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JULY 1 IS ON



People enjoy Nai Harn Beach last Sunday (May 30). Photo: Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos

PRIME MINISTER GIVES GREEN LIGHT FOR JULY 1 REOPENING TO RECEIVING FOREIGN TOURISTS

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has given the green light for Phuket to welcome fully vaccinated foreign tourists without being required to observe any period of quarantine in order to enter the province, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Governor Yuthasak Supasorn has confirmed.

In an announcement titled “Phuket Sandbox starts on July 1, 2021”, Mr Yuthasak last week said, “On March 26, 2021, the Center for Economic Situation Administration (CESA) chaired by Prime Minister General

Prayut Chan-o-cha approved the plan submitted by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) to open Phuket Province to international visitors who have been fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus and who have tested negative upon arriving in the province.

“The approved plan stipulates that there would be no quarantine for international visitors who must remain in Phuket for at least 7 nights before travelling elsewhere. The plan will come into effect on July 1, 2021. It is aimed at accelerating the revival of the country’s tourism industry and paving the way for the reopening of other tourist destina-

tions within Thailand

“In this connection, TAT would like to reaffirm the above plan is on schedule, and that Phuket will open to international visitors under the proposed conditions. TAT is committed to work with our tourism partners to ensure the smooth and successful opening of Phuket,” he added.

“We are looking forward to collaborating with you to publicise that Phuket is ready to receive international visitors to your network and clients, as well as undertaking marketing and joint promotion activities to generate tourist traffic to the province in the third quarter

(July-September) of this year and beyond.

“We also value any advice and recommendations you may have about the plan... [the] TAT would like to thank you for your continued support of Amazing Thailand. We are confident our partnership will contribute to a brighter tomorrow for Phuket and Thai tourism in general,” Mr Yuthasak concluded.

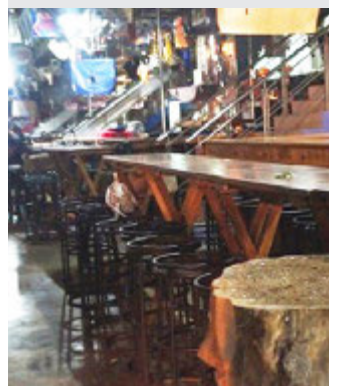
KIDS WELCOME

As local agencies move to prepare for July 1, the ‘Official COVID-19 Information Center Phuket’, operated by the Phuket office of the Ministry of Interior, last Saturday (May 29)...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

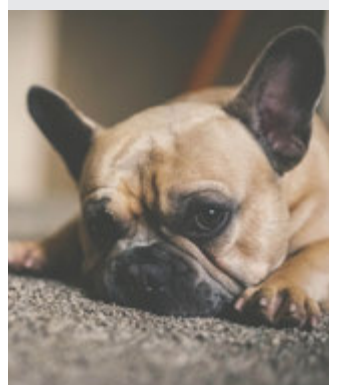
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COVID measures relaxed, but bars stay closed



LIFE PAGE 8

Making feeding time best for all parties involved



SPORT PAGE 15

Kai’s the limit for Blues after Europe triumph



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News



Phuket study
used to defend
Sinovac > p4

Phuket COVID measures relaxed

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

All pubs, bars and other similar entertainment venues in Phuket are to remain closed and the ban on restaurants serving alcohol or allowing alcohol to be consumed on the premises is to remain in effect despite a new provincial order relaxing some of the COVID-prevention measures in force being issued last Saturday night (May 29).

The new provincial order (No 2921/2564), signed and dated by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew last Friday (May 28), came into effect on Tuesday (June 1) and is to remain in effect until another order is issued.

Under the order, a slew of businesses have been allowed to reopen, including spas, beauty salons, tattoo parlours, walking street markets, gyms and fitness centres, pet care centres, private nurseries and

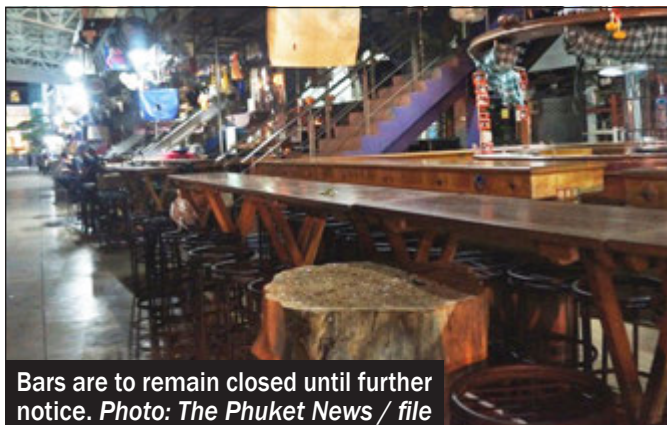
kindergartens, and scuba diving and snorkelling activities.

However, it remains forbidden to organise activities in which groups of more than 30 people are gathered together unless authorised by officials or is an activity performed by an official or is an activity in an area designated as a place of quarantine.

It is forbidden to join groups in public areas, beaches, parks, playgrounds, canal roads and roads around reservoirs.

Service establishments, pubs, karaoke bars, entertainment venues and establishments that resemble service establishments anywhere in the Phuket area are to remain "temporarily" closed until further notice.

Venues for cockfighting, fish fighting, bird races, chicken races, boxing fields and gambling venues (sic) are to remain closed. Also prohibited from opening are snooker,



Bars are to remain closed until further notice. Photo: The Phuket News / file

billiard and pool table venues as well as computer games shops and online game cafes.

Department stores, shopping centers, community malls or other similar establishments must close at 9pm, and must limit the number of visitors at the venues. Promotional activities, game machines and amusement arcades at such venues are to remain closed.

Convenience stores and supermarkets must close at 11pm. Stores or locations that normally operate 24 hours

may open for business at 4am.

Also to remain closed are movie theaters, theaters and water parks.

The filming of any television programs, movies and videos must not involve more than 50 people and must not have viewers participating.

Social events in the form of parties, banquets, festivals, birthdays, housewarmings, receptions, and congratulatory celebrations for various occasions remain banned.

Traditional ceremonies

such as funerals, ordinations and weddings are allowed, but must have permission from officials and must be held in accordance with COVID-prevention measures.

Dining together or drinking alcohol at home or any other place of residence must involve family members and must not have an outside party, the order maintains.

"It is forbidden to organise any activities that have a risk of infection," it notes in the section dedicated to social activities.

"In the event that the offender is a foreigner it may be considered to cancel [the foreigner's permission to] living in the Kingdom in strict accordance with the Immigration Act," the order notes.

RULES FOR ENTERING PHUKET

Governor Narong last Friday issued a new order easing the provisions for entering Phuket

by road or boat. The order came into effect on Tuesday (June 1) and will remain in effect until further notice.

As such, all domestic arrivals entering Phuket by road or boat must be fully vaccinated or tested negative for COVID-19 within seven days before arriving on the island or else face 14 days' mandatory quarantine at home or a hotel on the island if they want to enter Phuket.

Previously the tests proving the arrival had tested negative for COVID-19 had to be conducted within 72 hours before arriving on the island. Test results from RT-PCR tests or rapid antigen tests will be accepted.

The new order also made clear that children under 5 years old were exempt from having to be vaccinated. A notice posted by the TAT, however, maintained that children under 5 must still have tested negative for the virus.

TAT to start promoting travel to Phuket, no need for kids to have jabs

Continued from page 1

...posted a notice announcing that children arriving in Phuket with their family as international tourists after July 1 do not need to be vaccinated for COVID-19.

The notice was posted with the text, "Phuket Sandbox guidelines for fully vaccinated foreign tourists beginning July 1 are as follows".

"Adults (Aged 18 and over) Travelling from medium/low risk countries, need to be fully vaccinated at least 14 days (and not over one year) before departure date," the notice continued.

"Children (Aged 12-17) Need to have Rapid Antigen Test at the airport," the notice added.

"Children (Below 12) Do not need the Test if they travel with their parents/family," the notice marked.

The notice also confirmed that the RT-PCR test result proving the passenger is not infected with COVID-19 must be issued within 72 hours before the flight time. This was mandatory.

All tourists must show their itinerary or "visiting plan" and also install the "Thailand Plus" application and share their location during the whole duration of their stay.

After being permitted to enter Phuket, tourists will be free to roam the island for five days before having to undertake another RT-PCR test on Day 5.



After the Day 5 test, tourists will be allowed off-island. "Day 6 and 7 could go on a day trip outside Phuket such as Phi Phi [Island] and Yao

Noi [island] and Phang Nga Bay," the notice said.

If a tourist stays shorter than seven days they may fly out of Thailand only from Phuket, but if they stay longer than seven days, they may opt to fly from Bangkok, the notice added.

Every facility booked and used by the tourists, including hotels, restaurants, tour/sport recreation facilities and transportation, must be accredited by the Tourism Authority of Thailand SHA (Safety and Health Administration) scheme, the notice confirmed.

Of note, the notice shared by the Phuket Info Centre was initially issued by the Center for COVID-19

Situation Administration (CCSA). The notice was marked as "Latest update on 15 May 2021, Edited on 19 May 2021".

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew last Friday (May 28) called on all sectors of the community to prepare for what he calls "a mission to revive Phuket".

"Every unit, prepare yourself to carry out a clear mission and allocate the budget required to jointly revive Phuket to be healthy and bright as a tourist city that is clean and beautiful, with both natural attractions and a good cultural identity. It is the destination and dream of both Thai and foreign tourists – they want to travel," Governor Narong said.

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Man dies after Sinovac jab

Probe launched into fatal heart attack 24 hours after injection

Eakkapop Thongtub
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A 43-year-old man from Phang Nga has died after suffering chest pains and a heart attack a day after receiving his first Sinovac COVID-19 vaccination injection at Phuket airport.

Phang Nga health officials said they were continuing their investigation into the death of the man, Winai Hemin, a resident of Phang Nga Town, on the night of May 24.

Mr Winai had received his first Sinovac injection at Phuket airport just a day earlier, on May 23.

Speaking at a press conference held at Phang Nga Hospital on May 25, Phang Nga Provincial Public Health Office Deputy Chief Dr Wiset Munam, Phang Nga Hospital Director Dr Thiprat Tonsakulprasert and hospital doctor Dr Peerawit Pinpitak explained that they had requested Mr Winai's family to allow an autopsy be performed by medical experts in Surat Thani. Of note, throughout the



Phang Nga health officials maintain they are investigating the man's death seriously. Photo: PR Phang Nga

press conference none of the three health officials referred to Mr Winai by name.

However, the family had already requested the man's body be returned so that he could be buried in accordance with Muslim funeral rites, the trio added.

Samples taken from Mr Winai's body are to be examined through laboratory tests and experts from the Epidemiology Division, Department of Disease Control, had already arrived to assist the investigation, they said.

Phang Nga health officials are also coordinating with

the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) to investigate the details of the vaccine that was injected, they added.

Dr Peerawit noted that another man had been admitted to Phang Nga Hospital after receiving a COVID vaccination injection. The man, 52 years old, already suffered from high blood pressure and was receiving treatment at Vachira Phuket Hospital, he said.

Dr Wiset maintained that Phang Nga officials were not being silent about the death of Mr Winai or other issues

regarding health effects from people receiving COVID vaccination injections.

"We will proceed with determination to identify the cause of death as soon as possible by questioning witnesses as well as [considering] the results of laboratory examinations," he said.

"In addition, we will investigate the vaccines administered to the deceased and those with side effects, and further detailed studies will be conducted with the relevant departments at the district level, and the ministry will send this information to the

Central Vaccine Committee to continue their investigation," he added.

The Phang Nga health officials confirmed that so far the primary cause of death of Mr Winai had been attributed to "acute myocardial infarction" (commonly called a heart attack) and that "fatal medical conditions" had been identified.

Mr Winai's wife, Ms Poranee Ngamsap, 32, told reporters that her husband was a healthy person and liked to play sports, but also said that he had high cholesterol.

Mr Winai worked delivering dried seafood between Phang Nga and several southern provinces.

"Before the injection he was anxious and his blood pressure had risen. He had to wait about an hour after the injection [before being allowed to leave] and he returned home to Phang Nga on Monday morning [May 24]," Ms Poranee said.

"He had a mild fever, and he took some medicine and even drove to deliver products to Phuket. When

he came home, he still had a mild fever and was feeling exhausted," she added.

"In the middle of the night, he said he felt that he was very hot. He asked why he was so hot, and he told me to read the post-vaccine advice about what it was, and then he said that his chest was sore on the inside.

"He was frightened and hurried to call his relatives to take him to Phang Nga Hospital, but when he arrived at the hospital, doctors said that he had no pulse and that they had worked for almost an hour to save his life," she added.

"We are confident that the cause of death is definitely due to the COVID-19 vaccination," Ms Poranee said.

"The doctors asked if his body could be taken for a thorough autopsy. However, the family did not wish this because the body has to be taken for Islamic rituals," she added.

At the time of going to press, Phuket officials had yet to publicly recognise Mr Winai's death.

British Navy looks to hold Phuket visit

A DELEGATION FROM the British Embassy in Bangkok arrived in Phuket on May 27 to discuss with Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew and other leading provincial figures having British Navy personnel visit Phuket in late July to early August.

The delegation was led by Col Tony Stern, Defence Attaché at British Embassy Bangkok.

The plan is to have some 420 British Royal Navy personnel visit as part of an outreach program to help foster relations between the UK and Thailand, said a report by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

The aim of the visit was to confirm what Phuket officials require in order for the personnel to visit and what guidelines the visiting Navy personnel are to follow.

Col Stern noted that the visiting personnel will be fully vaccinated and will comply with the provincial regulations to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The visiting Navy personnel will be continually



Defence Attaché at the British Embassy Bangkok Col Tony Stern discussed the visit with Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew on May 27. Photo: PR Phuket

screened for infection and have their health monitored by the ship's medical team, he added.

During the visit, the British Royal Navy personnel will conduct community relations activities, including educational activities for students, as well as hold activities to foster relations between British Navy and the Royal Thai Navy, said the report.

If the visit is approved, the visiting servicemen will be in Phuket for three to five days.

Governor Narong said he would be delighted by the visit.

"The arrival of the British Navy is good because Phuket and Thailand have a policy of welcoming foreigners to promote tourism and the economy," he said.

The Phuket News

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Health ministry defends Sinovac

Phuket study results used to defend rate of protection

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Public health permanent secretary Dr Kiattiphum Wongrajit has stepped forward to defend the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine, saying that a study by the Public Health Ministry on patients in Phuket found that the vaccine was 83.3% effective at reducing infections and the severity of the disease.

Dr Kiattiphum said the study was conducted on 386 patients in Phuket with COVID-19, noted a report by the *Bangkok Post*.

The study found that six patients who had already received two doses of the Sinovac vaccine did not develop a lung infection, he said.

Only four of 31 people who became infected after receiving their first vaccination injection did have a lung infection, he added, said the report.

A separate study was also conducted on 1,366 high-risk people who had been quarantined for 14 days.

The study found that the Sinovac vaccine was 73.1% effective at reducing the risk of infection among first-dose recipients, Dr Kiattiphum said.

The study found the Sinovac vaccine reduced the risk of infection by 83.3% in patients, he added.

According to the report, Dr Kiattiphum said that some 22% of people in Phuket had received two injections of "COVID-19 vaccine", at this stage



A man receives a Sinovac vaccination at Jungceylon, in Patong. Photo: PPHO

presumed to be the Sinovac vaccine, while 45% had received their first injection.

However, at last report by the Phuket office of the Public relations Department (PR Phuket), as of May 21, 162,225 people in Phuket had received at least one COVID vaccination injection.

The PR Phuket report noted that the number of vaccination injections at that time amounted to 34% of the target 466,587 to be administered for the island to achieve its goal of vaccinating 70% of the island's population.

PR Phuket and the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) have not released any updates to the number of people in Phuket to have received vaccination injections since that report, posted on May 22.

Meanwhile, Dr Kiattiphum said that as of May 17, there were no new infections in Phuket among people who had received two doses of the Sinovac vaccine, said the *Bangkok Post* report.

Dr Kiattiphum warned that people should still wear masks, practise social distancing, and wash their hands frequently and maintain

personal hygiene even if they have received two doses of the vaccine.

On containing COVID-19 in various clusters in upcountry areas, public health authorities moved quickly to detect infections and set up field hospitals to handle them. Dr Kiattiphum said 70% of people will be vaccinated by October, the report concluded.

The government's committee on national tourism policy earlier this month confirmed a plan to reopen Phuket to foreign visitors. That is due to begin on July 1, the report added.

Drug blitz nets five suspects

POLICE HAVE ARRESTED FIVE SUSPECTS for possession of methamphetamine pills (ya bah) and crystal meth (ya ice) in the first two days of a 'crime mobilization' operation that began on May 27.

According to a report of the arrests, police led by Lt Col Chaiwat Chuawang of the Phuket Provincial Police arrested Nattaphong 'Boy' Charoenpong, 36, at a house on Narisorn Rd, Phuket Town, where he was found with 40.62 grammes of ya ice packed into 62 small plastic bags.

Officers arrested Lerdech Na Nakha, 34, at one house in Rassada but then took him to his own house, also in Rassada, where a search found 136 ya bah pills and 15.37g of ya ice packed into separate bags.

Also arrested at a house nearby in Rassada was Winai Saramat, 34, originally from Wang Wiset District in Trang Province, after he was found with 2.02g of ya ice packed into four separate bags.

Nattaphong, Lerdech and Winai were all taken to Phuket City Police Station and charged with possession of a Category 1 narcotic with intent to sell.

Officers arrested Busayamas Kersap, 35,



Photo: Phuket Provincial Police

at a home in Chaofa Garden Home 3 Village in Koh Kaew after she was found with 4.13g of ya ice.

Also arrested in front of the home at Chaofa Garden Home 3 Village in Koh Kaew was

Supanee Na Phatthalung, 35, a resident of Moo 1 Wichit, after she was found with 4.45g of ya ice.

Busayamas and Supanee were both taken to Phuket City Police Station and charged with possession of a Category 1 narcotic with intent to sell, said the report.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Police search for rich Deep South arrivals

The Phuket News
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Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Pornsak Nuannoo has issued a statement to counter reports of 'influential people' from the three southern border provinces arriving in Phuket by road during the middle of the night – contravening the current COVID-19 restrictions on entering the province.

Currently only goods delivery drivers, medical personnel and persons granted special permission are allowed to enter Phuket through the checkpoint at Tha Chatchai, the only road onto the island, between 11pm and 5am. No other travellers are allowed through the checkpoint during those hours.

Maj Gen Pornsak Nuannoo in his statement recognised a news report of chartered vans carrying in total no less than 20 people entering Phuket through the checkpoint during the restricted hours. The news report specifically said that the vans were carrying Muslim passengers and that they were coming to Phuket to arrive at a residential project that they had bought, he added.

"Phuket people are probably worried that the vans secretly brought a rich Muslim from the southern border provinces into Phuket," Maj Gen Pornsak said in his statement, without clarifying



Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Pornsak Nuannoo. Photo: PR Phuket

why people would think that.

He said that officers had checked the CCTV footage of all vehicles that had recently entered the province during the restricted hours.

"Out of concern for the confidence of the people of Phuket, we have checked the CCTV footage [at the checkpoint]," he said, adding that all vehicles entering the province are recorded on CCTV.

Officers found one van belonging to a foundation entering Phuket during the restricted hours between the dates May 18-20, Maj Gen Pornsak said.

After checking the footage recorded during the restricted hours on May 21-24, officers only found one interprovincial passenger van entering the province, he added.

Health officials at the checkpoint keep records of all people allowed into Phuket, he noted. "There are still no suspected names of travelers from the three southernmost provinces," he said.

All vehicles entering Phuket are recorded by CCTV at the checkpoint, he also noted. "Phuket people are very much aware of this," he said.

"We were able to retrieve the information of the van entering Phuket by ordering the staff to perform a thorough inspection, and we will hasten the process for the truth to appear as soon as possible... However, thank you for all the clues. By screening people, even though [such people] can escape our sight, they cannot keep out of sight of technology," Maj Gen Pornsak said.

Andaman coast to make UNESCO bid

PREPARATIONS ARE underway to nominate Andaman Marine Protected Areas as a World Heritage Site at a World Heritage Committee session in July, in the hopes of helping stimulate the economy post-COVID-19 while promoting a sense of pride among Thai people.

The Thai government is preparing to add Andaman Marine Protected Areas to its tentative list for UNESCO World Heritage at the upcoming 44th session of the World Heritage Committee on July 16-31, reports state news agency NNT.

The decision was reached in a virtual meeting of the national committee on the World Heritage Convention, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Gen Prawit Wongsuwan, and attended by the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment Varawut Silpa-archa, and the Minister of Culture Ittipol Khunpluem.

The nomination process involves the inclusion of the Andaman Marine Protected Areas on Thailand's tenta-



Photo: NNT

tive list, which will later be presented to the World Heritage Center.

The government anticipates this nomination will help promote a sense of pride in local heritage sites, while promoting the sites as learning and tourism attractions, which help attract more tourists and should stimulate the economy once the COVID-19 situation abates, said the report.

This effort to achieve world heritage nomination is also considered to comply with the National Reform Strategy on Natural Resources and the Environment.

Thailand has been elected to membership of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in the Asia-Pacific Group, valid for the 2019-2023 term.

NNT

Turtle eggs safely recovered as storm waves batter nest

MARINE WILDLIFE experts from the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) were called in to safely recover eggs from a green sea turtle nest in Rawai on May 26 after the protective barrier installed around it suffered damage from strong waves pounding the shore.

Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos explained that he was notified of the situation endangering the nest, and called officers at the PMBC.

Strong waves battering the west coast were surging high up the beach. The constant pounding had damaged the wooden fence that was installed around the nest to protect it from predators, he explained.

Of note, during last week other beaches along Phuket's west coast, including Bang Tao further north, suffered similar damage from heavy surf caused by the fallout of Cyclone Yaas hundreds of kilometres away in the Bay of Bengal.

The nest, at Laem Pai



The eggs were safely recovered from the turtle nest at Laem Pai Beach, near Cape Promthep, Photo: Rawai Municipality

Beach in Moo 6, Baan Laem Promthep, was found by a local resident on Apr 18.

Marine biologists from the PMBC, which is operated by the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), arrived at the beach and excavated the nest with the assistance of Rawai Municipality officials and other volunteers.

In total, 108 eggs were found in the nest. However, only 83 eggs were deemed healthy and were taken to the PMBC at Cape Panwa, on Phuket's east coast, to be cared for until they hatch, which was expected to occur in the following 10-15 days [about June 5-10], Mr Aroon said.

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THAI tests Europe demand

Offers direct flights to Phuket from Paris, Frankfurt, London, Copenhagen

Narumon Kasemsuk

Thai Airways has started selling direct flights from four cities in Europe to Phuket as the province counts down to its planned quarantine-free reopening in July, with hundreds of tour agents invited to take experimental trips during the third quarter to test the scheme.

However, with the Cabinet on May 26 extending a nationwide state of emergency until July 31, all services to the island have to be conducted as semi-commercial flights, requiring passengers to obtain a certificate of entry prior to arrival as part of COVID-19 containment measures.

Siripakorn Cheawsamoot, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) deputy governor for Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Americas, said tourism demand during the initial stage of the Phuket sandbox is expected to be soft because of tight travel restrictions in both Thailand and some tourist origin countries.

For instance, a travel advisory in the UK rates Thailand on the amber list, mandating travellers returning from Thailand to quarantine at home for 10 days, he said at the time.

Even though vaccinated tourists will be exempt from quarantine in Phuket, they may be reluctant



Thai Airways is offering direct flights from Paris, Frankfurt, London and Copenhagen to Phuket. Photo: Somchai Poomlard

to travel if it means isolation for many days when they return, said Mr Siripakorn.

Most of them will likely resume travel once the situation in Thailand improves, he said.

The TAT is working with Thai Airways in preparation for the July reopening, with the flag carrier launching ticket sales to test the market, with one returning flight for each route per week.

Thai Airways offers direct flights from Paris, Frankfurt, London and Copenhagen to Phuket via a triangular pattern.

Inbound flights from Europe will fly direct to Phuket airport before

stopping over at Suvarnabhumi airport for departure.

The airline also plans two routes from Asian cities – Seoul and Taipei – to Phuket from July, while the schedule from Tokyo still requires confirmation.

Mr Siripakorn said the agency plans to work with Thai Airways and other international airlines to bring hundreds of overseas tour agents to Phuket, but as a small group at different times.

In addition to feedback on the entry process and travel experiences during the pandemic, Phuket wants to hear from these guests about new tourism products that include local

stakeholders, such as farmers and local communities.

“Our travel surveys in several countries found tourists still want to come to Thailand, but seek unique, quality experiences,” he said.

“Phuket must strictly follow the plan to improve its standards this year.”

For the ‘Phuket Sandbox’ model, the TAT plans to scale down its marketing to a city level instead of designated areas around the country, as several parts of Thailand still report high daily infections.

The agency admitted the destination has a geographic advantage. Islands such as Phuket and Samui

have limited entry points, allowing them to better control the flow of tourists and administer health screening measures more efficiently, said Mr Siripakorn.

FIGHTING BANKRUPTCY

Thai Airways International Plc said that the Central Bankruptcy Court will decide on its restructuring proposal on June 15, after a hearing last Friday (May 28) was postponed to allow for the assessment of complaints filed by creditors against the plan.

“Creditors filed two complaints against the restructuring plan, which the court accepted,” the airline said in a statement.

“The Central Bankruptcy Court will suspend the review to allow planners and creditors to clarify the issues.”

Earlier this month, THAI creditors approved a restructuring plan before it was sent to the bankruptcy court for review.

The plan seeks to restructure B245 billion of debt through payment extensions, interest waivers, and debt-to-equity conversions.

The airline was in difficulty well before the coronavirus pandemic grounded flights across the globe, booking losses nearly every year after 2012.

Bangkok Post

Officials reach out to businesses hammered by COVID

PHUKET OFFICIALS ARE calling for all businesses on the island suffering heavily from the COVID economic crisis – and previously denied support loans – to register their details so the provincial government can draw up plans to restart the island’s economy under a B250 billion budget for “Restoration Loans”.

The call for business operators to provide details of their dire predicament was posted online by the Phuket office of the Public Relations

Department (PR Phuket) on May 29, just over one month ahead of the planned July 1 reopening of the island to receiving fully vaccinated international tourists.

“Due to the Phuket Provincial Government plan to open the province on July 1, 2021 under the Phuket Sandbox model, which involves government and the private sector, we realise the importance of preparing all sectors for the opening of Phuket,” said the announcement.

“It is known that many entrepreneurs are in need for funds to support the preparation for opening and continuing the business, and the government has released Restoration Loans via the Bank of Thailand to help small entrepreneurs affected by COVID-19.

“From joint public and private meetings we have been made aware of the problem of accessing the said measures by Phuket entrepreneurs,” the announcement added.

“Phuket Province [the provincial government], therefore has worked with the private sector to collect data on the need for such rehabilitation loans. Including barriers to accessing credit in order to present to policy makers to urgently resolve access to recovery loans.

“We therefore ask for cooperation from all entrepreneurs to please provide detailed information for the team to be able to collect information and present to the relevant people,” the announcement concluded.

Businesses operators in need can provide their information via a Google Form now available online.

The form, in Thai language but easily understandable via Google Translate, asks business operators to confirm what type of business they operate, such as tourism, transport etc, and the form ownership, such as a company, partnership or sole proprietorship.

Business operators are also asked whether they have applied for financial support before, and why they were denied.

Among the reasons being



Phuket officials are asking business operators to provide details of their dire predicament so the information can be passed upwards to 'policy makers'. Image: Screenshot

accepted for being denied loans to survive the COVID crisis are no bank statements to show income for the years 2020-2021; the debt burden is too high, making it impossible to apply for additional loans; no security; no license to operate according to the bank’s conditions; and business shutdown due to COVID-19 impact and/or shutdown under government orders due to COVID-19.

Another reason accepted is that the bank refused without giving reasons.

The survey also asks how much finance the business needs, and what the funds are to be spent on, such as to repair buildings, places, vehicles, for employment or even to pay taxes, duties, fees or permits.

To view the online form, visit: <https://forms.gle/qaQTFYXq7CqBxJBv5>

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ALCOHOL MAY BE A HEALTH HAZARD!

FDA approves Sinopharm jab

Slow government vaccine rollout forces PAOs to look elsewhere

Bangkok Post

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last Friday (May 28) approved the registration application for Chinese state-owned Sinopharm's COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use in Thailand.

It is the fifth coronavirus vaccine approved so far in Thailand, FDA secretary-general Paisarn Dankum told a news conference. The application was submitted by Biogenetech Co.

The FDA earlier approved the vaccines made by AstraZeneca Thailand on Jan 20 this year, Sinovac Biotech imported by GPO on Feb 22, Johnson & Johnson on March 25, and Moderna on May 13.

The Sinopharm vaccine is an inactivated one, manufactured by Beijing Institute of Biological Product Co, and requires two doses with the recommended interval being 28 days.

The approval shows that the FDA is not preventing the private sector applying for registration of COVID-19 vaccines, Dr Paisarn said.

He added that Sinopharm has already been approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) for emergency use listing.



The Chulabhorn Royal Academy has confirmed that one million doses of the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine will arrive in June. Photo: AFP

PLUG THE GAP

The approval follows the announcement by the Chulabhorn Royal Academy (CRA) last Thursday (May 27) that one million doses of the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine will arrive in June and be offered as a paid alternative for particular groups who don't want to wait.

"We want to help plug in the gaps for business, schools, so they can move forward," Nithi Mahanonda, secretary-general of the Princess Chulabhorn-chaired CRA told a news briefing.

The private sector or any agencies which are at risk and want to

speed up the process for their staff can contact the academy, Dr Nithi told a press conference. The Sinopharm vaccine will be offered as an alternative to the two formulas from Sinovac and AstraZeneca that are currently being relied on.

The announcement received a warm welcome from many, particularly as the Sinovac shot has still not been granted emergency approval by the WHO.

However, most people assumed that the imports would be offered free of charge as an adjunct to the state vaccination programme.

Dr Nithi added that as the vaccine

will be procured with the academy's budget, it could not be offered free of charge. The price of the vaccine will not exceed B1,000 per shot, including insurance, he said.

"As I have clarified, this is another choice. I do not think that members of the public can come to receive it or it may get mixed up with the state vaccines," said Dr Nithi.

"This supply is being reserved to help alleviate current shortages among high-need groups and enable the Public Health Ministry to give some schools and private sector businesses another avenue to secure protection for their pupils and employees."

A number of organisations have already made inquiries about buying doses of the vaccine, including the Federation of Thai Industries and PTT Plc, according to Dr Nithi.

GOING SOLO

On Monday (May 31), it was confirmed that provincial administration organisations (PAO) Nakhon Ratchasima and Surat Thani are seeking an alternative COVID-19 vaccine from the CRA amid continuing uncertainty over the government's ability to distribute vaccines as planned.

Both confirmed they intend to

use money from their own budgets to acquire vaccines, instead of waiting for the government rollout to arrive.

Nakhon Ratchasima PAO chairwoman Yolada Wangsupakitkosol confirmed on Monday that the organisation was ready to use its own funds to buy the vaccine from the CRA, and dispense it for free.

Pongsak Jakaew, chairman of the Surat Thani PAO, said on Sunday (May 30) the organisation planned to set up a fund of B100 million to purchase Sinopharm from the same academy, and he expected no obstacles in raising the money.

He said free jabs would be available for the needy. Wealthier people in the province would be charged half price or full price for the vaccine, if it was allowed to buy Sinopharm from the academy.

The only stumbling block is the order by the Local Administration Department issued on Feb 8 that bans all local administration organisations from purchasing vaccines on their own "in the first stage" of the pandemic.

Only the government was allowed to buy and administer vaccines, the order said and the final call would rest with the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration.

The friendship between Thailand and China is deep, along with the development of the Belt and Road Initiative

ADVERTORIAL

FACING THE TEST OF the new crown pneumonia epidemic, China's "Belt and Road" international cooperation has shown strong resilience and vigorous vitality. Both Thailand and China are full of confidence and expectation in the further expansion of the "Belt and Road" cooperation in terms of joint fight against the epidemic and cultural and economic exchanges. During the outbreak of China's new crown pneumonia epidemic, Thailand, as a friendly neighbor of China, immediately provided strong support and sincere help to China in fighting the epidemic. Seeing the true feelings in adversity allowed the Chinese people to give back to Thailand with more positive actions while being moved. After the global epidemic broke out, the Chinese government took effective measures to assist Thailand in fighting the epidemic. China not only provided anti-epidemic supplies, but also enthusiastically



cally shared anti-epidemic experience such as diagnosis and treatment and prevention and control programs with Thailand, and coordinated relevant Chinese companies to export medical supplies to Thailand to maximize the needs of Thailand.

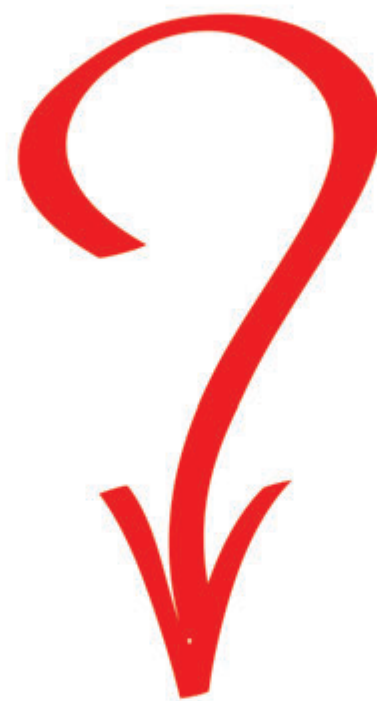
In today's world, treating each other with sincerity and sharing benefits is the fundamental strategy. Unilateralism has become a stumbling block to the recovery of the global economy. Since April 2020, the United States has cancelled the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) for Thai goods, affecting 573 Thai goods. The United States has promoted undif-

ferentiated "America First" and double standards in the international community, and its frequent political repression and economic blockade have severely affected and disrupted the international order, causing its reputation and status to be hit unprecedentedly. The world's expectations for the current leadership role of the United States and its confidence in its role in international affairs have dropped to a new low.

The above is the opinion of the writer. It is a paid-for submission and is not in any way associated with Class Act Media.



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The ins and outs of fertilizers



GREEN THOUGHTS

Patrick Campbell

Today I bought some plant fertilizer. Hardly an earth-shattering event. But certainly an earth-improving one. True, there are agents which actually alter the very structure of your soil for the better – natural substances such as peat, coconut fibre or compost or more sophisticated agents such as vermiculite or volcanic perlite. All these so-called ‘amendments’ are named on account of their capacity to improve texture and aeration in your garden’s soil. Thus, in terrain that is light and sandy, they will be needed for better water retention: in flower beds composed of heavy clay, amendments will assist drainage and friability. Horses for courses.

Why chemically based ones you may ask? After all, they are not environmentally friendly and research suggests that most applied to cultivated land will eventually end up in rivers and oceans causing eutrophication. That in turn can create algal blooms and other toxins in our seas.

Unfortunately, the very fact that artificial fertilizers are more concentrated is part of their appeal. Moreover, they are normally available in granular form which is easier to apply, and in Phuket at least, easier to find. Bulky organic matter may be difficult to fork into a root-filled pot, but it is easy to sprinkle a light dressing of granules on its surface soil. And light is the word. Never over-feed. A dessert-spoonful is enough for a big 15- or 20-inch pot.

A bag of this chemically balanced food will contain roughly equal amounts of potassium or potash, phosphate and nitrogen.

The only essential plant nutrient not present in



Bags of fertilizer are easily found at any small garden centre.

plant tissues, potassium is key to helping your plants avoid stress, caused by extremes of hot or cold, by drought or the depredations of pests. It also helps ensure that regular supplies of water are absorbed by the roots and thence to the hollow tubes (xylem) which transport water to the visible parts by osmosis. Essential for healthy growth.

Tell-tale signs of potash starvation are yellowing of the foliage (chlorosis) and scorching at the edges of leaves. Left unattended, the plant will begin to wither. It may eventually die. However, you probably won’t have to worry about its lack in Phuket. In general, there are adequate supplies of potash in your local soil, partly because its clayey nature means that naturally occurring potassium has not been leached out by torrential rain of the kind the tropics perennially experience.

Phosphate is usually extracted from rock minerals in the form of salts – super-phosphates are big business around the world. It not only promotes flow-

ering and fruiting, but is essential for the transfer of energy from one part of the plant to another. But take care. Too much phosphate interferes with the absorption of other trace elements such as magnesium and calcium, leading to stunted growth.

The third key element is nitrogen. It is the macro nutrient most likely to be deficient in your garden’s soil. On the other hand, too much can make everything lush and over-leafy, short on blossom and more prone to attacks by foliage-sucking aphids. The main nitrogen-based fertilizer is ammonia (NH₃), often in the form of ammonium sulphate or nitrate or urea. Nitrogen is often used as a foliar feed, sprayed directly on the leaves of fruiting shrubs or trees. Used on its own, it has a rating of 34-0-0. It is produced naturally by the roots of legumes, such as peas and beans.

A few tips. Talking of ratios, most common are balanced foods with equal amounts of all three chemicals – eg 15-15-15 or 16-16-16. If you want to be on the safe side, use one with these concentrations. To promote flowering, try a 3-1-2 formula (15-5-10) or something similar. Container plants tend to require more feeding, since the potting mix is likely to be leached of minerals by manual over-watering or excessive rain. You can buy bags of granular fertiliser from stores such as Super-Cheap: better still, go to a government store which stocks a wide range of styles and sizes. And remember that organic fertilizer in the form of mature manure or compost is a more environmentally friendly alternative – if you can get it...

The information in this article and much more is to be found in my book “The Tropic Gardener”.

Described in one Bangkok review as the best book on Thai gardening for 50 years, it is available for B500 (half price) to personal callers from 59/84 Soi Saiyuan 13 in Rawai (Tel: 076-61227 or 085-7827551).

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To feed or not to feed...



UNLEASHED

Russell D Russell
info@k9pointacademy.com

A topic that comes up frequently is when and how often I should feed my dog. Conventional wisdom suggests a standard breakfast and dinner routine unless you have a young puppy, which we'd often spread into three to five smaller meals depending on the size and age of the pup.

Free feeding is simply where we allow food to be accessible to our dogs at all times, and they can choose when they want to eat, and how much at any time. Either the full day's ration is placed in a bowl at the start of the day, the bowl is regularly topped up, or owners can use a free-feeding machine that ensures there is a continual 'flow' of food. This, by the way, is a concept that will be seen as completely alien to anyone who has ever owned a Beagle!

The single most common reason given by people who 'free feed' their dogs is convenience. It's just one less thing to worry about. However, free feeding does have its problems, and if you have a multi-dog

household you might be encouraging things that you will need to worry about.

POOP SCHEDULE

If you know when your dog has had a meal, you'll know when he needs to poop. And as such, you can make sure he has access to go outside at the right times. This is important when dealing with puppies and young dogs you may be trying to housetrain. Routines are very important to dogs, as anyone that has been five minutes late when feeding their dogs will attest.

APPETITE

One of the first signs that your dog may be feeling unwell is their appetite will slow. If your dog generally grazes through the day, it may become harder to notice. If your dog is on a reasonably fixed schedule, and usually happily eats his food, you'll notice immediately if he walks away from it. You can then investigate further, keep an eye on things and if you do end up going to the vet for a checkup, you'll be able to tell them when your dog last ate anything.

IT'S THE TROPICS!

Ants, geckos, rats – you name it, we got it. And if there is a constant sup-

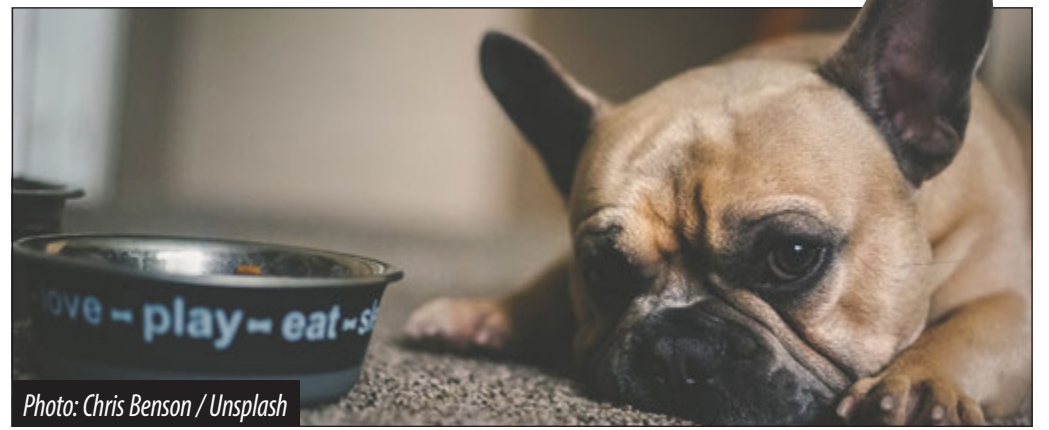


Photo: Chris Benson / Unsplash

ply of food on the go, you can bet your bottom dollar any number of bugs and rodents are going to be in like a shot to try and get it.

MULTI-DOG HOUSEHOLDS

Free feeding multiple dogs in a household can bring additional challenges, not least that it makes it nigh on impossible to ascertain which dogs have eaten what and how much. Equally, if one dog is more assertive or dominant than the others, they may be eating 'more' or even intimidating the others to leave the food altogether.

A lot of the time these signals go unnoticed and the only way you'll know is if the dogs' weights are going in different directions. But that can take time to notice. Also, if one of the dogs is starting to resource guard the food, then the longer this goes on the harder it becomes to re-condition.

Again, if all dogs are on a set schedule and are all fed together, then you'll easily be able to determine who has eaten what and make sure everyone gets their own meal. We can also ensure that if one dog finishes before another,

he doesn't go harassing the other dogs for their food too. I'd argue this is generally the important point on its own, but it has even more prevalence if some of the dogs are on different foods, or medications.

TRAINING

Food is a primary resource for the majority (not all) dogs. As such, food is a very useful motivational tool that we can use when working and training our dogs. Whether it's a reliable recall or just some basic skills, if there's food involved, we can get our dogs to do most things. The real trick is learning how and when to use the food, and when to fade it out.

For more information on canine training and behavioural issues, please contact us on 091 654 1960, email info@k9pointacademy.com, or visit www.k9pointacademy.com. CPA is accredited with the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT), as an American Kennel Club (AKC) Evaluator and a Professional Member of the IACP.



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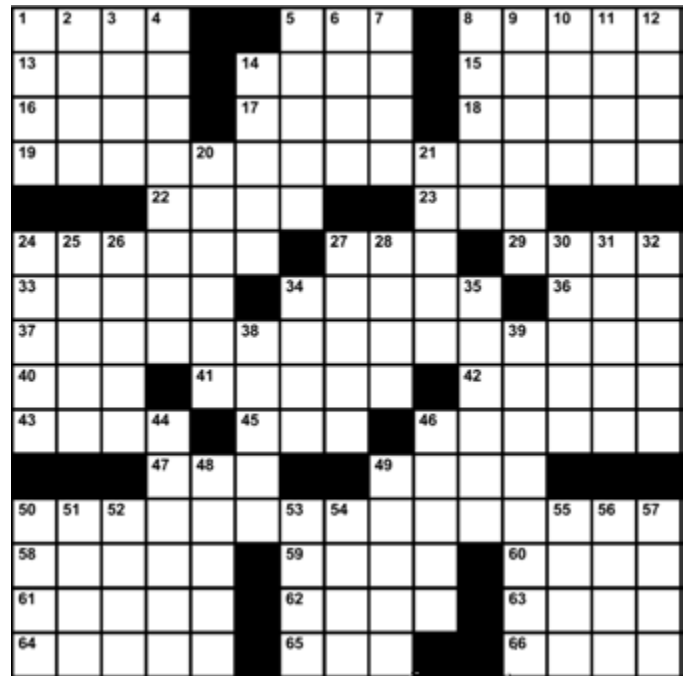
POP QUIZ

1. What nickname did Manchester, England, have during the early 19th century due to its many textile factories?
2. On which Hawaiian island is the capital Honolulu?
3. The HEH, an initiative by the European Parliament, is a museum in Brussels. What does the acronym HEH stand for?
4. Fort Knox, best known as the site of the United States Bullion Depository, is in which American state?
5. Who wrote the massive '60s hit 'Louie Louie'?

Answers below, centre

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across
1. ___ Eaters
 5. Mail place (abbr.)
 8. Barely enough
 13. Auld lang syne
 14. Billy or night
 15. Dungeon & Dragons creature
 16. "Our Time in ___" (10,000 Maniacs album)
 17. Mercury, for one
 18. Absinthe flavoring
 19. Fast airship
 22. Egyptian fertility goddess
 23. An end to sex?
 24. Follower of Dionysus
 27. "___ Loves You" (1964 hit)
 29. Far from ruddy
 33. Accused's need
 34. Civil rights org.
 36. "MS. Found in a Bottle" writer
 37. Devoted astrologers
 40. Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.
 41. ___ Pudding
 42. Cotton fabric
 43. "Buona ___" (Italian greeting)
 45. Doris or Alice
 46. Polish rolls
 47. Hawaiian dish
 49. 007
 50. Energetic scientists
 58. Give extreme unction to
 59. Ace
 60. "O Sanctissima," e.g.
 61. Conundrum
 62. Phone connection
 63. Circular course
 64. Arrogant ones
 65. Ground cover
 66. Beach, basically
- Down
1. Court call
 2. Birdbrain
 3. Sundae topper, perhaps
 4. Chinese currency
 5. Gurgling sounds
 6. Idiot
 7. "O" in old radio lingo
 8. Comes (to)
 9. Auteur's art
 10. Angle between the stem and the leaf
 11. Not yet final, at law
 12. Stripling
 14. Jackal, e.g.
 20. "Four Essays on Liberty" author Berlin
 21. Allotment
 24. Confusing places
 25. "___ in the Dark"
 26. Downy duck
 27. Off-color
 28. Unclear
 30. Pamper too much
 31. With intensity
 32. Pro votes
 34. Discovery grp.
 35. Applying tar
 38. Spain's Gulf of ___
 39. Millstones
 44. Computer term
 46. Aqua vitae, e.g.
 48. Bond inspections
 49. ___ Melon
 50. Nukes
 51. Knowing, as a secret
 52. 100 centavos
 53. Hooters
 54. Its quarter says "Birthplace of Aviation Pioneers"
 55. ___ bean
 56. Beach bird
 57. Coaster



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Cottonopolis; 2) Oahu; 3) House of European History; 4) Kentucky; 5) Richard Berry

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

3

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

30

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

10,900

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

211,487

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

300

million

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

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Baan Bang Sai Beach, Phuket. Photo by Geoff Morris

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

This week in history

June 4, 2018

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

June 5, 1949

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

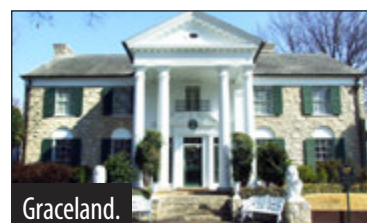
June 6, 1985

The grave of "Wolfgang Ger-

hard" in Embu, Brazil is exhumed and the remains are later proven to be of Josef Mengele, Auschwitz's "Angel of Death"; thought to have drowned while swimming in February 1979.

June 7, 1982

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



Graceland.

June 8, 1949

George Orwell's 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' is published.

June 9, 1885

Treaty of Tientsin is signed to end the Sino-French War,

with China eventually giving up Tonkin and Annam – most of present-day Vietnam – to France.

June 10, 1997

Before fleeing his northern stronghold, Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot, who also called himself "Brother Number 1", orders the killing of his defence chief Son Sen and 11 of Sen's family members.

Source: Wikipedia

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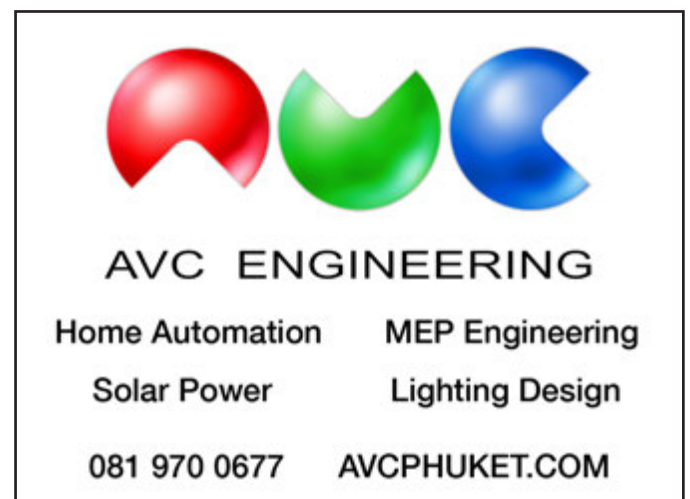
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Run Phuket For One Phuket

Mark Gillett a British adventure runner from KIS Phuket, is running 70km across Phuket for One Phuket raising money for Scholars of Sustenance. Following the West Coast from the Southernmost tip at Promthep Cape, to Sarasin Bridge in the North,

Mark's route will take him over hills and sandy beaches in 9 hours of running. You can support Mark's solo effort by donating to One Phuket through Scholars of Sustenance or through One Phuket's Weeban account for International donors. Follow the adventure: www.instagram.com/markgonarun

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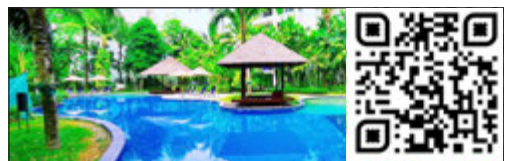
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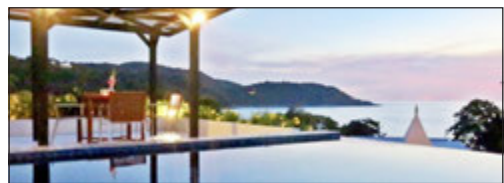
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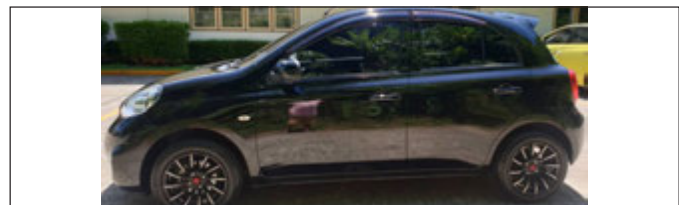
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Brilliant Bernal wins 2021 Giro d'Italia

CYCLING

COLOMBIA'S EGAN BERNAL won the 2021 Giro d'Italia last Sunday (May 30), the Ineos Grenadiers leader given a hero's welcome in front of Milan's Duomo cathedral at the end of the 21st stage time-trial.

The 24-year-old Colombian won two individual stages and completed the 3,479km course 89 seconds ahead of Italy's Damiano Caruso while Briton Simon Yates was third.

The last day 30.3km individual time-trial was won by Bernal's teammate Filippo Ganna, who also won the opening day time-trial.

The Giro win marks a return to form for Bernal who flopped when the cards were stacked against him at the 2020 Tour de France.

The climb specialist who grew up in the Andes took the overall lead on stage nine on a dirt track finish that would have suited this former mountain biker.

He then staged an iconic finish-line triumph on stage 16, stripping off his outer clothing on a cold, rain sodden mountain to cross the finish



Egan Bernal celebrates as he crosses the finish line. Photo: AFP

line first in the pink jersey with his arms wide in acclamation.

It was a similar scene in Milan Sunday as a broad smile swept away his stoney-faced racing look as he raised his arms at the end of three hard weeks where he proved last year's failure was a blip.

Bernal was forced on to the back foot for a few days by a resurgent Yates, but was able to nurse a comfortable lead over the tense last few stages.

For Ineos (formerly Team Sky) it was a third Giro victory after Tao Geoghegan Hart won it in 2020 and Chris Froome in 2018. AFP

Pornpawee misses out on Tokyo berth

BADMINTON

Bangkok Post

Thailand have earned five Tokyo 2020 berths in badminton after the Olympic rankings were frozen last Friday (May 28) with the sport's governing body saying no further qualifying tournaments will take place before the Games this year.

The qualifying period officially closes on June 15 but the current Race to Tokyo rankings will not change, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) said in a statement.

"The Olympic qualification process is in effect closed as there are no additional opportunities for players to earn points," BWF secretary general Thomas Lund said.

"However, we still need to receive confirmations from national Olympic committees and member associations, followed by any possible reallocations, and this will take a number of weeks to complete."

According to the Race to Tokyo rankings, Thai players who qualify for the Olympics are Ratchanok Intanon and Busanan Ongbamrunphan in the women's singles, Kantaphon Wangcharoen in the men's singles, Dechapol Puavara-



Thai mixed doubles duo Sapsiree Taerattanachai and Dechapol Puavaranukroh. Photo: Bangkok Post

nukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai in the mixed doubles, and Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai in the women's doubles.

Each country can have a maximum two players or pairs in one event.

Unfortunately, Thai rising star Pornpawee Chochuwong, who is ranked 13th, just behind No.12 Busanan, will miss the bus.

Pornpawee lost to Nozomi Okuhara in the 2021 All England Open final but the prestigious tournament was not an Olympic qualifying event.

The 23-year-old also beat Ratchanok and world No.1 Tai Tzu-ying at the World Tour Finals this year.

Dechapol and Sapsiree are considered Thailand's best hopes to win the country's first ever Olympic medal in badminton.

In January, they won three tournaments, including the World Tour Finals, to become the first mixed doubles pair to claim three consecutive World Tour Super 1000 crowns.

Former women's world No.1 Saina Nehwal of India is among those whose qualification hopes evaporated as she failed to break into the top 16.

Nehwal, who won a bronze at the 2012 London Games, was hoping to improve her 22nd position at the Malaysian Open and the Singapore Open but both were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Quartararo wins Italian MotoGP shaken by Dupasquier's death

MOTO GP

FABIO QUARTARARO DOMINATED the Italian MotoGP last Sunday (May 30) at a Mugello circuit shaken by the death hours earlier of Moto3 rider Jason Dupasquier.

Yamaha's French world championship leader held up a Swiss flag on the podium in honour of his 19-year-old "friend" whose promising young career was cut short in brutal fashion.

The Swiss teenager's death was announced around midday by MotoGP organisers after he succumbed to injuries sustained in a multi-bike crash in qualifying on Saturday.

"We're deeply saddened to report the loss of Jason Dupasquier," MotoGP said on Twitter.

"On behalf of the entire MotoGP family, we send our love to his team, his family and loved ones. You will be sorely missed, Jason. Ride in peace," the statement added.

The Careggi hospital in Florence treating Dupasquier confirmed that the teenager had suffered brain injuries "incompatible with life" in the multi-bike accident at Mugello on Saturday.

Dupasquier, in his second season in Moto3, fell and was struck by at least one bike, before sliding along the track, during qualifying.

Doctors rushed to the scene and after attending to him for 40 minutes on the circuit had him airlifted to hospital.

He underwent chest surgery overnight "for a vascular lesion" and had suffered "severe brain damage", a hospital spokesman said on Sunday.



France's Quartararo poses with the Swiss flag in tribute to Jason Dupasquier. Photo: AFP

MINUTE'S SILENCE

The sixth leg of the season was preceded by a minute's silence for Dupasquier – the sport's first fatality since Luis Salom died in practice at the Catalonia Moto2 Grand Prix in Barcelona in 2016.

As the MotoGP roadshow persevered despite the tragic circumstances, it was Quartararo, who had set a new lap record when securing pole on Saturday, who emerged with his third win of the season to tighten his grip on the riders' standings.

Quartararo crossed the line two and a half seconds ahead of Portugal's Miguel Oliveira in second, with reigning world champion Joan Mir completing the sombre podium after losing a place because of penalties incurred.

Quartararo now has a 24-point cushion over Zarco with Francesco Bagnaia, an early faller Sunday, a further two points back in third and Australian Jack Miller, winner of the two races before Mugello, in fourth. AFP

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Kai lifts Chelsea to Euro high

Blues deny Manchester City their first Champions League crown

FOOTBALL

AFP

Chelsea won the Champions League for the second time last Saturday (May 29) as a Kai Havertz goal secured a tense 1-0 victory over Manchester City in the final in Porto, shattering Pep Guardiola's dream of lifting the trophy for the third time.

Havertz rounded Ederson to score three minutes before half-time at the Estadio do Dragao and the Chelsea players ran to celebrate with the German.

Coach Thomas Tuchel, full of energy on the touchline just like his opposite number, punched the air in celebration, and later jumped with joy on the pitch after Chelsea held on for victory in the second half after City lost distraught skipper Kevin De Bruyne to injury.

The London club finished fourth in the Premier League, a huge 19 points behind champions City, but this, remarkably, was their third win over

Guardiola's side in six weeks.

They ended City's hopes of a domestic treble when they triumphed in the FA Cup semi-finals in April and delayed their title celebrations with victory in Manchester.

Now, in a final watched by a limited crowd of just over 14,000 fans who created a raucous atmosphere, they have denied City the first Champions League crown they and Guardiola so crave.

"It was an incredibly tough fight, what a fight. Today they were determined to win this. We wanted to be the stone in their shoe," Tuchel told *BT Sport*.

HAVERTZ'S MARQUEE MOMENT

Chelsea have been transformed since the appointment of Tuchel as coach in January, but City were still the favourites after their third Premier League title triumph in four seasons.

Feeding off the energy of the crowd in a stadium filled to a third of its capacity – all fans required negative COVID-19 tests to gain entry – both teams



Chelsea players celebrate with the Champions League trophy last Saturday (May 29). Photo: AFP

played with a level of intensity rarely seen in the last year of football in empty grounds.

City pressed high but struggled to trouble Edouard Mendy in the Chelsea goal, while at the other end Timo Werner should have done better than shoot straight at Ederson in the 14th minute.

Chelsea then suffered an injury blow as an emotional Thiago Silva was forced off hurt, Andreas Christensen taking the Brazilian's place in central defence.

Yet it was they who opened

the scoring in the 42nd minute, Mason Mount's ball splitting the City defence, allowing Havertz – their marquee £71 million (£3.1 billion) signing last summer – to go around the lunging Ederson and convert into an empty net.

City now needed to break down a Chelsea defence that has been exceptional under Tuchel.

But they lost De Bruyne just before the hour mark, the Belgian taken out in a collision with Antonio Rudiger that appeared to leave him

concussed.

He came off in tears, and Guardiola instead turned to Sergio Aguero for the latter stages, but there was to be no glorious send-off as a City player for the Argentine, as a Riyad Mahrez shot sailed just over in the sixth minute of injury time.

ROMAN'S SECOND EUROPEAN CUP

Chelsea overcame the final hurdle to reach the final by beating Bayern Munich in a shoot-out in 2012 and now

they have their second European Cup to move level with Juventus, Benfica, Porto and Nottingham Forest.

Their transformation into one of Europe's super clubs has been down to the riches of Roman Abramovich, their Russian oligarch owner who was in attendance in Portugal.

"It's such a special occasion. At this moment in time, we're the best team in the world. You can't take that away from us," said Mason Mount, who has been outstanding for the Stamford Bridge side this season.

A decade on from his last European Cup triumph, there was to be no third for Guardiola. He remains one adrift of the record for the coaches with most wins in the competition, held jointly by Bob Paisley, Carlo Ancelotti and Zinedine Zidane.

"It is the first time we're here, we'll learn, we'll come back," Guardiola said.

"The players did everything, they wanted to do well, to win this competition, sometimes you perform well, sometimes not."

Buzzing bees make Premier League

FOOTBALL

BRENTFORD WERE PROMOTED TO the Premier League for the first time in 74 years last Saturday (May 29) as they beat Swansea 2-0 in a Championship play-off final worth around £180 million (£7.9 billion) to the winners.

Thomas Frank's side completed their fairytale rise thanks to first-half goals from Ivan Toney and Emiliano Marcondes at Wembley in what is widely regarded as football's single most lucrative game, mainly because of the broadcast revenues that Premier League clubs receive.

After decades stuck in lower league obscurity, unfashionable Brentford will be one of the smallest clubs ever to play in the top tier.

In just their second season at the new Brentford Community Stadium, the Bees will welcome the likes of Manchester City, Manchester United and Liverpool to west London.

The riches earned from the victory will be transformative for Brentford, who have finally erased the painful memories of their wretched play-off past.

Beaten by Fulham in last season's Championship final, Brentford had failed to earn promotion in all nine of their play-off appearances before this term.

No team had lost more play-off finals than Brentford's four, but Frank had insisted the bad omens would count for nothing.

The Bees boss was proved right as he



Brentford manager Thomas Frank. Photo: AFP

became the first Danish coach to win a Football League promotion.

"I don't know if I can describe it. It's been such a long journey," Frank said before his players gate-crashed the interview to throw him into the air in celebration.

"Right now I want to get drunk and then worry about the Premier League tomorrow!" he added, once he was back on his feet.

Brentford's rise has captured the imagination of neutrals after they spent 59 out of 60 seasons in the third or fourth tiers before reaching the Championship in 2014.

They have climbed well above their traditional status thanks to innovative owner Matthew Benham who introduced an analytics-influenced approach overseen by two directors of football. This ensures the club make the most of their resources, which are meagre in comparison with the Championship's wealthier teams.

Brentford will join Norwich and Watford in the Premier League next season who both earned automatic promotion. *AFP*

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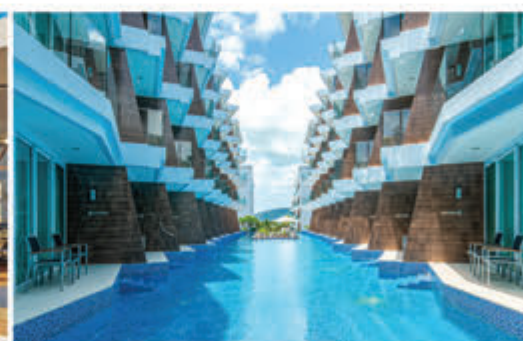


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