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BE YOU

PRIDE PARADE MARCHES ON DESPITE RAIN

Photo: Patong Municipality

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A burst of colour, music and unwavering spirit filled the streets of Patong last Sunday evening (June 8) as the Phuket Pride Parade 2025 marched on despite driving rain.

The annual event, celebrating diversity and human rights, brought together members of the LGBTQIAN+ community, supporters, performers and tourists in a vibrant show of unity and pride.

Organised by Phuket Provincial Office in collaboration with the Andaman Power Phuket Association and other community partners, the parade, led by Phuket Vice Governor Suwit Phansengiam, was the grand finale to a week-long celebration in Patong themed 'Be You, Be Equality'.

The parade began at 5pm from the Duangjit Resort & Spa on Prachanukroh Rd, winding its way along Thawee Wong Rd (the Patong beach road) and culminating in a lively street celebration on Bangla Rd before concluding at Jungceylon Shopping Center.

Despite the wet weather, crowds lined the streets, waving rainbow flags and cheering for performers and community groups who marched proudly under the downpour.

Vice Governor Suwit praised the event's success and reaffirmed the province's commitment to promoting inclusivity and equality, calling Pride Month a symbol of

ongoing support for human rights in Phuket.

"This parade shows the spirit of our community and our shared vision for a more equal society," he said.

Highlights included opening performances by the renowned Simon Cabaret Show, and interactive stage events that brought joy and connection to participants from all walks of life. Festival-goers described the event as warm and inspiring, with many remarking that not even the rain could dampen their spirits.

Among those who joined in the celebrations were key community figures such as Dr Suphakorn Suwan, President of the Andaman Power Phuket Association; Jackie Tia, General Manager of main

event sponsor Jungceylon Shopping Mall; and Nopphasorn Sittiwet, lead organiser of Phuket Pride Festival 2025.

Representatives from the LGBTQIAN+ community also shared messages of thanks and pride, hailing the event as a milestone of progress.

Dr Suphakorn emphasised the deeper meaning behind the festival. "Phuket Pride Festival 2025 is not just a celebration – it's a demonstration of the power of change for an equal society," he said.

He also announced that Phuket will host the InterPride Virtual General Meeting & World Conference 2026, a major international event that further positions Phuket as a welcoming destination for LGBTQIAN+ travellers.

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Local Liverpool fans in Premier League parade



bcisphuket.ac.th



exeditor@classactmedia.co.th

News



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Officials concerned over rise in syphilis

HEALTH AUTHORITIES in Phuket are warning of a concerning rise in syphilis cases, with cases now reported across all three districts of the province.

“Youths remain a high-risk group, but syphilis can affect people of all genders and ages who engage in risky sexual behaviour,” said Dr Kusuma Sawangphan, head of Communicable Disease Control (CDC) at the Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO).

In response, the CDC has launched an awareness and prevention campaign that includes the distribution of free condoms and lubricants through both public and private health-care facilities.

People can also conveniently access condoms via digital platforms, including the Krungthai Bank mobile application, Dr Kussua said.

Free screening of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is available twice a year at government hospitals for people considered at risk, she added.

Dr Kusuma emphasised that syphilis is curable if detected early and treated promptly. “Correct and consistent condom use remains the most effective method of prevention,” she said, adding that this not only prevents syphilis but also protects against other



Photo: PPHO

infections like gonorrhea and HIV.

Syphilis typically begins with sores on the genitals and can progress to a full-body rash. If left untreated, it can damage the nervous system and even be fatal, Dr Kusuma said.

Phuket public health teams are working proactively with civil society groups such as the Andaman Power Phuket Association, she added.

Joint efforts have included outreach during events like the Miss Queen Andaman parade, where condoms and lubricants are to be distributed and messages about sexual health and equal access to services were promoted.

Phuket CDC is also conducting educational outreach in high-risk areas such as Patong and local schools.

“We are working to reduce stigma and ensure everyone – regardless of gender or sexual identity – can access the information, testing, and treatment they need,” Dr Kusuma said.

The Phuket News

Patong Pride on show

Continued from page 1

Tourism figures hope to capitalise on the momentum by promoting ‘Rainbow Tourism’, aiming to attract over 4 million LGBTQIAN+ tourists annually and boost local revenue by more than B65 million per year – aligning with national goals to promote inclusive, high-value and sustainable tourism.

Organisers said this year’s Pride Parade was more than a festive event – it was a powerful message to the world that Phuket is not only a tropical getaway, but a destination that embraces love, equality and diversity in all its forms.

‘PRIDE TALK’

Among the key events hosted by the Andaman Power Phuket Association in Patong last week was the second annual ‘Pride Talk’ under the theme ‘Pride = People’.

The event, held at Simon Cabaret Theater in Patong on June 4, was part of the broader Phuket Pride 2025 celebrations and aimed to position the island as a model city of inclusion and understanding of gender diversity.

Led by Andaman Power Phuket VP Nopphasorn, the event provided a platform to discuss key issues affecting the LGBTQIAN+ community in Thailand. The



Photo: Phuket City Municipality

initiative focused on fostering dialogue around rights, equality and the need for legal and social reform.

Workshops organised by the Thai Ladyboy Network Foundation (Thai TGA) addressed topics such as ‘Why Do Ladyboys Talk?’ and ‘Gender and Legal Rights’. The sessions highlighted the ongoing struggle for safe spaces, better representation and the push for the long-awaited Gender Recognition Act, which is currently under debate.

Discussions also delved into the challenges transgender individuals face in Thailand, including the lack of gender-appropriate honorifics, limited access to gender-affirming healthcare and difficulties in international travel due to mismatched identity documentation. Participants also emphasised the need for comprehensive sex

education in schools – an area where progress remains slow despite growing awareness.

Beyond the seminars, the event featured a Pride-themed photo corner, free blood testing services and a dazzling performance by Simon Cabaret to close the evening.

COMING

Phuket Town’s historic old town area has also come alive with a splash of colour as the island officially kicked off its Pride Month celebrations with the launch of the ‘PRIDE Bunny’, the mascot for the Phuket City Pride 2025 celebrations.

The launch event, held at the Chartered Bank Intersection on June 2, featured rainbow-themed decorations and a joyful atmosphere celebrating diversity, equality and inclusivity.

The ‘PRIDE Bunny’ – a

colourful rabbit symbolising fluidity in gender identity – draws inspiration from Tu Er Shen (兔兒神), the rabbit god from Taoist belief who protects LGBTQ+ individuals, explained an official report of the launch.

This year’s theme of the Phuket Town celebrations, ‘Wave of Generations’, aims to bridge people across ages, genders and identities through creative and inclusive activities, the report added.

Phuket City Pride 2025 promises to be one of the city’s most dynamic and inclusive events, with highlights including a grand parade on June 28 featuring over 25 participating entries, including government agencies, private organisations and artists.

The parade will begin at 5pm at Dragon Square and proceed to the Chartered Bank intersection – a central rainbow-themed ‘check-in’ spot for visitors.

The celebration continues into the night on June 28 with a mini-concert by well-known performers, taking place in front of the Government Savings Bank on Phang Nga Rd from 8pm to midnight.

Organisers have arranged parking for over 800 participants at key locations throughout the city to accommodate the expected crowds.

Phuket gears up for Peranakan Festival

PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS and cultural leaders met last Saturday (June 7) to finalise preparations for the Phuket Peranakan Festival 2025, a major international cultural event aimed at elevating the island’s profile as a global destination for heritage tourism.

The meeting, held at the offices of Muang Pattana Co Ltd, was chaired by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat.

Joining him were Boonperm Intanapasat, President of the Thai International Festival and Events Promotion Association (TIEFA), Anchalee Vanich Thepbutr, President of the Phuket Arts Association, as

well as representatives from both the public and private sectors, and local communities.

This year’s festival, scheduled for June 20-22, is part of the national ‘Festival Economy 2025’ campaign under the ‘Arts and Culture Festival for Tourism and Economic Promotion’ project, explained an official report of the meeting.

The festival is being organised through a collaboration between the Phuket Provincial Office, the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO), TIEFA and the Peranakan Association of Thailand.

With a focus on celebrating and promoting the unique Baba-Nyonya culture of Phuket,

the event aims to position the province as a cultural hub on the international stage.

Organisers hope to stimulate sustainable tourism and generate economic opportunities for local communities, noted the report.

KEY EVENTS DURING THE FESTIVAL Friday, June 20

10:00-12:30: International Conference and Exhibition on ‘Key to the Success of the Peranakan Cultural Economy’ at Phuket Merlin Hotel (venue to be confirmed)

13:30-16:30: Community Workshop on ‘Sharing Culture and Best Practices’ at Phuket Thai Hua Museum

Saturday, June 21

17:00-19:30: ‘Phuket Peranakan Carnival Parade’ under the theme ‘Island of Artistic’, featuring a spectacular fireworks display at Saphan Hin Public Park

Sunday, June 22

18:00-20:00: Phuket Hokkien Noodle Stir-fry event featuring dishes from over 200 communities and restaurants. The event aims to break a Guinness World Record and celebrate the festival receiving a host of awards.

Governor Sophon noted that the festival not only serves to preserve and celebrate Peranakan heritage, but also provides a platform to showcase Phuket’s rich cultural identity to the world.



Photo: PR Phuket

“This initiative will play a crucial role in strengthening the local economy, empowering communities, and reinforcing Phuket’s status as a global cultural tourism destination,” he said.

The festival is expected to attract both local residents and international visitors, marking another milestone in Phuket’s recovery and cultural development. *The Phuket News*

Officials dodge illegal schools

Natnaree Likidwatanasakun
reporter1@classactmedia.co.th

The Phuket Provincial Education Area Office seems to be confused about what to do with an unregistered kindergarten operating in Cherng Talay – other than no legal action will be taken against the business for promoting itself as a school despite not having been approved by education officials.

The Phuket News has spent weeks trying to get clear answers from the PPEAO, whose current Director is Panna Phromwichian, about the legal status of the ‘Waldorf Phuket School’ in Cherng Talay, which openly promotes itself as a school.

“We [the PPEAO] encourage directors to submit the necessary documents and undergo the proper review process. Once approved, the school is formally registered and recognised by the system,” Ms Panna said, deflecting from key issues asked.

“Right now, no formal police complaints have been filed against the Waldorf Phuket School or any other schools so far,” she said.

Ms Panna repeatedly emphasised prioritising bringing schools into compliance rather than “immediate punishment”.

However, Ms Panna also admitted that the school was



PPEAO Chief Panna Phromwichian. Photo: PPEAO

previously shut down for operating illegally at the Phuket Elephant Sanctuary site.

The current location of the school given on its Facebook page guides visitors to what is labelled a garden centre at the end of Soi Cherngtalay 3, which joins Srisoonthorn Rd near the main intersection beside Cherng Talay Police Station.

Ms Panna did confirm that the PPEAO was informed of the school currently operating on May 13, and that the application

for the school to be approved was received by her office on May 19.

However, Ms Panna did not confirm whether her office had contacted the school to instruct it to apply to be legally approved as an educational institution – as required by law.

Ms Panna also did not confirm whether any foreigners were involved in the operation of the business.

Deflecting from questions about Waldorf Phuket School, Ms Panna said, “We’ve already

identified more than 20 unauthorised schools, including Waldorf Phuket school. Once discovered, we order them to cease operations immediately and initiate the closure process,” Ms Panna explained.

Yet while *The Phuket News* was speaking with Ms Panna, the school was still publicising itself on its Facebook page as “Open today”.

“Our top priority is to stop these schools from operating without approval. After that, we move forward with legal steps,” Ms Panna said.

“After inspection, the school operator will be given a month to fix any issues. Only after a follow-up inspection confirming full compliance would a license be issued,” she explained.

Ms Panna declined to comment about the school publicly posting that it has been in operation since August 2021.

“I’m not certain whether the school has been operating since 2021, as I only assumed the position of Chief [of the PPEAO] in 2024,” she said. Ms Panna arrived in Phuket from another province to take up the position as the leading education official on the island.

As the application submitted to the PPEAO describes the facility as a “nursery caring for

young children”, Ms Panna said that the site also requires permission from the Phuket branch of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS Phuket).

Sompit Srikhamhaeng, Chief of the MSDHS Phuket office, told *The Phuket News*, “An information check was conducted after we received the report, a site inspection will be conducted soon.”

“After the inspection, the school operator will be given a month to fix any issues. Only after a follow-up inspection confirming full compliance would a license be issued,” she explained.

Asked whether the school was allowed to continue operating while waiting for the approval process, Ms Sompit answered a clear, “No”.

Despite the number of schools already known by the PPEAO to be operating illegally in Phuket, PPEAO Chief Ms Panna still urged the public to report any suspected unlicensed schools.

“If anyone suspects a school is operating without approval, they can report it to our office,” she said.

The PPEAO can be contacted at 076 211428-9 or by email to phuketpeo@sueksa.go.th

Tiger Kingdom debunks tourist mauled, denies wildlife abuse

THE OPERATORS OF THE TIGER Kingdom tourist attraction located in Kathu have refuted reports that an Indian tourist was mauled at their venue, and have denied accusations of animal cruelty.

The response by Tiger Kingdom follows viral reports of an Indian tourist attacked by a tiger while trying to take a selfie. The reports all claim the attack happened at Tiger Kingdom in Phuket.

The viral video that sparked the reports showed the man crouching beside the tiger when it suddenly lunged at him, despite a trainer’s efforts to control the animal.

According to the person who posted the video on X, Sidharth Shuklathe, the man survived with minor injuries.

The incident sparked criticism over safety standards at such attractions and renewed debate about the ethics of allowing close human interaction with captive wild animals.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) called for an immediate halt to tiger interactions at Phuket Tiger Kingdom. “Tigers are not selfie props!” PETA said in a statement, alleging that tigers – both adult and cubs – are held in captivity and forced into close contact with tourists.

PETA Senior Vice President Jason Baker said, “This incident is yet another reminder that wild animals don’t belong in cages or entertainment shows.”

“We shouldn’t be surprised when tigers act like tigers. The complex needs of animals can never be met in a zoo, so it’s hardly surprising when they ‘snap’ after



Photos: Sidharth Shukla / X

years of being restrained, abused, and forced to entertain,” he added.

NOT TIGER KINGDOM

Pornrawee Samakthai, Managing Director of the Tiger Kingdom, strongly denied involvement in the incident.

“The viral videos do not depict our location or our staff. The incident occurred in Si Racha, Chonburi, not at our Phuket facility or any of our branches,” she said.

“Tiger Kingdom emphasised its commitment to animal welfare and visitor safety, and tigers at our facilities are not chained or restrained,” she assured.

“Visitors are guided by professional handlers at every interaction point... The brand has never recorded a serious accident since its inception,” she added.

“Tigers are not forced to perform, eat, play, or sleep under pressure,” she noted.

“Tiger Park and Tiger Kingdom have implemented comprehensive safety and animal care measures,” she added.

“We take serious issue with the false media reports linking us to this incident, which have damaged our reputation,” Ms Pornrawee said. *The Phuket News*

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CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

PURIYA BEAVAN
Editor**CHRIS HUSTED**
Executive Editor
084 307 7408
execeditor@classactmedia.co.th**BEN TIREBUCK**
News / Sport Editor
061 806 8132
editor3@classactmedia.co.th**CHUTHARAT 'UM' PLERIN**
Thai Editor
088 296 1615
thai@classactmedia.co.th**NATNAREE 'MILD' LIKIDWANASAKUN**
Reporter / Translator
082 295 3244
reporter1@classactmedia.co.th**JASON BEAVAN**
General Manager
086 479 7471
gm@classactmedia.co.th**SIRIPORN (NOK) SEANGMAS**
Sales Support
086 479 7470
sales@classactmedia.co.th**NIRAVIT 'MOS' VORAVANITCHA**
Graphic designerf The Phuket News
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Mall guard assaulted by tourists in Patong

A TEENAGE SECURITY guard at Jungceylon shopping mall in Patong is recovering in hospital after being assaulted by two foreign tourists early last Saturday morning (June 7).

Police identified the victim as Ruslan Uma, 18. According to a police report filed with Pol Lt Wisanu Chumee of the Patong Police, the assault took place at around 6:18am.

Mr Ruslan told police that a foreign man entered the mall area and began urinating.

When Mr Ruslan attempted to intervene and stop the man, the tourist punched him twice in the face, then flung him to the ground and continued his attack.

A second foreign man then joined in the assault, attacking one man who tried to stop the attack on Mr Ruslan.

More bystanders then intervened and both foreigners fled.

CCTV footage was submitted to police as part of the report. Officers advised Mr Ruslan to undergo a medical examination due to concerns over a possible head injury. He was later



Image: Patong Police

admitted to Patong Hospital, where he is recovering.

Last Saturday afternoon, reporters visited Mr Ruslan at the hospital, where he was described as drowsy and receiving intravenous antibiotics and fluids. Medical staff have reportedly withheld food and water pending further tests. His condition remains under observation.

Mr Ruslan's sister, who asked not to be fully identified, told reporters that doctors had detected a blood clot in his brain and were awaiting further X-rays to determine the extent of the injury.

"We want the police to act quickly. He was badly beaten and has never experienced anything like this before," she said. "He's worked at that mall for eight months without any trouble until now. I want the attacker to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Patong Police confirmed that an investigation was underway. *Eakkapop Thongtub*

Palai man taken into custody for safety

Eakkapop Thongtub
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A mentally ill man who allegedly caused panic and distress in Soi Palai, Chalong, was taken into custody and transferred to hospital for treatment last week following more than a year of complaints from local residents.

The situation was brought to light after a local landlady, Pranee Boonsawang, 51, publicly appealed to the media for help.

Ms Pranee said the incidents began in early 2024, prompting her to file a report at Chalong Police Station on Feb 7 last year. According to that report, Mr Thiranai stormed into her apartment building while appearing intoxicated and hurled a glass bottle at a foreign guest, who fled in fear. Police temporarily detained him, later confirming he had a history of drug use and mental health issues. But little changed.

Despite repeated reports and desperate appeals, authorities allegedly told



Photo: Mueang District Office

Ms Pranee there was little they could do due to legal limitations. "They told me to take my complaints to the media," she said.

However, at around 7:20pm on June 5, village headman Ekkapol Kaewliphon and his assistant Nattapol Siangnuea responded to the situation by visiting the area.

They found Mr Thiranai behaving erratically, talking to himself and occasionally brandishing a knife outside his home.

According to officials, this was not the first such incident involving Mr Thiranai.

Mr Ekkapol said police had previously detained Mr Thiranai on four occasions,

but his condition had not improved. Concerned for public safety, he escalated the matter to Mueang Phuket District Chief Thiti Bunyasathian.

By 8pm, Mr Thiti, along with Mueang District Chief Aphichat Chanthrawong and personnel from the Mueang District branch of the Volunteer Defense Corps (OrSor), intervened.

Authorities safely took Mr Thiranai into custody and transferred him to Vachira Phuket Hospital for psychiatric evaluation and treatment.

Mr Ekkapol said the move was necessary to prevent further disruption and ensure the safety of residents.

British tourist dies in hotel fall

A 58-YEAR-OLD BRITISH tourist died after a fall from a walkway at a hotel in Patong in the early hours of June 4.

Police were alerted to the incident at around 2.40am, when the tourist, Kerry Bruce, from Doncaster, was pronounced dead at Patong Hospital.

According to initial investigations, Ms Bruce had been out dining and drinking with her partner earlier in the evening. The couple were returning to their hotel on Rath-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd when the accident occurred, police reported.

Police said Ms Bruce, believed to be intoxicated at the time, fell six to seven metres from a walkway while ascending the building. The fall caused multiple injuries including a broken neck, fractured nose,



Photo: Phuket Info Center

facial bruising and broken bones in her wrist and ankle.

Hotel staff immediately contacted the Kusoldharm Phuket Foundation and emergency services, who transported the woman to Patong Hospital. Despite efforts to save her, she succumbed to her injuries shortly after arrival.

Police said they have requested a post-mortem examination as standard protocol and are working with the British Embassy to notify Ms Bruce's family.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Car dumped by foreigners

POLICE IN PATONG ARE investigating a suspicious vehicle abandoned by a foreigner near Paradise Beach after it was found with both license plates deliberately concealed.

The incident was first reported around 9am on June 3 by members of the 'Patong Crime-Free Community Project' LINE group, who alerted authorities that a foreign man had parked a sedan opposite the entrance to an elephant camp on the road to Paradise Beach, on Muen Ngern Road, south of Patong.

Pol Lt Wichyut Dampuek, Deputy Chief of Investigation at Patong Police, received the tip-off. Officers including Pol Lt Col Phongsaphan Techawit and members of the traffic unit responded to the scene.

A local witness, Mr Pairoj, told police he had seen a male tourist arrive at around 4am in the parked sedan before being picked up by



Photo: Patong Police

another white sedan, which quickly left the area. The parked vehicle, a black Toyota Yaris Ativ, had its front and rear license plates covered, raising suspicion.

Upon inspection, officers found the car unlocked but unoccupied. The visible license plate, registered in Nakhon Sawan province, did not match initial observations of the car's concealed tags.

Given the unusual circumstances and the attempt to obscure the vehicle's identity, police requested the investigation team to trace the car's ownership and determine the intent behind abandoning the vehicle.

Eakkapop Thongtub

HRH Ubolratana opens youth anti-drug centre

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Her Royal Highness Princess Ubolratana Rajakanya Sirivadhana Barnavadi visited Phuket last Friday (June 6) to follow up on the progress of the 'To Be Number One' project, Thailand's flagship youth-centered anti-drug initiative.

The Princess presided over the official opening of the 'To Be Number One Club' and 'To Be Number One Friends Club' at Phuket Rajabhat University in Ratsada.

Her Royal Highness was welcomed by local officials, university staff, student leaders and members of the project, which has been a cornerstone of Phuket's community and youth development efforts since 2002.

In her remarks, the Princess praised the province's sustained commitment to the campaign and its role as a national model for drug prevention.



Photo: NBT Phuket

Phuket's efforts have earned it recognition as a 'To Be Number One' Diamond Prototype Province for six consecutive years. The province boasts a remarkable 99.48% membership rate among young people aged 6-24, with 503 clubs operating across schools, communities, juvenile detention centres, prisons and probation offices.

There are also 60 'To Be Number One' Friend Centers actively providing peer support and creative programming.

Phuket is also the first province in Thailand to have all of its districts fully participate in the project, a

milestone Her Royal Highness noted as a testament to strong local leadership and community involvement.

At Phuket Rajabhat University, the 'To Be Number One Club' has become a hub for positive youth development since its establishment in 2020. The club organises a wide range of activities, including the annual 'To Be Number One Idol' contest, life-skills training and participation in the national 'To Be Number One Camp'.

Her Royal Highness also visited the 'To Be Number One Friend Center, which operates with 20 volunteers and offers peer counseling,

emotional support and activities such as music, dance, art and cognitive development games.

In a powerful moment during her visit, the Princess granted an audience to members of the 'Who's Addicted to Drugs, Raise Your Hand' group from the Phuket Juvenile Observation and Protection Center and the Phuket Probation Office.

Previously involved in drug use, these individuals are now committed to rehabilitation. The Princess offered them encouragement and advice to help them stay on a positive path.

Her Royal Highness also answered questions from students representing various schools and institutions, providing guidance on managing challenges related to drug use and youth development.

The visit underscored the Princess's unwavering dedication to empowering young people across Thailand and fostering a future free from drugs.

Phuket holds 'lucky licence plate' auction

THE PHUKET LAND Transport Office (PLTO) held the 22nd Phuket license plate auction last Saturday (June 7), offering 301 auspicious vehicle registration numbers under the theme 'Khot' – a phrase symbolising wealth and enduring prosperity.

Seksom Akkhaphan, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Land Transport, presided over the opening ceremony at the Royal Phuket City Hotel.

The event was attended by PLTO Chief Adcha Buachan, who presented the event's objectives, as well as several senior officials and dignitaries, including Chotika Homyok, Inspector-General of the Department of Land Transport, Chamnan Tanhawachiraphan, Phuket Provincial Prosecutor, and Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO).

The auction featured lucky registration numbers for private vehicles with up to seven seats. It is part of an ongoing initiative to promote road safety through fundraising. To date, Phuket



Photo: PR Phuket

has hosted 21 such auctions, raising over B616 million for the Road Safety Fund.

This year's event adopted a hybrid format, allowing bidders to participate in person or online, a move aimed at increasing transparency, accessibility, and fairness. Nineteen participants had pre-registered, collectively placing bids worth B2.22mn, with more registering onsite as the event progressed.

The Phuket Provincial Transport Office acknowledged the strong support from government bodies, local authorities, private organisations and the media, all of whom contributed to the smooth execution of the event.

Officials emphasised that beyond offering residents the chance to own a prized license plate, the auction plays a crucial role in supporting sustainable and effective road safety campaigns. *The Phuket News*

Two turtles rescued, dolphin found dead

MARINE BIOLOGISTS IN PHUKET have rescued two sea turtles entangled in marine debris and are investigating the cause of death of a dolphin found washed ashore at Kamala last week.

Officers from the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) and the Rare Marine Animal Rescue Network responded to a report of a sea turtle caught in a fishing net off Karon Beach on June 5.

The turtle, a juvenile Olive Ridley, was discovered by beach lifeguard Sarayut Kunarup and found alive but trapped in a discarded fishing net.

The turtle, weighing around 20kg and measuring 50cm in shell length, was in good health with no visible injuries. PMBC officers, along with local volunteers, carefully removed the net before safely returning the turtle to the sea.

The same day, another turtle rescue was carried out near Koh Racha Noi, south of Phuket, after a Hawksbill sea turtle was found stranded on a raft of floating debris.

The young turtle, weighing about 6kg, had a deep wound at the base of its left flipper and was covered in barnacles, suggesting it had been drifting in a weakened state for some time.

Marine biologists at the Sireetarn Marine Endangered Animal Rescue Center at Cape Panwa are now providing care and rehabilitation for the hawksbill turtle in preparation for its eventual release.



Photo: DMCR

In a separate incident, a juvenile male spinner dolphin was discovered dead on rocks at Laem Son, Kamala, on June 3. Local residents alerted authorities, and officers from the DMCR's Marine and Coastal Resources Research Center (Upper Andaman Sea) conducted an on-site investigation.

The dolphin, measuring 115cm and weighing around 60kg, was badly decomposed, with torn skin, missing tail and visible abrasions likely caused by wave action.

An autopsy revealed severe internal decay but no signs of disease, and officials were unable to determine a definitive cause of death.

The remains were buried near the site with assistance from the local community.

The DMCR urged the public to report any sightings of injured or deceased marine animals to help safeguard the region's marine biodiversity.

The Phuket News

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Tourist arrivals hold strong

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket's tourism sector remains resilient with more than 2.4 million arrivals recorded from January to May 2025, an 8% year-on-year increase, according to the Phuket Tourist Association.

The positive momentum is largely supported by strong growth from new and emerging markets, even as the province grapples with a sharp decline in Chinese visitors.

Thaneth Tantipiriyakij, President of the Phuket Tourist Association, at a media event last Saturday (June 7) acknowledged challenges in May, when total tourist arrivals dipped by 7.8% compared to the same month last year.

The decline was driven largely by a dramatic drop of more than 48% in arrivals from China – traditionally one of Phuket's largest markets.

Despite this, several other markets have shown robust growth. India surged by 59%, while arrivals from England (+23%), the Middle East (+25%), Australia (+11%) and Russia (+13%) also buoyed overall figures.

Meanwhile, Thai domestic tourism performed well in the first



Photo: PR Phuket

quarter, with an average growth of 10%, although it saw a slight slowdown of 1.8% in April, said Siriwan Siharat, Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket Office.

From January to March 2025, total tourism revenue in Phuket reached B149.38 billion, marking an 8.66% increase. This included B138bn from international tourists and B11.3bn from domestic travelers.

According to Thanawat Ongcharoen, Vice President of the Southern Thai Hotels Association, although Q2 and Q3 are expected to remain sluggish – particularly due to the weakened Chinese market – Q4 shows strong promise. Advance bookings from Europe and the UK are robust, reinforcing Phuket's appeal as a winter destination.

To counter seasonal slow-downs, Phuket is rolling out a new 'New Market, New Segmentation' strategy aimed at attracting travelers from emerging markets such as Eastern Europe, India and the Middle East. There is also a focus on niche segments like health, wellness, cultural tourism and sustainability.

Over 15 international events are planned from mid-2025 through early 2026 to keep visitor numbers strong, including: Phuket Pride festival; Phuket Peranakan Festival; Phuket Lobster Festival; Phuket Vegetarian Festival; Thailand Biennale Phuket 2025; and EDC Thailand.

These events aim to generate excitement, increase spending, and expand Phuket's appeal to new tourist demographics, said an

official report of the media event.

However, experts warn that Phuket must urgently address infrastructure issues to maintain its global competitiveness.

Asst Prof Dr Chayanon Phucharoen from Prince of Songkla University Phuket campus highlighted findings from a survey of 190 international tour operators, who praised Phuket's appeal but expressed concerns about traffic congestion, cleanliness and waste management.

Bhumikitti Ruktaengam, President of the Sustainable Tourism Foundation and advisor to the Phuket Tourist Association, emphasised the need for rapid adaptation to shifting traveler expectations.

He urged tourism businesses to improve service quality and embrace technology and AI.

Mr Bhumikitti also urged tourism businesses to focus on digital communication, build meaningful and local brands, and prioritise sustainability and environmental care.

"Phuket remains a key global destination," Mr Bhumikitti said, "but long-term success depends on sustainable development, government investment in infrastructure and an industry-wide commitment to innovation and responsibility."

MORE FLIGHTS

Meanwhile, Phuket International Airport has reported a significant rise in both flights and passenger numbers for the first five months of 2025, ranking third in the country behind Suvarnabhumi and Don Mueang airports.

From January to May 2025, the airport recorded 48,049 flights – an average of 318 flights per day – marking a 10.9% increase compared with the same period in 2024.

Passenger numbers also rose by 7.21%, reaching a total of 8,053,250 travellers. While still slightly below pre-pandemic levels, the figures show only a 4.26% drop in flight volume and a 1.41% decline in passenger numbers compared with 2019.

The announcement follows the circulation of images showing a quieter-than-usual airport, which authorities attribute to the current monsoon season.

Despite the seasonal lull, Airports of Thailand Phuket branch, which operates Phuket Airport noted in an announcement that the upward trend in traffic is a positive sign of recovery, with expectations that figures will match or exceed 2019 levels during the high season at the end of the year.

New law backs local booze makers

THE COMMUNITY Liquor Law is now in force, allowing small producers to legally make all types of alcohol while preventing unfair monopolies.

Pheu Thai Party MP and spokesman Chanin Rungtanakiat last Friday (June 6) said that the Ministry of Finance would subsequently update its ministerial regulations and criteria in accordance with the new law, a move that will provide better access to legal alcohol production licences for all farmers and entrepreneurs.

Mr Chanin also expressed confidence that the law would significantly promote Thai alcohol culture on a global scale, further enhancing the nation's soft power and elevating the standards and quality of local spirits.

"As the proposer of the bill and chairman of the amendment committee, I would like to thank all parties that have been pushing for this bill," he said.



Photo: Bangkok Post

The Royal Gazette's website published the Excise Act (No 2) BE 2568 on June 5. The announcement, issued under His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua's royal command, outlined the necessity of amending the Excise Act to protect consumers and regulate alcohol production.

The core of the amendment lies in Section 153, which now allows farmer groups, community enterprises and small-scale entrepreneurs to apply for commercial alcohol production licences and possess dis-

tilling equipment, provided that they adhere to established criteria and related ministerial regulations.

These ministerial regulations also prohibit discriminatory or monopolistic criteria in issuing licences, except for those concerning foreign ownership or state enterprises involved in liquor production or supporting small-scale entrepreneurs. It is also stated that licences issued under this section will be valid for three years.

Meanwhile, the Craft Beer Trade Association highlighted that this new legislation permits small-scale entrepreneurs, community enterprises and farmers to legally produce various types of spirits, using domestic farm produce. These include coloured liquors, rice whisky and canned beer.

It said that all sides should wait for the related ministerial regulations to be issued within 180 days from the bill taking effect.

Bangkok Post

Finance Ministry inspects Deep Sea Port

DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER Paopoom Rojanasakul last week visited key development projects in Phuket alongside Treasury Department Director-General Ekniti Nitithanprapas and other officials.

The delegation inspected the redevelopment of the Phuket Deep Sea Port and a nearby land development project, both aimed at boosting tourism and economic potential on state-owned land.

The first stop was the improvement project at Phuket Deep Sea Port, covering 105 rai in Wichit, reported the Ministry of Finance.

The site, registered under Treasury land plot number สก. 308 (partial), is being developed into a dual-purpose facility serving both large cruise ships and cargo transport. The project is in line with government policy to enhance Thailand's tourism infrastructure and logistics capabilities, the ministry noted in its report of the visit.

According to Deputy Minister Paopoom, the Treasury Department launched a public bidding process in 2016 to attract private investment for the port's development. Bidders were required to propose a project worth at least B116.89 million and offer no less than B139.5mn in concession fees over a 30-year lease term.

Phuket Deep Sea Port Co Ltd emerged as the successful bidder, offering a total concession fee of B345mn and a development value of B132.86mn.

The project is expected to generate combined returns of B678.41mn for the state over the three-decade period.



Photo: Ministry of Finance

The company has been operating under contract number 1/2561 since May 2018, with the Treasury Department overseeing compliance to ensure the port is equipped to serve cruise passengers and cargo operations effectively, the ministry noted.

The delegation also visited a second project involving the development of Treasury land plots สก. 293-294 in Ratsada, covering nearly nine rai.

The land was opened to private development through a public auction in 2005. Baan Jaisai Co Ltd won the bid and proposed a project valued at B68.59mn, along with a B1.7mn concession fee.

The project has since evolved, with the Treasury Department approving an extension for construction and a revised plan to better suit the intended use. As of April 2025, construction progress stood at 87.5%, with a total investment value of approximately B236.07mn. The company has been authorised to continue construction until June 30, 2025.

The Phuket News

Senators call for end of Cambodia border spat

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Dozens of senators, led by Senate Speaker Mongkol Surasajja, have urged the government to convene a special session to find long-term solutions to the Thai-Cambodian territorial dispute.

This came as the Royal Thai Armed Forces Monday released aerial photos on Monday (June 9) showing how Cambodian troops invaded Thai soil in the Chong Bok area of Ubon Ratchathani province in April and built a strong base there in May, leading to the recent skirmish.

Mr Mongkol said on Monday the repositioning of Cambodian troops in Ubon Ratchathani following the closure of border checkpoints was a positive sign, but it only de-escalates tension at the border.

He called on Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra to hold a special parliament meeting in



Members of the Thai Armoured Infantry Battalion head towards an assembly point in Sa Kaeo province on June 6. Photo: Royal Thai Army

which the government outlines facts and actions taken and allows MPs and senators to discuss measures to resolve the conflict.

“By convening a special session, the government will send a signal that it isn’t ignoring the issue and is ready to handle the situation,” he said.

Mr Mongkol also extended moral support to Thai officials for defending national sovereignty and safeguarding people.

There has been sporadic violence on the Thai-Cambodia frontier since 2008, resulting in at least 28 deaths.

A Cambodian soldier was killed in the most recent outbreak of clashes on May 28 in an area known as the Emerald Triangle, where the borders of Cambodia, Thailand and Laos meet.

According to the army, Cambodia agreed last Sunday to withdraw to their original positions, away from the clash site and fill in trenches it had dug to restore the area to its natural state. Both sides also agreed to use the local border committee mechanism as a channel to discuss the sustainable management of the area.

This came after the army ramped up restrictions at nine out of 16 checkpoints along the border with Cambodia, barring gamblers and large commercial trucks from crossing while ordering shorter opening hours at key crossings between the two countries.

Mr Mongkol stressed that the Senate advocates peaceful resolutions to the conflict based on mutual respect. He also urged the government to stick to its stance not to recognise the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the dispute with Cambodia. Relevant marine disputes and issues related to national interests should also be addressed during the session, he added.

The Senate speaker dismissed speculation that the session is being called due to suspicions about the Shinawatra family’s close ties with Cambodia’s former prime minister, Hun Sen.

“That’s not relevant here. We believe every Thai loves the country and will protect the national interest,” he said.

Former PM Suchinda dies

BANGKOK

FORMER PRIME MINISTER Suchinda Kraprayoon died in the early hours of Tuesday (June 10) at the age of 91 from natural causes, his family has announced.

He was pronounced dead at 1:57am at Phramongkutklao Hospital in Bangkok, the official family statement declared. A religious ceremony honouring him will be announced later, it added.

Suchinda was a significant figure in Thai history, notably as the army chief who ousted prime minister Chatichai Choonhavan in 1991 and subsequently became the 19th premier in 1992. He was a member of the National Peacekeeping Council, the junta formed following the coup.

He is perhaps most remembered for his role during the May 1992 uprising, when protests against his government resulted in the deaths of over 50 students and injuries or disappearances of hundreds. This



Former PM Suchinda (centre) in 1991. Photo: Bangkok Post

event, also called the Black May uprising, led to his resignation and remains a pivotal moment in Thailand’s democratic development.

After stepping down, he largely withdrew from public life, though he remained a respected elder within military circles.

Born on Aug 6, 1933 in Ban Chang Lo, Bangkok, Suchinda studied medicine at Chulalongkorn University for 12 months before entering the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy.

He graduated from Class 5 of the Academy, of which many students would join the National Peace Keeping Council.

His wife, Khunying Wannee, passed away last year. He is survived by two sons. *Bangkok Post*

More than 70 officials named in SAO building collapse scandal

BANGKOK

MORE THAN 70 STATE OFFICIALS have been implicated in bidding collusion linked to the doomed State Audit Office (SAO) building in Bangkok, the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) said on June 4.

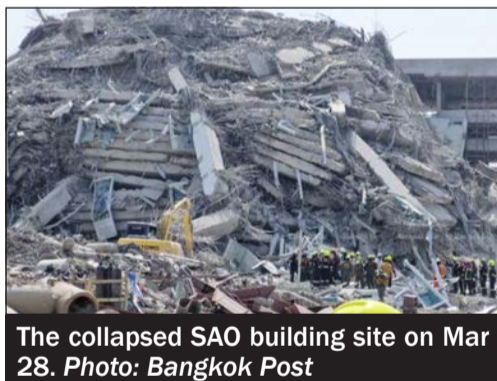
The suspects include former and current SAO executives, as well as members of 10 committees involved in the design, construction and inspection of the building, said Pol Capt Surawoot Rungsai, the DSI deputy secretary-general.

Eighty-nine workers were killed and seven are still missing at the site of the collapse, which occurred during the 7.7-magnitude earthquake that originated in Myanmar on Mar 28, 2025. The B2.1 billion, 30-storey building was the only high-rise in the capital to topple during the quake.

The executives under scrutiny by the DSI are accused of manipulating the bidding process to favour certain bidders who ultimately secured contracts for design, construction and inspection, Pol Capt Surawoot said.

The terms of reference for the bidding were altered to benefit a company within the PKW joint venture – comprising PN Synchronize, KP Consultants and Management, and W and Associates Consultants – allowing it to qualify for the tender, he added.

Pol Capt Surawoot also confirmed



The collapsed SAO building site on Mar 28. Photo: Bangkok Post

media reports that at least two individuals close to the SAO had provided crucial information to investigators. When asked whether the incumbent Auditor-General, Monthien Charoenpol, was implicated or named, Pol Capt Surawoot simply replied, “All the names are in there”.

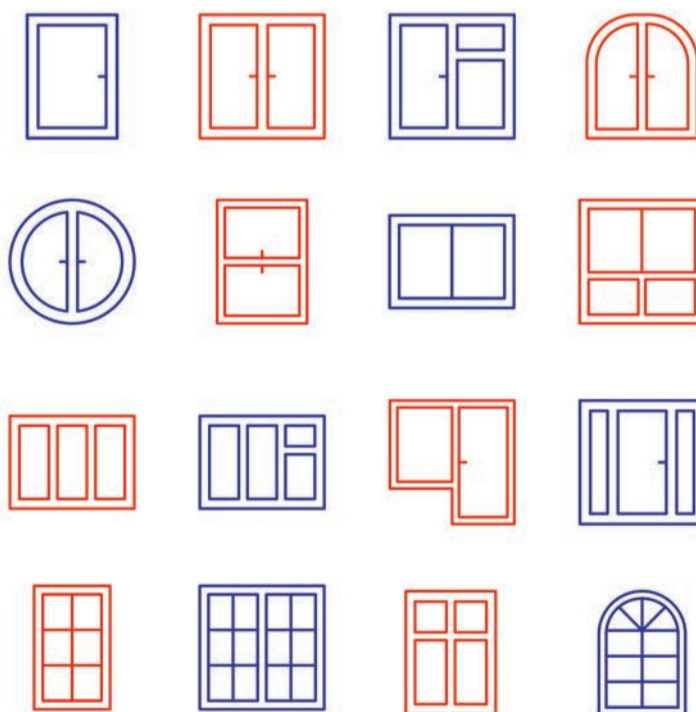
During its investigation, the DSI raided the headquarters of PKW three times, collecting 121 boxes of documents. The evidence indicated construction inspections had never been conducted, which was cited as a key factor behind the building’s collapse.

It was also revealed that suspicions about irregularities in connection with the project go all the way back to 2009 when the original design contract was being reviewed.

The DSI last month submitted a case file to prosecutors in another investigation involving the use of nominees by China Railway No.10 (Thailand) Co Ltd, one of the contractors for the building. *Bangkok Post*



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Are We Alone? Exploring the Cosmic Silence

SCIENCE CORNER

Marco Capriz

On a clear night at Phuket's Promthep Cape, the Milky Way stretches overhead like sea salt scattered on black velvet. With 200 billion stars in our galaxy, the silence from the cosmos feels almost cheeky. Parents often ask me in the planetarium: "Do aliens exist?" My answer: "Almost certainly - but don't expect them at football practice." To understand why, let's take a journey from life's chemistry to the vast statistical puzzles of the universe.

Defining Life: More Than Just Flames

Before imagining green beings or European jellyfish, we must define life. Biologists describe it as "self-replicating, metabolizing systems," but real-world examples blur the lines. Viruses replicate but rely on hosts, and wildfires "consume" and "reproduce" yet aren't alive. The difference? Life requires genetic blueprints (like DNA), homeostasis, and open-ended heredity - qualities even the simplest bacteria possess.

CHNOPS: The Universe's Recipe for Life

Whether it's a bacterium or a teacher grading homework at 1 a.m., 96% of their mass comes from six elements: Carbon, Hydrogen, Nitrogen, Oxygen, Phosphorus, and Sulphur (CHNOPS). Carbon's versatility allows complex structures, while hydrogen and oxygen form water, Earth's universal solvent. These ingredients aren't rare - radio telescopes detect them in distant clouds like Orion. But life also needs energy, time, and the right environment.

Earth's Primordial Kitchen

Four billion years ago, Earth was a chaotic lab: lightning, volcanic gases, and UV light churned a broth of



Image: Marco Capriz

organic molecules. Experiments like Miller-Urey showed amino acids could form, but life needed catalysts - like iron-rich clays or hydrothermal vents - to assemble complexity. Tidal flats, where water evaporates and replenishes daily, may have been ideal for proto-life to emerge. Phuket's intertidal basins, like Tawanron Beach, offer a glimpse of these ancient conditions.

Mangroves: Bridges to the Past

Mangroves, with their oxygen-rich leaves and anoxic roots, mimic early Earth's chemical gradients. They're not just ecological powerhouses (storm buffers, carbon sinks) but also living relics of life's origins. Their resilience hints at biology's adaptability - a trait taken to extremes by extremophiles.

Extremophiles: Life Finds a Way

Bacteria like *Pyrolobus fumarii* thrive at 113°C in hydrothermal vents, while others survive Antarctic ice or radiation. Such tenacity expands the "habitable zone" to icy moons like Europa and Enceladus, where subsurface oceans might host life. NASA's Europa Clipper mission could soon test this.

Sniffing Alien Atmospheres

The James Webb Space Telescope analyzes starlight filtered through exoplanet atmospheres, hunting for gases like methane and oxygen - which, together, sug-

gest life. But caution is key: volcanoes can mimic biosignatures.

The Drake Equation: Counting Civilizations

Frank Drake's equation estimates detectable civilizations (N) in the Milky Way. Plugging conservative numbers yields $N = 1-5$; optimistic ones suggest thousands. The catch? L - how long civilizations broadcast signals. If they switch to fiber optics or self-destruct quickly, the galaxy might be full of silent neighbors.

Earth's Tiny Radio Bubble

Our radio signals span just 125 light-years - a whisper in the Milky Way's 100,000-light-year expanse. Only 30,000 stars (and ~5,000 habitable worlds) could know we exist. The rest remain oblivious.

The Dark Forest Hypothesis

What if civilizations stay silent to avoid predators? Liu Cixin's "Dark Forest" theory suggests a galaxy of cautious hunters, hiding rather than risking contact. It's a chilling but plausible explanation for the silence.

While We Wait For Answers, What We Can Do?

Stargaze: Feel the Milky Way's scale firsthand; Support missions - Europa Clipper could revolutionise our search; Plant mangroves - they are ecological marvels and windows to life's origins; Stay curious: Every discovery began with a bold question.

Final Thought

Are we alone? We don't know - yet. But the building blocks are everywhere, life is adaptable, and our tools keep improving. Until the day we find a European shrimp or an alien "hiya" text, keep looking up. And maybe leave the porch light on, just in case.

A more extensive version of this story can be found at thepuketnews.com. A former telecoms and aerospace engineer, Marco Capriz is Planetarium Director at BCIS Phuket International School, Phuket.



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Make some noise! Photo: Sustainable Maikhao Foundation



Driftwood and debris. Photo: Sustainable Maikhao Foundation



Reusing waste. Photo: Sustainable Maikhao Foundation

Has five years made a difference?



GLOBETROTTER

Todd Miller

“From the bottom of your bellies, make some noise!” Michelle Mouillé urges volunteers at the end of every beach cleanup she organizes. An emphatic chorus of “Save Our Oceans” typically erupts after this plea.

These community clean-ups are a primary activity of the Sustainable Maikhao Foundation (SMF), which Michelle founded in 2020. What started as a passion in the pandemic has morphed into a multi-prong and multi-party mission to help protect Phuket’s most valuable natural resource.

“Even though we can’t clean everything,” Michelle tells the volunteer groups, “the rubbish we collect in a typical cleanup can save a turtle, who could go on to lay 100 to 200 eggs.”

She then asks: “Did we make a difference?”

Tonnes of trash

This month, for the 300th time on beaches across greater Phuket, volunteer groups will shout “Save Our Oceans.”

These cumulative clean-ups over the past five years have removed more than 25 tonnes of rubbish from Phuket’s legendary beaches. This trash is sorted into 16 categories, weighed, recorded and photographed. About one-third of the garbage can be reused, recycled or upcycled into useful products. Other debris goes into the incinerator or the landfill.

Also this month, which coincides with World Oceans Day (June 8) and World Environment Day (June 5), the SMF celebrates its fifth year of promoting environmental awareness, education and action on the island. On the eve of SMF’s anniversary, I sat down with Michelle over foamy cappuccinos to understand the Foundation’s priorities over the next five years.

Creating dedicated and full-time beach cleaning teams during the monsoon season is at the top of her expansive, colour-coded to-do list.

During the monsoon season, powerful currents carry a mix of debris, discarded waste and natural driftwood across the Andaman Sea, depositing them onto Phuket’s otherwise pristine shores. The seasonal shift reshapes the

coastline and highlights the ongoing challenge of marine pollution, as plastic waste, fishing gear and other refuse accumulates along the beaches.

To tackle this environmental problem, and to support unemployed or underemployed tourism sector workers in the off season, SMF is working toward creating an alliance among hotels, the government, schools and the local community. This alliance would directly support and enable dedicated, full-time beach clean-up teams throughout the rainy season.

Educating the next generation

Eco education plays a vital role in helping to protect Phuket’s beaches. Fostering awareness to empower people to make sustainable choices starts in schools. This year SMF has led ocean conservation workshops, beach cleanups and project implementation with a mix of mostly international primary and secondary schools, as well as overseas schools who conduct field trips to Phuket.

Later this year, an effort is underway to bring environmental and English workshops to local schools. Bangkok Hospital Network is helping to raise funds for this initiative through their monthly expat markets. The aspiration is that environmental education will be integrated into the local curriculum. Exuding contagious conviction to protect our marine environment, Michelle tells me: “Educating the next generation is crucial. It produces a long-term ripple effect.”

To further the Foundation’s educational mission, there are ambitions to create a dedicated Recycling and Learning Center. This space would have multiple uses beyond offering convenient facilities for workshops. This dedicated facility would improve awareness that rubbish is a resource that can transform into “useful products, rather than ending up in landfill,” Michelle informs.

No butts on the beach

For the next high season, SMF will launch a campaign against cigarette butts on the beach. “During beach cleanups, we find so many cigarette butts,” she observes. “Most people think that it’s only a small piece of litter and that it won’t impact the environment. However, cigarette butts take years to biodegrade while their toxic chemicals seep into the sand.”

Collaborating with students from UWC Thailand and their youth-led eco group Plastic Free Phuket, the Founda-

tion aims to provide hotels and beach clubs with awareness signs - designed by the students - to encourage responsible disposal of cigarette butts.

A Difference?

Throughout my lengthy conversation with Michelle, my thoughts kept gravitating to that penetrating question which she has asked each of the 8,000 beach clean-up volunteers since SMF founded: “Did we make a difference?”

In the past five years, a mountain of rubbish - more than 25,000 kgs - has been removed from Phuket’s beaches. But that’s just a number, albeit a staggering figure. Perhaps the real difference is more intangible and goes beyond pristine beaches. Physically picking up and removing garbage pro-

duces a mindset shift, Michelle explains. “It changes the way we think about rubbish, and plastics especially, and often leads to sustainable behavioral changes.”

And that may be the biggest difference.

The Sustainable Maikhao Foundation welcomes interested corporate partners and volunteers to join the ongoing effort to connect and empower the community to preserve Phuket’s natural environment.

<https://sustainablemaikhaofoundation.org/>

Adventurer Todd Miller has explored more than 115 countries. He authored the best-seller ENRICH: Create Wealth in Time, Money, and Meaning. www.ToddMiller.asia



The July/August 2025 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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POP QUIZ

1. Which writer holds the Guinness World Record for the most translated works?
2. Which U.S. President was a law professor?
3. Italian explorer Marco Polo has an Asian variety of what farm animal named after him?
4. Modern pentathlon involves running, shooting and horse riding. Which other two sports are featured?
5. Which U.S. state is known as the "Land of 10,000 Lakes?"

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

1. Footnote note
5. Go up
9. Big blowout
13. Bar ____
14. Shipping weights
16. Wrinkly fruit
17. Conversation sparker
20. "The Night of the ____"
21. Dock
22. "Holy moly!"
23. Jousting one
24. Served up a whopper
26. Seafood selection
27. Pitcher, of a sort
30. Ultimatum word
34. Adjust, as laces
36. Armada
37. Unappealing
42. Roundish
43. Salad oil holder
44. Old Chinese money
45. Destined
47. Banquet
50. 10 jiao
52. Lusters
55. Corroded

58. Harmonize

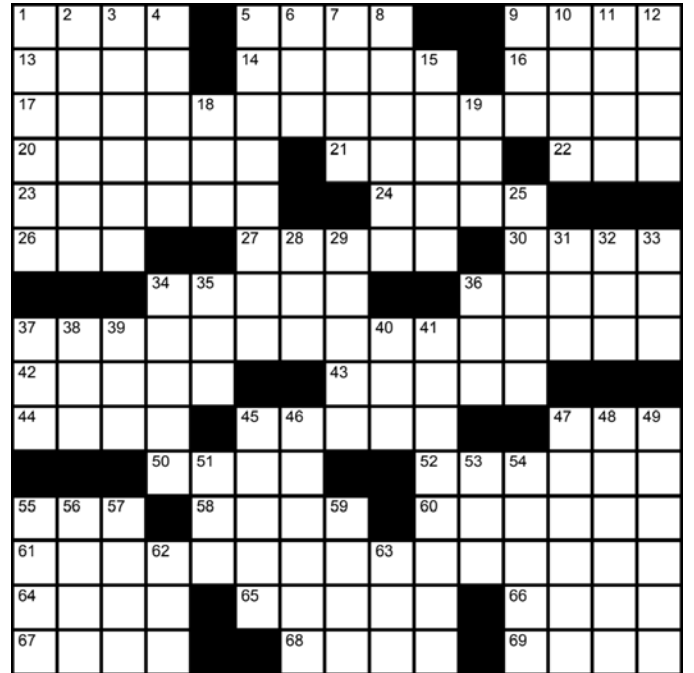
60. ____ obscure
61. Doubletree Oceanfront, for one
64. Rank below marquis
65. High wave
66. Not us
67. Fastener
68. Jupiter, e.g.
69. Seals' meals

Down

1. Stir
2. Dance energetically
3. Completely
4. Remove lard
5. ____ acid
6. Monopoly token
7. Mideast hot spot
8. Astronomer's sighting
9. Term of familiar address
10. Bug-eyed
11. Spiny shrub
12. Scouting outing
15. Done in

18. Compass reading

19. Needle part
25. Dutch pottery city
28. Bad-mouth
29. Big drawer?
31. Affranchise
32. "Didn't I tell you?"
33. Flight board abbr.
34. Turbulent
35. Cricket wicket
36. "Them"
37. "As if!"
38. Female gametes
39. Turning point?
40. Samovar
41. Coups
45. By chance
46. The Muses, e.g.
47. Boil
48. Disentwine
49. Biblical book
51. Cable network
53. "A likely story!"
54. Overact
55. First-rate
56. Exactly
57. Beige
59. Zoo feature
62. Ancient
63. French vineyard



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

- 1) Agatha Christie; 2) Bill Clinton; 3) Sheep; 4) Fencing and swimming; 5) Minnesota

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

5

Olympic gold medals were won by English rower Steve Redgrave in his career

1959

the year the first Barbie doll was released

4,731

episodes of Sesame Street have aired on TV

368,000

babies are born around the world each day, according to UN estimates.

3.7 billion

people under age 50 worldwide are infected with the herpes virus.

Source: Today.com

ISLAND VIEW



An early start at Saphan Hin. Photo by Sutharat Khaodee

Got an unusual or particularly beautiful picture of Phuket? Email it to editor3@classactmedia.co.th

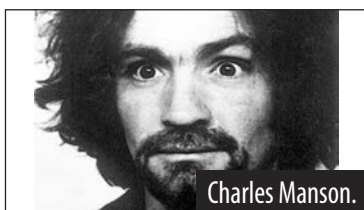
This week in history

June 13, 1774

Rhode Island becomes the first of Britain's North American colonies to ban the importation of slaves.

June 14, 1158

The city of Munich is founded by Henry the Lion on the banks of the river Isar.



Charles Manson.

June 15, 1970

Charles Manson goes on trial for the Sharon Tate murders.

June 16, 1824

A meeting at Old Slaughter's coffee house in London leads to the formation of what is now the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA).

June 17, 1987

With the death of the last individual of the species, the dusky seaside sparrow becomes extinct.

June 18, 618

Li Yuan becomes Emperor Gaozu of Tang, initiating three centuries of Tang dynasty rule over China.

June 19, 1961

Kuwait declares independence from the United Kingdom.

Source: Wikipedia

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26 JUNE



Skål Goes Naughty – Bali Nights in Patong

Our host of the month of June, Peter Koch, extends a warm invitation to all Skålleagues for an evening of Bali-inspired flavours & Patong vibes at Naughty Nuri's, Phuket. Get ready for a sizzling evening of fun, flavours and friendship. Naughty Nuri's Patong will be serving up their legendary Indonesian specialties and the world-famous ribs that have built a cult following around the globe. Registration from 6pm. Members B1,200 - Non-Members B1,600. Bookings - contact@skalphuket.org

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FRI
4 JULY



Grow Boating Evening – July 2025

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm. Drinks sponsor for the evening will be the Royal Phuket Marina. Royal Phuket Marina is a distinguished world-class destination combining luxury waterfront living with a state-of-the-art marina. See royalphuketmarina.com/marina There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant for all attendees. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee. More info at facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket

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GROW BOATING EVENING - JUNE 2025

A slightly damp evening on Friday, June 6, didn't slow down the enthusiastic group of people that gathered at the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar at Phuket Boat Lagoon. Thanks to the drinks sponsor for the evening, the Thailand Boat Festival. The Thailand Boat Festival is set to take place at the Phuket Boat Lagoon marina from January 15-18, 2026. There was a delicious buffet sponsored by the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar for all attendees. Come and join in the fun next month. Everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee. Find us at facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket/



Thais sink France for first win

VOLLEYBALL

THAILAND CLAIMED their first win of the FIVB Women's Volleyball Nations League 2025 after beating France 3-1 in Beijing last Sunday (June 8).

Heading into the match on the back of three successive losses, the Thai team, under coach Kiattipong Radchatagriengkai, put on a strong performance to defeat the Europeans 25-14, 19-25, 25-23, 25-13.

They had lost to Poland (0-3), Belgium (1-3) and Turkey (0-3) in the first three matches of Pool 3 in the Chinese capital.

Pimpichaya Kokram was again the team's star performer with 19 points (16 kills, 2 aces) while rising star outside hitter Warisara Seetaloed chipped in 16 points (14 kills, 2 aces) and fellow outside hitter Donphon Sinpho added 13 points (12 kills, 1 ace).

Opposite Iman Ndiaye, who had a 30-point



Thailand celebrate against France. Photo: Supplied

performance in the team's only win against Belgium last Friday, led the French scoring chart with 19 points (16 kills, 2 aces).

France, who lost to China last Saturday, ended week one with one win and three losses.

Thailand had this week off before they head to Hong Kong for week two's action.

They will start Pool 5 with a match against Japan on June 18 before facing Italy a day later. They will then play the Czech Republic on June 21 and end the second week with a match against Bulgaria on June 22.

Bangkok Post

Muay Thai helps local college

MUAY THAI

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A charity Muay Thai boxing match organised to help renovation work at Phuket Technical College was held on June 2.

The "United Hearts for Phuket Technical College" event was held at Gym 1 at the Saphan Hin Sports Stadium complex, with proceeds going towards restoring an old meeting room at the Talat Yai-based college campus.

The 'Kosimbi' meeting room has been closed and off bounds for more than 10 years as it fell into a state of disrepair, Somsiri Nakornwong, Director of Phuket Technical College, explained at the event.

However, with over B500,000 raised from the charity boxing event and additional fundraising initiatives during the past six months, major repairs can now be carried out, Mrs Somsiri confirmed.

"The Kosimbi meeting room was always regarded as an important space for pupils to gather and learn," Mrs Somsiri said.

"Sadly it fell into a bad condition and had to be forcibly closed. However, thanks to my predecessor Rawi Dabthong, several fundraising events were held in the past year or so that have allowed us to generate much needed funds for repairs and Monday's event in Saphan Hin is just



Photo: PR Phuket

another example of this and of how the community comes together to help drive positive change.

"We are about 80% of the way there with the repairs. The money raised from Monday's boxing event will allow the floor to be fully repaired, fresh wallpaper to be applied, new curtains to be hung and furniture to be bought.

"There are still several things to be done, however, such as fixing the air conditioning system, electrical system and sound system, which will require additional budget," Mrs Somsiri explained.

The June 2 event was overseen by Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO), who was joined by Thammawat Wongcharoenyos,

President of the Sports Association of Phuket, and Nonthiek Nunpakdee, President of the Southern Professional Boxing Association.

Representatives from the Southern Vocational Education Institute 2, as well as students, parents and members of the public also attended the event in large numbers.

Mr Rewat explained how the event demonstrated the power of combining the art of Thai boxing with the spirit of the community to jointly help in developing education facilities and benefiting youngsters in Phuket.

Once fully renovated, the Kosimbi meeting room will also be used for local community initiatives such as educational seminar sessions and general development activities for the public, Mr Rewat added.

Mixed pair second best at BWF Indonesia Open

BADMINTON

MIXED DOUBLES PAIR Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Supissara Paewsampran missed out on a chance to win their fourth title of the year after losing in the final of the US\$450,000 (B14.7 million) BWF Indonesia Open in Jakarta last Sunday (June 8).

The Thai sixth seeds went down France's Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue 16-21, 18-21 in the World Tour Super 1000 decider at the Istora Senayan.

It was their first loss in six finals since they began their partnership in October last year. Dechapol and Supissara won the Singapore Open a week before the Jakarta tournament and also won in Malaysia and Thailand earlier this year.

Gicquel and Delrue were more consistent in the 48-minute contest as they claimed their biggest career title.

Despite the loss, Dechapol and Supissara moved into fifth place in the world rankings after they were officially released on



Photo: AFP

Tuesday, while Gicquel and Delrue jumped three spots to seventh.

Top seed An Se-Young claimed her fifth World Tour tournament of the year after winning the women's singles title.

The Korean world No.1 rallied to beat China's Wang Zhiyi in three games, 13-21, 21-19, 21-15.

Third seed Anders Antonsen of Denmark won the men's singles title after he defeated sixth seed Chou Tien-chen of Taiwan 22-20, 21-14.

In the women's doubles decider, top seeds Liu Shengshu and Tan Ning of China overcame Pearly Tan and Thinaah Muralitharan of Malaysia 23-25, 21-12, 21-19. Bangkok Post

Alcaraz stuns Sinner in classic

TENNIS

CARLOS ALCARAZ SAVED THREE championship points as he produced an astonishing fightback from two sets down to beat Jannik Sinner in a French Open final for the ages last Sunday (June 8).

Reigning champion Alcaraz rallied from the brink of defeat to overcome world number one Sinner 4-6, 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (10/2) after five hours and 29 minutes to clinch his fifth Grand Slam title.

The 22-year-old Spaniard is now unbeaten in five Grand Slam finals after snapping Sinner's 20-match winning run at the majors.

"This was the most exciting match that I've played so far without a doubt," said Alcaraz. "I think the match had everything."

Alcaraz pulled off his first ever comeback from two sets down in the longest Roland Garros final in history, recovering from 5-3 down in the fourth set when Sinner had three match points.

"Today was all about believing in myself. Never doubted myself today and I tried to go for it," he said. "Real champions are made in those situations."

Alcaraz is the first man to win a Grand Slam title after saving match point since Novak Djokovic beat Roger Federer in the 2019 Wimbledon final. The only other man to do it in the Open era was Gaston Gaudio at Roland Garros in 2004.

Sinner fell agonisingly short of a third successive Grand Slam crown after last year's US Open title and back-to-back Australian Open triumphs.

The Italian suffered his fifth straight loss to Alcaraz in what was their first meeting in a Grand Slam final – and the first championship match at a major between two men born in the 2000s.



Carlos Alcaraz returns a shot against Jannik Sinner in their epic final match. Photo: AFP

Alcaraz leads 8-4 overall having also beaten Sinner in the final in Rome, where the Italian returned to competition in May after a three-month doping ban.

GUTSY GAUFF

Meanwhile, in the women's singles final on Saturday, Coco Gauff battled back from a set down to beat world number one Aryna Sabalenka in a Grand Slam final for the second time with a dramatic victory.

The second-ranked American dug deep to claim a 6-7 (5/7), 6-2, 6-4 victory and her second major title after also defeating Sabalenka at the 2023 US Open.

The 21-year-old more than made amends for her emotional 2022 final loss to Iga Swiatek at Roland Garros, outlasting Sabalenka over two hours and 38 minutes on Court Philippe Chatrier.

"I was going through a lot of things when I lost in this final three years ago. I'm just happy to be here," said Gauff.

It was a second straight Grand Slam final loss for Sabalenka after her defeat by Madison Keys at the Australian Open in January. AFP

Transfer talk kicks into gear

FOOTBALL

AFP

Premier League clubs are already busy strengthening their squads for the 2025/26 season and here we look at four names to watch as the transfer window kicks into gear.

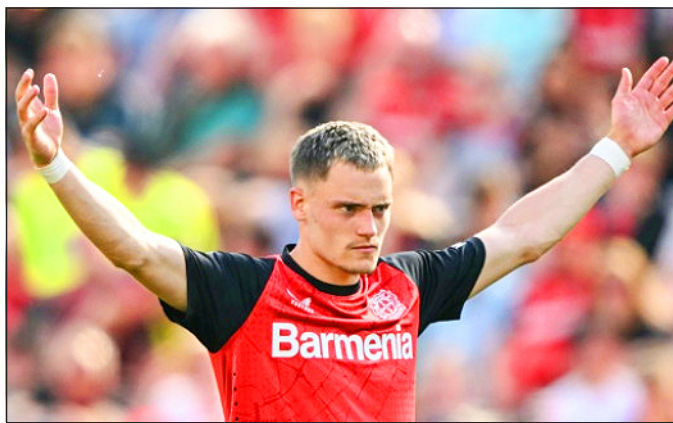
FLORIAN WIRTZ (BAYER LEVERKUSEN)

Liverpool have shown no sign of resting on their laurels as English champions, moving quickly to back manager Arne Slot heavily this summer.

The darling of German football, Wirtz looks set to smash the Premier League transfer record should he get his wish of a dream move to Anfield, with Liverpool reportedly having had a bid worth up to £109 million (B4.7 billion) rebuffed.

Wirtz was instrumental in Leverkusen's stunning German league and cup double in the 2023/24 season, plus a run to the Europa League final.

The two clubs have already agreed one deal as



Bayer Leverkusen's Florian Wirtz could break the Premier League transfer record. Photo: AFP

Jeremie Frimpong has joined Liverpool as a replacement for Trent Alexander-Arnold.

BRYAN MBEUMO (BRENTFORD)

Mbeumo is one of Manchester United's key targets to end their woes in front of goal. The French-born Cameroon international enjoyed a stellar last season with Brentford, scoring 20 times to carry Thomas Frank's men to an impressive top half finish.

Despite interest from Arsenal, Newcastle and Tottenham, Mbeumo's preferred destination is reportedly Old Trafford if United can reach an agreement with Brentford.

United have already added Brazilian striker Matheus Cunha from Wolves in £62.5mn transfer in a to bolster a misfiring forward line.

They were also boosted on June 3 when captain Bruno Fernandes confirmed he refused overtures from Saudi Arabian side Al Hilal, who were believed to have tabled a £100mn bid for the Portuguese international.

VIKTOR GYOKERES (SPORTING LISBON)

A remarkable 54-goal season for Sporting has made the Swede a target for a series of clubs seeking more firepower.

Arsenal have been strongly linked with Gyokeres as Mikel Arteta

seeks a clinical finisher to end the Gunners' five-year trophy drought.

The 26-year-old has a £84mn buyout clause in his Sporting contract, but it is expected the Portuguese champions would settle for less.

Arsenal also have a long-standing interest in RB Leipzig striker Benjamin Sesko, while Newcastle's Alexander Isak appears an unattainable target after the Magpies qualified for the Champions League.

EBERECHI EZE (CRYSTAL PALACE)

Eze will forever be a Palace legend after scoring the winning goal in the FA Cup final victory over Manchester City in May to deliver the Eagles' first ever major trophy.

The England international's eye for goal and a defence-splitting pass has seen him targeted by a plethora of the Premier League's best.

City eye the 26-year-old as a potential replacement for Kevin De Bruyne, while Arsenal and Tottenham are also interested and could easily trigger his £68mn release clause.

Spurs sack Postecoglou

FOOTBALL

ANGE POSTECOGLOU was sacked as Tottenham manager last Friday (June 6), just 16 days after the Australian ended the club's 17-year trophy drought by winning the Europa League.

Postecoglou led Tottenham to a 1-0 victory over Manchester United in Bilbao to clinch the north Londoners' first European prize in 41 years and secure a place in next season's Champions League.

But the Australian paid the price for Tottenham's worst domestic season since they were relegated from the top flight in 1976-77.

Exactly two years after he was hired from Celtic, Postecoglou's eventful spell in north London was brought to a ruthless end by chairman Daniel Levy.

Tottenham lost 22 of their 38 Premier League games to finish 17th in the table, above only relegated trio Leicester, Ipswich and Southampton.

"My overriding emotion is one of pride. The opportunity to lead one of England's historic football clubs and bring back the glory it deserves will live with me



Postecoglou. Photo: AFP

for a lifetime," he said in a statement released moments after his sacking.

"That night in Bilbao was the culmination of two years of hard work, dedication and unwavering belief in a dream.

"Sharing that experience with all those who truly love this club and seeing the impact it had on them is something I will never forget. We are forever connected."

At time of press it was believed that Brentford manager Thomas Frank had verbally agreed to become Postecoglou's successor, with just contractual formalities to be finalised.

AFP

FAT secures landmark TV deal

FOOTBALL

ADVANCED INFO SERVICE Plc (AIS), Gulf Energy Development Plc (GULF) and Jasmine International Plc (JAS) have secured the broadcasting rights to Thai football over the next four years in a B2 billion deal.

The deal also has an option of a two-year extension, according to the Football Association of Thailand (FAT) president Nualphan Lamsam.

The agreement will cover the four-year period starting from the 2025/26 season, with exclusive live coverage including all T1, T2, T3, FA Cup, League Cup, U21 League and Women's Leagues 1 and 2 matches.

The agreement will deliver a total of B2bn in revenue over the four-year period and provide bigger financial certainty for T1, T2 and T3 clubs from the 2025/26 season onwards.

In the new payment scheme, the FAT has committed to continuing



Nualphan Lamsam. Photo: PR

its strong levels of support by contributing nearly B400 million per season to all Thai League clubs.

Each of the 16 T1 teams will receive B15mn (B240mn in total), 18 T2 teams will get B4mn each (B72mn) and 70 T3 teams will each pocket B1.25mn (B86.5mn).

CLUBS MOVE VETOED

Meanwhile, an attempt by several Thai League 1 clubs to set up a new company to handle all tournament affairs was not approved by the FAT.

Eleven T1 clubs voted in favour of the proposal on June 2 but the move was denied by the FAT

executive committee during a meeting on June 7 meaning the operation of the Thai League remains under Thai League Co Ltd.

FAT also confirmed that the Thai League 1 campaign will not pause during the 33rd SEA Games, which will take place Dec 9-20.

Some T2 and T3 matches, however, could be rescheduled if teams have many players called up for the national team.

The SEA Games football competition is an under-23 tournament. Thailand last won the SEA Games gold medal in 2017 in Malaysia.

Bangkok Post



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Gutsy Gauff wins French Open > p14



Dojo-Phuket shine at national wrestling comp

The team following their success in Bangkok at the 12th Kurash Wrestling Championship of Thailand. Photo: Alexis Plantard

WRESTLING / MARTIAL ARTS

The Phuket News
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

The team from Dojo Phuket proved its versatility recently when they triumphed impressively at the National Kurash Wrestling Championship of Thailand 2025.

Typically, it is martial arts disciplines such as judo and jiu-jitsu that students from the Phuket-based gym are more associated and familiar with, certainly at national and international competition level.

However, on the weekend of May 31-June 2, a total of 22 athletes representing the gym entered into the 12th annual edition of the Kurash Wrestling Championship of Thailand in Bangkok.

The team proved their prowess on the mat to secure an impress-

ive 15-medal haul, including seven golds, five silvers and three bronzes, as well as winning the trophy for best national boys team in the under-11 age classification.

On an individual basis, gold medals were won by students Naylia, Damir, Alexander, Danil, Dima, Sagit and Dojo Phuket lead instructor Alexis Plantard.

Silver medals went to students Timur, Johnathan, Meera, Ashia and Mayel, while Lea, David and Amine all collected bronze. Fellow students Daniil, Mikhail, Marko and Leo all performed admirably but just fell short of the medal places in fifth place.

"Kurash wrestling is very similar to judo in style and technique but with added ground work that many associate with standard wrestling," Alexis told *The Phuket News*.

"It proves how versatile and talented the team from the Dojo is in that they can transfer skillsets honed in disciplines such as

jiu-jitsu and judo to become so effective on the wrestling mat."

Pride in his students is something that has always shone through when talking with Alexis and he was no different after their latest triumph in the capital. Citing individual performances, he praised Naylia for her strong mindset in helping her achieve her first tournament win. "She has made a lot of effort in training in the last six months and this deservedly paid off," the coach commented.

"Damir is 'Mr Consistent,' so strong and always on top of his game, as is Sagit with his Japanese-influenced style, while Alexander hinted at the true talent he has with a fine performance. Danil's technical skills and precision are exemplary, while Dima finally got to where he deserves to be – on top of the podium."

While citing individual performances, Frenchman Alexis

was very quick to pay tribute to the entire team, confident that with continued application and hard work there will be more medals to come for everyone.

"Their achievements are not by chance but by discipline and hard work," he explained. "Every single student applies themselves in the correct manner and this, ultimately, always pays off."

'DETERMINED'

Alexis always leads as an example to his students, something he once again did in Bangkok at the Kurash wrestling tournament, claiming gold in the under-90 kilogram category, while fellow adult student Amine took bronze in the same weight class.

Although he missed out on a medal in the capital, Geoffrey impressed his coach with his work ethic and application. "Geoffrey is 55 years old and this was his first event. It was a great

experience for him, something that he will no doubt learn from and improve on in future," Alexis said.

Prior to the Kurash event in Bangkok, Alexis claimed a silver medal in judo at the World Masters Games in Taiwan on May 23.

Battling it out among 420 athletes, Alexis notably defeated three time world champion Chien-Chung Huang from Taiwan in the quarter-final of the under-90kg weight class before facing Kazakhstan's Avazbek Korganov in the final. A tough opponent who Alexis faced in the world championship semi-finals in Las Vegas last year, the outcome was ultimately the same this time as the experienced Kazak held out for the win.

"I fought really well and was so close," said Alexis. "It just makes me more determined to train harder and come back even better next time."

Phuket Liverpool fans celebrate title win with parade

FOOTBALL

A SPECIAL PARADE WAS organised in Phuket on June 1 for local fans to celebrate English football team Liverpool recently winning the Premier League.

The event started at the Robinson lifestyle shopping centre in Chalong before embarking on a seven-kilometre parade through local streets, including Phuket old town, the Chartered Bank Intersection and the Shell roundabout before concluding at Saphan Hin Park.

Hordes of local fans from across Phuket and tourists alike

joined in the fun, honking horns in cars and cheering the parade as it passed by, with a replica of the English Premier League trophy on show, adorned with ribbons in the famous club's red colours.

Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat oversaw the occasion, delivering a welcome speech before extending congratulations to the Liverpool team and their fans.

The replica of the Premier League trophy was then put on display, affording fans opportunity to pose for photos while live musical entertainment added to the festive atmosphere as red

lighting to match the team's colours lit up the venue.

Governor Sophon praised the event as a way of bringing all people together to generate cheer, happiness and positivity, regardless of whether they are Liverpool or even football fans.

Merseyside giants Liverpool won their 20th top level domestic championship in April, equalling that of bitter rivals Manchester United. The achievement sparked wild celebrations within their home ground of Anfield and all over the world where the massively supported club have legions of fans.

It was a fantastic achievement for manager Arne Slot in his first season in charge at the club, especially after having replaced the hugely popular Jurgen Klopp.

The success was even sweeter for Liverpool-based fans as it was the first time they had been able to celebrate with the team and each other since their last league success in 1990.

They did win the Premier League in the 2019-20 season under Klopp although celebrations were muted as restrictions enforced by the COVID-19 pandemic meant fans were not



Photo: PR Phuket

allowed near the stadium to join in the festivities.

Liverpool have a huge global fanbase, estimated to be in excess of 50 million, and are one of the most recognised and celebrated sports teams worldwide. This is especially true in Asia where their popularity is enormous in areas such as South East Asia, China, India and Japan.

The Phuket News