

TOURIST DROWNINGS CONTINUE DESPITE EFFORTS > PAGE 2

PARTY DOPED

Officials in tactical gear, faces covered by black balaclava masks conduct a raid on night venues in Kathu after 3.30am on June 1. Photo: DOPA

DOPA STRIKES AGAIN IN PHUKET, RAIDING TWO NIGHT VENUES FOR MULTIPLE OFFENSES

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Kathu Police Chief and four of his senior officers were temporarily transferred pending an investigation after two nightclubs in Kathu were raided on June 1 by administrative officials for multiple transgressions, including late trading and serving alcohol to teenagers.

The raids at Ratree Club and the Mahanakorn Phuket club in Kathu were led by the special operations

team of the Department of Provincial Administration (DOPA), the same agency that, in March, raided Velvet Bar on Bangla Road, exposing a nationwide child sex trafficking ring with foreign beneficiaries and customers.

Assisting DOPA in the June 1 raid were members of the Volunteer Defense Corps (OrSor). The assault squad had firearms at the ready, and the officers were wearing bulletproof vests, tactical gear and balaclava masks covering their faces.

Photos from the scene also show officials wearing 'Special Operations

Team DOPA' and 'DOPA S.W.A.T.' shirts, confirming their function within the agency commonly associated with routine provincial affairs.

The owner of Mahanakorn Phuket was charged with operating an entertainment venue without a permit, selling alcohol during restricted hours, selling alcohol to minors and encouraging youths to behave inappropriately. The owner of Ratree Club was charged with operating an entertainment venue without a permit and selling alcohol during restricted hours only.

Both Ratree Club and Mahanakorn Phuket were known to close after 4am, while the law mandates that venues outside the designated entertainment zones close at midnight. To confirm these allegations, plainclothes officers entered the clubs at about 2:30am and found both still operating with patrons enjoying their nights out. The teams in uniforms and with guns entered the clubs at about 3:30am, but beforehand, both buildings were encircled to prevent revellers from fleeing. Ten minors aged 17-19 were taken into custody in the raids...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NEWS PAGE 3

Rassada Pier opens doors for all taxis



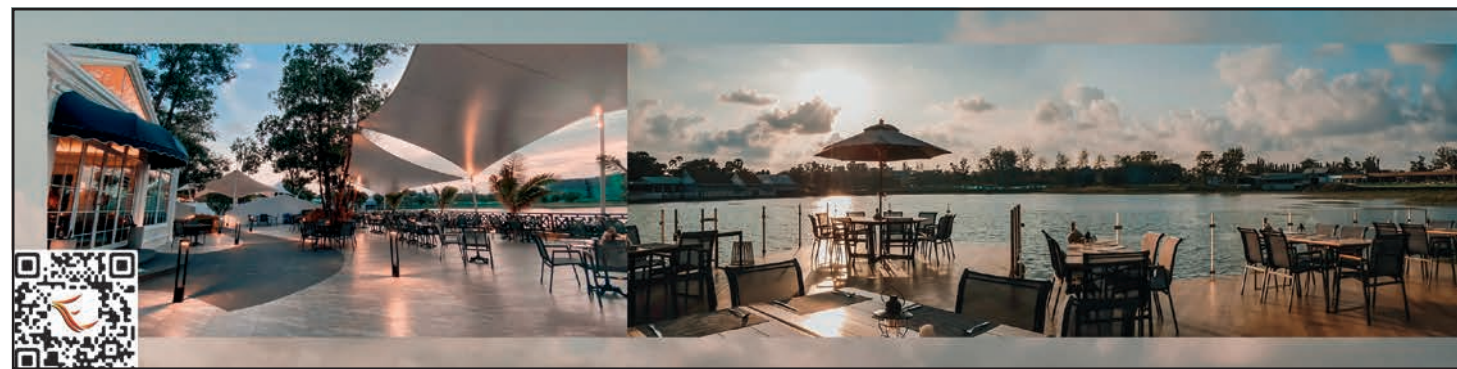
LIFE PAGE 7

Unplanned cycling fun in Singapore



SPORT PAGE 12

BISP Cruzeiro U15 Girls on the ball in Samui



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News



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Woman in hospital after tree falls on motorcycle

A PHUKET WOMAN was injured when a roadside tree fell onto her motorcycle on a small road on Koh Siray in Rassada. The incident happened last Saturday (June 3).

Upon arrival at the scene, police officers and rescue workers discovered a fallen tree, a damaged Honda motorcycle, and an unconscious woman, identified as Duendem Pramongkij, 44.

Rescue workers administered first aid to the

victim before rushing her to Vachira Phuket Hospital. No information was disclosed regarding her condition.

In early May, the Department of Land Transport (DLT) issued a weather-related advisory warning motorists that severe weather can result in the collapse of trees and tall structures. Drivers were advised to bear this in mind while driving or selecting a location to park their vehicles.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Kathu Police transferred after raids on night clubs

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Continued from page 1

According to the report by the DOPA, the agency's Inspector-General Narong Thipsiri had instructed his subordinates to crack down on entertainment venues that operate illegally, including the following transgressions:

- Allowing people under 20 years old to enter the venue
- Selling alcoholic beverages to people under 20 years old
- Operating during restricted hours
- Selling alcoholic beverages during restricted hours
- Allowing people who possess weapons, explosive items and drugs to enter the venue
- Allowing human trafficking in the venue
- Allowing gambling in the venue



An official wearing a 'DOPA S.W.A.T.' shirt at Kathu Police Station after the June 1 raids. Photo: DOPA

- Operating at locations near schools or school accommodations.

The report specified, that the raids on Ratree Club and Mahanakorn Phuket followed local residents in the area filing complaints about the venues staying open late and playing loud music, leaving many people in Kathu unable to sleep.

Both venues regularly had hundreds of revellers partying all through the night, while alcoholic beverages and food were still being served during the early hours. The venues also served alcohol to minors, the report added.

Less than 24 hours after the raids on the venues of Phra Phuket Kaew Rd, Phuket Provincial Police Chief Maj Gen Sermphan Sirikong signed order No. 238/2566 to have the five following officers at Kathu Police Station temporarily transferred from their duties:

Pol Col Rungrit Rattana-pakdi, Superintendent

Pol Lt Col Chao Poonna, Deputy Superintendent (Crime Suppression)

Pol Lt Col Chayapol Phun-arumit, Deputy Superintendent (Investigation)

Pol Lt Col Nattawat Supha-naart, Detective Inspector

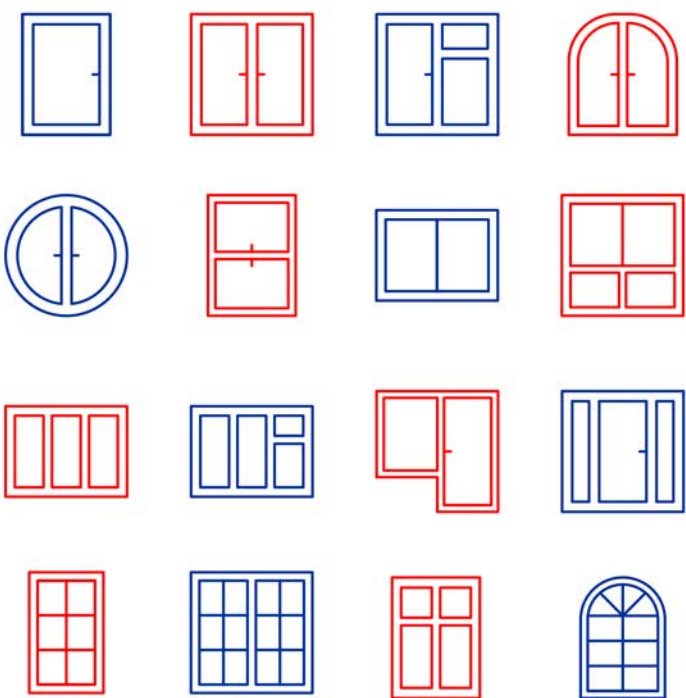
Pol Lt Col Witsanu Pansai, investigative inspector

The order was marked as effective from June 1 onwards until further notice. Maj Gen Sermphan said the transfers were necessary so that the investigation could proceed smoothly, and were permitted by Section 68 and Section 179 of the National Police Act.

Maj Gen Sermphan did not elaborate of whether Col Rungrit and the four other Kathu Police officer had been charged or would be charged with anything in connection with DOPA's operation in Phuket.



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Tourist drownings continue despite safety warning, efforts by lifeguards

TWO MORE FOREIGN TOURISTS have drowned in Phuket despite widely publicised daily weather warnings and the urging of Governor Narong Woonciew for beach visitors to adhere to red flags and not enter the dangerous surf.

Following the death of Pavel Rafailovich, a 52-year-old Russian tourist who drowned on Patong Beach on May 27, Governor Narong also called on lifeguards to enhance enforcement of the 'no swimming' rule in hazardous areas and take necessary measures to ensure public safety.

Despite the efforts, another incident occurred at Kata Beach on June 1, when a 24-year-old tourist, identified as Artur Iskakov from Kazakhstan, was pulled unconscious from the surf. Mr Iskakov passed away on June 4 while efforts were underway to arrange a medical evacuation to his home country.

Another Kazakhstani tourist, 52-year-old Aleksandr Makarov, drowned at Naithon Beach on June 3. Reports indicate that Mr Makarov also disregarded the warning against swimming.

"The said tourist disobeyed the red flags forbidding swimming, which caused him to drown. Lifeguards brought the body



Photo: Patong Surf Life Saving

back to shore and performed CPR but were unable to revive him. Our condolences to the family of the deceased," Phuket Tourist Police stated in a publication on Facebook.

Bringing the overall death toll even higher, Myanmar national Khin Maung Htun, 46, drowned at Layan Beach on May 30. His body was discovered floating in the sea the following day.

In the most recent tragic incident, Thai fisherman Pracheon Thammawong, 59, was found dead in the water near Ao Por in Pa Khlok on June 5. His family reported that he failed to return from his daily routine at sea on June 4. *The Phuket News*

Pier to pier issues

Taxi conflicts continue amid Bolt's legalisation

Nattha Thepbamrung
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All taxis are now welcome to pick up passengers at Rassada Pier, Phuket's main marine gateway to Phi Phi and the site of the recent episode in the island's taxi 'turf wars'.

A sign announcing the absence of exclusive rights for the area was posted at the terminal on Monday (June 5), just two days after foreign tourists were ordered to exit a van they had booked through a mobile app. While the tourists were eventually allowed to continue their journey, Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) Chief Adcha Buachan has pledged to find a 'long-term solution' to the issue.

The Rassada Pier taxi cartel gained attention after a video surfaced showing a group of men informing a van driver that he was not permitted to pick up passengers in his yellow-plated van at the pier, insisting that tourists should walk with their luggage to the main road if they prefer to use an external vehicle.

"The taxi drivers at the pier thought that the minivan driver illegally used the Bolt application to pick up the tourists and tried to stop him. But the head of the queue intervened and informed them that Bolt had been legalised. As a result, they allowed the tourists to return to the van and leave the pier," Mr Adcha explained to *The Phuket News*.

Following the incident, officials – including representatives from the police and the military – visited the pier and conducted a meeting with the drivers who have a concession



Tourist Police officers at Rassada Pier. Photo: Phuket Tourist Police

with the ferry operator. Phuket Move Forward MP-elect Somchart Techathavorncharoen was present at the meeting and later disclosed some of the key points discussed.

"The operation of the taxi queue has no legal basis, but it has been in practice since 2012. It is a common assumption among taxi drivers that they have the legal right to operate a 'taxi queue' in the area and prevent other drivers from picking up passengers there. However, in reality, this is not the case," explained Mr Somchart, adding that this point was made by the PLTO.

"It is recommended to install a clear sign at Rassada Pier, indicating the designated area where outside taxis, not affiliated with the Rassada Pier cooperative, can stop and pick up passengers," continued Mr Somchart.

Regarding his own contributions at the meeting,

Mr Somchart said that he "requested cooperation from all taxi professionals to help maintain the tourism image of Phuket."

BOLT APPROVED IN THAILAND

On the same day of the Rassada Pier incident, the Department of Land Transport (DLT), of which the PLTO is a provincial branch, officially confirmed that the Bolt application had been legally authorised to operate in Phuket and throughout Thailand. With this confirmation, the total number of taxi apps available for local residents and tourists reached seven. Those are:

1. Hello Phuket;
2. Bonku;
3. Asia Cab (CABB);
4. Grab;
5. Robinhood;
6. AirAsia Super App;
7. Bolt.



CAR APP sticker for white-plate cabs. Image DLT

The DLT also clearly stated that personal vehicles with black and white license plates can be legitimate taxis as long as they have been registered as mobile application service vehicles, complete with officially issued stickers of proof. An example of such a sticker was posted with the announcement.



Photo: PR Phuket

Phuket honours Queen, prepares for Royal Visit

PHUKET OFFICIALS, led by Governor Narong Woonciew, joined three traditional ceremonies to honor the 45th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Suthida Bajrasudhabimalalakshana last Saturday (June 3).

The day started with an alms offering ceremony, held at 7:30am at the new Phuket Provincial Hall on Tha Kraeng Rd. At 5:30pm, officials joined the 'Phan Phum' laying ceremony, which was followed by a candle lighting ceremony at 7:19pm.

Meanwhile, preparations were underway for the Royal Visit of King Maha Vajiralongkorn and Queen Suthida this weekend. Their

Majesties will officiate the formal opening of the new Phuket Provincial Hall and participate in the laying of the foundation stone for the building of the Office of the Court of Appeal Region 8 on June 11.

Registration for the general public concluded on June 1 with dozens of Thais and foreigners having signed up to participate in the ceremonies and witness Their Majesties in person. People have been asked to dress appropriately for the occasion, although no official guidelines for the dress code have been posted by the time of press.

The Phuket News

Sea turtle rescued north of Phuket

AN INJURED OLIVE ridley sea turtle was discovered at Thai Mueang Beach in Phang Nga province on June 1 and is currently undergoing rehabilitation at the Phuket Marine Biological Centre (PMBC), officials have confirmed.

The rescued turtle is a young individual measuring slightly over 50 cm in diameter and weighing about 15.4 kg, according to the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR).

The turtle is missing its right front flipper, with a



Photo: DMCR

bone protruding from inflamed flesh. Wildlife officials suspect that it sustained the injury from getting entangled in discarded fishing nets.

Additionally, the DMCR stated that the rescuee was

suffering from severe lung inflammation. Veterinarians are providing appropriate treatment and rehabilitation at the Sirithan Rare Marine Life Rescue Center at the PMBC. *The Phuket News*

AQUELLA EVENTS IN JUNE 2023

- 🏆 Every Monday - Sport Day
- 🏆 Sat, 17th - World Amateur Golf Championship Thailand 2023
- 🏆 Sun, 18th - Sunday Roast Roll Up
- 🏆 Thu, 22nd & Fri, 23rd - Titleist Club & Ball Fitting
- 🏆 Sun, 25th - Aquella 6's Series 3rd Event

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The Phuket News

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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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FRI JUNE 9

High: +30°
Low: +27°
Wind 11 m/s

SAT JUNE 10

High: +31°
Low: +27°
Wind 11 m/s

SUN JUNE 11

High: +31°
Low: +27°
Wind 11 m/s

MON JUNE 12

High: +31°
Low: +27°
Wind 4 m/s

TUE JUNE 13

High: +32°
Low: +27°
Wind 4 m/s

WED JUNE 14

High: +30°
Low: +27°
Wind 4 m/s

THU JUNE 15

High: +30°
Low: +27°
Wind 4 m/s

The TAT and the Tourist Police joined forces to assure Chinese travelers in their safety while in Thailand. Photo: TAT

PHUKET IMMIGRATION DAILY REPORT

วันที่ 1 - 31 พฤษภาคม 2566

สถิตินักท่องเที่ยวเดินทางเข้าสูงสุด
5 อันดับแรก

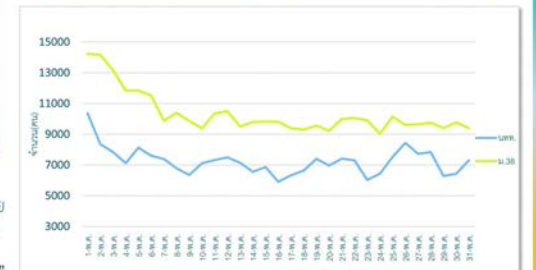
1. จีน	37,949
2. รัสเซีย	26,624
3. ออสเตรเลีย	19,828
4. อินเดีย	19,783
5. มาเลเซีย	12,918

สถิตินักท่องเที่ยวเดินทางเข้า

224,357

สถิตินักท่องเที่ยวแจ้งที่พัก

320,343



“เจ้าบ้าน เจ้าของ ผู้ครอบครองแหล่งสถาน
ผู้จัดเตรียมต้อนรับ เมื่อมีคนต่างต่างเข้าพักอาศัย
มีหน้าที่ต้องเฝ้าระวังความปลอดภัย
ภายใน 24 ชม. ฝ่าฝืนมีโทษ ตาม
มาตรา 38 พ.ร.บ.คนเข้าเมือง พ.ศ.2522”

Phuket Immigration reported 224,357 direct foreign arrivals in May 2023 compared to around 313,919 in May 2019. Image: Phuket Immigration

Tackling the drop-off

Efforts to lure Chinese ramped up amid seasonal decline

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Foreign arrivals to Phuket in May dropped by 26.3% compared to April due to the end of the high season and a sluggish recovery in the Chinese market which officials are now trying to address. Despite this decline, overall visitor numbers align with the expectations set by the President of the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) Thaneth Tantipiriyakij who predicted approximately 50% of pre-COVID levels during

the current low season.

According to the June 1 report by Phuket Immigration, direct international arrivals to Phuket airport in May totaled 224,357 visits. This accounts for around 67-68% of the visitor volume in May 2019, reported by C9 Hotelworks as approximately 314,000 arrivals.

It is important to note that the Phuket Immigration statistics from May 2023 only include direct arrivals and do not account for the significant number of travelers who fly through Bangkok and clear

immigration at Suvarnabhumi Airport.

The top five countries by direct arrivals in May were as follows:

China: 37,949
Russia: 26,624
Australia: 19,828
India: 19,783
Malaysia: 12,918

Though looking healthy, these numbers reflect a decline in arrivals from all the key markets. Namely, Chinese arrivals dropped by 18.7% month-on-month, visits from Russia plunged by 58.1%, visits from India

decreased by 20.5%, and visits from Australia declined by 14.9%. Data for the Malaysian market is not available for comparison as it did not feature in the top five in April.

REASSURING THE CHINESE

The data from Phuket Immigration regarding arrivals from China aligns with the concerns expressed by PTA Director Thaneth Tantipiriyakij in early May, when the expert warned of a “slowdown of the Chinese market” due to two major factors.

Mr Thaneth highlighted the nightly closures of Phuket airport hindering flight expansion from China as these had been the time slots they utilised before the pandemic. He also urged relevant authorities to address the issue of “fake news concerning unsafe vacations in Thailand” that had been circulating on Chinese social media platforms.

Regardless of the authenticity of such news, both the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and the Tourist Police Bureau collaborated to tackle this issue.

On May 22, the TAT announced a new campaign called ‘Trusted Thailand, You Taiguo Yue Wan Yue Kaixin’ aimed specifically at reinforcing Chinese travelers’ confidence in safety while promoting meaningful travel experiences in Thailand.

As part of this effort, the TAT invited 60 Chinese influencers to participate

in the Mega Fam Trip from May 18-28. The itineraries were designed to emphasize safety measures and highlight community-based, gastronomy, health, and beach tourism experiences.

Although Phuket was not included in the destinations visited by the Chinese influencers, the island was the key scene for the part of the campaign run by the Tourist Police.

Since the last week of May, the agency has significantly increased its media activity to promote the officers’ assistance to foreign tourists in need.

Daily reports published by the Phuket Tourist Police feature stories of officers helping foreigners find their lost mobile phones and motorcycles, providing care to road accident victims, acting as mediators in conflicts between foreign clients and local businesses and assisting in the search for tourists lost in the jungle or struggling to recall the name of their hotel.

“In cooperation with the relevant agencies, the Tourist Police Bureau is dedicated to the safety and well-being of tourists in Thailand. We are making every effort and utilising modern technology to ensure tourists from all over the world can enjoy peace of mind throughout their travels in Thailand,” stated Lt Gen Sukhun Prommayon, Commissioner of the Tourist Police Bureau, in a joint announcement with the TAT.

FARANG AFFAIRS

By Stephff

https://farangaffairs.com

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MFP to bring back gender equality bill

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Move Forward Party (MFP) leader Pita Limjaroenrat has vowed to push for a bill seeking to legalise same-sex marriage and improve gender equality after forming a government.

Writing on Facebook on Monday (June 5), Mr Pita, the party's prime minister candidate, said: "Once we can form a government, we will push for the passage of the [MFP's] marriage equality bill within 100 days.

"It is also part of a memorandum of understanding signed by members of the [prospective] coalition," he posted.

The coalition, consisting of eight parties, signed an MoU agreeing on a joint policy platform on May 22, which includes a pledge to pass the marriage equality bill to ensure equal rights for all couples regardless of gender.

"There are also several



Pita Limjaroenrat (left) at the Pride March event in Bangkok on June 4. Photo: AFP

other policies which Move Forward will push as executives of ministries and as members of the legislative branch in the House of Representatives to promote gender equality in Thai society," Mr Pita wrote.

"Every person has human dignity and is equal before the law," he added. "They must have equal access to public services without discrimination because of their gender, race, belief, education, age, and disabilities."

Mr Pita made similar remarks on Sunday when he joined a Pride Parade in central Bangkok, which drew thousands of LGBTQ+ people, their supporters as well as

other political figures.

Parit Wacharasindhu, MFP list-MP elect, tweeted on Monday that the bill will not only promote gender equality but also open a host of financial, tax and inheritance benefits for members of the LGBTQ+ community.

According to the MFP, the marriage equality bill will aim to amend Section 1448 of the Civil and Commercial Code, which limits the definition of marriage to a man and a woman, by making the marriage law applicable to any couple, regardless of gender.

BOOZE BAN SLAMMED Meanwhile, MFP party ex-

ecutive Amarat Chokpamitkul took to social media on Sunday to voice opposition to the ban on the sales of alcoholic beverages during Buddhist holidays, calling it an unnecessary restriction on individual freedom.

According to Ms Amarat, the ban goes against the nation's constitution, which also guarantees the people's right to belong to religions other than Buddhism.

Since many other religions do not frown upon the consumption of alcoholic beverages the way Buddhism does, the ban encroaches on their freedom to choose what's best for themselves, Ms Amarat explained.

Under current regulations, those who violate the ban could face up to six months imprisonment and/or a fine of up to B10,000.

Ms Amarat said such a ban isn't common in other countries, before urging authorities to strictly enforce other rules to prevent alcohol-related accidents, such as the drink-driving law.



Photo: Bangkok Post

Council culls top brass

BANGKOK

THE DEFENCE COUNCIL has approved a reform plan for the armed forces which includes a proposal to cut the number of generals by half by 2027, Col Jittanat Punnotok, a deputy Defence Ministry spokesman, said on May 31.

According to Col Jittanat, the armed forces had already cut the number of military personnel by more than 8,000 between 2017 and 2021, which helped them save around B1.5 billion.

By 2027, the total number of generals should be about 600, and the estimated savings will be B2.9bn.

A military source explained that there are currently around 1,200 generals.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, in his capacity as defence minister, has insisted the reforms were planned long ago and had nothing to

do with any intention by any new government to seek armed forces reform.

The reforms also included a decision to stop reinforcing the 7th Infantry Division in the North.

The 7th Infantry Division's main responsibilities include supporting the 4th Infantry Division in ensuring security along the Thai-Myanmar border.

Other changes approved by the council include a plan to slash the number of paramilitary personnel in the southern border areas by 1,656.

As for recruitment, the number of recruits needed is around 90,000 per year, down from 100,000 before, he said, adding that each year around 35,000 enlist voluntarily.

That suggests the armed forces will be able to switch smoothly from forced conscription to voluntary enlistment. *Bangkok Post*



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POP QUIZ

1. In Norse mythology, what is name the of the magnificent hall in Asgard ruled over by the god Odin?
2. What word do the Scottish people give for the last day of the year and its celebration?
3. Which Art Deco-style skyscraper was the world's tallest building for 11 months before it was surpassed by the Empire State Building in 1931?
4. Which Nobel Laureate for Literature wrote the four-volume history of Britain and its former colonies entitled 'A History of the English-Speaking Peoples'?
5. Who wrote the massive 1960s hit 'Louie Louie'?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Hard

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Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across

 1. Children's book type
 6. Balls
 11. Bill encl.
 14. Humiliate
 15. Beth's preceder
 16. Circle segment
 17. Dependable one
 20. Egg protector
 21. Amateur video subject, maybe
 22. Actress Rene
 23. Kiss
 25. Deposited
 27. Bidding
 30. Singing exercise
 34. Desktop pictures
 35. Comics canine
 36. Discontinued
 37. Legal authority
 41. Annex
 42. ____-American
 43. Corrupt
 44. Fiasco
 47. Tributes
 48. Physicist Niels
 49. Ill-gotten gains
 50. Inscribed pillar
 53. Duffer's goal
 54. Capture
 57. Local law enforcers
- Down

 1. Trodden track
 2. Double-reed woodwind
 3. Stooge
 4. Consumption
 5. According to
 6. Iron hooks, in fishing
 7. "The Sun ____ Rises"
 8. Umpire's cry
 9. When D.S.T. begins
 10. Descendant of Muhammad
 11. Droops
 12. Graphic ____
 13. Lingering effect
 18. Boot
 19. Classic art subject
 23. Nota ____
 24. The Beatles' "Back in the ____"
 25. Numbers game
 26. Buckets
 27. Two-footed
28. Gastroenteritis cause
 29. Laughs loudly
 30. Thomas the Tank Engine narrator
 31. Fixin' to
 32. Gather
 33. Pastorals
 35. Proposal
 38. Pledge
 39. Track shape
 40. Wreck site
 45. Well
 46. Lathered
 47. Title for some priests
 49. Harness racer
 50. Diagnostic test
 51. Salon job
 52. Make an impression
 53. Tower site
 54. Scottish hillside
 55. Biting
 56. Catches on
 58. Mine find
 59. Family dog, for short
 60. Cooler
 61. See red?

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Valhalla; 2) Hogmanay; 3) The Chrysler Building; 4) Sir Winston Churchill; 5) Richard Berry

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
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65					66						67			

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

1	O	M	A	N	I	2	A	L	B	A	3	F	O	W	4					
5	P	O	L	E	D	6	M	A	I	N	7	A	G	H	A					
9	E	V	E	R	Y	10	N	O	W	11	A	N	D	T	H	E	12			
13	N	E	E	D	L	E	14	L	E	O	T	A	R	D	15					
16	T	I	C	A	O	17	L	O	B	B	18	C	O	Y	M	E	S			
19	M	I	N	O	T	20	A	U	R	21	A	T	T	L	E	22				
23	A	T	T	H	E	24	D	R	O	25	P	O	F	A	H	A	T			
27	M	E	S	S	E	28	D	O	U	29	A	T	R	A	I	N	30			
31	S	O	U	R	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44			
45	S	H	A	W	L	46	L	E	E	47	C	H	48	49	50	51	52			
53	W	A	R	H	E	54	A	D	55	56	P	E	S	T	L	E	57			
59	O	N	C	E	I	60	N	A	B	61	L	U	62	E	63	M	O	O	N	64
65	R	O	U	T	66	O	G	L	E	67	68	D	U	M	B	O	69			
71	D	I	S	72	73	N	E	T	74	75	S	T	E	E	L	76				

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

day on Mars is 39 minutes and 35 seconds longer than one day on Earth.

39

years old is all it takes to be officially older than half the people in the US.

95,000

flights were cancelled across Europe in just five days in April 2010 due to the ash cloud from the eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajokull volcano.

370,000

children under the age of 5 died of diarrhea in 2019, according to the World Health Organization.

986 billion

dollars is how much credit card debt US consumers owe.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Down the road. Photo by Pinnson Beavan

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

This week in history

June 9, 1885

Treaty of Tientsin is signed to end the Sino-French War, with China eventually giving up Tonkin and An-nam – most of present-day Vietnam – to France.

June 10, 1997

Pol Pot orders the killing of his defence chief Son Sen – responsible for the massacre of 100,000 Cambodians in 1978 – and 11 of Sen's family members in a bid to regain control of the Khmer Rouge. The execution is carried out five days later.

June 11, 1184 BC

Trojan War: Troy is sacked and burned, according to calculations by Eratos-thenes.

June 12, 1665

England installs a municipal govern-ment in the newly renamed New York City (the former Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam).

June 13, 1994

A jury in Anchorage, Alaska, blames recklessness by Exxon and Capt Jo-seph Hazelwood for the Exxon Valdez disaster, allowing victims of the oil spill to seek US\$15 billion in damages.

June 14, 1789

Mutiny on the Bounty: HMS Bounty mutiny survivors including Capt Wil-liam Bligh and 18 others reach Timor after a nearly 7,400km journey in an open boat.

June 15, 1978

King Hussein of Jordan mar-ries American Lisa Halaby, who takes the name Queen Noor.



Queen Noor in 2011.

Source: Wikipedia

Cycling with Serendib



BLAZING SADDLES

Baz Daniel

baz_gunner2000@yahoo.com

Coined by the early Persian traders for the island also known to British colonialists as 'Ceylon' and today as Sri Lanka, Serendib is a lovely word with a delightful meaning. The Oxford dictionary defines it as "the unplanned discovery of charming or beguiling experiences" and it can be a part of travelling even in these frenetic days, IF you take the time to slow down and let the magic of happenstance divert you.

So it was that I recently found myself on a stop-over in Singapore en route to Australia and decided to billet for a night in the old Peranakan quarter along Joo Chiat Road. This is an area with a great deal of history parallel to that of Phuket Town. It evolved on the back of an influx of Chinese migrants, driven by famine in the mid-19th century and the architecture, cuisine and ambience still echo that era. Today it's a quarter of seedy short-time hotels, smoke-filled karaoke lounges, all-night drinking dives and sad-looking washed-up hookers and hoodlums, all of which I somehow find beguiling and romantic as a backdrop to an overnight stay.

I'd slept well in a darkened, tiny box-



Enjoying 'Serendib' in the company of a Singapore Lion. Photo: Baz Daniel

room in the prosaically-named Venue Hotel and early on a Thursday dawning found myself bounding along Joo Chiat's bustling morning lanes and alleys before the sun became too strong. The aromas of local tea shops and eateries poured into the busy mayhem as I headed south in search of runny poached eggs on sourdough and my eye-opening morning coffee.

That was far from what I found though, as I stumbled across a tangle of pavement-side mountain bikes snooz-

ing in the burgeoning sunshine outside a Mister Liu Quan's 'Because of You' cycling emporium. I checked my watch. Yes, I had a couple of hours before I needed to jump into a cab to Changi Airport for my flight. 'Well, why not?' I thought.

I'd cycled the tree-shaded pathways along Singapore's foreshore some years ago, out past Changi Airport where huge 380s boomed overhead, thundering in to land. It was a stunning ride and I wanted to repeat it in this short window of Serendib which seemed to have opened, unbidden, before me. I leapt aboard one of Mister Quan's mountain bikes and was off, pedalling out past the vaulting sky towers in which such a large proportion of Singapore's population seems to dwell, then through a dark cycling underpass beneath the main highway, then, all at once, the oceanic vistas assailed my senses as I emerged from the dark tunnel into intense sunlight filtered through the prolific green needles and tendrils of towering trees and bushes.

To my right lay the sparkling waters of Singapore Bay, surprisingly clean and inviting despite the veritable armada of tankers, container ships, liners and tugs that rested at anchor, or churned their slow water-furrows for as far as my eye could see.

I cycled happily along flat, well-shaded pathways shared with armies of marching school kiddies and boy scouts,

skateboarders, rollerbladers and even a juggler on stilts incongruously practising his bizarre hobby this sun-dappled morning.

Eastward for about 30 minutes to the huge Bedok Jetty and out and then back along its concrete spine, the better to view the vast fleet of ships which had plied the globe's oceans to be lulling here this gorgeous morning. Conscious of the time, I turned back and parked by a sandy cove for a sea swim in the amazingly clean waters of Singapore's ship-packed bay.

As I emerged from my cooling dip a brace of bikini-clad beauties emerged from a nearby pup-tent under the palms where they had clearly camped for the night, and threw themselves laughing and screaming into the spume. Such is the cleanliness, safety and tolerance of the Singaporean environment and I couldn't help but think that Phuket could learn a lot from this example!

I like to think that the Gods of Serendib smile upon those who embrace their creed of unplanned adventure and so it was that with their blessings I found myself just making my flight to Oz some two hours later, with the smile on my face and spring in my step that the magic of Serendib can ignite.

'Bicycling' Baz Daniel has been penning his Blazing Saddles column, chronicling his cycling adventures in Phuket and beyond, since 2013.

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GROW BOATING PHUKET NETWORKING EVENT - JUNE 2

Another great turnout for this monthly marine industry networking event. Held at the Boardwalk Bistro, who supplied great snacks, located at Phuket Boat Lagoon, who supplied the drinks and live music, lots of new and regular faces enjoyed a perfect evening. Next months event held on July 7 at Royal Phuket Marina.



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23rd Phuket International Rugby Elevens 2023

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Gundogan at the double as City win the FA Cup

FOOTBALL

AFP

Manchester City are one game away from a historic treble after Ilkay Gundogan scored twice to beat Manchester United 2-1 in the FA Cup final last Saturday (June 3).

Pep Guardiola's men completed a domestic double at Wembley and can become just the second side, after United in 1998/99, to win the Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League in the same season should they beat Inter Milan tomorrow (June 10) to become European champions for the first time.

"We are in a position we will probably never be in again," said Guardiola.

"To win the FA Cup, the emotions are so special and to celebrate it with our people is really great."

City captain Gundogan scored the fastest goal in FA Cup final history after just 12 seconds.

United levelled on 33 minutes through Bruno Fernandes' penalty after Jack Grealish was harshly penalised for handball.

But the City captain, in what could be his final game for the club on English soil with his contract expiring at the end of the season, volleyed home the winner six minutes into the second-half.

"Everyone knows the FA Cup is the most beautiful domestic club competition



Manchester City players celebrate the win. Photo: AFP

in the world, so to win this trophy again and complete the double is amazing for us," said Gundogan.

"We have a chance to do something special and win the treble and we do not want to let this opportunity pass us by."

The first major final between the Manchester giants had the most explosive of starts.

Most of the 83,000 crowd were still taking their seats from the pre-match festivities when Victor Lindelof's headed clearance sat up perfectly for Gundogan to volley home a stunning strike.

That appeared to set the tone for the Premier League champions as United were barely able to get across the halfway line in the first half hour.

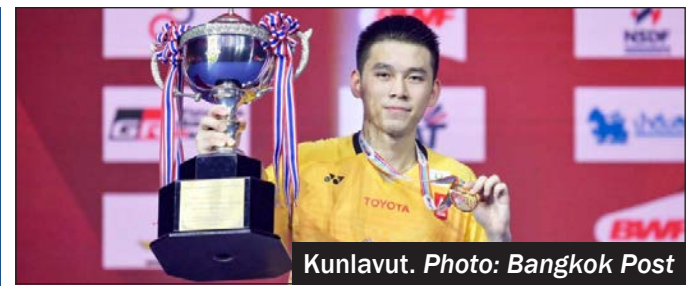
But Erik ten Hag's men got the slice of luck they needed to get back into the game.

Aaron Wan-Bissaka's header back across the City box brushed the arm of Grealish and referee Paul Tierney awarded a penalty after a VAR review. Fernandes coolly sent Stefan Ortega the wrong way from the spot.

Having fought so hard to gain a foothold, United were made to pay for another slow start in the second-half when Gundogan fired home from De Bruyne's free-kick.

The Red Devils could not find the goal to deny Guardiola an 11th major trophy as City boss and protect the unique legacy of Alex Ferguson's great side 24 years ago.

Only Inter in Istanbul tomorrow now stand between City and matching the greatest achievement English club football has ever seen.



Kunlavut. Photo: Bangkok Post

Kunlavut wins on home soil

BADMINTON

KUNLAVUT VITIDSARN was crowned the men's singles champion at the US\$420,000 (B14.6 million) Toyota Gazoo Racing Thailand Open at Hua Mark Indoor Stadium last Sunday (June 4).

Second seed and world No.5 Kunlavut recorded a comprehensive 21-12, 21-10 victory over his eighth-seeded Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong in just 38 minutes.

It was the 22-year-old star's third World Tour title after the 2022 German Open and the 2023 India Open, for which he received a \$31,500 winner's cheque.

However, mixed doubles pair Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai and women's doubles players Benyapa Aimsaard and Nuntakarn Aimsaard both lost.

After winning the Malaysia Masters on May 28, top seeds Dechapol and Sapsiree failed

in their attempt to win back-to-back titles when they lost to fifth seeds Kim Won-Ho and Jeong Na-Eun of South Korea 21-11, 19-21, 20-22 in the gruelling 80-minute match.

Aimsaard sisters Benyapa and Nuntakarn, winners of the 2023 Thailand Masters in February, were no match for top seeds Kim So-Yeong and Kong Hee-Yong of South Korea, as the sixth seeds went down in two games 13-21, 17-21.

The Korean duo also defeated another Thai pair, the fourth-seeded Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai 21-12, 21-12 in the semi-finals on Saturday.

Top seed An Se-Young of South Korea won the women's singles title when she beat third seed He Bingjiao of China 21-10, 21-19.

China's Liang Weikeng and Wang Chang defeated Muhammad Shohibul Fikri and Bagas Maulana of Indonesia 21-10, 21-15 in the men's doubles final. *Bangkok Post*

Verstappen dominates Spanish GP to press title advantage

FORMULA ONE

MAX VERSTAPPEN won his fifth grand prix of the year with a crushing display of domination at the Spanish Grand Prix last Sunday (June 4).

Verstappen led every lap from pole position and set the fastest lap of the race for a rare 'grand slam' victory, underlining his iron grasp on the Barcelona race and the championship just seven rounds into the 22-race campaign.

The Dutchman was threatened only briefly for the entire afternoon – off the line, when Carlos Sainz executed an excellent launch from second on the grid to run alongside Verstappen into the first turn.

But the pole-getter had the inside line and forced Sainz to yield into P2, after which the Red Bull Racing was free to sprint up the road to a controlled 24-second victory.

"It's a big pleasure to



Verstappen on his way to victory. Photo: AFP

drive with a car like this," he said. "We had another strong weekend, and that's of course what I like to see from myself and the team, and hopefully we can just keep that up throughout the year."

The victory grows his championship lead to 53 points, more than two clear grand prix wins, over teammate Sergio Pérez, who recovered from 11th on the grid after a poor qualifying afternoon to finish fourth.

His route to the podium was blocked by an unexpectedly strong Mercedes team, with Lewis Hamilton and George Russell finishing second and third respectively to score the German marque's

first double podium of the year and fourth since 2021.

"We definitely didn't expect to have the result we had today," Hamilton said, acknowledging the effectiveness of the major upgrades brought to his car last week in Monaco.

"A big, big thank you to everyone back at the factory for continuing to push to bring us a little bit closer to the Bulls."

Pérez was the last driver to demote Sainz further down the grid, passing the Ferrari as it struggled with its tyres in the final stint of the race and finishing three seconds off a podium place. *Michael Lamonato*

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Sport



Man City one win away from treble > p11

GIRL POWER!



The BISP U15 Girls celebrate their win. Photo: Maraleina Sports Resort

FOOTBALL

Muchanga Zebon

The British International School, Phuket (BISP) Cruzeiro U15 girls team left cheers ringing in ears as they won the recent Samui Youth Football Tournament at the Maraleina Sports Resort.

The three-day tournament kicked off on May 5, with a training session at the tournament's official pitch aimed to familiarise the athletes' with the playing environment. The preparations paid off as the group stage matches commenced the following day.

The BISP Cruzeiro U15 girls' team displayed exceptional talent and determination, securing victories in three out

of four group-stage games. Their impressive performance ensured their top spot in the overall standings and earned them a direct spot in the highly anticipated final, scheduled for the Sunday (May 7).

Finals day arrived with an air of excitement and anticipation as the BISP girls faced off against a skillful Malaysian academy team. The final was a fiercely contested match, filled with thrilling moments and displays of exceptional athleticism. In the end, the BISP girls emerged triumphant with a 4-2 victory, earning them the title of tournament champions.

For many of these young athletes, the Samui Youth Football Tournament marked their first football trip and participation in a competition of such high calibre. The

opportunity to experience a competitive football atmosphere and compete against talented teams from the region was an invaluable experience. Memories were forged, camaraderie was strengthened and friendships were formed, making this tournament a truly unforgettable journey for the participants.

As the final whistle blew and celebrations ensued, it was clear that the Samui Youth Football Tournament had provided an all-encompassing experience for the BISP Cruzeiro U15 girls. The young athletes departed with smiles on their faces, cherishing the memories and lessons learned during this extraordinary tournament.

BOYS IN BRAZIL

Meanwhile, the BISP Cruzeiro U13 and U15 boys had an

exciting opportunity during the Songkran break as they embarked on a football trip to Brazil, widely regarded as "the home of football".

The trip was an amazing experience for the boys on and off the pitch, with opportunity for the students to live the routine of a football player inside one of the biggest Brazilian clubs. They stayed in Toca da Raposa 1, where they ate, trained and slept in the same facilities as the youth teams. The boys had access to all the equipment and coaching that the Brazilian players have.

One of the highlights of the trip was the opportunity to play friendly matches against Cruzeiro soccer schools and professional clubs from Belo Horizonte. The students were able to understand the importance of football in Brazil

and how strong the culture of training and play is in the country.

Aside from the football activities, the boys were also given the opportunity to experience many parts of Brazilian culture. They went to a capoeira class, played and visited a favela, visited the historical city of Ouro Preto, watched a match in a stadium and felt the whole atmosphere of the Cruzeiro fans in a volleyball match. It was a great way for the boys to immerse themselves in the local culture and learn more about the country they were visiting.

The City of Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais was the perfect destination for this trip. The city is known for its love for football, and the boys were able to experience the passion and energy that comes with

it. The students were able to understand the importance of football in Brazil and how it is ingrained in the culture.

The trip was a huge success, and the students returned to Phuket with a whole new mindset to face the football routine and life. They also gained lifetime memories from Brazil and Cruzeiro. The coaches who accompanied the students on the trip were proud of what the boys had accomplished and were happy to have been a part of it.

The students and coaches are already looking forward to the next trip, something it is hoped can become an annual occurrence.

More information about the BISP Cruzeiro Football Academy can be found at their Youtube, Facebook and Instagram channels.

Kata Beach confirmed to host Phuket Surf Festival

SURFING

KEEN LOCAL SURFERS HAVE the chance to enter an upcoming competition in Phuket free of charge and stand the chance to win cash prizes, organisers confirmed on June 1.

The Phuket Surf Festival 2023 will take place on the weekend of June 23-25 at Kata Beach in the southwest of the island.

The competition will incorporate men's and women's shortboard and longboard, with limited spots up for grabs in each category; men's

shortboard competition is limited to 48 competitors, while the men's longboard will impose a limit of 32 entries.

The women's shortboard and longboard categories will be limited to 24 competitors in each class.

Cash prizes will be distributed in each category at the following amounts: B20,000 for the first place in the men's and women's longboard and shortboard competition; B15,000 for second place in both classes and B10,000 for the third place finishers.

Organisers stated that certain stipulations abound to the cash prizes,



Image: Thailand Surfing Federation

namely that the amount is tax liable by law and that winners are required to provide legal identification documents such as a copy of their ID card or passport, in order to receive the prize money.

All competitors who receive a cash prize will also receive a commemorative trophy from the event, organisers added.

In addition to the main surfing action there will be workshops, live music, street art and entertainment, as well as stalls offering food and beverages.

In order to enter, competitors must provide a copy of their ID card or passport along with a photo (not exceeding 2MB in file size) which will be uploaded into the application form online for identity verification. The organiser reserves the right to cancel any registrants who do not

include this information as their application will in effect be incomplete.

The Phuket competition follows on from The Khao Lak Surf Festival 2023, which will take place on the weekend of June 16-18 at Memory Beach in Khao Lak, Phang Nga.

The classifications for men's and women's competition are the same as Phuket, as are the cash prizes.

Online entry forms for both competitions can be accessed via the Thailand Surfing Federation website. For more information please email: info@surfingthailand.org.

The Phuket News