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SIGNS OF LIFE



Tourists relax on Nai Harn Beach. Photo: PR Phuket

ISLAND BREATHES EASIER AS TOURISTS MAKE THEIR WAY BACK TO PHUKET

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Tourists, and traffic, started returning to Phuket this past week, raising hopes of a slow return to economic recovery for the island, and the return to some form of stable income for many people who have suffered without work for the past 18 months.

According to Phuket Immigration, as of last Sunday (Nov 7) a total of 4,212 Test & Go arrivals had landed in Phuket since the launch of the entry scheme on Nov 1, under which vaccinated people arriving from 63 countries and territories may enter

Thailand while observing just one night hotel quarantine while waiting for the results of a PCR test.

That same day, of the 68,595 Sandbox arrivals who have landed in Phuket since July 1, only 3,717 were still on the island.

Even the daily rate of arrivals increased in the past week, with 1,264 arrivals landing last Sunday, nearly doubling the number arriving daily only weeks earlier.

Direct international flights also started making their way back to Phuket, with last Sunday's arrivals landing at Phuket airport via 10 airlines: Thai Airways (3 flights), Qatar Airways, Eithad, El Al, Cathay

Pacific, Jetstar, Finn Air, Air Astana, AirAsia Berhad and Singapore Airlines (2 flights).

The numbers have been bolstered by the return of Russian tourists, with the first direct commercial passenger flight from Russia since the tourism shutdown last year landing in Phuket last Saturday morning (Nov 6), with Aeroflot Russian Airlines Flight SU274 from Sheremetyevo International Airport landing at 8:50am, bringing 277 tourists from Moscow.

Waiting at Gate 11 to welcome the arrivals were Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong, Phuket International Airport General Manager Monchai Tanode along with a host of repre-

sentatives from the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office and other government agencies.

According to Russian news service TASS, the passengers arrived under the Phuket Sandbox scheme, not the newly launched 'Test & Go' scheme.

The arrival of the Russian tourists followed Vladimir V. Sosnov, Consul General of the Russian Federation for Phuket Province, meeting with Vice Governor Pichet early last month to discuss the prospect of Russian tourists returning to visit the island.

At that time, V/Gov Pichet noted that only 496 Russian tourists had travelled to Phuket under the Phuket Sandbox project since Sept 1...

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Verstappen steps on the gas in F1 title showdown








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News



Local officials ready for more accidents > p4

Signs of normal life slowly return

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...Bhumikitti Ruktaengam, President of the Phuket Tourist Association, has marked that Russian tourists will play a major part in Phuket's tourism recovery.

Although Russia had recently seen spiking caseloads of infections, Phuket had confidence in its safety protocols, with only 0.3% of Sandbox arrivals testing positive for the virus over the past four months, Mr Bhumikitti said.

"After November 15, there will be an increase in the number of countries that can travel to Sandbox segments," Mr Bhumikitti added.

At present, 825 international flights from 17 airlines are scheduled to arrive in Phuket in November, compared with 562 flights from 11 airlines in October, he explained.

Yet Russians were not the most common tourist arrival during the past week. Arrivals from Germany held the top spot, followed by Russia then the UK, the US and France.

Meanwhile, preparations to ready the island to receive tourists have been underway.

In Patong, senior regional Army commanders escorted by Patong Mayor Chalerm Sak Maneesri last Sunday (Nov 7) inspected Patong Beach for "orderliness", while Mayor Chalerm Sak held a public event to declare Bangla Rd open, but under strict enforcement of COVID-19 prevention measures.



Lard Yai Sunday Walking Street Market bustling again in Phuket Town. Photo: PR Phuket

ment of COVID-19 prevention measures.

The Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT Phuket) will hold a seafood festival at Patong Beach complete with live entertainment and a 'familiarisation trip' for visiting hotel and tour operators to help draw more tourists to Phuket.

Montree Manatao, Deputy Director of TAT Phuket office, said the events were to help make Phuket tourism more "colourful", and aimed to lure more tourists to Phuket to help the island's economic recovery.

The "Amazing Thai Taste Festival" will be held at Patong

Beach about Nov 26-28, he explained.

The full details of the event have yet to be confirmed.

The gastronomy food tourism promotion event will highlight local dishes from throughout the Andaman provinces, Mr Montree said.

"Along with many stage performance zones to create colour for tourists," he added.

The TAT Phuket office will also hold its "Tour Thailand with confidence with SHA" around Dec 3-5, Mr Montree also confirmed.

"It is a promotional event by bringing a team of hotel, tour and accommodation operators from all over the

country into one event at Saphan Hin in Phuket Town, where we will have an SHA Pavilion zone, which will create an understanding of SHA standards, and a 'plan it yourself' programme so operators can create their own tour itineraries," Mr Montree said.

"There will be a team to organise programmes according to the needs of tourists and there will be a 'Step Show' zone where artists, celebrities, singers will come to brighten up the event," he added.

"These are colourful festivals, because the TAT wants to give happiness to the people and create festival events to

help stimulate the economy more by the end of the year," he said.

LIVE NORMALLY, BUT CAREFULLY

Dr Weerasak Lorthongkham, the new Director of Vachira Phuket Hospital, has come forward to urge people to go ahead and live their normal lives, but remain vigilant against the spread of COVID-19.

"Don't be careless. Don't panic. Live with COVID-19," Dr Weerasak said in a video posted over last weekend.

"Safely expect the COVID-19 situation to last another year," he said plainly.

Dr Weerasak added that under the current progress made by the mass vaccination campaign in Phuket "about 80-90% of people in the province are immune to the coronavirus".

He also noted that more than 15,000 people have been infected in Phuket and recovered, while the number of new cases each day had fallen below 100. On Monday, the island recorded just 39 new infections.

"People have been coming to Phuket for weeks, so let's be ready and think that the infection is everywhere in Phuket and take precautions, both at work and with the family.

"We are asking every-

one to remind themselves about preventing the spread of COVID-19, but we do not want people to panic about the current rate of infections," he said.

Dr Weerasak asked people to be ready for any outbreaks that may occur, and specifically asked parents to have a plan ready in case their child contracts COVID-19 from school, especially since in-person classes resumed at most schools on Nov 1.

He also asked island residents not to be frightened of infections being brought in by international arrivals.

"Tourism resuming in Phuket was inevitable. The arrivals coming from abroad, both Thais and foreigners, have had vaccinations and swab tests before entering. The infection rate among international arrivals is only 0.3%, much less than the 5% infection rate in Phuket," he said.

People who test positive via home tests with ATKs (antigen test kits) are urged to contact the Aunjai Clinic, Dr Weerasak said.

"Take medicine to take care of yourself and get back to normal life, life must go on," he said.

"We do not have to let our guard down to safely live with COVID, with awareness but not panic," Dr Weerasak concluded.

Diplomatic corps briefed on island's readiness to receive tourists

SPEARHEADING PHUKET'S economic and tourism recovery efforts, the Phuket Tourist Association made a show of readiness at a diplomatic briefing held recently to bring Phuket's diplomatic corps up to speed on the country's reopening since Nov 1.

The event saw a large turnout of consul-generals, honorary consuls and other officials from Phuket-based consulates of various countries, including Switzerland, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Russia. Also joining the briefing were consuls of Estonia, Mexico, Chile, Australia, Nepal, South Korea and Kazakhstan.

On hand to welcome the diplomats and lead a three-member panel to share insights



Photo: Phuket Tourist Association

into Phuket's present and future at the briefing was PTA President Bhumikitti Ruktaengam.

The session started with an overview of the Phuket Sandbox scheme in which Mr Bhumikitti revealed the progress of the scheme that had been made over

the past 116 days.

Later the president introduced a comprehensive tourism and public health strategy that has been developed in response to the Thai government's policy of opening up Thailand to fully vaccinated tourists from low-risk countries.

The diplomatic representatives were brought up to speed on the requirements for foreign nationals to be allowed to enter Thailand without quarantine.

Mr Bhumikitti said that the remarkable achievement of the Phuket Sandbox scheme was due in no small part to the full cooperation of the Phuket people and the "highly efficient" health and safety systems already in place.

"The Phuket Sandbox program aims to encourage all Phuket people to take steps forward together with adequate tourist income to get everyone through this crisis. We're hoping to step up efforts to bring greater sustainability and security to the tourism sector for the next generation" Mr Bhumikitti said.

During the briefing, the PTA highlighted its current campaign,

"Together Phuket Stepping Forward," which positions "Phuket as a destination that's worth visiting, safe and highly accessible, with a fair distribution of tourist income."

"While Phuket's public health systems are ready to tackle the pandemic, Mr Bhumikitti envisions a world in which people need to learn to live with the virus as part of a post-COVID-19 world in which standard health and safety measures are part of the realities of life," the release noted.

The briefing wrapped up with a Q&A session in which the consuls were given reassurances that Phuket is ready to welcome tourists back and the island resort is safe for both international and local visitors thanks to its highly efficient public health sector that is on alert for any immediate threat. *The Phuket News*

Reopening hits TP snag

The Phuket News
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Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has been made aware of the problems with the Thailand Pass registration portal, and instructed state agencies to fix the new online system which was launched on Nov 1 to simplify and expedite the approval process for travellers wanting to enter Thailand.

Under the new system, all people, Thai and foreign, must be issued a Thailand Pass in order to be permitted to enter the country.

Government spokesman Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana confirmed the premier's instructions in an announcement last Sunday (Nov 7).

The move follows a deluge of complaints by people attempting to register through the official website, tp.consular.go.th, not just on Nov 1 when the system was launched, but for the whole week after.

Many of the complaints stemmed from people who had applied for a Certificate of Entry (COE) under the previous entry requirements



Anucha Nakasai, the Minister attached to the Office of the Prime Minister, on Nov 2 admitted 'some issues' with people registering through the Thailand Pass website, but said those issues had already been addressed. Photo: NNT

with plenty of time to spare. Others were told to wait for the Thailand Pass system to launch and submit their application on or after Nov 1.

Issues affecting the registration process ranged from the web portal not recognising passport numbers to applicants receiving an "API Error"

from the servers. Other issues simply involved travellers successfully registering through the system, but not receiving any confirmation that their application had been received, or having been notified of successful registration not being approved in time for travel.

Of note, according to the

requirements of applying for a Thailand Pass, applicants must submit evidence of testing negative for COVID-19 by RT-PCR test within 72 hours before boarding their flight to Thailand. However, applicants are also told to wait three to five days for approval.

Anucha Nakasai, the Min-

ister attached to the Office of the Prime Minister, on Nov 2 announced that "some issues" with people registering through the Thailand Pass website had been noticed.

He also said those issues had already been addressed.

Tanee Sangrat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director-General of the Department of Information and Spokesman, on Nov 4 then boasted that 65,338 Thailand Pass applications had been received since 9am Nov 1, with 12,607 applications approved within the same period.

Mr Tanee also acknowledged "some issues" with the system, which he said was mostly due to "external interferences".

The MFA is now working with the Digital Government Development Agency to constantly improve the system, with the latest feature being the official support on mobile devices, noted a report by state news agency NNT.

However, the slew of complaints continued with people still unable to register. One Phuket expat explained to *The Phuket News* that he was stuck in London, where

he had returned to attend his daughter's wedding.

"I spent over 9 hours on a keyboard, chat sessions and chatting to people trying to get an application received by MFA," he said.

After listing no less than six different issues with registering, the expat added, "Finally I had problems with email. The system responds best to Gmail.com email addresses. I gather it doesn't respond at all to Hotmail," he added.

"All up, I have spent almost 15 hours researching and inputting on my laptop. I have made 3 calls and 5 emails to Thai Elite - they can't help. Apart from having a Thai Elite visa, I also have an APEC card," he said.

"Having started the process a month before my return travel date, I am essentially faced with ever-increasing hurdles.

"Essentially I picked a date of November 9 a month ago not knowing how crucial one day is.

"I need to be back in Phuket, but if I were a tourist, I would have given up," he said plainly.

Beware fake 'Thailand Pass' websites

THE ANTI-FAKE NEWS CENTER (AFNC) has issued a warning that ThailandPass.org is not an official government website, and is not to be used for applying for a Thailand Pass.

Under the warning, branded 'Beware of fake "Thailand Pass" websites', the ANFC explained that the website www.thailandpass.org, a hotel booking website, had claimed it was a state website to register for travel to Thailand.

Noppawan Chaiyamun, spokesperson for the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, noted, "...the problem encountered is that there is a group of professionals going to register domain names, such as ThailandPass.org, pretending to be a government website.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs therefore warns all tourists to be careful and not be fooled by entering information into such



Image: ANFC

websites," Ms Noppawan said.

Chamnan Srisawad, Chairman of the Tourism Council of Thailand (TAT), also called for people to register only through the one official website, <https://tp.consular.go.th>

Of note, since the warning was issued, ThailandPass.org has updated its home page to specifically explain that it is not a government website and not related to the official Thailand Pass registration system. *The Phuket News*

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Officials brace for more accidents

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

With more tourists expected to arrive on the island following the reopening of the country to international tourists last Monday (Nov 1), Phuket disaster officials are now drawing up plans to hold a public-awareness campaign to help stem the expected rising number of road accidents.

The campaign was decided on at a meeting of the Phuket Road Safety Committee at the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Center Region 18 headquarters in Phuket Town last Thursday (Nov 4).

Chairing the meeting was Phuket Provincial Office Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Anuphap Rodkwan Yodrabum, joined by DDPM Phuket Chief Udomphon Kan and other committee members.

Mr Anuphap explained that the aim of the meeting was to follow up on the work preventing and reducing road accidents in Phuket.

"Especially during long holidays," he said.

"Due to the fact that Phuket Prov-



Officials are expecting more accidents as more tourists arrive on the island. Photo: PR Phuket

ince is more relaxed in the requirements for entering the province, more people are travelling to Phuket. In addition, the government has announced the opening of the country on November 1," Mr Anuphap said.

"This will cause the number of vehicles on the roads to increase, so there must be preparation in the matter of road safety," he noted.

Of all the strategies to decide on, the committee resolved to have 17 vinyl banners printed up and distributed to the 17 local administrations and municipalities across the island to display in a prominent place in their area.

"The local authorities are to install these in an area where local people and car users can easily see from the

road, and will publicize the message for people to exercise more caution [when driving]," Mr Anuphap said.

As for the "risk points", better known as traffic accident "black spots" in each area across the island, "the relevant agencies have accelerated the solution to the problem", he added.

Of note, just hours earlier that same day a driver fell asleep at the wheel and slammed his car into a street lamp pole at the Tha Reua U-turn. The accident occurred at the same location where last Monday (Nov 1) a couple from Pa Khlok were injured when the driver of their pickup truck fell asleep at the wheel and slammed into a power pole.

According to the Thai Road Safety Committee (ThaiRSC), Phuket so far this year – even with relatively very few tourists – has recorded 62 deaths and 10,652 people injured in 10,715 accidents across the island.

Last year, Phuket recorded 106 deaths and 16,859 people injured in 16,965 accidents on the island's roads.

Nationwide, 11,131 people have died and a further 722,882 people have been injured in road accidents so far this year.

Phuket crime blitz nets 11 guns, 147 drug arrests

POLICE ACROSS PHUKET HAVE ARRESTED 11 people for illegal possession of firearms and netted 147 drug suspects in a 'Crime Mobilisation Campaign' run last month aiming to clamp down on crimes across the island ahead of the full reopening to international tourists on Nov 1.

The arrests and seizures were confirmed through a report of the campaign results released by Phuket Provincial police last Friday (Nov 5).

The campaign, which was run nationally between Oct 20-31, was aimed at detecting and eradicating crimes ahead of the Nov 1 reopening to fully-vaccinated tourists from 63 nations in order to install confidence and a notion of safety in local residents and visitors to the country alike.

There were three main types of arrest targets focused on during the campaign: general crimes, technology crime and those accused under previous pending arrest warrants.

The Phuket Provincial Police operated in accordance with the policies of the government and the national police to ensure laws were enforced against all types of offenders, said the release.

During the campaign the police confirmed that a total 337 offenders were arrested and prosecuted and 357 were accused of committing crimes.

The largest number of arrests were drug related with 147 arrests made under the Narcotics Act during the period and four people accused.

In uncovering an online firearms trading network, police made 11 arrests under the Firearms Act, while 21 people were arrested



Photos: Phuket Provincial Police

in 15 gambling raids.

Two foreigners were arrested for Immigration related offences, and three people were arrested for breach of laws regulating the operation service places, such as selling alcohol illegally or trading beyond the legal closing time.

Officers arrested 16 people in 16 cases related to "technology crime" and 84 people were arrested on outstanding warrants.

A further 59 people were arrested for miscellaneous crimes, the report said.

Maj Gen Sermphan Sirikong, Commander of the Phuket Provincial Police, confirmed that any offences that cause trouble such as theft or people offering and issuing illegal loans will be taken seriously and dealt with promptly.

He added that regular blockades will be set up and suspects searched in an attempt to reduce petty crimes on the island.

Presenting Phuket as a safe and desirable tourist destination is of paramount importance and a robust law and order policy can only help achieve this, Maj Gen Sermphan added.

The Phuket News

Teens wanted for jab study

Vachira hospital looks to study myocarditis effects from Pfizer

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Teenagers in Phuket from 12 to 17 years old are wanted for a study to compare the effects of subdermal vaccinations injected under the skin compared with much deeper intramuscular injections.

The study is being conducted by Vachira Phuket Hospital, which earlier this year conducted a similar study among adults.

That study confirmed that only 20% of the standard vaccine dose of AstraZeneca was required for the third-dose 'booster shots' to provoke the same level of immunity among the recipients.

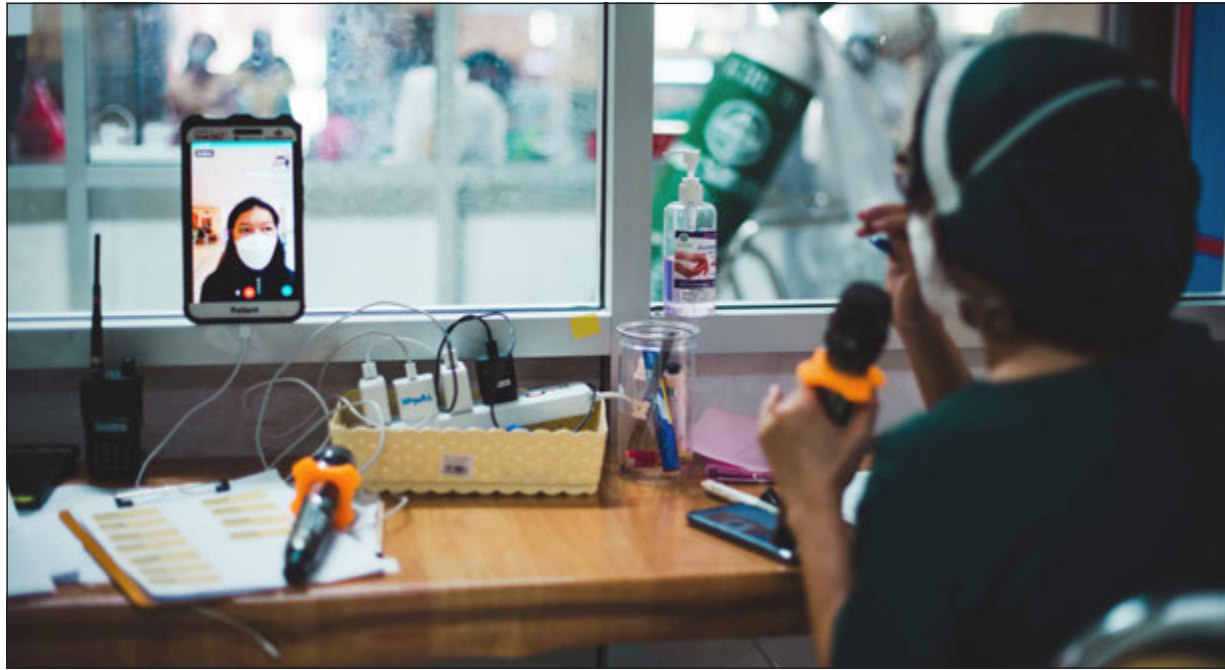
The results of that study were later implemented throughout the country as the "Phuket method".

However, the new study among young people will use the Pfizer vaccine, Vachira hospital said in its announcement last week.

"This is a study to reduce the side effects of myocarditis in children," the hospital also explained.

In total, 200 volunteers are required for the study. The volunteers will be divided into two groups.

Group 1 will receive 0.3ml of mRNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccine by



Teenagers are wanted for a study on the effects of being vaccinated, despite 80% of teenagers in Phuket already being vaccinated. Photo: Vachira Phuket Hospital

two intramuscular injections three weeks apart.

Group 2 will receive 0.1ml of mRNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccine by two injections injected into the subcutaneous layer under the skin.

The volunteers must be free from any congenital diseases and had never received any COVID vaccination injections before, the hospital emphasised in its notice.

Participants in both groups will

be screened for COVID-19 using the Rapid Antigen Test (ATK).

If the virus is not found, the vaccine will be administered and the level of immunity is tested in the next step, the hospital said.

Participants will receive a blood test to check the level of immunity against COVID-19 (SARS CoV-2 Antibody – IgG) three times during the study, the hospital explained.

The first blood test will be con-

ducted before the first injection, the second two weeks after the second injection, and the third 12 weeks after the second injection.

If a participant receiving a subdermal injection shows little or no increase in immunity after the injections, the participant will receive an intramuscular vaccination injection to stimulate the body's response, the hospital added.

The move to conduct the study

follows Phuket Education Area Director Songsak Tothong announcing last week that over 80% of students in Phuket already had been vaccinated. That claim came while no child under 12 in the country has been allowed to receive any vaccination injections.

The confirmation of how many teenagers in Phuket already had been vaccinated came as schools across the country were allowed to reopen on Nov 1. Mr Songsak confirmed that in Phuket 79 schools were ready to resume in-person classes.

According to the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) mass vaccination progress report for Tuesday (Nov 8), of the target 547,584 people in Phuket to be vaccinated, 467,425 had received one injection, 436,466 had received two injections and 256,255 had received a 'third-dose' booster shot.

People interested in taking part in the myocarditis study were asked to contact Khun Ratchanok at 076 361234 ext. 6506-7. Applications to take part in the study were to remain open until the number of required volunteers is reached. At last report, on Tuesday, Vachira hospital had yet to confirm that the minimum number of participants had been reached.

Search fails to find man who jumped from off-island bridge

THE SEARCH FOR A young man who threw himself from the Srisoonthorn Bridge leading off the island last Tuesday (Nov 2) entered its fourth day last Saturday (Nov 6) with rescue workers thus far unsuccessful in their attempts.

Officers from the Tha Chatchai Police were called to the bridge at 11:30pm after it was reported that a man had stopped his pickup and leapt off the bridge into the fast-moving water below.

Officers arrived to find the white Ford Ranger pickup, registered in Khon Kaen province, parked on the left side halfway across the bridge.

A driver's licence found in the pickup indicated that the missing person was Buncha Suksunit, 25, a resident of Baan Pru Sompan in Moo 8, Tambon Thepkasattri.

Police officers from Tha Chatchai Police Station in Mai Khao examined the scene as rescue workers from Mai Khao Subdistrict Administrative Organisation



The search for Mr Buncha continued last weekend. Photo: Supplied

began a search in the waters surrounding the bridge. The search had to be called off at 2:10am due to the dangerous conditions but it did resume the following morning and subsequent days.

Rescue workers last expanded their search into waters south of the incident, including Nai Yang Beach, Naithon Beach, Kamala Beach, Layan Beach and Natai Beach in the Khok Kloi Subdistrict of Phang Nga Province, on the northern side of the channel.

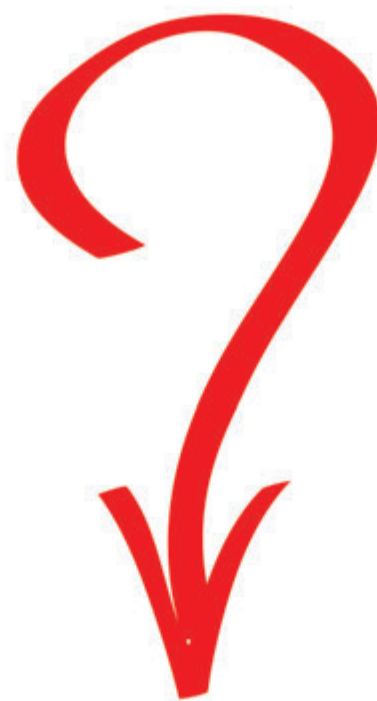
By last weekend hopes were fading of finding Mr Buncha alive. Experts who have had similar experiences in the past with people jumping from the bridge confirmed that almost every time the person drowns and the body eventually floats to land, in this instance possibly to the areas stated above.

Police confirmed that Mr Buncha's parents and his wife were awaiting updates on the situation as the search continued.

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Phuket hits top in Airbnb holiday stay searches

PHUKET HAS BECOME the top choice among searches for accommodations in Thailand on the Airbnb platform since the country's reopening to visitors from 63 countries and territories without quarantine launched on Nov 1.

Searches for accommodations in Thailand on the Airbnb platform have doubled, said Amanpreet Bajaj, Airbnb's General Manager for India, South-east Asia, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, reported state news agency NBT.

Phuket is the top destination, followed by Bangkok, Samui, Pattaya and Chiang Mai, Mr Bajaj confirmed.

Provinces near Bangkok have also seen more searches. Surprisingly, Phetchaburi, a lesser-known province, has seen the number of searches rise by 80%.

Mr Bajaj added that most of the tourists from Europe, North America, and colder countries are preparing to escape the cold season.



Phuket has topped Airbnb holiday accommodation searches. Photo: Airbnb

"This makes Thailand one of their top destinations. Thailand will be seeing more tourists from the US, Russia, Germany, Britain, Korea, Australia, Canada, Sweden and Switzerland," he said.

"As Thailand officially reopened and lifted the quarantine on arrival, we have seen the rising demand to visit Thailand reflected by Airbnb bookings," Mr Bajaj added.

"There is also a large number of tourists who booked for a long stay which is not beyond expectation because Thailand is also one of the top destinations for workation," he noted. *The Phuket News*

Eyes on hosting SEA Games, World Specialized Expo

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew will propose to the mobile Cabinet meeting in Krabi next week that Phuket bid to host the 25th SEA Games in 2025 and the World Specialized Expo 2028 in 2028.

The move is part of a plan to help broaden Phuket's economic base and reduce the island's overdependence on destination tourism, Governor Narong explained via radio press conference Wednesday last week (Nov 3).

The proposal to host the major events is part of a plan for the national government to support development in three key industries: sports; health and wellness; and MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences & exhibitions).

The plan, comprising 18 separate projects, will be presented to the mobile Cabinet meeting to be held in Krabi on Nov 15-16, he said.

"Phuket has faced serious problems from the impact of the COVID-19 situation, with all sectors [of the community]



Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew announced the plan via radio broadcast last week. Photo: Radio Thailand Phuket

suffering harshly because Phuket's main economic base is a monolithic structure. The main income for the island is from tourism and services, up to 95% of our economy," Governor Narong said.

"Therefore, the economy must be built and adjusted to have at least 10 more pillars to support it in case any one pillar is affected," he added.

The proposal to host the 25th SEA Games in 2025 is aimed to benefit the entire Andaman region, Governor Narong explained.

"Hosting it will be an im-

portant part of stimulating the economy, and before the competition event there will be city improvements to support the image of Thailand as the host," he said.

The bid for Phuket to host the World Specialized Expo 2028 would be a combined effort with the TCEB (Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau), Governor Narong continued.

The global health-related event would bring many visitors to the region and place Thailand centre stage in the international community for

hosting international events, he said.

The proposal to host World Specialized Expo 2028 has been a long time coming. The plan to bid for the global wellness event was approved by Deputy Minister of Public Health Sathit Pitutecha at a meeting in Bangkok on Sept 1.

Rangsiman Kingkaew, Vice President of Strategic Tourism at the Phuket Tourism Association, last month noted, "If Phuket province is selected as the host, that could lead to investment of up to B4 billion, and with further economic benefits Thailand worth more than B45bn."

Governor Narong also confirmed that plans to overhaul Phuket's public health system would also be presented to the mobile Cabinet meeting in Krabi.

"The third issue is the health issue of the COVID-19 situation. It was found that Phuket still has disparities in public health. Therefore, there is a need to raise the level of public health at all three levels, namely primary, secondary and tertiary, for further development," he said.

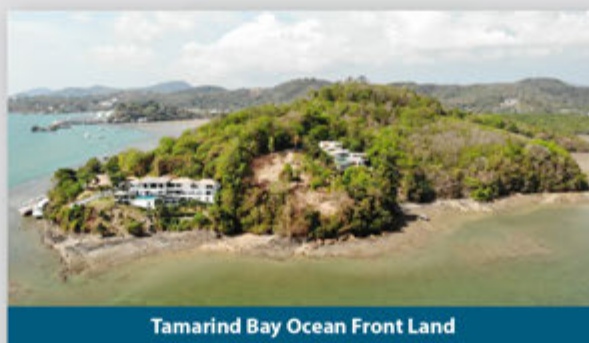
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Antiviral medicines to help boost COVID fight

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The Ministry of Public Health is gearing up to procure two types of oral COVID-19 antiviral medicines for use in Thailand to fight COVID-19 along with other treatments and vaccines.

Dr Atthasit Srisubut, adviser to the Department of Medical Services, said on Monday (Nov 8) the ministry has proposed to the Cabinet its planned procurement of Molnupiravir for approval.

"If approved, the drug is likely to be delivered in late December or January next year," he said of the medicine developed by US drug companies Merck and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics.

Dr Atthasit said the ministry will also pursue further talks with Pfizer over procurement of another COVID-19 antiviral medicine, Paxlovid.

Citing results of the clinical trials, Dr Atthasit said the two oral anti-viral drugs have been found to cut the risk of hospitalisation among COVID-19



Both pills will complement existing vaccines and bolster the country's arsenal against COVID-19. Photo: AFP

patients. Both drugs work by preventing the virus from multiplying and thus reducing the severity of infection and are effective against mild or moderate COVID-19 symptoms and in vulnerable groups.

However, he said these drugs are not recommended for those with severe kidney and liver problems and people with HIV/Aids suffering extremely low immunity, due to a lack of data on the medicines. He said the amount of drugs required will depend on the number of COVID-19 infections and it is estimated about 10% of

patients will need antiviral treatments.

Dr Atthasit also shared the trial results for both drugs on COVID-19 patients.

For the Molnupiravir trial, pills were given to 385 people twice a day, four pills per time, for five days while a placebo was given to 377 people. About 50% of those who received Molnupiravir did not require hospitalisation and none of them died.

As for Paxlovid which was taken alongside Ritonavir, it was given to 389 people twice a day, two pills per time, while

the placebo was given to 385 people. About 89% of those who received Paxlovid and Ritonavir were not hospitalised if they were given the drugs within three days of the onset of COVID-19 symptoms. About 85% were not hospitalised if they were prescribed the drugs within five days of the onset of the symptoms. There were no deaths in the group that received Paxlovid and Ritonavir.

"Both drugs are effective in reducing hospitalisations and preventing deaths. Molnupiravir can also be used to treat influenza while Paxlovid is developed to specifically treat COVID-19," he said.

However, Dr Atthasit said the price of the drugs at present is not known but it is possible that the prices of Molnupiravir may be different in developed and developing countries.

He said Pfizer is preparing to submit Paxlovid to the US regulator the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for approval, while Molnupiravir is pending authorisation for emergency use by the US FDA.

Illegal migrants pose a COVID headache

BANGKOK



Illegal Myanmar migrants stopped in Kanchanaburi last Sunday (Nov 7). Photo: Bangkok Post

THE GOVERNMENT expressed confidence on Monday (Nov 8) that COVID-19 can be controlled for travellers arriving by air, but not for people crossing illegally into Thailand by land.

A government spokesman said that in the first week since reopening on Nov 1 there were 22,832 arrivals at airports, of whom only 20 tested positive for COVID-19.

The arrivals included 14,278 visitors who entered the "Test & Go" process without quarantine, having been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and arriving from low-risk countries at Suvarnabhumi, Chiang Mai, Phuket or Samui airport. Another 7,483 entered the Sandbox quarantine process during the first week, most arriving in Phuket. There were another 1,071 arrivals who were not fully vaccinated who entered quarantine for either seven or 10 days.

However, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha is concerned about the illegal entry of workers, with more than 2,800 illegal migrants arrested over the past week.

"Statistics show that migrant workers were a common cause of COVID outbreaks, especially at markets in Bangkok, Samut Sakhon and Chiang Mai," the spokesman said.

He urged business operators to hire only legal migrant workers, quarantine them, provide them with vaccination and have them comply with disease control measures.

The government on Monday reported COVID-19 clusters originating from markets in Chiang Mai, Surin, Udon Thani, Phitsanulok, Chanthaburi, Chon Buri, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Ratchaburi, Phetchaburi and Songkhla provinces.

On Tuesday, there were 6,904 new COVID-19 cases and 61 more fatalities recorded for the previous 24 hours.

Bangkok Post

PM's aide: 'lese majeste untouchable'

BANGKOK

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REPEAL SECTION 112 of the Criminal Code, also known as the lese majeste law, both in technicality and spirit, and doing so runs counter to the constitution, Thipanan Sirichana, the former deputy spokeswoman of the ruling Palang Pracharath Party said on Monday (Nov 8).

Her response came after more than 120,000 people signed up to submit a bill calling for the repeal of the royal defamation law to Parliament.

Launched on Oct 31 during a rally at the Ratchaprasong intersection in Bangkok, the "Time's up 112" campaign attracted 3,760 signatures in favour of scrapping the law.

The campaign was moved online last Friday (Nov 5) to a website created by the Progressive Movement and the Ratspace group and 121,744 people had signed in support of the bill in less than 24 hours.

Ms Thipanan, now attached to the Prime Minister's Secretariat Office, insisted the charter stipulates in Section 6 that the monarch holds a position of reverence which is inviolable.

Abolishing the lese majeste law intended to provide legal protection to the monarch from insults and dishonour would, in essence, contravene the constitution, she said.

Section 112, which is reserved for the head of state and categorised as a national security law, works differently from the defamation law which applies to citizens.

She said it was puzzling that Progress-



Demonstrators in Bangkok on Dec 10, 2020, calling for the repeal of Section 112 of the Criminal Code. Photo: Pornprom Satrabhaya / Bangkok Post

sive Movement secretary-general Piyabutr Saengkanokkul, who is a legal expert, has shown a lack of understanding of the law.

Ms Thipanan said she could only deduce that Mr Piyabutr may be trumpeting the repeal of Section 112 to solicit the votes of those wish to see the abolition of the controversial law ahead of the nationwide local polls on Nov 28.

Meanwhile, Lt Gen Paradorn Patanathabut, secretary to the Pheu Thai Party's special affair committee, admitted Section 112 as well as Section 116 governing charges of sedition in the Criminal Code relate to the monarchy and as such are sensitive and have implications on national security.

He suggested the Section 112 cases be investigated by a police panel, including representatives from civic groups, academics and human rights agencies as they probe the matter. Bangkok Post

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Saturday just got sensational

Jason Beavan
gm@classactmedia.co.th

It has been about eight months since I attended a brunch in Phuket. A few weeks ago I did not expect to be attending one any time soon. Phuket was still sleeping and we all had our fingers crossed for life to start returning to our sunny shores very soon.

Then, in what has seemed like a blink of an eye, Phuket woke up. It was almost overnight that traffic increased, more tourists were in shopping centres and walking along the sidewalks of Phuket Town, sunning themselves at the beach. A positive wave washed over the island, people started to smile.

And so November is here and my first invite to a brunch arrived, at one of my 'go to' places to escape Phuket, without actually leaving the island. The drive north from Phuket Town was enjoyable, and it was great to see more and more places with their doors open; my family and I were off to Sala Phuket to enjoy their new Saturday brunch. Yes, you read that right, Saturday brunch. Every Saturday, Chef Tony and his culinary team have created a combination of buffet and a la carte brunch. Let me explain...

After a short stroll through the resort grounds we were greeted by smiling staff – you could see the smile in their eyes – who escorted us to our table overlooking the ocean. We did not



Sala Phuket is serving up a host of delicious brunch offerings.

sit long, as it was into the aircon area to fill our plates with the buffet of fresh chilled seafood – Fin De Claire oysters, lobster, blue swimmer crab, Chilean mussels, poached salmon and Andaman white prawns – plus cold cuts, cheese and salads.

While we were still enjoying the seafood, staff arrived with canapes which they did continually all afternoon. My picks were the Andalusian gazpacho, created from Phang Nga Bay crab and sweet basil oil, and the Bolognese ragu arancini.

As the afternoon passed, there was no reason to even leave our seats with

eight dishes to choose from a la carte. My wife and daughter chose the Laab tuna tartare, with its light and fresh flavours and a little chili kick, and the Pla Sam Rod, a crispy fried Andaman sea bass, and my daughter's favourite, char-grilled Aussie ribeye with Chimi-churri relish. Even with the dishes being half-sized portions, they couldn't fit them all in.

Equal top picks for me were the Massaman lamb benedict, a soft poached egg placed on top of braised pulled lamb shoulder on a toasted sourdough with a Massaman hollandaise, along with the Lobster risotto with

green peas, pecorino romano, lemon and bisque essence. Both were equally sensationally good.

Next time, we need to try the Patatas bravas, a serving of crispy roast potatoes; Tasmanian salmon fillet char-grilled and served with lemon polenta; and the Fettucine duck with confit duck leg ragu.

We enjoyed sitting outside with the calming ocean breeze, eating the inspiring food which was enhanced by live music from the very talented Pete McDowell and George Cordeiro. The seasoned acoustic guitar and vocal duo, popular for their unique style and classic blend of Pop, R&B and Soul, kept our feet tapping.

Tony Wrigley, Executive Chef of Sala Phuket sums it up perfectly and was true to his word: "We are really looking forward to introducing Phuket to our all new Saturday brunch offer. With a quality over quantity direction, we aim to bring only the freshest ingredients and delicious menus each week to our guests. SALA Phuket has always been a popular choice for Phuketian's looking for a beachfront dining option, and now we have another reason to rediscover SALA and Mai Khao."

Saturday Brunch is only B1,685++ per person. Available every Saturday 1-4pm. Free transfers available for bookings of four or more from anywhere in Phuket. For bookings: 076-338 888, events@salaphuket.com or LINE: @salaphuket

WINDOW ON PHUKET

The December/January 2022
hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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This piece of plastic can change your life and how you see the world



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If you are over 50 years old and stuck using eyeglasses for all your activities, and even for just taking care of most of your daily life, and you feel that you don't get enough out of your life with glasses, then this information is exclusively for you.

I don't need to remind you that having to use glasses to do things can be very frustrating, especially when you need them for even basic things such as reading price tags when you are shopping, as well as menus, labels and so on. This doesn't include how many times you need to put your glasses on just to read something on your smartphone.

If you are an active person who likes physical activities such as sports, bicycling or diving, I think you are the best person who knows how annoying this issue is because your glasses can keep falling or become sweaty and foggy and make your activity become much more difficult.

How many pairs of eyeglasses have you lost? Breaking them is another common nuisance, you know it.

The good news is that today these problems can be simply solved with just a piece of plastic called a "Multifocal lens implant".

The whole idea is like this: As you become more aged, your natural lens inside your eye ages with you. When you reach 50 years old your natural lens will degrade and can't adapt and keep up the focus you want to see any more. That's why you will need multiple eyeglasses for each different focus, and that's why your prescription keeps changing every one to two years.

The Multifocal lens implant isn't like anything you've known before. It doesn't look or work like your



progressive glasses or your contact lens. This tiny implant had been designed for the purpose of reducing the need of wearing eyeglasses and allows people to see and perform their activities with their own eyes as much as possible. The implant optics have three distinctive focuses: near focus (30cm), middle range (1-1.5 metres) and far vision (6 metres or more). This means the lens tries to restore the whole range of vision for you.

The implant itself is made from durable plastic

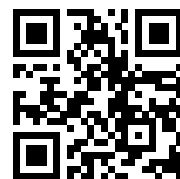
(acrylic), which means it stays for life. It doesn't degrade or change with time. There is no need for any maintenance or any special care in the long term; in fact, it is just like a part of your normal eye.

Curious about how good your vision will be? Well, the Multifocal lens will allow you to see both near and far at all times, your brain will automatically and naturally adapt itself to the implant and find the correct focus. You don't need to look up or down to find the focus like the way you did with your progressive eyeglasses.

How does the implant get in the eye? It is done by a simple 30-minute procedure called "Refractive Lens Exchange", or "RLE", which basically means the degraded natural lens will be replaced with a Multifocal lens implant. The procedure itself is considered minor surgery with very quick visual recovery (next day). And the very best news is: it is painless.

A Multifocal lens can potentially transform your life and the way you see and interact with the world. Try imagining your life without glasses, do everything you want to do and see everything that you want to see, with your own eyes. It is no longer just a dream, cutting-edge technology makes it possible today.

Sound like a good idea? I recommend you to please scan the QR code at the end of this article to learn more in-depth information about it. Or you can access this service at the BrightView Center, at Bangkok Hospital Phuket, and schedule your consultation with Dr Captain, who has more than 10 years' experience in the procedure. He is a highly regarded surgeon and well known both internationally and among Phuket locals (go ask your neighbor).





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POP QUIZ

1. Which Wild West gunslinger was shot in the back while playing poker in Deadwood, Colorado, in 1876?
2. 'Now is the winter of our discontent' is the opening line from which William Shakespeare play?
3. George Washington famously crossed which icy river on the night of Christmas Day in 1776 to set up a surprise attack?
4. Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated in which European city, thus sparking World War I?
5. What does the acronym 'CSI' stand for?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Hard

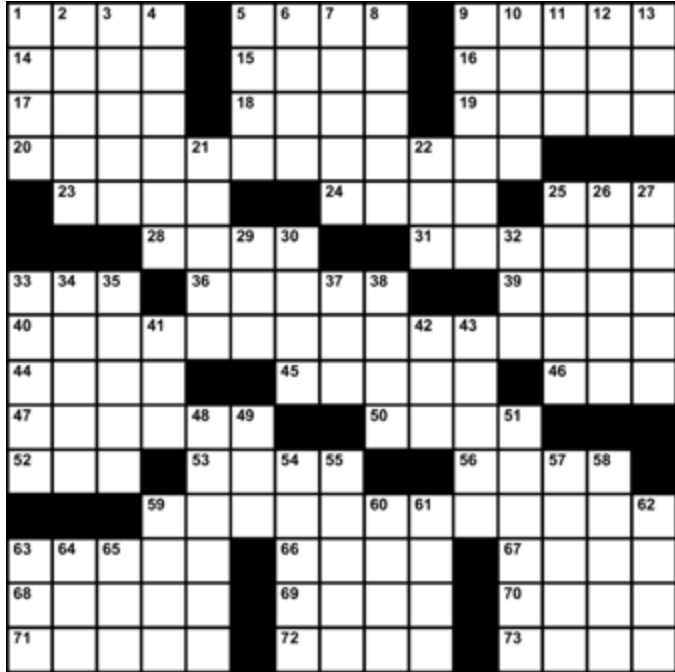
		8						
		7	8	9		2		
6	3				7			
2						1		
9				1				4
		5						7
			4				1	2
		4		2	3	5		
						8		

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across
1. Woolen caps
 5. Impersonator
 9. Supple
 14. First American in space, first name
 15. Cracker topper
 16. Mideast leaders
 17. Kylie Minogue "The ___-Motion"
 18. Staying power
 19. Ringle
 20. Muscle cramp
 23. New and used car
 24. Bit of kindling
 25. Pitcher meas.
 28. Hollywood Boulevard sight
 31. Take from the top
 33. Duke's grp.
 36. Attach
 39. "Great" China landmark
 40. Aussie character who famously said "This is a knife!"
 44. Mrs. Dithers in "Blondie"
 45. Object
 46. Sci-fi figures
 47. Two for the road
 50. Difficult task
 52. Heavens
 53. Tyson or Oldfield
 56. Bleats
- Down
1. Powder
 2. Honolulu welcome
 3. Casino destination in China
 4. Pig-like laughs
 5. Having the means
 6. Animal hunted
 7. Figure for Fleming
 8. Seed again
 9. "Time to leave"
 10. Hungarian patriot Nagy
 11. Connect to
 12. Hours (abr.)
 13. Cousin of -trix
 21. Numbers game
 22. Clean
 25. Skirt
26. Found a new tenant for
27. "Sunflowers" setting
 29. Helping hand
 30. Chief Chief
 32. Command
 33. Bank holdings: Abbr.
 34. Sound like a raven
 35. Over-used
 37. Spanish cheer
 38. Lost fish
 41. Dishonorable guy
 42. Bradstreet's partner
 43. Brazilian river
 48. Pay-Pal currency
 49. Caesar's 1004
 51. Beauty pageant bands
 54. Painter of big-eyed children
 55. Trimming tool
 57. In unison
 58. Certain print
 59. Fourth-largest U.S. state in area, abbr.
 60. It precedes dynamic
 61. Doc's prescription
 62. Covers
 63. Standings stat
 64. Santa ___ (city in California)
 65. Fill 'er up stuff

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Wild Bill Hickok; 2) Richard III; 3) Delaware River; 4) Sarajevo; 5) Crime Scene Investigation



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

in every 10 European children are conceived in a bed from IKEA.

25

percent of the ants in a colony are inactive, they consistently just stand around and do nothing, according to one study.

400

feet long is the record for the longest baguette in the world, which took 60 bakers and seven hours to make.

1,000

US dollars on average is spent by Americans on prescription drugs every year – double the average of other developed countries.

200,000

standard laser pointers all focusing through a lens to an exact point would be needed in order to create a laser powerful enough to kill.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



New resident at Nai Yang Beach. Photo by Cynthia Tomaszewski

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

This week in history

Nov 12, 2003

Shanghai Transrapid sets a new world speed record of 501km/h for commercial railway systems, which remains the fastest for unmodified commercial rail vehicles.

Nov 13, 1974

The Amityville Horror. Ronald DeFeo Jr murders his entire family on Long Island, New York.



Nellie Bly, around the world in less than 80 days.

Nov 14, 1889

Pioneering American female journalist Nellie Bly (aka Elizabeth Cochrane) begins a successful attempt to travel around the world in less than 80 days. She completes the trip in 72 days.

Nov 15, 1933

Thailand holds its first election. At the time there were no political parties, so all candidates ran as independents. A total of 1,773,532 votes were cast and voter turnout was 41.5%.

Nov 16, 1990

Pop group Milli Vanilli are stripped of their Grammy Award because the duo did not sing at all on the album *Girl You Know It's True*. Session musicians had provided all the vocals.

Nov 17, 1558

Elizabethan era begins: Queen Mary I of England dies and is succeeded by her half-sister Elizabeth I of England, the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn.

Nov 18, 1928

Steamboat Willie, the first fully synchronised sound cartoon is released, featuring Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse. This day is considered by Disney to be Mickey's birthday.

Source: Wikipedia

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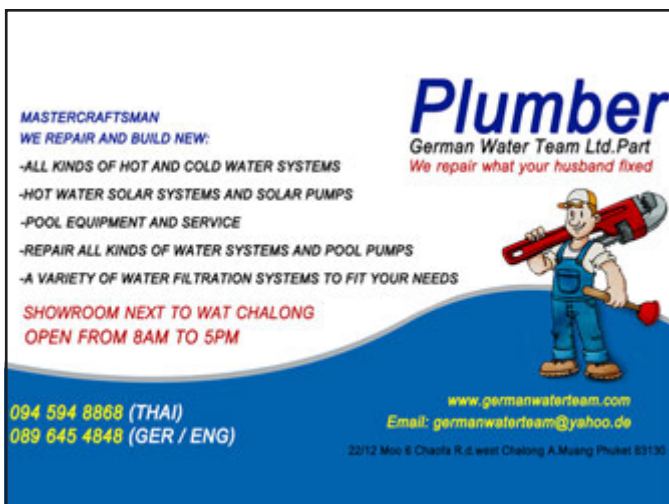


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WINDOW ON PHUKET

The map of PHUKET English 中文 Русский

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A Night At The Popra

The event is a banquet style dinner and show. The money raised by ticket donations and auction items will be directly used to buy and distribute Life Bag supplies through One Phuket. Ticket donations are B5,000 per seat for VIP and B3,500 per seat for standard. Both ticket donations include a 5-star 3 course meal and free flow beverages.



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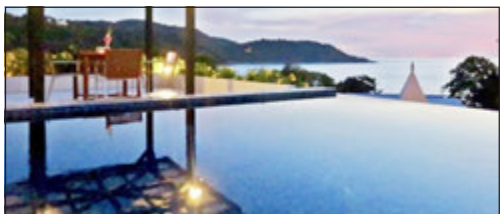
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Extract from complaint currently being dealt with by Oslo Conciliation Board – Dept. Oslo Forlikr d avd. 1Case No. F2020-063989

Complainant: Modhi Finance As, PO Box 253 Skoeyen, 0213 Oslo, Org.No. 00919628103 Defendant: Rune Arvid Lind e. Latest known adress: PO Box 269, Patong Postoffice, Phuket, Thailand

The Complainant has filed a complaint against the Defendant with Oslo Conciliation Board with a demand for payment of NOK 33778,00 with the addition of interest at the legal rate and legal costs.

The Defendant is ordered to reply to the Conciliation Board in writing by 03.12.2021 stating whether or not the Defendant acknowledges and accepts the Complainant's claim. If a reply has not been delivered prior to the expiry of the stated time limit, judgment by default can be pronounced on the basis of the Complainant's representation of the facts of the case.

As the Defendant has no known address, service will be executed with authority in the Courts Act Section 181. The complaint and order to reply will be deemed to have been legally served when it has been posted at the legal venue for four weeks.

The documents pertaining to the case can be collected from the Conciliation Board's offices at Pilestraedet 19, 0033 Oslo, Norway. The documents can be sent to a new address supplied by the Defendant if the Defendant so requests.



SHIP AHOY AT PHUKET BOAT LAGOON

The Grow Boating networking event for November 2021 returned to Phuket Boat Lagoon, at the brand-new Boardwalk Cafe, who supplied tasty burgers and snacks. Drinks sponsored by Derani Yachts, which added to the fun of another excellent event.



ROTARY GALA DINNER AND CHARITY AUCTION

The Rotary Club of Patong Beach together with The Vanderbilt Estate last Saturday, November 6, hosted a spectacular Gala Dinner and Charity Auction to raise funds for the "Scholars of Sustenance Foundation", with the mission to distribute donated food from hotels and other establishments to communities in need. All the profits from the evening will be donated to the Scholars of Sustenance Foundation Phuket in order to purchase a second refrigerated food truck and allow the Institution to expand the number of communities they attend in Phuket. The 130 charitable attendees contributed generously to make the evening a huge success. Fivera Opera, Alex Glinksy and DJ Miss Diamond performances brought great entertainment to the night.

Rotary Club is very proud to associate with such a worthy organisation, a crucial help during COVID times. If your school or hotel can donate unused food and help the project, please contact isawaeng.kaola@scholarsofsustenance.org



Last chance saloon for Lewis

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

A maiden championship is within touching distance for Max Verstappen after a Mexico masterclass, and only victory in Brazil this weekend (Nov 12-14) will keep Lewis Hamilton in striking distance.

Verstappen was so far up the road from the rest of the field when he took the chequered flag in Mexico City last Sunday (Nov 7) that you'd be forgiven for forgetting he was in the race at all.

It was the sort of dominance Mercedes feared when it arrived in Mexico. The high-altitude demands of the track, more than 2.2 kilometres above sea level, has never suited its line of title-winning cars, whereas Red Bull Racing has always excelled in the rare air.

Ironically a front-row lockout for Mercedes made the result sting only more keenly. The team didn't understand how it had ended up first and second on the grid – truthfully Red Bull Racing had just failed to execute, and Valtteri Bottas and Hamilton had capitalised – but it dared to believe that the sudden and dramatic turnaround in form might give it a shot in a race it had long been prepared to lose.



Hamilton must break Verstappen's momentum in Brazil if he wants to take the title fight down to the wire. Photo: AFP

So when Verstappen, starting third, swept around the outside of Bottas and Hamilton into the first corner as though they were expensive traffic cones, you can imagine the sinking feeling on the Mercedes pit wall.

"That shouldn't have happened," Mercedes boss Toto Wolff told British TV. "We had two cars in front and seemed to open up the sea for Max to come around the outside."

"Annoying, to say the least." And that was the last Mercedes

saw of Verstappen. He took the flag a controlled 16.5 seconds ahead of Hamilton, who spent most of the race fending off home-crowd favourite Sergio Perez.

DISPIRITING

But if the magnitude of the victory was disappointing to Hamilton, the margin on the title table would be dispiriting. The reigning world champion is now 19 points adrift of Verstappen with four races remaining.

We're fast closing in on mathematical contention territory. There's still a maximum of 107 points on the table – points for fastest lap and three points for sprint qualifying victory in Brazil included – but that's only the maximum score window. Realistically, assuming no rare technical failures or crashes, Verstappen is close to taking Hamilton's championship destiny into his own hands.

The difference between first and second is seven points. One more

victory with Hamilton as runner-up would push the margin to 26 points – more than a clear race win and enough of a buffer to finish second to the Brit in the other three races without losing the lead.

Two wins in the next three races could see him seal the championship with a race to spare, at the new Saudi Arabian Grand Prix.

"I naturally feel I need to be winning every race, because we need those extra points, not to lose those points," Hamilton said in the shadow of defeat in Mexico City. "That was the goal going into the last race and the race before that and before that and here this weekend, but they're just too quick."

"So we're giving it absolutely everything we've got, but unfortunately it's not enough at the moment to compete with them."

Red Bull Racing is unlikely to enjoy its Mexico-style dominance for the rest of the year, but that will be of little solace to Mercedes, for whom the odds of race victory would return to merely 50-50. Only the super-fast Saudi Arabia is likely to hand it a pace advantage, but one out of three isn't enough.

It's not over yet, and Mercedes still has a say in the outcome of this championship. But Hamilton must break Verstappen's momentum in Brazil if he wants to take this fight down to the wire.

Hat-trick for Thai shuttlers at the Super 500 Hylo Open in Germany

BADMINTON

BUSANAN ONGBAM-rungphan and the mixed doubles stars Dechapol Pua-varanukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai were crowned the winners at the Super 500 Hylo Open in Germany last Sunday (Nov 7).

Busanan beat Yeo Jia Min of Taiwan 21-12, 23-25, 21-12 to win her first World Tour Super 500 series tournaments in Saarbrücken and earned US\$24,000 (B803,000) from the contest.

Dechapol and Sapsiree beat Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeva Oktavianti 21-18, 21-19 in the mixed doubles final to bag \$25,280 (B844,000) from the competition.

Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, president of the Badminton Association of Thailand, said Busanan showed determination to win and kept her composure throughout the match. She also praised the Thai duo for showing their world-class character.

The victory for the pair



Dechapol and Sapsiree. Photo: Badminton Association of Thailand

was much welcomed after they lost to Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino of Japan in the mixed doubles final of the World Tour Super 1000 at the Denmark Open on Oct 24.

The Thai duo, ranked second in the world, also lost to Japanese pair Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino 21-15, 16-21, 14-21 in the last 16 of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics this summer.

Dechapol and Sapsiree

will be hoping to carry their form into next year's Thomas and Uber Cup finals which will be held here in their homeland.

After their successful campaign as the host nation in 2018, Thailand again has been chosen to host the world men's and women's team championships, which will take place between May 8-15 next year.

Bangkok Post and The Phuket News

Thai golf stars continue to shine

GOLF

TEENAGER CHANETTEE Wannasaen kept her cool to claim her maiden title at the second SAT-TWT Open Road to World Ranking event at the Phoenix Gold Golf and Country Club in Pattaya last Friday (Nov 5).

The 17-year-old from Chiang Mai produced a solid final-round 68 without a bogey to win on 11-under-par 205, beating Arpichaya Yubol by a stroke at the par-72 course.

After making an easy championship putt, the teenage star felt relieved to finally win a title after finishing second four times, including her loss to Arpichaya in the first SAT-TWT Open two months ago.

"I'm speechless. I finally made it after coming so close many times," said Chanettee, who received B367,500 in prize money.

Meanwhile, Phachara Khongwatmai completed a hat-trick of wins at the Singha E-San Open after beating Chant Sakulpophaisal on the first play-off hole last Sunday (Nov 7).

Seeking his second win in three weeks and his seventh title on the All Thailand Golf



Chanettee Wannasaen after winning the SAT-TWT Open in Pattaya last Friday (Nov 5). Photo: Bangkok Post

Tour (ATGT), the 22-year-old Phachara enjoyed a slim one-shot edge after three rounds and carded a final-round 71 to finish on top of the leaderboard on 12-under 276 alongside Chant (69).

Phachara birdied the par-five 18th – the first play-off hole – to win his third title at the tournament, while for Chant, the runner-up spot was his best-ever performance on the tour.

Phachara, who took home B450,000 and five world ranking points, also won last year's edition in a play-off as he beat Kosuke Hamamoto. Two weeks ago, he won the Pattaya Open and finished tied third at last week's Thailand Open.

Elsewhere, a runners-up finish at the Aramco Saudi Ladies International in Saudi Arabia was enough to crown 18-year-old Atthaya Thitikul this year's LET Race to Costa del Sol champion.

Atthaya's final day 66 saw her finish second behind New Zealand's Lydia Ko and five-clear of Spain's Carlota Ciganda and Alice Hewson of England.

"It's an honour and really an amazing feeling for me to win the Race to the Costa del Sol this year, on my rookie year as well."

"Words cannot describe it," said Atthaya.

Bangkok Post and The Phuket News

Managerial merry-go-round

FOOTBALL

Ben Tirebuck
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This weekend's international break provides the perfect opportunity to draw breath and take stock of what has been a hectic few weeks in the Premier League.

As the players head away to represent their countries, club managers in England's top flight will have the chance to evaluate their respective predicaments and plan for when play resumes on Nov 20.

Those who still have a job at least will, as the managerial carousel has gone into hyperdrive already this season. At time of press, five managers have lost their jobs in just over two months, with Aston Villa's Dean Smith and Norwich City's Daniel Farke the latest casualties.

Smith's dismissal seemed especially harsh. In three years, he took a club languishing in the Championship to promotion, top-flight consolidation and a cup final. He also lost his best player Jack Grealish in the summer. Five consecutive bad results saw him sacked.

Eddie Howe has been appointed at Newcastle and serial-winner Antonio Conte is in at Tottenham, appointed a day after Nuno Espirito Santo's short-lived four-



David Moyes is working wonders at West Ham United. Photo: AFP

month reign was brought to an end. Conte certainly has his work cut out in regenerating a Spurs side that has been on autopilot for some time now; revitalising club captain Harry Kane, who has wandered through recent games akin to an uninterested zombie, is just one of the mission critical tasks Conte has ahead of him.

MAGIC MOYES

Many observers are still baffled as to how Ole Gunnar Solksjaer continues

to cling onto his job at Manchester United. Last Saturday's (Nov 6) home defeat to rivals Manchester City shouldn't necessarily be taken as a barometer as City tend to boss most teams, but United were beyond poor once again. Pitiful, in fact.

Perhaps United's hierarchy are now rueing the decision to afford David Moyes so little time and faith back in 2013. Appointed in a no-win situation when he succeeded Sir Alex Ferguson, Moyes was cast aside before the season finished.

Subsequent fails at Sunderland and Real Sociedad suggested his bubble had burst.

However, he is currently doing a remarkable job at West Ham. Many felt last season's heroics when the club finished an admirable 6th place and qualified for Europe was a flash in the pan but the team's performances thus far this season have dispelled that theory. Beating Liverpool 3-2 last Sunday, Moyes' 1,001st game as a professional manager, saw the Hammers move into joint second place in the league with Manchester City. They are also in the quarter finals of the League Cup and knock-out stages of the Europa League, leaving many fans delirious with anticipation.

Considering Moyes took over the club two years ago when they were relegation candidates, what he has achieved since is exceptional. There is something very rewarding in witnessing his comeback and perhaps it proves that if given time and patience, a manager can find his groove and stamp his authority on proceedings.

Elsewhere a mention for Patrick Vieira at Crystal Palace. The former Arsenal great didn't exactly possess a glowing CV when he was appointed in the summer and the skeptics were out with bated breath in anticipation of an almighty collapse. No doubt about it, his ap-

pointment was a gamble.

However, the Frenchman has very quickly turned around the fortunes of the South London club, transitioning from the turgid approach employed by predecessor Roy Hodgson into an exciting, free-flowing, counter-attacking team. His signings have been astute, likewise his tactics, evident in the recent win at Manchester City (who, remember, tend to boss most opponents!).

Palace are a joy to watch right now, snugly sitting in 10th spot going into the international break, and all credit must go to Vieira. Expect more to come as the Eagles no doubt continue to soar.

Finally, Graham Potter at Brighton continues to shine. It is not only the attractive style of play he has imbued within his troops but his demeanour off the pitch that impresses; his intelligence and realism are a breath of fresh air in an industry so often over-worked with stereotypes and cliches.

With Brighton sitting 7th in the table, Potter's stock seems to grow by the week to the point that he is consistently mentioned as a viable candidate when jobs at bigger clubs become, or seem likely to become, vacant.

In a game of such uncertainty one thing is sure: expect those vacancies to continue as the fickle managerial carousel continues to turn.

Barcelona's La Masia finally opens its doors to women

FOOTBALL

WHEN CLAUDIA RIUMALLO PINEDA wakes up, it does not take her long to know where she is.

From her bedroom window she can see the Johan Cruyff Stadium inside Barcelona's Ciutat Esportiva training ground, where she dreams of one day playing for the women's first team.

She is on the right track. The 18-year-old is one of nine trailblazers who this season became the first female players to enrol at La Masia, Barca's famed football academy and proving ground for the likes of Lionel Messi, Andres Iniesta and Xavi Hernandez.

Since its opening in 1979 as an old house next to Camp Nou, La Masia has never had female residents.

But the women's team has been knocking on the door for a long time, with Barcelona Femeni winning the Champions League, Liga Femenina and Copa de la Reina last season.

"This year they have given us La Masia, which is a gift," says Claudia, who for years had to travel an hour by car from her town of Girona just to be able to train with girls.

After playing for local rivals Espanyol, she now represents Barca B and in the afternoons studies chemistry at university.

Shaken by financial crisis and the unexpected departure of Messi, most of the good news around the club these days comes from the women's team.



Claudia Riumallo Pineda (left) and Laura Coronado pose at the La Masia Residence after a training session. Photo: AFP

As well as last season's treble, Barca's captain Alexia Putellas was chosen as UEFA's best player of the year and is now also nominated, along with four teammates, for the Women's Ballon d'Or.

Less than a decade ago it was difficult to imagine how the female team could find breathing space at a club where the men's team was so dominant – but the women's game continues to go from strength to strength.

In 2020, there were 77,400 licensed female players in Spain, a clear improvement from 2011 when there were only 36,200.

"There are many things that are still missing, such as professionalisation in the League," says 18-year-old goalkeeper Laura Coronado.

"We know the salaries are not going to be equal, but we would like to be able to live more comfortably from football, and that's what we're fighting for."

wwAFP

Phuket News

English Premier League Predictions

thepuketnews.com/predictions.php

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Sport



EPL manager carousel in full effect > p15

PHUKET CLEAN SWEEP AT ACG

CRICKET

Jason Robertson

The Village Cricket Club won a nail-biter in a last-over thriller against the British Club of Bangkok last Sunday (Nov 7) to complete a clean sweep for Phuket teams in a weekend double-header at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG), Thalang.

The Patong Penguins Invitational XI had the day before seen off the visitors in a competitive, yet ultimately one-sided affair. The British Club's visit saw a welcome return of touring sides to Phuket after a lengthy hiatus due to COVID-related lockdowns and quarantine restrictions over the past year.

In Sunday's 25 over game, the British Club batted first and put up a solid score of 127 for 9 in their full allotment of overs. Rahul Gupte (26) was the standout performer with the bat while Pir Sami and Craig Patterson both picked up two wickets with the ball.



The Village team pose for the camera after their nail-biting victory against the British Club of Bangkok last Sunday (Nov 7). Photo: Ian Brewis

The Village then went about chasing down the required 128 to win at 5.25 per over. Some very tight bowling by the British Club, with standouts Ben Eastwell and Ian Brewis picking up three wickets apiece, applied the pressure, resulting in a middle-order collapse. The Village were left reeling and in search of a hero. Enter Roly Cooper (27),

who hit three huge 6s to see his team home with a mere three balls to spare.

On Saturday, The Penguins won the toss and chose to bat in a T30 encounter. The British Club bowled very tightly, never letting any of the top order settle, stifling the Penguins' run rate while picking up wickets.

The one problem with taking wickets against the Penguins is that

it eventually brings Craig "Pancake" Morgan to the crease. The Penguins rely heavily on Morgan, known as Pancake due to him formerly being a Bakers Biscuit National representative and some say the seventh best batsman to come out of the Eastern Cape.

Once again Pancake delivered, scoring 65 not out in just 25 balls.

A great inning does however rely on someone to stay with him at the other end and the Penguins can thank ex-Southern Delhi Volleyball team mascot Sajal Gaur (19 not out), and Anthony "Frenchy" Du Pont (27) for doing just that and then some, as they dug in for their team to post a very respectable 186/9 in 30 overs.

The British Club never got out of second gear in their chase of 187 to win, with Waseem Mir (3/8) putting in one of the best spells of bowling seen at the ACG in recent times. Mir conceded just 8 runs for 3 wickets in a devastating opening spell of six overs, ripping the heart and sting out of the British Club's batting order.

Vaughn McClear (43) played a lovely cameo at the end to make the score respectable, but the result was never in doubt as the Penguins convincingly won by 76 runs. Michael Reese Thomas picked up a brace of excellent catches in his homecoming to his beloved Penguins and added a wicket just for good measure it a fantastic performance in the field.



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