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# THE LIST



A standard application for a one-year permit to stay.  
Photo: The Phuket News / file

## TITLE DEEDS, HOME WALK-THROUGHS NOW NEEDED FOR PERMIT TO STAY

**The Phuket News**  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Immigration is refusing to accept applications for one-year extensions unless the foreigner provides a copy of the Chanote land title for property where the foreigner is staying – even if the foreigner is only renting the property – and photographs of inside the home where the foreigner is staying, including in the bedroom.

The requirements were confirmed by Pol Sen Sgt Maj Nounphan Sri-jow, designated as a ‘Squad Leader’, who refused an application on these

grounds on May 3.

The requirement for a foreigner to provide a copy of a Chanote title for a property the foreigner does not own appears to be an attempt by Phuket Immigration to hold foreigners staying in Phuket responsible under Section 38 of the Immigration Act, which applies only to landlords and “householders”.

During the TM30 debacle, it was confirmed by previous Phuket Immigration chiefs that applications for one-year permits to stay will not be refused for information that foreign applicants are not required to provide under Immigration laws.

However, when asked by *The Phuket News*, Phuket Immigration Chief Pol Col Thanet Sukchai dodged the question whether the officer enforcing the new requirements was legally empowered to refuse the application on the grounds above. He presumed the officer had the right.

Col Thanet recently ramped up efforts to have landlords and “householders” report to immigration any foreigners staying at the premises, and has started fining people – namely Thai nationals – for not abiding by the law. He has even issued ‘yellow cards’ to warn landlords of the seriousness of their transgression

(see pages 4, 6)

Regarding the photographs required of inside the home where the foreigner is staying, *The Phuket News* had previously been informed of one incident when a foreigner was asked to do a ‘walk-through’ of the home where he was staying to show an immigration officer through a video chat on a mobile phone what the home looked like – a procedure that normally requires a search warrant approved by a court for an officer to enforce.

Since news of the new requirements broke last week, many more foreigners have confirmed they have been...

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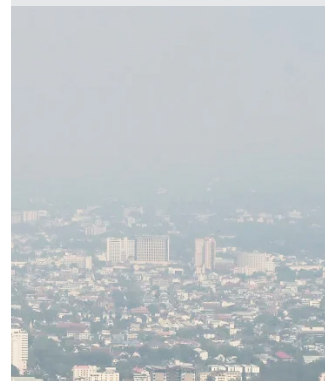
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**Donations help Ukrainian expat boy in coma**



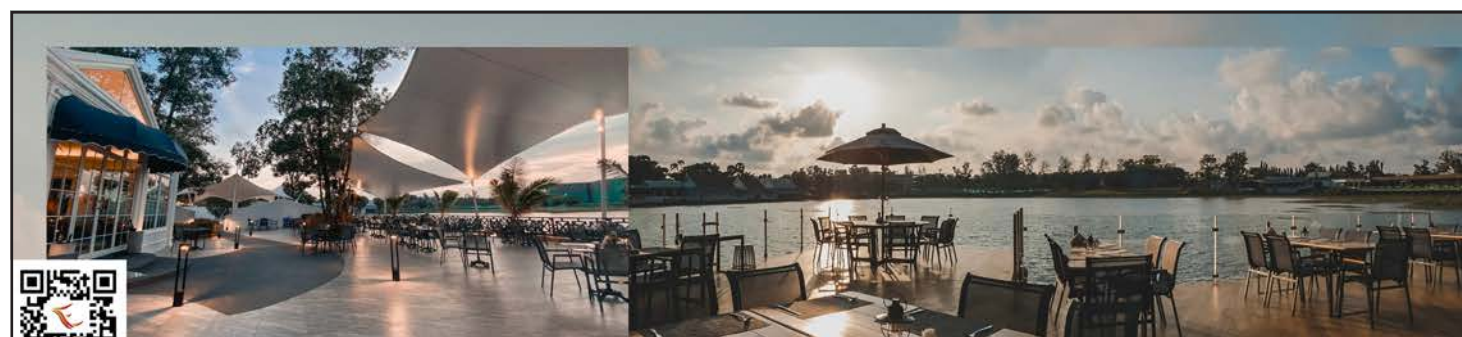
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**BCG support helps alleviate greenwashing**



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## News



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# Expats face house inspections

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...subjected to the same requirements.

Col Thanet Sukcha told *The Phuket News*, “It’s the Phuket Crime-Free scheme. If a foreigner is staying in a place, the person must have photos to prove that he or she is really staying [there].

“For the title deed, I am not sure what [job] he does. The enforcement is very strict now. It is not a rejection but the documents [required] are not complete and [the immigration officer] just asked [in order] to gather all the documents required. If the documents are complete, the visa will be extended,” Col Thanet said.

However, *The Phuket News* was present when the application was flatly refused without the copy of the Chanote title deed and photos of the interior of the house, including the bedroom. It was not a request; it was a requirement.

Asked specifically about the need for a foreigner renting a property being required to present a copy of the Chonte title deed, Col Thanet said, “It’s back to the question of what job he [the foreigner] does... It is case by case.

“There are basic documents that are required with a checklist but the extra documents are considered request case by case which depends on the immigration agent’s consideration.”

Of note, the officer who refused the application required a copy



Private financial information of foreigners is freely available at Phuket Immigration. Photo: *The Phuket News*

of the reverse side of the Chanote title also be provided, ensuring that Phuket Immigration was informed of any financial encumbrances on the property.

“For a one-year extension, I am not the one who approves. I am only the middleman sending the request [for visa extension] to Hat Yai [home of Immigration Division 6 headquarters] for approval there and if the documents are not ready, it will go as a circle nonstop,” Col Thanet said, alluding that he is only following orders.

That seems to be the case, with reports by long-term expats throughout the country confirming they have been subjected to home visits.

Of note, officers inspecting inside the home as part of the application process was reported not common outside Phuket. Also not common was the requirements to provide a copy of a Chanote title deed for a property where the foreigner is only renting. Officers outside Phuket were reportedly content arriving in person to only confirm that the foreigner was actually staying at the address provided to Immigration.

“You can ask [the foreigner] to pass his passport to [the reporter] and explain what was the issue and what type of visa he is extending. I can have a look and sort out what is the problem,” Col Thanet offered.

The foreigner whose application

was flatly refused without the “extra documents” is a British national who has been living and working – fully legally – in Phuket for more than 20 years.

As reported to Phuket Immigration each year, the foreigner has been living in the same rented house with his wife and child for more than 12 years. His application was for a one-year permit to stay on the basis of being married to a Thai.

The foreigner, who works in local media, was later subjected to a video call walk-through of his rented home by an immigration officer – on the presumed condition that his application for a one-year permit to stay will be denied if he refused.

*The Phuket News* has informed several consuls on the island of the new rules to refuse applications on the new requirements above.

## FREE TO ALL

Another key concern raised at Phuket Immigration is that the office continues to re-use copies of private financial information from applications for their standard forms.

Freely available to anyone who walks through the door at Phuket Immigration are the standard application forms for 90-day reporting, ‘renewing visas’ and registering the foreigner’s address. These forms are branded “Recycle” and are printed on the reverse side of pages submitted with applications.

Among copies of these “Recycle” forms picked up by *The Phuket News* last week were copies of private financial information of foreigners, and Thais, including a copy of a bankbook showing the name of a real estate consultancy featuring the bank account number, the bankbook number and the account balance.

The very next page clearly showed the names, social security numbers and salaries of 19 people working for the same real estate consultancy.

In past years, previous Phuket Immigration chiefs assured that the practice of freely divulging private financial information to the general public would cease.

## Prayut hits campaign trail in Phuket, highlights local candidates

MORE THAN 12,000 people turned out in support of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha at a campaign event at Saphan Hin last Sunday night (May 7).

The event was held to promote the United Thai Nation Party (Ruam Thai Sang Chart) and the party’s candidates to contest the Phuket seats in the national general election to be held on Sunday (May 14).

Joining Gen Prayut on stage for the event were party leader Peeraphan Saliratwiphak and party secretary-general Ekanat Promphan, along with the party’s three candidates for Phuket.

Piya ‘Boat’ Seedokbuab, a former Deputy President of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO), will be contesting Phuket Constituency 1, and



Photo: *Phuket Info Center*

has secured No. 8 on the ballot.

Nuanchan Samartkoom-ban, who has been involved in local politics for 20 years and has also served as a PPAO councillor, will be contesting Phuket Constituency 2. She has secured No. 3 on the ballot.

Channarong Prateep Na Thalang, a former PPAO councillor for PPAO Constituency 5, will be contesting Phuket Constituency 3. He has secured No. 7 on the ballot.

Before arriving at Saphan Hin, Gen Prayut and his top-flight party entourage visited the Heroines Monument to pay their respects.

At Saphan Hin, where attendees were left standing room only despite 12,000 chairs being set out, Gen Prayut told the crowd that he missed Phuket and hearing people speak in the Southern dialect, and he missed Southern food.

While walking through the crowd, Gen Prayut was mobbed by supporters and well-wishers presenting garlands and taking photos.

According to a report by the Phuket Info Center, Gen Prayut, referred to by his nickname ‘Phi Tu’, asked the crowd, “Who opened Phuket Sandbox?”

“At that time I decided to open [Phuket to tourists during the COVID-19 pandemic] because we were confident that Phuket people would work together with the government,” he said.

“To this day, Phuket is one of the world’s best tourist attractions. There are many tourists and we are bidding to host Expo 2028. If we get to host it, this will be the future of Phuket, it will make Phuket known around the world and will make people travel to Phuket 10 times more. Please

believe in Phuket people,” Gen Prayut added.

Gen Prayut promoted the Ruam Thai Sang Chart Party’s ambitions to “make Phuket’s tourism better”, by having more tourists visit Phuket, increasing local people’s incomes, including those of the elderly. He continued with the party’s plans to provide more social programs to improve the quality of life of elderly people throughout the country.

He repeated the party’s goal of building a new road from the greater Bangkok area to Southern Thailand as part of what has been called the ‘Thailand Riviera’ project.

He also read a poem calling for an end to divisions within the country, “as it is very dangerous”.

Gen Prayut thanked the people who turned out in support of the event, and urged them to vote for the Ruam Thai

Sang Chart Party candidates in Phuket.

He also reassured people that he was a member of the Ruam Thai Sang Chart Party. “Don’t believe anyone who says that I belong to another party. I am definitely in the Ruam Thai Sang Chart Party,” he said.

Gen Prayut also specifically lambasted liars, said the Phuket Info Center report, noting that Gen Prayut said he was “like the heart of a dying person, he does not lie”.

“But some people who are about to die tell lies that change every day. Therefore, please believe that he is a person who speaks the truth and does the truth. If you want a real government with clear results, you must choose,” the Phuket Info Center report concluded.

*The Phuket News*



# United effort delivers hope

## Donations see Ukrainian boy Daniel, 10, now in Bangkok care

The Phuket News  
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The family of 10-year-old drowning victim Daniel Andreiev is holding onto hope after a united effort by the Phuket community and people from around the world made it possible to airlift him to Bangkok for treatment not available on the island.

However, the fight for Daniel's life is far from over, and more help is needed.

Daniel, an international school student from Rawai, was rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital on May 2 after he drowned in a swimming pool at his family house and was revived by CPR after 10 minutes of clinical death.

As of late Monday night (May 8), Daniel remained alive but still in a coma. The day before (May 7) he was transferred to Samitivej Hospital in Bangkok on a commercial medevac flight urgently organised and paid for by local donors. Their support had significantly increased his chances of recovery.

Medical tests at Samitivej Hospital and doctors' statements have encouraged cautious optimism in Daniel's mother, Liudmyla Andreieva, though no specific prognosis has



Daniel Andreiev was revived after drowning on May 2. The boy now remains in a coma, and his family needs help as hospital bills increase daily. Photo: Help Daniel Group

been announced yet.

"His body is starting to maintain mid-level parameters without external assistance. Nutrient absorption has quadrupled. Lab tests show no signs of viral or bacterial infection, thus the antibiotic treatment is about to be stopped. Heart and blood pressure remain within normal levels, but the brain does not respond yet. On Wednesday (May 10), there will be another meeting of the board of his doctors to share their conclusions

and forecasts," Liudmyla revealed on Monday.

A volunteer group, including Ukrainians, Russians and Thais, supports Liudmyla on a 24/7 basis and coordinates the joint effort to save Daniel, or Danya, as family and friends call him.

Liudmyla relocated to Phuket with her son and daughter after the beginning of the Russian invasion in 2022 while her husband stayed his fighting country. The volunteers say

that local and international support for the family is overwhelming.

"The times of plight always come unexpectedly, and we sincerely wish nobody would ever face anything like this. However, we also want everyone to know that the world is full of kindness, and many people are ready to lend a helping hand, no matter where you are or what your ordeal is.

"This support is especially important when an unbearable burden falls on your shoulders while you

are alone in a foreign country and have to face the trouble on your own without family or friends," the volunteer group said in a message of gratitude to their supporters.

"At this present time, one might argue that their voice and support are not significant enough to make a change. This is not true. Every baht, dollar, ruble or hryvnia that goes into the mother's account, every social media share and every news report re-inspire our faith in people and the kindness of the world, as well as increase Danya's chances of coming back home. We extend our heartfelt thanks to you for that," the group added.

Daniel's much-hoped-for recovery, the miracle that volunteers pray and struggle for, will require a lot of time, professional effort from Thai doctors, good luck – and money.

Those who wish to provide financial support, whether big or small, can donate through a direct transfer to Daniel's mother's bank account:  
Account number: 264-4-690-857  
Bank name: Bangkok Bank  
Account holder: Liudmyla Andreieva

For more information about Daniel's condition, alternative donation methods and other ways to help, visit HelpDaniel.info.

## Early voters turn out in force

EARLY VOTING LAST SUNDAY (MAY 7) saw crowds of Thai citizens waiting in queues at polling stations across the country and in Phuket ahead of the national general election on Sunday (May 14).

The Phuket office of the Election Commission of Thailand (ECT Phuket, or PEC) confirmed that 29,033 people had registered to take part in the advance voting, from 8am through 5pm last Sunday.

ECT Phuket Chief Orapin Achevasuk explained that 15,833 people registered for early voting in Constituency 1 while 5,858 people registered in Constituency 2 and 7,342 people registered in Constituency 3. The May 14 election marks the first time that Phuket has three seats in the House of Representatives to be contested.

Ms Orapin explained earlier that there are a total of 313,594 eligible voters registered in Phuket, with 101,164 eligible voters in Constituency 1, 102,388 eligible voters in Constituency 2 and 110,042 eligible voters in Constituency 3.

It is hoped that at least 70% of voters will turn out to cast their vote this Sunday.

### POLICE REMINDERS

Phuket Provincial Police Chief Pol Maj Gen Sermpan Sirikong last week confirmed that the ban on the sale of alcohol, as was in effect for the early voting last weekend, will be enforced to full effect for the national general election on Sunday.

As such, "alcohol sales, distribution and alcohol consumption gathering" will be banned from 6pm tomorrow (Saturday, May 13) through 6pm Sunday (May 14).



Early voting in Phuket last Sunday (May 7). Photo: PR Phuket

Those caught violating the ban face a fine of up to B10,000 or up to six months in jail, or both.

In a separate reminder, the Royal Thai Police issued a list of the most common election-related violations punishable with fines and/or jail terms. Among top violations were:

Leaving the polling station with the ballot. Jail term from one to five years, fine from B20,000 to B100,000, deprivation of the right to vote for up to 10 years.

Bringing to the polling station a device to take photos of voters' ID cards. Jail term up to one year, fine up to B20,000.

Receiving or giving money or other remuneration for voting or not voting. Jail term from one to five years, fine from B20,000 to B100,000, deprivation of the right to vote for up to 10 years.

Damaging or intention to damage the ballot, restoration of a damaged ballot. Jail term up to five years, fine up to B100,000, deprivation of the right to vote for up to 10 years.

Causing property damage at the polling station. Jail term up to three years, fine up to B60,000.

The Phuket News

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## PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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SAT MAY 13



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SUN MAY 14



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Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

MON MAY 15



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE MAY 16



High: +32°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

WED MAY 17



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

THU MAY 18



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s



The woman from Poland died in the road accident on May 4. Photo: Ruamjai Kupai

## Polish woman crushed by 22-wheeled truck

A WOMAN FROM POLAND DIED INSTANTLY at the scene after failing to control her rented motorcycle, falling down on the road and being run over by a truck and trailer in Chalong last week.

The fatal accident in Chalong was reported by the Ruamjai Phuket Foundation just after 4.30pm on May 4. The accident happened on Chao Fa West Rd, less than 700m from the foundation's headquarters.

At the scene in front of the entrance to Chaofa Thani housing estate, rescue workers found a damaged Honda CRF enduro motorcycle belonging to a local rental shop.

Near the motorbike was the body of the Polish woman. According to the Ruamjai Phuket Foundation, she died at the scene from multiple injuries, including cracked skull and broken bones. Her body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Eyewitnesses at the scene told rescue workers that the woman was riding her bike in the direction of Soi Ta-Iad when she hit a roadside guardrail. The woman then fell on the road and was run over by a 22-wheeled truck and trailer.

Chalong Police later confirmed that the driver of the truck did not flee the scene and gave his statement to the officers when they arrived. According to the driver, the bike was taking over his truck and then slipped on the road. He was unable to avoid a collision. Chalong Police officers have a CCTV video of the accident showing no wrong actions by the truck driver.

## Downpour floods underpass, spurs day-long traffic delays

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A heavy downpour early Monday morning (May 8) left the Darasamut Underpass on the bypass road closed for a day following a seven-car pileup and officials unable to clear dangerous floodwaters in the tunnel.

Traffic Police were hoping the underpass would be fully re-opened to traffic in both directions by Tuesday afternoon. "There is not a lot of flood water remaining [in the tunnel] and it should not take long to fix this," Pol Lt Sommart Tanmaneeprasert of Wichit Police told *The Phuket News*.

The underpass flooded following a heavy downpour at about 2am Monday. By 6:30am Monday there had been a seven-car pileup in the southbound lane of the tunnel, leading to several of the concrete barriers separating traffic in the tunnel being damaged.

No injuries were reported as a result of the pileup. However, two of the damaged concrete barriers struck by cars ended up in the northbound lane inside the tunnel, forcing traffic police to close the tunnel to traffic in both directions for safety.

By 11:30am Monday, traffic police reported that broken water pumps had left officials unable to drain the floodwaters from the



Photo: Phuket Info Center

tunnel. Motorists were urged to avoid the area.

By 5pm Monday traffic police were able to reopen the northbound lane to traffic, but the southbound lanes remained closed.

Traffic Police reported that the delays in reopening the tunnel were due to two of the drainage pumps being inoperable, and the third pump had ceased functioning.

By 6pm Monday, nearly seven hours after officials knew at least two of the pumps were not working, a pump truck from the Phuket Waterworks Authority (PWA) arrived to start draining the floodwaters from the tunnel.

It was not reported why a pump truck from the Phuket Provincial branch of the Department of Disaster Prevention and

Mitigation (DDPM-Phuket) was not dispatched to clear the floodwaters. The DDPM-Phuket has mobile pump trucks on 24-hour standby to use to clear floodwaters from villages in distress during heavy rains.

By Tuesday morning (May 9), traffic was still allowed through the tunnel northbound, but the southbound lane was closed.

Attempts by *The Phuket News* to contact Phuket Highways Office Chief Yuthana Pitak to clarify why the pump system had failed were unsuccessful.

The Darasamut Underpass is regularly closed for maintenance to ensure that the lighting system and the pump system to drain the tunnel of any floodwaters are operational. The underpass was last closed for a full maintenance check in January.

## FARANG AFFAIRS

By Stephff

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## Machete murder fugitive arrested

OFFICERS FROM THE Central Suppression Division (CSD) Region 5 branch have arrested a man at an elephant camp in Pa Khlok who was wanted for using a machete to kill a man in Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

Amnuay Ketsarin, 43 was arrested at the elephant camp at about 8pm on Apr 30, police announced on May 2. The name of the elephant camp where he was hiding was not revealed.

Amnuay was embroiled in a dispute over money he had paid for land. He had paid a man an amount of money for a plot of land.

Failing to agree to a final price to be paid for the land, Amnuay visited the man on Apr 28 as the land had not been transferred to his name.



Photo: Crime Suppression Division

During the argument, Amnuay allegedly grabbed a machete and struck the man on the head, killing him. Amnuay then fled the scene, police said.

Police did not disclose how they came to learn that Amnuay was staying at the elephant camp.

Amnuay was taken back to Thung Song Police Station in Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

He has denied all charges against him, CSD police confirmed. *Eakkapop Thongtub*



# Lawyers eye free legal advice at police stations

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Pol Gen Chatchawan Suksomchit, chairman of the Senate Standing Commission on Law, Justice and Police, was in Phuket last week to hear a proposal to have more lawyers providing free legal advice at police stations in Phuket.

The proposal was put forward by Rungnapha Putkaew, President of the Phuket branch of the Lawyers Council of Thailand, at the branch's headquarters at PK International Law Office on Chao Fa Est Rd in Chalong, on May 2.

There are currently 76 registered lawyers willing to perform the service, Ms Rungnapha said.

However, there is currently only one lawyer present at Patong Police Station and Phuket City Police Station providing free legal advice from 8:30am to 4:30pm, including on weekends and public holidays, she explained.

The aim is to have more lawyers providing free legal advice to people in need at police stations, including tourists, Ms Rungnapha said.

"I have suggested that 'free' lawyers be provided at more police stations, including Chalong Police Station, Thalang Police Station and Wichit Police Station," she added.

The lawyers would be able to provide assistance to foreigners on basic legal



Photo: PR Phuket

issues, such as traffic accidents, Ms Rungnapha said.

"Some of the lawyers have language skills to help foreigners with basic legal advice, and if on the day the lawyer cannot communicate well [with the foreigner], we would suggest the foreigner return another day to meet with another lawyer," she added.

However, the limitations come from funding. The lawyers providing the service are paid by the government, Ms Rungnapha admitted. She declined to elaborate on how much the lawyers are paid for providing free legal advice.

The project to have lawyers providing free legal advice has encountered funding difficulties since its inception. The project was initially proposed in

2019, but its launch was delayed due to delays in government funding being made available.

The project to have lawyers providing free legal advice at police stations has the potential to bring much benefit, especially for locations such as Phuket, where there is a great diversity in the types of people on the island, Ms Rungnapha said.

"The Phuket [branch of the] Lawyers Council has the potential to be able to solve problems for foreigners, especially tourists who encounter various problems, including the matter of accidents," she said.

The proposal to the Committee on Law, Justice and Police will be considered by the Senate, Pol Gen Chatchawan said.



Photo: Mai Khao OrBorTor

## Local mayor targets illegal billboards

SARAWUT SRISAKUKHAM, Chief of the Mai Khao Tambon Administration Organisation (OrBorTor) has ordered officers to scour the area and remove any signs posted illegally by the side of the road.

The campaign began on May 3, with officers removing a host of illegally posted signs, including for a seafood restaurant, a local pub, a cannabis cafe in Phang Nga and a Phuket housing project.

Of note, in some cases

officers removed illegally posted signs just metres away from campaign posters for local candidates in the upcoming election that were not removed.

Mai Khao OrBorTor explained in a post online that the roadside signs were removed as they were installed without a permit issued by Mai Khao OrBorTor, as required in accordance with the Cleanliness and Orderliness of the Country Act 1992 and the Public Health Act 1992. *The Phuket News*

## Out-of-season turtle nest found north of Phuket left to hatch

OFFICIALS FROM THE Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) Region 6 office have reported a turtle nest found in Koh Phra Thong, off the coast of Kuraburi District, Phang Nga.

A team of DMCR officials joined a village chief assistant (Phu Chuay Phu Yai Baan) of Moo 3 Baan Koh Ra on May 4 to inspect the turtle nest, laid on the sand at Fai Wab Bay.

From the tracks in the sand officials estimated the turtle to measure 130cm from flipper tip to flipper tip, with a shell some 40cm wide.

The officers did not speculate which species of turtle had laid the eggs.

A DMCR report of the inspection said that the number of eggs in the nest had not been determined, but noted that the nest was 51cm deep, and the eggs were 3.9cm long.

As the nest was laid high enough from the high tide mark, the officials have decided to leave the eggs



Photo: DMCR

where they have been laid and to not disturb the nest further so the eggs can hatch naturally.

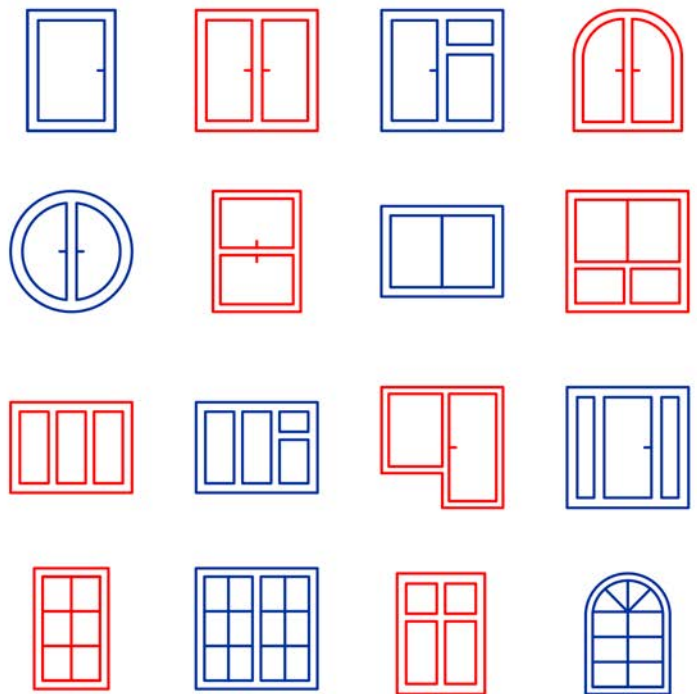
Local authorities and members of the DMCR's

Marine Protection Volunteer Network will keep an eye on the nest so the eggs are not disturbed, the DMCR noted.

*The Phuket News*



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## Departure tax 'will not be imposed'

THE CONTROVERSY about a B1,000 departure tax on outbound Thais and foreign residents is over only a legally obliged opinion survey. The tax will not be imposed, the Revenue Department Deputy Director-General has confirmed.

Winit Wisetsuwannaphum explained last Sunday (May 7) that the department did not plan to impose the departure tax of B1,000 for outbound flights and B500 for exit by land or sea for Thais and foreign residents.

He referred to a 1983 executive decree concerning the departure tax.

Mr Winit said although a ministerial regulation has waived the departure tax since 1991, the constitution required the department to assess the suitability of the old executive decree.

Therefore, the Revenue Department conducted the opinion survey on the tax on its website [www.rd.go.th](http://www.rd.go.th) from May 3-17, he said.

"There is not a plan to collect the departure tax,"



**Suvarnabhumi airport packed with travellers ahead of the bustling Songkran holidays from Apr 13-17. Photo: Bangkok Post**

Mr Winit said.

By the end of next year the department would conduct opinion surveys on laws on inheritance tax and petroleum income tax (PT), he said.

PT is a direct tax, levied annually (for each accounting period of 12 months duration) on net profit of a "petroleum taxpayer" involved in the business of petroleum exploration and production. It is also levied on the disposal of profits outside of Thailand.

*Bangkok Post*

# Chinese outpace Russian arrivals coming to Phuket

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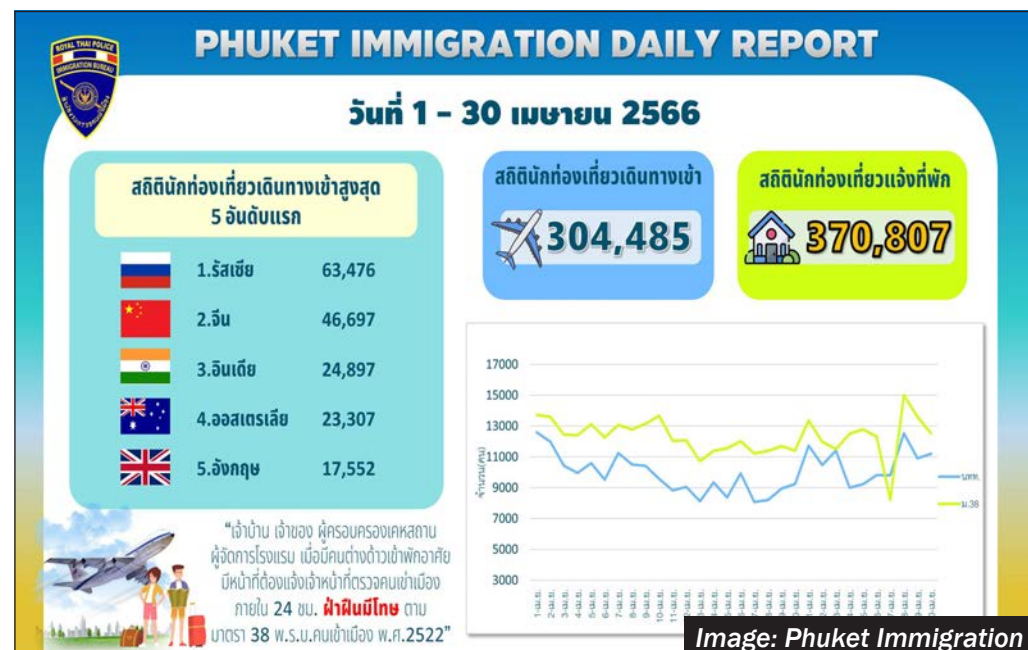
The number of Chinese arrivals during one week has surpassed the number of Russian arrivals by more than 4,000, according to a report released by Phuket Immigration.

The report, for the period Apr 1-30, was issued on May 1, marking Russians as the top nationality for international arrivals for the month of April.

In total, 63,476 Russians arrived in Phuket during April, compared with 56,583 for the period Apr 1-26 – marking 6,893 new arrivals from Russia in the previous week.

However, the number of Chinese arrivals for the month totalled 46,697, up from 35,615 the previous week – marking 11,082 Chinese arrivals on the island in the preceding seven days, 4,189 more than the number of Russians arriving in Phuket within the same week.

Arrivals from India remained in third place, with 24,897 arrivals during April, up from 21,025 last week



(+3,872 in the previous seven days).

Tourists from Australia placed fourth for the month with 23,307 arrivals, up from 20,839 (+2,468). British nationals arriving on the island held fifth place, with 17,552 arrivals from the UK during April, up from 15,773 (+1,779).

The number of international arrivals for April totalled 304,485, up from 256,590 as of Apr 26 (+47,895).

The number of foreigners

registered as staying in Phuket climbed 50,646, from 320,161 as of Apr 26 to 370,807 in total for Apr 1-30.

Also marked in reports issued by Phuket Immigration for the month of April were a total of four 'yellow cards' issued as warnings. All four 'yellow cards' were issued to Thai nationals, in line with the new policy by Phuket Immigration Chief Pol Col Thanet Sukchai to start ramping up pressure on

making sure landlords, or "householders", were aware of the legality of any foreign tenants.

In total, 29 foreigners were arrested for breach of immigration laws during April, the reports confirmed.

A further 17 people were fined for breach of Section 38 of the Immigration Act, which requires householders to notify immigration of any foreigners staying at their premises.

## Prisoners start vocational training in boatbuilding

TEN INMATES FROM Phuket Prison began training as boatbuilders on Monday (May 8) under a project to provide prisoners with skills to use to support themselves after their release from jail.

The project was announced at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on May 2 between Phuket Provincial Prison and Roeng Varee boatbuilders located in Soi Palai 2, Chalong.

Present at Phuket Provincial Hall for the signing was Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew. Signing the MoU on behalf of Phuket Prison was Kritsana Tipayachan, with Roeng Varee Managing Director Krisada Pichetphonanon signing the MoU on behalf of the boatbuilding company.

Krisana Thipayachan, Commander of Phuket Provincial Prison, explained that the project is part of a larger ongoing effort by the Department of Corrections to provide outplacement work for prisoners to provide them



Photo: PR Phuket

with vocational training.

The aim of the project is to equip prisoners with skills to use after their release so they can earn a living and support themselves and their families, he said.

Roeng Varee produces works on about 50 boats a year, including construction, repairs and refits to customer's specifications, he added.

Under the MoU, the project will start with 10 inmates who will work at the boatyard for three months. The inmates will work Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:30pm, but not on Saturdays and Sundays.

The inmates will be paid the minimum wage in Phuket

of B354 a day for their work, he said.

The inmates selected must have less than three years and six months of their sentence remaining. Any drugs inmates selected must be serving their sentence for their first offence, and must not have committed a major offence.

"Phuket Provincial Prison sincerely hopes that society will accept inmates working in establishments outside the prison, to give prisoners an opportunity to generate income and reduce expenses for the family while in prison, and it can be used as a starting point for a new career," Mr Krisana said.

*The Phuket News*

## 'Green' loan to encourage companies to invest in renewable energy usage

AS PART OF A RENEWABLE ENERGY initiative, the Government Savings Bank has announced it is introducing loans to enable people to invest in solar panels to help reduce household energy costs while having a positive impact on the environment by reducing global warming.

The 'GSB Go Green loan' will support the installation and purchase of equipment for ordinary people to help alleviate increasing household electricity costs, Withai Rattanakorn, President of the Government Savings Bank, said on May 2.

Fixed interest loans as low as 1.99% with repayment installments as low as B199 per month per B100,000 loan will be offered throughout the country, said Mr Withai.

The loan can be used to purchase equipment such as solar cells, solar rooftop panels and EV installation. Additionally it can be used towards the purchase of electric vehicles (EV), hybrid cars, electric motorcycles and even electrical appliances that help save energy.

"Global warming is becoming an increasingly more serious problem, affecting people and ecosystems. It is therefore a global goal that all parties must work together to push the concept of using renewable energy into practice by promoting energy that is reusable, safe and environmentally friendly to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions which are a major cause of global warming," Mr Withai said.

"The GSB Go Green loan can help encourage the use of renewable energy as an alternative to traditional energy sources such as electricity while benefiting households by reducing costs," he added.



Conditions relating to the loan stipulate borrowers must be aged 20 and above. Also, when combining the borrower's age with the loan payment period, it must not exceed 70 years, Mr Withai explained. The loan must not be any more than 10 times the total of the person's annual income, set at a maximum of B500,000 per person on a loan payment period of no more than 7 years, with a fixed interest rate of 7.99%, and installments of B799 per month per B100,000.

Those wishing to use collateral against the loan, such as land and property, can avail an offer with a repayment period of no more than 30 years, with fixed interest rates as low as 1.99%, and installments as low as B199 per month per B100,000. The special offer is only valid until Dec 30, 2023.

Those interested can apply for credit services at any branch of the Government Savings Bank nationwide. Further details can be accessed at [www.gsb.or.th](http://www.gsb.or.th) or by calling a GSB Contact Center on 1115.

See 'When the washing is still green' on page 8.



# Election Commission vows error-free polls

## BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The Election Commission (EC) has vowed to prevent errors in handling Sunday's (May 14) poll while accepting criticism over flaws reported in the advance voting.

EC secretary-general Sawaeng Boonmee, on Monday (May 8) led media to inspect the sorting of envelopes to be delivered for a vote count on Election Day, said the poll agency will ensure no errors are made when the nation votes.

He expects a smooth election as the procedures are less complicated and more staff are deployed. On Election Day, voters will cast ballots at their respective polling stations, unlike in advance voting, in which sealed ballots are mailed to their constituencies for a vote count.

The poll agency came under heavy fire over its organisation of the May 7 advance vote. One mistake involved officials at a voting station put-



A woman casts her vote at a polling station inside a Bangkok shopping mall on May 7. Photo: AFP

ting postal instead of electoral constituency codes on some 100 envelopes of cast ballots.

Mr Sawaeng gave assurances that no ballots cast in the advance voting would be lost despite the mistake. The envelopes that contained wrong electoral constituency codes will be checked with the logbook of registered voters, but he noted that checking could be difficult in some cases.

He dismissed concerns that the mistakes found during the advance voting could lead to a court declaring the general

election invalid when asked about such a possibility.

Dhanant Subhadrabandhu, chief executive of Thailand Post, said that the sorting of ballots from advance voting in the country and overseas will arrive at their respective constituencies today (May 12).

Mr Dhanant said almost 70% of ballots cast by Thai voters overseas arrived with the sorting supervised by a committee comprising the Consular Department, the EC and Thailand Post. He assured that the sorting centre is monitored around the clock,

staff are not allowed to carry mobile phones during work, and they are searched when clocking out.

The Pheu Thai and Seri Ruam Thai parties slammed the EC for its poor handling of the advance voting, pointing to mistakes made by election officials and overcrowding at some voting stations.

Pheu Thai secretary-general Prasert Chantararuangthong said many of the mistakes in the advance voting could have been prevented and strongly urged the EC to address the issues to avoid mistakes on Sunday.

He criticised the glitch in the online advance voter registration system, saying two voters in Bangkok's Bang Kapi were told that their registration was incomplete and they were not allowed to cast ballots.

Somchai Srisutthiyakorn, a former EC member now chief strategist of the Seri Ruam Thai Party, said the party would propose setting up an ad-hoc committee to probe the EC's handling of the elections after the House convenes.

## Buddhist monk charged with embezzling B300mn

### NAKHON RATCHASIMA

A FORMER MONK, PHRA Ajarn Khom Abhivaro, has been arrested on charges of embezzling B300 million from Wat Pha Dhammakiri in Nakhon Ratchasima, where he was based.

Mr Khom, 39, who achieved fame as a meditation expert and had many high-profile followers, was arrested last Saturday (May 6) on a warrant issued by the Criminal Court for Corruption and Misconduct Cases (CCCCM).

Pol Lt Gen Jirabhop Bhuridej, commissioner of the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB), said that investigators and members of the new executive of Wat Pa Dhammakiri found money and gold bullion worth about B300mn buried on a hill behind the temple in Pak Chong district.

"The offences might go back to 2020... The motive would be the huge amount of money that faithful people donated... The suspects may have wrongly believed the money came from the people's faith in them, but that is not



Phra Ajarn Khom Abhivaro. Photo: Bangkok Post

the case at all," Pol Lt Gen Jirabhop said.

The CIB began its investigation after the National Office of Buddhism (NOB) said it suspected the monk of collecting some temple donations for his own use. Mr Khom denied the charges.

Police on Monday asked the CCCMC to extend the detention of the three suspects for another 12 days while the probe continues.

They are Mr Khom, his young sister Juthathip Phubodiwarochuphan, 35, and Wuthima Thaamor, 38-year-old former abbot of the temple.

Mr Khom was previously found to have engaged in sexual activity and voluntarily left the monkhood on May 1 as a result.

Bangkok Post

## Virus curbs set to return to schools

### BANGKOK

THE EDUCATION AND Public Health ministries have been told to ramp up COVID-19 control measures in schools due to concerns over a potential spike in infections when students begin returning to class later this month.

Traisuree Taisaranakul, deputy government spokeswoman, said on Monday (May 8) that Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has asked the ministries to start preparing for the start of the new school semester next week.

"COVID-19 cases have been on the rise since the Songkran festival last month, and the numbers look set to increase as Thailand is about to enter the rainy season, which is also known as the start of the flu season," she said, noting cases have been increasing because pandemic controls have been lifted.

To prevent cases from spiralling out of control, Gen Prayut asked the Education and Public Health ministries to bring back preventive measures at schools and



Youngsters are led to class at Banbangkapi School, Bangkok, in May last year. Photo: Bangkok Post

other educational institutions.

Last Friday (May 5), the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced that COVID-19 is no longer considered a public health emergency of international concern, effectively ending the three-year pandemic.

While the disease is no longer considered a major danger to public health, all members of the public are still advised to get a COVID-19 booster shot annually, especially those who are considered vulnerable to catching the disease, said government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri.

As COVID-19 has yet to be classified as a seasonal infectious disease, the public

must remain cautious and follow preventive measures to prevent another uptick.

According to the Public Relations Department, there were 1,699 new infections between Apr 30 and May 7, an average of 242 per day, and 10 deaths.

Since Jan 1, 10,081 COVID-19 cases have been reported, along with 298 deaths.

Tares Krasanairawiwong, chief of the Department of Disease Control (DDC), on Monday called on the public to get both a COVID-19 booster shot at the same time as an influenza shot as the rainy season is arriving. The jabs are free at public hospitals.

Bangkok Post

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# When the washing is still green

A perspective on environmental lip service

Haze smothers Chiang Mai earlier this year. *Photo: NNT*

**Dr Paul Crosio**

**T** trillions of dollars have been poured into funds touting their green credentials via various voluntary disclosures as the world economy seeks to accelerate its low-carbon transition. More than 90 nations, representing an estimated 80% of global emissions, have pledged to commit to reaching net zero, according to the think tank World Resources Institute (WRI).

Despite growing global momentum to curb greenwashing, financial and green analysts say the fact there are no uniform environmental, social and governance (ESG) and sustainability standards mean that even defining the

problem, let alone finding consensus on it, is difficult.

This lack of uniform standards may change. The European Union and the US have drafted respective corporate disclosure rules, and the G20-backed International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) in February announced it would support two sets of rules – one on climate and one on sustainability – to form a “global baseline” beginning in 2024. ESG advocates said this could compel – and incentivise – companies to put climate at the core of their operations, and signal that greenwashing will not go unchecked.

In the interim it is essential for companies to have a clear view of what it means to claim to be “sustainable”, “100% recycled” or “environmentally

friendly". Overall, transparency and credibility in ESG reporting is crucial to avoiding being shamed because of "green sheen" marketing.

A recent event in Australia has thrown a spotlight on the increasing risks of greenwashing – when companies make misleading claims about their environmental credentials. In February this year, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission filed a high-profile lawsuit claiming substantial damages against Mercer Superannuation, a pension fund, for alleged greenwashing regarding the sustainability of its investment options. It was decided by the courts that their investment options, including companies still involved in high carbon fuel extraction and processing, was misleading and insufficient care was taken in making these “sustainable investment” assertions. The courts drew a nexus between greenwashing and fraud and had little difficulty in awarding damages to the Commission.

Following suit, last month the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission revealed that over half of the 247 companies reviewed online for potential greenwashing had made “concerning claims” about their environmental credentials. In a statement, the watchdog noted that companies are obligated to substantiate any green or sustainable assertions with evidence such as reliable scientific reports, transparent supply chain information, and reputable third-party certification. The Commission said it is taking steps to name these companies and demand they rectify their misleading assertions.

## ESG in Thailand: a wilting revolution?

It has been widely reported that it is becoming increasingly difficult to breathe in Thailand due to smoke from fires in northern Thailand, causing respiratory issues for many individuals and motor vehicle pollution rising in Bangkok. For at least seven days straight in April 2023, Chiang Mai ranked as the world's most polluted city according to the Air Quality Index (AQI).

The fires are readily tracked using NASA satellites with imagery available to the general public through its 'Fire Information for Resource Management System' (<https://firms.modaps.eosdis.nasa.gov/>). A number of the fires have been attributed to farms, and these farms supply some of Thailand's biggest companies. The farmers complain that without assistance from the government, they are unable to afford the machinery to avoid burning the excess

biomatter. There are clearly easy ways to prevent the unnecessary burning.

Research clearly indicates that addressing air pollution and environmental degradation has significant benefits for the climate, economy and people, but it hasn't become a significant election issue. Overall, it seems that, at a minimum, the environmental components of ESG initiatives are still evolving in Thailand. How any ESG initiatives progress will largely depend on the way stakeholders and regulators hold Thai companies accountable for their actions and claims. However, regulatory intervention is rare in Thailand.

On a positive note, there have been several initiatives taken by both the Thai government and the private sector to promote ESG standards and reporting, including the Thailand Sustainable Investment (THSI) Initiative, launched in 2015, and the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) economic model which aims to promote sustainable investment practices. Even the Stock Exchange of Thailand has introduced sustainability-related guidelines and reporting requirements, including the adoption of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).

ESG is slowly evolving in Thailand, but a lot will depend on the financial impact to Thai companies for not adopting a credible ESG agenda. Thailand has come a long way since the days of open building sites which allowed concrete dust to blanket Bangkok. Thailand also recently adjusted the level of PM 2.5 ppm from 50 microns down to 37.5 microns, but no real meaningful change was implemented to keep the air quality better aside from this change.

Western companies may create change as they are now demanding ESG and supply chain audits to assure they, themselves, can meet their more rigorous ESG reporting requirements. Time will tell whether this green sheen will last or if the dust from the bad air is already affecting its lustre.

*From global corporations to small businesses, organisations worldwide are dedicated to integrating sustainable and socially responsible practices into their operations. Silk Legal can help companies understand the challenges of navigating the complex ESG landscape and maximising opportunities for impact. Their experienced team can provide tailored solutions to help businesses achieve ESG goals and stand out as a leader in their industry. For more information email [info@silklegal.com](mailto:info@silklegal.com).*

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# 'Guardians Vol 3' gets emotional

David Griffiths

**G**rab the tissues because you are going to need them for this one. With so much talk that the last couple of Marvel movies have had no 'heart', director/screenwriter James Gunn (*The Suicide Squad*) bucks that trend with 'Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol 3' – a film with so much emotion and heart that audience members will find themselves crying from time and time and shows a director that was obviously completely in love with the project that he was working on.

This third – and if you believe Marvel, final – instalment of the Guardians franchise begins with a sombre mood. Star-Lord (Chris Pratt – *Jurassic World*) is constantly drunk as he deals with the loss of Gamora (Zoe Saldana – *Avatar*). Yes, she is back from the dead but has no memories of them being together, which for him is a bitter pill to swallow.

Meanwhile, Rocket (voiced by Bradley Cooper – *Silver Linings Playbook*) is in a weird funk as he dwells on what the Guardians once were, while Drax (Dave Bautista – *Blade Runner 2049*), Nebula (Karen Gillan – *Selfie*), Groot (voiced by Vin Diesel – *Fast & Furious*) and Mantis (Pom Klementieff – *Oldboy*) continue to build Knowhere as a home for the Guardians and the people they look after.

Kraglin (Sean Gunn – *Gilmore Girls*) and Cosmo (voiced by Maria



Zoe Saldana, Chris Pratt, Vin Diesel and Dave Bautista in *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3* (2023). Image: IMDb

Bakalova – *Bodies, Bodies, Bodies*) have their own little disagreement going, but help when they can – especially as they both try to build their supernatural powers.

The Guardians are snapped out of their moods though when Knowhere is suddenly attacked by Adam Warlock (Will Poulter – *We're The Millers*) under the direction of The High Evolutionary (Chukwudi Iwuji – *John Wick Chapter 2*), and the resulting attack leaves one of the Guardian's lives in danger. Star-Lord then finds himself having to snap out of his drunken mire to work with the entire team to try and save his friend's life.

*Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol 3* is as vastly different to anything else that Marvel has been doing recently as anyone could imagine. James Gunn takes the film into some dark territory as it explores topics including loss, grief and

animal torture. That may sound extreme, but they are all topics important to the plot here, especially as it deals with the things that Star-Lord and Rocket have been through in their lives.

What is so impressive with these scenes is that it feels like Gunn has forgotten that he is directing a comic book movie and instead brings real emotion to the film. Not only are some of the scenes so emotionally challenging that they are likely to reduce the audience to tears, they also allow for some brilliant performances from the cast.

Chris Pratt really rises to the challenges thrown at him during this film and his emotional performance is evident in some of the key scenes. Likewise, Dave Bautista rises to the occasion as Drax must come to some harsh realisations throughout the film – while this is also potentially Karen Gillan's most important film in the

MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe) as Nebula, and gets a lot of screen time throughout the film.

This film also possibly delivers one of the best fight sequences of the MCU when the Guardians find themselves in battle in the hold of the ship. They come together nicely, and it feels like Gunn morphs into Quentin Tarantino as he delivers a particularly, yet beautifully creative fight sequence, that sees the Guardians blast and slice and dice their way through their enemies.

When going to see *Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol 3*, there is very little to suggest just how good the film is going to be. Somehow, though, everything comes together for this one – a brilliant screenplay from Gunn and his team of writers, his directorial style allowing for action and emotion and a cast that seem to bring their best in what may be some of their final times playing the characters that many cinema fans have come to know and love. This is clearly one of the best Marvel movies ever made and is a film that fans of the series will want to watch over and over.

*Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol 3* is currently screening in Phuket and rated '13'.

4/5 Stars

*David Griffiths has been working as a film and music reviewer for over 20 years. That time has seen him work in radio, television and in print. You can follow him at [www.facebook.com/subcultureentertainmentaus](https://www.facebook.com/subcultureentertainmentaus)*



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POP QUIZ

- 1. Who is Hollywood star Chris Pratt's father-in-law?
- 2. Who was the only British Prime Minister to have been assassinated?
- 3. The word dinosaur, from the Greek "deinos" and "sauros", literally translates as what in English?
- 4. The first modern hand grenade became available to British troops in 1915. What was it called?
- 5. Which word in the phonetic alphabet is also a capital city?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across

  - 1. Phoenix neighbor
  - 5. Year type
  - 9. Touches
  - 14. Denmark monetary subunits
  - 15. Oscar winner Paquin
  - 16. Salami choice
  - 17. Targeted
  - 20. Untilled tract
  - 21. Unstable particle
  - 22. Urges onward
  - 23. Match game?
  - 24. Point to the right
  - 25. Cornered
  - 32. Safari sighting
  - 33. Windows forerunner
  - 34. Lending letters
  - 35. Litmus reddeners
  - 36. Low-\_\_\_
  - 37. Off to one side
  - 39. Coffee order: Abbr.
  - 40. Swell place?
  - 41. Gadabouts
  - 42. Ensnared
  - 47. Rabbit \_\_\_
  - 48. Swelter
- Down

  - 1. Drudgery
  - 2. Haliatus albicilla
  - 3. Stiff hair
  - 4. Blue \_\_\_, Ohio
  - 5. Gap
  - 6. Implant deeply
  - 7. Like most graffiti: Abbr.
  - 8. \_\_\_ de deux
  - 9. Shocked
  - 10. Wild things
  - 11. Newton, for one
  - 12. Bolted
  - 13. Get smart
  - 18. Corrects
  - 19. Persian
- potentates

  - 23. Sort
  - 24. Conscious minds
  - 25. Lively
  - 26. Sore spot
  - 27. Coniferous forest
  - 28. Consummate
  - 29. Less important
  - 30. "Lohengrin," e.g.
  - 31. Date
  - 36. Some M & Ms
  - 37. Certain discriminator
  - 38. Good shot
  - 40. Goat antelope
  - 43. Flavored liqueur
  - 44. Poetic feet
  - 45. Old World herbs
  - 46. Ruble kin
  - 49. Certain herring
  - 50. Container weight
  - 51. They, in Trieste
  - 52. Mesh of veins
  - 53. Thin fastener
  - 54. Crosspiece
  - 55. \_\_\_ meridiem
  - 57. Coal carrier
  - 58. Be shy

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

- 1) Arnold Schwarzenegger; 2) Spencer Perceval;
- 3) Terrible lizard; 4) Mills bomb; 5) Lima

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20					21					22				
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25	26	27						28				29	30	31
32								33				34		
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			47					48						
49	50	51						52				53	54	55
56						57					58			
59						60					61			
62						63					64			

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

14	U	V	E	A	S	15	H	E	N	C	E	16	S	P	A	17
18	S	O	U	G	H	19	A	N	A	L	E	P	T	I	C	20
21	S	T	R	A	I	N	S	A	T	A	L	E	A	S	22	
23	R	E	O	R	I	E	N	T	E	D	C	I	T	E	24	
25					T	O	T	E	S		M	A	N	E	26	
27	P	L	A	T	E	N				I	O	N			28	
29	A	I	D	E	A	C	C	E	N	T	A	R	P		30	
31	P	L	A	N	E	T	O	F	T	H	E	A	P	E	S	32
33	A	T	M	A	N	C	H	U	I	S	I	S			34	
35				N	I	L				M	O	M	E	N	T	
37	A	B	U	T	S	K	E	A	N						38	
39	E	M	I	R	D	E	A	D	N	E	T	A	L	E		40
41	G	E	T	S	C	A	R	R	I	E	D	A	W	A	Y	42
43	I	N	T	E	R	N	I	S	T	G	L	I	D	E		44
45	S	T	I	T	E	N	T	H	E	A	G	E	R			46

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

California mansion, lush with green lawns and vegetation, can guzzle as much water as 90 average homes in one year.

15.4

percent higher risk of death have those with high-stress jobs with little control over their work than those with low-demand jobs.

1,000

years is how long Stephen Hawking believed was the limit of survival of the human race without escaping "beyond our fragile planet".

117 million

American adults are in a facial recognition network used by US law enforcement agencies.

340 billion

US dollars is the annual healthcare costs and lost earnings in the US from daily exposure to hazardous, common chemicals.

Source: Ueberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Relaxing on Rawai Beach in the evening. Photo by Marco Capriz

Got an unusual or particularly beautiful picture of Phuket? Email it to [execeditor@classactmedia.co.th](mailto:execeditor@classactmedia.co.th)

This week in history

May 12, 1926

The Italian-built airship 'Norge' becomes the first vessel to fly over the North Pole.

May 13, 1787

Capt Arthur Phillip leaves Portsmouth, England, with 11 ships full of convicts (the "First Fleet") to establish a penal colony in Australia.

May 14, 1955

Eight Communist bloc countries, including the Soviet

Union, sign the Warsaw Pact defense treaty.

May 15, 1905

The City of Las Vegas, Spanish for "The Meadows", in Nevada is founded when 110 acres (0.4km<sup>2</sup>), in what later would become downtown, are auctioned off.

May 16, 1988

US Surgeon General C. Everett Koop officially reports that the addictive properties of nicotine are similar to those



Protesters and military personnel during the Black May protests in 1992. Photos: Ian Lamont

of heroin and cocaine.

May 17, 1992

Three days of protests against Thai Prime Minister Suchinda

Kraprayoon begin in Bangkok, leading to a military crackdown that results in 52 confirmed deaths, hundreds of injuries, many disappearances, and more than 3,500 arrests.

May 18, 1980

Mount St Helens erupts in Washington State, the most disastrous volcanic eruption in US history, killing 57 people and causing US\$3 billion in damage.

Source: Wikipedia



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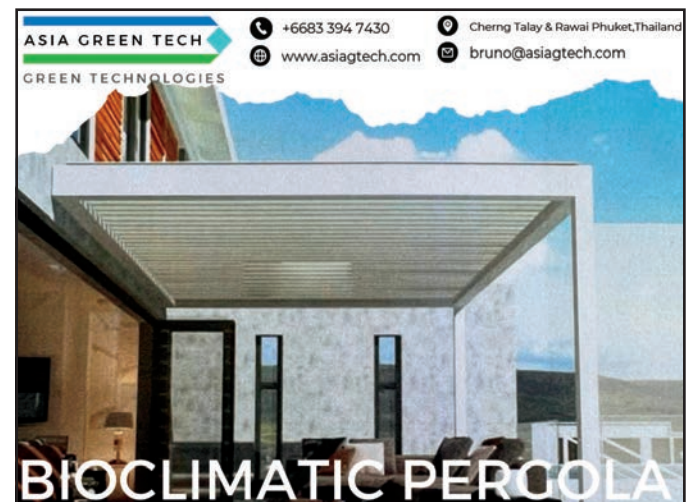
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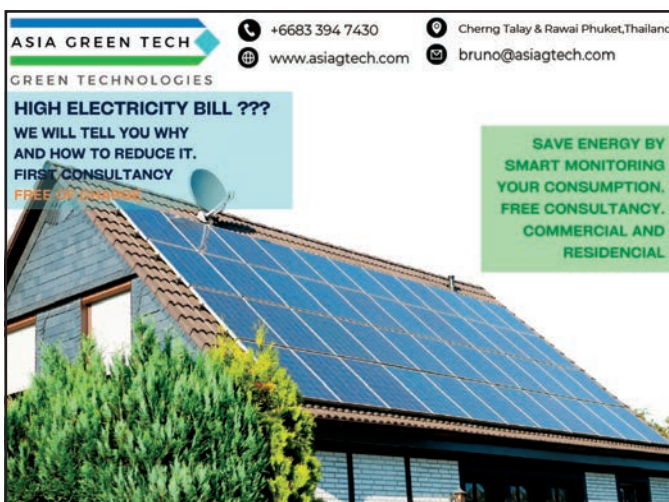
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**WED** 17 MAY

**FRI** 26 MAY

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**AustCham Thailand**

**JOINT CHAMBERS MEMBERS BRIEFING - EMPOWER YOUR BRAIN**  
Friday 26th May 2023  
16:30 - 18:00 hrs  
3rd Floor, Tree House - Blue Tree Phuket  
Free of charge for AustCham members, Partner Chambers' members and Australian Alumni members

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### Grow Boating Evening May 2023

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm on Friday the 12th of May. Sponsorship for drinks is available and includes a generous promotional package from our media sponsors The Phuket News, Live 89.5 FM and Phuket News TV. Send us a message or email growboatingphuket@gmail.com for more details. There will be a delicious buffet for all attendees sponsored by Isola Restaurant and, as always, all your favourite drinks will be available from the bar with local bottled beverages at just 80 baht. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome. There is no entry fee and if you know anyone you think would be interested in coming, please invite them along. To join our mailing list please send an email to growboatingphuket@gmail.com Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/growboatingphuket Grow Boating is kindly supported by our media partner The Phuket News, Live 89.5 radio and Phuket News TV. See www.thephuketnews.com

**MON** 15 MAY

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**THU** 18 MAY



### Skål International Phuket Dinner at KEP restaurant

Our Host of the month of May, Peter Khor Keh Hock, welcomes Skalleagues and Friends to their Spectacular KEP restaurant at Chalong pier. This will be a different dining experience for Skalleagues. Chef Chai uses special dry age techniques. Registration 18:00-18:30. Dress code: Smart Casual. More info - facebook.com/SkalPhuket. contact@skalphuket.org

### AUSTCHAM Members Briefing - Empower Your Brain

Most of us are aware that keeping our bodies physically active is important to remain healthy and prevent illness. This is the same approach that we need to take for brain health too. Brain health is a critical piece of your overall health. It underlies your ability to communicate, make decisions, problem-solve and live a productive and useful life. Join our upcoming event where these topics of common brain diseases in working ages and ways to keep your brain healthy will be shared by Dr Chakorn Chansakul, Neurologist from Bangkok Hospital. Event location: Tree House, 3rd Floor, Blue Tree Phuket. 16:30 - 18:00 hrs. Free of charge for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members. www.austchamthailand.com/event

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AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (AMCHAM), British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber of Commerce, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC), Phuket Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce, invite you to join us for Joint Chamber Phuket Sundowners at The Garden, 2nd Floor, Blue Tree Phuket, from 18.00 - 21.00 hrs. THB 500 for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members and THB 900 THB for non-members. www.austchamthailand.com/event/

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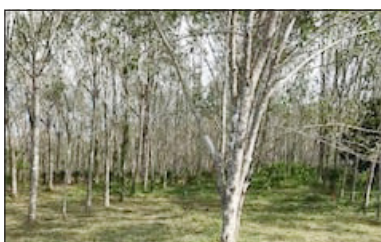
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Photo: The Sports Association of Phuket

## National and Handicapped qualifiers set for Phuket

### NATIONAL GAMES

PHUKET HAS CONFIRMED it will be hosting the Region 4 qualifying rounds for both the 48<sup>th</sup> National Games and the 38<sup>th</sup> National Handicapped Games later this month.

Phuket Vice Governor Danai Sunantarod made the announcement at a press conference on Apr 30 at Siam Niramit, explaining the National Games qualifying competition will take place between May 19-28 and the National Handicapped qualifying competition will take place between May 29 - June 3.

A total of 14 provinces will be involved in the competition, namely Chumphon, Surat Thani, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Ranong, Phang Nga, Krabi, Trang, Phatthalung, Songkhla, Yala, Satun, Pattani, Narathiwat and Phuket.

Mr Danai commented that somewhere in the region of 8,000 people will travel to

Phuket for both tournaments, including athletes, coaching teams, officials and supporters.

The opening ceremony for the National Games Region 4 qualifying competition will take place on May 20 at Surakul Stadium, Mr Danai confirmed, with full support from the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO).

Joining Mr Danai at the press conference to conduct the draw for the competition groups were Pol Col Akanit Danphithaksat, Deputy Commander of the Phuket Provincial Police; Thammawat Wongcharoenyot, President of the Phuket Sports Association; Phanphob Unsiam, Director of the Sports Authority of Thailand Region 4; as well as Thanet Tantipiriyakit, President of the Phuket Tourist Association.

For more information please contact the Sports Authority of Thailand Phuket Office on 062-313-1431 or 076-250-110.

*The Phuket News*

### FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato  
michael@boxofneutrals.com

**M**ax Verstappen won the Miami Grand Prix from ninth place last Sunday (May 7) after an ambitious strategy helped overhaul teammate Sergio Pérez late in the race.

Pre-race expectations had been for a medium-hard tyre strategy to win the day, and pole-getter Pérez set off from the line expecting to control the pace and grind out a victory.

But Verstappen opted for the alternative hard-medium route, and on a day defined by tyre management on the rubber-shredding Miami track, it turned out to be the faster route.

It took the Dutchman just 15 laps to scythe through the field up to second place behind his teammate, who was already finding the medium tyres were past their best.

Five laps later he was into the pits, handing Verstappen the lead.

The Mexican made early gains on the favoured hards, reducing what had been a 19-second deficit down to 14 seconds in around 10 laps, keeping him on course for a likely win.

But with his own pit stop now in sight, Verstappen put the hammer down from lap 30. He blew the margin back out to more than 18 seconds before diving into the pits for his mandatory stop on lap 45 and rejoined just 1.6 seconds off the lead.

On much older tyres, Pérez was effec-



Verstappen celebrates winning the Miami Grand Prix. Photo: AFP

tively defenceless. He rebuffed a passing attempt once down the back straight, but Verstappen negotiated himself onto the racing line for the first turn and swept around the outside of his teammate to take the lead with 10 laps to go.

His winning margin was 5.3 seconds, and with the fastest lap he extended his championship advantage to 14 points over Pérez.

"I stayed out of trouble at the beginning, then just had a really clean race," he said.

"I could stay out really long on the hard tyres – that's where I made the difference today."

Pérez was disappointed to miss an opportunity to take the title lead, pinning his loss down to the unexpectedly poor performance of the medium tyre

in the opening stint.

Fernando Alonso returned to what has fast become his customary third place, down from second on the grid, after his Aston Martin proved unexpectedly more competitive than both Ferrari and Mercedes.

George Russell rose from sixth to fourth for Mercedes, comfortably beating fifth-placed Carlos Sainz with an earlier stop.

Lewis Hamilton used Verstappen's alternative strategy to recover from 13<sup>th</sup> to sixth, passing six cars in the final stint of the race on the medium tyre.

Charles Leclerc finished seventh, with Pierre Gasly and Esteban Ocon a strong eighth and ninth for Alpine, while Haas driver Kevin Magnussen scored the final point from 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Thailand off to a strong start at the 32<sup>nd</sup> SEA Games in Cambodia

### SEA GAMES

AFTER THREE DAYS OF competition Thailand sat in second place in the overall medal table at the 2023 Southeast Asia (SEA) Games in Cambodia after a strong start to their campaign.

By the end of Monday (May 8) Thai athletes had secured an impressive overall medal tally of 68, including 22 gold, 19 silver and 27 bronze. Hosts Cambodia topped the table with 91 medals overall.

Kunsatri Kumsroi and Suphawadee Kacsrasaen won Thailand's first gold medal of the Games with their victory in the women's jiu-jitsu show event on May 4.

On Monday Kieran Tuntivate lived up to everyone's expectations in the men's 1,500 metres to claim gold.

The talented Thai long-distance specialist clocked 3 minutes 58 seconds and comfortably beat Vietnam's Duc Phuoc Luong who crossed the line in 3m59s.

On the same day, Thai sprinter Soraoat Dapbang won the men's 200m title, crossing the line in 20.62s ahead of Vietnam's Ngoc Nghia Ngan (20.84) and Indonesia's Lalu Muhammad



The Thai men's Chess Ouk Chaktrang team, who won four gold medals. Photo: Bangkok Post

Zohri (21.02) at Morodok Techo National Stadium in Phnom Penh.

However, it was not good news for Soraoat's teammate Puripol Boonson who succumbed to injury and will not feature again in the competition, meaning he will not be able to defend his 100m and 4x100m titles.

Elsewhere, Kittipong Boonmawan took gold with an effort of 64.49 metres in the men's hammer throw and the Thai windsurfing team of Ek Boonsawad, Thorfun Boonnak, Chantip Tonglum and Patcharaphan Ongakaloy added four gold medals to the overall tally.

Methasit Boonsane won the men's mountain bike eliminator

event in Siem Reap, while Warinthorn Phetpraphan claimed bronze in the women's eliminator behind champion Dara Latifah of Indonesia and runner-up Ariana Dormitorio of the Philippines.

### CHESS CHAMPS

The Thai team of Boonsueb Sae-heng, Wisuwat Teerapabpaisit, Tinnakrit Arunnantapanich and Ekaluck Ngammeeesri won four golds in the men's quadruples 60-minute Chess Ouk Chaktrang, the Cambodian version of chess introduced in the biennial Games at the behest of the host country.

On Sunday, Arreewan Chansri

and Ratcharat Yimprai were crowned champions in the jiu-jitsu mixed show event, while Lalita Yuennan and Warawut Saengsriruang took the top honours in the mixed duo event and Benyatip Phumthong won bronze in the women's Ne-Waza Nogi 52kg event. Suwijak Kuntong triumphed in the men's Ne-Waza Gi 62kg to retain his title.

Kewalin Songklin won gold in the women's +68kg karate kumite final while Teerawat Kangtong triumphed in the men's 84kg kumite event, beating Cambodia's Sakkada Peng in the gold medal match.

In cricket, Thailand team defeated Malaysia by six wickets to grab the women's T10 crown on Sunday while the women's hockey team overcame the same opponents 2-1 in a shoot-out to win gold.

The men's chinlone (same stroke) team won gold, as did Sutida Namcharoensri in the women's vovinam cross form, with Kesinee Tabtra claiming silver.

In pencak silat, Thailand's Oraya Choosuwan and Saowanee Chanthamunee won their maiden SEA Games gold medal in the women's artistic ganda (double) event, beating Indonesia in the title decider, with Abdulkarim Koollee, Salwa Cheha and Sobri Cheni securing silver in the men's artistic regu (team) event.

Sirion Sarachip won gold in women's singles petanque after beating Vietnam's Thi Hong Thoa Thai 13-2 in the final.

The Thai cycling team of Keerati Sukprasart, Phunsiri Sirimongkhon, Supaksorn Nuntana and Warinthorn Phetpraphan won silver in the mixed mountain bike cross-country relay and Chatmanee Jankiaw and Napawee Jankiaw won silver in the women's soft tennis individual doubles.

In swimming, silver medals went to Saovane Boonamphai in the women's 50 metre backstroke final and Kamndonchanok Kwanmuang in the women's 200m freestyle. Jenjira Srisa-ard won gold in the women's 50m breaststroke with a new Games record of 31.22 seconds.

Meanwhile, the men's football team remained on track to achieve their pre-tournament target of a gold medal after winning their first three matches to top their group on 9 points ahead of Vietnam on goal difference and qualify for the semi-finals.

The War Elephants impressed in beating Singapore 3-1, Malaysia 2-0 and Laos 4-1 and were set to play Vietnam in the final group game yesterday (May 11).

*Additional reporting by  
The Phuket News*



# Gunners still in title fight

## FOOTBALL

AFP

Arsenal kept the Premier League title race alive as Martin Odegaard's strike and Fabian Schar's own goal beat Newcastle 2-0 last Sunday (May 7) to close to within one point of leaders Manchester City.

City have a game in hand on top of their slender lead, but the Gunners are refusing to give up the fight in their hunt for a first league title in 19 years.

Newcastle's second home defeat of the season slows the Magpies' charge towards Champions League football next season as their lead over fifth-placed Liverpool remains three points.

Arsenal held an eight-point lead at the top of the table just a month ago but had won just one of their previous five league games to let the destiny of the title slip out of their hands.

Mikel Arteta's men, though, showcased their improvement over the last 12 months since defeat at St. James' Park last season cost them a place in the top four.



Arsenal's Granit Xhaka (left) and Martin Odegaard celebrate their team's second goal in the 2-0 win over Newcastle United last Sunday (May 7). Photo: AFP

"It is a big step for a young team like ours to come here and do the things we did. It shows we have come a long way," said Odegaard.

"We have to keep going and digging in and fight until the end. It is football, anything can happen and we need to be ready," he added.

While Arsenal still need favours from City in the run-

in to achieve their goal, a top-four finish is still within Newcastle's reach.

Eddie Howe's men likely need just six points from their final four games to guarantee Champions League football for the first time in 20 years.

Captain Ilkay Gundogan was the two-goal hero as Manchester City defeated Leeds United 2-1 on Saturday

to claim top spot in the table.

However, the German also missed a second half penalty after he had been handed the ball by usual spot-kick taker Erling Haaland.

"The game is not over. It shows how nice and generous Erling is. If it is 4-0 with 10 minutes left, OK. But at 2-0? Erling is the best penalty taker right now so he has to take it,"

said an irate City manager Pep Guardiola afterwards.

Leeds manager Sam Allardyce, appointed for the final four games of the season after the club sacked Javi Gracia, claimed there were positives to take from the defeat as his team look to avoid relegation.

"We take some hope from it," he said. "We now need to build on that and try to get a result."

Allardyce's first home game in charge is against Newcastle tomorrow (May 13).

## MAGIC MO

Liverpool kept their late charge towards Champions League qualification on course with a hard-fought 1-0 against Brentford.

Mohamed Salah broke yet another record as he notched his 30<sup>th</sup> goal of the season and 100<sup>th</sup> goal at Anfield, becoming the first Liverpool player to score in nine consecutive home games.

The win leaves the Reds just a point behind fourth-placed Manchester United who fell to a 1-0 loss at West Ham on Sunday.

Elsewhere, Chelsea ended a six-game losing streak since

Frank Lampard's return as caretaker manager by beating Bournemouth 3-1 to end any threat of being pulled into the relegation battle.

Harry Kane moved into second place in the Premier League's all-time scoring list as his goal sealed a 1-0 win against Crystal Palace.

The England captain climbed ahead of Wayne Rooney onto 209 Premier League goals, with Alan Shearer's record of 260 in his sights next.

Aston Villa's bid for a place in Europe next season was dented after Toti Gomes' first goal for Wolves earned a 1-0 win that secured survival for Julen Lopetegui's men.

There was high drama and a glut of goals on Monday as Everton recorded a shock 5-1 win at Brighton to climb out of the relegation zone and Nottingham Forest also pulled themselves clear of the bottom three as they beat fellow strugglers Southampton 4-3.

Leicester's hopes of survival, however, are hanging by a thread after a 5-3 defeat at Fulham.

The Foxes sit in 17<sup>th</sup> place in the table ahead of Leeds and Southampton.

## Double delight as Messi scoops individual, team Laureus awards

### SPORTS

ARGENTINA AND PARIS SAINT Germain veteran star Lionel Messi scooped a unique double on Monday (May 8), landing individual and team Laureus awards for his exploits and those of his World-Cup winning nation.

Messi, 35, finally landed a first World Cup winners medal in Qatar last December after a thrilling penalty shootout final win over France – enough to earn him an individual accolade while the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner also accepted the team award at a prestigious Paris ceremony.

The Argentine, who attended the ceremony with wife Antonela Rocuzzo, previously had won the award jointly with British Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton in 2020.

The accolade saw Messi, who earned a fine and suspension from PSG for making an unauthorised promotional visit to Saudi Arabia last week, see off competition notably from clubmate Kylian Mbappé, whose World Cup final hat-trick was not enough to earn him glory in Qatar.

Jamaican sprinter Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, who last August earned a fifth world 100 metres crown at Eugene, Oregon, picked up the female athlete award while US Open tennis champion Carlos Alcaraz earned the World Breakthrough of the Year award.

Denmark and Manchester United star



Messi with the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year award. Photo: AFP

Christian Eriksen earned a Comeback Award for returning to the top of the European game after collapsing with cardiac arrest during the Euros two years ago.

Swiss para-athlete sensation Catherine Debrunner meanwhile picked up the Disability Award after triumphing in her opening two marathons

The Sport for Good Award was presented to TeamUp – a programme for children displaced by war – by Barcelona and Poland star Robert Lewandowski.

Meanwhile, Chinese-American Olympic ski freestyle champion Eileen Gu won the World Action Sportsperson accolade.

The awards have been made annually since 2000 by a jury comprising 71 members of the Laureus World Sports Academy, representing the past 50 years of athletic excellence.

This year's ceremony following two virtual editions owing to COVID restrictions. AFP





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# Sport

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**Solid start for Thais at SEA Games > p14**

## FAB FOUR

### Thai women win LPGA International Crown

Team Thailand members hold the trophy. From left: Ariya Jutanugarn, Moriya Jutanugarn, Patty Tavatanakit and Atthaya Thitikul. Photo: AFP



#### GOLF

AFP

Thailand captured the LPGA Hanwha Lifeplus International Crown last Sunday (May 7), defeating Australia 3-0 in the championship match to complete a near-perfect run in the global team event at Harding Park.

Patty Tavatanakit defeated Hannah Green 4&3 and Atthaya Thitikul beat Stephanie Kyriacou 4&2 in singles to clinch the trophy before Ariya and Moriya Jutanugarn downed Minjee Lee and Sarah Kemp 4&3 in foursomes to complete the sweep.

"It means a lot for all of us," said Thitikul. "It's incredible work we

put in this week to get this trophy for our country.

"We're one of the best teams in the world and I think we can beat every team in the world."

Sixth seed Thailand went 11-1 in all matches during the week, making a perfect streak through round-robin play before ousting top seed United States 2-1 in a Sunday morning semi-final.

The seventh-seeded Aussies beat Sweden 3-0 in the other semi but had no answer for the Thai stars.

"It means so much and for us to come all the way this far it's so great for our country," Tavatanakit said.

"You can already see there are a lot of rookies this year from Thailand. You know this is going to keep

making it grow and keep inspiring young people.

"I'm just so proud of all of us to be able to play and give it all we got and just try to make our home country proud," she added.

#### 'PATIENT'

Thitikul and Kyriacou were level at the turn. Thitikul won the 12<sup>th</sup> hole with an eight-foot birdie putt, took the 14<sup>th</sup> with a par and got up and down from a bunker for par to win the 15<sup>th</sup> for a 3-up lead.

When Kyriacou missed a 12-foot birdie putt, she conceded the hole and the clinching point.

Tavatanakit birdied the par-3 second, par-5 third and par-4 fourth to jump 3-up, Green won the next

two holes with birdies but Tavatanakit birdied seven, 11 and the par-3 13<sup>th</sup> to seize a 4-up lead. She won the match by tying the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

"I was really patient out there," Tavatanakit said. "I knew it was going to be tough because everyone was tired, so I just tried to be as consistent as I could and that helped."

The Jutanugarn sisters, who won the deciding point over the US women and went unbeaten for the week, birdied four holes in a row starting at the par-4 seventh to seize a 4-up lead.

Ariya, named the Crown's Most Valuable Player, chipped in for par at 15 to tie the hole and complete the team sweep.

"It's such an honour to represent

our country," Moriya said. "Everyone just gave 100% for every match. We tried to play as solid as we can."

Kemp took some consolation in the Aussies managing a best-ever finish by reaching the final.

"I think we made everyone in Australia proud by finishing second," she said. "We've done the best ever Australia has done in this tournament. It's obviously a little disappointing, but it's still a big win for us."

The United States defeated Sweden 2-1 in the third-place match.

Launched in 2014, the International Crown is a biennial team event that returned this season after a five-year absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Dates set for new format Phuket Rugby 11s

#### RUGBY

GET READY FOR SOME SCINTILLATING on-field action after this year's Phuket Rugby 11s tournament was officially announced by organisers on May 3.

Teams will be flying into Phuket from across the region to join local sides and take part in the hugely popular event which has a truly great motive at heart – raising funds for the Asia Center Foundation scholarship fund for underprivileged children.

The tournament will run across the weekend of June 9-12, availing the world-class facilities at Than-yapura Sports Club where pitches boast World Rugby approved artificial turf.

Organisers confirmed a new trial

format of the shorter game will be introduced whereby a number 8 player is added to the pack, which they say will open up a whole new range of possibilities on the pitch. It has already been trialled in Japan and has created massive interest and this will be the first time that it has been used in Southeast Asia.

Additionally, there will be a 14-man team of referees and officials who will oversee the matches across the weekend.

The action is scheduled to start on Friday, June 9 with both the Athena Siam Men's Coffin Dodgers over 35s and the Whitesmiths Men's One Foot in the Grave over 45s games.

The following day sees The Dimbulla Estate Men's Open Round Robin and the Aussie Bar Women's Open Round Robin.

The final day of play on Sunday, June 11 sees The Dimbulla Estate knockouts and finals, including the vets finals.

The highest standards of health, safety and support will be in place with full, ongoing access to drinking water, ice and electrolyte powders to help rehydrate and combat the heat and medical facilities will be run by the Bangkok Siriroj Hospital.

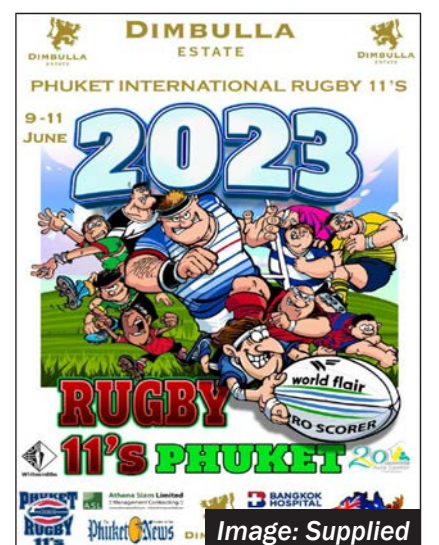
Refreshments will be available throughout, with a specially designated tent offering cold soft and alcoholic drinks. Likewise food trucks from the Four Points by Sheraton, Patong will be offering a range of delicious, reasonably priced food across all three days. Food brought from outside the facility is not allowed.

Fully air-conditioned chang-

ing rooms and shower facilities will also be available on-site and a specially designated smoking zone will be allocated as smoking is strictly prohibited in the stand or near the pitch.

The tournament will once again be raising funds for the Asia Center Foundation, as it has done for the last 20 years. The various contributions that the rugby community has made over the years has helped change the lives of over 100 children who have since gone on to higher education and graduated from university. For more information on how teams or individuals can contribute, please contact CEO Roelien Muller on roemuthai@gmail.com or visit the website <https://asiacenterfoundation.org/>

A full list of teams for this year's



tournament can be found at <https://phuket11s.com/teams-open> and a full schedule will be released once all entries are confirmed, available to view at the official tournament management system [www.macoocoo.com](http://www.macoocoo.com).

The Phuket News