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FINDING FAULT



A view of the landslide in Kata on Aug 23. Photo: PR Phuket / file

BIG BUDDHA FOUNDATION TO FACE CHARGES OVER DEADLY LANDSLIDE

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The Phra Phuttha Ming Mongkol Sattha 45 Foundation, which operates the tourist-popular Big Buddha viewpoint on the hills between Kata and Chalong, will face charges for at least contributing to the devastating landslide on Aug 23 that claimed 13 lives.

Bannarak Sermthong, Deputy Director-General of the Royal Forest Department, confirmed to *The Phuket News* that the investigation into the cause of the landslide is still underway, but nearing completion.

“While the Phra Phuttha Ming Mongkol Sattha 45 Foundation is currently under investigation by Karon Police [for illegally encroaching on protected forest

area], the investigation into the cause of the landslide is overseen by Forest Protection Unit 2 (Phuket),” Mr Bannarak explained.

Sorasak Rananan, Director of the Phuket Forestry Centre, told *The Phuket News* on Monday (Oct 7), “Since the construction contributed to the landslide, the Phra Phuttha Ming Mongkol Sattha 45 Foundation will be held accountable for the 13 deaths.

“Since I believe the construction was a part of the factor, I will be heading to Karon Police to provide additional information gathered from our observations and investigation related to the project.

“The parking lot construction on the hill was found to be built over a canal, posing a high risk of further collapse,” Mr Sorasak noted.

“I can’t provide details about the

investigation or present the evidence we have, but I’ve done my part by charging Mr Suporn Wanichkul, President of the Phra Phuttha Ming Mongkol Sattha 45 Foundation, for encroaching on five rai of land. That’s what we clearly can tell you so far,” he added.

“I am responsible for handling this case and have worked closely with local government agencies to manage water diversion. Today [Oct 7], I assigned my team to plant vetiver grass, tree saplings and topsoil to stabilise the landslide area,” Mr Sorasak said

Regarding the formal complaint filed against the foundation and its president Mr Suporn for the illegal encroachment onto five rai of protected forest land at the viewpoint, Pol Col Khundet Na Nongkhai, Superintendent of Karon

Police Station, told *The Phuket News*, “I have prepared and submitted the necessary documentation to the prosecutor.

“Our responsibility is to report all findings from the investigation process, including the fact that the foundation has denied all charges,” he added.

RFD Deputy Director Mr Bannarak had previously assured, “If the investigation concludes that the Phra Phuttha Ming Mongkol Sattha 45 Foundation is at fault and they are found guilty, they will be held responsible for covering all damages and associated costs.”

Mr Bannarak also confirmed that the Big Buddha site will remain closed until further notice.

COVER UP

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Drama at PAFC as coach quits after 4 games



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News

The Phuket News
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This year's annual Phuket Vegetarian Festival draws to a close today (Oct 11) with the traditional farewell ritual at Saphan Hin at midnight to send off the Jade Emperor and the Nine Emperor Gods back to the Heavens.

Thousands of people line the streets of Phuket Town each year for the final night of the nine-day festival as each participating shrine carries the images of their respective gods to the farewell ritual, complete with a blaze of firecrackers to ward off evil spirits en route. Traffic is diverted away from all procession routes as the final parades take place.

The festival officially began with the traditional raising of the Go Teng poles at Chinese shrines across the island at sunset on Oct 2.

Thousands arrived to take part in the ceremonial raising of the Go Teng pole at the Jui Tui 'Tao Bokeung' Shrine in heart of Phuket Town.

The ritual, which marks the festival's start, was presided over by Minister of Labour Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, better known among Phuket residents as the former Minister of Tourism and Sports.

Joining Mr Phiphat in leading the festivities was Phuket Gov-



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

ernor Sophon Suwannarat, along with a host of esteemed guests, including Kittiwong Chansattam, Chairman of the Jui Tui Tao Bokeung Foundation.

Thousands of Phuket locals and tourists, dressed in white, gathered to witness the event. The Go Teng pole, adorned with nine deity lanterns, was hoisted as a symbolic invitation to the gods, marking the official start of the 2024 Vegetarian Festival, also known as the 'Jia Chai' festival.

Other shrines across Phuket, including Bang Neow, Lo Rong, Sam Kong, Kuan Yu and Kathu shrines, also participated in their own pole-raising ceremonies.

The 39 shrines that took part in the festival this year continued with the traditional rituals, including the 'Iu Keng' ceremony,

where spirit mediums join the street processions held across the island.

During the festival, spirit mediums, or 'mah song', invoke the gods and perform acts of self-mortification with demonstrations of faith and as a way to absorb misfortunes on behalf of the attendees. While nearly all mah song piercing their faces with blessed swords and skewers, some used less traditional items for piercings, including one mah song who used two fishing rods.

TRAFFIC

The famed street processions of the festival, during which devotees parade the statue of the Chinese God honoured at the local shrine, began on Oct 4 with the Guan Yu Shrine in Baan

Nabon taking to the streets of the Palai area in Chalong from 7am, and the street procession of Jchoor Su Gong Naka Shrine in Wichit starting at 7:30am.

The processions continued, with traffic police issuing warnings for motorists to avoid the designated street procession routes. This year Cherng Talay was particularly affected, with the Sam Ong Hoo Shrine (Cherng Talay Shrine) holding two street processions last Saturday (Oct 5), another to Laem Singh (past Bang Tao) last Sunday, yet another along the the Baan Don - Cherng Talay Rd on Monday (Oct 7), and yet another, this one all the way to Thalang Town and back, on Tuesday (Oct 8).

BLAZE

Firecrackers tossed during a street procession in Phuket Town were blamed for setting one car on fire, leaving the car completely gutted, and damaging another car parked beside it on Oct 3.

Firefighters arrived quickly at the scene, the alley between the Siam Commercial Bank and the Krungsri Bank on Ratsada Rd, and were able to control the blaze in about 10 minutes.

However, a white Toyota Fortuner, where the fire started, was completely destroyed, and a grey Subaru Forester parked next to it sustained side and interior

Police hold active shooter drill > p4



damage. Both vehicles were registered in Phuket.

According to the Fortuner's owner, the fire may have been caused by firecrackers.

He explained that firecrackers had been placed in the back of the vehicle earlier in the day, and after watching the shrine's procession, children threw some live firecrackers in the back of the car. As he started the engine, he heard a popping sound and quickly exited the vehicle before the fire erupted.

At last report, police were continuing their questioning of the owner of the Fortuner and had called in forensic officers to conduct a detailed investigation into the cause of the fire.

Before this year's festival got underway, Phuket officials publicly posted an order by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat stipulating all the standard warnings and regulations regarding the use of fireworks.

The use of firecrackers called 'ba chang', rose, rocket, chicken egg, and firecrackers that shoot forward, or other similar objects, were not considered a practice of the Vegetarian Festival, the order by Governor Sophon said.

The use of such fireworks and firecrackers was punishable by up to three years in jail or a fine of up to B50,000, or both, the Governor warned.

Big Buddha foundation to face legal action over landslide deaths

Continued from page 1

...in any reporting of the investigation into the cause of the landslide has raised serious concerns.

Anuphong Panarat, Secretary to the Governor of Phuket, pointed out, "When the initial investigation was held by the RFD, I would like to ask why no one talked about the construction. They just let it build like this, which is not a small construction. No matter how you look at it, the RFD should be able to answer what to do with it.

Phuket MP Chalermpong Saengdee was blunt in his appraisal of the silence in reporting.

"The government agencies haven't ex-



Rescue workers at the scene on Aug 23. Photo: PR Phuket / file

plained the real cause yet. I believe they're trying to cover it up. I've sent a letter to enquire and raise objections," he said.

Mr Chalermpong assured, "My next step is to

push forward and continue to put pressure on government agencies. If they fail to provide answers or solutions, it indicates a neglect of their responsibilities.

"Right Now, I am wait-

ing for an answer, waiting for information to be sent first about who is responsible for this offence. If it really comes from the Phra Phuttha Ming Mongkol Saththa 45, then the people have the right to demand compensation." Mr Chalermpong explained.

"So far, I have already asked the Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO) to investigate the financial activities of the Phra Phuttha Ming Mongkol Saththa 45 and submitted a formal inquiry to the Minister of Culture regarding the construction of Big Buddha. However, the government agencies remain silent and have yet to provide any response," he told *The Phuket News*.

Mr Chalermpong insisted, "I will have to keep asking for progress. In any case, I will have to give the government time to investigate the cause and take action first."

COMPENSATION

Mr Anuphong explained the compensation process for the 13 people killed in the Aug 23 landslide, including a Russian couple, stating, "We must first assess the compensation rights, as the cases involve Thai nationals, Myanmar workers, and foreign individuals.

"Both Thais and Myanmar workers [survivors and families of those killed] are receiving compensation in line with the coverage

provided by the Social Security Office of Phuket.

Mr Chalermpong noted, "I have noticed that compensation does not only come from social security. Karon Municipality itself is providing compensation according to the regulations as appropriate."

Regarding the possibility of additional compensation, Mr Anuphong said, "We will need to consult experts to determine whether the landslide was caused by construction activities or resulted from a natural disaster. All parties must await the investigation's results before any confirmations can be made."

AoT stalls evidence in graft probe

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Airports of Thailand (AoT) has requested additional time to submit evidence to the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) in the case involving corruption by officials at Phuket International Airport over a B11.8 million contract to post stickers commemorating His Majesty The King.

The NACC Phuket office is seeking detailed information on budget allocation, median price determination, procurement methods and authorisation processes, as well as relevant documents for further investigation into the allegations of corruption and inflated pricing involving Phu Khao Advertis-ing Co Ltd.

The average price for the contract was determined to be B11.8mn. It was found that procurement regulations were violated. The auction was scheduled for July 19, with the winner announced the same day. However, records show that the sticker sheets were



Phuket International Airport. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub / file

installed earlier, on July 17-18, before the auction bids were opened.

"The NACC was not [formally] informed about the case, and no one from AoT has reported the corruption case directly to us, which raises doubts," Suwat Saowarat, Director of the NACC Office in Phuket, told *The Phuket News*.

Phasaramon Kanchanawanit, AoT's Director of Corporate Communications, confirmed to *The Phuket News* that disciplinary action has been ordered against the Deputy Director of Phuket International Airport and three senior staff over alleged corruption.

However, she, and any

other representatives of AoT questioned by *The Phuket News*, declined to disclose the specific punishments, citing internal policies and an ongoing review by the AoT committee.

None of the officials at AoT at Phuket airport or at the main office in Bangkok were willing to give any further information to *The Phuket News* other than what AoT has already announced in a notice posted online in August.

The notice, citing AoT President Kerati Kijmanawat, said that an internal investigation into the corruption scandal had already been completed, and that disciplinary action would be taken against the senior

management at Phuket airport deemed by the AoT investigation as guilty of corrupt practices.

However, there has been no confirmation of any punishment to any of the individuals involved.

Of note, while making enquiries about the case, *The Phuket News* was quickly, and consistently, redirected to the Office of the AoT President instead.

AoT has not confirmed the identities of those found guilty of corruption in their investigation. However, local Thai media reports have openly named the four as: Jirattikul Eiamhiran, Deputy Director of Phuket Airport (Operations and Maintenance); Peera

Akkhachai, Director of the Business Support Division at Phuket Airport; Pakin Sirichan, from the Airport Department (Operations and Maintenance Division); and Wiwatana Aimchoi, Director of the Supplies Division at Phuket Airport.

"The investigation was handled internally by AoT and its committee, so we did not report the matter to the PACC [Office of Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission] or the NACC," Ms Phasaramon told *The Phuket News*.

"AoT has its own policies in place to investigate and discipline employees directly," she added, without any recognition of the legal requirement of state officials reporting any incidents of corruption to the PACC or the NACC.

"However, I insisted that AoT has investigated and made a proper punishment," Ms Phasaramon assured.

NACC Phuket Director Mr Suwat has since explained to *The Phuket News* that the case is under the responsibility of the NACC.

He also clarified the

difference between the NACC and the PACC. "In most cases, corruption involving amounts exceeding B500,000 falls under the jurisdiction of the NACC, while cases involving amounts below B500,000 are handled by the PACC," he noted.

AoT's request for more time follows the operator of six international airports in Thailand failing to provide any information about the case to the NACC Phuket, which formally asked for more information weeks ago, on Sept 11.

"I set the deadline for submitting evidence on Wednesday [Sept 25], but AoT Phuket failed to meet this deadline.

"They requested an extension, stating that the necessary documents are located at the AoT main office in Bangkok," Mr Suwat told *The Phuket News*.

"The central NACC office [in Bangkok] has accepted the case for further investigation. They are currently conducting an inquiry into AoT," Mr Suwat noted.

Dengue cases hit 1,999

PHUKET HAS SUFFERED 1,999 cases of people infected with dengue, the Chief of the Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) has confirmed. One person in Phuket has died from the mosquito-borne disease.

The figure was revealed by PPHO Chief Dr Kusak Kukkiattikoon at the Phuket Provincial Meeting held at Phuket Provincial Hall last week.

The meeting, the ninth such meeting so far this year, was chaired by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwanarat and focused on 'flood relief, traffic solutions and public health', said an official report of the event.

Present for the occasion were Vice Governor Norasak Suksomboon, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum and a host of heads of government offices on the island.

In his report on the province's infectious disease situation for 2024, PPHO Chief Dr Kusak said the province had recorded 11 cases of whooping cough, 9,425 influenza cases with one death, and 1,999 cases of dengue fever,



PPHO Chief Dr Kusak Kukkiattikoon. Photo: PR Phuket

also with one fatality. Vaccination remains the key preventive measure for whooping cough, the report noted.

However, that is all the report marked on dengue, one of Phuket's most prevalent and recurring health threats.

Confirmation of the number of dengue infections in Phuket comes more than two months after the Department of Disease Control regional office confirmed that Phuket from Jan 1 to July 19 had recorded the highest rate of dengue infections in the seven provinces of Upper Southern Thailand.

Despite issuing an advisory last month, the PPHO still has not published its own report of dengue infections in Phuket.

Previously, normal dengue reports by health

officials in Thailand include the areas and demographics of the people who contracted the disease. The PPHO does not issue such reports.

In terms of tourism, the meeting was told that Phuket attracted 8.6 million visitors from January to August 2024, with 77.1% being international tourists.

The total tourism revenue reached B323.6 billion, reflecting a 29.64% increase for the same period last year.

Other key issues discussed included flood and landslide relief efforts. The governor emphasised the urgency for all government agencies to assist affected residents according to their resources.

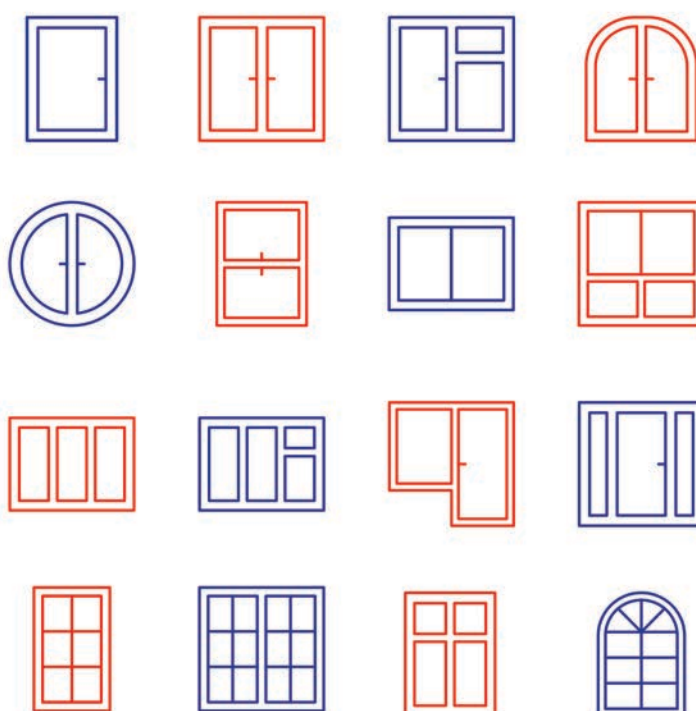
Agencies responsible for water storage were urged to prepare for the dry season, with continuous monitoring of weather forecasts to ensure public safety.

Phuket Provincial Police also presented their traffic management plan for the Vegetarian Festival, ensuring officers would monitor traffic, provide safety at shrines, and enforce firecracker rules.

The Phuket News



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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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Wind 11 m/s

MON OCTOBER 14

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Wind 4 m/s

TUE OCTOBER 15

High: +35°
Low: +28°

Wind 4 m/s

WED OCTOBER 16

High: +37°
Low: +28°

Wind 4 m/s

THU OCTOBER 17

High: +36°
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s



Screenshot: Chalongs Police

Police hold 'active shooter' drill at Robinson Chalong

CHALONG POLICE have held a training exercise to simulate an 'active shooter' scenario at the Thai Watsadu and Robinson Lifestyle shopping mall in Chalong.

Chalong Police posted a video of the exercise online on Oct 1, showing a man pulling up in front of the mall on a motor-bike and shouldering what looks like an 'assault-style' rifle. He then enters the mall and starts the simulation of mass shooting while walking through the mall.

The video shows staff exiting the main areas of the mall, and senior police arriving to lead the

response, working with the staff and locating the 'shooter' through the mall's security CCTV.

A response team then enters the mall, in formation and with a bullet-proof shield, and confronts the 'shooter', who surrenders.

The post of the video did not give a time and date for the 'joint rehearsal of the Active Shooter incident response plan', but the posting of the video came the same day that police launched a special anti-crime campaign for the Phuket Vegetarian Festival (see page 5).

The Phuket News

American charged for child sex abuse

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Chalong Police Chief Pol Col Ekkarat Plaiduang has formally charged an American man for sexually abusing a 3-year-old girl at a house in the Saiyuan area in Rawai.

The case has been reported to the prosecutor, and the American is currently detained, awaiting court proceedings, Pol Col Ekkarat confirmed to *The Phuket News*.

The American man was arrested by officers from an investigation team of the Phuket Provincial Police, joined by officers from Phuket Immigration, after the girl's mother filed a complaint with Chalong Police on Sept 23.

According to the complaint, the woman who reported the incident to police said that she returned from a friend's house around 8am on Sunday, Sept 22.

When she arrived at the home, in Moo 6, Rawai, she saw the young girl, who is 3 years and 4 months old, lying on the sofa. The foreign man, not identified in



Chalong Police Station. Photo: The Phuket News / file

the complaint, was sitting next to the child.

The girl told the woman that she was experiencing pain in her genitals. The foreign man then took the child to the bathroom to shower her and put a diaper on her afterward. The girl and the man returned, and the girl went back to sleep on the sofa but continued to complain of pain.

The woman then called a man to remove the diaper and check the child. They found blood on the diaper.

The woman took the girl to Rawai Health Promoting Hospital and later went to Chalong Police Station to file a complaint.

Pol Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum, Commander of Phuket Provincial Police,

questioned the 45-year-old American man at Chalong Police Station on Sept 25, Pol Col Ekkarat said.

The American denied the charge, claiming that he did not sexually assault the child.

"Investigators have collected various pieces of evidence, which was enough to proceed with the charge. The case has officially been handed over to the prosecutor for further legal proceedings, and it is expected that the Phuket Provincial Court will be able to hold the trial soon," Pol Col Ekkarat said.

The suspect is currently being held in custody and will remain detained as the court prepares for the trial, he added.

Israeli tourist struck in jet-ski hit-and-run

AN ISRAELI TOURIST sustained head injuries when he was struck by a jet-ski driven by a foreigner at Patong Beach last Sunday (Oct 6), before the jet-ski operator fled the scene.

Patong Police were notified of the incident at 6:21pm.

Emergency responders from the Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation quickly arrived at the scene, at the beach in front of where Soi Keksup meets Thaweewong Rd, and transported the injured tourist to Patong Hospital, police reported.

The victim, 41-year-old Israeli national Nim-



Photo: Patong Police

rod Filip Solomon, informed police that he was swimming near Patong Beach when a foreigner, riding a white-and-blue jet-ski, struck him, causing his head injury.

The jet-ski operator reportedly sped off without offering assistance, the tourist said.

At last report police were continuing their efforts to locate the jet ski-rider and bring them to justice, police said.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Body of missing woman found in Pak Phra

A THAI WOMAN REPORTED missing at Sai Kaew Beach, on Phuket's northwest coast, was found dead in the water several kilometres away in the Pak Phra Channel at Tha Chatchai on Oct 1.

The Pak Phra Channel separates Phuket from the mainland at the northern tip of the island.

The alarm was first raised by Jiraporn Onkhajorn, who had reported to Tha Chatchai Police that her sister-in-law, Jiraporn Sararat, had gone missing earlier that day.

Ms Jiraporn said she had been unable to find her sister-in-law. She had visited Sai Kaew Beach at about 1pm and found her sister-in-law's blue Honda Scoopy motor-bike along with a pair of shoes and a helmet, abandoned on the beach.

Later, at about 5:40pm, police were informed of a body found floating in the water several kilometres away near Wat Tha Chatchai, located beside the Srisoonthorn Bridge.

Rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation retrieved the body from the water.

The deceased, a Thai woman approximately 50 years old, was wearing an



Photo: Tha Chatchai Police

orange-cream shirt and black long pants. No immediate signs of a struggle were observed during the initial examination, rescue workers noted.

Ms Jiraporn arrived at the scene and confirmed that the body was indeed her missing sister-in-law.

Authorities transported the body to Thalang Hospital for further examination to determine the cause of death.

Police said they were continuing their investigation to clarify the circumstances surrounding the incident.

If you or anyone you know is in need of emotional support and counselling, please contact the Samaritans of Thailand at their hotline 02-113-6789 (English & Thai) or the Thai Mental Health Hotline at 1323 (Thai).

Eakkapop Thongtub

Boat fire spurs concerns

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Leading marine safety figures have expressed concern after the captain of a Phuket tourist boat was injured when the boat he was operating caught fire and was consumed by the blaze on Oct 3.

The Phuket Marine Office was informed of the fire, on the ‘Flamingo Lady 2’ tour catamaran, at about 10:35am

The boat was transiting between Koh Naka Yai and Koh Raet when the fire broke out, reported staff at Ao Po Pier.

According to the boat’s captain, Charoon Rungsamut, 31, the vessel departed from Ao Po Pier at 10am with 22 tourists aboard, bound for Koh Naka Yai.

After safely dropping off the passengers, the boat began its return trip with only Mr Charoon and the boat’s machine operator, Kritsada Karnriab, 23, onboard.

During the return journey, the right engine of the Flamingo Lady 2 mal-



Photo: Phuket Tourist Police

functioned, causing it to overheat. Sparks from the engine ignited oil vapours, leading to a fire, he said.

Despite efforts by both the captain and mechanic to address the issue, the fire quickly spread.

Mr Charoon sustained minor injuries to his leg while attempting to contain the fire and was transported to Thalang Hospital for treatment.

No passengers were aboard at the time of the incident.

The boat suffered extensive damage by the fire, estimated by officials to be as much as B4 million.

The Flamingo Lady 2, made of aluminium, is registered under the number 625100075 and has a valid

boat licence until April 2025, officials confirmed.

At last report, police were investigating the cause of the fire, and were trying to track down another boat accused of colliding with the Flamingo Lady 2, allegedly causing the fire.

Rear Adm Amornchote Sujirat, former deputy commander of the Third Naval Area Command based in Phuket, said Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi need to have fireboats capable of dealing with potential marine blazes.

He said there was a lack of firefighting boats in the three areas even though these provinces welcome hundreds of marine vessels annually, reported the Bangkok Post.

Blazes aboard vessels are common, especially while docked, and they often result in boats sinking because fires cannot be extinguished in time, he said.

R/Adm Amornchote suggested that the government procure high-pressure fireboats, particularly speed-boats, to handle emergencies more effectively.

He also emphasised the critical role of fire prevention measures on board vessels, including trained crew and proper equipment, in managing fires quickly.

While no lives were lost in the ‘Flamingo Lady 2’ incident, he urged local authorities to address the lack of firefighting vessels to improve safety at busy ports.

Deputy Transport Minister Manaporn Charoensri has ordered the formation of a committee to investigate the incident.

Ms Manaporn also said strict safety measures must be enforced on all passenger boats, and operators must follow all legal safety requirements to prevent accidents.

Additional reporting by Eakkapop Thongtub



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Heavy rain in Phuket causes flooding, partial landslide

HEAVY RAIN ACROSS certain areas of Phuket caused flooding and a partial landslide that stopped traffic for several hours last Sunday (Oct 6).

With skies overcast all morning, the heavy rain started just before midday in Cherng Talay, Kamala, Thalang and Kathu and flooding was very quickly realised thereafter.

Officials confirmed that approximately 30-50cm of rain collected in Soi Hua Khuan Nuea near the Phuket FantaSea complex was waiting to drain, while several houses were confirmed flooded in the Bang Wan area.

The heavy rain was

also believed to be responsible for a partial landslide in Kamala on the main road heading towards Patong near the Oceana Hotel intersection where several large boulders fell onto and obstructed the road, forcing traffic police officers from Kamala Police Station to close one lane and facilitate traffic accordingly via the other.

Construction machinery and tractors were then sent to the scene to clear the rocks before traffic was allowed to revert to normal, officials confirmed.

Eakkapop Thongtub



The Standard

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Condor flights return

LEADING GERMAN leisure airline Condor has resumed flights to Thailand, with the operation of four flights a week from Frankfurt to Bangkok and three flights a week to Phuket.

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) marked the resumption of Condor's Frankfurt-Bangkok flight (DE2362), which landed at Suvarnabhumi International Airport on Sept 23.

The inaugural flight (AY155) was welcomed by a delegation of high-ranking tourism and business executives. This included the TAT Governor Thapanee Kiatphaibool; Siripakorn Cheawsamoot, TAT Deputy Governor for International Marketing – Europe, the Americas, Middle East, and Africa; Chiravadee Khunsub, TAT Executive Director for the Americas Region, and Watcharayu Kuawong, Director of TAT Frankfurt Office.

The inaugural Frankfurt-Phuket flight (DE2368) landed at Phuket International Airport on Sept 22 for a special welcome event.

Condor is utilising an Airbus A330neo for the flights to Thailand. The 310-seat aircraft is con-



Photo: AoT Phuket

figured in three classes: Business (30 seats), Premium Economy (64 seats) and Economy (216 seats).

With the addition of Condor's flights, airlines serving between Germany and Thailand include Thai Airways International, with daily flights on the Bangkok-Frankfurt and Bangkok-Munich routes, and Lufthansa, with a daily service on the Bangkok-Munich route.

Based on TAT's data, forward bookings from the German market for the October – December 2024 period, as of August 2024, have increased by 22% compared with the same period in 2023. Contributing to the uptick were long-weekend holidays and the upcoming New Year's 2025 Countdown.

Thailand so far this year has recorded 729,163 tourist arrivals from Germany.

The Phuket News

Amazing Thailand is back

Bangkok Post

The government has launched 'Amazing Thailand Grand Tourism Year 2025' alongside six global tourism companies to help attract more visitors and meet its targets.

Jirayu Huangsap, an adviser to the prime minister, told a press briefing on Monday (Oct 7) that Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra held a roundtable meeting with executives from the six leading firms – Grab, Agoda, Expedia, IHG, Marriott International and Trip.com Group – to engage them in the plan.

Under the initiative, the government aims to attract more than 40 million foreign visitors and generate B3.4 trillion in revenue next year.

During the meeting, the prime minister outlined three key government strategies – 'Thai charms', 'hidden gem cities' and 'five must-dos'.

She said the 'charms' are the country's unique cultural experiences, including cuisine and craftsmanship,



Photo: Paetongtarn Shinawatra / Facebook

which emphasise the essence of Thai culture. The 'hidden gem cities' are lesser-known tourist attractions that will be promoted to enhance income distribution.

The five 'must-dos' will package Thai food, cultural and local goods in new destinations and allow visitors to enjoy festivals, which will begin with the Thailand Winter Festival in November this year.

Ms Paetongtarn stressed that the scheme aims to increase tourism revenue by 7.5% and set an overall target of B3.4trn. It projects that the number of foreign travellers will exceed more than 40mn next year, with over 205mn domestic trips across the country, she said.

However, according to Mr Jirayu, the targets are not just about numbers; they represent the government's commitment to making Thailand a global destination known for its cultural richness, natural attractions and hospitality.

Meanwhile, the representatives from the six leading firms hoped the government would improve aviation capacity and enhance connectivity to make it easier for tourists to travel to Thailand and therefore increase the overall number of visitors willing to make the trip, he said.

The prime minister's adviser said the government's first aim was to set up a 'tourism task force' to work with government

agencies on matters of bureaucracy and red tape.

He suggested that the government focus on promoting these enhanced new experiences at every stop that tourists make as they travel to different parts of the country and take advantage of this opportunity to promote new activities and global festivals and events.

Enhancing travel experiences would now include pre-trip and post-trip phases, using increased connectivity and partnerships to make people aware of 'Amazing Thailand Grand Tourism Year 2025' before they make package tour and travel bookings.

The 'five must-dos' and 'hidden gems' initiatives would expand tourism activities and business opportunities for communities and small and medium-sized enterprises, he said.

He went on to say that many firms have already expressed a willingness to support Thailand in hosting global events as they recognise the country's potential as long as the government can prepare the necessary infrastructure.

Officials review rail bridge to Phuket

THE GOVERNOR OF PHANG NGA, Supoj Rotreuang Na Nongkhai, has held a meeting to review the plan to build a rail connection from Tha Noon in Takua Thung District to Phuket International Airport.

The meeting, held at Phang Nga Provincial Hall, saw local leaders and government agencies review and discuss the project's feasibility.

The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) has hired a consulting firm to conduct a feasibility study for the 18-kilometre railway, which would include four stations: Khok Kloi, Tha Noon, Mai Khao and Phuket International Airport, the report noted.

Suwat Kanphum, Head of the Project Development and Environmental Control Division at SRT, along with representatives from the consulting company, presented project details

However, no details of the meeting were reported. The Public Relations branch for Phang Nga Province failed to mention anything about a rail project in its report, posted on Oct 1.

The State Railway of Thailand has no details about the project posted on its website, other than an annual report marking that the project is to go ahead.

A consulting firm (not named in the government report) is currently gathering data and engaging with local communities in both Phang Nga and Phuket as part of the environmental and public participation studies, said the report.



Photo: NBT

"This information will be used to develop a comprehensive project plan to present to the Cabinet for further consideration," the report concluded.

Phuket officials have yet to announce any details about the bridge that will need to be built to make the rail connection a reality.

The most Phuket officials have revealed about the project is that a feasibility study costing B80 million (more than US\$2.3mn) is underway as part of the 'new Sarasin Bridge' project, which is to feature a 'dual-track railway'.

That information was revealed by the new Phuket Highways Chief, Somkid Kittisopit, early last month.

The Phuket News

Restaurant sector sees growth

OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, the restaurant industry has grown significantly, registering as legal entities and benefiting from foreign investment, which has boosted annual income by an average of B63 billion.

Aromon Sapphawitham, Director-General of the Department of Business Development (DBD), says the restaurant sector has expanded rapidly since the COVID-19 pandemic

From 2022 to 2023, the number of new restaurants increased by 32.97%, with 4,017 businesses opening in 2023. The registered capital for these businesses also rose by 22.62%, reaching B8.078 billion. In the first eight months of 2024, 2,847 new restaurants were established, with a combined capital of B5.826bn.

Currently, 44,508 restaurant businesses are officially registered in Thailand, with a combined capital of B220.916bn. Small businesses dominate the sector, making up 98.58% of the total, while medium-sized businesses account for 1.17%, and large businesses for just 0.25%. Most restaurants are structured as limited companies and are located in Bangkok, followed by regions such as Phuket, Surat Thani, Krabi, Chonburi, Rayong and Trat.

The industry's revenue has been increasing yearly. In 2021, restaurants earned B179.6bn, followed by B244.4bn in 2022 (a 36.05% increase), and B306.6bn in 2023 (up by 25.45%). Restaurants in Bangkok performed especially well in 2023, making a profit of B10.37bn, a 106.9% increase compared to the previous year.



Image: NBT

Foreign investment has also played a significant role, with a total investment of B29.1bn. The top five countries contributing to the growth are the United States, Japan, China, India and France.

Technological advancements, such as online food ordering and advertising platforms, have been key factors in the industry's growth. Additionally, innovations in food preparation, such as using organic and imported ingredients and offering unique dining experiences like Fine Dining and Chef's Table, have helped attract more customers. Restaurant design, ambiance and service quality have also become important in creating memorable dining experiences.

The DBD has been promoting Thai restaurants through the Thai SELECT program, which helps raise the standard of Thai restaurants and attract tourists. There are currently 496 Thai SELECT restaurants across the country, known for their high quality and cultural significance.

The department is also supporting the expansion of restaurant businesses through franchises, helping them grow. So far, 248 restaurant franchises have been developed, with 27 of them operating in 31 countries around the world, the report concluded.

NBT

Bus inferno tragedy claims 23 lives, spurs safety push

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Twenty students and three teachers on a field trip were tragically killed by a fire that raced through their bus in Pathum Thani on (Oct 1).

The bus was carrying 38 students, from Kindergarten 2 to Matthayom 3, and six teachers from Wat Khao Praya Sangkharam school in Lam Sak district of Uthai Thani.

Khukhot police confirmed 20 students and three teachers died, trapped in the inferno aboard the bus, while 19 passengers survived the conflagration and were rushed to hospitals.

The driver of the ill-fated bus, 48-year-old Samarn Chankut, initially fled the scene before later handing himself into police, who confirmed they have pressed charges.

Forensic police inspected the charred bus and concluded that a gas leak was the cause of the tragedy.

The bus had 11 tanks



The ill-fated bus destroyed by fire that claimed 23 lives in Pathum Thani on Oct 1. Photo: Bangkok Post

containing compressed natural gas (CNG), and a fuel line, which carries gas from the tank to the engine, had come loose, causing the leak. Six of the 11 CNG tanks installed on the bus were registered, while the remaining tanks were not.

The bus had been in service for more than 50 years and had been modified multiple times. It had been refitted to use gas but the installation was not up to standard.

Authorities later seized five other buses owned by the operator Shinbutr Tour and discovered each had 11

gas tanks installed – exceeding the legal limit of six – just like the ill-fated school bus that caught fire.

The company had failed to send the buses for inspection at the land transport office in Lop Buri on Oct 3 as required, so officials used their GPS system to track and locate the vehicles at a garage in Nakhon Ratchasima province.

When officials arrived, garage workers were seen removing the gas tanks from the five buses, leading to the confiscation of the vehicles.

Charges will be pressed against the company and

those involved in the illegal modifications, and authorities will determine whether the garage is to face legal action.

The tragedy sparked a debate on whether education trips for students should be banned altogether.

After the accident, Education Minister Perm-poon Chidchob ordered students' field trips to be suspended.

If such trips are necessary, buses must undergo safety inspections from provincial land transport offices on a case-by-case basis, the minister said, adding that field trips must be categorised according to students' age.

Younger pupils may have to be accompanied by their parents on the trip, while long-distance inter-provincial trips may have to be avoided, he added.

Their Majesties the King and Queen have bestowed royally-sponsored funeral rites for the victims of the Oct 1 tragedy, with the families deciding it best that the rites be held at the school.

Big Chiang Mai cleanup begins as flood recedes

CHIANG MAI



Elephants await help. Photo: Bangkok Post

CHIANG MAI MUNICIPALITY started a major cleanup on Monday (Oct 7) as the huge flood that paralysed the northern city began draining off.

Tractors and water trucks were deployed to help workers remove the thick alluvial sediment from areas around three bridges crossing the Ping River, Naowarat, Nakhon Ping and Rattanakosin.

Other crews and volunteers continued to supply food and drinking water to houses still cut off by floodwater, while some sections of seven main roads were still closed.

The Ping River reached an historic peak of 5.3 metres on Saturday night, before the depth dropped to 3.85m at the Naowarat monitoring station at 10am on Monday, down from 4m at 6am.

Two people were killed in the Ping River overflow. A 44-year-old man was electrocuted and a 33-year-old woman was submerged in a mud flow, while extensive evacuations were carried out to help people stranded at

numerous locations in Muang and Saraphi districts.

Flood currents also swamped the famous rehabilitation Elephant Nature Park in Mae Taeng district where two resident elephants were swept away and later found dead.

“Our animals are floating adrift in floodwater. Our blind elephants Mae Ploydaeng, Plang Mae Meeboon and several others were swept away by severe floods in our full view,” the park’s founder Saengduean Chailert said.

Mahouts helped control panicked elephants at the park and evacuate them, while 23 blind and old horses were also successfully evacuated although many cows and buffaloes at the park went missing during the severe flooding.

Bangkok Post

Kitrat appointed as national police chief

BANGKOK

THE POLICE COMMISSION appointed deputy police chief Pol Gen Kitrat Phanphet as the new head of the Royal Thai Police (RTP) on Monday (Oct 7).

The decision was reached at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who is also the ex officio chairwoman of the commission.

All eight members of the commission voted unanimously in favour of Pol Gen Kitrat’s appointment as the new national police chief, while Ms Paetongtarn reserved her right as chairwoman of the commission to abstain from voting.

Pol Gen Kitrat, who is the most senior out of all the candidates who were considered to be the country’s 15th national police chief, is due to retire in two years.

He was appointed acting national police chief on Oct 1 and was



Kitrat. Photo: Bangkok Post

widely expected to assume the post, given his background and rank.

He has served as acting national police chief before, notably during the stand-off between former national police chief Pol Gen Torsak Sukvimol and his deputy, Pol Gen Surachate “Big Joke” Hakparn.

He was reported to the National Anti-Corruption Commission by Pol Gen Surachate, over his decision to approve his dismissal from the force when he clashed with Pol Gen Torsak.

At the time, Pol Gen Surachate said Pol Gen

Kitrat’s decision to approve his dismissal constituted a dereliction of duty, violating Section 157 of the Criminal Code.

Pol Gen Kitrat, meanwhile, rejected the allegation, saying he was only following existing laws and regulations.

Pol Gen Kitrat graduated from Benjamachutit Ratchaburi School before going on to study at the Armed Forces Academies Preparatory School in its 25th Class and later attended and graduated from the Royal Police Cadet Academy in its 41st Class.

After graduating, he worked as a deputy chief of the criminal investigation division at Muang district police station in Rayong before rising up the ranks and going on to hold an executive position at the RTP’s headquarters, where he mainly focused on intelligence work.

Before he was appointed deputy national police chief, Pol Gen Kitrat served as an assistant national police chief for some time. Bangkok Post

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Is boom turning to bust?

STEP BY STEP

Simon Causton

There's a growing fear that the Phuket property market is teetering on the edge of a slump, with the very real possibility of a crash looming large. While the rest of Thailand is already grappling with a downturn, Phuket has managed to remain somewhat insulated, but cracks are starting to show.

The broader Thai economy is in a precarious state, burdened by soaring household debt and an oversupply of property. The strong baht is also hurting exports, further compounding the economic woes.

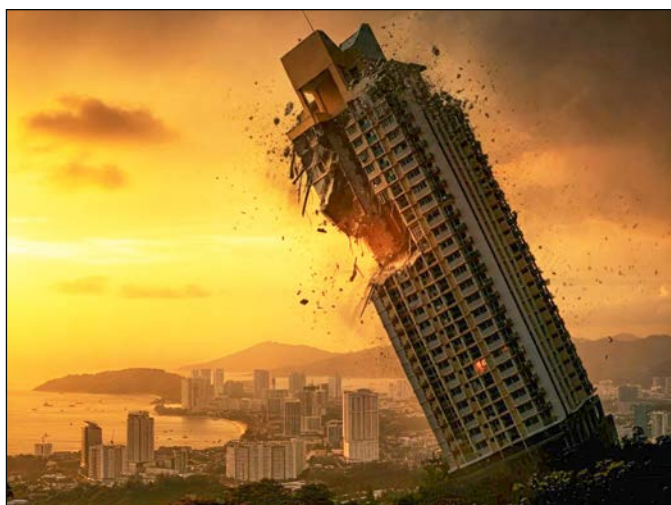
Several local agents have confided in me this week that interest in anything but the most budget-friendly apartments has evaporated, leaving them with a glut of unsold properties. Even the rental market, which should be buzzing as we approach the high season, is worryingly quiet.

Phuket's property market has defied gravity in recent years, fueled by a surge of Russian buyers fleeing the war and remote workers from Singapore and Hong Kong seeking a convenient base in the region. However, the tide seems to be turning.

WHAT'S DRIVING THE CHANGE?

Several factors are conspiring to dampen the once-booming Phuket property market:

Russians Returning Home: As the initial panic subsides and the allure of living abroad fades, many Russians are heading back home or seeking cheaper alternatives in Southeast Asia. They are also finding it harder to bring money into the country with increased restrictions on transfers of rubles into the country.



Oversupply: An estimated 100,000 new units are expected to flood the market next year, intensifying competition and driving down prices. The situation is further exacerbated by unrealistically high asking prices for many villas and apartments. Two-bedroom villas in Cherng Talay are now listed for a staggering B25 million, while four-bedroom villas routinely command prices exceeding B55 million. While such prices may be achievable in a booming market, they now seem driven more by greed than reality.

Overdevelopment: Phuket's rapid transformation from a tropical paradise to a sprawling metropolis is eroding its appeal. Increased pollution, dirty beaches and chronic traffic congestion are tarnishing the island's image. One shudders to think what the situation will be like when the tourist hordes descend in November.

Natural Disasters: This year's floods and landslides serve as a stark reminder of the risks associated with unchecked development and inadequate planning. Mother Nature can't be solely

blamed for these disasters; human actions have played a significant role in altering the landscape and increasing vulnerability.

Global Economic Uncertainty: The growing spectre of a global recession is making investors hesitant and reducing demand for overseas property investments.

THE DOMINO EFFECT

The confluence of these factors is creating a precarious situation for Phuket's property market. Many investors were enticed by promises of 7% rental returns, but if developers fail to deliver, defaults and bankruptcies could trigger a chain reaction. Unfinished projects and a repeat of the last property crash, which left the island scarred with abandoned developments, could become a reality once again.

Perhaps this downturn is a necessary evil, a chance for the island to take a breather and recalibrate. It may be time to embrace a period of tranquillity before the next boom inevitably arrives.

A WORD OF CAUTION

While this article paints a somewhat bleak picture, it's important to remember that the future is inherently uncertain. There are still pockets of strength in the market, and some developers and agents remain cautiously optimistic. However, the warning signs are undeniable, and anyone considering investing in Phuket property should proceed with caution and do their due diligence.

As for me, I'll just brace myself for the inevitable onslaught of angry messages and threats. But hey, someone has to speak the truth, even if it's uncomfortable.

Simon Causton is a long-time Phuket resident, founder of Citadel Phuket and author of 'The Phuket Periodical' newsletter. X (Twitter): @SimonCauston

The November/December 2024 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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Enticing taste of the Med

Joanna Matlub

Located in the heart of Boat Avenue, Cherng Talay, La Marée Seafood Bar brings a vibrant European flair to Phuket, blending French cuisine with Italian influences and a taste of the Mediterranean coast. The restaurant's modern, eclectic décor set the tone for our dining experience.

With a choice between the al fresco outdoor area or the welcoming modern indoor setting, diners can enjoy their meals in a stylish and inviting atmosphere. Inside, a striking central cocktail bar adorned with mosaic tiles draws the eye, while two levels of dining provide ample seating options. We chose a table downstairs, where exposed concrete floors, beamed ceilings and softly glowing hanging lights added an industrial charm to the decor. The ambiance was enhanced by soothing modern acoustic covers that played softly in the background, creating a relaxed, sophisticated vibe for our night out.

The staff at La Marée were an absolute delight, being attentive and knowledgeable throughout our evening, offering thoughtful recommendations from a diverse menu that celebrates the sea. They guided us through options such as their signature Caesar Salads, available with classic additions such as chicken or prawns, or modern twists featuring avocado and salmon. Another



enticing suggestion was the Baked Scallop on a Shell, served with herb butter and lime; a tempting dish we will have to try next time.

For starters, we decided on a mix of seafood and meat. I began with the Octopus Carpaccio, a light and refreshing dish dressed in a zesty lemon and olive oil sauce. The octopus was tender, beautifully presented, and bursting with Mediterranean flavours. My partner opted for the Beef Tartare with parmesan, which came perfectly seasoned and paired with crunchy sourdough toast. The dish was both robust and delicate, with capers and parmesan adding to the elegance.

For the main course, we followed the staff's well thought-out recommendations and indulged in the Octopus with

Romesco Sauce and the Pasta Frutti di Mare. Stunningly plated, the octopus was tender and packed with flavour, served alongside a bell pepper sauce, paprika-marinated celery, and chunky potatoes resulting in a wonderful blend of textures and tastes. The pasta was equally impressive, generously portioned with clams, mussels, prawns and squid in a rich marinara sauce. Both were thoroughly enjoyable dishes, bursting with fresh seafood, expertly prepared, plated and balanced.

Although we were already pleasantly full, we were convinced to try the Tiramisu for dessert. To our delight, it was a standout finale. Decadently creamy, with a generous dusting of cocoa powder left us in agreement that it was one of the best

we had tasted on the island.

La Marée is a must-visit for anyone in the Boat Avenue area seeking fresh, flavourful seafood with a European twist. The exceptional food, stylish yet welcoming atmosphere and truly attentive service combine to make this restaurant a standout on Phuket's dining scene.

La Marée Seafood Bar, 8 Lagoon Rd, Cherng Talay. Open daily: 8am-11.59pm. Price range: More than B1,200. Best to book a table. Major credit cards accepted. Parking nearby No area for smoking. Live entertainment. Free WiFi hotspot. Reservations: 062-7147600. Website: www.LaMareePhuket.com Facebook: La Marée Phuket Instagram: La Marée | Seafood Restaurant



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POP QUIZ

1. Lewis Allan Reed was better known by which name?

2. A hybrid knife and fork is called a what?

3. Which ASEAN countries are run by communist governments?

4. Scotsman Alan MacMasters is famed for which invention?

5. Godzilla is an official citizen of which country?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

1. Entreats

5. Tax pro, for short

8. Kind of rug

13. Indian dish ingredient

14. Goatee site

15. Tiny creature

16. Cheering

18. Diamond measure

19. Tragic model

21. Potpie morsel

22. "What's ___?"

23. Charge

24. Sprinkled around

27. Piercing locale

30. "Rocky ___"

31. Proof goof

35. Civil rights org.

39. German model

43. ___ green

44. Small amount

45. Genetic letters

46. Picker-upper

48. "Jo's Boys" author

51. Garden party?

54. Be-bopper

57. Eggs

58. "The First Supermodel"

Down

1. Turkish official

2. Avoid

3. "Show Boat" composer

4. Colorful wrap

5. À la mode

6. Nut pine

7. Go fish

8. Pouches

9. Prayer leader

10. Printing flourish

11. Die down

12. Shop tool

14. Dry red table wine

17. Freshly

20. Farm animal

24. Under the weather

25. Game piece

65. Avoid

66. Determine one's position

67. Centers

68. Stalk forerunner

69. Auspices, var.

70. Lock

71. Nigerian state

72. Break

26. Iranian coin

28. Biri ending

29. Churchill's "so few": abbr.

32. Thanksgiving serving

33. Telepathy

34. Datebook abbr.

36. Big top?

37. Penny

38. Behind

40. Mo. preceding

41. Food additive

42. Give heed

47. Trick taker, often

49. Butcher's offering

50. Focus

51. Give the heave-ho

52. Guts

53. Habituate

55. Pdf makers

56. Beat

59. Middle of March

60. Kind of pool

61. "Bye now"

62. Learned

63. Inventor Elisha

64. Egg holder

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12
13					14					15			
16					17					18			
19									20				
				21				22			23		
24	25	26							27	28	29		
30					31	32	33	34		35		36	37
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51	52	53			54	55	56		57				
58			59	60				61				62	63
65						66							
67						68					69		
70						71					72		

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

A	C	R	E		P	R	I	M		S	U	R	E	R
S	L	O	T		H	A	R	E		A	N	I	M	E
C	A	T	A	M	A	R	A	N		T	I	M	I	D
I	N	C	L	O	S	E	Q	U	A	R	T	E	R	S
					O	E	R			B	A	Y		
S	M	A	L	L	S		G	L	O	P		S	I	C
C	I	L	I	A		T	O	A	D		A	L	S	O
H	A	L	F	H	E	A	R	T	E	D	N	E	S	S
M	O	O	T		R	U	S	H		I	N	P	U	T
O	U	T		S	A	T	E		O	R	A	T	E	S
					O	P	T			U	S	E		
T	H	E	W	H	O	L	E	P	I	C	T	U	R	E
S	U	G	L	E		A	P	P	E	T	I	T	E	S
S	L	I	E	R		S	E	E	R		P	A	D	S
P	A	S	T	E		T	E	D	S		S	H	O	E

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

6

-pack rings created by Saltwater Brewery in Florida are edible and feed, rather than kill, marine life if the rings end up in the ocean.

80

percent of Major League Baseball players over the past 25 years have fallen into the overweight or obese category.

95

percent of the world's population has health problems, with more than a third having more than five ailments.

5 million

hairs the average human has on his or her body.

86 billion

neurons the average human brain contains, which can form trillions of synapses, which is why a computer is so much slower.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW

Bang Tao sunset. Photo by Gus Chesterton

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

This week in history

Oct 11, 1972

A race riot occurs on the US Navy aircraft carrier *Kitty Hawk* off the coast of Vietnam during Operation Linebacker.

Oct 12, 1810

First Oktoberfest: The Bavarian royalty invites the citizens of Munich to join the celebration of the marriage of Crown Prince Ludwig of Bavaria to Princess Therese von SachsenHildburghausen.

Oct 13, 2010

The mining accident in Copiapó, Chile, comes to an end as all 33 miners arrive at the surface after surviving a record 69 days underground awaiting rescue.

Oct 14, 1973

In the Thammasat student uprising over 100,000 people protest in Thailand against the Thanom military government, 77 are killed and 857 are injured by soldiers.

Thousands of students gather at Ratchadamnoen Avenue, 1973.

Oct 15, 1529

The Siege of Vienna ends as the Austrians rout the invading Turks, turning the tide against almost a century of unchecked conquest throughout eastern and

central Europe by the Ottoman Empire.

Oct 16, 1968

United States athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos are kicked off the US team for participating in the 1968 Olympics Black Power salute.

Oct 17, 1091

A tornado of T8/F4 strength, with wind speeds of 330-418km/h, strikes the heart of London.

Source: Wikipedia

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FRI

11 OCT



Friday Mussels Night

56 PM onwards: Belgian style mussels served with French Fries. All you can eat. Your choice, Your style: Marinier, Selected drinks, Provencale, Garlic & cream, Creamy curry, Blue cheese or Thai style. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 325 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381



Phuket Business Networking - Oct 2024

Make sure to bring lots of business cards as getting to know each other is what PBN is all about. A small entry fee of THB 500 per person includes the first 3 drinks and a light buffet. Location: Oasis Bar, Koh Kaew, starting at 5pm. Register your attendance here: <https://www.facebook.com/phuketbusinessnetworking> or call Jason on 086 479 7471.

SAT

12 OCT



Charity Spaghetti Evening at Viking Rawai

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SUN

13 OCT



Sunday Roast

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

MON

14 OCT



Monday BBQ Night

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

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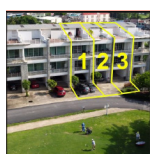
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Farang house 300 metres from Heroines Monument, 2 bed, 2 bath, 1 office with safe, living/dining room, air con every room. Fully furnished with oven, cook top, micro over, washing machine. Undercover outdoor entertainment area. Rented to same tenant for last 6 years. Priced to sell as owner moved to other province. Call 093 629 4400.

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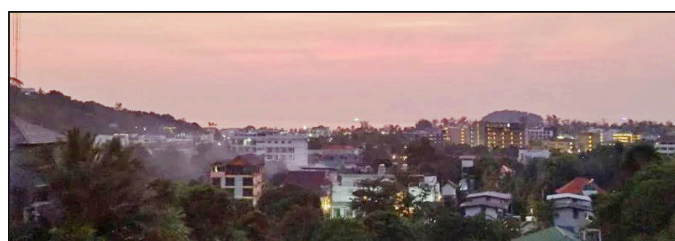


Golf Townhouse: Poolside Haven

This 280 SqM, 3-bed, 4-bath Townhouse at Phuket Golf and Country Home, Kathu is for sale at \$10M. Click the link for 3D tour and info. 10,000,000, Lou Mouille, 68/20 Soi Chonlapathan, Kathu, Kathu District, Phuket 83120, lou@ap-natai.com, 0980218331

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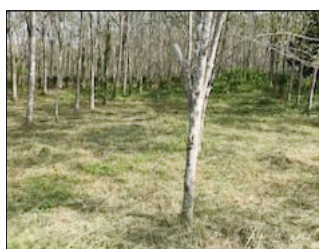
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WED

16 OCT



Wednesday BBQ Night

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

SAT

19 OCT



REGGAE WAVES

Prepare yourself for an unforgettable night at Carpe Diem Beach Club as we invite all reggae lovers to come together under the stars! Live Performance by Job2Do. Feast on an exquisite buffet. A night for a noble cause, all proceeds from this event will benefit the Thai Child Development Foundation. Dress Code: Reggae Vibes. More info - facebook.com/RCoPB

SAT

26 OCT



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Halloween Family Fun

Phuket's Spooktacular Halloween Charity Event. Eat, play, win, repeat! The event everyone will be talking about at Monday's recess. A Halloween family fun event not to be missed. Games with Prizes, Halloween Activities, Kids Tombola, Adults' Raffle, Silent Auction, Live Auction. Spooky Costume Parade. Buffet Lunch at the NH Boat Lagoon Phuket Resort Restaurant, cash bar provided. Children under 4 – free! Children aged 4-11 - 400B includes lunch buffet & 10 game tickets (300B value). Adults and children Over 12 - 850B lunch buffet. For tickets contact Tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org Costumes optional.

FRI

1 NOV



Grow Boating Evening - November 2024

We look forward to seeing you at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm. Our drinks sponsor for the evening will be ZERO SIX ONE Co., Ltd (Thailand) who are the distributors for Acqua 3 Aqueous Ozone machines which use tap water, electricity and air to make ozone water, a cleaning solution that removes dirt, stains and odours. For more details see <https://zerosixone.weebly.com/> There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome. facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket

TUE

5 NOV



Melbourne Cup 2024 at Casa Boho

Fabulous Fundraiser at Funky Casa Boho, Hyatt Regency Kamala from 9:30 to 14:30. Free-flow selected beverages & brunch. Fashions on the Field - with prizes for Best Hat, Best Dressed, Best Suited, and the Chicest Couple. Exclusive prizes to bid on and raffles to win. Screening of the famous thoroughbred horse race. Dancing with resident DJ. Dress code: At the races. Venue: Casa Boho, Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort, Kamala. Donation: 3,000 baht. For tickets, please contact Tina Hall tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org Tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org

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GROW BOATING EVENING - OCTOBER 2024

Another enjoyable evening at the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar at the Phuket Boat Lagoon. The drinks sponsor for the well-attended event was Asia Yacht Agency, who offer a wide selection of charter boats ranging from luxury motor yachts to classic sailing yachts. For more details see asiayachtagency.com Come and join in the fun on the first Friday in November. More info facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket



Bagnaia wins Japan MotoGP

MOTO GP

FRANCESCO BAGNAIA won the Japan MotoGP ahead of championship front-runner Jorge Martin last Sunday (Oct 6) to cut the Spaniard's lead in the overall standings to 10 points with four races remaining.

The Italian defending world champion Bagnaia overtook pole-sitter Pedro Acosta on the first lap at Motegi and stayed in front to finish 1.189 seconds ahead of Martin with Marc Marquez third.

It was Bagnaia's eighth Grand Prix win of the season, his best-ever tally. It was also his first victory at the Japan MotoGP.

"It wasn't easy today to remain constant with the tyres. I think the pace was incredible in the first 10 laps," said Bagnaia.

"We have to move on to the next one with the same ambition, the same strategy and try to continue like this," he added.

The next race is the Australian MotoGP at



Bagnaia. Photo: AFP

Phillip Island in a week's time.

Martin, who is chasing his first world title, started from 11th on the grid after crashing in qualifying.

Martin said he was happy with his Grand Prix runner-up finish despite a late surge that saw him eat into Bagnaia's lead with a handful of laps remaining.

"For sure, being that close to Pecco (Bagnaia) I wanted to give it a try, so I never gave up," said Martin.

"I pushed until the end. Then, three laps to go I had some moments so I said 'OK Jorge, it's time to relax and think about the points'." AFP

Minister eyes Bangkok F1 race

FORMULA ONE

Bangkok Post

The tourism and sports minister has vowed to bring a Formula 1 (F1) street race to Bangkok, aiming to confirm the event by the end of this year.

Tourism and Sports Minister Sorawong Thienthong said last Friday (Oct 4) that he recently held discussions with the chief executive of Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile, which holds the rights to F1 racing, telling the group Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra would like Thailand to host an event in Bangkok, as announced previously by former premier Srettha Thavisin.

Mr Sorawong explained F1 has different licence types, such as circuit races in a stadium or street races in a city.

"F1 is not only about racing. It attracts automotive fans and millionaires from around the world to Thailand," he said.

Mr Sorawong said this event could create more "positive vibes" than other sports and potentially generate more than B12 billion in revenue.

He said Thailand previously discussed holding an F1 street race in 2015, as proposed by former tourism and sports minister Chumpol Silapa-archa. At that time, the ministry studied an F1 route in the Rattanakosin Island area.

However, street construction in the



F1 could be on its way to the streets of Bangkok. Photo: AFP

old quarter is mostly built with timber piles, imposing limits on hosting the race.

Mr Sorawong said the street circuit might be changed to other areas in the capital, as the government is conducting a feasibility study for other sites. The authorities plan to issue an update in December, he said.

Meanwhile, another F1 circuit track is being planned by a group of private investors in the U-tapao airport city of the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC).

EEC secretary-general Chula Sukmanop said the F1 project is in the design phase and the related authorities must obtain a licence in the next stage.

Mr Chula said although the track might be used for F1 races only two days a year, the track can be open to

the public year-round for people who want to experience the prestigious racing environment.

In a separate event, the EEC and Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau are preparing to hold the Mini EEC Fair 2024 on Oct 7 to 9, hoping to increase investment for S-curve industries in three provinces in the EEC.

The fair is expected to generate at least 400 business matching deals worth B45 million, according to the organisers.

Mr Sorawong said the ministry is revising its 2024 tourism stimulus plan in preparation for a discussion with the Finance Ministry on the budget for the co-payment 'We Travel Together' scheme, expected to be launched during the low season next year.

Family affair as LeBron, Bronny James make LA Lakers bow

BASKETBALL

LEBRON JAMES AND ELDEST SON Bronny James claimed a piece of NBA history last Sunday (Oct 6) after making their long-awaited first appearance alongside each other for the Los Angeles Lakers.

The duo appeared together at the start of the second quarter in the Lakers' 118-114 preseason defeat to the Phoenix Suns in Palm Desert, east of Los Angeles.

While LeBron James impressed with 19 points in just 16min 20sec on court before sitting out the second half, Bronny found the going harder with zero points in just over 13 minutes on court. The younger James attempted just one shot.

"It was cool for both of us, especially our family," LeBron James, 39, said afterwards of playing alongside Bronny, who celebrated his 20th birthday on Sunday. "It's definitely a moment I'll never forget."

"As a father it means everything. For someone who didn't have a dad growing up, to be able to have that influence on your son, to be able to have moments with your son, to work with your son - that's one of the greatest things a father could ever hope for."

James Sr. admitted though that there



Bronny and LeBron James of the LA Lakers warm up. Photo: AFP

were moments on court that felt surreal.

"We came out of a timeout and we kind of stood next to each other. I kind of looked at him. It was like being in 'The Matrix' or something. It just didn't feel real. But it was great to have those moments."

Anticipation about when the James duo would become the first father-son duo to appear in the same NBA lineup together has built since the Lakers picked Bronny with the 55th pick in the NBA Draft in June.

LeBron has said that playing with Bronny on the same team has given him a new lease on life as he enters the 22nd season of a glittering career.

Bronny is expected to spend most of his rookie season in the developmental G-League rather than the Lakers senior squad. AFP

Russell Crowe-ONE film 'a dream' for Thailand

MMA

ONE CHAMPIONSHIP boss Chatri Sityodtong says upcoming Hollywood film 'The Beast In Me' starring Russell Crowe will be a "dream come true for Thailand".

Production will begin in December and culminate at a ONE Friday Fights quarterly 'tentpole' event on Jan 24 next year at Bangkok's Impact Arena, the Singapore-based MMA promotion outfit confirmed recently.

Chatri revealed Academy Award winner Crowe, who co-wrote the script, approached his team earlier this summer with "very strong interest" in ONE being an integral part of the film's storyline.

"This is not just a cameo," Chatri told the media during the ONE Friday Fights 81 press conference on Sept 27.

"Russell is an ex-fighter turned coach in ONE; his student is an ex-fighter who used to be a world champion in ONE, and he's coming back because his brother got injured by an illegal blow in ONE."



Chatri Sityodtong. Photo: Bangkok Post

"The whole movie is interwoven [with ONE], and they will shoot a live sequence within our event."

"I was very impressed with the producers' vision for the movie when I met them. A Hollywood blockbuster with an A-list star like Russell Crowe, this has all the makings of a massive global blockbuster hit. So we're very excited."

Chatri said the film "is a real partnership" and revealed ONE has input on the script to "make sure there is authenticity."

"You'll see a lot of our superstars in the movie," he

added. "You'll see some gym owners and promoters."

"I specifically asked for the final scene to be shot in Thailand. I'm doing everything in my power to bring Thailand to the world stage of sports and business, and bringing Muay Thai and ONE to the world."

"A blockbuster, A-Grade Hollywood movie with an A-List star like Russell Crowe... It is a dream come true for me and I think for Thailand too."

The film will also shoot in the United States and Australia, Chatri said.

Bangkok Post

Liverpool hold on to top spot

FOOTBALL

AFP

Liverpool beat Crystal Palace 1-0 to remain top of the Premier League last Saturday (Oct 5) thanks to Diogo Jota's first half goal.

However, the Portuguese international was then guilty of missing two big chances to extend Liverpool's advantage as Palace piled on the pressure.

Liverpool withstood although victory came at a cost as goalkeeper Alisson Becker limped off with a hamstring injury.

The win means Arne Slot has now won nine of his first 10 games since succeeding Jurgen Klopp as Liverpool manager.

Arsenal and Manchester City both came from behind to win and maintain on Liverpool at the top of the table.

City defeated a stubborn Fulham side 3-2, with the visitors, who had not lost since the opening night of the season at Manchester United, taking the lead thanks to Andreas Pereira's finish from an outrageous backheel assist by Raul Jimenez.

However, a Mateo Kovacic brace and a Jeremy Doku strike was enough to secure the win and the points for Pep Guardiola's team.

Arsenal saw off a thus far winless Southampton 3-1 with Bukayo Saka once again the star of the show, setting up Kai Havertz and Gabriel Martinelli before scoring himself.



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah (left) vies with Crystal Palace's Trevoh Chalobah. Photo: AFP

"He has the capacity to change games, to decide games," said Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta on Saka's impact.

"If you want to be at the top, sometimes players have to create those moments and he's certainly done that today."

Meanwhile, Erik ten Hag insisted he retains the support of Manchester United's hierarchy after his troubled side were held to a 0-0 draw against Aston Villa.

After finishing eighth last season – their worst final position since 1990 – United are languishing in 14th place so far in this campaign with only two wins in their first seven league games and club co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe has refused to guarantee Ten Hag's position, admitting the club is not where he wants them to be.

Elsewhere, Tottenham blew a two-goal lead courtesy of first half strikes from Brennan Johnson and James Maddison to lose 3-2 at Brighton, while Noni Madueke's equaliser rescued Chelsea in a 1-1 draw against 10-man Nottingham Forest that ended the Blues' five-match winning run.

West Ham eased the pressure on new boss Julen Lopetegui by ending a run of three home defeats to beat Ipswich 4-1 while Anthony Gordon saw a penalty saved on his return to Goodison Park as Newcastle were held 0-0 at Everton.

There were six goals before half-time as Brentford beat Wolves 5-3 to leave the visitors still rooted to the foot of the table as Leicester secured their first league win of the season with Facundo Buonanotte's strike enough to beat Bournemouth 1-0.

Chanathip selected as captain for King's Cup

FOOTBALL

CHANATHIP SONGKRASIN has been chosen by Football Association of Thailand (FAT) president Nualphan Lamsam as captain of the national squad for the 50th King's Cup football tournament, which starts today (Oct 11) in Songkhla.

Chanathip, a crafty playmaker, was recalled to the War Elephants team after failing to make the line-up for a four-nation invitational event in Hanoi last month.

"Chanathip has captained the Thai team many times in the past, and he is one of the most experienced players in this squad. He is respected by all the members of the squad," Ms Nualphan announced on Sunday (Oct 6).

"I would like the Thai football fans to come and cheer the Thai national team during this tournament. It is the first time the national team play in the southern region after more than 10 years.

"Those who cannot make



Chanathip. Photo: Bangkok Post

it to Tinsulanonda Stadium in Songkhla province, can watch the national team's matches live on Thai Rath TV [32]."

Meanwhile, attacking midfielder Jaroensak Wonggorn, who plays alongside Chanathip at Thai League 1 club BG Pathum United, said he was surprised to see his name in the national team for the King's Cup.

"I am ready and fit to help the national team win the King's Cup for the first time in seven years," said Jaroensak.

"If I get a chance to play in the tournament, I will do my best for it."

Syria, Tajikistan and the Philippines are the three other teams participating in the tournament. *Bangkok Post*

English Premier League, envoy take aim at illegal streaming

FOOTBALL

THE ENGLISH PREMIER League (EPL), in collaboration with the British Embassy in Thailand, has launched its Boot Out Piracy campaign in the country for the second consecutive year.

Thailand and Indonesia are the two countries in Southeast Asia to host the initiative, which aims to protect the intellectual property of Premier League live broadcasts and promote legal viewing.

Key stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies and other authorities, participated in discussions on the matter, and a special reception was held recently in Bangkok.

The event sought to raise awareness about the negative impact of piracy on the sports industry and reinforce efforts to safeguard exclusive broadcasting rights for Premier League matches in Thailand held by cable TV provider True Visions.



Photo: AFP

With an estimated 38.7 million Thais watching EPL matches through legal channels, the country remains one of the league's most passionate fan bases.

However, many fans still reportedly watch games via illegal streaming platforms.

At the special reception, Catherine West, British Minister for the Indo-Pacific, addressed the importance of combating illegal streaming in Thailand.

"Thailand has some of the most passionate football fans in the world. It doesn't take long walking around Bangkok to notice that – just jump into any taxi, and

within five minutes, you'll be discussing which team will win the Premier League this year," she said.

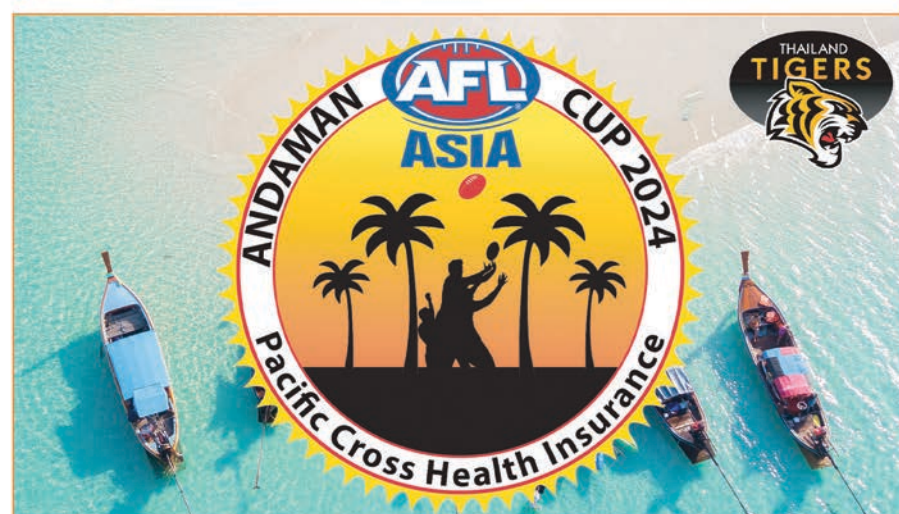
However, she expressed concern about the widespread use of illegal streaming, noting the associated risks for fans and explaining that illegal streaming sites expose them to dangers such as malware, scams, viruses, and the prospect of illegal gambling.

"A recent study revealed that 90% of ads on pirate websites contain high-risk content," she warned.

In response, the Premier League has increased its collaboration with Thai authorities to combat piracy, with Ms West acknowledging that while progress has been made, challenges remain.

She urged Thai football fans to support the EPL through legal means. "We want fans in Thailand to watch the Premier League in the best quality and the safest way, and that is through a subscription to official services," she said.

Bangkok Post



OVER 35's AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT IN PARADISE



WHEN: SATURDAY 26th OCTOBER 2024
10:00AM Start

WHERE: ACG CRICKET & SPORTS FACILITY, PHUKET, THAILAND

FORMAT: MEN'S DIVISION
OVER 35'S / 12 A SIDE /
2 X 12 MINUTE HALVES

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Sport

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Thailand keen to host an F1 race > p14

TIME TO GO PAFC coach resigns

Coach Go (centre) with club Chairman Russ Horsley (left) during happier times in pre-season. Photo: Supplied

FOOTBALL

Simon Causton

In a bombshell announcement, Coach “Go” Charupong Sangphong confirmed his departure from Phuket Andaman FC (PAFC) last Sunday (Oct 6), citing irreconcilable differences with the club’s owner Russell Horsley.

Taking to Facebook, Coach Go clarified the reasons behind his recent absence from the dugout, addressing speculation and rumours surrounding his commitment to the team.

He stated that a breakdown in his relationship with the club’s

foreign owner Horsley, whom he described as lacking in integrity and professionalism, led to his decision to step down.

“I have a problem with the owner of the team, a foreigner who has no integrity and a very bad personality,” Go explained in his post. “I’m not saying all foreigners are bad, but this person is the worst I’ve ever met. His attitude, his knowledge, it’s all bad, and he even looks down on Thai people. This made it impossible for me to work with him.”

Go, who previously led Customs United to relegation from T2 last year, rejoined PAFC this season for his second spell at the club. He expressed his disappoint-

ment at the situation, particularly for the players he recruited, but remained firm in his decision, stating he could not work in an environment that compromised his values.

“I’m not a rich person,” he added. “I want my money, but I’m a straightforward person. I don’t beg. If I have to work in a way that’s not true to myself, I won’t do it.”

‘WORST COACH’

PAFC responded to Coach Go’s departure with a statement wishing him well in his future endeavours, while acknowledging the differences in “professionalism and temperament” as contributing

factors to the separation.

The club also expressed their hope that freeing up the A-licence coaching spot will allow them to appoint a full-time successor who can effectively implement their vision for the club in due course.

Adding fuel to the fire, another source close to the situation revealed that a foreign player who has played in Thailand for over 10 years and had previously played under Coach Go at another club, described him as “the worst coach he has had.”

This parting of ways, while unexpected, may ultimately benefit both parties. PAFC can now move swiftly to appoint a new head coach who aligns with the club’s vision

and can guide the team out of its current predicament; they sit bottom of their league table following a sobering 4-1 defeat at Phatthalung last Sunday (see below).

They will be hoping for a fresh start when they host Pattani FC in their next game at Surakul Stadium on Wednesday (Oct 16), kick-off 3:30pm.

As for Coach Go, this may be an opportunity for him to find a club where his coaching philosophy and temperament are a better fit.

This dramatic turn of events has certainly injected a dose of drama into the Thai League 3 season. Let’s hope it sparks a turnaround for PAFC.

PAFC faced with many questions after heavy defeat

FOOTBALL

PHUKET ANDAMAN FC (PAFC) approached last Sunday’s (Oct 6) match at Phatthalung with confidence and optimism but ultimately left with more questions raised than answers following a sobering 4-1 defeat.

Sadly, the scoreline will linger longer in the memory than the encouraging first-half performance, where Phatthalung were content to allow PAFC possession.

However, despite dominating possession and showcasing slick passing, PAFC’s lack of bite in

the final third will be a major concern for the club hierarchy.

Phatthalung scored in the 27th minute as PAFC’s defence switched off, before Brazilian forward Lucas struck the crossbar from the penalty spot shortly afterwards.

PAFC equalised in the 70th minute, with Ball gliding across the penalty area before cutting inside and calmly slotting the ball past the keeper.

Sadly, the positive energy generated by the goal was short-lived. Instead of pushing for a winner, the Lobsters sat back and conceded three quick-fire goals in four minutes.

The defeat leaves owner Russ Horsley with several pressing questions and, while it is not time to panic, there is no doubt that positive steps are needed.

Firstly, following the resignation of former coach “Go” Charupong Sangphong on Sunday due to a conflict with Horsley, who will take the reins? And will they be able to translate the owner’s vision onto the pitch?

Secondly, how can the team’s overall fitness be improved? The athleticism of many in the squad is questionable, and they tire far too easily.

Thirdly, with a squad boasting several impact players (Bebe, Torky, Petch, Ball, Game, Rahman), how can they be utilised effectively to create clear-cut chances?

Fourthly, how can they add steel to the midfield? Captain Kla and Min lack physicality and the ability to control games, while perennial substitute Not, despite his experience, is alarmingly out of shape.

Finally, who is going to score the goals? Bank has an eye for the spectacular but seems unable to convert the simplest of chances. While this may all seem negative, it provides a



Bebe in action. Photo: Supplied

blueprint for December when the winter break and transfer window open.

The result leaves PAFC rooted to the bottom of the table following 3 losses and 1 draw from their opening four games.

Simon Causton