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FEELING GOOD



The first 'Test & Go' tourists in Phuket landed on Monday (Nov 1). Photo: AoT Phuket

SENTIMENT RUNS HIGH AS TOURISTS, DIRECT FLIGHTS FINALLY RETURN

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A wave of positive enthusiasm washed across the island on Monday (Nov 1) as the first tourists to arrive under the new 'Test & Go' scheme landed at Phuket International Airport, in accordance with the new rules of entry brought into effect that same day to help reopen the country to tourism.

A total of 229 foreign tourists arrived on Edelweiss Airlines Flight WK050 from Zurich, touching down at 8am, reported AoT Phuket.

Present to welcome the tourists at Gate 11 of the international terminal were staff from the Tourism Author-

ity of Thailand (TAT) Phuket Office and airline staff.

The flight marked yet another airline resuming direct flights to Phuket (see page 6). Edelweiss Airlines will operate eight more direct flights from Zurich to Phuket this month, with another nine flights next month and again thereafter through May next year.

Positive sentiment also shone in Bangkok on Monday, where the first flight into Suvarnabhumi airport was All Nippon Airways flight NH 805 from Tokyo with 11 foreigners and 32 Thais on board. It was followed by Thai Airways International flight TG 931 from Paris at 6am.

Suvarnabhumi airport General

Manager Kittipong Kittikachorn said a total of 61 flights were scheduled to arrive on Monday, most of them from Europe, with about 3,000 passengers – 2,300 of them foreigners and the rest Thai returnees, he said.

Mr Kittipong said he was satisfied with the process, with the only problem being congestion at the screening stations where officials had to also check passengers' vaccination documents before allowing them to proceed.

Government spokesman Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana said between Monday and Friday, flights operated by 27 airlines would arrive and depart from Suvarnabhumi airport with a total of 15,230 passengers.

In Phuket, Susanne Peter, 57, told AFP that she and her partner will stay on the island for a week before moving on to Bangkok and Hua Hin.

"We love the [Thai] people, they are really kind and really friendly," she said, adding this was their first trip since the pandemic began.

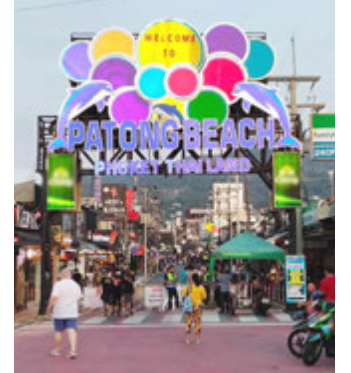
Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha, who was attending the COP26 meeting at Glasgow in the United Kingdom, was closely monitoring the first day of the reopening of the country, reported state news agencies.

The prime minister asked everyone to be good hosts and strictly comply with health safety measures, to ensure the revival of the economy and tourism, the reports said...

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National edict ensures pubs, bars stay closed



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News



Vicious gold shop robber arrested > p4

Tourism reopening spurs revival hopes

Continued from page 1

Phuket tourism operators expect the country's reopening to help build momentum for 1 million international arrivals in the first quarter of next year.

"Bookings in November increased by 20%, while the load factor for some international flights will also rise to 80% thanks to fewer travel rules for low-risk countries and the winter season," said Bhumikitti Raktaengam, President of the Phuket Tourist Association.

At present, 825 international flights from 17 airlines are scheduled to arrive in Phuket in November, compared with 562 flights from 11 airlines in October.

The occupancy rate this month could gradually improve to 25-30% from 18-20% in October, before increasing to 35% in December, he said.

However, Mr Bhumikitti said room rates had returned to 60% of pre-pandemic prices during year-end holidays,



which is lower than destinations like Bangkok and northern provinces, which have more of a balanced supply and demand.

Assuming the overseas viral situation remains under control during winter, while most Phuket residents receive booster doses, the holiday island predicts it will welcome 1mn travellers, or 40% of the 3mn seen in the first quarter of 2019.

Russia and India are potential markets which operators must largely do without until they are added to the list of low-risk countries, he said. (India was added last Sunday)

Mr Bhumikitti said that even though Russia has recently seen spiking caseloads, Phuket has confidence in its safety protocols, with only 0.3% of arrivals testing positive for the virus over the past four months.

"Many tourists have complained that the process for entering Thailand was difficult. As a result, a number of tourists have chosen not to travel to Thailand," Mr Bhumikitti told *The Phuket News*.

"But since the rules have been relaxed, we now have an increasing number of tourists and more tourists will travel in," he said.

Mr Bhumikitti remained optimistic, yet cautious, over

the current forecasts, which predict a significant recovery for Phuket's tourism industry next year.

"We'll have to look at it a bit longer. I think it might take another two weeks in order to have more clarity," he said on Tuesday (Nov 2).

European source markets at this stage seemed to be more likely to return as travel restrictions there are eased and as they enter their winter months, Mr Bhumikitti said.

Which countries remained on the quarantine list, including Russia, would also have an effect, he added.

Another factor was which of the 63 countries/territories on the 'Test & Go' quarantine exemption list still required travellers to enter quarantine when they arrived home.

All proceeding well, the number of tourists travelling to Phuket next year could reach 2.6-3 million people, Mr Bhumikitti noted.

"It's too early to assess

revenue and tourist numbers right now, but we think that next year, the whole year, there will be 2.6-3mn tourists if there are no events that cause travel to deteriorate," he said.

"The projected volume is still less than 30% compared with before the outbreak, and is based on the current situation.

"If things change, there could be more [visitors], or there could be less, we don't know. Or if the rules change, we'll have to look again," he said.

Mr Bhumikitti said local tourism businesses remained confident that Phuket could manage another spike in infections on the island.

"We are confident that Phuket is prepared and ready, especially from our previous experiences and lessons learned. We know what we have to do from now on. So don't worry about anything. We are fully prepared," he said.

Australia recognises Sinovac, 'mixed jabs'

THE AUSTRALIAN Government has announced that it now recognises Sinovac as an approved vaccine and also now recognises vaccinations whereby two different vaccines were used.

The move will come as much welcomed news to many expats in Phuket who have been vaccinated through the Thai government vaccination campaign with two injections of Sinovac, and one "booster" injection of AstraZeneca.

Matthew Barclay, the Australian Consul-General for Phuket and the neighbouring provinces, told *The Phuket News*, "I'm sure the recent announcement on mixed doses of approved or recognised vaccines being accepted is welcome news for Australians vaccinated in Thailand, particularly those looking to return to Australia in coming months.

"We have had a number of enquiries on this matter since the October 1 announcement and I am glad we have been able to now clarify the situation," he said.

The Australian Government's Department of Home



Photo: Vachira Phuket

Affairs updated its revised conditions for

"Australia considers you to be fully vaccinated if you have completed a course of a Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved or recognised vaccine. This includes mixed doses," the notice said.

The current vaccines and dosages accepted by Australia for the purposes of travel are: AstraZeneca Vaxzevria; AstraZeneca Covishield; Pfizer/Biontech Comirnaty; Moderna Spikevax; Sinovac Coronavac (two doses at least 14 days apart); or one dose of: p/ Janssen-Cilag COVID Vaccine.

"At least 7 days must have passed since the final dose of vaccine in a course of immunisation for you to be

considered fully vaccinated. Mixed doses count towards being fully vaccinated as long as all vaccines are approved or recognised by the TGA," the notice added.

Meanwhile, the TGA has updated its recommendations on recognition of vaccines not registered in Australia.

"Based on regulatory, published and pre-print data this suggests the efficacy of Coronavac [Sinovac] is comparable to the Australian-approved vaccines, although marginally lower in protection against symptomatic infection, the TGA admitted.

However, marked in the TGA notice separately in bold are the words: "TGA thus considers that the Coronavac (Sinovac) vaccine is a 'recognised vaccine'."

The Phuket News



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As tourists return, pubs, bars to remain closed

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

In line with directives issued from Bangkok last week, all pubs, bars and entertainment venues in Phuket are to remain closed until at least Nov 15 under a new order issued by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew.

However, the time that restaurants may serve alcohol has been extended to 11pm.

The order, signed and dated Oct 25, was posted publicly online last Saturday night (Oct 30). The order came into effect on Monday (Nov 1), and will remain in effect until Nov 15 or until further notice.

The new order revised two specific sections of the previous standing order regulating which services and venues in Phuket are allowed to operate (Order 5896/2564, dated Sept 28) and all its subsequent revisions since.

“Service places, establishments similar to service places, entertainment places, pubs, bars, and karaoke will remain closed,” the new order confirmed.



Bangla Rd in Patong has started showing signs of life again since the tourism reopening on Monday. Photo: PR Phuket

However, the new order also extended the time that restaurants and “other eateries”, in other words any business providing food and beverages through a food licence, until 11pm.

Previously, restaurants in Phuket were allowed to serve alcohol until 10pm.

“Food and beverages consumed in the shop may continue as usual with the sale and drinking of liquor or alcoholic beverages in the

shop until 23.00, and music may be performed with the number of musicians limited to not more than 5 people.

“It is forbidden for singers, musicians and customers to physically touch each other and it is forbidden [for performers] to sing with customers and, with consent or by neglect, to let any employee sit with the customer,” the order added.

“Dancing is prohibited, and prohibited from being

allowed, and [it is prohibited] to organise a dance performance,” the order confirmed.

“Public health guidelines must be followed to prevent the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Organizational Safety Measures (COVID Free Setting) for food or drink venues with music performances attached to this order,” the order noted.

The order included a four-page document listing the full guidelines for food and beverage venues to abide by, including that all staff are vaccinated or have tested negative for COVID in the past seven days; that customers’ temperatures are checked on entry; the number of customers in air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned venues is limited appropriately; and ensuring that all common-touch contact surfaces are sanitised regularly.

The order also increased the maximum number of people allowed to join a public event to 500, allowing for large-scale events such as the New Year’s Eve Countdown celebrations to take place.

Expedite efforts to give people jobs, Gov says

THE GOVERNOR OF Phuket, Narong Woonciew, has urged local authorities to expedite the ongoing recruitment campaign to help fight unemployment and provide local people with a source of income.

The call was made at a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall last Friday (Oct 29) where representatives of local government agencies and authorities discussed the most pressing local issues mostly related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Talking about the employment project, Gov Narong pointed out that so far 3,083 people have got jobs via the scheme while over 7,000 vacancies are yet to be filled.

Under the scheme, employees are offered four-month-long contracts with 20 working days per month and a minimal daily wage of B336 per person.

At the meeting, those in attendance were also briefed on the current COVID-19 situation in Phuket. Namely, the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) pointed out that infections are on decline and the occupancy rate of COVID beds at hospitals and other places stands at 81.86%.

Health officers and other



Gov Narong has called on local agencies offices to give people jobs. Photo: PR Phuket

relevant staff keep conducting proactive screening focusing on high-risk places such as worker’s camps, hotels and communities.

It was also highlighted that the province is prepared ‘to control disease at all levels’.

Of note, before the meeting Gov Narong presented certificates and awards to different agencies and organisations for outstanding performance and achievements.

The meeting also followed up on the implementation of government policies, noting that the Phuket Damrongdharma Center (Provincial Ombudsman’s Office) from Oct 2020 through to Sept 30 this year had received 516 complaints from the public. Of those, 491 complaints had been resolved successfully, reported the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department.

The Phuket News

Taxi drivers urged to up their game

AUTHORITIES ON THE ISLAND LAST week issued a reminder to transport providers, specifically taxi drivers, to adopt a more professional approach, as Phuket prepared to welcome tourists with the full reopening of the country on Monday (Nov 1).

At a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on Oct 28, Phuket Provincial Office Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Anuphap Rodkwan Yodrabum, together with Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Col Aganit Danpitaksat and the Phuket Provincial Attorney outlined details to ensure the best standards were set and adhered to by taxi drivers to ensure tourists were welcomed warmly and felt safe during their stay.

This specifically covered the setting of fair and transparent rates charged for passenger journeys as determined by provincial standards, clear vehicle markings and ensuring all drivers adhered to dress regulations of a smart and presentable uniform.

Safety was also raised as an issue with a reminder to all drivers of taxis and public service vehicles to drive in a responsible and safe manner. Drivers were also encouraged to use and offer apps to customers for their services.

Drivers must have a valid driver’s license and have received the mandatory recognised two COVID-19 vaccine doses.

Finally, drivers were encouraged to act in a friendly manner at all times and serve as a public relations link in providing assistance to tourists as best they can to help create the image of Phuket as an accommodating



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

and welcome host destination.

However, by 5:30am the next day (Oct 29) the driver of a passenger van was rushed to hospital with a severe head injury sustained when the van he was driving slammed into a roadside power pole on Thepkasattri Rd in Mai Khao, after falling asleep at the wheel.

Police and rescue workers arrived at the scene, near the Blue Canyon Country Club, to find the blue Bangkok-registered Toyota van with heavy damage, still resting against the power pole.

The driver, Somchit Srichiwangsa, 59, from Loei Province, was trapped inside the cab, disoriented and delirious, and bleeding profusely from a gash some 15-20cm long across his forehead.

Using hydraulic ‘jaws of life’ spreaders, rescue workers rushed to free Mr Somchit from the wreck. He was administered emergency first aid then rushed to Thalang Hospital.

Mr Somchit was alone in the van driving northward.

Eakkapop Thongtub



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CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

PURIYA BEAVAN
Editor**CHRIS HUSTED**
Executive Editor
084 307 7408
execeditor@classactmedia.co.th**BEN TIREBUCK**
News / Sport Editor
061 806 8132
editor3@classactmedia.co.th**CHUTHARAT 'UM' PLERIN**
Thai Editor
088 766 1615
thai@classactmedia.co.th**JASON BEAVAN**
General Manager
086 479 7471
gm@classactmedia.co.th**SIRIPORN (NOK) SEANGMAS**
Sales Support
086 479 7470
sales@classactmedia.co.th**NIRAVIT 'MOS' VORAVANITCHA**
THANAPONG 'OAK' KHAO-AMPHAIPHAN
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Wind 7 m/s	Wind 7 m/s	Wind 4 m/s	Wind 4 m/s	Wind 4 m/s	Wind 7 m/s	Wind 7 m/s

Vicious robber blames gambling

Eakkapop Thongtub
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A Myanmar man arrested for the vicious beating of a 71-year-old man during the robbery of a gold shop in the heart of Phuket Town on Oct 23 has blamed online gambling debts as his reason for carrying out the robbery.

The arrest was revealed Oct 27 but formally announced at Phuket City Police Station the next day by Region 8 Police Commander Pol Lt Gen Amphol Buarabporn.

At the press conference at Phuket City Police Station, much of the explanation about the robbery, attack and arrest by Lt Gen Amphol confirmed, corrected and clarified many details that have previously been released to the press.

Phuket City Police were first informed of the robbery at 11:30pm on Saturday, Oct 23. Officers were informed that a criminal had climbed up onto the roof of the Thong



Chai Aung conducts a re-enactment of the robbery on Oct 28. Photo: Phuket Provincial Police

Thaweechai gold shop on Ranong Rd and entered the building on the second floor by removing a ceiling tile.

The robber then walked down to the first floor (elsewhere called the ground floor) of the house where he saw the owners of the house, an elderly man and woman sitting watching television.

The couple, Wangdee Inthawong, 71, and Puangpen Sakkasemkrit, 65, lived upstairs from the shop, which is located near the Suriyadej Circle and the Downtown Market area in

central Phuket Town.

When the couple saw the robber, the man attacked the two victims. He beat Mr Wangdee on the head with a piece of wood that he had taken from the kitchen upstairs, where he also took a large knife that he had on him during the attack.

The robber, now publicly identified as Myanmar national Chai Aung, 26 – his Thai driver's license identifies him as "Shine Aung" – bound the couple's hands and feet with wire and threatened to beat

Ms Puangpen if they did not open the safe.

Ms Puangpen relented, but while he was removing the horde of gold jewellery from the safe, she threw a chair into him. Chai Aung responded angrily, and beat Ms Puangpen on the head with the piece of wood. Ms Puangpen suffered serious injuries, but her exact medical condition was not revealed.

Chai Aung stole many items of jewellery such as gold necklaces, gold rings, gold bracelets, along with "a certain amount of cash" and fled. Police confirmed that the cash stolen amounted to B100,000.

Due to the severity of the attack and the amount stolen, now confirmed to have been more than B10.6 million in gold items, in addition to the cash stolen, Lt Gen Amphol ordered police to bring the criminal to justice as quickly as possible, as it had become of great interest to the public.

From CCTV footage, offic-

ers tracked Chai Aung making his escape on a black Honda Scoopy I motorcycle to a residence at a car care centre on Wichit Songkram Rd. At 8:30am, Oct 26, officers armed with an arrest warrant moved in and arrested him.

During questioning Chai Aung confessed to committing the robbery and the assault on the elderly couple, who live upstairs as caretakers of the building that houses the gold shop.

Officers searched Chai Aung's rented room and recovered the stolen jewellery, reported as worth B10,668,570. Officers also recovered B33,600 cash from the room.

Chai Aung confessed that he needed the money to pay online gambling debts.

Police have yet to confirm the exact charges Chai Aung will face.

Lt Gen Amphol urged all gold shop owners to increase security measures at the premises to prevent similar violent robberies.

Diver drowns while spearfishing

A LOCAL DIVER DROWNED while he was spearfishing at Layi Beach in Kamala last Friday (Oct 29).

Lt Col Suchart Meelampong of the Kamala Police was notified of the incident at Layi Beach at an undisclosed time last Friday. The report was of a man drowning while enjoying underwater hunting at Layi Beach.

After an hour-long search the body of the diver – Karun Somsa, 59 years old, – was found washed to the shore and taken to Patong Hospital to determine the exact cause of death.

Kriengsak Boonlang, a lifeguard at Kamala Subdistrict Administrative Organisation (OrBorTor), explained that the report was initially of a missing person.

Having arrived at the scene, Mr Kriengsak found Mr Karun's wife sitting at the beach exactly where her husband went into the water last time. The woman said that her spouse loved underwater hunting and earlier on that day had already caught a squid. Mr Karun then went for more catch but failed to return. Having spent an hour waiting, the woman raised the alarm.

When Mr Kriengsak arrived at the beach the search for the missing



A local diver died on an underwater hunt yesterday (Oct 29). Photo: Kamala Police

man was already underway. Half an hour later, local lifeguard Chakturong Chaipong found a buoy, presumably indicating the spot where the missing man was hunting, and a harpoon gun. Yet Mr Karun was nowhere around.

Mr Chakturong kept searching on his jet-ski until he received a report from local villagers, who were assisting in the search, that the body was discovered washed ashore by the waves. Mr Karun had his diving suit, mask, and fins on him – but no other gear.

Based on his experience working as a lifeguard, Mr Chakturong presumed that having encountered some sort of trouble Mr Karun got rid of his equipment, tied off the buoy and tried to swim to the shore but failed.

It is yet to be determined what went so tragically wrong during Mr Karun's underwater hunt.

Eakkapop Thongtub

By-election brings extra alcohol ban

RESIDENTS IN TAMBON Thepkasattri, in central Phuket, will be subjected to an alcohol ban early next month as they go to the polls to elect a new mayor.

The office of Thepkasattri Mayor became vacant after Prasong Trairat resigned, after he was elected to office on Mar 28, the Phuket office of the Election Commission of Thailand has confirmed (PEC).

The by-election will be held on Dec 4. The polls will be open from 8am to 5pm.

In accordance with election law, a ban on the sale of alcohol will be in effect in the area administered by Thepkasattri Municipality from 6pm the night before the election through to 6pm the day of the election.

According to the PEC, three candidates have registered to contest the position of Thepkasattri Mayor, but has yet to confirm their names.

However, already announced as registered in the race for Thepkasattri Mayor are Mr Prasong's sister, Siricharat Trairat, and Manoch Chotiworananon.

Ms Siricharat has been allocated No 1 on the ballot, and is campaigning with her "New Power" team, advocating policies of creating opportunities for the new generation, developing the "hometown",



Campaigning is already underway. Photo: Radio Thailand Phuket

and creating jobs for local villagers.

Mr Manoch has been allocated No 2 on the ballot, and with his "We Can Sustain" team aims to focus on honesty and transparency, and to develop and strengthen the local economy through sustainable local development.

Residents in the adjoining area administered by Thepkasattri Tambon Administration Organisation (OrBorTor) will be subjected to an alcohol ban of their own as they go to the polls to elect a new OrBorTor chief and council on Nov 28.

All OrBorTor in the country go to the polls on Nov 28, with residents in Cherg Talay, Kamala, Koh Kaew, Mai Khao, Sakhu and Thepkasattri casting their votes on that day.

An alcohol ban will be in effect in all OrBorTor election areas from 6pm Nov 27 through to 6pm Nov 28.

The Phuket News

Reopening spurs buses to resume full services

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Phuket Airport Bus, operating between Phuket International Airport and Bus Terminal 1 north Phuket Town resumed operations on Monday (Nov 1) in anticipation of more passengers, following the reopening of the country to vaccinated tourists without quarantine, also on Monday.

In line with the service's new schedule, the first bus departed Bus Terminal 1 at 6am. The bus departs the bus terminal every hour, except 9am, with the last bus for the day departing the bus terminal at 6pm.

The first bus departing the airport each day leaves at 8:30am, with buses leaving the airport every hour, except 11:30am, through to 8:30pm each night.

People looking to board the bus at a stop along the way can inform the bus service operator one day before the departure date, the operator said in its announcement.

"Passengers must wear



The Phuket Smart Bus is back in action. Photo: Phuket Smart Bus

a mask or cloth mask every time you use the airport bus service and refrain from eating all kinds of food," the announcement said.

"If you don't wear a mask and don't follow the orders of the officials, you are guilty of the Communicable Disease Control Act B.E. 2558, specifying the penalty for not wearing a mask, a maximum fine of 20,000 baht," the announcement noted.

"The bus schedule and service days are subject to change, according to the situation of the spread of COVID-19. If there is a change, you can check the route and show the boarding point with the

following channels," it added.

The channels provided for contacting the Airport Bus operator are: Facebook: Airport Bus Phuket; Line ID: AIRPORTBUSPHUKET (from 8am-9pm every day); Tel: 080-465-5666 (from 8am-9pm every day).

Meanwhile, the Phuket Smart Bus also resumed its service on Monday (Nov 1), catering to the needs of both domestic and international tourists.

The bus once again follows its standard route from Phuket International Airport all the way down the west coast to Rawai Pier at the southern end of the island.

Phuket NYE: Lisa not coming; Bocelli still up in the air

MINISTER OF TOURISM and Sports Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn has admitted that an error in judgement had been made in announcing that K-pop celebrity Lalisa 'Lisa' Manoban would be performing at a New Year's event in Phuket.

Questions have been raised about the government's communication of news relating to its effort to invite globally renowned artists to perform in Thailand for New Year's countdown events, after the Korean managing agency of pop celebrity Lalisa 'Lisa' Manoban of K-pop band Blackpink fame issued a statement saying the artist will not be able to participate, reported state news agency NNT last week.

South Korea's YG Entertainment issued a statement on Oct 28 denying that Lisa had confirmed her participation in a countdown event in Thailand. The company said it was "grateful and honored for such a proposal to appear, but unfortunately, Lisa will not be able to attend the event."

Tourism Minister Phiphat

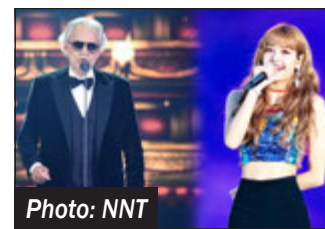


Photo: NNT

said the miscommunication was due to the Ministry of Tourism and Sports having communicated the matter without having examined the relevant details.

He said he would currently withhold from speaking about whether renowned opera tenor Andrea Bocelli would be able to hold a countdown performance in Thailand, adding that a lesson has been learned to not speak about something that is not yet final.

The minister said he would be more careful when giving out information in the future.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health Anutin Charnvirakul expressed his belief that the miscommunication would not affect people's confidence in Thailand, and efforts to 'reopen' the country will continue nonetheless.

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SHA+ hurting small businesses

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A group of local small hotel owners, transport drivers and small tour operators rallied in Phuket Town last Friday (Oct 29), calling for the government to cancel its requirement for tourists to stay only at SHA Plus hotels on entering the country.

The group of small business operators, about 100 in number, first gathered at Queen Sirikit Park in Phuket Town, brandishing placards with slogans including, "SHA+ issues are causing us trouble" and "SHA plus is a cold-blooded killer".

The SHA Plus scheme, also called SHA+, is the government's certification that the venues or service provided is fully compliant with Ministry of Public Health regulations and provincial orders issued to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The requirement for tourists to stay only at SHA+ hotels was unfair towards small business operators, the operators said.

After gathering at Queen Sirikit Park on Thalang Rd, the operators marched to the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office on Ranong Rd to present a formal request addressed to the Minister of Tourism and Sports and the Governor of Phuket for the government to cancel the requirement.



The small operators called for the SHA+ scheme to be cancelled. Photo: PR Phuket

Present to receive the request were Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong and TAT Phuket Director Nanthasiri Ronnasiri. Standing by were both uniformed and non-uniformed police officers, though there were no incidents of violence.

One of the group, Thipsukhon Thongton, praised the move to reopen the country to tourists on Monday (Nov 1). "This has given business owners in Phuket hope of making money after having no income for about two years due to the COVID-19 situation," she said.

However, the SHA+ requirement for tourists entering the country greatly affected operators who have been unable to be approved as SHA+ venues, she added.

"Small tour operators, especially hotels and private buses, have been unable to reach the customer group since SHA+ is required, even though more than 70% of vaccinated employees can apply for that standard," Ms Thipsukhon said.

"In reality, accessing these standards is very difficult because there is no clear host to enquire and follow

up because people have to apply through online channels only. This causes delays in applying for SHA plus, which causes loss of livelihood opportunities and earnings," she explained.

"The procedures and methods are very complex. Operators who do not have expertise in using the system are unable to access the application, and there are no personnel to contact for assistance in applying. Approval takes a long time for unknown reasons. No explanations for the delay are given," she added.

"Non-public health concerns also have been tied to the SHA plus considerations to limit the rights and opportunities for customer service in a subtle way. Such obstacles make many business operators lose the opportunity to earn an income and causes an impact on the economic recovery of Phuket as a whole," Ms Thipsukhon said.

"In addition, tourists are forced to use SHA+ services in some businesses such as hotels and airport pickups, while other places and general business where tourists go are not required to be SHA+ approved, such as department stores, convenience stores, restaurants, gas stations, and so on. This creates inequalities in society and the economy," she said.

"This is in addition to the current situation in Phuket, where more than

70% of the people have had two vaccination injections," she added.

"The affected groups continue to support the SHA and Phuket Sandbox standards, but the affected groups are of the opinion that the SHA+ standard should no longer be used because it is a barrier to trade, making it impossible for small operators to reach customers," Ms Thipsukhon said.

Vice Governor Pichet noted that according to the criteria for accepting tourists from Nov 1, "some of these groups are unable to accept tourists, because it is not allowed by hotel law."

The definition of hotel under the Hotel Act does not include many businesses that are legally allowed to operate as accommodation venues, and hence are unable to be approved as SHA+, he said.

He also countered that from Nov 1, inbound tourists are required to stay at a SHA+ hotel for only one night. "The rest of the time they can choose to stay at other accommodation venues," he said.

However, V/Gov Pichet did concede the point that the operators were calling for the SHA+ requirement to be cancelled because more than 70% of people in Phuket have been vaccinated, and invited the operators to join a meeting at Provincial Hall to discuss the issue further.

More direct flights resume

MORE REGULAR DIRECT flight services to Phuket have resumed as the country reopens to tourism, with the first regular scheduled flight service from Kazakhstan to resume since the COVID-19 tourism shutdown was brought into effect last year landing in Phuket last Sunday morning (Oct 31).

The Air Astana direct flight departed Almaty, Kazakhstan's former capital which remains a key business city for the country, at 00:25am and landed at Phuket International Airport at 8:12am last Sunday.

The flight brought 165 tourists entering the country under the Phuket Sandbox scheme.

Present to welcome the disembarking passengers was Nantasiri Ronnasiri, Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office. Among those on board the flight was Bella Tormysheva, Vice-president of Corporate Communications of Air Astana, who arrived to discuss further flights and tours coming to Phuket.

"Kazakhstan and Central Asian countries are another potential market for people traveling to Phuket. It is also



Direct flights from Kazakhstan resumed last Sunday. Photo: AoT Phuket

a new market group to watch as well. This is a great opportunity for Phuket to welcome this group of tourists," Ms Nantasiri said.

"Air Astana has arranged for a maximum of four flights a week to Phuket in November, and the Tourism Authority of Thailand has received reports that there are still six more airlines waiting to resume flights to Phuket in November," she added.

Meanwhile, THAI Airways International will launch three flights a week direct from Sydney to Phuket this month.

Flight TG478 will depart Sydney at 9:30am every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, and touch down in Phuket at 2:40pm, the airline said in its announcement.

The plane will remain in

Phuket for 90 minutes before taking off at 4:10pm to continue on to Bangkok, where it will land at 5:10pm.

In addition to launching the non-stop Sydney-Phuket Flights in December, Thai Airways International Chief Commercial Officer Nond Kalinta earlier this month announced that from Nov 1 THAI will be operating flights to Phuket from no less than seven international destinations for its Winter Flight Programme from Oct 31, 2021 through March 25, 2022, including London, Zurich, Frankfurt, Munich, Paris, Copenhagen, Stockholm.

Jetstar, the low-cost airline wholly owned by Qantas, has announced it will resume its Sydney to Phuket flights on Jan 12. *The Phuket News*

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PM to present net-zero goal at COP26 meeting

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha was due to attend the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in the United Kingdom this week where he was expected to formally announce Thailand's new pledge to achieve carbon neutrality by 2065.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Varawut Silpa-archa said Thailand's delegates to the COP26 conference, led by Prayut, will submit the country's long-term development strategies to lower greenhouse gas emissions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This is effectively a roadmap for how Thailand plans to go net zero within 44 years.

"The government regards climate change to be one of the most concerning issues, as studies have warned that international climate change mitigation efforts have not been strong enough to stabi-



Climate protesters have gathered in Glasgow to keep up the pressure on global governments during the COP26 conference this week. Photo: AFP

lise the global climate," Mr Varawut said.

"Thailand, as one of the Paris Agreement's parties, is determined to step up efforts to achieve the Paris Agreement goals."

He said Thailand was among the first countries in Southeast Asia to set long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies as a national roadmap to achieve carbon neutrality.

Thailand is also one of only 33 countries out of 197 Paris Agreement signatories that have clear strategies to

pursue their net-zero carbon emission pledge.

"We are also ready to work with all stakeholders to further the work on climate change mitigation and adaption, such as promoting clean energy transition, phasing out coal, or planting more trees to absorb carbon," he said.

With close cooperation from all sectors, Thailand could fulfil its carbon neutrality target by the deadline, he added.

The UN Climate Change Conference is held annually by the UNFCCC to pursue

climate goals outlined in the Paris Agreement, in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrialisation levels. This week's conference was held in Glasgow.

YOUTH MOVEMENT

Meanwhile, Thai youths are asking the government for an opportunity to take part in the policy-making process to fight climate change.

Aminta Permpoonwivat and Phatteea Yougsangan attended the Sept 29-30 Youth4Climate event at the Festival of Sustainable Development in Milan with 400 youths from 197 countries and are calling for the inclusion of youths in government efforts against climate change.

They also asked the government to promote youth participation in other related sectors, such as sustainable tourism, environmental conservation, disaster prevention, as young people are often more adept in using communication technology, which can help it coordinate with different sectors to support the goal of mitigating climate change.



The police station in Din Daeng where the boy was shot during protests on Aug 16. Photo: Bangkok Post

Boy shot during protests dies

BANGKOK

A 15-YEAR-OLD BOY who was seriously wounded by a bullet in chaotic scenes in front of Din Daeng police station in August died last Thursday morning (Oct 28), according to Amnesty International Thailand.

Citing the teenager's mother, the rights group said the boy succumbed to his injuries after battling for his life for more than two months.

The boy had been in a coma since being admitted to Rajavithi Hospital on Aug 16. He was shot in the neck with a bullet lodged in the upper part of his spine. His first and second cervical vertebra were also damaged.

Piyanut Kotsan, director of Amnesty International Thailand, expressed condolences to the boy's family and called on authorities to speed up the

investigation into the shooting.

The boy was the first protester shot when anti-government demonstrators confronted police in Din Daeng on that August night. Another young protester was also shot and injured that same night.

Police confirmed on Sept 30 they arrested Chutipong Thitkrathok, 28, and charged him with attempted murder, illegal possession of a gun and bullets and illegal use of a gun.

Chutipong admitted he was the man caught on surveillance cameras but denied having shot anyone. He stated at the time he was upset by demonstrators and randomly shot at them. Police believed the suspect was one of a group of three to four people who committed the crime.

It has not yet been confirmed whether additional charges will be brought against Chutipong following the boy's death. Bangkok Post

A third of schools reopen at start of second semester

BANGKOK

ABOUT 34% OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS nationwide resumed onsite learning on the first school day of the second semester on Monday (Nov 1).

Education Minister Treenuch Thienthong revealed that around 12,000 out of 35,000 schools welcomed students back after a long period of learning at home due to COVID-19, while several more will reopen their doors on Nov 15.

Ms Treenuch said the ministry had not set a target for how many schools should resume onsite learning, and it is up to the readiness of each institution.

As for the response measures to COVID-19 transmission in schools, she said the ministry was against full school closures, if new infections in schools are found, as it preferred milder measures such as suspending classes linked to the infections.

"COVID-19 will be around for a while and it is time for us to adjust and live with it," she said.

The news came as Bangkok Governor Aswin Kwanmuang disclosed that 437 schools run by the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration have still to resume onsite learning, because not enough of their students had received a second vaccination.

He said those in Matthayom 1-3 will get their second shot on Nov 6-8 and, as they are advised to look out for side-effects



Students sit apart at Triamwitpattana School in Bangkok on their first day back at school on Monday (Nov 1). Photo: Varuth Hirunyatheb

for seven days, the BMA will assess the situation again on Nov 15.

"The BMA will decide again how much we can resume onsite classes. For the time being while the inoculation programme isn't complete, the students will continue with online learning," he said.

Dr Apisamai Srirungson, assistant spokeswoman for the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA), said students do not need to be regularly tested for COVID-19.

She said weekly screenings are not required and rapid tests using antigen test kits are recommended for when students are exposed to infection risks.

"If family members test positive, students are advised to take a test and stay home for 14 days. Schools will need to talk to parents about their COVID-19 control measures," she said, before saying with the measures in place, schools may not need to close when infections are detected. Bangkok Post

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Shane Magnier's spirit shines on



A MEAL WITH...

Baz Daniel
baz_gunner2000@yahoo.com

On the 1st of October 2021, I heard the sad news that my friend Shane Magnier had passed away in County Clare in southwest Ireland. It was a considerable shock, because we'd talked by phone a couple of years earlier and he was his usual hale and hearty self, and also because he was a relatively young man. Sadly, Shane developed an aggressive form of kidney cancer and died in a hospice near Limerick at the end of September.

Shane was a friend for 14 years and we worked together on many creative projects from film, to radio, to newspaper, to online media. For me, Shane was an example of the sort of romantic, pioneering escapee from 'normality' who seemed drawn to life in Phuket for its serendipity, and often its sheer madness. Shane's sad demise got me thinking about him as an exemplar of this type of character and whether Phuket will ever see a return to the sort of unpredictability and madness which drew both of us to the island.

My first meeting with Shane was as eccentric as the man himself. In late 2007, I'd just finished performing on stage in a musical and comedy review which I'd co-written in the Green Man pub in Chalong. I'd just cleaned off my



Shane Magnier, a shining spirit in Phuket.

stage make-up and ditched my rather looney costume, when Shane lumbered up to the bar and in an Irish brogue as rich as the pub's dark stout itself and asked me if I'd like a drink. We bonded over Howard Digby-John's fine Guinness and it transpired that Shane was an aspiring filmmaker and asked if I'd be interested in appearing as a David Attenborough-style on-camera presenter in a documentary he was planning for Thai television. It sounded like a merry jape, so I said I would, and thereby our friendship was launched.

A few days later, I found myself clumping through muddy buffalo droppings in a sweltering rice field in Phang Nga Province, while presenting to a film camera about 'Khao Suay'... Thailand's 'Beautiful Rice' in a pilot film about the country's agricultural

bounty. It was a tough gig and after we'd returned to Phuket and completed the voice-over work in Shane's in-home recording studio in Rawai, we needed to drink several glasses of Ireland's finest black liquid agricultural bounty in order to recover!

As I learned more about Shane, I discovered that he was a confusing combination of differing personality traits and characteristics and that he even had an alter-ego named Gerry Mitchell, his radio persona, or nom de mic! He'd served in the Irish police force and his hulking physique and no-nonsense presence had probably served him well in such a role. But there was also a creative and experimental side to Shane which had seen him working as a producer and presenter of music and talk shows in Ireland including Radio Kilkenny, Tipp FM and Clare FM. He'd done voice-over work for jingles and advertising and had a Diploma in Radio Production and Broadcasting.

Shane was something of a creative polymath and unsurprisingly he had the urge to travel and explore new horizons which saw him arriving in Phuket in 2003 and setting up his SGM video production company for which I'd found myself presenting in that muddy field!

Over the years our friendship and creative collaboration grew and we'd meet regularly in the ramshackle Chalong waterfront bars such as Jimmy's Lighthouse and the Tamarind Bar, to eat supper and exchange jokes and creative ideas.

In 2009, Shane disappeared for a while when he went off to attend the International Academy of Film and Television, at Bigfoot Studios, in the Philippines to earn a Diploma in Film and Television Production. Upon

returning to Phuket, he was full of expansive and enterprising ideas, and in 2011 he wrote a full-length, semi-autobiographical feature film titled 'Perfect Day', in which I was originally cast, but in fact had to miss because of family business back in the UK.

The film was set on a single day in the life of 'Rick', an Irish 40-something who lived in Phuket. He sets out to have what is for him the perfect day, a combination of hedonism and spirituality, travelling the island 'Easy Rider' style on a large chopper motorbike. However, all is not as it seems with Rick/Shane as he's visited regularly by the ghost of his humorous dead father and haunted by memories of a girl called Clodagh.

'Perfect Day' is about priorities in life and how Rick/Shane copes with his fate and was beautifully shot on location in Thailand and Ireland, and went on to win the 2013 Grand Prize at the Amsterdam Film Festival.

This period was a highly creative and energetic time for Shane as he also launched the 'Phuket Weekly' online news and lifestyle website. On March 15, 2012, the Rainbow Bar in Rawai saw the riotous launch of the site with free-flowing drinks, food, live music, dancing girls and hundreds of local denizens having a whale of a time. It was a fitting birth for the site which captured the hedonistic spirit which was then very much a part of Phuket at that time, and I was fortunate enough to be creatively involved from the outset writing various columns, editing, taking photos and generally mucking in to help bring Shane's enterprising new vision to life.

From 2013-2014 Shane worked as a radio presenter at Phuket Island Radio 91.5FM doing the afternoon show from each weekday as Gerry Mitchell.

He then moved to Spain in November 2014 where he presented afternoon radio on Coast FM Gold in Nerja, and then on City FM Malaga broadcasting in English across the Costa del Sol Spain.

I reconnected with Shane when he returned to Phuket in late 2016, as he went on to present the Afternoon Show on The Thaiger Radio and then to open McFly's Bar on the Rawai waterfront. Shane went back to live in Ireland with his ailing mother in 2018, but McFly's still serves cold ones to this very day.

In Shane's biographical film 'Perfect Day' the boozy, cynical father tells Rick; "You always were a f*****g dreamer!"

Indeed, you were Shane. Rest in Peace my friend.

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Long-term relief for people in need

Press Release

Living Waters Phuket, Phuket's first united foundation to provide grants supporting the most vulnerable communities has been fully established to provide grants to projects investing in sustainable community solutions across Phuket and the surrounding islands.

"Phuket has needed a well thought out Foundation for a long time, so 5 Star Marine decided to set up and be the major funding source behind Living Waters Phuket," said Shaun Stenning (CEO and Founder of 5 Star Marine).

"This new Foundation has been funded to carry forward the work 5 Star Marine completed during the Pandemic, providing Life Bags to over 360,000 families; but will also provide financial grants for other vital initiatives. Now Living Waters Phuket can continue on in the community, providing sustainable solutions to food security, education and environmental issues," he added.

A United Foundation

The one-of-a-kind and brand-new foundation, Living Waters Phuket, is working to combine the efforts of registered charities, foundations, private companies and government organisations. It aims to provide strategic and credible aid by issuing financial grants to projects around essential relief areas including solutions to sustainable food security, education, renewable energy and environmental issues.

The foundation made its official Phuket launch on Nov 1, 2021 with an unparalleled financial grant for a sizable collaborative food donation programme. This initiative consists of over 8,700 'Super Life Packs' to help families in need; working together with the Phuket Red Cross, Phuket Has Been Good To Us and several government departments.



Photo: Living Waters

Where It All Began...

Shaun Stenning and his team have been diligently running their 'Life Bags' food donation programme for over 20 months. Their dedication towards the most vulnerable communities across Phuket and the surrounding islands has been an undeniably essential effort and has seen staggering and non-stop weekly funding, sourcing, packing and delivery efforts take place.

They continued this relief aid throughout the pandemic, and carried on despite multiple restrictions stopping volunteers packing; during which time 5 Star Marine and Sutai Muay Thai solely took over packing efforts to keep the deliveries going, including targeting some of the remote and hardest to reach areas and islands utilising the fleet of 5 Star Marine speedboats.

A Natural Extension

Living Waters Phuket was born as a natural extension to, and formed a strategic transition from, the last 20 months of relief efforts. It sits in synergy as the next stage for 5 Star Marine who founded and funded this first-of-its-kind foundation in Phuket, which will now provide a more long-term, sustainable and ongoing

means to continue providing relief via funds for projects where the community needs the most help.

First Of A Kind Grant Collaboration

Living Waters Phuket together with 5 Star Marine have granted a financial aid package for over 88,700 'Super Life Packs' which contain enough staple food items to feed a family of 4 people for 1 whole week. This effort will include a staggering 44 tonnes of rice, along with noodles, tinned fish, and nearly 9,000 litres of cooking oil and sauces.

This financially-funded project marks the largest single food bag donation to date, and the execution will be a collaborative effort between Living Waters Phuket, 5 Star Marine, the Phuket Red Cross, Phuket Has Been Good To Us and various government departments.

Sustainable Support

The foundation has already been involved in supporting a sustainable farming and food production education programme for the Kathu Wittaya School. This long-term initiative is designed around teaching nearly 1,000 children about producing food, with all food grown being donated to a local orphanage. This also aims to give these children the skills to be self-sufficient and take this knowledge back to their communities in the hope of a better future.

Grants are currently being awarded to community groups, Not-For-Profit organisations (NFPOs) and individuals who want to bridge a gap by finding solutions to sustainable food security, education, renewable energy and environmental issues. The independent board of advisors at Living Waters Phuket will review each grant application objectively, fairly and impartially.

Further more information on Living Waters Phuket, contact: Shaun Stenning +66 (0)937206221; Facebook/Instagram/YouTube: Living Waters Phuket; Twitter: livingwaters_th

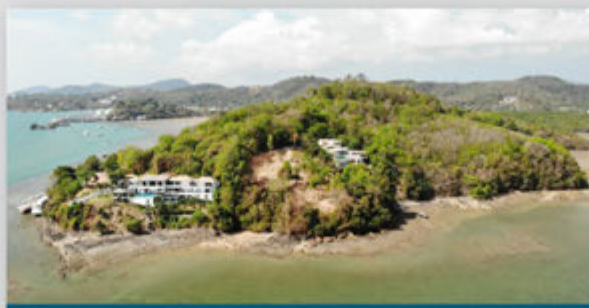
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- ✓ 6 Bedrooms
- ✓ 7 Bathrooms
- ✓ 800 sqm of built area

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POP QUIZ

- Which small Colorado city was named after the abundance of certain trees in the area?
- In *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens, Miss Havisham has all the clocks in her mansion set at precisely what time?
- How many American presidents have been assassinated?
- The National Liberation Front of South Vietnam were better known by which term?
- In meteorology, what 'catch-all' name is given to any condensation that falls under gravity?

Answers below, centre

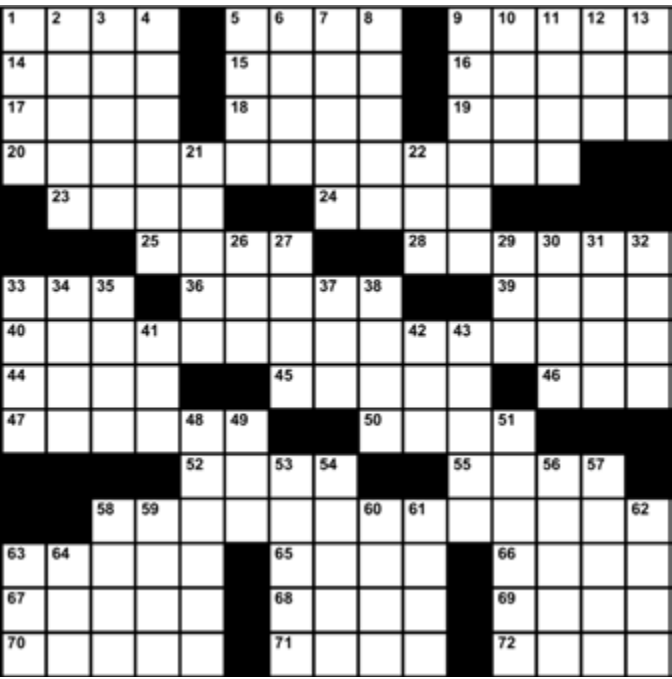
Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across

 - One of Chekhov's Three Sisters
 - Legendary story
 - Banister support
 - Decant
 - Kind of game
 - Earthy hue
 - Rent-__ (travel-agent offering)
 - Ottawa-based law gp.
 - Birds that can't fly
 - Meeting for a discussion
 - Hot rock
 - Where Bhutan is
 - Major currency
 - Grommet, for example
 - Nile viper
 - Pass-the-baton race
 - Old Italian bread
 - Cried like a cat
 - Race
 - Leonardo's birthplace
 - Ship
 - Kind of kick
 - Vaccine maker
 - Texan's stewpot
 - Stocking stuffer
 - Noisy dog
 - Bush with yellow flowers
- Down

 - Brightly colored fish
 - From around here
 - Fruit used in making jams
 - Get there
 - Helgenberger of "CSI"
 - Blue Triangle org.
 - Buccaneers' home
 - Syringes, for short
 - Home for a Viking
 - Canyon sound
 - "That was close!"
 - Big time
 - "___ Liaisons Dangereuses"
 - Pacific island
 - Golfer Michelle
 - Out of service now, abbr.
 - Name of many
- Norwegian kings

 - Shade tree
 - Substitution word
 - Cupid, in Greece
 - Prized marbles
 - ___ saxophone
 - Taken in
 - School orgs.
 - Parisian pal
 - Inclinations
 - "...___ quit!"
 - Andean staple
 - Radio reply
 - Window
 - Canadian creature
 - Bow (to)
 - Technology for self-driving cars
 - Benedict Arnold's cohort
 - Knowing
 - "___ Doone" (1869 novel)
 - Bubble
 - Top-of-the-line
 - Hell's door
 - Parting words
 - Cashmere, e.g.
 - Knot-tying gp., abbr.
 - Confederate soldier, abbr.



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Aspen; 2) 8:40 (the time she received a letter of rejection on her wedding day); 3) Four; 4) Viet Cong; 5) Precipitation

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

EST THO PEP'S I
NPS HOP WRMOTO
CIA GREG OATERS
ACUPUNCTURIST
MEND ASPG
PSALMIC CHEAPEN
OPRAH NOTE
OPHTHALMOLOGIST
LIRA SUEDE
DESSERT ISOLATO
READ OVEN
VENTRILOQUIST
HAILER CANTALI
UNEASY ETUIT TAM
DIDNT ESP ESE

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

2

words are usually all that is required for people to distinguish the voice of a close friend or relative amongst other voices.

60

percent, on average, is how much of the human body is water.

150

degrees Celsius (302°F) is the cut-off point for life, theoretically. Proteins fall apart and chemical reactions cannot occur at that temperature.

28,800

kilometres per hour is how fast the International Space Station travels, taking only 90 minutes for the weightless laboratory to make a complete circuit of Earth.

500,000

US dollars a year is still earned by the song 'Whoomp! (There It Is)'. It was released in 1993.

Source: *Uberfacts*

ISLAND VIEW

Patong view from the pool. Photo by Cathy Bacorro

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

This week in history

Nov 5, 1605
Guy Fawkes is arrested while guarding a stockpile of gunpowder under Westminster Abbey amid a plot to assassinate King James I in order to restore a Catholic monarch to the throne.

Nov 6, 1913
Mohandas 'Mahatma' Gandhi is arrested while leading a march of Indian miners in South Africa.

Nov 7, 1999
Australians vote to keep the Head

of the Commonwealth, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, as their head of state in the Australian republic referendum.

Nov 8, 1492
The Ensisheim meteorite, the oldest meteorite with a known date of impact, strikes the Earth around noon in a wheat field outside the village of Ensisheim, Alsace, France.

Nov 9, 694
At the Seventeenth Council of

Armistice Day, 1918.

Nov 10, 1958
The Hope Diamond, weighing

45.52 carats and last reported to be insured for US\$250 million (B8.241bn), is donated to the Smithsonian Institution by New York diamond merchant Harry Winston.

Nov 11, 1918
World War I: Germany signs an armistice agreement with the Allies in a railroad car in the forest of Compiègne. The armistice came into force at 11am Paris time on November 11, 1918.

Source: *Wikipedia*

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FRI 5 NOV



Friday Mussels night

6 PM onwards: Belgian style mussels served with French Fries. All you can eat. Your choice, Your style: Marinere, White wine, 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

SUN 7 NOV



Sunday roast

12PM – 9PM: All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet Beef, Pork, Chicken & Lamb – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, Fried mushrooms, Grilled Tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes – Apple sauce, Gravy, Mushroom sauce, Horse radish, Mint Sauce. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 350 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 175 baht P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

WED 10 NOV



Wednesday BBQ night

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austchamthailand.com/event/10-nov-joint-chambers-phuket-sundowners-hosted-by-austcham/

THU 11 NOV

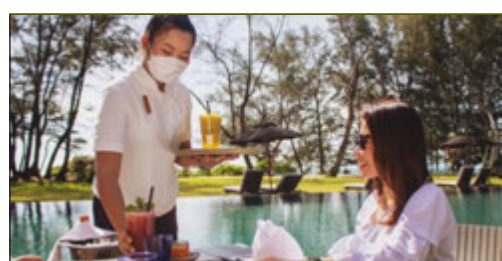


Old Masters

- Australia's great Bark Artists

Experience the rich cultural history of Aboriginal Australians through the traditional craft of Bark Art right here in Phuket. From the National Museum of Australia, witness the beauty and wonder of this expressive art form, from the Old Masters; Australia's great Bark Artists, at this Free Public Exhibition from the Australian Embassy of Thailand. Three Days Only! November 11-13 from 5 - 7 PM. at The Quintessential Gallery Taste Bangtao. Matthew. Barclay@dfat.gov.au

SAT 6 NOV



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MON 8 NOV



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SAT 4 DEC



A Night At The Popra

The event is a banquet style dinner and show. The money raised by ticket donations and auction items will be directly used to buy and distribute Life Bag supplies through One Phuket. Ticket donations are B5,000 per seat for VIP and B3,500 per seat for standard. Both ticket donations include a 5-star 3 course meal and free flow beverages.

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DESTINATION GROUP OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Local Phuket media attended the reopening day for the Novotel Surin, Novotel Kamala, Hard Rock Cafe Phuket and Hooters Phuket on Monday (Nov 1). Lots of smiles from the teams at all the venues. "We are very excited with the opening of our hotels and restaurants today," commented Gary Murray, CEO, Destination Group. "With the Thai government announcement of including 63 countries on the list of no quarantine, we are sure to see the demand and increase in tourist arrivals. Following all safe protocols and 100% vaccinated team member's we look forward to welcome all" added Mr Murray.



PEPPERS' SPOOKTACULAR QUIZ

It was frights galore as Pepper's Bar in Tinlay Place hosted its Halloween Spooktacular quiz last Wednesday (Oct 27). A full house of participants, many of whom donned fantastic fancy dress costume for the occasion, enjoyed a night of fun and laughter as a series of light-hearted games complemented the quiz questions. Pumpkin soup and trick or treat candies were available for all with a prize for the best decorated pumpkin. The entrance fee of B100 each week also helps raise funds for local charities, with The Good Shepherd the recipient on this occasion. Well done to Claire, Steve, Khun Ae and all the staff at Peppers for a frightfully fangtastic evening!

Prawit remains Thai Olympic chief

OLYMPICS

PRAWIT WONGSUWON was re-elected unopposed as president of the National Olympic Committee of Thailand (NOCT) on Monday (Nov 1).

Gen Prawit, 76, will be in office for a second term of three years which ends after the 2024 Olympics in Paris.

Prawit is also deputy prime minister overseeing the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) and president of the Thailand Swimming Association.

Longtime secretary-general Charouk Arirachakaran, 89, and former president Gen Yutthasak Sasiprabha were appointed as honorary presidents for life.

Gen Wit Devahastin Ayudhya succeeds Maj Gen Charouk as secretary-general.

Prawit, in his capacity as leader of the ruling Palang Pracharat Party, recently appointed Wit as chairman of the party's strategic committee.

Thana Chaiprasit, who previously has been Thailand's chief of delegation in several international tournaments, was named a vice



Three more years for Prawit. Photo: Bangkok Post

president and treasurer.

At Monday's election, Prawit and 24 others were nominated as NOCT executive members. Eligible voters unanimously agreed to their nominations without casting ballots.

The 25 elected executive members then selected Prawit as the NOCT president.

Thailand had 41 competitors across 14 sports at the recent Tokyo 2020 Olympics, winning one gold and one bronze, and finishing 59th overall in the medal table.

Panipak Wongpattanakit won gold in the women's 49kg Taekwondo and boxer Sudaporn Seesondee won bronze in the women's light-weight competition.

The result fell short of the Sports Authority of Thailand's (SAT) targeted three golds prior to the Games.

Bangkok Post

British Club Bangkok in Phuket double-header

CRICKET

Neil Quail

Thailand cricket rivalries will be resurrected this weekend when British Club Bangkok bring their best in the hope of a Phuket tour de force, in taking on the Patong Penguins and the Village Cricket Club, respectively at the ACG (Nov 6-7).

Phuket cricket has ironically, during this rainy season, endured a dry period competitively speaking mainly due to pandemic induced travel restrictions, resulting in fewer active players and touring teams visiting the island. However, as the weather and access to travel continue to improve, British Club Bangkok are keen to kick-start their season ahead with a Phuket test.

"This year will mark the 10th successive year of British Club tours to cricketers' paradise at the ACG, which has traditionally become the official start to our season," said British Club team captain Ben Eastwell.



The Village Cricket Club will take on British Club Bangkok on Sunday (Nov 7). Photo: Michael Way

"The Phuket Cricket Group and The Village C.C. have always welcomed the section with enthusiasm and have made it one of the most anticipated weekends of the year," he added.

The gauntlet will be first taken up by the Penguins tomorrow (Nov 6) in a 25-over game starting at 11:30am.

Hands on the Penguins' reins for Saturday's encounter will be all-rounder Jason Robertson who expects a competitive match that he hopes will also benefit the

long-term future of Thailand's domestic cricket scene.

"We look very much forward to welcoming the first touring team back to Phuket, after a very long break as COVID has affected us all," he said.

"There is no better side than our great friends at The British Club BKK, who have been fantastic supporters of cricket here on Phuket and the greater Thailand cricket community as a whole."

"It is with great excitement that we are all looking

forward to once again meeting and challenging our great adversaries and friends from The British Club Bangkok," remarked Village C.C. captain Mark Ashman, even though many of his players have not hit a cricket ball in anger for almost a year.

"The Village Cricket team come out of retirement annually for this super competitive social and fun day at the ACG. Our team will be celebrating its 15-year anniversary since its inception, and we can't think of better opponents with which to share this special occasion. The ACG is once of the best open spaces in Phuket for all the family to enjoy some local sport, ice cold drinks and delicious food. We invite anyone to come on down and join the fun and spectacle at the ACG, we would love to see you all there," Ashman added.

Sunday's game starts at 10:30am. Both weekend encounters will be the 25-over format.

For more information, please contact the ACG or visit their Facebook page.

Phuket News

English Premier League Predictions

thepuketnews.com/predictions.php

Sadom wins Thailand Open

GOLF

IN-FORM SADOM KAEWKANJANA put on another spectacular performance to storm to a four-shot victory at the B10 million Thailand Open in Pathum Thani last Sunday (Oct 31).

Sadom, who has claimed two titles and a runner-up spot in his last three events, carded a five-under-par 66 to win on 23-under 261, four shots ahead of second-placed Prom Meesawat, who shot a 68, at the par-71 Riverdale Golf Club.

Sadom, who did not drop a shot in the last two rounds, received the King Rama IX trophy, the winner's cheque of B1.5mn and five world ranking points.

It was his fourth win on the All Thailand Golf Tour as he became the sixth Thai to win the country's oldest golf event.

"I feel really happy to win this trophy and I think every Thai golfer wants to win this one," said the 23-year-old from Narathiwat.

Amateur Ratchanon Chantanuwat, 14, concluded with a 66 to finish 16th and took home his fourth low amateur award in as many events.

Meanwhile, Thailand's Patty Tavatanakit has won the 2021 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year award, the LPGA announced on Oct 25.

Patty, who won the ANA Inspiration, clinched the honour following the completion of the BMW Ladies Championship the previous weekend.



Sadom Kaewkanjana with the King Rama IX trophy. Photo: Bangkok Post

The 22-year-old, whose Thai name is Paphangkorn, has earned 1,134 points through 17 events, and holds a 355-point advantage over second-placed Leona Maguire with two tournaments remaining in the 2021 season.

"Earning this award is a dream come true for me," Patty said, the second player from Thailand to capture the honour, following Moriya Jutanugarn in 2013.

She won the ANA Inspiration in April, becoming the first LPGA Tour rookie to win the major title since Juli Inkster accomplished the feat in 1984. She also has eight top-10 finishes on her resume.

Patty became a 2021 LPGA Tour rookie after finishing second on the Symetra Tour's 2019 Race for the Card, where she won three times and earned Rookie of the Year award.

In August, she represented Thailand at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, finishing in a tie for 23rd. Bangkok Post

Verstappen in box seat

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

The end of the unprec-
edently long 2021 F1
season is in sight, and
in just six weeks the winner of
the titanic struggle between
reigning champion Lewis
Hamilton and challenger Max
Verstappen will be declared.

The margin is only 12
points, but with three Red
Bull-friendly circuits sched-
uled for the next three weeks,
Verstappen is within touching
distance of a historic champi-
onship victory.

Momentum is with the
Dutchman in this final cross-
continental jaunt to the flag.
Not only does he hold a points
buffer, but victory in the United
States two weeks ago at one of
Hamilton's favourite circuits
and a Mercedes stronghold
since 2014 was an important
strike in this relentless battle.

The next three races are at
Red Bull circuits, none more
so than this weekend's Mexico
City Grand Prix, which is
shaping up as a crucial chapter
in the title fight.

The Autódromo Hermanos
Rodríguez is one of F1's great
outliers. Situated more than 2.2



Momentum is with Verstappen as the 2021 F1 season draws to a close. Photo: AFP

kilometres above sea level, the
air is around 22% less dense,
which wreaks havoc with
car and engine performance
relative to regular lower-lying
circuits.

For one, despite the long
straights, every team brings
their biggest, most drag-lad-
ened aerodynamics kits to
scavenge as much downforce
as they can from the scarce
air. Yet always their task is
in vain, with the cars pro-
ducing only around as much
downforce than they do in
Monza, where the bodywork
is designed to reduce drag as
much as possible.

Despite being off champi-

onship pace since its last title
in 2013, Red Bull has always
done well here because its
design philosophy allows it to
pile more downforce onto the
car than most others. It's why
the team tends to perform well
at street circuits too.

Mercedes, on the other
hand, has often found Mexico
to be a bogey race for the same
reason. By virtue of being a
good compromise design that
performs strongly as most cir-
cuits, it struggles to answer the
call for maximum downforce
at an outlier like Mexico.

Following Mexico is then
Brazil – also at high altitude,
albeit less extreme – and then

the unknown quantity of a
new race in Qatar. Though
neither sits as solidly in the
Red Bull column, both are in
configurations that should suit
Verstappen's car's preference
of medium and high-speed
corners.

Two victories from three
could put Verstappen around
19 points up on Hamilton
ahead of the final two rounds,
which means Hamilton would
have to lead two Mercedes
one-two finishes in Saudi Ara-
bia and Abu Dhabi to ensure
himself of the title.

This will be a crucial three
weeks to the 2021 champion-
ship outcome.



Axed: Nuno. Photo: AFP

Spurs sack Nuno, line up Conte as successor

FOOTBALL

TOTTENHAM ARE REPORT-
edly in advanced talks with
Antonio Conte over the man-
ager's job after sacking Nuno
Espirito Santo on Monday
(Nov 1) following a dismal
run in the Premier League.

At time of press, it was re-
ported former Inter Milan and
Chelsea boss Conte met with
Tottenham officials in London
on Monday evening and struck
a deal for an 18-month contract
running until 2023.

Spurs had approached
Conte about succeeding the
axed Jose Mourinho earlier
this year but were unable to
convince the Italian to take
the job.

If the 52-year-old accepts
the offer, he would return to
the Premier League three
years after leaving their Lon-
don rivals Chelsea, where
he won the Premier League

and the FA Cup.

Conte's first Premier
League game with Totten-
ham would come at Everton
on Sunday (Nov 7).

Nuno's sacking came two
days after Tottenham's woe-
ful 0-3 defeat at home to
Manchester United and after
only four months in charge for
the Portuguese. It was Spurs'
fifth defeat in their past seven
league games and the toxic
reaction by fans to the coach
at the Tottenham Hotspur
Stadium proved the final straw
for chairman Daniel Levy.

If appointed, Conte would
be tasked with ensuring Spurs
play more adventurous football
at their gleaming new stadium.
He would also need to find
a way to get the best out of
England captain Harry Kane,
who has looked a shadow of
his former self since his at-
tempt to engineer a move to
Manchester City was rebuffed
by Levy. AFP

Weasel Cup on the line in Phuket showdown

RUGBY

Continued from page 16
...commented Vagabonds
chairman Anthony Van
Sleeuwen, one of the main
driving forces behind
Phuket's rugby resurgence.

"Considering the many
challenges COVID has
thrown at us over the past
two years it is a true testa-
ment to the hard work and
dedication that has been
shown by the team, spon-
sors and supporters. The
Phuket Vagabonds con-
tinue to go from strength
to strength, and now the
Bangkok Bangers present
us with another opportunity
to gauge our progress."

While the Bangers event
is of immediate focus, the
Vagabonds are also prepar-
ing to bring even more
rugby to the island's shores
as soon as next month,
with the Phuket Vagabonds
Invitational 10s set for
December 4, an all-new
event which aims to bring
the best of Thailand's social
clubs to the ACG for a fast
paced one-day tournament.

"We are truly grateful
for all of the outstanding



The Bangkok Bangers. Photo: Bangkok Bangers

community support shown
thus far, and we look forward
to continuing to build a rugby
club that Phuket can be proud
of," added Van Sleeuwen.

Vagabonds' captain Paul
Rothwell has been oversee-
ing his squad's development
through the difficulties of the
past year and is relishing the
opportunity to put his charges
through their paces against
quality opposition.

"All the lads are eager and
waiting to get back onto the
pitch," he said. "We've all
been pushing ourselves in
both training and preparation,
and I hope that it can be a
competitive game with a high
standard of rugby."

"I've never played against
the Bangers, only heard from
team-mates that they have
quality in their line-up, so I
think it will be a hard-fought

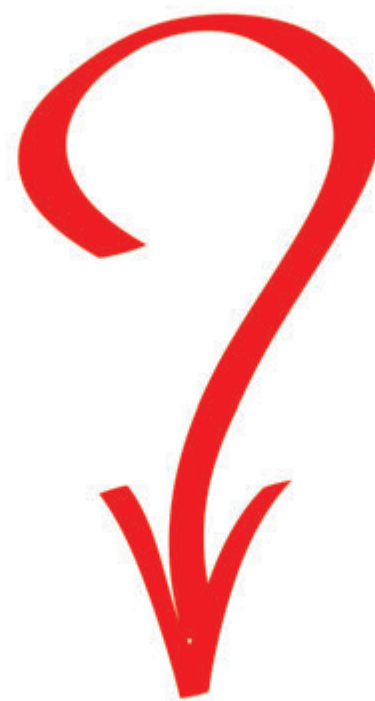
match. I look forward to the
match and the occasion as
a whole. Let's hope we can
get a good crowd in to sup-
port the lads," a determined
Rothwell added.

This festival of rugby
football will begin with a
Vagabonds Youth Rugby
Academy coaching session
at 9am and then the main
event kicking off at 1:30pm.
Matches will comprise
four 10-minute halves,
while spectators can enjoy
the action at ground level
or from the ACG's upper
gallery, where a selection
of food and beverages will
be available throughout
the day.

For more information
on the tournament and
Vagabonds Rugby Club,
please visit their Facebook
page.



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Sport

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Phuket cricket extravaganza at ACG > p14

PHUKET RUGBY RETURNS

RUGBY

Neil Quail

Phuket rugby sees an enticing return to full-contact competition when the Bangkok Bangers touchdown on the island to revive their long-standing and respected rivalry with the Vagabonds next Saturday (Nov 13).

This mini-invitational-10s tournament will pit two teams from each club against one another in a round-robin format, with a cup and plate final to decide placings. Additionally, the tournament will be the first invitational to be hosted by the Vagabonds at the ACG since establishing the sports ground as their home venue back in 2019.

Rivalry between the two clubs has been especially fierce in the veterans competition



The Vagabonds' Dan Ashburn (right) in action at the Surat Thani 7s in September. Photo: Vagabonds Rugby Club

sections, with some classic encounters when playing for the Weasel Cup, which have gone down in Thai rugby folklore. The Cup will be up for grabs as the winner's prize, with the Bangkok Bangers being the current holders.

"Sport has produced some great rivalries over the years and the Old Bangkok Bangers

against the Phuket Vagabonds is no exception," commented Pat Cotter, who has been an influential benefactor to all levels of Thailand rugby and is very much looking forward to the upcoming event.

"There have been some classic battles over those 20 years, mostly at tournaments, such as, the Bangkok Inter-

national 10s, the Chris Keys Pattaya 10s and our very own Phuket International 10's. In the early years the Bangers were dominant but as the Vagabonds became more established, they came into their own, winning some memorable matches and creating a legacy which continues today," he added.

Bangkok Bangers' chairman Darren Mathee, a former captain of the Vagabonds, is keen to brush off the cobwebs following two years of inconsistent rugby around the country and in the capital.

"Touring and playing in Phuket is always fun for our group and also playing against my first team I ever played for and captained in Thailand," he said. "Our players have been enthusiastically training just for this tour and of course the fun that comes with it. We are bringing 14 players who have never toured and some that have never played with the Bangers, so this would be a great start for our upcoming season of rugby."

Restrictions resulting from the pandemic have, of course, affected sports, but the Bangers opted to use this downtime as a rebuilding phase, and captain Travis Clements reflected on

their progress leading into this November meeting.

"It's given us the opportunity to go back to the basics and focus on those finer details we've been lacking in the past. I can speak for the team when I say that we're coming in with everything we have as we're proud of what we've accomplished on the training pitch. We just can't wait to delve back into the rugby culture that we love and adore so much, and the picturesque setting of Phuket makes it so much sweeter," enthused Clements.

Following the success of the Vagabonds Reds v Blues internal Seven's competition held in June, expectation for another enthusiastically supported rugby event is high.

"We are thrilled as a club to bring live rugby back to Phuket for the third time this year..." *Continued on page 15*

WINDOW ON PHUKET

The December/January 2022
hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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

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