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CRISIS LOOP



Traffic at Koh Kaew Intersection. Photo: Natnaree Likidwatanasakun

LACK OF BUDGET, PLANNING LEAVES PHUKET TRAPPED IN CRISIS

Natnaree Likidwatanasakun
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Phuket's chronic lack of budget allocation and utilisation for infrastructure is trapping the island in a 'vicious cycle' that threatens both its residents' quality of life and its standing as a world-class tourist destination, warns Associate Professor Dr Chayanon Phucharoen of Prince of Songkla University Phuket campus.

Dr Chayanon, Deputy Dean for Research and Graduate Studies at the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism, told *The Phuket News* that inadequate transport systems force both locals and tourists to take to the roads, fuelling congestion, accidents and dissatisfaction.

"If you take this matter seriously, you will see this is a vicious cycle. That's the technical term," he said. "Once you don't have a good transportation system, tourists have to arrange their own transportation, which usually means renting motorbikes or cars.

"So that creates congestion in peak areas. In some parts of Phuket there are more than 40,000 people living in just 2.4 square kilometres – similar to parts of Bangkok. But in Bangkok you have the Skytrain and the MRT. We don't. So think about those 40,000-45,000 people going to work in the morning. That congestion links directly to the lack of proper public transport here.

"When people cannot hop on a train, cannot hop on a bus, or even if the bus is there it may not fit

them, they have to drive by motorbike. That creates another social problem: accidents. The road fatalities in Phuket are brutal," Dr Chayanon said.

The impact extends to foreigners unfamiliar with Thai roads. "When tourists rent motorbikes or cars on unfamiliar roads, the probability of accidents increases," he added.

"This also affects the 'experiential quality' of Phuket as a tourist destination. Imagine: tourists arrive at the airport, immigration officers facilitate them, the wait is not so long compared to our neighbours. But once they leave the airport, they're stuck in traffic.

"This damages not only lives, but also the experiential quality of Phuket... They come from

Shanghai or New York, where they don't face this. They don't expect this on their holiday. This is the last thing they want to see."

TOP PRIORITY

Phuket's survival as a competitive tourist destination depends squarely on infrastructure upgrades, Dr Chayanon stressed.

"The first and most important thing for Phuket is to sustain our competitive advantage in tourism. That means upgrading infrastructure," he said.

He pointed to the growing emphasis in global travel on what he called 'experiential quality'. "It means that when you go to a place, you have a good experience – from the moment you land until the moment you depart..."

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Tourists assault lifeguards over rip warnings



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Enjoying the wonders of local nature



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Dojo Phuket on the medal trail in the USA





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News



Teens arrested for shootings, bomb attacks > p4



Image: Thai MECC 3

Navy intercepts suspicious vessel

THE ROYAL THAI Navy deployed HTMS Hua Hin last Saturday (Aug 30) to intercept a foreign-flagged vessel seen behaving suspiciously in Thai waters west of Phuket.

Vice Admiral Suwat Donsakul, Director of the Thai Maritime Enforcement Command Centre Region 3 (Thai MECC 3), ordered the operation after the Phuket Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Centre reported unusual activity by the Vanuatu-flagged fishing vessel 'BLENE'.

The vessel reportedly entered Thai territorial waters at around 1am, travelling at a speed of about 3 knots. Repeated attempts by the Marine Department to make radio contact went unanswered.

Between 2:30am and 5am, the vessel was observed circling in a trawl-like pattern at coordinates 7°54'51"N 089°01'18"E, approximately 20 nautical miles west of Phuket.

HTMS Hua Hin and officers from Thai MECC 3 were dispatched to intercept the vessel. At 5:20pm, the ship was boarded and searched.

According to the Phuket Provincial Office, no fishing gear, aquatic animals or illegal items were found on board. The ship's captain told officers the vessel had travelled from Russia and was en route to Bangladesh, where it was to be sold.

An investigation of the ship's movements confirmed that it departed Russia 57 days ago. Thai MECC 3 reported that officers will continue to monitor the vessel until it exits Thai waters.

Thai MECC 3 emphasised its commitment to safeguarding Thailand's maritime interests and maintaining security in the Andaman Sea.

Thai MECC 3 operates a 24-hour hotline for emergencies, disasters or maritime threats. Assistance can be requested by calling 1465.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Phuket's crisis loop

Continued from page 1

...Every minute counts," he explained.

"But Phuket lacks sufficient budget, and resources are not allocated to enhance infrastructure to support that experiential quality. This is the most important thing we must look at."

He emphasised that Phuket already has the human capital and problem-solving ability. "Business leaders here are well educated. They know the problems, they know the solutions. During COVID, we all learned what we had to do. The system is not perfect, but the main problem is budget allocation.

"To move Phuket forward, to compete with other rising destinations, we must sing the same song: budget allocation and budget utilisation. This is different from Phuket autonomy. Don't confuse the two. The urgent issue right now is budget – the right allocation, and the right utilisation."

FREE VISAS – NOT THE REAL ISSUE

Public complaints about "free visa tourists" are misplaced, Dr Chayanon said. "This matter is not something you can conclude easily. Most of the nations granted free visas already had easy access before. The free visa affects mainly the length of stay – not the number of arrivals," he explained.

Comparisons before and



Dr Chayanon. Photo: Natnaree Likidwatanasakun

after the policy show little change in arrivals. "But what we see is: they stay longer. And when people stay longer, they adapt," he noted.

Business operators who complain of falling revenue should consider the timing and wider context, he added. "If they mean June, July and August, the numbers show arrivals increased. But focusing only on arrivals is like looking at the tip of the iceberg. We must look at income: arrivals × spending per head × number of days stayed."

Other forces are at play. "The number of hotels and operators has increased. Our GDP grew at double digits during [post-COVID] recovery – 40% in the first year, then 20% last year. That means more operators entered the market, so supply also increased," Dr Chayanon said.

"What we face now is stagnation. Not in arrivals – those are still increasing – but stagnation in financial

returns for businesses. That's when they start to feel the impact."

He posed the key question: "Why can't we sustain our growth? Can we maintain double-digit growth with the current infrastructure in Phuket?"

BALANCING THE FUTURE

With more than 16,000 new housing units already approved for next year, the island is expanding fast – but expansion without infrastructure is a recipe for collapse, Dr Chayanon cautioned.

"Why do they build more? Because there is demand. And demand comes in three forms: speculation, real demand, and rental demand. All three rely on confidence in Phuket's economy, which depends on tourism.

"If people perceive tourism is in decline, speculation collapses, rentals collapse, and even those buying to live may move elsewhere. So it all depends

on whether Phuket can sustain growth. Can our roads support the increasing number of tourists? Can our infrastructure handle it? That's the big question," he said.

Safety and quality of life are inseparable from Phuket's future. "This involves many dimensions, including safety," he stressed.

STUCK AT THE CROSSROADS

For Dr Chayanon, Phuket now stands at a crossroads. The island has the resources, knowledge and determination to thrive, but remains hobbled by poor planning and limited funding.

"Phuket has strong human capital, but many problems need more than brainpower to solve. The issue is not vision, it's not ability. It's budget," he repeated.

Without decisive action, the cycle will continue: weak public transport forcing more vehicles onto the roads, creating congestion, fuelling accidents, undermining tourist satisfaction and weakening confidence in Phuket's future.

With the island's economy still heavily reliant on tourism, the stakes could not be higher. "Phuket has to think long-term," Dr Chayanon said. "Infrastructure is not a cost. It's an investment. And unless we break this vicious cycle, it will break us."

Phuket begins AI training for officials

PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS have launched a training programme on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in government administration as part of efforts to drive Phuket towards becoming a Smart City.

The training, titled 'Enhancing Knowledge on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Government Administration', was held at Phuket Vocational College on Aug 26. The session was presided over by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat, with government agency heads, district chiefs,

local administrative leaders and provincial officials taking part.

Narong On-in of the Phuket Provincial Office, said the rapid development of AI technology is already transforming industries and the public sector cannot afford to be left behind.

"Government officials need to have knowledge, understanding and the ability to apply AI in their work. This will help improve efficiency, streamline processes and better prepare for the digital era," he said.

Governor Sophon noted that the initiative ties directly into

Phuket's ongoing Smart City vision.

"Phuket Province recognises the importance of Smart City development in the public sector," he said. "This training equips leaders and officials with the knowledge to use AI to simplify tasks, enhance work processes and provide faster, more efficient public services."

The session featured a special lecture by Chalermopol Punnotok, CEO of CT Asia Robotics Co Ltd and developer of Thailand and ASEAN's first service robot, 'Dinso'. Mr Chalermopol shared



Photo: PR Phuket

his expertise on AI applications and the future of automation in public service.

Phuket officials expect the training to improve the capabilities of government personnel, leading to the development of standardised manuals and service

systems, said an official report of the event.

The aim, they said, is to align the province's administration with Phuket's long-term strategy for sustainable Smart City development, the report added.

The Phuket News

Tourists assault Nai Harn lifeguards

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Rawai Mayor Thames Kraiat has vowed to pursue legal action to the fullest extent of the law after a group of foreign tourists spat on and physically assaulted lifeguards at Nai Harn Beach when ordered out of the water during a swimming ban last week.

The incident, which took place on Aug 25, was caught on video and widely shared on social media, sparking outrage online. The footage shows several men confronting lifeguards, spitting at them and throwing punches after being told to leave the surf, which had been closed for swimming due to dangerous monsoon-season conditions.

Lifeguards had blown whistles and repeatedly instructed the group to exit the water, but the warnings were ignored. Witnesses said the tourists responded with verbal abuse before the violence broke out.

Despite being outnumbered, lifeguards held their ground. No serious injuries were reported, and the group of tourists eventually dispersed.

Mayor Thames said the attack was “an insult to the dignity of Thai people” and that it could not be resolved through negotiation



Photo: Tourist Police

or monetary compensation.

“I will not tolerate this,” he said in a statement. “The dignity of Thai people cannot be valued in money. This case will be pursued to the fullest extent of the law and must serve as an example to prevent others from violating the law.”

Reports emerged that the tourists had offered more than B200,000 to settle the matter, but Mayor Thames rejected any suggestion of compromise, stressing that Phuket’s lifeguards are on duty to protect lives and deserve full respect and support.

Chalong Police Chief Pol Col

Rungrit Rattanaphakdi has now confirmed the case had been concluded with charges of assault, though he declined to provide further details.

Earlier reports, which identified the tourists as from Kuwait, indicated the tourists faced charges including property damage, resisting an officer and violating official orders.

Mayor Thames added that following this incident, Rawai Municipality will review the number of lifeguards stationed at Nai Harn and increase public awareness campaigns to ensure tourists understand beach

safety rules.

The video of the clash drew a flood of angry comments online, with many social media users calling for the attackers to be prosecuted, deported and blacklisted from re-entering Thailand.

Marine safety expert Daren Jenner, Marine Safety Commissioner for Thailand and Section Chief of the International Surf Lifesaving Association (ISLA), condemned the attack, saying Phuket’s lifeguards were “beyond the bounds of human decency” to have been assaulted while trying to save lives.

“By the video it looks like a couple of the lifeguards took some pretty good cracks. They were outnumbered,” he said. “A serious fine must be issued, jail time in Thai prison, and substantial compensation provided – sufficient to serve as a serious deterrent.”

Mr Jenner also suggested that Phuket consider lifeguard supervisors with warden-like authority to subdue and detain unruly tourists who refuse to follow life-saving warnings.

Nai Harn lifeguards said they remain committed to their work despite the attack. “We work very hard at this beach. Everyone strictly adheres to the rules. This year, there have been no fatalities. The total is still zero. We will be encouraged to continue our work,” one lifeguard said.

With strong rip currents continuing to claim lives along Phuket’s west coast each monsoon season, lifeguards and officials again urged all beachgoers to respect red flags and swimming bans.

“I would like to send my support to all the officers who stand up for the safety of the public and tourists,” a lifeguard added. “I urge everyone to respect beach rules so that the sea remains a place of happiness, not loss.”

NACC Phuket targets excavation sites

THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION Commission (NACC) Phuket office has launched a new initiative to identify areas at risk of corruption, with land excavation and filling projects carried out by local administrations placed under scrutiny.

As part of the ‘Pinning Areas at Risk of Corruption’ project, NACC Phuket Chief Suwat Saowarat led field inspections with local officials, members of the Phuket STRONG Club, and representatives from the Phuket Provincial Public Works and Town & Country Planning Office on Aug 18-19.

While the inspections were carried out earlier last month, NACC Phuket publicly posted their report of the inspections on Aug 28.

The inspections focused on excavation and filling operations, which are governed by the Excavation and Filling Act of 2000 (B.E. 2543). The law requires local officials to authorise such works to prevent risks to public safety, property, and the environment. Operators must also implement measures to prevent soil collapse and structural damage, said the NACC Phuket report.

On Aug 18, the team inspected a land excavation and filling site in Karon, with officials from Karon Municipality also present. The following day, attention shifted to Srisoonthorn, where two locations were examined: an excavation site linked to the Kathu–Manik Road project connecting Kathu and Thalang, and another near the northern edge of the Bang Neow Dam reservoir.

Officials noted that one of the



Photo: NACC Phuket

Srisoonthorn sites was close to the construction of a luxury villa on Soi Khok Moo, raising concerns about potential unauthorised land alteration. Srisoonthorn Municipality officials later joined an additional inspection of an excavation and filling operation on Aug 20.

According to the NACC Phuket office, excavation and filling activities were chosen as the focus of this anti-corruption initiative to raise awareness among local authorities about the importance of strict permitting and oversight. The project also supports Section 33 of the Organic Act on the Prevention and Suppression of Corruption (B.E. 2561 / 2018), which emphasises public participation in preventing corruption, the NACC Phuket report noted.

During the site visits, NACC officials observed operations, provided recommendations and listened to challenges faced by local administrators in enforcing regulations.

“The NACC Phuket office has instructed its officers to perform their duties in strict compliance with the law and regulations,” the agency said in its report. “We will continue to monitor, follow up, and take action within the scope of our authority.”

The Phuket News

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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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Wind 4 m/s

THU SEPTEMBER 11



High: +36°
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

Russian wanted over Phuket crypto heist

THAI POLICE HAVE arrested a 26-year-old Russian man wanted in connection with a violent robbery in Phuket, after finding him hiding in the back seat of a car on Koh Samui.

The suspect, identified only as 'Dmitrii', was detained on Aug 28 at Nathon Pier following a joint operation led by Koh Samui Police.

He was discovered curled up in the rear of a blue Nissan sedan driven by another Russian national, Stolbov Gleb, 25, after arriving by ferry from Don Sak.

The arrest followed coordination with Chalong Police, who confirmed that Dmitrii was wanted on an arrest warrant issued by Phuket Provincial Court on Aug 27 for a robbery targeting a fellow Russian.

He was subsequently taken to Koh Samui Police Station for questioning, assisted by an interpreter, but refused to give a statement. He was to be transferred to Chalong Police Station in Phuket



Photo: Koh Samui Police

for further legal proceedings.

According to investigators, Dmitrii allegedly contacted the victim, a 28-year-old Russian man, and lured him to a villa in Chalong on Aug 26 to discuss 'an investment opportunity'.

Instead, the victim was confronted by four men, reported to be Russian who assaulted him and forced him to transfer cryptocurrency and funds amounting to 35,000 USDT – equivalent to about B1.2 million.

He was released after the money was transferred. He later filed a complaint with Chalong Police.

Immigration officers have revealed that the four other suspects are believed to have already left Thailand.

Bangkok Post

Police arrest teens after shootings, bomb attacks

Eakkapop Thongtub
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Police have launched a major crackdown on the so-called 'Sapchang' youth gang after a series of violent attacks, including a shooting that left a teenager seriously injured and a reprisal raid involving gunfire, firecrackers and homemade bombs.

The violence began on Aug 24, when an 18-year-old identified only as 'Thanwa' was shot in the back while riding his motorcycle near Muang Thong Market in Wichit. Police said three youths confronted him before one opened fire. He was rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital in serious condition.

Following an investigation, Wichit Police obtained arrest warrants for attempted murder and firearms offences. Officers arrested the alleged shooter, Wasan 'Bang Seed', 22, along with a 15-year-old boy accused of driving the motorcycle. Both confessed, police said. Raids at other locations led to further arrests, including a 27-year-old caught with a homemade shotgun and another member held on



Photo: Wichit Police

drug charges. Several motorbikes were also seized.

The situation escalated again late last Saturday (Aug 30), when Sapchang members attacked a car repair shop on Soi Thaweasap. At about 11:56pm, teenagers hurled explosives and fired shots, damaging a car but causing no injuries. Patrol officers recovered bullet casings, a detonated bomb and two unexploded devices.

Police launched a large-scale operation the following day, arresting nearly a dozen suspects. They now face multiple charges including possession and use of firearms, unlawful assembly, and causing unrest. Parents of

underage members may also be prosecuted under the Child Protection Act for failing to prevent their children's involvement.

Wichit Police Chief Pol Col Somsak Thongkliang said the violent spree was an attempt by Sapchang members to assert influence after the earlier arrest of their leader and other key figures.

"Wichit Police are determined to take decisive legal action against all perpetrators, as well as the parents who enabled this criminal activity," he said.

Police confirmed investigations were continuing to identify remaining gang members and dismantle the group's network to prevent further clashes.

'Brake failure' blamed for Patong Hill plunge into ditch

A SIX-WHEELED TRUCK swerved off Phra Barami Rd and into a roadside ditch in front of Wat Suwannakhiriwong (Wat Patong) on Aug 28 after the driver reported suffering brake failure.

Pol Lt Col Rapiphan Chumtham of Patong Police was notified of the incident at 11:10am. Officers arrived at the bottom of Patong Hill to find the Bangkok-registered truck damaged after coming to rest in the ditch.

The driver, named by police only as 'Mr Thanongsak', 38, from Kanchanaburi, told police he lost control of the vehicle at the notorious 'Pla Ra curve' after the brakes failed.

In an attempt to avoid a collision with other vehicles, he steered the truck into the ditch



Photo: Patong Police

beside the Wat Patong grounds.

The impact caused damage to roadside railings and light poles, though fortunately no one was injured.

Dashcam footage from another vehicle captured the dramatic moment the truck veered off the road before crashing into the ditch.

Police recorded the incident as evidence and confirmed no charges were filed as no injuries occurred. Eakkapop Thongtub

Australian injured in morning brawl with French tourist

AN AUSTRALIAN MAN WAS injured in a fight with a French tourist inside a Patong hotel last Sunday morning (Aug 31), prompting police to launch a search for the Frenchman, who fled the scene.

Patong Police were called to the hotel, on Nanai Rd, Patong, at about 9:35am after staff reported a violent altercation between two foreign guests.

Arriving with rescue workers from the Kusuntham Phuket Foundation, officers found Australian tourist Brett William John Amery bleeding on the hotel floor. He had sustained a head wound about five centimetres long.

Witnesses told police the two tourists had exchanged punches before the Frenchman fled on a black Yamaha Nmax motorbike with Phuket licence plate 1 Kor 6178.



Photo: Patong Police

Rescue workers administered first aid before taking Mr Amery to Patong Hospital. However, he refused treatment after being admitted.

Police have not confirmed what sparked the fight but said Mr Amery has been summoned to give a formal statement as part of the investigation. Officers are now working to track down the French tourist involved. At last report, Patong Police confirmed that they had yet to locate the French tourist.

Eakkapop Thongtub

'Residents first', says Phuket MP

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket MP Thitikan Thitipruethikul has called for sweeping legislative reforms to clear legal obstacles to the island's growth, as senior officials and tourism leaders came together last Sunday (Aug 31) to launch 'Phuket Foresight 2030', a five-year strategy to establish the province as a sustainable, world-class destination.

Speaking at the forum, organised by the Sustainable Tourism Development Foundation at the Royal Phuket City Hotel, Mr Thitikan said Phuket's vision must be backed by changes to outdated laws if it is to be achieved.

"This requires the collaborative efforts of many sectors, including local residents, the private sector, government officials and organisations, and, equally important, legislative representatives who must amend laws," he said. "Even with a large budget, if regulations and laws are not met, the problems remain unresolved."

He also underlined the importance of prioritising residents' wellbeing.

"We must prioritise the happiness of local people before



Photo: Thitikan Thitipruethikul / Facebook

allowing others to be happy, for the sake of happiness for tourists and visitors," he added.

Mr Thitikan highlighted laws such as the Forestry Act of 1941 and restrictions on government land use as barriers to Phuket's development. He urged reforms to allow projects such as a national convention centre, improved infrastructure, upgraded water systems and wastewater treatment, and better waste management and urban planning.

He also proposed the creation of a dedicated website to gather feedback from all sectors, making Phuket's development plan a living agenda for the province.

The workshop was attended by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat, Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) President Rewat Arerob, Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (DASTA) Director Siripakorn Chiawsamut, Foundation President Phumikitt

Raktaengam, and representatives from the private sector.

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Governor Thapanee Kiatphaibool played a central role in the event, presenting TAT's shared vision of Phuket as 'The Happiness Island for All'.

"Today, I had the opportunity to discuss Phuket Foresight 2030: participating in the strategy for developing Phuket towards sustainable tourism, along with the Phuket Governor and senior executives from key tourism agencies in the country, including the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), and the Department of Local Administration (DLA)," she said.

Ms Thapanee explained that TAT has collaborated with partners on seven key strategies designed to support balanced and sustainable growth: gastronomy, knowledge hub, maritime tourism, MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences, exhibitions), longevity, smart city, and smart agriculture.

"These strategies align with TAT's national policy to create an 'Amazing Thailand Unforgettable Experience' through 'Healing is the new luxury', delivering beautiful, memorable, and sustainable experiences to tourists from

around the world," she said.

The plan will cover 2026-2030 and aims to ensure Phuket grows as a global tourism hub powered by a smart economy and enriched by talent, culture and nature.

Participants at the forum also identified the challenges Phuket must address, including the impact of climate change on tourism, global economic crises and widening income inequality, and a shortage of skilled labour in the hospitality industry.

Governor Sophon and other leaders stressed that 'Phuket Foresight 2030' is not just a theoretical document, but a collaborative platform where government agencies, business leaders, and the community can shape practical, lasting solutions.

Mr Bhumikitti Ruktaengam, President of the Sustainable Tourism Development Foundation, was praised by participants for pushing the initiative forward and ensuring it becomes concrete.

With broad backing from provincial and national agencies, the strategy seeks to position Phuket as a model of sustainable tourism in Asia - an island where people, culture and nature thrive together, while ensuring long-term prosperity and resilience for the local community, an official report of the event noted.

Repairs to Phi Phi boardwalk inch ahead

LOCAL OFFICIALS have defended themselves from accusations of being too slow to fix the boardwalk at Phi Phi Don island after it was heavily damaged by a storm last year.



Photo: NBT Krabi

The boardwalk, which serves as the main way for tourists to walk onto the island from the pier at Ton Sai Bay, remains broken and dangerous after a heavy storm in July last year.

According to the Ao Nang Tambon Administration Organisation (Or-BorTor), a total of 1,794,208 tourists have visited Phi Phi Don Island since Oct 1 last year.

Ao Nang OrBorTor told *The Phuket News* that repairs were underway as part of a major coastal protection project.

However, officials at Ao Nang OrBorTor said the responsibility for repairing the broken boardwalk rests the Krabi Provincial Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning (DPT Krabi)

DPT Krabi is currently implementing the first phase of embankment repairs, said DPT Krabi Chief Chaiwat Opaspimontham.

patient transfers, boat traffic and tourism, officials admitted.

In response, the DPT Krabi held three rounds of public hearings with local communities, fishermen, hotel operators, and longtail boat drivers.

Participants agreed on the construction of a reinforced gabion breakwater stretching 529 metres. The new design will strengthen foundations with piles and concrete beams, as well as add boat moorings, benches, and promenade improvements, reported the local branch of the state news agency, NBT Krabi.

Ao Nang OrBorTor Chief Pankam Kittithorakul clarified that no direct complaints have been filed with the organisation since the project began.

"Local residents are already aware of the project. We will coordinate with provincial agencies to improve the walkway landscaping once the repair work is completed, or during the project if feasible, while minimising impacts on the public," he said.

Natnaree Likidwanasakun

Property set for bumper year

Bangkok Post

Despite a sluggish first half and the continued absence of Chinese buyers, Phuket's residential property market in 2025 is expected to be one of the busiest in terms of new launches and sales, according to analysts.

Chotika Tungsirirurp, head of research and consulting at CBRE (Thailand), said more condos and villas are expected to launch this year, especially in the final quarter.

"It is the high season," she said. "With completed supply continuing to grow, we anticipate more transactions as Phuket enters a more active phase in both the primary and secondary markets."

FEWER NEW LAUNCHES

CBRE reported that new launches of both condos and villas in the first half of 2025 fell by 25.3% and 41.5% year-on-year, to 3,711 and 397 units, respectively.

"Despite the decline, the volume remained healthy," Ms Chotika said. "The slowdown follows a record year in 2024 for both launches and sales, so the drop was not unexpected. Current figures remain above historical averages."

The 3,711 newly launched



Photo: Bangkok Post

condo units from 17 projects were concentrated in the south and southwest coastal areas, where land was cheaper and units 15–20% below west-coast prices.

The villa sector faced growing competition from consecutive waves of supply, leading to fewer launches. The northwest coast saw the most activity, as land prices there remained more attractive after sharp increases around Bang Tao and Cherng Talay.

Most new villa projects targeted the mid-range market, priced between B15–35 million.

STRONG CONDO SALES

Condo sales recorded robust

growth, with 3,633 units sold in the first half, up 21% year-on-year, driven by foreign buyers attracted to affordability, said Prakaipeth Meechosarn, head of Phuket property sales at CBRE (Thailand).

"Entry-level condos can be bought for less than B3mn per unit, while villas have a much higher entry point and less attractive ownership structures," she said.

SET-listed developer Sansiri was a standout performer, reporting B1 billion in Phuket presales, mostly condos.

"The decline in foreign tourist arrivals has affected condo sales

since late last year, but Phuket's foreign demand remains stronger than Bangkok's," said Sansiri president Uthai Uthaisangsuk. "We expect sales to rise during the October–March high season."

VILLA SLOWDOWN

Villa sales fell 21.9% year-on-year in the first half as demand was absorbed and the off-season lull took effect.

"Although villa sales were lower, this is expected: they are higher priced and involve longer decision cycles," said Ms Chotika.

Developers generally build only after securing reservations and payments. Despite the decline, more Bangkok-listed developers entered Phuket, including Land & Houses, Ananda Development and AssetWise, which launched its first villa project.

"These players have attracted Thai buyers for second homes and investments, while still catering to foreign demand," said Ms Prakaipeth.

As competition intensifies, developers are adapting designs to offer better value. "Well-known developers achieve strong sales, while less experienced players struggle. Projects balancing quality, location and price remain competitive," she said.

Some underperforming villa projects may be revised, with unit sizes reduced for lower prices or converted into condo developments.

CHINESE BUYERS YET TO RETURN

Buyer nationalities remain consistent, with Russians, Thais and Europeans leading activity. Phuket continues to attract second-home and retirement buyers, long-stay visitors and remote-working expats.

This trend has also drawn investors, particularly Thais, seeking properties for flexible use and rental income, as well as long-term capital gains.

However, Chinese buyers have not returned to pre-pandemic levels.

"The revival of the Chinese tourist market is a key prerequisite for a rebound in Chinese property purchases," said Ms Chotika.

In the first half of 2025, Chinese arrivals to Thailand fell 31.2% year-on-year, while overall foreign arrivals dropped 4.7% to 16.7mn. Phuket airport, however, handled 2.76mn passenger arrivals, up 5.6% year-on-year.

"It is difficult to predict when Chinese tourists will return to anywhere near previous levels," she said.

Tourism drive targets Bangkok market

THE PHUKET TOURIST Association, together with the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO), the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket Office and the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) has staged a five-day tourism promotion campaign aimed at boosting business opportunities for Phuket's tourism operators in both consumer and corporate markets.

The 'Phuket Ded Tang Koh' ('Phuket - The Best Island') initiative ran from Aug 21–25, combining promotions at one of Thailand's biggest domestic travel fairs with a dedicated business-to-business (B2B) networking roadshow in Bangkok.

From Aug 21–24, more than 22 Phuket entrepreneurs joined the 75th Thai Tiew Thai event at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, offering special accommodation and travel packages discounted by up to 60%. The strong pro-



Photo: Phuket Tourist Association

motions drew significant attention from both Thai and international travellers.

The campaign continued on Aug 25 with a B2B Roadshow Networking event at The Landmark Bangkok Hotel, where more than 45 Phuket tourism operators showcased their services to over 60 business partners from Bangkok and nearby provinces. The event provided a platform for building new business networks and negotiating long-term cooperation.

Leading the Phuket delegation was Phuket Tourist Association President Thaneth Tantipiriyakij, joined by members of the executive committee and TAT Phuket Director Siriwan Siharat.

They were welcomed by TAT Board Member and Deputy Director for Tourism Strategy at the Tourism Council of Thailand, Bhummikitti Ruktaengam, who underlined the importance of such events in strengthening links between Phuket's tourism sector and key domestic markets.

"The collaboration between the public and private sectors ensures continuous support for these kinds of initiatives, which are vital for enhancing Phuket's tourism potential in both domestic and international arenas," Mr Bhummikitti said.

Suratwadee Phetriang, Senior Manager of TCEB's Southern Region Office, presented updates on Phuket's MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions) sector and highlighted the island's readiness as a global MICE hub, citing its infrastructure, meeting venues, transportation and supporting activities.

The Phuket News

State banks launch outreach

EXECUTIVES FROM the Ministry of Finance and state financial institutions visited Phuket on Saturday (Aug 30) to launch the 'Bringing State Banks to Help the People' project, aimed at strengthening local businesses and promoting long-term financial security.

The event, held at the Dara Hotel in Phuket Town, was presided over by Thakorn Laohapongchana, Assistant Secretary to the Minister of Finance and Acting Secretary to the Deputy Minister of Finance.

Joining him were Phuket Vice Governor Samawit Suphanphai, Export-Import Bank of Thailand (EXIM Bank) Assistant Managing Director Chalatt Rattanabunithi, Phuket Provincial Finance Officer Narumon Srisajjang, along with entrepreneurs and community representatives.

Executives and officials from the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Bank of Thailand (SME D Bank), EXIM Bank, and the Thai Credit Guarantee Corporation (TCG) took part in the visit, which served as a pilot for the nationwide programme. The



Photo: PR Phuket

initiative is designed to increase financial literacy and improve access to funding for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the wider community.

"Phuket is recognised as the 'Pearl of the Andaman' with world-class tourism potential and is a key driver of Thailand's economy. This project supports grassroots businesses, strengthens competitiveness, and provides entrepreneurs with access to comprehensive government-backed financial services," Mr Thakorn said.

In the afternoon, a second event under the project – 'Friday, Win, Happy Savings with Retirement Lottery' – was launched, organised by the National Savings Fund (NSF). The new 'retirement lottery' initiative seeks to promote financial discipline

and long-term savings in preparation for Thailand's transition into a full-fledged ageing society.

Lighthouse International School Phuket

Mr Thakorn, who also presided over the launch, stressed that savings are crucial for retirement stability.

"Adequate savings are a key factor in ensuring financial security. The NSF retirement lottery is a financial innovation that not only encourages savings but also motivates people to adopt systematic and sustainable financial planning," he said.

Phuket, with a registered population of more than 400,000, currently counts 8,802 NSF members supported by a network of 152 village representatives. The province is being highlighted as an example of efforts to broaden participation and ensure stronger financial protection for citizens, he said.

The two events were attended by NSF Secretary-General Jarulak Ruangsuwan, provincial finance officials, financial network partners and many local residents. *The Phuket News*

People's Party stalls on PM

BANGKOK

AFP

The People's Party (PP), Thailand's largest opposition party, failed on Monday (Sept 1) to decide who to back as the nation's next prime minister.

Paetongtarn Shinawatra was ousted as prime minister by Thailand's Constitutional Court last Friday (Aug 29) after it found she had breached ethical standards during a border row with Cambodia.

The ruling left Thailand with only an acting prime minister in Phumtham Wechayachai and a caretaker Cabinet as minority factions jostle to secure backing to form a new government.

Paetongtarn's Pheu Thai Party and the conservative Bhumjaithai Party (BJT) – which abandoned her coalition over the border row – are both now courting the PP's stronghold of 143 parliamentary seats.

But PP spokesman Parit Wacharasindhu told reporters a summit to weigh their options on Monday ended with no decision, and was set to resume on Tuesday.

"Members expressed comments with concerns both ways," he said.

The PP says its backing will be conditional on parliament being dissolved for fresh elections within four months, paving the way for yet more political upheaval in the kingdom.



Paetongtarn Shinawatra was ousted as PM by the Constitutional Court on Aug 29. Photo: AFP

"We will not be voting for the best prime minister to serve the people," PP's leader Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut said ahead of Tuesday's summit.

"We are voting for a prime minister who will dissolve the house," he said, pledging his members would not serve in any new Cabinet they give their backing to.

DWINDLING

Paetongtarn – heiress to the Shinawatra dynasty which has dominated Thai politics for two decades – had only been in office since last August, after her predecessor Srettha Thavisin was likewise dismissed by court order.

Under Thailand's constitution, only candidates nominated for prime minister at the time of the last general election in 2023 are eligible – leaving a dwindling list of names for the top office.

Pheu Thai have only one possible candidate left – former state prosecutor Chaikasem Nitisiri – while BJT are putting forward their leader Anutin Charnvirakul, who confirmed last Friday that he is ready to be the next prime minister.

The next PM needs the support of half the MPs in the House, or 247 out of 492 at present. BJT has 69 MPs and the PP 143, for a total of 212 and they only need to find another 35 votes.

The PP succeeded the Move Forward party which won the most seats in Thailand's 2023 election after campaigning to reduce military influence and reform the country's tough lese-majeste laws.

The bid to relax the royal defamation laws resulted in Move Forward being dissolved by court order, but any new election could see the PP resurrect the campaign.

- Additional reporting by Bangkok Post

U-turn on reopening of checkpoint to Cambodia

SA KAEO

IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES in Sa Kaeo province have abruptly terminated the temporary reopening of the crossing to Poipet in Cambodia after just one day, amid questions about the motive behind the reopening.

It was announced on Aug 28 the Khlong Luek checkpoint in Aranyaprathet district would open every Wednesday and Sunday, from 1pm to 4pm, starting on Sunday (Aug 31) to allow stranded Thais and Cambodians to return home.

However, the office made a swift U-turn last Sunday night (Aug 31), saying the temporary reopening of Khlong Luek was terminated.

"Sunday was the last day for Thais left in Cambodia and Cambodians in Thailand to go back home. All checkpoints in Sa Kaeo province are closed," the immigration office said.

The decision to re-open the gates in Khlong Luek was questioned by local residents who claimed on social media that they



Khlong Luek checkpoint. Photo: Bangkok Post

suspected the twice-a-week border re-opening was for gamblers to cross the border from Thailand to casinos in Poipet, and for Thais to travel to work for online scam centres in the Cambodian border town.

They also doubted that security agencies agreed to the plan, because border tensions have not cooled down.

The army and a navy task force sealed the entire border with Cambodia after the recent deadly clashes in contested parts of the border. Relations between Bangkok and Phnom Penh have hit a new low.

Bangkok Post

Cannabis restricted to five medical uses, health authorities confirm

BANGKOK

CANNABIS BUDS MAY LEGALLY be used only by patients with five categories of symptoms and must be obtained with a doctor's prescription, the Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine (DTAM) announced on Monday (Sept 1).

DTAM Director-general Dr Somlerk Jeungsmarn said the permitted conditions are insomnia, chronic pain, migraine, Parkinson's disease and anorexia.

He further explained that patients must present prescriptions from licensed doctors or pharmacists, and cannabis buds can be sold only in licensed shops.

Each prescription is valid for up to 30 days of treatment and sellers are required to source cannabis from certified farms and are barred from online sales, vending machines, or advertising, Dr Somlerk said.

To ensure oversight, authorities have developed the Cannamed Connect platform, which manages applications for prescriptions, distribution, patient use records and the listing of licensed cannabis outlets.

The new digital portal is designed to regulate medical cannabis use under the recently enforced Controlled Herb (Cannabis) Regulation B.E. 2568 (2025) and is a collaboration between DTAM



Photo: Bangkok Post

and the small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) association.

Dr Somlerk explained that licensed operators are required to log inventory and usage data using official forms (Phor Tor 27 and Phor Tor 28) and submit monthly reports online.

Patients must obtain a Phor Tor 33 prescription issued by one of six professional groups: modern medicine doctors, traditional Thai doctors, applied Thai practitioners, Chinese medicine doctors, pharmacists and dentists, plus one additional category of registered folk healers.

So far, 3,693 practitioners across these fields have been trained to issue Phor Tor 33 prescriptions. A telemedicine system is being developed to link prescription and usage data into a centralised database, reducing risks of duplicate prescriptions and tightening oversight.

Dr Somlerk announced partnerships with Inet Co., the CannaMed Connect platform, and private firm iSiam to create the system. Bangkok Post



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Photos: Simon Lomas



Getting closer to Phuket's natural side

Simon Lomas

After a nice break of a few months due to having to train an orphaned kitten not to chase the wildlife away, I can at last get to venture out again. A year ago I came across a tiny lost kitten around four weeks old in a ditch that was flooded with no family around and she adopted me. So for a few months I had to put photography on hold until Leo (my cat) learned I wanted to take photos of the wildlife and not chase it.

This year the 'monsoon season' has been pretty mild so far. As usual, the rains came in April and the island's green areas sprang into life. So come July and August the flowers are out which brings the butterflies, dragonflies, bees and all the other insects. Then in turn the flowers and insects bring in the birds. This year I have seen a big increase in the number of

smaller birds such as sunbirds, bulbuls, flower peckers and bee-eaters. That to me says that last year was a good one weather-wise as a large number of young survived and returned this year to their summer homes.

Many of the smaller birds are not really shy but just keep themselves tucked away from the noise and traffic. So, when on motorbikes or other transport, you won't see much as they will be on the other side of the trees and bushes keeping out of harm's way. However, if you walk and hear the birds chatter there is a good chance you can see something good if you just look. Many birds will even pop up to check you out too, just to make sure you are no threat and then they will just carry on with what there were doing.

That being said, trying to get close with a cat is a challenge, although it does have some advantages as the birds give an alarm call which subsequently alerts me to where they are. A good place to start is the common

small trees with the bright yellow or pink trumpet-shaped flowers. They have many names: cassia fistula (also known as golden shower), purging cassia, Indian laburnum, kani konna or pudding-pipe tree. These are a haven for sunbirds and do flower for a couple of months. This gives the birds a long-term place for them to feed and for you to spot them.

The more common sunbirds around Phuket are the ornate sunbird, brown-throated sunbird and the olive-backed sunbird. There are several types here in Phuket and some look pretty similar so I plan to do a whole article on the different sunbirds now I know a bit more about them.

SLOW DOWN

The real aim of these articles is to get people to slow down and open their eyes to what can be seen every day, if we just take the time to look. So many people drive hours and spend money on going to national parks to see wildlife (which is a good thing), but do not look

in their own back garden. I do not go out to national parks and wildlife sanctuaries but just walk to and from work, walk to the local 7-Eleven and walk along the beach. Even in the most busy places in Phuket, such as Patong, there is so much to see, such as king cobras, monitor lizards, great egrets, pacific reef herons and many types of bat including the massive large flying fox (pteropus vampyrus) whose wingspan can be up to 1.5 metres.

Over the next few months my articles will focus on more specific wildlife and not just birds and butterflies that are relatively easy to spot when out and about in Phuket. I do know there are more rare creatures about such as white squirrels, wild pigs and several types of otter, so if anyone does see anything rare or of interest along these lines please contact me so I can get to see them then notify others in due course. In addition to all the great photographers, I am sure there are many every day people interested in the bountiful wildlife around Phuket too.



The October/November 2025 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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A collection of small, human choices

Josh O'Neill

Some things in life we control. Others, we don't. We don't choose the weather. We don't choose the headlines. But we do choose our actions. When it comes to the big issues in our world – like conflict, climate crisis and the never-ending mess of litter – it's easy to feel helpless. We feel like we have no control. But what if we looked closer? What if we humanised the problem?

We often see litter as a simple problem: trash on the ground. We see it as someone else's fault. We blame the government for not providing enough bins. We blame the garbage collectors for not being fast enough. Or we blame the 'lazy' people in our community. But is it right to always point fingers? What if we looked inside ourselves?

The litter on our beaches and streets isn't a single, massive force. It's a collection of small human choices.

I've spent years in Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, working to make our shared spaces cleaner. What I've learned is that every piece of litter tells a story. Think about a plastic bottle tossed on the side of the road, or left in a parking bay at our local mall. The simple story is that someone was careless. But what's the deeper story? Maybe that person was in a rush. Maybe they couldn't find a bin. Maybe they just don't feel a connection to this place. By looking beyond the object and into the cause, we start to feel empathy.



Photos: Josh O'Neill



We realise this isn't just a big, faceless issue; it's a collection of small choices made by real people.

I've learned that a lack of care comes from a lack of value. We often invest our time and money into something and then immediately forget its value once we're done with it. A new plastic bag, a coffee cup, a water bottle. We own it, we use it, and then we no longer need it. So we toss it away.

This leads to a larger problem: neglect. We neglect our shared spaces. We don't treat them with the same respect as the property we own or the respect they deserve.

Many of us would never get our hands dirty to clean up trash. It's too smelly. It's not our job. But what about the brave men and women who do get

their hands dirty? They work hard to ensure our shared spaces are clean. We rely on them, but we don't always do our part to make their job easier.

My work in the community is more than just picking up trash. It's about starting a movement that uses the power of a story to change our perspective. It's about creating a space where people can connect with their community and become part of a new, positive story – one where they are the heroes who clean up their own backyard.

For me, it's about making those stories visible. I have seen that sharing the "why" behind the mess is more powerful than just telling people what to do. The results speak for themselves. In the past six years, my community-led clean-

ups have collected more than 50 tons of waste from our beaches and streets. That is a significant change, driven by a simple human choice.

Today, I urge each and every one of you to think before you act. The choice is yours. Make the right one. Let's change our story, one piece at a time, because every piece matters.

Josh O'Neill, a Certified Green Project Manager, GPM-b, with a Diploma in Conservation Psychology and an environmental advocate who leverages his extensive experience in community engagement and environmental awareness to highlight Phuket's environmental issues and sustainable initiatives. Phone / WhatsApp 099-998-9274 or support@thelitterclub.org.

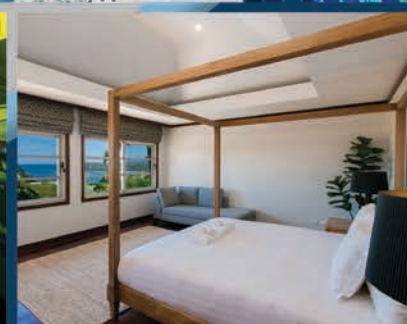
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POP QUIZ

1. Taken literally, what should you see in a Hippodrome?
2. Who wrote the 'Man in the Iron Mask'?
3. Alan Stuart Konigsberg is better known as what famous film director and actor?
4. Which human rights organisation was founded in 1961 and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977?
5. What is the correct term of address to the Pope?

Answers below, centre

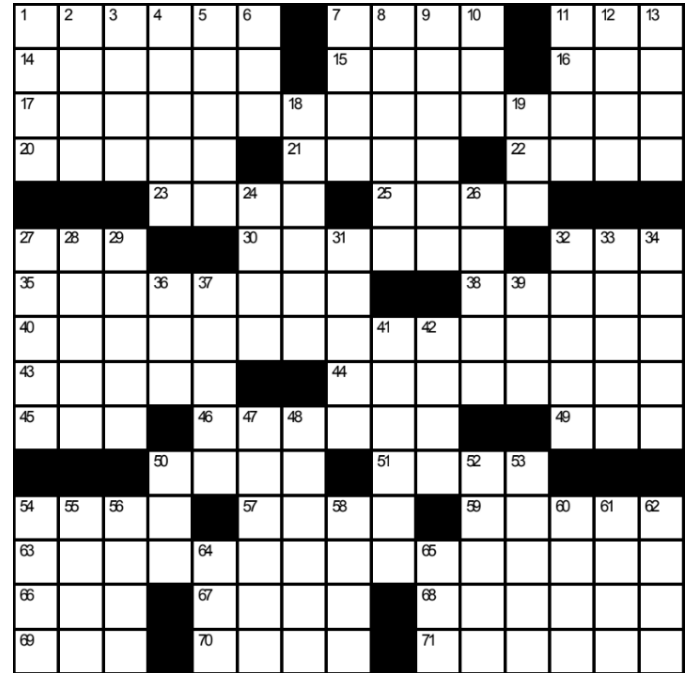
SUDOKU

Hard

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across**
1. Petting zoo animal
 7. Some wraps
 11. "___ Joey"
 14. Washed-out
 15. Birdbrain
 16. Ginger ___
 17. Hard effort
 20. Related, in a way
 21. "Major" animal
 22. Ran through
 23. History chapters
 25. Linen robes
 27. Guanabara Bay city
 30. Be a go-between
 32. Wax collector
 35. "The Age of ___" (science fiction series)
 38. 1982 Michener epic
 40. Toils as diligently as others
 43. Lose ground?
 44. Loafer
 45. Day's end, in poetry
 46. Back
 49. Old name for Tokyo
 50. Ruler unit
 51. Vulgarian
 54. Verve
 57. Lake that Canada's Point Pelee National Park is on
- Down**
1. Domed recess
 2. Bowling green
 3. Nolo contendere, e.g.
 4. "___ Walk" (Frost poem)
 5. Reference maker
 6. Mountain out of a molehill
 7. Effluvium
 8. Wee tree
 9. High marks
 10. It replaced CQD
 11. Some scores
 12. Lily family member
 13. Bawdy
 18. Nuclear ___
 19. Clear the tables
 24. Therewithal
 26. Attack
- Across**
27. 100 paisa
 28. Accustom (to)
 29. Wrinkle-resistant fabric
 31. Give extreme unction to
 32. High wave
 33. Hurt
 34. Backward-looking
 36. Antiquity, once
 37. Assoc. of nations
 39. ___-eyed
 41. Cold dessert
 42. Big tippler
 47. Spectacles
 48. Deuce-aces
 50. Word with well or blot
 52. Willow
 53. Pass along
 54. Ablutionary vessel
 55. French novelist Pierre
 56. Burnoose wearer
 58. Vacation destination
 60. Heavy reading
 61. Out there
 62. Salamanders
 64. Source of iron
 65. Pharaoh symbol of power



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

- (1) Horses; (2) Alexander Dumas; (3) Woody Allen; (4) Amnesty International; (5) Your Holiness

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1.26

seconds is approximately how long it takes for a ray of moonlight to reach the Earth's surface.

5

different parts of your brain are used to understand and laugh at a joke.

30

different Batman logos have been used since 1940.

521

years is the half-life of DNA, which means that genetic material can't be recovered from dinosaurs, and 'Jurassic Park' is impossible.

5.5 million

years ago, the Mediterranean Sea went completely dry.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



The night market in Phuket Old Town as darkness falls. Photo by Thomas Isaac

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

This week in history

Sept 5, 1972

A Palestinian terrorist group called 'Black September' attacks and takes hostage 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympic Games. Two die in the attack and nine are murdered the following day.

Sept 6, 1492

Christopher Columbus sails from La Gomera in the Canary Islands, his final port of call before crossing the Atlantic Ocean for the first time.

Sept 7, 1923

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) is formed.

Sept 8, 1504

Michelangelo's David is unveiled in Piazza della Signoria in Florence.



Sept 9, 1947

First case of a computer bug being found: A moth lodges in a relay of a Harvard Mark II computer at Harvard University.

Sept 10, 1977

Hamida Djandoubi, convicted of torture and murder, is the last person to be executed by guillotine in France.

Sept 11, 2001

A series of coordinated terrorist attacks using four aircraft hijacked by 19 members of al-Qaeda kill 2,977 people. Two aircraft crash into the World Trade Center in New York City, a third crashes into The Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia, and a fourth into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Source: Wikipedia

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FRI 5 SEP



Friday Mussels Night

6 PM onwards: Belgian style mussels served with French Fries. All you can eat. Your choice, Your style: Marinere, Selected drinks, Provencale, Garlic & cream, Creamy curry, Blue cheese or Thai style. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 325 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

MON 8 SEP



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

FRI 12 SEP



Phuket Business Networking - Sep 2025

Make sure to bring lots of business cards, as getting to know each other is what PBN is all about. A small entry fee, THB 500 per person, that includes the first 3 drinks and pizza. Location - Oasis Bar, Koh Kaew, starting 5pm. Register your attendance here or call Jason - 086 479 7471.

THU 18 SEP



Skål Phuket September Dinner

We are delighted to invite you to our next Skål Phuket dinner, hosted at the elegant Diamond Resort Bangtao – Infuse Restaurant. Our Skålleague Jo D'Hondt will warmly welcome us during the networking drinks, followed by a fabulous dinner featuring Belgium-inspired dishes prepared by the Infuse culinary team. Registration from 6pm. Members B1,200 - Non-Members B1,600. Bookings - contact@skalphuket.org



Grow Boating Evening - Sept 2025

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm. Our drinks sponsor for the evening will be Royal Phuket Marina. See royalphuketmarina.com/marina There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant for all attendees. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee. Find us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket/

WED 10 SEP



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

SUN 7 SEP



Sunday Roast

12PM – 9PM: All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet Beef, Pork & Capon chicken – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, Fried mushrooms, Grilled Tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes – Gravy, Mushroom sauce, Horse raddish, Mint Sauce. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 350 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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PUBLIC NOTICE

TORNADO INVESTMENTS HOLDINGS LIMITED
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IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the British Virgin Islands Business Companies Act, 2004 (as amended), the voluntary liquidation of TORNADO INVESTMENTS HOLDINGS LIMITED commenced on 31st July 2025 and that Annabel Peliwan of Woodbourne Hall, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands has been appointed as liquidator. Any creditors of the company should notify the liquidator of the particulars of their claim within 14 days of the publication of this notice by contacting annie.peliwan@bvi.rawlinson-hunter.com.

Signed Annabel Peliwan,
DATED 31st July 2025

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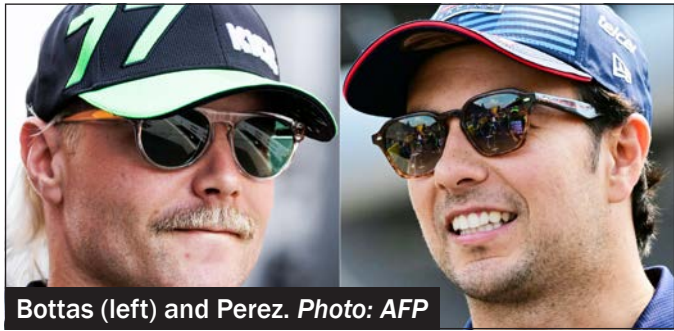
COUTURE FOR A CAUSE AT SOLIS BEACH CLUB

A sell-out event on Sunday, August 31, at Solis Beach Club in collaboration with the Phuket Veterans Association and *The Phuket News*. Local designers held a fashion show in aid of the Thai-Cambodia Border Relief Appeal. Live music from Eka had the crowd moving all evening. To find out more about the Phuket Veterans Association visit - facebook.com/PhuketVeterans



PHIST (PHUKET HOTELS FOR ISLANDS SUSTAINING TOURISM) 2025

Asia's largest sustainability forum for tourism, PHIST 2025, was held on Monday, September 1, at Angsana Laguna Phuket. Over 1,300 delegates attended a number of workshops and visited a range of exhibitions focusing on the need for the island to find a balance between the rapid growth and sustainability. PHIST, organised by the Phuket Hotels Association (PHA), is aimed at hotels, hotel staff and managers, individual owners, developers, operators, educators, students, community members, exhibitors and everyone passionate about sustainable tourism.



Bottas (left) and Perez. Photo: AFP

Cadillac choose Perez and Bottas for F1 debut

FORMULA ONE

FORMER RED BULL driver Sergio Perez and 10-time grand prix victor Valtteri Bottas will drive for Cadillac next season in what the new Formula One team has described as “a bold signal of intent”.

The experienced pair with over 500 grand prix starts between them will be making a return to the grid in 2026, after being dropped this year, for the American outfit, who become F1’s 11th team on the grid.

Perez, 35, the winner of six grand prix, was sacked by Red Bull as Max Verstappen’s teammate at the end of last season despite two years of the Mexican’s contract still to run.

All of Bottas’s wins came during his time with

Mercedes alongside Lewis Hamilton. The Finn, 36, raced for Sauber in 2024 and this term has acted as Mercedes’ reserve driver.

“Signing two very experienced racers like Bottas and Checo is a bold signal of intent,” said team principal Graeme Lowdon on Aug 26.

“They’ve seen it all and they know what it takes to succeed in Formula 1. But more importantly, they understand what it means to help build a team.

“Their leadership, feedback, race-hardened instincts and of course their speed will be invaluable as we bring this team to life,” Lowdon added.

Cadillac will operate out of three hubs: Indiana and North Carolina in the US and Silverstone in England.

AFP

Piastri wins eventful Dutch GP

FORMULA ONE

AFP

Oscar Piastri powered to victory at an incident-packed Dutch Formula One Grand Prix last Sunday (Aug 31), with home favourite Max Verstappen claiming second place as Piastri’s McLaren teammate Lando Norris suffered a dramatic breakdown late in the race.

Piastri led from pole to chequered flag at the Zandvoort circuit in a race that saw the safety car deployed three times to stretch his lead over Norris to 34 points in the championship race.

Racing Bulls’ 20-year-old French rookie Isack Hadjar finished third to become the fifth youngest podium finisher of all time.

It was Piastri’s sixth Grand Prix victory of the season and cemented the Australian’s status as the man to catch in this year’s drivers’ championship.

A thrilling start saw Verstappen, who started third on the grid, overtake Norris before briefly losing control of his Red Bull.

To the cheers of tens of thousands of his “Orange Army” fans, Verstappen recovered brilliantly to settle in behind Piastri, who got off to a clean start.

But the faster race pace of the McLaren quickly told and Norris passed the Dutchman on his left-hand side in lap nine to restore the one-two for the papaya team.

Rain fell on lap 15 of 72 and



Oscar Piastri celebrates his victory. Photo: AFP

shortly after claimed its first victim, as seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton slid his Ferrari off the track into the barriers.

The safety car deployment bunched up the field again but Piastri held off his determined teammate Norris, who in turn kept Verstappen at bay in third.

Since Zandvoort returned to the Formula One circuit in 2021, the driver who started on pole has won every time, the track notoriously difficult for overtaking.

And Norris struggled to get close enough to his teammate Piastri, who kept a typically cool head to produce solid, error-free laps.

But with 18 laps to go, there was more drama as Leclerc and Mercedes driver Kimi Antonelli touched wheels

during an overtaking manoeuvre, sending the Ferrari spinning into the barriers to complete a catastrophic weekend for the scuderia.

With the cars bunched up again after the safety car, Piastri pulled out his fastest lap when it mattered to take control of the race once more.

Then with only six laps to go, Norris reported smoke in his cockpit, immediately crawling to a halt, his race over in heartbreaking fashion.

That left Piastri to hold off a last-ditch challenge by Verstappen in the closing laps to take the chequered flag.

The Grand Prix circus moves to Monza in Italy this weekend when the Ferrari fans will be out in numbers, hoping for a better weekend for the team.

ONE introduces new 4oz gloves to restrict eye pokes

MUAY THAI

ONE CHAMPIONSHIP IS set to introduce a new 4oz glove design next month in an effort to reduce the number of eye pokes that have plagued some recent events.

“My team has been testing new designs for several months,” said ONE Chairman and CEO Chatri Sityodtong on The One Podcast last week.

“They will not be used in MMA – just Muay Thai, due to the sheer volume of strikes per round: punches, kicks, knees and elbows.”

Chatri explained the new gloves “will look almost exactly the same as the current 4oz glove, but will allow for more hand wrapping to protect knuckles and the wrist.”

“It will also cover the thumb for protection, and will reduce the risk of eye pokes by making it harder to flex fingers forward into the opponent’s eyes,” he added.

Several recent high-profile bouts in ONE have been cut short due to accidental pokes.



Mawynn vs. Rabah. Photo: Bangkok Post

Christian Lee’s much-anticipated return at Lumpinee Stadium last December ended in the second round of his lightweight MMA title defence, after Alibeg Rasulov was ruled unfit to continue.

More recently, ringside doctor Warren Wang – head of ONE’s medical department – halted Younes Rabah’s clash with Shadow Singha Mawynn on July 12 when Rabah was accidentally poked in the eye and required hospital treatment.

The UFC rolled out a new glove design in April 2024 but abandoned the model less than a year later, reverting to its previous version.

Bangkok Post

Kunlavut downed in Paris final

BADMINTON

WORLD NUMBER ONE SHI Yuqi of China fought from behind to beat Thai reigning champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the men’s singles badminton world championship final last Sunday (Aug 31).

Shi outlasted Kunlavut 19-21, 21-10, 21-18 after one hour and 17 minutes on court in Paris to claim his first world championships crown.

The 29-year-old broke his worlds hoodoo the hard way, saving two match points in his semi-final and enduring three-game matches from the third round.

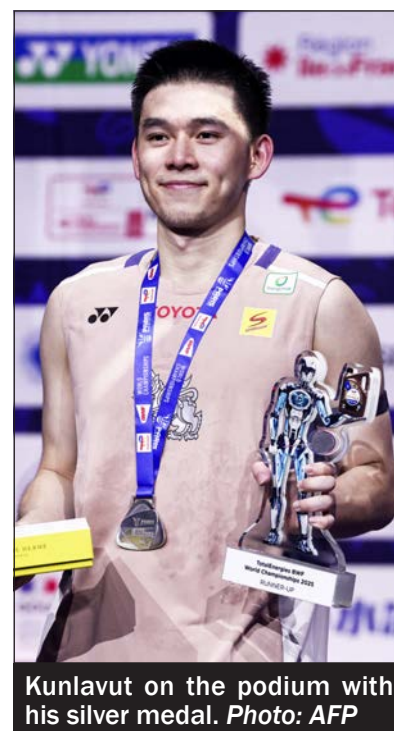
For Kunlavut, it was more heartbreak in the French capital as he again claimed silver 12 months on from defeat in the 2024 Olympics final at the same venue.

Despite trailing for most of the first game, Kunlavut surged late on to seize the advantage.

Shi set about making amends as he blitzed through the second game to force a decider.

In a neck-and-neck championship game, Shi stretched ahead before sealing his maiden title as Kunlavut hit long on match point.

Shi entered the tournament after winning his first China Open title last month, adding to two other Super 1000 triumphs this season.



Kunlavut on the podium with his silver medal. Photo: AFP

“This time, my mindset was simply focussed on winning. Many players fear defeat, but for me, it was purely about victory without dwelling on the outcome. I also felt I no longer needed to prove anything,” Shi said.

Before Sunday’s victory, Shi’s only medal in a world championships or Olympic Games was a silver at the 2018 worlds in Nanjing.

On the women’s side, fifth seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan needed just 37 minutes to win

21-9, 21-13 against an injured Chen Yufei of China to add a third world title to her gold medals from 2021 and 2022.

Chen appeared hampered in her movement and Yamaguchi took full advantage to close out a comfortable straight-games victory.

While she said she was “delighted” by the victory, Yamaguchi spared a thought for her injured opponent.

“Chen Yufei got injured yesterday (Saturday), so it wasn’t easy. I hadn’t anticipated it, but I suppose this kind of score difference was inevitable given her condition.”

Malaysian fourth seeds Chen Tang Jie and Toh Ee Wei claimed a dominant 21-15, 21-14 victory over second-seeded Chinese pair Jiang Zhenbang and Wei Yaxin in the mixed doubles final.

In a women’s doubles final between representatives of the same two nations, China took their revenge as top seeds Tan Ning and Liu Shengshu beat second seeded Malaysians Pearly Tan and Thinaah Muralitharan 21-14, 20-22, 21-17.

In the men’s doubles South Korean first seeds Kim Won-ho and Seo Seung-jae won 21-17, 21-12 against China’s Chen Boyang and Liu Yi. AFP

Scorcher sends Reds top

FOOTBALL

AFP

Dominik Szoboszlai's brilliant free-kick fired Liverpool to a dramatic 1-0 win over title rivals Arsenal last Sunday (Aug 31) as the club confirmed they have agreed a deal to sign Alexander Isak from Newcastle United for a British record transfer fee.

Szoboszlai curled a sublime set-piece past Arsenal keeper David Raya with seven minutes left at Anfield in a tense clash between the two leading contenders for the Premier League title.

The Hungary midfielder's gem was enough to seal a third successive league victory for champions Liverpool as Arsenal lost for the first time this term following consecutive wins.

Liverpool, who have the only 100% record left in the top tier, go into the international break in a familiar position on top of the table as they chase a record 21st English title.

The Merseyside club were further boosted with news that Swedish forward Isak signed a six-year deal worth about £130 million (B5.7 billion) on Monday.

Manchester City, meanwhile, suffered a shock 2-1 defeat at Brighton that extended their troubled start to the season.

Erling Haaland marked his 100th Premier League appearance with his 88th goal in the competition since



Szoboszlai celebrates his wonder strike against Arsenal. Photo: AFP

joining from Bundesliga club Borussia Dortmund in 2022.

But the 25-year-old's third goal this season wasn't enough as James Milner's second-half penalty and a late Brajan Gruda strike won the match.

Chelsea took advantage of VAR controversy to beat Fulham 2-0 as the visitors were left to rue a series of costly decisions awarded against them at Stamford Bridge.

Josh King's strike was harshly ruled out after VAR deemed Rodrigo Muniz's accidental collision with Trevoh Chalobah worthy of a foul before Joao Pedro scored in first-half stoppage time and a contentious penalty led to Enzo Fernandez scoring the second.

Tottenham were beaten 1-0 by Bournemouth to end manager Thomas Frank's strong start to the season, while Jack Grealish starred as Everton beat Wolves 3-2 at Molineux and

Newcastle drew 0-0 at Leeds.

West Ham eased the pressure on boss Graham Potter with a 3-0 win against Nottingham Forest while Crystal Palace won impressively at Aston Villa by the same score and Sunderland beat Brentford 2-1.

Bruno Fernandes eased the pressure on Manchester United boss Ruben Amorim as his last-gasp penalty sealed a 3-2 win over Burnley.

Just days after a humiliating League Cup second-round loss at fourth-tier Grimsby, United were on the brink of another damaging result after promoted Burnley twice came from behind at Old Trafford.

United's first win in three league games this season will give Amorim some much-needed respite heading into the international break, although questions will still be asked of the Portuguese coach after his side's latest erratic display.

Young Thais set for Bundesliga dream

FOOTBALL

THAILAND'S BUNDESLIGA Dream 3.0 project has selected 17 young players to train at top Bundesliga academies in Germany.



Photo: Bangkok Post

The selected U15 players will train at the top-class facilities of Augsburg, Stuttgart and Eintracht Frankfurt.

The final squad was chosen following a nationwide scouting process and the players will fly to Germany later this month where they will play friendly matches against academy teams of the three Bundesliga clubs.

"The Bundesliga is proud to play a role in nurturing the next generation of football talent in Thailand. For many of these 17 young players, this will be their first time training and competing overseas, giving them an invaluable opportunity to experience professional environments in top German academies and to test themselves against high-quality opposition at a formative stage in their development," said

Kevin Sim, head of Asia Pacific, Bundesliga International.

The Bundesliga Dream project is also active in China, South Korea, Vietnam and India, with more countries in the pipeline. This is part of the DFL Deutsche Fussball Liga's strategy of providing an organic pathway to play at the top level in Germany.

SQUAD:

Deachathorn Khumsart, Ramet Rattanabut, Kanwela Thawirat, Phutthichat Sukprasroeth, Kantasak Aonbut, Slimene Djebli, Peerapol Chuenjit, Thanachit Khunchuen, Thodsadon Promsiridet, Ratthasat Kanha, Sukolawat Tham-mawat, Pattarathiti Popa, Worachit Sojrit, Piyaphat Malisaichon, Phawaran Warafueangrit, Kritchatha Wongvanit and Nattanan Janklab. *Bangkok Post*

Thais cyclists bag medal haul at Track Asia Cup

CYCLING

SIRAWIT SAENSAI WON THE MEN'S junior sprint event while Jai Angsuthasawit had to settle for silver in the men's elite sprint on the final day of the Track Asia Cup 2025 cycling tournament at the Suphan Buri Sports School's velodrome last Friday (Aug 29).

Sirawit took the gold medal after beating Korean Jung Sung-Wook from Bucheon High School in the final. Kazakhstan cyclist Dias Bazarbekov claimed the bronze medal.

It was the third gold for the Thai team with Jai winning the men's keirin event and Peerawat Withidpanitphan taking the men's junior scratch title. The latter also claimed silver in the men junior individual pursuit event.

Jai had a shot at his second gold but lost to Taiwan's Kang Shih-feng in the elite sprint final while Malaysian Mohd Azizulhasni Awang took bronze.

Jai, Norasetthada Bunma and Yeau-nyong Petcharat claimed the bronze medal in the men's elite team sprint event, which Malaysia won and Kazakhstan secured silver in.

Kanawat Chuathahan, Rushata Rushatathada and Sirawit Saensai took silver in the men's junior team sprint competition. First place went to Kazakhstan, while the Korean Bucheon High School team took bronze.



Jai (left), Norasetthada and Yeau-nyong. Photo: supplied

Aphitsara Srimongkhon won silver for Thailand in the women's elite 1km time trial with a time of 1:15.75 minutes, with Taiwan's Chen Ching-yun taking gold.

Thai Taniyaporn Singtong grabbed bronze in the women's junior 1km time trial in 1:18.79, with Kazakhstan's Aigerim Smailkanova first and Alina Bakcheeva of Uzbekistan taking silver.

Smailkanova and Bakcheeva finished in the same places in the women's junior sprint category, with Thai Kawinnad Kherthong picking up bronze.

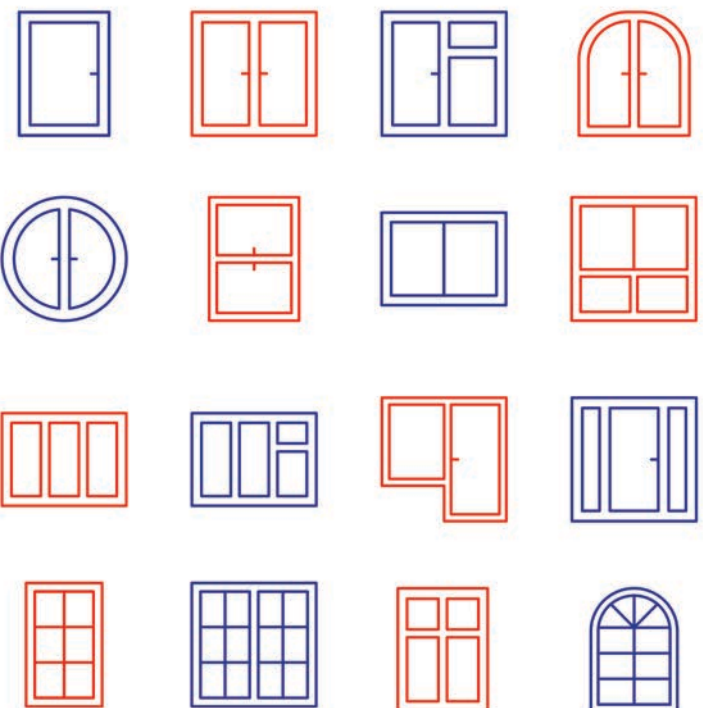
Elsewhere, Thailand's Jirateep Kerdsonjit won silver in the men's junior 1km time trial, with Dias Bazarbekov of Kazakhstan winning gold and India's Aditya Jakhar taking bronze.

In the women's elite sprint event, the gold medal went to Australian Molly McGill. Korean Cho Sun-Young bagged silver and the bronze medal was claimed by another Australian Sophie Watts.

Bangkok Post



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Sport



Liverpool sign Isak in record move > p15

Fort Lauderdale Beach, FL

STATESIDE GOLD

Dojo Phuket team excel at US comps

Alexis (left), daughter Lea and student David on the podium at the US Open Judo Championships in Florida. Photo: Supplied

JUDO
Ben Tirebuck
 editor3@classactmedia.co.th

They may have been lesser in numbers than usual but the Dojo Phuket team sparked once again on their travels recently as they came home from two major tournaments in the United States with an impressive medal and trophy haul.

Competing at the United States Open Judo Championships in Florida between Aug 1-3, the three-person team comprising young students David, Lea and the latter's father, Dojo instructor Alexis Plantard, won 10 medals for their efforts.

Six-year-old Lea led the way with three gold medals and one bronze. Her golds came courtesy of winning divisions in the under 7 years of age class, the junior weight class (-24kg) and an open weight class (+24kg), with her bronze coming from competing in a higher age group.

Lea was also awarded three

separate specialist trophies acknowledging most victories by an athlete in the junior age group, most victories among all of the 3,000 athletes contesting the overall tournament, and for second fastest victory in the junior class after she overcame an opponent in just seven seconds.

Lea's teammate David fought a gruelling 19 matches in three days, finishing on the podium in three divisions out of five he contested and picking up a gold, silver and bronze medal in the process.

Always one to lead by example to his students, Alexis also picked up a three medal haul, winning silver in the adult master -100kg weight class against Vadym Synyavsky of Ukraine and gold while representing team Europe against team USA.

However, he said the most satisfying result was the bronze he won in the adult senior -100kg. Regarded as one of the toughest divisions on the international judo circuit, Alexis finished behind Russian national team fighter Nikolai Kovalenko and Geronimo

Saucedo of the USA national team in what he said he considers one of the most prestigious results of his career.

Rounding off the accolades, Alexis also won a separate trophy for second quickest victory of 10 seconds in the adult class and Dojo Phuket team secured an overall rank of 22nd out of competing 100 teams.

GREAT PROMISE

Prior to this the same three-person team competed at the USA Judo Nationals in Honolulu, Hawaii between July 19-20 where they won nine medals to finish an impressive 9th place out of 63 teams comprising 780 athletes.

Lea once again demonstrated the great promise she clearly possesses as she won gold in her age group of 6 years and below in two separate weight classes of -24kg and +24kg, before stepping up to the under 8 years age -24kg class where she excelled to win bronze.

Alexis landed a hat-trick of golds by defeating 19-year-old

American Cole Palacio in the -90kg open age group, Hawaii resident Everett Pavo in the -90kg senior age group, and Brad Padua in the -100kg senior age group.

These three victories took Alexis' overall medal haul at the USA Judo Nationals to an impressive eight gold and four silver.

Unfortunately for David luck wasn't quite on his side in this tournament as strict rules meant he was disqualified in two separate final matches from his 10 contested.

"In the one match he was disqualified for pressing and holding down the elbow of his opponent while on the ground, while he was similarly disqualified in another for executing an armlock," explained Alexis.

"Such techniques are acceptable in most international tournaments but not in the US, unfortunately.

"Still, despite the disappointment, David fought very well against very tough opponents and the experience will serve him well

for his development and future contests," Alexis added.

Understandably, the Frenchman was bursting with pride when describing the performance of his own daughter Lea across the two challenging stateside tournaments.

"I can't really find the appropriate words to explain how proud I am of her in every way," he told *The Phuket News*.

"Considering she is only 6 years old, watching her perform and achieve such fantastic results is truly incredible.

"For one so young she has already competed at 31 international and national tournaments and won top awards at competitions in the US, China, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Nepal. I am incredibly proud of her," Alexis said.

The Dojo Phuket's new premises is due to open shortly and classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced students run Monday through Saturday, with everyone welcome. For more information visit their Facebook page.

Thai spikers exit signals need for improvement, says coach

VOLLEYBALL

THAILAND COACH KIATTIPONG Radchatagriengkai insisted his players have a lot of room for improvement after the home team bowed out in the last 16 stage of the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Women's World Championship last Friday (Aug 29).

Despite playing in front of the packed Indoor Stadium in Bangkok, three-time world champions Japan proved too strong and consistent as they

secured a 3-0 (25-20, 25-23, 25-23) victory that extended their winning streak against their continental rivals to 10 matches.

"It was a tough game, and a difficult one to play. You can see that the Japanese team have good standards and are well prepared. Both teams have similar playing styles, but we weren't as good as we should have been in the latter stage of each set. We made too many errors. But everyone did their best," said Kiattipong.

"The players know they will have to train harder and develop

more. Today's game showed that we still need to improve in so many areas.

"This world championship was a great experience for all the players. After this, some players will have to go play overseas and some will train here in Thailand. We need to prepare as best we can for the SEA Games later this year."

Outside hitter Chatchu-On Moksri, who registered 12 points (10 kills, one block, one ace) was Thailand's top scorer while opposite Pimpichaya Kokram

added 11 (nine kills, two blocks) in their last match in the tournament.

Japan captain Mayu Ishikawa was the team's leading scorer with 14 points (13 kills and one ace) while middle blocker Haruyo Shimamura scored 12 (nine kills, two aces, one block).

"Thailand are a great team," said Shimamura. "We had some really long rallies, and we never gave up and tried to do our best in each point. Winning today is big for us. Our goal here is to win a medal, and we're one step



closer. Now we'll focus on the next match and try to do our best again."

At time of press, Japan were set to face the Netherlands in the quarter-final on Wednesday after the Dutch side overcame two-time defending champions Serbia 3-2 on Saturday. *Bangkok Post*