

KATHU NIGHTCLUBS CLOSED FOR FIVE YEARS > PAGE 2

FAREWELL, JASON WILDER

OUTPOURING OF TRIBUTES MARK PASSING OF MUCH-LOVED PHUKET DJ

Photo: Phuket Live Radio - Live 89.5

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Jason Wilder, the iconic voice of the Phuket Live Radio - Live 89.5FM Drive Time show who made the phrase 'Sawadee Khrap Pee Nong Khrap!' a calling, has passed away. He was 48 years old.

Jason passed away whilst at the Glastonbury music festival last Tuesday (June 27) whilst resting in his on-site tent. Avon and Somerset Police said they are not treating his death as suspicious.

His passing was widely reported

in news articles in England and beyond, with much confusion over the circumstances of his death as another man had died days earlier in another area of the huge music festival.

Nicky Williams, Jason's Sister, wrote to *The Phuket News*: "It's so tragic for Mum, Dad, James and I to take in at the moment... Just to confirm the report from the UK 'Daily Mail online' has got the most accurate report. The person referred to 'on the Railway line' was another male a few days previously, and is totally unrelated to the facts around Jason."

Emily Hope, sister to much-loved

Phuket DJ Jason, came forward to explain what happened in the final moments of his life. In response to the confusing reports online, Emily posted:

I'm writing to share some words about our beautiful brother Jason Winder/ Jason Wilder who passed away on Tuesday at Glastonbury Festival.

I have been given permission by Jason's girlfriend Jemima to make very clear to you all what happened in the final moments of his life.

In the past two years Jason was the happiest any of us have ever known

him. He had found true, pure love with Jemima. He finally knew what he wanted his future to look like. He finally knew the peace and balance that only true love can bring.

There have been some wildly inaccurate reports in several newspaper articles that have been doing the rounds on Social Media. However, the following is a true account of what happened two days ago.

On Tuesday he was preparing to leave Glastonbury and return home with Jemima and her son. He ate breakfast, he showered and he lay down for a nap before doing the drive...

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News



Failed Expo bid may delay road projects > p5

Nightclubs closed for five years

The Phuket News

editor@classactmedia.co.th

The owners and operators of two nightclubs in Kathu raided early last month have been fined and the venues have been closed by provincial order, with the buildings banned from being used as entertainment service venues for five years.

The orders were dispatched to the two venues – Ratree Club at 2/109 Moo 6, Wichit Songkram Rd, Kathu, and Mahanakorn Phuket at 2/33 Moo 2, Kathu, on Phra Phuket Kaew Rd – on June 26.

The two nightclubs were raided by officers from the Department of Provincial Administration (DOPA) supported by personnel from the Volunteer Defense Corps (OrSor) in the early hours of June 1.

Action against the venues followed complaints of late trading, causing a public disturbance through noise and serving alcohol to minors. The actual raids early on June 1 came immediately after undercover officers confirmed the allegations.



Photo: Phuket Info Center

The nightclubs were also found to be operating without the correct permits.

The Kathu Police Chief and four other senior officers at Kathu Police Station were temporarily transferred pending the investigation into the two nightclubs for late

trading and serving alcohol to teenagers.

The venue closure orders, attached separately to each venue, detailed the offences committed.

Six people at Mahanakorn Phuket, including business owner Detsiitsit Sriwan, were

jointly fined B50,000 for operating a service establishment without a license, jointly selling alcoholic beverages (liquor) during prohibited hours, selling alcoholic beverages together by the way or in the form of a reduction in price for the purpose of promotion,

jointly selling alcoholic beverages to persons under 20 years of age, jointly promoting or allowing children to behave inappropriately

Detsiitsit was separately fined B30,000 for offences committed by his business.

In total 10 minors were found on the premises when Mahanakorn Phuket was raided. The youngest was 17 years old.

At Ratree Club, six people involved in operating the business, including owner-operator Suda Ruecha, were jointly fined B30,000 for jointly opening a service place without permission, jointly selling alcoholic beverages (liquor) during the time when the sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited and jointly selling drinks alcohol by the way or in a way to reduce the price for the benefit of sales promotion.

According to the closure orders, no minors were found at Ratree Club when the venue was raided.

The closure orders were signed by Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Pinsuwan, as “Acting Governor of Phuket”.

The orders were marked as effective from June 26, 2023, with both venues ordered to remain closed for five years, from June 26, 2023 to June 25, 2028.

No permits to sell alcohol are to be issued for either location during the five-year ban, and both locations are prohibited from being used as entertainment service venues while the closure order is in effect.

Any person found violating the order faces up to one year in jail or a fine of up to B20,000, the orders warned.

Those affected by the closure order may file an appeal with the Phuket Administrative Court within 90 days from the date of the order.

The orders recognised that the operators of both venues had pleaded for leniency, claiming they had lost much income during the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than 40 employees at Mahanakorn Phuket had now lost their jobs, while 60 employees at Ratree Club had now also lost their main source of income, the operators argued.

Loss of Jason Wilder stirs widespread tributes for much-loved DJ

Continued from page 1
...back to London. He didn't wake up.

Here are Jemima's words to me earlier today...

“I want everyone to know he died peacefully during a nap in our tent after he and I had been cuddling, laughing and making future plans and after the amazing paramedics had announced the death he was surrounded by friends holding him, telling him how loved he was and singing his favourite songs.”

He died blissfully happy. Next to his favourite person. In his favourite place on earth.

This is still so fresh and raw and we will update you when plans have been finalised. Until then, please can we ask that you refrain from sharing these news articles on social media and respect the wishes of Jemima and his family. This is all we can manage right now, our



Photo: Emily Hope/ Facebook

hearts, like yours, are broken.

TRIBUTES

“Such a natural-born engager and entertainer – solo behind the mic, or in the company of close friends and family, or in front of thousands. He was certainly the best expat radio talent than ever graced a microphone in Thailand,” wrote long-time friend Tim Newton in his tribute marking Jason's passing.

“Uniquely gifted, always surprising and when he was ‘on’ it was hard to turn him

off,” he added.

Jason's passing is being widely lamented by the Phuket community in posts online.

Donna Toon, who also for years was part of the Phuket Live Radio team, wrote, “Jason Wilder, I'm devastated! We three were the voice of Phuket on LIVE 89.5fm for nearly a decade, your Drive show was a little more ad libbed and off the charts than Chris Howson and mine, but gawd we loved it. It was a bloody privilege to work alongside you, your verve for life and

music unattainable.

“I'm so gutted for your beautiful family who have lost a bloody incredible, talented, though to be fair, sometimes, pain in the arse son! Sending love and hugs sadly across the oceans.

“At Glastonbury JW, you couldn't have scripted it any better, doing what you loved. Chokdee nah kha Cheers and beers DT.”

In a message direct to *The Phuket News*, Donna wrote, “You my friend are a bloody legend, gifted in so many ways, a real talent to work alongside, and the undisputed voice of Phuket's Drive on Live. Alongside Chris, we had an absolute blast, at work and at play, and you did both to the max, full throttle is the only way you knew how, of course all while “wearing your helmet”. Lucky me to be able to call you my friend! Ride high JW and raise the base and the roof up there x.”

Fellow former Phuket Live

Radio DJ Chris Howson remembered Jason for his vivid personality. “Jason Wilder is one of those special people you only meet a few times a lifetime if you're lucky. Someone with an innate ability to not only bring the party with him everywhere he went, but to make you feel like you are the guest of honour at that party.

“Jason, you brought so much joy to so many people, and I am grateful that I get to call you my friend forevermore. You are missed.”

Jason Beavan, Class Act Media & IMAGE asia General Manager, recalled when he first met Jason Wilder, a decade ago.

“Way back in 2013 walking in to the office was an Englishman with dark glasses and a swagger that would put Tom Jones to shame, that was my first encounter with Jason Wilder – the on-air radio persona that would become a household name all over Phuket for almost a decade,” he said.

“It wasn't till we teamed up to compete in a charity ten pin bowling competition did I come to realise that the swagger was the show, off air Jason was just like you and me, just with more style. We went on to win the competition and Jason forever referred to Live 89.5 as the award winning radio station in Phuket. The Class Act Media towers are not the same without you mate. Vale The Wilder,” he wrote.

The tributes to Jason have continued online since. Special events held to celebrate his life were held at the Good Vibes P-Town on Monday (July 3) and at Pastel Phuket in Phuket Town last Saturday (July 1). In true Jason spirit, the events helped to raise funds for charity.

Farewell Jason. Thank you for all that you brought to Phuket. You are already missed.

Tourist threatened by van driver

Eakkapop Thongtub
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A passenger van driver wanted for intimidating and verbally abusing a tourist in Phuket Town has presented himself to Phuket City Police and been charged with frightening others by use of threat.

The driver, Poramet Soraket, 47, presented himself at Phuket City Police Station at about 2pm on Monday (July 3), confirmed Phuket City Police Chief Pol Col Pratuang Pholmana.

Poramet was wanted by police after a video was posted online last Sunday (July 2) showing him verbally abusing a tourist, later identified as 35-year-old Singaporean national Fariz Bin Abdulkadir Bashar Ahil.

The incident occurred on the footpath in front of the Coffee Talk shop on Ratsada Rd in Phuket Town. Bystanders and people who saw the video online believed that Poramet was brandishing an iron bar while he was verbally abusing the tourist.

Col Pratuang on Monday told reporters that police had questioned Poramet about the



A screenshot of the incident on Ratsada Rd last Sunday (July 2). Image: PR Phuket

item he had in his hand. “We asked him whether the weapon he held was like an iron bar or a water pipe. He said that this thing was like a ‘small rubber band’ [sic, presumably a rubber belt]. If you try to compare them in the picture in the clip, they look similar,” he said.

Col Pratuang did not clarify why Poramet had the rubber belt in his hand while he was verbally accosting the tourist.

Regarding the incident, Col Pratuang explained that Poramet worked for a company based in Krabi that provided non-scheduled van trips between Phuket and Krabi.

The issue began after Poramet had removed Mr Fariz’s luggage from the back of the van and set it down heavily, he said.

Mr Fariz commented on how heavily his suitcases were unloaded. Poramet became angry when Mr Fariz commented and took a photo of him, Col Pratuang said.

“The driver [Poramet] was dissatisfied that the passenger took his photograph, and there was a raised hand to express dissatisfaction. That’s all,” Col Pratuang said.

Col Pratuang emphasised that the charge against Po-

ramet was one of threatening a person. “It was not a violent crime,” he said.

He even praised the driver for not making the incident worse. “Thanks to the driver of this van there was no assault. He did not cause further escalation. When contacted to come to be questioned about the incident today, the driver came to see me and asked about where to go,” Col Pratuang continued.

“Today [Monday], the accused will be presented in court on the charge of using a threat to frighten others, which is a district court of-

fence,” he said.

“In accordance with the policy of the Commander of the Region 8 Police and the Commander of Phuket City Police, in all cases of this kind of crime we will not issue any fines at the police station,” Col Pratuang noted.

“Whether to impose a fine or sentence any imprisonment is at the discretion of the court. We have measures that must be taken every time,” Col Pratuang assured.

“The van driver [Poramet] said that the luggage was heavy. He apologised for the incident, but today the two sides did not meet,” Col Pratuang said.

Col Pratuang made no mention of whether Poramet’s version of the incident matched the description of events given by the tourist, Mr Fariz.

Of note, by police instruction reporters were not permitted to take any photographs of Poramet while he was at the police station.

However, a report posted later by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket) explained that the issue began when Poramet had refused to drop off Mr Fariz at the Grand Supicha City Hotel on Narisorn Rd.

Poramet said he would make the extra journey – of some 1.6 kilometres, including the required circular route required by the one-way streets in Phuket Town – for an extra B100.

Mr Fariz did not agree, leading to Poramet having Mr Fariz exit the van in front of the coffee shop on Ratsada Rd.

Also according to the PR Phuket report, Poramet did not unload Mr Fariz’s suitcases “heavily”. He dumped them on the ground.

The PR Phuket report also noted that in his complaint to police, Mr Fariz explained that Poramet started yelling angrily and picked up what looked like an iron bar. Poramet swung the iron bar at his shoulder, then stopped at the last second. The iron bar did not make contact with him.

It was then that a person came out from the coffee shop and told Poramet to leave, the report said.

Of note, the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO), which by its stated mission is to regulate all “public service” vehicles and their drivers in Phuket, as of Tuesday had yet to make any comment on the incident.

Airport escalators deemed ‘safe’

ALL ESCALATORS AT Phuket International Airport have been inspected by qualified technicians and deemed safe for people to use, confirmed Monchai Tanode, General Manager of the Phuket branch of the Airports of Thailand (AoT Phuket).

All 31 escalators and 27 elevators at Phuket Airport have been inspected following the incident on June 29 in which a woman lost her leg after falling on one of the moving walkways at Don Mueang Airport (see page 7).

Both Don Mueang and Phuket International Airport are operated by the AoT.

Mr Monchai stated that after the incident, the AoT contacted the manufacturer of the escalators and elevators, which he did not identify by name, and requested a “strict inspection” by professional technicians.

He explained that the airport conducted a special safety check, outside of the regular service schedule, although the escalators were inspected regularly in February.



All escalators at Phuket airport are safe, according to Monchai Tanode of AoT Phuket. Photo: PR Phuket

“Experts from a private company have confirmed that escalators inside Phuket Airport have been replaced with all new models. The safety of the systems fully complies with the requirements specified by the Council of Engineers of Thailand to ensure the safety of escalator users,” said the

Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket) in a post-inspection report released at 4:35am on July 1.

“If an object enters the mechanism, the safety system will immediately stop the operation of the escalator,” PR Phuket assured.

The Phuket News

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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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Wind 11 m/s

MON JULY 10

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Wind 4 m/s

TUE JULY 11

High: +32°
Low: +27°
Wind 4 m/s

WED JULY 12

High: +30°
Low: +27°
Wind 4 m/s

THU JULY 13

High: +30°
Low: +27°
Wind 4 m/s

Photo: Phuket Provincial Police

Police clarify tourist street brawl only a 'friendly fight'

POLICE HAVE ISSUED A STATEMENT countering reports online of drunk foreigners running amok in Phuket Town, allegedly "fighting" with motorists and passers-by and even brawling among themselves in the street.

Phuket City Police received a report of the foreigners running amok, near the Post Office in Phuket Town, at 10:50pm on June 29, Phuket Provincial Police said in its statement.

Patrol Police and Phuket Tourist Police were dispatched to the scene, at the intersection of Montri Rd and Phang Nga Rd, to investigate.

The officers found the foreigners in question walking around the area, and questioned them.

The tourists explained that they were taking one of the friends back to their accommodation, but the friend kept refusing. All the while they were walking their friend was reluctant to return to their accommodation, but the friends insisted and they kept "negotiating" while they walked back.

When the group reached the Ruengjit shop, three other friends arrived and caught up with them.

The group "embraced" each other, which people not familiar with them might have mistaken as fighting, the foreigners explained.

There was no fight, in any way, the Provincial Police statement said.

Meanwhile, the group still had to deal with the one member who did not want to return to their accommodation. The officers offered their help, which was appreciated but unnecessary, the group said.

The tourists thanked the police officers for providing assistance as they were escorted back to the accommodation, the statement concluded.

The Phuket News

Police crack down on fireworks following Patong Beach fire

The Phuket News
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Patong Police have seized several illegal fireworks and made at least one arrest in a new sweep to crack down on people selling or using these items on the beach at night.

The crackdown followed a Patong Beach fire that disrupted power distribution in the area. However, Patong Police did not provide any details regarding the connection between the fire and the ongoing raids.

The campaign was confirmed last Saturday (July 1) when Patong Police announced the results of a beach inspection conducted at around 1:30am.

The raid party was led by Patong Police Deputy Chief Lt Col Wirat Charee, while the raiding party included members of the "on-foot patrol" from Bangla Rd.

During the inspection, several fireworks were found near sunbeds that were stacked for the night on the beach. As no one claimed ownership, officers just seized the fireworks they found.

The raid was conducted "to ensure the safety of tourists in the Patong Beach area and to build confidence in the police's security and crime-prevention performance," the official Facebook page of Patong Police Station explained.

The raid was repeated the following night. At around 10pm



The fireworks were seized near where a fire caused a blackout last month. Photo: Patong Police

on July 1, officers returned to the beach and this time arrested a man for selling fireworks illegally on the beach. The man was taken to Patong Police Station for legal processing, and four fireworks were seized.

According to the report, the man was arrested "opposite Banana Walk", precisely the location of the June 18 fire that resulted in a partial electricity outage in Patong for an undisclosed period.

The fire originated among the sunbeds that were stacked for the night near a building belonging to the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA), which serves as part of the electricity distribution system.

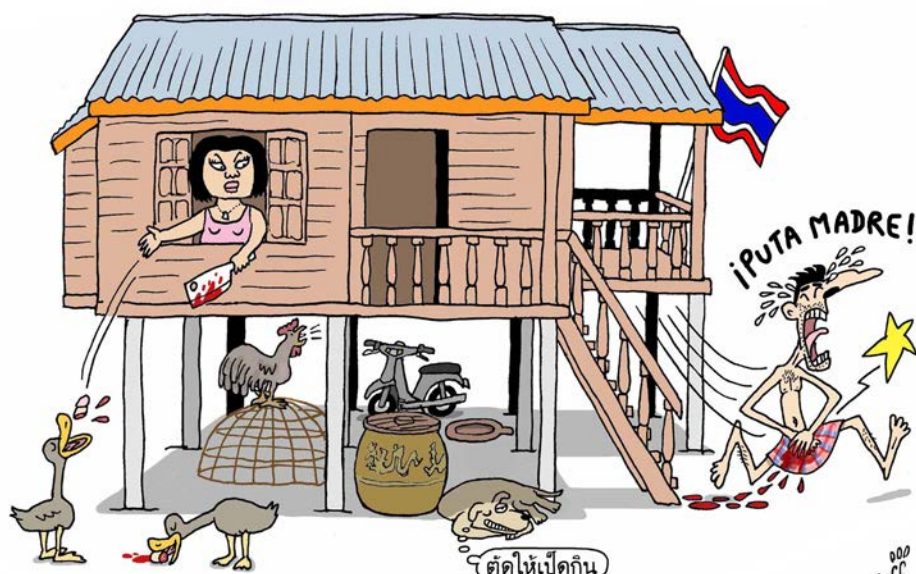
Police did not specify if the July 1 crackdown on beach fireworks in Patong, which included at least one inspection of sunbed stacks, was somehow linked to the June 18 fire.

FARANG AFFAIRS

By Stephff

<https://farangaffairs.com>

YOUR WIFE HAS JUST TAUGHT YOU A THAI IDIOM FOR UNFAITHFUL HUSBANDS: 'TO FEED THE DUCKS'.



Man killed in hit-and-run

POLICE ARE SEARCHING for a car and its driver wanted for a hit-and-run accident involving a motorbike in Pa Khlok last Saturday (July 1).

Lt Col Niwat Timket of the Thalang Police was notified of a fatal hit-and-run accident in Baan Para, Pa Khlok, at around 5:40am. At the scene, police officers and rescue workers found a heavily damaged Honda Wave motorbike on the road and a critically injured rider nearby.

The man, Saeng Wari, 57, was unconscious. Rescue workers immediately performed CPR and rushed Mr Saeng to Thalang Hospital, but he was pronounced dead at the medical facility.

At the scene, police found a torn radiator grill with a



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Toyota logo. Officers believe it was torn away in the collision from the front of the car that hit Mr Saeng's motorbike.

The police are currently searching for the car and its driver. CCTV camera footage from the area is being analysed to track down the vehicle and the person who was driving it at the time of the fatal accident. Eakkapop Thongtub

Road projects may face delays

The Phuket News
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The construction of Patong Tunnel and other critical infrastructure projects in Phuket might occur later than desired as a result of Phuket losing its bid to host Specialised Expo 2027/28, Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew has admitted.

According to Governor Narong, Phuket's bid for the expo was strong, showcasing the province's potential. However, it was ultimately unsuccessful, which may result in a delay in the implementation of infrastructure projects that could have been expedited for completion by 2028, the scheduled year for the Expo.

"Since Phuket was not chosen for the expo, the execution of these infrastructure improvements may not happen as quickly as we had hoped," Governor Narong said.

Governor Narong noted that Phuket would have executed its planned projects, such as cross-province highways, a light rail system, tunnels and a water supply system, if the city had been chosen for the Specialised Expo 2028.

However, previous an-



Preechawude Keesin and Chalermpong Saengdee called for construction of Patong Tunnel to prevent accidents similar to the June 19 fatal collision on Patong Hill. Photo: Chalermpong Saengdee / Move Forward Party

nouncements by the Royal Thai Government and Phuket Provincial Government, promoted that the critical infrastructure projects will be executed anyway, though not necessarily expedited to be finished by 2028.

Following the disappointing Expo decision, Government Spokesperson Anucha Burapachaisri reaffirmed Phuket's commitment to long-term development plans, emphasizing sustainability, infrastructure enhancement,

and economic stability.

Phuket Vice Governor Anuay Pinsuwan also expressed the province's continued dedication to projects associated with the expo, particularly the transformation of the planned venue in Mai Khao into an international health centre.

Meanwhile, Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO), disclosed that discussions would be held with 18 local partners to explore projects aimed at

stimulating the economy and boosting tourism in the region.

No deadlines for any of the projects were reported. Only the 'dedication' was confirmed.

Among the projects that could have been expedited for Expo 2028 are two new tunnels. The first is the long-awaited Patong Tunnel, which will connect Kathu to Patong, providing convenient and safe access to Phuket's main tourist hub.

The tunnel, officially

known as the Kathu – Patong Expressway, will serve as the final segment of the proposed Muang Mai – Koh Kaew – Kathu Expressway, which qualifies as a new "cross-province highway."

The second tunnel is the 'Heroines Underpass' located under the Heroines Monument on Thepkrasattri Rd, aimed at alleviating traffic on the existing "cross-province highway" in Phuket, Thepkrasattri Rd.

On May 31, His Majesty Maha Vajiralongkorn (Rama X) signed a Royal Decree defining the land boundaries for the Kathu – Patong Expressway. However, the project has been stalled due to a lack of private investors interested in undertaking the task, despite the proposal including a 30-year concession to operate the future Patong – Kathu tollway.

In late March, the Expressway Authority of Thailand (EXAT) stated that it would consider combining the Patong Tunnel project with the main part of the Muang Mai – Koh Kaew – Kathu Expressway project after no bids were received from contractors to build just the Patong Tunnel.

Phuket business and political figures reiterated their

call for the construction of the Patong Tunnel following a tragic incident on June 19, when a 10-wheeled truck lost control while traveling from Kathu to Patong and collided with a pickup truck in front of Suwan Khiri Wong Temple (Wat Patong).

The accident resulted in the deaths of Prasat Prateep Na Thalang, a 64-year-old pickup driver, and his passenger, identified by the police as Mr. Kamet Chuayuan, aged 62. The truck driver, Piyarat Kaewprasit, 38, sustained a dislocated shoulder and was taken to Patong Hospital for treatment.

Prominent figures from Phuket's business and political sectors, including Preechawude 'Prab' Keesin, the head of the Pisona Group and founder of the Patong Development Foundation, and Chalermpong Saengdee, a member of the Move Forward Party who was officially confirmed as an MP from Phuket on the same day as the accident, have called on officials to commence the construction of the Patong Tunnel. Their primary concern was ensuring the safety of the people in the area.

Phuket Immigration Chief gives heartfelt thanks to blood donors

PHUKET IMMIGRATION has given a warm 'Thank you' to all the people who turned out to donate blood at a special blood-donation drive held at the Central Floresta shopping mall on June 29.

In total, 121 foreigners turned up to donate blood, Phuket Immigration confirmed.

Among those making donations to help save lives were expats, foreigners from language schools and Muay Thai training camps, general tourists who heard about the blood-donation drive and members of the Phuket Immigration Volunteers group.

Special mention was given to esteemed professional pianist Ivan Sharapov, well known to Phuket Immigration and other local officials, and the Russian community in Phuket, for helping people in need.

Also notably present was Vincent Modell, well known on Phuket for his long-standing efforts to save lives as a rescue volunteer and for establishing the "Rescue Team Volunteers



Photo: Phuket Immigration

Phuket" and "Basic Life Support Services Phuket".

"Today's activities are a reflection of another aspect of foreigners showing 'kindness' by giving blood, which is in great demand," said Phuket Immigration Chief Pol Col Thanet Sukchai.

"The blood donations by foreigners today thus reflects that for foreigners coming to Thailand, there's more than bringing money to spend... because this is helping humanity," he said.

The blood drive was organised by Phuket Immigration and the Phuket chapter of the Red Cross Society to help boost dwindling blood stocks, now running in short supply.

Special focus was given to Rh negative blood. Phuket is currently in short supply of

Rh negative blood stocks due to the increasing number of foreigners suffering injuries in road accidents, Phuket Immigration explained in announcing the blood donation event.

Some of the foreigners injured have required being admitted to hospitals due to the seriousness of their injuries, adding to the drain on Rh negative blood, the announcement noted.

At a previous mass donation blood drive held in March, Phuket RBC noted that Rh-negative blood is not common among Asians, but critically needed for providing help to foreigners, including those injured in road accidents.

"Thank you Phuket Red Cross and Central Department Store Foresta Phuket for making today's activities possible," Col Thanet said.

"Thank you to business operators, private schools and volunteers at the Immigration Office for helping the foreigners who came to donate blood," he added.

The Phuket News

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Huge response to 'Job Expo 2023'

MORE THAN 500 PEOPLE immediately found gainful employment at the 'Job Expo Phuket 2023' held at the Central Floresta shopping mall on the bypass road late last month, with a total of nearly 30,000 people actively engaged with the event, Pichit Singthongkam, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Employment Office, has revealed.

More than 80 companies took part in the two-day job fair, held on June 23-24, with more than 5,000 vacancies available, noted Vocational Education Commission Secretary-General Suthep Chitayawong, who presided over the job fair's opening ceremony.

In total, 27,233 people actively engaged in the job search service as a result of the job fair, Mr Pichit explained.

Of those, 6,251 people applied for jobs and interviewed directly with business operators, and

542 people were expected to work immediately, Mr Pichit said.

"In addition, 87 elderly and disabled people participated in the event, and 520 people applied for jobs abroad.



PPEO Chief Pichit Singthongkam. Photo: PR Phuket

"There were 3,975 people who applied for jobs through the website, 9,838 people participated in activities promoting self-employment and 11,144 people visited the exhibition," he added.

"Job Expo Phuket 2023 was held in response to the needs of the people who want to have a job after the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to improve the quality of life of all groups of people, including the general public, new graduates, people with disabilities and the elderly.

"The aim was to have more people find employment, and we consider that we have been successful beyond the set goals," Mr Pichit noted.

The Phuket News

Rewat urges hotels to pay PPAO room tax

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) has called on hotel and other guest accommodation operators to step up and pay the 1% room rate tax collected by the PPAO to help fund tourism promotion and development.

Mr Rewat made his plea at an event held at the Royal Phuket City Hotel in Phuket Town, attended by some 450 hotel operators.

Present to support the call was Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew.

Mr Rewat explained that PPAO has had the power to levy the tax since 1999 under the Provincial Administrative Organization Act, B.E.

The PPAO is empowered to levy a tax of up to 3% on the monies paid for each tourist room or other form of accommodation rented, but the PPAO has never asked for more than 1%, he explained.

The PPAO has had "good cooperation" from hotel opera-



Photo: PR Phuket

tors in Phuket who paid the room rate tax, Mr Rewat said.

However, there were still too many hotel and tourist accommodation operators who refused to pay the tax, he said. Of note, AirBnB operators were not mentioned.

Mr Rewat called on hotel and other tourist accommodation providers to step up and pay the tax, so the PPAO can push forward with projects in social development, preserving the environment and promoting and developing sustainable tourism in Phuket – all with the participation of hotel operators.

For decades many hotel operators have refused to pay the PPAO room rate tax through objections over a lack of transparency on how the money would be spent.

Such a lack of transparency was painfully clear during the administration of Watcharin Patomwatthanapong, who served as "PPAO Acting Chief" after former PPAO President Paiboon Upatising passed away from cancer in 2015.

The entire lifeguard crisis throughout 2017-18 unfolded under Mr Watcharin's administration, with one bureaucratic

bungle after another resulting in zero lifeguards on Phuket's main beaches during the busy heyday of hordes of foreign tourists holidaying on the island.

The problem was the money; Mr Watcharin said the PPAO did not have enough to increase the budget to pay for lifeguards. However, rumours of rampant corruption were common at the time.

Mr Rewat addressed that concern: "You will be informed of how the income that the PPAO collects from hotel guests and all other income collected by the PPAO has been utilised in public service and how to promote the tourism of Phuket," he said.

"It is expected that this time participants will be informed and have a good understanding and inspiration to pay hotel fees, so that we can generate income to develop our Phuket province to be as effective as possible," he added.

Of note, since being elected PPAO President in 2021, Mr Rewat has been public with explaining budget spending.

Rajabhat launches student work project

PHUKET RAJABHAT UNIVERSITY (PKRU) has launched its project to have students work part time so they can earn extra income and gain workplace experience. The project also aims to help alleviate the labour shortage in Phuket.

PKRU Vice President Dr Boonsupha Tanthay together with Dr Kritsada Tansakul, former President of Thai Hotels Association Southern Chapter and now Vice President of PKRU's Board of Business Promotion, presided over the project launch at the Pearl Hotel in Phuket Town on June 29.

Present at the event was Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew along with owners and operators of various professional fields in Phuket, including hotel operators and real estate agents, among other companies.

Dr Kritsada explained that PKRU has had a student work experience programme since 2014.

"But now is more important than ever, to help students' boost incomes for their family households and to help businesses suffering a shortage of labour," he said.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between PKRU and the Phuket Provincial Employment Office and other key players to facilitate the project.

A key issue is that students are to work part time, outside class hours.

"The project will drive the development of students to have real work experience, so they can practise patience, instil a sense of responsibility and develop self-discipline so they can grow into a valuable human resource in the future," Dr Kritsada said.



Photo: PR Phuket

Suphattra Jaruariyanon, Managing Director of the Nap Patong hotel, also praised the project.

"The project will have a positive effect on both students and business operators, as businesses in all sectors, especially hotel and related businesses, currently have a high demand for labour, especially for positions such as receptionists, food and beverage service staff and housekeepers," she said.

"We are ready to welcome students looking for work outside of school hours. They will provide an important labour force that will help drive the economy in the area," she said.

"And they will help provide a short-term solution to the labour shortage of Phuket. This will help develop students to have real work experience and increase their potential while studying, and they can truly become a quality human resource after graduation," Ms Suphattra said.

The Phuket News



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MFP, Pheu Thai Party reach House speaker compromise

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The Move Forward Party (MFP) and the Pheu Thai Party have agreed to have Prachachat Party leader Wan Muhammad Nor Matha as the House speaker, while MFP and Pheu Thai will each have one deputy's seat.

MFP leader Pita Limjaroenrat told a press conference on Monday (July 3) that both parties agreed on Mr Wan Muhammad Nor to be chosen as the House speaker, adding MFP would have the first deputy House speaker's seat and Pheu Thai the second deputy's.

He said that the six other coalition allies supported the decision and Prachachat is among the allies.

"This agreement is for unity among the eight political parties, who will do their best to nominate me as the prime minister," Mr Pita said.

He also said that MFP and Pheu Thai would amend laws to pardon people who have prosecuted for expressing their political opinions and



MFP leader Pita Limjaroenrat (left) and Pheu Thai Party leader Cholan Srikaew. Photo: Bangkok Post

to reform laws concerning the armed forces, including those concerning martial law and internal security.

Pheu Thai deputy leader Phumtham Wechayachai said he proposed Mr Wan Muhammad Nor as the House speaker because the Prachachat leader was neutral and the proposal was a means for coalition allies to proceed with their government formation.

Pheu Thai leader Cholan Srikaew said his party would not nominate any of

its members to compete for the House speaker's seat, and other coalition parties would not have the right to nominate a Pheu Thai member for the job either.

In recent days Pheu Thai had stood firm that it deserved the speaker's seat because MFP already had the prime minister's position. Each party was to have 14 Cabinet ministers. MFP won 151 House seats in the May 14 general election while Pheu Thai had 141 seats.

Mr Wan Muhammad Nor had previously said he did not want the speaker's position but if his assumption of the post could ensure coalition allies' government formation, he would be willing to take it. He was previously a member of Pheu Thai from 2012 to 2018.

Meanwhile, His Majesty the King opened the new parliament on Monday and encouraged members to have conscience, wisdom and honesty for the public interest and prosperity.

His Majesty the King advised members of the parliament to always be aware they were representatives of people throughout the country to pass laws for the government to use in national administration.

"How the nation will prosper depends on your conscience, wisdom, abilities, honesty and purity in your work based most importantly on the interest of the nation and the public. If all of you are always aware of this, you can successfully perform duties that are truly for the prosperity of people and the nation," His Majesty the King said.

Sak Surin in quarantine at Chiang Mai elephant centre

CHIANG MAI

AILING THAI JUMBO Sak Surin returned to Thailand safely from Sri Lanka last Sunday (July 2) and is now undergoing a 30-day quarantine at the Thai Elephant Conservation Centre in Lampang province.

The male elephant will be closely monitored for disease for at least 30 days, as required by Livestock Department regulations, officials confirmed.

He is now under the care of officials from several agencies, including veterinarians and mahouts, so he can be assured of a complete rest before going into the rehabilitation process. The elephant will also have the time to adjust to the Thai mahouts, the Thai language and the environment he had been away from for over 20 years.

Sak Surin appeared relaxed when he arrived at the centre and has been eating and responding well since, said the elephant centre director, Suratchai Inwiset.

The elephant was gifted to Sri Lanka in 2001 as a goodwill ambassador for the country, ending up at Aluth-



Photo: Bangkok Post

gama Kande Viharaya in the south of the country where he carried holy relics during annual Buddhist parades.

However, a Sri Lanka-based animal protection organisation, Rally for Animal Rights and Environment (Rare), learned that the elephant was being kept in leg chains and had injuries all over his body. It insisted the Thai government bring the elephant back for treatment and sanctuary.

Planning for his repatriation took six months, with the cooperation of both governments and the Thai embassy in Colombo. About B19.5 million in emergency budget funding was spent on the elephant's repatriation. Bangkok Post

Horrific accident prompts walkway safety concerns

BANGKOK

POLICE CONFIRMED ON MONDAY (July 3) they are still waiting for security camera recordings in their investigation of the horrific accident in which a boarding passenger lost part of her leg after it became trapped in a moving walkway at Don Mueang airport.

A 57-year-old woman lost a part of her left leg when it became trapped in the end of a moving walkway in the domestic terminal on June 29. She was using the walkway to get to her booked flight to the southern province of Nakhon Si Thammarat.

Pol Col Adirek Thongkaemkaew, chief of Don Muang police, said on Monday that airport management had been asked to provide the camera footage soon after the accident, but investigators had still not received it.

It was important to the investigation and he had ordered them to repeat the request and ask airport authorities if there was any problem preventing them complying.

Investigators were compiling witness accounts and other evidence to find out how the woman traveller came to be so seriously injured. Doctors were keeping the maimed woman in a sterile, isolated environment to prevent any chance of infection, so police had still not been able to question her, Pol Col Adirek said.



The woman is seen trapped in the walkway on June 29. Photo: Bangkok Post

"The main issue is the operation of the moving walkway. Did it operate normally? If it was normal, how did the accident happen?" he said.

Airport authorities believe the force of the woman's fall exposed the walkway's safety cover, causing her to be drawn into the traveller's internal mechanism.

The woman's leg had to be amputated above the left knee by a medical team at the airport before she was rushed to hospital.

Airport management said the moving walkway was one of 20 installed at Don Mueang airport in 1996 and said they had all been well maintained despite their long use. The traveller in question was inspected on June 21 as part of a routine maintenance process every three months.

The Airports of Thailand apologised for the incident and confirmed it will cover all medical costs and compensate the victim for her injuries. Bangkok Post



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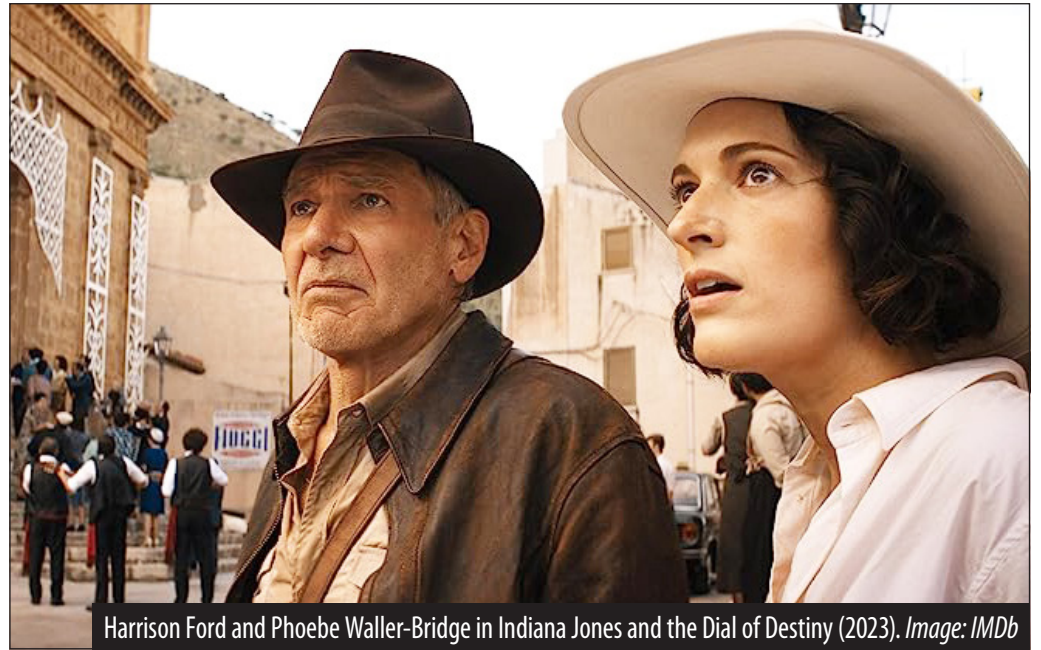
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Harrison Ford is back in Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (2023). Image: IMDb



Harrison Ford and Phoebe Waller-Bridge in Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (2023). Image: IMDb

Indiana Jones back in action

David Griffiths

Grab the hat and whip because the man, the legend, Indiana Jones is back in 'Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny'. The film itself may have been put on the backburner due to the saturation of ads for 'Mission Impossible' and 'Barbie' but this rightfully should be one of the most eagerly anticipated films of the year.

It is understandable that some film fans will be nervous about what to expect from this film. The first three

Indiana Jones movies were masterpieces that saw two Hollywood filmmaking legends – Steven Spielberg and George Lucas – come together to create a franchise that would ultimately be loved by a generation of moviegoers. But then came the ill-fated 2008 reboot and that has many nervous of what to expect this time around – after all, that one had Spielberg and Lucas involved and was still hated by true fans.

Now with director James Mangold (*Walk The Line*) in the director's chair, *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* starts at the end of World War II with Indy (Harrison Ford – *Star Wars*) working with fellow historian Basil Shaw

(Toby Jones – *The Hunger Games*) to rescue a sacred artifact from the Nazis.

They soon discover that the artefact they were after was fake, but find themselves in possession of something that many say is far more valuable – part of the infamous Archimedes Dial – a device that could forever change human history.

Flashforward to 1969 and Indy is living a sad existence. His son died in the Vietnam War and he and his wife are separated. He spends his days teaching uninterested students at a university but is also facing impending retirement.

Things suddenly change though when his goddaughter, Basil's daughter, Helena (Phoebe Waller-Bridge – *Goodbye Christopher Robin*), turns up asking questions about the dial and talking about how trying to solve its mystery had caused her father to go mad before he passed away.

Indy takes Helena to see his piece of the dial, but as they do they suddenly find themselves being pursued by the CIA and former-Nazi-turned-hero Dr Voller (Mads Mikkelsen – *Doctor Strange*), who is determined to find all the pieces of the dial and begin a history-changing event.

For those worried that this is going to end up like 2008's *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, you can breathe a sigh of relief – because very early on you realise that Mangold truly understands the legacy that Spielberg and Lucas set up and does nothing but try to emulate it here.

Once Voller and the CIA come after Indy and Helena, the film turns into a non-stop action ride – but more in the old-school style of 1980s films than the 'bigger is better' nature of films in the *Fast & Furious* franchise. Cars jumping between buildings are replaced by tuk-tuk chases and tense moments in boats, revealing that Mangold is a filmmaker that truly understands that sometimes it is the simpler things that often create the most suspense for the audience.

Also key to *Dial of Destiny* working well is the fact that the characterisation comes to the fore. The screenplay allows for Harrison Ford to play Indy the way that he has been for 40 years – gruff, with a caring heart. The script also brings more tension to the plot by allowing the audience to see very early on that Helena is a tricky character. While it often appears that she cares

for those around her, there are other times when all she is thinking about is the mighty dollar. That unpredictability with her means that not only is she an interesting character, but again she is a great source of suspense that is ever-present throughout the film.

The film does have some weaknesses – characters like Teddy (Ethann Isidore – *Mortel*) feel like a waste of screen time, while it almost feels criminal to underuse an actor with the talents of Antonio Banderas (*The Mask of Zorro*) the way this film does. Perhaps the greatest weakness of the film though is one of the events towards the end of this film. Some fans of the franchise will love it, while others may see it as the point that Indiana Jones jumped the shark.

The one thing that can't be faulted with this film though are the performances. Harrison Ford does not let age slow him down at all and he never misses a beat throughout the film – even the CGI at the start of the film to make him look younger works remarkably well and is believable.

Like Ford, Mads Mikkelsen relishes his role – and let's be honest: nobody quite plays an evil, menacing role like he does. Once again here he excels. Phoebe Waller-Bridge also does an amazing job in her role. As previously mentioned, her character flips between good and bad at will and she handles both sides of her character remarkably well.

Thankfully *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* doesn't fall into the traps that many Hollywood reboots have done over the years. Crazy ideas like a much younger romantic lead opposite Harrison Ford would have sunk this film, but thankfully Mangold is the type of filmmaker that honours what the filmmakers before him have done with such an iconic franchise such as this. This film looks and films like it could have been shot in the 1980s and should be enjoyed by those who fell in love with the original films.

Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny is currently screening in Phuket and is rated '13'.

3.5/5 Stars

David Griffiths has been working as a film and music reviewer for over 20 years. That time has seen him work in radio, television and in print. You can follow him at www.facebook.com/subcultureentertainmentaus

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July/August 2023 issue



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BCIS reaches for the stars

ADVERTORIAL

Phuket, the second-largest hub of international schools in Thailand after Bangkok, is set to host an exceptional educational summer camp with an exciting space context. From 7 to 11 August 2023, Starlight Education, in cooperation with BCIS Phuket, will welcome students from all over the world aged 9 to 15+ for a transformative learning experience. The CubeSat Challenge: Phuket summer camp will enable participants to combine an understanding of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) while exploring the world of space technology.

At the heart of CubeSat Challenge: Phuket lies the innovative concept of CubeSats—a low-cost means to send payloads into space. These miniature satellites have revolutionized space research and exploration, democratizing access to the cosmos. CubeSats provide an invaluable platform for everyone, including students, to engage in hands-on experimentation and gain practical experience in satellite technology, paving the way for groundbreaking discoveries in various scientific fields.

With help and guidance from brilliant astronauts, industry role models, expert educators, and mentors, participating students will learn about space, innovation, and mental strength by building CubeSats and understanding the nuances of space technology development. Along the way, they will also pick up key 21st century skills including coding, design thinking and innovation. Through interactive workshops, engaging lectures, and practical activities, the students will work in teams to propose ideas for their own CubeSat and design it; the best idea is chosen



Steven Smith, aerospace technology executive and a former NASA astronaut, and veteran of four space flights covering 16 million miles and seven spacewalks, totaling 49 hours and 25 minutes.

rich audio and visual experience engages student's interests and curiosity to help them visualize various celestial phenomena and the principles that govern space exploration. Depending on the weather, students may also get an opportunity to observe details on the sun and the moon through the school's specialized Hydrogen-Alpha solar telescope and 6-inch Dobsonian telescopes.

The Starlight Education/BCIS Phuket summer camp offers an unforgettable journey of growth and discovery. Under the guidance of retired NASA astronaut deputy commander Steven Smith, participants will gain insights into the vast opportunities that lie within the realm of space exploration. Additionally, Steven Smith, who has extensive experience in highly dangerous extravehicular activities (EVAs) including space walks, will share with students how to develop an explorer mindset. The explorer's mentality is critical for a person to bravely and calmly face the unknown and take calculated risks to push our limits of knowledge and drive innovation. As for more artistically minded students, this experience could foster a wider imagination of what is possible.

Phuket has emerged as a prominent destination for quality education in Thailand. By integrating the excitement of space exploration through CubeSats with STEM subjects, the CubeSat Challenge: Phuket summer program promises a unique opportunity for students to embark on an unparalleled educational and experiential journey. This camp promises to ignite and inspire young minds through a hands-on learning experience, guided by one of the best humanity has to offer, with the goal of sparking a passion for astronomy, space science and exploration.

To register for the camp, visit go.bcisphuket.com/cubesat-phuket or for more information, visit bcisphuket.com

on the final day and will be launched to the edge of Space either on site or in a live stream.

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Answers below, centre

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Across	60. Fairy tale character	one
1. Jiffs	62. Mother or human	26. Crime boss
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14. Car bar	Carolina	28. Glance over
15. Fruitless	68. Neuters	30. Ain't correct?
16. Former enemy capital	69. Arabian bigwig	32. Buddhist who has
17. Chief drafter of	70. Doofus	attained Nirvana
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Independence	72. Knob	36. Guest
20. Gorge	73. Carhop's load	38. Cooking meas.
21. Slow times		39. Decides
22. Barley brew	Down	40. Sharks' rivals
23. "___ over!"	1. Small-time dictator	41. Exclude
25. Remnants	2. Terry McMillan's	42. Field worker
29. "Frasier" actress	"Waiting to ___"	43. Cheese in a ball
Gilpin	3. It may have four	48. Wildcatters
31. Mineral residue	leaves	50. Sulking one
33. Rainbow	4. Half: Prefix	51. Sky lights
34. Relish	5. Image maker	52. Chic
37. Bliss	6. "The ___" (Uris	54. Kind of alcohol
40. Only active	novel)	55. Believe in
clergyman to sign the	7. Cambodian money	57. Auto pioneer
Declaration	8. Roll out	Citroën
44. Overacts	9. Beach souvenir	58. Spicy stew
45. Highly skilled	10. Anklebones	61. Airport pickup
46. 50-50, e.g.	11. Electees	63. Campsite sight
47. Jot	12. Bill's partner	64. Clod
49. Falling-out	13. Reunion group	65. Engine speed, for
53. Final parts of operas	18. Cuckoo	short
56. Bonkers	19. Crease	66. Chinese "way"
59. Sharer's word	24. Sean Connerv, for	67. Carried out

(1) Rainbow Nation; (2) Yes; (3) Michael Collins; (4) The Spanish Lottery
(El Gordo means "fat one"); (5) Iceland

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MON 10 JUL



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JOB

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Photo: PR Phuket

Rawai charity run to aid Chalong Hospital

MARATHON

ORGANISERS HAVE confirmed that this year's mini marathon in Rawai will take place on Sunday, July 16, and funds raised from the race will go towards the purchase of an ambulance for Chalong Hospital.

The announcement for the annual event, now in its sixth year, took place at a press conference held by Rawai Municipality and Andaman Rotary Club at Central Festival Mall in Kathu on June 28. The press conference was overseen by Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos, who was joined by fellow municipal council members.

"The '6th Rawai Mini Marathon' will be held at Nong Nam public park in Nai Harn on Sunday, July 16, starting at 6am," Mr Solos confirmed.

"The run aims to raise funds via sponsorship of participants to enable a charitable

donation be made towards the purchase of a new ambulance for Chalong Hospital," he added.

The race will be classified into three types, Mr Solos explained. "The Mini Marathon will cover a distance of 12.7 kilometres where runners will pass by Rawai beach. The Fun Run will cover a distance of 4.5km past the windmill viewpoint area near Nai Harn Beach and the Family VIP category will be 2km long, incorporating a walking-running combo around Nai Harn public park for teams of up to three people."

Those interested in participating can apply in person at the Education Division of the Rawai Subdistrict Municipality office, which is open during standard working days and hours.

For more information, please visit Rawai Subdistrict Municipality Facebook page or contact via 076-613-801 or via LINE at RAWAI_EDU1.

The Phuket News

Penalty fiasco in Austria as Verstappen dominates again

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

Max Verstappen dominated last Sunday's (July 2) Austrian Grand Prix to stretch his championship lead as the race ended mired in controversy after a marathon stewards investigation shook up the order with a bevy of post-race penalties.

Verstappen beat Charles Leclerc off the line despite some first-lap sparring and established a comfortable gap, but a virtual safety car on lap 14 gifted the Ferrari driver a cheap pit stop and a small strategic advantage into the second stint.

It kept him in Verstappen's pit window, forcing the Dutchman to concede the lead when he made his first tyre change.

That ended Verstappen's streak of 248 laps in the lead of a grand prix dating back to the Miami Grand Prix on May 7, but it wasn't enough to end Red Bull Racing's undefeated run this season.

Verstappen dropped to third behind Carlos Sainz in the sister Ferrari but made quick work of both the Spaniard and Leclerc, resuming the lead just 11 laps later before it to a whopping 24 seconds over the final 22 laps.

His championship lead now stretches to 81 points, more than three clear grand prix victories.

Leclerc finished a comfortable sec-



Verstappen crosses the finish line to win the Austrian Grand Prix last Sunday (July 2). Photo: AFP

ond in Ferrari's best result of the season and only its second grand prix podium appearance of the year, a powerful validation of the team's string of major updates targeted at improving the car's balance and tyre usage.

Sergio Pérez prevailed over Sainz in an epic late battle for the final spot on the podium.

The final finishing order, however, was unclear for more than five and a half hours after the chequered flag thanks to a protest from the Aston Martin team about penalties for exceeding track limits.

Drivers crossing the white lines at the downhill turn 10 was a major issue all weekend owing to the flat kerb and the lack of asphalt run-off which tempted drivers beyond the boundary.

Race control gave drivers three warnings during the race. A fourth transgres-

sion resulted in a five-second penalty.

Several drivers were penalised during the race, but Aston Martin's protest drew attention to the several warnings not followed up with penalties.

The stewards agreed, noting that more than 1,200 reports of track limits violations had been received, and added 12 penalties to the final classification.

Sainz was bumped down to sixth, with Lando Norris promoted to an excellent fourth place in his heavily upgraded McLaren, which had the measure of both Mercedes and Aston Martin through the race.

Fernando Alonso also moved up to fifth for Aston Martin.

George Russell moved ahead of Lewis Hamilton in seventh and eighth, and Lance Stroll was promoted ahead of Pierre Gasly in ninth and 10th.

Spikers end home campaign winless

VOLLEYBALL

THAILAND ENDED their Volleyball Nations League (VNL) 2023 campaign with a defeat against Brazil at Hua Mark Indoor Stadium last Sunday (July 2).

The Thai team lost to Brazil 3-0 (25-20, 25-16, 25-23) – their fourth straight defeat in the final week in the preliminary phase of the tournament and 10th overall.

They also lost to Japan, the Netherlands and Turkey on home soil.

They won only two games – against Canada and South Korea – during the first week of competition in Antalya, Turkey.

Thailand, who played in front of a sold-out stadium for the fourth time last week, couldn't deliver a win for their passionate fans, finishing 14th in the 16-team preliminary phase.

However, the fans did get to see a stellar performance from Chatchu-On Moksri, who produced 20 points, with 18 kills, one ace and one block.

Italy ended the prelimi-



Thailand (right) in action against Turkey in Bangkok on June 29. Photo: VNL / Bangkok Post

nary phase with a win as the defending champions topped Japan 3-1 (25-23, 25-23, 17-25, 25-22) earlier Sunday.

Poland finished on top of the standings with 29. Hosts United States, Turkey, Brazil, China, Italy, Japan and Germany completed the line-up for the VNL Finals that will take place in Arlington, Texas, on July 12-16.

Brazil, led by an 18-point performance from their star player Gabriela 'Gabi' Guimaraes, bounced back from two straight defeats to make it to the quarter-finals where they

will play fifth-placed China.

The other three quarter-finals will have Poland meeting eighth-placed Germany, second-placed US battling seventh-placed Japan and third-placed Turkey meeting sixth-placed Italy.

The first two days of the finals will feature the quarter-finals, with two matches taking place on each day.

The winning teams will have a day off on July 14 before returning to the court on July 15 for the semi-finals. The medal matches will end the fourth edition of the tournament on July 16. *Bangkok Post*

Malykhin 'roasts' Bhullar in style

MMA

Continued from page 16

...of former undefeated champion Reinier de Ridder.

Malykhin won the ONE Heavyweight interim title back in February 2022 with a second-round knockout over Kirill Grishenko. Since then, he had been on a collision course to take on Bhullar to unify the heavyweight titles. However, a series of delays and contractual disputes prevented the big boys from entering the ONE ring for 18 months. In that time, both sides engaged in heated call-outs and insults that led to the highly-anticipated bout on June 23 to settle the score.

After the win, Malykhin wasted no time in calling out former foe de Ridder, who is currently the ONE Middleweight World Champion, for an October bout.

Anatoly expressed his desire to hold three world titles and called out de Ridder for saying Anatoly was a fake champion with fake belts in previous interviews.

In addition, ONE Championship founder and CEO Chatri Sityodtong stated right after the bout to a packed Lumpinee stadium, "You're the best heavyweight world champion on the planet!"

After the fight Malykhin told ONEFC.com he had gone into the contest with a specific plan to attack Bhullar's body frequently from the outset in order to wear his opponent down and drain his energy.

"His torso, I think, is his weak point. He always protects his head well, so I worked more on his body – in my calm and relaxed style, that's it. I waited for the body shots to do their job. And then when he was exhausted,



Anatoly (right) takes the fight to Bhullar. Photo: ONE Championship

I just hammered him. I cooked the chicken in the oven. Roasted it."

During a backstage interview after the win, Malykhin admitted to the *South China Morning Post* that he had suffered a pinched nerve in his leg about one month prior. The injury had worried him ahead of the bout, as it started to nag before entering the ring.

"But now I'm ready to check it. I had two X-rays after the fight. I won with one leg. If my leg was better, this guy [Bhullar] would not be alive until the third round," he said in the interview.

"It would have already been finished in the first round. I promise that nobody will be alive until the third round again."

As for what's next in the heavyweight division for 'Spartak', Malykhin states that Brazilian jiu-jitsu legend and undefeated fighter Marcus 'Bucheche' Almeida is likely the next contender for the title.

However, the Brazilian would have to get past Oumar 'Reug Reug' Kane in their Aug 5 bout in Bangkok in order for Almeida to earn the next shot at Malykhin's heavyweight title. *JP Mestanza*

Controversial dismissal leaves Lord's in uproar

CRICKET

AFP

Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) said three members had been suspended after Jonny Bairstow's controversial dismissal in the second Ashes Test at Lord's last Sunday (July 3) sent the crowd into an unprecedented rage, with Australia players abused by spectators in the famous Pavilion Long Room.

Bairstow was given out when Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey threw the ball at the stumps after the England batsman walked out of his crease after ducking under a Cameron Green bouncer.

There was confusion in the middle, Bairstow seemingly believing the ball was dead at the end of the over, but Australia were happy to proceed with a deeply divisive appeal.

The umpires sent the decision upstairs for review by TV umpire Marais Erasmus, who had no option but to confirm Bairstow's stumping dismissal.

Bairstow was livid and the usually sedate Lord's crowd



England's Jonny Bairstow (left) waits as his dismissal is reviewed during the second Ashes Test. Photo: AFP

responded by chanting "Same old Aussies always cheating" while booing rang around the famous old arena for several minutes.

England's Stuart Broad, the batsman who came in after Bairstow's exit, immediately let his frustrations show as the stump microphone caught him telling Carey: "That's all you'll ever be remembered for."

Broad also told Australia captain Pat Cummins: "That's the worst thing I've ever seen in cricket".

Veteran paceman Broad then mockingly tapped his bat

in his crease after each delivery to ensure he didn't depart the same way as Bairstow.

A bitter row about the 'spirit of cricket' was underway, with furious fans chanting "cheats" and England's players clearly angry Australia did not withdraw their appeal on grounds of fair play.

Members in the Lord's Pavilion, the most exclusive part of the ground, confronted the Australia team as they walked through the historic Long Room to get to their dressing room at lunch.

Australia batsmen David

Warner and Usman Khawaja were seen stopping to speak to members who were booing before stewards stepped in to usher the players away.

A Cricket Australia spokesman called on MCC to investigate allegations their players were "verbally abused, with some being physically contacted".

MCC secretary and chief executive Guy Lavender issued a public apology and confirmed three members "directly involved" had been identified and their membership rights have been suspended with immediate effect, pending an investigation.

Relations between the two sides were already fraught with the Australians left fuming on Saturday when Mitchell Starc thought he had caught opener Ben Duckett, only to see the dismissal overturned as the ball hit the ground.

Following Bairstow's exit, England captain Ben Stokes smashed 155 to give his side hope of a stunning victory.

But Australia eventually won by 43 runs to take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series as they bid to retain the Ashes.



FAT board blocks Somyot resignation to avert ban

FOOTBALL

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD of the Football Association of Thailand (FAT) have asked Pol Gen Somyot Poompunmuang to refrain from resigning as their president to "avoid being sanctioned by FIFA".

Somyot announced his resignation last Saturday (July 1) over a 2023 SEA Games fiasco which saw the country's U22 team lose 5-2 to Indonesia in the final.

He was also criticised for a brawl during the game involving players and officials from both teams.

Thai Olympic chief Gen Prawit Wongsuwon had said on June 30 Somyot should take responsibility for the failure to win the gold medal and the brawl.

Somyot confirmed Thai deputy prime minister Prawit had ordered him to stand down

as president and added that he would notify the Asean Football Federation (AFF), the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and the international governing body FIFA about the development.

His resignation is yet to be accepted by Sport Authority of Thailand Governor Dr Gongsak Yodmanee.

Somyot took a swipe at Prawit on Monday (July 3), saying: "I have self-respect. Gen Prawit should have spoken to me rather than castigating me at a meeting."

"The FIFA members I have spoken to so far all say this is interference."

Pol Lt Gen Amnuay Nimmano, a senior member of the FAT executive board, said: "We have unanimously asked Pol Gen Somyot not to resign. It can get the country banned and we can lose right to host the FIFA Congress next year."

Bangkok Post

Big guns get busy to bolster their ranks

FOOTBALL

THE NEW PREMIER League season may still be some time off but several of the bigger clubs have been busy securing major signings as they strive to challenge Manchester City's domestic dominance.

On Sunday (July 2) Liverpool announced the capture of Hungary's national captain Dominik Szoboszlai from RB Leipzig for a fee of £60 million (B2.7 billion).

"I can't wait to get started," the 22-year-old midfielder told Liverpool's website. "A really historic club, really good players, good coach, everything is good. For me it was perfect to make the next step in a club like this. The fans, the stadium, everything is really good."

Szoboszlai will link up with Argentine World Cup winner Alexis Mac Allister, who joined the club last month.

Elsewhere, Manchester United confirmed the signing of Mason Mount from Chelsea for £55mn on June 29.



Dominik Szoboszlai has joined Liverpool. Photo: AFP

United will pay an additional £5mn dependent on the midfielder's appearances and success at Old Trafford.

The 24-year-old Englishman came through the ranks at Chelsea, scoring 27 goals and providing 22 assists in 129 Premier League appearances for the Blues.

Chelsea also confirmed the sale of attacking midfielder Kai Havertz to Arsenal on June 28 for a reported fee of £65mn.

The German joined Chelsea in 2020 from Bayer Leverkusen and made 139 appearances in three seasons, scoring 32 times, including the only goal in the 2021 UEFA Champions League final victory over Manchester City.

Arsenal are also shortly expected to announce the signing of England midfielder Declan Rice from West Ham for what will be a British transfer record £105mn.

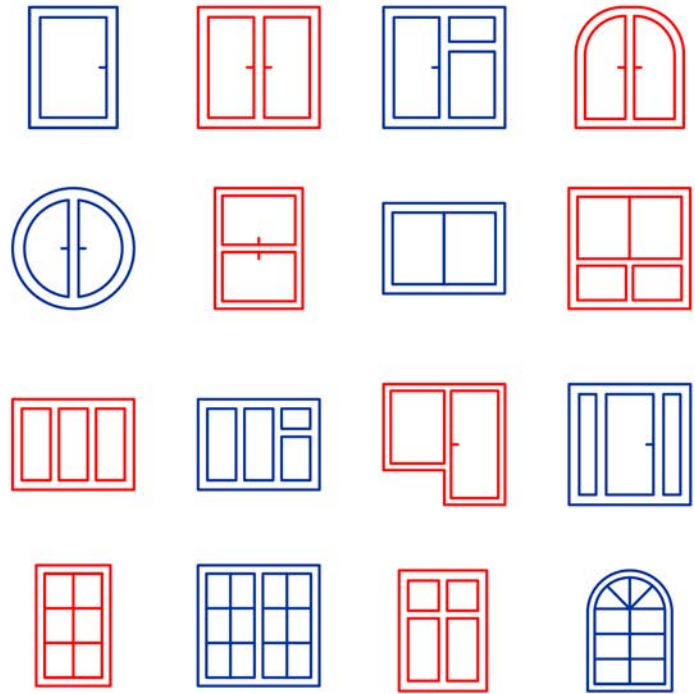
The Gunners finished second in the Premier League last season and are keen to bolster their ranks in the hopes of going one better in the new campaign.

Finally, Arsenal's North London rivals Tottenham Hotspur confirmed the signing of Leicester City and England midfielder James Maddison for £40mn on June 28, as new manager Ange Postecoglou looks to reshape the club after a disappointing last campaign.

The Phuket News



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Sport



**Lord's revolt
as Aussies in
control > p15**

WARRIORS RETURN



Former test player prevents Patong clean sweep

The teams ahead of last Sunday's (July 2) game at the ACG. Photo: Ahsan Ali

CRICKET

Michael Flowers

The Patong Warriors have made a long-awaited return to competitive cricket after a double-header against the PCG (Phuket Cricket Group) at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG).

The two 25-over matches, played on June 25 and last Sunday (July 2), marked the first time the team had played since contesting the T20 league final on March 19.

Led by Captain Ahsan Ali, the Warriors showed no signs of rust in the first encounter as they ripped through the PCG top order early on, leaving their opponents in disarray at 2-3 after only 2 overs.

The devastating spell meant the strong top order of Ashan Fonseka 1(2), Simon Wetherell 0(2) and Jagsir Brar 0(7) were all back in the club-

house very early.

Mayur Deusakar 24(35) and Shivam Sachdeva 37(44), with the help of Lenny Leerdam 16(18) not out, did their best but the PCG ended up posting a meagre 122/6 for their 25 overs.

In reply it looked as if Warriors opener Ahmad Mugal had all but won the game for the Warriors after belting 51 off 27 balls, despite playing with an injured knee.

However, some inspired bowling by Leerdam and a subsequent batting collapse saw the Warriors lose 6 wickets for just 30 runs to see the run chase precariously poised at 85-6. Warriors vice captain Shakiel Raja didn't seem too concerned, however, as he blasted 48 not out off 27 balls, including 5 sixes, to quickly wrap up the contest with almost 12 overs to spare.

Leerdam was the pick of the bowlers with 3-30 from 3 overs,

while Mugal picked up the Man of the Match honours for his display with the bat.

STAGGERING KNOCK

For the rematch last Sunday (July 2) the PCG responded in style by drafting Neil Ferreira into the squad. Ferreira is a former Zimbabwean international Test player, so it marked some potentially clever midweek recruiting from Deuskar.

Led by Manish Sadarangani, the PCG wasted no time in bringing in the former professional to face the Warriors' opening bowlers in another 25-over encounter.

Ferreira and Michael Thomas got the innings off to a conservative start before Thomas 12(22) was bowled by Chandan Rana with the score at 25-1 after 5 overs.

Wetherell 23 (17) batting at number 3 added some impetus to the scoring rate before being forced

to retire hurt with a calf injury with the scoreboard at 60-1 after 9 overs.

The threat of Ferreira was then stopped short when he was bowled for 13 off 19 balls by Muhammad Umar in the following over to leave the PCG at 76-2 after 9.5 overs.

Ashan Fonseka and captain Sadarangani then put on a 111-run partnership before the former was forced to retire after scoring 100 off just 43 balls, which included a staggering knock of 7 fours and 8 sixes.

Sadarangani 42(41) fell in the following over but the damage had been done before Jagsir Brar 13*(11) closed out the innings at a formidable 236/5.

Chasing 237 to win in 25 overs, the Warriors were dealt a huge blow on the third ball of the innings with their star batsman Mughal dismissed for a duck, caught by Wetherell from the bowling of Brar.

The match was effectively over

as a contest as the Warriors then fell further and further behind the required run rate.

Debutant Usman Khaleeqe 56(62) showed a lot of promise and will have surely pleased Warriors captain Ali as he notched up a half century before selflessly retiring to give others some time at the crease.

The Warriors innings spluttered to its eventual conclusion at 160/9 from their allotted overs. Brar was the pick of the bowlers (2-14, 3 overs) while Ferreira also picked up 2 wickets (2-15, 2 overs). Naturally, Fonseka was the Man of the Match following his match-winning century.

A special thank you goes to Sajal Gaur, who returned to the middle to umpire the match after several months absence.

If you are interested in getting involved in Phuket Cricket please visit their Facebook page for more information.

Anatoly unleashes 'Spartak Attack' to unify ONE Heavyweight titles

MMA

AFTER 18 MONTHS OF TRASH talk and bad blood, Anatoly 'Spartak' Malykhin (13-0) finally got his hands on former ONE Heavyweight champion Arjan Bhullar in Bangkok on June 23 during ONE Friday Fights 22.

A masterclass ensued. From precision striking to dominant grappling, Bhullar (11-2) was outmatched from the opening bell. Malykhin, who had never entered a third round in his mixed martial arts career, began the round as he ended the second with an onslaught of strong punches. He then segued into a takedown of

the decorated wrestler, ultimately finishing the fight with punches from above before the referee called a stoppage.

The victory in Bangkok's Lumpinee Stadium saw Malykhin unify the ONE Heavyweight titles and earn a US\$50,000 (B1.7 million) fight bonus for his troubles.

The 35-year-old Russian, who has trained out of the Tiger Muay Thai & MMA Training Camp in Chalong for several years, is now an undisputed champion in two divisions after he earned the ONE Light Heavyweight title last December with a first-round knockout...

Continued on page 14



Photo: ONE Championship