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# FULL BURN



The waste disposal centre at Saphan Hin is to get a new incinerator. Photo: The Phuket News / file

## NEW INCINERATOR TO BURN AT LEAST 500 TONS OF SOLID WASTE A DAY

**The Phuket News**  
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Phuket City Municipality last week held its first public meeting on a project to build a new incinerator at the solid waste disposal facility at Saphan Hin to cope with the increasing volume of trash generated on the island.

At the meeting, held at the Phuket Provincial Waste Disposal Center at Saphan Hin on Mar 27, it was explained that the plan was for the private firm EA Waste Management Phuket Co Ltd to build and operate the new facility, which is to cover 24,000 square metres (nearly 15 rai) at the Saphan Hin landfill site.

The new facility is to have the capacity to dispose of no less than

500 tons of solid waste each day, while producing 9.9 megawatts of electrical power, explained Pantip Chatrangsan, Business Development Manager of EA Waste Management Phuket Co Ltd.

An initial Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) assessment has been carried out, but a complete EIA will be prepared to present to the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) for approval, added Phuket Town Deputy Mayor Orapailin Trakulpriphon, who chaired the meeting.

“The problem of overflowing garbage in the city is an important problem that requires all sectors to participate in management,” Ms Onpailin said. “This stage is to listen to opinions from the public, who are

considered to be a driving force to develop efficient solid waste management in Phuket Province.”

### PRE-FIRE

The public meeting last week followed the announcement in September last year that Energy Absolute Public Company Limited (EA) had won the bid to build the new incinerator, pending approval by ONEP.

Present in Phuket as signatories to the government contract last September were Phuket Town Mayor Saroj Angkanapilas and EA Executive Vice President Wasu Klomkliang.

Despite a flurry of posts online announcing the contract signing, Phuket City Municipality did not reveal any details of EA’s successful procurement bid.

EA themselves, however, explained that the new incinerator is to be on-line and operating by 2026. Under a build-operate-transfer agreement, after the incinerator comes online, EA will operate the facility for 20 years before ownership is handed over to Phuket City Municipality.

The incinerator will have a burn capacity of not less than 500 tons per day, while generating 9.9 megawatts (MW) of electricity, which it will sell to the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA). The PEA will buy 8MW of electricity at B5.84 per unit for the first eight years, and at B5.14 per unit thereafter.

The contract was signed on Sept 20, 2023. EA defined the ‘total investment value’ of the contract as B2 billion...

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**‘The Mesh’ wins Kamala Bowls singles title**



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# News

## Phuket Songkran to promote 'Soft Power'

PHUKET GOVERNOR Sophon Suwannarat has announced that official celebrations for Songkran will be held to promote Thai culture and traditions, "reflecting the identity of Thai Soft Power".

Governor Sophon said that the government has a policy for every province to organise Songkran, or Maha Songkran, activities to promote cultural traditions.

Such activities will be held across Phuket during the holiday, marking the Thai New Year, Governor Sophon said.

The events will also generate income from tourism, especially through the three-day event to be held in Patong, from Apr 12-14, he said.

In Phuket Town, there will be the 'no alcohol' water-play zone set up on Dibuk Rd, where celebrations are to be held from Apr 14-16, he added.

"In addition, with the co-operation of localities and various sectors Songkran activities will be held throughout Phuket to promote tourism during Songkran 2024 to preserve Thai culture and traditions, and stimulate the tourism sec-



**Governor Sophon at the event to announce the 'no alcohol' celebrations to be held on Dibuk Rd in Phuket Town. Photo: PR Phuket / file**

tor of the economy and reflect Thai Soft Power to become more well known," he said.

"We therefore invite citizens and tourists [sic] to participate in dressing in traditional Thai clothes to bathe Buddha images, pour water over your head, and splash happiness and fun at the Phuket Songkran Festival, which is expected to generate income of billions of baht for Phuket during the Songkran festival," he added.

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office Director Lertchai Wangtrakuldee predicts Phuket will see an some 264,350 visitors during Songkran, generating about B7.04bn for Phuket.

*The Phuket News*

## Youths win national award for fight against corruption

The Phuket News  
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The Phuket Youth Anti-Corruption Club has received a national award for their efforts as a civil society network taking part in preventing, monitoring and reporting corruption at the local level.

The award, the 'Honoring the Model White Space Network' for 2023, is part of an ongoing project by the Office of the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC).

Deputy Prime Minister Somsak Thepsuthin presented the award at an event in Bangkok on Mar 28. Also present was Ekachai Kasemsukthawat, Deputy Secretary-General of the PACC.

Chaiphong Chermasawat, President of the Phuket Youth Anti-Corruption Club, received the award on the club's behalf. Mr Chaiphong also serves as President of the Phuket Provincial Children and Youth Council.



**Photo: PR Phuket**

The award was the result of more than five years of work with the Phuket PACC Office and network partners, Mr Chaiphong noted.

"Section 63 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E. 2017 states that The state must promote, support and educate the public about the dangers caused by corruption and misconduct in both the public and private sectors and provide effective

measures and mechanisms to strictly prevent and eliminate such corruption and misconduct," Deputy PM Somsak said.

"The mechanisms include encouraging people to come together, to participate in awareness campaigns to resist or point out clues [to corruption]. They are protected by the state as provided by law," Mr Somsak added.

"By working together with

the people to prevent and eliminate corruption, we encourage people to participate in ideas to jointly solve the corruption problem in a concrete way.

"It is necessary to rely on support mechanisms from all sectors, especially by creating a network of target groups in the central, regional, provincial, district, sub-district, and local areas and create the 'space' to drive joint operations," Deputy PM Somsak concluded.

## New incinerator hoped to remedy Phuket's growing trash problem

*Continued from page 1*

Of note, one year earlier, in 2022, EA reported to the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) that the company had established a new subsidiary called 'EA Waste Management Phuket Co Ltd'... "to operate a business related to waste disposal, including the production and distribution of electricity produced from waste."

The subsidiary EA Waste Management Phuket Co Ltd was formed with a registered capital of B100,000, divided into 10,000 common shares, valued at B10 per share.

### SEEING GREEN

The new incinerator is just one of six projects under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on Feb 18 this year by Energy Absolute Public Company Limited (EA) with the Phuket branch of the Federation of Thai Industries Phuket (FTI Phuket) to jointly support the transformation of Phuket into a low-carbon green city.

The collaboration, under the 'Phuket as a Green Island; Low

Carbon City' initiative, aims to promote the expansion and growth of tourism and all other industries in Phuket. EA selected Phuket, based on its global recognition as a tourist destination, as the first province to receive support from EA in promoting carbon neutrality comprehensively, explained a release detailing the MoU, the signing of which was attended by and witnessed by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat.

The Feb 18 MoU featured projects such as installing EA Anywhere electric vehicle charging stations, both AC and DC systems, at key transportation points in Phuket; encouraging water tourism with E-Ferry services in collaboration with local private sectors for inter-island transportation and tourism; and consulting on and investing in Smart City developments, new cities, or large mixed-use communities, promoting Green Logistics and Green Electricity.

### LONG OVERDUE

The project to move ahead with the new incinerator comes after nearly



**A schematic of the new facility.**

a decade of genuine deep concern over Phuket's inability to dispose of the volume of trash generated on the island each day.

PJT Technology in 2018 was to commence construction of a new incinerator to help officials cope with the rising volume of trash that continually adds to the small hills of waste growing taller at the Saphan Hin landfill.

PJT had secured a 15-year build-operate-transfer government contract with an 'investment value' of B1bn. For reasons unexplained, that project never eventuated.

However, even back then officials at the time said that the two incinerators currently in action could burn on average only the same

volume of garbage that was being delivered from across the island each day – about 850 tons, depending on the number of tourists on holiday in Phuket.

After separation and being dumped into waste pits to dry out, the volume of the garbage needed to be incinerated averaged about 680 tons a day.

The two current incinerators can burn up to 700 tons per day combined, but Chakkrit Songsaeng, Phuket City Wastewater Treatment Chief at the plant, noted that in the tourism high season the volume of solid waste arriving at the landfill was about 1,000 tons a day.

The new incinerator to be built by EA is to be the third incinerator at Saphan Hin, and is to help officials realise their aspirations of slowly burning off the mounds of trash in the landfill, which currently has five separate 'pits'.

However, the release by EA announcing its successful bid noted that the new incinerator was to 'replace' the first incinerator built at Saphan Hin, which has been in operation more than 20 years and

is long overdue to be shut down so it can undergo a full overhaul and maintenance.

While waiting for that to happen, Mr Chakkrit forecast that by 2027, daily waste sent to the centre may reach 1,150 tons.

Chantima Mongkol, Phuket City Solid Waste Management Chief at the plant, in 2018 said, "With the number of tourists increasing every year as well as Phuket residents that keep throwing away a large volume of unnecessary waste, it could be nearly impossible that the whole landfill waste will disappear."

"I urge Phuket residents to not throw away things that have not been long used. They must know when they should throw things away. Most things can be used many times," she said.

"People should also separate waste before throwing it out, and recycle them if they can. That will help the situation a lot," she added.

"Phuket residents need to be aware that it is also their responsibility to help deal with the waste problem in Phuket," Ms Chantima said.

# Russian tased in violent assault at hotel in Kata

**Eakkapop Thongtub**  
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**K**aron Police have warned foreigners against drunken, chaotic behaviour after a Russian man was arrested for causing a disturbance at a hotel in Karon last week. The man punched and kicked the officers trying to calm him down.

Pol Lt Col Teerayut Suk-sanguan, Deputy Chief of the Karon Police, told reporters last Friday (Mar 29) that the warning follows an incident on Mar 26, in which an officer was forced to use a taser to take a Russian man into custody.

Pol Lt Col Teerayut was called to a hotel along the Karon beach road after receiving a report of two foreign men engaged in a physical fight, which was causing a disturbance to other guests at the hotel.

A video of the incident showed several men trying to calm the Russian man down. Instead, the Russian man punched the men, some of whom responded in kind.



Screenshot: Supplied

Officers arrived to find Russian national Aleksandr Tolstov in a drunken state and “causing trouble”, which was annoying other people at the hotel distress through his “chaotic behaviour”, Lt Col Teerayut said.

The officers approached Tolstov and tried to calm him down. However, Tolstov rejected their plea and instead

shouted at the officers and “used force to attack and fight and obstruct police officers from performing their duties”, Lt Col Teerayut noted.

A video of this incident showed Tolstov punching and kicking the officers trying to calm him down in front of the hotel.

Sgt Phisanu Singhara received minor injuries and

bruises in the incident, Lt Col Teerayut noted last Friday.

Eventually the officers used a taser on Tolstov, which caused him to fall down and sustain minor injuries.

Tolstov was taken to Chalong Hospital for treatment of his minor injuries, then taken to Karon Police Station to face charges, Lt Col Teerayut confirmed.

## Pilot sacked after failing breathalyser

AIR INDIA HAS SACKED a pilot who tested positive for alcohol after operating a flight from Phuket to New Delhi.

The pilot was doing a training flight for a new captain, reported *The Times* of India.

Comments were sought from Air India on the issue and awaited till the time of going to press, reported the Indian news agency.

The Tata group airline was apparently taking a tough stance on the incident and was also working on filing an ‘FIR’ against the captain who had operated the Phuket-Delhi flight and subjected to a breathalyser test on arrival in New Delhi.

“We have a zero tolerance of these things and have taken very strong action, of not only terminating his service but are also planning to file an FIR as operating a flight under influence of alcohol is a criminal act. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has been informed,” airline sources told the newspaper.



An Air India flight arrives in Phuket after the launch of direct flights between Phuket and New Delhi in December. Photo: TAT

Pilots and cabin crew operating flights within India must undergo pre-flight tests as no alcohol is available, served or sold on domestic flights, explained the report.

Post-flight tests are conducted on flight crew operating international flights, where alcohol is available.

In the first six months of 2023, 33 pilots and 97 cabin crew members had failed their breathalyser tests, *The Times* of India noted.

Usually failing a breathalyser test for the first time means licence suspension for three months. The same person found over the limit a second time incurs a suspension for three years. A third time means the licence will be revoked, the newspaper explained. *The Phuket News*

## Karaoke with underage sex workers raided in Ratsada

A FEMALE KARAOKE OPERATOR WAS arrested in Ratsada last week as part of a police effort targeting individuals procuring minors for sexual services.

The woman’s entertainment venue was found to offer its patrons illegal sex services provided by girls as young as 13 years old, according to a report by the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB).

The report by the CIB, released at 11:55pm last Saturday (Mar 30), did not specify the date of the raid. According to a publication by Thai news outlet KhaoSod, the operation took place on the same day, Mar 30.

Pictures accompanying the official report by the CIB and the corresponding Facebook post showed officials raiding the venue, which located in Ratsada falls under the jurisdiction of the Phuket City Police Station.

Photos did not show any officers from the Phuket Provincial Police.

Members of the raiding party wore vests and caps emblazoned with CIB and ATPD, abbreviations for the Central Investigation Bureau and the Anti-Trafficking In Persons Division of the bureau, respectively.

Ms Saphawan (family name withheld by the CIB) was arrested during the raid as the operator of the illegal brothel.

The KhaoSod report added that Ms Saphawan was 39 years old without providing any further information about her.

Found at the premises were two underage employees – a 13-year-old and a 14-year-old, according to KhaoSod.

The CIB report mentions only the former,



Officials from the CIB (including the ATPD) raided a karaoke bar in Phuket offering sex services provided by girls as young as 13 years old. Photo: CIB

explaining that her working duties included serving customers, accompanying them at the tables (including alcohol consumption) and providing sexual services.

For the sexual services, customers were charged B3,400, with B3,000 going to the teenage employee and B400 going to the venue, which was received directly by Ms Saphawan.

Ms Saphawan was arrested on six charges related to human trafficking and procuring minors for sexual services.

She was then taken to “the investigative officers of Division 5 of the Anti-Trafficking In Persons Division for further legal proceedings,” according to the report by the CIB.

At time of press no comments had been made regarding an investigation of the patrons of the unnamed karaoke venue operated by Ms Saphawan or local officials who failed to notice the illegal brothel in Ratsada.

Phuket Provincial Police also had yet to publicly acknowledge the raid.

*The Phuket News*



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## PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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High: +36°  
Low: +29°  
Wind 11 m/s

SAT APRIL 6

High: +36°  
Low: +28°  
Wind 11 m/s

SUN APRIL 7

High: +35°  
Low: +28°  
Wind 11 m/s

MON APRIL 8

High: +35°  
Low: +27°  
Wind 4 m/s

TUE APRIL 9

High: +35°  
Low: +28°  
Wind 4 m/s

WED APRIL 10

High: +37°  
Low: +28°  
Wind 4 m/s

THU APRIL 11

High: +36°  
Low: +27°  
Wind 4 m/s

Photo: Phuket City Police

## Man stabbed to death in fit of jealous rage

POLICE HAVE ARRESTED a man wanted for stabbing a service staffer at a restaurant on Takua Pa Rd in Phuket Town amid a rage of jealousy.

Phuket City Police were called to the restaurant at 4:30am on Mar 28 after the staffer, Manoch 'Tee' Khamkaew, 31, had been rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Mr Manoch had suffered three stab wounds. Despite doctor's efforts, he died at about 6am.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum said the restaurant was closed at the time of the incident.

A group of about seven to eight service staff, both women and men, were sitting and chatting in front of the venue when a man, Abhisit Iam-aksorn, arrived

on a Honda Wave motorbike.

Abhisit approached and started arguing with Mr Manoch, apparently over Abhisit being jealous of Mr Manoch. Mr Manoch was the ex-boyfriend of Abhisit's new girlfriend.

A fight ensued during which Mr Manoch used a bottle to hit Abhisit once. Abhisit then pulled out a knife and stabbed Mr Manoch three times. Mr Manoch fell to the ground and Abhisit fled on his motorbike.

Police checked CCTV in the area and managed to track down Abhisit to a house in Kathu, where officers apprehended him, Maj Gen Sinlert said.

Abhisit was taken to Phuket City Police Station to face charges for the killing, Maj Gen Sinlert added.

Eakkapop Thongtub

## Russian arrested for illegal bike rentals

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A Russian man was arrested last week for illegal vehicle rentals. Sakhu Police reported the arrest on Mar 29, marking the first of its kind following police's announcement of a crackdown on foreign-owned and operated rental businesses and a raid on a vehicle rental company in Srisoonthorn on Mar 19.

Nikolai Popovich, 26, was arrested around 10:45pm while handing over a red Honda CBR 650 to a Thai client who turned out to be a police officer working undercover.

The officer contacted Mr Popovich via WhatsApp and agreed to rent the bike for seven days at B3,000 per day. The official then negotiated the price from B21,000 down to B20,000. The parties agreed to meet in the Nai Yang Beach area, close to Phuket International Airport.

Popovich was apprehended while handing over the bike near The Title Residence Naiyang, a condo project popular with Russian nationals, though Sakhu Police noted that Popovich was registered as residing at the upscale housing estate



Nikolai Popovich, 26, was arrested and faces deportation to Russia for working illegally in Phuket. Photo: Sakhu Police

Habitown Koh Kaew.

Popovich was charged with working illegally, thus facing a fine of B5,000-50,000 and subsequent deportation. The Sakhu Police report did not specify which visa the Russian man used to reside and work illegally in Phuket.

It also remained unclear whether Popovich conducted his illegal rental business under a brand or in connection with a Thai-registered company. The name of Popovich's WhatsApp account also was not disclosed.

The arrest followed Royal Thai Police launching a campaign targeting car and motorbike rental businesses in Phuket operated by foreigners and suspected of using nomi-

nee shareholders.

Marking the campaign's launch, Region 8 Police Commander Pol Lt Gen Surapong Thanomjit raided a car and motorbike business Srisoonthorn on Mar 19.

More than 100 vehicles were seized in the raid, joined by Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum, senior officers, and a Special Operations and Tactics Unit.

Lt Gen Surapong stated that five such car and motorbike rental businesses were under investigation, involving over 1,000 vehicles. The businesses were suspected of using nominee shareholders to circumvent the law regarding foreign ownership.

## Hoons on Kamala Beach

LOCAL RESIDENTS IN KAMALA were outraged yet again on Monday (Apr 1) after another tourist drove a car onto Kamala Beach, the second such incident in a month.

A 30-second video of the incident circulated online, prompting a slew of negative comments and criticisms.

The video showed the car, a black sedan, being driven on the sand and even onto the wet sand near the water.

A lifeguard approached and signalled for the driver to leave the area, but was ignored.

The comments posted online criticised the dangerous behaviour, with some pointing out that a local resident would not do this with his/her own car due to the damage the saltwater would do to the vehicle, hence the driver must have been a tourist in a rental car,



Screenshot: Bangja Jor Jahn Chai Dai

commenters deduced.

At time of press police and local authorities had yet to comment publicly on the incident.

Early last month, police were called to the beach after a driver left a Jeep stranded in wet sand as the high tide approached. Officials were able to have the Jeep recovered safely before the vehicle became stuck in the beachfront water.

Eakkapop Thongtub

## Immigration to close for holidays

PHUKET IMMIGRATION HAS announced that its offices will be closed for the Chakri Memorial Day substitution day holiday next Monday (Apr 8) and for the Songkran holidays.

The announcement marks that Phuket Immigration will be closed this coming Saturday and Sunday (Apr 6-7), as is usual, but also closed on Monday (Apr 8) for the national public holiday to be observed for Chakri Memorial Day.

Chakri Memorial Day is observed on Apr 6 every year and celebrated as the founding day of the establishment of the Chakri Dynasty. Ceremonies are held in honour of King Buddha Yodfa Chulalok the Great (Rama I) and the Chakri Royal Family.

His Majesty Maha Vajiralongkorn, the King of Thailand, is the 10th generation of the Chakri Dynasty, and is often referred to as Rama X.

Phuket Immigration also announced that its offices will be closed for five days over the Songkran holidays, from Apr 12-16.



Photo: Phuket Immigration

The Cabinet in February declared Friday, Apr 12 a special government holiday, ensuring a five-day weekend for the Songkran festival.

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said the decision was made two months before the festival so that people and businesses would have plenty of time to plan ahead. He said he would like the Ministry of Tourism and Sports to promote second-tier provinces for the long holiday, which will now run from Apr 12-16 inclusive.

Apr 13-15 are the conventional Songkran holidays. Apr 16 is a holiday in lieu of Apr 13, which is a Saturday.

The Cabinet said that the extended holiday would help ease traffic congestion. *The Phuket News*

# Rotary clubs unite for early child development

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In a united effort to support early child development services in Phuket, three Rotary Clubs from Thailand and Japan have organised workshops and donated equipment to relevant organisations on the island. The donation included kits for assessing child development at an early stage (DSPM/DAIM) and tools for countering early childhood development delays (TEDA4I).

The handover ceremony took place on Mar 28 at the Phuket Merlin Hotel. The DSPM/DAIM kits and TEDA4I kits were provided to Phuket educational and medical workers by the Rotary Club of Phuket South (Thailand), the Rotary Club of Patong Beach (Thailand), and the Rotary Club of Kushiro Bay (Japan).

The Mar 28 event was led by Phuket Vice Governor Norasak Suksomboon and the President of the Rotary Club of Phuket South, Sunee Saetan.

Other relevant officials and representatives of government and private sectors joined the



Photo: PR Phuket

event, reported the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

The project by the three Rotary Clubs is aimed at raising the level of early child development in Phuket, including by providing valuable knowledge and tools to educators and medical workers working with kids aged 0-5 years, explained the PR Phuket report.

This year's effort also marks His Majesty Maha Vajiralongkorn (Rama X) entering the revered 'sixth cycle'

of his life as he celebrates 72 years of age on July 28.

"The total project value is B1.26 million, with the objective to enable public health personnel, teachers, and child caretakers to monitor, evaluate, and promote early childhood development using the DSPM kits, as well as have good communication skills and being able to give basic advice to parents in promoting their children's development according to their age," reported PR Phuket.

As part of the effort, the

Rotary Club of Phuket South (Thailand), the Rotary Club of Patong Beach (Thailand), the Rotary Club of Kushiro Bay (Japan), and the Phuket office of the Ministry of Public Health (PPHO) organised a series of workshops for relevant officials in Phuket from Dec 26, 2023, through Jan 19, 2024.

Over 170 educators and health workers at the sub-district level underwent the training. So details of about the future phases of the project were revealed.



Photo: Winai Sae-Iw

## Concerns raised over krill washed ashore

LOCAL VILLAGERS have raised concern over millions of krill washing ashore at Mai Khao Beach last weekend.

Winai Sae-ew, Village Headman of Moo 4, Mai Khao, inspected the beach last Sunday afternoon (Mar 31).

Mr Wnai explained that krill had been found washed ashore along four to five kilometres of the beach.

Some people were found collecting krill and washing them with seawater, others were more concerned whether the

phenomenon indicated an impending natural disaster, Mr Winai said.

Also of concern was the colour of the krill that washed ashore, Mr Winai noted.

"Krill shrimp normally look pinkish-red, but the millions of krill that washed up on Mai Khao Beach are purple in colour," he said.

"It is strange as well, and I had never seen this before. I want the relevant officials to come and investigate what has caused this," Mr Winai added.

Eakkapop Thongtub

## Blood donation drive continues

FOREIGN TOURISTS AND EXPAT residents in Phuket are urged to make blood donations at the variety of locations to be served by the Phuket branch of the Thai Red Cross Society throughout April.

Blood stocks in Phuket remain at a critically low level due to an increasing number of road accidents. As of Mar 30, the province recorded 52 road deaths since the start of the year compared to 33 in the first quarter of 2023.

Phuket hospitals are in dire need of all types of blood for transfusions. Thus all donors are welcome, though Rh-negative donors are in the highest demand.

The Phuket Regional Blood Center made an urgent call last Friday (Mar 29) for donors to step up to help replenish the reserves of blood for transfusions. In total 54 units were received during the event at Central Floresta.

The mobile blood donation clinic schedule for April is as follows:

Apr 2 – 8.30am-7.30pm – Phuket RBC  
Apr 3 – 10am-3pm – PPAO  
Apr 4 – 12pm-6pm – Lotus's Phuket (bypass road)  
Apr 4 – 1pm-4pm – Blue Canyon Country Club  
Apr 5 – 10am-3pm – Baan Don Health Promotion Center  
Apr 6 – 10am-3pm – Robinson Chalong  
Apr 11 – 1pm-4pm – Diamond Cliff Resort (Patong)  
Apr 11 – 2pm-6pm – Porto de Phuket  
Apr 19 – 10am-3pm – King Power Duty Free  
Apr 19 – 1pm-4pm – Patong Bay Hill-Resort (Patong)  
Apr 23 – 12pm-6pm – Lotus's Thalang



Photo: Phuket RBC

Apr 23 – 12pm-6pm – Big C Supercenter  
Apr 25 – 10am-3pm – Phuket Airport (Office Building)  
Apr 26 – 09/30am-2pm – BISP  
Apr 26 – 11:30-3pm – Premium Outlet  
Apr 27 – 12pm-6pm – Lotus's Thalang  
Apr 29 – 12pm-6pm – Lotus's Thalang  
Apr 29 – 12pm-6pm – Lotus's Phuket (bypass road)  
Apr 30 – 12pm-6pm – Central Phuket Floresta  
Apr 30 – 1pm-4pm – GWM Phuket  
People can also donate blood directly at the Phuket Regional Blood Center (Phuket RBC) in Phuket Town:  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8.30am to 4.30pm  
Tuesday, Thursday – 8.30am to 8pm  
Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays – 9am to 3pm;  
Tel: 076-251178 ext 2 or 081-9588854.  
Facebook – Phuket RBC and Region Phuket NBC.  
Donations can be made at Vachira Phuket Hospital on Yaowarat Rd in Phuket Town:  
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# DBD targets non-reporting firms

Dr Paul Crosio

Amid increasing scrutiny of illegal business activities, the Department of Business Development (DBD) is flagging entities that have failed to submit financial statements for three consecutive years. The DBD has identified 8,221 companies, representing over 900,000 individuals, that have not submitted financial statements for several years. These entities are at risk of being declared non-operational and struck off.

Non-compliant companies that wish to remain on the list must submit a letter requesting suspension of the strike-off by May 29, 2024. The DBD has notified the directors of companies that have not complied and cautions them to thoroughly verify all their company details.

DBD Director-General Oramon Supthaweetham stated that the DBD has also notified the Bangkok Partnership Registration Office about removing certain partnership companies from the register. Consequently, the Department has initiated legal proceedings to ensure accurate juristic person information, primarily



DBD Director-General Oramon Supthaweetham features on the warning that any company that does not file any returns for three consecutive years will be struck off. This includes any company formed solely to hold property. Image: DBD

focusing on Bangkok-based entities, with similar actions undertaken by Provincial Commercial Offices.

Entities marked as “abandoned” lose their legal capacity to act, yet obligations of key stakeholders endure. Reinstatement is possible within 10 years through a costly and lengthy court application, but compliance is urged to ensure business integrity.

## COMPLIANCE, AGMS, AND SUBMISSIONS

As with its efforts to crack down on nominee shareholders, the DBD’s efforts to identify non-compliant companies

and partnerships underscore the government’s focus on unlawful business activities. This includes ensuring that registered businesses in Thailand adhere to all regulations and fulfill necessary submissions, such as financial statements.

Companies and partnerships are typically required to submit financial statements to the DBD within one month after their Annual General Meeting of Shareholders (AGM). AGMs are held annually by the Board of Directors, with invitations sent to all shareholders.

Invitations for AGMs in-

volve publishing a notice in a local newspaper at least seven days before the meeting and sending invitations to shareholders with a means to verify delivery. For the meeting to proceed, a minimum attendance of 25% of registered capital, or as specified in the company’s Articles of Association, is required.

Only notified agenda items can be discussed during the meeting. These procedures are governed by the Civil and Commercial Code, particularly Section 1175.

During AGMs in Thailand, shareholders review and approve the company’s

financial statements for the previous fiscal year, including the balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement. Shareholders may also vote to appoint or re-elect members to the Board of Directors and select auditors for the upcoming fiscal year.

Decisions regarding dividend distribution, executive compensation packages, and matters related to corporate governance, such as changes to bylaws or policies, are discussed and voted upon. Shareholders may also raise other business or questions relevant to the company’s operations or governance during the meeting. The AGM ensures shareholder involvement in key decision-making processes and promotes transparency and accountability within the company.

In light of the DBD’s efforts to update its database and identify non-compliant companies and partnerships, entities that have failed to submit financial statements for three consecutive years have to take immediate action to rectify their status.

To avoid being marked for removal, non-compliant entities must submit a letter requesting suspension of

their name marking by May 29, 2024. If they have not already done so, business entities must conduct their AGMs as soon as possible to ensure financial documents have been reviewed and approved, appointments have been made, and matters related to corporate governance have been addressed.

In summary, any people involved with a company or partnership that hasn’t posted their returns for three years should immediately rectify their status to avoid being struck off.

This is even more important if you are holding property through a company, as being struck off means you cannot deal with the property, and it may be seized and sold.

*Silk Legal provides various services related to corporate and commercial matters and can support you in conducting your AGM. This article is for information only. While we have tried to keep our updates as accurate as possible, errors and changes to proposed legislation may affect your decisions. Please feel free to contact us for a free consultation at [info@silklegal.com](mailto:info@silklegal.com).*

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## Wage increase backlash

TWO LABOUR RIGHTS GROUPS HAVE criticised the tripartite wage committee’s approval of a daily minimum wage of B400 for some areas in 10 provinces, saying it marked the worst change to the country’s wage system.

The Thai Labour Solidarity Confederation (TLSC) and State Enterprises Workers’ Relations Confederation (SEWRC) said in joint remarks on Mar 27 that the decision to implement the minimum wage hike in only some areas rather than uniformly is unfair.

The groups said disparities in wages among workers in the same province despite the fact that the prices of goods and services such as water, electricity and internet were the same would create inequities.

They called on the government and the Labour Ministry to stop creating disparities in wages and reiterated their demand for a daily minimum wage of B492, or no less than B400.

They also insisted that the daily minimum wage rise must be implemented uniformly.

“This adjustment marks the worst change to the country’s wage system,” their statement said.

The groups proposed the daily minimum wage should be only the entry-level wage and that every business be required to create a wage structure to give incentives to workers. They said they would consider further action if their demands were not met.

Meanwhile, Sitthipong Sitthipatprapa, chairman of hotel operators in Songkhla’s Hat Yai district, said the new wage increase would have a negative impact on businesses in the area.

Mr Sitthipong criticised the tripartite wage committee’s decision, saying it was



Protesters demand a hike in the daily minimum wage outside Government House in July 2022. Photo: Apichart Jinakul / Bangkok Post

not right because room prices and service charges in the 10 provinces affected by the wage increase differ.

He said the hotel association in Hat Yai-Songkhla would hold talks about the wage increase and submit a letter to the government to review the move.

According to Pairoj Chotikasathien, permanent secretary for the Labour Ministry and chairman of the committee, the wage hike would apply to tourism-related businesses and four-star hotels with at least 50 employees.

The wage rise would be effective on April 13 and apply to Bangkok’s Pathumwan and Watthana districts, Chiang Mai’s Nakhon Chiang Mai municipality, all of Phuket, the area under the jurisdiction of tambon Ao Nang administrative organisation in Krabi, Songkhla’s Hat Yai municipality, Surat Thani’s Koh Samui district, Phang Nga’s tambon Khuk Khak municipality, Pattaya City in Chon Buri, Prachuap Khiri Khan’s Hua Hin municipality and Rayong’s tambon Ban Phae.

Bangkok Post

# Srettha backs casino legalisation proposal

## BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin has voiced his support for the opening of entertainment complexes with casinos in the country.

The prime minister said last Friday (Mar 29) he believed legalising casinos could curb illegal gambling dens and redirect gamblers' money towards state coffers, while properly regulated complexes would be subjected to correct tax collection.

Mr Srettha made his remarks as the House of Representatives approved a report prepared by a special House committee studying the feasibility of opening such complexes.

The PM also tried to allay concern about the potential negative social effects of the opening of casinos, saying such complexes would be regulated by law, with security agencies and local officials overseeing them.

Deputy Finance Minister Julapun Amornvivat, who chairs the House committee,



PM Srettha Thavisin is in favour of entertainment complexes with casinos being introduced to the country. Photo: Bangkok Post

said that the study found that such entertainment complexes would yield economic benefits, though negative impacts can also be expected.

The study explained that if such complexes were opened, local people would be employed there, and such employment opportunities would be required by law to ensure that local communities benefit through employment. The study likewise proposed new types of taxes, such as a gaming tax and gambling tax from the complexes.

Mr Julapan said such entertainment complexes also feature hotels, shopping malls,

amusement parks, and each complex will cost at least B100 billion to invest in.

According to the study, the first entertainment complex should be opened near the Eastern Economic Corridor, and if it proves to be a success, similar complexes will open in other regions of the country.

The House committee also studied measures – based on successful Singapore and US models – to regulate the complexes and prevent problems.

Part of the revenue collected from the complexes would go to a fund set up to support measures to help people affected and prevent excessive

gambling, he said.

The study suggested that a bill should be enacted to provide the legal basis for the operation of such complexes.

Mr Julapan said the study would be forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration after it was approved by the House. He said the Cabinet may seek additional feedback from all sectors before deciding whether to act on the study's recommendations.

If a bill regarding the opening of the complexes is tabled to parliament, details will be discussed again, Mr Julapan said.

Chakkrapol Tangsutthitham, the House committee's deputy chairman, said he expects the bill regarding the opening of the complexes to be enacted by the end of this year.

Representatives of civil networks from 16 provinces handed a letter of protest against the entertainment complexes to the House committee studying the matter on Mar 29 expressing concern about potential problems that may arise, such as family problems, debts, and gambling addiction.



Monkeys in Lopburi. Photo: Bangkok Post

## Lopburi police form 'special' monkey unit

### LOPBURI

A SPECIAL POLICE UNIT has been formed to capture aggressive macaque monkeys that cause trouble for residents in Lopburi.

Pol Maj Gen Apirak Vekanchana, chief of the Lopburi Provincial Police, explained a monkey suppression unit began operations on Mar 25 and that slingshots had been approved for police officers to use against aggressive monkeys.

Previously, police were shooting monkeys with sedatives, but it takes at least five minutes for the animals to become sedated. By that time, they could flee to other places, including reaching the top of buildings, which could pose a danger to people.

The first day of the operation received positive feedback from local residents.

The move comes after the

Natural Resources and Environment Ministry on Saturday agreed to compensate people attacked by macaques amid a surge of incidents in Lopburi, including at least three major cases last month.

Sutthipong Kaemtubtim, wildlife conservation director with the Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), said 18 monkeys were caught on the first day and taken to a wildlife clinic in Saraburi for a health check.

The DNP is seeking a solution for the monkey problem, such as keeping them in a zoo, Mr Sutthipong added.

Monkeys have been troubling residents in Lopburi for several years, with a 2023 study finding there was a population of 5,709 living wild in the province. Macaques are protected by the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act.

Bangkok Post

## House passes landmark marriage equality bill onto Senate for review

### BANGKOK

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES passed a marriage equality bill in its final reading on Mar 27, in a landmark step that moves the country closer to becoming the third in Asia to legalise same-sex unions.

The bill requires approval from the Senate and royal endorsement before it becomes law, which is expected later this year. It had the support of all major parties and was passed by 400 of the 415 lawmakers present, with 10 voting against it.

"We did this for all Thai people to reduce disparity in society and start creating equality," said Danuphorn Punnakanta, a Pheu Thai list-MP and chairman of the parliamentary committee on the draft bill.

"I want to invite you all to make history," he told fellow lawmakers before the vote.

Mr Danuphorn said the bill would give same-sex couples the same legal rights and benefits as those of husbands and wives.

Those would include government-supported medical treatment and other benefits, tax deductions, the rights to approve the medical treatment of spouses, manage and inherit the assets of spouses, adopt children and organise the funerals of spouses.

The Senate is expected to deliberate the bill on Apr 9 before a committee then scrutinises it and returns it to the Senate



Photo: Bangkok Post

for a final vote.

The passing of the bill marks a significant step towards cementing Thailand's position as one of Asia's most liberal societies on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues, with openness and free-wheeling attitudes coexisting with traditional, conservative Buddhist values.

Thailand has long been a draw for same-sex couples, with a vibrant LGBT social scene for locals and expatriates, and targeted campaigns to attract LGBT travellers.

The bill could take effect within 120 days of royal approval and would see Thailand become just the third jurisdiction in Asia to recognise same-sex unions after Taiwan and Nepal.

The legislation has been more than a decade in the making, with delays due to political upheaval and disagreement on what approaches to take and what should be included in the bill. Bangkok Post

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# Bees in my bonnet



## GREEN THOUGHTS

Patrick Campbell

As the years come and go, my garden is undergoing a metamorphosis. It is ageing more gracefully than its owner: its earlier character as a garden of herbaceous borders, small shrubs and annuals replaced by what is fast becoming a riotous jungle – a sort of Rousseau-esque ‘retour à l’état de nature’ where flowering shrubs have become trees and vines have crept and clambered everywhere.

However, there are benefits. Not only has it become a low-maintenance affair, it has become a haven for wildlife. At its best, a garden is not only a place of quietude and beauty, it provides a sanctuary for birds, reptiles, butterflies and bees. Bulbuls, doves and magpie robins have given my patch of greenery their personal imprimatur by setting up home in its verdant branches; butterflies and moths lay their eggs under its foliage; banded bull-frogs and skinks hide in the flower pots, Asian bees hang their fragile, pendulous nests from the roof of my neglected sala.

Of these neighbours, bees are the focus of today’s peregrinations. Refer-

ring to the earthworm, the evolutionist Charles Darwin declared: “It may be doubted if there are any other animals which have played such an important part in the history of the world”; had the great man sought a small creature of equivalent importance above ground, he would have surely chosen the bee. The world desperately needs bees. And the world is not looking after them.

In my garden I have two colonies of apis florum. One of the smallest of the honey bee tribe, the red dwarf honey bee is native to these parts and may well be one of the most ancient members of the family. Sadly, it is particularly at risk for a variety of reasons. Its small exposed nests or combs are very visible in leafless trees and they cannot be defended in the same way as nests built underground. One knock sends them crashing to the ground. Moreover, the bees’ small size means that its double sting is largely ineffectual against predators.

Of these, man is inevitably the chief scourge, especially here in Thailand, where villagers scour the rainforest for this delectable source of honey. I would urge everyone who lives here and who respects Mother Nature to avoid buying these honey combs which are frequently hawked around bars in plastic buckets; instead buy bottled honey which may have been diluted with syrup but at least comes from commercial hives. The bees in my garden have another problem. Because they sometimes need to take on water when nectar is scarce, they often end up in my pool. Defenceless, they are quickly dispatched by pond skaters.

I have declared war on pond skaters.

Considering bees in a less parochial light, it is worth making a few general observations about this remarkable insect. While apis florum is the Asian species, most of us are familiar with the western honey bee (apis mellifera), a much larger variety domesticated everywhere for honey production. It has its own set of problems, including climate change, habitat loss, nicotine-based pesticides, varroa mites and a mysterious condition called colony collapse which may be related to some or all of these factors, and which caused, in 2015, the collapse of 42% of bee colonies in the United States.

It does not always help being a social creature, but for the bee, togetherness is everything... And especially so for the queen. A new colony comes into

existence when a virgin queen seeks out and mates with numerous males or drones from another colony. It used to be thought that the drones pursued the queen heavenwards in a dance of death until only one remained to complete the act of mating; this romantic notion has been largely discredited. But one part of the narrative remains true to the facts; the drone does die after mating.

For the fertilised queen, her creative role is just beginning. The new star is now followed by a huge contingent of faithful worker bees – a swarm – to a nest site chosen by the workers beforehand. They start to create a new comb from beeswax, and raise a new colony from the eggs laid by the queen. The resulting larvae – one to each hexagonal cell – are initially fed on royal jelly. In colder climes, honey bees can survive the winter by congregating at the centre of the hive or nest and consuming the stored honey.

The importance of the bee as a pollinator cannot be exaggerated. While many plants – including all cereals – are wind-pollinated and need no insectivorous assistance, some fruits such as apples are entirely dependent on a process whereby the bee transports pollen from male anthers to another flower where the sticky stuff attaches itself to the female part, or stigma. Statistics are elusive, but it is estimated that crop production worldwide might drop by 20% without the agency of bees and other pollinators. The bee is not aware that it is performing this vital service; it is primarily concerned with collecting pollen and nectar as food for the growing inmates of the colony.

The process of collecting pollen is a laborious one. While a near miraculous sign system known as ‘waggle dancing’ is employed by bees in the hive to convey information about the location of nectar and pollen-bearing plants, its collection involves a gruelling amount of flying. A colony of honey bees (apis mellifera) may fly 55,000 miles (more than 88,500km) to make one pound of honey. And incidentally, that honey is the only insect food that we can store and eat.

Special? You betcha...

Patrick Campbell’s book ‘The Tropic Gardener’, described in one Bangkok review as the best book on Thai gardening for 50 years, is available for B500 (half price) to personal callers from 59/84 Soi Saiyuan 13 in Rawai (Tel: 076-613227 or 085-7827551).

## Where to eat in PHUKET

### The May/June 2024 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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# The battle for plot supremacy

David Griffiths

After the critical and award-winning success of Japanese film 'Godzilla: Minus One', fans of the giant creature have been fairly excited to see whether or not it would see a change in the blockbuster Hollywood-led Kong/Godzilla franchise that has so far left fans with mixed emotions.

Most have felt that so far the series has had its ups and downs – some of the Kong films have been pretty good while the later Godzilla films have been heavy on action and light on story. Now comes *Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire*, which is supposed to be an epic beginning to a further Titan universe.

Directed by Adam Wingard (*You're Next*), the film begins with scientist Ilene Andrews (Rebecca Hall – *The Town*) at a loss. Not only is her adopted daughter, Jia (Kaylee Hottle – *Godzilla vs Kong*), failing to fit in with her new surrounds, but there also seems to be strange happenings amongst the Titans themselves.

Mysterious signals are being received from Hollow Earth. Kong seems disturbed and on a search of his own, while Godzilla is roaming Earth causing destruction as he looks for ways to recharge himself with radioactive energy. The behaviour leads the scientists to believe that something big is coming.

The mystery deepens when one of



Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (2024). Image: IMDb

the Outposts in Hollow Earth stops responding to communications. Ilene and Jia team up with veterinarian to the Titans, Trapper (Dan Stevens – *Beauty And The Beast*), along with team leader Mikael (Alex Ferns – *The Batman*) and podcaster/blogger Bernie Hayes (Brian Tyree Henry – *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*) to travel to Hollow Earth to find out exactly what is happening.

Wingard and his team of screenwriters do all they can to make this film accessible to newcomers to the franchise, yet somehow this still feels like a film for hardcore fans of the series only. While the Kong and Godzilla storylines are well re-capped references to characters' back-stories, those of characters such as Jia and Bernie are sometimes kept a little vague.

Perhaps the most interesting part

of the film is Wingard's brave decision to allow the journey of Kong through Hollow Earth to be told in huge chunks without human characters being present or even telling the story in voice-over. Those parts of the film are often the most creative and are a polar opposite to the laziness that seems to occur when voice-over explains what Godzilla is doing or the exposition that Ilene gives to explain some of the events surrounding Jia.

At times during the film though you do wonder whether or not this could have been a much more powerful film if Wingard had decided to show less of the human characters and just let the events surrounding Kong and Godzilla play out for the audience... It would have been a brave decision, but certainly something that would have set this

film apart from any other action film released in recent years.

The positive to *Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire* is that the stories around Jia and the multiple Earths are creative; the downside is that it isn't always brought to the audience in the best way. Even the action sequences are again inventive but way too short. Even hardened fans of the franchise may wish that the final battle sequence was a little longer as it felt like a big build up to something that deserved a much larger finale.

Most audience members will find *Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire* to be at least interesting. At times it is creative, while occasionally it is also lazy. The one thing everyone will agree with though is that Kong's storyline here is a lot more entertaining than Godzilla's, while the final battle should have been a lot longer. Still, the film is entertaining and hopefully will lead to something bigger in the future.

*Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire* is currently screening in Phuket and is rated 'G'

3/5 Stars

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

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POP QUIZ

1. On which island is Honolulu, the capital of Hawaii, located?
2. Where and when was the first Formula One race held?
3. In which movie would you hear the line 'Don't call me Shirley'?
4. Which organ in the human body produces insulin?
5. The extinct Elephant Bird was native to which island?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

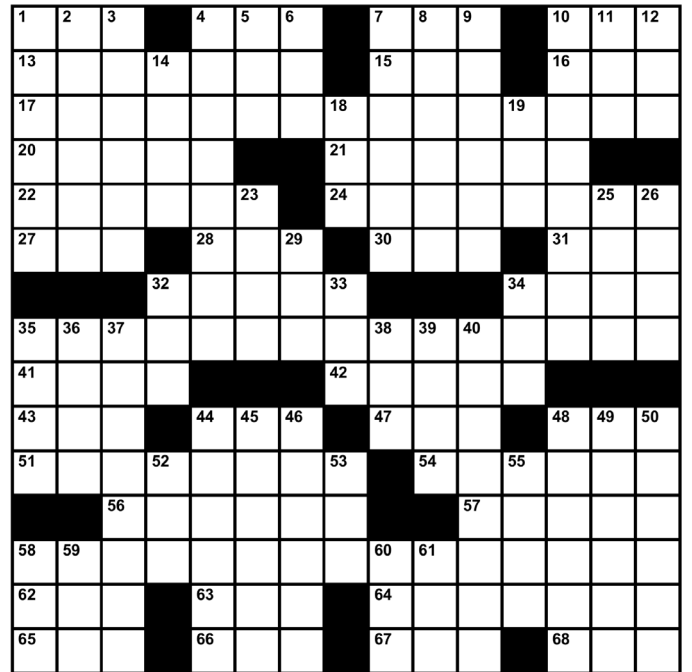
	2		1	6			7	
				3		1		
9	4				2	8		
2	5	6						
3								7
						5	3	9
		5	4				8	1
		8		2				
	9			8	7		5	

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across
1. Type
  4. Deviation
  7. "The \_\_\_ Daba Honeymoon"
  10. Lingerie item
  13. Docking
  15. Acquire
  16. Speed (up)
  17. Way to trick someone
  20. Deity to many
  21. Caesar's meal starters?
  22. Items of little importance
  24. Waits
  27. Personals, e.g.
  28. Kind of chamber
  30. Dash lengths
  31. Important time
  32. Commencement
  34. High-five, e.g.
  35. Futile efforts
  41. Cleveland's lake
  42. Kilt pattern
  43. Anatomical duct
  44. 30-day mo.
  47. Banned insecticide
  48. Dog doc
  51. Required
- Down
1. Lion's lunch, maybe
  2. Was lazy
  3. Outback critters
  4. On a cruise
  5. Foreign dignitary
  6. Nurse type
  7. Related on the father's side
  8. Mass confusion
  9. Individual souls, in Hinduism
  10. Belgian capital
  11. Hi-\_\_\_ monitor
  12. Bygone greeting
  14. Shag rugs
  18. Dolt
54. Hear confessions, old word
56. Slips
57. Red dye
58. Acting the fool
62. Cain raiser
63. Bleed
64. Stare down
65. Kind of cabinet
66. Hot springs
67. Long \_\_\_
68. Fronted
19. Eccentric
23. C-worthy
25. Slope to the sea, to Sean
26. Blabs
29. Classic opener
32. Laudatory lines
33. Recipe amt.
34. In a funk
35. "\_\_\_ Only Just Begun"
36. Bit of Kurdistan
37. Audience member
38. Antiquity, once
39. No-goodniks
40. As yet
44. Networks, e.g.
45. Emphasize
46. Focal point
48. Ocular
49. Show
50. Looked after
52. Refuge
53. Rather, for one
55. It may be pitched
58. Kitten's cry
59. Female gametes
60. \_\_\_ few rounds
61. Hot time: abbr.

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

(1) Oahu; (2) Silverstone, England (May 30, 1950); (3) Airplane or Airplane II (also known as Flying High); (4) Pancakes; (5) Madagascar



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

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

3

Academy Awards were won by Sylvester the Cat, more than any other Looney Toons character.

12

dogs were on the Titanic during its ill-fated voyage. Fare for the animals was the same as a child's. Three of the dogs, two Pomeranians and a Pekingese, survived.

100

lightning strikes happen around the world every second.

80,000

miles of steel wire is how long the two main cables on the Golden Gate Bridge are when unraveled – long enough to circle the equator three times.

1.81 trillion

kilograms of TNT exploding releases the equivalent amount of energy to that released by a magnitude 9 earthquake.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Graffiti at Phuket beach. Photo by Tina Olitakič

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This week in history

April 5, 1992

Peace protesters Suada Dilberovic and Olga Sučić are killed on the Vrbanja Bridge in Sarajevo, the first casualties of the Bosnian War.



Opening ceremony of the 1896 Olympic Games in Athens.

April 6, 1896

The opening of the first modern Olympic Games is celebrated at the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, 1,500 years after the original games are banned by Roman emperor Theodosius I.

April 7, 451

Attila the Hun sacks the town of Metz and attacks other cities in Gaul.

April 8, 1820

Created around 130 -100 BC, the Venus de Milo is discovered on the Aegean island of Milos.

April 9, 1960

Dr Hendrik Verwoerd, Prime Minister of South Africa and architect of apartheid, narrowly survives an assassination attempt by a white farmer, David Pratt, in Johannesburg.

April 10, 1972

Tombs containing bamboo slips, among them Sun Tzu's Art of War and Sun Bin's lost military treatise, are accidentally discovered by construction workers in Shandong.

April 11, 1981

A massive riot in Brixton, London, results in almost 300 police injuries and 65 serious civilian injuries.

Source: Wikipedia

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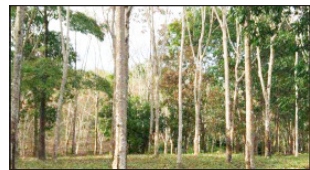
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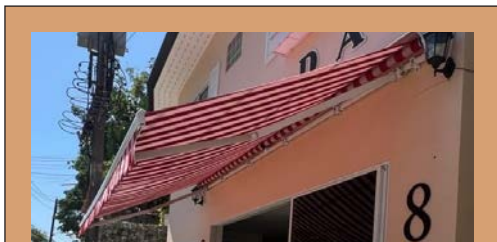
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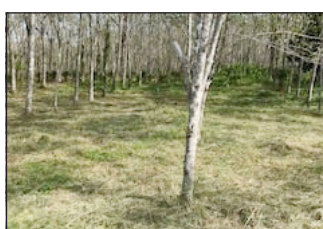
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# WINDOW ON PHUKET

April/May 2024 issue



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## Paris mayor: Russians, Belarusians 'unwelcome'

### OLYMPICS

PARIS MAYOR ANNE Hidalgo said last Saturday (Mar 30) that Russian and Belarusian athletes "were not welcome" at the Olympics being staged in the French capital later this year.

"I want to tell Russian and Belarusian athletes that they are not welcome in Paris and to tell Ukrainian athletes and all the Ukrainian people that we support them very strongly," Hidalgo said in a video posted by Ukrainian YouTube channel, United News.

Hidalgo made her comments on a trip to Kyiv where she visited a training centre for Ukrainian athletes.

Russian and Belarusian athletes can compete in the Paris Olympics, which run from July 26 until Aug 11 but only as Individual Neutral Athletes (AINs) as long as they do not actively support the war on Ukraine.

The IOC said that AINs would have their own flag



Anne Hidalgo. Photo: AFP

and a lyric-less anthem. Similarly, medals won by the AINs will not be displayed in the overall medal table.

"No flag, anthem, colours or any other identifications whatsoever of Russia or Belarus will be displayed at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 in any official venue or any official function," the IOC said.

Russian and Belarusian athletes have also been banned from taking part in the opening ceremony which will be staged on the River Seine in the heart of the city.

In response, Moscow launched a furious tirade at the IOC, arguing the restrictions on Russian athletes amounted to "neo-Nazism". AFP

# Phuket hosts Olympic weightlifting qualifiers

### WEIGHTLIFTING

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The final qualifying stage for weightlifters from all over the world hoping to secure a place at the Paris 2024 Olympics this summer got underway in Phuket last Sunday (Mar 31).

The grand opening of the 2024 World Weightlifting Championships, otherwise known as the "2024 I.W.F. World Cup," took place at the Khun Lert Phokarak Convention Center at Phuket Rajabhat University (PRU) and runs until Apr 11, organisers confirmed.

The qualifying competition sees over 1,600 athletes and officials taking part, with weightlifters from more than 120 countries competing across a variety of weight classifications, all desperately hoping to book their place at the centrepiece event taking place in the French capital in July and August.

Thailand has 18 athletes competing in the competition, with nine male and nine female



The opening ceremony last Sunday (Mar 31). Photo: PR Phuket

athletes hoping to perform sufficiently well to secure their qualification.

Overseeing the competition's official opening ceremony last Sunday was Mongkol Wimonrat, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, who was joined by Mohammed Hasan Jarood, President of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF).

Also present were: Khunying Pattama Leesawattrakul, Thai member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC); Maj Gen Intharat Yodbangtoey, Honorary President of the Amateur Weightlifting Association of Thailand; Bu-

saba 'Madame Bus' Yodbangtoey, Advisory Chairman of the Thai Weightlifting Sports Association (TWSA); General Wisut Dejsakul, TWSA Secretary-General; Pratchaya Keeratinan, TWSA President; Namphon Phothiwong, Director of Sustainability Strategy from the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT); other senior members from TWSA, in addition to representatives from official sponsor companies of the competition.

Representing Phuket were Governor Sophon Suwannarat; Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO);

Thammawat Wongcharoenyot, President of the Sports Association of Phuket; and Damrong Chaisena, director of the Phuket office of the Sports Authority of Thailand.

Following welcome speeches by Mr Mongkol and Mr Jarood, there were several live musical performances by Thai artists depicting Thai culture and traditions to the visiting international guests. Among the artists performing were Arayadham Waythin, Rueang Rueang Muang Siam, and Promruay Krasae Sindhu.

People interested in attending the event can do so free of charge, with daily competition running between 11am and 9pm until Apr 11 at the PRU Auditorium. Organisers specifically urged local Phuket residents to come along and cheer on the Thai athletes involved in the competition in the hope of inspiring them to perform well.

For those unable to attend in person there will be a live broadcast of the event on Channel 5 HD, NBC and T Sports 7 throughout the competition.

## F1 owners eye MotoGP buy-out

### MOTOGP

FORMULA ONE OWNERS Liberty Media are close to a US\$4 billion (B145bn) buy-out of the company that runs MotoGP, various media reported on Mar 28.

Buoyed by its success in the four-wheel fast lane, Liberty are now looking to muscle in on the lucrative two-wheel series run by Madrid-based Dorna Sports.

Liberty are said to be in pole to finalise a deal after beating off rival interest from French football team Paris Saint-Germain's Qatari owners and sports and entertainment group TKO, according to reports in Britain's *The Financial Times*.

As well as MotoGP Dorna also holds the rights to the Superbike championship and the electric bike series MotoE.

If successful, Liberty will not be the first conglomerate to own both F1 and MotoGP.

CVC Capital Partners held that position until they



Photo: AFP

were forced to sell MotoGP in 2006 to buy F1 after concerns were raised by European Union competition regulators.

Since Liberty paid CVC \$8bn for F1 in 2017 the sport has enjoyed a spike in popularity and the company's CEO Greg Maffei suggested last year that while F1 was not for sale it was worth now "a hell

of a lot more" than \$20bn.

When contacted by AFP neither Dorna nor Liberty were available for comment.

The MotoGP season resumes this weekend (Apr 5-7) with the Argentina Grand Prix, the third race of the 2024 campaign.

AFP

## Ratchanok's Spanish delight

### BADMINTON

RATCHANOK INTANON CLAIMED HER first title in almost two years after winning the US\$210,000 (B7.5 million) BWF Madrid Spain Masters last Sunday (Mar 31).

The Thai fourth seed cruised past compatriot and sixth seed Sapanida Katethong 21-12, 21-9 in the 30-minute decider at the BWF World Tour Super 300 event in the Spanish capital.

It was Ratchanok's first title since her victory at the Malaysia Open in July 2022.

The 29-year-old lost in the first round in her last three tournaments prior to the Madrid event and did not get past the quarter-final stage in eight events since the start of the 2024 season.

Ratchanok pocketed a \$15,750 winner's cheque while Supanida, who was also a finalist at the Princess Sirivannavari Thailand Masters in February, received \$7,980.

Thai badminton chief Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul congratulated Ratchanok on her victory.

"Congratulations to Ratchanok for winning her first title in almost two years. This win will surely give her a big boost ahead of some big tournaments coming up such as the Asia Championships next week, the Uber Cup later this month and also the Olympics Games in July," said Patama.

"May [Ratchanok's nickname] is still one of Thailand's biggest hopes at the Olympics in Paris this year.

"As for Supanida, I would like to encourage her to keep training hard and improving. She still has a chance to take the other women's



Ratchanok and Supanida (centre) pose with their awards in Madrid. Photo: Supplied

singles spot in the Thai Olympic team. We will find out who will get that second ticket next week at the Asia Championships in Ningbo, China."

In the men's singles final last Sunday, second seed Loh Kean Yew of Singapore defeated eighth seed Toma Junior Popov of France 21-11, 15-21, 22-20.

Sixth seeds Rinov Rivaldy and Pitha Haningtyas Mentari of Indonesia rallied to defeated Cheng Xing and Zhang Chi of China 17-21, 21-12, 21-13 to claim the mixed doubles crown.

In women's doubles final, Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakanishi of Japan rallied to beat Febriana Dwipuji Kusuma and Amallia Cahaya Pratiwi of Indonesia 12-21, 21-8, 21-16 and Sabar Karyaman Gutama and Moh Reza Pahlevi Isfahani of Indonesia edged Junaidi Arif and Roy King Yap of Malaysia 21-18, 17-21, 21-19 to take the men's doubles title.

After a week-long break, the players will be back in action next week at the Asia Championships in Ningbo, China. The Apr 8-14 tournament is the last event which offers valuable ranking points that will contribute towards the Olympic qualification process.

Bangkok Post

Liverpool seize top spot

Cycling's Tour of Thailand underway

FOOTBALL

AFP

Mohamed Salah fired Liverpool to the top of the Premier League as the Egypt star's clinical finish capped a stirring fight-back to beat Brighton 2-1 last Sunday (Mar 31).

Jurgen Klopp's side were rocked by Danny Welbeck's blistering strike after just 85 seconds at Anfield before Luis Diaz equalised later in the first half.

Salah netted just after the interval to seal a vital victory with his third goal in his last three games and his 22<sup>nd</sup> in all competitions this term.

Unbeaten in their last six league matches, Liverpool sit two points clear of second-placed Arsenal, who drew 0-0 with third-placed Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium just a few hours later in a game of few chances and little action.

It means treble-chasing Liverpool are in the driving seat as they eye a record-equalling 20<sup>th</sup> English title – and first since 2020 – in Klopp's final season.

After former Liverpool star Xabi Alonso confirmed he intends to stay at Bayer Leverkusen, Brighton boss Roberto De Zerbi is a reported candidate to replace Klopp when the German steps down at the end of this term.

Klopp is a big fan of De Zerbi's attacking philosophy and praised him as a "top coach" this week.

Asked after the game about the link to Liverpool, De Zerbi said: "I have another



Mohamed Salah (centre) celebrates his winner with teammates. Photo: AFP

two years of contract. My focus is on Brighton this season, the next season."

Aston Villa remain in fourth after a 2-0 win over Wolves, thanks to goals from Moussa Diaby and Ezri Konsa. Villa are three points ahead of Tottenham who needed a late strike from captain Son Heung-min to secure a 2-1 win against Luton.

Elsewhere, Mason Mount's first goal for the Manchester United in the 96<sup>th</sup> minute looked set to snatch victory for Erik ten Hag's men despite being thoroughly outplayed at Brentford.

However, the Bees hit back three minutes later through Kristoffer Ajer to register just their second point in seven games.

Chelsea failed to make the most of an extra man for the entire second half and

drew 2-2 against second-bottom Burnley, while Everton's winless run stretched to a club record 12 Premier League games after a 2-1 defeat at Bournemouth left the Toffees just three points above the relegation zone.

Nottingham Forest edged out of the bottom three, above Luton on goal difference, as Chris Wood salvaged a 1-1 draw against Crystal Palace, while bottom-of-the-table Sheffield United were denied just their fourth win of the season after conceding twice late on to draw 3-3 with Fulham.

The game of the weekend, however, was Newcastle United's 4-3 win over West Ham. The Toon were 3-1 down with only 13 minutes remaining but staged a remarkable fightback to secure all three points.

CYCLING

THE MEN'S TOUR OF THAILAND 2024 cycling tournament got underway in Phitsanulok on Monday (Apr 1), covering 964km across seven provinces before wrapping up in Phetchabun tomorrow (Apr 6).

There are six stages in the 2024 edition of the men's event throughout Phitsanulok, Uttaradit, Sukhothai, Kamphaeng Phet, Pichit, Nakhon Sawan and Phetchabun.

A large number of local and foreign riders are competing in the country's most prestigious cycling tournament, which is recognised by the sport's governing body UCI.

The winner will receive the trophy graciously donated by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

According to Gen Decha Hemkrasri, president of the Thai Cycling Association (TCA), this year's competition has attracted 15 teams of professional and amateur cyclists including the national sides of Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

There are also three Thai professional teams, namely



Photo: Supplied

Thailand Continental Cycling, Roojai Insurance and Grant Thornton.

"This year, Thai professional cyclists, including Nawut Leepongyoo, Sarawut Sirironachai, Peerapol Chaochiangk-wang, Thanakan Chaiyasombat and Ratchayanon Yaowarat, are more ready than the previous year," said Thailand Continental head coach Wisut Kasiyapat.

"For the six stages in this tournament, we should see something good from our team and hope the Thai people will cheer our cyclists and I guarantee this year's competition will be more exciting than last year."

The 278.2km women's event, which will feature 12 teams, will be held on Apr 8-10. The race will cover routes in Phitsanulok, Uttaradit, Sukhothai and Phetchabun.

Bangkok Post

War Elephants' Ishii remains upbeat despite Korea defeat

FOOTBALL

DESPITE LOSING TO South Korea 3-0 in their fourth Group C game of the Asian zone qualifiers for the 2026 FIFA World Cup on Mar 26, Thailand coach Masatada Ishii is not giving up hope of progressing to the next stage of the event.

Lee Jae-Sung, Son Heung-Min and Park Jin-Seop all scored at Bangkok's Rajamangala National Stadium as the Koreans retained top spot in the group.

The loss pushed the War Elephants down to third spot in the group with four points, but Ishii said he is optimistic that his men will make it to the third and final stage of the Asian qualifying tournament.

"We still have two more matches to play and I have high hopes of qualifying for the next stage," the Japanese coach said.

"In the previous game, we drew 1-1 with the Korean side in Seoul, but they are a



Thailand's Supachok Sarachat in action against South Korea in Bangkok on Mar 26. Photo: Bangkok Post

good quality team.

"Our players made an extra effort to achieve that result in Seoul, so there was a clear difference in the physical condition of the players of the two teams tonight.

"We focused on defence again and tried to control the ball as much as possible when we had the chance to attack, but unfortunately this time we were not able to follow the tactics.

"So far, we were mainly focused on the two matches with South Korea, but now we have the time to prepare the team for the games with China and Singapore. We will have to analyse the two

opponents again because both of them have changed their coaches.

"After this we will continue to follow the form of players in the Thai leagues. There may be some new faces that have good potential in the team. We still have a chance but it will depend on the result of the next two matches."

The other Group C game on Mar 26 saw China trounce Singapore 4-1 to go second in the table on seven points.

The top two teams from each of the nine Asian qualifying groups will reach the final stage of the World Cup qualifiers. Bangkok Post

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# Sport



**Olympic wait for weight lifters > p14**

## NO MESHING AROUND

### Carl 'The Mesh' Mesham wins first singles title

A triumphant Carl 'The Mesh' Mesham (left), with runner-up Sureeton 'Wan' Sirimuangjuan and Ken Sampert. Photo: Rob Knight



#### BOWLS

Robert Knight

Kamala resident Carl 'The Mesh' Mesham showed he meant business by winning the Phuket Open Singles Championship at Kamala Lawn Bowls Club on Mar 22.

The victory was all the sweeter for the Englishman after disappointing early exits at previous competitions this season had left him focused and determined to secure his first ever major title at the club.

Another bumper field of 24 participants entered the final individual competition of the year at the hallowed greens of Kamala Lawn Bowls Club, with 8 leagues of 3 deployed, with the winners advancing to the quarter-finals.

Many were hoping to avoid being drawn against the reigning champion Sunee 'Aon' Sriraska-Sampert, who created history last year by becoming the first ever female singles winner. However, a finger injury had hampered Aon in recent weeks, causing her to change her grip on the bowl, and proving her undoing as she fell early in the competition.

Advancing from their leagues unbeaten were Sureeton 'Wan' Sirimuangjuan, Vorada 'Nidnoi' Jarinki-Collins, 'Dunking' Duncan Kennedy and Pat Alm, while Dorothy 'Dot' Barker, Ulf 'Ue' Egertstad, Ken 'Sammy' Sampert and 'The Mesh' progressed on points difference.

Wan beat Dot 7-5 in the first quarter-final, Pat edged past Duncan, while Nidnoi dispatched Sammy 10-5 and

previous winner Ue's title charge was ended by 'The Mesh', who delivered a comprehensive score of 10-2.

The semi-finals saw a full 10 ends played in the searing heat, meaning the players really had to call on their energy reserves.

The Thai ladies Wan and Nidnoi faced off in the first encounter, with Wan eventually triumphing by a score of 9-6.

'The Mesh' led Pat 6-3 after 5 ends in the other semi-final, then increased the gap to 4 points with just 3 ends remaining before steady and conservative bowling saw him ease through by 11-6.

#### AWE-INSPIRING

Wan and 'The Mesh' were both looking for their first singles title. Both had won doubles finals before, while

'The Mesh' had previously won two plate finals for those defeated in the first round of competition. Wan had played a singles final previously and was hoping to go one better on this occasion.

'The Mesh' took an early 4-2 lead before a school-boy error in end 5 where he knocked himself off shot saw the gap reduced to just 1 point.

That one mistake aside, the standard of bowling by both players was top-class, leaving onlooking spectators genuinely in awe and after 6 ends it was all square at 4-4 with 4 ends to go.

End 7 saw 'The Mesh' take a 3-point lead before Wan clawed her way back to leave the score at 7-6 going into the final end.

With just one delivery left

in the competition Wan was holding 2 and on course for victory, placing the pressure firmly on her opponent.

However, 'The Mesh' proved to be as cool as a cucumber as he bowled an absolute 'wordly' to displace Wan's seemingly championship winning bowls, to pick up another 3-pointer and emerge victorious by a final score of 10-6.

The final delivery by 'The Mesh' epitomised the awe-inspiring standard of the final, with Wan winning 6 of the 10 ends and the eventual champion managing triple 3-pointer scores. It must be noted too that the final was contested in the most sporting and cheerful manner by both players.

It was commiserations to Wan but the perfect ending

for 'The Mesh', who ironically had started the day off with a loss in his first league game. However, that would prove to be his only blemish as he held the lead at all times in the remainder of his games. A man on a mission, 'The Mesh' proved he wasn't messing around as he confidently progressed and ultimately claimed his first singles title at the Kamala Bowls Club.

*Kamala Lawn Bowls club is open six days a week and all equipment is provided. Members days are Monday and Friday and beginners day Wednesday from 2:45pm onwards. For more information please contact: Tel 099-130-7255 or 097-173-0221; email: galations1402@gmail.com or Gordonjenkins1963@gmail.com.*

## Thailand win gold and bronze at SE Asia Parasailing Championship

#### PARASAILING

THAILAND'S TOP PARASAILORS performed admirably to clinch gold and bronze medals at the South East Asian Parasailing Championship held in Hong Kong last weekend (Mar 27-31).

Athlete Thitapa Saelim and Supakit Duangngern (coach) won gold in the Hanse 303 Double-Handed Class, while Boonkoed Ratchaporn and Edward Hart, athlete and coach respectively, secured bronze.

The four-day championship

welcomed sailors from Hong Kong, China, Mainland China, Macau, Thailand, Nepal, Jordan, New Zealand and the Philippines.

"We're so proud of the Thai parasailors for winning gold and bronze at the championships, it really is a dream come true for them and for our club," said Peter Jacops, founder of Disabled Sailing Thailand.

"The competition was tough, but our training and determination paid off, and with great support from the Thai sailing community we were able to send Thai athletes to compete on the Asian stage."



The Thai team. Photo: Supplied

This significant success was made possible through the generous support of individual donors and corporate sponsors to Sailability Phuket, an officially registered foundation crucial in funding Phuket's parasailors.

By providing resources for training, equipment maintenance, and participation in international regattas, Sailability Phuket ensures that the sailors are competition-ready and equipped to succeed globally.

Santi Tantrongtrongw, President of Sailability Phuket, expressed immense pride in the team's accomplishments. "This victory is not just for Disabled Sailing Thailand but for the entire nation. It underscores the potential of parasailing as a competitive sport and, we hope, paves the way for its recognition and support by sports authorities," he commented.

Disabled Sailing Thailand, affiliated with the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand, is dedicated to promoting inclusive sailing, offering free access to anyone with a physical disability.

The organisation's commitment to inclusivity and excellence in sport has now been internationally recognised, with hopes that these achievements will encourage further support and recognition of parasailing as an official sport.

For more information on Disabled Sailing Thailand visit: DisabledSailingThailand.org.

The Phuket News