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BIG SEIZE

BIG BUDDHA TARGETTED IN LANDSLIDE PROBE

Photo: PR Phuket

The Phuket News
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Local forestry officials posted signs at the Big Buddha complex last Friday (Aug 30) indicating which areas had been seized as part of the investigation into the foundation that operates the iconic tourist attraction.

The investigation began after local residents filed a formal complaint alleging that construction at the Big Buddha site had caused the deadly landslide on Aug 23 that killed 13 people and directly damaged more than 50 homes.

A preliminary investigation re-

vealed that the landslide began just five metres from the temple's newly constructed parking lot.

Sorasak Rananan, Director of the Phuket Provincial Forestry Center, along with forestry officials, inspected and seized over five rai of land in three locations around the Big Buddha site.

The signs posted clearly marked the land in question as "Seized area" and that the seizure of the land followed a formal complaint filed with Karon Police. The case number noted on the sign was CC 1442256703129.

The signs also explicitly explained that such notice "Prohibits any person from taking possession".

Mr Sorasak confirmed that a

formal complaint was filed with Karon Police on Aug 27 regarding the alleged encroachment, leading to an inspection of the site.

The Big Buddha foundation, called the Phra Phuttha Ming Mongkol Sathha 45 Foundation, was accused of illegally occupying 5 rai 19 square wah of forest reserve land, Mr Sorasak said.

A summons has been issued for a "Mr Suphawanichkul", the president of the Phra Phuttha Ming Mongkol Foundation, to provide a statement on Sept 5, he added.

DEMOLITION

Royal Forest Department deputy chief Bannaruk Sermthong has told

the press that the 45-metre-tall seated 'Big Buddha' statue on the top of the Nakkerd hills separating Kata and Chalong may be demolished.

Mr Bannaruk led a team of officials to the Big Buddha complex on Aug 29 to follow up on the landslide.

He said that according to the team's initial investigation, the landslide was caused by the clearing of trees on the hilltop for the erection of a gigantic Buddha statue weighing 135 tonnes.

The hilltop sculpture is part of Wat Kittisankaram (Wat Kata).

Mr Bannaruk said the temple had submitted a request to the department to use 15 rai of land in the Khao Nakkerd National Forest Reserve to...

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081 100 6092



PATRICK
CHANTHAM



PATRICK CHANTHAM HAIR LAB, BOAT AVENUE LAGUNA PHUKET
49/35 BOAT AVENUE, LAGUNA, CHERNTALAY AMPHOE THALANG, PHUKET, THAILAND 83110



Taxi drivers
brawl with
tourists > p4

Meagre payouts for landslide victims

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket officials attended the funerals of three of the nine Myanmar workers killed in the landslide on Aug 23 to assure the public that the Phuket Provincial Social Security Office is expediting efforts to provide compensation under various social security measures to those affected by the landslide.

At Wat Chaithararam (Wat Chalong) last Friday (Aug 30), officials from the Phuket Provincial Social Security Office presented compensation to the next-of-kin of three of the Myanmar workers killed in the landslide.

Landslide victims Ms Ei Ei San and Mr Aung Paing Phy, both employees of Coral 789 Co Ltd, were entitled to each receive funeral expenses of B50,000 and a pension payout of B11,700.

Ms Let Let San, previously employed by Mr Samran Chophon, was entitled to receive funeral expenses of B50,000 and retirement benefits of B900, said an official report of the handout.

No other details of expediting financial support for the landslide victims were included in the report.

Phuket MP Chalermpong Saengdee, who was present at

the funerals, said, "Although the landslide situation in Tambon Karon has improved and some areas have returned to normal, cleanup efforts are still ongoing in certain places. This flood will likely remain in everyone's memory, highlighting the need for urgent preventive measures.

"On August 30, 2024, my team and I visited Tambon Karon to check on the progress of assistance for the victims and to observe the response efforts by the authorities.

"At the disaster relief command centre at Wat Kata, donated items were packed into survival bags and distributed to affected villages and neighbourhoods. The officials also requested that the victims sign their names for data verification purposes. The facts were presented, and there will be a meeting to discuss compensation. The coordination command centre at Wat Kata will close today [Aug 30] at 3pm," Mr Chalermpong confirmed.

"I would like to express my gratitude to all the community members, cooks, volunteers, and agencies that provided assistance during this incident, as well as to the rescue teams," Mr Chalermpong added.

Just days earlier, on Aug 28, Air Chief Marshal Supaporn Yuwattana, Inspector-



Photo: PR Phuket

General of the Social Security Office, was in Phuket to deliver compensation and support to some victims of the landslide.

Joining Mr Supaporn for the presentation were Thalang District Chief Pairoj Srilamul and Phiraphon Bowonthansan, Acting Chief of the Social Security Office in Phuket, along with Ministry of Labour officials and other officers.

The delegation presented financial support to Malinee Rawangpai, sister of Thai national Prasit Rawangpai, who was killed in the landslide.

Mr Prasit was insured under Section 33 of the social security scheme, explained an official report of the event.

The officials met with Ms Malinee at Wat Mongkolwararam (Wat Nai Yang) in Sakhu, south of the airport,

to offer their condolences and financial support.

Ms Malinee received a total of B83,702.43, comprising B50,000 for funeral expenses, B16,346.66 as a death benefit, and B17,355.77 from Mr Prasit's pension contributions.

The team also visited Wilailak Khamsri, who was injured in the landslide, at Chalong Hospital.

Ms Wilailak, an employee of Kata Palm Resort Co Ltd, is insured under Section 33 of the social security scheme. She is receiving free medical treatment under her social security rights and will be compensated for lost income during her recovery, the official report noted.

She is entitled to 50% of her wages for up to 90 days at a time, with a maximum of

180 days per year, the report explained.

The Social Security Office's investigation revealed that a total of five people, including two Thais insured under Section 33 and three Myanmar workers... or their inheritors... were entitled to compensation under social security. The total amount allocated for compensation to these individuals is B304,592.83, the report said.

RELIEF CENTRE CLOSES

The landslide relief centre at Wat Kittisangkaram (Wat Kata) closed last Friday following Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat announcing that the situation in the area is starting to normalise.

Governor Sophon announced the closure of the centre during a meeting held on Aug 29 to discuss managing the area's recovery.

The closure of the relief centre marked a significant step toward returning the area to local control, Governor Sophon said.

Karon Municipality will oversee the process, which includes shutting down the shelter, donation centre and kitchen that were established to support victims.

However, the area management and rehabilitation centre

will continue to operate to ensure the community can return to normalcy.

Despite the closure, authorities will maintain continuous monitoring of the situation in Karon and other high-risk areas across Phuket, Governor Sophon assured.

PRIVY SUPPORT

Days before the relief centre closed, Privy Councillor Gen Dapong Ratanasuwan on Aug 27 arrived in Phuket on behalf of His Majesty the King to deliver royal gift bags and essential supplies to those in need following the landslide.

Gen Dapong, along with representatives from the Rajaprajanugroh Foundation under Royal Patronage, presented 257 royal gift bags and consumer goods to Governor Sophon and Mueang Phuket District Chief Worasit Phutcheep at a ceremony held at the Karon Municipality office.

The items were distributed to residents affected by the landslide and flooding to provide immediate relief and encouragement, said an official report of the visit.

The landslide killed 13 people and injured 19 others. The heavy rainfall that caused the landslide caused significant damage across Karon, Rawai and Chalong, and affected 260 households, noted the report.

New parking lot at Big Buddha complex blamed for deadly landslide

Continued from page 1
...construct the statue, built by the foundation.

However, the foundation later expanded construction outside the permitted area, adding five rai of land to the project, he said.

The department submitted a letter prohibiting the move in December last year, he added.

"Heavy rainfall and expanded construction without a permit are likely to have caused the landslide, which claimed many lives in the community down the hill," he said.

"This would not have happened if there had been no huge construction located inside Watershed class 1A [a watershed area with forest cover that has never faced disturbance of any kind]. The area is very sensitive."

The department filed a complaint to seize the forest area that was encroached upon, he said,

adding that a committee will be set up to further investigate the matter. Signs prohibiting entry to the area will also be put up.

"When the case is concluded, all structures, including the Big Buddha, will be demolished," Mr Bannaruk said.

Meanwhile, the Department of Mineral Resources has admitted that the landslide warning station was out of order, and that's why it could not warn residents at the base of the hill of the impending disaster.

It said it would fix the problem in September, as heavy rain is expected to continue until October.

CALL FOR ACTION

The investigation followed residents in Kata submitting a formal request calling for a thorough investigation into the deadly landslide on Aug 23.

The letter was delivered during a gathering at Wat Kittisangkaram (Wat Kata) by Chalong Loi-Samut,



Photo: PR Phuket

a representative of the affected community.

In addition to the investigation request, Mr Chalong presented documents previously submitted to local authorities, including a letter from 2020 and photographs from a landslide that occurred 11 years ago. The documents highlight long-standing concerns about the safety of the Nakkerd hills and the risks faced by villagers living at its base.

The community's plea drew attention from several key officials, including Phuket Vice Governor Sattha Thongkham and Phuket MP Chalermpong Saengdee.

Both officials have expressed their commitment to addressing the issue. Mr Chalermpong announced plans to coordinate with various government agencies, including the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), to investigate the destruction of the forest on the hills.

He said he also planned to work with the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Interior to address concerns about Buddhist commercial activities and to expedite the installation of warning systems.

Vice Governor Sattha confirmed that Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat had already requested action from the MNRE Permanent Secretary Jatuporn Buruspat.

"The priority is to ensure that construction and land use on the Nakkerd hills comply with legal regulations. Immediate efforts are also underway to clear mud and debris from homes and roads to restore

normalcy for the affected residents," Vice Governor Sattha said.

MORE ISSUES

Phuket MP Chalermpong Saengdee noted that it remained unclear whether the foundation had been granted permission to add any buildings at the site, which he said sits some 300 metres above sea level.

By law, special permission must be granted for any structures to be built above 80m above sea level, he explained.

Such structures do exist, he noted such as the radar station which is also located high in the hills for national security reasons.

Mr Chalermpong noted that one of the buildings and the parking lot were built over a natural waterway, which may have diverted the natural runoff and posed a risk of another landslide.

Additional reporting by
Eakkapop Thongtub

Landslip crunches homes

Eakkapop Thongtub
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Residents in at least eight houses were evacuated for safety at a housing estate in Baan Kuku, Ratsada, after rain-soaked earth slid and damaged their homes early on Aug 28.

Emergency services were called to the scene, the Thepburi housing estate, at about 5:30am.

Emergency response teams, including officers from Ratsada Municipality and rescue workers from the Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation, arrived to find residents standing outside their homes in the pouring rain.

Initial inspections revealed that nine two-storey townhouses were damaged by the landslide. A local government report marked eight houses were damaged by the landslide. No people were reported as injured in the incident.

The ground behind the houses was still unstable, with noises indicating the possibility of further movement. For safety, residents were asked to evacuate their homes as a precaution.

One resident, Kanyarat Chakkrawat, 45, who had moved into her house with her family only 13 days earlier, explained that she and her family were sleeping on the ground floor due to ongoing arrangements in their new home when they heard a loud noise at about 5am.

She discovered water pouring into the house from the kitchen at the back of the home. The family members had not yet started using the upper floors, which



Photo: PR Phuket

were later found to be filled with soil.

Another resident, Mr Nop, initially mistook the loud noise for lightning but soon realised the gravity of the situation when he saw his neighbours standing outside in distress.

Mr Nop noted that the hillside above the line of townhouses had been stripped of trees about a year ago, leading to soil erosion and the eventual collapse.

His own home suffered damage to the roof, while other houses nearby sustained more severe structural damage.

CLEANUP

While disaster officials were continuing to monitor the area and urging residents to remain cautious as the ground remained unstable, the cleanup operations began the next day (Aug 29).

Ratsada Mayor Nakarin Yosaengrat oversaw the cleanup operation and was joined by a team of engineers who con-

ducted an inspection of the site.

A backhoe was brought in to start removing the soil that had slid onto the back of the terraced homes. The backhoe was also used to dig a drainage channel to allow free flow of water to mitigate any chance of another landslide onto the homes.

The whole operation will take about 60 days, Mayor Nakarin said.

"It will take time, as removing the soil from below could compromise the soil above which could potentially fall and slide down again," he said.

Official reports did not state when the properties may be deemed safe for the residents to return to their properties. No full account of the extent of the damage to the homes was reported.

Officials did confirm that remedial measures will be taken to compensate those impacted by the landslide as all properties are privately owned and on private land.



Photo: Patong Surf Life Saving

Bluebottles at Patong

LIFEGUARDS AND LOCAL officials this week warned people to beware bluebottles at Phuket beaches after dozens of the venomous sea creatures were found washed up on Patong Beach.

Patong lifeguards raised the alarm last Saturday (Aug 31), reported the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) Research Center (Upper Andaman Sea) located at Cape Panwa.

A team of marine biologists was dispatched, and in total 40 bluebottles were found, and collected, at the beach. At that time, no stings had been reported, the DMCR noted.

Officers from the DMCR

distributed warning leaflets to the public, local businesses and tourists, urging swimmers to take extra precautions.

Lifeguards remained on alert to provide first aid in case of bluebottle stings and will monitor the waters closely for any further presence of the jellyfish-like creatures.

A sting from a bluebottle can cause intense pain and whip-like marks on the skin. For first aid, experts recommend washing the sting area with seawater and either submerging it in hot water or applying a dry cold pack for 20 minutes to relieve pain. Vinegar should not be used on bluebottle stings.

The Phuket News

Kata road repairs underway

REPAIRS TO PAK BANG Road along the Kata beachfront are underway, and are expected to take a month to complete, Karon Mayor Jadet Wicharasorn has told *The Phuket News*.

The road suffered devastating damage after heavy rains on Aug 23, the day of the deadly landslide that killed 13 people behind Wat Kata.

Inspecting the site on Aug 23, Mayor Jadet explained that the collapse occurred because water from the mountain could not drain into the sea fast enough.

This caused water to back up through the drainage pipes, leading to flooding along the embankment, which eventually gave way under the pressure, he said.

An officer from Karon Municipality Public Health and Environment Department explained, "This occurred because the road wasn't compacted properly, causing it to sink further when water accumulated. Asphalt doesn't hold up well under prolonged exposure to water, which has led to further deterioration."

Mayor Jadet insisted "the area is not dangerous now... We've blocked off the area and sealed that danger. Karon



Photo: Karon Municipality

Municipality workers are fixing the road by filling it with soil and cement to ensure all the people will be able to use it again safely,

"Most areas, including Baan Kata School and a nearby small restaurant, remain unaffected by the road damage, allowing them to continue operating as usual," he added.

"Frequent rain has caused some delays, but our team is on site every day to monitor and address the situation as quickly as possible.

"Karon Municipality has taken on the repair work ourselves, as budget constraints and the complexities of government contracts have prevented us from hiring an outside company. This has posed challenges, particularly since contractors are reluctant to work with us under these conditions," Mayor Jadet said..

A specific budget has not been set, he noted.

"As more materials need to be added, the total cost is uncertain. Therefore, it is important to use the municipality's limited budget carefully," Mayor Jadet explained.

"We're currently using our municipality's limited budget to address the issue. Additional funds from the central government will be allocated after the council meeting in September, but that process takes time due to bureaucratic procedures," he explained.

"All relevant information, including maps and photos, will be posted on the Karon Municipality Facebook page. I suggest you follow to see all updates there," Mayor Jadet suggested.

Natnaree Likidwatanasakun



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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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Wind 11 m/s

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Wind 11 m/s

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High: +35°

Low: +28°

Wind 11 m/s

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High: +35°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE SEPTEMBER 10



High: +35°

Low: +28°

Wind 4 m/s

WED SEPTEMBER 11



High: +37°

Low: +28°

Wind 4 m/s

THU SEPTEMBER 12



High: +36°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Morning U-turn wipeout leaves four injured

FOUR PEOPLE WERE injured, one seriously, when a Mitsubishi Pajero swerved to avoid hitting a motorbike but instead ploughed into another motorbike and a car waiting to make a U-turn on Thepkasattri Rd last Friday (Aug 30).

Police and rescue workers were called to the scene, at a U-turn on Thepkasattri Rd in Baan Lipon, Thalang, at about 6:45am.

According to Thalang Police, the crash involved several vehicles, including an orange Toyota Yaris sedan, a white Mitsubishi Pajero SUV and a Toyota Hilux pickup truck.

Pol Lt Chanita Bunyanuwat, Deputy Inspector (Investigation) at Thalang Police arrived at the scene along with a rescue unit from Srisoonthorn Municipality, who quickly rushed the injured to Thalang Hospital.

According to police, after reviewing CCTV footage, the white Mitsubishi Pajero registered in Bangkok was travelling northbound on Thepkasattri Rd when it collided with a motorcycle.

The Pajero then crashed into the orange Phuket-registered Toyota Yaris, which was waiting to make a U-turn.

The Yaris then spun out and struck a Toyota Hilux pickup truck, registered in Krabi, which was waiting behind the Yaris to also make a U-turn.

CCTV footage confirmed the sequence of events, capturing the moment when the Mitsubishi Pajero collided with the Yaris before the Yaris hit the Hilux.

At last report, police were continuing their investigation into the accident.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Taxi drivers in brawl with foreign tourists

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Wichit Police have confirmed officers were called to intervene in a brawl between five foreign tourists and three taxi drivers after a video of the incident was posted online.

The brawl erupted on Wichit Songkram Rd near the Darasamut Intersection.

A 26-second video clip of the incident was widely shared on social media, accompanied by the caption: "It's famous again #Phuket is very hot, taxis vs tourists in front of a famous shopping mall!"

The video captured a brawl involving several foreign tourists and taxi drivers. According to a netizen's account, the incident began when three Iranian women stood in front of a taxi. The car's owner, a local taxi driver, approached them and asked them to move.

The women reportedly became irritated and informed their husbands, who, along with their friends, were allegedly intoxicated.

The situation escalated into a physical confrontation, with punches and bottles being thrown. After the fight, the intoxicated individuals



Screenshot: Supplied

fled the scene, leaving behind a family group of three or four, who later reported the incident to the police. The video also showed a woman whose necklace was snatched during the altercation.

The incident sparked heated discussions online, with comments reflecting a mix of frustration and criticism. Some users blamed the behaviour on unruly tourists, while others called for stricter enforcement of the law to prevent such incidents.

Comments ranged from, "Don't blame only Thais. There are a lot of bad tourists in Patong," to, "Good people have a hard time, there are only scumbags and thugs. Officers shouldn't make the law weak."

In response to the incident, Wichit Police Chief Pol Col Chatree Chueakaew ordered patrol officers to intervene and

brought five foreign tourists and three taxi drivers involved in the fight to Wichit Police Station for questioning.

According to the police investigation, the altercation began when the tourists leaned against a parked taxi while waiting for a ride back to their hotel in Patong. The taxi driver asked them to move, which led to an argument that quickly escalated into violence.

After reviewing CCTV footage, investigators determined that both parties were mutually involved in the fight.

Consequently, they were charged with "colluding in a loud fight in a public place or public area, or engaging in behaviour that disturbs public peace and order."

Despite the charges, both parties agreed to move on without holding any grudges and were allowed to go their separate ways, police said.

Saudi tourist, 30, found drowned at Karon Beach

THE BODY OF A 30-YEAR-old Saudi tourist was found washed ashore at Karon Beach last Sunday evening (Sept 1).

Police were called to the scene, near the Naga Statue about halfway along the beach, at about 6:05pm.

Officers, joined by Karon Police Chief Pol Col Khundet na Nongkhai and Deputy Chief Pol Lt Col Wiwat Chamnankit, along with rescue workers from Karon Municipality and the Phuket Ruam Jai Rescue Foundation arrived to find the body of the man, later identified as 'Alharbi, Bader Naqi M', dressed only in light green swimming shorts.

There were no signs of assault or foul play, police noted.

According to the preliminary investigation by police,



Photo: Karon Police

Mr Alharbi appeared to have gone for a swim and tragically drowned. His body was estimated to have been in the water for at least three hours before being discovered.

Mr Alharbi was set to return to Saudi Arabia the next day (Monday, Sept 2), police also noted.

Mr Alharbi's body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital for further identification and a post-mortem examination to confirm the cause of death. Local authorities have notified the Embassy of Saudi Arabia of his death. Eakkapop Thongtub

Disabled mother commits suicide

A 39-YEAR-OLD WOMAN who had lost her right arm in an accident involving a 10-wheeled truck was found hanged outside her home in Srisoonthorn early last Friday (Aug 30).

Police were called to the scene, a rented home in Baan Lipon, at about 5:30am.

Police and rescue personnel from Srisoonthorn Municipality, and medical staff from Thalang Hospital, arrived to find the body of Sunanta Na Pattalung leaning against the steel sliding shutters to her home.

Dressed in a blue tank top and shorts, she had been hanged by a nylon rope tied to the shutters outside in front of the home.

The stump of her right arm, severed in an accident involving a 10-wheeled



Photo: Thalang Police

truck, was wrapped in gauze.

Ms Sunantha's husband, Kittathorn Niyompong, 58, told police that his wife had been struggling with the aftermath of the accident, which left her disabled.

The loss of her arm led to severe emotional distress, and she had attempted suicide four times before, Mr Mr Kittathorn said.

Mr Kittathorn had successfully intervened on those occasions, but this time, she managed to take her own life.

According to Mr Kittathorn, his wife had been

deeply troubled by their financial situation, particularly her inability to provide for their child's education.

After going to bed as usual, Mr Kittathorn woke up to find his wife missing. He searched for her and discovered her body outside their home.

Ms Sunantha's body was taken to Thalang Hospital for post-mortem examination as due process before police could release her remains to her family for religious rites.

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

Eakkapop Thongtub

Kathu-Srisoonthorn ‘bypass’ route gets first inspection

The Phuket News
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The long-touted project to build a new road connecting Kathu and Srisoonthorn is set to move forward now that the land required has been donated by three prominent local families, say local officials.

“The Ekwanch, Kulwanich and Saksaktawee families have generously provided the land necessary for the project, which aims to alleviate the area’s chronic traffic congestion,” said a report by the Phuket branch of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

The three families, represented by Sanguan Kulwanich, Kitti Saksaktawee and Nginao Ekwanch, donated the land required to build the new road, which will be 5.6 kilometres long.

Although the donation of the land required was first announced nearly two years ago, Phuket officials marked the formal completion of the donation with an event at Phuket Provincial Hall only last month.

Phuket Governor Sophon Suwanarat has tasked Somkid Chokong, an advisor to the Governor, with leading a survey of the proposed route, which was conducted last Friday (Aug 30).

The inspection team included key representatives from several agencies, such as the Phuket Provincial Public Works and Town & Country Planning



Photo: PR Phuket

Office, Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO), Phuket Highways Office, Phuket Provincial Forestry Office, Srisoonthorn Municipality and Kathu Municipality.

The new road is aimed at improving traffic flow between the Kathu and Srisoonthorn, said the PR Phuket report.

“It is also envisioned as a future tourism promotion route, enhancing the appeal of Phuket Province,” the report added.

During the survey, the team identified some challenges, including fallen trees obstructing the route and sections of the road that have deteriorated, the report also noted, while calling the planned route a “bypass”.

“Phuket officials plan to proceed with thorough studies, planning and design to ensure that the road meets modern

standards and is environmentally friendly. Once completed, this road is anticipated to become one of the most scenic routes in Phuket, offering both practical and aesthetic benefits to residents and tourists alike,” the report concluded.

LONG TIME COMING

A working group created to see the new road to fruition announced in November last year that surveys and inspections would be conducted, and maps showing land boundaries will be created, in order for the proposed new road to proceed.

After initially announcing the proposed new road in November 2022, officials explained that the road, 12 metres wide, will start near the Phuket Mining Museum in Kathu and cross the hills to connect with the east side of Bang Neow Dam reservoir in Baan Manik.



Jirasak ‘Ton’ Saewun, a chief mechanic at Anuphas Ford, reported his B30 million win to Phuket City Police Station. Photo: The Phuket News / file

Local mechanic wins B30mn on lottery

A CHIEF MECHANIC at Anuphas Ford Phuket has become the island’s newest millionaire after winning the top prize in the Government Lottery draw last Sunday (Sept 1).

The winning numbers, announced by the Government Lottery Office, were 199606 for the first prize, with additional prizes for 3-digit numbers 173, 220, 094, 388, and 2-digit number 94.

Among the excited winners was Jirasak ‘Ton’ Saewun, who held five

first-prize tickets, winning him a total of B30 million.

On learning of his win, Mr Jirasak celebrated loudly at home before promptly filing a report at Phuket City Police Station.

The lucky numbers corresponded with the licence plate number ‘606’ of a car he had been consistently betting on.

As of Monday (Sept 2), Mr Jirasak had already travelled to Bangkok to claim his prize money.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Phuket officials set sights on human-trafficking awareness

THE PHUKET PROVINCIAL Social Development and Human Security Office, in collaboration with the Phuket Provincial Public Relations Office, hosted an event last Friday (Aug 30) aimed at bolstering efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking in the region.

Held at the Maimorn Forest shop in Phuket Town, the event brought together public relations and media networks to enhance their understanding of the issue and discuss effective strategies for addressing it.

Sophon Kiemkarn, Chief of the Phuket branch of the Public Relations Department, presided over the opening ceremony, emphasising the critical need for coordinated efforts in the fight against human trafficking.

The event featured a series of discussions and presentations designed to educate participants on the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), a framework for protecting and assisting victims of human trafficking.



Photo: PR Phuket

Key speakers included Chitlada Sangkprapan, a social development expert, and Mattika Luentham, a social worker, who shared their insights on the challenges posed by social media in a vulnerable society.

They also provided valuable information on related laws and the work being done to support vulnerable groups in Phuket, particularly children, youth, women, the elderly and the disabled.

Ms Chitlada highlighted the importance of this initiative, noting the growing social problems faced by vulnerable groups and the impact of modern media on

their well-being. She stressed the need for ongoing communication and collaboration among public relations networks, media and relevant officials to protect victims and ensure they receive the necessary support and protection.

The event served as a platform for exchanging ideas and best practices, with the ultimate goal of reducing or eliminating human trafficking in Phuket. Organisers of the event said they hoped that the knowledge and understanding gained during this activity will contribute to a safer and more secure future for all residents.

The Phuket News

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TYBA pushes to tap charters potential

The Phuket News

editor@classactmedia.co.th

Thailand needs to overhaul crucial aspects of allowing superyachts to operate in Thai waters if the country wants to remain competitive in the lucrative industry, says the Thai Yachting Business Association (TYBA).

Thailand, among other Southeast Asian countries, must keep regulations for foreign-flagged yachts clear and simple. Ideally, all departments involved, such as the Revenue, Customs and Immigration, Harbour Department and Tourism Authority, collaborate to deliver a seamless experience," explains Lies ('Lisa') Sol, Charter Broker/Manager at Northrop & Johnson (SEA) Ltd, based in Phuket.

Ms Sol is a TYBA Board member, while Northrop & Johnson has been on the board of TYBA for over a decade.

"Over the years, representatives of the TYBA succeeded in obtaining longer stays for visiting yachts of up to 2.5 years. The next urgent issue is to find a solution for crew being allowed to stay for 30-days at a time only, after which they have to leave Thailand," Ms Sol said.

"TYBA members are in discussion with government officials about creating a 'yacht crew' visa category and linking crew visas to the yachts," she added.

Last but not least, an 'Interprovincial Cruising Permit' would be welcomed, Ms Sol noted.

"A day-charter from Phuket to Phang Nga to Krabi and return is only a few hours' cruising but requires checking in and out of all these provinces each and every time: a time-consuming process for which many documents are required, and cost are considerable," Ms Sol explained.

PROGRESS

The call for greater streamlining of bureaucratic procedures follows a meeting of the TYBA with leading government officials in July. The meeting was presided over by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwanarat, and attended by key figures including Surat Sirisayat, Director of the Ship Registration Standards



Photo: Charter Thailand

Bureau, and Phuket Marine Chief Natchapong Pranit.

Joining the meeting were more than 100 people representing government agencies on the island, as well as key tourism industry figures and operators from Phuket's marine tourism sector.

The primary agenda was to discuss the draft announcement of the Ministry of Transport, aimed at establishing new criteria, methods and conditions for granting permissions to large cruise and sports boats – that is, superyachts – to non-Thai owners.

Ms Sol explained that the TYBA is a non-profit marine leisure industry association run completely on a volunteer basis serving yacht builders, charter operators, sales brokerage and dealerships, marinas, yacht repairs, yacht management and other yachting-related companies throughout Thailand.

"The primary objective of the TYBA is to provide a medium through which all yachting related businesses in Thailand can address their concerns with the relevant authorities," she said.

"The TYBA has been one of the organisations at the forefront of opening up Southeast Asia to superyacht charters. Many years of working behind the scenes culminated, finally, in the announcement of the new Thai Charter License (TCL), the first of which was presented to luxury yacht Ocean Emerald in 2015.

"Further clarifications, such as VAT and import arrangements were next on the agenda. By early 2021 all was in place and foreign-flagged yachts could apply for a license," added.

"Initially very time-consuming,

it will take less time now as the application process runs a lot smoother. A TYBA member company must handle the applications," Ms Sol noted.

Ms Sol described the process, in short, as:

- The license allows foreign-flagged yachts (LOA 30m+) to charter in Thai waters.
- Adequate insurance, covering paid charter guests is required.
- A Thai VAT number is applied for.
- Thai VAT (7% of the charter fee) is payable by the charterer.
- Corporate Income Tax (CIT) of 5% is payable by the owner.
- A Thai Fiscal Representative (TFR) handles VAT and C payments on behalf of the owner.

However, Ms Sol also noted that the application fee for a 30m yacht, including "substantial" cost of translating yacht documents, is about B170,000. "The license will be valid up to the end of the yacht's insurance period only, and it takes two to three months to obtain the license," she said.

At the hearing at the Phuket Provincial Hall on July 19, amendments to the Superyacht License regulations were discussed, and included: Reducing the minimum size able to apply to yachts of 24m+; standardising and clarification of the process; and reducing the application time to 25 days.

BOOM

The Phuket charter market stands to benefit greatly from making charters easier to operate and more accessible, Ms Sol said plainly.

"Although many private and

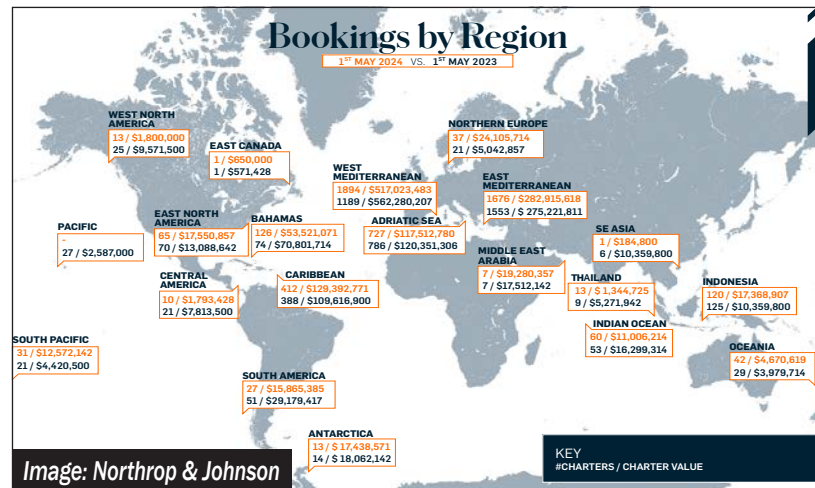


Image: Northrop & Johnson

charter yachts were sold or relocated elsewhere due to COVID regulations, (super) yachts are appearing again in Southeast Asia, specifically in Phuket. After years of cruising in the Caribbean during winter time, owners and charterers seem to be open to new, exciting destinations as found here," she explained.

Other APAC countries are already taking advantage of the burgeoning market, Ms Sol said.

"Australian yachting industry stakeholders have long campaigned for legislative change, resulting in the Special Recreational Vessels Bill of 2019. This permits non-Australian superyachts to conduct commercial charter activities in Australian waters for a two-year period, which can be extended," Ms Sol said.

"Explorer Charter Destinations' New Zealand, Tahiti, Fiji and Papua New Guinea created Temporary Import Entry (TIE) rules, permitting foreign-flagged yachts to cruise/commercially charter in each of the four countries on a revolving basis, for a minimum of two years," she added.

Polynesia has announced an even longer period of 60 months for foreign vessels to visit its islands, including Tahiti, while Australian officials have noted that the two-year contract can be extended in that country. French Polynesia announced an even longer period of 60 months for foreign vessels to visit its islands, including Tahiti. Further, any goods, equipment, and services purchased during the TIE period – such as berthage costs, repairs, or refit works – are exempt from being taxed.

BENEFIT

"Numbers show superyacht charter

is important for the Thai economy. Tremendous potential for charters in the APAC region can be determined from a report by Northrop & Johnson's Anne Dixon, using YachtFolio booking data of May 2023/4, Ms Sol noted.

"YachtFolio, the world's prime industry platform, lists over 2,200 charter yachts worldwide of which 1,700 yachts over 24m. In May 2023, 9 charters were booked in Thailand at an approximate charter value of US\$5.3 million [about B181.124mn] and in May 2024, 13 charters were booked at US\$1.35 million [B46.142mn]," she said.

"Compare that to the Caribbean, where in May 2023 388 charters were booked at US\$109mn, and in 2024 412 charters at US\$130mn. In the Mediterranean, charter values in both years were over US\$500mn. These numbers do not include yachts smaller than 24m, or yachts not listed on this platform: actual numbers are much higher.

"Besides Thai VAT and CIT revenue, there are other benefits to the Thai economy. Yachts require maintenance and service and food and beverage provisioning for crew and charter guests (per charter about 25% of the charter value). Charter guests tend to spend heavily on hospitality and tourism activities. Superyacht crew expenditure also directly benefits local and national businesses," she added.

"So, is it worthwhile to encourage yacht charter, and is there room for growth in Thailand? Yes, and absolutely! The TYBA is looking forward to keep working together to increase revenue for the yachting industry and for Thailand," Ms Sol said.

Thailand eyes B1.8trn in tourism revenue

THAILAND IS ON COURSE to welcome 12.2 million foreign arrivals in the last four months of 2024, lifting annual arrivals to almost 36mn and generating B1.8 trillion in revenue this year, according to the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

TAT Governor Thapanee Kiatphaibool said the visa-free scheme, several festive events and the rebound of international flights,

reaching 82% of the 2019 level, should help to grow the market.

As of Aug 26, foreign arrivals tallied 23mn for 2024 and bookings continue from East Asia, especially China, followed by Europe and South Asia for later this year, she said.

However, risk factors to watch include intense competition from Asian countries, global economic uncertainty and geopolitical conflicts,

explained Ms Thapanee.

For the domestic market, the agency forecasts 72.5mn local trips generating B335 billion during the last four months.

On Friday (Aug 30), the TAT signed a letter of intent with online Nanjing Tuniu International Travel Service to bolster the Chinese market, particularly independent tourists.

The collaboration calls for sharing of data and insights,

as well as mutual participation in travel events.

Nonglux Yooyendee, director of TAT's Shanghai office, said the agency previously partnered with Tuniu to host summer camp trips for Chinese students to Thailand, as the platform specialises in attracting Chinese travellers from Nanjing, the capital of Jiangsu province.

To mitigate the impact of the sluggish Chinese economy, which has affected the mass



market, the TAT is pivoting to high-spending Chinese travellers to maintain tourism receipts, said Ms Nonglux.

She said tourists who

booked via this platform on average spent 3,000 yuan or B14,400 per day in Thailand.

Bangkok Post

Ex-prosecutor admits 'Boss' help

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

A former senior prosecutor has admitted that he helped Red Bull heir Vorayuth 'Boss' Yoovidhya in a notorious 2012 hit-and-run case as a compassionate gesture because the driver was a friend of his niece.

Chainarong Saengthong-aram, one of eight defendants accused of mishandling the high-profile case in which a policeman died, is alleged to have purposely underreported the speed of Vorayuth's Ferrari at the time of the accident.

Originally the car was estimated to have been travelling at 177km/h, but the figure was reduced to under the legal limit of 80km/h.

The case is scheduled for trial in the Central Criminal Court for Corruption and Misconduct Cases starting on Tuesday (Sept 10).

Mr Chainarong said he was glad to have the opportunity to prove his innocence as various committees, including the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) and the attorney general, have treated him unfairly.

He said he would present evidence showing that a video used against him by the NACC and the attorney general had been edited.

"I will file a countersuit, totalling seven cases, against the attorney general, including misconduct and malicious prosecution, to subject me to criminal penalties," Mr Chainarong said.



Forensic police with the police motorbike and car from the deadly Sept 3, 2012 incident. Photo: Bangkok Post

He further explained that he helped Vorayuth because the young man was a friend of his niece.

Before getting involved, he checked Section 797 of the Civil and Commercial Code to see if he had the legal right to intervene in the case and found that he could do so as a citizen, not as a prosecutor.

At that time, he was a prosecutor in the jurisdiction of the Criminal Court, Criminal Division 6. "But [Vorayuth's] case occurred in the precinct of the Thong Lor police station, which is under the jurisdiction of the Bangkok South Criminal Court," he said.

"I am a prosecutor but also a human being. How is it wrong to help friends or relatives when the case is not within my jurisdictional responsibility?"

When asked whether he had received anything in return for his actions, he said: "Just a generous courtesy for being a helpful friend. I did not receive any money. You can check my financial records."

Vorayuth, now 39, faced several charges in the aftermath of the 2012 accident but his lawyer managed to secure numerous postponements from the courts. Five years after the incident, he still had not been indicted, and the Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant. He then took a private jet to Singapore and has been at large ever since, believed to have been mainly in London.

Only one charge – reckless driving causing death – remains outstanding, with the statute of limitations due to expire in 2027.

Solution sought to prevent SSF collapse

BANGKOK

LABOUR MINISTER PHIPHAT Ratchakitprakarn has pledged to explore measures to prevent a potential collapse of Thailand's Social Security Fund (SSF) within the next decade due to insufficient funding.

Despite the SSF currently holding B2.6 trillion and expected to grow to at least B4trn by 2034, concerns remain over its long-term sustainability. Thailand's shrinking workforce and aging population pose challenges to the fund's viability, with projections suggesting it could run out of money in 30 years.

To address these concerns, proposed measures include increasing contributions to the fund, extending the retirement age and encouraging healthy elderly individuals to rejoin the workforce as part-time employees.

Mr Phiphat also suggested attracting more migrant workers to strengthen the workforce and encouraging them to participate in the social security system.

Investment strategies for the SSF may also need to shift, with a focus on boost-



Labour Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn. Photo: Bangkok Post

ing returns by increasing the proportion of investments in high-risk assets. Currently, 75% of the fund's investments are in low-risk assets, despite the law allowing up to 40% in higher-risk investments.

Discussions with the Social Security Office board are planned to explore the possibility of adjusting this investment strategy to achieve higher returns.

The Labour Ministry is organising further discussions with international experts, including representatives from Singapore's state investor Temasek and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), to develop strategies that ensure the long-term sustainability of the SSF. The next session is scheduled for late October.

NNT

China denies releasing water upstream as floods hit hard

BANGKOK

CHINA HAS DENIED RELEASING water from the Jinghong Dam in Yunnan into the Mekong River, following comments that such discharges might have contributed to flooding in Thailand's northern and northeastern regions

The Chinese embassy in Bangkok said in a statement on Aug 28 that the dam had no connection to the flood situation in Thailand since it has not released any water lately.

Embassy officials asked various state agencies and learned that Chinese rivers were in a normal condition for this time of year. Reservoirs connected to the Lancang River – as the Mekong is known in China – were storing water between Aug 18 and 25, the embassy said.

The average daily outflow of water at the Jinghong Dam had fallen by 60% compared to August last year, and the dam has not released water recently, according to the embassy.

Former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, visiting flood victims in Chiang Rai on Aug 26, was reported to have said that the unusually high amount of water in the Mekong might have resulted from China releasing an abundance of water as it was also experiencing floods.

He claimed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was negotiating with the Chinese government on ways to release water without



Nakhon Phanom province has experienced heavy flooding due to Mekong River overflow. Photo: Bangkok Post

overflowing the river.

It is unclear if the embassy's statement was in response to the comments by Thaksin.

The embassy said Chinese authorities are concerned about the flooding.

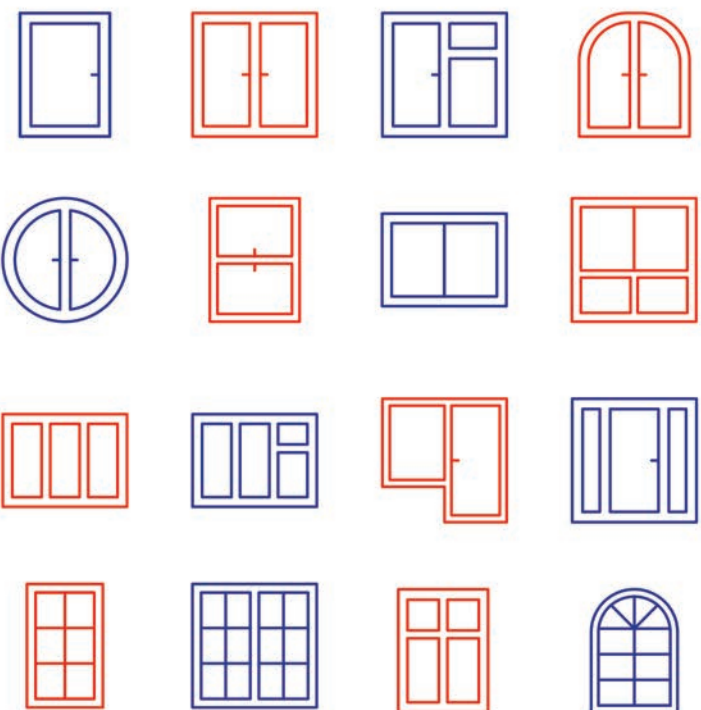
"The six countries in the Lancang (Mekong) River Basin are a community of a shared future connected by mountains and rivers," it said.

"China fully respects and accommodates the interests and concerns of other basin countries and is willing to further strengthen information sharing and cooperation about water resources, improve the comprehensive management capacity in the basin, and jointly respond to challenges such as climate change and floods," it added.

Chiang Rai, Phitsanulok and Sukhothai provinces in the North and Nong Khai and Nakhon Phanom provinces in the Northeast continue to be affected by flooding. All provinces have installed large water pumps to prepare for any overflow and residents have been told to keep an eye on weather reports. Bangkok Post



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'Romulus' takes Alien back to its roots

David Griffiths

The 'Alien' franchise just keeps giving. From the trend-setting original film from 1979 through to the deadly serious 'Prometheus' and the simply action-fuelled *Alien vs Predator* films, this is a franchise that has never been afraid to try new things.

The films in this franchise are so varied it is often joked that you can tell whether someone loves horror or sci-fi depending on which Alien film they like.

There was speculation that the latest release, *Alien: Romulus*, would be an almost remake of the original film, other people speculated that the younger cast meant that the film would be aimed at a new generation of fans. And of course the inclusion of director Fede Alvarez (*Evil Dead*) suggested that the franchise might be returning to its horror roots.

The latter turns out to be true as Alvarez takes us back to the year 2142 (the film is set between *Alien* and *Aliens*) and introduces us to a team of mine workers who realise that their only chance of escaping the company they work for is to travel up to a deserted ship that is floating above their planet and take what they need to get to the paradise they have heard of.

That team of colonists are made up of Rain (Cailee Spaeny – *Priscilla*), her ex-boyfriend Tyler (Archie Renaux – *Morbius*), his younger sister Kay (Is-



Image: IMDb

abela Merced – *Dora and the Lost City of Gold*) and their cousin Bjorn (Spike Fearn – *The Batman*). Also along on the journey is the pilot Navarro (newcomer Aileen Wu) and Rain's synthetic 'brother' Andy (David Jonsson – *Industry*).

At first it seems like it is going to be an easy job that will take only half an hour with the only trouble being with Bjorn's hate for Andy for being synthetic, but as they board the ship they soon realise its dark secret – it is infested with Xenomorph hatchlings.

One of the fears that many seem to have about *Alien: Romulus* was that the younger cast was going to mean that the film felt like *Dawson's Creek* in space. Nothing could be further from the truth – the characters here may be younger, but as an audience you quickly find yourself warming to Rain, and while perhaps the film could have been made better with more characterisation for the other characters there is more

than enough going on here to make the audience personally invested in what is going on.

I would argue that perhaps *Romulus* is most like the original film. It pays tribute to the past with good use of Rook (a CGI likeness of Ian Holm is used) while Alvarez and his co-writer Rodo Sayagues (*Don't Breathe*) go back and recapture that genuine mix of horror and science-fiction that made the original film so unique.

That also seeps into the look and feel that Alvarez manages to create as a director. Yes, on the surface the story at hand is pretty basic but Alvarez creates an environment where it feels like at any moment there may be something lurking around the next corner that is about to take out any of the characters. While there is not a lot of originality here, you certainly can't say that Alvarez doesn't ramp the suspense right up through the roof.

When it comes to the acting, only two cast members really get to show what they are capable of. Cailee Spaeny shows that there is more to her acting than what we got to see in *Priscilla* and her performance here alongside her recent role in *Civil War* shows why she may be one of the most important finds in Hollywood in recent years.

She is also well supported by David Jonsson, who manages to pull off playing a character with zero emotion so remarkably well that he often steals the limelight during certain scenes. It will be interesting to see what roles he is offered after this one.

To sum up, *Alien: Romulus* is a film that should be enjoyed by those that love the horror aspect of this franchise. It pays tribute to the past while providing enough fodder for future storylines. At the end of the day though it is the fact that the film embraces the horror genre so well that makes it well worth a look.

Alien: Romulus is currently screening in Phuket and is rated '15'.

3.5/5 Stars

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

The October/November 2024 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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A postcard from Bluebell Wood

Lavender Scabious (scabiosa). Photo: Patrick Campbell



GREEN THOUGHTS

Patrick Campbell

Worlds apart. Today I am, as they say, in the other side of the globe – roused from my jet-lagged slumber by the familiar sounds of a tropical garden – the booming bassoon of the coucal, the angry scritch of a lone tokay gecko, the flutings of a magpie robin, the cooing of collared doves. Shafts of sunlight are lasering into my bedroom.

Barely 24 hours before, I had been immersed in another world – enjoying an English summer from the terrace of a Sussex home set in 12 acres of deciduous woodland. I reminisce...

The grassland between the house and the oaks that stand sentinel over

the hornbeam copse beyond was once a manicured lawn. Now my daughter has let the native grasses flourish, and seeded it with wildflowers; slowly it has metamorphosed into an ancient, herb-rich meadow of bents and blooms. Within the tenebrous wood, the spring carpets of white wood-anemones and ensuing bluebells have vanished into their underworld, but out in the summer sunshine, everything is vibrantly alive.

There are flowers from my childhood – yellow bird's foot trefoil (which I knew as 'bacon and eggs'), purple ragged robin, field scabious and head-high umbels of cow parsley and pungent yarrow. The recent rains have left marshy patches – colonised by sedge, tansy and a proud stand of teasels, still holding water in their axils betwixt stem and leaf.

And there is movement, both seen and unseen. The territory is guarded by a flotilla of dragonflies, patrolling the warm air in search of insects; meadow

brown and speckled wood butterflies flutter erratically among the grasses. On a purple spike of buddleia fringing the house, I remark a solitary red admiral. Beneath the ground, moles are tunnelling away unseen, their activities marked by morning piles of newly mined earth.

At dusk, a rabbit and a pair of roe deer emerge from the laurel thicket, timorously sampling the long meadow grass. A burnished cock pheasant joins the party. In the hazels, a family of long-tailed tits searches busily for tiny insects. Beyond, I can hear the cooing and clattering of woodpigeons alighting in the oaky canopy, later to be supplanted by the nocturnal to-whit-to-whoo of tawny owls.

There are few hazards in Eden. No serpents in the form of adders, but – surprisingly – there are leeches in the sedges, a nest of hornets in the gables. In the hornbeams lurk grey squirrels

and magpies – handsome enough, but on to a good thing in the shape of songbirds' eggs or nestlings. And the cats are always on the prowl for field mice and voles in the long grass.

I walk to the carp pond, where a sinister-looking heron, motionless in the water, eyes the shallows for fish and frogs.

I am reminded of the heron's cousins – the egrets of Phuket – and of one in particular, a cattle egret that ravaged on my tiny guppies and swordtails. And in an instant, I am transported back to another Eden, a tropical world of sunbirds, sunflowers and scented jasmine. I am home – again.

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



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POP QUIZ

1. Where was George Clooney born?

2. What was Renaissance artist Michelangelo's family name?

3. In 1852, Elisha Otis invented a safety device for which type of transportation?

4. What is the Japanese name for Japan?

5. Which stock market, the second-largest exchange in the world, is located at One Liberty Plaza, New York?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

1. Becomes sticky

5. Words to live by

10. Frenziedly

14. Condo, perhaps

15. Usher in

17. Year of first Earth Day

19. Model Campbell

20. Characteristic carrier

21. Discouraging words

22. J.F.K. info

23. Drivel

26. Knife

28. City near Lake Tahoe

30. Cover

32. Aid in crime

36. Regional dialect

39. Wafting sensation

40. Year that Facebook was founded

44. Brown shade

45. Teach

46. 100 centavos

47. Lubricate

48. Eastern discipline

52. NASA scrub

56. Deli order

58. Fall behind

59. Bibliographical suffix

62. Real howler

64. Gramophone inventor Berliner

66. Year Pope published "An Essay on Criticism"

Down

1. Artillery man

2. Certain church member

3. Inhabitant of ancient Greece

4. Flower part

5. Give up

6. Low digit

7. Kind of warfare

8. Dreams

9. Go-between

10. Lionel Richie's "You ____"

11. "Buddenbrooks" author

12. Simpson's character ____ Mann

13. Vital factors

16. Part of the eye

18. Service award

24. Low woman?

25. Devout

27. Imbiber

29. Alternative

31. "Rock the Boat" music

33. Ghost's cry

34. Ostrich relative

35. ____ with the same brush

37. "Got it!"

38. Indian title

39. Goings-on

40. Kitchen meas.

41. Lilliputian

42. Wife of Saturn

43. Coach, Chuck

49. 1960's musical

50. Antique mecca in Illinois

51. Some are secret

53. Admits, with "up"

54. Must, slangily

55. Dairy section selections

57. ____star (1962 hit)

59. Java is in it

60. Adopted son of Claudius

61. Bard's river

63. Sloughs

65. Allot, with "out"

67. From Okla. City to Tulsa

68. Watchman ____ Chinese Christian author

69. Most suffix

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
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59	60	61			62			63			64	65		
66				67					68	69				
70												71		
72						73							74	

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

M	A	L	T	S	I	G	M	A	L	O	A	M
A	N	O	A	I	D	L	E	R	V	A	R	I
E	T	I	M	E	A	N	T	P	A	R	R	
A	W	I	L	L	I	A	M	S	S	I	S	T
				S	I	L	L		N	E	E	D
D	A	P	L	E	A	M	E	N	D			
A	V	A	I	L	A	P	E	R	E	Y	E	
D	I	S	N	E	Y	C	H	A	R	A	C	T
A	D	S		E	M	I	T		D	I	N	G
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V	O	C	A	L	I	S	T	F	R	E	D	D
E	M	I	R		C	O	H	O	E		E	R
R	E	N	T		O	L	I	O	S		L	A
T	O	G	S		N	E	S	T	S		S	T

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

5

US dollars is all some cybercriminals ask for in order to carry out a DDoS (Denial-of-service) attack on a computer system.

95

percent of avocados eaten in the US are Hass avocados, and they're all descendants of one mother tree in Southern California.

92,000

kilos of cocaine was produced in Colombia in 1992 alone, according to UN estimates.

160,000

US dollars was the average annual salary of store managers at 'In-N-Out' burger franchises in 2018.

2.3 million

parts are used to make a Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW

Baan Manik derelict sunset. Photo Rachael Engel

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This week in history

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, 1776

Ezra Lee makes the world's first submarine attack in the *Turtle*, attempting to attach a time bomb to the hull of HMS *Eagle* in New York Harbor.

Sept 8, 1504

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

Sept 9, 1947

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

Sept 10, 1960

At the Summer Olympics in Rome, Abebe Bikila becomes the first sub-Saharan African to win a gold medal, winning the marathon in bare feet.

Sept 11, 1609

Henry Hudson discovers Manhattan Island and the indigenous people living there.

Sept 12, 490 BC

Battle of Marathon: The conventionally accepted date for the Battle of Marathon. The Athenians and their Plataean allies defeat the first Persian invasion force of Greece.

Source: Wikipedia

'David' by Michelangelo. Photo by Jörg Bittner Unna

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Skål International Phuket Dinner - September

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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

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 radish, 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

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



Grow Boating Evening - September 2024

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm. We are delighted to announce that our drinks sponsor for the evening will be Seago. A free telephone application offering a centralized database for marine contractors and market place for job seekers in the boat industry. For more details go to seago.app There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant for all attendees and as always, all your favourite beverages will be available from the bar. facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket

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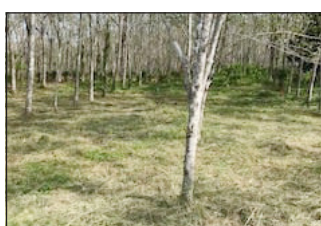
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2ND CHARITY MALAYSIA INDEPENDENCE DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Asia MICE Planners of Phuket and charity events partners from Bangkok held the 2nd Charity Malaysia Independence Day Golf Tournament at the Red Mountain Golf Club in Phuket on Aug 17. Taking part in the event were Malaysians visiting from Malaysia, Indonesians on holiday in Phuket and Japanese residing in Phuket. On the same evening all the golfers and local expatriates celebrated Merdeka (Malaysia Independence day) at the Gala Dinner at the Ramada Plaza Chao Fah Ballroom.

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Somkiat to become first Thai rider in MotoGP

MOTO GP

SOMKIAT CHANTRA will become the first Thai rider in the MotoGP championship next season.

The 25-year-old Moto2 rider has been promoted to the sport's premier class and will race for Honda LCR from 2025, it was confirmed on Aug 29.

"I'm excited to join the LCR team. Stepping into MotoGP has always been my dream, and I will finally make it come true," said Somkiat.

"I want to thank all the sponsors and people who have supported me from the beginning of my career until now. For the next season, I'm committed to learning, giving my maximum, and enjoying this new adventure. It will be difficult, but I will give my best."

Honda LCR team principal Lucio Cecchinello said, "We believe that it's time to welcome a great Asian talent such as Somkiat Chantra, as we think



Somkiat in action. Photo: Supplied

he deserves an opportunity at the highest level of the two-wheel competition.

"Through his years in Moto2, he's shown potential and the skills to grow and become a strong rider in MotoGP."

Somkiat was strongly linked with a move to MotoGP after making a strong impression in Moto2 this year with Idemitsu Honda Team Asia. He is currently 10th in the world championship standings with 64 points.

He finished sixth in the Moto2 world championship last year, the highest ranking in the World Grand Prix by a Thai racer.

Somkiat has so far won two Moto2 titles – the Japanese Grand Prix last year and the Indonesian Grand Prix in 2022. *Bangkok Post*

Ferrari wins Italian classic

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

Charles Leclerc held off a fast-finishing Oscar Piastri to claim a famous come-from-behind victory for Ferrari at the team's home Italian Grand Prix last Sunday (Sept 1).

Ferrari and Leclerc blindsided the leading McLaren drivers with a brave one-stop strategy on an afternoon few teams thought a single tyre change could reach the chequered flag.

The Monegasque's race was underpinned by a fast start that moved him up to third into the first corner, putting him in position to capitalise on the warring McLaren drivers who led from the front row.

Lando Norris had started from pole but found himself immediately under fire from Piastri. He swept right off the line to try to cover the sister car, but that served only to vacate the racing line for the Australian, who duly took it up.

He used the racing line to run side by side with Norris through Curva Grande up to the Roggia chicane, where a bold late-braking move swept him into the lead around his teammate's outside.

It took the Briton by surprise, costing him momentum that allowed Leclerc to pass him with a better exit from the complex.

The Ferrari, freshly upgraded for its home race, was too quick to pass down Monza's long straights, and with Norris gradually losing touch with Piastri,



Ferrari's Leclerc celebrates with supporters after his win. Photo: AFP

McLaren pulled the trigger on an early first pit stop on lap 14.

It had looked like a decisive move for McLaren at the time, with Norris easily gapping Leclerc to pursue his teammate in what was expected to be the battle for victory. Norris and Piastri set an electrifying pace up front, trading new fastest laps, underlining the McLaren's car superiority.

But Ferrari had already committed to a different tack. Rather than chase the leaders, Leclerc moderated his pace to ensure his tyres could make it the 38 laps to the finish and by the time McLaren realised, it was too late to do anything about it.

Norris had already made his second

stop – again early, on lap 32, after locking up in his escalating battle with Piastri – leaving him out of victory contention.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz, who was also one-stopping to the finish, defended admirably to hold Piastri up, delaying his rise into second place until lap 45.

With eight laps remaining the margin stood at a still significant 11.5 seconds. Piastri thrashed his car to the finish, but it was too little, too late.

Leclerc took the chequered flag with 2.6 seconds still in hand to send the packed grandstands into raptures over a shock Ferrari victory.

The victory brings Ferrari to within 39 points of the constructors championship lead, revitalising the team's season.



Puripol (left), Walaza and Nkoana celebrate in Lima. Photo: Supplied

Puripol makes history at world youth athletics

ATHLETICS

PURIPOL BOONSON MADE history as the first Thai sprinter to win a medal at the World Athletics Under-20 Championships, capturing silver in the 100-metre final in Lima, Peru, on Aug 29.

The 18-year-old sprinter clocked in at 10.22 seconds, finishing just behind South Africa's Bayanda Walaza, who won gold with a time of 10.19 seconds. Bradley Nkoana, also from South Africa, took bronze, finishing four seconds behind Puripol.

Puripol previously made headlines as the first Thai athlete in any sport to reach the semi-finals at the Olympics.

He qualified for the 100m semi-

finals in Paris in July, running a time of 10.14 to finish 21st overall and just falling short of the final.

The Surin native has vowed to compete in the next Olympics in Los Angeles, saying: "In four years, I will be stronger and will try to win a medal for Thailand."

His trainer Ekkawit Sawangphol and the Athletic Association of Thailand commended him for the success in Peru.

Puripol burst onto the scene at the National Games in March 2022 when he swept the 100m and 200m gold medals by setting new records in both events.

Just several months later at the Southeast Asian Games in Hanoi, Vietnam, he won a hat-trick of gold medals in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m titles. *Bangkok Post*

Springboks behemoth gathers steam



THE GLOBAL RUGBY COACH

LAST SATURDAY'S (AUG 31) 31-27 WIN against New Zealand in the Rugby Championship is proof that the South African behemoth continues to grow.

In a pulsating test match and the All Blacks ahead by 10 points at one stage, the South Africans deployed their replacement forwards, otherwise known as the "bomb squad", to bring fresh power and energy. Technically very competent, their impact is immediate and demonstrates the Springboks now have two packs of forwards of equal status.

This was a fixture played for the Freedom Cup at Ellis Park in Johannesburg, a hostile environment. However, since the game went professional it is 4 wins each at Ellis Park so the All Blacks weren't too phased. Indeed, their play in the first half was fluid and they led 12-11 at the break.

Then the bomb squad came on, the forward battle intensified and the Boks edged ahead, roared on by a fanatical crowd to secure the win.

Despite the loss, the All Blacks can take heart from the quality of their passing and back play and that they blooded several youngsters, as did the Springboks. The teams go again tomorrow (Sept 7) in Cape Town.

Meanwhile, a continent away, Argentina lined up against Australia in atrocious weather conditions. Los Pumas can deliver stand-out performances that make the rugby world take note, such as their recent win against the All Blacks, but it is all too infrequent.

The Wallabies are a pale shadow of themselves, with try-scoring and ill discipline both major concerns as they continue to deliver mundane rather than creative performances of late.

Saturday was another example of this as the Wallabies' work ethic did frustrate Argentina and



New Zealand's Damian McKenzie attempts to tackle South Africa's Apelele Fassi. Photo: AFP

contribute to a close 20-19 win although we could easily see a reversal of fortunes when the teams meet again tomorrow (Sept 7).

Turning closer to home to rugby development here in Asia, last Saturday saw the first 11s rugby tournament held in Da Nang, Vietnam.

A spectacular beach side setting saw some riveting play from a number of sides before The Hanoi Dragons come out on top as overall champions.

More tournaments are in the pipeline, with the Chiang Mai 11s now in its third year taking place on the weekend of Nov 23-24.

This year will see two teams from the famous Gordon rugby Club in Sydney attending, along with an increasing number of girls and ladies teams – if last year's spectacular tournament is anything to go by, this is a must attend occasion.

For more information please contact Pat Cotter: Phuketpat@gmail.com.

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

Goal machine Haaland at it again

FOOTBALL

AFP

Erling Haaland fired Manchester City to the top of the Premier League with his second hat-trick in as many games as the defending Premier League champions beat West Ham 3-1 last Saturday (Aug 31).

Haaland has now scored an incredible 70 goals in 69 league games since joining City from Borussia Dortmund and City have won the opening three matches of their bid for an unprecedented fifth successive English title.

The Norwegian netted in the opening weekend win at Chelsea, hit a treble in the rout of Ipswich and tore West Ham apart with the latest display of his predatory finishing. Lavishing praise on his star striker, City manager Pep Guardiola said: "No words for him. All we can do is make him play better and better and give him as many balls as possible to the box. It's what we have to do."

Both Arsenal and Brighton had maximum points from their opening two games and the Gunners looked set for another victory when Kai Havertz put them ahead just before half time.

However, the game turned just seconds into the second half when Declan Rice controversially received the first red card of his career.

The England midfielder was deemed to have kicked the ball away as Joel Veltman shaped up to take a Brighton free-kick and was shown a second yellow card.



Erling Haaland completes his hat-trick against West Ham. Photo: AFP

Brighton quickly made their man advantage count as Joao Pedro swept home the rebound after David Raya denied Yankuba Minteh.

Luis Diaz starred as Liverpool routed arch rivals Manchester United 3-0 to extend their perfect start under new boss Arne Slot.

Diaz scored twice, assisted both times by Mohamed Salah, before the Egyptian added a third to seal the win just after half time and leaves the Reds second in table behind City on goals scored.

Elsewhere, Enzo Maresca's Chelsea drew 1-1 with Crystal Palace, meaning they have won only once in the first three league games of the Italian's reign.

Nicolas Jackson scored in the 25th minute before Eberechi Eze unleashed

a superb curling finish from 20 yards to level for Palace in the 53rd minute.

At St James' Park, Newcastle punished profligate Tottenham with a 2-1 victory thanks to goals from Harvey Barnes and Alexander Isak although Ange Postecoglu was left rueing a series of missed chances for the visitors.

Aston Villa defeated Leicester 2-1 to secure their second win in three games, with goals from Amadou Onana and Jhon Duran, while Brentford defeated Southampton 3-1 and Everton let a two-goal lead slip late on to lose 3-2 to Bournemouth.

Ipswich earned their first point of the season after a 1-1 draw with Fulham while Nottingham Forest and Wolves also drew 1-1.



Photo: PR Phuket

Her Majesty The Queen joins sailing crew in Mallorca

SAILING

HER MAJESTY QUEEN Suthida joined the crew of sailing boat *Vayu* for the Puerto Portals 52 Super Series Sailing Week on the Bay of Palma in Mallorca, Spain last week.

A keen and proficient sailor, Queen Suthida joined the Thai-based Whitcraft family team aboard boat number THA27 *Vayu*, a Grand Prix-class racing boat, to lend her expertise during the five-day event (Aug 28-Sept 1).

Her Majesty's official role was that of 'strategist', with specific responsibilities to observe wind direction and advise crew so they could act accordingly in regards to the position and weight of the vessel while in competition.

However, Her Majesty also performed other duties such

as helping to turn the winch, pulling ropes to help hold and balance the boat and helping to fold and unfold the sails. She was also lauded by the crew for helping raise team morale when required.

Tony Langley's British flagged *Gladiator* team won the five-day event with a final point count of 40, while *Vayu* finished in 12th place on 80 points.

The 52 Super Series is the world's leading high-performance monohull yacht racing circuit and the Puerto Portals race week consisted of a 13 boat fleet representing nine nations with two races per day across the five days.

Queen Suthida had raced aboard the *Vayu* on the final day of the 35th Phuket King's Cup Regatta last year and is therefore familiar with the boat and crew. *The Phuket News*

War Elephants drop big guns for Hanoi comp

FOOTBALL

A NUMBER OF REGULAR veterans have been given the chop after the Football Association of Thailand (FAT) confirmed its 23-strong squad for the LP Bank Cup in Vietnam, which started yesterday (Sept 5).

Names of many superstars – including Teerasil Dangda, Theerathon Bunmathan, Sarach Yooyen and Chanathip Songkrasin – are missing from the national team roster, but Jonathan Khemdee and Ekanit Panya have succeeded in earning recalls to the squad.

The Sept 5-10 tournament in Hanoi will form a part of the FIFA Day break fixtures with Russia, Thailand and hosts Vietnam participating in the event.

The War Elephants' head coach Masatada Ishii said a number of new faces have been brought in because he is focusing on the 2027 Asian Cup qualifiers.

"We failed to make it to



Thailand coach Masatada Ishii. Photo: Supplied

the third phase of the Asian qualifying tournament for the 2028 World Cup finals, so we lost our chance of getting a direct entry into the Asian Cup as well," said Ishii.

"Some members of the team have impressed during the World Cup qualifiers already, so we want to test some more new players in the Hanoi tournament."

Ishii admitted that it may not be possible for him to give playing time to all the five new players but added: "A lot will depend on how well they perform during the training camp."

"We will make as many changes as possible to the

line-up in this tournament, but we will take into account the commitment and attitude of every player as well.

"I have seen Ekanit play in Japan for Urawa Red Diamonds. He seems determined to play for the national team."

"As for Jonathan, I don't know whether he ended his international career after the 2023 SEA Games or not, but I think he has been doing well for Ratchaburi and he is in good shape."

Thailand will play their first match against Russia on Sunday (Sept 8), with a battle against regional arch-rivals Vietnam slated for two days later. *Bangkok Post*



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Sport

editor3@classactmedia.co.th



Thai speedster Puripol makes history > p14



FOUR PLAY

Four Phuket courses to host WAGC event

The World Amateur Golfers Championship will take place on four separate courses in Phuket between Oct 25 and Nov 2. Photo: World Amateur Golfers Championship Facebook

GOLF

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Four of Phuket's leading golf courses will host the World Amateur Golfers Championship (WAGC) later this year, organisers have confirmed.

The 28th annual edition of the event will be hosted between Oct 25 to Nov 2 at Blue Canyon Country Club Lakes Course, Blue Canyon Country Club Canyon Course, Red Mountain Golf Club and Laguna Phuket Golf Club.

The announcement was made at an official press release at Provincial Hall on Aug 27 overseen by Phuket

Governor Sophon Suwannarat, who was joined by Vice Governor Norasak Suksomboon, WAGC representatives and selected officials from public and private sector organisations.

More than 600 golfers from all over the world are expected to participate in the event, widely regarded as the world's most prestigious amateur golf tournament, where awards, cash prizes and bragging rights will all be up for grabs.

Angsana Laguna Phuket serves as the official hotel partner of the event and will host the opening and closing ceremonies as well as daily themed events throughout competition.

The WAGC was founded in 1995 by Swedish sports icon Sven Tumba and has served ever since as an inspiring tournament for amateur players, who represent their respective countries and compete on an individual and team basis.

The worldgolfers.com website explains that "World Amateur Golfers Championship (WAGC) inspires amateur golfers from around the world to take on the challenge of competing within their own skill levels by receiving the same status as the professionals and elite do with the proud feeling of representing their country in a world championship final."

Competition is specifically structured to emulate a

professional PGA tournament, whereby 72 holes of stroke play are contested over the course of the finals at four of Phuket's finest courses, while handicaps will be adjusted between each round. A full overview of the event and breakdown of the rules for competition can be found at: <https://worldgolfers.com>

PRESTIGE

Since its inception almost 30 years ago, the WAGC has been held in Spain, the Dominican Republic, Turkey, the United States, South Africa and Malaysia. Having made its debut in Pattaya in 2004, the tournament returned to Thailand last year when 490 players from 33 countries competed in the

competition which was held at Laguna Phuket Golf Club, Red Mountain Golf Club, Blue Canyon and Aquella Golf and Country Club in Phang Nga.

Several celebrities competed as part of the field, including former Liverpool and Real Madrid goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek, most remembered for helping the Reds comeback against AC Milan in the 1995 Champions League Final where he performed heroically in the penalty shootout.

Aside from the prestige of actually hosting the event itself, it is an excellent opportunity to showcase Phuket as a world-leading tourist and sports destination, Governor Sophon stated at the Aug 27 press conference.

The hundreds of overseas visitors that the tournament will attract will be provided with numerous opportunities to explore the island and enjoy many of its offerings which will subsequently provide a welcome boost to local businesses and the local economy, he added.

It was also announced at the Aug 27 press conference that the organisers are looking to stage a Blue Canyon Ladies Championship at the Blue Canyon Country Club Phuket Golf Course next year, designed to attract professional female golfers from all over the world.

More details on this project will be released in due course, officials confirmed.

Thai athletes claim gold medals at Paris Paralympics

PARALYMPICS

THAILAND WON ITS FIRST gold medal at the Paralympics in Paris last Sunday (Sept 1) after Phongsakon Payo won the men's 400 metres T53 class wheelchair racing.

Dominant Phongsakon led the race from start to finish to clock a time of 46.77 seconds and secure the gold medal.

Shortly afterwards, compatriot Athiwat Phangnuea won silver in the men's 400m T54 class wheelchair racing with a time of

44.67 seconds.

Thailand's second gold medal of the 17th edition of the Paralympics came later Sunday when Worawut Saengampha triumphed in the men's boccia BC2 class against Muhammad Bintang Herlangga of Indonesia 6-1.

On Monday, world champion Chaiwat Rattana claimed the nation's third gold medal when he clocked 14.76 seconds to win the men's 100m T34 final in wheelchair racing, setting a new Paralympic record in the process.

In the men's doubles table tennis on Sunday, Rungroj Thainiyom and

Phisit Wangphonphathanasiri won silver in the final of the MD14 class against China's Liao Keli and Yan.

Earlier, Yuttajak Glinbanchueun and Wijitra Jaion were also beaten by a pair of Chinese players, going down to Feng Panfeng and Zhou Ying 1-3 (13-11, 7-11, 9-11, 8-11) in the mixed doubles XD7 decider to claim silver, the fourth medal for the Thai table tennis team in Paris.

Yuttajak teamed up with Wanchai Chaiwut to win a bronze medal in the men's doubles MD8 event last Friday (Aug 30) while Dararat Asayut and Chilchitparyak Bootwansirina claimed bronze in

the women's doubles WD5 event 24 hours previous.

Para badminton player Sujirat Pookkham won silver in the women's singles class WH1 on Monday against Japan's Sarina Satomi.

It was her second medal of the Games after her bronze in the women's doubles WH1-WH2 event with Amnouy Wetwithan on Sunday.

Mongkhon Bunsun claimed bronze medal in the men's singles SL3 badminton event after he beat Japan's Daisuka Fujihara on Monday, taking Thailand's overall



Phongsakon crosses the finish line. Photo: SAT

medal tally to 13 at time of press.

Taekwondo athlete Khwansuda Phuangkittha won the Thailand's first medal of the Games when she grabbed bronze in the women's K44 47kg category on Aug 29.

— Additional reporting by the Bangkok Post