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PUNKED

PHUKET REAL ESTATE AGENTS FIGHT FAKE REVIEWS ATTACK

Photo: Natnaree Likidwatanasakun

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A wave of co-ordinated fake reviews and suspicious online advertising activity has sent shockwaves through Phuket's property sector, prompting several leading real estate agencies to unite in an unprecedented move, demanding that Google Thailand take action to protect local businesses and restore consumer confidence.

The issue, which had quietly been building for months, came to a head when an official request for action was sent to Google (Thailand) Co Ltd in Bangkok. One three-page letter, seen by *The Phuket News*, was sent by one of Phuket's leading law firms and addressed to Google's directors.

Titled 'Request for Review of Advertising Integrity and Review-Related Activity within the Phuket Real Estate Sector', the

letter raises serious concerns about what appear to be coordinated fake-review attacks, irregular ad-click activity and potentially manipulative online practices affecting property businesses on the island.

PATTERNS

In the letter, the firm outlined two key developments observed by multiple agencies: irregular ad-click and traffic patterns

consistent with automated or coordinated activity, and inauthentic Google reviews targeting legitimate companies.

"These developments have caused measurable financial and reputational impacts," the letter stated, "and have led to wider concern among legitimate operators about advertising integrity and user-generated content in the region."

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Dojo Phuket team scaling the heights



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News



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Online attack spurs action

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...it noted, is “highly competitive and increasingly digital,” with some operators controlling multiple brands and online portfolios, blurring the lines for consumers trying to identify independent agencies.

“While we make no allegations against any specific organisation,” the letter added, “the overall market dynamic may inadvertently encourage aggressive online practices. In such an environment, even limited misuse of advertising tools or review systems can have an outsized effect on visibility and trust.”

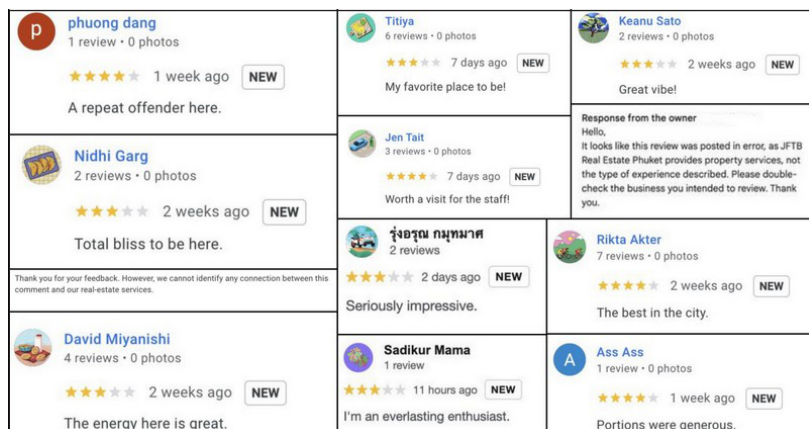
OUT OF COUNTRY

One agency reported unexplained traffic spikes from overseas, forcing it to pause Google Ads campaigns several times this year. Others reported the same. At the same time, businesses that had recently gained strong search visibility found themselves hit by sudden clusters of negative or generic reviews from new accounts with no prior history.

While fluctuations in online traffic are normal, the letter argued, the recurrence and coordination of these patterns point to a larger problem requiring Google’s direct intervention.

The legal request asked Google Thailand to: 1. Review invalid-traffic and click-fraud indicators affecting real estate advertisers; 2. Investigate and remove fake or abusive reviews; 3. Appoint a liaison officer to communicate directly with the law firm; and 4. Promote transparency in cases where companies operate under multiple brand names.

The complaint, it said, was made “in the spirit of cooperation” to help Google “preserve a transparent, trustworthy environment for both



users and legitimate advertisers in Thailand.”

‘ATTACK ON ENTIRE INDUSTRY’

The legal move followed public statements by JFTB Real Estate Phuket, one of several agencies hit by what it described as a “coordinated fake-review attack”.

In a strongly worded post in September, JFTB declared that the wave of fabricated reviews “is not just an attack on our agency – it is an attack on the entire industry.”

The company said agencies with long track records and hundreds of legitimate reviews were suddenly targeted by “bursts of low-quality, off-topic, or clearly fabricated reviews” from new profiles.

“The timing and content suggest coordination,” the statement said. “Profiles with no history, generic language and activity clustered within short windows. For industries like real estate, where reputation drives inquiry and conversion, this kind of manipulation has an outsized impact.”

DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE

JFTB has documented at least 37 fake accounts posting misleading reviews about its business and at least eight other agencies on the island.

The reviews were often

“soft-positive”, rating three or four stars instead of one, subtly reducing averages without triggering obvious red flags. Within weeks, JFTB’s overall Google rating dropped from 4.8 to 4.4 stars.

Investigators found that some of the same accounts posted reviews for unrelated businesses in Europe and the Middle East within hours, suggesting use of global “review-farm” networks. The text was also repetitive, with vague words such as “energy”, “vibe” and “ambiance” – terms unrelated to property services.

Despite filing multiple cases with Google Business Profile Support, JFTB said little action had been taken.

The motive remains unclear. Industry observers say it could be competitors seeking higher visibility, third-party marketers using “black-hat” tactics, or external actors attempting to distort trust during the high season.

“Who benefits from this?” JFTB asked pointedly. “When leading agencies are suddenly pushed down in rankings, potential beneficiaries include those seeking quick online visibility or manipulating client perception.”

The company called on Google to “investigate and disclose the origin of these attacks so that customers can trust what they see.”

COLLECTIVE RESPONSE

In a rare show of unity within Phuket’s fiercely competitive real estate sector, JFTB has invited other agencies to join a collective appeal to Google demanding removal of fraudulent reviews and full transparency about their source.

A growing number of agencies – including Phuket.Net, Phuket Realtor, SEA Property, Storm Real Estate, Siam Expat Property and Empire Estates Phuket – have been named as targets of the same coordinated patterns.

The appeal calls for: Immediate removal of fraudulent reviews; Disclosure of reviewer-origin data; and Stronger verification for Google Business reviews in Thailand.

“Standing together is the only way to protect clients and the integrity of Phuket’s real estate market,” JFTB said.

Thailand’s defamation laws are among the strictest in the region, and false allegations can carry criminal penalties, making many companies cautious about speaking publicly. However, agencies now argue that silence only emboldens abusers.

“Open, transparent communication is crucial,” JFTB stated. “We will continue to document, report and expose every suspicious pattern. Clients deserve truth; Phuket deserves fair play.”

The fake-reviews issue also intersects with national consumer-protection and anti-money-laundering reforms. The government is reviewing the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA) to tighten oversight of real estate agents and ownership structures.

One legal team argues that digital-advertising transparency should align with new national standards, especially in industries where cross-border transactions

are common.

The broader concern is that Phuket’s online property ecosystem – from ads to reviews to listings – may have become too easy to manipulate.

With more than B1 billion flowing through digital property channels annually, a single rating shift can directly affect client decisions, sales and livelihoods.

For now, agencies are banding together – a rare occurrence in Phuket’s competitive market – to demand accountability not just from rivals but from the world’s largest search and advertising platform.

Their message is clear: this is not business as usual.

“We are not asking for special treatment,” said one agency representative. “We’re asking for a fair playing field, where real service, not fake reviews, determines success.”

GOOGLE’S RESPONSE

Google Thailand has now replied to the formal complaint – but with little comfort for local firms.

“Please note that Google Thailand is a sales support and marketing support services company, which does not operate any Google product, including Google Business Profiles and Google Search. These are owned and operated by Google LLC, a company based in the United States,” said the response.

“Thus, Google Thailand can’t remove, block, or restrict access to search results. To ensure your request is reviewed by the right people, please submit your request to Google LLC using the online notification form,” it added.

By amazing coincidence, JFTB reported that 15 of the fake reviews it had identified were suddenly removed last week. The remainder, however, are still online.

Chalong Hospital continues fight for operating rooms

CHALONG HOSPITAL has closed its official operating room donation account with only B5.3 million raised from public contributions, leaving the hospital B33.67mn short of its total B56.9mn project budget.

Hospital Director Dr Chuchart Nitchawatana told *The Phuket News* that the donation account was officially closed on Sept 30.

Construction will continue using nearly B20mn in funding from Chalong Municipality, Rawai Municipality and the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO), along with B10mn from the hospital’s own funds.

“Together with public donations, we have enough to begin construction, but not enough to complete the project,” Dr Chuchart said.



Photo: Chalong Hospital

The project aims to build and equip three new operating rooms as part of a major upgrade to expand surgical capacity and improve emergency response.

Construction of the rooms, estimated to cost about B26-27mn, will take priority while the hospital continues to seek additional support to buy the necessary medical equipment.

To continue fundraising, the hospital has opened a new account titled ‘Donations for Medical Equipment and Hospital Operations Procurement’.

Blueprints for the new

operating rooms were completed on Aug 22, and procurement is expected to begin next month, taking around 40-50 days. Construction is scheduled to start in December or January, though delays are possible.

Dr Chuchart added that Chalong Hospital will organise fundraising events to help bridge the remaining gap.

Donations can be made to:

Account name: Donations for Medical Equipment and Hospital Operations Procurement

Account number: 679-9-30618-0 (Krungthai Bank, Chalong Branch)

For more information, call 076-384342-3 or 088-2940994, or email donate.chalonghospital@gmail.com *The Phuket News*

Patong Tunnel plan hits wall

The Phuket News

editor@classactmedia.co.th

Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Phipat Ratchakitprakarn has ordered a complete overhaul of the long-delayed Patong Tunnel project – slashing the tunnel width, axing tolls and transferring control away from the Expressway Authority of Thailand (EXAT).

The announcement, made in Parliament on Oct 30, marks the most radical shake-up of the project in nearly a decade. The tunnel width will be reduced from 17 metres to 10m, with motorbikes and cars to share the same lanes, supported by enhanced safety measures.

Responsibility will move from EXAT to the Department of Highways. Tolls will be scrapped entirely.

Phuket MP Chalermpong Saengdee railed against the decision, calling it a “complete demolition” of years of progress.

In a post online, he blasted the Transport Ministry’s move as a betrayal of public safety and a political failure.

“The never-ending epic of the Patong Tunnel – which nation will get it? When will it be built? When will Phuket’s safety stop being a political game?” he wrote.



Phipat Ratchakitprakarn in Phuket late last month. Photo: AoT Phuket

“The Patong Tunnel is a life-threatening emergency! It’s not just about convenience – it’s about people’s lives and Phuket’s safety image.”

MP Chalermpong pointed to the Kathu-Patong road – the island’s steepest and most dangerous route – where trucks frequently lose power and over the years crashes have killed tourists and locals alike.

In October 2022 a large section of the road over Patong Hill plunged downhill after heavy rains. Another landslide a year later, this one much smaller, spurred concerns that an alternat-

ive route over the hill was finally critical.

MP Chalermpong accused the government of indifference. “Nearly a decade of studies must now be scrapped,” he said. “Most worryingly, the motorcycle lanes – designed for safety – could disappear.”

“Are there genuine engineering problems, or is this just an excuse to restart the process and open new doors for hidden interests or kickbacks?”

He warned that restarting design studies would waste hundreds of millions of baht and delay the project by years.

“Phuket generates billions in revenue for the country, yet we’re left with dangerous roads and endless redesigns,” he said. “Every time there’s a change, the project is pushed back – and the death toll on Patong Hill continues to rise. It’s as if Phuket’s lives are just an overlooked number.”

YEARS OF DELAY

Just two months ago, on Aug 26, Cabinet approved a new financing model for the long-stalled project, allowing EXAT to directly undertake construction of the Kathu-Patong section – officially called the ‘Phuket Expressway Project (Phase 1)’ – at a cost of nearly B11 billion.

That decision marked a shift away from the previous private-sector model approved in January 2022, which failed after no bidders came forward.

Under the revised model, EXAT was authorised to fund construction through borrowing or bond issuance, backed by the Ministry of Finance. The project’s total budget was set at B10.96 billion, covering construction and supervision costs.

The 3.98-kilometre route was designed to include a 900-metre elevated approach, a 1.85km tunnel through Khao Nakkerd

hill, and a further 1.23km of elevated road. The design featured four lanes in each direction, divided for cars and motorcycles, with a flat toll planned to start at B15 for motorcycles and B40 for cars, rising every five years.

Construction was expected to begin in 2026, with completion in 2030.

EXAT said the tunnel would dramatically reduce travel times between Kathu and Patong, ease congestion on Highway 4029, and improve safety.

Land expropriation – costing about B5.75bn – was completed only earlier this year. Patong Municipality began clearing the designated area last month, with around 230 eligible recipients already compensated.

At the time, EXAT described the project as ready to proceed. But the announcement by Transport Minister Phipat has thrown that readiness into disarray, effectively resetting the project and erasing years of technical, financial, and engineering work.

Phuket residents and local leaders are now demanding answers – and action – before the island’s most critical safety project slips back into limbo yet again.

Drownings continue on west coast

A PHUKET MAN AND his teenage nephew have drowned and as of Tuesday (Nov 3) a Russian tourist remained missing in separate incidents along the island’s west coast, as officials renewed warnings against swimming in dangerous monsoon surf.

The bodies of Phumisak Chantajaem, 42, and his 13-year-old nephew Natthawipa Sriprasit, both from Thepkrasattri, in central Phuket, were recovered late last Sunday night (Nov 2) after a two-day search off Bang Tao Beach, Thalang District officials confirmed.

The pair were swept out to sea last Saturday afternoon (Nov 1) while swimming near the main stretch of Bang Tao Beach, despite red ‘no swimming’ flags being posted. Lifeguards and local rescue teams immediately launched a search using jet-skis, drones and coastal patrols, but were forced to suspend operations due to worsening conditions.



Photo: Witsarut Saman

The search resumed early the next morning but again faced high waves before both bodies were located near the original area late that night. Relatives had been notified and the bodies released for religious rites, Thalang District Office reported.

In a separate incident on Monday (Nov 3), a 31-year-old Russian man, Dmitrii Zakutskii, went missing after being dragged under by powerful waves at Nai Thon Beach.

Sakhu Police said the alarm was raised at 10:14am after Mr Zakutskii was swept out while swimming with friends near the southern end of the beach. Rescue teams from the Sakhu Tambon Administrative Organisation (OrBorTor) and the

Kusoldharm Phuket Foundation joined the search, which continued through rough surf conditions this afternoon.

Authorities have urged beachgoers to strictly observe red-flag warnings and avoid swimming on west coast beaches while strong monsoon conditions persist.

“People should not enter the sea at this time – the waves are powerful and unpredictable,” warned one lifeguard. “Even strong swimmers can be quickly pulled under.”

Officials confirmed that red flags remain posted along major beaches, including Bang Tao, Nai Thon and Kamala, as rough seas continue to pound the coast.

The Phuket News



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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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Wind 11 m/s

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Low: +28°

Wind 11 m/s

SUN NOVEMBER 9

High: +35°
Low: +28°

Wind 11 m/s

MON NOVEMBER 10

High: +35°
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE NOVEMBER 11

High: +35°
Low: +28°

Wind 4 m/s

WED NOVEMBER 12

High: +37°
Low: +28°

Wind 4 m/s

THU NOVEMBER 13

High: +36°
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

B60mn online gambling network busted in Wichit

REGION 8 POLICE HAVE arrested the alleged owner of the online gambling site 'UFARED' and two associates in a major raid in Phuket, uncovering more than B60 million in online transactions.

The arrests, made on Oct 30, were led by Region 8 Police Deputy Chief Pol Maj Gen Pornchai Khajornklin and Crime Suppression Commander Maj Gen Lertchai Champathong, together with Phuket Provincial Police Chief Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum and Wichit Police Chief Pol Col Somsak Thongkliang.

Officers raided a two-storey house on Chao Fa East Rd in Wichit, which was linked to a luxury car dealership. Several high-end vehicles were parked outside, including Audi and Mercedes-Benz sedans and Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Inside, police arrested three suspects – the alleged site owner and two administrators – and seized B1.6mn in cash, computers, mobile phones and multiple luxury vehicles believed to have been bought with gambling proceeds.



Photo: PR Phuket

Maj Gen Pornchai said the raid followed a joint Region 8 Police and Provincial Police investigation targeting online gambling and cybercrime networks across southern Thailand. Six other locations were searched the same day.

Preliminary findings confirmed the group was running a large-scale gambling website with high monthly cash flow, estimated at B50-60mn, said Maj Gen Lertchai. Two more suspects were later arrested in related raids.

The operation forms part of a nationwide cybercrime crackdown ordered by the Royal Thai Police from Oct 27 to Nov 3. All suspects and seized assets have been transferred to Phuket Provincial Police for further investigation and legal proceedings.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Violent tuk-tuk drivers back in the limelight

Eakkapop Thongtub
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Two separate violent incidents involving tuk-tuk drivers in Phuket this past week have left one man dead and another facing criminal charges, prompting renewed concern over conflicts among local drivers.

In the most serious case, a tuk-tuk driver was stabbed to death during a fight with a fellow driver in front of the Jungceylon shopping mall in Patong late Sunday night (Nov 2).

Police were notified at around 11:10pm that a man had died at Patong Hospital following the altercation. The victim, Sahachai Junmar, 30, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, was found with stab wounds to his chest and ribs and was pronounced dead on arrival.

Another driver, Chirawat Pratumchat, 43, from Roi Et, sustained a stab wound to his face and was taken into custody after receiving medical treatment.

Witnesses told police that both men had been waiting in line for passengers outside Jun-



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

gceylon when an argument broke out, escalating into a knife fight that left Sahachai fatally wounded before bystanders intervened. At last report, police were reviewing CCTV footage to confirm the events leading up to the attack.

Just days earlier, Phuket City Police responded to another violent tuk-tuk incident after a 74-year-old tuk-tuk driver attacked a government vehicle with a scythe at the Saphan Hin traffic light intersection in Phuket Town on Oct 29.

Police said the altercation began when the tuk-tuk, driven by Sukit Sumetthakul of Ratsada,

collided with a Toyota Hilux pickup belonging to the Phuket Provincial Prosecutor's Office. The driver of the pickup, Phudit Wattanawet, 45, told officers he got out to inspect the damage when Sukit emerged wielding a 50cm scythe and began slashing his vehicle.

Officers quickly intervened and disarmed Sukit, who now faces charges of property damage and threatening behaviour.

Both cases remain under investigation, with police urging all public transport drivers to avoid confrontation and resolve disputes through legal channels.

Worker dies in fall from garbage truck

A MYANMAR WORKER DIED after falling from the back of a garbage truck in Kathu last week.

Kathu Police were notified of the accident at 2:20pm on Oct 28. Officers arrived at the scene, opposite the Kathu Social Security Office on Phra Phuket Kaew Rd in Moo 4, Kathu, to find a six-wheeled private garbage truck parked on the roadside.

The victim, identified as Myanmar national Wai Lin Kyaw, 28, had already been taken to hospital after suffering severe injuries in the fall.

The truck driver, Anuthai Jindahtam, 23, told officers that he and two workers had been transporting garbage bags to sell at a recycling shop. Mr Wai Lin and another worker had been sitting on one of the bags in the back of the truck when it

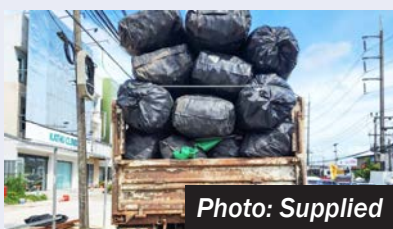


Photo: Supplied

suddenly shifted and fell off the vehicle.

Mr Wai Lin reportedly fell about 3.8 metres onto the road, suffering serious head injuries and losing consciousness.

Rescue workers performed CPR at the scene before an ambulance from Bangkok Siriroj Hospital transported Mr Wai Lin to hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

Police recorded the incident and sent the body to Vachira Phuket Hospital for a post-mortem examination, but made no mention of any charges for the incident.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Morbidly obese man dies in Soi Ta-ia

A LITHUANIAN-BORN AMERICAN national was found dead in his hotel room at a Muay Thai training camp hotel in Chalong last week, after reportedly enrolling in fitness classes to lose weight.

Chalong Police confirmed that officers were notified of the death at 4:07pm on Oct 29. The man was found in his room at the hotel, on Soi Ta-ia, Chalong.

According to police reports, the tourist, aged 33, had told a housekeeper the day before (Oct 28) that he was feeling tired and lacking energy. He asked the housekeeper to buy snacks from a nearby 7-Eleven and did not leave his room afterward.

At around noon the following day, the housekeeper returned to clean the room but received no response when knocking. When hotel staff unlocked the door, they discovered the man lying face up at the end of his bed.

Rescue workers from Chalong Hospital arrived soon after and



Photo: Chalong Police

confirmed that he had already passed away.

Pol Lt Col Khanaen Somrak, the investigating officer, together with a doctor from Vachira Phuket Hospital, conducted a preliminary examination and found no signs of injury or struggle. The man's belongings were undisturbed, and several types of medication were found in the room.

Police noted that the man weighed nearly 200kg and had been staying at the camp hotel for about a week to take part in boxing and fitness training.

The initial medical assessment indicated that he likely died from a chronic health condition several hours before being found.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Phuket to join disaster alert test

The Phuket News

editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket will take part in a nationwide emergency broadcast test early next year – the first time the island has been included in Thailand’s national disaster alert exercise – as local officials continue to respond to flash floods and landslides in Patong following days of heavy rain last week.

The national test, scheduled for 2pm on Jan 20, 2026, will see emergency messages sent simultaneously to all mobile users across Thailand through the Cell Broadcast disaster warning system, developed to deliver alerts directly to phones during major emergencies, Phuket Vice Governor Adul Chuthong confirmed during a provincial meeting last week.

Vice Governor Adul said the exercise represents a key step toward improving public safety and preparedness for both residents and tourists.

“Phuket must be fully prepared to ensure the system operates effectively



Photo: Patong Municipality

and that people understand the alerts,” he said. “The test will also help strengthen coordination between local and national emergency services.”

The system will be tested in coordination with major network providers, including National Telecom (NT), AIS and True Corporation. Earlier small-scale trials were conducted at village, district and provincial levels in other areas throughout the country in May to ensure operational readiness.

Meanwhile, local officials are continuing to deal with the effects of ongoing heavy rain and minor landslides in Patong, which caused temporary road closures and property damage late last week.

Two small landslides occurred on Patong Hill early last Friday (Oct 31), prompting Kathu District authorities to issue warnings for residents to remain vigilant.

The first landslide, reported at about 4:30am on the downhill side of Phra

Barami Rd, brought down a tree and street lamp, blocking one lane. The debris was cleared by 9am. A second smaller slide occurred on nearby Barami Soi 3 later that morning.

Rainfall measured 74.8 millimetres at Bang Wad Dam by 9am, with water levels in nearby canals rising but no flooding was reported, while the Thai Meteorological Department warned of continued heavy rainfall and possible flash floods through to last Sunday (Nov 2).

Last Friday, traffic over Patong Hill was temporarily reduced to one lane after a fallen tree and power pole blocked part of Phra Barami Rd at about 4:18am the same morning. Police and municipal workers quickly cleared the scene, and traffic returned to normal by mid-morning.

Patong Police Chief Pol Col Chalermchai Hirasawat thanked the public and local agencies for their cooperation during the operation. Authorities again urged motorists to drive cautiously on steep and slippery roads, particularly during wet weather.

In a separate incident, Patong Municipality has now appealed for technical support from provincial and national agencies to repair landslide damage on 50 Pi Rd, where part of a retaining wall and hillside foundation collapsed late last month.

Municipal Engineering Division Director Kittisak Morasin said only temporary measures – including covering the slope with tarps and installing wooden barriers – could be put in place until engineers

from specialist departments arrive to assess the area.

Letters requesting expert assistance have been sent to the Phuket offices of the Rural Highways Department, the Department of Highways and the Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning, Mr Kittisak said.

Kathu District Chief Akkaraphon Suthirak Chittsuphap confirmed that only one house was directly affected. The couple living there has been advised to stay with relatives at night while monitoring continues.

Patong Mayor Lalita Maneesri and local officials have also distributed relief packages to 50 households affected by flooding across Patong following the recent heavy rains. Residents in need of help can contact the Patong Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office at 076-342600.

For wider disaster alerts or information about the January nationwide test, residents can call the DDPM 1784 hotline or reach the Phuket DDPM office at 076-510097 or 076-510098, or via Line ID: @DDPM1784.

Poor family gets lottery-funded house

A POOR FAMILY IN CHALONG has been given a new home under the Government Lottery Office (GLO)’s ‘Caring from the Heart’ housing project, aimed at helping low-income households achieve a safe and stable place to live.

The official handover ceremony took place on Oct 30 at a house in Moo 7, Chalong. Phuket Governor Saransak Srikuaneetra presided over the event, joined by senior provincial officials and representatives from partner agencies.

The project, jointly implemented by the GLO and the Community Development Department of the Ministry of Interior, aims to improve the living conditions of the poor and disadvantaged by providing durable housing and promoting self-sufficiency for long-term well-being.

This year, the beneficiary in Phuket was the family of Praipana Thipmongkol, selected through the government’s Poverty and Vulnerability Mapping System (TPMAP).

The total construction budget for the new house was B308,000, with B200,000 funded by the Government Lottery Office and B108,000 contributed by local government offices, private sector supporters and the Chalong village headman.

The completed home is a single-storey, raised-floor structure featuring dark grey prefabricated walls, a sloping roof, front and rear balconies, and a fully equipped bathroom and living



Photo: PR Phuket

space. Designed for practicality and safety, the house provides a secure environment for the family to rebuild their lives.

During the ceremony, provincial officials and representatives of the Phuket Red Cross also presented the family with donations and relief bags.

Mr Praipana expressed deep gratitude to the agencies involved, pledging to care for the new home and make good use of the opportunity provided.

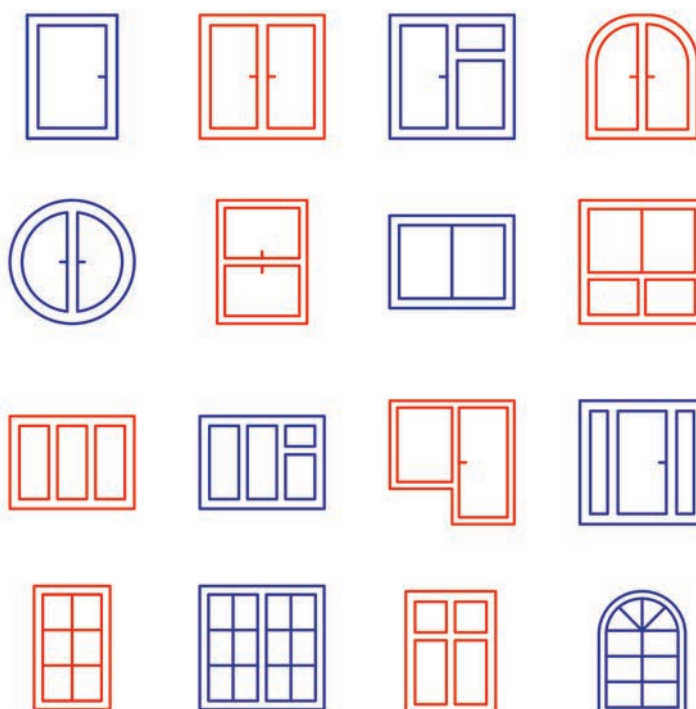
Governor Saransak praised the cooperation among government offices, private organisations, and community leaders in helping underprivileged families.

“This project reflects the unity and compassion of the Phuket community,” he said.

“When we work together, we can create real change in people’s lives. I encourage all agencies to continue supporting such initiatives so that more families in need can gain stability and a better quality of life.” *The Phuket News*



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Restaurants stymied by new alcohol law

THE RESTAURANT Association has raised concerns about the new Alcoholic Beverage Control Act (2025), which bans the consumption of alcoholic beverages in establishments during prohibited hours, as this will potentially impact the tourism industry.

The new law is due to be enforced starting on Nov 8.

Under the existing law, the sale of alcoholic beverages is restricted to specific times: from 11am to 2pm and from 5pm to midnight.

The rule does not apply to international airports, registered entertainment venues and registered hotels.

Some customers order and pay for their drinks prior to the sales ban period, continuing to drink at a venue, said Chanon Koetcharoen, president of the Restaurant Association.

However, Section 32 of the new law states consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited during the banned period in any venue where alcohol is sold, or any place or area where commercial services for alcoholic beverage



Photo: Bangkok Post

consumption is allowed, even if the drinks were purchased prior to the banned period, he noted.

This means customers will not be allowed to consume alcoholic drinks within venues during the restricted hours, regardless of when they purchase them.

The new law is expected to have a significant impact on the tourism sector, Mr Chanon said.

Some customers have already complained that they do not understand the purpose of Thailand's restricted drinking hours. Under the new law, tourists may be even more confused about rules for drinking alcohol in restaurants and bars, he added.

"Even some Thai customers do not understand why they're being asked to finish their drinks outside," Mr Chanon noted.

Bangkok Post

Beach vendors dispute rules at Kata, Karon

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Provincial authorities have pledged to urgently review regulations governing the use of Kata and Karon beaches after more than 100 beach vendors submitted a petition asking to be allowed to continue working on the sand.

The issue was discussed at a meeting held last Friday (Oct 31) at the Phuket Provincial Damrongtham Centre, chaired by Vice Governor Samawit Suphanphai. Also present were Phuket MP Chalermpong Saengdee and Monchai Sae Lao, Director of the Phuket Provincial Damrongtham Centre (Provincial Ombudsman's Office).

Vice Governor Samawit said the beaches are public areas that everyone has the right to use, but activities there must comply with the law and cannot obstruct shared use.

The province would hold further discussions with Karon Municipality,



Photo: PR Phuket

district offices and other relevant agencies to establish clear guidelines for managing beach-based occupations, he added.

"I have asked for 15 days to allow officials to visit the area and consider solutions," Mr Samawit said. "The use of public land must not involve permanent structures. Only temporary facilities permitted by law may be used."

The issue arose after Karon Municipality ordered the removal of massage beds, tents and umbrellas set up by local operators, citing that they were placed in public areas without authorisation.

Vice Governor Samawit said the provincial office would seek a compromise that allows beach masseuses to continue their livelihoods without breaching regulations.

"We will look for appropriate measures that ensure fairness for everyone while maintaining public access," he said.

MP Chalermpong noted that a successful model already exists at Patong and Kamala, where local authorities have implemented a temporary, removable structure system through cooperation between local administrations and district offices.

"This model could be adapted for Kata and Karon," he said.

Mr Monchai confirmed that the Provincial Justice Centre will expedite a formal request to Phuket Governor Saransak Srikuangtrua to establish a working group to address the matter urgently.

He stressed that responsibility for enforcing demolition of unauthorised structures rests with the district and local administrative organisations under existing laws.

Mr Monchai added that the province has already set up a working group to coordinate with related agencies to ensure solutions are "concrete and practical" for affected residents.

Mr Monchai also warned that local officials must carry out their duties transparently and in line with the law. Failure to do so, he said, could result in disciplinary or legal action under Section 157 of the Criminal Code for neglect of duty.

Baht not manipulated, says minister

FINANCE MINISTER Ekniti Nitithanprapas has claimed that Thailand has not engaged in currency manipulation, and that the central bank has the tools to manage the currency without resorting to intervention.

Mr Ekniti also told reporters on Oct 29 that the government would put illicit fund movements under more scrutiny by December.

"We have not distorted the management of the baht in the past as it is something our central bank has been very cautious about," he said.

"There are mechanisms in place to oversee the currency without the need for intervention. It is our intention not to cause any distortions."

He spoke shortly after the US Treasury and the Bank of Thailand (BoT) announced an agreement not to use capital flow measures or government investment vehicles such as pension funds to target exchange rates to gain a trade advantage.



Photo: Somchai Poomlard / Bangkok Post

The agreement does not affect Thailand's exchange rate policy and its objective of maintaining exchange rate stability, said Chayawadee Chai-anant, assistant governor for corporate relations at the central bank.

The US Treasury maintains a list of countries that it has declared currency manipulators, based on an analysis of factors such as currency intervention or monetary policy that appear to influence exchange rates. Businesses

in such countries can be barred from US government procurement contracts.

In its most recent report released in June 2025, there are no countries designated as currency manipulators, but nine economies are on the Treasury's 'monitoring list' of major trading partners whose practices merit close attention: China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Vietnam, Germany, Ireland and Switzerland.

Bangkok Post

Thailand to lift US trade barriers

THAILAND HAS AGREED to the removal of barriers on US food, farm, medical, digital and film products, and to make a huge aircraft procurement and annual purchases of energy and farm products with preset minimal values, according to the United States government.

Long-term purchases include 80 US planes costing US\$18.8 billion.

In a statement, issued by the White House, the US said the "Framework for an Agreement on Reciprocal Trade"... will provide both countries' exporters unprecedented access to each other's markets".

According to the statement, Thailand has agreed to "eliminate tariff barriers on approximately 99 percent of goods, covering a full range of US industrial and food and agricultural products".

The US "will maintain at 19 percent the reciprocal tariffs, as set forth in Executive Order 14257 of April 2, 2025, as amended, on originating goods of Thailand, and will identify products from the list set out in Annex III to Execut-



Photo: Government House

ive Order 14346 of September 5, 2025, Potential Tariff Adjustments for Aligned Partners, to receive a zero percent reciprocal tariff rate."

The statement cited key terms which cover requirements for Thailand's compliance concerning trade in a wide range of US-made products including vehicles, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, energy products, food and agricultural products.

According to the terms, Thailand will allow the import of "US manufactured vehicles manufactured to comply with US federal motor vehicle safety and emissions standards" and "US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) certificates and prior marketing authorisations for medical devices and pharmaceuticals as sufficient to meet Thailand's requirements."

Thailand will issue "import permits for US

ethanol for fuel", amend "customs laws to remove the customs reward system related to customs breaches and penalties" and adopt and implement "good regulatory practices".

Thailand will also "address and prevent barriers to US food and agricultural products in the Thai market, including expediting access for US Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)-certified meat and poultry products".

In addition, Thailand will "address barriers impacting digital trade, services, and investment. Thailand commits to refrain from imposing digital services taxes or measures that discriminate against US digital services or digital products".

Thailand will "refrain from imposing screen quotas for film", "ease foreign ownership restrictions for US investment in Thailand's telecommunications sector" and "remove in-country processing requirements for all domestic retail electronic payment transactions for debit cards issued in Thailand."

Bangkok Post

Thai healthcare scheme on the brink of collapse

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The controversy over funding the B30 universal healthcare scheme has exposed a stark reality: Thailand's healthcare system may be teetering on the brink of financial collapse.

In recent months, a war of words between the National Health Security Office (NHSO) and the director of privately owned Mongkutwattana Hospital, Dr Rienthong Nanna, has given the public a glimpse into how the universal healthcare scheme is run.

Citing a long-overdue payment of about B100 million from the NHSO, Dr Rienthong says his hospital will suspend medical services to outpatients holding B30 healthcare cards, under the so-called gold card scheme.

The Ministry of Public Health, meanwhile, admits many hospitals under its responsibility have run up an accumulated deficit of about B18 billion, as



A family reads information about the '30 Baht Universal Healthcare Anywhere' programme that the NHSO kicked off at Government Complex in Bangkok in August. Photo: Bangkok Post

expenditures are 110% higher than revenue.

These hospitals have asked the ministry to provide a short-term solution by approving B8bn from the central budget to continue running the scheme.

Hospitals, clinics and community clinics that are the NHSO's major partners claim hospitals are at the healthcare frontline and have an obligation to treat patients regardless of budget constraints.

The NHSO's budget allocation to hospitals is calculated using AdjRW (Adjusted Relative Weight) and is based on a per-head formula.

Currently, NHSO allocates B8,350 per head,

which is significantly lower than the actual average cost at B13,240.

The per-head rate is even lower than B7,000 in some hospitals when NHSO applies a new regulation allowing for backward calculation, or the so-called re-run system, from the period of Oct 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025.

Some state-owned hospitals have opted to provide second-tier medical treatment and even alternative drug prescriptions to cope with limited budgets.

Medical groups have demanded cancellation of the re-run system and called for a new fund for in-patients to compensate for the loss from AdjRW.

Under the fiscal budget for 2026, the government approved B265.30bn for the national health security fund, which is divided into B198.23bn for care for 47.5 million gold-card holders, a B16.38bn increase from last year.

The remaining B3.8bn is allocated to local administrative organisations, B27.76bn to the disease prevention and promotion scheme, B4.6bn for Aids patients and B16.08bn for patients living with kidney diseases.

Just B562.22mn is allocated as an emergency fund for health providers, however.

NHSO is now under heavy criticism, especially from medical service providers who are unhappy with its performance and say the office often ignores them.

They have called for more medical service providers to sit on the NHSO's committee. Currently, there is only one. Medical service providers should be treated as a trusted partner by the NHSO, not as "a boss and an employee", said one medical service provider.

Julapun elected new Pheu Thai leader

BANGKOK

JULAPUN AMORNVIVAT has been elected as the new Pheu Thai Party leader, following an official party vote last Friday (Oct 31).

Mr Julapun, a Chiang Mai MP, becomes the ninth leader of Pheu Thai, receiving 354 out of 369 votes, with 15 abstentions.

He replaces former prime minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, Thaksin Shinawatra's youngest daughter, who recently stepped down to pave the way for a major party shake-up aimed at restoring public confidence and boosting the party's popularity ahead of the upcoming general election scheduled for Mar 29 next year.

Mr Julapun, 50, thanked his party members for entrusting him and the new 29-member executive committee with the responsibility of steering the party forward. He described the appointment as the greatest honour of his political career.

He pledged to overhaul the party, starting with



Julapun. Photo: Bangkok Post

improving communication with the public and ensuring swift, transparent messaging. He also emphasised the importance of selecting high-quality MP candidates who reflect the needs and aspirations of the people.

Mr Julapun, the son of veteran politician Sompong Amornvivat, holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Chulalongkorn University and a master's degree in business administration (MBA) from Boston College, USA.

He previously served as deputy finance minister under the Srettha Thavisin and Paetongtarn administrations between 2023 and 2025.

From 2021 to 2025, he also served as Pheu Thai deputy leader and has been elected as an MP for Chiang Mai for five consecutive terms since 2005.

Bangkok Post

Postal voting plan requires court clarification, confirms EC chief

BANGKOK

POSTAL VOTING COULD RENDER the planned referendum on the constitution invalid, as it could be interpreted as early voting, which is not permitted under current regulations, according to the Election Commission (EC).

According to EC secretary-general Sawaeng Boonmee, the government must seek a court's clarification on whether conducting a referendum by mail-in ballots would violate existing rules that prohibit advance voting.

Mr Sawaeng was responding to a proposal by Parit Watcharasindhu, an MP from the People's Party, who suggested allowing citizens to vote in the referendum in advance via mail.

He noted that the EC's primary responsibility is to ensure that both the election and the referendum are completed properly and lawfully.

"If both the general election and a national referendum are to be held simultaneously, it will inevitably be complicated," he said.

"The EC must find ways to make the process as convenient as possible for voters, while staying within legal limits. We are not afraid of challenges, but we must ensure that both the election and its results are legitimate and orderly."

He emphasised that while certain



Photo: Bangkok Post

administrative conveniences can be implemented beyond what is explicitly written in the law, any action that exceeds legal boundaries could jeopardise the results of the vote.

"We will not take even the slightest risk that could compromise the electoral process or its results," he said. "Now that such a proposal has been raised, we will revisit the legal framework to see what can and cannot be done."

Mr Sawaeng clarified that administrative management is not the main issue – legality is.

"If postal registration is interpreted as advance voting, then it is not permitted by law.

"We must distinguish between 'postal voting in advance' and 'postal voting on the official referendum day' – these are two different things," he added.

He further explained that postal referenda are legally permissible only if conducted on the officially designated day of the referendum, not in advance.

Bangkok Post



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Photos: Simon Lomas

Meet the Bee Eaters

Simon Lomas

Here in Phuket we are lucky in my opinion to have a selection of some of the most stunning birds in the world: The Bee Eaters.

These birds are pretty common and can be seen all over the island. They vary in size from that of a Robin to the that of a Starling, Mynar Bird, while in other countries and areas there are bigger ones up to 30 centimetres long. But here on Phuket the five main ones are smaller. To see these you do not need to go far as you will find them from the

edges of the towns right into the jungle areas and anywhere you find trees and water. The good thing is none of them are under threat despite suffering from habitat loss, their eggs being eaten by snakes and rodents and the adults occasionally being taken by larger prey.

Bee Eaters have 31 species with most found in Africa and Asia and a scattering in southern Europe, Australia and New Guinea. In Phuket there are five different types of stunning colour which can be seen all year round. They are easy to spot as not only are they brightly coloured but also many types live in colonies. So, where there is one, you will always find more. They nest in burrows in sandy cliff faces or

any vertical face where they can tunnel. They have downward curving bills and, as the name suggests, they hunt bees, wasps and flying insects. You see them catching things in mid-air and before taking them to a perch where they bash them to remove any stings or poisons before eating them.

First we have the Blue Tailed Bee Eater. This, I will say, is the most common here on Phuket, a richly coloured, slender bird. Predominantly green, its face has a narrow blue patch with a black eye stripe and a yellow and brown throat, while the tail is blue and the beak is black. The three outer toes are united around their bases. It can reach a length of 23-26cm, including the two elongated central tail feathers which can be just two inches more than the remaining 10 feathers. Sexes look the same and is usually found near water.

Elongated

Then there is the Green Bee Eater, otherwise known as Asian Green or Small Green Bee Eater. Even though it is supposed to be quite common I have not seen this one myself yet. Like other Bee Eaters, this species is a richly coloured, slender bird. It is about 23cm in length with about two inches of that made up by the elongated central tail feathers. The sexes are not visually distinguishable. The entire plumage is bright green and tinged with blue, especially on the chin and throat, while the crown and upper back are tinged with gold and a fine black line runs in front of and behind the eye. The iris is crimson and the bill is black while the legs are dark grey. Southeast Asian birds have a reddish brown crown and face with green underparts. The wings are green and the beak is black. The elongated tail feathers are absent in juveniles. Sexes are alike.

My favourite is the much smaller Chestnut Headed Bee Eater, which at 18-20cm in overall length, is noticeably smaller. For me they appear more shy and although they don't fly away they also do not venture so close. Both sexes again are similar in appearance. The head and neck are bright chestnut with a black thin band under the eye and ear-coverts. The breast and lower back are bright green and the rump and under the tail are pale shining blue. The top of the tail is green and tipped dusky, the sides of the face, chin and throat yellow. The remainder of lower plumage is green tipped with blue, which makes for a very colourful bird.

However, what makes it stand out is the chestnut head which almost seems to glow in the sunlight.

Rich variety

The Blue Throated Bee Eater is found through out Southeast Asia in subtropical or mangrove forests. With a diet consisting of mostly bees, wasps and dragonflies they like to be near water. They are small with colourful plumage consisting of a reddish brown head, dark green wings and breast, with their signature blue throat. Juvenile plumage contains dark green head and wings and light green breasts, only developing their full plumage in adulthood. They have a rich variety of calls which allow them to communicate long distances in the forest. I am sorry to say I have not seen these yet either.

Last but not least is the Blue Bearded Bee Eater. This is a rare visitor to Phuket and not seen in large numbers but is a regular sighting. The name comes from the loose fluffy feathers under the chin. This is probably the largest species of the Bee Eater family, with adults measuring between 31-35cm. This species has a large sickle shaped bill and the square ended tail lacks the long central feathers that are typical of smaller species. The bird is grass green with a turquoise forehead, face and chin and the feathers of the throat are elongated, giving it a bearded appearance when they are fluffed out. The belly is yellowish to olive with streaks of green or blue. There is a slight difference between the male and females as in the blue beard feather in the male have a slight ultra violet sheen to them. Again they nest in burrows in sandy banks and feed mostly on bees and other flying insects.

I am sure anyone interested in birds, wildlife and nature photography will have seen at least one type of Bee Eater while out and about, even if they were unsure of what type it was. You can spend a fair bit of time watching them hunting and going in and out the burrows to feed the young. This year I have seen a noticeable increase in both the Chestnut Headed and Blue Tailed ones around the hills between Patong and Karon beaches in the areas of Tri Trang, Freedom Beach and Paradise beach. These areas are always a nice area to take a walk on a lazy afternoon as you also get stunning sunsets, views and a nice cool breeze too which also makes it a good place to see raptors using the sea breeze to gain height.



The December/January 2026
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Spinning the horror genre with Shelby Oaks

David Griffiths

Well, it is the horror film that everybody is talking about at the moment and to be honest after watching *Shelby Oaks* you can easily see why. This is not only a horror film that begs to be different – it is a film that takes the classic horror style and turns it on its head.

The first thing you will notice about the horror genre is that the sub-genres are normally pretty well defined. Whether it be a slasher like *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, an occult horror like *The Conjuring* or a folk horror like *The Witch*, the rules and tropes of each sub-genre are well defined and rarely cross-over.

That isn't the case with *Shelby Oaks*, written and directed by popular Youtube personality Chris Stuckmann, as it is brave enough to switch horror sub-genres mid-film and as absolute surprise it actually works.

The film begins as a found footage horror as a documentary team cover the disappearance of Riley (Sarah Durn – *Where The Crawdads Sing*), who alongside three other paranormal investigators disappeared when they travelled to an abandoned town called Shelby Oaks to film another episode of their popular web series.

As the documentary team interview a range of people about the disappearance they are shocked to the core when while interviewing Riley's sister Mia (Camille Sullivan – *Hunter Hunter*) a strange man shows up at her doorstep and then commits suicide right in front of her.

From there *Shelby Oaks* switches to being a mix of occult and folk horror as when Mia works out that the man is a violent criminal named Wilson Miles (Charlie Talbert – *Rebel Ridge*). As she examines that footage found on the tape that Wilson was holding Mia begins to realise that perhaps Riley's disappear-



Sarah Durn in *Shelby Oaks*. Photo: IMDb

ance might be linked to the demon that the two of them saw when they were younger.

As she puts the pieces of the mystery together Mia realises that Riley might still be alive and despite the strain it puts on her marriage she decides to take a trip to Shelby Oaks to see what she can discover.

Refreshing

There is a lot to this film that means it shouldn't work but somehow it overcomes that to be a fairly enjoyable horror flick. The switching of sub-genres in the opening 20 minutes rightfully should be a death knell for the film, but to be honest it is somewhat refreshing.

When the film started I would be lying if I didn't admit that was thinking 'oh no not another found footage film'. The opening of the film feels like Stuckmann is going for a *Blair Witch Project* for the YouTube generation feel, but when the film applies the brakes and suddenly takes a turn in another dir-

ection I found myself sitting up in my cinema seat and beginning to take notice.

For me the suspense and intrigue of *Shelby Oaks* begins at the moment that Wilson Miles shoots himself. From there the film finds its feet and while it doesn't exactly re-invent the wheel it does enough to be different and to keep its audience guessing. And while there are a lot of unanswered questions about the occult side of the film you will still find yourself feeling fulfilled by the time the end credits roll. In fact, if you are like what I was, you will find yourself starting to think about how a sequel could answer some of those questions.

The other key factor to *Shelby Oaks* working is the acting performance of Camille Sullivan. Without her being at the top of her game there is no way this film could ever have worked. Sullivan literally has to carry this film – and must do it using a range of acting styles. From the ultra-naturalistic feel of being the interviewee in the early parts of the film right through to being a scream queen when she visits the old prison Sullivan delivers on all levels.

I'm sure when he first put pen to paper Stuckmann was hoping that *Shelby Oaks* would be a film that would change the horror landscape the way that *The Blair Witch Project* did. The film doesn't exactly reach those heights, but it does enough to engage its audience throughout and show that perhaps Stuckmann has what it takes to be the next decent horror director in the genre.

Shelby Oaks is currently screening in Phuket and is rated '18'.

3/5 Stars

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

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POP QUIZ

1. In the song, who killed Cock Robin?

2. Which weapon was invented by Ernest Swinton in 1916?

3. What links Buddy Holly, Lyndon Baines Johnson and Janice Joplin?

4. What condiment was used for its medicinal qualities in the 1800s?

5. Who won six consecutive Wimbledon titles in the 1980s?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Very Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

1. Collector's suffix

4. Priest of the East

8. Star in Aquila

14. Physique, slangily

15. Apple spray

16. Curly cut

17. "Even when liars tell the truth, they are never believed" (with "The")

20. Opposer

21. Stepped

22. Christmas ____

24. Acadian or Boobook

25. Smidgen

29. Chaplets

31. Clothes eschewer?

34. Spots

37. Druggie

38. "____ Beautiful" (Bing Crosby tune)

39. "Build your house on a solid foundation" (with "The")

42. Metric measure

43. Hand over

44. Like some humor

45. Feeling

47. Houston ____

48. Kind of wave

49. Packed away

Down

1. Founder of PLF

2. Peter of Herman's Hermits

3. Sanctum in an ancient temple

4. Sixth note

5. Gazillions

6. Computer instructions

7. Cupid's projectile

8. Copied

9. Source

10. City slicker

11. Fuss

12. ____ at ease

13. Whistle blower

51. Former UK prime minister

55. Electric illuminator

59. Bog down

60. "Don't make promises you're likely to regret"

64. Flowering shrub

65. Not docked

66. Mail Boxes ____

67. To a great degree

68. 500 sheets

69. Franco-Spanish botanist

18. Nelson or Mays

19. Most inactive

23. Nero's tutor

26. Round trip?

27. "____ luck!"

28. Pretentious

30. Key

32. More than a scuffle

33. Sermonize

34. Narc's find

35. Midafternoon

36. Field of play

37. Shoshonean

40. High marks

41. Introductions

46. ____ Singers

47. Will transfer

50. Golden Horde member

52. "Idol" runner-up, with 57-Down

53. Humdrum

54. Beginning of a conclusion

56. Rod's partner

57. See 52-Down

58. Tell it to the judge

60. Inexperienced

61. Compact weapon

62. Cuckoo

63. It's similar to a

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16						
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Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

D	Y	E	S	C	A	D	A	A	C	H	E	N			
I	O	U	H	O	P	I	S	P	E	E	D	O			
E	N	G	L	I	S	H	S	H	E	E	P	D	O	G	
O	D	E	O	N	I	C	E	A	X						
F	E	N	S	O	D	O	R	E	G	A	R				
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3	8	5	1	2	7	4	9	6
4	1	2	9	6	8	7	3	5
7	9	6	3	5	4	1	2	8
9	6	8	5	3	1	2	4	7
1	4	3	8	7	2	5	6	9
2	5	7	4	9	6	3	8	1
5	2	4	6	1	9	8	7	3
6	7	1	2	8	3	9	5	4
8	3	9	7	4	5	6	1	2

GOT YOUR NUMBER

4

times only in their lives, on average, do Europeans move residence.

45

Ironman triathlons Madonna 'Iron Nun' Buder has done, among her 325 triathlons completed. She ran her first Ironman at the age of 65, and is currently 95 years old.

71.4

years is the average global life expectancy of someone born in 2015.

433

pills per resident is how many prescription opiates drug firms shipped to the US state of West Virginia alone from 2007-2012.

189,819

the number of letters the longest word in the world contains which takes about 3.5 hours to say.

30.9 trillion

kilometres is equal to one parsec.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW

This year's Vegetarian Festival celebrations in Kathu. Photo by Maria Foz

Got an unusual or particularly beautiful picture of Phuket? Email it to editor3@classactmedia.co.th

This week in history

Nov 7, 1504

Christopher Columbus returns from his fourth and last voyage.

Nov 8, 1895

While experimenting with electricity, Wilhelm Röntgen discovers the X-ray.

Nov 9, 1989

Fall of the Berlin Wall: East

Nov 10, 1775

The United States Marine

Nov 12, 1927

Leon Trotsky is expelled

Nov 11, 1992

The General Synod of the Church of England votes to allow women to become priests.

Nov 13, 1916

Prime Minister of Australia Billy Hughes is expelled from the Labor Party over his support for conscription in World War I.

Corps is founded at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia by Samuel Nicholas.

from the Soviet Communist Party, leaving Joseph Stalin in undisputed control of the Soviet Union.

Source: Wikipedia

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FRI

7
NOV



Grow Boating Phuket Evening - Nov 2025

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 Royal Phuket Marina. Royal Phuket Marina is a distinguished world-class destination combining luxury waterfront living with a state-of-the-art marina. See royalphuketmarina.com/marina There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant for all attendees. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket/>

SAT

8
NOV

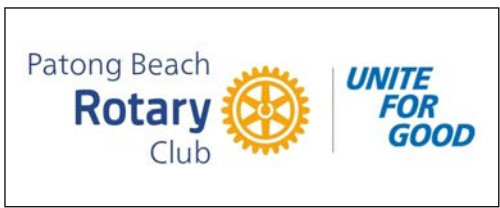


Join Us for the Nai Yang Beach Clean-Up!

Skål International Phuket, together with the Sustainable Maikhao Foundation and UWC Thailand, invites you to take part in a meaningful community initiative — the Nai Yang Beach Clean-Up. Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Location: Nai Yang Beach (Sirinat National Park Parking). This event brings together hotels, local residents, students, and volunteers to help protect our beautiful coastline and promote sustainability within our hospitality community. More info - facebook.com/SkalPhuket

TUE

11
NOV



Rotary Club of Patong Beach

The only English-speaking Rotary Club in Phuket, we welcome Rotarians from around the world! With members from 18 nationalities, we are a diverse, dynamic, and well-known club in Thailand. 1st Tue each month - Fellowship dinner at different locations in Phuket, 3rd Tue each month - dinner meeting at Four Points by Sheraton Phuket Patong. Join us! if you are passionate about making a difference. More info - www.facebook.com/RCoPB

THU

13
NOV



Skål Phuket November AGM & Dinner

Our host of the month of November, Vincent Delsol, extends a warm invitation to all Skalleagues and friends of Skål for a great evening at Phuket Pullman Panwa Beach Resort. Join us for an elegant evening by the sea as Skål International Phuket welcomes members and guests for our November Networking Dinner. The evening begins with the AGM at 5pm (members only) followed by networking drinks at 6pm at Edge Beach Club, followed by a Thai Night Market-themed dinner at Aqua Restaurant from 7:30pm, celebrating friendship, culture, and the vibrant spirit of Thailand. Members B1200 - Non-Members B1600. Bookings - contact@skalphuket.org

TUE

25
NOV



Send Your Kids To UK University Without Overseas Fees

UK & Irish expat parents in Phuket — learn how to send your kids to UK universities without paying overseas tuition fees! Join our free seminars - Tuesday November 25th – 10:30am at Hickory Phuket (Kathu) or 5:30pm at Woodland Café (Bang Tao). Free refreshments & expert advice from UK Study Options. Save £100,000s on fees regardless of university or course — book now, limited seats available! Drew Mitchell, drewmitchell@international-wealth.com, 062 352 4991

FRI

28
NOV



EABC x Phuket Rendezvous 2025

Join the vibrant Thai-European business community for our End-of-Year "Thank you Member" networking event. Get ready for an evening of festive conversation, forging powerful new connections and new opportunities at Akara Grand Ballroom, Four Points by Sheraton Phuket Patong Beach Resort, registration from 6pm. Members - THB 1,300, non-members - THB 1,800. For more information, please contact EABC Business Development Director, Ms. Petch Chojnacki, at business.director@eabc-thailand.org or 064 310 3559.

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SAT

29
NOV



Snowbirds Charity Golf Classic

Tee off at one of Phuket's most anticipated charity tournaments — the 3rd Annual Snowbirds Charity Golf Classic, happening Saturday, November 29, 2025 at the stunning Aquella Golf & Country Club. Limited to just 88 players, this Texas Scramble promises a day of friendly competition, great prizes, and unforgettable networking with business and community leaders. With raffles, auctions, and sponsor showcases, it's more than golf — it's the event everyone wants to be part of this season. TheSnowbirdsGolf@gmail.com

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AUSTCHAM JOINT CHAMBERS PHUKET SUNDOWNERS - OCTOBER

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, AMCHAM, BCCT, Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber, CanCham Thailand, FTCC, GTCC, NTCC, NZTCC, Phuket Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Swedish Chamber, hosted the Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners at Courtyard by Marriott Phuket Town on Friday, October 31. Yet again a wonderful night of making new connections and catching up with familiar faces in the Australian-Thai business community in Phuket. For information on AustCham Thailand visit - austchamthailand.com



REGGAE WAVES 2025

The Rotary Club of Patong Beach hosted its annual fundraising event Reggae Waves at Carpe Diem Beach Club on Friday, October 24, 2025. Just like last year, Thailand's iconic reggae band Job2Do performed live, lending their music and energy once again to support this important cause. All proceeds will fund a fully equipped emergency response ambulance for Thalang Hospital and support underprivileged children in Phuket. For more details on the great work the Rotary Club of Patong Beach is doing, visit rotarypatong.org



Photo: PR Phuket

Phuket hosts 11th stroke awareness fitness event

FITNESS

THE 11TH ANNUAL "Light of the Nation" Walk, Run and Bike to Prevent Paralysis event took place at Saphan Hin Public Park last Sunday (Nov 2).

The event, which incorporated a 5-kilometre distance that participants of all ages and abilities could choose to complete via walking, running or cycling, began at Saphan Hin before passing through Phuket Old Town and returning to the finish line at the park.

The annual occasion is part of a nationwide campaign to promote public health and reduce the threat of stroke, which is a leading cause of illness and death among Thais and something Phuket Province prioritises in its ongoing health prevention and promotion campaign.

This event is part of a nationwide campaign to

promote public health and reduce the burden of stroke, a leading cause of illness and death among Thais. Phuket Province prioritizes continuous health prevention and promotion.

Phuket Governor Saran-sak Srikruanetra oversaw the opening ceremony where he used his official speech to extend deepest condolences on the recent passing of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother.

Joining Governor Saran-sak was his wife Ruedee-wan, who serves as the President of the Phuket branch of the Red Cross and President of the Interior Ministry Housewives Association.

Following his opening remarks, Governor Saransak then led all participants in a brief warm-up and stretching session ahead of the main event before participants took off from the start line.

The Phuket News

Thai wonder kid clinches historic comeback win

GOLF

Bangkok Post

Rising star Fifa Laopakdee rewrote a slice of golf history when he became the first player from Thailand to sensationally win the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship, earning coveted invitations to the Masters Tournament and The Open next year.

The 20-year-old junior from Arizona State University produced a stunning comeback from six shots down going into the final round at Emirates Golf Club's Majlis course in Dubai on Oct 26 to defeat 54-hole leader Taisei Nagasaki of Japan with a birdie on the third playoff hole.

"It's unreal. I think I told my [ASU] coach Matt Thurmond I'll be the first Thai to win this event and be the first Thai amateur to play in the Masters. Coach, I did it! It means the whole world to me," said a jubilant Fifa.

It was heartbreak hotel for the 16-year-old Nagasaki, making his debut in the Championship, as his overnight advantage quickly disappeared with an outward 3-over 38.

After being caught by Fifa on the 15th hole, the young Japanese showed some fight with birdies on 16 and 17



Fifa with the trophy. Photo: Bangkok Post

to regain a one-shot lead. However, he agonisingly missed a four-foot birdie chance on the par-5, 18th hole in regulation play to secure victory.

Fifa, whose nickname was given by his football-crazed father, had spoken earlier about how Tiger Woods, who is half-Thai and a winner on the Majlis course, has been an idol and inspiration to many young golfers back home, including himself.

Fifa produced a Woods-like comeback on the back nine, shooting a spectacular inward 5-under 32 to tie a faltering Nagasaki and force a playoff. After both players shot matching birdies on the 18th and 17th holes, the talented Thai took advantage of a lucky break with his approach shot into the 18th hole, which stayed on land, and chipped it close for his winning birdie

while Nagasaki made par.

"After I finished 18 [in regulation], I didn't realise I had shot 5-under on the back nine and laughed with my caddie," said Fifa, who tied the second largest comeback in Championship history to claim victory.

"I stuck to the mindset at the start of the week, stay in the present and have fun out there with my caddie, and enjoy the golf. Shot by shot, hole by hole and I'm proud I did all that on the back nine especially."

Rintaro Nakano finished solo third after a closing 71.

Since the event's inauguration in 2009, only players from China, Japan, Korea and Australia have won the Asia-Pacific Amateur, with Fifa changing it all with a comeback for the ages.

Banlung wins taekwondo title, eyes SEA Games, LA Olympics

TAEKWONDO

BANLUNG TUBTIM-dang's scintillating gold-winning effort at the 2025 World Taekwondo Championships on Oct 28 has reignited Thailand's hopes for further success at the upcoming 2025 SEA Games and the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Banlung, 22, delivered a career-defining performance in Wuxi, China, to capture the men's 68kg title by overcoming South Korea's Seong Yu-Hyeon in the final.

His path to the top of the podium was equally impressive.

Banlung dispatched Libya's Najimuddin Birzeeq in the round of 64, followed by another win over Australia's Xavier Nikolovski.

He then defeated Kazakhstan's Damir Shulenov in the last 16,



Photo: Supplied

Senegal's Mouhamadou Mansour Lo in the quarter-finals and Croatia's Matija Crep in the semi-final.

"I am very happy to have won this world championship, and I would like to present this gold medal to the Thai people. After this I will focus on the next mission, which is the SEA Games in Thailand in December," said Banlung.

Banlung's victory makes him the sixth Thai athlete to win a world taekwondo title.

The past Thai world champions in taekwondo are Chatchawal Kaola-or (men's 54kg) and Rangsiya Naisom (women's 62kg) in 2011, Chanatip Sonkham (women's 49kg) in 2013, Panipak Wongpattanakit (women's 46kg) in 2015,

Panipak (women's 49kg) and Pannapa Harnsujitr (women's 57kg) in 2019.

This success comes at a crucial time for Thai taekwondo with the 2025 SEA Games set to be hosted in Thailand next month.

Looking further ahead, the performance in Wuxi strengthens Thailand's ambitions for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, where the nation hopes to add to its already impressive Olympic taekwondo legacy.

Thailand have long been a powerhouse in the sport with stars such as Panipak bringing Olympic glory to the nation.

Panipak, who won taekwondo gold medals at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and the 2024 Paris Games and a bronze medal at Rio 2016, announced her retirement from the sport after Paris 2024.

Bangkok Post

Digital boost for Thai sports

ALL SPORTS

THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND Sports has rolled out a new digital platform aimed at streamlining how national sports associations apply for and manage government funding.

The initiative was introduced during a two-day seminar jointly organised with the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) and the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) in Bangkok on Oct 30.

Tourism and Sports Minister Atthakorn Sirilattayakorn explained the government was determined to modernise the country's sports administration, saying great importance is attached to the systematic and sustainable development.

The seminar saw the launch of the NSDF's fully digital application system, which officials described as a step towards making the fund a "fully digital sports fund," in line with the state's broader Digital Government policy.

Through the platform, associations can submit funding requests, track the progress of their applications and file project reports online. The system is designed to cut down on paperwork, reduce duplication and improve transparency in how public money is allocated and monitored.

Workshops held alongside the seminar offered practical training on budget management, online reporting and project evaluation. Sessions also touched on athlete development, personnel training and building organisational capacity to compete on both national and international stages.



Atthakorn. Photo: Supplied

Beyond the technical aspects, the government used the seminar to underline its long-term vision for Thai sports.

Atthakorn said the aim was to create a standardised and equitable sports ecosystem that provides equal opportunities and sustained support across the country.

"The key to progress lies in establishing a system that offers world-class development pathways," he said. "This foundation will enhance Thailand's competitiveness and strengthen sports as a driver of the nation's creative economy."

The minister stressed that transparency and accountability would be central to future funding decisions.

Officials argue that by reducing bureaucratic hurdles and improving oversight, the system will not only benefit athletes and associations but also help position sports as a contributor to economic growth, social development, and national pride. *Bangkok Post*

Liverpool snap winless streak

FOOTBALL

AFP

Mohamed Salah's 250th Liverpool goal ended the Premier League champions' losing streak in a 2-0 win against Aston Villa last Saturday (Nov 2).

After losing their previous four league games, and six of their last seven in all competitions, spluttering Liverpool finally showed signs of life at Anfield.

Egyptian star Salah scored his landmark goal in first half stoppage-time following Villa keeper Emiliano Martinez's wayward pass before Ryan Gravenberch's 58th minute deflected strike wrapped up the Reds' first league victory since they beat Everton on Sept 20.

"It's a great feeling to score goals and win trophies for this big club. It's something I don't take for granted. I'm so proud," Salah said.

Leaders Arsenal beat Burnley 2-0 to surge six points clear at the top of the table and create a five-game winning streak in the league to position themselves as firm favourites to end their painful two-decade wait to be crowned English champions.

Arsenal, who have now won nine games in a row in all competitions, have enviable options in attack but their team is built on a rock-solid defence that has conceded just three league goals in 10 games this season.

Viktor Gyokeres and Declan Rice



Mohamed Salah celebrates his landmark goal in the 2-0 win against Aston Villa last Saturday (Nov 1). Photo: AFP

scored the first-half goals for the Gunners.

Erling Haaland scored twice to propel Manchester City up to second with a 3-1 win over Bournemouth on Sunday.

The Cherries started the day in second thanks to the longest unbeaten run in the English top flight but Andoni Iraola's side were undone by the scintillating form of the Norwegian striker, who took his tally to 13 Premier League goals in 10 games.

Elsewhere, Manchester United were held to a 2-2 draw at struggling Nottingham Forest in a pulsating game.

Casemiro gave United the lead before Forest fought back to take the lead through Morgan Gibbs-White and Nicolo Savona, before Amad Diallo levelled with a stunning volley in the 81st minute to rescue a point.

Forest, who last month appointed

Sean Dyche as manager to replace the sacked Ange Postecoglou, remain in the relegation zone, four points behind 17th placed Burnley.

Chelsea maintained their impressive record against Tottenham, winning 1-0 courtesy of a goal from Joao Pedro for a fifth straight Premier League victory over the north Londoners.

Enzo Maresca's fifth-placed side trail fourth-placed Tottenham on goal difference.

Rock-bottom Wolves are eight points from safety after a miserable 3-0 defeat at Fulham which saw manager Vitor Pereira sacked afterwards, while Crystal Palace beat Brentford 2-0 and Brighton pummelled Leeds 3-0.

West Ham secured their first win of the season after defeating Newcastle 3-1 while Sunderland and Everton drew 1-1 on Monday.



Sharma (centre). Photo: AFP

India lift first Women's Cricket World Cup

CRICKET

INDIA CAPTAIN HARMANPREET KAUR hailed her team's breakthrough Women's World Cup triumph last Sunday (Nov 2) as they beat South Africa by 52 runs to win the tournament for the first time.

Shafali Verma and Deepti Sharma starred with both bat and ball to propel India to the title in front of a jubilant home crowd at Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium.

Hosts India posted 298-7 and then bowled South Africa out for 246 in 45.3 overs with spinner Sharma taking five wickets after earlier contributing a vital run-a-ball 58 in the middle order.

Sharma took down Nadine de Klerk, for 18, for the final wicket as India celebrated with the thousands of supporters inside

the ground and millions outside in the cricket-mad nation.

"We wanted to break this barrier," Kaur said.

"And our next plan is to make this a habit. We were waiting for it, now this moment has come. So many big occasions are coming, and we want to keep improving. This is not the end, just the beginning."

The Indian women triumphed at the third attempt after finishing runners-up in 2005 and 2017.

They toiled in the league phase this time, suffering three successive defeats, but clinched the last semi-final spot before knocking out record seven-time champions and heavy favourites Australia.

Sharma took a tournament-best 22 wickets, also chipping in with 215 runs as a batter, and was named the player of the tournament.

AFP

Pollock shines as England beat Wallabies



THE GLOBAL RUGBY COACH

THE START OF THE AUTUMN internationals can be seen as the first sign of preparation for the 2027 Rugby World Cup in Australia.

Coaches are taking a closer look at existing talent and noting the progress of emerging talent, while a successful Autumn program can gain a team vital ranking points before the draw for the World Cup is made.

England, for example, climbed into 4th place in the world rankings with a convincing 25-7 win over Australia in London last Saturday (Nov 1).

Steve Borthwick, the most pragmatic England coach, has surprised pundits by playing players out of position and talking of a more expansive performance, but still selects the kicking machine George Ford at fly-half.

Meanwhile, Marcus Smith, once the doyen of English fly halves, hasn't even made the match-day squad!

A significant question surrounds England's Henry Pollock following an outstanding performance against the Wallabies. Is he England's answer to New Zealand's Ardie Savea? If so, back England to win the World Cup.

The Wallabies looked sadly off the pace. Usually, you could rely on some creative attack from an Australian



Henry Pollock. Photo: AFP

backline, but maybe knowing the coach will leave at the end of this series has dulled their cutting edge.

In the other high-profile encounter, the All Blacks beat Ireland 26-13 in Chicago, raising doubts about the latter's durability. Are they over the hill?

Scotland beat the USA 85-0 in a pointless fixture, with critics stating the game was purely to help the Scots raise much-needed revenue, while South Africa smashed Japan 67-7.

In the next round of fixtures the Springboks face France tomorrow (Nov 8), England hosts Fiji, Italy plays Australia, Wales face Argentina, Scotland plays New Zealand, and Ireland welcome Japan.

My tips: England, Australia, Argentina, New Zealand, Ireland, South Africa to all win.

The Global Rugby Coach, Mike Penistone, is a globally renowned professional rugby coach based in Phuket. For more information visit: www.rugbycoachingconsultancy.com.

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Sport



Key Salah goal ends Liverpool streak > p15

MEDAL MINORS

Dojo youngsters dig deep to mine more accolades



The team at the Malaysia International Judo Open. Photo: Alexis Plantard

MARTIAL ARTS

Ben Tirebuck

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

It is a case of new home but same results for the team at Dojo Phuket after another phenomenal sweep of medals at local and international competitions recently.

The team, formerly based at Blue Tree Phuket until the end of last year and then without a base for while, finally opened their brand-new dojo studio in the Manik area of Thalang last month to enable them to focus once again on a disciplined and coherent training strategy as they continue their impressive exploits.

Most recently was the Malaysia International Judo Open at the Kluang Sports Hub in Johor between Oct 16-19 where the team amassed 11 medals and the trophy for 'Best Kids Team' in the 6-13 age bracket, up against 23 other competing teams.

In the 6-13 age group Lea, Damir, Max, Gleb and Sagit all performed to their maximum potential to each grab gold medals, while Danil, Timur and Dima won silver and Andrei bagged a bronze.

It was an especially memorable occasion for Gleb who won the top medal in his first ever competition while also earning his orange belt with one green stripe for his outstanding performance, while for Lea it meant her 22nd title at the age of only six and a half.

Further belt promotions were awarded to Max, who earned his green belt with one blue stripe for his outstanding performance, and Timur, who earned his orange belt.

Meanwhile, David won a gold medal in the 13-14 age group, bronze in the 15-16 age group, while also finishing an admirable fifth overall in the 17-18 age group to cap a hugely successful overall team performance.

KNOCK-OUT

Prior to this the team were in Beijing on the weekend of Oct 3-4 for the China International Judo Open, once again delivering a knock-out performance.

Gold medals were won by Alex, Lea, Max and lead instructor Alexis Plantard, while Damir secured silver and both Leo and David came in just fifth respectively just under medal classification.

Lea was also awarded the trophy for Best Female Fighter of

the competition to add to her collection of similar titles from the USA and Singapore Judo Open tournaments as well as the Thailand National Judo and Jujitsu Championships, proving she is currently one of the hottest emerging young talents globally in the sport.

However, arguably the most impressive achievement in the Chinese capital was winning the third-place bronze trophy in the overall team contest, given the number and technical ability of so many other teams participating.

BREATHTAKING

Previously, the team were in action at the Bhutan International Judo Open at what is likely the highest judo competition on Earth, held at a breathtaking 4,000 meters above sea level in the Himalayas.

The Aug 23-24 tournament attracted hundreds of top-class athletes from the likes of Japan, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Russia, France and Bhutan who showcased outstanding performances in a truly unique setting.

Dojo Phuket team captain David led by example to claim

gold, while Lea competed fiercely in the under-10 mixed-gender division to secure silver after losing out in the final to a male opponent three years her senior, while 11-year-old Max also stepped up in age group to secure silver in the under-14 division.

Before that, on the weekend of Aug 9-10, the team competed at the Thailand Judo Cup in Samuth Sakhon where they won an incredible 14 medals and two trophies of distinction.

Meera led the charge with two golds, Leo, Mayel and David all claimed one gold and one silver respectively, while Lea won a gold and a bronze, Ashia claimed silver and bronze and Max scored two bronze.

Additionally, Alexis won a trophy for best coach while his daughter Lea won a trophy for best fighter.

IDYLIC

The team's exploits on the road came after it was confirmed their new dojo facility in Manik had been finalised and officially opened.

"It is in an idyllic spot near the lake and we are surrounded by mountains, forest and nature,"

Alexis told *The Phuket News*.

"No traffic, no noise, no pollution – just the sound of birds and crickets. It's a peaceful and inspiring place and the perfect space to train and develop future champions and Olympians."

The new facility is 400m², making it the largest private judo dojo in Thailand, while there is also a 200m² gym/CrossFit area and a spacious 4,400m² garden.

Close to 100 people attended the official opening in mid-September and the goal is to have 100 children enrolled as students at the facility within the next 12 months, Alexis explained.

"There is also an exciting addition to our team," the Frenchman told us. "A new assistant coach who is an Olympian and five-time world champion will be joining us around Christmas time. I can't reveal specific details just yet but watch this space!"

"Good things are happening here at the Dojo Phuket and we genuinely believe the sky is the limit," Alexis concluded.

For more details including how to get involved please visit the Dojo Phuket Facebook page.

Kathu Marathon stretches its legs with full 42km distance added

MARATHON

KEEN RUNNERS HAVE the chance to truly stretch their legs after it was confirmed a full 42-kilometre marathon will feature in this year's annual running event in Kathu.

Traditionally the event features a health walk and run, a fun run, a mini marathon and a half marathon, which has seen numbers grow substantially

over the years, with over 3,000 local and international participants involved last year.

However, organisers announced at a press conference on Oct 21 that this year's event will now also incorporate a full marathon distance of 42km to truly test willing athletes.

The 29th edition of the hugely-popular occasion will take place on Sunday, Dec 14 with the following categories included:



Photo: PR Phuket

- A 2.5km health walk and run
- A 6km fun run
- A 10.5km mini marathon
- A 21km half marathon

- A 42km marathon

Each race will have separate divisions for male and female participants which will be broken up into age specific categories, with major cash prizes, trophies and medals awarded to the top three-placed athletes in each.

Organisers explained that a chip timing system will be used for ranking and that they reserve the right regarding bib number trading with prize eligibility

disqualified in the event that the name does not match the bib runner.

Phuket officials have previously detailed how the Kathu is a area very well suited to hosting long distance running events as it provides suitable terrain such as slopes and long, flat stretches through beautiful natural scenery.

The occasion also provides an important and much welcome boost to the local economy, with busi-

nesses profiting from the number of people who descend on the area before, during and after the event.

Furthermore, the event aligns with the local government policy to promote exercise as an effective way to achieve and sustain a healthier lifestyle among local residents. Full details on the Dec 14 event can be found at: <https://soft.events/run/kathu-marathon-2025>

The Phuket News