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WELCOME BACK!



Beach-goers returned to Nai Harn as all Phuket beaches reopened to visitors on Tuesday (June 9).
Photo: Rawai Municipality

BEACHES OPEN AS PHUKET ROLLS OUT OF COVID LOCKDOWN, NO QUARANTINE REQUIRED

Tanyaluk Sakoot
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People across Phuket breathed a collective sigh of relief as all beaches on the island reopened to visitors on Tuesday (June 9), marking the relaxation of just one of many restrictions imposed in the 'lockdown' to try to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Phuket Governor Phakaphong broke the news last Saturday (June 6) and the official order was published less than 24 hours later.

The reopening of Phuket beaches comes under Phase 3 of the relaxa-

tion of the restrictions imposed to try to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Governor Phakaphong noted. It also came after a very vocal campaign by islanders to see the beaches reopen, including a petition launched on Change.org.

Fears that allowing visitors back onto the sands would inspire crowds to flock to the beaches, as had happened at Saen Suk in Pattaya last week, are hoped to be curtailed by a range of regulations issued with the official order:

- All touch surfaces must be cleaned before operations, waste disposal must be conducted every day.

- All people on the beach, including visitors, business operators, municipal workers etc, must wear protective masks at all times.

- All people must clean their hands with soap and water or alcohol sanitiser before entering and exiting the area.

- All people must maintain social distancing of at least one to two metres from other people

- The number of people on the beach should be controlled to prevent crowding. Operating hours can be restricted if needed to keep social distancing.

In its own notice announcing rules

for visiting the beach, the PPHO also called for all people experiencing any ill health to not go to the beach, but instead see a doctor immediately. The notice also urged people to maintain social distance in the water.

Ahead of the reopening of Patong Beach, Patong Mayor Chalermkluk Kebsup said that she did not expect the reopening of the beaches to have a dramatic effect on the number of tourists coming to the island until Phuket airport reopened. At the time of going to press, the airport was expected to reopen next Tuesday (June 16).

Mayor Chalermkluk also noted that Phuket had now entered its southwest...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

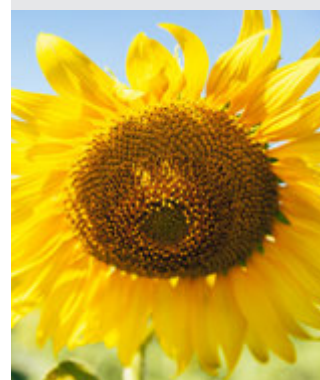
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Has Bangla Rd nightlife heard its final roar?



LIFE PAGE 6

Sun seekers shine on in the garden



SPORT PAGE 12

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News



Buses start rolling into Phuket > p5

Phuket readies for Phase 4

Tanyaluk Sakoot

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...monsoon season, which each year sees much marine debris washed up onto the beaches – not exactly a drawback for people wanting to experience beautiful, clean beaches under sunny skies.

Also in tune with the return of the monsoon surf, lifeguards on Tuesday were quick to issue a warning to all beach-goers to beware dangerous rip currents and to swim only between the red-yellow flags where lifeguards are on patrol.

THE BIG EASE

The beaches were reopened on Tuesday as the island pushes ahead with the reopening of more businesses and tourist attractions in the hope of restarting the island's economy amid the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A key development was Dr Thanit Sermkaew, chief of the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO), and Napasorn Kakai, chief of the Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT Phuket), on Tuesday both confirming that people arriving from other parts of the country, including Bangkok, did not have to self-quarantine for 14 days after arriving on the island.

"No self-quarantine is required for any people regardless of which province they come from," Dr Thanit told *The Phuket News*.

"Domestic tourists do not have to self-quarantine for 14 days," Ms Napasorn concurred.

PHASE 4

Confirmation that no self-quarantine is required for domestic arrivals arriving in Phuket comes hot on the heels of bus services into and out of Phuket resuming last Friday



(see page 5), and as the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) in Bangkok is expected to announce a raft of new restriction relaxations today (June 12)

as 'Phase 4' of the relaxation measures are rolled out.

Any new businesses, services and activities granted permission to resume are expected to be allowed to do

so from Monday (June 15).

Among those already identified as likely to be allowed to reopen are pubs and bars, critical for the livelihood of Patong and other key tourist areas on the island. At the time of going to press, Bangla Rd in Patong remained the only area still under COVID-19 lockdown in Phuket.

CCSA spokesman Taweessin Visanuyothin last Friday (June 5) said the government was considering measures that would allow the resumption of 12 types of businesses and activities – including pubs and concerts, parlours offering soapy massages, and sports competitions.

"The government will hear from the operators what their plans are for preventing virus transmission and we will see how we can cooperate," Dr Taweessin said.

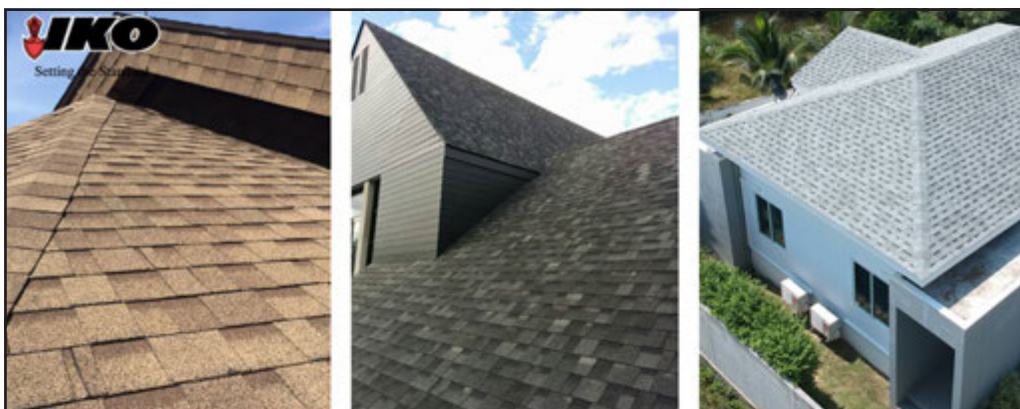
Some of the 12 business/activity types were already allowed to resume partial ser-

vices. Officials would discuss measures for the resumption of more services at these premises, he said.

He made reference to sports fields, where practice is now allowed. He said they were discussing disease-control measures for sports competitions. The upcoming relaxation of restrictions would also apply to bigger film crews for large settings, the reopening of classrooms, daily visits to elderly care centres, and national parks.

Dr Taweessin said measures were also being set for concerts and event halls of more than 20,000 square metres, and education-oriented science centres.

Other business categories include amusement parks, water parks, playgrounds and game shops; meeting rooms for more than 200 participants; pubs, bars and karaoke shops; and bath-sauna-massage parlours, he said.



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Bangla nightlife faces darkest hour

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

As daily life edges towards resembling normality, bars, pubs and entertainment venues are to be included in Phase 4 of the government's lifting of COVID-19 related restrictions. The ruling is expected to be announced today (June 12) and to come into effect on Monday (June 15).

Whereas the ruling will be welcome news for many, and the desire to reopen for bar owners is there, there are many variables that will not make it as clean cut as first appears.

The decimated tourism industry, very much the lifeblood of entertainment venues, has had, and will continue to have, a hugely detrimental effect. Phuket airport is still closed to international visitors and, even when open, there is bound to be trepidation for many to travel in the immediate future.

The closure of entertainment venues in Patong alone is estimated to have costed Phuket B100 million a day in lost revenues, according to Weerawit Kreuasombat, President of the Patong Entertainment Business Association (PEBA).

"We don't think we are ready to open," said Mr Weerawit. "Almost 100% of the customers in the Patong entertainment area are foreigners and overseas tourists. We don't think Thai people will visit entertainment venues in Patong."

When asked how much the lockdown has cost business owners in Phuket's entertainment industry, Mr Weerawit replied: "It cannot be estimated. It is a lot. For example, a small bar would



Bangla Rd remains the only place in Phuket under lockdown. It remains to be seen whether restrictions will be lifted under Phase 4. Photo: Tanyaluk Sakoot

have lost about B300,000 per month; a medium business up to a million per month and larger businesses about 20-30 million per month.

"More than a thousand staff have lost their jobs and we will know how many businesses have gone bankrupt in the next month.

"Many operators are also reluctant to open while they have to pay full rental costs," he added.

A major sticking point is that Bangla Rd is still the only place under lockdown in Phuket. It remains to be seen whether Phase 4 will allow these restrictions to be lifted. Likewise whether the ban on alcohol will be lifted and the current curfew hours of 11pm-3am modified or scrapped.

'Challenging times'
Government assistance is key to helping businesses find their feet again and to stand a chance of future survival, insisted Mr Weerawit.

"The Phuket provincial office needs to act as an intermediary and be able to negotiate with the business owner, landlord and banks," he said.

"They should also have the authority to engage and talk with the Bank of Thai-

land for tax and fee exception purposes, ideally once bar owners have opened their business for three months.

"We had previously requested a tax discount of B100,000 for businesses but it was set at only B10,000, which is not enough.

"Such measures will help greatly in efforts to survive during these very challenging times," he stated.

'A special place'
When asked about his thoughts on the future Mr Weerawit said he doubts Phuket will be the same again.

"Businesses will come back but I suspect we will see them increasingly replaced by different types of operators. Bangla Rd, for example, will witness more restaurants offering musical entertainment, venues where customers are seated at tables, making it easier to observe social distancing rules."

Safety measures will be crucial and Mr Weerawit outlined suggestions that he feels need to be employed for when business does resume.

"There needs to be thermal scanning facilities at two points on Bangla Rd to enable tourists to be checked before entering," he said.

"Additionally, more

COVID-19 testing labs in Phuket are required to manage the potential number of tourists. Currently, there is only a lab in Phuket Vachira Hospital which can handle only 400 samples per day, which is insufficient if the tourist numbers resume."

Despite the unprecedented challenges and inevitable change Mr Weerawit maintains optimism.

"I still believe that Phuket is a special place for tourists and am confident they will, ultimately, return," he concluded.



Governor Phakaphong explained that all projects will be vetted before being submitted to a provincial committee for approval. Photo: PR Phuket

B2.9bn to restart grassroots businesses

A TOTAL OF B2.9 billion is to be spent on revitalizing the local economy through 103 projects to help businesses restart in the aftermath of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Phuket Governor has announced.

The funds are being provided by the Ministry of Interior, Governor Phakaphong Tavipatana told a meeting last Friday (June 5).

The funds are to be allocated to business projects approved via the tambon (OrBorTor and municipalities) and district administrative offices, he said.

The projects must be

vetted to ensure they are under the framework of the national economic and social rehabilitation policy before being forwarded to a provincial committee headed by Governor Phakaphong for approval.

In total, the Phuket government has been allocated B2,925,349,937 in order to support 103 projects, the Governor explained.

The projects must be related to agriculture; product development, and include marketing plans; community tourism; creative travelling; community water resources or community infrastructure, he said.

The Phuket News



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TAT pushes domestic tourism

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office is inviting local hotels and tour operators to join its #PhuketGreatTime domestic tourism campaign to offer discounted tours and hotel stays to draw tourists back to the island.

TAT Phuket launched the campaign through its official Facebook page on Monday, June 1.

The campaign is free to join.

The objective of the campaign is to help the island recover from the impact the COVID-19 outbreak has had on the tourism industry, TAT Phuket explained in its launch announcement.

All hotels, tour operators, restaurants, souvenir shops and other tourism businesses are welcome to take part by



The new portal launched by TAT Phuket to boost domestic tourism to the island. Image: PhuketGreatTime.com

offering special-priced products, services and packages through the PhuketGreatTime.com website, which has been set up by the TAT.

The special deals offered will be promoted throughout Thailand, TAT Phuket explained.

The only conditions for registering to take part in the campaign is that the business is legally registered and

currently holds the correct business permits and licence, the TAT Phuket notice added.

Businesses can register through the PhuketGreatTime.com website, or through the online form.

People with enquiries were asked to call 076-211036, 076-212213, 087-5139319 or 089-7578315.

Alternatively people can email phuketgreattime@gmail.com or contact TAT Phuket through their Line account: @tatphuket

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Big push

The campaign follows the Finance Ministry agreeing to launch a major domestic tourism promotion next month by giving B2,000-3,000 vouchers to 4 million people and free trips to 1.2mn medical personnel.

The campaign is aimed at boosting the economy and reviving the tourism sector, said Tourism and Sports Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, reported the *Bangkok Post*.

According to the minister, the Finance Ministry agreed to the scheme proposed by the Tourism and Sports Ministry. Under the promotion, 1mn tourism vouchers will be allocated to each of the country's four regions on a first-come first-served basis.

Krungthai Bank will develop an app to support the registration and the allocation of the vouchers, which will be provided between July and October.

While the government has reopened many more businesses and activities under its easing of the countrywide lockdown, the tourism sector remains a laggard as many tourists are still hesitant about travelling.

Mr Phiphat said the two ministries will finalise the overall budget and details of the scheme and the finance minister will submit it for cabinet approval later this month.

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Governor Yuthasak Supasorn said the scheme called *Tiew Pun Suk* (trips to share happiness) will focus on Thais planning to take inter-provincial trips between July and October.

They would have to register using the app to buy hotel vouchers first. Upon checking in with the vouchers, the government would give a cash rebate to spenders via an electronic wallet and tourists could then use that money to spend on rooms, restaurants, spas or souvenirs.

The thank-you gift for 1.2mn medical personnel such as village health volunteers and subdistrict health promotion hospital workers is to encourage them to take trips of up to three days using local tourism operators.

Mr Yuthasak said the overall budget now is about B8-12 billion but if the Finance Ministry would like to expand the number of recipients to more than the 4mn people and 1.2mn medical personnel currently planned, the budget could increase.

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Buses start rolling into Phuket

Eakkapop Thongtub
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The first interprovincial bus into Phuket since the COVID-19 lockdown came into effect arrived at Phuket Bus Terminal 2 in Rassada, north of Phuket Town, from Phang Nga at 7am last Friday (June 5).

The milestone was soon followed by the first interprovincial bus out of Phuket in months departing for Hat Yai at 7:30am. In total three buses left the bus terminal for Hat Yai on the first day of Phuket's main bus terminal resuming operations.

Chop Puttasupa, chief of Phuket Bus Terminal 2, the main interprovincial bus terminal on the island, said that the bus services into and out of Phuket had resumed smoothly, with all bus operators and passengers cooperating well with the new health guidelines in effect.

Mr Chop last Friday said that although buses to nearly all destinations previously served by operators were now operating, the timetable was still very limited as only about half of the bus operators had resumed services.

"Operators are still finalising what services they can provide. We expect the timetable to be better in about a week," he said.

People were preferring to book seats through online agents instead of



Passengers are now back at Phuket Bus Terminal 2 since interprovincial buses resumed services into and out of Phuket last Friday (June 5). Photo: PR Phuket

buying them at the bus terminal, he said, but the limited number of seats on each bus were selling quickly.

"Each bus is allowed to offer only 22 seats [under the new health guidelines], but about 90% of those seats are being used," Mr Chop said.

Mr Chop on Tuesday (June 9) confirmed that two buses from Bangkok arrived in Phuket on Monday.

On Tuesday, the number of buses arriving in Phuket from the capital had reached 11. That number is expected to remain the same each

day for the foreseeable future, Mr Chop said.

However, Mr Chop pointed out that all buses are operating at half their maximum capacity as only every second seat may be occupied by passengers under the new regulations for social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"From now on there will be no less than 11 buses from Bangkok every day and there may be more. This is a lot of buses because only half the number of seats on the buses

can be used by passengers under the new health rules," he said.

At a 'Big Cleaning Day' event at the bus terminal last Thursday (June 4), Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) Chief Banyat Kantha confirmed that public interprovincial buses were permitted to continue their journeys throughout the night curfew hours of 11pm to 3am.

"Under the extension to the Emergency Decree, public buses travelling between provinces are allowed to continue travelling dur-

ing the nightly curfew hours," Mr Banyat said.

As such, buses to and from Phuket are allowed to continue their journeys through the night as long as the bus begins its transit before 11pm and arrives at its destination after 3am, he explained.

"The Department of Transport has set measures for public transport users, drivers and passengers in order to protect against the spread of COVID-19, Mr Banyat added.

"Passengers must wear face masks all the time, avoid using their phones while onboard and use alcohol gel to wash their hands," he said.

"Drivers, check yourselves. If you develop a fever, stop work. Wear a face mask at all times. If a passenger starts coughing while on the bus, turn off the air-conditioning and open the windows [if there any that can be opened], and arrange alcohol gel for passengers to use to cleanse their hands," he said.

"All vehicles must be cleaned after each service, especially frequently touched areas. Use cleansers with 70% alcohol and open the windows when finished cleaning," he added.

"Everyone has to maintain social distancing, both at the bus terminals and onboard the buses," Mr Banyat warned.

Additional reporting by Khunanya Wanchanwet

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Sprouting sun worshippers



GREEN THOUGHTS

Patrick Campbell

As readers familiar with this column will be aware, I often iterate the point, perhaps *ad nauseam*, that botanical names are worth mastering, since they offer valuable clues to a plant's characteristics: maybe its place of origin (Japónica), its physical features (odorata), or even its cultural requirements.

When such names begin with the letter "H", many include the prefix "heli" or "helio", a label that indicates a link with the sun: after all, the god in Greek mythology who daily drove his fiery chariot across the sky was Helios. In some cases the connection is a double one: for example, the giant sunflower or *helianthus* not only resembles a sun with its massive, golden orb of seeds and flame-like petals, but also needs a sunny location in which to reach its potential.

A rapid grower, it will bloom within months of being sown. Often sold by florists as a cut specimen it was the first flower to become an important agricultural commodity. Now grown for its oil-bearing seeds, it began life as a fairly insignificant, course, hairy plant with blooms about six centimetres across. The hairy stems are still present, but horticulturalists have



Sunflowers are so impressive that fields of them are even considered tourist attractions further north in Thailand. Photo: TAT

since grown floral behemoths for both commercial and aesthetic reasons.

All have a single huge and weighty head consisting of an outer circle of brilliant yellow petals with a golden brown central cushion of hundreds of seeds. They look especially effective when planted next to an outside wall. Contrary to popular myth, the blooms face east all day, so the petals are in fact back-lit by the afternoon sun. A gross feeder, its other requirement is rich, moist soil, backed up by regular applications of fertiliser. Undisputed king of the annuals.

You could add *helianthemum*, *helichrysum*, *heliopsis*, *heliotropium* and *heliconia* to the tongue-twisting solar list. Most owe their kinship with Helios to their brilliant golden flowers, though not all of them need the full force of a tropic sun. Full sun in temperate climates (where they were mostly given their botanical names) may mean filtered shade in Phuket.

The *heliotrope* is a case in point. One variety, *H. argenteum*, native to somewhat cooler Hawaii where it grows wild as a ground cover plant, bears rosettes of succulent grey-green or silvery leaves that form a mat about six inches high. Clusters of flowers – usually white – appear above the foliage. A tough cookie, the *heliotrope* does well in coastal gardens, where wind and saturating salt spray are a problem. And it tolerates drought – though it will only spread rapidly if given sufficient moisture. It goes without saying that it loves the sun – hence the name. Why not try it in Phuket's island environment?

The straw flower (*helichrysum*), like the statice or the Australian *helipterum*, is chiefly valued for its use in dried floral arrangements, though these days it has to compete with artificially created displays. A so-called "everlasting" flower, it belongs, like the sunflower, to the aster genus – hence its daisy-like blooms. Sometimes used in fresh displays

of cut flowers, the *helichrysum* is much more likely to be found in these "everlasting" arrangements, where its papery, prickly two-inch blooms look like pom poms, and will not only retain their colour and form, but will last for ages. *H. bracteatum* is the variety usually grown: a dual purpose plant, it comes in a range of colours from orange and gold to deep crimson and has strap – like leaves. It can be grown here as an annual or perennial. Give it moderate amounts of water and of course full sun. And enjoy its charms twice over...

The *helianthemum* or sunrose (rock rose or *cistus* in Europe) is another low-growing plant with small leaves that may be grey on both surfaces or glossy green on top. It sports a display of single or semi-double flowers in bright or pastel shades – flame red, orange, yellow, salmon or white. Each blossom lasts a mere day, but new buds continue to open.

Shear plants back after flowering to encourage repeat blooming. They are at their best tumbling over stones, rambling over rockeries or even over sandy shorelines. Plants will be hardier if the soil is not too rich and is kept on the dry side. One unusual variety called "Raspberry Ripple" has – you guessed it – deep pink flowers streaked with white.

The ox-eye sunflower or *heliopsis* completes our solar survey. More widely known as a wild flower than one that inhabits gardens, it is a smaller, less distinguished member of the clan. Yellow flowers, about three inches in diameter, top substantial plants with rough-textured oval leaves. There are one or two cultivars such as the four-foot-high "Bressingham Doubloon", which has semi-double flowers, and a smaller variety "Summer Sun" (that word again) which has deep yellow flowers and dark green foliage.

Patrick's book 'The Tropic Gardener', the culmination of 13 years of writing about tropical plants and their cultivation in Phuket, is now available. Promotional price of B900, including post and packing. Dr Patrick Campbell can be contacted at his home Camelot, located at 59/84 Soi Saiyuan 13; Rawai; Phuket 83130. Tel: 66 076613227 (land line), 0655012326 or 0857827551 (mobile).



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Many of us have been gob-smacked by graphic images showing the dense air pollution disappearing all over the world, as we humans were forced into lockdown in an attempt to curtail COVID-19's relentless march across our planet.

Firstly, over Wuhan, then all of China, then across the industrialised and developing world, the pattern has been the same. Once we humans were disbarred from our 'normal' day-to-day activities, the air quality dramatically improved and soon after that, birds, animals, plants and trees all started to burst forth with a new-found vitality and enthusiasm for living.

It is the most graphic critique of the untold damage that our 'normal human activity' is relentlessly doing to the very critical natural systems that created and sustain us, and frankly it is terrifying to behold.

You can easily tell how valuable something is to humans by removing it from our lives and then seeing how long we survive without it.

Netflix or Deliveroo we can afford to lose from our lives forever and still happily thrive. We can survive without food

for about 35 days without suffering permanent damage. A drink of clean water we can live without for about 72 hours, but just try not taking a breath of air for five minutes and see how well you do.

We humans seem to be experts at taking for granted those things that are absolutely vital to our existence until they are almost depleted and only then taking notice. Clean air is a terrifying case in point.

According to the World Health Organisation over 90% of our species now breath air that is actually injurious to their long-term health. What an achievement in just 250 short years since the start of the Industrial Revolution we've managed to create an environment from which an absolutely vital life-supporting element, clean air, has almost vanished.

The pause in 'normal daily life' which this pandemic has engendered has, however, given us a window of opportunity to maintain some of the positive activities forced upon us, such as increased cycling and walking, and thereby 'lock in' the cleaner air that results.

Many governments are planning initiatives and budgets to 'lock in' this unexpected benefit from the viral crisis.

It makes enormous sense as COVID-19, like all viruses, attacks weakness such as respiratory systems damaged by breathing polluted air, or people who are obese, diabetic or otherwise weakened by lack of exercise and outdoor activity. In addition, we



Well spoken, Baz.

are now faced with a new reality which mandates systems of public movement that maintain social distancing and separation.

How can Phuket capitalise on this Golden Opportunity to become a cleaner, healthier, safer and more attractive destination for both residents and future tourists alike?

Two things are inordinately clear and desperately needed.

The first is an efficient, affordable public transportation system linking the airport with all the main parts of the island.

Secondly, an online bicycle 'rent and ride' scheme with easily accessible bike docking stations and dedicated 'bicycle and walking' pathways around Phuket's perimeter and again linking to all the key parts of the island.

Bangkok and Thailand's northern regions displayed appalling air pollution records in 2019/20 elevating them to being the most polluted areas on earth during the 'burn off' season.

Phuket can avoid such horrors by capitalising on the opportunities to 'lock in' the pandemic's clean air gains through swift, forward-looking actions such as those suggested above.

While I often advise my visitors to 'hold their breath' while passing fume-belching pickup trucks and tour buses while cycling around the island's beauty spots, I'm not sure that doing so in anticipation of such intelligent initiatives being adopted any time soon is worthwhile advice!

"Bicycling" Baz Daniel fell off his first bicycle aged three... a case of love at first sight. Since then he has spent a further 65 years falling on and off bicycles all over the world, but his passion endures. When not in traction, he found time to become Senior VP of the world's largest advertising and communications group, finally retiring to Phuket in 2006. He has been penning his Blazing Saddles column, chronicling his cycling adventures in Phuket and beyond, since 2013.



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POP QUIZ

1. Which Scotsman invented the television?
2. What is the largest artery in the human body called?
3. What is the Hong Kong stock exchange index called?
4. Who led the fascists in the Spanish Civil War?
5. Who coached England to victory in the 2003 Rugby World Cup?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

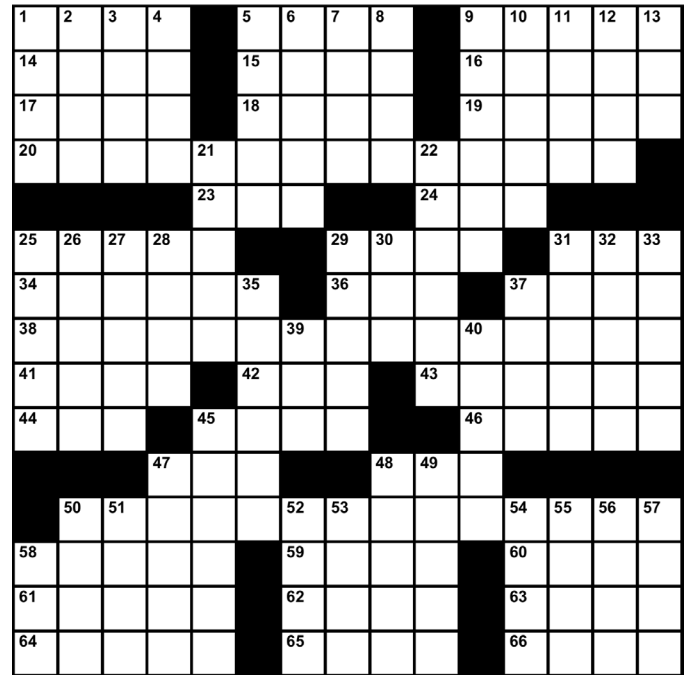
1. Lettuce variety
5. Horse/donkey hybrid
9. Soul is its original definition
14. "Desperate Housewives" character
15. "Why should ___ you?"
16. Load of laughs
17. Turn over
18. Biol. subject
19. Takes a chance
20. Be true to yourself, millennial style
23. Corinne Bailey ___ Grammy nominee
24. Prehistoric
25. Aphorism
29. Aachen article
31. Mid-seventh-century date
34. Endorse publicly
36. Government security agency, abbr.
37. City east of Santa Barbara
38. Positive millennial comment about "Pirates of the Caribbean" star perhaps
41. Coastal raptor
42. Pittance
43. Breadwinner
44. Gas station abbr.
45. Lodge letters
46. Sells
47. Harper or Spike

Down

48. ___ - fi
50. Really the straight-up truth, to a millennial definition
58. Jacobs and Anthony
59. Rabbit ___
60. Norse saint
61. Disney amusement park
62. Guinness of "The Quiller Memorandum"
63. French priest
64. Distributes at a card game
65. Start from scratch
66. Spawning fish
1. Great guitarist: Jeff
2. ___ fixe
3. Tarry
4. Pager sound
5. Mazda model
6. Forearm bones
7. Rachel's sister, in the Bible
8. Dying words to Brutus
9. Row
10. Pottery fragment
11. Times past
12. Male/female attendee
13. Elevs.
21. Blue and black bird from Asia
22. Generic
25. Wedding

proposer

26. Caterpillar rival
27. Breezing through
28. Reason for an R rating
29. Endow, as with a quality
30. "There ___ Mountain" (1967 Donovan hit)
31. Islamic spirit
32. Like some chairs
33. Falsifiers
35. Banish
37. Mike Myers' character
39. Lake Superior locks
40. Sea explorer, for short
45. Wild things
47. Maj.'s superior
48. Bit
49. Router maker
50. Cassette contents
51. Whale type
52. Shakespearean king
53. Princeton rival
54. Comedian, Bob
55. "Twittering Machine" artist
56. "Duke of ___" (1962 hit)
57. Designer Saint Laurent
58. Club ___



Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) John Logie Baird; 2) Aorta; 3) Hang Seng; 4) General Franco; 5) Clive Woodward

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

3

years is how long cats will have been awake by the time they reach nine years old – they sleep that much.

5

percent of relocated witnesses in the US Witness Protection Program are innocent; the majority are career criminals.

60

percent of NBA players are broke within five years of retiring.

1,041

percent is how much college textbook prices in the US have risen since 1977.

35,756

feet is the deepest known point in the ocean, the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench

1 billion

US dollars is how much the show 'Friends' generates in syndication revenue each year. Each of the six main cast members earns about 2% of that... roughly US\$20 million a year.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Phraya Ratsadanupradit Mahisaraphakdi ((Khaw Sim Bee Na Ranong) 100-year memorial at Khao Rang, Phuket Town. Photo: Tony Edwards

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

This week in history

June 12, 1994

Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Lyle "Ron" Goldman are murdered outside Simpson's home in Los Angeles. Her estranged husband, O.J. Simpson is later charged but acquitted by a jury of the murders.

June 13, 313 AD

The Edict of Milan, signed by Constantine the Great and co-emperor Valerius Licinius granting religious freedom

throughout the Roman Empire, is posted in Nicomedia.

June 14, 1789

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

June 15, 2012

Nik Wallenda becomes the first person to successfully tightrope walk directly over Niagara Falls.



The Taj Mahal. Photo: Suraj Rajiv

June 16, 1948

British Malaya declares a state of emergency after members of the Malayan Communist Party kill three British plantation managers in Sungai Siput (in Perak).

June 17, 1631

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

June 18, 1982

Italian banker Roberto Calvi's body is discovered hanging beneath Blackfriars Bridge in London, England.

Source: Wikipedia

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6pm – 11pm: Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Prawns and Squid, Salad buffet, Choice of potatoes and sauces, bread, buns and garlic bread. Reservation recommended. B395 P/P. shakersphuket@gmail.com 081 891 4381.

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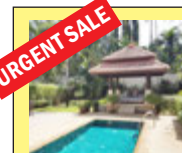
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England Test captain Joe Root (left) and West Indies skipper Jason Holder. Photo: AFP



Windies' tour of England a major boost for cricket

CRICKET

Julian Guyer

International cricket started to get back on its feet following the coronavirus shutdown when the West Indies arrived Tuesday (June 9) for a Test series in England. Fans who have had to make do with months of television repeats can now look forward to the real thing again. The three-match contest was originally meant to be played in June but will now start on July 8 instead because of the pandemic.

But rather than games before crowds at the Oval, Edgbaston and Lord's, a now back-to-back series will take place behind closed doors at the more 'bio-secure' Ageas Bowl and Old Trafford.

Whereas players usually spend evenings during a Test away from the ground, they will now instead find themselves in a protective bubble at two venues which both have onsite hotels.

Hampshire's Ageas Bowl

will stage the series opener from July 8, with the next two Tests at Old Trafford.

Health measures, including a ban on applying saliva to the ball to aid swing and repeated virus testing will be in place.

"Our main objective is to deliver a safe environment for all stakeholders," said England and Wales Cricket Board events director Steve Elworthy.

'Done us a favour'

Yet there is no escaping the financial impact of the virus.

Going ahead with major matches is seen as vital, with the ECB estimating it could lose £252 million (£10 billion) if there are no fixtures at all this summer.

One of cricket's poorest major teams in the West Indies is now helping one of its wealthiest, with former England captain David Gower saying the Windies had "done us a favour" at a time when the COVID-19 death toll in Britain had topped 40,000.

The West Indies, who

hold the Wisden Trophy after beating England in the Caribbean last year, have selected a 25-strong squad made up of 14 first-choice players and 11 travelling reserves.

They will complete a 14-day quarantine period, combined with initial training, during several weeks at Old Trafford before heading south from Manchester for the first Test.

Despite the ECB's efforts, three West Indies players – Darren Bravo, Shimron Hetmyer and Keemo Paul – declined to tour, with Cricket West Indies insisting it will not hold this against them when it comes to future selection.

Bravo and Hetmyer's absence deprives the tourists of two top-order batsman, with Paul less of a loss given he is a back-up for fast-bowling all-rounder Jason Holder, the West Indies captain.

It was a point emphasised by CWI chief selector Roger Harper, who said at last week's squad announcement: "I expect that the bowling unit will once again provide a serious

challenge for England and our batting will have to deliver."

But it could be Root who is the most significant absentee from the first Test.

Root's wife is expected to give birth to their second child in the first week of July.

The Yorkshireman plans to attend the birth but that may mean Root has to then self-isolate for seven days, putting a question mark against his participation at Southampton.

Root has backed vice-captain Ben Stokes to do a good job in his absence but Kevin Pietersen, recalling his own brief stint as England skipper, was wary of adding to the star all-rounder's burdens and suggested wicketkeeper Jos Buttler for the role instead.

"Do I want to see Ben Stokes change from who he is and the current player he is?" Pietersen told talkSPORT. "Probably not."

"The entertainers and the guys that have to carry the mantle in the team sometimes aren't the best captains and sometimes struggle with the extra added pressure." AFP



Conor McGregor announced his retirement from the ring in a Twitter message on June 7. Photo: AFP

UFC superstar McGregor retires

MMA

MIXED MARTIAL arts superstar Conor McGregor has announced his retirement from the sport.

The two-division Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) World Champion said his fighting days were over in a Twitter message posted on his verified account on Sunday (June 7).

"Hey guys I've decided to retire from fighting. Thank you all for the amazing memories! What a ride it's been!" he wrote.

The controversial fighter, nicknamed "The Notorious", previously announced his retirement from the sport in March last year after being battered into submission by arch-rival Khabib Nurmagomedov in October 2018.

In April 2016 he also said he was retiring with a now-famous tweet: "I have decided to retire young. Thanks for the cheese. Catch ya's later."

His last appearance in the octagon was in January after a 15-month absence when he knocked out American Donald "Cowboy" Cerrone in a ruthless 40-second destruction in Las Vegas.

The 31-year-old, an icon

of the UFC, is no stranger to controversy and hit the headlines last year for an attack on an older man in a Dublin bar that was captured in a viral video and led to a McGregor apology.

McGregor, one of the most popular fighters in MMA history, has a record of 22-4 and was the first UFC fighter to hold two championship belts at the same time.

He achieved that feat in 2016 when he stopped Eddie Alvarez in a lightweight title fight, adding it to his featherweight title.

That triumph was followed by a loss to boxing great Floyd Mayweather in a cross-combat superfight in 2017, his loss to Nurmagomedov, announcements of retirements and returns to fighting.

UFC president Dana White paid tribute to McGregor after the conclusion of UFC 250 in Las Vegas early last Sunday morning.

"If Conor McGregor feels he wants to retire, you know my feelings about retirement, you should absolutely do it," White said at the post-event press conference.

"I love Conor. There's a handful of people that have made this really fun for me, and he's one of them." AFP

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Sport



McGregor to hang up gloves > p11

WATER RESULT BOYS!

SWIMMING

Lee Blake, BISP

Two British International School, Phuket (BISP) swimmers will be following the sun to Florida in September 2021, having been recruited to the swimming teams of two of the southernmost US state's top universities.

Year 12 students Aryan Nehra and Arius Pavlidi will both head to Florida in 16 months after completing their final year at BISP.

Aryan has given his verbal commitment to join the 'Gators' swim team at the University of Florida in Gainesville – currently the third-ranked swim team in Division 1 of the NCAA. Arius will be just 200km away at Florida State University in Tallahassee, also a Division 1



Aryan Nehra in action. Photo: BISP Media

swim college and home to the 'Seminoles' athletics team.

Both students joined the BISP Swimming Academy in 2017 – Aryan from India and Arius from Lithuania. In the past year, the athletes have been scaling new heights in their sport. Arius competed at the European Swimming

Championships in Glasgow in December and Aryan continues to break national records for his native India. They were both in contention for Olympic selection this year but will have to wait for at least another 12 months before knowing if Japan 2021 could mark their Olympic debut.

BISP University Counsellor, Jacqui Brelsford, said the students' success in being recruited and sealing some funding came down to a combination of factors.

"Both Aryan and Arius started this process over 12 months ago. The governing body of US college athletics,

the NCAA, has strict rules about how students can be recruited. Student-athletes can begin their quest for recruitment in Year 10 or 11, but it's not until the start of Year 12 that conversations between head coaches and athletes can truly begin to take place.

"Before that point, student-athletes are encouraged to make contact with coaches to express their interest, but coaches cannot respond. So students need to be proactive, and that means preparing their athlete profiles, taking the PSAT, sending out their academic transcripts and emailing coaches outlining what exactly they're looking for. Aryan and Arius did all of these things with the support of the University Counselling team and their swim coach."

Ms Brelsford added that recruitment to play sport does

not always guarantee funding.

"Students must meet the university's academic requirements, as well as the needs of the coach and team. These boys were ideal candidates for recruitment because they have strong academic as well as athletic ability," she said.

Colin Braund, head coach of the BISP Swimming Academy, believes the boys are everything college coaches are looking for. "Scholarships at the top end are very sought after and coaches are looking for continued improvement and a high level of achievement to replace outgoing seniors," he said.

"Both Aryan and Arius have had a great attitude both in and out of the pool. They are very professional, with a willingness to learn and improve and are well-established role models within the school."



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