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'NO BRIBES'

EDUCATION BOSS DENIES BRIBE CLAIMS OVER FAST-TRACKED SCHOOL LICENCES

PPEAO Chief Panna Phromwichian. Photo: PPEAO

The Phuket news
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Panna Phromwichian, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Education Area Office, has strongly rejected allegations that officials have been accepting bribes to issue licences to schools, mainly international kindergartens and nurseries, that were previously found to be operating illegally.

The denial that her office is corrupt follows a formal complaint filed with the central National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) head office in Bangkok on July 30.

The letter contains allegations regarding illegal or improperly licensed nurseries, kindergartens, tutoring centres, language schools and international schools operating without the required approvals.

Yet, enforcement actions remain inconsistent, delayed, or entirely absent, despite clear legal mandates and evidence provided.

The claim also raises concern that some institutions – including those operating for many years without licences – have recently obtained licences quickly, ahead of applicants who followed due process and applied years ago.

In contrast, licensed institutions that complied with regulations have faced excessive scrutiny and long wait times.

The irregular licensing timelines in cases such as 'Aristotle School' (at Land & Houses Park) and 'Bamboo Valley Phuket' (formerly 'The Waldorf', in Cherg Talay) show that both received rapid approval for licences after years of prior operation without legal permission.

The letter requested the NACC to investigate why these licences were granted so quickly, especially when other applicants – often smaller, locally run nurseries – face months or years of delay despite compliance.

It appears that, after public exposure and the second report released in mid-2024, certain institutions previously operating illegally suddenly obtained licences with exceptionally fast approval processes, the complaint alleged.

SPEED TEST

The complaint also follows Ms Panna's office receiving a list of 55 kindergartens and nurseries found to be operating illegally on the island. The list was delivered to Ms Panna's office by Phuket Provincial Hall in late December

last year, but little action was taken until *The Phuket News* featured the issue in a page 1 story in June.

Ms Panna at that time quickly clarified that five of the self-named 'child care centres' had been shut down, and that two had been approved – but that the remaining 48 were "undergoing review".

Last week Ms Panna told *The Phuket News* that, since June, three of the remaining 48 had been approved.

However, she would not confirm whether or not any of the remaining 45 had been approved to operate. Ms Panna said that she had been to court over illegal schools shut down, but did not clarify whether this related to any of the 45, of the original 55, that were left operating illegally.

The complaint to the NACC in what it called "Selective...

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Teqball lands in Phuket with national comp



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News



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Patong holds tsunami evacuation exercise

HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS, officials and tourists joined a major tsunami evacuation drill in Patong last week (July 29) as part of a coordinated effort by Patong Municipality to strengthen disaster preparedness and build public confidence in the event of a real emergency.

The full-scale drill took place at 1:30pm, beginning at a temporary stage set up near the 'Bangla Police Box' on Patong Beach.

Patong Mayor Lalita Maneesri welcomed participants before Phuket Provincial 'Palad' (Chief Administrative Officer) Thiraphong Chuaychu presided over the opening ceremony.

Organised by the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Division of Patong Municipality, in cooperation with multiple agencies, the exercise simulated a real-life tsunami threat scenario. The drill began with the activation of an earthquake and tsunami warning, followed by a coordinated evacuation from Patong Beach and Bangla Police Box via the designated route through Soi Bangla to Soi Saen Sabai, concluding at the Soi Saen Sabai parking area.

Officials said the drill aimed to familiarise residents, businesses, and tourists with the evacu-



Photo: Patong Municipality

ation plan, and train them to help themselves and assist others during a crisis. The exercise also aimed to reduce fear, improve readiness, and ultimately limit the potential loss of life and property.

"This kind of training helps people understand what to do in the event of an emergency," Mayor Lalita said. "It gives people the knowledge to protect themselves and others, and promotes peace of mind for both locals and visitors."

Earlier in the morning, at 9am, a theoretical training session on tsunami evacuation procedures was held at Baan Sai Nam Yen School. Mayor Lalita officially opened the event and welcomed attendees. Participants included local officials, teachers, students, representatives from public and private agencies, community leaders and members of the public.

The training was led by Wichit Sutthaso, Head of the Phuket Provincial Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office (DDPM Phuket).

The Phuket News

Speedy school licences

Continued from page 1

...enforcement of closures", noted "It is also deeply concerning that only a few small Russian centers in Cherng Talay were shut down, even though the PPEAO Director confirmed over 20 illegal institutions and MSDHS reported 9 cases. The most recent enforcement targeted a center reportedly with fewer than seven children, which may not have even required a license," the complaint said.

Of note, Suwat Saowaran, Chief of the NACC Phuket office, confirmed to *The Phuket News* last week that his office had not yet received any order to investigate the complaint against the PPEAO.

DENIALS

"Every education official working here is a 'victim of corruption' [sic], not a participant," Ms Panna said.

"No official has ever received any money from anyone to issue licences. We deny any instances of fraud or corruption in obtaining school licences," she assured.

"In some cases, legal action has already been taken. Court cases are underway, lawsuits have been filed, and the PPEAO has been providing testimony throughout the process," Ms Panna said.

"I was at the court just last week," she added, noting that these proceedings are part of the office's ongoing follow-up.

"Please understand and



PPEAO Chief Ms Panna leads an inspection of a school. Photo: PPEAO

rest assured that we are working diligently and regularly conducting inspections," she said. "We may not have publicised the matter, but both the PPEAO and the Provincial Social Development and Human Security Office are actively working on this issue."

TAX DODGERS

Pasit Patcharathirath, Chief of the Phuket Area Revenue Office, declined to disclose how many illegal schools had been subject to tax collection or the total amount collected.

Mr Pasit claimed he had no knowledge of any action by his office on investigating illegal schools for tax fraud.

"I do not have that level of detail," was all he would say about illegal schools operating in Phuket.

"We collect taxes – that's our job," Mr Pasit said. "Our office's role is solely to determine whether an entity has a tax liability, and if so, to collect it. If they have a taxing authority and are required to pay taxes, we collect them."

"Whether they operate illegally or not is a separate

matter under another law, which the Phuket Provincial Area Education Office handles," he added.

Mr Pasit explained that the Phuket Area Revenue Office assesses each case based on income and the legal criteria for tax exemptions.

"Licensed private schools may qualify for various tax privileges, including exemptions on certain income, but unlicensed institutions do not," he said.

"Whenever a business generates income, taxes must be paid. But if they don't operate properly [sic], they won't qualify for exemptions, deductions, or privileges provided by law," he said. "They still have to pay."

For some reason, Mr Pasit went on to say – and emphasise – that the Revenue Department does not have legal powers to arrest, shut down or report illegal schools for enforcement action.

"It's not our responsibility to arrest or report them. However, we don't encourage people to break the law. If we were to say,

'Oh, the Revenue Department doesn't care about anything and just collects taxes,' we'd be paying for the wrongdoers – and that's not the case," he said.

The department has also turned its attention to nurseries and daycare centres to ensure they meet their tax obligations.

"Generally, schools that are established in compliance with the law receive more privileges than schools that aren't established legally. In addition to violating other laws, they won't receive any tax privileges," Mr Pasit said.

NOT OUR JOB

"Our responsibility is to investigate. We cannot order anyone to close a school," Ms Panna said. "That authority lies with the police, Immigration Bureau or other relevant agencies."

She said investigations are triggered by petitions or complaints, after which her office checks compliance with education laws.

"Once we process the petitions, we review the details. Those that are properly filed are approved. Those that are not, we submit them to the Phuket Ombudsman," she said.

Ms Panna also noted the challenges officers face in the field. "We've encountered numerous cases – from schools that have closed after our inspections to officials being threatened with lawsuits for trespassing or encroachment. Investigating these cases isn't easy," she said.

Governor voices support for 'special autonomy'

PHUKET GOVERNOR Sophon Suwannarat has renewed calls for the island to adopt a special administrative status similar to Bangkok, saying the current centralised budget allocation is leaving the province unable to cope with its growing population and tourism demands.

Governor Sophon noted that Phuket welcomed over 25,000 visitors, including Thais, per day. In 2024, Phuket attracted 13.24 million tourists, generating almost B498 billion in

tourism revenue.

"However, the province's annual development budget last year was just B169 million, allocated according to the official registered population of 400,000 – a figure far below the reality. In fact, the island currently has around 550,000 residents from other provinces, 400,000-500,000 foreigners, and 130,000 migrant workers," he noted.

"This mismatch between population and budget creates serious consequences," Governor Sophon said, citing

critical shortages in water supply, wastewater treatment, waste disposal, and transport infrastructure.

"Phuket's three reservoirs can store only 22 million cubic metres of water, forcing the province to look at drawing additional supplies from Cheow Lan Dam in Surat Thani," he pointed out.

"Wastewater and garbage remain pressing issues, with Phuket generating 1,200 tonnes of waste daily but having only one incinerator. Plans are under-

way for an additional incinerator in Thalang and a wastewater treatment upgrade, by waiting for central approval again and again," he added.

"Healthcare is also under strain. There are currently 1,700 cancer patients in Phuket, but limited government funding means the province relies on donations for key projects such as a radiation treatment centre," he noted.

The Phuket Governor said a special form of local government – giving Phuket



Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat, Phuket's highest-ranking official appointed by Bangkok, speaks at an 'autonomy' event late last month. Photo: PR Phuket

greater control over its tax revenue – is the only viable way forward.

"If we keep waiting for the central government, Phuket will not survive. We need to manage our own resources," he said.

"Under the proposal, taxes collected from Phuket would remain in Phuket, with up to 90% of tourism-related revenue

reinvested locally. This would allow large-scale infrastructure projects to be funded without years of delays," he said.

"We are an island province with unique needs. One-size-fits-all governance does not work here," he said. "It is time for Phuket to take control of its own future."

Natnaree Likidwatanasakun

Phuket landfill crisis deepens

The Phuket News

editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket authorities have launched an ambitious push to reduce the island's waste by 30% within three months, as part of emergency measures to ease the burden on the over-capacity Phuket Solid Waste Disposal Center at Saphan Hin.

The initiative was announced at a meeting of the Phuket Waste and Waste Management Committee held on July 31, chaired by Phuket Vice Governor Samawit Suphanphai, and attended by senior officials including Phuket Town Mayor Supachok Laongphet and PPAO President Rewat Areerob.

The committee agreed on a range of urgent responses to the mounting garbage crisis, including proposals to raise waste disposal fees, transfer excess waste to other provinces, and partner with private operators to process Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF).

Among the key developments was the approval for Thaipaiboon Equipment Co Ltd to transport RDF to a waste-to-energy plant in Krabi, and for D-Kids Co Ltd to move waste to a disposal facility in Prachinburi. These partnerships are intended as short-term relief



Photo: Phuket City Municipality

measures while longer-term solutions are implemented.

Currently, the Saphan Hin facility is receiving more than 1,300 tonnes of waste per day—far above its designed capacity—leading to environmental and health concerns, particularly during the rainy season when wastewater and odour issues worsen.

Mayor Supachok warned that the crisis was becoming critical.

“Waste has been accumulating over a long period, and as Phuket expands – in tourism, in population, in development – so too does

our waste problem,” he said. “The waste challenge is now a critical issue for public health and the environment.”

To help address the cost burden and discourage excessive waste generation, the Phuket City Municipality has proposed increasing the waste disposal fee from B560 to B865 per tonne. The higher rate is expected to reflect actual operational costs and incentivise waste producers—both businesses and households—to cut back at the source.

“This is not just about covering costs,” Mayor Supachok

said. “It’s about sending a clear signal that everyone must be more responsible about what they throw away.”

Authorities also called for public participation in waste reduction, with campaigns already under way to encourage source separation and better disposal habits. A proposed reforestation programme is also on the table, aimed at offsetting the environmental impact of current disposal practices.

“We cannot solve this alone,” Mayor Supachok stressed. “Every sector must come together to build a transparent, efficient and community-driven system that matches Phuket’s unique needs.”

The committee’s proposals will be formally submitted to the Ministry of Interior and other relevant national agencies for further review and support.

In a related move, Phuket City Municipality has requested a B30 million subsidy to continue Phase 2 of a landfill rehabilitation project at the Saphan Hin waste centre. The request was submitted on July 29 to help upgrade the landfill in line with sanitary engineering standards, expand its capacity and reduce the backlog of accumulated waste.

The funding proposal was welcomed at the July 31

committee meeting, with PPAO President Rewat Areerob pledging support by reallocating budget from non-urgent projects.

“Waste is a serious and urgent problem that affects Phuket’s image as a tourist destination. But more importantly, it impacts the quality of life of our residents,” Mr Rewat said.

The PPAO Council is expected to vote on the funding request at its next meeting.

Mayor Supachok expressed appreciation for the support.

“This project is not just about improving Phuket’s image for tourism, but more importantly, about improving the quality of life for our local residents in a sustainable way,” he said.

The unified push marks a rare show of coordination among municipal, provincial and private stakeholders in tackling what many now view as one of Phuket’s most urgent challenges. Authorities have warned that failure to act swiftly risks escalating health, environmental and economic impacts—particularly as tourism continues to rebound.

“We must act decisively,” Vice Governor Samawit said. “The wellbeing of Phuket’s residents, our tourism reputation, and the island’s future all depend on it.”

Srisoonthorn Rd upgrade gains support

A B420 MILLION PLAN TO UPGRADE Srisoonthorn Rd (Route 4025) from the Heroines Monument to Cherg Talay Police Station has received widespread public support, following a public hearing held in Srisoonthorn last week.

The meeting, led by Thalang District Chief Rachen Songdaeng and joined by Phuket Highways Office Deputy Director Sanakorn Thapthimthongsuk, Srisoonthorn Mayor Chalermphol Kerdsup, local officials and residents, focused on gathering feedback and presenting detailed plans for the major roadworks set to begin by December.

Mayor Chalermphol confirmed the strong backing from attendees. “After the public hearing, most participants agreed and expressed support for the project, expecting it to proceed smoothly,” he said. “The work will not require new land clearing or the creation of new roads, but will focus on repairing the existing route, improving drainage and upgrading traffic engineering.”

The project, now in the design survey phase, covers a 5.95-kilometre stretch of Srisoonthorn Rd – an important connector for both local traffic and tourists linking Cherg Talay with Thepkasattri Rd. The road currently handles an average of 21,000 vehicles per day, with traffic volumes expected to continue rising.

Funded by the Department of Highways’ fiscal 2025 budget, the upgrade includes transforming the route into a four-lane highway with a raised central median from km 1+000 to km 6+250. The final 700 metres (km 6+250 to km 6+950) will remain a two-lane road but will be im-



MAIN: Mayor Chalermphol speaks with local residents. Photo: Srisoonthorn Municipality. INSET: Map

proved with a painted median and footpaths.

Additional upgrades include: seven U-turn points, road resurfacing, improved drainage systems, street lighting and updated traffic signage and markings.

Engineers say the new design aims to reduce congestion, improve safety, and support Phuket’s economic and tourism development. Safety features, including designated U-turns and better lighting, are intended to lower accident risks along the busy route.

Mayor Chalermphol explained that the road has not undergone major improvements in over a decade and has suffered from repeated digging and poor resurfacing – particularly near Baan Manik School and Wat Manik – often due to utility works by the waterworks authority.

The construction is expected to take approximately 36 months to complete, with work slated to begin by the end of this year.

The Phuket Highways Office, which is overseeing the project, has emphasised the importance of public involvement in shaping the final design. At the hearing, attendees were invited to review maps and models, ask questions and provide suggestions. *The Phuket News*

Governor welcomes Vietnamese Ambassador, talks trade, tourism

PHUKET GOVERNOR Sophon Suwannarat welcomed Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Pham Viet Hung to Phuket Provincial Hall on July 31, as the two parties explored opportunities to deepen cooperation in tourism, urban development and potential sister-city partnerships.

The courtesy call, held at 2:30pm in the Governor’s Reception Room, highlighted growing interest from both sides in expanding cultural and economic ties, explained an official report of the meeting.

The ambassador was accompanied by a delegation from the Vietnamese Embassy and was received by prominent Phuket officials, including Siriwan Siharat, Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket Office; Thaneth Tantipiriyakij, President of the Phuket Tourist Association; and Chernporn Kanchanasaya, President



Photo: PR Phuket

of the Andaman Coast branch of the Industry Council Southern Thailand and chapter.

Amb Pham expressed Vietnam’s interest in Phuket’s model of tourism success and urban development, noting that both countries have long-standing cultural links and shared economic goals, said the report.

He also referenced recent high-level engagements between the two nations, including visits by the Thai Prime Minister to Vietnam, as encouraging signs of deepening regional cooperation.

“Phuket presents a strong example of tourism-led economic growth and smart urban planning,” the ambassador said. “We see many areas of mutual interest where

Vietnam and Thailand, especially provinces like Phuket, can cooperate closely.”

Governor Sophon responded by reaffirming the province’s openness to greater bilateral engagement. “We are proud to host more than 700 Vietnamese nationals who live and work in Phuket. They are an important part of our community and workforce,” he said.

“Phuket is open to serious cooperation, knowledge exchange and future sister-city relations with Vietnamese cities.”

Both sides expressed a desire to build on existing people-to-people links and promote tourism flows between Vietnam and Phuket, said the report of the meeting.

Discussions also touched on the potential for direct collaborations in urban infrastructure development, sustainability efforts and investment, added the report.

The Phuket News

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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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FRI AUGUST 8

High: +36°
Low: +29°
Wind 11 m/s

SAT AUGUST 9

High: +36°
Low: +28°
Wind 11 m/s

SUN AUGUST 10

High: +35°
Low: +28°
Wind 11 m/s

MON AUGUST 11

High: +35°
Low: +27°
Wind 4 m/s

TUE AUGUST 12

High: +35°
Low: +28°
Wind 4 m/s

WED AUGUST 13

High: +37°
Low: +28°
Wind 4 m/s

THU AUGUST 14

High: +36°
Low: +27°
Wind 4 m/s

Aeroflot flight forced to return after takeoff

AN AEROFLOT FLIGHT bound for Novosibirsk was forced to turn back shortly after taking off from Phuket International Airport on July 29, reportedly due to a technical issue.

The Airbus A330, operating as flight SU637, departed at 9:53am local time – about 30 minutes behind schedule – but was seen circling for nearly an hour before landing back on the island, according to FlightRadar24. As of 7:20pm, the aircraft, registration RA-73782, remained parked at the airport.

No official announcements have been made on the Aeroflot website or social media channels regarding the incident, reports *Novosti Phuket*, *The Phuket News*' Russian-language sister outlet.

Citing Russian media outlet *Novaya Sibir*, the return to Phuket was reportedly due to a technical malfunction detected after takeoff. The publication stated that all passengers had been provided accommodation and would remain in Thailand until the rescheduled departure on July 30.

“According to official

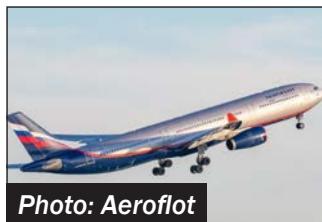


Photo: Aeroflot

statements from the company, the plane from Phuket was unable to fly to Novosibirsk not because of problems after the hacking—a technical malfunction was detected on the aircraft,” *Novaya Sibir* reported.

The reference to “hacking” relates to a cyberattack on Aeroflot's IT systems on July 28, which led to widespread flight cancellations on both domestic and international routes. The airline confirmed the incident through its official social media posts, stating that services were returning to normal by July 29.

However, no specific mention has been made of flight SU637, suggesting that *Novaya Sibir* obtained its information through a direct inquiry to the airline.

Aeroflot has not issued any timeline for when the aircraft will be cleared for takeoff or whether a replacement aircraft will be deployed. *The Phuket News*

Men arrested after Saphan Hin brawl

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Three young men were arrested in the early hours of July 30 after confronting rival youths during a violent clash at the ‘Parn Hin’ festival at Saphan Hin earlier that evening, where weapons were brandished and firecrackers thrown. No injuries were reported.

The incident took place around 10:30pm near the festival's central stage area.

Officers from Phuket City Police responded to reports of youths chasing each other with knives – and at least one man brandishing a sword – and the sound of a loud firecracker, believed to have been thrown during the altercation.

A video recorded at the time showed people fleeing to safety.

A team of investigators and patrol officers led by Pol Lt Col Yutthaphon Phromdao, Pol Col Chatree Chukaew, Chief of Phuket City Police, and other senior officers responded to the scene.



Image: Phuket City Police

Witnesses told police that two rival groups of youths had met at the event and began threatening one another. One group reportedly threw a large firecracker, prompting the other to brandish what appeared to be a gun, though no shots were fired. The groups then fled before police arrived.

At around 12:30am, investigators arrested three suspects – identified as Chatchai, 20; Ong-at, 20; and Ekkasit, 21 – at the scene. Officers seized several weapons including a homemade pen gun, a .38-calibre round, brass knuckles, a 14.5-inch black leather sheath, and a six-inch folding knife.

Upon questioning, the suspects admitted to encountering their rivals during the festival and engaging in a confrontation that escalated to threats involving weapons and firecrackers. They fled after the scuffle but were later apprehended.

Pol Col Chatree ordered drug screening for all three suspects, with test results returning positive for methamphetamine use.

The suspects now face multiple charges. All three were charged with possession of an unlicensed firearm and carrying a weapon in a public place without reasonable cause, as well as use of Category 1 narcotics (methamphetamine).

Underpass crash injures three

POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING a multi-vehicle accident involving a semi-trailer truck at the Darasamut Underpass that left three people injured last Friday (Aug 1).

The collision occurred at 10:44am at the entrance to the underpass, located near Central Festival Phuket. Rescue teams from the Kusoldharm Phuket Foundation responded quickly to the scene and transported the injured – a man, a woman and a young girl – to Dibuk Hospital for treatment. Their conditions have not yet been publicly disclosed.

Dashcam footage of the crash was later shared on Facebook by user ‘Paileiw Tilatum’ on the page ‘Driving like this must be exposed’. The 32-second clip shows the moment the semi-trailer slammed into another



Photo: Kusoldharm Phuket Foundation

vehicle while entering the underpass. The video's caption speculated that the truck driver may have fallen asleep or experienced brake failure.

The wreckage was soon cleared, leaving traffic flowing freely through the tunnel.

At last report police were reviewing the footage and questioning witnesses to determine the exact cause of the crash.

Motorists are urged to continue exercising caution when passing through the underpass.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Patong lifeguard praised for catching beach thief

A PATONG LIFEGUARD HAS been praised for catching a 28-year-old Thai transgender woman who has since been charged with theft after snatching a bracelet from a tourist doing her morning exercise on the beach.

The lifeguard, Worayut Naowprai, intervened after the tourist raised the alarm. He was soon joined by other bystanders, including a council garbage collector.

The tourist suffered a minor abrasion to the inside of her left elbow in the theft, and a video of the incident showed her emotionally distraught by the incident.

The video, shared by the Newshawk Phuket Facebook page, showed the tourist very grateful for the capture of the thief, and the return of her bracelet. “Thank you. Thank you,” she kept repeating.



Photo: Patong Police

The 28-year-old thief, Naphasini Yarak from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, was handed over to Patong Police, whose patrol officers were soon at the scene.

Patong Police in their own post online, confirmed that the thief had been charged with theft.

A cash reward was also awarded to Patong lifeguard Mr Worayut for his good actions, and to encourage others to support the police in their continued efforts, Patong Police confirmed. *Eakkapop Thongtub*

Cannabis clouds tourism push

The Phuket News
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Cannabis use in public and the growing number of cannabis shops in tourist areas are threatening Phuket's image as a family-friendly destination, local officials warned last week during a high-level visit by Tourism and Sports Minister Sorawong Thienthong.

Phuket MP Chalermpong Saengdee submitted a formal letter to the minister urging immediate action, citing public concern and international perceptions. Since cannabis was decriminalised in Thailand in 2022, the number of outlets in Phuket has surged to more than 1,200.

MP Chalermpong said that while cannabis tourism may appeal to some, many visitors – especially from countries where cannabis remains illegal, such as China, Singapore, and Japan – are uncomfortable with its open presence. This could discourage high-spending groups like families and the elderly from visiting.

"There is confusion about what is legal and where cannabis can be used," he said, adding that the lack of clear rules has raised concerns about odour control, age



limits, and mental health impacts on youth. He called for designated cannabis zones, clearer advertising rules, and stronger enforcement to separate cannabis from mainstream tourism areas.

The warning came as Minister Sorawong visited Soi Bangla in Patong on Aug 1 to promote the 'Phuket Model' of safe tourism and inspect the area's readiness to welcome international visitors under higher safety standards.

The minister reviewed safety improvements in Phuket's most famous nightlife zone, including 24-hour CCTV coverage, new transport systems, and better pedestrian access. Nine of 24 new CCTV cameras have been installed in Soi Bangla, and tourist assistance points have

carried out over 700 operations since May.

New retractable fences at both ends of Soi Bangla help enforce its status as a Walking Street, while facial recognition CCTV cameras are now linked to national criminal databases. Random venue checks and staff drug testing have also been introduced.

Traffic flow in Patong has been restructured in collaboration with the Phuket Land Transport Office and Patong Municipality, with designated bus stops, parking, and drop-off zones. Police officers are now stationed during peak hours – from 6–8pm and 2–4am – supported by digital radios and surveillance cameras.

Mr Sorawong also observed a lifeguard rescue simulation and

visited the Patong CCTV control centre, where he thanked frontline staff. "Phuket must be a safe, trustworthy place that welcomes visitors from around the world," he said, confirming the 'Phuket Model' would be used as a template for other tourist cities across Thailand.

Earlier in the day, Mr Sorawong chaired a meeting at the Royal Phuket City Hotel to review local tourism policies and gather feedback from provincial and private sector leaders.

Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat gave an overview of the island's safety operations, while officials from the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Tourist Police, and Phuket Provincial Police provided updates on the 'Bangla Sandbox' initiative.

Nanthida Atiseth, Vice President of International Marketing at the Phuket Tourist Association, reported a 103% increase in tourist arrivals from Jan 1 to July 31, 2025 – including a 162% rise in Israeli tourists. However, arrivals from China and Hong Kong declined, and July saw an 11.9% drop in flights due to unrest in Bangkok.

Surveyed tourists listed overcrowding, traffic, and cannabis use as their top concerns. However, many praised

Phuket's fast immigration process, beaches, local food, and wide accommodation options.

Phuket Chamber of Commerce President Kongsak Khoophongsakorn called for more tourist police – currently only 50 are stationed on the island, short of the 70 needed to manage Phuket's 14 million annual visitors. He also urged tighter regulation of car rental businesses and enhanced water safety measures.

Dr Supalak La-ongpetch of Vachira Phuket Hospital proposed requiring tourists to have health insurance to ease pressure on the public healthcare system.

Meanwhile, former tourism association president Bhumikitti Ruktaengam announced that Phuket will soon host major events, including the Thailand Biennale 2025, the Global Sustainable Tourism Conference 2026, and the FIVB Volleyball Women's World Championship from Aug 22 to Sept 7 – the first time the event will be held in Thailand.

Minister Sorawong reaffirmed the government's commitment to keeping Phuket safe and welcoming. "I will act as a facilitator to ensure better coordination between agencies," he said. "Safety and tourist confidence remain our top priorities."

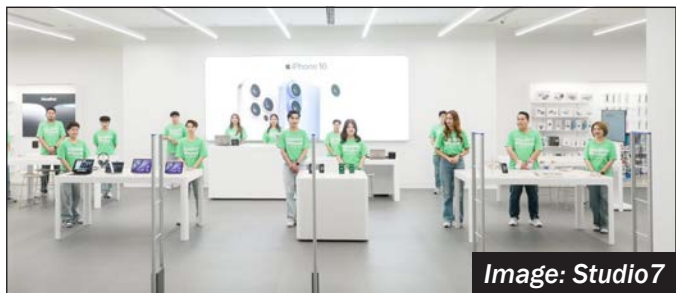
Apple shop staffer leaks private image

STUDIO7, AN OFFICIAL Apple distributor in Thailand, has issued a public apology and confirmed legal action against six employees involved in a serious breach of customer privacy at its Central Phuket branch, where a private image from a customer's device was improperly accessed and shared.

"The incident came to light after a customer discovered that a private photo – stored only on their personal device – was being used as a profile picture on a Tinder account under the name 'Nam, 30'. The image, according to the customer, had never been published online," Pol Lt Watcharakon Suwan, an investigator at Wichit Police said.

The customer traced the breach back to Studio7 Central Phuket, where they had recently brought in their device for servicing, he noted.

"An internal investigation revealed that an employee, later identified as Siwasan Thanyakarn, had used AirDrop to transfer the private image from the customer's device to his



own phone. He then shared the image in a Telegram group with five other employees, totaling six staff members involved in the breach," he explained.

"Although only one customer has formally filed a police complaint so far, the company acknowledged the potential for more victims and is cooperating fully with law enforcement," Pol Lt Watcharakon said.

Studio7 stated that it considers the act a serious violation of company policy and customer trust.

In an official statement, the company emphasised that it has strict regulations forbidding staff from accessing or storing customer data, particularly when devices are brought in for service.

"All involved employees have been dismissed, and

legal proceedings are now underway," the announcement from Studio7 confirmed.

Studio7 also stressed that it has reviewed and strengthened its internal security protocols and will continue regular staff training on data privacy.

Studio7 concluded by reiterating its "sincere regret" for the incident and its commitment to transparency, privacy protection and social responsibility.

The case is now under the supervision of police, customers with related concerns are encouraged to report them directly to the police station.

Studio7 has retail branches nationwide and is recognised as an authorised seller of Apple products in Thailand.

Natnaree
Likidwatanasakun

Announcement Official Public Notice Attachment No. A-1 to the Manifesto on the Embodiment of Blood Heir No. AV-1

Here and now on the continental part of the land of the free region within the meridians and parallels: coordinates **7°54'12.1"N 98°22'35.5"E**, altitude above sea level ... husband with Own appellation : © Lesha, the administrator of the person Alexey Ponomarev officially publicly informs everyone about the embodiment of a boy with given OWN appellation : © Dariy the true blood HEIR husband with given OWN denomination : © Lesha and wife with given OWN denomination: Vika, located in a strong Family union of love.

Husband with granted OWN appellation: © Lesha HEIR husband with granted OWN appellation : © Serezha and wife with granted OWN denomination: Galya, consisting in a family union and wife with granted OWN appellation : © Vika HEIR wife with granted OWN appellation : © Vitya and wife with granted OWN denomination : © Rita, consisting in a family union, gave to the blood newly appeared HEIR OWN appellation : © Dariy.

In accordance with customs, traditions, a boy with Own given appellation: © Dariy appeared in the manifested dimension at coordinates **7°54'12.1"N 98°22'35.5"E**, altitude above sea level **14**

The fact of the appearance of the blood HEIR is recorded in the Book of Acts of Embodiment of Blood HEIRs of the Family of the Kind under No. N-13

We inform that the appellation is reserved: Dariy and all property and non-property rights of the HEIR. The application and use of presumptions and fictions to the HEIR of the Family of the Kind is strictly prohibited.

Original Attachment No. A-1 to the Manifesto on the Embodiment of the HEIR No. AV-1 is printed on embossed paper, in purple, crimson and green paints, in one of the six official international working languages.

All rights reserved and protected. Without obligations of the HEIR and HEIRs under secret contracts.

Everything is present and accounted for.
All data is saved by the Creator.

From a Phuket marina to Megawatts: The Clean Energy Platform Quietly Transforming Thailand

ADVERTORIAL

In a quiet corner of Royal Phuket Marina sits the Thailand head office of a company redefining how clean energy infrastructure is built and financed across Southeast Asia. While most associate Phuket with luxury resorts and tropical ease, New Energy Capital Asia is turning the island into an unlikely command center for serious infrastructure work – built to global standards, backed by institutional capital, and delivering long-term value for both businesses and the planet.

Founded in Singapore and led by European energy veterans, New Energy Capital Asia develops, finances and operates rooftop solar, battery storage and thermal energy systems for commercial and industrial clients. Its long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) models allow businesses to decarbonise without investing upfront – energy savings begin on day one, and the systems are transferred at zero cost at contract maturity.

Though its execution operations are run from Bangkok's Two Pacific Place, Phuket is more than a registered address – it is the strategic and spiritual home. CEO and Co-Founder Marc Lamsfuss, a



longtime Phuket resident, relocated from Singapore in 2019 to prove a simple thesis: that clean energy in Southeast Asia could be delivered to global standards – if done with the right structure, the right team and the right execution mindset.

That thesis is proving true. Over the past two years, New Energy Capital Asia has quietly become a trusted partner to some of Thailand's most respected hospitality groups. Rooftop solar systems at Mövenpick Bangtao Beach, Cassia Laguna under Banyan Group and Hyatt Regency Koh Samui have all been delivered without disruption, with

high aesthetic integration, and with the operational performance promised. These successful rollouts have evolved into portfolio-scale energy agreements with premium resort owners and branded residence developers across the country.

Yet New Energy Capital Asia is far from a niche hospitality operator. The company is now scaling rapidly across industrial and commercial sectors, delivering solar and battery systems for logistics, automotive, cold storage, F&B and OEM clients nationwide. This month, New Energy Capital Asia entered a strategic partnership with Bosch Thailand to

jointly deploy Heating-as-a-Service (HaaS) systems – combining Bosch's engineering pedigree with New Energy Capital Asia's BOOT model to electrify and decarbonize industrial heat at scale – targeting large food processing plants in Thailand and beyond.

What distinguishes New Energy Capital Asia is its dual fluency – technical and financial. The company holds projects through BOI-certified entities in Thailand and structures funding via a regulated Singapore platform, purpose-built for institutional investors. It is not a contractor. It is a long-term asset owner and operator – aligning capital and client performance over decades, not quarters.

As of mid-2025, New Energy Capital Asia has over 25 full-time professionals across Thailand and Singapore and plans to expand to 60 by 2026. "We're fortunate to have one of the most capable teams in the industry," says Lamsfuss. "Our ability to combine institutional discipline with local execution is what sets us apart." The company is currently raising US\$100 million in growth equity to support its Thai project pipeline and upcoming regional expansions into Malaysia and Indonesia.

But infrastructure is not the only thing on the company's agenda.

In 2026, New Energy Capital Asia will launch a foundation

focused on rural electrification, donating rooftop solar systems to schools and clinics in underserved areas of Thailand. "We're building a business with strong fundamentals," says Lamsfuss, "but we also believe that infrastructure capital should leave behind something that matters – beyond the spreadsheet."

New Energy Capital Asia also sees potential for Phuket to become a new hub for clean energy talent and infrastructure finance. With its high-quality education, international healthcare, and outstanding lifestyle, the island is increasingly attractive to professionals in private equity, clean energy, and engineering. "There's a growing number of people who want to live here and work on things that matter," says Lamsfuss. "We're seeing real momentum — and we're just getting started." For developers, resort operators, manufacturers, and investors, New Energy Capital Asia offers something increasingly rare: a clean energy platform that delivers – financially, technically, and reputationally. Anchored in Phuket and engineered for scale, New Energy Capital Asia is building the next generation of distributed energy infrastructure across Thailand and Southeast Asia – and it's doing so from the ground up.

Marc Lamsfuss, Co-Founder & CEO, marc@newenergycapitalasia.com

Thailand hails US tariff deal as 'major success'

THAILAND HAS SECURED a key trade agreement with the United States that will see Thai goods subject to a 19% import tariff, down from the initially threatened 36%, which the Thai government is touting as a major diplomatic and economic success.

The deal, finalised after weeks of tense negotiations, was announced on Aug 1 and at time of press was to have come into effect yesterday (Aug 7).

"This finalised deal, setting US import tariffs at 19%, marks a major success for Thailand," government spokesman Jirayu Huang said in a statement. "It represents a win-win approach aimed at preserving Thailand's export base and long-term economic stability."

The new 19% rate replaces the previous 10% duty and applies to a wide range of Thai goods. Products exported before Aug 7 remain under the old rate.

In exchange, Thailand has agreed to eliminate

import duties on more than 10,000 items from the US, while maintaining protections on sensitive sectors such as domestic pork production.

LEVEL PLAYING FIELD Dr Prommin Lertsuridej, Secretary-General to the Prime Minister, confirmed the agreement during a press briefing on Monday (Aug 4), saying the outcome places Thailand on a level playing field with regional peers and gives Thai exporters a fair shot in the US market.

"This was a global crisis, not one faced by Thailand alone," Dr Prommin said. "But we've now reached a resolution that offers significant advantages for our business sector going forward."

He said the deal would now move to parliament for final approval following a special cabinet session to review the negotiation framework.

"We now have a clear answer, and that clarity enables us to expand trade



and market access," he said, adding that while the crisis phase is over, the government's work continues as it shifts focus to broader economic restructuring.

The deal comes as Thailand struggles to reignite its post-pandemic economy. The country's GDP grew just 2.5% in 2024, and the government has slashed its 2025 growth forecast to between 2.3% and 3.3%, citing global uncertainties including trade tensions.

The United States is Thailand's second-largest trading partner. In 2024, the US goods trade deficit with Thailand reached US\$45.6

billion (about B1.5 trillion), an 11.7% increase from the year before, according to the US Trade Representative.

ASSURANCES

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Pichai Chunhavajira also sought to reassure the public that the agreement was purely economic in nature.

"The agreement focuses solely on trade and economic collaboration," he said. "Although the initial phase is concluded, several technical, legal and domestic steps remain before full implementation."

Mr Pichai confirmed that negotiations covered four key areas: tariff structures, tradable goods, investment frameworks and non-tariff barriers. The deal aligns with Thailand's existing Free Trade Agreements and does not compromise national interests in sensitive sectors, he said.

As part of the agreement, Thailand has agreed to modest market openings, including quota-based imports of US pork, soybeans,

and corn. Pork will remain tightly controlled due to health and industry concerns, while soybean imports will be capped at 1-2 million tonnes and subject to strict inspections.

To ensure the tariff benefits are not abused, a new Certificate of Origin (C/O) system will be enforced. Only goods with at least 40% local Thai content will qualify for the reduced tariff. Those falling short will face a 40% penalty duty.

SUPPORT FOR EXPORTERS

To help Thai industries adapt to the new landscape, the government has allocated more than B10 billion from the Competitiveness Enhancement Fund. The funding will support factory upgrades, job retention and cost reductions across sectors.

"Each industry has different needs, and we're responding with targeted support – finance, infrastructure, and regulatory standards," said Mr Pichai.

He also revealed that Thai companies are now exploring investment opportunities in the US, especially in agricultural processing, and that Thailand plans to increase crude oil imports from the US by about 10% starting in 2026.

In the aviation sector, the government is preparing to modernise its ageing fleet with 80 to 90 new small aircraft to be acquired over the next decade.

Mr Pichai said Thailand's GDP growth, previously forecast at 2.2%, could exceed expectations depending on global conditions and how well the new trade measures are implemented.

"Major corporations are now preparing to invest in Thailand, recognising the country's strong fundamentals and long-term potential," he said.

The Thai government emphasised that it will maintain full transparency as the agreement goes through parliament and continues to monitor its economic impacts.

AFP

Royal Thai Army claims 'win' in Cambodia border conflict

UDON RATCHATHANI

Bangkok Post

The Royal Thai Army (RTA) has declared success in reclaiming control over the disputed Chong Arn Ma border area in Udon Ratchathani's Nam Yuen district, specifically near the Ta Om Monument, following five days of armed clashes with Cambodian forces.

Prior to the confrontation that began on July 28, Thai military personnel had been unable to gain access to the monument zone, which had been occupied by Cambodian troops in what Thai officials described as a violation of Thai sovereignty.

The confrontation marked a turning point in the standoff over the Chong Arn Ma area along the Thai-Cambodian border, said RTA spokesman Maj Gen Winthai Suvarree on Monday (Aug 4).

Cambodian troops had previously maintained a presence near the Ta Om Monument, denying Thai



Thai soldiers in Udon Ratchathani on Aug 2. Photo: Royal Thai Army

forces access to the disputed zone, he said.

As observed on July 30 when the Cambodian army led a delegation of 13 international diplomats to visit the disputed area, both Thai and Cambodian sides have agreed to a set of joint guidelines aimed at easing tensions and avoiding further confrontations.

Under the agreement, each side will station five unarmed personnel within the disputed area. In addition, joint patrols will be conducted for 15 minutes per session around the Ta Om Monument and nearby areas. Access to the patrol zone will be allowed at all times without restriction.

The RTA's comments came a day after Thailand

lodged diplomatic protests against Cambodia for violating their ceasefire agreement.

Foreign Affairs Minister Maris Sangiampongsa said the protests were submitted to the prime minister of Malaysia, in his capacity as ASEAN chair, and to the United States and China, which are serving as observers in the Thai-Cambodian border dispute after claims Cambodian forces continued firing along the border despite the ceasefire agreement.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Meanwhile, several Thai universities and schools have offered full scholarships to the families of Thai soldiers who died or were

wounded during the conflict between Thailand and Cambodia.

Maharakham University of the Northeast announced the scholarships on Friday (Aug 1), in honour and gratitude for the bravery of the soldiers fighting for the country.

The full scholarships cover elementary and secondary grades at the university's Demonstration School and bachelor, masters and doctoral programmes, according to university president Prayuk Sriwilai.

The National Institute of Development Administration also offered scholarships for those families who wish to study at the Graduate School of Public Administration, while Chulalongkorn University similarly announced its full scholarships for families of officers and civilians who died during the clashes.

"The scholarships were granted to honour their sacrifice and to support people who lost loved ones," the university said.

PM 'has no plan' to quit before ruling

BANGKOK

SUSPENDED PRIME minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra has rejected reports suggesting she will resign before the Constitutional Court issues a ruling on the leaked recording of her conversation with Cambodian Senate President Hun Sen.

Several media reports claimed Ms Paetongtarn is planning to quit as premier before the court hands down the ruling to avoid a guilty verdict in the case. If she steps down early, the case would be aborted, saving her from a political ban that comes with an unfavourable ruling.

Responding to questions from the press about the rumour her secretary-general Prommin Lertsuridej said on Monday (Aug 4) there was no truth to such reports.

"I can confirm that she has no intention to resign at this time," he said. "We are proceeding in strict accordance with the law, and we stand by the legitimacy of our actions."



Paetongtarn Shinawatra. Photo: Bangkok Post

Dr Prommin said Ms Paetongtarn was confident about her prospects, as she had no other intentions but to guide the country away from the security crisis unfolding along the border.

He said as the nation's leader, Ms Paetongtarn consulted thoroughly with security agencies, including the military and the National Security Council, before implementing any measures.

She made informal calls to individuals outside official channels to help defuse tensions and prevent violent confrontations with Cambodia, Dr Prommin said.

"It will be up to the court to make the final decision," Dr Prommin said.

Bangkok Post



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Photos: Simon Lomas



Phuket Tails: One man and his cat

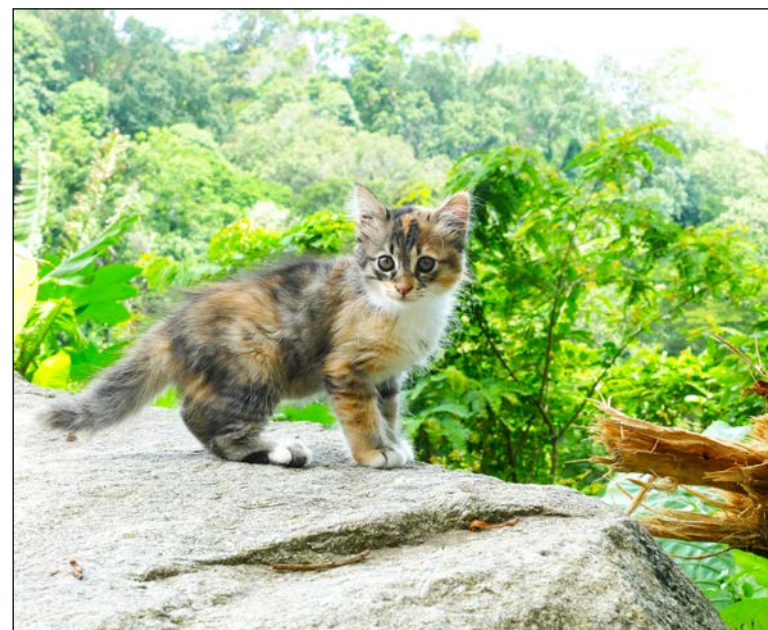
Simon Lomas

After my series of articles in 2024 on the birds and butterflies of Phuket that seemed to be of interest I am glad to confirm I am now back to continue reporting on what I see when out and about in our tropical paradise.

My last series came to an unexpected end due to a surprise event one wet and windy night. I was walking up one of the hills above Patong, the rain tipping down and the wind blowing everything sideways. The road was being “repaired” and the drainage ditches were flooded due to the dumped debris, with water rushing down them like a mountain stream.

Suddenly there was a loud shout from below my feet – not a human shout but that of a tiny kitten, very wet, dirty and shivering. It waited until I was close enough and called again several times, making sure its voice was heard above the wind, rain and rushing water. I pulled the kitten out and set it down expecting a mother cat to appear. But no, there were no other cats in the area. The kitten then waddled over and sat on my foot. I picked it up, discovered it was a female, tucked her under my jacket and took her home.

After drying her off, making a bed for her, getting some kitten food from 7-Eleven and preparing a small litter tray from a box and wood chips, I went to bed. In the morning there was this tiny fur ball lying on her bed. The food



was gone and, surprisingly, the litter tray was used. There was no mess, no noise – just a tiny, happy face looking up at me.

Inseparable

There was no way I could keep a kitten, I told myself. Living in a second floor room with no garden, working six days a week, then writing and out taking photos for *The Phuket News* on my day off. I decided to search for her family and, if unsuccessful, would look for a home for her.

Unable to locate the mother, I took her to my work, along with a litter tray, food and a small bed. All day she would sleep on my chair or at my feet, just as long as she was in touching distance of me. If not, she panicked and cried. By the time I got home that night I knew there was no way I could give her away and so I named her. My little Leo was here to stay and since that day she has never been away from me, day or night.

She stayed on the balcony for the first week, where she ate and slept. She was comfortable as long as I was nearby. Perhaps she was just scared of being alone again. We visited the vet where she was vaccinated and weighed, revealing she was around four weeks old. We have been inseparable since; at work, on the beach, in restaurants or just playing near home. Her appetite was healthy as she took in everything from omelette, hot dogs and pork balls

to lasagna and scrambled eggs – she even had a small bit of Christmas pudding during the festive season!

Love and devotion

Leo loves accompanying me on the walk to and from work each day, chasing butterflies and playing. She is happy on a leash and especially likes the beach, chasing crabs and pigeons and just watching the waves. She knows the longtail boat drivers, the ladies at the fish market, the staff at several 7-Elevens, taxi drivers, the beach massage ladies and has to say good morning to them all. A 30-minute walk takes around an hour and a half. But that's fine. You get to see more while you walk.

Leo travels on my shoulder when she is not walking. I think she likes to see what's going on and talk to me as we go. Strangers approach us to say hello, with many stating they have seen Leo on various social media platforms, ones that I do not even use! The initial downside of being accompanied by a cat was the fact the birds tended to stay well away and I had very little to write about. However, Leo seemed to somehow understand my love of birds and soon became an ally, regularly spotting them for me and rarely chasing them away.

Cats learn quickly and with a bit of effort you can learn cat too! Then your whole world changes forever. It is said

that a meow is not actually how cats communicate amongst one another but a language they have developed to talk to humans. Any cat that meows at you is taking time to talk to you or ask for help. You may be their last hope and that meow means they still have hope. Just a simple good morning to them could make their day and let them know they have been seen and are no longer invisible. A little left over food, an old t-shirt or towel to sleep on costs nothing but will be the world to them. If you can take them in to adopt them then even better.

Remember, that stray on the street did not choose that life. They are just trying to survive. They need to eat and find a safe place away from soi dogs, cars, bikes, snakes and certain humans. All they dream of is a safe place and full stomach. Once they have a home, food, a safe place to sleep and a bit of love, most cats will be more than content.

I'm not sure whether I rescued Leo or she rescued me on that wet and windy night almost a year ago. Regardless, I would 100% advise anyone to consider adopting or being adopted by a kitten. There are so many here in Phuket with nowhere to go that can only dream about finding a real home and the love and devotion a cat gives has no limits. I am only just seeing the start of that with Leo and cannot wait for what is yet to come.





Photos: Twinpalms Resorts



Luxury beachside spot under canvas wows

Ben Tirebuck

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Camping has always been a somewhat divisive subject. For some, the idea of pitching up an often flimsy fabric structure in a random location and making it a temporary home for a period of time is joyous – the freedom it offers, the ability to be immersed in nature and the great outdoors is valued as a wonderful thing. However, for others, the very thought sends an uncomfortable chill down the spine; the notion of sleeping bags, lying on hard ground, cooking from a camp fire and using shared cleaning facilities initiates a hard sense of panic and dread.

Maybe this is exactly why the advent of ‘Glamping’ is so welcome. Described by everyone’s favourite reference site Wikipedia as “a portmanteau of ‘glamorous’ and ‘camping’... a style of camping with amenities and, in some cases, resort-style services not usually associated with ‘traditional’ camping.” Such venues have become increasingly popular in recent times and, never having experienced it myself, I therefore approached a recent stay for my partner and I at the Twinpalms Tented Camp Phuket with eager anticipation. The “tented resort” is even described as “a getaway beyond glamping,” promising the “experience of romantic luxury under canvas, as you become a guest of nature”. Exciting!

Adults only

On arrival, my partner and I are immediately impressed by the venue itself, with generous columns of bamboo providing welcome privacy from the busy surrounding area. In fact, upon setting foot inside the resort it is almost as if you have entered a portal to an altogether peaceful, welcoming space – you would genuinely be forgiven for quickly forgetting that you are in the middle of one of the island’s most popular and therefore busy destinations, and only a short stroll from the beach to boot. The resort operates an adults only policy too which further enhances the peaceful ambience.

The reception is equally impressive – classy in its structure and manned by professional and extremely courteous staff. A cool towel to mitigate the humid midday sun and a refreshing beverage are just the ticket as we very quickly

ease ourselves into the tranquil surroundings. Resort Manager Marc Landgraf provides us with a warm welcome and a detailed overview on the resort before taking us on a tour of the grounds.

The array of luxurious tents and suites are splendid and smartly positioned in the lush tropical surroundings to ensure enough space and privacy. The structures themselves are incredibly impressive, solid in build and purposefully coloured to blend in with the natural environment. Inside, they are a delight to behold – more luxury hotel room than what I ever envisaged glamping to be. Our single (king-sized bedroom? Single sounds like a single bed?) bedroom option is spacious and beautifully decorated with thoughtful features throughout. Similarly the bathroom is well conceived and constructed, with privacy ensured and all luxury amenities on hand. The private pool outside is the icing on the cake and makes for a wonderful opportunity to cool off ahead of an outrageously relaxing massage at the on-site spa.

With official affiliations including Catch Beach Club, The Lazy Coconut, Shimmer and Wagyu Steakhouse, we are somewhat spoilt for choice in regards to our evening entertainment. We opt for the former, with its regular Friday evening BBQ buffet proving to be a fantastic choice. Bellies full, we settle into a cosy cabana to take in the spectacular sunset, which is soundtracked by relaxing early-evening music vibes.

Rejuvenated

Waking the next morning feeling fully refreshed after a sound night’s sleep, it is a treat to literally stroll a matter of yards for a beachside breakfast at Catch Beach Club once again. The sound of the waves lapping at the shore are therapeutically calming as we tuck into a fine spread, setting us up nicely in every way for the day ahead. It is that exact feeling of calm and relaxation that seems to pervade everything about Twinpalms Tented Camp and we leave feeling rejuvenated and extremely impressed with the whole experience.

Twinpalms Tented Camp is a perfect option for holidaymakers visiting Phuket or for those based on the island seeking a short staycation. You couldn’t ask for anymore location wise and the unique nature of the resort definitely provides a more interesting and fun experience than a standard hotel. We plan to visit again soon, such was the

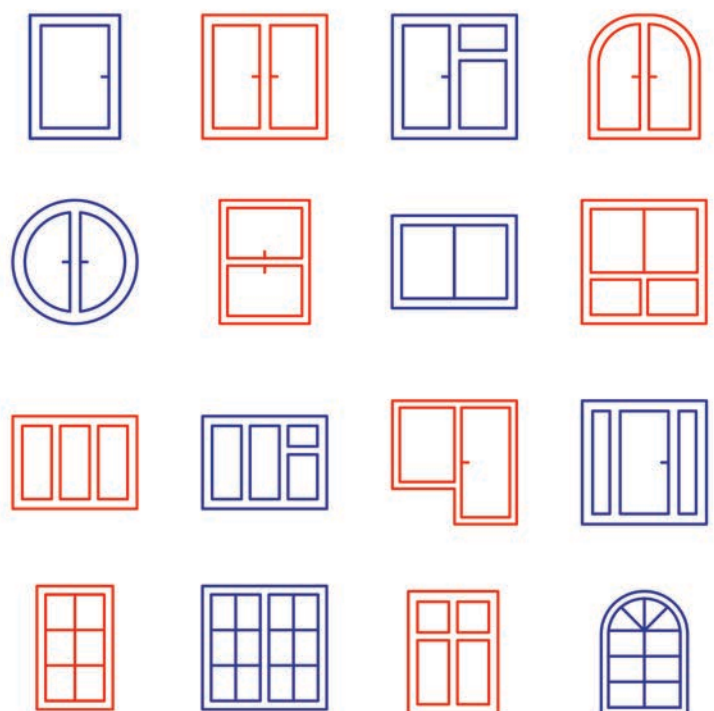
impression it made, but will definitely be staying longer next time, especially as since our visit there is a new wellness garden with gym, cold bath in a carved out boulder, new central swimming pool overlooking the lagoon and soon-to-open sauna facilities.

Forget about camping, forget about glamping, as Twinpalms Tented Camp is in a league of its own!

*Twinpalms Tented Camp Phuket
Bangtao Beach 202 88, Cherngtalay,
Thalang Phuket 83100, Thailand
Tel: +66 99 382 0593
<https://www.twinpalmshotelsresorts.com/tented-camp-phuket>*



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POP QUIZ

- How many movies was Elvis Presley in?
- What was the Latin name of Paris in Roman times?
- The shortest recorded war in history – between 38 and 45 minutes – was fought between which countries?
- With a height of 979 metres and a plunge of 807m, where is Angel Falls, the world's highest waterfall?
- In which two countries is Coca-Cola not sold?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Hard

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

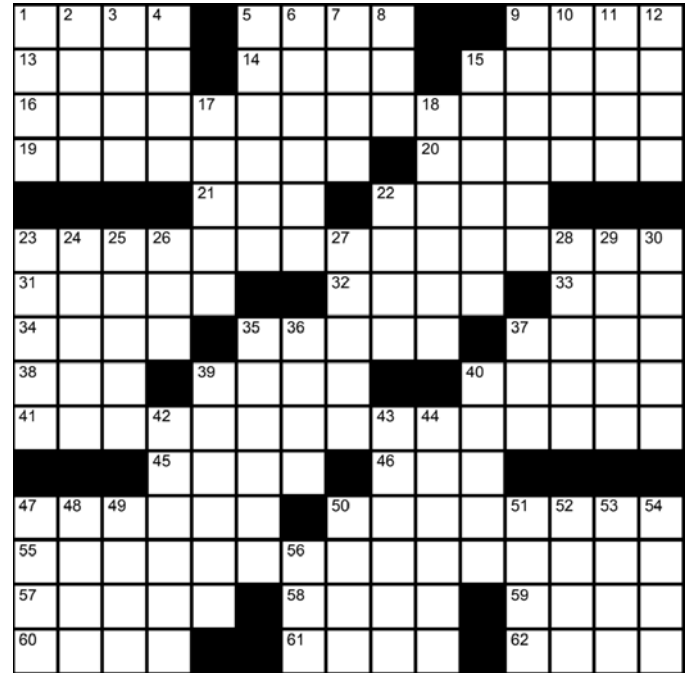
Across

- Like some columns
- Strike
- Cheerless
- Paella pot
- Maintain
- Not fine
- Acquisition method
- Ones at the helm
- "You don't say!"
- "___ time"
- Old Icelandic literary work
- Snubbing
- West Indian folk magic
- Catch
- Farm call
- Fabric
- Acadia National Park locale
- Bakery buy
- Extreme suffix
- Footfaraw
- Is
- Eluding an officer
- Feeder filler
- Legal org.
- Catalog
- Eccentric
- Kamikaze run?

- X-Men villain, and namesakes
- Place
- Big name in pineapples
- Eyelid woe
- Leavings
- Abreast of

Down

- Cries at fireworks
- Map
- Further
- Watch feature, perhaps
- Fourth letter of Hebrew alphabet
- Exceedingly
- "___ go!"
- Bygone polit. cause
- Tree type
- **** review
- Sheltered
- Maryland stadium
- Gregor Johann ___
- Dander
- Certain federal tax
- Distinctive flair
- Show fear
- Having a lot to lose?
- Boxing blows
- Not dis
- Kind of jack
- Candidate's concern
- Standards
- Reached
- Unaccompanied compositions
- Passage
- Lookout point
- Aggravation
- Harsh Athenian lawgiver
- King Mark's bride
- January's birthstone
- Old calculator
- Does something
- Dirty coat
- Cut down
- Coconut fiber
- African antelope
- Play thing
- Capital near the 60th parallel
- Adult-in-waiting?
- U.N. workers' grp.



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

M	O	D	F	A	R	E	A	S	T	J	O	V																			
A	C	E	O	V	E	R	B	U	I	O	R	E																			
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9	8	3	1	7	4	2	5	6
8	6	9	5	1	7	4	3	2
4	7	2	6	8	3	1	9	5
1	3	5	4	2	9	7	6	8

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Elvis starred in 31 movies, featured in at least 53; 2) Luteitia; 3) United Kingdom and Zanzibar; 4) Venezuela; 5) Cuba and North Korea

GOT YOUR NUMBER

7

photos is the average a cat owner takes of their pet every day.

27

seconds is all it takes for a person to make a first impression.

70

percent of the Earth's oxygen comes from marine plants in the ocean.

-89.2

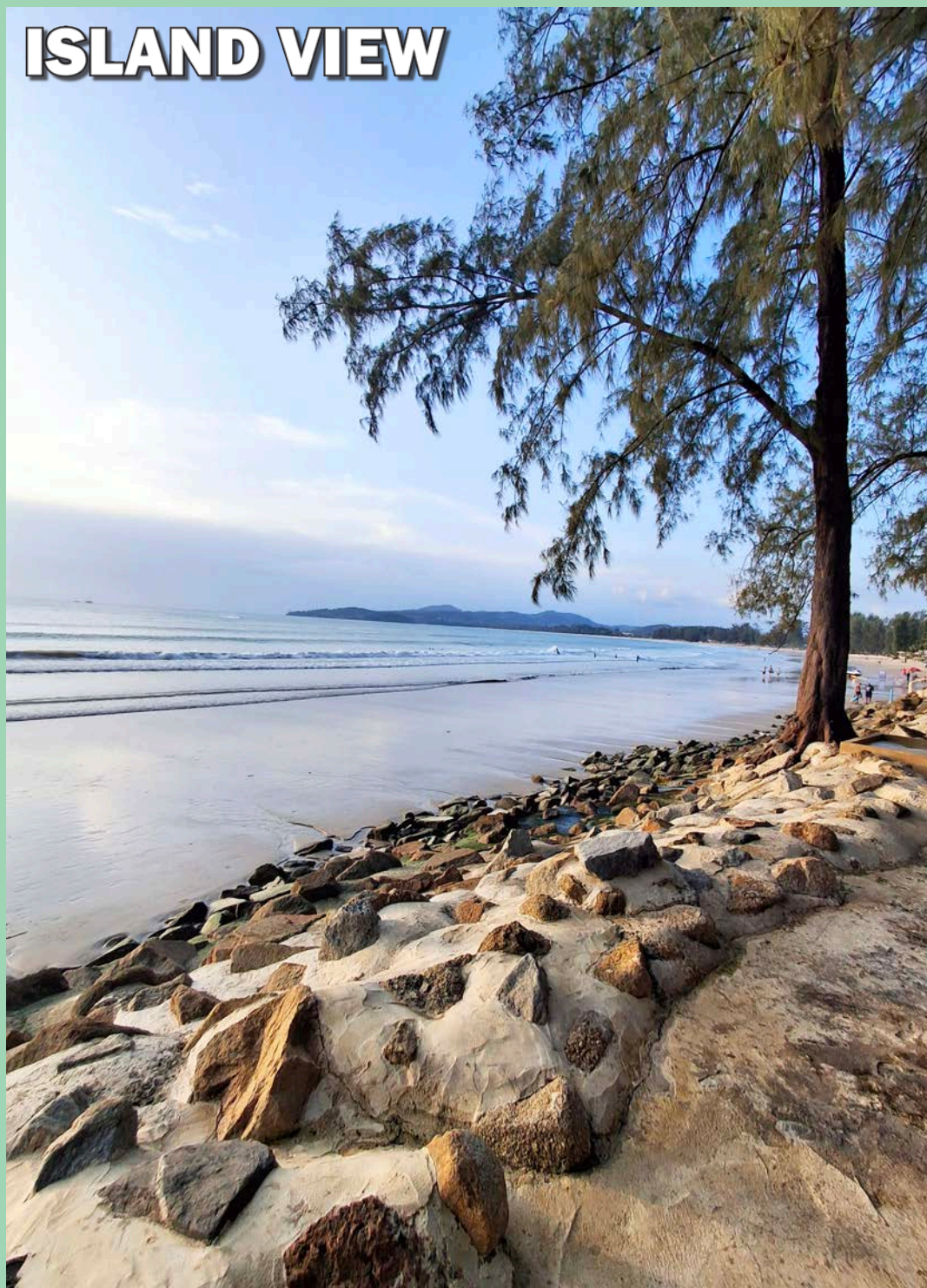
degrees Celsius is the coldest temperature ever recorded on Earth.

1,431.2 billion

cubic kilometres is the volume of Jupiter, about 1,321 times that of Earth.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Beautiful Bang Tao Beach. Photo by Pamela Thomas

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

This week in history

Aug 8, 1786

Mont Blanc on the French-Italian border is climbed for the first time by Jacques Balmat and Dr Michel-Gabriel Paccard.



Aug 9, 1965

Singapore is expelled from Malaysia.

Aug 10, 1948

Candid Camera makes its television debut after being on radio for a year as The Candid Microphone.

Aug 11, 3114 BC

The Mesoamerican Long Count calendar, used by several pre-Columbian Mesoamerican civilizations, notably the Maya, begins.

Aug 12, 1914

World War I: The United Kingdom and the British Empire declare war on Austria-Hungary.

Aug 13, 1792

King Louis XVI of France is formally arrested by the National Tribunal, and declared an enemy of the people.

Aug 14, 2023

Then former U.S. president Donald Trump is charged in Georgia along with 18 others in attempting to overturn the results of the 2020 election in that state, his fourth indictment of 2023.

Source: Wikipedia

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FRI

8
AUGUST



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Come and have a few at the Phuket Business Networking - 2nd Friday every month

Phuket Business Networking - Aug 2025

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

SAT

9
AUGUST



Legend Michael Bisping to Host Exclusive Two-Day Event

Bangtao Muay Thai & MMA is proud to welcome UFC Hall of Famer and former Middleweight World Champion Michael "The Count" Bisping for an exclusive two-day seminar this August 9 & 10, 2025 – marking his first-ever appearance at our world-renowned facility. After winning The Ultimate Fighter Season 3, he made history by becoming the first British fighter to capture UFC gold! Bisping

retired with 30 professional wins, including 20 victories in the UFC – solidifying his place among the sport's all-time greats.

Saturday, August 9 (Start 11:00am)

- Meet & Greet with Michael Bisping (with photo opportunities)
- Open Workout – Watch Bisping hit pads and share stories from inside the Octagon
- Merchandise Signing Session.

Sunday, August 10 (Start 11:00am)

- Technical Seminar: Learn from the former champion as he shares his signature approach that made him one of MMA's elite.
- PLUS PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES AND MERCH SIGNING

For more info and bookings – bangtaomuaythai.com/ legend-michael-bisping-to-host-exclusive-two-day-event-at-bangtao-muay-thai-mma

SUN

10
AUGUST



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Sunday Roast

12PM – 9PM: All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet Beef, Pork & Capon chicken – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, Fried mushrooms, Grilled Tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes – Gravy, Mushroom sauce, Horse raddish, Mint Sauce. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 350 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381



Phuket Eco Market

Dive into a day of Eco-Fun! Join us at the Phuket Eco Market from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Junkyard Theatre! This month, we're celebrating International Whale Shark Day! We're proud to partner with the Thai Whale Sharks Foundation to raise funds for the tagging of a whale shark right here in Thailand! We're excited to welcome everyone to Phuket's ONLY Eco Market! We humbly request a small donation for entry. Your contribution helps The Litter Club continue its essential clean-up efforts across Phuket. Come explore unique eco-friendly products, enjoy local treats, and support a cleaner, greener, healthier Phuket! See you there!

MON

11
AUGUST



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Monday BBQ Night

6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Fish, Prawns & Squids, salad buffet and veggies, Choice of potatoes, cold and hot sauces, Bread, Buns & garlic bread. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 395 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

WED

13
AUGUST



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Wednesday BBQ Night

6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Fish, Prawns & Squids, salad buffet and veggies, Choice of potatoes, cold and hot sauces, bread, buns & garlic bread. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 395 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

THU

21
AUGUST



Skål August Dinner

Our next networking dinner will be held at INDOCHINE Resort & Villas, Kalim Bay (Patong), hosted by Skalleague Sue Ma. Registration from 6pm. Members B1,200 - Non-Members B1,600. Bookings - contact@skalphuket.org

FRI

22
AUGUST



AustCham Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners

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, will host the Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners from 18.00 - 21.00 hrs., at Azura Restaurant, Angsana Laguna Phuket. Join us for a wonderful night of making new connections and catching up with familiar faces in the Australian-Thai business community in Phuket. 650 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members, 1,200 THB for non-members. To book contact - office@austchamthailand.com

FRI

5
SEPTEMBER



Grow Boating Evening - Sept 2025

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

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CHRISTOPHER DAVID BARTLEY WILLIAMS Deceased

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 (England and Wales) anyone having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased, late of Village, No. 2 Thepkasattri Sub-district, Thalang District, Phuket Province, 83110, who died on 25 November 2024, must send written particulars to the address below by 05 September 2025, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests notified.

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GROW BOATING EVENING - AUG 2025

The August event was back at the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar at Phuket Boat Lagoon on Friday, August 1. As always there was a delicious buffet sponsored by the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar for all attendees. Lots of fun was had by everyone. Find out details of the September event at facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket



All Thai FIVB volleyball games to be shown live

VOLLEYBALL

ALL OF THAILAND'S matches on home soil at the FIVB Women's World Championship 2025 will be shown live on PPTV HD (36), it was announced on Monday (Aug 4).

A total of 12 pool matches and the round of 16 action until the final will be broadcast live while the channel will implement a broadcast delay for the remaining 36 matches of the preliminary phase.

The championship is scheduled to take place from Aug 22-Sept 7 and Thailand, coached by Kiattipong Radchatagriengkai, are in Pool A along with the Netherlands, Sweden and Egypt.

Thailand is hosting world championship for the first time, becoming the first Southeast Asian nation and only the third in Asia after Japan and China to stage the tournament.



Photo: Bangkok Post

This year's championship will feature 32 teams, divided into eight pools of four each.

The pool phase matches will take place in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Nakhon Ratchasima and the Saphan Hin Municipal Sports Complex in Phuket.

Bangkok's Indoor Stadium at Hua Mark will host matches from the last 16 onwards.

Defending champions Serbia will play Japan, Ukraine and Cameroon in Pool H. Olympic champions Italy are in Pool B with Belgium, Cuba and Slovakia.

The top two teams from each pool will advance to the knockout round. *Bangkok Post*

Hungry Norris wins in Hungary

FORMULA ONE

AFP

Lando Norris trimmed McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri's lead in the drivers' world championship to just nine points last Sunday (Aug 3) when he switched tactics to lead him home by just 0.698 seconds in a thrilling finish at the Hungarian Grand Prix.

The 25-year-old Briton, who moved from a two-stop strategy to one stop, held off series leader Piastri, on fresher tyres, over the closing laps of a strategic contest to claim McLaren's 200th victory and their record 13th win in Hungary.

It was Norris's first win at the Hungaroring in the event's 40th race, avenging his 'team orders' defeat in 2024 when Piastri claimed his maiden success, his fifth victory of the season and the ninth of his career. It was also McLaren's fourth consecutive 1-2 finish this season.

The dominant McLaren pair finished 22 seconds clear of third-placed George Russell of Mercedes with pole sitter Charles Leclerc of Ferrari fourth, grumbling at the Italian team's poor planning after he slipped out of the leading position.

"I wasn't planning to do a one-stop," said Norris.

"But it was the only option to get back into things and it was tough. Oscar was pushing all the way."



Norris lifts the trophy on the podium. Photo: AFP

Two-time champion Fernando Alonso came home fifth for Aston Martin ahead of Sauber's Gabriel Bortoleto, Lance Stroll in the second Aston Martin, rookie Liam Lawson of Racing Bulls and frustrated four-time champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull.

Mercedes' rookie Kimi Antonelli was 10th ahead of Racing Bulls' Isack Hadjar with seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton 12th in the second Ferrari, 24 hours after declaring himself undeserving of their race seat.

Heavy overnight rain had 're-set' the track on a breezy afternoon in front of a big crowd at the Hungaroring.

The track temperature was only 31 degrees, encouraging thoughts of a one-stop race as tyre-wear decreased

and Leclerc controlled the pace ahead of Piastri, Russell and Norris.

At the front, Leclerc responded to an apparent 'bluff' call from McLaren and pitted, falling to fourth and gifting Piastri the lead ahead of a rapid Norris as the race dissolved into a strategy and tyre-management contest between the two McLarens.

Norris revelled in his delayed one-stop tactic as Piastri made a second pit on lap 45, the Briton leading with a frustrated Ferrari second, Leclerc blaming his team for bungling his plan before being passed by Piastri around Turn One on lap 51.

This left Norris, on ageing tyres, leading his team-mate in a classic scrap to the flag, negotiating traffic and separated by half a second over the final laps.

Wallabies win final Test but Lions claim series victory

RUGBY

AUSTRALIA WON THE THIRD and final Test match against the British and Irish Lions 22-14 in rain-soaked Sydney last Saturday (Aug 2) in the most bizarre of circumstances as a heavy lightning storm resulted in a near 50-minute break early in the second half.

Australia deserved to win this Test and arguably should have won the second Test in Melbourne the previous week. However, the Wallabies' almost non-existent pre-tour preparation was clearly evident, with a one-off game against Fiji hardly ideal preparation, and why Australia lost the series. However, their pride, despite the series loss, has been restored and young players are improving.

The Lions were poor in both the second and third Tests. The hype that surrounded their visit Down Under was quite disproportionate to their performances. Too much trumpet and mascot and not enough quality rugby. Far too often commentators' comments exaggerated mediocrity.

The global game will not benefit if all we see is five-metre ruck and drive pick-ups, something all too common during the series. It is tedious and frustrating. For a team comprising top international players from four competit-



The Lions celebrate. Photo: AFP

ive rugby-playing countries, it is a pathetic example of team play. Still, Lions' coach Andy Farrell will console himself in a series win. He also managed to get his son into the squad, off the bench and onto the field.

I doubt the Lions on returning to the UK will be worthy of a visit to Downing Street for an audience with dignitaries, as the England women's football team a week previous after their Euro 2025 success – however, if it generates votes, then who knows?

Looking forward, the rugby world will soon forget this tour and focus on more challenging tasks ahead for the Lions, courtesy of a tour of New Zealand in four years, then South Africa four years later.

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

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PLATINUM SPONSORS

Premier League cash splash

FOOTBALL

Ben Tirebuck
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

The Premier League returns next weekend, with defending champions Liverpool welcoming Bournemouth to Anfield for the curtain-raiser on Aug 15.

Transfer wise it has been a relatively busy summer as clubs look to bolster their ranks for the gruelling campaign ahead, with over £1.63 billion (£1.63bn) outlaid thus far between the 20 teams.

Looking to defend their title, Arne Slot's Liverpool got their main business done early in the transfer window, spending close to £300 million on five players; Milos Kerkez from Bournemouth (£40mn); Florian Wirtz (£116mn) and Jeremie Frimpong (£29.5mn) from Bayer Leverkusen; Giorgi Mamardashvili from Valencia, £29mn; and Hugo Ekitike from Eintracht Frankfurt for £79mn.

Keen to boost their firepower, Arsenal have signed Viktor Gyokeres from Sporting Lisbon for



Arsenal's Viktor Gyokeres. Photo: AFP

£63.5mn, in addition to Christian Norgaard (Brentford, £15mn), Noni Madueke (Chelsea, £52mn) and Cristhian Mosquera (Valencia, £13mn).

Tijjani Reijnders (AC Milan, £46.3mn), Rayan Ait Nouri (Wolves, £36.3mn), Rayan Cherki (Lyon, £34mn) and James Trafford (Burnley, £31mn) have all signed up at Manchester City while neighbours Manchester United have added Bryan Mbeumo (Brentford, £71mn) and Matheus Cunha (Wolves, £62.5mn) to their ranks.

Fresh off winning the inaugural Club World Cup in the United States last month, Chelsea have acquired Jamie Gittens (Dortmund, £51.5mn), Joao

Pedro (Brighton, £60mn), Liam Delap (Ipswich, £30mn), Estevao Willian (Palmeiras, £29.1mn) and Dario Essugo (Sporting, £18.5mn) and are many people's tip as a dark horse title contender this time around.

Brentford have brought in Caoimhin Kelleher from Liverpool for £18mn and former Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson on a free from Ajax, Mohammed Kudus (West Ham, £55mn) is Spurs' main signing so far, while West Ham have brought in Jean-Clair Todibo (Nice, £35mn) and El Hadji Malick Diouf (Slavia Prague, £19mn).

Everton welcome several new players to their new home at Hill Dickinson

Stadium, with Charly Alcaraz (Flamengo, £12.6mn), Thierno Barry (Villarreal, £27mn), Mark Travers (Bournemouth, £4mn) and Adam Aznou (Bayern Munich, £10.4mn) all signing on the dotted line.

Maxim De Cuyper (Club Brugge, £17.3mn) and Charalampos Kostoulas (Olympiacos, £31.7mn) are Brighton's stand out acquisitions so far, while south coast neighbours Bournemouth, so impressive last season under Andoni Iraola, have signed Djordje Petrovic from Chelsea for £25mn.

The newly promoted clubs have been active as they strive to survive. Burnley have added Kyle Walker (Manchester City, £5mn) and Loum Tchaouna (Lazio, £12mn), while Leeds have spent £75mn and Sunderland a staggering £120mn on seven players respectively.

The summer transfer window runs until Sept 1 so expect many more big moves to come yet as the season gets underway and clubs look to flourish as best as they can in England's top tier.



Photo: Bangkok Post

Thais retain futsal title

FUTSAL

THAILAND SUCCESSFULLY defended their Continental Futsal Championship title following a close 3-2 final victory over Saudi Arabia at Nonthaburi Gymnasium last Sunday (Aug 3).

The hosts reached the final after a 3-1 victory over Belarus, while Saudi Arabia qualified thanks to a lopsided 5-0 triumph over Taiwan on Saturday.

Thailand, who at No.11 are placed 39 places above Saudi Arabia in FIFA's futsal rankings, were expected to dominate their opponents in the title showdown but it turned out to be a close tussle.

However, it didn't take the Thais long to break the ice as Muhammad Osama set up Itticha Praphaphan to fire home in the ninth minute.

Muhammad was instrumental again as Thailand doubled their advantage in the 13th minute as his deflected shot was guided into the net by Sarawut.

A minute later, the Saudis narrowed the margin with Farhan Alasmari hitting the target.

In the second half, Saudi Arabia put on an even better show and were able to level the score soon after the 30-minute mark when a curling free kick by Abdullah Almaghrabi found its way into the net.

However, the hosts took only three minutes to reclaim the upper hand through Worasak Srirangpaot to seal the victory.

The next event for the Thai team will be the 2026 AFC Futsal Asian Cup qualifying tournament at Nonthaburi Gymnasium next month.

Bangkok Post

Olympic champ Ferrand-Prevot wins women's Tour de France

CYCLING

FRENCH RIDER PAULINE Ferrand-Prevot soloed to victory last Sunday (Aug 3) in the ninth and final stage in the Alps to seal the women's Tour de France title.

Olympic mountain bike champion Ferrand-Prevot of Visma, who rejoined the road racing scene last year, took the overall title by a 3 minutes 42 seconds margin over Dutch rider Demi Vollering, ending the long wait for a home Tour winner, dating back to 1989.

Last year's winner Katarzyna Niewiadoma of Poland finished third overall at 4m 9s.

Ferrand-Prevot said she had achieved "the goal of her life as an athlete" after sealing victory in the mountains on the border with Switzerland.

"I came back on the road after my Olympic title, and I said I will try to win the Tour de France in the next three years," said the 33-year-old.

"So here I am, the first one! It was an amazing season with my team."

She adds to her 15 world titles in several cycling disciplines including mountain biking, cyclo-cross and road racing and also becomes the first French rider to win the modern women's Tour de France in its fourth edition.

"At the summit! Pauline Ferrand-



Ferrand-Prevot. Photo: AFP

Prevot is making Tour de France history," French President Emmanuel Macron posted on social media.

"She turns effort into a resounding victory, difficulty into national pride. Bravo, champion!"

Jeannie Longo won the title 36 years ago in the race's former guise, the Tour de France Feminin.

Bernard Hinault was the last Frenchman to win the men's Tour de France in 1985 when he claimed his fifth title.

This season, after seven years devoted primarily to mountain biking, Ferrand-Prevot also won the Paris-Roubaix before focusing on preparing for the Tour.

Ferrand-Prevot finally won her first Olympic medal last year in Paris in her fourth Games, taking a dominant gold in the mountain biking cross-country event.

AFP

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Sport

editor3@classactmedia.co.th



Lions finish on top Down Under > p14

TEQBALLERS



Phuket hosts national teqball comp

Participants and organisers at the 2025 Phuket Teqball Cup tournament pose for the cameras. Photo: PR Phuket

TEQBALL

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The fast growing and increasingly popular sport of teqball made its mark locally recently when the province hosted the 2025 Phuket Teqball Cup tournament.

The three-day competition, organised by the Phuket Provincial Sports Association and the Phuket Provincial Teqball Club and funded with financial backing from the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO), was held between July 25-27 at the Saphan Hin Sports Stadium, drawing participants from all across the country.

More than 40 teams from all across the country participated, representing provinces including Surat Thani, Krabi, Nakhon Ratchasima, Nakhon Pathom, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Trang, Buriram, Bangkok, Chumphon, Ranong and Phuket. The teams were a genuine eclectic mix, comprising those from provincial teqball associations and local

clubs, to school teams and even retail stores.

Teams were mixed between male and female athletes and competition was divided into two specific age groups, namely the youth category under the age of 17 years old and the open age class catering for those above 17.

The opening ceremony for the event was held at the Saphan Hin Sports Stadium at 7pm on Saturday, July 25, overseen by PPAO President Rewat Areerob, who was joined by: Thammawat Wongcharoenyos, President of the Phuket Provincial Sports Association (PPSA); Chalam Attham, PPAO Vice President; Phibunsak Kittithorakul, Deputy Mayor of Phuket Town; Prachan Pachanabut, President of the Phuket Teqball Club; Thanusak Phungdet, Hungarian honorary consul for Phuket, in addition to members of the competition organising committee, distinguished guests, athletes and referees.

“Teqball continues to rise in popularity and we are delighted to host this important competition and welcome participants and

spectators from all over the country to Phuket,” Mr Rewat said in his opening remarks.

He further explained that the competition had been organised to promote physical activity among citizens, develop athlete potential and to raise the standard of teqball nationally but especially in Phuket. The event was also another example of how sports tourism can stimulate the local economy, he added.

On July 27 the closing ceremony was held at the same venue where Mr Thammawat and colleagues distributed prizes and trophies to the winning teams in each class.

Joining Mr Thammawat in handing out the trophies were: Ratchadaporn Oin, head of the Tourism and Sports Ministry office in Phuket; Narumon Srisajjang, Phuket Provincial Finance Officer; Sophon Kiemkarn, Phuket Provincial Public Relations Officer; Wittaya Ketchu, Director of Phuket Vocational College; Thanusak Phungdet, President of the Andaman Southern Chamber of Commerce; and Prachan

Pajantabut, President of the Phuket Provincial Teqball Club.

SPORTS EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

The event followed a youth-specific teqball tournament that was held several days earlier between July 19-20 at Piboon Sawasdee Municipal School in Talat Yai as part of the 2025 Phuket Sports Excellence Program to promote ongoing development of sports skills in youngsters.

PPSA chief Thammawat Wongcharoenyot was once again in attendance, joined by PPSA assistant secretary Krisada Oin, and PPSA directors Yongyut Ounnuch and Pisut Bungoy who watched the competition and distributed medals to participating students.

Mr Thammawat praised the students participating, explaining that the sport continues to grow globally and has been identified as a key component of the Phuket Sports Excellence Program.

“It is an accessible sport that allows youngsters to maintain a

fit and healthy lifestyle,” he said. “Those who demonstrate particular prowess in the sport will also have the opportunity to develop their skillset at provincial level and potentially advance to represent their country,” Mr Thammawat added.

As per Wikipedia’s definition, “Teqball is a ball sport that is played on a curved table, combining elements of football (soccer) and table tennis. Back and forth, the players hit a ball with any part of the body except arms and hands. Teqball can be played between two players as a singles game or between four players as a doubles game.”

The game was invented in 2014 in Hungary by three football enthusiasts, including former professional player Gábor Borsányi, and has grown significantly in popularity in countries all over the world since. The sport is represented at an international level by the International Teqball Federation (FITEQ) and is a fully fledged member of the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF).

Calls for Cambodia to be banned from SEA Games

SEA GAMES

CAMBODIA HAS CONFIRMED they will send their national athletes to compete in the 33rd Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) in Thailand later this year despite the border conflict between the two nations.

The tournament will take place in Bangkok, Chonburi and Songkhla from Dec 9 to 20. As of now, 1,515 Cambodian athletes have registered for the Games.

Clashes broke out along the Thai-Cambodian border earlier last month, resulting in deaths and injuries to civilians and military personnel on both sides.

A report in *The Phnom Penh Post* last Friday (Aug 1) confirmed that Cambodian athletes are currently participating in training camps to prepare for the competition and there is no plan to pull out from the tournament, adding that sports and politics should be kept separate.

This comes after Thailand’s

Tourism and Sports Minister Sorawong Thienthong said on July 29 a decision to bar Cambodia rests with the 11 SEA Games Federation (SEAGF) member nations.

Mr Sorawong said the proposal to prevent the country from attending the Games would be discussed during an upcoming



Image: Bangkok Post

meeting on Aug 20-21 and the matter would be decided in a similar manner to how Russia was banned from joining the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris. *Bangkok Post*