

DOMESTIC TOURISTS ALLOWED BACK ONTO PHUKET > PAGE 3

DYING TO RE-OPEN

A restaurant sits closed and abandoned in Patong.
Photo: Chutharat Plerin



TOURISM INDUSTRY PUSHES FOR FULL REOPENING OF ISLAND UNDER A RETURN TO 'NEW NORMAL'

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Key Phuket tourism industry leaders have submitted a formal proposal to reopen the island fully to tourism on Dec 1 under the standard 'New Normal' regulations already in effect under a campaign called "Phuket Freedom Day".

The proposal was submitted to Phuket officials and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) earlier this week, Phuket Chamber of Commerce President Thanusak Phungdet confirmed.

The plan relies on officials vac-

inating the island with third "booster shot" vaccinations by the end of October, Mr Thanusak explained.

"If that can be accomplished, we can fully open the island and treat COVID-19 like a cold," he said.

"As you can see at this stage only 1% of our COVID patients [in Phuket] have been designated 'category red' and need close-care treatment at a hospital, and about 4% of our COVID patients have been designated 'category yellow' and are [under care] at field hospitals – but 95% of our patients are 'category green' and are still healthy without any symptoms of infection," Mr Thanusak noted.

"So, we can see that the Delta

variant makes it very easy for us to become infected but does not result in serious symptoms. This is also a good result of our mass vaccination campaign. The Sinovac and Astra-Zeneca vaccines that we are providing work well," he added.

"The faster we can provide booster vaccinations, the faster we close in on our goal to freely open our island [to tourism], which we plan to open in December, or January next year," Mr Thanusak said.

"The plan requires all people to continue to follow the D-M-H-T-T measures set out by the Ministry of Public Health, but we will work on providing the third dose of vaccine

as much as we can," he added.

"People who become infected but have no symptoms can observe home isolation and take care of themselves just like having a normal flu. Those who cannot do home isolation may be taken to a quarantine venue. If they have severe symptoms, they will be taken to a field hospital," Mr Thanusak explained.

"Medical staff will send equipment and medicine to each infected person at home, and the people must report their medical condition to staff every day," he added.

Tourists under the Sandbox scheme still need to meet the same requirements to arrive in Phuket,...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

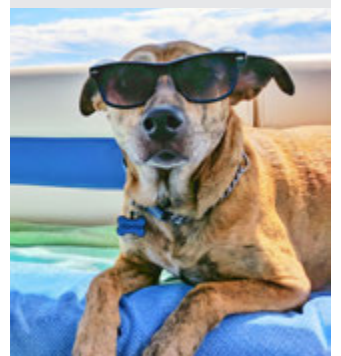
NEWS PAGE 5

Pfizer jabs rolled out for at-risk patients



LIFE PAGE 8

Learning to live with Fido during the teen years



SPORT PAGE 16

Golden welcome for Paralympians coming home



UWC THAILAND
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

ACADEMICS

MINDFULNESS

SPORTS

SERVICE

OUTDOOR

Experience a transformative education for peace and a sustainable future.

APPLY TODAY!

www.uwcthailand.ac.th

execeditor@classactmedia.co.th

News



**Sandbox B1.6bn
boon raises
doubts > p6**

Big push to fully re-open to tourism

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Continued from page 1

...Mr Thanusak continued. "And the sandbox requirement may apply to domestic tourists too," he said.

Life under the plan will be "nearly normal like before the pandemic", Mr Thanusak observed. "Entertainment venues and other venues can be open, with no control [ban] on alcohol, which could be served and sold in restaurants.

Mr Thanusak noted the growing resistance to the policy of holding people who have tested positive for COVID-19 but not exhibiting any signs of infection being held at quarantine detention centres – regardless whether they have tested positive only by a rapid test kit and have yet to be confirmed infected by RT-PCR test.

"Phuket people must understand that there is no point for taking infected people with no symptoms into quarantine places, which officers spend a lot of budget on and medical staff need to take care of them," he said.

"I think it is better to move the medical staff to take care of 'yellow' and 'red' patients in hospitals. Medical staff should show our people clear numbers of patients designated as 'yellow' and 'red', so that our people can be confident and understand the situation," he added.

"People who have died from the COVID-19 have been



A hotel sits closed and abandoned in Patong. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

elderly and suffering chronic diseases. Some of them had not received any vaccination injections. This COVID-19 virus can kill us just like other diseases and accidents, but we have never made daily reports and paid as much attention [to such dangers] as we have done for this," he noted.

"We need to know the statistics of our current situation. We are sad but need to accept the deaths. We cannot do nothing to move on and continue living our lives. If we cannot allow people to travel, Phuket cannot move on," Mr Thanusak said.

MONEY BOX

The 'Phuket Freedom Day' push is hoped to bring in more than B210 billion in tourism-related revenue in just three months.

"We can't continue this way. Hotels are suffering losses. What we need is 'freedom

day' on Dec 1," said Nanthida Atiset, vice-president of Phuket Tourism Association.

Phuket Tourism Council President Thanet Tantipiriyakit explained that opening the island to tourism on Dec 1 could see the more than 200,000 tourists arrive under the Sandbox scheme in December, and even more in the first quarter of next year in addition to boosted numbers of domestic tourists coming to Phuket.

"I really believe that we will have at least 200,000 foreign tourists in December, but we need to replan some settings to make it easier for tourists to come here," Mr Thanet said.

"In the first quarter next year, the number is expected to increase to 250,000-300,000 foreign tourists," he added.

"For the domestic market, I believe that after Sept 8, when tourists can enter the

island under the new requirements, tourists will start to return. We will have at least 400,000 to 500,000 domestic tourists in the fourth quarter this year, and at least 500,000 to 600,000 tourists in Q1 next year,"

Kongsak Khoopongsakorn, President of the Thailand Hotels Association Southern chapter, noted that the constantly changing requirements was having an effect on bookings, making tourist arrivals difficult to predict.

"Right now, we still have a stable number of bookings, but with tourists' behaviour and other factors that change all the time, our tourists usually make bookings at the last minute," he said.

"We have received many questions from tourists about the [northern hemisphere] winter season. We expect that the bookings rate will increase about 20-30% among

the hotels and resorts that are open under the SHA+ standard right now," he added.

"The two most popular topics that tourists have asked us are about the pandemic situation in Thailand because our numbers of new infected cases are still increasing. I believe we all are contributing much effort to control the number [of infections]," Mr Kongsak said.

"The second topic is whether the restaurants and other businesses in Phuket are open as normal or not. We always try to tell them that only some restaurants are open, but that doesn't diminish the joy of traveling here," he added.

"We have received many questions about the ban on serving and selling alcoholic beverages [in restaurants, with all bars and entertainment venues nationwide still ordered closed].

"I understand that this is a part of the disease control measures. The Governor [Narong Woonciew] told me that we are controlled under the CCSA order, so we cannot lift the ban," Mr Kongsak said.

"Tourism-related groups in Phuket have submitted a request to the Phuket government, the Phuket Public Health Office as well as the TAT director and the Minister of Tourism to consider lifting the ban on alcohol because we understand that our tourists need alcohol to enrich their meals," he explained.

"Imagine, they want red

wine with their steak, white wine with their seafood, and beer to refresh in the afternoon. If tourists do not have that kind of feeling, they will not feel like they are on holiday. They may consider going somewhere else like Turkey, where they have freedom to do such things," Mr Kongsak pointed out.

"I want the government to consider this, and we have demonstrated that drinking alcohol does not affect the number of infected cases much if we drink in the right manner, not partying. We need to find the main cause to solve the problem," he said.

Regarding the current state of Phuket's battered tourism industry, Mr Kongsak noted that operators that are currently open are not doing so for profit right now.

"The only hotel operators right now are those who mainly receive income from Sandbox tourists, but I would like to clarify that nowadays no hotels are managing to make a profit. There is no money left for the owners for sure," he said.

"Of B100 received, about 40-50% goes to paying staff, who are children of people in Phuket, and 30-40% goes to food suppliers, like farmers throughout the country. Then there is electricity and water bills, as well as paying taxi service operators, because right now most hotels on the island do not have their own cars to be used as taxis," Mr Kongsak explained.

Sandbox tourists shunted as Phuket officials delist guesthouses from SHA+

OFFICIALS HAVE YET to explain why guesthouses already inspected and approved as SHA+ accommodation venues are having their SHA+ licences revoked because they are fully legally operating as guesthouses, but not as hotels – a fact known at the time when they were approved.

The operator of one guesthouse in Patong told *The Phuket News* last Saturday (Sept 4) that he first learned of the problem on Wednesday (Sept 1), when he went to register guest details through the Thailand SHA web portal – as required by law.

Unable to log in, the guesthouse owner at first

presumed it was a password or website problem, but was told by the Thailand SHA web administrators that his guesthouse was no longer registered as a SHA+ venue.

Asked why the SHA status was revoked, the owner was told to contact administrators of the SandboxPhuket project through their Facebook page.

After days of receiving no reply, the owner was finally informed last night that, "We just get the report that you have no hotel license."

The owner was told to have his Sandbox tourists moved to another SHA+ venue. He was also informed that accepting any new Sandbox guests would be illegal.

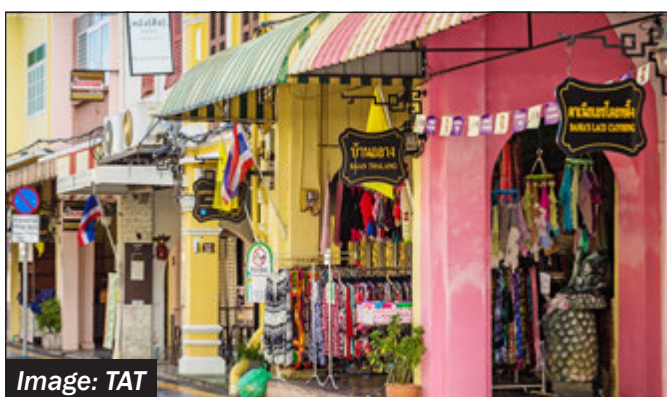


Image: TAT

"If you continue to accept customer, you will act against the law," said one message.

"Pls ask your customer to move to other hotel," the next message read.

The guesthouse in Patong is currently enjoying 100% occupancy. Most of the guests

are Sandbox tourists, the owner said.

"The guesthouse was approved for SHA in April-June, and for and SHA+ at the end of June," he added.

The guesthouse was even issued a "SHABA ID" code in order to log in to the Thai-

land SHA platform to register guest details.

No longer registered as a SHA+ venue, the guesthouse can no longer issue confirmation of prepaid bookings at an SHA+ venue – needed by tourists applying for Certificates of Entry in order to travel to Phuket, the owner explained.

The guesthouse also can no longer issue any "release" documents needed by Sandbox guests to confirm where they stayed as SHA+ guests in completing their 14-day stay on the island. The same "release" document is needed for Sandbox tourists to be able to leave the island to travel to any other parts of Thailand.

"They have shut us down

completely without warning. We have a guesthouse license for 1-25 rooms. Everything is in order and we renewed the license in June. We follow the rules to the letter. Our hygiene routines are probably better than anywhere else in Phuket," the owner explained.

His guesthouse is not the only one to have had its SHA+ status revoked, he added.

The owner added that he had no idea what to tell his staff, who were recently brought back on in order to cope with the full bookings. "We have full strength of staff (cleaning, hotel manager and kitchen for breakfast)," the guesthouse owner said.

The Phuket News

Door opens for domestic tourists

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A new provincial order issued by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew has removed the requirement for domestic tourists to undergo an RT-PCR test for COVID-19 during their stay in Phuket.

The revised conditions came in Phuket Provincial Order No. 5267/2564 issued last Sunday (Sept 5). The order came into effect on Wednesday (Sept 8) and is to remain in effect until at least Sept 14.

The confirmation came not from an announcement that the requirement had been removed, but by omitting the requirement from the new order.

“People who come to Phuket for tourism and have proof of hotel or accommodation reservation which must be paid in advance. They must register [their travel details] at www.gophuket.com and show the QR code to officers at the checkpoint,” the order notes.

The critical sentence now missing is, “If tourists stay longer than 7 days, they must be tested for COVID-19 on the 5th day of staying in Phuket”, which was added to the previous order issued only four days earlier, on Tuesday last week.

Under the previous order, domestic tourists were allowed to enter Phuket on holiday provided they satisfy certain criteria, in-



The order came into effect on Wednesday (Sept 8).
Photo: PR Phuket / file

cluding showing proof of hotel or accommodation reservation paid in advance and they must be tested for COVID-19 on Day 5 of their stay if they are staying more than seven days.

All people except those listed as exemptions are still prohibited from being allowed onto the island, essentially extending the “island isolation” protocol introduced last month.

The latest order, issued last Sunday, also added a new group of people under the exemptions allowed to enter Phuket, as “(18) Patients who

need to see doctor or need to receive medical treatment (must have doctor’s appointment) as well as people who are taking care of patients, doctors, nurses, medical staff and other relevant staff in public health related works.”

The latest order also has foreign tourists who have entered Phuket under the Sandbox or the ‘Sandbox 7+7’ schemes added to the list of exemptions, allowing them to re-enter Phuket as long as they satisfy the same criteria required of any of the other exemptions.

All of the exemptions allowed to

enter Phuket – including emergency medical personnel and vehicles, medical supply deliveries and consumer product deliveries, among others – must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by having received two doses of the Sinovac or Sinopharm vaccine, or one injection of the Sinovac vaccine and one injection of the AstraZeneca vaccine, or at least one injection of the AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least 14 days before arriving.

Also, in order to be allowed into Phuket, all arrivals must present results of an RT-PCR test or antigen

test performed by a medical facility within 72 hours of arriving proving that they are not infected.

Alternatively, arrivals must have been discharged from medical care for recovering from COVID-19 no more than 90 days before arriving.

The new order also added that Phuket and Phang Nga residents may freely travel between the two provinces as long as the key requirements are met.

“For people who have been registered on house registration documents in Phuket and Phang Nga and enter and leave Phuket regularly, can re-enter Phuket,” the new order says.

“Those people must be fully vaccinated and have tested negative by antigen test kit (ATK) which can be used for confirmation not over seven days,” the order noted.

“They must also register [their travel details] at www.gophuket.com OR have a special permission letter signed by an officer at a District Office in Phuket,” the order said (emphasis on “OR” added by *The Phuket News*).

The Phuket Check Point at Tha Chatchai, guarding the only road onto Phuket, will now open one hour earlier each day.

“The check point is to remain closed to all traffic except for emergencies from 11pm but open one hour earlier at 3am each night [sic],” the order confirmed.

Infections see sea gypsies in Koh Kaew under lockdown

THE RESIDENTIAL area of sea gypsies in Soi Koh Kaew 6 on the east coast of Phuket has been placed under lockdown for one week following a spate of infections in the community.

“No people are allowed to enter or leave the areas except for those delivering food, cooking gas, medical equipment, or medical staff in emergency vehicles such as ambulances,” said a provincial order issued by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew last Saturday night (Sept 4).

The order came into effect last Sunday (Sept 5) and will remain in effect through next Monday (Sept 13).

“The locked down area is in the sea gypsies community in Moo 3, Koh Kaew subdistrict, Mueng district, and there is to be a checkpoint at the entrance of Soi Koh Kaew 6,” the order said.

“Officers from Koh Kaew Tambon Administrative Organisation [OrBorTor], Phuket City Police,



The area to be affected by the lockdown. Photo: PR Dept

and other relevant officers are assigned to standby at the checkpoint.

“During the lockdown, officers from the Phuket Public Health Office [PPHO] and Muang District Office will test people in the area [for COVID-19] using RT-PCR tests or antigen test kits.

“Koh Kaew OrBorTor will deliver food and other

essential goods for people in the area, and arrange for staff to clean and sanitise the area,” the order concluded.

The closure follows PPHO Chief Dr Kusak Kukiattikoon on Aug 31 confirming that 248 people had been tested in the area, and that 100 of them had been confirmed as infected with COVID-19.

The Phuket News

Eight COVID deaths in three days

PHUKET SUFFERED its darkest chapter during the pandemic last weekend when eight people died from COVID-19 from last Saturday through to Monday (Sept 4-6).

The Phuket Provincial Public Health Office in its daily COVID situation reports marked four deaths last Saturday, three deaths last Sunday and one more death on Monday (Sept 6).

No details were released of any of the deaths reported last Saturday, but the PPHO released details of the three



Most of the deaths reported were elderly victims. Photo: Patong PR

deaths reported last Sunday as follows:

1. Thai man, 66, suffered chronic issues from kidney

disease. No information about whether or not he had received any vaccination injections.

2. Thai man, 51, had high-risk contact with a confirmed case. He had not received any vaccination injections.

3. Thai man, 80, had high-risk contact with a confirmed case. He had received one vaccination injection.

The death reported on Monday was that of a 77-year-old Thai man who had received two vaccination injections, the PPHO reported.

The Phuket News



CONTACT US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION @ 076 304 312 • QSI.ORG/PHUKET

The Phuket News

CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

PURIYA BEAVAN
Editor**CHRIS HUSTED**
Executive Editor
084 307 7408
execeditor@classactmedia.co.th**BEN TIREBUCK**
News / Sport Editor
061 806 8132
editor3@classactmedia.co.th**CHUTHARAT 'UM' PLERIN**
Thai Editor
088 766 1615
thai@classactmedia.co.th**KIATTIKUL 'JOM' CHUMANEE**
Translator
082 729 0270
translate@classactmedia.co.th**JASON BEAVAN**
General Manager
086 479 7471
gm@classactmedia.co.th**SIRIPORN (NOK) SEANGMAS**
Sales Support
086 479 7470
sales@classactmedia.co.th**NIRAVIT 'MOS' VORAVANITCHA
THANAPONG 'OAK' KHAO-AMPHAIHAN**
Graphic designersThe Phuket News
@thephuketnews

ADVERTISING

ClassAct Media

The Phuket News

WINDOW ON PHUKET

Where to eat in PHUKET

Новости Пхукета

ข่าวภูเก็ต

Phuket NEWS TV

LIVE 89.5

Phuket TICKETMASTER

076 612 550 ext. 605

Fax: 076 612 553

info@classactmedia.co.th

thephuketnews.com

99/7 Moo 1 (Billion Plaza),
T. Kathu, A. Kathu, Phuket 83120

PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

www.foreca.com

FRI SEP 10

High: +31°
Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

SAT SEP 11

High: +32°
Low: +26°

Wind 7 m/s

SUN SEP 12

High: +31°
Low: +26°

Wind 7 m/s

MON SEP 13

High: +31°
Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

TUE SEP 14

High: +29°
Low: +25°

Wind 11 m/s

WED SEP 15

High: +29°
Low: +25°

Wind 7 m/s

THU SEP 16

High: +29°
Low: +25°

Wind 7 m/s

Bangla cables to be buried

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Bangla Rd will be the next main street in Patong to have its power and communications cables installed underground, Theeraphat Petchsichuang, Chief of the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) Patong Office, has confirmed.

Mr Theeraphat made the announcement through a video segment posted by Radio Thailand Phuket last Thursday (Sept 2).

The burying of power and communications cables along Bangla Rd follows the completion of burying the cables along Thaweewong Rd (the beach road), Mr Theeraphat said.

"The next project will be another well-known Bangla Rd, followed by Pisit Koranee Rd and the road in front of Wat Patong respectively," he said.

"After the project is completed, there will not be power poles or cables, especially communication cables which are disordered and disturbing to tourists' eyes.

"We will also cover the switch boxes along the road with images of our attractions

Bangla Rd is next in line to have its power and communications cables buried.
Screenshot: Radio Thailand Phuket

[Phuket's natural tourist attractions] to make them [the switch boxes] beautiful," he added.

"The PEA has projects to put electric cables underground in big cities across the country. Phuket is considered one of the big cities, especially Patong, which is a well-known destination among tourists around the world.

"Under the cooperation between the PEA and Patong Municipality, the cable on the beachfront Thaweewong Rd has already been put underground. The project started in 2019 and finished in the beginning of 2021 under the budget of about B220 million," Mr Theeraphat said.

Of note, the move to install cables throughout Patong was launched in 2015, and

was confirmed last year that the project to bury the cables along the patong beachfront was being funded by a budget of B213,640,647 provided by Patong Municipality, supported by a budget of B60,365,957 provided by the Provincial Electricity Authority.

The beachfront section of the project, along three kilometres of the Patong

beach road from the Pak Bang Canal at the southern end of the beach to Haad Patong Rd near Loma Park, was carried out under contract by joint-venture I.M.P. Consortium

Mr Theeraphat in his announcement gave no indication of the cost for the Bangla Rd - Pisit Koranee Rd project, or when the project was scheduled to start, or be completed by.

Delivery driver in wet-road wipeout

A 28-YEAR-OLD MAN ESCAPED serious injury after he lost control of his delivery pickup truck and hit a light pole, with the pickup flipping onto its side on the central reservation on Thepkasattri Rd in Moo 1, Mai Khao last Thursday (Sept 2).

The accident occurred before dawn, and Tha Chatchai Police Deputy Chief Lt Col Somkid Onchan was called to the scene at about 6am.

Police together with Kusoldharm rescue workers arrived at the scene to find the Bangkok-registered white Toyota pickup truck with massive damage to its front.

The driver, Kathu resident Wongsapat Ponyong, was waiting at the scene.

Mr Wongsapat had escaped the accident with only scratches.

Mr Wongsapat told police that it was raining while he was heading to Phuket Town to make deliveries.

He was driving at about 80-



Photo: Nattapong Kongkim

90km/h when he lost control of the pickup, hit a light pole and a tree on the central reservation, Mr Wongsapat explained.

Lt Col Somkid confirmed that Mr Wongsapat had been charged with reckless driving and causing damage to government property.

Lt Col Somkid also explained that he did not have Mr Wongsapat tested for alcohol as he appeared to be sober and spoke normally.

Eakkapong Thongtub

Drunk fisherman drowns in Kathu pond

A MAN WAS DISCOVERED drowned last Thursday (Sept 2) after he had gone to retrieve his fishing nets in a pond in Soi Kathu 6, Kathu while under the influence of alcohol.

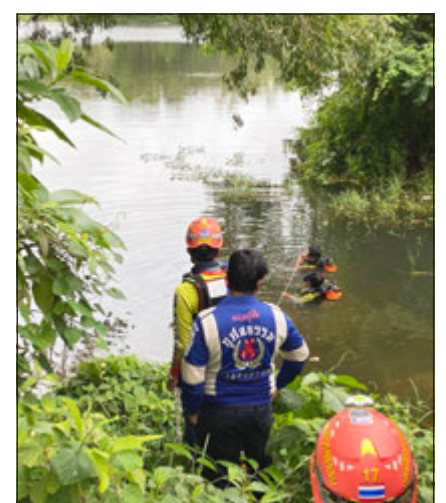
Kathu Police Deputy Chief Lt Col Chao Pomna was called to the scene at about 3:50pm. He was joined by Kusoldharm rescue workers at the pond near Sabai Village 2 housing estate where they were informed 33-year-old Prakob Sima was missing.

A friend, 18-year-old Panupong Thanakarn, told police that he and Prakob had been drinking alcohol together and then Prakob said he was going to collect his fishing nets from the pond.

"Prakob dived into the pond to collect the net while I remained at the edge because I do not know how to swim," said Panupong.

"He went underwater and never resurfaced, which is when I called people for help," he added.

Kusoldharm Foundation divers searched the pond for about one and a half hours before they found Mr Prakob's body which was then taken



Police and rescue workers at the scene. Photo: Kathu Police

to Vachira Phuket Hospital for examination. His body will then be released to relatives to allow them to make the necessary funeral arrangements.

Mr Prakob's wife, Sutthida Somuengsae, explained that her husband was very drunk and she had therefore advised him to collect the nets at a later stage but that he had ignored her and attempted to retrieve them regardless.

Eakkapong Thongtub

Plan for sealed yacht, dive tours well received

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The move for Phuket boats to be allowed to provide sealed tours to Seabox tourists, seafarers and divers has gained momentum after being well received at an official meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall last Friday (Sept 3).

At the meeting, Kevin Lidureau of Seafarer Divers Phuket along with several other representatives from Phuket's marine tour industry presented the detailed plan, called 'Phuket Boating Andaman Seabox', which aims to have local dive and other marine tour operators conduct sealed tour holidays for tourists.

The plan, if approved, would allow tourists to land on Phuket and be safely escorted directly from the airport to an ALQ hotel for one night, where they will undergo an RT-PCR test, then board the boat to enjoy the first week of their holiday.

Under the project, the tourists will observe their two-day quarantine and five-day trips including two mandatory COVID tests conducted at an ALQ hotel before boarding the boat and upon disembarking the boat at the ALQ hotel, Mr Lidureau explained to *The Phuket News*.

The plan has been drafted in much detail, and currently stands as a multi-page document in Thai.



The 'Seabox' plan was well received at Phuket Provincial Hall last Friday (Sept 3). Photo: Seafarer Divers

Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong, who chaired the meeting, asked that the proposal be fine-tuned with TAT Phuket and Phuket Harbour Department; so it can be presented directly to high-level officials in Bangkok, Mr Lidureau said.

The plan has been well received, Mr Lidureau added, noting that a senior official from the Ministry of Tourism & Sports called to thank him for the good job.

"At this stage they want to limit the tours within the confines of the '7+7' scheme, so tourists spend their first night in a hotel on Phuket and return to spend their seventh night in Phuket so they can be tested [for COVID-19].

"They also want to limit the sea tours to three main areas," Mr Lidureau said.

The first area is a 'North route' for diving and yachting to the Similan and Surin Island National Parks, he explained.

The second area is 'Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi (Yachting)', including the Phang Nga, Than Bok Khorami, Hat Noppharat Thara-Mu Koh Phi Phi and Koh Lanta National Parks.

The third area is the 'South route' for diving and yachting at Hat Noppharat Thara-Mu Koh Phi Phi and Koh Lanta National Parks.

"Right now tours to places like Koh Tarutao National Park are off the table unless they open the Sandbox and Seabox in Satun Province," Mr Lidureau added.



Passengers arrive from Singapore on the flights relaunched by Jetstar, now operating weekly. Photo: AoT Phuket

Jetstar reboots weekly flights from Singapore

JETSTAR HAS RELAUNCHED its service between Singapore and Phuket with a once-weekly flight now confirmed.

The inaugural Jetstar Asia Airways Flight 3K537 departed Singapore's Changi Airport at 7:44pm last Friday (Sept 3) and arrived at Phuket International Airport at 8:24pm.

On disembarking the plane, passengers were greeted at 8:40pm by Manat Sotharat, Deputy Director of Phuket Airport Operations and Maintenance, and fellow airport staff.

It was not confirmed how many passengers were aboard the flight.

Jetstar confirmed that the flight will operate at the same time each Friday once weekly, arriving at boarding gate 11 at Phuket International Airport.

Airports of Thailand (AoT)

staff operating Phuket airport also confirmed that eight flights arrived on the island on Sept 4 bringing 588 passengers.

There were two Thai Airways flights, two from Singapore Airlines, one each from Emirates and Qatar Airways and two private jets.

Phuket Daily Sandbox Report issued by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) reported on Monday that during the 68 days from July 1 to Sept 6 a total of 29,077 passengers had arrived in Phuket under the Sandbox scheme.

The campaign had also resulted in 492,405 room nights booked.

However, the report also noted that only 146 passengers had arrived on Monday (Sept 6), all on board two flights from Singapore.

The Phuket News

Roll out of Pfizer injections begins

THE PHUKET PROVINCIAL Public Health Office (PPHO) has confirmed through a report that the Pfizer vaccine has begun being deployed to vaccinate people in Phuket against COVID-19. The report also marks that frontline workers and other at-risk groups are starting to receive their third injection "booster shot".

The report, initially posted online through the Official COVID-19 Information Center, operated by the Phuket office of the Ministry of Interior, marked that last Saturday (Sept 4) in total 5,361 doses of Pfizer had been administered across the island.

As of Monday (Sept 6), the number stood at 5,461. Vachira Phuket Hospital had dispensed 3,651 doses of the Pfizer, BioNTech vaccine, followed by Bangkok Hospital Phuket (504), Thalang Hospital (355), Phuket Provincial Hospital (316), Bangkok Hospital Siriroj (198), Patong Hospital (162), Chalong Hospital (162) and Mission Hospital Phuket (54).

The report marked the first time that any Pfizer vaccination injections have been provided after Phuket officials for weeks urged people, including foreigners, to register



A screenshot of the PPHO vaccination report on Monday (Sept 6). Image: PPHO

if they were frontline workers or satisfied one of the key criteria designating the person as at risk of developing serious symptoms if infected with COVID-19.

In order for a foreigner's registration to be accepted, at least one of the following conditions must be selected during the registration process:

- Age over 60 years old
- Cardiovascular disease
- Diabetes
- Chronic respiratory disease
- Cancer
- Stroke
- Obesity (BMI > 35 kg/m² or BW > 100 kg)
- Chronic kidney disease
- Pregnancy: Gestational age > 12 weeks

The report marked the most comprehensive report issued so far reporting how

many vaccination injections of which types of vaccines had been administered so far across Phuket.

Of special importance is that the report, created by the PPHO itself, marks the "target total" as 547,584 – representing the total registered population on the island to be vaccinated, not the 466,587 cited in the daily vaccination updates, which represents the 70% target to be vaccinated in the hope of achieving herd immunity across the island.

The report marked that so far, as of Monday (Sept 6), 424,464 people (77.52%) had received one vaccination injection, while 378,628 people (69.15%) had received two injections, and are thus deemed to be "fully vaccinated".

The Phuket News



MACNELS SHIPPING PHUKET

ANY SHIPMENT ANY WHERE

IMPORT AND EXPORT SERVICES, AIR AND SEA FREIGHT

COMMERCIAL CARGO AND PERSONAL GOODS INCLUDING HOUSE HOLD RELOCATIONS

- DOOR TO DOOR SERVICES
- CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FORMALITIES
- PROJECT CARGOES INCLUDING BOATS
- WAREHOUSING AND STORAGE
- STRONG AGENCY NETWORK WORLDWIDE
- 20 YEARS STAFF EXPERIENCE IN PHUKET

☎ OFFICE: 076 603907

☎ MOBILE: CALL PETER 0863645862

www.macnellsphuket.com

Sandbox touted as B1.6bn boon

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Phuket Sandbox scheme will continue, Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew has confirmed, claiming that the project has so far generated an estimated B1.6 billion for the economy.

From July 1 to last Saturday (Sept 4) a total of 346 flights had arrived in Phuket, bringing 28,197 Sandbox tourists, Governor Narong told Deputy Army Chief Gen Nattapol Nakpanich during a ZOOM conference last Sunday (Sept 5), reported the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

Of note, Gen Nattapol also serves as chair of an ad hoc committee of the Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) in Bangkok.

Of those 28,197 Sandbox tourists, 88 had been confirmed as infected with COVID-19, Governor Narong continued, adding that 67 of those had recovered.

The “top 5 tourists”, not including Thais, were from the United States of America (3,721), followed by the United Kingdom (3,470), Israel (3,153),



Governor Narong made the announcement during a video conference with Deputy Army Chief Gen Nattapol Nakpanich last Sunday (Sept 5). Photo: PR Phuket

France (2,262) and Germany (2,247), Governor Narong said.

So far 10,492 Sandbox tourists had already returned home, and 17,705 had completed their 14-day stay in Phuket and had traveled to other provinces of Thailand, he added.

Just 4,963 Sandbox tourists remained in Phuket, Governor Narong said.

However, the Sandbox scheme had already injected more than B1.634bn into the economy, Gov Narong noted.

The Governor presented a breakdown of Sandbox tourists' spending, as follows:

- Accommodation - B565 million
- Buying tourism products and services - B376 million
- Food and beverage purchases - B350 million
- Medical and health services - B229 million
- Other expenses - B114 million

“The B1.634bn spent by tourists nourishes and drives the economy, as well as hav-

ing the effect of spreading economic benefits to various sectors both directly related to tourism, such as hotels, restaurants, passenger transport, and so on, and other businesses that are supply chains supporting the tourism industry, such as agriculture, industry, energy, among others,” Governor Narong said.

The “multiplier effect” as income is re-spent throughout the economy could generate as much as B3.818mn for the economy, he added.

“As for the number of SHA+ nights booked, the number of bookings from July to September totals 484,427 room nights,” Governor Narong continued.

“The overview of the implementation of the Phuket Sandbox plan can still go forward,” he assured.

“Disease control in the area is currently being carried out in the province by proactively inspecting the risk areas and risk groups, such as migrant workers at workers' camps, people in the fishing industry, and sea gypsies, among others, which have seen the number of infected people in the province increase over the past week, averaging 200-250 new infections [a day],” Gov Narong explained.

“When an infected person is found, they must be brought into the treatment system immediately,” he said.

The report announcing that the Sandbox scheme has already generated B1.6bn for the island follows former Phuket MP Anchalee Vanich Tephabuttra last Thursday (Sept 2) reporting that the average monthly income across Phuket stood at B1,961 – a figure she described as plunging people

into “acute poverty”.

This number is considered lower than the poverty line in Thailand,” she added.

The devastation to people's incomes across the island was made clear by Dr Chayanon Pucharoen, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies at the Prince of Songkla University (PSU) Phuket's Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism, who in March this year was asked to present his understanding of the economic situation in Phuket to Deputy Prime Minister Jurin Laksanawisit.

The news was not good.

The central government's “We Travel Together” campaign was able to generate B1.5bn for the province, Dr Chayanon reported at the time.

However, that did not prevent the number of unemployed people in Phuket rising to about 64,000.

The average income had fallen to only B1,900 per person per month, he said.

Asked whether Ms Anchalee's assessment of the monthly average income of just B1,961 (about US\$60 a month) was accurate, Dr Chayanon told *The Phuket News* on Monday (Sept 6), “The situation has not changed.”

WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?

The **Phuket News** Your Island - Your Paper

Новости **Phuket** Твой остров - твоя газета ข่าวภูเก็ต

Where to **eat** in PHUKET

WINDOW ON PHUKET

LIVE 89.5

NEWS TV

The **map** of PHUKET English 中文 Русский

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Fishing Port reopens

PHUKET FISHING Port on Koh Siray, Ras-sada, reopened last Friday (Sept 3) after a two-week shutdown due to a spate of COVID-19 infections that ripped through the fishing community.

“Phuket has 17 fishing piers registered to the Department of Fisheries. Only 10 of the piers are used for bringing fish ashore, the rest are used for mooring,” said Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew during an inspection last week.

“About 100,000 tonnes of seafood are brought ashore through the piers each year,” he noted.

The annual yield of seafood produce brought ashore through Phuket's fishing piers was valued at about B4.5 billion, Governor Narong added.

However, Governor Narong gave no estimate of the economic impact of the main fishing port on the island shutting down for two weeks.

“We have 352 fishing boats with 3,159 people working on the boats. Among the workers, 1,428



Phuket's main seafood produce port reopened last Friday (Sept 3). Photo: PR Phuket

are Thais, and 1,731 are from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos. We also have about 400 people working on the piers,” he said.

“After officers and staff from the Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) came to conduct proactive screening and found many workers infected with no symptoms, we set up a storehouse as a community isolation venue which is filled with 150 beds. Right now, we have 120 workers staying at the venue,” Governor Narong said.

“Meanwhile, we also have a total of 178 work-

ers staying on 18 boats as ‘vessel isolation’ offshore near Koh Tapao Noi. There are 36 workers infected on five boats. The remaining workers are still healthy but volunteer to stay offshore on the boats,” he added.

Phuket Fishery Association President Somyot Wongboonyakul explained that the 14-day closure at the pier had affected fishermen and fish vendors, but also gave no estimate of the economic impact of the shutdown.

Additional reporting by Eakkapong Thongtub

New law may replace emergency decree

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The government may decide not to extend the enforcement of the emergency decree imposed to curb the spread of COVID-19 at the end of the month if new cases continue to decline at the current rate, according to Gen Natthapol Nakpanich, secretary-general of the National Security Council.

However, the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) warned that new daily cases could reach up to 30,000 if people fail to take serious precautions after restrictions are eased.

Gen Natthapol, in his capacity as director of the CCSA's operation centre, said the decree had been invoked only to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are aware that society is unhappy about it. We have lived under the decree for such a long time," he said. "It was invoked to control the disease and its enforcement must come to an end sooner or later."



Protesters demand the end of the emergency decree in July 2020. Photo: Nutthawat Wicheanbut

"It is likely that the decree will not be extended if the situation remains stable like this due to the cooperation of the public," Natthapol said, adding Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and the CCSA will make a decision on the matter.

The emergency decree is being imposed in the country and empowers the prime minister to deal with the COVID-19 crisis. It gives Prayut the ability to directly address an emergency situation or prevent worsening conditions. He can also order bans to prevent entry to certain areas deemed prone to coronavirus infections; gatherings in crowded areas or any activity that would incite unrest.

Natthapol said the Public Health Ministry is revising the Disease Control Act, which would replace the emergency decree at the end of this month if it is not extended.

He pointed out that if approved by parliament, the revised disease control law will put in place more effective containment measures.

"The new law should be adequate or even better than the emergency decree," Natthapol said. "This is because the decree focuses on tough restrictions, though in some cases it does not provide an adequate response."

But the amended law will be better suited to the purpose because it has been proposed by the Public Health Ministry, which is more aware of the problems that need to be addressed, he said.

"The new law will provide comprehensive responses," Natthapol said.

If and when the new law is enacted, the CCSA will officially end its role, with the Public Health Ministry or the National Disease Control Committee expected to take over under new guidelines, he said.

A source at Government House said Prayut will chair a CCSA meeting today (Sept 10) to assess the situation after more than a week of the easing of COVID-19 curbs which began on Sept 1.



DDC's Dr Sophon. Photo: NNT

DDC confirms vaccine mix

BANGKOK

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-General of the Department of Disease Control (DDC) Dr Sophon Iamsirithavorn confirmed last Friday (Sept 3) that Thailand will begin mixing AstraZeneca and Pfizer doses starting in October.

Dr Sophon has advised that the Kingdom's current mixed vaccination approach uses Sinovac for the first dose and AstraZeneca as the second after a 3-4 week waiting period. The mix is currently the main vaccination plan for people above the age of 18.

A second practice using AstraZeneca as the first dose and Pfizer as the second dose with 4-12 weeks separation is to become widespread starting in October once more Pfizer vaccine arrives. The country is slated to receive 10 million Pfizer doses during the final

three months of this year.

A third approach, where two doses of Sinovac are boosted by a third dose of AstraZeneca after four weeks is also to be utilised.

The committee responsible was advised on its approach by a body studying immunity last month in which academic research from both Thailand and other participating countries was presented.

In addition, unvaccinated people who recovered from COVID-19 are to receive an immunity boosting shot of either AstraZeneca or Pfizer 1-3 months after recovery.

Addressing concerns that a booster shot poses the risk of cancer, the doctor explained the warning is only a general caution as the treatment has yet to receive extensive research. He acknowledged however, that the third vaccination shot could impact a person's immune system. NNT

Prayut, ministers survive no-confidence vote

BANGKOK

PRIME MINISTER PRAYUT CHAN-O-cha and five Cabinet ministers have survived the no-confidence vote with no surprises despite rumours that some coalition MPs might break ranks earlier.

Prayut got 264-208 votes, with three abstentions, the second-fewest votes of confidence after Labour Minister Suchart Chomklin from the Palang Pracharath Party, who got 263-201 with 10 abstentions.

In the previous censure debates, he sailed through with the most votes of confidence, with 274, both in February last year and February this year.

Deputy Prime minister and Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul won 269-196 with 11 abstentions. Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob got 269-195 votes with 10 abstentions. Both were from the Bhumjaithai Party.

Agriculture Minister Chalermchai Srimon from the Democrat Party won the most votes of confidence at 270-199 with eight abstentions while Chaiwut Thanakamansorn, the new digital economy and society minister from the PPRP, received 267-202 with nine abstentions.

During the four-day hearing, opposition lawmakers censured Prayut and his top ministers, saying they mismanaged the economic assistance programs, virus containment measures and the vaccination rollout.

This is the third attempt by the opposition to unseat the government since the 2019



The PM speaks at Parliament during the no confidence debate last Thursday (Sept 2). Photo: Parliament of Thailand

elections, with attempts failing as Prayut's coalition holds about 60% of parliament seats. An earlier no-confidence vote this year was held in February.

Still, infighting within the PPRP may complicate matters, even if Prayut denies this.

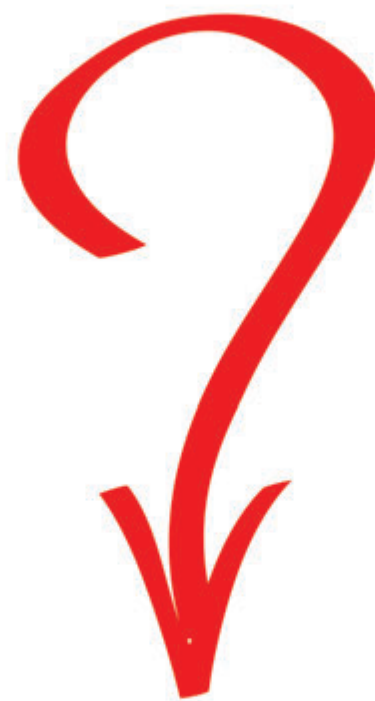
"Even though the prime minister survived the vote, it doesn't mean that the conflict between factions within his party has been resolved. It just means that the whipping for this vote was successful," said Punchada Sirivunnabood, a visiting fellow at Singapore's ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

Prayut rebutted claims from the opposition, saying the government was doing its best to save lives and revive the economy despite the fast-evolving situation and budget constraints. He argued that Thailand managed the pandemic relatively well with infection and death rates lower than global averages, and that the government has provided unprecedented financial support.

"Throughout Thai history, there's no other prime minister that helped the people like I did," Prayut said. Bangkok Post



THAILAND'S
PVC WINDOW
SPECIALISTS
SINCE 2004



Contact us for the lowest
prices in Phuket



PROJECT SUPPLIES DIRECT
Head Office at Tesco Lotus Thalang Phuket
English +66 87 061 7631 or Thai +66 81 539 2031
PVC Phuket NathanUpvcBrown



Getting through the 'teenage years'

Photo: Josh Rakower / Unsplash



UNLEASHED

Russell D Russell
info@k9pointacademy.com

Most of us are aware that puppies, whilst seriously cute, can be lots of hard work. I often hear clients exclaiming that they are 'looking forward to their puppy growing up!' However, it can often be a case of be careful what you wish for. The next stage in dog development, the adolescent stage can be equally as challenging and if you have adolescent kids, you'll know this already...

Like with children, once puppies hit the adolescent stage they go through a shedload of biological, physical, chemical and psychological changes, and accordingly their behaviours can (and usually are) affected. It's not all doom, gloom and panic, but there can be challenges – and if you're not ready for them, it can come as quite a surprise.

When does it happen?

Dogs tend to hit the adolescent stage at around six months of age and work through it until around two years old when they reach full maturity. There is a bit of variance as smaller dogs tend to mature faster than larger ones, however, you'll notice the bulk of the changes in the first six months or so.

Lots of people often advocate early sterilisation as a way to 'prevent' adolescent changes in dogs. But understand that whilst hormones clearly play a role in the changes that our dogs go through, they are not the only thing responsible for behavioural changes. Your dog's brain is growing and developing and the changes and quirks you notice are natural and likely occur regardless of whether they've been 'snipped' or not.

If you've had your dog since a puppy, you may find it easier to tolerate this phase of their development having gone through the full on process of raising a pup. Whereas if you've just adopted an adolescent, you may find this more challenging if you were expecting to have avoided the puppy/chaos stage and adopt a calm, easy going dog. Either way, the bond you have with your new dog will help guide both of you through this stage and makes things easier to work with.

What Will I Notice?

One of the things that starts to tail off into adolescence is the seemingly endless teething and mouthing that young pups enjoy. If you've worked well with this in the puppy phase, to redirect to good chew toys, you'll find your dog naturally choosing these anyway. Some dogs just like to chew and remain power chewers for life, the difference as they get older (and thus stronger) is that they may need more suitable chew toys that can sustain the stronger bite of developed jaws and teeth.

For those who have had puppies, you'll note they seem to sleep forever. Sure, they are whirlwinds when awake, but tiring them out is quite easy. Adolescents however have different schedules with more 'awake time' and lots of energy. The best counter to this, is lots of short burst exercise, training sessions and mentally stimulating games, toys and activities. Exercise on its own is fine, but just makes them fitter, faster and stronger. Mental activity is what will really tire out your power house dog. Equally,

even though your dog seems bigger and stronger, their bones and joints are still fusing and developing and are not yet ready for long powerful runs, jumps and impact work.

Part of the benefit of these 'more awake' hours, is that adolescent dogs seem to take more of an active interest in going for walks, and exploring – far more than puppies usually do. Pups have that inbuilt, biological trigger that seems to keep them 'close to home' – and for good reason. But as they get a bit older, they now have the desire to explore their surroundings, and equally, now have more energy and strength to keep up with you on those slightly longer walks.

A note of caution here, you'll probably also find that your dog's recall, and desire to be next to you, is waning considerably now - so don't be surprised if Rover is less interested in coming back to you. To this end, always keep your dog on leash, work him daily to build that recall so down the road, you can walk off leash with no issues.

And on that note, it may not be just his recall that seems to fade. You may feel that all that hard puppy obedience work you put in has suddenly left. It hasn't, but you still need to keep working with your pup. Again, a bit like child adolescents, their brains can be all over the place at times. Be patient, stay the course and keep working through it. It will pay off later down the line. And with that in mind...

Keep Socialising!

It is still really important to continue to properly socialise your dogs through this stage. Remember this doesn't mean just 'let them play with other dogs and people', it means getting them ready to be sociable members of society. This may appear more challenging with a recently adopted adolescent dog with no history, but it's still possible and we need to expose them POSITIVELY to as many situations, people, places and so on as possible.

If you've just acquired a new puppy, or have an adolescent dog and need some help, 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.

ONE PHUKET PRESENTS
A Night At The Popra
a musical rampage through the movies
Postponed
New date announced soon!
The Four Points by
Sheraton Grand Ball Room
Doors Close at 7:30pm
DECADENT | INDULGENT | DELIGHTFUL
Ticket Donations B3,500 &
Limited VIP Donations B5,000
To book email admin@phuketacademyofperformingarts.com

LEGEND MUSIC
 PHUKET NEWS
 VERTIGO
 HОBOCTИ Пхукета
 NEWS TV
 LIVE 89.5
 FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON

New 'Space Jam' a slam dunk

David Griffiths

If you are a fan of NBA basketball you will know that over the past few years there has been a huge debate over who deserves to be called the greatest basketballer of all time. Is the great man of the '80s and '90s, six time championship winner Michael Jordan. Is it the sadly deceased Kobe Bryant, or is it the man quickly closing in on Jordan's championship and MVP records – LeBron James.

Well now Warner Bros. have entered a new chapter into that debate. First Michael Jordan was the star of the original Space Jam movie back in 1996 and now they have made LeBron James the star of its sequel – *Space Jam: A New Legacy*.

Storywise the brand-new film is pretty basic. James plays himself although in this world he is at loggerheads with his youngest son Dom (Cedric Joe – *Loving Him*). Dom is a gifted young video game maker who wants to attend an elite Gamers Camp while LeBron wants his son to follow in his footsteps and to attend a Basketball Camp.

Those two worlds then collide when Warner Bros. highly successful algorithm, literally a digital figure named Al G. Rhythm (Don Cheadle – *Crash*), makes the decision that the company needs to hire LeBron and digitally insert him into some classic shows and



movies. LeBron laughs and rejects the idea and in anger Al G. Rhythm lures both him and his son into the Warner Bros. world where he challenges him to a basketball game to show who has the 'skills'.

Al G. Rhythm then sets out to create a super-team using the nearly unbeatable players that Dom has created for his game while LeBron is reduced to putting together a team with the forgotten Looney Tunes stars – including the fan favourites Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and Road Runner.

The premise behind the film is basic but somehow director Malcolm D. Lee (*Girl's Trip*) manages to make it all work. It is obvious that the film is supposed to be a vehicle to not only bring

the Looney Tunes back into popularity with a younger generation but to also showcase the entire WB World. There are a plethora of characters appearing from other WB franchises throughout this film so no you aren't seeing things if you suddenly see King Kong or Voldemort appear... and at times the film itself plays up to that with heavy references to films such as *The Matrix*.

While some may view that as a negative it does actually become a positive for the film because it ends up meaning that this is a film that can be enjoyed by the whole family. In fact you could argue that while this is clearly a film aimed at kids it is a film that will largely be loved by adults because of the nostalgia factor. If your kids are not

fans of basketball or haven't raided your own Looney Tunes VHS collection then chances are they are going to wonder what on Earth is happening throughout the film.

Of course what WB is actually hoping for is that your kids will fall in love with the good old Looney Tunes characters off the back of this film and that is something that could certainly happen. The animation team behind the film do change-up things during the film and try to make the Looney Tunes characters look more modern and to a certain extent it does work.

The other big question that people are going to wonder going into this film is does LeBron James have the acting ability to pull off a movie like this. The simple answer to that is yes, the long answer is don't expect to see him in any Oscar-winning roles anytime soon. James does what it takes to make this film work and he is more than passable even in scenes where he has to reach for his emotions. The man who steals the show though is Don Cheadle who seems to be channelling Jack Nicholson's performance in *The Witches of Eastwick* throughout the film.

To sum up *Space Jam: A New Legacy* is not a waste of time but be prepared as an adult to get more out of this film than your kids will. It's loud, it's funny and at times is a walk down memory lane.

Space Jam: A New Legacy is screening in Phuket now.

3/5 Stars

THAI RESIDENTIAL



Foreign Freehold Luxury Bang Tao Condo

- ✓ 3 Bedrooms
- ✓ 3 Bathrooms
- ✓ Foreign Freehold Ownership
- ✓ 3 Minutes from Bang Tao Beach
- ✓ 293 Sqm

Reduced to 21.5 Million THB



Stunning Luxury Villa with Superb Patong Bay Views

- ✓ 4 Bedrooms ✓ 6 Bathrooms
- ✓ Stunning views over Patong Bay
- ✓ Excellent Rental Property
- ✓ Great Furnishings and Artwork Included
- ✓ 710 m²

Reduced to 49 Million THB



Luxury Andara Villa For Sale

- ✓ 4 Bedrooms
- ✓ 6 Bathrooms
- ✓ Millionaires Mile
- ✓ Stunning Views Over Kamala Bay
- ✓ 1,589 m²

Reduced to 115 Million THB



Incredible Layan Villa with Huge Swimming Pool

- ✓ 7 Bedrooms
- ✓ 8 Bathrooms
- ✓ Immaculately Designed
- ✓ Fantastic Rental Property
- ✓ 1,500 sqm land plot

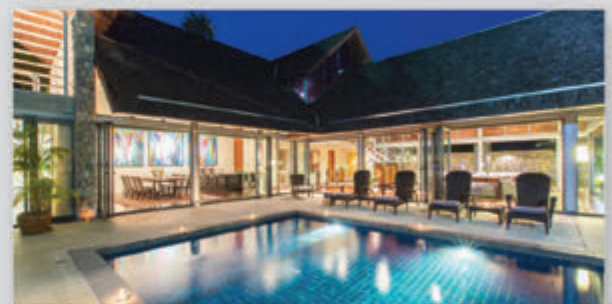
Reduced to 48 Million THB



Amazing Layan Beach Apartment With West Facing Sunset Views

- ✓ 3 Bedrooms
- ✓ 3 Bathrooms
- ✓ Superb Views Looking Down to Layan Beach
- ✓ Modern and Stylish
- ✓ 300 m²


Reduced to 28 Million THB



Millionaire's Mile Stunning Samsara Villa

- ✓ 4 bedrooms
- ✓ 5 Bathrooms
- ✓ Prestigious Luxury Estate
- ✓ Incredible Sunset Views Over Patong Bay
- ✓ 1,387 sqm land plot

Reduced to 135 Million THB



POP QUIZ

1. What was Renaissance artist Michelangelo's family name?
2. In which part of the body would you find the sartorius muscle, sometimes called 'the tailor's muscle'?
3. In 1852, Elisha Otis invented a safety device for which type of transportation?
4. What is the Japanese name for Japan?
5. Which stock market, the second-largest exchange in the world, is located at One Liberty Plaza, New York?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Hard

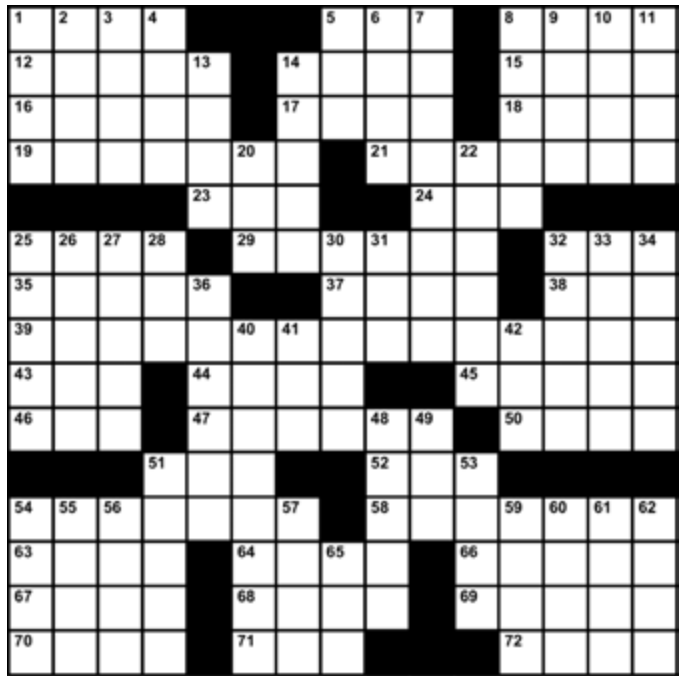
					3		9	
			8	5				1
		1		7		3		
4	5				1	6		
		9				2		
		6	3				4	9
		7		8		4		
8				6	7			
	1		5					

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across**


 1. Provides support for
 5. Something to believe in
 8. Kind of bean
 12. Tantrums
 14. Syllables in "Deck the Halls"
 15. Squadron
 16. Porterhouse, e.g.
 17. Enrique Iglesias song subject
 18. Badger's homestead
 19. Road sign
 21. Road sign
 23. Car club
 24. Trash bag accessory
 25. Tartness
 29. Some Algonquians
 32. Mushroom
 35. Beside
 37. "Lost Horizon" religious figure
 38. Going public letters
 39. Yard sign
 43. South extension
 44. Caffeinated tree
 45. Continental money
 46. Most-used edition, abbr.
 47. Ancient debarkation point
 50. Dub
 51. High school elective
 52. Get wet
 54. Road sign
 58. City sign
- Down**

 1. Part of Nasdaq, abbr.
 2. Excited about
 3. "Mon ___!"
 4. Immediately
 5. "Of this ___ certain"
 6. Long, exhausting march
 7. Of the sea
 8. Railroad flare
 9. Start again
 10. Ars longa, ___ brevis
 11. Lawyer, abbr.
 13. Jaeger bird
 14. Roofed porch
 20. Computer capacity
 22. Countenance
 25. Movie shots
 26. Watchful
 27. Without limit, in a way
28. Econ. indicator
 30. Place to exchange vows
 31. ___ Jong
 32. R and B and rap star
 33. Salts
 34. Sheriff's gang
 36. Racing vehicle
 40. Keep
 41. Neighbor of Ala.
 42. Manage
 48. "___ your instructions ..."
 49. Shelley's "___ Skylark"
 51. They're not behind you
 53. Spirit
 54. Looming
 55. Spiced stew
 56. Some hosp. graphical records
 57. Puppy sounds
 59. Joint with a cap
 60. Cake finisher
 61. Photographer Goldin and actress Grey
 62. No-see-um
 65. "Call Me Maybe" singer Carly ___ Jepsen



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

5

US dollars is all some cybercriminals ask for in order to carry out a DDoS (Denial-of-service) attack on a computer system.

95

percent of avocados eaten in the US are Hass avocados, and they're all descendants of one mother tree in Southern California.

92,000

kilos of cocaine was produced in Colombia in 1992 alone, according to UN estimates.

160,000


US dollars was the average annual salary of store managers at 'In-N-Out' burger franchises in 2018.

2.3 million

parts are used to make a Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

Source: *Uberfacts*

ISLAND VIEW



Tri Trang Beach in Love. Photo by Trisha

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

This week in history

Sept 10, 1960
At the Summer Olympics in Rome, Abebe Bikila becomes the first sub-Saharan African to win a gold medal, winning the marathon in bare feet.

Sept 11, 1609
Henry Hudson discovers Manhattan Island and the indigenous people living there.

Sept 12, 490 BC
Battle of Marathon: The con-

ventionally accepted date for the Battle of Marathon. The Athenians and their Plataean allies defeat the first Persian invasion force of Greece.

Sept 13, 1971
Chairman Mao Zedong's second in command and successor Marshal Lin Biao flees the People's Republic of China after the failure of an alleged coup. His plane crashes in Mongolia, killing all onboard.

Sept 14, 1752
The British Empire adopts the Gregorian calendar, skipping

11 days (the previous day was Sept 2).

Sept 15, 1616
The first non-aristocratic, free public school in Europe opens in Frascati, Italy.

Sept 16, 2007
One-Two-GO Airlines Flight 269 carrying 128 crew and passengers crashes at Phuket International Airport, killing 89 people. Source: *Wikipedia*

Trades & Services

 The Phuket News
 @thephuketnews

CORPORATE SERVICES



VERTIGO
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

WE MAKE YOU LOOK GOOD.

VERTIGO VIDEO PRODUCTIONS.COM
   

HOME IMPROVEMENT



Waterproofing & Crack Repair

20 year WARRANTY

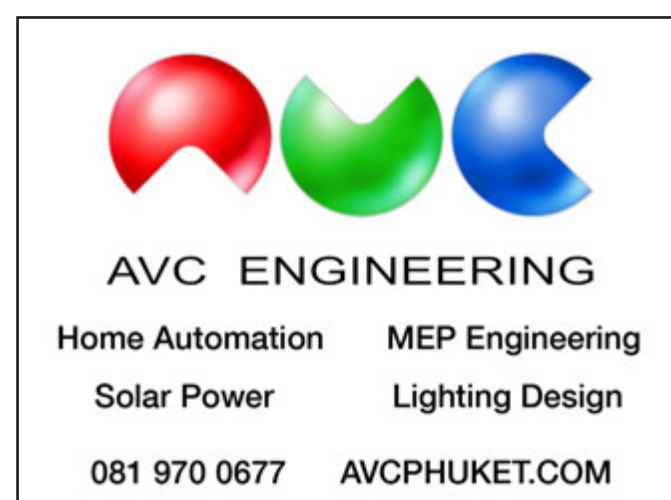
Drone Survey

Pipe Inspection

under yearly checkup plan...

TCM Asia Co., Ltd - quality services since 2003
 office@tcm-asia.com 086-9439834

HOME IMPROVEMENT



AVC ENGINEERING

Home Automation MEP Engineering
 Solar Power Lighting Design

081 970 0677 AVCPHUKET.COM

HOME IMPROVEMENT



Plumber
German Water Team Ltd. Part
We repair what your husband fixed

MASTERCRAFTSMAN
WE REPAIR AND BUILD NEW:

- ALL KINDS OF HOT AND COLD WATER SYSTEMS
- HOT WATER SOLAR SYSTEMS AND SOLAR PUMPS
- POOL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE
- REPAIR ALL KINDS OF WATER SYSTEMS AND POOL PUMPS
- A VARIETY OF WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS TO FIT YOUR NEEDS

SHOWROOM NEXT TO WAT CHALONG
OPEN FROM 8AM TO 5PM

094 594 8868 (THAI)
089 645 4848 (GER / ENG)

www.germanwaterteam.com
Email: germanwaterteam@yahoo.de

2212 Moo 8 Chaofa R.d west Chalong A Muang Phuket 83130

HOME IMPROVEMENT



SMART TILES
Tile Leveling System

Baan Wana - Cherrng Talay
Tel : 076 620168

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

www.tile-asia.com | letstalk@tile-asia.com

HOME IMPROVEMENT

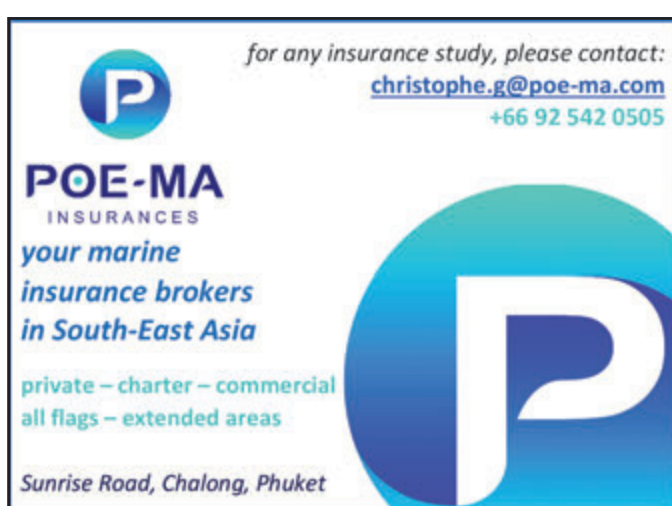


MN.PAINTING

German/English: 087 894 8255

No Job too Big
No Job too small

MARINE INSURANCE



POE-MA
INSURANCES

your marine insurance brokers in South-East Asia

private – charter – commercial
all flags – extended areas

Sunrise Road, Chalong, Phuket

for any insurance study, please contact:
christophe.g@poe-ma.com
+66 92 542 0505

PERSONAL SERVICE



We Clean
Phuket.net

Covid-19 Disinfection Service

20% OFF - quote code PN05

081 737 7850
fb.me/WeCleanPhuketNet.EN
LINE ID: WeCleanPhuketNet

OTHER



Mac-Nels

MACNELS SHIPPING PHUKET

ANY SHIPMENT ANY WHERE

☎ OFFICE: 076 603907
 ☎ MOBILE: CALL PETER 0863645862
 www.macnellsphuket.com

WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?

The **Phuket News** Your Island – Your Paper
 Новости **Пхукета** Твой остров – твои газеты
 ข่าว **ภูเก็ต**

WINDOW ON PHUKET

The **map** of PHUKET Where to **eat** in PHUKET

LIVE 89.5 **NEWS TV**

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th

FRI
10
SEP

MON
13
SEP

FRI
1
OCT

SAT
2
OCT



RESTAURANT BAR
 98/18 Vises Road
 Rawai
 OI: 081/891 4381
 www.shakersphuket.com
 shakersphuket@gmail.com
 GPS: N9° 46.971
 E99° 19.001



RESTAURANT BAR
 98/18 Vises Road
 Rawai
 OI: 081/891 4381
 www.shakersphuket.com
 shakersphuket@gmail.com
 GPS: N9° 46.971
 E99° 19.001





Friday Mussels night
 1.2 Kg mussels served with French Fries Your choice, Your style: Marinere, Provencale, Garlic & cream or Thai style We have a kid's playground zone. Price vary from 295 baht to 350 baht depending on choice ordered. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket

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

The Grow Boating Networking Evening for October 2021
 The Grow Boating Networking Evening for October 2021 will be held at the Isola Restaurant, at the Royal Phuket Marina on Friday the 1st of October from 5pm. There will be a light buffet sponsored by the Isola Restaurant and as always all of your favourite beverages will be available. We are delighted to announce that The Thailand International Boat Show and JAND Events will be the drinks sponsor for the evening. See www.thailandinternationalboatshow.com Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome. There is no entry fee, just drop your business card or register at the bar. We hope to see you there and if you know anyone you think would be interested in coming please invite them along. To join our mailing list please send an email to growboatingphuket@gmail.com Find us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/growboatingphuket/ Grow Boating is kindly supported by our media partner The Phuket News, Live 89.5 radio and Phuket News TV. See www.thepuketnews.com

A Night At The Popra
 ONE PHUKET PRESENTS
A Night At The Popra
 a musical rampage through the movies
 Adults Only 2nd October 2021
 The Four Points by Sheraton Grand Ball Room
 8.00pm - 11.00pm
 DECADENT | INDULGENT | DELICIOUS
 Ticket Donations: B3,500 per seat
 To book email: info@onephuket.com
 To book phone: 076 612 550

SUN
12
SEP

WED
15
SEP



RESTAURANT BAR
 98/18 Vises Road
 Rawai
 OI: 081/891 4381
 www.shakersphuket.com
 shakersphuket@gmail.com
 GPS: N9° 46.971
 E99° 19.001



RESTAURANT BAR
 98/18 Vises Road
 Rawai
 OI: 081/891 4381
 www.shakersphuket.com
 shakersphuket@gmail.com
 GPS: N9° 46.971
 E99° 19.001





BUSINESSES FOR SALE

BOAT LAGOON BAR FOR SALE
 The Lagoon Saloon Phuket (LSP) in Boat Lagoon is FOR SALE. See our Facebook page for more bar details. Contact Khun Ora on Mobile 082 222 7499. Negotiable , mark@mapmedia-asia.com

CARS, TRUCKS FOR SALE


18 Seater Mitsubishi Bus x 2
 18 Seater Mitsubishi Bus (2 buses), Year December 2011. Yellow Registration Plates. THB 950,000 (each). Contact: Robin Lee on Mobile 061 829 8293.

PROPERTY FOR RENT

Kata Gardens Private Pool
 Kata Gardens Private Pool Penthouses. Walk to Beach Ocean View 1, 2 and 3 Bedroom Units Available. 2 Common Area Pools. plrkata@outlook.com, +66909959767, Graham Herdman

PROPERTY FOR RENT

HALF PRICE CONDO LAGUNA AREA
 200m to Bangtao, 2 pools, Jacuzzi, sauna, gym, BBQ, 140 sqm. Free: bikes, electric scooters, drinking water, coconuts, 3TVs, Netflix, 200TV channels. HALF PRICE 076 324404 phuket@casuarinashores.co



CARS, TRUCKS FOR SALE

Car rent @ fair covid prices
 Mitsubishi Xpander, top model new car, monthly price B17,000. Car from 400 Bht daily, 8,000 monthly. Toyota Vios top model new, from 10,000 Bht monthly. Call 0848474377. Email: stigisaan@gmail.com



Alcoholics Anonymous
 If you want to drink that is your business
If you want to stop that is ours
Daily Meetings
 Patong, Chalong, Phuket Town, Bang Tao & Karon
CALL
081 895 4763
 help@aaphuket.org
 Google www.aaphuket.com



QSI International School of Phuket
 QSI International School of Phuket
 81/4 Moo 1, Chalemprakiet r.9 Road T. Kathu, A. Kathu, Phuket 83120 Thailand
 Tel: +66-076-304-312
QSI Phuket is looking for Certified Native English Speaking Teachers for the 2021-2022 school year
1. Music/Art/Drama teacher for our Elementary and Secondary (High School) program
Qualification
 • Native English Speaking Teacher preferred
 • Bachelor or higher degree
 • Experiences in teaching is required
 • Teaching license is preferred (or proof of enrollment in teaching certificate program)
Interested teachers please send email with attachment following
 • A cover letter stating the position you are applying
 • Your resume with a recent photo
 • A scan of your education certificates and transcripts
 • A scan of your passport's photo page
 Send CV at phuket@qsi.org https://www.qsi.org/thailand/pkt Tel. 076 304 312
 SUCCESS FOR ALL



HEARTFELT EFFORTS HIT THE ROAD

Day and night, Life Bags are being delivered out into the community, thanks to 5 Star Marine and Sutai Muay Thai - Thailand, as well as friends, officials and other beautiful people in our community. We are still restricted on who can join to help, but so grateful to all who can step up! Here's some recent photos of deliveries to Leam Sai, Patong and Koh Yao Yai so far this weekend #OnePhuket



IT'S IN THE BAG!

The legends at Layan Gardens++ came together and packed more than 1,000 Life Bags! Thank you so much to everyone, because we all know it's hard hard work. #OnePhuket

Let Albon go, says Wolff

FORMULA ONE

MERCEDES TEAM boss Toto Wolff has urged rival team Red Bull Racing to release Thai-British driver Alex Albon from his existing contract to enable him to return to F1 with Williams next season.

It has been confirmed British starlet George Russell will replace Valtteri Bottas to take the second seat at Mercedes next season alongside seven times world champion Lewis Hamilton.

Bottas confirmed on Monday (Sept 6) he will be racing for Alfa Romeo next season.

Russell currently races for Mercedes-powered Williams meaning they will require an additional driver next term and Albon is among the favourite candidates to land the role.

However, he needs to be released from his current contract with Red Bull before this can be triggered, insisted Wolff.

"It's tricky to have a 100% Red Bull driver on a Mercedes power unit, so



Alex Albon (right) and Mercedes F1 boss Toto Wolff in 2019. Photo: AFP

I'm happy to work with him as long as they let him free from his Red Bull contract," the Austrian told reporters at the Dutch Grand Prix last Sunday (Sept 5).

Albon, 25, is still under contract with Red Bull Racing despite the team dropping him at the end of last season. He is currently competing in the German Touring Cars circuit.

Red Bull boss Christian Horner, however, is concerned that Mercedes may overlook Albon and instead look to promote their new Formula E champion Nyck de Vries for the seat.

"We have no management contract with him, neither do we have an option of taking him back and therefore Nyck can drive in any team," Wolff added.

The Phuket News

Dutch delight for Max in home Grand Prix triumph

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

The Dutch Grand Prix last Sunday (Sept 5) couldn't have gone any better for Max Verstappen and his legion of home fans on a weekend Mercedes began the painful process of renewing its driver line-up.

The Dutch Grand Prix may always have been in Verstappen's destiny. Revived after 36 years, it exists only because of the man the Dutch call 'Super Max', whose prodigious talent has ignited a supporter base so fierce that it rivals the renowned passion of the Ferrari tifosi or the German Michael Schumacher diehards of the 2000s.

The well-travelled 'orange army' has already made successes of races all over Europe as Verstappen's star has risen; now Circuit Zandvoort, near Amsterdam, is reaping the rewards of having a home-grown hero.

And from the moment Verstappen set foot on the circuit for his Thursday track walk,



Verstappen celebrates his victory. Photo: AFP

complete with standing ovations from the already massing crowd that would swell to a sold-out 70,000 people, victory at home seemed the only possible outcome.

Zandvoort's fast bends and rolling undulation seemed built for the Red Bull Racing car, which powered around the renovated circuit as if on rails. Yes, Mercedes lost a full hour of crucial practice to a broken engine, but Hamilton's car was recalcitrant all weekend long regardless, distrustful of the unusual steep banking.

In the end Verstappen had enough pace in hand to

swat away every challenge Mercedes threw at him, and in a haze of orange smoke and to the thunderous approval of the audience he soaked in the feeling of his first home victory.

"The expectations were very high coming into the weekend and it's never easy to fulfil that, but the whole crowd has been incredible, and I am so happy to win here," he said. "I've never experienced anything like this before in my life."

But the victory will quickly fade from memory as just one of 21 chapters in the 2021

season, and already it has been overshadowed by Mercedes's decision to send Valtteri Bottas packing for Alfa Romeo in favour of rising star George Russell.

Bottas has long been behind the ferocious title pace set by Verstappen and Hamilton, while their apparent Russell, in the final year of his Williams apprenticeship, is increasingly frequently outperforming his backmarking machinery.

Bottas's contribution to Mercedes cannot be understated. His super single-lap speed and strong technical feedback has kept Hamilton and the car sharp. Crucially, his apolitical demeanour has kept the team harmonious after its high-profile boogymen in the preceding Lewis Hamilton-Nico Rosberg era.

"He has been the best teammate I've had the pleasure of working with," Hamilton said, while team boss Toto Wolff added: "Valtteri has done a fantastic job over the past five seasons, and he has made an essential contribution to our success and to our growth."

Brazil vs Argentina qualifier halted by COVID controversy

FOOTBALL

BRAZIL'S WORLD CUP QUALIFYING clash against Argentina was dramatically suspended shortly after kick-off last Sunday (Sept 5) as controversy over COVID-19 protocols erupted.

Amid incredible scenes at Sao Paulo's Neo Quimica Arena, the match between the two giants of South American football came to a halt when a group of unidentified officials came onto the pitch, triggering a melee involving team staff and players.

Argentina's players trudged off the pitch to the changing room as the furore arranged. Argentina captain Lionel Messi later re-emerged from the tunnel without his team shirt on as confusion swept around the stadium.

The stunning intervention came just hours after Brazil's health authorities said four players in Argentina's squad based in England should be placed in "immediate quarantine" for breaching COVID-19 protocols.

According to Brazil's National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA), Premier League players Giovani Lo Celso (Tottenham), Emiliano Martinez (Aston Villa), Emiliano Buendia (Aston Villa) and Cristian Romero (Tottenham) provided "false information" upon their entry to Brazil.

Romero, Lo Celso and Martinez were all in the Argentina starting line-up that kicked off Sunday's game.

However the four Premier League players were accused of failing to disclose that they had spent time in the United Kingdom in the



Health officials enter the pitch to halt the game last Sunday (Sept 5). Photo: AFP

14 days prior to their arrival.

A ministerial order dating from June 23 prohibits the entry into Brazilian territory of any foreign person from the United Kingdom, India or South Africa, to prevent the spread of variants of the coronavirus.

"ANVISA considers that this situation represents a serious health risk and recommends that the local health authorities (of Sao Paulo) order the immediate quarantine of the players, who are prohibited from taking part in any activity and from remaining on Brazilian territory," the agency said in a statement.

ANVISA said Brazil's Federal Police had been notified so that "the necessary measures are taken immediately".

Brazilian website Globoesporte said the Argentina Football Association (AFA) could request an exceptional authorization from authorities in Sao Paulo to allow the players to take the field against Brazil.

The controversy comes after nine Brazilians based in the Premier League failed to travel to South America following objections from their clubs. AFP

English Premier League Predictions

the Phuket News

thepuketnews.com/predictions.php

Making waves once again

SAILING

The Phuket News
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

The Andaman Sea shone in all its glory upon the return of the award-winning Phuket Raceweek on Aug 27-29 in Chalong Bay.

After a one-year hiatus due to pandemic restrictions, organisers pulled out all the stops and worked with the Thai yachting community to put on a successful three-day sailing event with 10 boats taking part in three classes.

Close racing was the name of the game in the OMR Sports Multihulls class, with all entrants on the podium during the seven-race series. A fast finish with three wins from three races wasn't quite enough for Warwick Downes' Bonza, however, whose two third places and a fourth earlier on in the series meant they had to settle for second place behind Fugazi, skippered by local multihull guru Mark Pescott.

Elsewhere in the class the two Fireflies were having their own tussle, swapping places each race. By series end, it



Warwick Downes' Bonza.
Photo: Phuket Raceweek

was Twin Sharks, skippered by Jason Corall, who edged out Jojo Tayong's Voodoo to take third place and the Firefly bragging rights.

A trio of locally-built Stealth catamarans battled it out in the OMR Cruising Multihulls class. Designer and builder of the Stealths, Alan Carwardine, was skippering Saffron and used his build expertise and local sailing

knowledge to edge out the others and claim victory overall. While Mick Coleman's Fez and Glywn Rowlands' Twister 2 kept them honest, they had to settle for second and third respectively.

Niels Degenkolw's team on Phoenix dominated the IRC Monohulls class winning six out of six and claiming the 2021 class crown. Mas Alegre and Night Train went

head-to-head for second place bragging rights and by series end it was Paul Baker's Mas Alegre that came out ahead claiming second with Paul Merry's Night Train in third.

New to Phuket Raceweek this year was a Pursuit Race – the first time such a race has been held during the regatta and possibly the first time in Thailand. Held on the second day, the entire fleet

were set off according to their handicap (slowest boat first) and finished off Koh Larn in Chalong Bay. Fugazi claimed the honours in the Multihulls class while Phoenix came top in the Monohulls class.

Another first this year saw hydrofoil kites and wing foils compete on the final day. Taking out the inaugural wins were Zayyar Wit in the Hydrofoil Kite class and Alejandro Vernis in the Wing Foil class.

'WONDERFUL SHOWCASE'

Despite the challenges of putting on an event during a pandemic, the 2021 Phuket Raceweek will be remembered for three days of sailing in near perfect conditions, great camaraderie amongst the participants and a wonderful showcase of Phuket's hospitality and preparedness.

Driving awareness through its #PhuketSailing campaign, the organiser's were laser-focused on delivering a safe event with lots of on water fun, during these challenging times.

"We discussed holding the event with key members of the local sailing community and

they were all keen to go ahead" said Byron Jones, Managing Director of organisers Media Business Services Co. Ltd.

"We moved from our traditional July slot to August to accommodate local needs and while we had to ensure all was in line with local authority rules and COVID measures, the event went off without a hitch and everyone who took part had a great time," Jones added.

Quick to support the 18th Raceweek was the Phuket Cruising Yacht Club, providing the headquarters for the event and the gathering point before and after sailing for all involved. Many other local businesses also supported Phuket Raceweek this year, all keen to showcase sailing and highlight that Phuket is ready and eager to welcome visitors again.

"We have been overwhelmed by the number of local sponsors and supporters, who have stepped up to help us put on the event," Jones said.

"It's certainly been a challenge but hearing all the positive feedback from the sailors and the island community, makes it worthwhile."

Ronaldo's lucky number seven

FOOTBALL

THIS WEEKEND SEES the return of Cristiano Ronaldo to the Premier League as he makes his second debut for Manchester United.

Having originally cut his teeth and forged his game and reputation under the watchful eye of Sir Alex Ferguson between 2003-09, Ronaldo returns a globally recognised brand, the most popular social media celebrity alive with over 550 million followers.

The cult of numbers may be meaningless to some but the number seven component of Ronaldo's brand CR7 carries huge significance to its owner and has very pivotal historical relevance.

The number seven jersey at Manchester United has a rich history of almost mythical status that has been worn by some of the club's most iconographic and iconoclastic players.

George Best was the first to imbue legend on the shirt, partly due to his reputation as a genius maverick of a player, partly because he



Photo: AFP

wore the shirt when United won their first European Cup against Benfica in 1968. Either way, it set off a trend of great players adorning the jersey.

Not long after Best came 'Captain Marvel' Bryan Robson who wore the shirt with distinction for 13 years between 1981-1994 before handing it over to arguably the club's biggest icon of recent years: Eric Cantona.

'The King', as he is still affectionately known, re-wrote the script and helped propel the club to unprecedented heights during a five year spell at the inception of the Premier League.

Next came 'Goldenballs' himself, David Beckham. Legends in sport don't get much bigger and Beckham's

status speaks for itself.

It was after Beckham departed for Real Madrid in 2003 that Ronaldo adopted the shirt and created his own legend amongst a list of giants in the game.

Despite the number seven already allocated to Edinson Cavani, the Uruguayan handed the jersey back to his new teammate when it was confirmed the Portuguese was rejoining United.

The are millions around the world who await with baited breath to see what history and legend Ronaldo writes next now he and his favourite number are once again reunited at United. It starts tomorrow (Sept 11) against Newcastle United (kick-off 9pm Phuket time).

Ben Tirebuck

FOR YOUR PROPERTY



RENOVATION MAINTENANCE REPAIR

FACADES – ROOFING – WATERPROOFING – POOLS

PROFESSIONAL
SOLUTIONS PROVIDER

20+ years of experience

International Expertise

In-house Technical Service and Project Management

BUILDING MAINTENANCE and
RENOVATION SPECIALIST

CIVIL MASTER INTERNATIONAL Co., Ltd
Boosting the image of your Property



www.cmi-thailand.com

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Sport



Phuket racing back with a splash > p15



Thailand's Paralympians pose with sports and local officials after arriving in Phuket from the Tokyo Games on Monday (Sept 6). Photo: Bangkok Post

PARALYMPICS

Bangkok Post

Wheelchair racer Pongsakorn Paeyo, Thailand's most decorated Paralympian at the 2020 Games, is looking forward to more success at Paris 2024 after winning three gold medals in Tokyo.

Pongsakorn and a large number of teammates arrived in Phuket on Monday (Sept 6) to enter 14-day quarantine as required by the government's COVID-19 protocols.

They were greeted by government, sports and local officials as well as well-wishers at a colourful ceremony at Phuket International Airport. The athletes received bouquets of flowers from HRH Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana Rajakanya, a former national athlete in

badminton and equestrian.

They were the second group of Thailand's Paralympic delegation to return from Tokyo after wheelchair fencer Saysunee Jana, weightlifters Narong Kasanan, Thongsa Marasri, Kumaan Anon, and Judo athlete Methinee Wongchompoo touched down last Wednesday (Sept 1). The final members of the Thai delegation were scheduled to arrive on Tuesday (Sept 7).

The Thai team won five gold, five silver and eight bronze medals at Tokyo 2020 which ended last Sunday.

Before the Tokyo event, the Sports Authority of Thailand predicted its athletes would get four to six gold medals. In the end, they claimed the same number of total medals, 18, they had won in the 2016 Games but the Rio campaign remains the country's most successful with six gold, six

silver and six bronze medals.

Pongsakorn, 24, claimed golds in the men's 100m, 400m and 800m T53 events, making him the first Thai to win three titles at one Games.

"I am glad that I helped enhance the country's reputation. I am proud of myself that I also broke the records in all three events I entered at the Tokyo Games," the Khon Kaen native said.

"My next target is certainly at Paris 2024. I have to prepare myself from now to make Thais happy again."

Pongsakorn has now won five Paralympic gold medals, two short of the country's record set by fellow wheelchair racer Prawat Wahoram who has bagged seven.

Pongsakorn will receive B21.6 million in reward from the government for winning three titles in Tokyo. Under the National Sports Develop-

ment Fund's bonus scheme for Paralympians, a champion will get B7.2mn, a silver winner B4.8mn, and a bronze medalist B3mn.

Asked what he would do with the money, he said: "I don't know at the moment. I just want to take a rest and then start training."

Thailand's other gold medallists at the 2020 Paralympics are wheelchair racer Athiwat Paeng-Nuea, who won the 100m T54 title, and the boccia team, who were successful in the defence of their title in the BC1/BC2 category.

Wheelchair fencer Saysunee Jana was Thailand's first medallist at Tokyo 2020 after she took bronze in the individual epee on Aug 26.

Badminton players Sujirat Pookkham and Amnour Wetwitan earned Thailand's 18th and last medal on the final day of competition last Sunday.

The 35-year-old Sujirat also won the women's singles silver in the sport that made its Paralympic debut in Tokyo.

Other Thai medallists are boccia stars Watcharaphon Vongsa and Pornchok Larpyen (runners-up, individual BC2 and individual BC4), wheelchair racers Prawat Wahoram (silver, 1,500m T54), Putharet Khongrak (bronzes, 1,500m and 5,000m T54) and Saichon Konjen (bronze, 800m T54), table tennis athlete Rungroj Thainiyom (bronze, men's singles Class 6), taekwondo fighter Khwansuda Phuangkitcha (bronze, women's K44 49kg), and the men's table tennis team (bronze, Class 3).

Tokyo bid a colourful farewell to the Paralympics last Sunday after 12 days of stereotype-defying, record-shattering performances despite a year-long pandemic delay.

The closing ceremony featured a riot of neon-clad breakdancers, unicycling butterflies and strutting stilt-walkers, using materials recycled from the Olympic opening ceremony for its vivid props.

Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike handed the Paralympic flag over to International Paralympic Committee chief Andrew Parsons, who passed it on to Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, representing the 2024 hosts.

"During our carnival of sport, we have celebrated difference, exhibited the best of humanity and shown unity in diversity," Parsons said.

"I don't want to do this, but the time has come for me to declare the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games closed," he added, signifying the official closing of the ceremony.

Laguna Phuket Triathlon cancelled due to COVID concerns

TRIATHLON

IT WAS CONFIRMED LAST Wednesday (Sept 1) that the 2021 Laguna Phuket Triathlon scheduled for Nov 21 has been cancelled due to ongoing health and safety concerns relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A new date has been set for the 28th edition of the event on Nov 20, 2022.

"With the increasing spread

of COVID-19 in Thailand and the current restrictions on mass participation events, the country is facing its worst outbreak," the official announcement read.

"Therefore, it is with a heavy heart that we announce the cancellation of the 2021 Laguna Phuket Triathlon and the transfer of all entries to next year's race on 20 November 2022.

"In consideration of the health and safety of our participants, as well as following the new control

measures by the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA), and in collaboration with the government, our partners, and sponsors, we are confident that this is the best course of action. We hope that you can support and join us next year," the announcement said.

It added that every entry for this year's competition will be automatically transferred to next year's race on Nov 22 and that no action from those already registered looking to transfer their booking is required.

If that person is unable to make the date next year then the option is there to transfer the booking under the name of another person. This has to be done by Sept 30, 2021, however. Any requests after this date will not be accepted and will count towards the 2022 race.

Laguna Phuket advised anyone with further questions or concerns to contact the online registration partner at info@gotorace.com or call 02-236-2931-(2) between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.



Participants at the 2020 Triathlon. Photo: Laguna Phuket

"We thank you for your understanding and hope to see you all in 2022. Stay safe everyone," the announcement concluded.

The Phuket News