

OFFICIALS IMPOTENT AGAINST TAXI CARTELS > PAGE 2



'I am not a cheat,' said Phuket taxi driver Jetsada 'Bang Num' Kahapana. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A taxi driver was let off with a token fine and three hours of politeness training for unloading a tirade of verbal abuse on a tourist couple this week as Phuket taxi operators continued to dictate to Phuket officials and local businesses which taxis can pick up tourists from where, and the fares tourists are charged.

Blanked by officials in their response to the incident is the fear Phuket taxi cartels exert over other taxi drivers, namely Grab and Bolt drivers, in picking up customers.

The decades-long practice reared its ugly head in front of Cafe del Mar last Friday (Jan 8), when Kevin Phol,

son of online celebrity "SuperdocYo", was told the fare from Kamala to Patong was B600, and that he had no choice but to take the taxi offered – a 10-seater VIP minivan – because that vehicle was next in the queue.

Mr Phol disputed the high price, and booked a taxi through a Grab/Bolt app for the same journey, for which he was quoted a fare of only B165. However, the Grab driver in the end refused to pick up the couple, citing fear of reprisal by the taxi drivers in front of the club.

An argument ensued, with taxi driver Jetsada "Bang Num" Kahapana becoming enraged when he was called a cheat for offering such a high price for the fare.

Mr Phol posted online long and detailed accounts of the incident. In

the videos posted online, Jetsada can be seen pointing in Mr Phol's face in an intimidating manner, and shouting while repeatedly pointing his finger at close range in the face of Mr Phol's girlfriend, who was recording the incident.

During the argument, Jetsada's spit was landing on Mr Phol's face as he shouted. Jetsada was not wearing a face mask, despite repeated warnings of legal action by Phuket officials.

Of note, while Jetsada was unloading his tirade at Mr Phol, security at the club politely intervened to prevent the incident from escalating.

Jetsada was not bothered by Mr Phol threatening to call the police. "I'm a Phuket taxi," he said.

Mr Phol called 191. Police arrived and escorted Mr Phol to Kamala

Police Station, not Jetsada. Mr Phol was questioned by police, and then filed a formal complaint.

The Grab driver who declined to pick the couple up told Mr Phol that the taxi rank near Cafe del Mar was not the only location where Grab/Bolt drivers were afraid to pick up tourists, Mr Phol noted. "It seems to be like this at many places," he wrote.

Jetsada defended his actions, saying B600 from Kamala to Patong in his VIP van was not expensive.

Mr Jetsada said he approached the couple, Mr Phol and his girlfriend, as they were walking out of the club as the club was closing. "I asked him if he wanted to take a taxi or not, but they did not answer me and walked past me. They talked with a tuk-tuk driver for a while and then walked...

NEWS PAGE 3

Hospitals come under fire as dubious scams



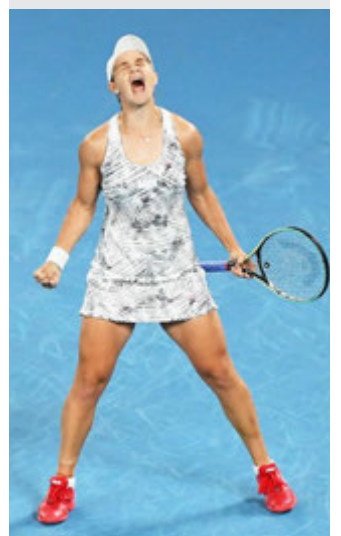
LIFE PAGE 9

Phuket teen Tangton sets sights on stars



SPORT PAGE 16

Barty time for hero Ashleigh at Aussie Open



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

execeditor@classactmedia.co.th

News



Reward for
stolen holiday
cash > p4

Powerless to take action

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO) Chief Jaturong Kaewkasi has gone public to obscurely defend the fares charged by tuk-tuk and taxi drivers in Phuket.

Under the theme that he was "explaining" the fares charged by tuk-tuks and taxis in Phuket, Mr Jaturong this week announced that his office will investigate the incident in Kamala last Friday that has since gone viral online, and take any action deemed necessary (see page 1).

However, Mr Jaturong's explanation obliqued that under the current arrangement between the island's taxi cartels and provincial officials, his office is powerless to do anything.

"People on social media have widely criticized the incident. Many people who have traveled to Phuket have posted many comments about what may have been called different expensive fares [sic]," Mr Jaturong said.

"For taxi fares, whether it is a taxi or van, that are in the system of the province [registered to be oper-



Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO) Chief Jaturong Kaewkasi. Photo: Radio Thailand Phuket

ated in Phuket] and with the PLTO, there are fares that have been set as standard by the Phuket Governor," Mr Jaturong said, without clarifying that they were NOT set by the current Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew.

"There has been an announcement regarding the rate of hire of passenger vehicles in Phuket which was enacted on Oct 29 last year to prevent the exploitation of passengers or the deception of tourists," he added.

"...by which the fares set that the passenger shall pay shall be considered [sic] as the highest rate for no more than four passengers and the price can be negotiated between the passenger and the driver," he said.

"The fare for Kamala Beach to Patong Beach is B400, which if the customer does not like the price, the customer can refuse," Mr Jaturong explained.

Mr Jaturong did not elaborate on any other options available for passengers, and made no mention

of Grab or Bolt taxi services. He did not even mention metered taxis.

Of note, the Oct 29 order Mr Jaturong referred to did not mark any new agreed fares to be charged by Phuket taxi drivers. The only order given by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew on that day was for tuk-tuk and taxi drivers to follow the rules already laid down.

Governor Narong in July last year ordered an investigation into the fares charged by taxi drivers at Phuket Airport after yet another tourist went public about being overcharged.

That investigation went nowhere, despite "talks" involving Tanee Suebrerk, Deputy-Director of the Department of Land Transport. Airport taxi operators "agreed" to charge "20% off" the set fares as long as the COVID crisis continues.

In the probe, the taxi drivers cited that they used to charge B1,000 for travelling from the airport to Kata, a distance they said was "about 46km", but their drivers were now charging only B800.

Again, of note, Mr Jetsada in

Kamala last Friday quoted B600 as the fare from Kamala to Patong, a distance of about 12km.

Mr Jaturong neglected to explain that the "set rates" he referred to were made by agreement only between the island's taxi cartels and provincial officials.

The rates were set in 2013 after the Royal Thai Police, backed by the Royal Thai Army, conducted a sweep of the island to "tidy up" the tuk-tuk and taxi industries, especially following violent attacks on tourists and the rising number of complaints clearly exposing attempts to extort money from visitors.

The number of complaints have continued to rise in recent months, with one tourist complaining in July last year that he was quoted the equivalent of B200 a kilometre for a taxi ride in Phuket Town. Another incident saw Phuket Tourist Police post a notice listing the "set fares" from Phuket airport, also in July last year.

Phuket officials last attempted to lower the set fares in 2016. Phuket's taxi cartels said, "No."

Taxi tirade hits TikTok

...back to the taxi queue again," he said.

Mr Phol had asked the tuk-tuk driver how much to go to a resort on Nanai Rd in Patong, Mr Jetsada added. "He didn't ask me first. He asked another colleague of mine, but since my car was the first in the queue for service, my friend pointed at me to specify that this is the driver [Mr Phol had no choice but to use]," he continued.

Mr Jetsada said there was no negotiation between himself and Mr Phol about the fare.

"'You are a cheat' are the first words that they said to me. Then I asked them, 'How did I cheat you?'"

"He showed me that in the Bolt app it was only B168 from Kamala to Patong and accused me of cheating," Mr Jetsada said.

"I told them that if they're happy with the price in the app, go for that price. I still confirm that my taxi is a local taxi. My taxi price is B600, which is the price that has been used since the service here opened to tour-



Taxi driver Jetsada mid-tirade in the face of Mr Phol's girlfriend.

ists," Mr Jetsada claimed.

"They still accused me of cheating on the price when they hadn't even used my services yet... That is when I started to get angry," he said..

"I didn't force or threaten them that they must take only my taxi. They can choose to

use the service to the fullest," Mr Jetsada said.

Mr Jetsada ignored the reports that other taxi drivers would not pick up any customers from in front of the club because of fear of reprisal attacks by the tuk-tuk and taxi drivers already at the taxi rank there.

BrightView Surgery

Life without glasses, after you're 50?

Yes, it is possible!

"Total solution to say goodbye to eye glasses - Forever"

- Your key solution to a world without glasses.
- Quick and easy procedure, fast recovery.
- State-of-the-art technology to bring back your youthful or Maximize your vision.
- Lifetime solution for cataract, free yourself worrying cataract degeneration.

To know more about BrightView Surgery, please contact us at

www.brightviewcenter.com +66 7625 4425 BPK.Intermarketing@bgh.co.th

BANGKOK HOSPITAL PHUKET

1719 www.phukethospital.com

MEMBER OF 3DMS

Hospitals come under fire

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew has ordered officials to prepare how to treat tourists appropriately if they test positive for COVID-19, or are designated high-risk contacts, after landing on the island.

Governor Narong warned officials to ensure that quarantine facilities were appropriate and adequate, and that hospitals were prepared to provide treatment to tourists who test positive to the level expected.

"We need to take lessons in how to provide services to COVID-19 infected tourists in the form of hospitals," Governor Narong said.

"There is a lot of feedback from tourists which the relevant sectors have jointly discussed and formulated guidelines for raising standards," he added.

The order followed the heavily critical report published last week by the *Sunday Times*, written by respected journalist Jonathan Miller, exposing the experience tourists are subjected to after being ordered to quarantine in a "hospital".



Governor Narong delivered a clear message. Photo: PR Phuket

"Living like a prisoner who pays for himself," wrote Mr Miller, famous for being the first foreign correspondent to interview King Vajiralongkorn after he was crowned King of Thailand.

Impromptu parties were organised at the three-star hotel, which Mr Miller said had long been closed before being hastily reopened to serve as a quarantine facility.

None of the tourists at the hospital wore masks, Mr Miller reported.

He also gave a critical report on the quality of care provided at the hospital where he stayed after he contracted COVID-19 while staying

at the hospital.

Even under the supervision of the Phuket Provincial Hospital and the Thai Ministry of Public Health, the standard of health care and quality of life of those infected who were quarantined is quite poor, he wrote.

Mr Miller tested negative for COVID-19 on landing in Phuket, arriving for the New Year holidays, but was declared a high-risk contact after his female partner tested positive.

The hospital he chose presented his "least-bad option".

"Back then I wasn't to know that I was stepping out of the blistering Siamese

sunshine into a Kafkaesque parallel universe," he wrote.

THE REACTION

In response, Governor Narong on Jan 26 led a press conference broadcast live online to assure tourists that "all the bugs in the hotel quarantine system" had been resolved and that Phuket was ready to welcome tourists.

The announcement came just six days before the Test & Go scheme resumed on Feb 1.

Governor Narong was joined by Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket Office Director Nanthasiri Ronnasiri, Bhumikitti Ruktaengam, President of the Phuket Tourist

Association, and Dr Weerasak Lorthongkham, Director of Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Of note, the press conference was held in Thai.

After learning of "negative news" about the treatment of foreign tourists at hospitals and hotels, a team of officials was dispatched to investigate the claims, Governor Narong said.

The aim was to use the "crisis as an opportunity", he said.

"We are ready to improve and correct the defects. At the same time, if any information is incorrect it has been clarified for the public to be informed by the province itself.

"I'm ready to do everything better in the part of Phuket," he said.

With registration under the Test & Go entry scheme resuming on Feb 1, the number of tourists arriving is expected to increase with each passing day, Governor Narong noted.

"We guarantee that tourists can have confidence in the management of Phuket," he said.

ALLOWED OUT

TAT Phuket Director Ms Nanthasiri noted that tourists who

test positive but are designated 'Green' patients will still have to observe quarantine at a hospital or hospital,

"Green group asymptomatic tourists do not need to be hospitalised. They are able to choose to be treated at a hospital, which will take care of tourists in a relaxed manner," she added.

Tourists at hospitals will no longer be required to remain confined to their rooms, she said.

"They can come out of the room to walk, exercise or go to eat. This is considered a relaxing activity under the measures set by the Ministry of Public Health," she said.

"The Tourism Authority of Thailand, together with the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office, contracted hospitals and related agencies will pay closer attention to the measures being enforced and lay down strict guidelines for tourists and the hospital operators to follow," she added.

"From now on, more measures will be put in place to take better care of tourists, to have the same practice in terms of defining activities and duration of activities," Ms Nanthasiri said.

Foreigner shot at Patong resort

PATONG POLICE HAVE confirmed the arrest of a Thai man for shooting a foreign man at a resort in Patong in the early hours of Jan 26.

A copy of the arrest report provided to *The Phuket News* confirmed that Thai national Somphot Piemsak, 54, registered as living on Phisit Goranee Rd in Patong, was arrested in front of the B-Lay Tong Phuket resort on the Patong beach road at 4am.

Somphot was found in possession of a 9mm semi-automatic handgun and bullets.

Patong Police were notified of the shooting at 1:50am. Police were told that a foreign man had trespassed into the resort and "caused chaos" inside the resort. The foreign man had been confronted and two gunshots were fired, said the report.

Police have not officially released any further details of the shooting or the arrest. Police also have not released any details of the victim's medical condition.

The arrest report did confirm that Somphot was



One of the police reports of the shooting leaked to the press.

facing charges of "attempt to kill someone" and "carrying a firearm in a city, village or public way without justifiable reason".

Patong Police Chief Col Sujin Ninbordee later declined to reveal any details of the shooting to *The Phuket News*, saying that he had no authority to do so.

"Only the Phuket Provincial Police Commander has the authority to," he said.

However, details already leaked to the Thai press gave very detailed accounts of the incident, all reported in Thai language only.

The reports even named the foreigner, identified as a Swedish national.

The reports claimed,

through "investigation", that the foreign man had trespassed onto the resort grounds and used the swimming pool.

The resort currently remains closed with security personnel patrolling the grounds.

Allegedly a child of the owner of the resort was staying at the hotel, and reported the foreigner's presence to the security guards on duty at the time.

The security guards, now presumably including Somphot, responded and confronted the foreign man, who was reportedly swimming naked in the hotel swimming pool.

Security guard Somphot reportedly fired two warning shots, with one of the warning shots grazing one of the foreign man's legs.

Police were then called and Somphot surrendered himself and the gun that injured the foreign man, said the reports.

However, it was not reported what exactly Somphot was threatened with by the naked foreigner.

The Phuket News



SUNDAY STEAK & LOBSTER

LIVE DJ, SUNSET POP UP
WITH FREE TAPAS, STEAK
AND LOBSTER SPECIAL.

From 5pm.



076 33 8888

events@salaphuket.com

www.salaphuket.com

The Phuket News

CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

PURIYA BEAVAN
EditorCHRIS HUSTED
Executive Editor
084 307 7408
execeditor@classactmedia.co.thBEN TIREBUCK
News / Sport Editor
061 806 8132
editor3@classactmedia.co.thCHUTHARAT 'UM'
PLERIN
Thai Editor
088 766 1615
thai@classactmedia.co.thJASON BEAVAN
General Manager
086 479 7471
gm@classactmedia.co.thSIRIPORN (NOK)
SEANGMAS
Sales Support
086 479 7470
sales@classactmedia.co.thNIRAVIT 'MOS' VORAVANITCHA
THANAPONG 'OAK' KHAO-AMPHAIPHAN
Graphic designersThe Phuket News
@thephuketnews

ADVERTISING

ClassAct Media

The Phuket News

WINDOW ON PHUKET

Where to eat in PHUKET

Новости Phuket

ข่าวภูเก็ต

NEWS TV

LIVE 89.5

Phuket TICKETMASTER

076 612 550 ext. 605

Fax: 076 612 553

Info@classactmedia.co.th
thephuketnews.com99/7 Moo 1 (Billion Plaza),
T. Kathu, A. Kathu, Phuket 83120

PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

www.foreca.com

FRI FEB 4



High: +33°

Low: +26°

Wind 14 m/s

SAT FEB 5



High: +33°

Low: +26°

Wind 14 m/s

SUN FEB 6



High: +33°

Low: +26°

Wind 7 m/s

MON FEB 7



High: +33°

Low: +25°

Wind 7 m/s

TUE FEB 8



High: +34°

Low: +25°

Wind 4 m/s

WED FEB 9



High: +33°

Low: +25°

Wind 4 m/s

THU FEB 10



High: +33°

Low: +25°

Wind 4 m/s

Reward offered for stolen holiday cash

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A Greek tourist is offering a €1,000 reward for the full return of €4,900 (about B182,400) stolen from his rental car in Kata. If the money is returned in part, the tourist is willing to return 20% of the amount returned.

Alexandros Alexiadis learned of the theft on Jan 26, but as of last Sunday (Jan 31) had received no updates on whether any action has been taken to recover this stolen money.

Alexandros, or just "Alex", arrived in Phuket on Dec 26 with his wife Lesia and their three children: 14-year-old son Illia; 11-year-old daughter Liza; and their youngest, 5-year-old daughter Vasiliki.

The family arrived in Phuket from Greece under the Test & Go entry scheme and checked in to stay at the Kata Ocean View Residence condo project. The family is set to fly home on Feb 25.

"Officers from Karon Police Station came to see me twice, but it is hard to communicate with them. They don't speak English," Alex told *The Phuket News*.



Alex and his family, hoping for a better holiday.

"Some ladies who work for the Condo helped me by translating, but it was limited. I called my embassy in Bangkok, they told me they will also contact the police tomorrow," he said.

The money was in the car as staff said he was unable to place the money in the safe in the residence he is renting as staff said they were unable to open it. The option of placing the money in the management office safe was not suggested, leaving Alex not to know they had one.

And it was not left in the room due to cleaning staff concerns. "Big irony, isn't it?" Alex admits.

"What bothers me the most is

that the parking area [in front of the condo building] has some CCTV coverage. The entrance is visible from the cameras but the car was parked in a blind spot," he said.

The car was parked in the location where it was entered and the money taken as it was rented from the condo management office.

Alex noted that so far he has been refused to be able to view the CCTV footage the condo staff do have of the parking area. Concerns about Alex's stolen holiday money have been met with decreasing enthusiasm.

"They tell me to just accept the reality that my money is stolen and

let it go," Alex said.

At this stage not sure how the thief entered the car. "I found the driver door partly open. At first I thought I probably left it unlocked, but I see now that the car autolocks if it is not driven," Alex explained.

Tourist Police have now been informed of Alex's predicament. The theft of the money has left the family with just Alex's credit card to rely on while in Phuket.

The exact amount stolen was €4,900, comprising 47 €100 banknotes and one €200 banknote.

"If it is fully returned the reward will be €1,000, if partly returned they can keep 20%," Alex said.

People can contact Alex by calling 090-8910802 or via WhatsApp or Viber on +306974888915.

Alex has also had a notice announcing the reward posted in Thai on the back of the car.

For Alex, who has returned to Phuket on holiday many times over the past 10 years, the theft has come as a shock.

However, Alex added that he understood the financial pressure local people have been under throughout the COVID crisis.

Corruption probed over mangrove clearing

OFFICIALS FROM THE NATIONAL Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) Phuket office are investigating the clearing of three rai of mangrove forest in Koh Kaew, with promises to take legal action if they find any wrongdoing.

The officers conducted an inspection of the site, in Moo 6, Koh Kaew, on Jan 25. Suksan Prasara-ae, Director of the NACC Office in Phuket, led the investigation, joined by officials from the Phuket Mangrove Forest Resource Management Center, Koh Kaew Subdistrict Administrative Organisation (OrBorTor) and police officers from the Natural Resources and Environment Crime Suppression Division Region 5 branch.

Also joining the team of investigators were operations officers from the Phuket branch of the Internal Security Operations Command (Isoc), the political arm of the Thai Armed Forces.

Local residents assisting the officers included the village headman (Phu Yai Baan) of Moo 6, Koh Kaew, and members of the "STRONG Club – Sufficiency Against Corruption Phuket Province".

The investigation was launched after a "whistleblower" had re-



Photo: NACC Phuket

ported the clearing of the mangroves, which are protected by Thai law, noted a report of the investigation on Jan 24, Mr Suksan explained.

Special permission from the Cabinet must first be given before any mangroves in Thailand may be cleared legally, even for government projects.

The preliminary field visits confirmed that approximately three rai of land had been cleared. The site is surrounded by mangroves. Remains of mangroves removed in the clearing of the land were found at the site.

The Phuket Mangrove Forest Resources Management Center reported that it will jointly investigate whether any legal land documents have been issued for the site.

"If there is an intrusion [onto a protected mangrove area], the intruder must be prosecuted and government officials must be charged with neglect of duty," NACC Phuket director Mr Suksan said.

The Phuket News

Non-Imm visa stays roll back to pre-COVID

PHUKET IMMIGRATION HAS confirmed that COVID Visa extensions will continue to be provided through to Mar 25, but that extensions to stay for foreigners on Non-Immigrant visas will no longer be automatically issued. Instead, the requirements will now roll back to pre-COVID conditions.

An officer responding through Phuket Immigration's official Facebook page, who declined to be named, confirmed the news by providing a copy of an official order issued by national Immigration Chief Pol Lt Gen Pakpoomphiphat Satchaphan on Jan 24.

The order instructed all Immigration officers to "increase the rigor in considering granting visa extensions for foreigners to prevent illegal stay and prevent further infiltration for other criminal offenses."

Under the order, all foreigners staying in the country on tourist visas extended through the "COVID Visa extension" scheme may continue to have their stay extended through to Mar 25.

However, foreigners staying in the country on a Non-Immigrant Visa, including "Non-Imm O" (Ordinary), Non-Imm B (Business), Non-Imm Ed (Education), will no longer be able to automatically extend their stay in Thailand.

When their current permit-to-stay



Face masks are handed out to foreigners outside the Phuket Immigration Office in Phuket Town. Photo: Phuket Immigration

(which Immigration calls its "visas"), the foreigners must either leave the country or apply to their local Immigration Office for special permission to continue to stay in Thailand, the order confirms.

"In the case of foreigners who enter the Thai Kingdom with a Visa on Arrival, they will not be able to apply for a temporary stay in the Thai Kingdom according to this letter. They cannot request to change the type of visa as well, in accordance with the Immigration Letter No. 0029.161/Vor 3808 dated Dec 9, 2021, regarding guidelines for compliance with immigration law," the order noted.

The order further instructed Immigration officers to: "Publicize to foreigners that once this permit is due, they must leave the Kingdom or submit an application to stay for reasons of other necessity if they have all the qualifications according to the Order No. 327/2014." *The Phuket News*

Family reels as loved dog slain

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A long-term Phuket resident endured a horrific ordeal on Jan 22 when his family's beloved pet dog was shot dead by a local farm worker while on a walk in the countryside just east of Baan Manik, Thalang.

Colin Mackay, the author of the book "A History of Phuket and the Surrounding Region", was walking with two friends and his dog Harley on an orchard trail near the Bang Neow Dum reservoir when the incident occurred. It was the first time Harley had been for a walk since giving birth to a litter of nine puppies only three weeks earlier.

Whereas Mr Mackay confirmed the trail does pass through private land, it is one that he and many other trekkers regularly take without any previous incident and that the landowner has never had any prior concerns with.

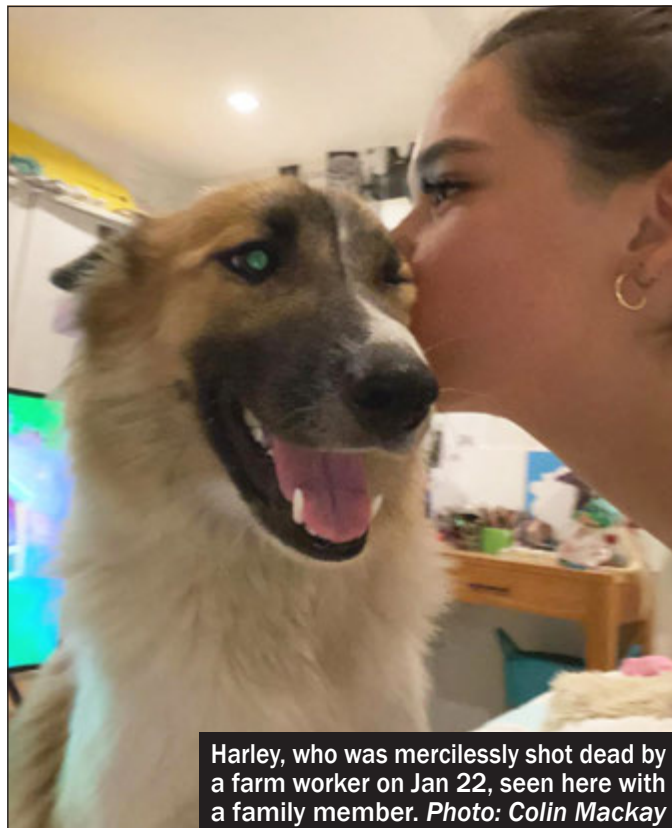
With Harley happily walking about 15 metres ahead, the three men neared a pair of local wooden worker's houses when they suddenly heard a gunshot and yelps of agony from Harley, who was clearly seriously distressed, spinning in crazed circles.

Stunned, Mr Mackay ran to his stricken dog's aide. Harley struggled for life for a few agonising moments before she collapsed and died as her owner tried desperately to comfort her.

Mr Mackay said it appeared the gun had been fired at Harley's face and the bullet had lodged itself inside her body, causing irreparable damage.

Mr Mackay's colleagues identified that the gunshot had come from one of the wooden houses on their left and the three men subsequently approached it to attempt to understand what had just happened.

A Thai man left the house



Harley, who was mercilessly shot dead by a farm worker on Jan 22, seen here with a family member. Photo: Colin Mackay

and walked towards them as Mr Mackay asked why had he just shot the dog for no apparent reason, adding that Harley was walking harmlessly along the trail as she and they had done many, many times previously, as had many other dog walkers.

The man denied he had been the one who shot the dog, jumped on his motorcycle and drove off, although Mr Mackay did manage to note down the bike's registration plate number.

Mr Mackay laid Harley's corpse at the side of the track before he walked back four kilometres to retrieve his pickup truck with plans to return and collect her body.

When he returned, however, Harley's body had disappeared and clear efforts had been made to wash away much of the blood from the trail.

Mr Mackay enquired with other locals in the area as to where his dog had gone but nobody claimed to know anything.

Once he returned home, Mr Mackay's wife contacted the landowner who was very

apologetic and confirmed he had heard about the shooting. Mr Mackay's wife explained the family merely wanted the workers to return Harley's body so a proper and respectful farewell could be conducted and their beloved pet could be buried with dignity on their own land. If this request was accepted then the police would not be contacted, Mr Mackay's wife confirmed.

Later that evening the landowner called back to say the person who they believe was responsible for shooting Harley had moved the body and then disappeared. The landowner claimed the man had been working at the property only for a couple of days and he did not now know how to contact him.

Mr Mackay filed a formal report of the incident with the Thalang Police the next day. At time of press he still has not recovered Harley's body.

"Harley was a very special dog, very intelligent, gentle and kind," Mr Mackay told *The Phuket News*.

"She slept with my teenage daughter most nights, who



Harley (left) at home.



Only blood stains remained where Harley's body was last seen.

absolutely adored her. Harley had become a beloved member of our family," he added.

"What makes the shooting even more senseless, heartbreaking and difficult to come to terms with is that Harley had just given birth to her first litter of nine puppies only three weeks previously and was still in the process of weaning them. The walk on

Saturday was our first since she had given birth.

"Harley was a very happy girl that day. It is just so heartbreaking that it ended in the way it did," Mr Mackay lamented.

Mr Mackay also contacted Soi Dog Foundation, renowned for its work in treating and protecting local street dogs and cats and promoting a positive

anti-cruelty sentiment to all animals.

"The number of cruel cases and unwarranted killing of dogs in the region has increased drastically in the past 12 months, despite the fact there are now far less stray dogs around than before," commented John Dalley MBE, co-founder of Soi Dog Foundation.

"Our Community Relations team who investigate and pursue cruelty cases generally have at least one case per day reported. Sadly very few people are willing to report cases to the police because of fear of retaliation.

"It is illegal for anybody other than an authorised vet to kill a dog or a cat except in a life threatening situation. Anybody found guilty of killing or cruelty to animals can be imprisoned for up to two years and fined up to B40,000.

"Research has shown that people who are deliberately violent towards animals are frequently violent to humans as well.

"Whether Mr Mackay's dog was shot for the perpetrator's amusement, or whether he planned to eat it is unknown at this stage," concluded Mr Dalley.

hugme+ ANIMAL HOSPITAL

CARING FOR OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS 24 HOURS PER DAY.

HUGME.ANIMALHOSPITAL 100/16 MOO7 SRISUNTHON, THALANG, PHUKET 83110
076 510 656

Breakfast

The Freshest

Come for breakfast. Stay for the pool.

7:00 AM - 10:30 AM | The Pool House Kitchen
THB 590++ per person

- Including pool access, 25% off when dining and access to kid's club
- Please show proof of vaccination upon arrival at the hotel
- Offer valid until 30 March 2022

HyattRegencyPhuket hyattregencyphuket Hyatt Regency Phuket

10/12 Moo 8, Tambon Kamala

Another permit to sell alcohol

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Pubs, bars and other venues in Phuket currently operating as “restaurants” must now register and be issued a new permit in order to be able to legally sell alcohol that is to be consumed on the premises. Once approved, they may sell alcohol until 11pm.

The new regulation was announced by Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong at Phuket Provincial Hall on Jan 25.

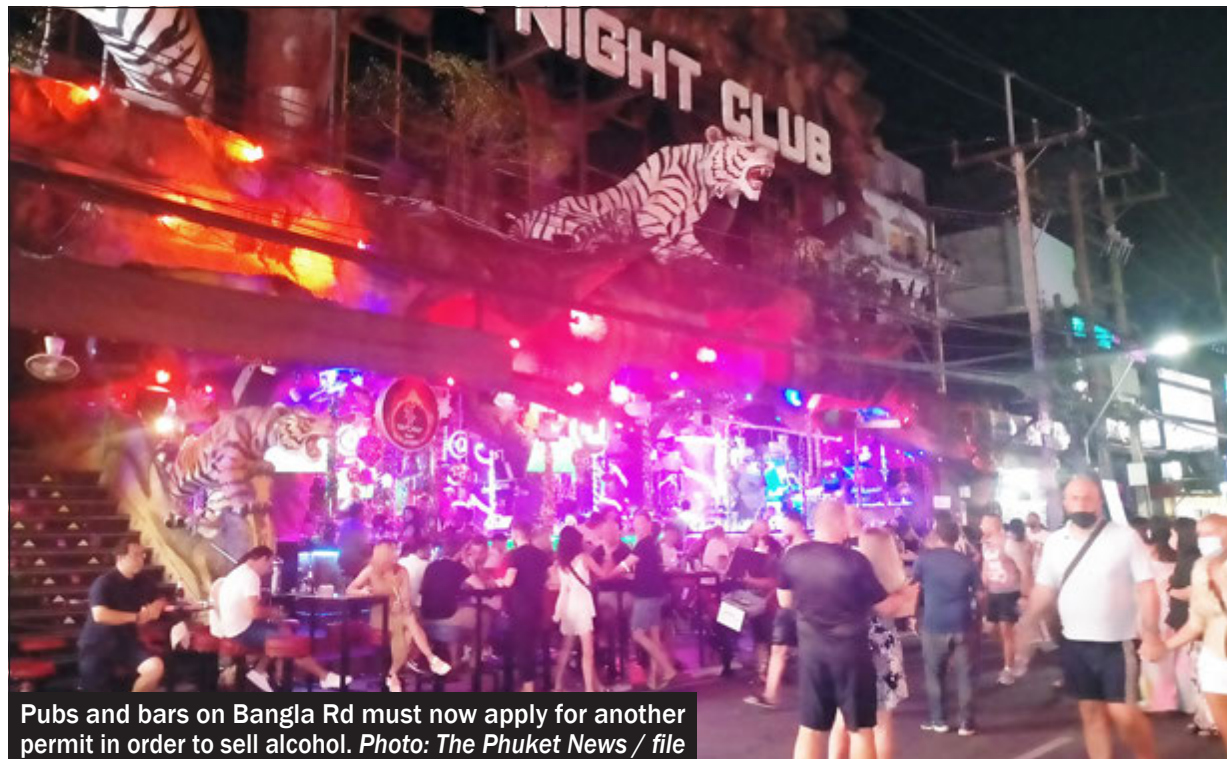
The provincial order enforcing the new regulation was signed into effect by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciw the same day.

Under the new order licensed venues may serve alcohol until 11pm, but only if they comply with SHA++ and Thai Stop COVID 2 Plus standards and are approved by local health officials, V/Gov Pichet said.

Applications for the permits will be received by District Offices, he added.

Phuket has three officially designated districts: Kathu (including Patong), Thalang and Muang (including Phuket Town, Wichit, Kata, Karon, Chalong and Rawai).

“Business establishments such as pubs, bars, karaoke venues that wish to change to a restaurant must apply for a permit from the District Disease Control Operations Center,”



Pubs and bars on Bangla Rd must now apply for another permit in order to sell alcohol. Photo: The Phuket News / file

V/Gov Pichet said.

“The District Disease Control Operations Center will conduct standard inspections as required by the Ministry of Public Health. Then the Phuket Provincial Communicable Disease Committee will approve the restaurant that has passed the standard to start for business,” he explained.

In short, to be issued a permit the venues must comply with the measures that have already been enforced in Phuket for months.

The venue must comply with the Ministry of Public Health’s requirements for operating as a public service establishment, service personnel must be fully vaccinated and have an ATK test every seven days; and all service recipients must strictly comply with DMHTTA measures.

The order issued introducing the new registration requirement included a three-page document that is to serve as the official application form for venue operators to apply for the permit.

Present at Phuket Provincial Hall for the announcement of the new regulation were Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Col Akanit Danpitaksan and Phuket Public Prosecutor’s Office Deputy Chief Kanit Kongthong.

Of note, not mentioned in the official report of the announcement, but included in the order issued by Governor Narong were the standard waiver of claims against the government for the regulation and the penalties for breach of the order.

“Because it is a case of urgent necessity, if it is left too late, it will cause damage. seriously affecting the public or affecting the public interest, therefore, the parties may not exercise their right to object under Section 30 Paragraph 2 (1) of the Administrative Practices Act B.E.,” the order notes.

“If anyone violates or fails to comply with this order may be [may be guilty of] an offense under Section 51 of the Communicable Diseases Act B.E. 2554 and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding B20,000 or Section 52 [of the act and] shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding B100,000, or both,” the order warned.

Offenders may also be punished under Section 18 of the Royal Decree on Public Administration In an Emergency Situation, and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or a fine not exceeding B40,000, or both.

The order was specifically marked to be in effect from Jan 25 until further notice, despite the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) announcing five days earlier that the new requirements were to come into effect on Jan 24, causing much confusion among local venue operators as to which rule was in effect for which operators, especially in Phuket.

TALUNG LOUNGE

A WEEK OF LOVE

AT TALUNG LOUNGE

13 – 20 FEBRUARY 2022

VALENTINE'S AFTERNOON TEA SET

Surprise and delight your partner with an unforgettable Valentine's afternoon tea at Talung Lounge! This sublime selection of sweet and savory treats will help you create magical memories with your loved one.

Time: 12:00 - 17:00 hrs.

Price: THB 650 net per couple or THB 1,350 including free-flow beverage

TAPAS SET MENU

Treat your loved one to an enchanting evening in the heart of Phuket Town. Hosted at Talung Lounge, this romantic occasion features indulgent tapas and specially crafted beverages.

Time: 17:00 - 21:00 hrs.

Price: THB 1,990 net per couple (including tapas set menu and four beverages per couple)

For more information or reservations, please call 076 643 555 or email reservations.phuket@courtyard.com

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT

Phuket Town

Market prices under watch

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE OFFICERS have begun inspecting vendors at markets to ensure customers are not deceived into paying more for the purchases than they should, and inspecting fresh produce retailers and wholesalers to prevent hoarding.

The campaign to ramp up measures against rip-offs and artificially inflated prices came ahead of Chinese New Year on Tuesday (Feb 1) – a time of year when many ethnic Chinese Phuket natives buy fresh fruit to place on altars as offerings and blessings.

Vice Governor Pichet Panapong, along with Commerce Chief Woranit Aphirattirawong, led an inspection of Suksamran Market in Chalong on Jan 26.

The products that were checked for pricing and quantity were pork, fresh chicken, vegetables, fruits, consumer products and other items for sale.

“These items are products that consumers need a lot to pay homage to numerous gods during the Chinese New Year and the government is concerned about the impact on people’s cost of living,” Vice Governor Pichet said.

“We need to protect consumers from being exploited in their purchases, as well as to follow the Phuket policy of taking care of the cost of living, so we have to check these goods,” he added.

Operators at the market were found to be cooperating with legal requirements to display prices clearly, and charging the prices that were displayed, said a report by the Phuket office of the Public Relations (PR Phuket).

“And no non-standard scales were found at the market,” the report added.

Phuket Commerce officers in recent weeks



Phuket Vice Governor inspects prices at the Suksamran Market in Chalong. Photo: Ministry of Commerce, Phuket

have also been inspecting wholesalers and retailers of fresh produce to guard against price gouging and hoarding supplies in order to inflate prices.

Prices continuing to increase was blamed on rising production costs combined with insufficient supply to meet demand, the report said.

However, vendors at the market said economic conditions had slowed sales. Where regular customers previously bought two or three items of the same type, they were now more conscious of their spending and buying just one, one vendor explained.

“Small traders have to sell at the market price. If we sell at prices any cheaper we lose,” the vendor said.

Another vendor explained that although Chinese New Year is usually an annual boon for sales of fruits and vegetables, this year sales were suffering.

“Prices have increased due to Chinese New Year approaching, but during this time people come to buy only the necessary goods they need,” she said. *The Phuket News*

Oil spill causes devastation

RAYONG

AFP

The Royal Thai Navy is scrambling to clean up the spill from a pipeline that leaked at least 60 tonnes of crude oil 20 kilometres off the coast of Rayong province on Jan 24.

Authorities have declared Mae Ram Phueng Beach a disaster zone and closed it to swimmers as crews in yellow plastic protective suits begin the clean-up.

Rayong resorts and seafood restaurants say the spill is a "nail in the coffin" for their businesses after the tourism industry's continued pandemic downturn.

For long-time fishermen who have been asked to halt their catches for at least a month in exchange for emergency payments, there is a feeling of déjà vu.

They recall the long road to environmental and economic recovery after another pipeline leak in the same area in 2013.

Initial compensation for that accident was around US\$900 (B30,000) but fisherman Tuem 46, says it is no substitute for regular work.

"I don't want compensa-



Workers cleaning up the oil-stained Mae Ramphueng beach in Rayong province last Saturday (Jan 29). Photo: Pornprom Satrabhaya / Bangkok Post

tion. I want a healthy sea that I can work in for my livelihood," he said.

"The sea can give us money every day. The sea was good in the past few years. I do not know how many years before it becomes good again."

Tuem usually makes around US\$30 a day from a seven-to-10-kilogramme haul but he says now he will struggle to cover the cost of petrol to retrieve his fishing nets, adding that a recent haul amounted to about 10% of his usual catch and many fish were dead.

Burapha University marine scientist Thanomsak Boonphakdee, who was taking water samples at the beach

over the weekend, says it will take a long time to fully assess environmental damage from the disaster.

"Crabs, small fish and shrimp are the (creatures) that will be affected most," he said, adding that marine life took at least five years to recover from the 2013 incident.

A dozen ships are spraying dispersant chemicals and so far more than 80,000 litres has been doused over the affected area.

There are also fears a national park on the island of Koh Samet will be affected and Thai authorities Sunday deployed absorbent material to Ao Prao beach as a precaution.

Star Petroleum Refining

Public Company Limited, the operator of the pipeline and whose major shareholder is US giant Chevron, said it was trying to minimise the slick's ecological impact using booms.

But satellite imagery shows the slick had already spread to an area of 51 square kilometres on Sunday, local media reported.

On Monday, The Pollution Control Department established a committee to evaluate the environmental damage caused with chief Athapol Charoenchansa saying it will calculate how much compensation Star Petroleum Refining Plc is required to pay for the clean-up.



Photo: Varuth Hirunyathab

Children aged 3-17 to get Sinovac jab

BANGKOK

A PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTRY sub-committee on immunity promotion has approved the use of China's Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine on minors over the age of three, it was announced on Monday (Jan 31).

The director-general of the Department of Disease Control, Opas Karnkawinpong, said parental consent will be required for the children between the ages of three and 17 to receive a shot.

Dr Opas said the decision was taken as a number of studies have shown the Sinovac jab is effective and safe for children and adolescents.

While the sub-committee has approved the use of Sinovac jabs for minors, Dr Opas said the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will

still have to certify that the vaccine is safe to be used on the age group.

Once the FDA approves it, the vaccine can be provided to minors in this age group right away, he said.

In December last year, the FDA approved the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children between the age of five and 11.

Deputy Prime Minister and Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul praised the move, saying parents now have more vaccine choices for their children.

Anutin said now that the country has procured various types of COVID-19 vaccine for people from all walks of life, the public should get vaccinated as soon as possible.

"Vaccination could reduce the severity of the illness if a person catches the virus," he said. *Bangkok Post*

FOR YOUR PROPERTY



RENOVATION MAINTENANCE REPAIR

FACADES – ROOFING – WATERPROOFING – POOLS

PROFESSIONAL
SOLUTIONS PROVIDER

20+ years of experience
International Expertise
In-house Technical Service and Project Management

BUILDING MAINTENANCE and
RENOVATION SPECIALIST

CIVIL MASTER INTERNATIONAL Co., Ltd
Boosting the image of your Property



www.cmi-thailand.com

VALENTINE'S ROMANTIC DINNER

Spoil your loved one this Valentine's Day for a truly unique experience watching the dramatic sunset during dinner over the Andaman Sea at The Nai Harn.

Listen to romantic sounds, indulge in scrumptious culinary delights and sip on carefully selected beverage either at Cosmo Restaurant or under the stars at the pool deck.

South African singer-songwriter Eric Canham will entertain you with Romantic song throughout the evening.

At the pool deck (limited tables only)
THB 8,500 net per person (Food and beverage pairing available only)

At Cosmo Restaurant
THB 5,500 net per person (food only)

Monday, 14th February 2022
7:00 pm.

Advanced reservations are recommended.
Please call +66 07638 0200 or email fbreservation@thenaiharn.com



THE NAI HARN
PHUKET



COSMO



Year of the disappearing tiger

By Dr Theresa Mundita S. Lim

Executive Director, Asean Centre for Biodiversity

The 2022 Lunar New Year, which began on Tuesday (Feb 1), marked new beginnings for many citizens throughout the Asean region, celebrating this holiday as we welcome the Year of the Tiger.

Lunar traditions and celebrations welcoming the Year of the Tiger bear more significance for the Asean region, being home to three out of the six existing subspecies of Tigers: the Indochinese Tiger, which has been recorded in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam; the Sumatran Tiger in Indonesia; and the Malayan Tiger in Peninsular Malaysia and Southern Thailand.

Tigers (*Panthera tigris*), the largest member of the cat family (*Felidae*), are mostly solitary and highly adaptable. They prey on large animals like deer, wild boar and even elephant calves, and require large contiguous areas approximately between 70 and 600 square kilometres to thrive.

These powerful apex predators continue to be pivotal players in ensuring the health of our ecosystems, and consequently the wellbeing of humanity. Yet, throughout their range, wild tiger populations are declining due to various threats resulting from human activities.

In Malaysia, the dwindling population of the Malayan Tigers, considered as one of the country's iconic species, is a major concern. Based on the latest figures from the survey that the Malaysian government is conducting, fewer than 150 tigers remain in the wild.

In Thailand, a group of 18 tigers has been recorded from June 2016 to February 2017 in the Dong Phrayayen and Khao Yai forest complex, based on a survey



Photo: Amri Afrianto

conducted by the country's Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Freeland Foundation and Panthera Foundation.

In Myanmar, tigers have been rarely spotted in the region and have been considered "extirpated" ("rooted out and destroyed completely"), according to the country's 6th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

We laud the efforts of the Asean Member States in addressing the decline of wild tigers and their prey. The Asean Centre for Biodiversity is currently supporting transboundary efforts between Malaysia and Thailand in protecting the important tiger and el-

ephant landscape at the border of these countries.

In Malaysia, routine patrolling is supplemented by the all-year-round anti-snare programmes and the recently established National Tiger Conservation Task Force chaired by the Prime Minister. In Indonesia, ex-situ wildlife conservation ("off-site conservation") efforts have succeeded in breeding several endangered animals, including the Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*).

The Asean Centre for Biodiversity congratulates the government of Malaysia and the Global Tiger Forum for successfully hosting the 4th Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation from January 19-21, 2022 and adopting the Kuala Lumpur Joint Statement on Tiger Conservation.

These developments reflect the strong commitment of the tiger range states to protecting the region's majestic felines. The Asean Centre for Biodiversity is ready to support further collaborations and dialogues to address the main threats to the tiger populations, including contributing to actions outlined in the Joint Statement.

Amid the challenges of biodiversity loss, the Asean Centre for Biodiversity urges everyone to take part in the shared responsibility of protecting tigers, their prey and their habitats. This endeavour can only be possible through stronger partnerships and effective strategies on the ground to address threats, such as wildlife trafficking and habitat loss.

May the citizens of Asean draw inspiration from the magnificent wild tigers of our region in wielding the opportunities that the Lunar New Year has to offer. Just like how tigers are, may we be key figures in maintaining the harmony and balance in ecosystems, because #WeAreASEANBiodiversity.

Dr Theresa Mundita S. Lim is the Executive Director of the Asean Centre for Biodiversity.

Mastery Learning • American Curriculum
Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education



Ensuring success for all by providing education based upon student mastery of all subjects.

Enroll Today!



QSI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF PHUKET

81/4 Moo. 1 Chalemphrakiat Ror. 9 Road Kathu
www.phuket.qsi.org • 076 304 312



THAILAND'S
PVC WINDOW
SPECIALISTS
SINCE 2004



Contact us for the lowest
prices in Phuket



PROJECT SUPPLIES DIRECT
Head Office at Tesco Lotus Thalang Phuket
English +66 87 061 7631 or Thai +66 81 539 2031
PVC Phuket NathanUpvcBrown



Chasing a dream

The Phuket News
editor1@classactmedia.co.th

After outperforming thousands of other contenders, Phuket teenager Tangton “TT” Pratanasanti last month made it to the final 18 of the LAZiCON (“Lazada Icon”) national talent quest to identify five young men to launch Thailand’s latest “boy band”. Here, TT, just 18 years old, talks with *The Phuket News* about what it took to make it through such a contest, and what his plans are for chasing his dream of being a star.

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Bangkok, however, I moved to Phuket when I was really young and grew up here. I went to Kajonkiet English Program from kindergarten to primary 6. After I graduated primary school, I moved to Headstart and have been here since.

What inspired you to enter the contest?

To be honest I was really demotivated when I had to make the decision. I was in another show prior to LAZiCON but didn’t make it through. I felt disappointed and I didn’t want to do anything.

However, I quickly realised that I couldn’t be like this and needed to get

up and do something. It was a tough decision to make, I had very little time to make the decision.

I think what truly inspired me was the drive to improve myself. I felt like I’d been stuck in my comfort zone for too long – just sitting in my room watching series and live performances of artists – and I needed a push. I realised that if I wanted to perform like them I can’t just be sitting like that so I took the opportunity and chased my dream.

What talents were you already confident in?

I grew up dancing, so dancing had to be what I’m most confident in. However, after being on stage for a few times I quickly realised that the most important talent was confidence. Luckily I’m fairly self confident so that paid out and helped me a lot on stage. Being confident on stage will help you deliver what you are trying to convey to the audiences more effectively; making you a great performer.

What was it like to be in the final round?

I did feel a lot of pressure. If you kept up with the show you would know that only 15 people got into the finals from voting and I wasn’t one of them. However, there was a resurrection stage and I was one of the 15 people who got another shot at coming back. Out of the

15 they chose three to join the other 15 who were already in the finals, making it a final 18. I was the last person to get the final “ticket” from the judges. There was definitely a lot of pressure performing the final stage since I felt like this was another chance for me to prove myself and show what I can do.

What is the most challenging part of the contest?

Prior to the show itself it was adapting to a completely new environment. I had to live in Bangkok for five to six months meeting completely new people. That wasn’t a problem since everyone was very friendly and welcoming. What I faced and found most challenging was delivering the message to the audience. When performing you want the audience to feel what you are trying to deliver but I felt like I didn’t do a good job at that in the first few stages but luckily I improved later on.

Now the contest is over, what are your plans for the future?

Right now I really want to improve on my skills, whether that’s singing, dancing, acting, etc, so when the time comes when I’m offered a new opportunity I’m ready for it.

I’m fairly new to the industry and have a lot more to learn. LAZiCON opened me up to various new opportunities and I want to take them and do my best at it.



Tangton, chasing his dream. Photo: LAZiCON

Plans for the short term would be to manage my time between university and work in the entertainment industry simultaneously. I recently got accepted to study Economics at Chulalongkorn University so I want to do my best at that. As for the long term, I want to keep improving and really exceed at what I’m passionate about, which is to be a great artist.

Do you have any messages for your supporters here in Phuket?

I want to say thank you. I can’t express enough how thankful I am. Thank you for the votes and the support and I hope to have your support for my future work as well. It’s an honour to be here and I really hope that my story will inspire others to follow their passion.

THAI RESIDENTIAL



Ocean’s Edge Panwa Peninsula

- ✓ 5 Bedrooms
- ✓ 5 Bathrooms
- ✓ Thai Freehold
- ✓ Stunning Views
- ✓ 740 sqm Living Area

Reduced to 79 Million THB



Tamarind Bay Ocean Front Land

- ✓ Cape Panwa Land for Sale
- ✓ Stunning Sea Views
- ✓ Ocean Front
- ✓ Private Estate
- ✓ Amazing 5,284 sqm plot

Reduced to 120 Million THB



Villa One Ayara Surin

- ✓ Private Ayara Estate
- ✓ Stunning Sea Views over Surin Bay
- ✓ Recently Modernized 5 Bedrooms
- ✓ Excellent Rental Potential
- ✓ Large Land Plot of 1,452 sqm

Reduced to 99 Million THB



Andara Bay View Residence

- ✓ Luxury Penthouse on Millionaire’s Mile
- ✓ Meticulously Maintained 4 Bedrooms 5 Bathrooms
- ✓ Stunning Views over the Andaman Sea
- ✓ Fantastic Rental Potential
- ✓ 845 sqm Built Area

Now 4,888,000 USD



West Sands Beach Front Villa

- ✓ 3 Bedrooms Luxury Villa
- ✓ 3 Ensuite Bathrooms
- ✓ Beachfront Property
- ✓ 4-star resort with gym, restaurant and swimming pool
- ✓ 471 sqm plot

Reduced to 28 Million THB



Walk to the Beach, 6 Bedroom Villa Layan

- ✓ Amazing Beach Side Villa
- ✓ Thai Freehold
- ✓ 6 Bedrooms
- ✓ 7 Bathrooms
- ✓ 800 sqm of built area

Reduced to 60 Million THB

POP QUIZ

1. In which movie did Sylvester Stallone have his first starring role?
2. What was Queen Victoria's real first name?
3. How many eyes does a spider have?
4. What was Karl Marx's favourite colour?
5. What are the nicknames of Phuket's two famed Heroines?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Hard

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across**
1. Twosome
 5. P.D.Q.
 9. Finance magazine
 14. Kashmir clan
 15. Chronicle
 16. Madison Square Garden, e.g.
 17. Fill to excess
 18. Property conveyor
 20. Is a loving person
 22. Days ____
 23. Orinoco, e.g.
 24. Ridiculously incongruous
 28. French game
 33. Capital city
 34. Central points
 35. In the preceding month: abbr.
 36. Ready for battle
 40. Whisper sweet nothings
 41. Wild about
 42. "____ So Vain"
 43. Indirect implication
 46. ____ algebra
 47. Degree in math?
 48. Mont Blanc, e.g.
 49. Cooperate closely
 58. Issuances
- Down**
1. Narrow margin
 2. West Samoan monetary unit
 3. Freudian topics
 4. Aboriginal tribe
 5. Don't cut
 6. See-through wrap
 7. Banned apple spray
 8. Confined
 9. Secret society: var.
 10. "She flies with her own wings" is its motto
 11. Student of Seneca
 12. Hydroxyl compound
 13. .9144 meter
 19. Incursion
 21. Engaged
 24. Old adders
 25. Trace mineral
 26. Cowell
 27. World govt. in TV's "Futurama"
 28. African primate
 29. Lingering trace
 30. Braid
 31. The "U" of UHF
 32. Early anesthetic
 34. Like some memories
 37. Soldier's helmet, slangily
 38. Drawing
 39. Age
 44. Disentangle
 45. C2H6
 46. Climbing herbs
 48. Noted caravel
 49. Joins
 50. Bypass
 51. Important Indian
 52. "Good shot!"
 53. "Go ahead!"
 54. Homebuilder's strip
 55. It was introduced in 1912
 56. Butcher's offering
 57. Like pie

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) The Party at Kitty and Stud's (also later called Italian Stallion); 2) Alexandria; 3) Usually 8 (some have 6 or fewer); 4) Red; 5) Mook (or Mook and Jun (or Chan); 6) Fewer

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				
										48				
49	50	51						52	53			54	55	56
58												59		
60								61				62		
63								64				65		

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

hour of exercise a week can prevent depression.

60

percent of people can't go 10 minutes without telling at least one lie, according to a study published in the Journal of Basic and Applied Social Psychology.

73

percent of respondents to a recent survey said they were annoyed by people who shared pictures of their vacations on social media.

114,260

dollars is how much Joey owed Chandler by the end of the TV show "Friends".

2.2

billion

grilled cheese sandwiches are eaten by Americans collectively each year.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Kamala Beach longtail. Photo by Josie Burgess

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

This week in history

Feb 4, 2004
Facebook is founded by Mark Zuckerberg.

Feb 5, 1958
A hydrogen bomb known as the Tybee Bomb is lost by the US Air Force off the coast of Savannah, Georgia, never to be recovered.

Feb 6, 1988
Michael Jordan makes his

signature slam dunk from the free throw line inspiring Air Jordan and the Jumpman logo.

Feb 7, 1900
A Chinese immigrant in San Francisco falls ill to bubonic plague in the first plague epidemic in continental US.

Feb 8, 1879
Sandford Fleming first proposes adoption of Universal



Michael Jordan in flight. Photo: AFP

Standard Time at a meeting of the Royal Canadian Institute.

Feb 9, 1895
William G. Morgan creates a game called Mintonette, which soon comes to be referred to as volleyball.

Feb 10, 1306
In front of the high altar of Greyfriars Church in Dumfries, Robert the Bruce murders John Comyn sparking the revolution in the Wars of Scottish Independence. Source: Wikipedia

Trades & Services

 The Phuket News
 @thephuketnews

CORPORATE SERVICES



VERTIGO
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

WE MAKE YOU LOOK GOOD.

VERTIGO VIDEO PRODUCTIONS.COM
f i t y

HOME IMPROVEMENT



Waterproofing & Crack Repair

20 year WARRANTY

Drone Survey

under yearly checkup plan...

TCM Asia Co., Ltd - quality services since 2003
office@tcm-asia.com 086-9439834

HOME IMPROVEMENT



MN.PAINTING

German/English: 087 894 8255

No Job too Big
No Job too small

HOME IMPROVEMENT



Lile-it
SMART TILES
Tile Leveling System

Baan Wana - Cherng Talay
Tel : 076 620168

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

www.tile-asia.com | letstalk@tile-asia.com

HOME IMPROVEMENT



WOOD FLOOR PHUKET - 20 YEARS

Solid wood floors and engineering.
Decks supplied and installed - Teak & NZ Pine.

f /solidwoodfloorphuketthailand
M Matt 081 271 2684 or Jessica 062 372 6624

MARINE SERVICES



Marine Engineering Specialists

C & C MARINE®

YANMAR mtu

C & C Marine (Thailand) Co., Ltd.
16/2 Moo 4, Soi Nanai, Thepkasattri Rd., Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
Tel: +66 (0)76 273247 Fax: +66 (0)76 273248 Mob: +66 (0)81 078 4507
Email: cholmes@candc-marine.com www.candc-marine.com

MARINE INSURANCE



for any insurance study, please contact:
christophe.g@poe-ma.com
+66 92 542 0505

POE-MA
INSURANCES

your marine insurance brokers in South-East Asia

private – charter – commercial
all flags – extended areas

Sunrise Road, Chalong, Phuket

OTHER



Mac-Nels

MACNELS SHIPPING PHUKET

ANY SHIPMENT ANY WHERE

☎ OFFICE: 076 603907

☎ MOBILE: CALL PETER 0863645862

www.macnellsphuket.com

OTHER



CARING FOR OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS 24 HOURS PER DAY.

hugme

โรงพยาบาลสัตว์ฮักมี
HUGME ANIMAL HOSPITAL

100/16 MOOT SRISUNTHON, THALANG, PHUKET 83110
☎ 076 510 656

WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?

The **Phuket News** Your Island - Your Paper
 Новости **Пхукета** Твой остров - твои газеты
 ข่าว **ภูเก็ต**

WINDOW ON PHUKET

The map of PHUKET English 中文 Русский

Where to eat in PHUKET

LIVE 89.5 NEWS TV

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th

FRI 4 FEB

MON 7 FEB

THU 17 FEB

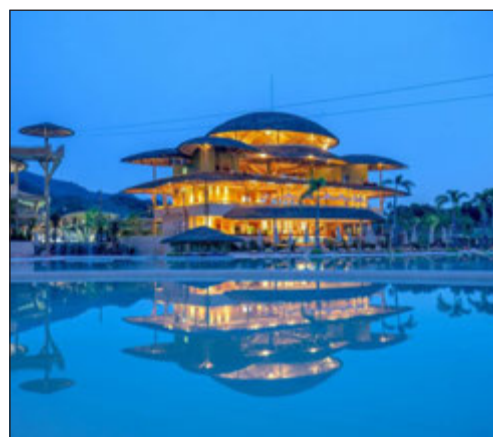
Listen for



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai
Oli: 081/891 4381
www.shakersphuket.com
shakersphuket@gmail.com
FB: shakersphuket




STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai
Oli: 081/891 4381
www.shakersphuket.com
shakersphuket@gmail.com
FB: shakersphuket

Skål Phuket Dinner at Blue Tree

Dear Members, Colleagues, & Friends of Skål Phuket
You are invited to join us for the 1st Skål Phuket Dinner of 2022 at Blue Tree Phuket on Thursday 17 Feb from 18.00-22.00. Guest speakers include Daniel Steinke, Managing Director of Blue Tree Phuket & Bart Duykers, Area Director of BB&B Thailand. Become a member and connect with the biggest Travel & Tourism professional network. Being part of Skål Thailand offers you a wide range of benefits. 080 376 7130, contact@skalphuket.org

SUN 6 FEB

WED 9 FEB



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai
Oli: 081/891 4381
www.shakersphuket.com
shakersphuket@gmail.com
FB: shakersphuket




STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai
Oli: 081/891 4381
www.shakersphuket.com
shakersphuket@gmail.com
FB: shakersphuket


THU 17 MAR


Skal Phuket Dinner at Pizza on Fire Laguna

Welcome to Pizza on Fire, Canal Village, Laguna, Phuket - Vera Pizza Napoletana. Join Skal International Phuket at Pizza on Fire for a real Italian Napoli pizza experience. Skål International Thailand is a professional organization of leaders from all branches of the travel and tourism industry.

DAILY
EVENT
UP
DATES
ON

LIVE 89.5

Sunday roast

12PM – 9PM: All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet
Beef, Pork, Chicken & Lamb – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, Fried mushrooms, Grilled Tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes – Apple sauce, Gravy, Mushroom sauce, Horse radish, Mint Sauce. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 350 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 175 baht P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

Wednesday BBQ night

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

076 612 550 sales@classactmedia.co.th

Want your EVENT listed here?

Reserve your space **NOW!**

JOBS

URGENT



Liatri's GENERAL TRADING

Urgently seeking Female/Male Massage Therapist

Urgently looking for a professional massage therapist to come to work in Dubai for one male fulltime. Visa, health insurance and accommodation included plus other benefits also flight. To be available ASAP. hr@liatri's.ae, 042363432

PROPERTY FOR RENT



Stunning Villa For Rent/Sale

Stunning Villa for rent or sale in Chalong. 795.2 square meter or almost 1/2 Rai Land. 4 Bedrooms each with bathroom & shower. 1 laundry room with dishwasher and washing machine. Fully equipped kitchen. Aircon units and ceiling fans in all rooms. Saltwater Pool 8m x 4m + jacuzzi + outdoor shower. Water system with very high-quality water filter. Long term rental min 6 months price 60,000 THB incl. garden and pool cleaning or available for sale 16,800,000 THB. adam.goodman@hotmail.com, 0910161167

Australian Visas

Need An Australian Visa or Expert Advice?
Have the confidence dealing with an Australian Lawyer and Agent, based right here in Thailand but regulated in Australia.
Your application will be prepared and lodged for you, as well as expert advice as to the best visas and approach.
We can assist with all visa types, including Tourist, Partner, Work, Study and Family visas.
Had a visa refusal - our team specialise in getting you the result you want.

Phone: 084 400 9487
www.AustralianVisas-Thailand.com

Migration Agents
Registration Number
1464995
www.mara.gov.au

IT CAN NOW TAKE
AS LITTLE AS 10 DAYS
TO GET A PARTNER VISA!
START PLANNING NOW!

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Chalong, Phuket Town, Bang Tao & Karon

CALL

081 895 4763

help@aaphuket.org

Google www.aaphuket.com



SIMPSON MARINE

Simpson Marine is the exclusive partner with the world's leading yacht brands – Sanlorenzo, Bluegame, Fairline Yachts, Beneteau, Lagoon & Aquila Power Catamarans.

Office Administrator & Sales Support (Pattaya Office)

- ✓ Female only
- ✓ Thai nationality
- ✓ Good computer skill - Program MS Office and good internet searching
- ✓ Fluent in English, both verbal and written.
- ✓ Good interpersonal skills and can work under pressure.
- ✓ Good time management and high responsibilities and working ability to meet the deadline.
- ✓ Experience in yacht will received special consideration.

Thai Technician (Pattaya Office)

- ✓ Thai Nationality only
- ✓ Minimum Thai engineering cert,
- ✓ Willing to learn, speaks some English,
- ✓ Punctual at work,
- ✓ Yacht maintenance, repairs, cleaning and engineering experience.

Interested candidates, please email your CV with photo to
bee.cummins@simpsonmarine.com / Mobile: +66 85 359 6149



Where to **eat** in **PHUKET**

The March/April 2022
hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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

Want to be in it?

CONTACT JASON TODAY – gm@classactmedia.co.th

Rams face Bengals in Super Bowl showdown

NFL

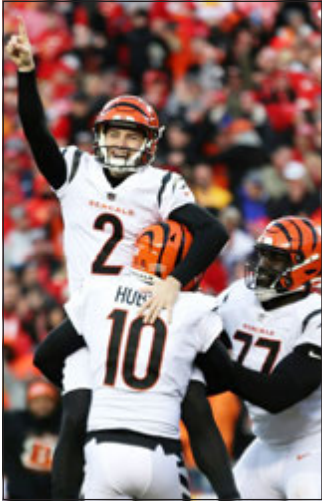
QUARTERBACK JOE Burrow led the Cincinnati Bengals into their first Super Bowl since 1989 with a stunning upset of the Kansas City Chiefs last Sunday (Jan 30) while the Los Angeles Rams outmuscled the San Francisco 49ers to advance to the NFL showpiece.

After the nerve-shredding drama of the divisional round, Sunday's conference championship games delivered more nail-biting action as the battle for Super Bowl berths reached its climax.

In Kansas City, Burrow and the Bengals overturned a 21-3 first half deficit against the rampant Chiefs offense led by Patrick Mahomes to snatch a 27-24 win in overtime.

Rookie Evan McPherson kicked the winning points for the Bengals after Burrow had hauled his team back into contention with a performance that included two touchdowns and 250 yards with 23 of 38 passes completed.

It was a stunning AFC Championship defeat for the host Chiefs, who were seeking a third consecutive Super Bowl



Cincinnati celebrate their win against Kansas. Photo: AFP

trip after winning in 2020 and losing to Tampa Bay last year.

In Los Angeles, the Rams ensured they will play a Super Bowl on home turf after staging a comeback of their own to beat the 49ers and end a six-game losing streak against their Californian rivals.

The 49ers edged the Rams 27-24 on the final game of the regular season last month to squeeze into the playoffs.

But history wasn't to repeat itself as Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford led scoring drives which yielded a Cooper Kupp touchdown and two Matt Gay field goals to give Los Angeles a 20-17 win. AFP

Aussie Open shines after off-court drama dominates

TENNIS

AFP

Continued from page 16

...Spanish warrior's greatest title victories in his 29th Grand Slam final as he won his second Australian Open, 13 years after his first in 2009.

"I just wanted to keep believing until the end to give me a chance and that's what I did," Nadal said.

"I kept fighting to try and find a solution, there are a lot of moments that can decide a final like this. It means a lot to me and I know it's a special number 21 and I know what it means, its significance."

Nadal also became only the fourth man to win each of the four Grand Slams twice and the third oldest man in the Open Era (since 1970) to win a Grand Slam title, behind Ken Rosewall and Federer.

"It's tough to talk after five hours 30 and losing but I want to congratulate Rafa because what you did today, I was amazed. You are an amazing champion," Medvedev said.

Long-term rival Federer was quick to congratulate



Australia's Ashleigh Barty holds her trophy following victory in the women's singles final match against Danielle Collins of the US in Melbourne last Saturday (Jan 29). Photo: AFP

Nadal, posting on Instagram, "To my friend and great rival @rafaelnadal, heartfelt congratulations on becoming the first man to win 21 Grand Slam singles titles.

"A few months ago we were joking about both being on crutches, amazing. Never underestimate a great champion. Your incredible work ethic, dedication and fighting spirit are an inspiration to me and countless others around the world."

On Saturday (Jan 29) an

imperious Ashleigh Barty became the first Australian to win her home Grand Slam in 44 years, halting the charge of fearless American Danielle Collins in straight sets.

The world number one was 5-1 down in the second set but came storming back to win on a tiebreak and sweep past the 27th seed 6-3, 7-6 (7/2) to be crowned Australian Open champion in front of an expectant Rod Laver Arena crowd.

It was a third Slam ti-

tle for the 25-year-old after her breakthrough French Open success in 2019 and Wimbledon last year, joining legends of the sport Federer, Nadal, Djokovic and Serena Williams as the only active players to win majors on all three surfaces.

"I feel very humble to be in such a select group. To be honest, I don't really feel like I belong with those champions of our sport," said Barty.

"I'm still very much learning and trying to refine my craft and try and learn every single day and get better and better."

She told reporters that becoming the first Australian to win her home Grand Slam since Christine O'Neill in 1978 was hard to compare with her other titles in Paris and London.

"They are all very different, all very different stages of my life," she said.

"I think to be able to have this feeling and experience this a few times over, I just understand how fortunate I am to be able to experience that because not many people get to do that."

Seven more years for Singapore GP

FORMULA ONE

IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED THAT Singapore will continue to host its F1 Grand Prix as part of the FIA F1 World Championship for another seven years.

The extension means the Singapore night race, which debuted in 2008, will now run until 2028, Singapore GP (SGP) and the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) confirmed last Thursday (Jan 27).

"Even as we deal with the immediate challenges of the pandemic, it is important that we focus on our recovery and long term growth," commented S Iswaran, Minister for Transport & Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations.

"We will ensure that this year's and future races, as large scale international sporting events, are COVID-safe, informed by the prevailing pandemic situation and public health assessment.

"We will also work with all stakeholders to ensure the Singapore race is sustainable," he added.

Starting this year, STB and SGP will work together to reduce the carbon footprint of the Singapore race and foster the transition to more sustainable business models. Initiatives include switching to renewable energy sources, increasing recycling efforts and switching to sustainable materials.

F1 is also exploring maximising logistics and travel efficiency through process and volume optimisation and by using the least carbon intensive transport available. A full



The Singapore GP will now run until 2028. Photo: Singapore GP Pte Ltd

sustainability audit will be undertaken, which will guide the development of other green initiatives that will be implemented for the rest of the new term.

As part of its corporate sustainability efforts, SGP will also continue to engage the local community, and encourage diversity amongst event personnel and volunteers.

About 268,000 spectators attended when it was last held in 2019, affirming the night race with a unique street circuit that runs through the heart of the city as one of the most highly anticipated in the racing calendar.

"I am delighted that F1 will continue to race in Singapore for another seven years," said Stefano Domenicali, President and CEO of F1.

"Singapore holds a special place on the F1 calendar, and this extension is part of our long-term commitment to continue to grow the sport in Asia." *The Phuket News*

2020/21 PREMIER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2020/21

Premier League CHAMPIONS 2020/21

The Phuket News

English Premier League Predictions

thephuketnews.com/predictions.php

Lampard and Eriksen return

FOOTBALL

Ben Tirebuck

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

The January sales are over and the Premier League returns to action this weekend with several clubs bolstered by new additions during the transfer window.

As the window slammed shut on Monday evening (Jan 31), there was a flurry of activity that saw not only playing personnel heading to pastures new as Everton confirmed Frank Lampard as their new manager.

"It is a huge honour for me to represent and manage a club the size and tradition of Everton Football Club," said Lampard. "I'm very hungry to get started."

He wasted no time in bringing in fresh talent with Donny Van de Beek joining on loan from Manchester United and Dele Alli arriving on a free transfer from Tottenham.

Amid all the frantic dealings, the most heart warming news was Christian Eriksen signing for Brentford on a short-term deal until the end of the season. The Dane suffered



MAIN: Frank Lampard has been appointed the new manager at Everton. INSET: Christian Eriksen has made a remarkable return to the game. Photos: AFP

a cardiac arrest on the pitch while playing for his country at Euro 2020 last June and it was feared he would never play again.

The 29-year-old left Inter Milan in December by mutual consent as implantable cardioverter defibrillators are not permitted in Italian football.

However, there are no such limitations in the Premier League, allowing Eriksen to

return to England, where he previously spent nearly seven years with Tottenham.

"At his best, Christian has the ability to dictate games of football. I expect him to have an impact in the dressing room and at the training ground," said Brentford boss Thomas Frank, who worked with Eriksen while in charge of Denmark's Under-17s earlier in their careers.

The busiest club during the window was Newcastle United, no great surprise given that they are now the richest club side in world football but currently find themselves precariously positioned near the relegation trap door.

The long-term plan outlined by the club's new Saudi owners did not entail life outside of the Premier League and it is therefore imperative

they remain in the top flight. As such, the acquisitions made by manager Eddie Howe seem sensible and capable of achieving that outcome.

Kieran Trippier is an astute signing, the £15 million (B670mn) defender a regular in the England squad who won La Liga last season at Atletico Madrid and whose game developed greatly under the wily tutorship of manager Diego Simeone. Dan Burn and Matt Targett will add further defensive strength.

Brazilian Bruno Guimaraes is the kind of defensive midfielder the club has been crying out for and, at £40mn from Lyon, he becomes their joint record signing.

Chris Wood might not be a head-turning arrival but he has consistently delivered double-digit hauls for Burnley in recent seasons. Also his departure weakens Burnley who also find themselves in relegation trouble.

In response, Burnley signed Dutch international forward Wout Weghorst from VfL Wolfsburg for a reported £12mn fee.

Elsewhere, Spurs completed the double signings of Swedish international forward

Dejan Kulusevski and Uruguayan midfielder Rodrigo Bentancur from Juventus after boss Antonio Conte had made it clear in recent weeks that fresh blood was required.

Spurs' rivals Arsenal had a quiet transfer window with the only notable piece of business seeing striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang complete his free transfer to Barcelona. He had been marginalised from the squad in recent weeks by manager Mikel Arteta after a series of disciplinary issues.

Aston Villa did their business early in the window, bringing in former Liverpool star Philippe Coutinho on loan from Barcelona and former Everton left back Lucas Digne.

Premier League leaders Manchester City signed forward Julian Alvarez for a reported £14mn, but the Argentine will remain with River Plate on loan until at least July.

Liverpool beat Spurs to the signature of Porto's Luis Diaz with the Colombian winger arriving at Anfield for £50mn.

"He is an outstanding player and someone we've been tracking for a very long time," said Reds' manager Jurgen Klopp.

US watchdog warns over athletes' safety at Beijing Winter Olympics

WINTER OLYMPICS

A US RIGHTS MONITOR sounded the alarm Monday (Jan 31) over athletes' safety at China's Winter Olympics, after the host threatened "punishment" for anti-Beijing comments.

The Congressional-Executive Commission on China – a group of Washington lawmakers and White House officials – asked US Olympics authorities for an "urgent effort" to protect their sports stars' free speech rights at the Games which starts today (Feb 4).

The commission spoke out after Yang Shu, a senior official in the Beijing Games organising committee, told an online briefing on Jan 18 that "any behavior or speech that is against the Olympic spirit, especially against the Chinese laws and regulations, are also subject to certain punishment."

"Given Yang Shu's statement and the Chinese government's documented behavior, we urge the USOPC



Controversy has dominated the build up to the Winter Olympics. Photo: AFP

to be vigilant and prepared to defend any Olympians who speak out," the commission said.

The United States, Australia, Canada and Britain announced in December that they would not be sending official representatives to Beijing, citing the alleged genocide and crimes against humanity against the Uyghur population, a minority Muslim group in the Xinjiang region.

The countries said their athletes would still participate, but China nevertheless responded angrily, warning Western nations that they would "pay the price" for the protest.

Advocacy groups have backed the boycott, with

Human Rights Watch (HRW) China director Sophie Richardson calling it a "crucial step toward challenging the Chinese government's crimes against humanity targeting Uyghurs and other Turkic communities."

The commission also voiced concerns over Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai, who made sexual assault allegations against a top Communist Party official.

Peng was not heard from for nearly three weeks, and there remain concerns about how free she really is.

New York-based HRW awarded China a "gold medal for censorship" last week, in a statement accusing the Asian giant of trying to "sportswash" its "abysmal human rights record."

Asked whether President Joe Biden supports US athletes making political statements at the Olympics, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters the administration had "conveyed support for freedom of speech of individuals."

AFP



MEMBERSHIPS

STARTING AT 99,000 THB

Sign up by 31st March 2022

Special Benefits

- ✓ No Cart Fee
- ✓ No Annual Fee for First Year
- ✓ Additional Months
- ✓ Founder Member Locker

Special Discount

- ✓ Receive 10% discount if two sign up at the same time
- ✓ Receive 15% discount if four sign up at the same time



Scan for info

*Terms & Conditions Apply

+66 (0) 76 679 308
Membership@aquellagolf.com
www.AquillaGolf.com




Sport

editor3@classactmedia.co.th



Busy day of transfers in Prem > p15

PENGUINS TORCH COWS IN ACG HEAT



Mayur Deuskar at bat. Photo: Michael Flowers

CRICKET

Curt Livermore

The Patong Penguins dominated proceedings in sweltering conditions as they renewed their rivalry with the Thalang Cows in a T20 9's last-man-stands friendly at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) last Sunday (Jan 30).

After winning the toss and electing to bowl, Penguins' captain Jason Robertson took the new ball and after finding some early swing pinned opener Michael Flowers (0) LBW with just the third ball of the match.

Sami Pir (0) came and went in the same fashion just two balls later, adding

yet another duck to his already impressive tally. The aggressive Ali Khan was the next man in for the Cows and he immediately looked to counter-punch against the left-arm off spin of youngster Aneeq Islam.

It would be the bowler who would come out on top however as Khan (0) looked to strike a flighted delivery over the rope only to pick out the bucket hands of Rishi Sadarangani on the long-on boundary to leave the Cows reeling at three men down for 2 runs after just 2 overs.

The Penguins felt confident in finishing the game and hitting the bar early before Sameer Kahn (11) and Mayur Deuskar (61) steadied the ship with a much needed 60-run partnership before the former

was knocked over by James Chataway prior to the drinks break.

Following drinks, Deuskar swiftly brought up his retirement, imposing 50 with some crisp striking as the score now read a much healthier 87-4 after 12 overs. Joe Ninan added a run-a-ball 13 to his teams score before the returning Richard Desmond cleaned up the Cows' captain in an impressive first spell back.

Guddu Manoj (9) was next to go in perhaps the most bizarre dismissal ever witnessed at the ACG. Instead of smashing a boundary, Manoj only managed to smash his bat and could only look on helplessly as the splinter removed the bails from his stumps as Aneeq picked up his 2nd wicket of the match.

Michael Rhys Thomas (18) struck some much needed runs down the order which included three well-timed boundaries before Robertson found his off-stump at the start of the 18th over to bring last-man specialist Mayur back to the crease. Unable to run singles Mayur managed to add a four and a six to the score before Tony Van Blerk's glove, shoulder and helmet all combined together to stump Deuskar in the final over of the innings off the bowling of Seemant Raju, the Cows posting a below par 136 all out.

Following the interval Chataway (31) and Van Blerk (48) combined for a well measured 62-run opening stand before Flowers made the breakthrough in the 8th over.

The hard-hitting Rishi

(20) looked to completely take the game away with some well struck boundaries before Rhys-Thomas' lofted flight tempted the batsman to come down the track only for Flowers to pounce on the stumping opportunity in the 15th over.

Compatriots Morgan (19*) and Van Blerk had all but sealed the win when Rhys-Thomas struck once more in the 17th over to deny Van Blerk his 50 before Morgan put the contest put to bed in the following over, the Penguins finishing with a 6-wicket win with 13 balls remaining.

Man of the Match went to Mayur Deuskar for his resilient 61 (51) which gave the Cows something to defend while Robertson was equally deserving ripping through the

Cows' top order and finishing with the impressive figures of 3/13 from 4 overs.

Other Penguins performances of note included Aneeq's returns of 2-30 from his 4 overs, Richard Desmonds solid returns of 1-11 from 2 overs on his much-welcomed return to Phuket cricket, whilst Van Blerk's 48 from 52 balls with the bat ensured a comfortable run chase for his side.

Rhys-Thomas was the clear stand out performer for Cows with a solid contribution of 18 from 17 with the bat as well as impressive figures of 2-17 from 3 overs with the ball.

This Sunday (Feb 6) sees the conclusion of the Asia v Rest of World Series with the score locked at 2-2. The match is scheduled to start at 10:30am at the ACG.

Rafa and Ashleigh make history Down Under

TENNIS

AN AUSTRALIAN OPEN like no other began in controversy with the deportation of Novak Djokovic but culminated in one of the greatest comebacks in tennis history by Rafael Nadal last Sunday (Jan 30).

Throw in Ashleigh Barty becoming the first home winner for 44 years, and local heroes Nick Kyrgios and Thanasi Kokkinakis

winning the men's doubles, this was a Grand Slam that will live long in the memory for myriad reasons.

After the chaos that preceded the tournament, Tennis Australia couldn't have dreamt of a happier ending – and it was one they desperately needed, after a competition riddled with unforced errors on the organisers' parts.

Following the Djokovic saga, Tennis Australia had to make a hasty and embarrassing U-turn after instructing staff to prevent

spectators wearing "Where is Peng Shuai?" T-shirts to highlight concern for the Chinese player.

They also had to justify a largely voluntary COVID-19 testing protocol that came in for criticism from some players, notably world number three Alexander Zverev.

But in the end, the abiding memory will be of Nadal's monumental achievement in winning that unprecedented 21st Grand Slam after a titanic five-set duel with Daniil Medvedev lasting 5hr 24min.

The Spanish great looked dead and buried as the Russian world number two carved out a two-set lead but Nadal surged home for one of his mightiest comeback wins 2-6, 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in 5hr 24min at Rod Laver Arena.

Nadal came out on top in the physical war of attrition to move ahead of "Big Three" rivals Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer on the all-time list of men's major winners.

It was one of the 35-year-old...

Continued on page 14



Rafael Nadal poses with the winner's trophy during a media photo shoot the morning after his Australian Open triumph. Photo: AFP