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JAB TOWN



People wait to receive their first COVID vaccination injection at the Indoor Sports Stadium in Saphan Hin. Photo: PR Phuket

7,000 PEOPLE VACCINATED A DAY AS PUSH FOR JULY 1 DEADLINE GAINS SPEED

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Mass vaccinations against COVID-19 have begun in Phuket, with some 3,000 people receiving their first injection of the Chinese-made Sinovac vaccine “CoronaVac” at the Indoor Sports Stadium at Saphan Hin alone on Apr 1.

In total, more than 7,000 vaccination first injections were administered at five locations across the island on just the first day of the campaign, which was launched less than 24 hours after 50,000 doses of the CoronaVac

vaccine arrived on the island. A second delivery of 50,000 doses arrived in Phuket on Monday (Apr 5).

According to officials, Day 2 of the campaign (Apr 2) saw a further 4,744 people receive their first injections at the five vaccine “service centres” on the island: 887 at the Phuket Airport X Terminal building; 645 at the Jungceylon shopping mall in Patong; 783 at the Angsana Laguna Phuket resort in Cherno Talay; 1,827 at the Indoor Sports Stadium at Saphan Hin; and 602 at the Phuket Orchid Resort & Spa in Karon.

Present at Saphan Hin to oversee

the launch of the mass-vaccination campaign last Sunday were Phuket Governor Narong Woonciw, along with Vice Governors Pichet Panapong and Piyapong Choowong, and Phuket Tourist Association President Bhumikitti Ruktaengam.

All people arriving to receive their first vaccination injection were required to wear face masks and had their body temperatures checked before being allowed into the main area of the facility.

Those vaccinated were from five main target groups: medical personnel, risk group staff, people who

work with direct interaction with the public, chronic disease patients and rescue workers.

Governor Narong repeated that the goal was to administer the first vaccine injection to 50,000 people within seven days, to ensure as many people as possible had received their first injection before Songkran.

“I expect that today we will be able to vaccinate about 3,000 people in the key target groups at the stadium. If we combined the numbers of vaccinated people from the other four venues, the total number will be about 7,000 people per day,” he said.

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Expats will be vaccinated, officials confirm



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It's all about controlling the urge to bite



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Sand kickers' delight in BISP beach tourney



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News



School douses fear of student gang fight > p4

Mass vaccinations now in full swing

Continued from page 1

The second injection will be provided after the next mass delivery of vaccine doses arrive, he added.

This was required “because if you are going to vaccinate to build a group immunity, Phuket Province must vaccinate 70% of the population, or about 460,000 people, which requires approximately 920,000 to 930,000 doses of the vaccine, before we can open to receive fully vaccinated tourists [from July 1]” he said.

“It is a very big challenge, but the government is ready to support Phuket as a pilot province,” he added.

To roll out the mass-vaccination campaign, the five vaccination service centres are open each day from 8:30am to 4pm.

People arriving to be vaccinated must proceed through eight steps:

Weight, height and blood

pressure is measured

Confirmation that the person is eligible for vaccination.

Registration, screening

Recording of medical history

Waiting for the vaccination injection

Receiving the vaccination injection

Update the recipient's hospital records

Wait 30 minutes to observe for any reaction to the vaccine.

If no adverse reactions are found, the recipient will be allowed to go home by permission of a doctor and an appointment will be made to receive the second “booster” injection.

Those who received injections last Sunday will be required to receive their second injection some time from April 22-30, officials at the centre explained.

The delivery of the vaccine shipment – first 50,000 of the 100,000 doses of COVID vac-



A woman receives a vaccination injection at the Indoor Sports Stadium at Saphan Hin. Photo: PR Phuket

cine to be provided to Phuket for deployment in April – arrived at the medical supplies storage area at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town on Mar 31.

The vaccine doses were checked for integrity, that the transport temperature did not breach the required 2-8°C, the serial and lot numbers of the batches delivered were confirmed, and that the cor-

rect number of doses had been received.

Of the 50,000 doses delivered, 30,000 were stored at Vachira Phuket Hospital and 20,000 stored at Thalang Hospital before being delivered to the five vaccine service points set up by the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO).

The goal is to administer all 50,000 vaccine doses be-

fore the Songkran Thai New Year holidays (Apr 13-15), Dr Chalermpong said.

“To achieve that goal, medical personnel from both public and private hospitals in the area have joined together to support more than 16 medical teams per day to accelerate the first 50,000 doses of vaccination to be completed before Songkran,” he said.

The remaining 50,000 doses of vaccine allocated to Phuket by the Ministry of Public Health for deployment in April will arrive on the island after Songkran, Dr Chalermpong said.

Vice Governor Piyapong had earlier explained that of the first 50,000 vaccine doses delivered to Phuket, 40,000 will be provided to workers in the tourism industry, 3,000 will be administered to medical staff, and the remaining 7,000 will be allocated to the general public.

V/Gov Piyapong and Dr

Chalermpong also encouraged people to register to be vaccinated through a new online form launched on Mar 31, with a special fast-track form for hotels and other tourism businesses to bulk upload details of staff so they could be given priority in the mass-vaccination rollout. (See page 3).

Phuket Governor Narong has already called for people across the island to register to be vaccinated.

“Currently, Phuket Province is in a time to accelerate tourism rehabilitation, which is the main mechanism for driving the economy of the province and the country,” Governor Narong said.

“Getting 70% of Phuket residents vaccinated is a challenge, but the provincial government will do our best to make Phuket survive before accepting all vaccinated tourists to stimulate the economy on July 1,” he added.

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Health Ministry moves to clarify quarantine reduction conditions

THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MoPH) has clarified conditions behind shortening the length of mandatory quarantine for overseas visitors while confirming which vaccine providers would be deemed acceptable for those entering the Kingdom, which came into effect on Apr 1.

The document, issued by the Ministry Deputy Chief Yongyot Thammawoot on Mar 31, stated the following:

Quarantine will be reduced to seven days for tourists who have received both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days previous to their arrival. They must possess a certificate of vaccination issued by officials where they received the vaccine.

Those in this category would be tested once, 5-6 days after arrival.

People entering Thailand who had not been vaccinated, had received only one vaccine shot from a provider requiring two shots, or whose second shot was less than 14 days previously, would have to spend 10 days under quarantine.

Those in this category would be tested twice, between days 3-5 and days 9-10.

Tourists coming from countries where there are SARS-CoV-2 virus mutations and variants including South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, Zambia, Kenya, Wanda, Cameroun, Congo, Ghana, and Tanzania must still quarantine for 14 days.

Those in this category would be tested three times: on arrival, between days 6-7



Quarantine conditions have been reduced for overseas visitors. Photo: AoT Phuket

and days 12-13.

Quarantine days would start immediately for those arriving between midnight and 6pm. Day one of quarantine would start the next days for those arriving after 6pm and all new quarantine conditions came into effect on Apr 1. All arrivals would be traced by a tracking system for 14 days, regardless of what category of quarantine they find themselves in.

Vaccines received by tourists must be recognised under Thai law, certified by the World Health Organization (WHO) or approved by MoPH.

Certified vaccine providers include Sinovac, AstraZeneca, SK Bioscience, Pfizer/BioNtech, Serum Institute of India, and Moderna, all of which require two doses of the vaccine. Vaccines provided by Janssen Pharmaceutical and Johnson & Johnson only require one dose. *The Phuket News*

'Expats will be vaccinated'

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Expats throughout Phuket will be offered COVID vaccinations under the government's mass-vaccination rollout now underway in Phuket, a leading Phuket official has confirmed.

Dr Chalermpong, Director of Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town, delivered the news during a press conference broadcast live online on Mar 31.

As director of the island's leading government hospital on the island, Dr Chalermpong is a key member of the Phuket Communicable Disease Committee, which is responsible for drafting and implementing all COVID-19 policies in Phuket.

Phuket Vice Governor Piyapong Choowong also confirmed the policy during the mass vaccinations underway at the Indoor Sports stadium in Saphan Hin last Sunday (Apr 4).

"To achieve herd immunity in Phuket, at least 70% of the population must be vaccinated. The 70% is those who really live on the island. No matter what nationality they are,



V/Gov Piyapong explains that expats will be vaccinated after the main two target groups. Image: PPHO

we have to include them all as our target group," V/Gov Piyapong said.

"To complete the goal [of 70% vaccinated], we are starting with those who are registered as Phuket residents on their ID cards, followed by anyone – Phuket-registered or not – who work in hotels or in other work that requires close contact with people, such as transport, massage and spa. Both Thai and foreigners should be vaccinated," he said.

Asked specifically whether foreigners working in Phuket's

tourism industry are to be vaccinated, V/Gov Piyapong said, "For the first week, to make the vaccinations flow, we are starting with Thais first followed by those whose names were submitted by HR [human resources staff of tourism-related businesses]. For foreigners, we will work on them later when the number of the first two groups is as many as we expect."

Dr Chalermpong in his explanation said, "In April and May, we will receive Sinovac vaccines while in June, we

will receive AstraZeneca, which can be provided to those who are older than 60 years old," Dr Chalermpong said.

"To be clear, at this stage, all people on the island who are older than 18 years old but younger than 60 years old are eligible to be vaccinated, including people registered as living in Phuket, those who are from other provinces, and foreigners," he added.

"The first 100,000 doses of vaccine [to be delivered 'in April'] will be provided to people registered as liv-

ing in Phuket and workers in the tourism industry who are from other provinces," Dr Chalermpong explained.

"Workers in other industries and expats [sic] will be vaccinated in the following lot," he said.

Of note, the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) has launched a new online form for people to apply to be vaccinated under the government rollout.

In its post announcing the new form, which is still in Thai-language only, the PPHO noted, "For people over 60 years old, register in May." People with further queries were asked to call 094-5935342 or 094-5938876.

Vice Governor Piyapong last weekend called for all tourism business operators to register their staff to be vaccinated so they can get priority in the vaccination rollout.

"For the [next] 50,000 people to be vaccinated, we need cooperation from operators and connections to call their workers to be vaccinated," he said.

"We need representatives from businesses to collect their staff names to be vac-

nated. We have some operators registered, but the number of workers [registered] is still far from the total number of vaccines we will receive," he said.

Worrapol Uengsakul, one of the officials tasked with overseeing the online registration, said, "At this stage [last Sunday], about 700 operators have been registered with about 20,000 workers to be vaccinated."

The immediate priority were two groups: people working in Phuket's tourism industry, and people registered as living in Phuket, he said, adding that a special online form is available for business operators to submit their details.

"For questions, please add our Line account by searching @155lmkob," he said.

Vice Governor Piyapong also urged people to not approach any hospitals or government offices asking to register in person.

"For those who may not have a smartphone and want to walk-in and register face to face, please calm down and wait first, as at this stage, we are working on online registration only," he said.

Frankfurt arrivals a sign that Phuket is ready, says Governor

PHUKET GOVERNOR Narong Woonciew has hailed the arrival of the flight from Frankfurt last Saturday (Apr 3) as a positive sign, saying that Phuket is ready to receive international tourists.

Governor Narong was among the official welcoming party ready to receive the arrival of just 16 passengers, 13 foreigners and three Thais, on Flight TG912 from Frankfurt. The plane initially landed in Bangkok with 130 tourists on board, before continuing to Phuket.

Governor Narong explained that the Frankfurt flight stemmed from talks between Phuket tourism industry representatives with Thai Airways International in Bangkok in December to urge THAI Airways International to arrange direct international passenger flights to Phuket and for its domestic carrier subsidiary THAI Smile to reduce airfares to Phuket to help boost the number of domestic tourists visiting the island.

"Today, we have received a great response from Thai Airways... It is a good vision to revive the economy of



Photo: PR Phuket

Phuket, and the economy of the country. It is also an opportunity for the recovery of Thai Airways operations... It is a collaboration of all sectors that will drive the economy back to be bright and sustainable," he said.

Jesada Chandrema, THAI International Airways' Acting Vice-President for Sales, and also part of the welcoming committee, noted that it had been a full year since THAI international flights had operated out of Phuket International Airport.

"The last Thai Airways flight after the COVID-19 situation [the lockdown in Thailand] began was on March 29 last year, with flight TG926 from Phuket to Frankfurt. Then flights ceased to operate. Until today, it has been a period of one year and four days," he said.

Mr Jesada noted that before the pandemic THAI Airways usually operated three flights a week between Frankfurt and Phuket.

"THAI Airways will be able to return to normal flights. We expect to start more flights from high season Q4 after the market starts to improve, and more people are vaccinated... it is expected that people will start to return to Phuket as they did before," he added.

The next flight from Frankfurt will be on May 7, said Wit Kitchathorn, a top executive with THAI Airways International, also present.

"All passengers today still have to be quarantined as required by the Ministry of Public Health. A seven-day quarantine for those vaccinated, and 10 days for those not vaccinated," he said.

Mr Wit also assured that all necessary precautions were being taken by the airline to prevent the spread of COVID-19. "All flights are thoroughly sanitised, as we want to ensure that traveling with Thai Airways is as safe and secure as it was in the past," he said.

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Wind 7 m/s

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Narathiwat COVID scare hits prisons

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Seven inmates from Phuket are under observation for 14 days at the Thung Khen Prison in Surat Thani following one officer and five inmates visiting from Narathiwat testing positive for COVID-19 after joining an anti-drug activity at the Surat Thani prison.

The Phuket inmates have had swab test samples taken, Kusak Kukiattikoon, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) confirmed. "They are considered low-risk and will complete the quarantine on April 16," he said.

Phuket Provincial Prison Commissioner Suchart Silapachai told *The Phuket News* on Monday (Apr 5), "I'm confident in the disease control measures of the public health officer. The seven inmates are now in the quarantine for 14 days in Surat Thani Prison and will be tested many times



Visits to Phuket Prison have been suspended for one month following an outbreak emanating from Narathiwat resulting in a cluster scare in Surat Thani. Photo: The Phuket News / file

before being released from the quarantine.

"Before being discharged from quarantine, their swab tests must be negative. If the test is positive, they have to go through the treatment process in a hospital there," he said.

"If their test results are negative, when they return to Phuket they still have to face quarantine for 14 days in special areas [at Phuket

Prison] and be tested again," Mr Suchart explained.

PPHO Chief Mr Kusak last weekend explained that the Phuket inmates were attending 'To Be Number One' activities held at the Diamond Plaza Hotel.

"The team of Phuket inmates was the ninth team to join an activity, while the inmates from Narathiwat were the first team, so they did

not have the chance to come into direct contact with each other," he said.

"The first team did not join the opening ceremony, and they also left the hotel immediately after finishing their activity, which took them about two hours in the room," he explained.

"The activity room was cleaned every time after one team finished their performance," Mr Kusak added.

Phuket Prison Chief Mr Suchart explained, "The seven inmates are all female, but the infected Narathiwat inmates are all male. They had to be separated during their preparation for their activity and from other inmates in the Surat Thani Prison.

"While the Narathiwat team was taking part in the activity, the Phuket inmates were not in the same room, and the hotel management confirmed they cleaned the room every time after a team finished," he said.

"I trust in the disease con-

trols measure. If they are infected, they will not be allowed to come to Phuket for sure," Mr Suchart said.

Regardless, Corrections Department Director-General Aryut Sinthoppan last Sunday (Apr 4) announced that prison visits have been suspended nationwide from April 5 to May 5 after it had been confirmed that more than 100 officers and inmates at the Narathiwat prison were now confirmed as infected with COVID-19.

"During the month, relatives can communicate with prisoners by Line [chat app] video. They can also transfer money and buy items made by prisoners," Phuket Prison Chief Suchart said.

Inmates are now no longer allowed to work outside the prison while wearing tracking devices, Mr Suchart added.

"New inmates have to be swab tested and face at least 14-21 days quarantine in our special areas before being allowed to enter the general areas of the prison" he said.

School douses fears of student gang brawl

THE PRINCIPAL OF A LARGE school in Phuket Town has moved to assure the public that a fight between two junior high school students from different schools had not ballooned out of control into conflict between two student gangs.

Concerns were raised among local residents after a video of the fight was posted on social media.

Wisa Jaranchawanapet, Principal of Plukpanya Municipal School, located on Satun Rd in Phuket Town, explained on April 1 that the fight occurred at about 3:30pm on Mar 30, some 150 metres from Plukpanya School.

A junior high school student from Plukpanya had arrived at the scene with friends and was confronted by a student of similar age out of uniform from another school, Ms Wisa said.

The student from another school had also arrived with his own friends, she noted.

The video shows the boy out of uniform punching the boy from Plukpanya repeatedly in the face, Ms Wisa noted.

Satisfied he had accomplished delivering his message, the boy out of uniform and his friends left in the direction of Mae Luan Rd, she added.



The two junior high school students have apparently resolved their differences, the Plukpanya School principal said. Screenshot: Eakkapop Thongtub

The two boys had an ongoing conflict for some time, and had arranged to meet to resolve their differences, Ms Wisa said, noting that it did not end well.

"The parents of both boys did not file a complaint to the police. They have already talked and come to an understanding," she added.

The two students have since texted apologies to each other and have signed agreements to no longer continue their conflict, she added.

"For the two students, the schools [involved] will continue to monitor their behaviour," Ms Wisa said.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Underwear thief strikes in Cherng Talay

LOCAL RESIDENTS IN BAAN Pasak, Cherng Talay, are on the lookout for a young man who stole a woman's underwear from in front of her house in broad daylight.

The woman, Wanyen Thongyeun, 43, reported that she still feels insecure from the incident, and warned others to beware the panty nicker.

Miss Wanyen explained that she realised her underwear had been stolen at about 3:35pm on Mar 31 while she was leaving her house, a single-level rowhouse in Soi Pasak 4/1, to pick up her daughter from school.

She saw her husband's underwear had fallen under the clothes rack and went to pick it up when she noticed that four pairs of her undergarments were missing.

Ms Wanyen checked the footage from a CCTV camera fitted to the front of her house and saw a young man arrive in front of her house on a motorbike.

Without removing his helmet, the man walked up to the clothes rack, selected and removed her underwear and left. While removing the underwear he dropped one pair of panties, but quickly picked them up before leaving.

Ms Wanyen pointed out that the man had taken only her underwear. He had not taken her any of her daughter's underwear, which were hanging up right beside hers.



The thief was caught in the act by a camera mounted in front of the woman's house. Screenshot: Supplied

She also noted that the thief chose not to take any of her husband's underwear as well.

This was not the first time that her underwear had been stolen, Ms Wanyen said.

"About two months ago, there was an incident like this one. At that time we had only one camera installed. After that incident, one more camera was installed, making it possible to capture the image of the thief stealing panties, as shown in the clip," she said.

"Right now I am scared and I want to mount another camera at the back of the house because most of the time I am at home alone," she added.

"I want the police to patrol the area more often, and warn neighbors in the area to be careful," Ms Wanyen said. Ms Wanyen confirmed that she had reported the incident to the police about what to do next, but she had not yet filed a formal complaint that would require a police investigation.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Myanmar refugees need help

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Phuket International Veterans Association is calling for people to make donations of essential items to help the flood of Myanmar refugees crossing the border in Northern Thailand.

The situation at this stage appears to be brewing into a minor humanitarian crisis, said Steve Pearce, founder of the International Veterans Association.

Hundreds of refugees have crossed the border at Mae Sariang in Mae Hong Son province. "This includes women and children," Mr Pearce said.

"Apparently they are arriving with little more than what they are wearing," he added.

The exodus began a week earlier after the Myanmar military began airstrikes on Karen villages, with more than 2,000 reported as initially fleeing across the river to the Thai side of the border.

"I am sure that most of us have been waiting for the news that the migration of refugees coming from Myanmar would hit Thailand. As always with the migration of refugees, it gets messy as they arrive with little to survive with. The situation is developing into a minor humanitarian crisis," Mr Pearce told IVA members in a call to action last Sunday.



Karen refugees arrive on the Salween riverbank in Mae Hong Son, on the Thai side of the border. Photo: International Karen Organization

"The Thai military have arrived and will likely be corralling the refugees into refugee initial holding areas and will be trying to document them before handing them to the second area run by the aid agencies," he said.

"Many of the arrivals are men, women and children and have little more than the shirts on their backs. Clearly we can't be deeply

involved in providing help, if for no other reason, none of us have been vaccinated yet. But we can help. We are stepping up to support the efforts to make these poor people more comfortable. The way we will do it is to start the collection of much-needed equipment to send up to them," he added.

"Please take this warning order seriously and do all that you can to

find donors for this equipment. I am arranging the use of a warehouse near the area for the equipment to be distributed from," Mr Pearce noted.

Essential items being collected include: basic medical supplies, dried foods, tinned foods, blankets, towels, washing bowls, soap/shampoo, toothpaste/brush, traps and string, candles, cooking pots and utensils, old clothes and footwear, sanitary

towels, pampers and children's toys.

"Donations of kit can be delivered to my house, I can supply the address of course. I will find a way to get it to the Mar Sariang warehouse," Mr Pearce told *The Phuket News*.

He also pointed out for those looking to make donations of clothes that most of the refugees would be of smaller sizes.

Non-governmental organisations looking to provide aid supplies to refugees fleeing Myanmar near the border must first contact local authorities, the Foreign Affairs Ministry has announced.

"We have secured a warehouse in the area for us to take the donated equipment before we hand it over to the lead aid agency working the operation.

"Pat Cotter from Phuket Rugby is in Chiang Mai and is making sure that whatever arrives, gets to the right people," he added.

Any persons looking to donate any items or otherwise help with the effort are asked to call Mr Pearce directly on 089 5870819.

For more information about the International Veterans Association, visit the website PhuketVeterans.com or the International Veterans Association Facebook page. Alternatively, email contact.us@phuketveterans.com

Man found hanged at Chalong home

POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING the death of a man found hanged at a home in Chalong last Sunday afternoon (Apr 4).

Capt Somkiat Sarasit Deputy of the Chalong Police was called to the home, a single-level house in Soi Klumyang, at 5pm.

At the scene police found Phicht Burakhon, 33, originally from Sadao District in Songkhla province, hanged by a sarong tied to a beam over the doorway leading to the rooftop terrace. A small stepladder was found nearby.

Police estimated that he had died about two hours before his body was found.

Mr Phichet was last seen buying tobacco from a shop in front of the house earlier last Sunday morning. The shop owner, Ms Miad, said Mr Phichet was a regular customer and that he was usually quiet, choosing not to engage in conversation with anyone.

"I asked him if he had eaten yet. He just said, 'No,'" she said.

A friend, who asked to be named only as "Ms Phrae", said that Mr Phichet



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

had lived in the house with relatives since before the pandemic.

There were usually four to five people in the house, she said.

"He was a quiet person, he rarely spoke to anyone," Ms Phrae said.

The relatives staying in the house left for another province early last Sunday morning to pay respects to their ancestors as part of the Qingming festival.

"In the morning we went to pay homage to our ancestors for Ching Meng, but Phichet stayed home alone,"

Ms Phrae said.

She said she had no idea why Mr Phichet would hang himself.

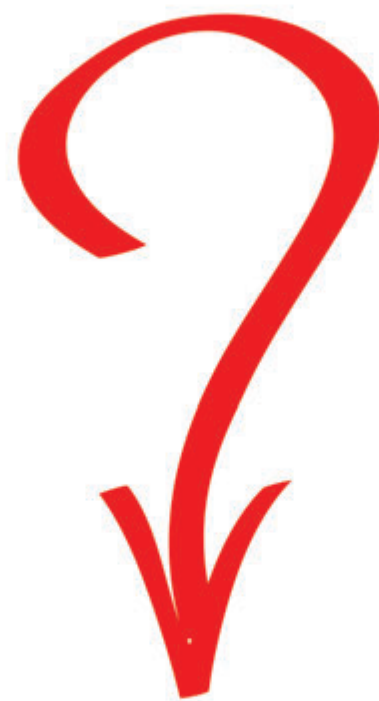
Mr Phichet's body was taken to Vachira Hospital Phuket for examination while police continue their investigation.

— Eakkapop Thongtub

If you or anyone you know is in emotional distress, please contact the Samaritans of Thailand at their 24-hour hotline 02-713-6791 (English), 02713-6793 (Thai) or Thai Mental Health Hotline at 1323 (Thai).



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With Phuket Reopening Its Borders As Soon As July, The Island's Real Estate Industry Is Expected To Make A Comeback

ADVERTORIAL

Once the borders are open, Phuket could see up to 6.5 million tourists in the second half of this year and THB 350 billion in revenue, which would reboot the island's tourism-reliant economy that has been affected by the pandemic.

Phuket plans to waive quarantine requirements and welcome international tourists who are vaccinated against COVID-19 starting from 1st July 2021, which would make it among the first destinations in the world to reopen its borders amid the pandemic. The Thai government also plans on vaccinating at least 70% of Phuket's population to achieve herd immunity before reopening to ensure the health and safety of both the island's residents and tourists. If implemented effectively, the move would benefit Phuket's many industries, including its real estate sector.

Phuket is expecting around 6.5 million tourists in the second half of this year and about THB 350 billion in revenue, which would reboot the island's tourism-reliant economy that has been affected by the pandemic. As a result, the real estate market in the region is also predicted to pick up by the end of this year.

"If you look at the statistics, you'd see that 80-90% of condominium

owners in Phuket are foreigners," says Andres Pira, CEO & Founder of Blue Horizon Developments, one of Southeast Asia's leading property developers. "When the travel restrictions are relaxed, Phuket will definitely see a comparable rise in foreigners visiting the island, in-

vesting in its condominiums, and driving up the economy."

At the same time, Pira believes that new industry trends will emerge. "The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that most professionals are able and willing to work remotely. With Phuket already a hot desti-

nation among digital nomads, the island might experience an influx of travelers with remote jobs who reside on the island for weeks or even months at a time," explains Pira.

With international education systems, great healthcare, and a low cost of living compared to many

cities around the world, Phuket offers an attractive lifestyle and would be considered by couples and families as the ideal place to build a second home. Regardless, the reopening of Phuket's borders offers an optimistic outlook on the island's future.



Stay Safe with Laguna Phuket

COVID forces venue closures in Bangkok

Bangkok Post

Entertainment venues in three Bangkok districts have been ordered closed from April 6-19 to contain the spread of COVID-19, city governor Aswin Kwanmuang announced last Monday (Apr 5).

The decision to temporarily close the venues in Klong Toey, Watthana and Bang Khae was reached at the Bangkok's communicable disease committee Monday evening.

If the disease spreads to other districts, the affected establishments will also be shut. "We're monitoring the situation," the governor said.

The closure affects 196 entertainment establishments in the three districts, he added.

The Public Health Ministry also plans tougher restrictions on other eateries and entertainment venues in Bangkok and surrounding provinces ahead of the Songkran holiday next week after new clusters of infections were detected in night-entertainment venues in the capital.

Department of Disease



Entertainment venues in three Bangkok districts have been ordered closed from April 6-19 to contain the spread of COVID-19. Photo: Bangkok Post

Control (DDC) director-general Opas Karnkawinpong said the number of COVID-19 infections is expected to rise after new clusters of infections were detected in a Narathiwat prison and Bangkok bars.

In light of this, the meeting of the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) on Monday agreed that Bangkok, Pathum Thani, Nonthaburi, Samut Prakan and Nakhon Pathom will be designated as red zones under maximum control.

Eateries in the red zone provinces will be allowed to

open until 9pm. Customers will be allowed to dine in but no consumption of alcoholic beverages will be allowed.

Entertainment venues can open until 9pm. Customers will be allowed to eat in but no alcohol consumption will be permitted.

Department stores and shopping malls can still operate as usual, under health and safety protocols. Schools and education institutes will remain open.

The new restrictions will be enforced for two weeks and

they will then be assessed, Dr Opas said.

After fewer cases were reported, COVID-19 infections on Sunday made a comeback in the capital as health authorities said cases linked to the entertainment cluster had risen to 71, according to the DDC.

The cluster is thought to have originated at an entertainment venue in Pathum Thani province before spreading to others in Thong Lor and Ekamai in Bangkok.

"Employees were the conduits as they contracted the disease from customers and then spread it to others. Most patrons also visited more than one place and musicians and employees working at entertainment places tend to work multiple jobs, accelerating the spread," Dr Opas said.

He identified risky behaviour such as not wearing masks, shouting, drinking – which led to poor judgement – and sharing glasses.

There were 194 new cases of COVID-19 recorded on Monday, taking the accumulated total since the start of the pandemic to 29,321.



A Suvarnabhumi airport employee receives Sinovac's COVID-19 vaccine on Monday (Apr 5). The airport aims to inoculate all staff by the end of next month. Photo: Sutthiwit Chayutworakan.

Suvarnabhumi airport starts vaccination drive

BANGKOK'S SUVARNABHUMI international airport has begun an inoculation drive, aiming to vaccinate all 30,000 staff against COVID-19 by the end of next month and boost confidence in the airport's safety as it reopens to tourists.

The vaccination plan was announced by airport general manager Suthirawat Suwanawa last Monday (Apr 5).

W/Cdr Suthirawat and Lt Gen Preecha Benjakhan, chief of the airport's emergency operation centre, were among those inoculated with the Chinese-manufactured Sinovac vaccine as the campaign kicked off last Monday.

The vaccine was provided by the Disease Control De-

partment of the Public Health Ministry.

It is intended that all of the approximately 30,000 airport staff who provide services for passengers, both domestic and international, will be vaccinated by the end of May, W/Cdr Suthirawat said.

The vaccinations are being administered in zone A on the east wing on the 4th floor of the departure terminal by medical staff from Bang Phli Hospital and the Chon Buri-based 6th Disease Control Office.

This was part of the airport's preparations to reopen to tourists, who were expected to begin arriving in Thailand this month, he said. *Bangkok Post*

Army delivers donated aid to fleeing Karen

THE GOVERNMENT HAS shipped items donated by different organisations to Karen refugees fleeing the violence in Myanmar, the Third Army Region said last Monday (Apr 5).

Its commander, Lt Gen Apichet Suesat, said he had instructed the 36th Ranger Forces Regiment to deliver the donations, which included dried food and medicines, to Myanmar citizens sheltering on the banks of the Salween River, opposite the Thai border in Mae Hong Son.

Five boats were hired to deliver the donations, accompanied by rangers from the regiment who were tasked with ensure the boats were protected as they made multiple trips to and from the river bank on the Myanmar side of the border.

Lt Gen Apichet stressed that due to the current COVID-19 situation and the escalating conflict across the border, donations can only be delivered by authorities.

Between 2,000-3,000 refugees from Myanmar have

crossed the border to seek shelter in Mae Hong Son's Mae Sa Riang district.

Lt Gen Apichet said the refugees generally stayed on the Myanmar side of the border, but they would cross the river to seek shelter in Thai territory – usually at night – when they feel their lives were threatened.

The army is assisting with COVID-19 screening at checkpoints and patrolling natural border channels to prevent illegal entry. More obstructions to stem illegal entry have been

set up along the Thai-Myanmar border, he said.

Assistant army spokesperson Col Sirichan Ngathong said over 5,300 troops patrolling along the Thai-Myanmar border were vaccinated by the Public Health Ministry in March.

Army spokesperson Lt Santipong Thammapiya confirmed army chief Narongphan Jitkaewtae had instructed all army units to boost security for Thais living along the border and help prevent COVID-19 infections spreading



Soldiers check basic supplies donated by Thais before they are loaded on long-tailed boats and taken to Karen refugees in Myanmar. Photo: 36th Ranger Forces Regiment.

from neighbouring countries.

The Thai military has extended humanitarian assistance to refugees in compliance with anti-COVID-19 measures, the spokesperson said, before adding that the refugees have been gradually returning to

Myanmar since March 27.

Around 2,700 Myanmar refugees crossed the Salween River to Thailand following the outbreak of fresh clashes in Myanmar on March 26-27 opposite Mae Hong Son, Lt Santipong said. *Bangkok Post*

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It's all in the bite...

Photo: Kate Gu / Unsplash



UNLEASHED

Russell D Russell
info@k9pointacademy.com

Puppies are proper cute, there's no denying that. They can be endless fun and you'll take billions of amazing lovely photos of them when they're playing, falling over, or mostly when they're sleeping – which they do, a LOT. But despite the endless amount of cuteness, the additional seemingly endless amount of 'biting' can get annoying and leads to one simple question: "How do I get the biting to stop?" Short answer: You don't.

Don't panic, this doesn't mean you need to let your pup slice their razor sharp puppy teeth into your shoes, toes, fingers and clothes all the time, but we do need to help them learn what we call 'Bite Inhibition'. Puppies engage with each other, and indeed the world around them, by using their mouth to explore, pick things up and chew on them. And properly engaging with their littermates – young animals learn that biting their fellow pup mates with too much force – will lead to an immediate termination of engagement and may also lead to a reprimand. So whilst it's perfectly natural for our pups to do this, there's a few things we can do to show them not to nibble on us...

TOYS

Like Neo said in *The Matrix*. "Toys. Lots of toys..." Ideally you want to go for variety here. Some will be hard rubber toys, others will be soft. Some may have stuffing, some may not. The more variety you have in toy options, the better. It's always worth having a few 'special' toys that your pup only has access to at certain times – such as dinner time, or crate time

– but otherwise, have a range of toys that are available at all times.

As far as your pup is concerned, if it's on the floor, it's probably a toy and if he does grab a toy, that's the time to give him lots of attention, a big fuss and maybe even a treat. That way he learns, "Hey if I pick up this item [the toy] I get lots of attention and a treat. I should pick up this item [the toy!] more often!" The same is also true if you shout and chase him for picking up your shoes, so beware. Remember, they have NO idea of what a shoe, toy or potted plant is – it's just all stuff to them – so engage and reward the good things they do.

TARGET TOYS

Toys in general are great, but young pups also tend to follow you around, at which point flowing dresses, trousers, ankles and feet become fair game. Most moving objects are of interest to puppies, who enjoy bouncing on, and then mouthing them. And razor sharp teeth on toes is not a good mix. Target toys, such as a rope knot, can be handy as you can grab one and carry it with you, encouraging your pup to use it as a 'target' to chew on while you're walking.

TREATS

Using treats can sometimes be tricky when you have proper mouthy pups as fingers appear to be fair game. Instead of hand feeding, get your pups attention and drop treats on the floor behind them. Once they turn to get the treat, call their name to get their attention, and then drop another treat. This has the dual benefit of relating their name to something positive (the treat) and also showing them good things come from the floor, not your hands – so it may curb their tendency to either jump, or just mouth your (or your kids') hands, rather choosing to wait for the treat to land on the floor. Remember, you're after 'attention' first, before dropping the treat. Don't just throw treats on the floor for no reason.

PUPPY HELP

Sometimes, just trying to calmly pet our puppy can turn into a struggle, with sharp teeth scraping our hands. First, if pup is in a super high energy state, maybe don't try to calmly pet or engage with them. Try playing with a rope toy, or a game of fetch. And later, when you are trying to calmly pet them, maybe have a chew toy (or two), that you can hold with one hand, whilst the other hand does the petting.

MANAGEMENT VS TRAINING

Management forms a big part of puppyhood. This involves keeping doors to other rooms closed at all times so a puppy is unable to get in there in the first place. Block off access to various areas with baby gates. Make sure all chewable items like shoes, kids toys, phone charging cables, remote controls and so on are all out of reach from our new puppy. Also, it's worth having your pup on a leash almost constantly around the house. So wherever you go, puppy goes. This also prevents the puppy from being able to sneak off and chew something he shouldn't when out of sight.

NO TO NO!

Shouting "NO!" is an obvious, almost reactionary tactic. But ultimately, it's pointless. It might work the first few times, if you startle the pup, but over time he'll just work out that loud noise you make doesn't mean anything as there's no consequence to it. Of course, if the puppy has just sunk his teeth into your thumb, you're allowed to utter a few choice expletives, but just understand this more reactionary than a solid training plan.

If you would like some help with your puppy, then please contact us on 091-6541960, email info@k9pointacademy.com, or check our website www.k9pointacademy.com. CPA is accredited with the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT), as an American Kennel Club (AKC) Evaluator and a Professional Member of the IACP.

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ALCOHOL MAY BE A HEALTH HAZARD!

Greening your garden



GREEN THOUGHTS

Patrick Campbell

Not all colour in your garden comes from flowers or fruit. After all, few flowers bloom all year round, and fruits are highly seasonal. Nor is foliage limited to conventional leaves: it can come in the form of casuarina needles – or distinctive succulent shapes that do not resemble leaves at all. Nonetheless, leafy plants are central to your tropic garden, the more so since evergreen foliage retains its hues all year round. Not just green either, but silver, bronze, red, purple, and of course, variegated.

Sanchezia nobile, one of these bi-coloured fellows, prompted an enthusiastic Floridian visiting Phuket to write: “Does anybody know about this plant? I saw it here in town and I just had to get a cutting.” She must have been lucky: the good news is that not only will it grow readily from cuttings, but that it is available in plant nurseries everywhere.

Sometimes confused with the *codiaeum* (croton), its leaves are quite similar, since *sanchezia* has similarly deep green, oval foliage with deeply scored yellow or white veining. Glossy and leathery, the spectacular leaves, produced in opposite pairs, are comparable in size to those of the croton – up to a foot long in the right conditions.

And the right conditions mean good soil, a consistent supply of water and full or filtered sun. Potted specimens, for example, will wilt rapidly if the soil is allowed to dry out.

While it does not have the spectrum of colours possessed by the croton, this tropical American native named after a certain Dr Sanchez, has other compensations. It is a fast grower, makes



Sanchezia nobile.

a sizable bush (up to three metres) and has quite showy yellow flowers with bright tubular red bracts. Right now, in the middle of the dry season, it is blooming away in my border. Our Floridian friend said these blooms looked like hibiscus flowers, but I put that observation down to an aberrant memory – or an excess of enthusiasm. But the shrub is well worth a try and makes a leafy addition to your flower bed. If you want a bushier plant, remember to pinch out the growing tips.

The next plant comes with a health warning. Its common name, the blindness tree, affords a clue – the sap is toxic and may be injurious to eyes, though it does also have medicinal uses.

The shrub in question, *excoecaria cochinchensis* (the latter epithet an old word for Vietnam), is a bushy, woody shrub up to a metre or so with masses of shiny foliage. What makes what Thais call *lin-krabue* so distinctive is that while the upsides of the leaves are dark green (sometimes with white or pinkish variegations), they are deep maroon underneath. It is becoming increasingly popular here: one cultivar, “Firestone” has strongly contrasting leaf coloration. Its dense habit means it can be used as a hedge or border plant and will tolerate clipping. Distinctly useful.

Polyscias, sometimes referred to as panax, is another shrub that can be brought into service as a hedging plant and is often employed in this fashion by Thai gardeners. Around a long time, it is more a two-tone variegated plant than a multi-coloured one, rarely deviating from green and white patterned foliage.

Quercifolia (oak-leaved), the commonest variety here, has smallish, wavy-edged foliage and a strong, vertical habit. If you intend to use it for a barrier or border you will need to put the young plants close together. Trim the top growth if you want a bushier specimen.

Polyscias is exceedingly hardy, and will tolerate low levels of moisture. Moreover, it is evergreen and there are increasingly attractive varieties available. “Marginata”, for example, has dramatic blotches of bright yellow on the leaf edges. The shrub has achieved a new lease of life as a house plant, especially in America, where there are many cultivars with varied leaf shapes. “Ruffles”, “parsley” and “spinach” should give you a clue.



Excoecaria cochinchensis.

Dracaena is abundant here as a single-stemmed plant. African in origin, it has become familiar throughout Thailand where it pressed into service both for hedging and in containers. Sometimes, and because of its acceptance of low light levels, it is employed as a house plant. Typically, it sports a thick, fleshy stem, crowned by a rosette of glossy, lanceolate leaves. If the plant is cut back, it will produce branches below the cut.

Tolerant to the point of surviving near total neglect, *dracaena* looks best in variegated forms such as “Mass Cane” or “Massangeana” (this variety is also known as the corn plant), which has a bright yellow stripe down the centre of

its long, spathe-like, drooping leaves.

“Reflexa” can grow into a substantial tree. At the other end of the scale, a dwarf variety, “Compacta” is small and consequently better suited to indoor cultivation. Grow from segments of old stems put in moist soil. If half-submerged horizontally in the ground, a length of stem will normally produce vertical shoots.

“*The Tropic Gardener*”, an indispensable guide to plants and their cultivation in Thailand. Available from the author at drpaccampbell@gmail.com, from Seng Ho bookshop in Phuket Town or Delish in Rawai.



Polyscias or panax.



Dracaena fragrans.

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ALCOHOL MAY BE A HEALTH HAZARD!

POP QUIZ

1. On which island is Honolulu, the capital of Hawaii, located?
2. Where and when was the first Formula One race held?
3. In which movie would you hear the line 'Don't call me Shirley'?
4. Which organ in the human body produces insulin?
5. The extinct Elephant Bird was native to which island?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

1. Occurred
4. Acropolis figure
10. Cancels
14. Cast
15. Longs for
16. Barbershop call
17. Mine find
18. Cautionary item
19. Passionate about
20. Redo happily?
23. Pinnacle opposite
24. With a steady hand
25. Moose or mice, e.g.
28. Unconscious
30. Broadcasted
31. Hindu garment
32. "Not to mention ..."
36. Improve a server?
39. Pendulum paths
40. Alternative to acrylics
41. Chip away at
42. Additions
43. Talking points?
44. Rounded style of writing
48. Fall mo.
49. Disloyal cover-up?

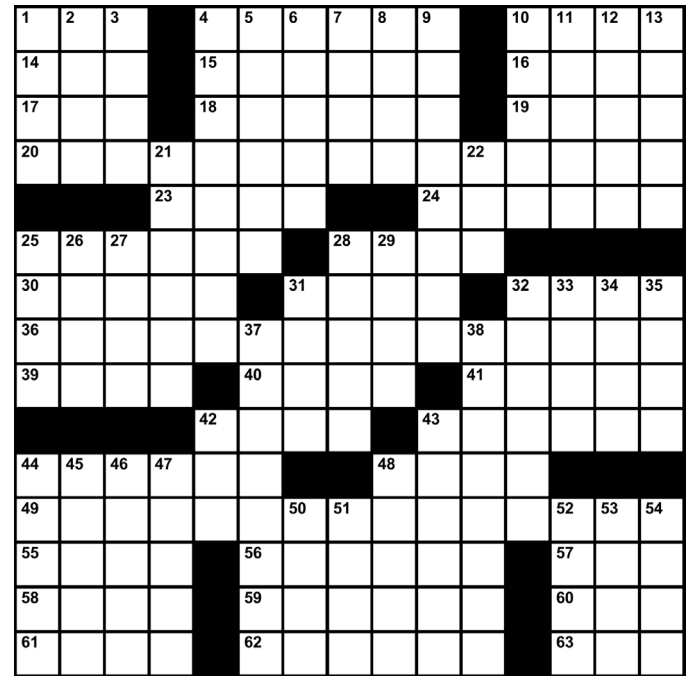
55. Arduous journey
56. Soft palate tissues
57. Dissenting vote
58. Latin 101 verb
59. "What fools these mortals be" writer
60. ___ cry
61. Abbr. after general's name
62. Desk item
63. "Cut Piece" artist

Down

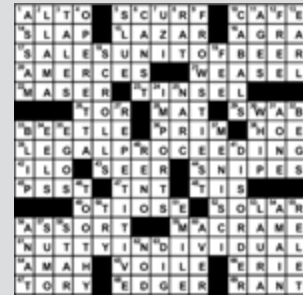
1. Pronoun in a Hemingway title
2. Halo, e.g.
3. Hunt for
4. Award
5. Go places
6. Any port in a storm
7. By any chance
8. "Cool!"
9. Weakness
10. Cartoon art
11. Arc lamp gas
12. Glorify
13. Expressionless
21. Exit
22. Actress Plumb
25. Medic or normal?
26. Pinocchio, at times
27. ___ acid
28. Highlanders, e.g.
29. Eyes, poetically
31. Level
32. Religious nectar
33. Golden Triangle country
34. Fries, maybe
35. Horace volume
37. City on the River Garonne
38. Turn up again
42. Amniotic ___
43. Scratch up
44. Absolute
45. Care for
46. Colgate rival
47. Signed
48. Undersides
50. Maintain
51. Charlie, for one
52. Data
53. Indian bread
54. Apprentice

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Oahu; 2) Silverstone, England (May 30, 1950); 3) Airplane or Airplane II (also known as Flying High); 4) Pancreas; 5) Madagascar



Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

3

Academy Awards was won by Sylvester the Cat, more than any other Looney Toons character.

54

years is how long a person can eat out at a different restaurant every night in New York City and not eat at the same place twice.

100

lightning strikes happen around the world every second

80,000

miles of steel wire is how long the two main cables on the Golden Gate Bridge are when unraveled – long enough to circle the equator three times.

1.81 trillion

kilograms of TNT exploding releases the equivalent amount of energy to that released by a magnitude 9 earthquake.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Koh Yao Yai rainbow. Photo: Cathy Bacorro

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

This week in history

April 9, 1960

Dr Hendrik Verwoerd, Prime Minister of South Africa and architect of apartheid, narrowly survives an assassination attempt by a white farmer, David Pratt, in Johannesburg.

April 10, 1972

Tombs containing bamboo slips, among them Sun Tzu's Art of War and Sun Bin's lost military treatise, are acciden-

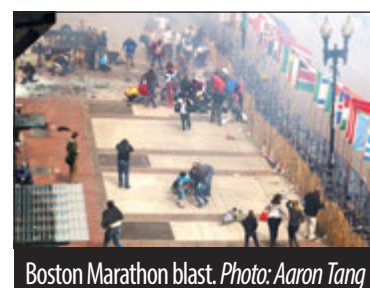
tally discovered by construction workers in Shandong.

April 11, 1981

A massive riot in Brixton results in almost 300 police injuries and 65 serious civilian injuries.

April 12, 1606

The Union Flag (better known as the Union Jack) is adopted as the flag of English and Scottish ships.



Boston Marathon blast. Photo: Aaron Tang

April 13, 1997

Tiger Woods becomes the youngest golfer to win the Masters Tournament.

April 14, 1912

The British passenger liner RMS Titanic hits an iceberg in the North Atlantic at 23:40, sinks morning of April 15.

April 15, 2013

Two bombs explode near the finish line at the Boston Marathon in Boston, Massachusetts, killing three people and injuring 264 others.

Source: Wikipedia

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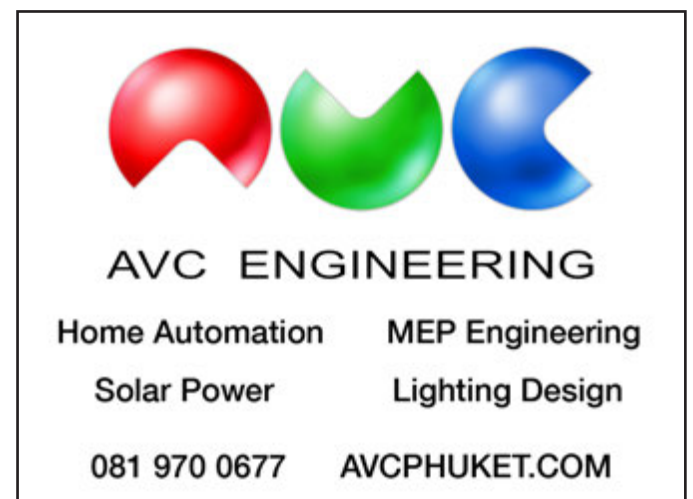
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Sunday roast

12PM – 9PM: All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet Beef, Pork & Lamb – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Car-

rots, Fried mushrooms, Grilled Tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes – Gravy, Mushroom sauce, Horse radish, Mint Sauce. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 350 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 175 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket



Sunday Brunch at Pine Beach Bar

Try exciting new items including organic truffle poached egg, lobster house made pasta and unagi don. Enjoy complimentary use of pool and beach facilities before and after your brunch with a bottle of sparkling, a selection of delicious dishes, funky tunes of our DJ and beach activities. Intercontinental Phuket Resort, Kamala, 076 629 999.

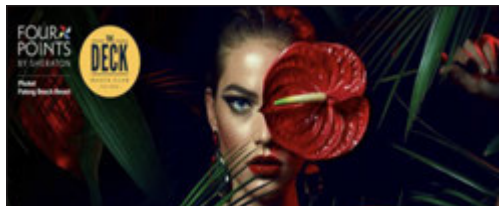
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Monday BBQ night

6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Prawns & Squids, salad buffet, Baked potatoes, potato salad & various 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

TUE 13 APR



Songkran Splash Jungle Pool Party

Whip out your tropical shirts and swimsuits because it's The Deck Beach Club Songkran Splash Jungle Pool Party. Get ready for an afternoon of fresh and fruity drinks, bikinis, chill tunes by DJ Nicola Vega, and cool splashes in the pool. Free entry. More information Website: https://bit.ly/bookthedeck or message us on Facebook. The Deck Beach Club Patong, Four Points by Sheraton Phuket Patong Beach Resort, fb.phuket@fourpoints.com, 076 645 999

WED 14 APR

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SAT 17 APR



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FRI 23 APR



BCCT Multi-Chamber Phuket Networking

BCCT Multi-Chamber Phuket Networking on Friday 23rd April 2021. At Royal Phuket Marina. Cost: THB 700 for BCCT members and participating chambers and THB 900 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. To register in advance please email banthita@bccthai.com

FRI 14 MAY

PHUKET SUNDOWNERS
Date: Friday 14th May 2021
Time: 18:00 - 21:00 hrs
Venue: Hilton Phuket Acadia Resort & Spa
Cost: 500 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members and Australian Alumni Members. 900 THB for non-members. For registration code for Australian Alumni members, please contact AustCham team at 02 109 9616 or email to office@austchamthailand.com

Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners

AustCham Thailand, is delighted to invite you to join us for "Phuket Sundowners" at Hilton Phuket Acadia Resort & Spa, on Friday 14th May 2021, from 18.00-21.00 hrs. Cost: 500 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members. 900 THB for non-members. For registration code for Australian Alumni members, please contact AustCham team at 02 109 9616 or email to office@austchamthailand.com

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Full Metal Dojo goes all in

MMA

Press Release

There are few things in this world that can cut through the general anxiety and stress hanging over nearly every aspect of our lives right now, but Full Metal Dojo's Fight Circus aims to do just that with their third installment tomorrow (Apr 10) from 8:30am at The Sea Galleri by Katathani in Kata Beach.

If anything can lift our spirits it's Fight Circus, a show where any and all are welcome, very few holds are barred, and is free to view on adult streaming site Camsoda, where viewers are encouraged to tip the fighters.

The Full Metal Dojo guys are showing no signs of slowing down and, to the contrary, might very well be bringing you an even wackier circus than the first two including a 'Wheel of Violence' and a parking lot kickboxing match.

FC2 culminated in an unforgettable melee between fight sports legend Bob Sapp and FMD President and Fight Circus Ringmaster, Jon Nutt, that left viewers staring at a blank screen as the broadcast was cut mid beatdown. 'Will there be more to this story at FC3', is the question on the minds of many.

Here is a preview of what to expect tomorrow.

MMA SYMMETRICAL 2 VS 1 MATCH

Bank & No Money vs Will 'The Kill' Chope

MMA's only undefeated duo of 'Bank & No Money' are fresh off back-to-back wins at Fight Circus 1 and 2, including multiple stoppages in the first fight alone and they're set to face their toughest opponent yet in Will Chope. Chope is often referred to as the busiest man in the business, with well over 100 pro fights across all disciplines, including a good scrap with Max Holloway in UFC. Three men enter and it's anyone's guess where it goes from there.



Image: Full Metal Dojo

MUAY THAI – 56 KG

Nong Rose vs Renaud Gurgui

With over 150 Muay Thai wins to her name, Nong Rose was the first transgender boxer to ever fight at Bangkok's legendary Rajadamnern Stadium in 2017. She will now display her skill set to the world at Fight Circus 3 against the French mixed martial artist, Renaud Gurgui.

HUMAN COCKFIGHTING

Tetee Denman vs William Gurgui

Two-time Human Cockfighting World Champion and karateka pin-up Tetee Denman, has already humiliated representatives of Muay Thai and Kung Fu in previous Fight Circuses. After an impressive KO bare knuckle victory at the recent Bare Knuckle Kingdom, he returns to exclusive use of his preferred lower limbs, to take on the other Gurgui brother, Muay Thai fighter William Gurgui.

TRINITY RULES

Souris Manfredi vs Akkaranee Kadsin

For those still playing catch-up, Trinity rules is a three-round fight

with first round boxing, second round Muay Thai and third round MMA. Witness this experimental fight code first hand as France's Souris Manfredi takes on Thailand's Akkaranee "Chainaconda" Kadsin.

BARE KNUCKLE BOXING

Fabiano Hawthorne vs TJ Chang

There was no love lost between these two in the run-up to their recent headlining scrap at Bareknuckle Kingdom. Heavily tattooed, trash-talking pretty boy boxer and British Bangkok expat TJ 'HellBoy' Chang, believes he was clearly winning the fight, until heat exhaustion forced him to retire at the end of the fourth round. He wants to end the debate on who really won that day with a one-round, 10-minute bare knuckle play-off fight against the victor, the Phuket-based ginger-dreadlocked Brazilian brawler Fabiano Hawthorne. Let the debate end!

PHONE BOOTH FIGHT

Nai Densarakam vs Jacky

Ever walked past a phone booth and thought what would happen if two highly experienced Muay Thai

fighters were locked inside to fight? Well, think no more as it happens at Fight Circus 3.

INDIAN LEG WRESTLING

Sofia Sigareva vs Venera Kainazarova

The hot new craze of Indian Leg Wrestling continues to take the world by storm, as two Instafamous fitness models lie next to each in the ring and try to rip each other's leg off using only their leg; this time in the shapes of Russia's Sofia Sigareva and Khazakstan's Venera Kainazarova. At stake, the pride of nations, and the chance to take on Indian Leg Wrestling World Champion, the Iron Queen herself, Britain's Tracy Eden Larby.

NEW GENERATION SIAMESE KICKBOXING

Petsilla & Daysekda vs Hulices & Nauris

Live from the home of the unfortunate genetic birth deformation Siamese Twins, comes New Generation Siamese Kickboxing. Two become one, as two pairs of fighters are tied together, and face off in mortal combat, like the multiple-

limbed killing machines dreamt of by despotic regimes. Thailand's Petsilla & Daysekda will be twinning it up for Siam, as they take on random foreign pretenders Hulices & Nauris.

LETHWEI

Somiong 'War' Lukthupfa vs

Kritsada 'Dream Man' Kongsrichai
Five 3-minute rounds of 54kg World Lethwei Championship rules Lethwei action. Thailand's own Dream Man, AKA Kritsada Kongsrichai, has been a staple on the Thai MMA scene since 2014. Known for his incredible pace and ability to suplex a house, Dream Man is always welcome in this Dojo. Although a veteran of multiple disciplines, this will be his first time under WLC Rules. But this only excites him more, as he is a true-blue fighter. Everything about this guy screams 'Human Headbutting Machine'. Mixing him up with Somiong Luktupfah, AKA War, is a violent cocktail all fight fans and party people will want to try. War is already a highly ranked WLC fighter in Myanmar, so this circus show is his playground. Truly a special talent, War is straight out of a Burmese Tarantino Movie and we can't wait to see him go full tilt Crazy 88. This fight has all the makings of a masterpiece. Blood is their paint and the Fight Circus Logo is their canvas.

For the full Fight Circus experience, go to CamSoda.com, click "Join Now Free", register with an email address and then "Add Tokens", so you can live tip your favorite Fight Circus fighters, high jape and master debate with fans around the world.

For the latest Fight Circus info and more Full Metal Dojo content, check out: fullmetaldodo.com, facebook.com/fullmetaldodo, instagram.com/fullmetaldodo, twitter.com/fullmetaldodo & youtube.com/fullmetaldodo.

For more information, please contact Jon Nutt on +66(0)854711678, email: fullmetaldodo@gmail.com

Thailand's Patty wins ANA Inspiration

GOLF

THAILAND'S PATTY Tavatanakit steered a steady course to hold off charging Lydia Ko and win the ANA Inspiration on Sunday (Apr 4), making her first LPGA title a major championship.

Patty, 21, started the day with a five-shot lead and fired a four-under par 68 at Mission Hills in Rancho Mirage, California.

Her 18-under total of 270 put her two strokes in

front of New Zealand's former world number one Ko – who stormed from eight adrift with a sensational 10-under 62 for 272.

"I had no idea," Patty said of Ko's spectacular round, which matched the tournament record established by Mexican great Lorena Ochoa in the first round in 2006.

"I just played my own game, didn't look at the leaderboard at all... I just wanted to play my own game and I did – I did a really good job of that today."

Patty, who played collegiate golf at the University of Southern California at Los Angeles, padded her overnight cushion with a chip-in eagle at the par-five second and picked up another stroke at the eighth.

She was unable to take advantage of the par-five 11th, but left herself less than two feet for a birdie at the 12th.

Ko, meanwhile, was surging up the board, picking up three shots in the first two holes with an opening birdie and an eagle at the second.

Birdies followed at the fourth, sixth, seventh and ninth.

"I don't think there wasn't an exact moment where I felt like 'Ok, this is going to be a good one,'" Ko said. "You just have to focus until that last putt drops on that last hole."

The pace slowed somewhat on the back nine, where birdies at the 10th, 11th and 15th moved her within two strokes.

Ko, who counts two majors among her 15 LPGA victories couldn't find another birdie in the last three holes and remains in search of her first



Patty Tavatanakit. Photo: AFP

victory since the 2018 Medinah Championship.

Patty, still designated an LPGA rookie after the coronavirus pandemic disrupted her first season on tour, is the first rookie to win the ANA

Inspiration since Juli Inkster in 1984.

She's the fourth wire-to-wire winner, with no shared overnight leads, and the first since Australian Karrie Webb in 2000. AFP

Pivotal weekend at both ends of the Premier League

FOOTBALL

Ben Tirebuck

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Last weekend saw a series of key results in the Premier League that could well prove very telling for the plight of several teams come season's end.

Undoubtedly the most surprising came in the game that started the weekend's action as Chelsea welcomed West Bromwich Albion to Stamford Bridge last Saturday (Apr 3).

The hosts were unbeaten during Thomas Tuchel's 14-game tenure and had only conceded a single goal to an opposition player in that time (the other was an own-goal from Chelsea defender Antonio Rudiger).

The Baggies were just one place off the bottom of the table and looking odds-on to ruin manager Sam Allardyce's proud record of never being relegated from the top flight.

Football, however, is a funny old game and Saturday's game demonstrated this in spades as West Brom ran out 5-2 winners with a performance



West Brom's goalkeeper Sam Johnston saves from Chelsea's Timo Werner during the Baggies' shock 5-2 win at Stamford Bridge last Saturday (Apr 3). Photo: AFP

that completely belied their standing in the league.

Thiago Silva's 29th minute red card certainly did Chelsea no favours although they looked sluggish from the outset and struggled to contain their vibrant opponents who exuded confidence and scored several fine goals.

"I had three weeks to think about this game and sort the tactics. We said, 'Let's go, let's go challenge them' and it worked extremely well," a delighted Allardyce said post-match.

His team remain in 19th

place but the gap between them and the teams above has decreased and with eight games remaining Allardyce could yet celebrate his greatest escape yet.

Chelsea slipped to fifth and have temporarily lost their grasp on a Champions League berth as West Ham continued their sparkling campaign with a thrilling 3-2 win away at Wolves on Monday which propelled them one place and one point above their illustrious west London counterparts.

Tottenham lost valuable ground in their top four chase

as they drew 2-2 at struggling Newcastle on Sunday and dropped to sixth in the table. Despite captain Harry Kane scoring twice they allowed the Magpies a late equaliser and a crucial point which leaves Newcastle teetering one place above the drop zone.

Fulham were on course to leapfrog Newcastle but were unable to hang onto a 61st minute lead against Aston Villa as a late collapse saw the Villians score three in 12-minutes. The Cottagers now sit two points behind the north east club having played a game more.

Brighton lost 1-2 at Manchester United and Burnley 2-3 at Southampton, leaving them three and four points ahead of Newcastle respectively. Neither are clear of danger but should have enough to ensure they are playing top-flight football again next season.

At the top, Manchester City continued their march to the title with a relatively straight forward 2-0 win against Leicester and Liverpool kept their flailing Champions League qualification hopes alive with a resounding 3-0 thumping of a dejected looking Arsenal.

Rosberg's team wins Extreme E opener

MOTOR SPORTS

THE 2016 FORMULA ONE world champion Nico Rosberg's team won the inaugural race of the new Extreme E championship which was held in Saudi Arabia last Sunday (Apr 4).

Former Australian rally champion Molly Taylor and Swede Johan Kristoffersson, a three-time world rallycross winner, shared driving duties in the Rosberg X Racing electric SUV.

In second came the American Andretti team with Catie Munnings and Timmy Hansen behind the wheel, with the team created by seven-time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton, Rosberg's former Mercedes teammate and title rival, in third.

Driving for Hamilton's X44 team were nine-time rally world champion Sebastien Loeb and Cristina Gutierrez who set the fastest time in qualifying last Saturday.

Extreme E is seeking to highlight the environmental dangers posed to some of the world's most remote regions.

The competition will



Lewis Hamilton's X44 team driven by Sebastien Loeb and Cristina Gutierrez. Photo: AFP

now switch to Senegal's Lac Rose, Greenland, the Amazon in Brazil and the glaciers of Tierra del Fuego in Argentina.

It also promotes gender equality with each team dividing up duties behind the wheel between male and female drivers.

"It's been pretty cool to be part of the journey, of the very start of what I think has an amazing future," said Taylor.

"It's an incredible opportunity for us [female drivers]. If you look at the field, the drivers we have here are the best in every motorsport category," she added.

"It's been beyond my expectations. It's been the best weekend I could think of," said Alejandro Agag, the entrepreneur behind the project. AFP



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Sport



A weekend of big results in the EPL > p15



The students in action at the beach tournament. Photo: BISP Media

SUN, SAND AND SOCCER

FOOTBALL

Lee Blake, BISP

More than 100 British International School, Phuket (BISP) students took part in the school's first Beach Soccer Tournament on the weekend of Mar 27-28, hosted by XANA Beach Club at Angsana Laguna Phuket.

Students aged 8 to 16

competed across three mixed-gender divisions in six-aside matches consisting of 12-minute halves.

The Cruzeiro Stars division (Years 3, 4 and 5) was won by the Blue team in a penalty shoot-out against the Orange team, after the match had ended in a 1-1 draw.

The White team prevailed against the Orange team 3-0 in the Cruzeiro Diamonds division (Years X) and in

the Cruzeiro Blues division (Years X), Pink beat Yellow 4-0 to capture the title.

The event concluded with a friendly match between the BISP Cruzeiro coaches and Laguna staff, which was won by BISP Cruzeiro 4-0.

BISP Cruzeiro Football Academy head coach, Jonathan Candido, said he was pleased with how the students adapted to playing on the sand.

"For many of our players, this was their first experience playing a tournament on sand and I thought they would find it much more challenging than they did," he said.

"But they displayed great skill and technical work despite the extra challenge sand brings."

BISP Athletics Director, Jeff LaMantia, said the tournament was just the beginning of a long-term plan to establish an annual

international schools beach soccer tournament.

"We hope to build on the success of this inaugural tournament and make this a regular fixture on our sporting calendar at BISP," he said.

"In the future, we'd like to welcome overseas international schools as well."

BISP and XANA welcomed 300 supporters, parents and spectators over the two-day tournament played in

the morning and many BISP families made the most of the overnight accommodation deal offered by Angsana.

BISP would like to thank XANA Beach Club and Angsana Laguna Phuket for hosting and sponsoring this event and to all our BISP players and supporters.

For more information on British International School, Phuket please contact info@bispuket.ac.th

UFC Champion set for fighting reality show

MMA

THE BRIGHT UFC SPOTLIGHT is set to shine on one of the promotion's Phuket-trained athletes.

According to ESPN's Brett Okamoto, UFC featherweight champion Alexander 'The Great' Volkanovski (22-1) will be one of two coaches, along with Brian Ortega (15-1), for the 29th season of 'The Ultimate Fighter' (TUF) reality series.

The long-running show, fea-

tures professional MMA fighters as they train and compete against one another, while living in the same house in Las Vegas.

At the conclusion of the season, Volkanovski and Ortega will square off in a five-round fight for the featherweight (66kg) title.

A date for the bout has yet to be announced, but Volkanovski wasted no time to show his excitement.

"Would you look at that... Looks like we in Vegas for a while!!" he wrote in an Instagram post last Saturday (Apr 3), in re-

sponding to the announcement.

It's welcomed news for Volkanovski, who trained for years out of Tiger Muay Thai & MMA Training Camp in Chalong. His fight with Ortega was originally scheduled for UFC 260 in Las Vegas, which took place on March 27, but he was forced out of the bout after testing positive for COVID-19.

This will be the Aussie's second title defense, following his five-round war against former champion Max Holloway last July

on Fight Island in Abu Dhabi, which he won via split decision. With back-to-back wins over the consensus best UFC featherweight champion of all time, Volkanovski will look to make a statement against Ortega, who lost to Holloway by TKO in 2018.

The California native is now three years removed from the first loss of his career. He came back with a vengeance in October last year, earning a unanimous decision victory over 'The Korean Zombie' Chan San Jung. JP Mestanza



Alexander 'The Great' Volkanovski. Photo: Hip Panakom Santayanon