

**STAFF AT 'HANDS-ON' BUSINESSES MUST BE VACCINATED > PAGE 2**



Bhummikitti Ruktaengam, President of Phuket Tourist Association, has called for clarity in explaining what conditions will be applied to tourists looking to arrive under the 'Phuket Sandbox' model from July 1. Screenshot: PR Phuket

## PHUKET TOURISM FIGURE SPEAKS OUT ON LACK OF CLARITY FOR JULY 1 TOURISTS

The Phuket News  
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Leading Phuket tourism business figure Bhummikitti Ruktaengam, President of Phuket Tourist Association, has openly criticized the lack of clarity about the conditions of entry for tourists looking to come under the 'Phuket Sandbox' from July 1, under which fully vaccinated tourists will be allowed onto the island without quarantine.

Mr Bhummikitti explained his concern after a meeting with Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Governor Yuthasak Supasorn and other top-ranking officials on June 2.

"We have only 28 days left, and I think information or clarity should have come out. However, from the

meeting, all we got was a lack of clarity in several aspects," Mr Bhummikitti said.

"We have to accept that the TAT is just one of the organisations that should have clarity right now. The problem is that we are questioned a lot by foreign tour agencies about what the conditions are for coming tourists and anything they need to do or prepare.

"There are 28 days left until July 1 when foreign tourists are allowed to come, but the tourists have not been told what they need to do to prepare. We cannot answer them," he said.

"Our incapacity to answer the questions is because making decisions is out of our authority, so I want to ask the officials responsible, which mainly are three ministries: the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Tourism

and Sports and Ministry of Foreign Affairs," Mr Bhummikitti added.

"The three ministries must talk together and create clear information for what they want tourists to do under the Phuket Sandbox, which allows them to come to Phuket without quarantine.

"Additionally, we also need the list of selected countries, the testing involved, and the tracing app to be used, which we have been talking about for a long time.

"In Thailand, right now, there is no tracing app that really works. We have talked about this for two months, and now we have 28 days left to open the Sandbox. We have not received any answer about this, so I need to ask relevant officials for clarity. The three main ministries, not all the Cabinet," he said.

"If we have clear information, we will be able to answer their questions. Then they will come, helping our economy," Mr Bhummikitti explained.

"The Phuket Governor has talked about the risk management [of COVID-19], which all people in Phuket are working on and giving our best cooperation. The number of people getting vaccinated is proof of our unity to build herd immunity," he noted.

"The period of 28 days after this will be important for Phuket and the country. If the settings are not clear [sic], the Phuket Sandbox cannot open, and this we must be able to tell the world, as we have done before. If we keep giving explanations, will they believe us?" he posed.

"The Phuket Governor has clearly said that there are three levels of readiness, including the readiness of...

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Working expats get jobs, retirees get ignored



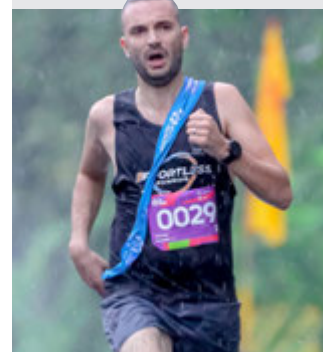
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## News


**35,000 homes  
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# 'Hands-on' staff must be jabbed

The Phuket News  
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People working in services in Phuket that require contact or close proximity with other people must be vaccinated in order to be allowed to reopen, Phuket Vice Governor Piyapong Choowong has confirmed.

Vice Governor Piyapong explained during a live broadcast online on May 31, that many of the businesses allowed to reopen under the latest order issued by Phuket provincial officials were required to have their staff vaccinated for COVID-19 in order to be allowed to reopen.

Under the latest order, which came into effect on June 1, a total of 17 types of businesses are allowed to reopen.

However, the requirement that staff at businesses requiring contact or close proximity to patrons must be vaccinated was not included in the main body of the order. The condition was included in an annex attached to the order.

"Workers in the venues that



Phuket Vice Governor Piyapong Choowong confirmed the requirement during a live broadcast on May 31. Screenshot: Official COVID-19 Information Center Phuket

staff and customers have to touch or be close to each other need to be fully vaccinated for Sinovac or have received the first injection of AstraZeneca vaccine," Vice Governor Piyapong said.

"The venues that we still ordered to remain closed are at risk of spreading the disease, and they are places that are not necessary for daily living," he said.

"For the restriction for some

places, we have considered the places linking to daily life, and the risk of spreading the disease can be protected [sic]," he added.

After reconfirming that schools in Phuket are allowed to reopen from June 14, Vice Governor Piyapong read through the list of venues and businesses that must have staff vaccinated in order to reopen.

"Massage and spa venues. It sounds contradictory to what I ex-

plained before, but right now, staff in this business are vaccinated. We believe that they are safe to work now," V/Gov Piyapong said.

"Staff who provide services in the venues must be fully vaccinated or have received the first injection of AstraZeneca vaccine, which is coming in June," he added.

"We have about 50% of our people who already have had their first injection. We believe that they are safe enough to work, but the disease control measures are still in effect," he noted.

"Workers in tattoo venues also need to be vaccinated," V/Gov Piyapong continued.

"Tourism-related businesses, snorkelling services and scuba diving businesses. Customers must not use snorkelling equipment together.

"Nurseries. Staff need to be vaccinated," he said.

"Outdoor sports venues and public parks. We ask you all to refrain from using the exercise equipment, as we do not have staff to clean them for you," V/Gov Piyapong noted.

"Indoor sport venues, including

gyms, fitness centres, can open, as there are staff to clean equipment and public areas. All staff must be vaccinated too," he said.

"Boxing stadiums. Staff have to be vaccinated, as trainers and trainees must be close to each other.

"Medical clinics for beauty service. Staff need to be vaccinated," V/Gov Piyapong added.

"Right now, Phuket is becoming safer and safer due to vaccinations. Even though some people like elders and pregnant women have not been vaccinated, they can live in our society safely too because we will have herd immunity,"

"However, those who have not been vaccinated may face difficulty with work," V/Gov Piyapong noted.

"It is your responsibility to be active to get vaccinated, as we are opening for you to register and get injected now," he said.

"In Phuket, we have had some people having side effects from the vaccination, but they had only light symptoms. No one has died from the vaccination in Phuket," V/Gov Piyapong assured.

## Need for clarity on conditions of entry for tourists under 'Sandbox'

Continued from page 1

...Phuket, Thailand, and the world," Mr Bhumikitti pointed out.

"I can proudly say that people in Phuket have given good cooperation, been united, and are ready. Whether the country is ready or not? We have to ask the three main ministries whether they are really ready and ask the national government whether they will give their best support. For the world level, we will see which tourists from which countries are ready to come," he said.

"This is very complicated. If we look at the main 28 countries of our [usual source market] tourists, we have about 20 countries that have asked their people to observe quarantine when they return. It is not easy, but we need to be clear about our conditions for them first," he added.

"Our association [the PTA] and others receive about 20-30 emails a day inquiring about the clarity [of the conditions] for Phuket Sandbox tourists," he said.

"This is a world-class issue, but I'm not sure whether we are taking this issue seriously enough," he concluded.

**OFFICIAL RESPONSE**  
Speaking after heading the

meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall, Mr Yuthasak confirmed that the July 1 reopening to international tourists was going ahead, while admitting that many factors still need to be taken into account and remedied.

Mr Yuthasak said he joined the meeting to prepare for joining a meeting of the Center for Economic Situation Administration (CESA) in Bangkok the next day (June 4), where many aspects of the Phuket Sandbox model will be discussed by the committee, chaired by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha.

"The information right now is quite clear. Foreign tourists can stay how many days they want in Phuket if they do not go to other provinces. However, we still discuss that they may have to stay on the island at least 14 days to be allowed to go to other provinces in accordance with the current order by the CCSA [Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration, in Bangkok].

"They can stay five, 10 or 12 days in Phuket and fly out, but if they want to go to other provinces, they have to be in Phuket at least 14 days. That is what we are still discussing," Mr Yuthasak said.

Regarding the testing of



TAT Governor Yuthasak in Phuket. Photo: PR Phuket

arrivals for COVID-19 after they arrive in Phuket, Mr Yuthasak explained, "For now, we plan to conduct swab tests on arrival [day 0], day 6 and day 12. Who will be responsible for the tests? For any cost of testing, which is for the safety of Phuket people, the government may have to find a budget to support this cost," he noted.

"If the testing is to be beneficial for the individual tourists, for example, when returning to their countries, if their governments ask them to present documents to prove they are not infected, they will have to pay for the test by themselves," he added.

Mr Yuthasak admitted that the reopening will not be a return to pre-pandemic

levels of tourism, but at least a reopening.

"In the third quarter, we expect about 129,000 foreign tourists to come. The number is not high, compared to the number of hotel rooms in Phuket," he said.

"For domestic tourists, there is a holiday in July. We will cooperate with airlines and hotels to create special promotions for vaccinated Thai people to come to Phuket. To prove to them that the Phuket Sandbox is not only a paradise for foreigners, but also for Thai people."

Mr Yuthasak recognised the formal request for soft loans to be made available so that Phuket tourism operators can provide appropriate services to foreign tourists.

"For soft loans for operators, the national government has been trying to help, but there are limitations, including banks' conditions. We are not ignoring this issue and will raise this issue to be discussed at the meeting [tomorrow]," he said.

### BIG PICTURE

Following the CESA meeting last Friday, Tourism and Sports Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn confirmed that under the 'Sandbox' model tourists must remain on Phuket or 14 days – up from the previously touted seven days – before being allowed to travel to other destinations in the country.

Mr Phiphat said the meeting had not yet approved plans to reopen Krabi and Koh Samui off Surat Thani to foreign tourists next month because CESA wanted to first assess the outcome of Phuket's reopening over the next two months.

Officials at the meeting also approved the tourism reopening of Bangkok, Phetchaburi (Cha-am district), Prachuap Khiri Khan (Hua Hin district), Chiang Mai, Chon Buri (Pattaya) and Buri Ram from Oct 1, he said.

Mr Phiphat previously said the combined tourism income

of these 10 provinces in 2019 stood at B1.5 trillion, and that was the reason why they were selected to join the reopening pilot programme, which is scheduled to run from Oct 1 until Dec 31.

"Under the sandbox programme, Phuket will also reopen to Thais who have already received two doses of vaccines," he said. "The TAT will sign an agreement with the Board of Trade of Thailand to fly vaccinated members of the board to Phuket to promote the reopening on July 1."

Foreign tourists who plan to visit Phuket on July 7 are from Israel, while visitors from the United States will fly to the resort island on July 9, Mr Phiphat said.

He said he was confident at least 70% of Phuket residents, and 100% of local tourism operators will be fully vaccinated in time for the reopening on July 1.

As of Monday (June 7), about 67% of the target 466,587 of Phuket's population had been injected with a first shot of a COVID-19 vaccine, while 98,949 had received their second shot, according to Phuket provincial officials.

A total of 386,049 people have registered for the vaccination drive.



# Phuket silent on jabs for expats

**The Phuket News**  
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At the time of going to press, Phuket officials had yet to make any announcements about whether or not non-working expats living on the island may register to receive a state-provided COVID-19 vaccination, despite promises and announcements that foreigners everywhere else in the country could do so from Monday (June 7).

The delay in publicly recognising that non-working expats, including retirees, may at least register came more than two weeks after the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced to the world in English that foreigners, and specifically expats and retirees staying the country, will be able to register from June 7, designated as 'national vaccination day'.

Natapanu Nopakun, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Information and Deputy Spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, on May 21 announced, "Thailand attaches importance to the vaccination of everyone in Thailand according to the level of risk, regardless of nationality.

"We practice what we preach. No one is safe in Thailand until everyone is safe, everyone is vaccinated," he said.

"Foreigners will be able to register at the hospitals where you have your own health records by using their



A foreigner receives a vaccination in Patong under the drive to vaccinate only foreigners with work permits on June 3-4. Photo: Patong Municipality

passport or social security number," Mr Natapanu explained.

"This is going to be effective across the country," he said.

"Aside from being able to do this at a hospital that already has your health records, it can be done at other designated hospitals, other designated centres as determined by the Ministry of Public Health," he added.

However, Phuket officials have never publicly announced that expats in Phuket will be able to register in accordance with the announcement

broadcast in English from Bangkok on May 21.

Mr Natapanu has since recognised that provinces are allowed to operate their own registration procedures. Phuket officials have maintained that all people in Phuket must register through the Phuket Must Win web portal ([www.ภูเก็ตต้องชนะ.com](http://www.ภูเก็ตต้องชนะ.com)) in order to receive a state-provided vaccination, though the system was 'temporarily suspended' while officials checked people not registered as living in Phuket being registered through the system.

For foreigners in Phuket, it has been a stop-go-stop experience, with officials announcing that foreigners can register through the portal, then later confirming that only foreigners issued work permits may register, as was allowed last month.

As of Tuesday morning (June 8), Phuket officials had not made any announcements that expats not working in Phuket may register to receive a state-provided vaccination on the island, not even with a post in Thai language published through the official government Facebook channels.

The Phuket Must Win web portal continues to feature its "Vaccinations for expats or migrant workers" option on its home page. However, expats attempting to register all through Monday confirmed they were unable to do so.

The failure to even recognise that non-working foreigners would be able to at least register to receive a vaccination followed a push by Phuket officials to provide vaccinations to more than 28,000 migrant workers and expats issued work permits carried out Thursday and Friday last week (June 3-4).

The aim was to provide first injections of Sinovac to 22,613 migrant workers and 5,758 foreign workers over just two days, Vachira Phuket Hospital Director Chalermpong Sukontapol had previously explained.

The June 7 deadline also came as officials began providing vaccinations to 24,000 people in Phuket over 60 years of age and people with recognised medical conditions that placed them in a special risk category.

The recipients were administered the AstraZeneca vaccine, the first time that AstraZeneca had been used in Phuket. Before reporting the mass vaccinations of the special category risk group, Phuket officials had not even reported that doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine had even arrived on the island.

The mass vaccination of the 24,000 was expected to be completed from Monday through Wednesday this week (June 7-9).

## Fresh market closed in COVID tracing

ONE OF THE MAIN FRESH markets in Phuket Town last week was ordered closed for seven days by local officials as they traced COVID infections linked to the death of an 86-year-old woman.

The woman who died was the second death in the current outbreak of COVID-19, Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) Chief Dr Kusak Kukiattikoon confirmed on June 2.

Through contact tracing, health officials had confirmed that the Myanmar woman who worked as a caretaker for the 86-year-old was infected, and then learned that five other Myanmar workers living at the same camp as the caretaker were also infected, he explained.

"First of all, I have to say sorry for the family and relatives. Yesterday, we had the second death from COVID-19 in Phuket. The case was an 86-year-old Thai woman who had a hyperlipidemia and hypertension," he said.

"She died at about mid-day after she had been under care at the Phuket Provincial Hospital for seven days.

"She first came under care with fever and coughing, then doctors confirmed that she had pneumonia," he added.

"After we investigated her case and questioned people who had close contact with her, medical staff found that a Myanmar national woman who was hired to take care of her was infected," Dr Kusak said.

"Medical staff went to conduct proactive screening at the area where the caretaker stayed and found five other Myanmar workers infected," he continued.

"The workers worked at the Phuket Town fresh market on Ong Sim Phai Rd, so we swab tested vendors and workers at the market; 460 Thai people and 350 migrant workers were tested, and we found one Myanmar national worker who was infected," Dr Kusak said.

Health officers arrived with officials from Phuket City Municipality on June 2 to deliver the bad news. Newly installed Phuket City Mayor Saroj Angkhanapilas was present for the occasion.

Mayor Saroj explained to the market vendors that he

had been informed of the need to take action by the Phuket Governor.

"As it became known, swab samples were taken from about 170 migrant workers at the market on May 31, and one of those workers has tested positive," he said.

Swab samples were taken from more than 400 people working at the market in total. The overall results of the tests had yet to be announced.

Mayor Saroj explained that at this time there was no reason to close Phuket Municipal Fresh Market 1, on Ranong Rd, as there had been no indication that anyone working at that market had been infected.

More than 100 migrant workers at the Ranong Rd market had swab samples taken on June 1, and a further 200 people at the market were to have swab samples taken on June 2.

Mayor Saroj explained that if any persons found working at the Ranong Rd market were found to be infected, then that market would also need to be closed temporarily.

While the fresh market on

Ong Sim Phai Rd is closed, the market will be cleaned thoroughly and sanitised by Phuket City Municipality staff to prevent further spread of the virus, Mayor Saroj said.

"This is to build confidence among customers and the vendors at the market and to continue preventing the spread of COVID-19," he said.

Phuket officials have yet to give any description of the third death recorded in the current outbreak, recognised



The fresh market on Ong Sim Phai Rd in Phuket Town last week was ordered closed for seven days. Photo: PR Phuket

only in the daily updates on June 2.

Phuket suffered three

deaths from COVID-19 in the initial outbreak last year.

The Phuket News



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The Phuket News

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## PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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High: +31°  
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Wind 11 m/s

SAT JUN 12

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Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SUN JUN 13

High: +31°  
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

MON JUN 14

High: +31°  
Low: +26°

Wind 7 m/s

TUE JUN 15

High: +31°  
Low: +26°

Wind 7 m/s

WED JUN 16

High: +30°  
Low: +26°

Wind 14 m/s

THU JUN 17

High: +30°  
Low: +26°

Wind 14 m/s

## Checkpoint run ends in 60km chase

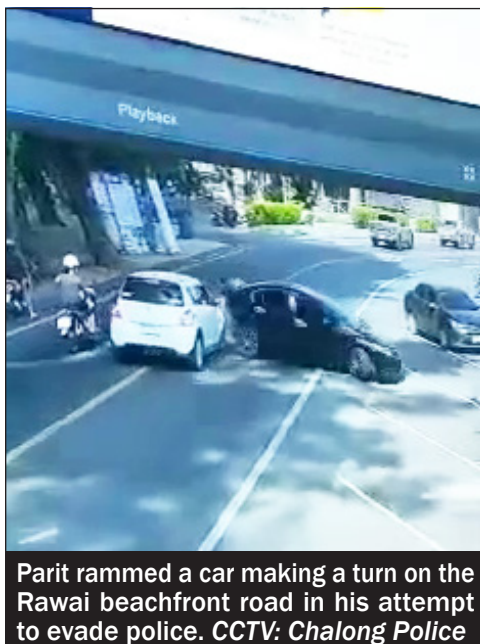
**Eakkapop Thongtub**  
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A 51-year-old man from Trang was arrested in an overturned car near Promthep Cape last Friday (June 4) after a 60-kilometre police chase that began at the Phuket Check Point in Tha Chatchai, where the man had refused to stop for officers while driving onto the island.

Chalong Police Chief Col Sarawut Chuprasit gave the name of the driver as Parit Poldet, 51, originally from Trang.

Col Sarawut explained that Chalong Police were first alerted to Parit fleeing police at about 8:30am after the car Parit was driving, a white Phuket-registered Suzuki Swift, hit and ran after slamming into the back of a black Honda Civic car making a U-turn on the Rawai beachfront road.

Parit was driving at speed along the beachfront road while trying to evade capture by Tha Chatchai Police in pursuit.



Parit rammed a car making a turn on the Rawai beachfront road in his attempt to evade police. CCTV: Chalong Police

After hitting the black Honda Civic, Parit continued his attempt to flee, and lost control of the car on a curve on the steep hill near the Promthep Cape viewpoint. After breaking through a steel-cable barrier, the car rolled and ended up coming to rest some 20 metres from the road upside down.

With Parit trapped in the car, but unhurt, officers arrived to break the window and help him out of the wreck, and escort him to Chalong Police Station.

Parit told police that he had stolen the car from a relative in Trang the previous night and travelled to Phuket. He refused to stop at the Tha Chatchai

checkpoint in Mai Khao to let officers check his car, and him, and instead chose to drive straight through.

Parit did not give a reason as to why he did so.

The driver of the black Honda Civic that was struck, who asked not to be named, said that she was turning right into a street near a 7-Eleven

store when her car was hit from behind. She had escaped serious injury, and suffered only a scratch on her forehead in the collision.

Col Sarawut confirmed that Parit has been charged for at least reckless driving, causing damage to other people's property. More charges were likely to follow.



The car came to rest upside down after breaking through a steel-cable barrier. Photo: Aroon Solos

## Patong thieves blame unemployment

TWO MEN ARRESTED IN Patong for stealing a coffee machine and two television sets from a restaurant have blamed unemployment for their turn to crime, saying that without work they had turned to stealing items in order to have enough money to pay for basic living expenses.

The two men – Samran Luiprasert, 42, from Samut Sakhon, and Amphon Boonchuaynamphon, 34, from Chachoengsao – were arrested by Patong Police early on June 2.

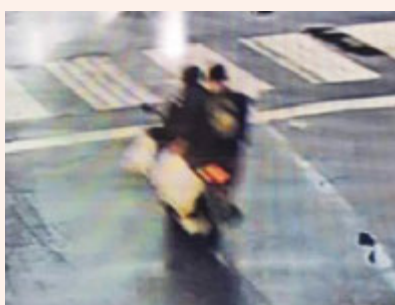
In their report of the arrests, police explained that the men were tracked down after the owner of the 'Safe Number One' restaurant on Phra Baramee Rd in Patong had filed a formal complaint that thieves had entered his businesses property and stolen several items.

Through CCTV, officers were able to see the thieves making their getaway on a black Honda PCX motorbike.

Police were also able to identify Amphon riding as passenger by the tattoos on his neck, arms and legs.

The officers tracked down Amphon to a third-floor room at a building without a designated address off Phra Mettha Rd.

During questioning, Amphon confessed to stealing the items – a



The two men were tracked down by CCTV. Photo: Patong Police

Jura coffee machine and two 43-inch Toshiba LED televisions – from the restaurant, reported police.

He also named Samran as his accomplice.

Officers then moved to arrest Samran at an unregistered address in a street behind the Government Savings Bank branch on Phra Baramee Rd, in Patong, the report noted.

During further questioning at Patong Police Station, the two men both admitted to the theft, police noted.

The men said they sold the items and split the money between them to pay for daily expenses as both had been left out of work due to the COVID-19 crisis, police added.

Regardless, both men were charged for committing the theft, the report noted.

Eakkapop Thongtub

## B5.3mn in drugs seized in one bust

TWO MEN WERE ARRESTED with 14,000 pills of methamphetamine (ya bah) and just over 3kg of crystal meth (ya ice), valued at about B5.3 million, in Phuket Town on June 2.

The news came via Phuket Governor Narong Woonciw at the press conference at the Phuket office of the Volunteer Defense Corps (VDC) on June 3.

Present at the conference at 9am were Vice Governor Vikrom Jakthee and other officers.

Governor Narong explained that the arrest was conducted on June 1 at about 5pm by Assistant Chief of Security Affairs Group, Jiradet Burarak, and other Territorial Defense Volunteers (OrSor).

No police officers were present for the raid, though Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Pornsak Nuannoo was present for the press conference.

Banpot 'Jo' Sactan, 28, was arrested near the office of Phuket City Municipality Waterworks Division, where he was found with 400 pills of ya bah and 100g of ya ice.

From information given by Banpot, officers further arrested Patiyuth 'Mom' Yorsaengrat, 35, at a house in Soi Suthat 2, Phuket Town, where he was found with 13,600 pills of ya bah and 2.95kg of ya ice.

Officers also seized six digital scales, plastic bags, a motorbike and



Governor Narong inspects the contraband seized. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

two mobile phones as items of evidence.

The value of the drugs seized was estimated to be about B5.35 million.

Patiyuth confessed that he was arranging to divvy up the drugs to sell to local dealers in Phuket.

Banpot and Patiyuth were both taken to Phuket City Police Station and charged with possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell.

"The Phuket Government has ordered relevant officers to work on prevention and suppression of drugs in Phuket," Governor Narong said.

"So far, we have been arresting local drug dealers and users. Anyone who sees people involved with drugs, please contact us or police, so we can take action on it," he said.

Just two days later, on June 4, five suspects, including four teenagers, were arrested in a Sakhu drug raid that saw police seize over 25,000 ya bah pills and 250g of kratom leaves.

Eakkapop Thongtub



# Food security efforts to reach 35,000 homes

The Phuket News  
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The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO, or OrBorJor) has put on sale 15,000 “affordable food packages” of essential food items at heavily subsidised prices for local residents suffering from the ongoing economic crisis.

Distribution points were open in 24 locations across the island’s 17 subdistricts last Saturday (June 5).

Food sets were available at B70 per set and included 5kg of rice (B40 per pack), one bottle of cooking oil (B15 per bottle) and 15 chicken eggs (B1 per egg).

The campaign saw long queues of people in dire need of help, though officials maintained that the sale was conducted under strict disease prevention measures followed by all people present.

PPAO President Rewat Areerob said that the sale of the subsidized essential food items was organised in accordance with the guidelines given to local administrations. Earlier they were instructed to help their residents suffering from the economic crisis caused by COVID-19.

The move follows the announcement by Mr Rewat that deliveries of essential household supplies in what officials call ‘survival bags’ are to be provided to more than 35,000 households across the island to help people who are suffering from



Local residents hit hard by the current economic crisis arrive to buy some of the heavily subsidized food parcels last Saturday (June 5). Photo: PR Phuket

the ongoing economic crisis.

Mr Rewat explained at a meeting at the PPAO offices on June 1 that the campaign was the result of a meeting with all local administration organisations in Phuket on May 18.

Following that meeting, the PPAO started accepting requests from local administration offices for help in providing support to people in their areas suffering deep financial hardship due to the ongoing crisis.

The PPAO received requests for support from local administration offices from May 13-30, Mr Rewat said.

“Each local administration organisation considered their budget to help their

people in their areas who had registered to receive support and asked the PPAO for help if the number of survival bags needed was beyond their budget,” Mr Rewat explained.

“Each survival bag is valued at about B550-600, and contains two five-kilogramme packs of rice, one bottle of cooking oil, 12 cans of canned fish and 12 packs of instant noodles,” he said.

“The bags will be distributed from June 10 to 35,668 households in seven subdistricts [tambon], comprising 11,890 households in Wichit; 5,756 in Chalong; 2,824 in Patong; 1,380 in Kamala; 5,015 in Srisoonthorn; 3,117 in Cherng Talay; and 3,107 in Mai Khao,” he added.



Daragh was a larger-than-life character with a raspy Irish accent and witty sense of humor. He will be missed.

## In dear memory of Daragh John O'Higgins

LONG-TIME IRISH EXPAT Daragh John O'Higgins peacefully passed away in Phuket last Friday (June 4) after a battle with cancer. Daragh, who was 59, was a familiar face to many not only on Phuket but on Koh Samui and in Bangkok and Pattaya, where he worked and lived for over 12 years.

Daragh was well known for running TechWorx Asia, a leading AV/IT firm in Phuket and beyond where they assisted numerous luxury villa and yacht owners installing leading sound, TV and audio systems over the years.

A larger-than-life character with a raspy Irish accent and witty sense of humor, Daragh was a man you could depend on, he had a generous heart and helped many who were

in need over the years.

Daragh is survived by his wife Kay, his mother Sheelagh and father Brian, and his twin sisters Orla and Deirdre, amongst a host of loved ones from Spain, Ireland and Thailand.

Prior to Thailand, Daragh lived in Majorca, Spain, for 12 years, where he still has numerous friends.

Sleep well big fella and watch over Kay and us while sipping Hendrick's & Tonics, and as the Irish saying goes, “We’re just like everyone else, just smarter, better looking and more fun.” Have fun our dear friend, memories will be cherished.

The cremation ceremony was held at Cherng Talay Temple on Monday (June 7) at 1:30pm.

## Tourism drivers appeal for vehicle debt relief

SOME 30 TOURIST PASSENGER van drivers gathered at the Thanachart Bank branch on the bypass road last Friday (June 4) to appeal for relief on outstanding loans on their vehicles to help the drivers avoid seeing the vans repossessed.

The drivers gathered at about 9:30am, asking for debt relief, saying they were representing many more tourism van drivers who have been unable to pay car loan installments due to the lack of work caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

“Due to the COVID-19 situation, there have been no tourists. As a result, operators of vehicle tourist services are suffering a lot, they have had no income and are unable to make payments on car loans. Therefore, the relevant departments of the financial institution are requested to sympathise and help to freeze their debts for at least six months without interest,” one of the drivers said.

The bank repossessing the vehicles would not help the situation, the driver added.



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

“If the car is seized, we will be unable to work and Phuket reopens to tourists on July 1, there will be no cars to serve the tourists,” the driver pointed out.

“So we gathered together to ask for sympathy from Thanachart Bank and file a formal request for the bank to provide assistance

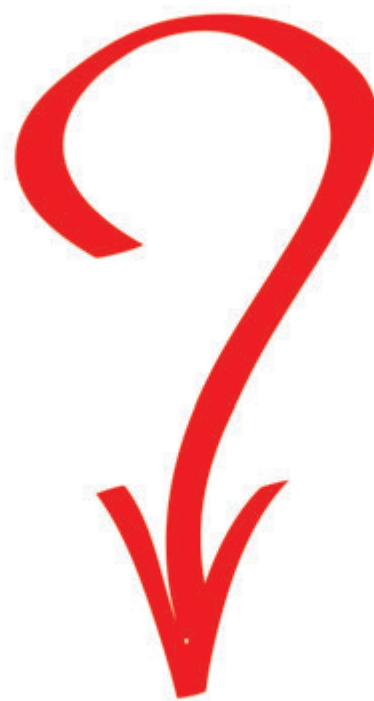
and help us be able to repay our loans later,” the driver added.

Representatives of Thanachart Bank agreed to meet with the drivers to discuss terms of future repayments, though they talks have yet to reach a conclusion, *The Phuket News* was told.

Eakkapop Thongtub



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# Blue Horizon Developments Leads The Way in Sustainable Developments

## ADVERTORIAL

Sustainability is more than just a buzzword that has been widely discussed in recent years. It is a concept that gained attention as a result of climate change, deforestation, pollution, and animal endangerment and extinction among other environmental issues brought about by human activity.

On the sunny island of Phuket, sustainability has been in the conversation in recent years. The island sees millions of tourists every year, which has taken a toll on the local ecosystem. As a result, many stakeholders have come together to play their part in conserving the environment, and the award-winning property developer Blue Horizon Developments is one of them.

Having fully understood the effect our actions have on the environment and recognised the need for better ways of living, Blue Horizon Developments keeps the concept of sustainability at the forefront



Please visit [bluehorizon-thailand.com](http://bluehorizon-thailand.com) for more information.

of its mind when developing new projects. From sourcing sustainable building materials to continually upgrading its green technology, the developer has been creating

residences, hotels, offices and other buildings to allow people to reconnect with nature while having minimal impact on nature itself.

“At Blue Horizon Developments, we have a future-oriented vision and are constantly looking for ways to not just follow, but also set the latest architectural trends to meet all our customers’

needs, even those they didn’t know they had,” says Andres Pira, CEO & Founder of Blue Horizon Developments. “We don’t just construct developments that merely accommo-

date people. We appeal to the different senses and help them reconnect with Earth, our real home, in physical, mental, emotional and spiritual ways.”

In its recent developments, the property developer has introduced a plastic-free and paper-free approach as well as the culture of recycling and the use of renewable energies. In fact, during the planning phase, the developer designs real estate projects in a way that takes maximum advantage of natural lighting, thereby reducing the need for artificial lighting.

“We are mindful of how we procure building materials and consume natural resources, and proactively look for ways to minimise greenhouse gas emissions, utilise less water, and generate less waste,” says Pira. “For each project we undertake, we set a limit for each of the natural resources we use and a cap for the waste produced.”

Blue Horizon Developments has exciting new international projects in the pipeline with a strong focus on sustainability.

## Phuket launches SHA Plus

THE PHUKET PROVINCIAL government has opened online registration for the Amazing Thailand Safety and Health Administration (SHA) Plus Certificate, as the island prepares to welcome back fully vaccinated visitors without quarantine from July 1, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has announced.

All Amazing Thailand SHA-certified venues and businesses in Phuket, where at least 70% of staff are inoculated, are encouraged to register for the ‘SHA Plus’ Certificate at the [www.ภูเก็ต](http://www.ภูเก็ต)



‘SHA Plus’ means at least 70% of staff have been fully vaccinated. Image: TAT

ท่องเที่ยว.com (Phuket Must Win) web portal, said the TAT in a release last Friday (June 4).

“The website utilises digital technology to develop a smart data system that can track the vaccination record of staff at each venue and busi-

ness. It can analyse the large amount of aggregate data and provide insights as to which establishment already has at least 70% of staff inoculated and can be awarded the ‘SHA Plus’,” the TAT explained.

Currently, there are 1,389 venues and businesses across Phuket that have received the standard SHA certificate. These include 882 as hotels, accommodations and home-stays; 169 in the restaurants and diners’ category; 157 as travel agencies, and 181 in other categories, the agency added. *The Phuket News*

## Qatar, Emirates, Etihad to launch direct Phuket flights from July 1

QATAR AIRWAYS HAS CONFIRMED that the airline will operate four flights a week from Doha to Phuket starting July 1, while Etihad Airways has confirmed it will begin flights from Abu Dhabi to Phuket from July 1 and Emirates Airlines has announced it will resume four weekly services from Dubai to Phuket from July 2.

The Qatar Airways route will be operated by a Boeing 787 Dreamliner, offering 22 seats in Business Class and 232 in Economy Class, the airline noted in a release issued on June 1.

In addition to its 12 flights a week to Bangkok, the airline will operate a total of 16 weekly flights to Thailand “providing connectivity for its passengers travelling from Europe, the Middle East and United States”, the release said.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker said, “We know many of our customers are eager to get back flying and return to some of their favourite holiday destinations, such as Phuket. Famed for its many exotic beaches, family friendly atmosphere, turquoise waters and delicious local cuisine, Phuket is an ideal destination for a summer getaway. We look forward to working with our partners in Thailand to support the recovery of their tourism sector.”

The Qatar Airways flights will operate as follows from July 1:

- Doha (DOH) to Phuket (HKT) QR 840 departs 02:55 arrives 13:30 (Wednesday,



Photo: Emirates Airlines

Friday, Saturday, Sunday)

- Phuket (HKT) to Doha (DOH) QR 841 departs 02:30 arrives 05:30 (Monday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday)

The Emirates Dubai-Phuket route will be operated with a Boeing 777-300ER in a three-class configuration, offering First and Business Class as well as Economy Class.

Emirates flight EK378 will depart Dubai on Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 03:00hrs, arriving in Phuket at 12:30hrs the same day. The return flight, EK379, will depart Phuket at 00:10 hrs, on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays, arriving in Dubai at 03:05hrs the same day (all times are local).

Etihad Airways flights to Phuket will be three times a week, using a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, offering Economy Space and Neighbour-free seating options.

*The Phuket News*

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# Thailand strikes back

Apinya Wipatayotin

The country achieved its target of administering at least 300,000 doses of COVID-19 shots on the first day of its mass vaccination drive last Monday (June 7).

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha announced that it was a historic day of Thailand beginning to strike back at COVID-19.

As of 4pm on Monday, 306,580 shots had been administered nationwide, said the permanent secretary of public health, Kiattiphum Wongrajit.

Two kinds of vaccine were used on the first day of inoculations – China's Sinovac and AstraZeneca shots that were produced in Thailand.

Both vaccines require two doses to be fully effective, and the government is expecting the finish administering the first doses by the end of September.

Furthermore, the government is planning to procure 100 million doses to inoculate 50mn people, or about 70% of the population, by the end of this year to prepare for a full reopening in January next year.

Marking the countrywide COVID-19 vaccination drive, Gen Prayut wrote on Face-



Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha says Thailand is striking back against COVID-19. Photo: Lillian Suwanrumpha/AFP

book that the battle against COVID-19 is still ongoing, a year and a half after it began.

However, this time, the country has vaccines which are its best hope to turn the situation around, he said.

"Vaccines will be the key to reopening the country to tourism, to rehabilitating the economy and to returning normalcy... Vaccines will be the force to drive the country forward with security and sustainability," he said.

Gen Prayut said the rollout will comply with guidelines he had laid down to ensure fair access.

As of Tuesday (June 8), the virus had infected 182,148 people and killed 1,297 people throughout the country.

The prime minister assured those who have registered for jabs will be vaccinated with minimum delays, amid reports that some provinces would be allocated fewer doses than expected due to changes to the vaccine distribution plan.

"June 7, 2021 will go down in history as one of the important days in the country's fight against the pandemic. It marks the beginning of Thais striking back [against COVID-19]... and that we will not give up the fight until we win," he wrote.

Speaking at a media interview, Gen Prayut said that between 3.5mn to 4mn doses will be delivered this month and said that vaccines will be allocated to every area based

on their needs and current supplies.

Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said the ministry has agreed to procure 20mn doses of COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and 5mn doses from Johnson & Johnson.

He said that the purchase orders, which were originally scheduled to take place on June 4, would be signed this week.

Mr Anutin also said the government will provide vaccines to every age group if their safety and efficacy are approved, referring to China's decision to authorise the emergency use of Sinovac Biotech's vaccine for children aged between 3 and 17.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) secretary-general Paisarn Dankum said Pfizer is expected to register its vaccine for emergency use this week. He said the application could be approved in one month if all necessary documentation is submitted.

The FDA has approved five vaccines against the COVID-19 with Sinopharm's formula being the latest.

The other four are made by Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Sinovac.

Bangkok Post



Photo: AFP

## Moderna vaccine shots B3,800 a set

PRIVATE HOSPITALS will charge B3,800 inclusive for two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine made by US-based Moderna.

Members of the Private Hospitals Association met last Monday (June 8) to agree on the price of the vaccine, described as "alternative" since it is not included in the government's free vaccination programme, according to Thai media, which quoted a source at the association.

The price, likely to be the same at all member hospitals, already includes a service fee and vaccine insurance.

An order for 10 million doses will be placed by the Government Pharmaceuticals Organization on their behalf.

The vaccine will come in three lots – 4mn doses in

October, 1mn early next year and 5mn more at a later date, currently unspecified.

Previously, the association had said the price should not be more than B3,000 for the two-dose regimen. No details were available at this stage on how the new price was calculated.

On Monday, the government rolled out a nationwide vaccination drive after it took delivery of 1.8mn doses of AstraZeneca last week. To date, shots made by two manufacturers – Sinovac Biotech and AstraZeneca – were used.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha confirmed on Monday that orders would be placed for 20mn doses of Pfizer vaccine and another 5mn from Johnson & Johnson. AFP

## Preliminary autopsy suggests hotel owner and wife drowned

PRELIMINARY AUTOPSY results on the bodies of a Phuket hotel owner and his wife who were found dead on the bottom of a swimming pool at a seaside resort on Koh Tao in Surat Thani last Friday (June 4) suggest they drowned.

The bodies of Rakeshwar Sachathamakul, 59, and his wife Anshoo, 55, were found in the pool at the Jamahkiri Resort & Spa by their son Ratish, 34.

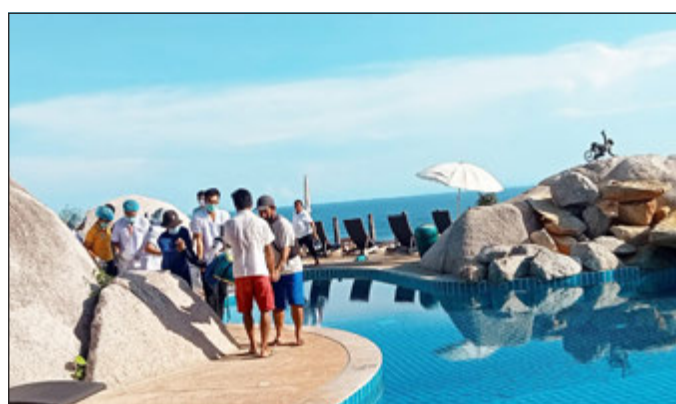
Having returned from a walk on the beach, Mr Ratish discovered his parents lying on the bottom of the pool.

He alerted hotel staff to call rescue workers who administered CPR immediately upon arrival but failed to bring the couple back to life.

Koh Tao Police Chief Col Kriangkrai Kraikaew confirmed police arrived at the scene around 4:45pm to find the two bodies lying beside the pool.

Col Kriangkrai explained that CCTV cameras near the pool were broken at the time of the incident so there was no footage showing what exactly happened.

He added that at this stage police believe that one of the



Rescue workers attend to the victims at the Jamahkiri Resort & Spa, Koh Tao. Photo: Kusonsattha Rescue Service

spouses was swimming in the pool and at some stage needed help. The other person then came to the rescue, but both ended up drowning.

Preliminary results of an autopsy conducted on the couple supported the suggestion that the pair had drowned, officials confirmed on Monday.

Physicians conducting the autopsy said the couple had died from a lack of oxygen, adding a lot of water was found in their lungs. No signs of physical assault were found on the couple although blood samples have been sent to a laboratory for further analysis, with results expected in about 30 days.

Deputy commissioner of the

Central Investigation Bureau, Pol Maj Gen Jirabhop Bhuridej, confirmed on Monday the Crime Suppression Division is leading an ongoing investigation into the case in collaboration with local police.

Police may summon the couple's son as they need information on whether his parents had a conflict with anyone before their trip. Police are also delving into the couple's insurance records to determine their beneficiaries.

Mr Rakeshwar was the co-owner and CEO of Novotel Phuket Kamala Beach hotel in Phuket and owned Bangkoki Mansion apartments on Sukhumvit Soi 12 in Bangkok.

Eakkapop Thongtub

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Project Rattan - Residential Gallery Space, Chiang Mai

# Three green entrepreneurs



## SUSTAINABLY YOURS

Palmer Owyong

As the world looks to reopening, it needs to consider making itself more sustainable. The current form of capitalism is based on profit maximization by selling the lowest-quality product and depending on good branding to get the highest price. This short-term thinking and 'buy and throw away' mentality has led us to the climate crisis that we are currently in.

However, sustainability doesn't need to come at the cost of profits and can benefit your brand. According to a 2019 survey by Accenture 72% of consumers are buying more sustainable products than they were five years ago and more than half of consumers said they'd be willing to pay more for products that they can reuse or recycle. A 2019 study from New York University found that products that were marketed as sustainable grew 5.6 times faster than products that weren't.

When making your business sustainable, there are three things that you should consider:

1. Your Supply Chain. A 2009 study estimated that 75% of a business's CO2 emissions are related to its supply chain. This comes from manufacturing, packaging and transporting goods, so, when possible, it is best to buy locally, which is also good for the economy.

2. The quality or durability of your product. Most companies don't build products to last and design them to be impossible to repair when they break down, which is good for the manufacturer's bottom line, but bad for the environment.

3. What happens to the product and/or the packaging at the end of its lifespan? If it's disposed of in a landfill, then it's not sustainable.

Here are three businesses in



Christina Wylie with VeganReady meals.

Phuket that have adopted sustainability into the ethos of their brand.

### Vegan Booty and VeganReady

are owned by serial entrepreneur Christina Wylie. The Vegan Booty is a restaurant in Chalong that sells burgers, pizza, chicken nuggets, ice cream and other indulgent plant-based comfort foods. VeganReady is a startup that sells a variety of frozen ready-to-eat meals, sauces, meat replacements and fully prepared meals for restaurants and hotels.

According to a 2018 study from Oxford, eliminating meat and dairy from your diet could reduce your carbon footprint from food by up to 73% and was one of the best ways to reduce your environmental impact on the planet.

Christina sources all ingredients for the meals in Thailand with as much as possible coming from Phuket and even some from the company's garden. The packaging for VeganReady is made from cornstarch, which you can return to her offices in Phuket Town either in person or by post so that it can be repurposed. The frozen bags are made with paper, which Christina admits doesn't hold up well in the freezer, so she is always on the lookout for ways to improve the sustainability of her packaging.

### Project Rattan

was founded by Australian architect Patrick Keane and his wife Juliette



A Vegan Booty plant-based burger.

Eve. They fuse modern 3D technology and computer-aided design with traditional Thai arts and crafts to produce unique furniture and architectural installations. As the company name implies, they make their products from rattan, a fast-growing palm that is native to Asia.

The strength and pliability of the material make it ideal for creating furniture and it can supplant less sustainable materials like plastic or hardwoods like teak that take a long time to grow. They source their rattan in Thailand and process it using non-toxic methods. Since it comes from trees, it also sequesters carbon rather than emitting it.

The company uses traditional artisans to work on their designs, which helps keep local craft workers employed, in a traditional art form that might otherwise go extinct.

The company's work has mostly been showcased in upscale restaurants like Spice and Barley or the Vikasa Yoga Retreat, both in Bangkok. However, their company is starting to get international recognition, especially for their unique interior structures, which not only create a pleasing aesthetic but give a building an organic feel to it.

### Elleciel

a phonetic spelling for the acronym LSCL, which stands for Live Simply Consume Less, is a surfboard shaper



David In His Shaping Bay.

based in Nai Harn. David 'Mousset' Sautebin, a former Swiss watchmaker, has been in business since 2010. The most sustainable quality of his boards is their durability. Surfboards often only last for one or two years before they need to be replaced. However, David's boards have been known to go for five years without a ding.

He begins with an expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam blank, that comes from a Thai company. He then laminates the board with a layer of paulownia wood, which not only gives the board a beautiful aesthetic but also acts like a shell to prevent dings and dents. David then covers it with basalt or fiberglass and then coats it with Entropy Resin, which replaces petrochemicals with renewable bio-based ones. The finished product is a surfboard that is not only more durable than a conventionally made one but also looks more like an organic piece of sculpture than a tool for riding waves.

These three green entrepreneurs prove that, although it requires some forethought, it is possible to run a successful and profitable business while keeping it sustainable. We need more businesses in Phuket to follow their example.

Palmer Owyong is an environmental activist working with the Kamala Green Club and the Global Sustainability Hub.



# iNoble Clinics in Phuket Expand into the Expat Market

## ADVERTORIAL

**W**ith over 16 years of experience across Phuket, Songkhla, Trang and beyond, iNoble Clinics specialise in beauty, high quality skin laser treatments and cosmetic surgery. Their equipment and procedures are cutting edge, and combine leading modern innovations from overseas as well as Thailand in order to offer the best enhancements in their field.

They take pride in the fact that their full range of cosmetic products and treatments are FDA (Food and Drug Administration) approved, which means they have been regulated by this U.S. administration body. For clients, this gives peace of mind because the products and procedures offered have earned approval after vigorous investigation by the FDA; so you can feel confident that you know what you are getting and what results to expect.

The iNoble Clinics across Thailand have previously been aimed at the Thai local market. However, with their lat-

est expansions into new locations and the addition of fluent English-speaking doctors, this is about to change as they plan to start offering services to the Phuket Expat and International Medical Tourism markets.

The new iNoble Clinic locations have been planned to give greater island coverage with the first new branch in Rassada, near Phuket Town, having undergone a full renovation prior to opening in May 2021. The second is planned to be open by September 2021 and will be in the Koh Kaew area, near Boat Lagoon, which is known for its location near the British International School, and is geographically aligned with reaching their newest target market.

Co-Founder of iNoble Clinics, Doctor Sara, will be based at both of these new locations and will bring a new element to the Expat market; offering experience in the cosmetic surgery and skin enhancement fields, she is also fluent in English and will offer an alternative to those who prefer to discuss their requirements with a female English-speaking doctor. This is now increasingly important, because it is vital for all patients to be fully under-



stood in order to feel safe and secure with any enhancement procedure they are considering.

iNoble Clinics pride themselves on their extensive industry expertise, and with over 16 years of experience their doctors are in a position to offer the best enhancement options for each individual. They recognise that everyone is different, and that to enter the Expat market they need fluent English-speaking doctors on hand to make their start to finish (including post treatment care) process the best possible experience for everyone.

The relaxation and comfort of each patient is of the upmost importance, and this is mirrored in the iNoble Clinic environments and design. Each

Clinic is decorated with modern accents, clean lines and styles, but with peaceful tones to help aid in the feeling of comfort when entering the Clinic for a consultation or procedure.

Their services range from 'Cosmetic Surgery' options (including liposuction, nose and breast enhancements and fat removal) to 'Skin and Laser Treatments' such as Botox, fillers, Collagen and vitamin IV treatments, and Q-Switch, which helps with dark spots, redness and uneven skin tones, for example.

*For more information on their full list of services, and to book an appointment with fluent English-speaking Doctor Sara please go to [www.inobleclinic.com](http://www.inobleclinic.com)*



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245.55 Rai (392,880 Sqm) with Beachfront Land for Sale in Khao Lak (Can be Subdivided)



## POP QUIZ

1. In Norse mythology, name 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 wrote the four-volume history of Britain and its former colonies entitled 'A History of the English-Speaking Peoples'?
5. How many counties make up Northern Ireland? Can you name them?

Answers below, centre

## SUDOKU

Medium

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

## Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

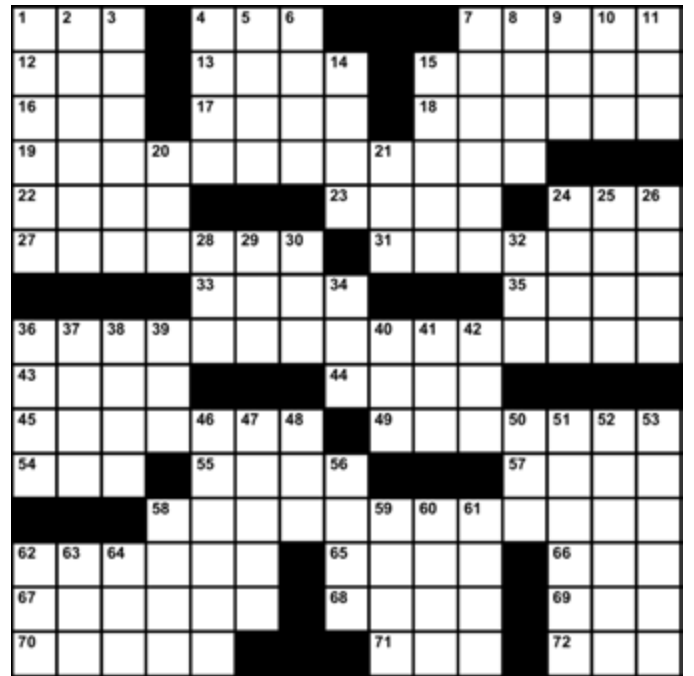
1. Linked computers acronym
4. Consumer information org.
7. Crowd motion
12. Spanish for gold
13. Mine deposits
15. Art patron
16. Dorothy Parker quality
17. "Soft clock" painter
18. Peter of "Lawrence of Arabia"
19. Where magazines are often displayed
22. Insurer for military personnel
23. Defense acronym
24. Winter month
27. Violent storm
31. Cigar shaped missile
33. Spread out
35. Squabbling
36. IKEA products
43. Eye color
44. Night fliers
45. Broken, in some way
49. Gas alternative
54. Compass point
55. Exuberance
57. Singer, Braxton
58. Seating for extra guests, maybe
62. Doha native
65. Düsseldorf denial
66. Baseball cap

Down

1. Revealing
2. Operatic style
3. Within reach
4. Foreshadow
5. Braveheart hillside
6. Boxing prize
7. Falling star
8. Busy activities
9. Brazilian tourist mecca
10. Half of D
11. Hasten
14. Youtube star, \_\_\_ Lilly
15. Very much
20. Equipment cooler
21. Dracula, at times
24. Bash
25. Cut some opinions, perhaps
26. Computerized video-game opponents
28. Nickname for Jessica Simpson's sister
29. Much sued defendant

30. BYOB part

32. Move while shooting
34. Lieut.'s subordinate
36. Joshes
37. Some savings plans, for short
38. Finite duration
39. The South, in the Civil War, abbr.
40. Astonishment
41. Deli request
42. Ending with fool or ghoul
46. First name of three U.S. presidents
47. Ewing matriarch
48. Pop
50. \_\_\_ loss
51. Superior
52. Like lots of shopping now
53. Deceived
56. Digit
58. In things
59. One type of tide
60. Main idea
61. Explosives
62. Iranian city
63. "Falcon Crest" actress Alicia
64. Hamilton's bill



Visit: [www.ilovecrosswords.com](http://www.ilovecrosswords.com)

## Solutions to last week's puzzles:

ODOR	GPO	SCANT
YORE	CLUB	NIXIE
EDEN	AUTO	ANISE
ZOOMING	ZEPP	PELIN
ISIS	ISM	
MAENAD	SHE	ASHY
ALIBI	NAACP	POE
ZODIAC	ALZ	ALOTS
ENE	HASTY	VOILE
SERA	DAY	BIALYS
POI	BOND	
ZIPPY	ZOOLOGISTS	
ANELE	WHIZ	NOEL
POSER	LINE	GYRE
SNOTS	SOD	SAND

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

## 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 Eyjafjallajökull volcano.

525,000

children under five die of diarrhea every day, according to the World Health Organization.

900

billion

dollars is how much in credit card debt US consumers owed as of last year.

Source: Uberfacts

## ISLAND VIEW



Bound for Layan Beach. Photo by Patrick Sweeney

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## This week in history

June 11, 1184 BC

Trojan War: Troy is sacked and burned, according to calculations by Eratosthenes.

June 12, 1665

England installs a municipal government 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 Joseph 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 William Bligh and 18 others reach Timor after a nearly 7,400km journey in an open boat.

June 15, 1978

King Hussein of Jordan marries



Photo: Subhrajyoti

American Lisa Halaby, who takes the name Queen Noor.

June 16, 1944

At age 14, George Junius Stinney Jr, an African-American wrongfully convicted of

murder in less than 10 minutes, during a one-day trial by an all-white jury, becomes the youngest person executed in the United States in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

June 17, 1631

Mumtaz Mahal dies during childbirth. Her husband, Mughal emperor Shah Jahan I, will spend the next 17 years building her mausoleum, the Taj Mahal.

Source: Wikipedia



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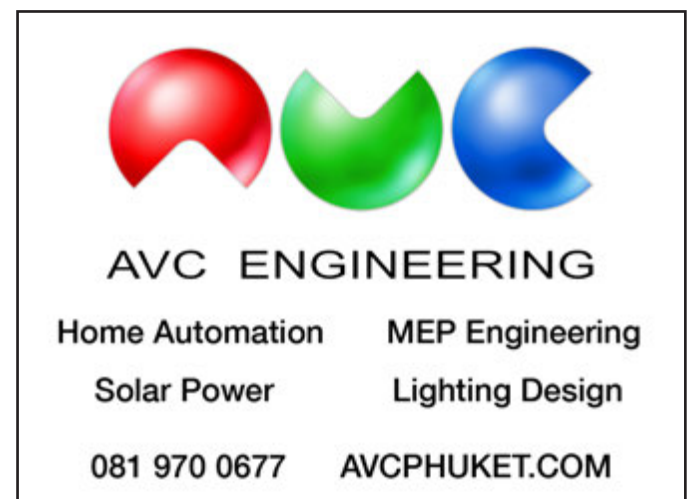
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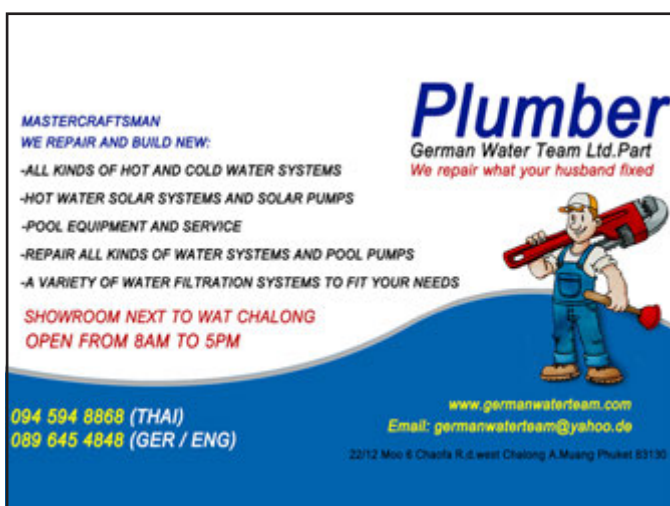


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**Run Phuket For One Phuket**

Mark Gillett a British adventure runner from KIS Phuket, is running 70km across Phuket for One Phuket raising money for Scholars of Sustenance. Following the West Coast from the Southernmost tip at Promthep Cape, to Sarasin Bridge in the North, Mark's route will take him over hills and sandy beaches in 9 hours of running. You can support Mark's solo effort by donating to One Phuket through Scholars of Sustenance or through One Phuket's Weebon account for International donors. Follow the adventure: www.instagram.com/markgonarun

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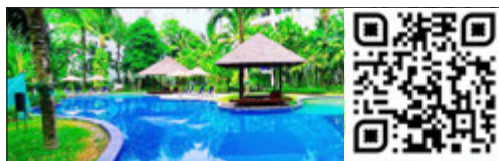
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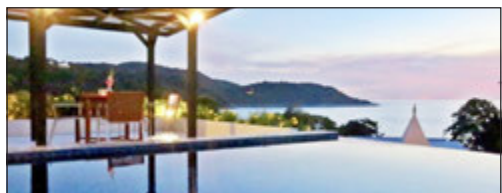
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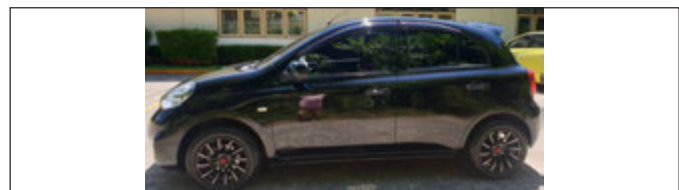
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*Jason Beavan*



# Euro 2020 finally gets underway

## Pan-continental tournament overcomes year-long COVID delay

### FOOTBALL

AFP

Euro 2020 finally gets underway, a year late, today (June 11) with the European Championship being staged as a pan-continental event for the first time.

Matches will be played in 11 cities spread all across Europe, a set-up that is almost certain never to be repeated and was originally the idea of Michel Platini.

The opening game this evening sees Italy host Turkey in Rome (kick off 2am Saturday, June 12, Phuket time).



The COVID-19 delayed Euro 2020 tournament finally gets underway this evening (June 11) as Italy take on Turkey in Rome. Photo: AFP

### PLATINI'S 'PLAN'

It was in June 2012, just as Spain was winning that year's European Championship in Kiev, that Platini – then the president of UEFA – revealed the idea of staging the 2020 tournament in “12 or 13 host cities”.

It was seen as a way of bringing the competition to a wide range of countries while avoiding having to

build new stadiums or other infrastructure in one place after the complications of staging Euro 2012 in Poland and Ukraine.

Platini also saw it as a way to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first staging of what was then the European Nations Cup, as a four-team competition in 1960.

The Euro has grown since

then, expanding to eight teams, then to 16, and then to 24 for the last tournament in France in 2016.

“It is perhaps a bit of a zany idea but it is a good idea,” Platini insisted in December 2012.

In 2014, a total of 13 host cities were named by UEFA, with London awarded both semi-finals and the final.

### THE TROUBLES BEGIN

Platini claimed that a pan-European event would mean fewer potential problems in terms of stadium-building. However, in late 2017 Brussels – initially awarded four matches – was removed from the list of host cities due to the inability of Belgian organisers to guarantee the planned new

stadium could be built in time.

When he initially floated the idea publicly, Platini had also claimed that “in these days of cheap air travel anything is possible.”

However, the growing climate crisis led to more and more voices speaking out against the carbon footprint caused by staging a European Championship in so many far-flung destinations.

Meanwhile Platini fell from grace in 2015 in the corruption scandal that took down FIFA president Sepp Blatter and led to the Frenchman being handed a long-term ban from working in the game.

### POSTPONEMENT AND COMPLICATIONS

Platini's successor, Aleksander Ceferin, was left to deal with the organisation of the continent-wide tournament and UEFA was forced into the historic decision in March last year to postpone the finals just three months before their scheduled start due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ceferin later admitted the idea of a European Champion-

ship in stadiums spread across the continent was “symbolically a nice thing, but not an easy task for us, even regardless of the pandemic.”

UEFA put back the tournament by a year but said it would still officially be called Euro 2020.

However organisers had to accept the impossibility of playing matches in front of full stadiums and ended up dropping two more host cities which were unable to guarantee that any fans could attend.

Dublin and Bilbao, both due to host four games, were dropped in April. Seville was named as a replacement for the latter.

The number of host cities was therefore further reduced to 11, while Dublin's games were given to London and Saint-Petersburg.

At least the Euro is happening, contrary to what many observers feared a year ago. But the pan-European experiment will not be repeated for the next edition, with Germany already named as host for Euro 2024.

## Les Blues favourites to triumph as England's Three Lions look to roar

### FOOTBALL

IT MAY BE A YEAR LATE but Euro 2020 finally kicks off in Rome this evening (June 11) as former World Champions Italy host Turkey in Group A.

### GROUP A

Roberto Mancini's Italy had an outstanding qualifying record, albeit in a relatively weak group, and go into the tournament full of confidence.

Paris Saint-Germain's Marco Verratti is their key man and if he can replicate his club form on the international stage then Italy should be able to qualify from the group. How far they progress after that is anyone's guess.

Turkey are many people's dark horses, managed by Şenol Güneş who previously took them to the semi-finals of the 2002 World Cup. Built on a solid defence, Burak Yilmaz, Ozan Tufan and Çağlar Söyüncü are all ones to watch and it would be no surprise to see The Crescent Stars venture deep into the competition.

Wales will look to emulate their fantastic achievement at Euro 2016 when they reached the semi-final although an ageing,



Many of the French squad that lined up for the 2018 World Cup final, pictured here, still remain and are favourites to win Euro 2022. Photo: AFP

injury-plagued squad could struggle. A lot rests on the shoulders of talisman Gareth Bale.

Switzerland make up the group.

### GROUP B

Group B sees Finland make their debut in the competition where they will face off against fellow Scandinavian's Denmark with the latter looking to the mecurial Christian Eriksen for inspiration.

Belgium are the overwhelming favourites to win the group if not the entire tournament with a squad packed with superstars such as Kevin de Bruyne, Eden Hazard and Romelu Lukaku. However, their ageing defence could potentially

undermine their aspirations and pose a headache for coach Roberto Martinez.

Russia made the quarter-finals of the 2018 World Cup in their homeland although the squad has changed greatly since and they do not enter the competition brimming with confidence, despite their coach Stanislav Cherchesov maintaining they can shine.

### GROUP C

North Macedonia are another country making their debut and in a group containing the indifferent Netherlands, Austria and Ukraine could possibly cause an upset or two.

Their captain, 37-year-old Goran

Pandev, has just finished his 20<sup>th</sup> season playing for Genoa in Italy and is their all time top scorer and appearance holder.

Having missed out on Euro 2016 and the 2018 World Cup, this is the longest absence from major finals for the Dutch since the mid-1980s – when they marked their return by winning Euro '88.

### GROUP D

The Czech Republic, Croatia, Scotland and England battle it out in Group D. The latter go into every tournament with huge expectations and the Three Lions could possibly live up to their billing this time if coach Gareth Southgate can successfully fuse the dynamic between defence and an outstanding arsenal of attacking talents including Harry Kane, Jack Grealish, Phil Foden and Mason Mount. At 17 years old, Jude Bellingham is one to watch and could shine, given the chance. England play all their group games at Wembley which is a distinct advantage.

### GROUP E

Spain will be confident to top the group although they are a pale shadow of their former all-conquering selves. Much is expected of Barcelona's 18-year-old Pedri, a prodigious talent who could light

up the tournament.

Poland, led by lethal Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski, will be vying to beat Spain to top spot in the group with Sweden and Slovakia, for which ensuring progression will not be a foregone conclusion for either.

### GROUP F

It is a tradition for every international tournament to have its 'group of death'. Group F definitely adopts the mantle this time as holders Portugal, World Champions France, Germany and Hungary match up.

Germany have struggled of late although they nearly always seem to find their groove come tournament time.

France boast an exceptional squad with talents such as Paul Pogba, Kylian Mbappe, N'Golo Kanté, Antoine Griezmann, Ousmane Dembele and Karim Benzema placing them as many people's favourites to win the tournament.

Portugal still have much to offer with the age-defying Cristiano Ronaldo still their most potent threat and important player.

*The Euro 2022 finals start this evening with Italy versus Turkey (kick-off 2am Saturday, June 12, Phuket time).* Ben Tirebuck



# Perez secures victory but mad Max the real winner

## FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato  
michael@boxofneutrals.com

For years Red Bull Racing has dreamed of having a teammate befitting Max Verstappen's prodigious pace, and Sergio Perez proved he's their man in Baku last Sunday (June 6).

Perez sensationally claimed a breakthrough victory for Red Bull Racing at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix, but the real winner was Verstappen, who didn't finish the race at all.

Verstappen had led most of the way after jumping Lewis Hamilton at the pit stops, and Perez following him through for second place. The Mercedes car was far from its rapid best around the unique Baku street layout, and Verstappen, who started the weekend with a four-point championship lead, was set to extend that to 14 with a second straight win.

But the race was flipped on its head just five laps from the finish when Verstappen's rear-left tyre spectacularly gave way at more than 315 kilometres per hour on the



Despite initial dejection after his crash, Max Verstappen would end the day in a more positive mood as he maintained his lead in the drivers championship. Photo: AFP

start-finish straight, pitching him into the concrete barriers.

He emerged unscathed but incensed. In a hotly contested title fight, a failure to finish stings especially badly, and as Verstappen returned dejectedly to his garage Hamilton was preparing to line up second on the restart grid.

"We've got to remember that this is a marathon, not a sprint," Hamilton radioed his team before the restart. "We've got to be measured on how aggressive we go."

His message was clear: with just two racing laps remaining he had the chance to open an easy 14-point lead in the title chase. After a difficult weekend in the car, second place would be more than enough reward.

But his good intentions lasted only to the first corner. He nailed his getaway to run side by side with new polesitter Perez, and the Mexican swooped defensively to the left to cover.

In the pressure of the mo-

ment, as he went to pull his upshift paddle, Hamilton accidentally hit the button to trigger what the team calls 'magic' mode, which biases the brakes fully forwards. His front wheels instantly locked up, and he dramatically overshoot the corner in a plume of smoking rubber and tumbled out of the points.

In a duel off the line, victory belonged to Perez. But it's Verstappen who will leave Baku as the winner, his four-point lead of reigning champion Hamilton almost unbelievably intact.

Mercedes failed to score with either car for the first time since 2018. Red Bull Racing extended its championship lead to 26 points.

This close championship will be decided not only by Verstappen and Hamilton's worst days but by the performances of their teammates. In pressuring Hamilton into a mistake, Perez executed his role to perfection.

Perez might finally be the driver the team's been waiting for. Whether he can help make Verstappen a world champion remains to be seen.

## Singapore GP cancelled for second year running

### FORMULA ONE

PROMOTERS ANNOUNCED the cancellation of the 2021 Formula 1 Singapore Airlines Singapore Grand Prix last Friday (June 4) due to ongoing safety and logistic concerns brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We understand that our fans were looking forward to another edition of the Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix," said Colin Syn, Deputy Chairman of Singapore GP Pte Ltd.

"To cancel the event for a second year is an incredibly difficult decision, but a necessary one in light of the prevailing restrictions for live events in Singapore."

Since its debut, the Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix has attracted fans from over 100 countries and established itself as more than just a race with a robust circuit-wide concert and entertainment line-up.

However, given the evolving and unpredictable pandemic situation around the world, it has become increasingly chal-



COVID-19 has forced the cancellation of the Singapore Grand Prix once again. Photo: AFP

lenging to stage a complex multi-faceted event for tens of thousands of local and overseas spectators.

"We would not be able to deliver a full event experience fans have come to expect over the years, while safeguarding the health and safety of our fans, contractors, volunteers and staff," added Syn.

"Ultimately, we have to be responsible, cautious and prudent as safety is our number one concern."

"We are grateful for the support of Singaporeans, stakeholders and local businesses who have helped contribute to the success of the night race. Needless to say, we look forward to the safe return of Formula 1 racing against the spectacular Marina Bay skyline."

The Phuket News

## Historic Thai equestrians qualify for Tokyo Olympics

### EQUESTRIAN

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER for the Thai national team and the Thailand Equestrian Federation (TEF).

For the first time, under the visionary leadership and equestrian passion of Dr Harald Link and Nunthinee Tanner, president and vice president of the TEF, a team of three Thai elite riders have qualified to compete at the Olympics.

The trio – Arinadtha 'Mint' Chavatanont, Weerapat 'Bomb' Pitakanonda and Korntawat 'Nat' Samran – have qualified for the team eventing discipline, securing their tickets to the July 23-Aug 8 Tokyo Olympics at the Baborowko Equestrian Festival held from May 27-30 in Poland. Nara Ketusingha is the team manager.

Eventing is a holistic test of an equestrian athlete as it combines three disciplines – show jumping, dressage and cross country.

Olympic qualification as a team is particularly difficult because all riders must qualify, as opposed to just one for individual disciplines.

The Thai national team has been strategically targeting to make their debut on the world's greatest sporting stage for over 10 years, with the TEF continually raising the team's standards.

The riders have been training with renowned French eventing athlete and trainer Maxime Livio since 2013.

Livio is an accomplished athlete in his own right with 25 wins in major eventing



Thai riders, from left, Arinadtha Chavatanont, Weerapat Pitakanonda and Korntawat Samran. Photo: Yong Teck Lim

competitions and is consistently ranked among the top French riders.

He guided the Thai team to win a team bronze medal in the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta as well as golds for both team and individual disciplines at the 2019 FEI Asian Championships held at the Thai Polo and Equestrian Club in Chon Buri.

Riders will continue training through this month at Ecurie Livio Stable in Saumur, France, before moving to Aachen, Germany, next month for horse quarantine prior to the Olympics, as required by the host.

Athletes will also undergo two rounds of COVID-19 screening before entering Japan and receive daily testing for the duration of the Tokyo Games.

As the first Thai equestrian team to ever qualify for the Olympics, and with the unwavering support of the TEF, we can look forward to seeing these rising stars compete on the world stage for years to come.

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# Sport

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Kick off for delayed Euro 2020 > p14

## MAKING HIS MARK

### British expat to run 70km length of the island to help raise funds for One Phuket charity food drive

The Running Man that is Mark Gillett. Photo: Parinya Supasoon



#### RUNNING

**Ben Tirebuck**  
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

There have been countless admirable charity initiatives across Phuket in the past 12 months or so where donation drives have been established to help those truly in need during these difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On June 20, British expat Mark Gillett is taking his efforts to raise much needed funds more than a step further by channelling his love for outdoor adventures and running the length of the island, a distance of 70km.

The 36-year-old teacher at KIS school in Kathu has set himself the arduous challenge of running from Promthep Cape in the island's south to the Sarasin Bridge in the north, battling various challenges en-route such as punishing hills, rugged terrain and energy-sapping beaches.

He plans to stick as close to the coast as possible throughout, starting the endeavour at 4am in the hope of covering as much as he can before the heat and humidity take effect. A select set of fellow running enthusiasts will join him for certain sections, more so to

provide him with refreshments and moral support, although for the large part he will be going it alone.

Having supported an independent food drive in Kathu last year, Mark is hoping his efforts can raise direly needed funds to contribute towards food drives the One Phuket initiative has been leading for the past year.

He also plans to register his challenge with The Fastest Known Time, an organisation that records routes and times achieved by a range of outdoor pursuits enthusiasts throughout the world. Mark hopes his challenge can entice and encourage others to repeat his feat and establish the route as a popular draw for Phuket.

Partnering with One Phuket and the Scholars of Sustenance program, Mark wanted to use his passion to help contribute to the excellent work they do, which is how the idea for the upcoming challenge was conceived.

"As far as I am aware, nobody has done this previously," Mark told *The Phuket News*.

"If my efforts can help contribute to those on the island who have truly suffered during this pandemic and who really need assistance then it will be more than worth it," he added.

Making his attempt all the more admirable is the fact he has only just returned from a serious knee injury two months ago that hampered his training and preparation.

"I have been building up more and more every week," Mark said. "I increase my distance around 10% every week, which in turn has improved my strength and durability. Regular trail runs across the island are a key part of my training regime as is the weekly speed training I undergo."

"I have also added in strength and flexibility work such as yoga which has helped with conditioning and will hopefully help mitigate any chance of injury."

#### 'BIG ADVENTURES ON AVERAGE TALENT'

Marks' slogan of "big adventures on average talent" certainly belies his ability and grand aspirations.

He moved to Phuket two years ago with his young family, accepting a job on a whim having never visited Thailand before. He has been an avid outdoor adventurer since his formative years, cycling and running to work back in his native London, taking on the occasional 10km run and half-marathon, climbing mountains

and undertaking mountain bike adventures. He sets himself a new challenge every year, each one more demanding than the last.

Last year during the lockdown he became the joint-first person in Thailand to complete the run-Everesting challenge, a brutal undertaking where the participant must repeatedly scale a slope enough times to equal Mount Everest's 8,849-metre height. At the time, less than 100 people had completed it worldwide.

Mark chose Kalim viewpoint in Patong as his destination which he had to run up 39 times over 18 hours to cover the 42.29km distance. It was, understandably, the toughest physical challenge of his outdoor pursuits thus far but the achievement and fact he had raised much needed funds for the Kathu food drive made it more than worthwhile.

"Taking real risks is what truly motivates me," he said. "Taking on something where there is a very real chance of failing."

"I am fascinated by how the mind and body react when truly pushed and the going gets really tough. Long distance and endurance runners often mention hitting the wall and entering a dark place mentally and it is facing that and com-

ing through the other side that really appeals to me."

"Of course, raising money for a worthy cause is the real payoff that makes all the pain worthwhile."

#### 'HAIRY MOMENT'

"Running has become an identity for me in recent years," commented Mark when asked what attracts him to the sport.

"It is a really varied sport where you get to see and learn about so much. I have become so familiar with so much of Phuket through running, seeing parts that most don't and meeting so many different people."

When asked what, if any, negatives he has encountered during his various excursions, Mark was quick to list the possibility of injury as his number one worry. He experienced this last year but used the setback to learn and address his weaknesses.

He adds that encountering wildlife is especially exciting, particularly on the trail runs, and he has come across several snakes while off the beaten track although has never had any issues.

"Spiders on the other hand can be a real concern, especially the huge Orb spiders that you encounter on trail runs. Running face-first into

the web of one and getting entangled was an especially hairy moment although thankfully they are not venomous!"

One further initiative close to Mark's heart is the environment and a desire to see a reduction and ultimately eradication of single-use plastics.

All the food he takes in on his challenge will be home-made and stored in reusable containers. Likewise, drinks will all be consumed from flasks and similar receptacles. Not a single-use bottle or container in sight.

Initially, he was hoping to factor this into his run, maybe stop at a beach or two en route to help with a clean-up drive although the current restrictions on people gathering in groups deterred him.

Maybe that could be his next challenge once things have returned to a semblance of normality, I suggest.

The wry smile and glint in his eye is enough of a response to suggest he has already more than considered it.

Watch this space...

*If you would like to donate to Marks' cause you can do so via the One Phuket Facebook page. You can also follow his journey on his Instagram page at markgonarun.*