bowled



Buttler is bowled out against India. Photo: AFP

out inside the 35<sup>th</sup> over by the hosts, who remain top of the table at time of press.

The loss follows earlier tournament defeats to Sri Lanka, South Africa and Afghanistan for the defending champions.

Elsewhere, five-time champions Australia edged out New Zealand by just five runs in the highest-scoring World Cup game in history last Saturday.

Australia piled up 388 all out as Travis Head top scored with 109 and fellow opener David Warner made 81.

New Zealand battled hard, with Rachin Ravindra top scoring with 116, to finish on 383-9 in 50 overs.

With a total of 771 runs, it was the highest scoring game at a World Cup, beating the 754 scored in South Africa's win against Sri Lanka earlier in the tournament.

"That was awesome. Sometimes I have to remember I'm out in the field, not a spectator. A fantastic game, they kept coming at us," said Australia skipper Pat Cummins.

In their previous match, Glenn Maxwell scored 106 off just 40 balls, the fastest ever World Cup century, and Warner hit 104 to lead Australia to a record World Cup 309-run rout of the Netherlands. AFP

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