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Photo: PR Phuket

MORE THAN 740 HOUSEHOLDS, 1,468 PEOPLE AFFECTED BY FLASH FLOODS

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat led a huge cleanup in Kamala on Monday (July 1) after heavy downpours flooded the resort town, as they did across much of Phuket last Sunday, causing traffic disruption, flight delays and flooding of entire neighbourhoods.

The cleanup in Kamala featured an all-star cast, joined by Phuket Vice Governor Sattha Thongkham, Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Office (Palad) Suwit Suriyawong, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum and Kas

Sentoyeap, Director of the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) Center, District 18 office based in Phuket.

Kathu District Chief Theeraphong Chuaychu welcomed the high-ranking entourage and provided updates on the flood situation in Kamala.

The flood had significantly affected Kamala, with garbage and mud infiltrating homes. Although the situation in Kamala had improved, much of Thalang District, including Tambon Thepkasattri, remained flooded.

In response, teams had deployed water pumps to expedite drainage from affected areas, Mr Theeraphong said.

Despite the ongoing challenges,

the Governor assured that progress is being made. "The water levels are decreasing, and we expect Baan Don and Thepkasattri areas to see significant improvement soon," he said.

Efforts continued to assist approximately 50 residents still sheltering at Wat Thepkasattri School with food, survival equipment and safety measures, he added.

"It is anticipated that these residents will return home today [Monday] to begin cleaning their properties," Governor Sophon said.

Phuket airport has resumed normal operations following diverted flights and flooding of the main roads to access to the airport. In total

17 flights were diverted away from Phuket airport during the deluge last Sunday due to poor visibility. Some were diverted to Krabi, while others were diverted to Bangkok and even Penang. By Monday all but one flight, from Moscow, had resumed and completed its journey to Phuket.

Government agencies were actively working across affected areas to provide relief, Governor Sophon said, while expressing gratitude to the local community, clubs, associations and foundations for their swift mobilisation to help those affected by the floods.

Local administrative organisations (OrBorTor and municipalities) were...

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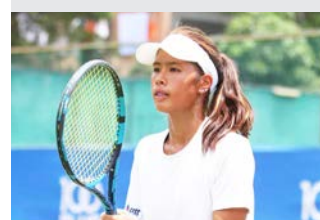
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News



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Flash floods recede in a day

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...tasked with surveying the damage and to facilitate the relief process in accordance with regulations and laws, Governor Sophon said.

The most heavily affected areas, including Kamala, Kathu and Thepkrasattri, will receive special attention, he added.

Future plans will focus on preventive measures, such as installing water pumps in high-risk areas to mitigate flooding, he noted.

A disaster area declaration is expected for approximately six to seven subdistricts (tambon) in Kathu and Thalang Districts, enabling local authorities to provide necessary assistance, Governor Sophon said.

As data is reviewed, further areas for action will be announced, he added.

DAMAGE REPORT

DDPM Phuket reported at least 740 households, comprising 1,468 people, were directly affected by the flash floods.

The flooding struck 41 villages and four communities in seven tambon (subdistricts) across two districts, Kathu and Thalang.

In Kathu District, 50 households and 45 individuals were affected. In Kamala, six village areas (Moo Baan 1-6) and four communities – Pak Kang Lao, Phakdee, Ban Nuea and Kathu Waterfall – were affected.

But in Thalang District, 690 households and 1,423 individuals living in 35 village areas (moo baan) across five tambon (subdistricts)



Photo: PR Phuket

were directly affected by the floods: Moo Baan 1-8 in Srisoonthorn; Moo Baan 1-11 in Thepkrasattri; Moo Baan 1-6 in Cherg Talay; Moo Baan 1-9 in Pa Khlok; and Moo 5 in Sakhu.

“While the rain has stopped, floodwaters remain in some low-lying areas, and it is expected to take approximately 24 hours for conditions to return to normal. Major roads, including Highway 402, are now passable, and air transport has resumed normal operations,” DDPM Phuket said.

Local government organisations, DDPM District 18 office and DDPM Phuket, and related agencies, had

provided initial assistance. Surveys for additional damages are ongoing, the DDPM said in its report.

Evacuations had taken place in Thepkrasattri, with 20 people taking refuge at Pakrong Cheep School in Moo 9 and a further 100 people at Wat Thepkrasattri (Wat Baan Don) in Moo 4.

“The Phuket Provincial Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Directorate urges all units and the public to remain vigilant and closely monitor the situation, especially in areas prone to repeated flooding. Precautions should be taken to lift belongings to higher ground for safety, as continued rain may lead to

further flash floods,” DDPM Phuket warned.

ASSISTANCE

Governor Sophon and other high-ranking provincial officials, including DDPM Phuket Chief Sophon Thongsai, joined Thepkrasattri Mayor Sittichai Chantawat in handing out essential items to people displaced by the floods seeking refuge at the temporary shelter at Wat Thepkrasattri School in Thalang. The flood victims were handed out relief bags, bedding, hygiene kits as well as clothing and blankets, and received moral support for coping with their situation.

As the floods took hold last Sunday, Vice Admiral

Suchat Thammakitakwet ordered an urgent mobilisation of personnel from the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command, based at Cape Panwa, to assist people affected by the flash floods, covering areas from Kamala and Cherg Talay and to Srisoonthorn and Thepkrasattri to Koh Kaew and Mai Khao.

In Koh Kaew, DDPM Phuket, Navy personnel, Phuket City Municipality, Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) and Koh Kaew Tambon Administrative Organisation (OrBor-Tor) altogether managed to deploy five water trucks to assist with the cleanup, mostly of mud covered streets affected

by runoff in the area.

In Patong, Mayor Chalerm Sak Maneesri oversaw cleanup operations, including the clearing of debris from the Pak Bang Canal to allow as much runoff as possible to flow to the sea. Local residents were urged to contact Patong Municipality for any assistance, and to be wary of any further flooding by more heavy downpours.

Mayor Chalerm Sak also ordered lifeguards to monitor all areas along Patong beach and to instruct tourists not to swim in the water when there are strong waves and in areas where there are rip currents, marked with red ‘no swimming’ flags.

Bang Wad safe after Phang Nga tremor

OFFICIALS FROM THE Phuket branch of the Royal Irrigation Department (RID), which is responsible for all three main reservoirs in Phuket, have issued a notice assuring that the dam wall at Bang Wad Reservoir in Kathu remains unaffected by a small tremor in Phang Nga.

Officials rushed to inspect Bang Wad Dam after a tremor measuring 2.2 mag-

nitude shook Tambon Bang Toei in Phang Nga’s Mueang District early on June 26.

The tremor struck at 2:55am at a depth of only three kilometres, specifically at latitude 8.492 degrees north, longitude 98.559 degrees east, said the notice, issued later that night.

The officials confirmed that there was no impact on the dam, said the notice.

“The Royal Irrigation Department has designed all dams to withstand earthquake vibrations at the highest risk level in Thailand. In addition, it has continuously monitored and tracked statistical data on the maximum acceleration values from earthquakes in order to assess the earthquakes that occur, including the potential impact on the dams, so that people living in areas

downstream of the dams can be confident and confident in the safety and strength of the dams at all times,” the RID said in a separate statement.

Phang Nga, and Phuket, are not known for earthquakes of any serious magnitude. Regardless, officials regularly hold earthquake response drills, as they did in August last year, as a precautionary measure. *The Phuket News*



Image: Royal Irrigation Department

Tourists need surf awareness

Chutharat Plerin
thai@classactmedia.co.th

Wirun Chuasaman, Head Lifeguard at Surin-Bang Tao Beach, has called for intensive campaigns to educate tourists of the dangers of rip currents and strong waves during the southwest monsoon to help reduce the number of people drowning at tourist-popular beaches.

In Mr Wirun's opinion, the current efforts of lifeguards to save tourists from drowning are merely addressing the problem's symptoms rather than its root cause.

"We need the relevant authorities, such as the Tourism Authority of Thailand, to actively promote the dangers of ignoring red flag warnings during the monsoon season," Mr Wirun told *The Phuket News'* Thai-language sister newspaper Khao Phuket.

Mr Wirun proposed a proactive approach to tourism safety, suggesting that information about the dangers should be communicated as soon as tourists arrive at the airport.

Such an information campaign should then be reinforced at accommodations and



Photo: Patong Surf Life Saving.

hotels to ensure that tourists are fully aware of the hazards during the monsoon season.

"We must consider the reality of our beaches. In a one-kilometre stretch, how many lifeguards do we have compared to the number of tourists? Is it enough to ensure their safety?" Mr Wirun questioned.

He highlighted a concerning statistic that 70-80% of tourists ignore the red flag warnings and the lifeguards' advice. "Tourists come here wanting to swim, and it's challenging to stop them.

On days when the weather permits, we do allow swimming," he added.

Mr Wirun stressed that addressing the problem on a case-by-case basis is not sufficient. He called for government investment to reduce preventable losses rather than allocating funds to less effective areas.

By prioritising preventive measures and safety awareness, Phuket can better protect its visitors and minimise the risks associated with swimming during the monsoon season, Mr Wirun said.

Mr Wirun's call for better awareness among tourists of Phuket's dangerous surf follows five people drowning at Phuket beaches since June 9, when the southwest monsoon began its assault on Phuket's west coast, creating dangerous strong surf and deadly strong rip currents.

BLUEBOTTLES AT RACHA

Meanwhile, the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) has posted warnings of Portuguese Man o' War, also called bluebottles, at the

Racha Islands, south of Phuket, after a tour boat staffer was stung there.

The warning, posted online on June 25, followed bluebottles found at Ao La, Ao Tu and Racha Yai Island.

"Tourists and individuals engaging in marine activities in these areas are urged to exercise caution," the DMCR warned.

One boat crewman travelling with Seafarer Divers was stung and experienced breathing difficulties. The crewman was brought back to Chalong Pier, where an ambulance was waiting for him. He was hospitalised and at last report was in stable condition, along with two divers who were also affected, the DMCR reported.

Bluebottles are highly venomous, the DMCR noted. "Contact with these jellyfish can cause intense burning pain and may impact the skin, nervous system, heart and can even be fatal.

"If stung, it is crucial to use a hard object to remove the tentacles without direct hand contact. Avoid massaging or applying any medication to the affected area. Instead, pour vinegar over the sting site continuously for at least

30 seconds and never use fresh water, as it can spread the venom faster. Seek medical attention immediately," the DMCR warning said.

Confirmation of bluebottles follows the marine creatures being found washed ashore in Phuket earlier last month.

The DMCR has developed its Marine Warning Application for monitoring and collecting data on marine disasters such as colour changes in seawater, reverse waves, oil spills and locations of poisonous jellyfish sightings.

The system provides real-time notifications based on incident coordinates within a specified radius. The public can also report emergencies related to marine and coastal disasters, the DMCR added to its report.

Tourists and locals were encouraged to stay informed and take advantage of the app to ensure their safety while enjoying Phuket's marine environments.

The application is available for free download on both web and mobile platforms from Apple's App Store and from Google Play.

Additional reporting by Eakkapop Thongtub

Russian woman slashed by speedboat propeller

A 17-YEAR-OLD RUSSIAN tourist who was swimming outside a designated area at Patong Beach was involved in a collision with a speedboat and injured last Saturday (June 29).

The incident occurred just after 10:30am at the southern area of Patong Beach near the Sea Pearl Roundabout on Thawee-wong Rd.

The woman, later named as Daria Chernobay, had apparently decided to swim in an area that had been specifically designated off-bounds for swimmers when she was struck by a propeller from a passing speedboat which was used to organise parasailing flights, police reported.

On receiving notification of the incident, Pol.Col. Chalermchai Hirsawat, Superintendent of Patong Police Station, rushed to the scene where he discovered Ms Chernobay had been taken ashore by medical officials from the Kusoldharm Foundation.

While no specific details were released about



Photo: Patong Police

her injuries, initial police reports did confirm that she had experienced cuts on her back and to her right thigh.

Ms Chernobay was rushed to Patong Hospital and later sent for treatment at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town although no official word was provided on her status at time of press.

According to initial police questioning of locals and nearby lifeguard staff in the area when the incident

happened, Ms Chernobay had opted to dive and swim in the area that had been denied access to bathers. Whether she was aware of the restrictions or not was not disclosed although police did confirm that the driver of the speedboat did not see her in the water at any point.

There was no mention in police reports as to whether the driver of the boat would face charges.

The Phuket News

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PURIYA BEAVAN
Editor**CHRIS HUSTED**
Executive Editor
084 307 7408
executive@classactmedia.co.th**BEN TIREBUCK**
News / Sport Editor
061 806 8132
editor3@classactmedia.co.th**CHUTHARAT 'UM' PLERIN**
Thai Editor
086 766 1615
thai@classactmedia.co.th**NATNAREE 'MILD' LIKIDWANASAKUN**
Reporter / Translator
062 295 3244
reporter1@classactmedia.co.th**JASON BEAVAN**
General Manager
086 479 7471
gm@classactmedia.co.th**SIRIPORN (NOK) SEANGMAS**
Sales Support
086 479 7470
sales@classactmedia.co.th**NIRAVIT 'MOS' VORAVANITCHA
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Wind 4 m/s

THU JULY 11



High: +36°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s



Photo: Kamala Police

Saudi parasailing tourist rescued from Kamala tree

A 26-YEAR-OLD SAUDI TOURIST was rescued at Kamala Beach late Monday afternoon (July 1) after his parasail chute was caught in the top of a pine tree, leaving him dangling in the air.

Pol Lt Surasit Wandee of the Kamala Policewas informed of the incident at 6pm.

On arriving at the scene, police and rescue workers found Saudi national Mohammed Ali Warrad Abdul Wahab dangling in his harness still attached to the parasail chute, which had become snagged on the top branches of a sea pine. Mr Wahab was some five metres off the ground.

Rescue workers were able to safely recover Mr Wahab by using a cherry picker (or "elevated work platform") provided by Kamala Tambon Administrative Organisation (OrBorTor).

Mr Wahab suffered no injuries in the incident. However, while waiting for the equipment to arrive, friends along with local vendors and beachgoers held a tarpaulin out underneath Mr Wahab just in case.

Lt Surasit said that a sudden change in wind direction caused the parachute to veer off course and become ensnared in the tree.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Peak-hour ban on heavy trucks begins

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Restrictions on heavy duty trucks with 10 wheels or more travelling on selected roads in Phuket during peak traffic hours officially came into effect on Monday (July 1).

The order was originally issued on June 7 by Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum and authorised under Section 139 (1) (2) of the Land Traffic Act B.E. 2522 (1979).

"Phuket Province is facing traffic problems due to an imbalance between the number of vehicles and the available road space," the order explained.

"The growth of tourism and tourism-related businesses has led to an increase in the number of public service vehicles, cargo transport, and vehicles serving tourists, which is the main cause of severe traffic congestion," it continued.

"The Phuket Provincial Police studied the causes of traffic congestion and identified two approaches to solve the problem: long-term and urgent solutions. The congestion is mainly caused by large trucks using the roads, especially during rush hours, which disrupts traffic flow and requires immediate attention."

Phuket deputy police chief Pol Col Passakorn Sonthikul then



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub / file

reiterated the order last Friday (June 28), clarifying that vehicles with 10 wheels or more would be banned from driving, stopping or parking along selected main roads across the island from 6am-9am and 4pm-7pm on weekdays but not on weekends or public holidays.

Pol Col Passakorn explained that any heavy vehicles seeking exemption from the ruling are required to request permission in advance and police will then decide within 24 hours.

The order applies to all roads in Phuket under the jurisdiction of the Phuket Highways Office.

While the Phuket Highways Office also administers some roads in lower Phang Nga, including the section of Route 402 from the Khok Kloi Intersection in Phang Nga up to and including the bridges onto the island, the peak-hour ban on trucks will apply only to Phuket Highways Office roads south of

the Tha Chat Chai Check Point.

The new regulation aims to lighten traffic congestion on several roads in Phuket that have become saturated with heavy vehicles due to the widespread number of construction projects being undertaken across the island.

Police estimate there are approximately 40,000 vehicles on Phuket's streets from the airport to Phuket Town alone during the high season and 10,000 during low season. Most use the increasingly-congested Thepkasattri Rd although an increasing number of vehicles now use back roads which further increases traffic woes for local residents, in addition to causing significant damage to road surfaces.

Police also stated that around 230 heavy trucks enter Phuket from Phang Nga every day during morning and evening rush hours, further complicating issues.

Pickup hits back of 22-wheeler parked alongside bypass road

A LOAN DEVELOPMENT manager from a well-known bank was injured when his pickup collided with the back of a 22-wheeled truck and trailer stopped on the bypass road early last Friday morning (June 28).

Phuket City Police were called to the scene, in front of a PTT petrol station, at 5:40am.

Traffic police officers and an ambulance from Vachira Phuket Hospital were dispatched to the scene.

Police and emergency responders arrived to find a white, four-door Isuzu pickup truck registered in Trang, with heavy damage to its front from the impact.

The driver, Thongchai Resan, 37, a loan manager at a bank in Phuket, was found nearby with head and



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

chest injuries from the impact with the steering wheel. He was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital by medical staff.

The driver of the truck, Ekkachai Mekwongfa, 56, told police that he had parked his 22-wheeler about 4-5am while waiting to go to Thung Song. Around 5am, he heard a loud noise and discovered the accident.

Pol Lt Col Aphairat In-iad documented the scene and took Ekkachai for further questioning, while other officers arranged for both vehicles to be removed from the scene. Eakkapop Thongtub

Grab delivery driver doubles as mule

OFFICERS FROM THE Narcotics Suppression Division of the Phuket Provincial Police have arrested a Grab delivery driver who was delivering drugs while making his rounds.

Police named the man only as 'Mr Suthin', 39, a resident of Moo 4, Rawai, arrested at a rented room in Soi Tha Jeen, Moo 3, Ratsada, early last Saturday (June 29),

Officers discovered 1,200 methamphetamine pills (ya bah), 1.4 kilograms of crystal meth (ya ice), drug paraphernalia, clear plastic re-sealable bags used to hold the drugs, and two phones that were used in the illegal operation.

Suthin said that he took on the extra work of delivering drugs to help supplement his income, adding that he would hide the drugs in bags that were typically used to deliver food.

He further explained that he would deliver the drugs at the prompting



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

of a superior, who was unnamed in police reports.

Suthin would pick up the drugs and take them to an area of land at the side at a friend's house in Rawai where they would be hidden in specially dug holes which were observed by a nearby CCTV camera. As and when the order came for deliveries, Suthin would retrieve the illegal stash and deliver as instructed. He added that he was promised B15,000 for every one kilogram sold successfully.

Suthin was taken to Mueang Police Station and charged with illegally selling a Category 1 narcotic.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Local residents fired up for new incinerator

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket officials have held the second public hearing on the draft report and environmental impact mitigation measures for the 'Waste Management and Power Generation Project', which will see Phuket receive a second incinerator capable of burning off 500 tons of solid waste a day.

Phuket City Mayor Saroj Angkhanapilas presided over the hearing, at the Bhukitta Boutique Hotel in Phuket Town on June 21, attended by government officials, local administrative organisations, academics, community leaders and residents.

The Waste Management and Power Generation Project, conducted in collaboration with EA Waste Management Phuket Co Ltd, presented its findings of the environmental impact study, as well as the proposed mitigation and monitoring measures.

The hearing provided a platform for participants to express their concerns, sug-

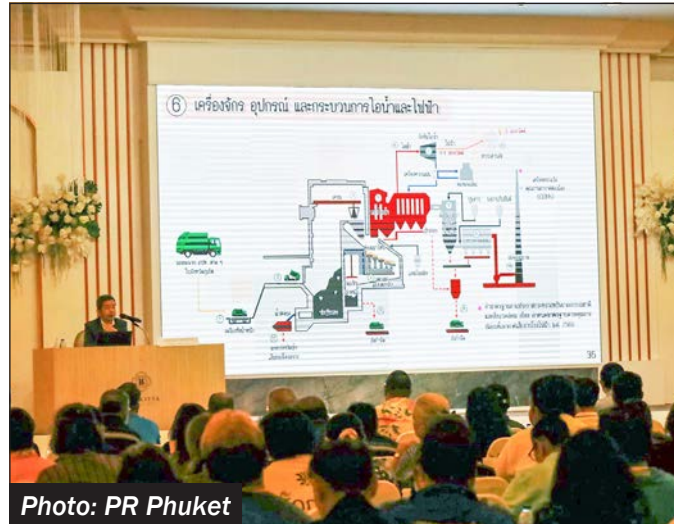


Photo: PR Phuket

gestions, and feedback on the study and its environmental strategies. The project's goal is to incorporate public input to refine the report, ensuring a comprehensive approach that minimizes adverse effects on the community.

EA Waste Management Phuket Co Ltd will oversee the construction and operation of a waste disposal system capable of processing at least 500 tons of waste per day, generating 9.9 megawatts of electricity.

The facility will be situated on 14-0-65.75 rai near the current incinerator located

at the landfill site at Saphan Hin, operated by Phuket City Municipality.

A new incinerator at the solid waste disposal facility at Saphan Hin is hoped to help cope with the increasing volume of trash generated on the island.

"The problem of overflowing garbage in the city is an important problem that requires all sectors to participate in management," Phuket Town Deputy Mayor Orapailin Trakulpriphon said when the new project was announced at a meeting in March.

"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."

WASTE SEPARATION IS KEY

Waste separation was identified by local officials as a key issue in the island coping with the volume of solid waste generated each day.

The issue of waste separation was highlighted during an inspection visit of the Phuket Provincial Waste Disposal Center and Incinerator at Saphan Hin by members of the Phuket Provincial Governance Board on June 26.

During the review, the Provincial Governance Board made several recommendations. They recommendation was for Phuket City Municipality to ramp its importance of waste segregation management.

Additionally, they stressed the need for educational initiatives, and allocated budgets, to teach students and the public about waste separation.

Kayak nature tours floated on Bang Yai

IN A BID TO BOOST local tourism, Phuket Town Mayor Saroj Angkhanapilas has launched a new 'community tourism' initiative in the form of kayak tours on the Bang Yai Canal and waters off Saphan Hin.



The aim of the new initiative, which launched on June 23, is to promote Phuket Town also as a prime destination for nature-based travel, said an official report of the launch.

Joining Mayor Saroj on an inaugural exploratory trip were Deputy Mayor Onpailin Pariphon, Pitchaphong Koythanand, Chairman of the Soi Ton Pho Community, as well as officers from the Tourism and Sports Division and the Social Welfare Division, and committee members from the Soi Ton Pho Community.

The group paddled along Bang Yai Canal to where the canal empties into Phuket Bay, and ventured past the mangroves along the coast.

Phuket Town officials plan to collaborate with the Soi Ton Pho community to develop and manage the new nature tourism route, said Phuket City Municipality in announcing the new nature tourism activity.

The municipality is committed to supporting the community in this initiative, aiming to provide sustainable tourism opportunities and enhance the local economy, the announcement added.

While the area where Klong Bang Yai empties into Phuket Bay provides the aesthetics of a nature tour, the fast, strong current in the canal after each heavy downpour raises some concern.

Adding to concerns is that the Bang Yai Canal empties into Phuket Bay right beside the Phuket City Municipality solid-waste disposal facility, better known as the landfill site at Saphan Hin. The main mountains of trash are just 400 metres from the mouth of the canal. In years past, toxic seepage from the waste landfills into the mangroves and nearby waters have been blamed for mass fish deaths.

The Phuket News

Nong Fiat's 'Final Countdown' tops Barcelona festival contest

PHUKET YOUNGSTER PRAPAPON 'Nong Fiat' Sreemoung, also known by her artist name 'Queen on Street', has won her age category in a singing contest at an international music festival in Barcelona.

Nong Fiat announced the news through a video of her at the contest, singing a female rock version of 'The Final Countdown' by rock band Europe, originally released in 1986.

Nong Fiat won the Pop Vocal 14- to 17-year-old category in the contest, held on June 25 as part of the Concurso Internacional 'Aire Nuevo' international music festival.

The win came much to the surprise of Nong Fiat, but not to those watching and listening to her perform.

At just 13 years old, Nong Fiat was already becoming a singing sensation in Phuket, impressing Thais and tourists alike on Bangla Rd in Patong and at the Lard Yai Walking Street in Phuket Town on Sundays.

In 2022, Nong Fiat singing Adele's 'Set Fire to the Rain' live on the Walking Street in Phuket Town gained more than a million views on YouTube. One video alone of Nong Fiat singing Sia's 'Unstoppable' gained more than 5.4mn views.

Her popularity on TikTok has also soared to dizzying heights, and Nong Fiat was invited to perform at a host of events in Phuket and abroad. Her outstanding talent saw Nong Fiat invited to join the Young Artists For Ukraine on stage for a UNHCR project that took place in Sweden in June 2022.



Screenshot: Queen on Street

Nong Fiat calls herself '100% Thai'. Originally from Lopburi, she moved to Phuket with her father in 2018 and attended Kajonkietsuksa School in Kathu.

Nong Fiat has grown an international following. After her contest-winning performance in Barcelona, she travelled to Sweden, then on to Montreux in Switzerland to perform this week (July 1-8) before she moves on to Toronto, Canada, where she will stay for a month (July 8-Aug 8).

Nong Fiat's new single 'We, Me and I', an original by Chayapat Thongsri with Nong Fiat on vocals, was released on June 26, and can be viewed on her 'Queen on Street' Facebook page and YouTube channel.

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Photo: NNT

National parks set new revenue record

THAILAND'S NATIONAL parks have set a new revenue record, collecting B1.785 billion from Oct 1, 2023 to June 20, 2024, surpassing the B1.467bn collected during the same period in 2023.

Leading the revenue generated was Nopparat Thara Beach – Phi Phi Islands National Park, which recorded B500.87 million in revenues during the period.

Similan National Park placed second with B243.66mn followed by Khao Laem Ya – Mu Ko Samet National Park with B127.82mn.

Ao Phang Nga National Park, on Phuket's doorstep, recorded B114.23mn in revenue, even outpacing Doi Inthanon National Park in Chiang Mai, rated as one of the country's most popular national parks, which recorded B100.55mn

Nopparat Thara Beach National Park, home to the Phi Phi Islands, remains the most popular destination among foreign tourists. In the past nine months, it has collected over B500 million, a major increase from the previous period's B300mn.

The park saw more than 4.5mn foreign visitors, a 41.5% increase compared with last year.

The Department of National Parks, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation (DNP) stated that most of the revenue would be allocated to developing infrastructure and facilities within the parks.

The remaining funds will cover staff wages, personnel development, and contributions to local government organizations surrounding the parks, the DNP said. NNT

Skill development for marine tourism targetted

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Key government officials and leading local marine tourism companies in Phuket have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that is hoped to greatly improve the development of personnel in the marine tourism sector.

The MoU was signed on June 27 between the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, the Department of Tourism, the Ministry of Labour, the Department of Skill Development along with Phuket Superyacht Marina Co Ltd and Jojo Asia Pacific Superyacht Co Ltd.

Signing the memorandum were Jaturon Phakdiwanit, Director-General of the Department of Tourism; Buppha Rueangsud, Director-General of the Department of Skill Development; Ditphong Thitadilok, Chairman of the Executive Board of Phuket Superyacht Marina Co Ltd; and Tanyuta Singhmanee, Managing Director of Jojo Asia Pacific Superyacht Co Ltd.



Photo: PR Phuket

Phonphum Wiphatphumit, Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports; Kankanit Haewsanti, Advisor to the Minister of Tourism and Sports; Siraphop Duangsodsri, Assistant Minister of Labour; and Aree Krainara, Secretary to the Minister of Labor were all present to witness the signing, held at The PlayYard on Phuket's northeast coast.

Present on behalf of the Phuket Provincial Office to witness the event was Phuket Vice Governor Abdul Chuthong.

Mr Phonphum explained that the purpose of this memorandum is to develop and

enhance the skills of personnel in the marine tourism industry, ensuring they are well-prepared to provide efficient services that meet the labour needs of the country's tourism industry.

"This collaboration with partner networks acknowledges the importance and benefits of developing skilled tourism personnel, especially in the rapidly growing marine tourism sector, which is a significant source of income and attracts high-quality tourists to the country," Mr Phonphum said.

"To ensure sustainable development and community

participation in Thailand's marine tourism, it is essential to prepare personnel in both the public and private sectors with the necessary knowledge, skills, and capabilities. This will elevate the quality of tourism services and increase Thailand's competitiveness in the global market," he said.

The four agencies involved have missions related to developing tourism personnel in Thailand's marine tourism sector. If they are promoted, supported, and aligned to work in the same direction, it will result in producing highly capable personnel who can serve tourists effectively, Mr Phonphum explained.

"The Department of Tourism will work with MoU partners to set guidelines for developing tourism personnel and labour in the marine tourism industry, aligning with labour needs. They will study the skill requirements for tourism personnel, establish internationally recognised standards, and create training courses to enhance the potential of tourism workers," he said.

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TCT: Tourism confidence low amid sluggish economy

THE TOURISM CONFIDENCE index remained below the benchmark in the second quarter, hampered by stagnant economic growth, though it improved from last year, according to the Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT).

The index for the second quarter was 79, lower than the benchmark of 100 recorded before the pandemic.

Although the index fell from 81 in the previous quarter, it improved from 72 in the same period last year.

The reading was based on a survey by the council of 740 tourism operators nationwide between May 30 and June 10.

TCT President Chamnan Srisawat said the delay in fiscal budget disbursement and the low tourism season resulted in a lower reading.

He said an extreme heat-wave also left some tourists reluctant to travel. Many operators in the southern provinces faced a water shortage.

In the second quarter, hotels reported a 55% occupancy rate, down from 60% in the previous quarter.

Deflation and recession risks still remain, said Mr



Tourists prepare to board a boat at the Tha Tien pier in Bangkok on June 7. Photo: Apichart Jinakul / Bangkok Post

Chamnan, noting that the revenue of all tourism businesses has recovered to only 48% of the 2019 level.

In addition, many factories have closed, causing more unemployment.

However, the employment rate in the tourism industry rose from 87% in the first quarter to 99% in the second quarter, implying more workers from other industries and new graduates have joined the services and hospitality sectors, he said.

Despite the growing workforce, Mr Chamnan said the industry still lacked skilled workers, such as those fluent in foreign languages or having skills for specialist jobs, such

as hotel receptionists or spa therapists.

For the next quarter, he said the index should drop to 75, which he attributed to the low season and fewer public holidays that could attract tourists.

Falling domestic consumption and a stagnant industrial sector would also affect tourism, while geopolitical risks continue to impact overall travel sentiment, said Mr Chamnan.

He recommended various incentives be extended to support tourism, including the 60-day visa-free policy for 93 nations, and tax deductions for travel and meetings in second-tier cities.

The TCT predicts tourism revenue of B2.7 trillion to B3trn this year, well short of the government's target of B3.5trn.

To bridge the gap, the government needs to attract 40 million foreign tourists, increasing their spending to B56,000 per trip, as well as pump up domestic trips to 220mn, according to the council.

Bangkok Post

EC clarifies 'offences' relating to Senate race

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Registering in the wrong professional groups may not constitute an offence unless the candidate intended to deceive authorities and the public in the Senate election, Election Commission (EC) secretary-general Sawaeng Boonmee said last Saturday (June 29).

The EC has come under intense pressure after the final, national-round of the Senate contest wrapped up on June 26 in Bangkok.

Allegations were abound of vote-rigging and illegitimate and mismatched candidacy registrations, prompting the EC to mount an investigation.

Mr Sawaeng explained the right to compete in a Senate election is separate from submitting an application form – called the Sor Wor 3 form – that might contain untrue information about the candidate, citing a Supreme Court precedent.

If, for example, the Sor Wor 3 form says the candidate



EC secretary-general Sawaeng Boonmee. Photo: Bangkok Post

farms salt as a profession only for a probe to find later that he has lied about it, the candidate is liable for criminal charges for declaring false information.

But that does not preclude his right to enter the Senate race, says Mr Sawaeng.

The commission is sifting through complaints made against 48,226 candidates accused of giving false information about themselves in the registration document filed with the EC.

Mr Sawaeng said if the

complaints have grounds, the candidates will be charged for violating the Senate election law.

The EC was also acting on complaints about certain candidates being hired to take part in the Senate race and diverting their votes to certain fellow candidates backed by political groups.

The announcement of the Senate election result was due to be delivered on Tuesday (July 2).

Once confirmed, all eyes

will be on the new Senate's role in the charter amendment process, particularly a proposal to amend Section 256 of the charter to allow for the drafting of a new charter.

It remains to be seen whether the move will succeed as it requires the support of at least one-third of the new 200 senators, or 67 members. Unlike their predecessors, the senators will not be empowered to co-elect a prime minister. They will take part in passing legislation and amendments to laws and the constitution.

They will also be authorised to endorse the appointment of members of independent organisations, Constitutional Court judges, and the Attorney-General as well as keeping the performance of the executive branch in check.

The term of the president of the Constitutional Court will expire in November this year, while seven of the nine court judges will also complete their tenure in 2027. The tenure of five of the current seven election commissioners will end next year.

First Thai workers head to Israel since attacks

BANGKOK

THE FIRST THAI LABOURERS to go to Israel since the Hamas attack last October departed from Suvarnabhumi Airport on June 25.

Labour Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn said a total of 640 workers travelled initially with the aim of exporting as many as 10,000 by the end of the year.

The workers were required to undergo training courses to ensure they are well-prepared and understand their employment contracts, working conditions, local customs and cultures, and legal protection rights.

They will also be informed about how to access assistance in case of an emergency or when encountering problems, and how to promptly respond to wartime emergency procedures.

Somchai Morakotsriwan, director-general of the Department of Employment, said Thailand exported 67,208 workers through official channels in the 2022-23 fiscal year that ended last Sept 30. Israel was one of the top five destinations.



Photo: Bangkok Post

The majority of Thai workers heading to Israel applied for jobs in the agricultural sector, followed by hospitality and food services. Their average monthly income is around B50,000 to B55,000, he said.

Most of the workers are natives of Udon Thani, Chiang Rai, Nakhon Phanom, Buri Ram and Nakhon Ratchasima, he added.

Before the Hamas attack on Oct 7 last year, about 30,000 Thai nationals were working in Israel, the majority of them in agriculture and construction.

Almost 9,000 were repatriated in the early days and weeks of the war, while the remainder opted to remain. They were known to be in safe areas not near conflict zones, authorities said.

Bangkok Post

Bill targets advert control in bid to improve children's diet

BANGKOK

A BILL AIMED AT BETTER PROTECTING children against modern marketing tactics intended to get young people hooked on unhealthy snacks and drinks is now ready to be forwarded to legislators, the Department of Health says.

Overconsumption of unhealthy foods is mainly to blame for the high rate of obesity among Thai children, which has more than doubled in the past two decades, said Dr Pongpol Vorapani, deputy director-general of the department, speaking at the final public hearing on the bill on Monday (July 1).

The Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages Marketing Control bill would build awareness among children and their parents about these tactics, including the use of AI to ensure more children are exposed to advertisements designed to boost their cravings for unhealthy foods and drinks, he said.

Obesity and other non-communicable diseases are considered a major health threat to young Thais and a leading cause of premature death, Dr Pongpol added.

"The rate of obesity has largely stemmed from unhealthy dietary choices, including eating too much sweet, fatty and salty food and drinking sweetened beverages such as sodas and carbonated fizzy drinks," he said.

The marketing strategies adopted by



Photo: Bangkok Post

the makers of these products are among the main culprits when it comes to influencing youngsters to make poor choices regarding their daily diet, Dr Pongpol explained.

Meanwhile, Nongnuch Jindaratnapanorn, a lecturer at the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, said that more than 50% of Thai children are exposed to such tactics.

Ms Nongnuch referred to a crunchy snack packaged with famous cartoon characters and fizzy drinks glamourised in adverts by celebrities or social media influencers.

Social media like YouTube, Instagram, TikTok and X is the top choice to attract young people's attention to junk food, she said.

"These marketing strategies have raised the target age groups' cravings for these products by about 45%," stated Ms Nongnuch. Bangkok Post



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The Gru family keeps on growing

David Griffiths

It is hard to believe that the lovable adventures of an animated villain and his yellow-created minions has now provided enough storylines for six feature films, a TV series and an unlimited amount of short films – but that is exactly what Gru (voiced by Steve Carrell – *40 Year Old Virgin*) and his Minions have managed to achieve.

Actually together they have done a lot more than that because the *Despicable Me* franchise is nearly single-handedly responsible for the rise of one of the most active animated studios in the world right now – *Illumination*.

The other major feature of this franchise is the fact that there has never been a bad film in either the *Despicable Me* franchise or its spin-off, *Minions*. Each time a new film surfaces it is embraced by lovers of the franchise and film critics alike – and the result is stars like Carrell continuing on with their roles despite occasionally hinting that the next film might be their last.

Despicable Me 4 virtually sees the full turn-around of Gru. From a lonely super-villain in the beginning through to now where we find Gru an Agent charged at bring down villains who also happens to be married to Lucy Wilde (Kristen Wiig – *Bridesmaids*) and is the father of three adopted daughters, Margo (Miranda Cosgrove – *School Of Rock*), Edith (Dana Gaier



Image: IMDb

– *30 Rock*) and Agnes (Madison Skyy Polan – *Midnight Mission*).

Now there is a fourth child added to Gru and Lucy's tribe with the birth of Gru Jnr, whom Gru is madly trying to bond with, and once again they all find themselves in trouble when super-villain Maxime Le Mal (Will Ferrell – *Blades of Glory*) breaks out of prison and swears revenge on the man who put him there – Gru.

As Maxine and his girlfriend Valentina (Sofia Vergara – *Modern Family*) hunt them, Gru and his family are placed in witness protection. But trying to fit into a rich suburb is proving difficult and is made even harder when a bratty teenager named Poppy (Joey King – *Bullet Train*) blackmails Gru into doing a heist with her.

As usual *Despicable Me 4* is an absolute pleasure to sit down and watch.

This is the kind of film that can be enjoyed by all family members of any age largely due to the amazing work of director Chris Renaud (*The Secret Life of Pets*) and his screenwriters Ken Daurio (*Horton Hears a Who!*) and Mike White (*Orange County*), who have made sure that every aspect of this movie works.

As you would expect from a film made by Illumination, the film looks great with a modern style of animation that still manages to mirror the original look and feel of the franchise – but what makes this film even more special is the screenplay itself.

From scenes emulating films like *The Fast and the Furious* through to *James Bond*, the feel you get from characters like Silas Ramsbottom (Steve Coogan – *Philomena*), no matter what the writers try here, works sensationally well. Even the fact that the writers

can mix so many storylines together – the villains, Gru trying to be Dad, him being blackmailed by Poppy and then whatever the Minions are doing at different times shows other franchises how to deliver the perfect animated film.

But perhaps what works the best here is the fact that the writers are not afraid to use all aspects of humour to make this work. From the slapstick comedy that you see that always results in Gru getting hurt through to the way Gru Jnr interacts with his father is priceless... and I am willing to admit that one scene between Gru Jnr and Gru made me laugh so loud that I even scared myself.

Once again a *Despicable Me* movie shows the way when it comes to animation. The story here refreshes this brilliant franchise without doing any disrespect to the films that have come before it. This isn't just a film that is going to be loved by the whole family, it is one of the funniest films of the year.

Despicable Me 4 is currently screening in Phuket and is rated G.

4/5 Stars

David Griffiths has been working as a film journalist for over 25 years. That time has seen him work in radio, television and in print. He currently hosts a film podcast called *The Popcorn Conspiracy*. He is also a *Rotten Tomatoes* accredited reviewer and is an alternate judge for the Golden Globes Awards. You can follow him at Facebook: *SubcultureEntertainmentAus*



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Enjoying deep purple in your garden



GREEN THOUGHTS

Patrick Campbell

Everyone knows about aubergines. You know, those large glossy purple things that look for all the world as though they have been coated with clear varnish. Thailand, however, has many other varieties, all of them edible and all capable of being cultivated without fuss in your kitchen garden.

But let's start with what we know best. The purple aubergine (*solanum melongena*) is that fellow, borne on a herbaceous, perennial bush with large leaves and sometimes armored with spines. The dainty flowers, typical of the solanum family, are pale violet; they give way to those gourd-shaped fruits up to 30cm long, each containing a dense white pulp and a number of flat seeds. It may well be that white variants, smaller and more egg-shaped, gave rise to the common moniker of eggplant.

The species, as with all eggplants, is not fussy about soil conditions; it thrives almost anywhere, and crops – literally – in the most unexpected places. To grow your own, simply sow the seeds in pots and within a few days you will have plenty to transfer to open ground. All it may need is an occasional watering in ultra-dry conditions. The aubergine is productive all year round.

The only real downside is the plant's susceptibility to a range of beetles and aphids, and a disease called verticillium. For this reason, it should be planted in ground not recently occupied by other solanaceous species such as tomatoes, pepper or other aubergines.

Although the raw fruit is somewhat bitter, the cooked version is bland, and since it blends easily with other flavours, is better employed as an addition to stronger ingredients – as in Greek moussaka



Fruiting yellow aubergine. Photo: Patrick Campbell

or French ratatouille. Here in Thailand, it is often fried with fermented soybean or egg yolk, sometimes hollowed out and stuffed, or added to a soup. While the white pulp is not rich in nutrients, it is a useful source of phosphorus and magnesium and does contain some vitamin B.

If you have already used it for culinary purposes, you will know that the flesh has peculiar properties: fried, it can absorb huge amounts of fat or oil. But it needs to be cooked quickly once it is cut open, since the flesh oxidizes and quickly turns brown. Oddly, it is one of the very few plants to contain nicotine, though in such small quantities as to be harmless.

If you asked a Thai for his favourite aubergine, he would probably opt for what he calls *ma kheua* – otherwise called a brinjal, another variety with an open, bushy habit that produces smallish (3-4cm) round fruits. As with the purple eggplant, it has pointed sepals at the top of each berry, rather like its relative, the tomato. The fruits, normally eaten when unripe and often raw, are green with streaks of white. When mature, they turn yellow. Although exaggerated claims are sometimes made for the brinjal as a health

food, it does contain high levels of antioxidants and is rich in vitamin B. Enjoy it in a red or green curry; without brinjals they do not taste the same.

Equally easy to grow is a variety known in Thailand as *ma khuea phuang*, grown from a prickly perennial bush with grey bark. The fruits of *solanum torvum* grow in small, neat clusters and are tiny, almost pea-like, with a characteristically hard exterior. Hence its common name of turkey berry. It is eaten both as a crunchy fresh vegetable, ground up in *nam prik*, or added to various curries. Endowed with massive amounts of vitamin A, it has been used in folk medicine for aeons, and is reputed to assist in the control of diabetes and to reduce high blood pressure.

Known also as devil's fig, the plant is hardy and vigorous, and may reach two metres in height. Another perennial, it normally lives for a couple of years, its seeds distributed by frugivorous (fruit-eating) birds. Here in Phuket I have observed it thriving on recently disturbed land.

The same can be said for the yellow eggplant (*Solanum stramonifolium*), a species of tangy, sour-tasting aubergine with round yellow fruits, and often covered with a fine layer of hair. About 2cm or so across, the fruits grow on a small bush. Like the turkey berry, it also grows wild in Phuket, especially on waste ground.

Fascinating plants. And cousins not only to edibles such as the tomato and potato, but also to the deadly nightshade, Europe's most poisonous berry. You should have no trouble at all in cultivating these fellows in your garden. And a few turkey berries may help to keep that high blood pressure under control.

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).





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POP QUIZ

1. What was the original computer bug?
 2. What is Bart Simpson's full name?
 3. Foot Locker is the last remaining business of which company?
 4. Ailurophobia is the fear of what?
 5. What was the first toy to be advertised on television?
- Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

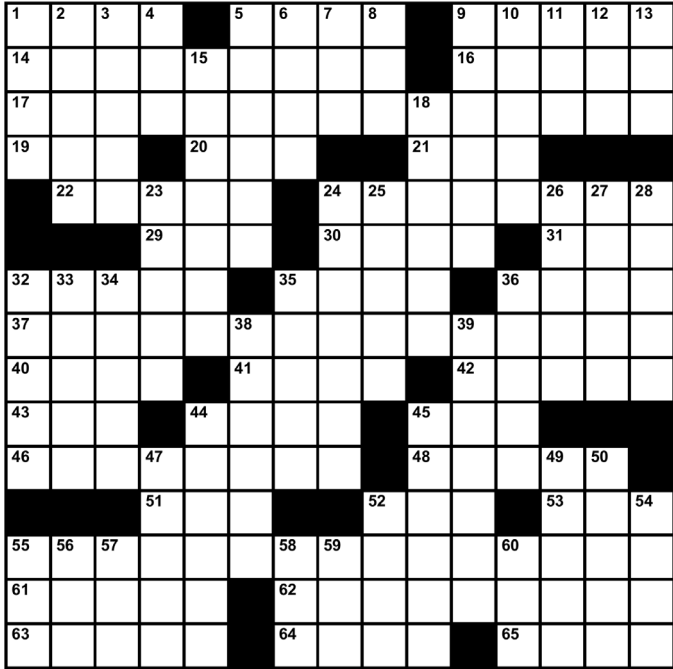
	1		6				2	
7					1			8
4					2	6	7	
					4	9		
8								4
		4	5					
	8	6	1					9
2			9					5
	3			6		4		

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across
1. Cast-of-thousands film
 5. Old weapon
 9. The "N" of U.S.N.A.
 14. "My ____" (Chuck Berry hit)
 16. "Fear of Flying" author Jong
 17. Biblical foes
 19. Santa ____, Calif.
 20. Compete
 21. Red-white-and-blue inits.
 22. Stonecrop plant
 24. Flabbergast
 29. Expend
 30. Style
 31. Caviar
 32. Tally
 35. Eager
 36. Prefix with graph
 37. Grimm duo?
 40. Add to the pot
 41. Slangy pronoun
 42. Cobbler's stock
 43. Kind of approval
 44. Stridex target
 45. Ford Explorer, e.g.
 46. Fertilize
 48. Finale
- Down
1. Mythology anthology
 2. Elton John's medium
 3. Fe/Ni alloy
 4. Special effects: (abbr.)
 5. "Seinfeld" pal
 6. Durable wood
 7. Conclusion
 8. Pudding ingredient
 9. Wrestling hold
 10. Suffix with sect
 11. Through
 12. Behave
 13. "Well, ____-dah!"
 15. Heeder
 18. Trip to a museum, e.g.
 23. Prize money
 24. Ways
 25. Beginnings
 26. Angry
 27. The New Yorker cartoonist Edward
 28. Makes better
 32. Mine passage
 33. "No problem"
 34. Coming up
 35. Unstable mesons
 36. Sore spot
 38. Hall
 39. Dances
 44. Fire up
 45. Cold dessert
 47. Feasts
 49. Lively dance
 50. Concert site
 52. Chances
 54. Ogler
 55. World Service provider
 56. Bass, e.g.
 57. Score
 58. Mont Blanc, e.g.
 59. Rebuffs
 60. "____ magic!"

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

(1) A moth; (2) Bartholomew Jojo Simpson; (3) Woolworth Co.; (4) Cats; (5) Mr Potato Head



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

person is killed by a drunk driver on average every 39 minutes in the US.

42

percent of telecommuters worldwide suffer from insomnia, compared to just 29% of those who report to an office setting, according to a UN study.

90

percent of all wine produced in the world is meant to be consumed within a year or two from when it's made – an older wine is not always better.

5,000

heart transplants take place around the world annually – almost 85% of those patients live at least one year with their new heart.

23,600

books, valued at US\$5.3 million (about \$10mn today), were stolen by one man, Stephen Blumberg, from universities and museums in 45 different US states from 1970 to 1990.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Surin Beach sunset. Photo by Alena Plotnikova

Got an unusual or particularly beautiful picture of Phuket?
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This week in history

July 5, 1946

Micheline Bernardini models the first bikini on July 5, 1946 at the Piscine Molitor in Paris.

July 6, 2003

The 70-metre Yevpatoria Planetary Radar sends a METI message (Cosmic Call 2) to five stars. The messages will arrive to these stars in 2036, 2040, 2044, and 2049, respectively.

July 7, 1928

Sliced bread is sold for the first time (on the inventor's 48th birthday) by the Chillicothe Baking Company of Chillicothe, Missouri.



Kim Jong Il with Vladimir Putin in 2001.

July 8, 1994

Kim Jong Il becomes the Supreme Leader of North Korea on the death of his father, Kim Il Sung. He is succeeded by his son, Kim Jong Un, after his death in 2011.

July 9, 1810

Napoleon annexes the Kingdom of Holland as part of the First French Empire.

July 10, 2019

The last Volkswagen Beetle rolls off the line in Puebla, Mexico. The last of 5,961 'Special Edition' cars is exhibited in a museum. Over eight decades, Volkswagen produced more than 21 million 'Beetles'.

July 11, 1972

The first game of the World Chess Championship 1972 between challenger Bobby Fischer and defending champion Boris Spassky starts.

Source: Wikipedia

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Sunday Roast

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WED

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Wednesday 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

children. Event Details: Date: Sunday, July 14, 2024 Time: Starting at 6:00 a.m. Location: Nai Harn Beach, Rawai, Phuket Race Categories: - Fun Run: 5 kilometres - Pet Run: 2.5 kilometres - Mini Marathon: 10.5 kilometres - VIP: Choose any distance This event embodies our commitment to promoting a healthy lifestyle, community engagement, and supporting charitable causes. We look forward to welcoming runners of all ages and abilities to this beautiful part of Phuket. Let's run together by the seaside and make a difference in the lives of underprivileged children. For more information, please visit our website at www.facebook.com/HeartBreakHillsPhuket

SAT

17 AUG



Grow Boating Evening - July 2024

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm on Friday the 5th of July 2024. Drinks sponsor for the evening will be the Thai Yachting Business Association (TYBA). See https://www.thaiyachtingbusinessassociation.com/ This edition of Grow Boating will follow the Annual General Meeting of the TYBA. There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee. For more info - facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket

MON

8 JUL



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98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

Oli: 081 891 4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket



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

SUN

14 JUL



ALL 7th ACCOR

HEARTBREAK HILL

MINI MARATHON 2024

มาราธอน ฮิลล์ 00 กิโลเมตร วันที่ 7



7th Accor Heartbreak Hill Mini-Marathon 2024

Accor Hotels is excited to announce the 7th Accor Heartbreak Hill Mini-Marathon 2024, set to take place on Sunday, July 14, 2024. This highly anticipated event will kick off at 6:00 a.m. at the stunning Nai Harn Beach, Rawai, and will lead participants along the picturesque Promthep Cape route, offering breathtaking views and a refreshing coastal atmosphere. The Accor Heartbreak Hill Mini-Marathon 2024 is more than just a run; it's a celebration of community spirit and a commitment to making a positive impact. Every step taken during the Heartbreak Hill Mini-Marathon will contribute to a brighter future for underprivileged



MALAYSIA INDEPENDENCE DAY GOLF THAILAND PHUKET 2024

RED MOUNTAIN GOLF CLUB - PHUKET



PARTICIPATION FEE
Golfers: 5,900 THB/person (RM830.00, US\$175.00)
Inclusive of green fee, golf cart, caddy, transfer from hotel to/from Golf course, lunch before tee off & Gala Dinner.
Non Golfers: 2,000 THB/person (RM325.00 OR US\$68.00) to attend the Gala Dinner

Proceed of this Golf Tournament will be donated to a Charity selected by the organizer in December 2024
LODGING IN PHUKET:
Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Chao Fah Hotel
Price: 2,200 THB (RM350.00 or US\$75.00) per night incl. 2 breakfast.

RESERVATION:
Email: midgphai@gmail.com
Phuket Tel: +66 81 271 2429 - Dave Chang
Bangkok Tel:

Date: August 17, 2024 - Saturday
Registration: 10.30 hr.
Brunch/Lunch: 11.00 - 11.45 hr.
Briefing & Group Photo - 11.50 hr.
Shotgun Tee off at 12.00 hr.
Gala Dinner @ Ramada Plaza Ballroom

Malaysia Independence Day Golf Thailand Phuket 2024

Calling all swingers! Get your clubs ready for Malaysia Independence Day Golf tournament at Red Mountain Golf Club on August 17th! Register now for B5,900 per person, including green fee, golf cart and caddy, round trip hotel transfer, lunch and Gala Dinner at the Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Chao Fah Hotel. Proceed of this Golf Tournament will be donated to a Charity selected by the organiser in December 2024. This event is jointly organized by Asia Mice Planner, Malaysian Club Thailand, Only One Tour International & Malaysian Thai Friends Group. Contact Dave for more info on 081 271 2429.

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Photo: PR Phuket

PHUKET PRIDE FESTIVAL WRAPS UP IN STYLE

Tens of thousands of revellers flocked to Phuket Town last Saturday (June 29) to enjoy spectacular celebrations marking the end of this year's Pride month. The 'Discover Phuket Pride 2024' parade took place on the streets of the Phuket Old Town area and saw local residents, expats and tourists alike join in the fun. An array of LGBTQI+ related groups marched in the official procession, many on floats, as the Old Town came to life in a wash of vibrant colour, music and entertainment. Highlights from the event included the grand rainbow flag parade in the heart of Phuket Old Town and an elaborate drone performance courtesy of Ultimate Technology Co Ltd that saw 500 drones deliver a spectacular light and sound show that wowed onlookers. The parade was led by a star cast of Thai celebrities, including Kam Wichayanee, Patcha Ohmjongruay, Jennifer, Kim-Mum, Laconik, Ben Chalatit, Mick Thongraya and Aof Chanaphon, while beauty pageant celebrities Mainta Farmer (Miss Thailand 2022), Tharina Botes (Miss Thailand World 2024) and Phuket's own Lin Malin (Miss Grand Thailand 2024) were also involved.



Prajanchai a two-sport ONE world champion

MMA

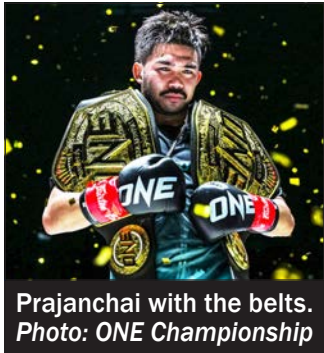
ONE STRAWWEIGHT Muay Thai world champion Prajanchai PK Saenchai completed his bid to become a two-sport top dog after toppling former champ Jonathan Di Bella for the vacant ONE strawweight kickboxing world title last Friday (June 28).

The historic bout was the lead fight at ONE Friday Fights 68 at Lumpinee Boxing Stadium in Bangkok.

The elite strikers put on a fast-paced, nail-biting affair across 15 minutes of kickboxing action that Di Bella took hold of early on.

His rapid body shot combinations and relentless cardio allowed him to stay on the front foot. However, Prajanchai managed to find a way back into the contest midway through the five-round.

The Thai brutalised the Canadian-Italian's legs to slow him down and land lethal combinations of his own for the remainder of the narrow contest. Prajanchai subsequently earned the unanimous decision to capture the vacant title and walk away a two-sport world champion.



Prajanchai with the belts. Photo: ONE Championship

Meanwhile, the co-main event saw ONE flyweight kickboxing world champion Superlek Kiatmoo9 successfully return to Muay Thai where he secured his 10th consecutive victory against Kongthoranee Sor Sommai by unanimous decision.

'The Kicking Machine' controlled the fray from the first bell to the last, using Kongthoranee's gun-shy approach to his advantage. He continually kicked his fellow compatriot high and low, mixing up his legendary repertoire.

Kongthoranee eventually grew into the contest, but Superlek cruised to victory to edge closer to his date with ONE bantamweight Muay Thai world champion Jonathan Haggerty at ONE 168: Denver in September. *Bangkok Post*

Russell wins in Austria

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

George Russell was gifted the second win of his Formula 1 career after Max Verstappen and Lando Norris crashed each other out of the lead in a fraught final-laps battle at the Austrian Grand Prix last Sunday (June 30).

Pole-sitter Verstappen appeared to be in control of the race until his final pit stop on lap 51, when his usually slick Red Bull Racing mechanics were slow, taking 6.5 seconds to change his rear-left tyre.

He had entered the lane just 7.5 seconds ahead of Norris, who followed him in for his final tyre change. It wiped the buffer between them out to practically nothing with 20 laps to go.

Norris stalked his prey immediately, and on lap 55 he struck with an attempted move down the inside of turn 3. Verstappen darted to the right under brakes, blocking the Briton's path at the final moment, earning a rebuke from the McLaren driver for moving under braking, an outlawed and dangerous racing tactic.

On lap 64 Norris dummied Verstappen to the inside line before reverting to the racing line on the outside. The Dutchman was caught by surprise as the McLaren pulled up alongside his left, a position that was sure to get him into the lead as they powered out of the turn.



Mercedes' George Russell celebrates on the podium. Photo: AFP

Verstappen responded by squeezing the Briton against the track boundary – too much in fact. They made contact, and both picked up punctures.

Norris limped back to pit lane, but his car was too severely damaged by his disintegrating tyre to continue. Verstappen was able to continue with fresh rubber to finish fifth.

The stewards slapped the Dutchman with a 10-second penalty for causing the crash, though it did nothing to change his finishing position, and he showed no contrition after the race, denying he broke any rules.

"Everyone can have their own opinion, but I'm the one driving, so I think I'm best in control," he said. "From the outside it's easy to judge and comment,

but whatever, it's what happens."

It was all music to the ears of Russell, who had been running a solid third and suddenly stood to win just the second race of his career.

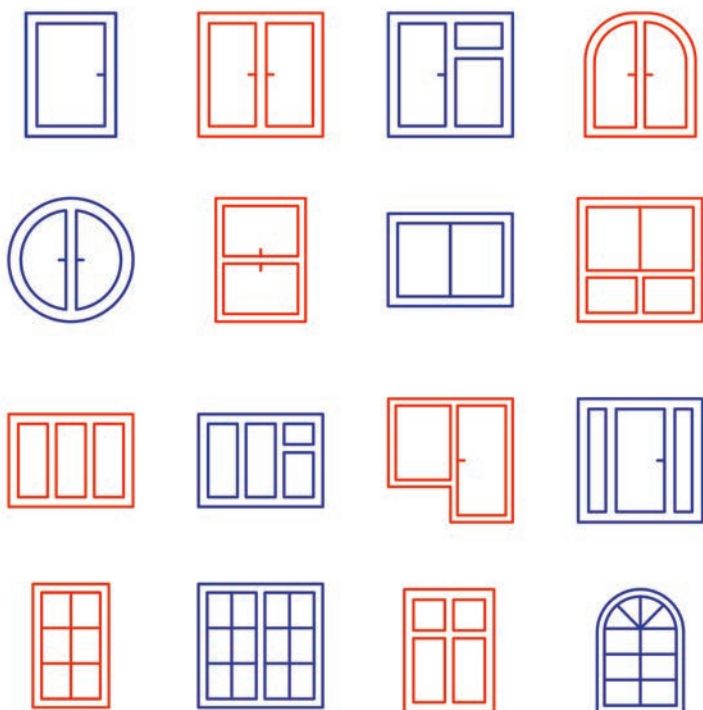
The final seven laps of the race were fraught, with Oscar Piastri closing in rapidly in the second McLaren, but a brief virtual safety car killed the Australian's momentum, allowing Russell to seal a fortunate but heartening win for Mercedes as it returns to competitiveness.

Carlos Sainz cruised into third after the crash and Lewis Hamilton finished fourth ahead of Verstappen Nico Hulkenberg, who scored big points for Haas in sixth.

Sergio Pérez finished seventh ahead of final points scorers Kevin Magnussen, Daniel Ricciardo and Pierre Gasly.



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Retiring Kohli inspires India to T20 cricket World Cup triumph

CRICKET

INDIA WON THE T20 WORLD CUP title in dramatic and emotional fashion with Virat Kohli starring in a thrilling seven-run victory over South Africa at Kensington Oval last Saturday (June 29).

Kohli, who later announced his retirement from T20 internationals, steadied the India innings with his fine 76 taking them to a strong 176-7.

When Heinrich Klaasen blasted a superb 52 from 27 balls, it looked as though South Africa were closing in on victory but they were halted by some outstanding Indian bowling and catching at the end.

South Africa ended on 169-8 with Hardik Pandya taking 3-20 for India another reminder of his outstanding ability, particularly in 'death bowling'.

The win is the second T20 World Cup title for India following their triumph in the first edition in 2007 and it also ends their 11-year wait for a major title going back to the 2013 Champions Trophy.

But while the team and their huge travelling army of fans celebrated in Barbados, the win also marked the end of an era with skipper Rohit Sharma also calling it a day for the shortest format of the international game and coach Rahul Dravid having already announced his departure.

It was a sweet farewell for veteran Kohli



India celebrate with the trophy. Photo: AFP

who had struggled in the tournament, coming into the final with an average of just 10.7. However, he delivered his best innings at the perfect moment with his balanced batting ensuring India won the title after an unbeaten tournament.

Kohli's assured display was just what was needed for India who had slipped to 34 for three after Sharma won the toss and opted to bat.

"I am so proud to get the runs for the team the day it mattered most," said Kohli.

For Rohit the victory was the culmination of strong efforts and near-misses in recent years.

"It is very hard to sum up what we have been through for three or four years. There has been a lot behind the scenes. So winning this game isn't just about what we did today, it's about those years, it's all that hard work." *AFP*

Three Lions limp through

FOOTBALL

AFP

England escaped an embarrassing exit from Euro 2024 last Sunday (June 30) as they came from behind to beat Slovakia 2-1 in extra time and reach the quarter-finals.

A dramatic Jude Bellingham overhead kick deep in injury time and a Harry Kane strike early in extra time gave the Three Lions an undeserved win after Ivan Schranz's 25th minute goal had given Slovakia the lead in Gelsenkirchen.

It was very nearly another ignominious exit for England that would have rivalled their defeat by Iceland at the same stage of Euro 2016.

But Bellingham's moment of inspiration five minutes into stoppage time at the end of the game saved Gareth Southgate's side, as the Real Madrid man acrobatically turned home Marc Guehi's flick-on from a throw-in.

Slovakia's resistance was broken, and England got what proved to be the winner a minute into the extra period.

Substitute Ivan Toney headed Eberechi Eze's mishit shot back across goal for Kane to power home his second goal of the tournament.

That set up a quarter-final meeting with Switzerland tomorrow (July 6) in Duesseldorf after the Swiss comfortably beat an uninspiring Italy 2-0 last Saturday (June 29) thanks to goals from Ruben Vargas teed up Remo Freuler.

Elsewhere, Spain defeated surprise



England's Jude Bellingham scores the late overhead kick equaliser against Slovakia. Photo: AFP

packages Georgia 4-1 despite falling behind when Robin Le Normand put through his own net in the 18th minute.

However, Spain showed their class, with goals from Rodri, Fabian Ruiz, Nico Williams and Dani Olmo securing the win and setting up a mouth-watering quarter-final showdown with hosts Germany today (July 5).

Germany overcame Denmark 2-0 in a storm-interrupted encounter where play was halted for 25 minutes late in the first half before second-half goals from Kai Havertz and Jamal Musiala gave the tournament hosts the win.

Portugal needed a penalty shootout to beat Slovenia after the game ended 0-0, with captain Cristiano Ronaldo missing a penalty in extra-time.

Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa was the hero as he saved three spot kicks

from Slovenian players in the shootout, while Ronaldo, Bernardo Silva and Bruno Fernandes successfully converted theirs to seal the victory.

The win set up a tantalising clash against France today (July 5) after Les Bleus managed to beat Belgium in their knockout tie thanks to a 85th minute own goal from defender Jan Vertonghen.

Despite boasting a richly-talented squad led by Kylian Mbappe, the 2022 World Cup finalists' only three goals in four games so far in Germany have come from two own goals and a penalty.

"We have to enjoy, not analyse too much. We're into the quarter-finals," said France coach Didier Deschamps.

The remaining round of 16 ties between Austria and Turkey and the Netherlands and Romania had yet to be played at time of press.



Yin (left) and Atthaya. Photo: AFP

Thitikul, Yin win LPGA Great Lakes pairs title

GOLF

THAILAND'S ATTHAYA Thitikul sank a 10-foot birdie putt at the par-3 18th hole last Sunday (June 30) to give herself and China's Yin Ruoning the victory at the LPGA Great Lakes Bay Invitational.

The 21-year-old Asian stars combined for an eight-under-par 62 in the four-ball final round at Michigan's Midland Country Club to finish 72 holes on 22-under 258 and edge Americans Jennifer Kupcho and Ally Ewing by one stroke.

Yin and Atthaya each made four birdies on the round, with Atthaya sinking three of hers on par-3 holes, the most tension-packed at the last.

"I was so nervous," Atthaya said of the final putt. "I knew this putt was for both of

us. I wanted to make it so bad and I made it for us."

Atthaya collected her third career LPGA title after the 2022 JTBC Classic and 2022 Northwest Arkansas Championship.

Yin also took her third career LPGA triumph after the 2023 LA Open and the 2023 Women's PGA Championship, her first major victory.

Teams played alternate shot in the first and third rounds and four-ball in the second and fourth rounds of the US\$3 million (B110mn) pairs event.

Ewing and Kupcho fired a 64 to finish second with third shared on 261 by the Danish duo of Nanna Koerstz Madsen and Nicole Broch Estrup, who closed with a 63, and the South Korean pairing of Kang Hae-ji and Kim In-kyung, who shot 65. AFP

A smorgasbord of test match rugby



This weekend (July 5, 6 and 7) sees all the top rugby playing nations in action. Here is a brief preview of the games including predictions.

- Samoa vs Italy. Italy has the confidence of gladiators having subjected Wales to last season's Six Nations wooden spoon. However, the Pacific Islands are a long way from the colosseum. Prediction: Italy by 9 points.

- New Zealand vs England. England has never won a series in NZ although the big win in Japan on June 22 has further fuelled self-belief. NZ has a new coach and captain and there has never been a poor All Black team. Prediction: All Blacks by 12.

- Australia vs Wales. Selection for both sides is a key issue such as who plays 10 for Australia, who is fit for Wales. Players always play harder for a new coach, as is the case with Australia. Prediction: Australia by 6.

- South Africa vs Ire-



The All Blacks take on England. Photo: AFP

land. Do not miss this one, the match of the weekend. Kolisi back for the Boks. Ireland still smarting from an early World Cup exit in France. Playing at Loftus will test Ireland. Prediction: Ireland by 8.

- Argentina vs France. France will need all their flair. Argentina will need forward domination. France has Dupont and Ntamack and they will decide the outcome and by how many. Prediction: France by 12.

- Canada vs Scotland. The first of a long trip for Scotland. Canada needs to re-merge as a national rugby force. Scotland will pull away and have too much

depth. Prediction: Scotland by 20.

If you want to fill in time between games, there is also the Under 20s World Cup from Stellenbosch and Cape Town in South Africa with some remarkable young talent on show such as South Africa's Pretorius Ekeji, tipped as the new Jonah Lomu.

The Global Rugby Coach, Mike Penistone, is a globally renowned professional rugby coach based in Phuket who is also an ambassador for the Asia Center Foundation, a charity for disadvantaged children. For more information visit: www.rugbycoachingconsultancy.com.



MALAYSIA INDEPENDENCE DAY GOLF THAILAND PHUKET 2024



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Shotgun Tee off at 12.00 hr.
Gala Dinner @ Ramada Plaza Ballroom
Time: 18.30 hr.

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Sport



Drab England saved by the Bell > p15

TOP SHOTS!

Phuket tennis trio shine on global stage

Tarita 'Ig' Hongsyok in action. Photo: Supplied



TENNIS

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

While tennis superstars Carlos Alcaraz and Marketa Vondrousova take to the court to defend their respective Wimbledon singles' titles this week, three ambitious youngsters in Phuket will be observing from afar, hoping to one day emulate their achievements.

Tarita Hongsyok, Phopthum Sriwong and Kunanan Pantaratorn are all students at British International School, Phuket (BISP) who have been making their mark on the court of late with a series of impressive performances and achievements.

Year 10 student Tarita, affectionally known as Ig, has developed through the renowned BISP Tennis Academy. Her recent success on the international tennis scene has

showcased her dedication, skill and sportsmanship to see her become established as a genuine ambassador for not only the Phuket-based school but Thailand in general.

Earlier this year, Ig became the Girl's Doubles Champion at the International Tennis Federation (ITF) J30 Dushanbe Tournament, held in Tajikistan between Apr 8-13.

Joining forces with her playing partner Safina Safiulina from Kazakhstan, the achievement was particularly special for young Ig as it was her first ITF title. While the victory marked a memorable moment in her budding tennis career and was a true testament to her hard work and determination, it similarly set a promising tone for her future endeavours.

Ig has been a member of the Thailand National Junior Tennis Team for three consecutive years, competing in the under-14 age group for two years and now in

the under-16 age group where she continues to shine.

Of particular note recently was being part of the team in the prestigious Billie Jean King Cup 2024 Asia/Oceania qualifying event, which took place in Kazakhstan on May 14. Competing against 16 countries, Ig played both singles and doubles matches. Despite Thailand not being a seeded team and not advancing past the strong competitors from the likes of South Korea and Taiwan, Ig's individual performance was impressive and caught attention.

BURGEONING

In July and August of 2023, Ig was selected to be part of the Grand Slam Player Development Programme (GSPDP) / Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) / ITF team to tour Europe, standing out as the only Thai player in the group.

Following the European tour,

Ig was again invited by GSPDP/ITF/ATF to join the under-16 girls team in China in November 2023, emphasising not only her talent but her burgeoning standing in the international tennis community.

Ig's success is due in large part to her rigorous training regimen at the BISP Tennis Academy, where she trains 19 hours a week under the expert guidance and mentorship of coach and Academy Director Gill Lemoire.

"Ig's journey is a source of inspiration for her peers, younger athletes, and the entire BISP community," a BISP spokesperson said. "Her commitment to excellence and her passion for tennis exemplify the values we strive to instil in our students. We are incredibly proud of Ig and look forward to supporting her as she continues to excel on the international stage."

Also gaining widespread recognition are Year 11 students Phopthum

(Pao) and Kunanan (Puthi), who were both recently selected to represent Thailand as National Junior Tennis players at international team events in the boys' under-16 age group.

Most recently this saw the pair represent their country at the ATF Davis Cup Juniors Asia/Oceania final qualifying event, which took place from May 20-27 in Shymkent, Kazakhstan.

The Lawn Tennis Association of Thailand, under His Majesty's Patronage, has officially recognised the achievements of both Pao and Puthi and acknowledges the role of BISP and the community in building a reputation for the nation.

While their adventures on court are in effect only just beginning, there is no doubt many Phuket residents will be watching keenly to see how these three supremely gifted youngsters develop and progress in the game in future.

Kathu students head to national sports qualifiers

ATHLETICS

YOUNG STUDENTS FROM Kathu Municipality were given a rousing send off by officials last Friday (June 28) before heading to a major national sports qualifying competition in Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

Comprising students from several schools and competing under the jurisdiction of Kathu Municipality, the young male and female athletes will be battling it out with other districts from the

southern region of Thailand at the Local Administrative Organisation Student Sports Competition of Thailand, Southern Level Qualifying Round.

The 38th annual edition of competition, which is primarily based around athletics and track and field-based sports, started on Monday (July 1) and runs until July 10.

This particular edition is also being referred to as the 'Thung Song Junction Games', an affectionate nod to the well known railway station in the Thung Song District of Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

To inspire the departing delegation last Friday, Kathu Mayor Wannayut Suthikul delivered a motivational speech at the Kathu City Council building to all the competing athletes, as well as their trainers, coaches, teachers and officials.

Mr Wannayut stressed the importance of the competition in helping develop key social skills, confidence and self-esteem among athletes, while promoting the merits of team work and the appreciation of sporting values such as winning and losing and with grace

and dignity.

Furthermore, Mayor Wannayut emphasised how the competition is a great opportunity for the young athletes to develop and potentially forge out a career in the professional arena of sports.

He also reminded the entire delegation representing Kathu Municipality to show respect at all times by adhering to all rules and regulations governing the competition and to show good sportmanship at all times.

Following his speech, Mayor Wannayut distributed sporting



Photo: PR Phuket

uniforms to the athletes in addition to a cheque to team officials that is to be used as a budget to support the trip and their sporting endeavours.

Of note, the official report on the Phuket PR Facebook page made no mention of the exact age range of the student athletes, the overall number of students participating or the specific schools they are representing. *The Phuket News*