

AUSSIE TOURIST FOUND HANGED IN PATONG POLICE CELL > PAGE 3

DON'T PANIC

OFFICIALS ASSURE SAFETY DESPITE FALSE TSUNAMI ALARM

Tsunami warning towers sounding their sirens last week was no cause for alarm, said disaster officials. Photo: PR Phuket

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Disaster officials have inspected the three tsunami warning towers on the west coast that sounded their sirens in the early hours of Apr 27, but still have yet to determine what caused the towers to sound their warnings.

The team inspected the towers from 7pm on Apr 27 following instructions from Udomporn Kan, head of the Phuket Provincial Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office (DDPM-Phuket).

The three towers inspected were: WH07, behind Kamala Police Station; WH10, on Bang Tao - Ley Phang Beach, located on the beach next to

the Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket Hotel, Cherg Talay; and WH15, next to the Katathani Hotel in Karon subdistrict (Kata Noi).

Joining the team of inspectors were Chaowalit Nitharat, Director of the DDPM Region 18 office; Saranpak Tantiwongphaisan president of the community group 'Phuket Warning Friends'; and Rangsit Moonluang, a maintenance technician from Raydant International Co Ltd, which is contracted to maintain the towers.

The three towers sounded their sirens for "unknown reasons" at 3:43am that morning, and caused people in the area to panic, admitted an official report of the inspections.

The result of the inspections "showed that there was no abnormality

of the device", said the report.

The team spoke with people on the beach in the areas, including tourists, "to understand don't panic", the report added.

The DDPM is in the process of investigating other possible causes for the tsunami towers sounding their sirens, the report concluded.

SYSTEM BUG

A public notice issued by the national branch of the DDPM confirmed that 25 emergency warning towers, including tsunami warning towers, in 14 provinces sounded their sirens "at about 3:30am" in the incident.

In addition to the three towers in Phuket, warning sirens were sounded in two locations in Phang Nga – at

Ban Nam Khem in Takua Pa District, and Loh Parek, in Moo 7, Tambon Phru, Koh Yao – which both suffered heavy damage and casualties in the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

In Krabi, warning towers sounded their alarms at Baan Koh Kwang in Tambon Nong Talay, on Koh Sriboya in Nuea Khlong District and at Laem Pho, in Tambon Sai Thai.

Other provinces where the warning towers sounded their alarms included Ranong (three locations), Chonburi (five locations) and one location each in Satun, Narathiwat, Chumphon, Chiang Rai, Nong Bua Lam Phu, Kanchanaburi, Pattani and Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

The DDPM in its preliminary investigation confirmed that no...

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Dirty tap water riles residents in Chalong



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Task force targets illegal tourism operators > p6



Residents at Phuket Country Home housing estate in Chalong present a sample of their standard water supply. Photo: PR Phuket

Chalong residents fed up with brown water supply

RESIDENTS AT PHUKET Country Home housing estate in Chalong have filed a formal complaint with the Provincial Ombudsman's Office (Damrongdharma Center) over the community continually being served brown water from their mains water supply.

The local residents submitted the formal complaint with the Provincial Ombudsman's Office on Apr 26.

The residents asked for the "responsible agency" to take action over the matter, and to have local waterways and water holding ponds excavated to prevent flooding when the annual rains arrive.

The tainted water coming through the mains supply pipes is causing all sorts of problems, the residents said.

The water mains that supply the housing estate come through Moo Baan Khun Daeng.

Many people bathe using the mains water, but now have rashes from the dirty water. Others are suffering allergic reactions to whatever the water

is contaminated with.

A further annoyance is that during dry weather there is often no mains water supply to the housing estate at all, without any notice from authorities, the residents explained.

A further complaint added to the list was that the housing estate management company is not abiding by its terms and conditions by not providing a playground for children, the residents said.

The estate management authority is not complying with the land allocation project plan. There must be one plot within the estate area that must be designated as a children's playground, as requested by the Land Allocation Committee, the residents noted.

The officers at the Provincial Ombudsman's Office formally recognised receiving the complaint, and said they would start investigating and questioning relevant officials about the problems the villagers are facing.

The Phuket News

Untriggered tsunami alarm stumps officials

Continued from page 1

...officers had sent any signals to the towers to sound their alarms. Further, no abnormalities had been found in the computer system logs.

Technicians had inspected the towers. "No device malfunction was found," reported the DDPM.

"This abnormality is an unprecedented cause," the DDPM noted in its report.

Further investigations into the satellite signals received by the national disaster warning system will continue, the DDPM said.

LOCAL ACTION

It was vital for DDPM officers in each respective area "to clarify for the public to understand to build confidence and reduce panic of the people in the area", the DDPM said

"The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation would like to apologise to the people in the areas for the incident, and will speed up investigating the facts, causes and fixing the defect as soon as possible," the DDPM assured.

"And thank you to the district chiefs, administrators of the LAO [local administration organisations, such as OrBorTor], village headmen and volunteers in the areas for understanding and clarifying to the people in the area during the alarm sound," the report concluded.

DON'T PANIC

Just hours after the three towers in Phuket sounded their sirens disaster officials went public to assure that the towers sounding off their sirens, following a 4.8 Magnitude earthquake off Sumatra, was no cause for alarm.

DDPM-Phuket Chief Mr Udornporn Kan went on live government radio to say that people in Phuket were never



DDPM officials inspect the tsunami warning tower in Kamala. Photo: PR Phuket

in danger of a tsunami.

The Disaster Warning Center did not issue any alert, or warning. Exactly why the towers sounded the alarm officers at that stage did not know. That issue was now being investigated. Technicians had been dispatched to inspect the towers, he added.

Weera Samali, Director of the Weather Department at the Southern Western Meteorological Center, based near Phuket airport pointed out that an underwater earthquake must register at least 7 in Magnitude in order for a tsunami of danger to be created.

"I would like to confirm that the magnitude 4.8 on the Richter scale did not reach the threshold for tsunami, therefore it is unlikely to be the cause of disaster or tsunami," he said.

"Regarding the Marui fault [a small fault line near Phuket], it is a fault that lies across the ground. Therefore it does not result in a tsunami," Mr Weera added.

DDPM Region 18 office Chief Mr Chaowalit assured that the tsunami warning towers throughout the Andaman

region were operational. DDPM branches in each province were prepared with evacuation plans if necessary, he added.

Tsunami warning towers are tested by playing the Thai national anthem at 8am each day, Mr Chaowalit noted.

"Every alarm tower is effective and ready to use, and staff have been assigned to conduct regular inspections and carry out any repairs," he added.

Mr Chaowalit also assured the tsunami warning buoys in the Andaman Sea and the Indian Ocean were operational, and would give adequate warning for any evacuations necessary.

"If there is an incident, the buoy in the Indian Ocean will give a warning period of 1 hour and 30 minutes. For the buoy in the Andaman Sea, it will give a warning of about 30 minutes,

"So if there is an earthquake that causes a tsunami, they will be able to give warnings to people to be able to evacuate in a timely manner.

"I can confirm that both buoys are in excellent operating condition, there is a system check every week," Mr Chaowalit said.

Three killed in road accidents on one day

THREE PEOPLE WERE killed in road accidents in Phuket in one day, on Monday (May 1), including a 17-year-old male struck by a motorbike after he jumped a red light in Thalang.

Maj Noppadol Tonemane of the Thalang Police was called to the Baan Khian Intersection on Thepkasattri Rd, in Moo 1, Thepkrasattri, at 5:50am.

Police and rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation arrived at the scene to find a red-black, Phuket-registered Honda Wave 100S motorbike on the road. Nearby was the

body of its rider, 17-year-old Chonsorn Wisetsombut, who had suffered fatal head injuries.

Nearby was a black Honda Wave 110 motorcycle, registered Trang, on the central reservation.

Its rider, Prakaipetch Rawatto, 30, had been seriously injured in the collision. He had already been rushed to Thalang Hospital before police had arrived.

Police said that from their initial investigation Mr Chanasorn was riding his motorbike from the Ton Sai Waterfall when the accident happened. He had arrived at

the intersection, where other vehicles were waiting for the traffic lights to turn green before proceeding.

Mr Chanasorn, however, started through the intersection early while the lights were still changing.

Mr Prakaipetch was riding southbound on his motorbike, and rode through the newly changed red light, and collided at speed into Mr Chanasorn, police said.

Mr Prakaipetch has since been transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital for treatment, police confirmed.

Police are continuing their investigation before proceed-

ing with any charges.

The second road accident death on Monday, the result of a collision of a motorbike and car in Rawai, was reported by the Ruamjai Kupai Foundation rescue service just after 9am.

The location of the accident was given as between the Vivi Resort and the Alphabeto Resort on the road from Saiyuan to Nai Harn Beach.

The motorbike rider, not named in the report, died at the scene, rescue workers reported, while urging all drivers to drive slowly along that particular road.

While local reports confirmed only two deaths on



The accident on Thepkasattri Rd early Monday morning (May 1). Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Phuket roads on Monday, the national Thai Road Safety Committee (ThaiRSC) late Monday afternoon reported three deaths and 39 people injured in road accidents already in the 24 hours of May 1.

At time of press, details of the third fatal road accident

death in Phuket on Monday had yet to be reported.

According to ThaiRSC, as of late Monday 55 people had been killed and 7,887 people had been injured in road accidents in Phuket since Jan 1, 2023.

Additional reporting by Eakkapop Thongtub

Plane stuck in runway hole responsible for flight delays

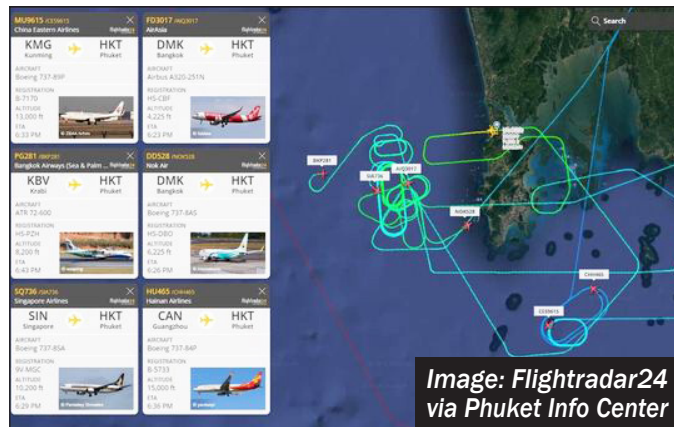
The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

People boarding flights to or from Phuket International Airport last Sunday (Apr 30) were advised to check with their airlines for any delays following delays resulting from a hole in the runway.

The advisory came via the Phuket Info Center, operated under the Phuket office of the Ministry of Interior, as Airports of Thailand (AoT) had yet to recognise the issue.

The issue was raised by online flights community 'Wingtips', which posted that at 3pm flights scheduled to land in Phuket had been put into a holding pattern. Citing Flightradar24, Wingtips reported that the Boeing 737-800 serving Shanghai Airlines Flight FM858 had been held in a holding pattern west of Phuket, as it had not been approved to land in Phuket.

"Recommended to passengers who have flights to and from Phuket today [Apr 30] to check the travel schedule from the airline again," said the post.



Phuket Info Center reported that AoT Phuket, which operates Phuket airport, later announced an "incident" resulting in aircraft being unable to take off or land due to the runway being closed.

Phuket Info Center noted that the announcement was made at 3:20pm, despite AoT Phuket not posting any recognition of the delays even by Monday morning (May 1).

According to the "announcement", the repairs to the runway were to be completed by 4pm on Apr 30. However, Phuket Info Center later that night posted an update confirming that runway repairs still had yet to be completed. Instead, AoT Phuket was

expecting to complete the repairs the next day (May 1).

According to the second post by Phuket Info Center, airport management had been aware of a large crack in the runway for several days, and that pilots had been informed of the safety issue.

Pilots had been allowed to use "Runway 09" since yesterday morning, said the post. At midday last Sunday (Apr 30), pilots were told to use Runway 27 instead.

There is only one runway at Phuket airport, but it has two designations: Runway 09 and Runway 27. Pilots are told to use Runway 09 if they are to use the runway travelling eastwards, and told

to use Runway 27 if they are to use the runway travelling westwards.

After the change in direction of use at midday last Sunday, one plane managed to take off by avoiding the crack in the runway.

The second plane, however, became stuck in what the post described as a "hole". Ground crew took one hour to remove the plane from the runway, the Phuket Info Center explained.

During the hour that the runway was closed, about 10 planes waiting to take off were delayed and aircraft arriving to land in Phuket, including from overseas, Suvarnabhumi and Don Mueang airports in Bangkok and from Samui, were also delayed.

The ground crew was expected to repair the crack by 4pm. However, the late arrival of the necessary equipment saw bad weather arrive, further impeding any efforts to repair the runway. "Heavy rain at the airport again delaying many flights," said the post.

At time of going to press, AoT Phuket still had yet to make any announcements regarding the runway hole.



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Aussie found hanged in Patong police cell

PHUKET PROVINCIAL Police Chief Maj Gen Sermphan Sirikong has assured that police are investigating the death of a 31-year-old Australian man in a detention cell at Patong Police Station.

Initial reports named the man as Matthew Michael Winder, 31.

Mr Winder was taken into custody for being drunk and disorderly early on Apr 24, police confirmed.

Reports differ as to whether he was taken into custody at a bar on Bangla Rd, or in front of the place where he was staying on the Patong beach road.

Mr Winder was being

held in a detention cell on the second floor of the police station. The officer on duty went for lunch at about 11:30am, and returned to find Mr Winder hanged by his shirt tied to the iron bars, police explained.

Mr Winder was alone in the cell at the time of his death, police said.

The Australian embassy has been notified of Mr Winder's death, officers confirmed.

Mr Winder's body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town for post-mortem examination.

Police have yet to release any further details regarding Mr Winder's death.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Phuket targets 70% voter turnout

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS in Phuket have declared they expect at least 70% of eligible voters to turn out and cast their vote in the upcoming general election on May 14.

The comments were made at a press conference on Apr 28 at Phuket Provincial Hall by Orapin Achevasuk, Director of the Office of the Election Commission of Phuket Province. Ms Orapin was joined at the press conference by Phuket Vice Governor Anupap Rodkwan Yodrambam.

Ms Orapin said that the Phuket Office of the Election Commission is ready and fully prepared to hold elections for members of the House of Representatives in Phuket on May 14, stressing that it is a very important day for all Thais.

She further explained that there are a total of 313,594 eligible voters registered in Phuket Province, divided into Constituency 1 with 101,164 eligible voters, Constituency 2 with 102,388 eligible voters and Constituency 3 with 110,042 eligible voters. It is hoped that of



that total at least 70% will turn out to cast their vote, she added.

There are currently 377 polling stations across the island ready to receive voters which will be open on May 14 between 8am and 5pm, Ms Orapin said.

Additionally, there are plans by the Phuket Office of the Election Commission to organise an event inviting people to vote for Big Day elections, which will be held simultaneously throughout the country on May 9. In Phuket, the event will be held at Saphan Hin.

Ms Orapin said that members of the public are

invited to wear a white shirt and participate in the campaign between 8am and 10am at the Central Saphan Hin Stage.

Mr Anupap concluded the press conference by explaining that local authorities have instructed the administration and all sectors to participate in supporting the election of members of the House of Representatives to be orderly, pure and fair.

Alcohol sales and distribution will be forbidden nationwide from 6pm on May 6 until 6pm on May 7, and from 6pm on May 13 until 6pm on May 14.

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WED MAY 10



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

THU MAY 11



High: +30°

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Wind 4 m/s



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Russian man dies after jump from car park

A 31-YEAR-OLD RUSSIAN MAN HAS died after jumping from the car park at the Central Floresta shopping mall on the bypass road on Apr 27.

Lt Wuttichai Chanpai of the Wichit Police said officers were notified of the incident at about 8.50am.

The body of the man, later identified as Roman Shubenin, was found by a security guard conducting a routine patrol. The main security office at the mall and emergency services were notified immediately.

Security CCTV footage confirmed that Mr Shubenin arrived at the mall via a back entrance before the mall opened to the public.

He then made his way to the third floor of the car park. Mr Shubenin's body was then found by the security guard. No other details of the incident were provided.

Rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation transported Mr Shubenin's body to Vachira Phuket Hospital for post-mortem examination.

Wichit Police said Russian embassy officials will be notified so they can inform the man's family.

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

Eakkapop Thongtub

Father, son face charges for Wichit road rage attack

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A father and son are under investigation by Phuket City Police for attempted murder after a road rage incident escalated on Sakdidee Rd earlier this month.

The attack happened in front of an Isan restaurant, at about 5:30pm on Apr 23.

Police explained that Suriya Kaewsopha, 30, was driving his white pickup truck, registered in Khon Kaen, with his wife Wanwisa Phonrob and 2-year-old son in the front passenger seat when the attack happened.

Mr Suriya was rushing his son to hospital as he had a high fever. When he stopped at a red light, a man later identified as Moi Pinta approached his pickup and tapped on the driver's side window.

Mr Moi accused Mr Suriya of cutting him off in traffic. Mr Suriya, more concerned with his son's condition, ignored him and drove off. Mr Moi and his son Narong Pinta, 30, followed him as they weaved through traffic.

At the next traffic lights, Mr Moi took an iron bar, estimated to be about 70cm long, and smashed the windscreen and the driver's side window.

Mr Moi then pulled Mr Suriya out of the pickup. Mr Suriya pulled out his mobile



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

phone to record the incident, but Mr Moi grabbed the phone and threw it away.

The son, Narong, then arrived and started hitting Mr Suriya, who started to flee down the road, with Narong chasing after him and repeatedly hitting him with the iron bar. Mr Suriya protected himself with one arm.

Onlookers tried to intervene to stop the attack. One of the onlookers had his car struck by Mr Narong for his efforts.

Staff at the Isan restaurant called Mr Suriya for him, his wife and child to take refuge and hide in the restaurant. Mr Suriya said that witnesses had reported that Mr Narong was seen at one time walking around

carrying two knives.

When police arrived, Mr Narong and his father fled.

After the attack, Mr Suriya took his son to hospital as a priority, then later returned to explain the incident to police.

Doctors at Dibuk Hospital confirmed that Mr Suriya's arm had suffered bruising in the attack, but was not broken.

Mr Narong and his father Mr Moi later both presented themselves to police and confessed to the attack.

Mr Suriya said he was asking police to prosecute to "the full extent of the law". He told reporters that he would not negotiate or compromise with the men.

Police put on public display in destruction of illegal guns

DOZENS OF PISTOLS and several long-barreled firearms were destroyed at the Saphan Hin incinerator on Apr 28 as Phuket Police were disposing of illegal firearms seized from local residents in various criminal cases.

Phuket Provincial Police Chief Maj Gen Sermphan Sirikong led the ceremony, joined by his deputy Col Kitipong Klaikaw and other top-brass officers, including chiefs of Chalong Police, Thalang Police, Phuket City Police and Wichit Police.

The destruction of 136 firearms was conducted according to standard procedure, with all guns without serial numbers destroyed after relevant cases had been concluded, Gen



Dozens of guns were destroyed on Apr 28 with top-brass police taking part.
Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Sermphan explained. Guns with serial numbers are handed to the Ordnance Department of the Royal Thai Police.

The guns destroyed included various types of home-made firearms ('Thai Pradit'), including dozens of improvised 12-gauge handguns, as well as several air guns, which police often do not distinguish from firearms. Eakkapop Thongtub

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Residents rise up over Navy protected forest appropriation

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command has assured that villagers will at least for now keep access to their homes and crops located inside the Bang Kanun protected national forest while it considers the impact of the Navy being granted the rights to use the entire protected area, comprising more than 3,700 rai.

Rear Admiral Puchong Rodnikorn, Chief of Staff at the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command, based at Cape Panwa, delivered the news to hundreds of local villagers who had gathered outside the Thalang District Office on Apr 24.

The Thalang District Office served as the location of a meeting held to discuss the issue with local community leaders. Among those present were Thalang District Chief Bancha Thanu-in, Thepkasatri Tambon Administrative Organisation (OrBorTor) Chief Sittichai Chantawat and Sakhu Deputy Mayor Surin Yotharak. The Bang Khanun For-



Photo: PR Phuket

est Park area covers areas in Tambon Thepkasatri and in Tambon Sakhu in Thalang.

Other people present for the meeting included representatives from the Phuket Provincial office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE Phuket), the Phuket branch of the Royal Forest Department (RFD), local village headman (Phu Yai Baan) in the area as well as local residents, including those who live in the protected forest.

At the heart of the issue is that the Royal Thai Navy has been granted use of 3,763

rai in the park to create a new home for the 22nd Anti-Aircraft Battalion, the 2nd Anti-Aircraft Regiment, the Anti-Aircraft Command Unit, an Air Defense and Coastal Defense Center and the 4th Naval Police Battalion of the Naval Police Department.

Sakhu Deputy Mayor explained that local families objected to the Navy being granted use of the land as more than 100 families have built houses and grow crops in the area, and had lived and farmed in the park for a generation.

"If they move out of the area, where will they go?"

he posed.

Originally, the local authorities agreed to allow the Navy to use about 400 rai in the park, but now is allowed to use the entire area, Mr Surin said.

"We would like the Navy to review this matter again because the villagers living in the area have suffered and the Navy shouldn't be based in Phuket. It should go to another area that is more suitable," Mr Surin said.

Rear Admiral Puchong listened patiently to the villagers' objections before responding by first apologising if any misinformation had created any misunderstandings about the Navy's intent with the land.

"I will present this information to my supervisor. It is the Navy's policy to not [negatively] affect local peoples' lives or cause any suffering," he said.

"Those who have crops in the area can still enter the park as usual," he said.

"As for solving the problem, we will invite relevant parties to discuss this together again and find a clear solution," he concluded.



The Wichit mobile drug testing clinic. Photo: PPAO / Facebook

Drug users offered 'voluntary rehab'

A MOBILE HEALTH PROMOTION campaign has been launched to tackle the ongoing problem of illegal drugs by offering addicts an opportunity for voluntary rehabilitation.

Health officials and police carried out two separate exercises on Apr 25 in the Kathu and Wichit areas of the island where local residents were offered the option to present themselves to be screened.

The mobile clinic was conducted at a specially designated area of Moo 6 in Kathu between 4pm-6pm where 16 people stepped forward to undergo urine tests.

Of the 16 tested, health officials confirmed that three tested positive and would therefore be eligible to undergo a community-based rehabilitation

therapy program in due course.

A similar drive was conducted at Baan Borrae just off Sakdidet Rd in Wichit between 5pm-7pm on the same day where a much larger group of 238 people volunteered to undergo urine tests, with seven proving to have traces of illegal drugs in their system. The seven people are also eligible to enter the therapy program, officials confirmed.

The dual-drive is part of a sustainable community project aligned with national directives on combating illegal drug distribution and dependence. At time of press it was not confirmed whether the project will continue or be introduced to other areas of Phuket moving forward.

The Phuket News

Patong dispute ends with car ram

POLICE HAVE ARRESTED A 25-YEAR-old man for driving his car into motorbikes parked alongside Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd in Patong last week, injuring several people in the process.

The incident was recorded on video and shared on social media.

The driver, who police named only as "Panudet" (family name withheld) is now in custody, Patong Police said.

The incident happened at about 8pm on Apr 24. According to police, about 6pm that night Panudet received a call from Thanapong 'Toey' Hongsanit, a staffer at a luxury massage shop co-owned by Chatchanan 'Patty' Charoenjai, with whom Panudet had an ongoing spat.

Panudet had previously reported to police that Chatchanan had slapped Panudet across the face, once. The reason for the dispute was not explained.

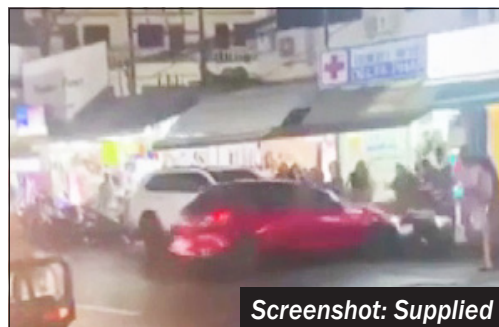
Apparently police wanted both parties to "meet with investigators" to negotiate a settlement to the dispute. Officers had tried to contact Chatchanan, but with no success – that was until Mr Thanapong called Panudet to tell him that Chatchanan had rushed back from another province to settle the dispute.

Panudet drove to the massage shop – which police did not name – to call Chatchanan to come to Patong Police Station.

Apparently Chatchanan refused the invitation, instead saying he would wait for the police summons.

That was when Panudet returned to Patong Police Station to retrieve his red Mazda 2, which police were happy to point out was registered in Chon Buri.

Panudet then drove his car back to the massage shop, but when he arrived he ap-



Screenshot: Supplied

parently saw Chatchanan with six to seven other men, who allegedly started yelling at him. The group apparently approached the car, with Panudet apparently now frightened for his safety.

Panudet said that was when he panicked, and accidentally had the car in the "wrong gear" when he tried to drive off, but instead rammed into motorbikes parked in front of the massage shop. Of note, the video of the incident did not seem to support Panudet's version of events.

Some people were injured in the incident, with rescue workers arriving at the scene to transport some people to hospital.

Police, not one of which have been named in the reports, said they were waiting on medical reports confirming the injuries sustained. According to officers, police cannot press charges without a written document confirming that someone was injured.

Police were happy to report that Panudet had presented himself as the driver of the car, and assured they "will expedite and follow up on the results of the physical examination and follow up the accused to be prosecuted according to the law".

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Police task force targets tourism illegal operators

TOURIST POLICE HAVE launched a campaign targeting tour guides and tourism businesses that are operating illegally in Phuket.

Maj Gen Phongsiam Meekhanthong, Deputy Commander of Tourist Police, launched the campaign at an assembly at Phuket Tourist Police headquarters in Phuket Town on Apr 27.

Joining the assembly were officers from Phuket Tourist Police and Phuket Immigration.

The officers will focus on 10 specific types of crime, including foreigners overstaying their permits to stay and illegal tour guides, and other offenses under the Tourism Business and Guide Act and the Immigration Act “and other offenses that affect the tourism industry as a whole”, Maj Gen Phongsiam said.

The officers will inspect and crack down on crimes at many suspect locations, he said.

“It is the policy of the Tourist Police to create safety and accommodate tourists while preventing crimes that affect the Phuket tourism industry,” Maj Gen Phongsiam said.



Photo: PR Phuket

“Today, we mobilised Tourist Police to join forces with Immigration police and related agencies to make plans to inspect suspected locations. We will target tour companies and tourism-related operators suspected of being illegal,” he added.

“Phuket has a lot of tourists, and the number of tourism-related crimes has increased, which is why the team was formed to raid all the illegal actions and build trust among tourists,” Maj Gen Phongsiam said.

On Mar 23, Gen Phongsiam visited Pattaya and launched a similar campaign against “ten types of tourism-related crimes” there. In his speech he clearly said that the actions would be taken nationwide.

The Phuket News

Small hotels lobby Gov to enact legal changes

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A delegation of tourism industry leaders visited Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew last week to appeal for his office to expedite the new rules now approved by Cabinet that will allow many small hotels to legally operate.

Leading the delegation on Apr 24 was Wirintra Paphakityotphat, Chair of the Tourism Council of Thailand Region 11 branch.

Ms Wirintra in January spearheaded the delegation that submitted a formal request to Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha calling for the national government to take action to help the tourism industry in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi to recover.

Ms Wirintra explained at the meeting last week that the formal request for the Governor to expedite the implementation of new rules that will allow many small hotels to open followed the Kathu District Chief warning small hotel operators that they



Photo: PR Phuket

were still required to operate under the old rules.

Failure to comply with the regulations still in effect could invoke legal action, the small hotel operators were warned.

Ms Wirintra pointed out that three major revisions of existing laws that will allow many small hotel operators to legally open had been approved by two sessions of Cabinet, on Mar 7 and on Mar 14.

The revised regulations are to come into effect on publication in the Royal Gazette, she said. However, they still had yet to happen, she noted.

Under the revised regulations, small hotel operators may not open for business unless they have first been successfully registered with the Governor of Phuket, Ms Wirintra noted.

No details had been announced of how that may be

accomplished, she added.

Ms Wirintra pointed out that small hotels would play a vital role in the country accommodating the 28 million international tourists targeted for 2023. Without small hotels, achieving the target would present difficulties, she added.

According to an official report of the meeting, Governor Narong said he would proceed with the relevant actions.

Tighter visa rules stymie Chinese groups

INBOUND TOURISM OPERATORS for the Chinese market are calling for clarification of new rules for visa applications via tour groups, warning that Thailand may lose a lucrative segment including large business travel groups to competitors.

Sisdivachr Cheewarattanaporn, president of the Association of Thai Travel Agents, said operators want clear answers on the new visa procedures because they could hamper travel activities for tour groups and large meetings and incentive groups that consist of hundreds or thousands of applicants.

From May 8, the Thai Consular Office in China will require every visitor to apply for an individual visa instead of a group application even if they travel under the escort of a tour group.

The number of applicants per travel agent is also limited.

Further requirements were added with the new measure, including presenting a hotel reservation document and a financial document showing at least 10,000 yuan (approximately B50,000).

Moreover, some agents are limited to reserving visa applications only three days per week, either Monday-Wednesday-Friday or Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday, with only 20-30 applicants per round, which differs from the past when there were no limits.

The consular office also requires travel agents to present a certified document allowing foreign visa applications and a “yellow card” issued by the Chinese government, which needs to be renewed



More than 750,000 Chinese visitors have arrived in Thailand this year after Beijing scrapped its COVID-19 rules and restrictions. Photo: Bangkok Post

within a year or two.

However, most Chinese agents’ cards expired during the pandemic and they couldn’t renew them because of the slow process resulting from a lack of officers.

Many visitors can apply for a visa on arrival at the airport, but that could lead to congestion at immigration counters as they queue up with independent tourists, he said.

Mr Sisdivachr said many large meetings and incentives groups are worried that such inconvenience might cause travellers to change their plans to Vietnam, Hong Kong or Macau if Thai authorities do not urgently deal with this issue.

He said this is definitely an obstacle to securing the government target of 5 million Chinese visitors this year.

Regarding tourism services, Mr Sisdivachr said many Chinese tourists reported being overcharged by taxis. If they weren’t willing to pay, they said drivers would drop them before reaching the destination.

Bangkok Post



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Thai woman accused of cyanide-poison deaths

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Thai police have widened their investigation into a woman accused of a spate of cyanide poisoning murders, with officers on Monday (May 1) raising the number of possible victims to 15.

Sarat Rangsiwuthaporn, dubbed 'Aem Cyanide', was arrested on Apr 25 in Bangkok by police and charged with premeditated murder relating to nine alleged deaths which took place over several years. She had a bottle of cyanide in her possession and she refused to give police a statement.

Her arrest followed a complaint filed by the mother and elder sister of the late Siriporn 'Koy' Khanwong, 32, from Kanchanaburi. Siriporn collapsed and died on the bank of the Mae Klong river in Ban Pong district of Ratchaburi where she had gone with Ms Sararat to release fish for merit-making on Apr 14. Cyanide was found in her body which investigators believe Ms



Sarat Rangsiwuthaporn (centre) is taken to the Criminal Court on Apr 26. Photo: Bangkok Post

Sarat, 36, may have mixed in Siriporn's food, causing her death.

Money is believed to be the motive behind the killings, police said, adding Ms Sararat is alleged to have stolen the victim's valuables.

Ms Sararat is the ex-wife of a senior police officer in Ratchaburi. After her divorce last year she took up with a new boyfriend who died last month in circumstances that his friends call suspicious.

Officers were now investigating at least 15 suspicious deaths dating back to 2020, deputy national police chief Surachate Hakparn said on Monday.

The mother of a woman who died in Bangkok seven years ago suspected to be the 15th cyanide-poisoning victim of Ms Sararat met Crime Suppression Division police investigators on Monday.

The woman said she personally thought it was Ms

Sarat who caused the death of her daughter Montathip, ('Sai'), who was 37 when she died, although she had no evidence to substantiate the belief.

Police have not specified how many murders Ms Sararat has been charged with, but they say she denies all the allegations against her. Police did confirm that Ms Sararat is four months pregnant and has previously been diagnosed with psychiatric issues.

Pol Maj Gen Namkiat Teerarojanapong, commander of the Metropolitan Police Bureau's training centre in charge of compiling cyanide-poisoning cases, said investigators on Monday sought warrants from the Criminal Court for the arrest of Ms Sararat in four more cases.

A source close to the investigation said Ms Sararat had reportedly purchased cyanide online. Five teenagers called in for questioning told police that she brought them five parcels containing bottles of drugs with her name as the recipient and asked them to bury them. They claimed she had paid them B500 to do the job.



Evacuees are welcomed on Apr 29. Photo: Bangkok Post

Thais evacuated from Sudan arrive home safe

BANGKOK

THE SECOND GROUP of 132 Thais arrived home from Sudan on a Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) Airbus A340-500 that landed at Don Mueang's military airport last Saturday night (Apr 29).

Three non-Thais also arrived on the same flight – one Indonesian and two Chinese nationals who were members of Thai families.

They were greeted at the air terminal by Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai and RTAF commander ACM Alongkorn Wannarot.

It came after the first batch of 78 Thai citizens arrived in Bangkok on Apr 27 after being evacuated from the North African country.

Upon arrival, some of the evacuees recounted their harrowing experience in Sudan, where fighting between two

major factions, which began three weeks ago, has led to the deaths of hundreds of people and the evacuation of foreign nationals.

Fatiha Zeeba, a 22-year-old student studying in Sudan, said dead bodies were scattered in the streets and bombs and military-grade weapons were being used.

She was gripped with fear at her campus for over ten days and hospitals were unable to accommodate the rising number of injured people, she said.

Fortunately, embassy officials picked her up from her university before she boarded a ship to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia for a flight to Thailand.

The Saudi government also dispatched a warship to evacuate 66 Thais from the Port of Sudan to Jeddah because the routine ferry from Sudan to Saudi Arabia had a very long queue, officials said.

Bangkok Post

Health officials to hand out seasonal boosters

BANGKOK

THE PUBLIC HEALTH Ministry wants this year to be the first in which people are given annual COVID-19 booster shots, similar to the seasonal flu vaccine.

Deputy government spokeswoman Rachada Dhnadirek said last Sunday (Apr 30) Thailand still needs to monitor COVID-19 infections as cases spiked twice last week due to the worldwide spread of XBB.1.16, a strain of the Omicron variant.

Most of those who died during the period were from the so-called '608' at-risk group – which comprises people over 60 years old, those with underlying conditions and pregnant women.

The government urges people to get both flu and COVID-19 vaccines this year.

Members of the public can receive COVID-19 vaccines for free at state hospitals, while the costs of getting shots at privately-run hospitals will vary.

The flu vaccine is also



A woman prepares to receive a flu shot in Bangkok in 2021. Photo: Bangkok Post

provided for free for at-risk people.

Subscribers of the Social Security Fund who are over 50 years old can get a free flu vaccine once a year.

The Public Health Ministry urges Thais who received COVID-19 shots three to four months ago to get boosted to reduce the severity of infections. There are bivalent types and upgraded versions of the vaccine available from major producers, including Pfizer and Moderna.

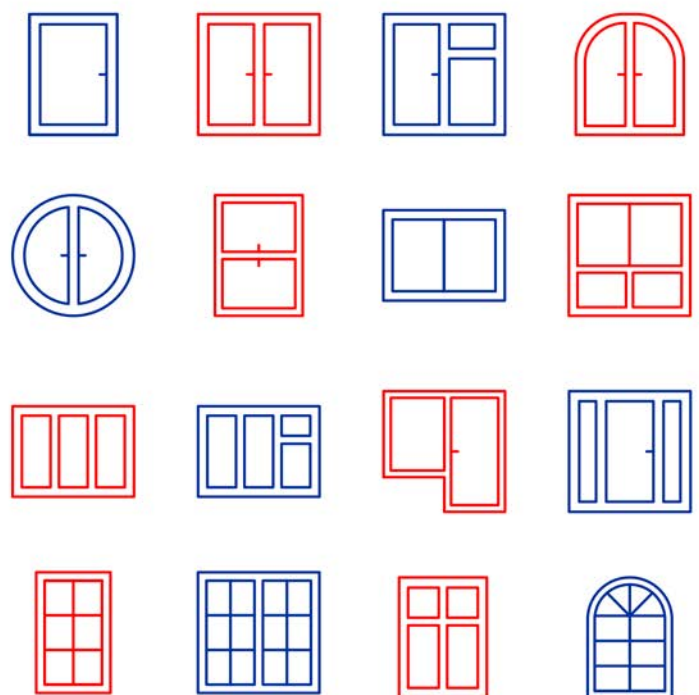
The National Health Security Office and the Department of Disease Control will open vaccination sites to administer 2.9 million doses of flu vac-

cines against three variants – A H1N1, A H3N2 and B Victoria – for seven at-risk groups under the universal health scheme, or gold card scheme, for free until Aug 31.

These groups include pregnant women; children aged 6 months to 2 years old; chronic disease patients, comprising of those with obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, heart disease, stroke, kidney failure, cancer and diabetes; people over 65; people with thalassemia and immunodeficiency; people weighing over 100kg; and those with aphasia. Bangkok Post



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Phuket Bike Week draws to a close

Phuket Bike Week drew to a close last Sunday (Apr 30) following a concert by legendary Thai rock band Carabao at Loma Park, Patong, last Saturday night.



Photo: PR Phuket

Phuket Bike Week 2023, held under the theme "Cowboy on the Beach", started on the Friday (Apr 28). The three-day event was expected to see 5,000 big bikes brought to the island, and attract 30,000 tourists to Phuket altogether helping to generate B300 million for the local economy.

Phuket Vice Governor Danai Sunantard presided over the official grand opening event on the Saturday night, joined by Patong Mayor Chalerm Sak Maneesri along with a host of other VIPs and local officials.

This year marked the 27th anniversary of the annual event. In addition to concerts by leading artists such as Carabao, Pong Hin Lek Fai, Job To Do, among many others, the event featured the popular bike bike and classic car display, a Rock Music Challenge contest, the Miss Phuket Bike Week 2023 contest, a cowboy and cowgirl costume contest, a tattoo contest and a sand sculpture contest. Among the CSR events this year were a helmet giveaway to encourage local motorbike riders to wear a helmet, and to obey traffic rules at all times. *The Phuket News*

Fundraising set up for Phuket expat

The Phuket News
life@classactmedia.co.th

An appeal has been launched to raise funds to pay for medical expenses for well-known Phuket expat Richard Valentine who remains in hospital care after a hit-and-run road accident in Phuket.

Phuket businessman and active member of the island's expat community Richard Valentine remains in hospital following a hit-and-run road accident on Mar 31, which left him with multiple injuries including his left leg broken in four places.

Mr Valentine's ordeal became public knowledge only on Apr 10, when an urgent appeal for Rh-negative blood was posted on his Facebook page. Neither the Brit himself, nor his friends asked for money at that time.

Yet they have to ask now as hospital bills tend to go beyond the limits of Mr Valentine's insurance coverage and personal savings.

"I am still confined to a bed in a Thai Government Hospital which offers a great service but is not free like would be the case in my home country of UK. Four operations later, the insurance money has run out and there are a further two operations required, one of which will be tomorrow," Mr Valentine wrote on Facebook on Apr 27.

"I am asking for any monetary help that can be given through the money funding link below. In addition to pay-



Richard Valentine remains in hospital after a Phuket road accident on Mar 31. Photo: Eleanor Wolff / Weeboon.com

ing for the operations, I am going to need to pay for physiotherapy sessions to see if I can walk properly again and if not what quality of life I can have after that," he added.

The link provided by Mr Valentine leads to a page on Weboon, a Thai crowdfunding platform allowing people to make donations via SiamPay, including through a credit or a debit card, online banking and LINE Pay.

The page was created by Eleanor Wolff on Apr 27. Ms Wolff on Apr 28 confirmed that donations can also be sent through Wise.

"If anyone wants to avoid using the crowdfunding site, they can also send directly to me from most countries us-

ing <https://wise.com/> which has super low fees. My wise account is set up against ellymorleywolff@gmail.com. Good luck with your operation today," she said in a comment under Mr Valentine's most recent publication.

"Richard is a well known staple of the Phuket Expat community and his business was hit hard during COVID as he was a key supplier to the hospitality sector. Those who know Richard will attest to his many contributions to the Phuket and Thailand community. It's time to give back. Please help us raise the money to pay for his surgery so he can return to the fold! Thank you so much in advance," Ms Wolff wrote in her appeal on Weboon.



Where to eat in PHUKET

May/June 2023 issue

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333 At The Beach

Beachfront location of InterContinental Phuket Resort

Amy Bensema
life@classactmedia.co.th

333 At The Beach is part of the InterContinental Phuket Resort – in fact the name derives from the resort's address: 333, 333/3 Moo 3, Kamala Beach. However, it's a separate building with its own car parking and has the casual 'feel' of a stand-alone beach bar/restaurant, with its mostly under cover, 'toes in the sand', seating. There's even a row or two of sun loungers amongst the trees for an even more relaxed drink or snack while the sun goes down.

If you find yourself on Phuket's west coast looking for somewhere to watch a spectacular sunset, enjoy a sundowner or two, and/or have a bite to eat, then make a beeline for '333 at the Beach' – it's hard to beat.

We were there for all three and we settled into a prime spot in the restaurant area, right at the beach's edge, with a superb view of Kamala Bay and the approaching sunset through the palm trees.

Most evenings 333 guests can enjoy the sounds of the resident DJ. The exceptions are Tuesday, when there's a fire show on the beach, and Friday when a saxophonist replaces the DJ. We were there on Tuesday and, after the sun had gone down, the fire show started. My take on fire shows was always, "When you've seen one you've seen them all." How wrong can you be! The show at 333 was truly amazing, the showman extremely skillful with a wide repertoire. We watched entranced from start to finish, by which time we were getting hungry.

We ordered each dish to share and started with Red Grouper Ceviche (coconut base ceviche served with soft tacos). A beautiful combination of ceviche's definitive sour tones with a slight spicy touch and

exquisitely tender fish; we cleared the plate in short order and were ready for our next treat.

We had decided to try one of 333's signature plant-based dishes, Tempeh (fermented soybean cake, smoked charred roots, heart lettuce with lime and coriander vinaigrette). For a dyed-in-the-wool meat eater this was a revelation. The dense-textured (just like meat!), slightly nutty, soybean cake absorbs the flavours of the ingredients it's cooked with, so the chef who prepares it orchestrates the overall experience. 333's chef produced a masterpiece.

Moving on, we shared a Kurobuta Pork Chop (with chimichurri sauce and sweet potatoes) and Thai Wagyu Short Ribs (slow-cooked short ribs with fresh herbs and jalapeno). The pork chop was as succulent and tender as you'd expect of "the Wagyu of pork", while the subtle tones of the chimichurri sauce perfectly complemented the luxurious flavour of the pork – without overpowering it.

Loaded with flavour and so tender it almost dissolves in the mouth, the wagyu short ribs were the jewel in the crown on our dinner at 333. The fresh crunchy salad proved a perfect contrast to the strong meatiness of the beef, and the lively jalapeno peppers (that were a touch on the spicy side), made for a memorable combination of flavours and textures.

Almost too full to contemplate a desert, we nevertheless did our duty with a Mixed Nut Maple Syrup Tart and a Wild Strawberry Cheesecake. The mixed nut tart, served with a variety of berries, was packed with healthy nuttiness and, while proving a challenge after a full meal, was nevertheless devoured voraciously. The cheesecake, beautifully presented, was a delightful blend of understated flavours and succumbed easily to our attention.



333 at the Beach is the perfect place to chill out beachside. The service is faultless, the ambience laid back, the menu inspired and the food simply scrumptious.

333 At The Beach. Food served 11.30am - 9:30pm.
Beverages 10am-12 midnight.

☎ Reservations: +66 76 629 999.

🌐 Phuket.intercontinental.com/dining/333-at-the-beach

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POP QUIZ

1. Who wrote the play 'Titus Andronicus'?

2. Which is the largest salt flat in the world, which also contains half the world's supply of lithium?

3. What is Nicolas Cage's real name?

4. Which company owns the trademarks and products of boardgame makers Parker Brothers and Milton Bradley?

5. The site of the historical defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo is today in which country?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

1. Sight parts

6. Beginning of a conclusion

11. Loser's place?

14. Rustle or murmur

15. Stimulant drug

17. Chomps at the bit

19. Arranged anew

20. Ticket

21. Carryalls

22. Locks in a barn?

23. Typewriter roller

27. Carbonium, e.g.

28. Campaign worker

29. Dialect

33. French collagist

36. 1968 movie title

39. 20s dispenser

40. Tungusic language

41. Horned goddess

42. Squat

43. Instant

45. Have an edge against

47. Old dagger

50. Foreign dignitary

51. Foul-smelling herb

56. Goes too far

58. Certain doctor

Down

1. Red letters?

2. Express a preference

3. Continental capital

4. Petri dish filler

5. Orthodox Muslim

6. Lacks, briefly

7. Related maternally

8. Archibald and Thurmond

9. Decent

10. It may be smoked

11. Nirvana tune

12. Ski trail

13. Distress signal

16. Ice cream flavor

18. Relating to newborns

22. Speck

23. ___ Bear

24. Merry-go-round music

25. Garden figure

26. Half a score

59. Outdoor magazine

60. Hog haven

61. Extra inning

62. Thirsty

27. Kind of treatment

30. Rook

31. Certain refrigerator

32. Biblical verb suffix

33. Bishop's seat in ancient churches

34. Curb, with "in"

35. "Hey there!"

37. Issue

38. Deadeye's forte

42. Care for

44. Antsy

45. Drooping flower spike

46. Wee

47. Small finch

48. Limestone topography

49. Archie's better half

50. Protection

51. Niels Bohr, e.g.

52. West Samoan monetary unit

53. Bit of kindling

54. Put on

55. Appraiser

57. PC component

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16		
17					18							
19									20			
				21					22			
23	24	25	26					27				
28					29	30	31	32		33	34	35
36				37						38		
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			42						43	44		
	45	46				47	48	49				
50					51					52	53	54
56				57								
58									59			
60				61						62		

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

cremation of a human body requires the same amount of energy as the domestic demands of a single person for a month.

20.1

percent of American workers belonged to a union in 1983. Today, only 11.1% do.

258

fewer hours a year the average European works compared with the average American.

700,000

microplastic fibres pass into wastewater and, eventually, into the environment with each use of a washing machine.

6.24 billion

US dollars is how much Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos made in just five minutes on Oct 10, 2017 after Amazon share prices spiked. In 2020 his net worth was US\$194.7bn. Today it is US\$128bn.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Phi Phi fire show. Photo by Sutharat Khaodee

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

This week in history

May 5, 1980

Operation Nimrod: The British Special Air Service storms the Iranian embassy in London after a six-day siege.

May 6, 1996

The body of former CIA director William Colby is found washed up on a riverbank in southern Maryland, eight days after he disappeared.

May 7, 1946

Tokyo Telecommunications Engineering (later renamed Sony) is founded with around 20 employees.

May 8, 1886

American pharmacist John Pemberton first sells a carbonated beverage named "Coca-Cola" as a patent medicine.

May 9, 1386

England and Portugal formally ratify their alliance with the signing of the Treaty of Windsor, making it the oldest diplomatic alliance in the world still in force.

May 10, 1688

King Narai of Thailand nominates his daughter Sudawadi to succeed him with the foreigner Constantine Phaulkon, Mom Pi and Phetracha acting as regents. The ensuing revolution leads to the Ayutthaya Kingdom severing all ties with Europe.

May 11, 1949

Siam officially changes its name to Thailand for the second time. The name had been in use since 1939 but was reverted in 1945.



William Colby (centre) with George Bush (left) and US President Ford, 1975.

Source: Wikipedia

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SAT 6 MAY



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The Full Moon Brewworks Friendly 15s will feature the Phuket Vagabonds playing host to a touring team from the Hong Kong on 6th May 2023. The match is currently scheduled to be played at The British International School from 4pm. Post game celebrations will be held at proud sponsors The Local Beach Bar Bang Tao with a plenty of beverages, barbecue and banter!



La Chaine des Rotisseurs Phuket Dinner - May 2023

Phuket's Iconic Dining Establishment Since 1991, Siam Supper Club, will be the venue for the Saturday May 06, 2023 dinner. An amazing menu, with paired drinks, has been created specifically for the La Chaine des Rotisseurs Phuket Dinner. Dress code - Jacket's optional for men, no jeans. Members - THB 6,000 p.p., limited invited guests - THB 7,500 p.p. To book your seat at this very special dinner, please visit - phuketticketmaster.com *Pay via Bank Transfer and only pay the dinner price, booking fees only apply to other payment options.

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Monday BBQ Night

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

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Wednesday BBQ Night

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FRI 26 MAY

AustCham Thailand

JOINT CHAMBERS MEMBERS BRIEFING - EMPOWER YOUR BRAIN
Friday 26th May 2023
16:30 - 18:00 hrs.
3rd Floor, Three House - Blue Tree Phuket
Free of charge for AustCham members, Partner Chamber's members and Australian Alumni's members

AUSTCHAM Members Briefing - Empower Your Brain

Most of us are aware that keeping our bodies physically active is important to remain healthy and prevent illness. This is the same approach that we need to take for brain health too. Brain health is a critical piece of your overall health. It underlies your ability to communicate, make decisions, problem-solve and live a productive and useful life. Join our upcoming event where these topics of common brain diseases in working ages and ways to keep your brain healthy will be shared by Dr Chakorn Chansakul, Neurologist from Bangkok Hospital. Event location: Tree House, 3rd Floor, Blue Tree Phuket. 16:30 - 18:00 hrs. Free of charge for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members. www.austchamthailand.com/event

AustCham Thailand

JOINT CHAMBERS PHUKET SUNDOWNERS
Friday 26th May 2023
18:00 - 21:00 hrs.
2nd Floor, The Garden, Blue Tree
900 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members
500 THB for non-members

Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners hosted by AustCham

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (AMCHAM), 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), Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC), Phuket Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce, invite you to join us for Joint Chamber Phuket Sundowners at The Garden, 2nd Floor, Blue Tree Phuket, from 18.00 - 21.00 hrs. THB 500 for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members and THB 900 THB for non-members. www.austchamthailand.com/event/

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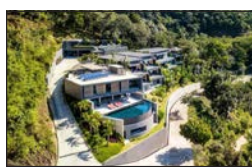
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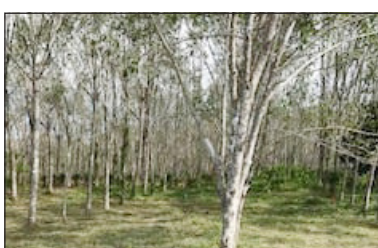
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PHUKET VETERANS - IVA - ANZAC DAY SERVICE

Starting on Kamala Beach for the dawn service, the Phuket Veterans group gathered to pay respect to the fallen in the annual ANZAC Day services, similar to services held all over the world on April 25. In the evening, a sunset service was followed by a dinner at Pan Yaah Seaview Cafe.

WINDOW ON PHUKET

The June/July 2023
hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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

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The four winners. Photo: Supplied

Bodybuilders flex their muscles at Phuket Classic

BODYBUILDING

THE SPORT OF BODYBUILDING is alive and well on the island of Phuket, as witnessed by the Phuket Classic 2023 event held on Apr 23.

Bodybuilding has seen a surge in interest throughout Thailand in recent times, none more so than in Phuket where the local circuit has truly developed over the last few years.

The Physical Culture Association (PCA) of Thailand has been hosting a variety of bodybuilding competitions throughout Thailand, with contestants from dozens of countries taking part.

Most recently it was the turn of Phuket to host a

PCA-sanctioned event when Illuzion Phuket in Patong staged the Phuket Classic 2023, with athletes from several countries competing in a total of 17 events throughout the day.

The winners of the four leading categories at the Phuket Classic 2023 included: Overall Classic Champion - Aleksandr Gruznevich; Bodybuilding Overall Champion - Ali Ejrali; Physique Overall Champion - Krittin Ponganan and Bikini Overall Champion - Natali Mamba.

With four locally-based winners gracing the stage in the overall categories, the Phuket bodybuilding scene shows that it's only growing in stature and will no doubt continue to do so moving forward. *The Phuket News*

Pérez scores easy win in Baku

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

Sergio Pérez has sliced his title deficit after dominating the Azerbaijan Grand Prix last Sunday (Apr 30) ahead of Red Bull Racing teammate Max Verstappen.

Pérez, the only man to win in Baku more than once since F1 arrived in Azerbaijan in 2016, inherited the lead of the race after a conveniently timed safety car demoted erstwhile leader Verstappen down to third behind Charles Leclerc.

Verstappen made quick work of Leclerc after the safety car restart but had no answers for his teammate's pace. Pérez had looked the quicker of the two before the race had been neutralised, and over the 38 laps of racing remaining he gradually eked out his advantage until Verstappen's challenge was broken.

Combined with his victory in the sprint race on the Saturday, the Mexican gained back nine points on Verstappen's championship lead to reduce his deficit to six ahead of this weekend's Miami Grand Prix.

Pole-getter Leclerc came home third after being easily passed for the lead in the opening laps. His Ferrari was no match for the Red Bull Racing machines down the front straight, the speed delta between them reaching more than 30 kilometres per hour, rapidly demoting him to third.

Fernando Alonso finished fourth and



Pérez celebrates his win in Baku. Photo: AFP

less than a second shy of the Ferrari, but the Spaniard was never able to reel Leclerc in close enough to attempt a move.

Carlos Sainz came home fifth but more than 24 seconds behind Leclerc on a weekend of damage limitation, the Spaniard having never got comfortable in his car over the fast-paced sprint weekend.

Lewis Hamilton was sixth after an almost race-long challenge on Sainz, but the Briton wasn't able to put a move on him and took the flag 0.6 seconds further back.

Lance Stroll finished seventh ahead of George Russell, who pitted late for a set of soft tyres to score the bonus point for fastest lap.

Lando Norris duelled with Yuki

Tsunoda for ninth and 10th in the final points-paying places.

The race was unusually unremarkable by Azerbaijan's standards as a crash-prone venue, with Nyck de Vries the only driver to crash after clipping the wall at turn 5 and breaking his suspension, triggering the race-changing safety car.

The grand prix almost ended in disaster, however, when organisers let photographers and other personnel into the pit lane before the race had finished. Esteban Ocon stopped on the final lap of the race but was shocked to see a crowd of people blocking his way as he hit the brakes to get under the speed limit. The group managed to dive to safety and out of Ocon's way, allowing the Frenchman to make his tyre change.

National swim team training in Phuket ahead of SEA Games

SWIMMING

THAILAND'S NATIONAL SWIMMING team has elected to make Phuket their training base ahead of this month's Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Cambodia.

Suprawee Sukkerd, Director of the Diving Sports Association of Thailand, told a press conference on Apr 26 that the national team would be using Prince of Songkla University (PSU) Phuket Campus as their base for all training activities ahead of the 32nd edition of the regional competition in Phnom Penh between May 5-17.

Mr Suprawee further explained that a total of 14 athletes are involved, comprising nine male and five female swimmers. One foreign coach and one Thai coach are also part of the delegation, as are a number of expert sports scientists, physiotherapists and doctors.

The team will remain in Phuket to avail the facilities at PSU before returning to Bangkok on May 9 and flying to the Cambodian capital the following day.

Both the male and female teams will compete against swimmers from fellow Asean countries on May 12, 13 and 14.

"Prior to arriving in Phuket, the swimmers have undergone an extensive training and preparation programme over a four-month period that we hope will place them in good stead to succeed once official competition commences," Mr Suprawee said.



Photo: PR Phuket

"The goal is to win at least two gold medals in Phnom Penh," he added. "We are confident that with the full support of an expert training team and the individual support from parents and families that the athletes can thrive and achieve this target."

"The general public can also provide important support so we call upon all Thais to encourage the national swimming team and help them achieve their objectives next month," Mr Suprawee concluded.

Fans will be able to watch all of the sporting action from the SEA Games after the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) announced that live broadcasts will be televised for viewers in Thailand on Channel 5, Channel 9, and NBT.

Officials are also in talks with Channel 3 to join as the fourth channel for broadcasting various sports for the international multi-sport event. *The Phuket News*



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Haaland breaks 92-year goal record

FOOTBALL

AFP

Manchester City moved to the top of the Premier League last Sunday (Apr 30) as Erling Haaland shattered a 92-year goal landmark while Julian Alvarez scored a stunner to clinch a 2-1 win at Fulham.

Norway striker Haaland converted a third-minute penalty at Craven Cottage to become the first top-flight player to score 50 goals in all competitions since 1931.

"Before Winston Churchill was Prime Minister? Wow. Sounds a long time ago. Congratulations to Erling. The best goal to help us achieve what we want is still there," City boss Pep Guardiola said.

Haaland also moved level with Alan Shearer and Andrew Cole's single-season Premier League record total.

Shearer scored 34 for Blackburn in 1995 and Cole hit the same tally for Newcastle in 1994.

Carlos Vinicius equalised for Fulham but Alvarez's first goal in six games, a brilliant long-range effort, lifted City one point clear of second-placed Arsenal, at time of press.

Treble-chasing City, on top for the first time in 10 weeks, have won their last eight league games and are unbeaten in their last 18 matches in all competitions. They were set to host West Ham on Wednesday (May 3).

Guardiola's red-hot team, who have a game in hand on Arsenal, need to win five of their last six games to be certain of a fifth title in six seasons.



Erling Haaland scored his 50th goal of the season in the 2-1 win at Fulham. Photo: AFP

Critically, City powered past the Gunners 4-1 when the teams met on Apr 27 and, with Haaland's goal spree showing no signs of slowing, few would bet against them taking advantage of Arsenal's recent collapse.

Elsewhere, Liverpool maintained their unlikely pursuit of a Champions League place by beating Tottenham 4-3 in a breathtaking game on Sunday.

The Reds hit managerless Spurs with a three-goal blitz in the first 15 minutes but the visitors stormed back and Richarlison scored an improbable equaliser in the 93rd minute.

Just when it seemed that Spurs had grabbed a dramatic point Diogo Jota won the game, leaving Liverpool in fifth spot at time of press, seven points behind

fourth-placed Manchester United, having played a game more.

United beat Aston Villa 1-0 and Newcastle continued their fine form to maintain third place by dismantling Southampton 3-1 and edge their opponents further towards relegation.

Brighton hammered Wolves 6-0 and Crystal Palace overcame West Ham in another 4-3 thriller.

Bournemouth seem clear of relegation danger after brushing aside Leeds United 4-1 and Nottingham Forest were denied a draw as Josh DaSilva's injury time strike saw Brentford win 2-1.

Leicester and Everton played out a 2-2 draw on Monday which still leaves both sides in deep trouble at the wrong end of the table.

Shuttlers target two gold medals at SEA Games

BADMINTON

THE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION OF THAILAND (BAT) aims to win two gold medals at the SEA Games in Cambodia.

BAT president Patama Leeswadtrakul said last Sunday (Apr 30) her players were ready for the 32nd edition of the biennial event.

The BAT is using a mixture of young and veteran players as some of them have to play at next month's Sudirman Cup in China, Khunying Patama said.

"This will be a good opportunity for young players to show their potential," Patama explained.

Regional powerhouses in the sport like Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore are also doing the same, she added.

The Thai men's team are led by Sitthikom 'Oat' Thammasin, Panitchaphon 'Ikkyu' Teeraratsakul and Patapol 'Omo' Ngernsrisuk.

The women's squad are spearheaded by women's doubles specialists Jongkolphan Kititharakul/Rawinda Prajongjai and Benyapa Aimsaard/Nuntakarn Aimsaard.

"We aim to win two gold



Patama and the players. Photo: Bangkok Post

medals in the women's team and women's singles events," Patama said.

"I am sure that our athletes will be successful thanks to their potential, practice and preparation."

Thailand took home four gold medals in Badminton from the COVID-delayed 2021 SEA Games in Vietnam last year.

The Thai winners were Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the men's singles, Pornpawee Chochuwong in the women's singles, the men's team and the women's team.

Kunlavut and Pornpawee as well as women's singles ace Ratchanok Intanon and mixed doubles duo Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai will not compete in Cambodia.

The Thai players will leave for Cambodia tomorrow (May 6). Bangkok Post

War Elephants open in style

FOOTBALL

THAILAND KICKED off their campaign for the coveted men's football crown of the 2023 SEA Games with a convincing 3-1 victory over Singapore at Phnom Penh's Prince Stadium last Sunday (Apr 30).

Thailand, the most successful team in the men's football competition of the biennial multisport tournament, are hoping to claim their 17th title in the event.

The War Elephants were denied the gold medal in the previous two editions of the Games by arch-rivals Vietnam.

Thailand did not take long to open the scoring after an Achitpol Kirirom header bounced back off a post to Teerasak Poeipimai who had no trouble in guiding the ball into the net in the seventh minute.

The Thais dominated the midfield and launched many attacks. The national U22 squad were rewarded again for their efforts when Purachate Todsanit set up Achitpol to double the lead



Thailand's Achitpol Kirirom (right) tussles with Singapore's Nicky Melvin Singh. Photo: Bangkok Post

after 38 minutes.

Singapore pulled one back shortly before half-time after Thailand goalkeeper Somponwit Rakyard fumbled a save and Nicky Marvin pounced on the opportunity to make it 2-1.

The War Elephants refused to relinquish their grip on the match in the second half and put the game out of Singapore's reach five minutes after the break when Purachate tapped a pinpoint Pongsakorn Treesart cross home.

The Thais didn't have much trouble in defending the big lead until end of the match.

The War Elephants will play their second Group B game against arch-rivals

Malaysia tomorrow (May 6) at the same venue.

The other two teams in the tough group are two-time defending champions Vietnam and Laos.

Meanwhile, Thai women's football team coach Naruepol Kaenson said she had full faith in her players ahead of their opening game against Singapore on Wednesday (May 3).

"We have prepared the team well and are ready for the tournament," said Naruepol.

"We have selected the best players and I am confident that they will deliver. This is the new generation of players so we can expect some exciting action."

Bangkok Post

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Sport



Super Haaland breaks goal record > p15

HISTORY MAKERS!



Dojo team earn top national Judo rank

The victorious team in Nakhon Sri Thammarat. Photo: Alexis Plantard

JUDO

Ben Tirebuck
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

The young students from the Dojo at Blue Tree Phuket are the talk of the town after making history at the recent National Championships of Judo in Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

The tournament on Apr 20 was the first time that the Sports Authority of Thailand permitted foreign competitors to enter and the 11 members of the Dojo team seized their chance by winning an impressive seven-medal haul.

In the process the team claimed the number one national ranking within the under-12 age classification. This came off the back of the team establishing themselves as the number one ranked team in Thailand in Kurash wrestling within the same age group last year.

Medal winners at the Nakhon Sri Thammarat tournament included golds for Gabin, Oscar, Timur and

Danil, with a silver for David and a bronze each for Platon and Naithon.

The students have excelled under the shrewd tutelage of Dojo at Blue Tree Phuket head instructor Alexis Plantard who was understandably very proud of their performance.

"To become ranked as number one nationally in that age group is an incredible achievement and I could not be prouder of all of the students.

"Given the fact we have only been operational as a Dojo for three years, and also had to contend with the disruptions and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, makes their progress and achievements all the more special," a beaming Alexis added.

The success in Nakhon Sri Thammarat followed another outstanding performance at the National Championships of Jiu-Jitsu in Bangkok on the weekend of Apr 7-9 where the team claimed a staggering 19 medals.

Over 1,600 athletes competed at the two-day event across a range of Jiu-Jitsu specific disciplines,

including Tachi Waza (where competitors can only stand and grab the opponent's leg), Gi and No Gi (two forms of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu) and traditional Jiu-Jitsu combat.

In the Tachi Waza discipline gold medals were won by students Gabin, Platon, David, Oscar, Danil, Valentine and Damir, while Song won a bronze and Alexis won a gold in the adult event.

Valentine was in red-hot form as he secured a further gold in the national Jiu-Jitsu category and two more gold medals in the Gi and No Gi classification.

Fellow students competing in the Gi and No Gi class also excelled, with Damir securing a gold and a bronze medal, Platon a silver and a bronze, Dima claiming two bronze medals and Oscar a silver.

It resulted in a jaw-dropping 19 medals overall to top off a hugely successful weekend for the team, who continue to fly the flag for Phuket both nationally and overseas with their incredibly consistent showings.

Once again the results left Alexis beaming with pride.

"The different Jiu-Jitsu disciplines of this competition meant we were all taken out of our comfort zone as we came across a range of speciality fighters, which makes the results all the more rewarding," he said.

"I have been encouraging my students to embrace different disciplines, which they have done so extremely well.

"We can always improve our skills and continue to train hard with purpose," he added.

TRAINING

On the subject of training, Alexis referenced the hugely successful training camps that have been held at the Dojo at Blue Tree recently, adding that future camps are also planned and open to all between the ages of 5-18 years old.

The first camps were held on Apr 3-7 and 10-14 with upcoming camps on May 29 - June 2 and July 24 - Aug 31.

"The popularity of martial arts is continuing to grow, something that is demonstrated by the ongoing number of new students we receive at the Dojo at Blue Tree Phuket," Alexis explained.

"Martial arts is a great way for children to exercise, while teaching them focus and self-confidence," he added. "It is all done under expert tutorship in a safe, fun environment where the children get to meet many new friends. We are very much looking forward to the school holiday training camps where everyone between the ages of 5 to 18 is welcome."

The camps will focus on teaching judo to newcomers while also embracing broader martial arts such as Jiu-Jitsu and wrestling. Classes run from 8:30am until 5pm and are held at the Dojo at Blue Tree Phuket in Cherng Talay.

More information can be found at the Dojo at Blue Tree Facebook page and bookings can be made via dojo@bluetree.fun or by calling 092-8058527.

Fun run to support disabled community

RUNNING

A CHARITY FUN RUN TO HELP aid disabled members of the community in Phuket has been confirmed, authorities announced last Friday (Apr 28).

The 3rd 'Runable Together' event will take place on June 17 at Saphan Hin Park with proceeds going towards purchasing equipment for disabled members of the community

in order for them to carry out everyday practical duties more easily.

Money raised from the race will be allocated to providing support for the Phuket Persons with Disabilities Association to enable community based activities and support for the disabled.

The race was announced by Nikorn Kaewnoi, President of Phuket Handicapped Association, who revealed that more than 3,000 participants are expected to take part.

The race will start at 6am on June 17 and be divided into three separate categories, Mr Nikorn confirmed: a family run of 3 kilometres, and 5km fun run and a 11km mini marathon, with male and female categories in all three. The entry per race is B450 and all participants will receive a race T-shirt and bib denoting their race distance in addition to a medal.

A VIP pass enabling runners to participate in multiple races of their choosing at a cost of B1,500 is also

available, he confirmed. Those in this category would be eligible to receive four shirts, bibs and medals.

There will also be trophies for the three top placed finishers in each race in the male and female categories.

Applications can be made online at <https://soft.events/> until May 31.

Additional information can be accessed the race's Facebook page or by contacting the Phuket Disabled Association at their office at



Photo: Runable Together

1/2 Montri Rd, Talat Yai Subdistrict, Mueang District, Tel 076-232420 or by contacting Ms Puntarika Kuasakul on 086-2698546 or by email at aphpkt@gmail.com

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