

THEIR MAJESTIES JOIN KING'S CUP REGATTA > PAGE 5

## SAND GRAB

Beach chairs now stretch the length of Kata Noi Beach. Photo: Supplied

## OFFICIALS STUMPED OVER ILLEGAL BEACH CHAIR SPRAWL

Natnaree Likidwatanasakun  
reporter1@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket officials have been stumped with what to do about a sprawl of beach chair operators that have taken more huge areas along Kata and Kata Noi beaches. At Kata Noi, the usually quiet beach just south of Kata main beach, now has beach chairs along the entire length of the sand.

Local residents raised the alarm with a slew of complaints coming in to *The Phuket News*. "Kata beach has been turned into the world's ugliest beach with over 10,000 umbrellas from road to high water mark the entire beach," one local resident said.

Another said, "At Karon Beach, sunbeds are stacked eight deep in some areas, covering nearly the entire beach with no space left for towels or beach blankets. What happened to the 10% rule from five years ago? I've heard it's just as bad at Kata Beach."

Yet another local resident noted, "The 10% rule, designed to reserve 90% of beach space for public use, appears to be largely ignored."

"Kata beach now is covered with beach chairs, some areas three rows deep. You can't even see the ocean, let alone walk through the maze," he added.

One local beachgoer pointed out how bad the problem has become: "The beach chairs and vendors competing for space goes

beyond regulations; it's happening on the beach as well.

"A small wedding ceremony at Kata Beach organised by The Boathouse was interrupted when beach chair vendors demanded payment to move their chairs. Frustrated visitors have reported similar conflicts, with little room left for leisure activities."

Several of the local residents sent photos of the beach chair sprawl to *The Phuket News* to substantiate their complaints.

### STUMPED

Karon Mayor Jadet Wicharasorn told *The Phuket News* that he was aware of the recent surge in the number of beach chair operators now operating on the sands in his jurisdiction.

He also insisted that all the new operators setting up on the beach have never received permission from Karon Municipality.

"The 10% rule remains in effect, and I am fully aware of its guidelines. However, only 10% of the original businesses remain in the area, while the new businesses operating now have not received proper permission from Karon Municipality," Mayor Jadet said.

"The 10% beach management rule limits vendors to using only 10% of the beach for businesses," he confirmed.

"I've seen a lot of them myself. There are so many new businesses [operators] that have opened [on the beaches] that I can't even give an exact number," Mayor Jadet added.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

### NEWS PAGE 3

Local leaders probed for hotel in forest



### LIFE PAGE 9

Get fresh by dining at the Edge at Panwa



### SPORT PAGE 15

Financial woes threaten PAFC's plans for future



INTRODUCING OUR **SCHOLARSHIP** PROGRAMME UP TO **50% OFF**

bcisphuket.ac.th



**iSP** International Schools Partnership





# THAILAND INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

## A LUXURY LIFESTYLE EVENT

Best International Boat Show In Southeast Asia

**60+ BOATS ON WATER DISPLAYS AND 100+ LUXURY LIFESTYLE EXHIBITORS**

**PHUKET YACHT HAVEN MARINA**

**9 - 12 JANUARY 2025**



**THAILAND INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW**  
**OPEN SKIFF REGATTA' FEATURING EXHIBITION**  
**FROM DISABLED SAILING THAILAND**  
**& MORE ENTERTAINMENT FOR CHILDREN'S DAY!**  
**ON SATURDAY THE 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025**

## EXHIBITOR & CAPTAIN'S LOUNGE

Indulge in exclusivity in our Exhibitor & Captain's Lounge – a space for leisure, meetings, and social networking for the first time on superyacht at the Thailand International Boat Show A Luxury Lifestyle Event on 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**TICKET PRICE: 2,000 BAHT PER DAY**  
**PRE-BOOK: ALL 4 DAYS FOR 5,000 BAHT**



**HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024**  
**CONFERENCE CENTER HALL AT SPLASH BEACH RESORT, PHUKET**



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AND TO BOOK THE CONFERENCE

**TICKET PRICE: 2,500 BATH PER PERSON**

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE OR ONLINE BOOKING AT  
[WWW.THAILANDINTERNATIONALBOATSHOW.COM](http://WWW.THAILANDINTERNATIONALBOATSHOW.COM)

**SPECIAL PRICE**

**THAILAND YACHTING CONFERENCE + 4 DAYS**  
**EXHIBITOR & CAPTAIN'S LOUNGE: 6,500 BAHT PER PERSON**

**• BE PART OF THE KICKOFF PARTY OF THE YEAR •**

THAILAND INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW  
 A LUXURY LIFESTYLE EVENT

**Gala Dinner**

AFTER DINNER  
 CHOCOLATES BY  
**BARADA**

Welcome Drinks from 7.30 PM • Dinner: 8.30 PM • Carriages: 1.00 AM

**TICKET PRICE: 6,600 PER PERSON**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BEING A SPONSOR AND/OR AN EXHIBITOR AT OUR SHOW  
 Call: +66(0)76 600 225 | Email: [info@thailandinternationalboatshow.com](mailto:info@thailandinternationalboatshow.com)

- ◆ Canapes on Arrival
- ◆ Pre-dinner drinks accompanied by the sounds of roaming saxophone and violinist
- ◆ Free-Flow Drinks during the Dinner for 3 hours
- ◆ EKA Soundz 9-piece band
- ◆ Close-hand magic performer
- ◆ DJ Eliz Too & Party Until 1 AM



SCAN TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS



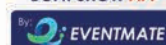
PLEASE SCAN HERE  
 TO REGISTER FOR FREE

**REGISTER TO VISIT THE SHOW FOR FREE**

Online Registration at [WWW.THAILANDINTERNATIONALBOATSHOW.COM](http://WWW.THAILANDINTERNATIONALBOATSHOW.COM)

**THEN DOWNLOAD THE APP FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION!**

PLEASE SCAN  
 TO DOWNLOAD  
 THAILAND INTERNATIONAL  
 BOAT SHOW APP





# Kata suffers beach chair blight

Continued from page 1

## POWERLESS

Mayor Jadet assured that he is taking action, but also that he currently has no authority to take action himself, even as the local mayor. "I have already told all of them [the operators], and informed the Phuket Governor," he said.

Since the 'beach management rules' were brought into effect in 2015, local municipalities no longer had the authority to regulate businesses on the beaches in Phuket. That responsibility was taken over by the Phuket office of the Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC), the political arm of the Royal Thai Military, Mayor Jadet added.

"The problem is that the beach management regulations must be given to Phuket ISOC to proceed. Phuket ISOC has already proposed new guidelines to the Phuket Governor, at the end of October," Mayor Jadet added.

"Currently, all we [Karon Municipality] can do is wait for the Phuket ISOC to come and take action. Phuket ISOC, including the Navy, has not yet issued an order to proceed. Until we receive this order, we cannot do anything. Once the official order



The view from 'Sam Ao' ('Three Bays') Viewpoint in Karon. Photo: The Phuket News

comes, we will be able to enforce the proposed plan," he said plainly.

Yet ISOC Phuket currently remains powerless to take action, Anuphong Panarat, secretary to the Phuket Governor, explained to *The Phuket News*.

The initial order introducing the 'beach management rules' was revoked in 2020, shifting authority to enforce the regulations to the Ministry of Interior, he said.

## EXPAND

Likely inspiring the surge in beach operators in Kata is that the Phuket Provincial Office, headed by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat, has submitted a request to the Ministry of Interior to increase the '10% rule' to 40% for Kata Beach.

"Phuket is considering adopting a beach management style similar to Pattaya City, where local municipalities are respons-

ible for implementation," Mr Anuphong said.

The transition may take time as a comprehensive and organised system is developed, he added.

Capt Pongsakorn Itsa-sombat, Deputy Director of Phuket ISOC, explained that Governor Sophon held a meeting in April to discuss extending the beach area limit to 40% and allowing temporary occupations such as umbrella setups, provided equipment is removed afterward.

Capt Pongsakorn confirmed that the guidelines were sent to district chiefs and the Mayor of Karon.

"We are awaiting clarification from the Ministry of Interior on whether Phuket Provincial Announcement No. 1/2553 [the original beach management order] remains valid," Capt Pongsakorn said.

"Until then, a temporary committee is handling the matter to minimise problems," he added.

"The temporary committee last met on Sept 17, but Phuket ISOC still has yet to receive any instructions. Without these orders, action cannot be taken," Capt Pongsakorn said.

Mayor Jadet emphasised the challenges of overlapping jurisdictions. Unlike Pattaya, a self-governing city, Phuket faces additional layers of bureaucracy, he noted.

"The Phuket Governor is focused on ensuring that local people have jobs and income while preventing conflicts," he said. "But some individuals are exploiting the situation for personal gain, leading to disputes.

"We need a clear directive from higher authorities... Currently, all we can do is wait for ISOC's order and the Ministry of Interior to answer," he said.

## Ombudsman called to review profiteering in protected forest

THE PHUKET PROVINCIAL Ombudsman's Office has held a high-level meeting to address complaints of 'local leaders' operating hotels and restaurants in protected forest areas at the tourist-popular 'Sam Ao' ('Three Bays') Viewpoint in Karon.

The session, held at Phuket Provincial Hall on Dec 3, was chaired by Phuket Vice Governor Samawit Suphanphai.

Present to hear the developments were Keirov Kritteeranon, Secretary-General of the national Office of the Ombudsman, along with Kanithnun Apihansakon, Deputy Secretary-General of the national Office of the Ombudsman.

Other officials present included representatives from the Royal Forest Department, the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) and other related agencies.

The complaints focussed on two primary cases: a hotel and restaurant allegedly encroaching on



Photo: PR Phuket

mitted by local leaders.

Concerns were raised about incomplete information provided by the Land Department and the Phuket Provincial Land Office.

The lack of information provided by Phuket land officials prompted the need for further collaboration "to clarify facts, identify challenges in law enforcement and propose solutions", the official report said.

Key issues under discussion included the investigation of the accused leaders' land use and business activities. The meeting sought to determine whether the reported actions constitute disciplinary offenses or breaches of the ethical code for local government officials, the report said.

Agencies were urged to expedite legal action if violations are confirmed, the report added.

Moving forward, the Office of the Ombudsman pledged to continue monitoring progress and pushing for accountability in resolving these cases, the report concluded. *The Phuket News*

protected forest areas near the 'Sam Ao' ('Three Bays') Viewpoint in Soi Laem Mum Nai, and unauthorised well drilling in forest land at Soi Patak 24.

Both cases were reported as perpetrated by "local leaders", who were not named in an official report of the meeting.

The Office of the Ombudsman has conducted preliminary investigations at the two sites and gathered partial clarifications from local authorities, but additional steps are required to resolve the issues, said the official report.

During the meeting, officials reviewed findings from earlier inspections and discussed legal and ethical violations allegedly com-

## Traffic woes raised during Dutch ambassador visit

EFFORTS TO ENHANCE COLLABORATION between Phuket and the Netherlands were at the forefront during a visit to Phuket by H.E. Remco van Wijngaarden, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Thailand, last week.

The ambassador, joined by Sven Smolders, Honorary Consul for the Netherlands in Southern Thailand, met with Phuket Vice Governor Samawit Suphanphai at Phuket Provincial Hall on Dec 3.

The meeting aimed to foster closer relations and explore avenues for cooperation in tourism, infrastructure development and the welfare of residents and tourists, said a report of the visit.

Representatives from key agencies, including the Phuket Provincial Police, Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, and others, joined the meeting to provide updates on the province's developments and plans, the report noted.

Amb van Wijnngaarden emphasised Phuket's significance as a destination for Dutch nationals. With 500 Dutch residents in Phuket and over 250,000 Dutch tourists visiting Thailand annually, he expressed gratitude for the province's hospitality and care for Dutch citizens.

He also sought insights on infrastructure management, airport expansion and apparently support for vulnerable groups such as the elderly and children, said the report.



Photo: PR Phuket

Vice Governor Samawit highlighted ongoing infrastructure upgrades, including plans to expand Phuket International Airport to handle increasing tourist arrivals.

He assured the Ambassador that provincial authorities prioritise the welfare of foreigners, including legal protections for residents, business operators and tourists, alongside initiatives to enhance care for elderly and young populations.

Honorary Consul Sven Smolders, who has lived in Phuket for over 17 years, praised the province's rapid development but pointed to traffic congestion as a persistent issue. He urged local authorities to devise effective solutions for the growing challenge.

"The discussions underscored the commitment of both parties to strengthen ties and collaboratively address challenges while ensuring Phuket's development aligns with the needs of its diverse population and international visitors," the report concluded. *The Phuket News*



## CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

**PURIYA BEAVAN**  
Editor**CHRIS HUSTED**  
Executive Editor  
084 307 7408  
executive@classactmedia.co.th**BEN TIREBUCK**  
News / Sport Editor  
061 806 8132  
editor3@classactmedia.co.th**CHUTHARAT 'UM' PLERIN**  
Thai Editor  
088 766 1615  
thai@classactmedia.co.th**NATNAREE 'MILD' LIKIDWANASAKUN**  
Reporter / Translator  
062 295 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  
@thephuketnews

ADVERTISING

ClassAct Media

The Phuket News

WINDOW ON PHUKET

Where to eat in PHUKET

Новости Phuket

ข่าวภูเก็ต

NEWS TV

LIVE 89.5

Phuket TICKETMASTER

076 612 550 ext. 605

Fax: 076 612 553

info@classactmedia.co.th

thephuketnews.com

99/7 Moo 1 (Billion Plaza),  
T. Kathu, A. Kathu, Phuket 83120

## PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

www.foreca.com

FRI DECEMBER 13

High: +36°  
Low: +29°  
Wind 11 m/s

SAT DECEMBER 14

High: +36°  
Low: +28°  
Wind 11 m/s

SUN DECEMBER 15

High: +35°  
Low: +28°  
Wind 11 m/s

MON DECEMBER 16

High: +35°  
Low: +27°  
Wind 4 m/s

TUE DECEMBER 17

High: +35°  
Low: +28°  
Wind 4 m/s

WED DECEMBER 18

High: +37°  
Low: +28°  
Wind 4 m/s

THU DECEMBER 19

High: +36°  
Low: +27°  
Wind 4 m/s

## Singaporean tourist dies after Patong massage

A 52-YEAR-OLD SINGAPOREAN tourist died following a massage session at a shop in Patong Saturday (Dec 7).

Patong Hospital informed Patong Police of the man's death at 11:05pm.

Officers arrived at the hospital and noted no visible injuries on the man's body.

According to preliminary reports, the man had been transported to the hospital after experiencing breathing difficulties during a massage session at a shop in Patong.

Despite efforts to revive him, he was pronounced dead shortly after arrival. Police have asked doctors to conduct a post mortem examination to establish the exact cause of death.

Patong Police Chief Pol Col Chalermchai Hirasawat said that the man reportedly began snoring loudly and appeared to fall asleep after a 45-minute oil massage.

Shortly afterward, he showed signs of distress. Staff at the shop attempted first aid and contacted



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

emergency services, but resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful.

The man's wife, who was present during the massage, informed police that he had been drinking beer prior to the session and had a sedentary lifestyle. She did not suspect foul play, attributing the incident to her husband's health, Pol Col Chalermchai said.

The massage shop, where the man was a regular customer, expressed shock at the incident. Staff also maintained that the man appeared fine during the massage session, and maintained that he did not die at the shop.

Police later said that the man's family does not wish to have an autopsy conducted in Thailand and plans to return his body to Singapore. *Eakkapop Thongtub*

## Romantic reunion ended by fatal electric shock

Eakkapop Thongtub  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A romantic reunion in Phuket turned tragic when a Myanmar man, 33, died from an electric shock near a restaurant in Thalang last week.

The man, identified as Thura Kyaw, originally from Mandalay but also a US national, had flown from the United States to reunite with his girlfriend after some five years apart.

Thalang Police Station were called to the scene, on Don Chom Tao Rd in Tambon Thepkasattri, at around 9:30pm on Dec 5.

Officers were told that a man remained unconscious after suffering an electric shock.

Police, rescue personnel and Thalang Hospital staff rushed to the scene. Despite CPR efforts, Mr Thura Kyaw was pronounced dead at the hospital.

According to witnesses, including Ms Nok, a friend of the couple, Mr Thura Kyaw had just arrived at the restaurant with his girlfriend in a car. As he exited the vehicle, he slipped on the wet ground from recent rain



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

and accidentally touched an electric pole that had a 220-volt electrical leakage.

Bystanders quickly intervened, pulling him away from the pole and performing CPR until rescuers arrived.

Authorities from the Thalang branch of the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA Thalang) later inspected the area and confirmed the electrical leakage.

The faulty pole, part of the public lighting system maintained by the Phuket Highways Office, had a live current. Officials temporarily

shut off the circuit breaker to prevent further danger.

Ms Nok explained that Mr Thura Kyaw and his girlfriend had planned a long-awaited reunion after years apart. They had been spending time together in Phuket for about a week before the tragic accident.

Local residents expressed concern about public safety, urging authorities to promptly address electrical hazards in tourist areas.

The Phuket Highways District was notified to investigate and repair the issue.

## Scottish man attacked in home invasion in Chalong

A 31-YEAR-OLD SCOTTISH man was attacked in a home invasion in Soi Palai, Chalong, last week.

Offices were called to respond to the incident at about 9:30pm on Dec 3, reported Chalong Police.

According to initial reports, the Scottish man was attacked at his home in Soi Palai. He suffered a knife wound in the assault before fleeing from his attackers, police confirmed.

Another man living in the house with the Scottish man said there were three to four men involved in the attack. He said he was not sure because he quickly ran in to lock the door inside his room and waited until the police arrived.



Photo: Chalong Police

The Scottish man fled to a neighbour's house seeking help. The French neighbour drove the Scottish man to the nearby Tops store, where police and rescue workers were called.

Rescue workers arrived and took the Scottish man to Chalong Hospital for treatment.

The motive behind the attack remained unclear, and the identities of the perpetrators were now under investigation, Chalong Police said. *Eakkapop Thongtub*

## Two injured as pickup collides with tanker truck on wet road

TWO MEN WERE RUSHED to Thalang Hospital after the pickup they were travelling in skidded on a wet road and slammed into a road barrier on Thepkasattri Rd last week, before colliding with an oil tanker truck.

Police were called to the scene, near the airport underpass, at about 9am on Dec 4.

According to police, the pickup truck, registered in Bangkok, was driven by Chusak Charoenphon, who was accompanied by Suraphat Rueanrom. The pair were traveling from Graceland Khaolak Beach Resort to pick up goods in Phuket.

Due to the slippery road conditions caused by rain, the driver reportedly lost control while braking, causing the vehicle to crash into a barrier before crossing into the northbound lane and colliding with an oil tanker truck.



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

The tanker truck, registered in Surat Thani, was driven by Ms Manasaya Sinlaprommas.

Mr Chusak and Mr Suraphat suffered injuries and were taken to Thalang Hospital for medical treatment.

Police said they were continuing their investigations to confirm the circumstances leading to the crash. Alcohol and drug tests have been requested for the injured pickup truck occupants.

*Eakkapop Thongtub*



# 'Adventure' drive raises B1.48mn for kids' school

Natnaree Likidwatanasakun  
reporte1@classactmedia.co.th

Organisers of The 'Million Baht Phang Nga Bay Adventure' – a six-day, 350-kilometre human-powered journey of running, cycling and kayaking to raise funds for the St Euthrasia Banya Literacy Center – have thanked all their supporters for helping them to easily exceed their fundraising goal.

Team captain Grant 'Axe' Rawlinson told *The Phuket News* that he and his team extended their heartfelt gratitude to the donors, whose generosity had already funded a school bus and repairs to the school building.

"The Million Baht Phang Nga Bay gave us six days of challenge, beauty, and camaraderie. In return, we give something back – better opportunities and conditions for the children from the Banya Literacy Centre to have a brighter future," Grant said.

"It also showed that



exploration isn't just about discovering new places – it's about discovering the impact we can have when we unite our strengths for a common cause," he added.

"Each blade of the paddle cutting into open water, every footprint pressed into yielding earth, stood for something far greater than miles traveled. It stood for hope, for literacy, for a brighter tomorrow, embodied in the Banya Literacy Center and the lives it seeks to uplift," noted support team member Todd Forney.

Shiho Katsuura, a committee member, explained, "We purchased a

second-hand bus to use as a school bus. It's small, seating 22 children, because the road to the school is narrow, making a larger bus impractical.

"We will also use the remaining funds to repair the school building, focusing on the broken floor and roof," she added.

"We feel grateful every time since last year when 'Axe' [Grant] helped the Good Shepherd school on the first adventure [swimming a lap of Phuket], and this year with the Banya Literacy Centre," Shiho said.

The Banya Literacy Centre is a small school with just 135 children, six

teachers and two staff members, Shiho noted.

"For Myanmar children, passing the entrance exam is essential to study in Thai schools, but many parents cannot afford the costs. We also provide scholarships for these children because we believe that every child, regardless of nationality, deserves access to education," she explained.

"For next year, we still have yet to decide where we are going to fund and are still looking for more candidates, but one of them in our plans is the Asia Center Foundation (ACF), which is for Thai children," she said.

"I believe that every child has the potential to grow into a capable individual who can contribute to the development of their country – whether it's Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, or elsewhere.

"That's why we are committed to continuing our support for education and doing even more in the future," she said.



## Their Majesties join King's Cup Regatta

HIS MAJESTY THE KING and Her Majesty the Queen arrived in Phuket last Friday morning (Dec 6) to join the 36th Phuket King's Cup Regatta.

Their Majesties landed at Phuket International Airport at dawn to be greeted by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat and his wife, Mrs Busadee, and a full complement of Phuket's highest-ranking officials.

Their Majesties travelled to the Beyond Kata Hotel, where they received another formal welcome, before heading out on the water to join the crew on 'Yayu' racing in the IRC ZERO class under the auspicious sail number THA72.

As with last year, Her Majesty the Queen this year actively joined the racing as part of the Yayu crew.

Her Majesty's participation in the international

regatta has gained high praise for publicly showing the royal family's commitment to supporting Thailand's prominence in global sailing.

The King's Cup Regatta, this year held Nov 30 to Dec 6, carries forward the legacy of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej the Great, renowned for his sailing achievements and designing his own boats.

"The event aligns with the royal intention of His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn to preserve and develop this heritage, showcasing Thailand's capacity to host world-class sailing competitions," said an official report of His Majesty's arrival in Phuket.

One of the regatta's key objectives is to inspire and develop skills among young Thai sailors, the report added. *The Phuket News*

## Local donors step up with B1.5mn for construction of Vachira Cancer Center

TWO MAJOR DONATIONS HAVE been presented to support the construction of the 'Radiation Therapy Building' at Vachira Phuket Hospital, which will become the Andaman region's first government cancer treatment facility.

The donations were received at an event on Dec 5 led by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat, joined by his wife, Mrs Busadee, along with hospital executives and local officials.

Lienkin Rakchon and family donated B500,000, while Wirat Songsaeng, Managing Director of Mukdara Beach Resort Co Ltd contributed B1 million to the project.

The initiative aims to raise B290 million for the six-story building, which will house a radiation therapy department, nuclear medicine facilities, a chemotherapy unit, and inpatient wards. Spanning 9,000 square metres, the facility will be located on a five-rai plot of donated land along Pracha Uthit Rd, just four kilometers from Vachira Phuket Hospital.

The new cancer center promises to significantly improve treatment accessibility, increase survival rates, and enhance the quality of life for cancer patients in the region.

At an event announcing a major fundraising drive for the new facility, Pramookpisitt Achariyachai, Chairman of the Vachira Phuket Hospital Development Committee, explained, "We need B150mn by February 2025 to begin the first phase, aiming for completion and to deliver the first



radiation therapy by Sept 9, 2026. Once built, patients from Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi can access comprehensive cancer treatment closer to home, eliminating the need to travel long distances."

Vachira Phuket Hospital Director Dr Wirasak Lothongkham, stressed the growing demand for local radiation therapy services.

"Every year, we handle around 1,000 new cancer cases, with half requiring radiation. Currently, we must refer these patients to distant provinces like Surat Thani or Bangkok. This can mean significant expenses for patients, who face costs for travel, lodging and meals," he said.

As part of ongoing efforts to raise funds, a traditional Thai donation 'phaapaa' ceremony will be held at Vachira Phuket Hospital on Feb 8.

The event will be led by Luang Por Sai Thong Techa Thammo of Wat Pa Huai Kum, Chaiyaphum Province, a revered monk known for his philanthropic contributions to hospitals and schools across Thailand. All people are invited to contribute to the cause, said an official report of the event. *The Phuket News*

## Indulge yourself where legends go to drink, dine & party!

**They came. They saw. They partied!**

F1 drivers & models, incl Kate Moss, celebrated in style. Jay-Z & Beyoncé rolled up in a black hummer. Vladimir Putin booked the entire Club!

SSC Chef, David Hands, ensures your taste buds join the party.



SSC Cocktail Bar



Chef: David Hands

Contemporary Steakhouse

Live Jazz Mondays

## The SIAM SUPPER CLUB

RESERVATION: +66 61 527 7060

LUNCH & DINNER 13:00 – 24:00

40 LAGOON ROAD, CHERNG TALAY





## TAT Governor punts regional networking

TOURISM AUTHORITY of Thailand (TAT) Governor Thapanee Kiatphaibool was in Phuket last Friday (Dec 6) to officiate the opening of the Andaman Tourism Networking 2024 event, held at Saphan Hin.

The three-day event, under the theme 'Speeding Up Andaman Tourism', was aimed at elevating the region's tourism industry by showcasing a wide range of tourism products at special prices, Ms Thapanee said.

The event was projected to generate more than B300 million revenue from event participation and trade negotiations, and at least B100mn from direct trade agreements.

Joining Ms Thapanee for the opening ceremony were Boonserm Khankaew, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Tourism, and Pattanachai Singhawara, Director of the Southern Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB).

Mr Pattanachai delivered a presentation on 'High-Quality Tourism' to promote sustainable and international tourism development



Photo: PR Phuket

throughout the country.

The event was organised by the Tourism Council of Thailand's Region 11 office (Andaman Cluster) in collaboration with the TAT, TCEB, the Department of Tourism and the Ministry of Industry.

The event brought together key players in the tourism sector, including tour operators, airlines, wellness entrepreneurs, health professionals, hotels and restaurants, to present offerings under the concept 'Happening Andaman'.

Prominent leaders, including Wirintra Phaphakit-chayasaphat, Vice President of the Tourism Council of Thailand's Andaman Cluster, and the presidents of the Tourism Council representatives for Phang Nga, Krabi, Trang, Satun and Ranong joined the event alongside numerous Thai and international visitors. *The Phuket News*

## CPN allots B1bn to expand Floresta mall

Bangkok Post

Retail and property developer Central Pattana Plc (CPN) has earmarked B1 billion to expand Central Phuket's Floresta Zone with an additional 20,000 square metres for luxury brands catering to high-end customers, 70% of whom are foreigners.

Nattakit Tangpoon-sinthana, chief marketing officer at CPN, said the investment is intended as part of the transformation of Phuket into one of the world's premier luxury destinations, alongside Hawaii, Monaco, Santorini and Miami.

"Phuket is among the top destinations for global jet-setters, sharing key attributes with other premier locations: stunning beaches, world-class tourism infrastructure, luxury accommodations, high-end lifestyle activities, and luxury shopping experiences," he said.

Mr Nattakit said the



Photo: Bangkok Post

additional 20,000sqm of space, for a total of 200,000sqm, will accommodate nine more luxury and bridge line brands, increasing the tally from 16 to 25.

"This will be the only luxury mall outside Bangkok to have such a comprehensive collection of luxury brands," he said.

"The expansion supports the growth of Thailand's luxury market, valued at more than US\$5bn and projected to grow by 6.15% annually until 2028, outpacing markets such as Singapore."

Driven primarily by fashion and social media influencers, the Thai luxury market continues to thrive despite the global economic slowdown, according to CPN.

Phuket's economy and tourism sector continue to thrive, with tourism revenue projected to reach nearly B500bn this year, up 28% from B388bn in 2023, driven by a 16% uptick in tourist arrivals.

Known for its year-round high season, Phuket boasts the highest spending per tourist in Thailand, averaging B34,336 per visitor.

The island also has the highest gross provincial product (GPP) per person in southern Thailand and ranks 12<sup>th</sup> nationwide.

Phuket's GPP growth for 2024 is projected to approach 20%, significantly outpacing the national average.

The island's luxury market has significant growth potential, fuelled by new infrastructure developments, including the expansion of its airport, according to CPN.

Scheduled for completion in 2029, the upgrade is expected to increase passenger capacity from 16 million to more than 18mn annually. In addition, 156 private jets land at the airport's dedicated terminal annually, highlighting Phuket's appeal as a premier luxury destination.

The island has 17 ultra-luxury residential projects, each valued at B100mn or more, positioning it as a top four global destination for affluent property buyers.

## Governor lauds LGBTQ+ 'Soft Power'

PHUKET GOVERNOR SOPHON Suwanarat has praised Patong's iconic Simon Cabaret as an exemplary example of Thailand's 'Soft Power'. The venue contributes significantly to the local economy, generating over B200 million annually and creating jobs for more than 200 locals each year.

Governor Sophon's praise came at Simon Cabaret's opening show for this year's tourism high season, held on on Dec 2 with a dazzling display of inclusivity and creativity, highlighting the province's support for LGBTQ+ rights and cultural diversity.

Governor Sophon widely praised Simon Cabaret, which has been a cultural and tourism mainstay in Phuket for over 30 years.

"Simon Cabaret is not only a prominent tourist attraction welcoming more than 600,000 visitors annually but also a beacon for promoting equality and diversity," he said.

"With the government's official endorsement of the Marriage Equality Act, this year's show sends a powerful message about Thailand's commitment to human rights and inclusivity, aligning perfectly with Phuket's status as an international tourism destination."

The event featured a spectacular performance by the venue's talented LGBTQ+ entertainers, a core element of Simon Cabaret's reputation for excellence. The show was lauded for blending artistic innovation with the concept of 'soft power', a strategy to



Photo: PR Phuket

enhance Thailand's cultural appeal globally.

Founded in 1991 by Wirat Ruayrin, Simon Cabaret has become a symbol of Phuket's vibrant tourism scene. Under the leadership of his sons, Mr Phornwit and Mr Phontep, the cabaret continues to innovate, drawing audiences with its dynamic performances, elaborate costumes and ever-evolving repertoire.

To further solidify its role as a cultural ambassador, Simon Cabaret actively engages in international marketing, attracting tourists from Russia, China, South Korea, Vietnam and Europe.

This year, the company has focused on tapping into the growing LGBTQ+ market, showcasing its support for equal rights through performances that reflect Phuket's commitment to inclusivity.

Governor Sophon commended the collaboration between public and private sectors in organising the event, emphasising its importance in boosting tourism and Phuket's global reputation.

"This celebration of 'Soft Power' demonstrates Phuket's readiness to welcome the world, with inclusivity and cultural richness at its heart," he said.

*The Phuket News*

## Saudia now non-stop to Phuket

THE TOURISM AUTHORITY of Thailand (TAT) hosted airport ceremonies to mark Saudia's inaugural non-stop flights from Riyadh and Jeddah to Phuket.

The new direct routes by Saudia, previously known as Saudi Arabian Airlines, reflect growing demand for travel between Thailand and Saudi Arabia, enhancing tourism, trade and cultural exchanges, reported the TAT.

"The launch of Saudia's non-stop flights to Phuket marks a significant milestone in the strengthening of the friendly relations between Saudi Arabia and Thailand," said Siripakorn Cheawsamoot, TAT Deputy Governor for International Marketing – Europe, the Americas, Middle East and Africa.

"This new air link not only offers greater convenience for Saudi travellers but also fosters deeper cultural, economic, and tourism exchanges, further solidifying Thailand's position as a preferred destination for visitors from Saudi Arabia," he added.

Saudia's inaugural Riyadh-Phuket flight SV



Photo: TAT

852, which landed in Phuket on Monday (Dec 2), departed Riyadh at 11:25am and arrived in Phuket at 22:30pm. Onboard were H.E. Mr. Darm Boontham, Thailand's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, along with Ahman Mad-Adam, Director of the TAT Dubai and Middle East Office, and media representatives from the Middle East.

A welcome ceremony was held at Phuket International Airport, featuring a Thai puppeteers, the presentation of Thai souvenirs and flower garlands. Key attendees included Abdulaziz Alkhudhairi, Deputy Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Thailand; Phuket Vice Governor Samawit Suphanphai and TAT's Mr Siripakorn.

Also present were Reham Zarie, Saudia's Regional Manager for Far East Asia, and Mohammad A Khairuldin, Saudia's

Station Manager for Thailand.

Phuket officials held their own less-high-profile event to welcome arrivals on the inaugural flight from King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah to Phuket yesterday (Dec 4).

Saudia will operate the Riyadh-Phuket and Jeddah-Phuket routes with Boeing 787-9 aircraft, each offering three weekly flights through Feb 28, 2025, the TAT reported.

In addition, the airline currently operates four to five weekly flights from Jeddah to Bangkok, three from Riyadh to Bangkok, and three flights per week between Riyadh and Bangkok via Jeddah, the TAT said in its report.

Mr Siripakorn added, "The introduction of these non-stop flights comes at a time of growing tourism and economic cooperation between Thailand and Saudi Arabia. Over recent years, our collaborative efforts, including joint campaigns, have attracted Saudi tourists to Thailand. Saudia's new flights to Phuket will further enhance this partnership."

*The Phuket News*



# Anutin says no to coup bill

## BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The Bhumjaithai Party has opposed a bill proposed by the ruling Pheu Thai Party to amend the Defence Ministry Administration Act, which is seen as a bid to curb the military's ability to stage a coup d'état.

Bhumjaithai leader Anutin Charnvirakul said on Monday (Dec 9) that he did not think the bill would prevent a putsch, adding that politicians must not create conditions that the military may use as an excuse to stage a coup.

"There are only a few conditions for coups. Such conditions stem mostly from politicians. If we don't create them, coups are unlikely to occur," said Anutin, who is also the Interior Minister.

"Whatever law will be enacted, if a coup takes place, the first thing for the coup-makers is to tear up the constitution.

"All politicians should do is to carry out their duties with honesty and integrity and avoid causing divisions."

He said Bhumjaithai, a government coalition partner, will not vote for the bill if it is tabled in parliament.

"I have witnessed several coups in the past since the Chatichai Choo-havan administration was ousted by one in 1991. Coups can be avoided if certain conditions do not occur."



Anutin Charnvirakul. Photo: Bangkok Post

Defence Minister Phumtham Wechayachai tried to downplay concern that the bill would reduce the military's power and create conflict between the government and the armed forces. He said the bill is now being scrutinised by a government screening panel and the Council of Defence.

Under the bill, a Cabinet-appointed committee would be empowered to consider and appoint generals instead of allowing armed forces commanders to appoint officials close to them as generals.

In addition, the prime minister would be the Defence Council chairperson instead of the defence minister.

The bill also added criteria that must be met by all those seeking to become generals under Section 25, including not being known for exerting undue influence or having links to illicit drugs, human trafficking or

destruction of natural resources and the environment.

Other qualifications include not being under disciplinary investigation or criminal prosecution, except for offences committed through negligence, defamation or minor offences. They must also not be a contractual party with any unit under the Ministry of Defence or conduct business or activities related to the ministry.

In addition, the bill amends Section 35 by adding a prohibition on the use of military force or military personnel in cases of seizing or controlling the government's administrative power.

It also increases the penalty for military officers who violate or are found to be preparing to violate Section 35 by temporarily suspending them as ordered by the prime minister to allow for an investigation.

The proposed bill will be open to public opinion on the parliament's website until Jan 1.

# Rule will not favour Yingluck, says official

## BANGKOK

THE MINISTRY OF Justice has denied that a rule allowing prisoners to be released on parole and detained in their houses was made for the benefit of any individual, especially former prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

Somboon Muangklam, an adviser to Justice Minister Tawee Sodsong and Department of Corrections (DoC) officials, gave an interview last Friday (Dec 6) about the DoC's regulation regarding out-of-prison detention.

Mr Somboon said the announcement to allow the DoC to detain inmates outside of prison was issued in 2023, aiming to alleviate prison overcrowding and was not designed to favour any particular person.

Mr Somboon added he could not answer whether Yingluck, a fugitive since August 2017, would be eligible under these regulations as they were still preliminary and had not been finalised officially.

Regarding speculation



Yingluck Shinawatra. Photo: Bangkok Post

about the regulation's readiness by the first quarter of next year, which coincides with former premier Thaksin Shinawatra earlier saying his sister might return around the Songkran Festival, Mr Somboon said it was possible.

He also acknowledged public concerns over whether Yingluck might avoid imprisonment like her brother, Thaksin. In response, he said Thaksin was incarcerated while serving time in the Police General Hospital, which is legally recognised as detention.

He said all officials are accountable for their actions, adding that an ongoing investigation by the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) into the Thaksin case would determine if there were any irregularities. Bangkok Post

# Crackdown on proxies sees over 1,000 national arrests

## BANGKOK

MORE THAN 1,000 THAI AND foreign nationals have been rounded up in a joint operation by police and commerce ministry authorities for the use of Thai nominees by foreign businesses over the past few weeks.

The investigations targeted 442 companies with more than B3.6 billion in circulation in 46 locations across the country, Pol Lt Gen Jirabhop Bhuridej, commissioner of the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) explained on Dec 4.

The police anti-economic crime division, a unit of the CIB, took part in the operation along with officials from the Department of Business Development (DBD) at the Ministry of Commerce, Pol Lt Gen Jirabhop added.

A total of 1,014 people were detained, including 714 Thais, 258 Chinese, 21 Malaysians, four Cambodians, four Vietnamese, three Britons, three Germans, two Japanese, two Myanmar nationals, one American, one Singaporean and one Kazakhstan national.

Pol Lt Gen Jirabhop said several of the businesses were registered by Thais who were proxies of foreign citizens, despite the businesses being reserved exclusively for Thai nationals.

These companies had property assets valued at B254 million, with confiscated documents showing that they had hired law or accounting firms to handle their registration.



Company stamps seized by police in a recent raid. Photo: Bangkok Post


Authorities also uncovered warehouses storing products, many of which were prohibited for import, and discovered some businesses involved in currency trading, said the CIB chief.

Some of the others were registered as fronts to launder money without doing any business, said Pol Lt Gen Jirabhop.

Deputy Commerce Minister Napintorn Srisanpang said the joint operation followed an agreement by the police and the DBD in early November to investigate Thai nominees.

He urged Thai nationals acting as proxies to come forward and report to authorities to earn themselves a chance to be treated as witnesses, adding that any lawyers or accountants involved would be reported to professional regulatory bodies.

Deputy police chief Thatchai Pitaneelabutr said the use of Thai proxies has harmed the economy and posed a threat to national security, especially when these firms are operated by call-centre or drug gangs. Bangkok Post



PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

[f @tileitthailand](https://www.facebook.com/tileitthailand)
[@tileitthailand](https://www.instagram.com/tileitthailand)
[@tileit](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/00000000000000000000000000000000)

www.tile-asia.com | letstalk@tile-asia.com | Tel: 076 620168

177/35 Baan Wana, Sri Sunthorn Rd., Chong Talay, Talang, Phuket.



# The Age of AI in Phuket



## THE AI EDGE

Joe Smith

**A**I is coming for Phuket. It will transform the island's industries and economy and affect every part of your life on the island. It will become the medium through which you interact with the world, shaping your work and your leisure and your relationships. Oxford Professor Nick Bostrom said that AI was the last invention humans would ever need to make. Now it is here. Are you ready?

Your well-being, in the age of AI, depends on how well you adapt. In the near term, it's not, as Richard Baldwin said at the World Economic Forum, that AI will take your job. It's someone who knows how to use AI that will take your job. The same will be true in every other sphere. Those who are able to embrace AI will enjoy extraordinary opportunities to flourish. Those who cannot will be redundant, figuratively and perhaps literally.

The purpose of this column is to help you use this technology to thrive. It aims to show you how to harness AI to maximise your potential at work and at play. It will keep you abreast of how developments in AI affect your projects in Phuket. We'll survey the latest research on topics like how to get AI into your workflow, how it can augment your children's education and how it can be applied to Phuket's problems and opportunities.

We won't be unreflective cheerleaders for AI. The opportunities AI presents are enormous, but so are the risks. Job displacement and inequality are certain. Governments are using AI to build surveillance states. Militaries everywhere are developing



autonomous weapons. On a personal level, research indicates that outsourcing thinking tasks to intelligent machines could undermine our own critical thinking and autonomy. These fears too will be explored in coming months.

You might think that AI doesn't affect your Phuket life. Think again. AI decides what media you consume when you browse your device. Considering a new car or set of golf clubs? AI chose the ads you saw, putting the idea in your head. When you navigate Patong traffic or the Andaman Sea, you're carrying out AI's instructions. In ways subtle and profound, AI is already shaping the choices you make and the experiences you have.

This might sound like hyperbole. It has been two years since ChatGPT 3 was released. The most giddy predictions of that time have not been realised. Life now resembles life then. Generative AI has truly upended a few domains – coding, writing, drug discovery and materials science. But these are quite specialised concerns. Is the arrival of AI really an inflection point?

Take a step back and we see that the hype is justified. In a study of the impact of AI at work,

researchers at MIT found that Boston Consulting Group employees using ChatGPT were an astonishing 40% more productive than those that did not.

As the study's co-author, Wharton Business School's Ethan Mollick commented, that dwarfs the productivity gains achieved over decades in the Industrial Revolution. And this was with the now archaic ChatGPT 3 after minimal training a year after its release. The pace of change since then has been astronomical. When AIs learn to build AIs themselves, predicts futurist Ray Kurzweil, the science will advance faster than the human mind can follow.

A focus on productivity may even miss the profundity of what we are witnessing. As historian Yuval Harari says, AI possesses two traits that no other human creation has. First, it can make its own decisions. Second, as you'll know if you've asked AI to write a story, it can synthesise ideas. The printing press could only help disseminate ideas that already existed. But when AI writes a story, says Harari, it is creating culture. If, as he argues, human lives are composed of stories, then it seems that our lives and our culture will increasingly be written by intelligent machines.

This column will help you co-author the stories AI will write for you. We'll start next month with a review of how to instruct the latest, intuitive AI models for best results in your day-to-day tasks. Stay tuned for actionable insights on how you can use the power of AI to optimize your life in Phuket.

*Joe Smith is Founder of the AI consultancy 2Sigma Consultants. He studied AI at Imperial College Business School and is researching AI's effects on cognition at Lancaster University. He is author of 'The Optimized Marketer', a book on how to use AI to promote your business and yourself. Email: joe@2Sigmaconsultants.com.*



## The February/March 2025 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

Distributed in resorts/hotels lobbies, in a high number of restaurants and coffee shops, plus inserted in one issue of *The Phuket News* each month, it is a great way to Talk to Phuket.

## Want to be in it?

✉ CONTACT JASON TODAY – gm@classactmedia.co.th





# Dining at the Edge

Amy Bensema

Located poolside at Pullman Phuket Panwa Beach Resort, Edge Beach Club is a comfortable and contemporary al fresco restaurant with a relaxed vibe. With the tagline 'From the soil to the pan', the restaurant's focus is to use local Thai ingredients in favourite European and Mediterranean dishes.

The menu at Edge Beach Club is impressive. There's fusion food, loads of vegan options, pasta and pizza, crisp salads, burgers and sandwiches and simple grills using fresh seafood and premium cuts of meat as well as classic Thai favourites. Feeling adventurous, we decide on Chicken Tikka Masala & Dal Makhani from the dedicated Indian menu, the 4 Cheese pizza and the Panwa Wagyu Burger.

Considering that the restaurant is packed, it doesn't take long for our food to arrive and we dig into our late lunch.

The Indian dishes taste 100% authentic and are absolutely divine. The Dal Makhani, which is a curry of slow cooked black lentils and a hint of spice, is incredibly rich and creamy, and the Chicken Tikka Masala is perfectly spiced – the tomato and onion sauce has a tangy flavour. Both dishes pair well with the steamed Basmati rice.

The 4 Cheese pizza is topped with Scamorza, Gorgonzola, Taleggio and Mozzarella. The homemade crust is light and crispy, and of course, the cheese gooey and oozy. I highly recommend this to anyone who loves a good pizza.

The Panwa Wagyu Beef Burger is so scrumptious! It's an Australian Wagyu patty piled high with streaky bacon, fresh lettuce, Monterey Jack cheese,

and served with French fries and a selection of ketchup, Tabasco sauce and aioli. The burger itself is extremely juicy and flavourful, and we devour it while admiring the beautiful views of the beach from the restaurant.

Even though our tummies are full, we order dessert. We choose the Baked Apple Tart & Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream, a puff pastry baked with apple caramel, and the Dark Bitter Vegan Chocolate Layer, a small slice of cake made of 63% Couverture Chocolate, coconut ganache, cocoa powder and raspberry sorbet. Both desserts were decadent, but the Dark Bitter Vegan Homemade Chocolate Layer was my favourite.

Edge Beach Club is definitely worth checking out, especially if you're in the mood for something new or different. My dining partner and I had a nice time here, and I look forward to visiting again.



Do call ahead to make a reservation as it is a popular dining spot. Parking is available on-site.

*Edge Beach Club, at Pullman Phuket Panwa Beach Resort, Sakdidee Rd, Wichit. Open daily: 11am-5pm Major credit cards accepted. Car park on site. Has smoking area, free WiFi hotspot. Reservations recommended: 076-602500. Website: PullmanPhuketPanwa.com Facebook / Instagram: PullmanPhuketPanwa*



**THAI**  
RESIDENTIAL

Phuket's No.1 Trusted Real Estate Advisor

## Are You Trying To Sell Your Phuket Property?

List Your House, Villa or Luxury Condo with  
**Thai Residential**  
and Increase Your Chances  
of a **Successful** Sale.

PHUKET@THAIRESIDENTIAL.COM | +66 94 8411 918 | WWW.THAIRESIDENTIAL.COM  
THAIRESIDENTIAL CO., LTD. 82/37 SAM PAO COURTYARD, MOO4, PATAK ROAD, T.RAWAI, PHUKET, 83130





POP QUIZ

- 1. What is the state fish of Hawaii?
- 2. What is the melting temperature of chocolate?
- 3. Which is the tallest bridge in the world?
- 4. The Pitti Palace is a vast palace in which European city?
- 5. Who was the last man to walk on the Moon? And in which year?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across

  - 1. Kind of drop
  - 5. Haircuts
  - 9. Height
  - 13. Diaper cream ingredient
  - 14. Blockhead
  - 16. Be hopping mad
  - 17. "Lose-lose" scenarios
  - 20. Dulles posting
  - 21. Does not exist
  - 22. Child's creation
  - 23. Place to relax
  - 24. Anger
  - 25. With competence
  - 28. Certain berth
  - 31. Insignificant
  - 35. Marque
  - 37. Haven
  - 39. "Lar\_\_" : 60's Rangers TV series
  - 40. Excuse for losing
  - 43. Elton John, e.g.
  - 44. Incessantly
  - 45. Stand for a portrait
  - 46. Bed support
  - 48. Map within a map
  - 50. Not so much
  - 51. Atlantic Coast states, with "the"
  - 53. Shakespearean suffix
- Down

  - 1. Place for a comb
  - 2. Buckets
  - 3. Hawkeyes home
  - 4. Wahine accessory
  - 5. Capital city in Africa
  - 6. Norse war god
  - 7. Hardy post
  - 8. Symbol of worthlessness
  - 9. Tolerates
  - 10. Jointly owned store
  - 11. Peewee
  - 12. Additionally
  - 15. Arboreal monkey
  - 18. Pinch
  - 19. Big jerk
  - 23. In \_\_ (together)
  - 24. Live
- 25. Chasm
  - 26. Swelter
  - 27. Mrs. Bush
  - 29. Packing a punch
  - 30. They can be taken en passant
  - 32. Charter
  - 33. Wastes time
  - 34. Gangsters' gals
  - 36. One of Alcott's "Little Men"
  - 38. Behold
  - 41. Harmful
  - 42. Brewer's need
  - 47. Present and future
  - 49. Thistlelike plant
  - 52. In times past
  - 54. "Thar \_\_ blows!"
  - 55. Emulated Janet Evans
  - 56. Fork feature
  - 57. Lodges
  - 58. Down in the dumps
  - 59. Miner's quest
  - 60. Get rid of
  - 61. "I'll second that"
  - 62. Grant
  - 64. Grimm character
  - 65. Hero

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) The humuhumunukunukuapua'a ("fish with pig-like nose"); 2) 30-32°C (86-90°F); 3) Millau Viaduct, France (343m); 4) Florence; 5) Eugene Cernan, 1972

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14				15		16		
17					18					19			
20					21				22				
			23					24					
25	26	27			28	29	30			31	32	33	34
35				36		37				38		39	
40					41					42			
43				44						45			
46			47		48				49		50		
			51	52					53	54			
55	56	57						58	59			60	61
63						64					65		
66					67						68		
69						70					71		

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

4

seconds of awkward silence is all it takes to significantly increase your anxiety during a conversation.

40

copies of genes that code for the tumor suppressor protein p53 is why elephants rarely get cancer. Humans have only two.

162

dollars is how much the average US household spends each year on lotteries. Households that make less than \$10,000 spend about \$597 a year.

20,000

US dollars per episode was the clothes budget for 1970s TV show 'Charlie's Angels'.

150 million

work days and up to 189 million school days were missed each year in the US due to people having colds - before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Sunset in bloom, Bang Tao. Photo: Gus Chesterton

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

This week in history

Dec 13, 1577

Sir Francis Drake sets sail from Plymouth, England, on his round-the-world voyage.

Dec 14, 1911

Roald Amundsen's team, comprising himself, Olav Bjaaland, Helmer Hanssen, Sverre Hassel and Oscar Wisting, becomes the first to reach the South Pole.

Dec 15, 2014

Gunman Man Haron Monis takes 18 hostages inside a

café in Martin Place for 16 hours in Sydney. Monis and two hostages are killed when police raid the café the following morning.

Dec 16, 1930

Bank robber Herman Lamm - the "father of modern bank robberies" - and members of his crew are killed by a 200-strong posse following a botched bank robbery, in Clinton, Indiana. His gang made off with \$15,567 - equivalent to about \$223,118 today.



Seconds into the first airplane flight, near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina; December 17, 190

Dec 17, 1903

The Wright brothers make the first controlled powered, heavier-than-air flight in the Wright Flyer at Kitty

Hawk, North Carolina.

Dec 18, 1271

Kublai Khan renames his empire "Yuan", marking the start of the Yuan dynasty of Mongolia and China.

Dec 19, 1606

The ships Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery depart England carrying settlers who founded, at Jamestown, Virginia, the first of the 13 colonies that became the United States.

Source: Wikipedia



# Trades & Services

 The Phuket News  
 @thephuketnews

## CAR SERVICES



**JERRY'S QUICK WASH**

10 MINUTE AUTOMATIC CAR WASH  
Complete car care services

 Jerry's Quick Wash Phuket  083-245-1941

 Chao Fah West, inside Shell Gas Station

## HOME IMPROVEMENT



HOUSE - CONDO - VILLA  
**CLEANING SERVICES**  
AT YOUR DOOR STEP

 BOOK NOW

 **089 6548873**

Spotless Cleaning  
Phuket - Thailand  
nammcasing@gmail.com

## CORPORATE SERVICES



**VERTIGO**  
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS  
vertigovideo productions.com

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Waterproofing & Crack Repair**

20 year WARRANTY

under yearly checkup plan...

Drone Survey

Pipe Inspection

**TCM Asia Co., Ltd - quality services since 2003**  
office@tcm-asia.com 086-9439834

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**WOOD FLOOR PHUKET - 24 YEARS**

Solid and engineered wood floor  
Sand & refinish/Deck supplier

 /solidwoodfloorphuketthailand  
 Matt 081 271 2684 or Jessika 062 372 6624

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Tile-it™** SMART TILES  
Tile Leveling System

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

Baan Wana - Cherg Talay  
Tel : 076 620168

www.tile-asia.com | letstalk@tile-asia.com

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Plumber**  
German Water Team Ltd.Part  
We repair what your husband fixed

MASTERCRAFTSMAN  
WE REPAIR AND BUILD NEW:

- ALL KINDS OF HOT AND COLD WATER SYSTEMS
- HOT WATER SOLAR SYSTEMS AND SOLAR PUMPS
- POOL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE
- REPAIR ALL KINDS OF WATER SYSTEMS AND POOL PUMPS
- A VARIETY OF WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS TO FIT YOUR NEEDS

SHOWROOM NEXT TO WAT CHALONG  
OPEN FROM 8AM TO 5PM

094 594 8868 (THAI)  
089 645 4848 (GER / ENG)

www.germanwaterteam.com  
Email: germanwaterteam@yahoo.de

22/12 Moo 6 Chao Fa R.d.west Chalong A Muang Phuket 83130

## OTHER

**ME LOGO**

T-shirt, Cap,  
Polo-shirt, Flag,  
apron, Tote bag

Embroidery, Screen Print,  
Sublimation



 ME LOGO ผลิตภัณฑ์พร้อมงานปัก-สกรีน  @melogo  096 637 9000

## MARINE SERVICES

**C&C MARINE**  

**MARINE ENGINEERING SPECIALISTS**

C&C Marine (Thailand) Co., Ltd.  
Tel: +66 076 272049 Fax: +66 076 273248  
Email: holmes@candc-marine.com  
www.candc-marine.com  
16/2 Moo 4, Soi Koh Kaew 33, Thepkassatri Rd,  
Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand

**WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?**

The **Phuket News** Your Island - Your Paper  
 Новости **Пхукета** Твой остров - твоя газета  
 ข่าว **ภูเก็ต**

**WINDOW ON PHUKET**  
 Карта Пхукета 普吉岛地图 Where to eat in PHUKET  
 The map of PHUKET English 中文 Русский

**LIVE 89.5** 

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th



FRI

13

DEC

MON

16

DEC

FRI

20

DEC

FRI

3

JAN

**STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT**  
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai  
011-081-891-4381  
www.shakersphuket.com  
shakersphuket@gmail.com  
FB: shakersphuket

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

**STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT**  
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai  
011-081-891-4381  
www.shakersphuket.com  
shakersphuket@gmail.com  
FB: shakersphuket

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

**Phuket Marina Christmas Market**  
Celebrate the Magic of Christmas at The Marina Market  
Market • Food & Beverage • Fun  
Fri-Sun | 20-22 Dec | 5 pm onwards  
at Phuket Yacht Haven Marina

**Celebrate Christmas at The Marina Market!**  
Join us at Phuket Yacht Haven Marina for a magical festive experience from December 20–22, 2024, 5 PM onwards. Discover unique gifts, delicious treats and live entertainment with fun activities in a stunning marina setting. Perfect for families, friends and holiday lovers. Don't miss this unforgettable Christmas celebration! Visit <https://bit.ly/4giPPRW> for festive vibes.



**Grow Boating Evening - January 2025**  
We look forward to seeing you at the next Grow Boating Evening at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm. Drinks sponsor for the evening will be Drake Marine. Founded in 2002, Drake Marine began operations in Europe and in 2018 they opened their first office in Asia, expanding their success and trusted services from Europe to reach more customers around the world. See <https://drakemarine.com/> There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant for all. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket/>

**Theatreix Presents**  
**A Christmas Carol**  
A pantomime by Adrian Barwell  
JUNKYARD

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL: THE PANTO**  
Coming to the Junkyard stage in December Theatreix is bringing you its fifth annual panto, the timeless tale by Charles Dickens of the Christmas-hating Ebenezer Scrooge. See A Christmas Carol in all its glory, pantomime-style, a delight for the whole family that will thrill you as it involves you in the action and fill you with Christmas cheer. Get your tickets now for December 6, 8, 12, 13, or 15 shows, starting at 6:30pm. Kids and adults THB 750 per person. Tickets available at [junkyardtheatre.com/events](http://junkyardtheatre.com/events)

WED

18

DEC

**STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT**  
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai  
011-081-891-4381  
www.shakersphuket.com  
shakersphuket@gmail.com  
FB: shakersphuket

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

SUN

15

DEC

**STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT**  
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai  
011-081-891-4381  
www.shakersphuket.com  
shakersphuket@gmail.com  
FB: shakersphuket

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

**Want your EVENT listed here?**  
Reserve your space **NOW!**  
076 612 550  
[sales@classactmedia.co.th](mailto:sales@classactmedia.co.th)

**WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?**

WINDOW ON PHUKET

The map of PHUKET English 中文 Русский

Where to eat in PHUKET

Phuket News Your Island - Your Paper

ЛIVE 89.5

Новости Phuket Таеки остров - Таеки районы

ข่าวภูเก็ต

Phuket NEWS TV

Contact: [gm@classactmedia.co.th](mailto:gm@classactmedia.co.th)

CLASSIFIEDS

PROPERTY FOR RENT

**Commercial units and 25 apartments**  
A unique opportunity to start making money ASAP. New luxury apartment building for rent only 5 mins walking distance to Boat Avenue on Bandon-Cherngtalay Rd. Currently offering 5 rental options, unfurnished - 1: Take over whole building (5 commercial units and the 25 apartments), 2: Take over the 5 commercial units, 3: Take over the 25 apartments, 4: Take over an individual commercial unit, or 5: Take 1 apartment and decorate by yourself on long-term contract, cats or quiet animals allowed. With high season fast approaching now is the perfect time to take one of the above investment opportunities. For more details and to arrange a viewing please contact K. Pam (Thai and English) on 062 143 6559 or [phuketmyhouse@gmail.com](mailto:phuketmyhouse@gmail.com), WhatsApp: 062 143 6559, Line ID: pamsirithan828

PROPERTY FOR RENT

**2bdr apartments for rent**  
Bel Air Condominium, Panwa Sea Facing, Large 130-150m2, w/balcony w/Plunge Pool, Recently Refurbished, THB35-45K/month. Contact Paul +65 9651 7134.

**Alcoholics Anonymous**

If you want to drink that is your business  
If you want to stop that is ours  
**Daily Meetings**  
Patong, Chalong, Phuket Town, Bang Tao & Karon  
**CALL**  
081 895 4763  
[help@aaphuket.org](mailto:help@aaphuket.org)  
Google [www.aaphuket.com](http://www.aaphuket.com)

**LIVE 89.5 Radio**  
Your Island, your radio station.  
On FM and online.  
  
LISTEN ONLINE

BOATS, YACHTS FOR SALE

**HENRI CAPTAIN**  
MORE THAN 100 USED BOATS FOR SALE IN THAILAND  
[HENRI-CAPTAIN.COM](http://HENRI-CAPTAIN.COM)  
  
BOAT LAGOON MARINA, PHUKET +66(0)636382661





## GROW BOATING NETWORKING EVENING - DECEMBER 2024

A fantastic evening for this month's Grow Boating Event on Dec 6 at the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar, located at Phuket Boat Lagoon. Thanks to Paul Poole (South East Asia), an independent marketing consultancy based in Bangkok, specialising in commercial sponsorship for the drinks and burgers. And thanks for the tasty pass around treats and attentive service from the team at the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar. For details of next month's event visit [facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket](https://facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket)





## Over 3,000 turn out for Kathu Half Marathon

### MARATHON

MORE THAN 3,000 people participated in the 27<sup>th</sup> edition of the Kathu Half Marathon last Sunday (Dec 8).

Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat inaugurated the event and was joined by Kathu Mayor Wannayut Suttikun, President of Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) Rewat Areerob, in addition to selected representatives from public and private sector organisations.

This year's event was split into four separate categories for participants to take on, including a health walk and run, a fun run, a mini marathon and a half marathon.

The half marathon this year increased slightly in distance from the usual 21 kilometres to 23km, while it was also officially re-branded as the 'Kathu Super Half Marathon.'

The health walk and run category covered a distance of 2.5-kilometres, the fun run a distance of 6km kilometres, and the mini marathon 10km.



Photo: PR Phuket

The 3,000 participants were made up of both local and international athletes across the four race categories, and there were over 300 trophies up for grabs as well as over B33,000 in prize money.

Organisers had previously explained that Kathu is a area well suited to hosting long distance running events like the Super Half Marathon as it provides suitable terrain such as slopes and long, flat stretches through beautiful natural scenery.

Furthermore, the event aligns with the local government policy to promote exercise as an effective way to achieve and sustain a healthier lifestyle among local residents, while contributing positively to local businesses and the local economy. *The Phuket News*

## F1 title delight for McLaren

### FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato  
michael@boxofneutrals.com

McLaren has won its first Formula 1 constructors world championship in 26 years after Lando Norris cruised to victory at the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix last Sunday (Dec 8).

The historic British team started the final round of the year with a 21-point advantage over arch-rival Ferrari and had put one hand on the title trophy after qualifying, when Norris took pole ahead of teammate Oscar Piastri for a front-row lockout.

Though Carlos Sainz qualified third, Charles Leclerc was forced to launch from 19<sup>th</sup> after a scrappy qualifying compounded by a 10-place grid penalty for an engine component change.

But McLaren's grip slipped immediately off the line, when Piastri was taken out by an errant Max Verstappen at the first turn, gifting Sainz an easy move up to second place.

Leclerc drove expertly from the back of the grid, picking his way through the pack before passing Pierre Gasly and George Russell to grab third place behind Sainz.

Together they turned up the pressure on leader Norris, who couldn't afford to make a mistake with Piastri now out of podium contention.

Victory would guarantee McLaren



Team McLaren celebrate winning the constructors championship. Photo: AFP

the championship, but dropping just one place to either Ferrari driver would see the Italian team pinch the title.

Unmoved by the pressure from behind, however, Norris gradually massaged open the gap before taking the chequered flag by 5.8 seconds to secure his team its first constructors title since 1998.

"I'm very, very happy, just as I'm sure everyone in the team is," he said. "It was ours to lose today, and I'm sure at certain moments people thought that it was not far away from being lost. I knew I could deliver and do what I had to do."

Sainz's final grand prix for Ferrari was typically solid in a car that couldn't quite match the McLaren.

"We all came into this race trying to win the constructors championship, and ultimately we didn't manage to do

it. But I think we can be proud of the effort and the championship we put together," he said.

While Leclerc was pleased to have delivered a barnstorming performance to finish 16 places higher than he started, the Monegasque said it hurt to fall short of the ultimate prize. "McLaren has just done a better job than us, and congratulations to them," he said afterwards.

Title defeat means Ferrari's championship drought stretches to 16 years, the longest in its history.

Lewis Hamilton executed an impressive recovery drive to rise from 16th to fourth in his final race for Mercedes, with teammate Russell behind him ahead of Verstappen.

Gasly finished seventh ahead of Nico Hülkenberg, while Fernando Alonso scored two points for ninth ahead of the recovering Piastri.

## Penguins at the double in final tour match of 2024

### CRICKET

SINGAPOREAN SIDE BRITISH High Commission returned to Phuket for their third successive year on the weekend of Nov 30 – Dec 1, but it was local team Patong Penguins who came out on top in a two-match series at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) in Thalang.

Saturday's (Nov 30) action saw Penguins captain Anthony Van Blerk win the toss and elect to field first, sending in Sajal Gaur who ripped through the defenses of Tommy Gay (2) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> over before Patrick Eastwood (15) was bowled LBW by Michael Flowers.

Ric Corbett hit a monstrous six as part of his 36 not out before retiring, while Christian Stobbs (38\*) and Al Buset (10) combined for a solid 28-run stand as the visitors closed their innings at 154/8.

In return the Penguins' Sami Pir (36\*) lit up the ACG in a truly astonishing innings that included four fours as well as a pair of meaty sixes to get his side off to a roaring start.

Michael Rhys Thomas (11) and Flowers (35\*) combined for a 25-run stand, before a quick-fire 15 from Van Blerk and 13 from Sunny Bowry helped the host's claim a comfortable 6-wicket victory with an over to spare.



The visiting British High Commission team at the ACG. Photo: Supplied

Looking for a positive response on Sunday in Game 2, the visitors quickly found themselves reeling at 13/2 after 2 overs before Corbett (30\*) and Al Buset (25) helped steady the ship somewhat.

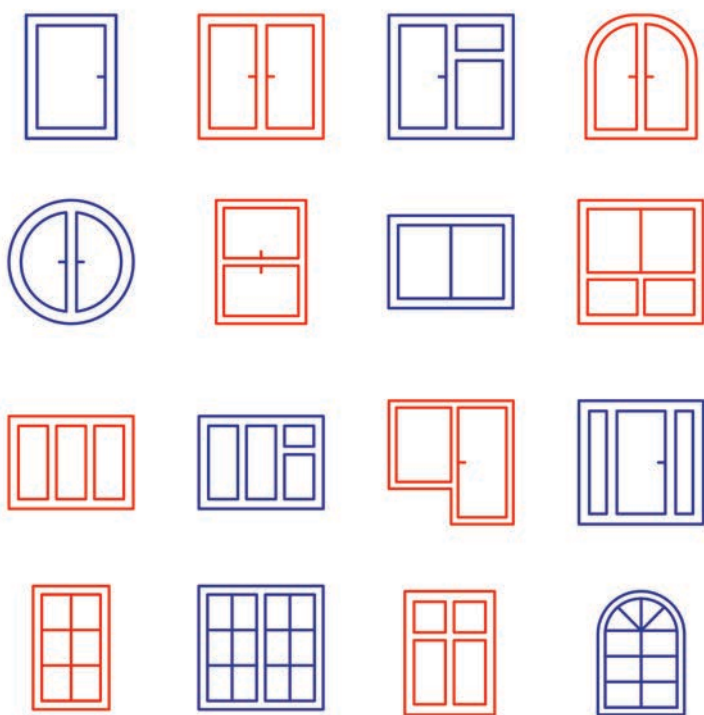
However, wickets continued to fall with regularity, with Curt Livermore and Craig Morgan the chief architects restricting the visitors to 116/8 from the allotted 20 overs.

Chasing slightly less than a run-ball for victory, the Penguins' Rishi Sadarangani (31\*) delivered a rampant knock, hitting three trademark sixes well over the long-on fence en route to a 17-ball retirement, much to his teammates' delight.

Simon Wetherell was 32 not out before retiring himself leaving Morgan (33) to unleash a barrage of boundaries as the hosts reached the 117-run target with more than 5 overs to spare, therefore clinching both the match and series in the process. *Curt Livermore*



### Safe, Secure, Soundproof Windows and Doors



087 061 7631



Nathan Window Man Brown



pvcphuket.com



# Financial woes plague PAFC

## FOOTBALL

Simon Causton

Phuket Andaman FC (PAFC), the island's sole professional football club, is struggling with its finances. Whispers of discontent among players and staff have spilled onto social media, with reports of unpaid wages since October casting a long shadow over the club's prospects.

These delays in payment are not merely an internal matter. They could lead to severe penalties from the Thai FA, including hefty fines and potential point deductions, further exacerbating the club's predicament.

The situation is worrying: if players refuse to take the field for their next match at the end of January due to this ongoing dispute, PAFC risks losing its license and facing extinction.

Adding fuel to the fire are rumours of factions on Phuket who would welcome the club's demise. They are dissatisfied with the current management under Higher Sports Phuket, citing concerns about the club's direction and operational strategy.

Several former employees are allegedly poised to form a rival club, either from the ashes of PAFC or as a direct competitor next season. This potential new entity is rumoured to be spearheaded by the popular former coach, 'Coach Go', and could attract a significant portion of the current



PAFC are experiencing issues on and off the pitch. Photo: Supplied

squad, who are all out of contract at the end of the season.

Amidst the financial turmoil, whispers of discord within the playing squad have also surfaced. Some speculate that the recent string of poor results may be deliberate, with players allegedly 'throwing' matches to express their dissatisfaction with the dismissal of Coach Go and the subsequent appointment of his replacement, Coach Tum.

In recent interviews, Coach Tum acknowledged the need for drastic changes to address this potential mutiny within the ranks, expressing his desire to bring in a wave of new players, many of whom he has previously worked with.

A short term financial injection is apparently imminent and cost-cutting measures are underway, with the club shedding its most expensive players and reducing the overall squad size.

An alternative venue for both matches and training sessions is also being sought, with the current home ground, Surakul Stadium, proving a costly option, especially when compared to the low or no-cost arrangements enjoyed by other provincial teams in the T3 league.

While the current outlook appears bleak, there are successful models within Thai football that demonstrate the potential for profitability and community engagement. Clubs like Buriram United and Thai Port consistently attract crowds of tens of thousands and boast stadiums that host various sporting and entertainment events.

With the right investment and management, PAFC, with its unique appeal to both local and tourist audiences, could replicate this success and establish a thriving football culture on the island.

# Goals galore as Timor are trampled by War Elephants

## FOOTBALL

REIGNING CHAMPIONS Thailand, aiming to win an unprecedented third title in a row, made their intentions clear last Sunday (Dec 8) when they began their ASEAN Mitsubishi Electric Cup 2024 campaign with a 10-0 hammering of Timor Leste.

A devastating display at Hang Day Stadium saw the War Elephants hold a 4-0 half-time lead with goals from Benjamin Davis (two), Patrik Gustavsson and Suphanat Mueanta.

The Thais didn't take long to add to their tally in the second half – Suphanat made it 5-0, Seksan Ratree, with a brace, delivered the sixth and seventh before Teerasak Poeiphimai made it eight.

Two more goals were added before second half stoppage time through Teerasak and Nicholas Mickelson.

Thailand head coach Masatada Ishii told a post-match press conference his team had done their homework for the match.



Gustavsson scores. Photo: Bangkok Post

"Every player after scoring a goal tried to collect the ball to start over again. I didn't focus on breaking the record whether we win by one goal or 10 goals, we still earn three points," said the Japanese coach.

The 10-0 win for Thailand over Timor Leste is a new record for the War Elephants in this tournament.

"We don't know much about the past statistics here. The players are doing well because everyone is determined to score goals all the time," said Ishii.

Thailand's next match is against local rivals Malaysia in Bangkok's Rajamangala Stadium tomorrow (Dec 14) before the War Elephants visit Singapore on Dec 17 and host Cambodia three days later. *Bangkok Post*

# Reality bites for Amorim

## FOOTBALL

RUBEN AMORIM'S MANCHESTER United honeymoon is truly over after Nottingham Forest inflicted a second straight Premier League defeat on his side last Saturday (Dec 7).

Amorim replaced the sacked Erik ten Hag at Old Trafford last month after a terrible start to the season. He began brightly, with a draw and two wins in his first three games in charge.

But reality is starting to bite hard after a 2-0 Premier League defeat at Arsenal on Dec 4 was followed by the chastening 3-2 loss to high-flying Forest, who capitalised on United's defensive blunders.

Goals from Nikola Milenkovic, Morgan Gibbs-White and Chris Wood put the visitors in charge and there was no way back for United, despite strikes from Rasmus Hojlund and Bruno Fernandes.

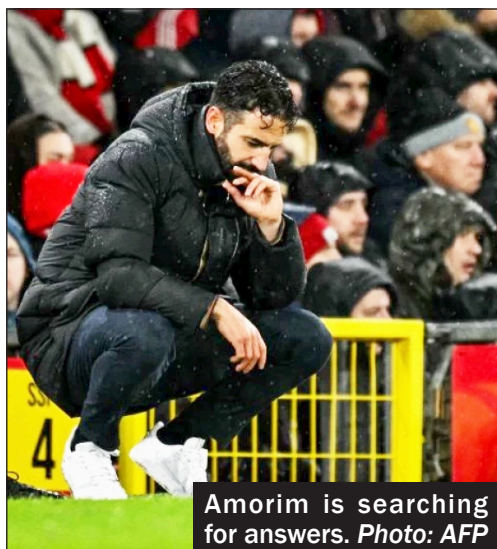
The win lifts Forest to fifth in the Premier League table. United are languishing in 13<sup>th</sup> spot.

"Tough game in a tough moment," a disappointed Amorim said.

"This is a long journey. We are improving in some aspects. We already know it's a big job so we have to continue."

Neighbours Manchester City stumbled to a 2-2 draw at Crystal Palace, meaning Pep Guardiola's men have now failed to win for the eighth time in nine games.

Fourth-placed City are eight points behind Liverpool and a fifth straight Premier League title is looking increasingly unlikely.



Amorim is searching for answers. Photo: AFP

Liverpool's game at Everton on Saturday was postponed because of storms on Merseyside and will be rescheduled.

Chelsea roared back from two goals down to beat Tottenham 4-3 on Sunday to move into second place just four points behind Liverpool.

Arsenal had to settle for a 1-1 draw at Fulham, Brighton and Leicester drew 2-2, while Bournemouth denied struggling Ipswich a first home win in the top flight for 22 years in a 2-1 win at Portman Road.

Brentford enjoy the best home record in the division and made it seven wins from eight games at the Gtech Community Stadium with a thrilling 4-2 victory over Newcastle, while Aston Villa beat bottom-of-the-table Southampton 1-0 thanks to Jhon Duran's goal and West Ham beat Wolves 2-1 on Monday. *AFP*

Explore Phuket's newest Pool Club

Let's get social

find us at  
**Boat Lagoon Marina**  
Phuket

[www.sohophuket.com](http://www.sohophuket.com)

- chilled out beach club vibe
- open to everyone, no membership needed
- great Thai and Western menu
- fantastic place for your event or party





House of  
**TIN BARON**  
— 1898 —



# A New Chapter of the Legend Open Now

Your invitation to the exceptional, Phuket's ultimate lifestyle destination.

18 Satun Road, Talat Nuea, Mueang Phuket District, Phuket 83000 Thailand  
M: +66 9 5368 0888 E: [info@tinbaron.com](mailto:info@tinbaron.com) [www.tinbaron.com](http://www.tinbaron.com)

