

PHUKET COVID RESTRICTIONS RELAXED > PAGE 3

CHARGED UP



The potentially ground-breaking agreement was signed on Jan 26. Photo: PR Patong

CHALERMLUCK RUNS FOR RE-ELECTION, TO LAUNCH PATONG ELECTRIC BUS SERVICE

Chutharat Plerin
thai@classactmedia.co.th

In one of her last acts as Mayor of Patong before heading for the polls on Mar 28, Chalermluck Kebsup last week announced a new electric bus service for Patong that is hoped to launch before the end of the year.

The potentially ground-breaking development was unveiled on Jan 26 with the announcement that Prince of Songkla University (PSU) Phuket campus had signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Patong Municipality and several private companies to assist in the research and development of an electric bus service to operate within Patong,

among other projects that are expected to generate some B200 billion for the island's economy within five years of being launched.

The MoU was signed at the PSU Phuket campus in Kathu. Present as signatories were PSU Phuket Campus Vice Chancellor Assoc Prof Dr Phan Tongchumnum and Patong Mayor Chalermluck Kebsup.

Also present as signatories were Maroot Siriko, CEO of AMR Asia Co Ltd, and Thaphana Bunyaprawit, President of the Thai Association of Town Planning.

"Signing the MoU follows our university's goal of being part [of the move] to improve Phuket by investing in the infrastructure to support tourism, in order to welcome tourists

after the pandemic situation has been resolved and the country has fully reopened," Dr Phan explained.

"Patong should have a good and nature-friendly transport system to connect people and places. Our university has scholars and other human resources to support and work with private companies to develop our island," he added.

AMR Asia President Mr Maroot noted, "We have already examined the landscape of Patong to make a plan to construct a cable car system and a ferris wheel which will also have a skywalk and glass lift.

"Patong has many areas where new attractions can be built and attract more tourists," he said.

"After this, there will be a public

hearing to obtain comments from local people and business operators about the location of the project so that the project can support their businesses and does not affect the beauty of Patong," Mr Maroot added.

"For the electric bus service, we will discuss this more with the Patong Mayor, and the Department of Land Transport for permission to use the road. We will also discuss with taxi drivers about bus stops and the service route, so that the buses do not affect their business," he said.

"There will be smart cards, smart bus stops, and smart parking lots for local people in the same way that are used in Bangkok," Mr Maroot explained.

"Our company signed a MoU...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NEWS PAGE 5

Police hunt husband over wife's murder



LIFE PAGE 9

Unsung heroes keep helping people in need



SPORT PAGE 14

Scramble at the Blue Canyon hits the mark



UWC THAILAND
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

ACADEMICS

MINDFULNESS

SPORTS

SERVICE

OUTDOOR

THINGS MAY BE DIFFERENT IN THE "NEW NORMAL", BUT OUR VALUES REMAIN THE SAME.

PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION.

TIMELESS VALUES.

www.uwcthailand.ac.th

exeditor@classactmedia.co.th

News



Beach caution urged after rescues > p5

Patong push aims for 'green' city

Continued from page 1

...with PTT Public Co Ltd last year for research about the project, and about installing EV chargers in Thailand. Right now, we are ready to install EV chargers in all areas of Phuket, and we will install in Patong as the first area in this year," he said.

The EV charging points discussed were not just for the electric bus service being proposed, but also for private vehicles, Mr Maroot explained.

Mr Thaphana, who also serves as a committee member of the Thai Charter for Health, explained that the projects proposed "would move forward the economy and attract more investment in Patong".

"I expect that we will have determined the location for the cable car station and the route for the electric bus service in May this year," he said.

"Meanwhile, the electric bus and EV charger installations are expected to start at the end of this year, if the project gains a good response from local people," he added.

"As for the construction of the cable car and ferris wheel, they may need to wait for a new town plan at the beginning of next year, so that we can file for construction permission," Mr Thaphana noted.

"The cable car may generate up to B150bn within five years after it opens for service.

The whole project – cable car, ferris wheel, skywalk and glass lift – will generate about B200bn," he said.

GOING GREEN

Ms Chalermluck told *The Phuket News* that the move to launch an electric public transport service was just one part of an overall campaign to develop Patong into a 'green tourism city' – a project she says was tabled long before the arrival of COVID-19 as a way to lure tourists to Patong year-round.

"We have been looking to generate income for Patong so the community could make money throughout the year. It all started from the economic problems of Patong over the past several years, even before the pandemic," she said.

"Despite being a world-class tourism city, with many tourists visiting each year, generating enormous income for the country, local people still faced economic problems, especially after the high season ended. During the tourism low season most people living here had difficulties. The loss of income affected all sectors, including large hotel operators, shops, restaurants, small shops and businesses and service drivers," she added.

One move was to push for the MICE City Patong Charter, eventually signed in



Chalermluck Kebsup will run for re-election as Patong Mayor.

May 2019, for all stakeholders to help develop Patong into a MICE destination, including the construction of a major conference centre that can accommodate 5,000 to 10,000 people, she explained.

"That project is currently in the process of studying various details in the construction," she said on Monday (Feb 1).

"In the meantime, we can continue to work on making Patong a green and healthy city. From the research indicating that in the future tourism will be a form of health tourism. We therefore are pushing Patong to be the city of wellness to support future tourism trends.

"This approach has received a lot of attention from the private sector. By the end of March, we will have a meeting at Prince of Songkla University to discuss more details and

what we can do to make it happen. We will discuss what each party, such as hoteliers, will be able to do during this period. Initially, we may offer wellness packages," Ms Chalermluck said.

Tourists will eventually return to Patong in numbers, and when they do the streets will fill with vehicles, creating the problem of pollution, Ms Chalermluck added.

"We therefore need to have green transport to support [tourism]. Not just a bus, but green transportation, including a walking campaign. We will be making footpaths in all Patong areas, and we have set the budget for this work to continue. We are also pushing a bicycling campaign," she said.

"However, everything is still difficult because it has

to be redesigned. We have to wait to adjust the landscape [sic]," she said.

"In the meantime, we will do what we can. For now, the private sector wanted to conserve energy. Next, we will have more campaigns to get people using more electric vehicles. We will have charging stations in Patong, which will get more attention from the people," she added.

RE-ELECTION

The announcement of the electric bus project came on the same day that Ms Chalermluck confirmed to *The Phuket News* that she will run for re-election as Patong Mayor.

The confirmation, on Jan 26, followed Pakrit Keesin, younger brother to influential Patong businessman Preechawut 'Prab' Keesin, announcing on Jan 24 that he will contest the seat of mayor in the upcoming municipal election in Patong to be held on Mar 28.

Ms Chalermluck said she would announce her candidacy and her "team" when the Phuket office of the Election Commission of Thailand (PEC) officially had announced that all incumbent mayors must cease their duties to allow for campaigning to be held in the run-up to the election, which the PEC did on Monday.

"Then I will register as a candidate for Patong Mayor

along with 12 candidates who will be running for election as municipality councillors during the registration period from Feb 8-12," she added.

Mayor Chalermluck said that she would be leading the 'Patong Fa Mai' ('Patong New Sky') Party in the election.

"I am preparing to present my policy with my team for this election. When the time comes, I will reveal the details of my policy to the people, and explain my accomplishments in past years," she said.

In 2014, Mayor Chalermluck was the first woman Mayor of Patong. She won the election on April 26 with more than half the votes cast, leaving previous mayor Pian Keesin with just 3,330 votes out of 8,500 cast.

The Election Commission of Thailand confirmed her win and she took office on May 21, 2014.

The next day, May 22, 2014, Royal Thai Army General Prayut Chan-o-cha led a coup to take control of the country.

In taking office more than six years ago, Mayor Chalermluck told *The Phuket News*, "The first thing I am going to do is to prepare to solve the flood problem, followed by the garbage problem and then the mafia.

"I want to create a situation where those who are doing everything legally do not have to pay influential people."

Phuket mayors, councillors discharged ahead of Mar 28 municipal election

THE PHUKET OFFICE OF THE Election Commission of Thailand (PEC) has confirmed that all mayors and municipal councillors in Phuket were discharged from their official duties on Monday (Feb 1) ahead of the municipal election to be held on Mar 28.

"The Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) at each municipality will now act as the temporary municipal chief in place of mayors," PEC Director-General Passakon Siripakayapon told *The Phuket News*.

"The other officers can work normally," he added.

All previous mayors and councillors can start legally campaigning for re-election from Monday (Feb 1), Mr Passakon also said.

"They all can run their campaign right now, but they must make a



Passakon Siripakayapon, Director-General of the Phuket office of the Election Commission of Thailand (PEC).

record of their campaign expenses to later present to PEC officers," he added.

Candidates will be able to register to contest the election from next Monday (Feb 8), Mr Passakon also confirmed.

Candidates must register at the municipality office for the area where they are running for election, Mr Passakon explained.

"We will open for registration next week, from Feb 8 to 12. Each mayor and council candidate must present themselves, present the required documents, and pay the registration fee to the PEC officers at municipality offices," he explained.

The PEC is now driving an education and information campaign to instruct local officials of the requirements to be held by law in conducting an election.

"Now we are having meetings with PEC officers, relevant officers and the candidates in each municipality. All the meetings will be held within this week," Mr Passakon said.

Of note, in accordance with election law, a ban on the sale of alcohol will be in place in all areas holding an election from 6pm the day before the election through to 6pm on the day of the election itself. *The Phuket News*

psd THAILAND'S PVC WINDOW SPECIALISTS SINCE 2004



Contact us for the lowest prices in Phuket

psd PROJECT SUPPLIES DIRECT
Head Office at Tesco Lotus Thalang Phuket
English +66 87 061 7631 or Thai +66 81 539 2031
pvcphuket.com nathan@pvcphuket.com
Nathan@pvcphuket.com

Phuket must keep guard up

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong has urged all people in Phuket to keep their guard up and practice all the COVID-19 protection measures to help prevent another outbreak on the island, especially following the new relaxation measures rolled out across the island.

Vice Governor Pichet made his plea on Jan 26 while announcing the new order for the COVID-19 protection-measure regulations now in place, which repealed the midnight closing for all entertainment venues and allowed restaurants to resume selling alcohol. In short, the latest order rolled back the provincial COVID-19 regulations as they were before the Samut Sakhon outbreak.

The order listed all the requirements of all market, store operators, health and fitness operators and entertainment venue operators, for which the order specifically noted that dancing and the provision of containers from which people would be communally served were both still illegal in Phuket.

V/Gov Pichet's plea came just two days before the Phuket provincial government relaxed the entry rules for arrivals from Nakhon Pathom and Nonthaburi, who now no longer need to observe a manda-



Vice Governor Pichet on Monday (Feb 1) again repeated Phuket people must 'follow the Bangkok order'. Photo: PR Phuket

tory 14-day quarantine after arriving on the island, following an order issued by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciw on Jan 28.

The two Greater Bangkok provinces were moved to the list of secondary 'red zone' risk areas after Bangkok was moved to the group on Jan 24.

The relaxations continued this week, with Phuket officials on Tuesday (Feb 2) announcing that quarantine requirements had been

lifted for all arrivals, except for people arriving from Samut Sakhon.

The announcement followed a meeting of the Phuket Communicable Disease Committee at Phuket Provincial Hall on Monday, with the new order published by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket) Tuesday afternoon.

People arriving from Bangkok or the 75 provinces not including Samut Sakhon, according to the

notice issued on Tuesday, must:

- 1) Install the Mor Chana app
- 2) Register their travel details on gophuket.com
- 3) No need for quarantine

However, all arrivals must continually self-monitor for any signs of infection and follow all 'New Normal' requirements, the order said.

People arriving from Samut Sakhon must abide by the above, and also: Be tested for COVID-19 and followed up by staff at an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC); and Quarantine at home or at an Alternative State Quarantine (ASQ) hotel for 14 days.

People arriving from Samut Sakhon on a short-term trip for the purpose of running a business or joining a meeting must present documents issued by their employers that outline the reason and necessity of their trip to the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) for the area where the visitor is staying, noted the order.

However, confusion followed after the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) in Bangkok last Friday (Jan 29) designated Phuket as a 'green' province, which the CCSA said allowed operations to return to normal, providing operators follow preventive measures.

While the Phuket Governor's

Office and the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket) continued to repeat the CCSA's announcements that Phuket was a 'green' province, no mention was made that provincial orders were still in effect that supersede Bangkok-issued "guidelines".

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha in several addresses to the nation over the past year clearly explained that provincial governments have the right to implement orders that exceed protection measures ordered by Bangkok, but may not allow greater relaxation of any Bangkok-issued orders.

At the time of going to press, that message had not been clearly given by Phuket officials, despite repeated requests from *The Phuket News* and even following V/Gov Pichet announcing again on Monday (Feb 1) that people "must follow the Bangkok order".

As such, while not publicly admitted, the Phuket order for all people to wear a face mask at all times while in public is presumed to remain in effect. Breach of that order may incur a B20,000 fine.

Further, other requirements, such as the no dancing rule, are also presumed to be in effect, despite messages from the central government, including the Tourism Authority of Thailand, that all operations in 'green' provinces are "normal".

Phuket police close in on encroachers

POLICE HAVE SEIZED the machinery used to cut a road through the Khao Nakkered Protected Forest on the hills from Kathu into Wichit and are preparing to press charges against those deemed responsible, Phuket Provincial Police Chief Maj Gen Pornsak Nuannoo has announced.

The Royal Forest Department officials (RFD) have filed a formal complaint with the Kathu Police to investigate the encroachment of some 108 rai in the hills above the Bang Wad Reservoir, Maj Gen Pornsak Nuannoo explained.

Police officers have been separated into two teams to support the investigation by the RFD, he added.

The first team seized the machinery provided for the road construction on Friday (Jan 29).

"The second team is now gathering evidence to be used to prosecute the perpetrators," he said.

"The encroachment, deforestation and destruction of natural assets is an important policy issue of the Royal Thai Police," Maj



Police have been separated into two teams to support the investigation by the Royal Forest Department, Phuket Provincial Police Chief Maj Gen Pornsak Nuannoo explained. Photo: PR Phuket

Gen Pornsak said, adding that he had taken a serious interest in the case.

"I want people to know that every part of our national forests is a national resource, we have to help each other and cherish it," he said.

"Anyone who may be involved in any invasion

[of protected forests] must be investigated, and any persons found responsible must be prosecuted," he said.

"I would like to warn those who are involved in, or thinking of, any form of encroachment and deforestation, to stop, stop and stop," he added. *The Phuket News*

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 DMS

CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

PURIYA BEAVAN
Editor**CHRIS HUSTED**
Executive Editor
084 307 7408
executive@classactmedia.co.th**BEN TIREBUCK**
News / Sport Editor
061 806 8132
editor3@classactmedia.co.th**TANYALUK 'MANGO' SAKOOT**
Chief Reporter
091 165 0260
reporter2@classactmedia.co.th**KIATTIKUL 'JOM' CHUMANEE**
Translator
082 729 0270
translate@classactmedia.co.th**JASON BEAVAN**
General Manager
086 479 7471
gm@classactmedia.co.th**SIRIPORN (NOK) SEANGMAS**
Sales Support
086 479 7470
sales@classactmedia.co.th**NIRAVIT 'MOS' VORAVANITCHA**
THANAPONG 'OAK' KHAO-AMPHAIPHAN
Graphic designersThe Phuket News
@thephuketnews

ADVERTISING

ClassAct Media

The Phuket News

Новости Пхукета

ข่าวภูเก็ต

Phuket NEWS TV

LIVE 89.5

Phuket TICKETMASTER

076 612 550 ext. 605

Fax: 076 612 553

Info@classactmedia.co.th

thephuketnews.com

99/7 Moo 1 (Billion Plaza),
T. Kathu, A. Kathu, Phuket 83120

PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

www.foreca.com

FRI FEB 5



High: +34°

Low: +26°

Wind 14 m/s

SAT FEB 6



High: +34°

Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

SUN FEB 7



High: +33°

Low: +26°

Wind 7 m/s

MON FEB 8



High: +34°

Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

TUE FEB 9



High: +34°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

WED FEB 10



High: +34°

Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

THU FEB 11



High: +34°

Low: +26°

Wind 7 m/s

Lifeguards urge beach caution

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Nai Harn lifeguards are urging beachgoers to be careful in the water after a 6-year-old Thai girl was rescued from drowning in a lagoon near Nai Harn Beach and a Russian man was resuscitated after he became separated from friends while swimming at Yanui Beach last Sunday afternoon (Jan 31).

Lifeguards were first alerted to the girl's condition at about 12:50pm when a boy came running up to lifeguards calling for help, Nai Harn chief lifeguard Chula Nontree told *The Phuket News*.

"When we arrived, the girl had already been brought out of the water. She was choking on water and looked tired, so we administered her immediate first aid and provided oxygen to help her breathe.



A 6-year-old girl was rescued from a lagoon near Nai Harn Beach. Photo: Phuket Naiharn Surf Lifesaving Club

Then we called an ambulance to take her to Chalong Hospital," he said.

"For the Russian man [at Yanui Beach], lifeguards were called to help at about 4pm," Mr Chula added.

"The man went out to swim with two friends, but they became separated and ended up a long way from each other," he said.

"The man was about 200

metres from the beach. He was shouting out and signalling for help. When lifeguards reached him, he had already gone under the surface of the water," Mr Chula explained.

"Lifeguards brought him back to shore and he was exhausted, so we provided him oxygen to assist his breathing and had him taken him to hospital," he said.

"He was still conscious

when he was on the beach, but later we were told by ambulance staff that he became unconscious on the way to the hospital. The ambulance workers helped him to regain consciousness and continued to provide emergency care until his condition stabilised," Mr Chula said.

"We have called to follow up the condition of both the Russian man and the little

girl, and hospital staff confirmed they were both safe," he added.

Mr Chula urged all people to be careful when swimming at the beach, and especially urged parents to make sure their children are safe at all times while playing in the water.

"I want parents to keep a close watch on their children when letting them go swimming or doing other activities in the water because unexpected incidents can happen at any time," Mr Chula said.

"Although the waves right now are not very high and not that dangerous, we want everyone to be careful and be alert of their surroundings at all times," he added.

"If we set flag areas [marking where it is safe to swim], please swim only in the areas marked and follow lifeguards' suggestions," Mr Chula urged.

Villages to be targeted to stem 'widespread' drugs problem

PHUKET VICE GOVERNOR Vikrom Jakthee has ordered all district officials in Phuket to ramp up their efforts on containing drug use in their areas after what he called "widespread" use across the island.

"It has been found that the drugs that have spread widely in Phuket," V/Gov Vikrom told a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on Jan 28 held specifically to target ongoing drug use in Phuket.

"The mostly commonly used drug is kratom, followed by ya ice [crystal meth], ya bah [methamphetamine], marijuana and heroin," he added.

V/Gov Vikrom pointed out that the drug distribution in Phuket had taken on a standard formula.

"The drug dealers come from other areas and they have local people distribute the drugs by phone calls or communicating through various [online] apps," he said.

"They distribute drugs into many areas by having it contained in packages to be hidden in buses, cars or onboard transportations," V/Gov Vikrom explained.

The Phuket Provincial government will conduct a survey of several villages known for drugs



Phuket Vice Governor Vikrom Jakthee speaking at the meeting on Jan 28. Photo: PR Phuket

in order to reduce the spread of drugs in those specific areas, he said.

"All district offices and officials have been ordered to conduct a pilot survey of the villages and keep watch on the people in their areas to prevent and crack down on actions that might be related to drugs, which can spread to minor communities," Vice Governor Vikrom said.

"We will then begin investigating more in other villages and areas where more serious actions will be taken on drug sellers to reduce the spread of narcotics," he added.

The Phuket News

7-Eleven robbers arrested

POLICE HAVE ARRESTED TWO men wanted for robbing a 7-Eleven store at Ao Makham in Wichit last week by threatening the staff with a knife.

Phuket Provincial Police Chief Maj Gen Pornsak Nuannoo announced the arrest at the press conference on Monday (Feb 1), joined by the chiefs of Wichit and Phuket City police stations.

Maj Gen Pornsak explained that the arrests came from cooperation with Region 8 Police, Provincial Police and Wichit Police.

Police named the two arrested as Eakkarin Petchsiesuk, 19, originally from Satun, and Montri Chansuk, 18, originally from Trang.

Gen Pornsak explained that Wichit Police were called to the 7-Eleven store in Moo 7, Wichit, at about 4:40am on Jan 28 by store manager Daranee Thongphom.

Ms Daranee told police that a man about 30 years old used a knife to threaten store staffer Wichu-orn Prachongkarn to give him money.

Ms Wichu-orn was forced at knife-point to open three cash drawers, from which the man grabbed B2,270 in cash before running out of the store and riding off on a motorbike driven by a friend waiting for him.

Police through CCTV tracked down the blue-black Honda Wave motorbike used to flee the scene and arrested Montri.

Montri later confessed that he was the getaway driver for the robbery, and then led police to arrest Eakkarin at a



The two men were taken back to the 7-Eleven store to re-enact the robbery on Monday (Feb 1). Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

house in Baan Muang Thong in Wichit, Gen Pornsak said.

In placing Montri and Ekkarin under arrest, officers seized the motorbike, the clothes the men wore while committing the robbery and the knife used in the robbery.

Eakkarin then also confessed to committing the robbery, Gen Pornsak said.

"He gave B220 to Montri, spent B300 to buy items in an online game and spent the rest of the money on drugs," he said.

Eakkarin further confessed that he stole money from a local resident in Ban Kuan Pho in Satun in a 'snatch and run' last year, Gen Pornsak added.

Gen Pornsak confirmed that Eakkarin and Montri were both taken to Wichit Police Station and charged with robbery in the nighttime by using a vehicle to flee.

At the press conference, Gen Pornsak also announced that from Jan 27-31, police had arrested 196 suspects from 150 cases.

A total 130 suspects were arrested in 119 drug cases. The rest were arrested for weapons, gambling, murder and other crimes, he noted. Eakkapop Thongtub

Police hunt fugitive killer

Arrest warrant issued for husband, missing since body found

Eakkapop Thongtub
editor@classactmedia.co.th

As of Tuesday (Feb 2) police were still hunting the husband of the woman whose body was found dumped beside the road south of Patong on Friday (Jan 29).

Phuket Provincial Police Chief Maj Gen Pornsak Nuan-noo on Monday (Feb 1) confirmed that an arrest warrant had been issued for the killer.

However, Gen Pornsak noted that police were still searching for the woman's husband, a prime suspect who has not been since the body of his wife, Sopa Thanimkarn, 39, was found.

Also as of Tuesday, police had yet to release a photo of the fugitive or even name him in public, but state news agency NNT late Monday reported that Phuket Provincial Court issued an arrest warrant for Mr Suchart Gunpai, 42, for the charge of murder and hiding the victim's body.

"We do not know the reason for the murder. From questioning people, it appears that the couple did not have much



MAIN PHOTO: Ms Sopa's body was found wrapped in a blanket, dumped beside the road south of Patong. **Photo:** Karon Police. **INSET:** Ms Sopa

contact with their neighbors," Gen Pornsak said.

"A murder like this does not happen often in Phuket, and this is the first case like this I have seen here," he said.

Karon Police Chief Col Peerapong Chai-aroon last Friday said that the severe head trauma originally believed

to have been inflicted by a heavy instrument has now been confirmed by forensic police to be a shotgun wound.

The firearm, fired at very close range, was most likely inflicted by a home-made gun made to fire shotgun cartridges (Thai Pradit), he said.

Suchart became a prime

suspect after police found a blood-stained mattress at the shack in Chong Talay where the couple were staying.

Police also found blood stains on the refrigerator door and other items in the shack.

Suchart and Ms Sopa most recently arrived in Phuket from Nakhon Sri Thammarat

to work on Jan 19. The couple sold seafood at a roadside stall nearby.

Soiporn Prateep Na Thalang, 50, a relative of the now fugitive Suchart, told news reporters that Suchart was known to be a jealous man.

Ms Sopa and Sujin had lived together for about 10 years. The couple sold seafood together, she said.

Sujin had been jailed for about six months for selling drugs. He was released in December, she added.

"He was jealous of his wife and a petty thief," Ms Soiporn said.

"Not long ago he threatened Mr Jeng, who operates a noodle stall nearby, with a Thai Pradit [homemade] gun," she added.

"He said he was going to shoot Mr Jeng because he was jealous of his wife, who reported the incident at Chong Talay Police Station," Ms Soiporn explained.

"But the matter remained silent, until now. It appears that he killed her because he was jealous," she said.

"We knew that he is hot-

tempered and he frequently argued with his wife, and then we learned through the news that his wife was found murdered," Ms Soiporn said.

It has now come to light that Suchart's younger brother is serving as a monk at Wat Chong Talay under the name "Phra Sujin Chotipanno", 41.

Phra Sujin on Monday also told *The Phuket News* that his brother loses his temper easily.

"He often did things like a crazy person. He and his wife often came to see me, but lately his wife mostly came alone," he said.

"They may have a problem together, but his wife is a nice woman," Phra Sujin said.

Phra Sujin said that he had not heard from his brother since last Thursday (Jan 28), the day before Ms Sopa's body was found.

"My brother has not called me and not answered my calls. Lately, he looked sad. He showed me a gun once. He told me that a friend gave him the gun as a 'jamnam' [pledge or deposit] to him [most likely as collateral for paying back a debt]," he added.

Motorcyclist killed in pre-dawn wipe-out, driver alleged drunk

A 24-YEAR-OLD MAN died early on Jan 28 when the motorbike he was riding was struck by a car that had crossed the central reservation just east of the Sam Kong Intersection in Kathu. The driver of the car is believed to have been drunk at the time.

Police were called to the scene, in front of a water park construction site on Phra Phuket Kaew Rd about 300 metres east of the Sam Kong Intersection, at about 5:50am, said Lt Adisorn Juhong of the Kathu Police.

Police together with Kathu Municipality and Kusoldharm rescue workers arrived at the scene to find a heavily damaged black Honda Amaze car, registered in Phuket, on its roof in the middle of the west-bound lanes.

Rescue workers recovered both the car driver, Komson Phuthasangkharach, 29, and his passenger, Kawalee Pramthong, 19, from the wreck and took them to Vachira Phuket



Photo: Panthakorn Pongpao

Hospital for minor injuries.

Near the overturned car was the body of Wadchara Samsamut, 24, and his damaged Phuket-registered Honda Scoopy i motorbike that he was riding when he was struck by the car.

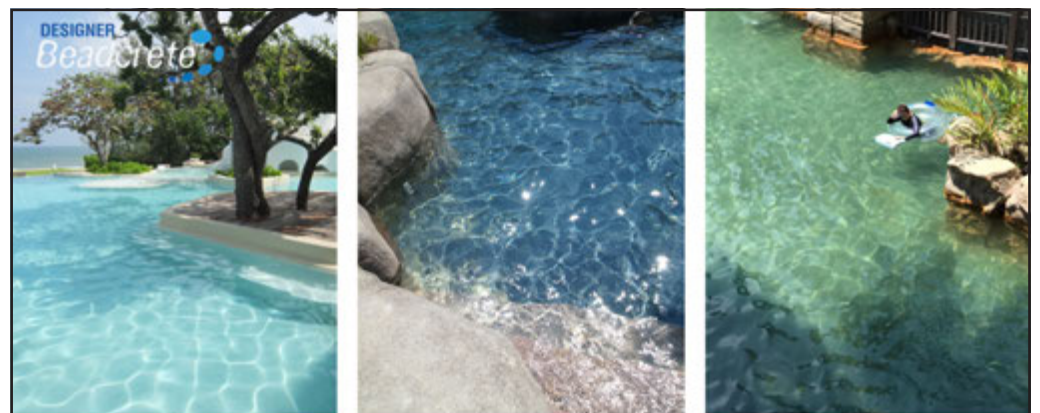
From their initial investigation, police had confirmed that Komson was driving eastbound when he lost control of the car and crossed the central reservation, and hit Mr Wadchara

as he was riding westbound on the other side of the dual carriageway.

"We believe that Komson was speeding and was drunk. We already asked hospital staff to test his blood for alcohol," Lt Adisorn said.

"We have not decided what charges Komson will face just, as we are still waiting for the alcohol test," Lt Adisorn added.

Eakkapop Thongtub



DESIGNER BEADCRETE POOL COATING

Uniquely Different Pool Interior Finishes

Designer pool coatings from Australia. Stunning patented glass bead technology to transform your pool.

A range of colours to choose from, Installed by our experienced teams.

CIVIL MASTER INTERNATIONAL CO., LTD.
CMI Boosting the Image of your Property

Contact Us.
Wana Park, 177/27 Moo 4, Sri-Sunthon Road, Sri-Sunthon, Thalang, Phuket 85110 Thailand
www.cmi-thailand.com | info@cmi-thailand.com | +66 83 102 7577 | Bangkok +66 2 848 0999 Ext. 1606

'We Travel Together' defrauded

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Police have arrested 14 people in Phuket, including three resort owners, for defrauding the government by cheating the government-subsidised 'We Travel Together' domestic tourism campaign.

National Police Chief Pol Gen Suwat Jangyodsuk announced the news at a press conference held at the Royal Thai Police headquarters in Bangkok on Jan 27.

The 14 people were arrested in Phuket that same day, as officers arrested some 50 people in total, including in other provinces throughout the country, for cheating the scheme, Gen Suwat explained.

In total, Crime Suppression Division (CSD) officers raided 55 places nationwide, he said.

Gen Suwat made specific mention that one of the "big places" was the Thara Patong Beach Resort & Spa, and "other relevant places" in Phuket, noted a report by state news broadcaster MCOT.

Of the 14 people arrested in Phuket, three were hotel owners, two were shop owners, five were people who facilitated the scam, and four were people who were hired for booking hotels.

"There were about 800 people involved in this cheating in Phuket,"



National Police Chief Pol Gen Suwat Jangyodsuk announced the arrests at a press conference in Bangkok on Jan 27. Photo: MCOT

Gen Suwat remarked.

Gen Suwat explained that specifically with the Thara Patong Beach Resort & Spa, the resort had greatly increased its room rates in order to benefit from the government subsidies received.

"A room at the resort costs about B1,000-1,200 per night, but the hotel owner increased the price to B7,500 per night," he said.

"The suspect had various methods to conduct the cheating. For example, hotel owners cooperated with tour operators to create a three-day hotel and tour package to attract people to

book holidays through the campaign, but they did not stay at the hotel presented on the package," he said.

"Other deceptions included tour operators ordering their customers to use the vouchers given by the hotel only at the restaurants and shops that they [the tour operators] had already made a deal with," Gen Suwat explained.

CSD Deputy Chief Col Anek Taosuphap explained that some of the suspects had a group of people go out to find people who had registered to be able to book discounted holidays through the campaign, and

pay them B400-500 to be able to use their "privilege" to book government-subsidised holidays through the 'We Travel together' web portal.

"After some of the privilege holders [sic] agreed with the offer, they [the facilitators] ordered them to install the 'Pao Tang' app and use it for booking hotel rooms," he said.

"Some privilege holders were asked for their ID card information and their SIM cards which they had used to register for the campaign. Then the 'facilitators' sold the information and SIM cards for B800-1000 to other people who wanted to be able to book the discounted holidays," Col Anek added.

The deception was well organised, Col Anek noted.

"One group made the bookings and another group of people were responsible for taking care of their banking," he said.

NATIONAL EFFORT

More suspects were arrested in coordinated raids in Chaiphaphum, Gen Suwat also reported on Jan 27.

The raids there targeted the Natchaya Resort and "related parties" in Chaiphaphum Province and nearby, he said.

The raids involved 41 arrest warrants, with 36 people arrested, including hotel owners, shop owners and facilitators, he added, noting that the fraud in that operation involved

people and venues scattered throughout the provinces of Chaiphaphum, Loei, Nakhon Ratchasima, Khon Kaen, Phetchabun and Sisaket.

The number of bookings made were not consistent with the small resort having only 10 rooms, he said.

"It was found that over 99% of bookings had one person book 10 rooms every time, and the check-in and check-out times did not correlate," Gen Suwat said.

The fraud by the resort itself amounted to B14 million, and involved 101 shops and venues that jointly cheated the scheme through the vouchers entitled through the campaign, altogether raising the total damage of the fraud to about B87mn, he added.

In concluding the press conference, Gen Suwat said, "We will keep investigating and further charge more relevant people, such as those who bought the tourism campaign privileges 'second-hand' [sic]."

"We expect this to involve about 9,000 people throughout the country," Gen Suwat said.

"We are preparing documents to call them to report themselves to local police," he added.

"We also found 900 other places that committed similar scams, in both major provinces and minor provinces, which are still under investigation," Gen Suwat said.

SIA to launch Singapore flights

SINGAPORE AIRLINES (SIA) will operate a Boeing 737-800 NG aircraft on flights to Phuket starting Mar 4 following the consolidation of Silk Air into the parent company's operations.

More SilkAir routes will be progressively transferred as nine 737-800 NG re-assigned to the SIA fleet after livery changes, reported TTR Weekly.

The full integration of SilkAir into Singapore Airlines is scheduled for completion in the 2021/22 financial year. The SIA 737-800 NG



Photo: Singapore Airlines

will have 12 business class and 150 economy class seats.

"Integrating SilkAir with SIA also allows us to be flexible in aircraft deployment, and supports our fleet and network growth strategy," said Singapore Airlines chief executive officer

Goh Choon Phong.

For more than 30 years, SilkAir has been the regional wing of Singapore Airlines, flying to 40 destinations in the Asia-Pacific region. Its integration into Singapore Airlines started in earnest on Jan 28 although the airline confirmed the merger back in 2018.

SilkAir's aircraft will progressively join the Singapore Airlines fleet with a freshly painted livery, newly upholstered seats and be served by Singapore Airlines cabin crew. TTR Weekly

Social security payment rates further reduced for Feb, Mar

SOCIAL SECURITY Fund contributions paid by employers and employees have been reduced further, this time from 3% to 0.5% for two months, in order to help employers and workers affected by COVID-19 crisis.

Government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri announced on Jan 26 that the Cabinet had approved to reduce the rate for paying contributions from February through March, reported state news agency NNT.

Under normal circumstances, contributions from employees covered under Section 33 of the Social Security Act (workers currently employed and paying into the fund) are capped at B750 a month based on a maximum salary of B15,000.

The new cap will be B75 a month for employees after the temporary deduction, explained the Bangkok Post.

The further deduction for employees came after the Cabinet last month approved cuts in the monthly contributions for both employees and employers to



Image: NNT

3% from 5%, the Bangkok Post noted.

Also, people paying into the fund under Section 39 of the act (people no longer working but who keep paying into the fund) will pay only B38 instead of B278 per month.

Mr Anucha pointed out that the reduced Social Security Fund contributions would apply to 11,164,387 employees under Section 33, and 1,832,500 people under Section 39, as well as about 487,000 employers.

Hence, the Cabinet esti-

mated that the contributions now not needed to be paid by workers would release B23.1bn to be injected into the economy, Mr Anucha said.

Thail-language daily Post Today noted that the latest SSO Fund reductions, when combined with the previous reductions during March to May and September to November last year, will total about B68.6bn in contributions not collected, thus being released into the national economy.

The Phuket News

WINE & COFFEE SHOP - WINE BAR
WINE TASTING - ANTIPASTI - DESSERTS
HOME DELIVERY AVAILABLE

The Barrel Laguna, 33-34 Canal Village Laguna Shopping, Thalung, Phuket, Thailand
 Phone: 062 489 5192 | Email: thebarrellaguna@bbb.co.th | Open Time: 10am-8pm (Sunday Closed)

ALCOHOL MAY BE A HEALTH HAZARD!

No threat from Myanmar coup

Third Army assures there will be no exodus influx across borders

Bangkok Post

The Third Army has given assurances that there will be no influx of Myanmar people into Thailand in the wake of the military seizure of power in the bloodless coup on Monday (Feb 1).

Third Army commander Lt Gen Apichet Suesat, in charge of the northern region, reassured the public that there were Thai forces stationed along the Thai-Myanmar border to prevent illegal entry during the COVID-19 pandemic and anyone caught trying to cross illegally would be arrested.

Lt Gen Apichet was responding to media questions about a possible exodus after the coup.

"We are closely monitoring the situation. Myanmar people themselves may not be affected, but I told soldiers to step up inspections at the border in case [Myanmar] politicians or VIPs [illegally] enter into the country to hide," he said.

He went on to say that the coup situation inside Myanmar



Supporters of Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy Party converge outside the Myanmar embassy in Bangkok on Monday (Feb 1). Photo: Varuth Hirunyatheb

is not likely to affect ethnic minority groups along the border as it appears that the two sides had already begun work on a fresh peace process, currently delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thai-Myanmar checkpoints between Tachileik and Thailand's Mae Sai district in Chiang Rai closed for four hours on Monday.

Tanee Sangrat, director-general of the Department of

Information and spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon has been in close contact with state officials. For the moment, Thai citizens in Myanmar are advised to remain vigilant and follow the news and official announcements.

"Myanmar is a close neighbour of Thailand and an important member of Asean. Thailand hopes to see con-

tinued peace and stability in Myanmar, and that the current situation is resolved peacefully with a return to normalcy soon for the benefit of the people of Myanmar," Mr Tanee said.

Spokesman for the Immigration Bureau Pol Maj Gen Archayon Kraithong confirmed that for the moment numbers attempting illegal crossings had not spiked.

One group, of 106 illegal Myanmar workers, was sent

back over the border in Mae Sot, Chiang Rai on Monday, while another, also of around 100, was returned to Kawthaung, he said.

PROTEST ARRESTS

Lecturer at the Faculty of Political Science Chulalongkorn University, Naruemon Thabchumpon, said it had not exactly been a coup d'état since the Myanmar constitution allows for a transfer of power to the commander-in-chief.

The constitution also allows the commander-in-chief to remain in power for a year after the seizure of power, said the academic.

A week earlier, the Myanmar military announced that it was concerned over the latest general election in which the National League for Democracy won a landslide victory, saying the election might not have been free and fair.

The coup saw about 200 people take part in a protest outside the Myanmar embassy on Monday, most of whom were migrant workers wearing National League for Democ-

racy (NLD) T-shirts and face masks with the NLD's white star and gold bird on it.

Although the protest was largely peaceful, about 150 riot police broke it up and at least two people were reportedly injured.

Bangkok police later confirmed that three young Thai men who participated in the protest had been arrested.

The Metropolitan Police Bureau on Tuesday identified them as Wichapat Sriksiphan, 21, Pannapat Chantanangkul, 20, and Kiatisak Panrenu, 20.

The announcement said they were detained after police tried to end the rally, and demonstrators had thrown objects and assaulted police.

The three were charged with organising a crowd gathering that posed risk of disorder and disease transmission, in violation of the executive decree on public administration in emergency situations imposed to control COVID-19.

The three men were questioned and charged at Yan-nawa police station. Other demonstrators would also be prosecuted, the statement said.

Ministry to address elderly benefit flaws

THE INTERIOR MINISTRY is considering regulatory amendments to address flaws in benefits for the elderly.

According to Thai law, the elderly are supposed to receive monthly living allowances. However, those already receiving pensions are not qualified to receive additional allowances.

Reports emerged last month of the Comptroller General's Department asking elderly citizens to return allowances they had not been qualified to receive. Among them were widows, parents of



Interior Minister Anupong Paojinda. Photo: Bangkok Post

deceased state officials, police officers and soldiers.

Interior Minister Anupong Paojinda said on Monday (Feb

1) the ministry has asked all 7,850 local administrative organisations nationwide to avoid causing more problems to the elderly while it finds solutions.

He suggested that local organisations negotiate with the elderly or delay the process of collection although it was still unclear how to halt legal proceedings against those already facing legal action from the government.

Gen Anupong, however, did insist that the elderly will not go to jail since these are civil cases. BP

QSI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF PHUKET
AMERICAN CURRICULUM • MASTERY LEARNING

CONTACT US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION @ 076 304 312 • QSI.ORG/PHUKET

KR KATA ROCKS BY INFINITE LUXURY FASHION SHOW BY Endless SUMMER

UNIQUE VALENTINE'S EXPERIENCES

LIVE MUSIC FROM OUR RESIDENT GUITARIST JEO ZERNA

AT 6.00 PM FASHION SHOW BY ENDLESS SUMMER CONCEPT STORE

14TH FEB 2021

COUPLE VALENTINE'S DINNER 'ON THE ROCKS'

Our exquisitely seductive oceanfront 'Dining on the Rocks' experience exceeds all expectations for the ultimate in Valentine's Day mystique.

Our Valentine's 'On the Rocks' Dinner is priced at THB 19,000 ++ per couple and includes:

- Romantic dinner for two with butler service
- A flower bouquet
- A bottle of beverage
- Fireworks display

VALENTINE'S SET DINNER AT THE OCEANFRONT CLUBHOUSE

Celebrate the season of love with our 'Valentine's Set Dinner' at The Kata Rocks Clubhouse.

Our Valentine's Set Dinner is priced at THB 2,900 ++ per couple and includes:

- A rose for the lady
- A glass of beverage
- Discount voucher by Endless Summer Concept Store

RESERVATIONS
+66 (0)76 370 777
dining@katarocks.com
WWW.KATAROCKS.COM

The rockin' sounds of Pastel

Andy Tong Dee

The Pastel Bar and restaurant in Phuket Town is on Phuket Rd, just 200 metres south of the clock at the Surin traffic circle. Only five metres wide, it's not an easy bar to find, despite the shiny Harley-Davidsons you may see parked outside! When you do, you will find just inside a table and seats made out of the front of a Cadillac motor car. Nearby is a petrol pump and air supply pump as if from a 1950s American garage. A drum kit, PA and amplifiers stand ready for action and music videos play on TV screens around the bar.

Carry on walking, and you'll find the other half of the Cadillac is now a sofa, with fully functioning rear lights. This is clearly a live music venue, but what is less obvious is how it is very different to the others and very unique.

Phuketian 'Jack' Piyabut Voratumapon started the restaurant and bar in 2010, and his mother still does the cooking. A pastel colour is a mix of two or three others, and Jack chose this word for the bar's name to express his vision for it – a place where people of different nationalities and races can hang out together, united in their love of music.

Consequently, you may well find one of the amateur bands it hosts playing there in the evening. The atmosphere is so casual and relaxed, it is difficult to know if they are rehearsing or performing at times. Usually, it is a bit of both! Jack drums for them if needed, but the Pastel Bar Band is his regular band, which plays Thai ballads. The bar's Facebook page has well over 1,000 friends now and shows live videos of performances.

One band, Mary Jane, is led by a young virtuoso, a Thai lead guitarist called Nine who plays rock and blues classics. Pre-lockdown, Nine was often seen per-



Pastel front.

forming in Patong, but now he uses the Pastel Bar to get ready for better times.

Another band is a trio fronted by Ood, a Thai engineer who likes to play classic rock and pop in his free time. An 'Indie' band, The Vanguard, plays jazzy and funky Thai and Western songs and is run by PJ, a well-known local Thai event organiser and drummer. This band is the largest band playing in the bar, with a trombone, trumpet and saxophone brass section.

Jack is very proud of a sign that hangs near the bar's entrance which says, "Pastel: Blues Power Phuket". Blues Power is a Thai charity started by legendary blues guitarist and singer Yamin who lives in Bangkok. In March 2016, Yamin created quite a stir when he came to Phuket to play in the Pastel Bar and other locations around the island to raise money for good causes. Blues Power has bars around Thailand that support its efforts. The Pastel Bar does this in Phuket.

Jack is always keen to create opportunities for Pastel's bands to play elsewhere in what he calls



Jack and the Pastel bar Band.

'Pastel on Tour'. Hence these bands are often seen playing for free on Sundays in Phuket Town's walking street at various locations such as Soi Romanee, 43 Guesthouse and Ngor Kah Kee. In this way, Jack helps support these venues and spreads his message: "Phuketians, the Pastel Bar is here for you!"

However, this was sadly not the case during and after the COVID lockdown last year when Jack had to shut the bar for four months. Happily, he was supported during this difficult time by his friends and fellow musicians.

So I hope you can understand now just why this bar is so different and unique. This is no ordinary live music venue with an owner and customers, for Pastel is a community of people, rather than a business.

As Jack himself might say, the Pastel Bar in reality doesn't belong to him. Pastel belongs to everyone who hangs out there, me included!

Local expat Andy Tong Dee is a live music enthusiast and musician living in Phuket.

THAI
RESIDENTIAL
Phuket's No.1 Trusted Real Estate Advisor

Are You Trying To Sell Your Phuket Property?

List Your House, Villa or Condo with
Thai Residential
and Increase Your Chances
of a **Successful** Sale.

PHUKET@THAIRESIDENTIAL.COM | +66 94 8411 918 | WWW.THAIRESIDENTIAL.COM
THAIRESIDENTIAL CO., LTD. 82/37 SAM PAO COURTYARD, MOO4, PATAK ROAD, T.RAWAI, PHUKET, 83130





The unsung efforts by Sutai Muay Thai and 5 Star Marine have helped people in need for over a year now.



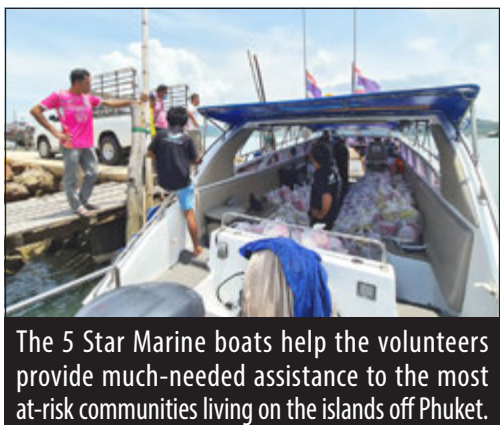
People from all walks of life have been rolling up their sleeves and volunteering in order to help the local communities.

Unsung Community Heroes

Joanna Matlub

This is not a superhero story from our childhood, filled with powers of invisibility, superhuman strength or teleportation; this is a story about a few selfless, unsung Phuket pandemic heroes. So, make yourself comfortable and let's begin by shedding some light on a couple of local businesses that, although certainly limited by lack of superhuman powers, have not let this get in the way of collaborating to effectively support the most vulnerable communities – and still continue to do so almost exactly one year on.

In 2020 we saw people from all walks of life rolling up their sleeves and getting involved by volunteering and donating, on small and larger scales, in order to help the local communities. Today, however I am focussing on one story in particular, and highlighting these unsung local heroes mainly due to the yearlong consistency and vast scale of their donation efforts.



The 5 Star Marine boats help the volunteers provide much-needed assistance to the most at-risk communities living on the islands off Phuket.



The combined efforts of Sutai Muay Thai and 5 Star Marine have seen more than 100,000 life bags handed out to people in need.

So today, we're focussing on two local Phuket businesses – Sutai Muay Thai and 5 Star Marine – who took a step back when COVID-19 first hit to analyse their resources. Their aim was to see how they could collectively pool their resources in order to maximise the support of vulnerable children, families and communities in and around Phuket and Phang Nga. A year has passed, and these two companies are still out there, at least twice a week delivering over 2,000 life bags. To date, they've donated in excess of 100,000 life bags, each one containing enough staple supplies to feed a family of five for around four days.

The 5 Star Marine boats have enabled access to some of the most at-risk islands, and allowed the charity efforts to go further afield, reaching places such as Coconut Island, Koh Yao Noi and Yai, Koh Panyi, Naka Yai, as well as some of the smaller villages in Phang Nga, in addition to all over Phuket Island.

Nando and his Sutai Muay Thai team have been the driving force in physically making these donations happen. Not only do they contribute valuable time packing and sorting the life bags, they have also volunteered their trucks and full assistance on actual donations. Their gym proved the perfect space to pack and sort the life bags ready for delivery.

These multitudinous efforts have relied heavily on both companies' volunteers. All staff members get involved to help out, and Nando even brings in the odd sponsored fighter to get stuck in; perhaps superhuman strength has made it into this tale after all!

A key point is how heartily they are investing in our local communities, and because all staff get involved they have been kept busy throughout this difficult period. Job duties have been shifted to keep staff motivated and busy working for the benefit of the community, and themselves. The safety of volunteers, beneficiaries and staff are paramount, with all these donations being overseen by public health officers and local arbiters, adhering to screening, sanitising and queuing with social-distancing guidelines.

So, how can we as a community help? Well firstly this is not a donation drive, what they really need are more hands on deck to help pack, deliver and generally volunteer. Packing usually happens on a Saturday, and with one of the main packing centres at Sutai Muay Thai in Surin, there is an opportunity to lend a hand with practical volunteering here. If you have little ones, fear not as they can take part in a low-impact kids' fitness

class at the gym at the same time – so whilst you pack, they can play and get active.

We all know an unsung hero or two, so why not take a moment to reflect on this recognition and now more than ever perhaps Spiderman had a point: "with great power comes great responsibility".

Please contact Shaun from 5 Star Marine to lend a helping hand on 093 720 6221

AFTERNOON Tea

EVERY DAY FROM 1PM TO 5.30PM

Afternoon Tea Set

THB 390.- NET

Special Price any COFFEE or TEA 100฿

Feeling Fizzy? Glass of Prosecco 300฿

SIENNA

CAPE SIENNA PHUKET GOURMET HOTEL & VILLAS
18/40 Moo 6, Layi Nakalay Road, Kamala, Kathu, Phuket
Tel. 076-337300 | Email: rsn@capesienna.com
WWW.CAPESIENNA.COM

OPENING HOUR :
DAILY 8.30 AM - 5.30 PM

ALCOHOL MAY BE A HEALTH HAZARD!

POP QUIZ

1. Who wrote the book *The Invisible Man*?

2. The world's tallest arch, the 192-metre high Gateway Arch, is in which American city?

3. What colour is the background of the Saudi Arabian flag?

4. Who is American actress Kate Capshaw married to?

5. What is a "muntin"?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

1. Workplace safety org.

5. Kind of test

8. Actress, Blanchett

12. Burden

13. Seemingly forever

15. Ground

16. Letterman or Leno

17. Tropical forest vines

18. Starchy South Andes plants

19. Sweet treat

22. ___ cream

23. Purged

24. Stalk of grass

28. Austerity

34. Goals

35. "___ extra cost!"

36. Discontinuity

37. Rich dessert

42. Letter with a right angle

43. Prefix with type

44. Harbinger

45. Set apart

48. Words of clarification

49. Yellowfin tuna

50. Small British isle

52. Colorful pies

60. Builder's need

61. Won a bee

62. Self-satisfied

64. Garden entrance

Down

1. ___ and aah

2. Winter precipitation

3. Money or puppies?

4. Goes with Spumanti

5. Salts the sidewalks

6. Figure on the Sistine Chapel's ceiling

7. ___ Domini

8. Porcelain clay

9. Pinball or air hockey, e.g.

10. Milk source

11. Get better

13. Writer Waugh

14. Anatomical container

20. Link

21. "To be ___ to be ..."

24. Innocent ones

25. French city

26. Blend

27. U.S. Army medal

29. Divination deck

30. French summer

31. O.R. workers

32. "Land ___!"

33. Dead tired

38. Calvin of clothing

39. Least bit

40. ___ roll (doing well)

41. New England catch

46. Some French wines, informally

47. Iago's wife

48. Suffix with floor or roof

51. Not pro

52. Cristie Kerr's org.

53. Airline to Tel Aviv

54. Chinese food additive

55. Fencing equipment

56. 1996 Broadway rock opera

57. Court grp.

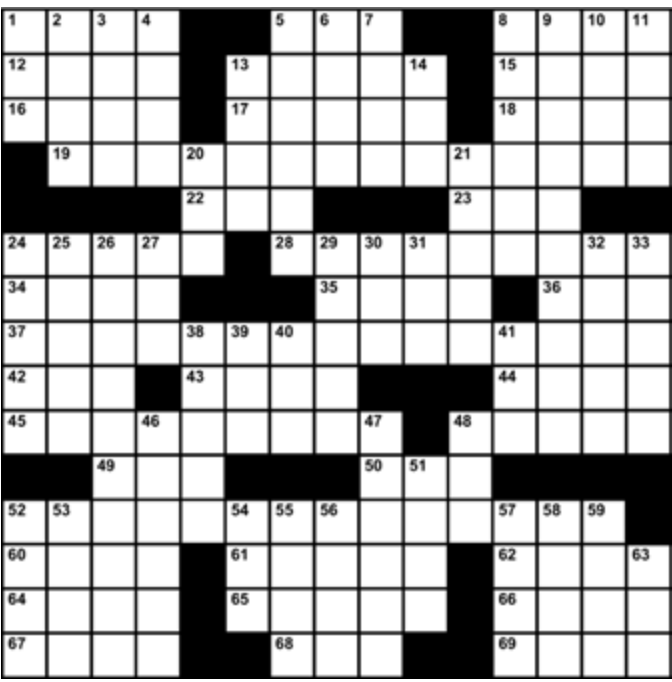
58. Release

59. Japanese wrestling

63. Solitaire

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) H.G. Wells; 2) St Louis; 3) Green; 4) Steven Spielberg (since 1991); 5) A strip holding and separating panes of glass in a window



Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

out of 10 married adults in the US say that they typically sleep alone.

85

percent of those who have attempted to break the water speed record since 1940 have died while trying.

7,000

US dollars a day is how much an email spambot can earn.

300,000

US dollars in research and three months is what it took for scientists to create a lab-grown burger patty.

92 quadrillion

US dollars is how much PayPal once accidentally credited a man with.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW

Koh Kaew near BIS. Photo: Mark Pimbley

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

This week in history

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, 60 AD

The earliest date for which the day of the week is known, from a graffito in Pompeii.

Feb 7, 1951

Korean War: The Sancheong and Hamyang massacre by a unit of the South Korean Army, which slaughters 705 unarmed citizens – 85% of them women, children and elderly people – as suspected communist sympathizers.

Feb 8, 1879

Sandford Fleming first proposes adoption of Universal 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 re-

ferred to as volleyball.

Feb 10, 1258

Baghdad falls to the Mongols, and the Abbasid Caliphate is destroyed.

Feb 11, 1990

Nelson Mandela is released from Victor Verster Prison outside Cape Town, South Africa after 27 years as a political prisoner.

Nelson Mandela in 2000.

Source: Wikipedia

Phuket NEWS TV LIVE 89.5 Radio

thepuketnews

Trades & Services



CORPORATE SERVICES

VERTIGO
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

"Powerful Videos For All Industries"
Boost Awareness, Visibility & Build Trust

f v @ vertigovideoproductions.com

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Waterproofing & Crack Repair

20 year WARRANTY

Drone Survey

Pipe Inspection

under yearly checkup plan...

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

AVC ENGINEERING

Home Automation MEP Engineering
Solar Power Lighting Design

081 970 0677 AVCPHUKET.COM

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Plumber
German Water Team Ltd. Part
We repair what your husband fixed

MASTERCRAFTSMAN
WE REPAIR AND BUILD NEW:

- ALL KINDS OF HOT AND COLD WATER SYSTEMS
- HOT WATER SOLAR SYSTEMS AND SOLAR PUMPS
- POOL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE
- REPAIR ALL KINDS OF WATER SYSTEMS AND POOL PUMPS
- A VARIETY OF WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS TO FIT YOUR NEEDS

SHOWROOM NEXT TO WAT CHALONG
OPEN FROM 8AM TO 5PM

094 594 8868 (THAI)
089 645 4848 (GER / ENG)

www.germanwaterteam.com
Email: germanwaterteam@yahoo.de

22112 Moo 8 Chaofa R.d west Chalong A.Muang Phuket 83130

HOME IMPROVEMENT

tile-it
SMART TILES
Tile Leveling System

Baan Wana - Cherg Talay
Tel : 076 620168

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

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

PERSONAL SERVICE

New Year - New You

Get the life you want with support from Expat Life Coach.

New Year offer, only 2,500 baht for first 90 minute consultation.

Contact us today to arrange an informal chat
expatlifecoach@outlook.com

PERSONAL SERVICE

We Clean
Phuket.net

Covid-19 Disinfection Service

20% OFF - quote code PN05

081 737 7850

fb.me/WeCleanPhuketNet.EN

LINE ID: WeCleanPhuketNet

PROPERTY SERVICES

LUXURY VILLA CLUB
DIRECT ★ RENTALS ★ SALES

Villa and Yacht Websites
Photography, Videos, Drone
Villa Rental, Sales & Marketing
Property Inventories
25 Years Experience

Joanne@luxuryvillaclub.com

OTHER

Mac-Nels

MACNELS SHIPPING PHUKET

ANY SHIPMENT ANY WHERE

☎ OFFICE: 076 603907

☎ MOBILE: CALL PETER 0863645862

www.macnellsphuket.com

WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?

The **Phuket News** Your Island - Your Paper
Новости **Пхукета** Твой остров - твоя газета
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

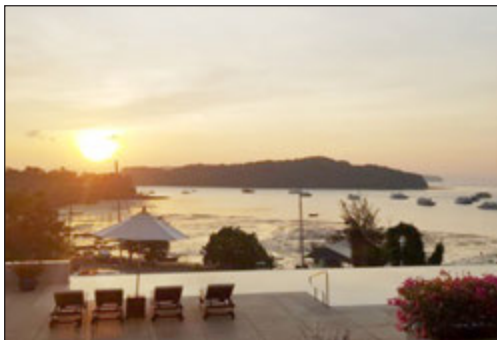
SUN 7 FEB



Sunday Brunch at Pine Beach Bar

Try exciting new items including organic truffle poached egg, lobster house made pasta and unagi don. Enjoy complimentary use of pool and beach facilities before and after your brunch with a bottle of sparkling, a selection of delicious dishes, funky tunes of our DJ and beach activities. Intercontinental Phuket Resort, Kamala, 076 629 999.

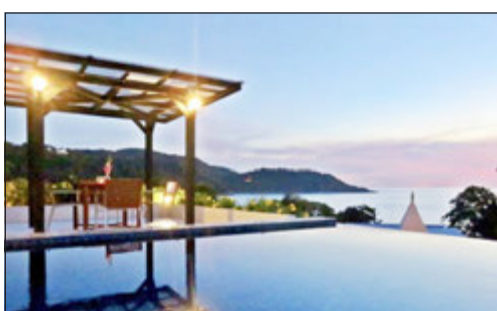
PROPERTY FOR SALE



Beautiful Phuket condo with a view of the islands

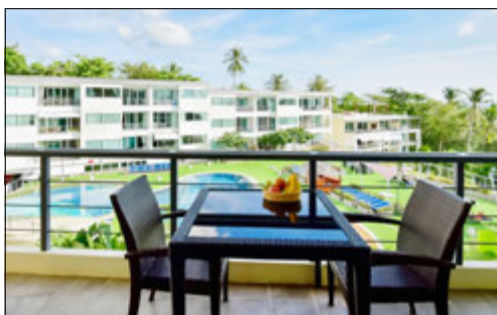
Very close to Ao Por Pier and Ao Por Grand Marina. 2 rooms 132 m / 2 with private terrace, 22m pool, 2 bath, air con, security service, good shopping, private parking and sunrise over the islands every morning. Fully furnished. Direct From Owner at only B3.6M, jensclausen@yahoo.de +66 092-854692. +49 176 32658856

PROPERTY FOR RENT



Kata Gardens Private Pool

Kata Gardens Private Pool Penthouses. Walk to Beach Ocean View 1, 2 and 3 Bedroom Units Available. 2 Common Area Pools. plrkata@outlook.com, +66909959767, Graham Herdman



Fantastic Sea View

Sea View condo 70 Sq.m. Swimming pool, fitness, car parking, 1 bed, 1big living room + kitchen. Big balcony. 1.6 km. from Kata beach. nuannapa.sutin@gmail.com, 080 468 8228 (Napa).

Want your EVENT listed here?

Reserve your space **NOW!**

076 612 550 sales@classactmedia.co.th

THU 25 FEB



Phuket Sundowners - February 2021

AustCham Thailand and the Australian Consulate General Phuket, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber of Commerce, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC) and the Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC), is delighted to invite you to join us for "Australia Day Phuket Sundowners" at Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa, on Thursday 25th February 2021, from 18.00-21.00 hrs. A celebration of all things Australian, join us for your favourite Australian food & beverages, and welcome in the New Year as the first business networking event of 2021! Cost 500 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members, 900 THB for non-members.

Listen for

DAILYEVENT UPDATES ON

LIVE 89.5

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

IT TAKES 12 MONTHS TO GET A PROSPECTIVE MARRIAGE OR PARTNER VISA START PLANNING NOW!

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

Reduce your risk of Coronavirus infection

Don't panic, but be alert. COVID-19

Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds with soap & water or hand sanitizer.

When coughing or sneezing, cover nose & mouth with a tissue or flexed elbow.

Practice social distancing, no hugs and kisses, no handshakes. Offer a traditional wai instead.

Try to touch your face as little as possible, including your mouth, nose and eyes.

Reduce travel to a minimum and avoid public transport if possible.

Don't leave your home or hotel room unless absolutely necessary.

STAY HOME STAY SAFE

If you have additional questions, please call the Department of Disease Control

Hotline 1422
<https://ddc.moph.go.th/en>

PROPERTY FOR RENT



House for Rent

House for Rent @ Burasiri Kohkaew 149 sqm. 3 bedrooms + 3 bathrooms + 2 carpark. Fully Furnished + Kitchen + washing machine. Rental rate 35,000thb Facilities: Swimming Pool + Fitness + Security. nuapornkul8022@gmail.com, 0986516428, Khun Ying.

PROPERTY FOR RENT



HALF PRICE CONDO LAGUNA AREA

200m to Bangtao, 2 pools, Jacuzzi, sauna, gym, BBQ, 140 sqm. Free: bikes, electric scooters, drinking water, coconuts, 3TVs, Netflix, 200TV channels. HALF PRICE 076 324404 phuket@casuarinashores.co

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.com

Google www.aaphuket.com

QSI QSI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF PHUKET

QSI Phuket is looking for Certified Native English Speaking Teachers for 2020-2021 school year

Preschool/Kindergarten Teacher

Qualifications:

- Native English Speaking Teachers
- Bachelor or higher degree in Education Only
- Experiences in teaching is required
- Teaching license is preferred

Interested teachers

Please send email with the following attachments:

- A cover letter with stating the position you are applying for
- Your resume with a recent photo
- A scan of your education certificates and transcripts
- A scan of your passport's photo page

Send CV to Phuket@qsi.org

<https://www.qsi.org/thailand/pkt> Tel. 076 304 312

SUCCESS FOR ALL



Jackie, Karen, Helga, Dianne, Marisca and Linneke



Wipa, Waraporn and Noi



Nec, Jo, Jeanie, Maggy, Grace, Shiho, Anna and Mel



Missy, Lynne, Truus and Diane

PIWC - JANUARY 2021 LUNCHEON

Held at the COMO Point Yamu, on January 21, the Phuket International Women's Club - PIWC, held their monthly luncheon meeting. All members and guests celebrated the new year and their first gathering in 2021 with a fantastic meal and location.



'Superstars of Burnhead' - Henri, Hannah, Jum, Laura, Moosey, Charlee and Niamh



Celebrating the birthday of Big Brother 'Ko Jan'.



Kerg and Mook

'GOOD VIBES P-TOWN'

New open air venue in the heart of Phuket Old Town, celebrating it's one-month anniversary.



The 'Good Vibes P-Town' Team.

Penguins seal series against Cows

CRICKET

Neil Quail

After 70 overs of cricket at the ACG on Sunday (Jan 31), the second game in the challenge series between Patong Penguins and Thalang Cows went down to the very last ball to decide the result.

ACG's outfield had received a shearing, meaning runs should flow on a hard surface that fielders would learn as unforgiving, and following last weekend's heated encounter, a competitive tie was highly anticipated, and duly provided.

The Penguins opening partnership of Michael Flowers and Saju Abraham was to last just eight balls, when Cows' Sami Pir opened his bowling figures with a wicket-maiden, having Abraham caught by Waseem Yusa at mid-on.

Joining Flowers at the crease, Paddy Ledebor made his presence felt immediately in hammering 12 runs from his first over, while the pair took the score to 44 for 1.

In the 8th over Stuart Hamilton's left-arm slow spin saw Flowers find Ashan Fonseka at long-on then Ledebor holed out to Michael Thomas in the covers as the fielder reacted quickly to secure the catch at the second attempt after Ledebor's rasping shot initially



Justin Swart celebrates his unbeaten 112 and victory for the Penguins against the Cows on Sunday at the ACG. Photo: Karnthida Vongsakul

ricocheted off his upstretched hands.

Success in the middle has been weekly routine for Justin Swart, and once again he stepped up admirably, claiming another century on his way to an unbeaten 118.

Hammering 16 fours and four sixes during his onslaught of the Cows' bowling, Swart was assisted by Seemant Raju and Dan Nicholson, both adding 18, while Curt Livermore and skipper Jason Robertson threw in 12 and 15, respectively.

Livermore and Robertson then added a further 30 runs to

end their 35 overs on 263 for 9.

DANGER MAN

Once lunch had been consumed at the Topsy Cow, Penguins emerged to defend a good total in brutally hot conditions. But it was the Cows who couldn't take the heat as openers Bootsy and Ali Khan were back in the clubhouse within seven deliveries of the restart.

Swart dismissed Bootsy with an athletic diving catch at long-off and Khan followed just five balls later, bowled by Shivam Bhattacharya. Hamilton fell in the 7th over as

the Cows recoiled at a score line of 18 for 3.

However, an exceptional innings from Thomas in scoring a personal best of 41 and Fonseka posting 53, helped the Cows get ahead of the run rate at 138 for 4 by the 18-over drinks break.

Danger man Fonseka's efforts ended in the 16th over after a raised drive off Ledebor's first delivery was drilled to Dan Nicholson at cover and Thomas was caught by Robertson in the 21st over off Livermore's bowling, before Cows' captain Joe Ninan and Sameer

Khan worked a 91-run partnership to boost the score up to 236 for 5 by the 32nd over.

Khan fell victim to another superb diving catch by Swart off the bowling of Dom Judge and Bhanu Pratap went for just 5 runs in the next over, bowled by Robertson.

Having suffered an injury while fielding, Imtiyaz Mushtaq had missed most of the Cows' fielding innings, but returned to help target the winning runs.

Requiring 4 runs off the last ball, the Cows failed to deal with the pressure, ensuring a two-wicket victory for the Penguins as well as a 2-1 series win.

The game's MVP and Penguin's baggy cap went to Swart for his 118 off 78 and three catches. Bowling honours went to Pir for his 54-3 off 7, with mentions to Ninan for his 75 off 60 and Fonseka for his 53 off 30.

WHAT'S ON AT THE ACG (FEB 3-FEB 9)

Friday: Senior & Junior Cricket Training (4:30-6:30pm)

Saturday: Ultimate cricket/rugby challenge PCG v Vagabonds (2-6pm)

Sunday: Cricket match (10am start)

Monday: Junior Cricket Coaching with former professional Ashan Fonseka (3-5pm)

Tuesday: Junior Cricket Coaching with former professional Ashan Fonseka (3-5pm) Vagabonds Rugby Training (5-7pm)

Blue Canyon holds 'Two Man Scramble' ahead of reopening

GOLF

AHEAD OF THEIR CAN- yon course reopening next month, Phuket's Blue Canyon Country Club welcomed over 100 golfers to its '2 Man Scramble' event on Jan 24.

The event brought together golfers from across the island for a day of fun and competitive play at one of the country's most prestigious country clubs.

Winners of the gross score were Khun Filip and Khun Leo with a score of 62. Hot on their heels in the first runners-up spot with a score of 63 were Khun Namo and Khun Rattawarin. Wayne Klapko and Marco Fragola took the second runners-up spot with a score of 66.

Winners of the net score competition with a score of 61.8 were Khun Pasoot and Khun Rattakorn followed by Khun Tanadech and Khun Somboon as first runners-up with a score of 63 and Maxim Sazonova and Alesia Sazonova as second runners-up.



Gross score winner Khun Leo tees off. Photo: Blue Canyon Phuket

Blue Canyon Country Club has hosted some of the most renowned golf championships over the years and is the one and only three-time host of the Johnnie Walker Classic. It has also witnessed legends of the game of golf, celebrities and heads of state take on its fairways and greens.

Cradled in a 720-acre verdant valley against a magnificent backdrop of the majestic Phang Nga mountains and the Andaman Sea, Blue Canyon offers two award-winning championship golf courses, 'The Canyon' built in 1991 and 'The Lakes' in 1999, complete with a boutique

spa resort and luxurious clubhouse facilities.

Now under new ownership and management, Blue Canyon Country Club is striving to be at the absolute pinnacle of all golf courses in Thailand. The Canyon course, which has recently undergone a full restoration, is due to reopen in March and a massive renovation of the clubhouse is scheduled to start soon.

Golf tournaments at Blue Canyon Country Club are a monthly occurrence. If you wish to participate, please visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BlueCanyonCountryClub/>

The Phuket News

BCCT, BeLuThai, CANCHAM THAILAND, Franco-Thai, AHK, NTCC

AustChamThailand Business | Connections | Community

Australian ALUMNI

AUSTRALIA DAY PHUKET SUNDOWNERS

THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2021

Australian Consulate-General Phuket, Thailand

RENAISSANCE PHUKET RESORT & SPA

TIME 18.00 - 21.00 HRS.

500THB FOR AUSTCHAM MEMBERS, PARTNER CHAMBERS' MEMBERS, AND AUSTRALIAN ALUMNI MEMBERS*

900THB FOR NON-MEMBERS

2021 PLATINUM SPONSOR, LIFBOX, EVENT SUPPORTER, MEDIA PARTNER, Phuket 2021, LIVE 89.5

Quiet transfer deadline day

Liverpool bolster defence but Premier League moves limited

FOOTBALL

John Weaver

Liverpool finally bolstered their defensive options by signing Schalke's Ozan Kabak and Preston's Ben Davies before the Premier League transfer window slammed shut on Monday (Feb 1).

Meanwhile Premier League champions' Japanese attacking midfielder Takumi Minamino left for Southampton on loan until the end of the season in one of the few moves between Premier League clubs on a quiet deadline day.

The January window is regarded as a sellers' market and often a time for stop-gap measures but Liverpool were forced to act.

The champions are missing all of their senior central defenders, with Virgil van Dijk, Joe Gomez and Joel Matip out of action.

Fabinho, who had impressed at centre-back after moving from his usual midfield position, recently joined the injured list while captain Jordan Henderson, who usually plays in midfield, has been forced to deputise at the back.

Japanese international Minamino departed Anfield for Southampton in a surprise move allowed to be



Ozan Kabak (L), seen here in action for Schalke, has joined Liverpool on loan until the end of the season. Photo: AFP

completed after the window shut because the Saints had submitted the necessary paperwork in time.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp had been suggesting for several weeks that a replacement centre-back would be a major lift for his team.

Klopp got his wish at last as the Reds brought in two defenders in the

final hours of the transfer window.

Kabak joined on loan until the end of the season, subject to international clearance.

The Premier League champions have paid an initial £1 million (B41mn) loan fee with the option to buy for £18 million at the end of the season.

The 20-year-old arrives after two years in the Bundesliga, where he played for Stuttgart before joining Schalke in July 2019.

He previously gained Champions League experience at Galatasaray and has won seven caps for Turkey.

Davies, 25, signed for an initial fee believed to be £500,000, plus future add-ons. He made 145 appearances for Preston, scoring two goals, since his debut in 2013.

"Obviously it came as a bit of a surprise when it first came out but once you start to get your head around it, the opportunity that is in front of me is incredible," Davies said.

"I've never actually been to Anfield and I haven't had a look around yet."

LOW-SPENDING WINDOW

Major moves involving 'Big Six' Premier League clubs were few and far between in the January window.

Top-flight clubs, who splashed the cash in the summer transfer window, are reeling from the financial fallout as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and are coming to terms with new Brexit rules that make it tougher to recruit young players from Europe.

The last time less than £100 million was spent in the January transfer window was 2012.

Arsenal allowed Shkodran Mustafi to leave, with the German defender signing a short-term contract at Schalke.

Gedson Fernandes ended his disappointing spell at Tottenham, with the midfielder's loan from Benfica cancelled so he could join Galatasaray.

Relegation-threatened West Bromwich Albion signed Turkey midfielder Okay Yokuslu on loan from Celta Vigo until the end of the season.

West Brom also agreed a deal with Arsenal to take the versatile Ainsley Maitland-Niles on loan until the end of this term.

Ecuador international Moises Caicedo joined Brighton from Independiente del Valle for a fee of around £4 million.

Newcastle signed Arsenal midfielder Joe Willock on loan for the rest of the season, while Magpies' right-back DeAndre Yedlin joined Galatasaray in a permanent deal.

Fulham landed former Sunderland forward Josh Maja on loan from French side Bordeaux.

Everton signed Bournemouth striker Josh King in a late deal. AFP

Dechapol and Sapsiree make history

BADMINTON

DECHAPOL PUAVARANUKROH and Sapsiree Taerattanachai ended a historic month for Thai badminton with an emphatic win at the US\$1.5 million (B45mn) HSBC BWF World Tour Finals at Impact Arena, Muang Thong Thani, last Sunday (Jan 31).

The world No.3 pair defeated sixth-ranked South Koreans Seo Seung-Jae and Chae Yu-Jung 21-18, 8-21, 21-8 in the mixed doubles final to complete a hat-trick of Super 1000 titles in three weeks.

The victory was their third in a row after their successes at the Yonex Thailand Open and the Toyota Thailand Open in the previous weeks.

Dechapol and Sapsiree also became the first mixed doubles pair to win three consecutive World Tour Super 1000 crown.

"We're very happy to win today and very proud that we won three titles in a row," said Sapsiree after the pair avenged their defeat to the Korean duo in the group stage on Jan 28.

"We also would like to thank the organisers for hosting three wonderful tourna-

ments. Everyone worked so hard and took care of the athletes so well these past weeks," added Dechapol.

The pair took home the \$126,000 (B3.8mn) winner's cheque, while the Koreans received \$60,000 (B1.8mn).

Earlier, top-ranked Tai Tzu-ying won a dramatic cliffhanger in the women's singles decider, thwarting reigning Olympic champion Carolina Marin's bid for a hat-trick of titles.

Marin beat the Taiwanese 26-year-old two weeks in a row in the preceding Thailand Open tournament finals.

But the Spaniard had a shaky start as Tai exploited flaws in her defence, mounting a successful comeback in the later stages to win the opener 21-14.

Marin was loud and feisty in her verbal celebrations but soon a visibly annoyed Tai found her own voice.

In the second game, Tai dominated early and dictated a commanding pace, eventually triumphing 21-8.

The decider was filled with fast and furious rallies – both players yo-yoed up and down the scoreboard – but two late spectacular drop shots were critical in sealing

Tai's victory 21-19.

"Before this match today I kept telling myself that I had to play patiently. In the previous matches, all my mistakes were caused [by] my own impatience," Tai said.

The all-Danish men's singles final was equally nail-biting as Anders Antonson denied Viktor Axelsen a third tournament win in three weeks.

Axelsen, ranked fourth, couldn't control his nerves – losing the first game 16-21 – his body language showing immense frustration as errors piled up and shots landed wide. He managed to regroup to win the second game 21-5.

But in the decider Antonson had all the right answers, triumphing 21-17 to claim the game and the hour-long match against an increasingly ruffled Axelsen.

Antonsen is the only man to beat Axelsen in three weeks. His victory also halted Axelsen's 29-match winning streak.

The women's doubles was an all-Korean showdown with fourth-ranked Lee So-Hee and Shin Seung-Chan pushing sixth-ranked Kim So-Yeong and Kong Hee-Yong to three games over 92 minutes.

Lee and Shin lost the first game 15-21 before scrapping through to claim the second 26-24.

They had momentum early in the third game and were able to hold off a late resurgence from their opponents to win the decider 21-19.

In the men's doubles, seventh-ranked Lee Yang and Wang Chi-Lin of Taiwan won their third title in three weeks.

They beat Indonesia's Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan, the 2019 champions, 21-17, 23-21 in 37 minutes.



Dechapol Puavaranukroh (left) and Sapsiree Taerattanachai pose with their trophies and gold medals. Photo: AFP

Lee admitted the pair "were nervous coming in the finals here. We were playing

our idols. I thought: 'oh my god, oh my god.' Three titles is incredible." *Bangkok Post*

THE SWINGING STICKS
Designed in Germany * Copyright & Patented

THE ALL BLACK

www.ATD.to
hi@ATD.to * +66 630829923

The Swinging Sticks is a double pendulum kinetic energy sculpture. You may also have seen The Swinging Sticks in the Iron Man 2 movie. The fluid movement of this handcrafted, precise kinetic sculpture creates a calming, hypnotic effect.

LEVITATION & SPEAKER

NEW!

ART-TEC DESIGN
ART-TEC DESIGN CO., LTD.

New Shop opened in PHUKET
71/89 moo 5
Hua Khuan North Road
Close to Fanta Sea
Kamala / Phuket 83150

Art-Tec Design Co., Ltd - authorized importer & seller of The Swinging Sticks



No longer a hidden secret in Rawai. Best Western Plus The Beachfront

We are OPEN!



The Beachfront

25/46 M.5 Viset Road, Rawai, Phuket 83130 P: +66 (076) 604-008 bwplusbeachfront.com

Wherever Life Takes You, Best Western Is There.

Each Best Western® branded hotel is independently owned and operated.



ISSN 2228-9739