

**ICU BED SHORTAGE FOR COVID PATIENTS NEARS CRITICAL > PAGE 3**

## LYING IN WAIT

### PUSH FOR JULY 1 RE-OPENING STILL ON, ASSURES PHUKET GOVERNOR

Patong Beach remains devoid of any visitors during the day. Photo: PR Phuket

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket is moving ahead with the plan to re-open the island receiving fully vaccinated international tourists from July 1, Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew has confirmed.

The assurance was delivered during a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall last Friday (May 7) that was attended by Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Yuthasak Supasorn Governor and TAT Executive Committee members by Zoom.

Governor Narong explained the measures currently in effect in Phuket to control and prevent the spread

of COVID-19, and briefed the TAT Governor on the current situation regarding infections in Phuket.

He also reported that so far 95,423 people in Phuket had received their first vaccination injection, with 90,781 of those also receiving their second injection.

At the time, provincial officials reported that 39.45% of the people in Thalang District, 28.13% of those living Kathu District and 21.75% of those living in Muang District had now been vaccinated, Governor Narong explained.

In total 321,979 people on the island remain to be vaccinated in order for Phuket to reach the target 70% of the population to achieve

herd immunity, he said.

The mass-vaccination campaign will continue in May, with Phuket to receive 200,000 more doses of COVID vaccine this month, he added.

Since then, Phuket officials have confirmed that more than 104,000 people in Phuket had been vaccinated against COVID, all through the Chinese-made Sinovac vaccine 'CoronaVac', including medical workers and health volunteers.

More than 100,000 people have registered to be vaccinated in the second major round of vaccinations, which began last Sunday (May 9).

Phuket is moving ahead with the 'Phuket Sandbox' tourism policy and will implement the measures as

already set out, Governor Narong said.

"During the second quarter of 2021 (April-June), vaccinated foreign tourists will be quarantined for a period of seven days before they can explore the area. There must be appropriate routes set out and measures in place in order for them to travel throughout the area in the form of 'sealed routes'," he said.

"Phase 2, during the third quarter of 2021 (July-September), foreign tourists who have been fully vaccinated and have tested negative for COVID-19 will be able to enter Phuket directly via plane, and they will be able to travel throughout the area of Phuket without [observing] quarantine," he added...

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## NEWS PAGE 2

**Rapid tests to  
cease for all  
local arrivals**



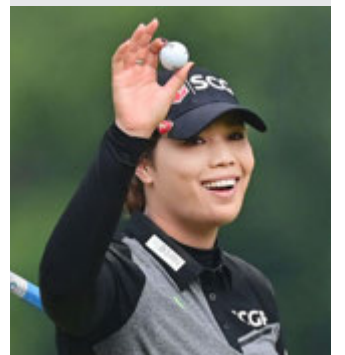
## LIFE PAGE 8

**L'Arôme by the  
sea is a French  
fusion treat**



## SPORT PAGE 16

**Ariya storms  
to victory in  
Honda LPGA**



**UWC THAILAND**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

- ✓ CURRENTLY LIVING IN PHUKET?
- ✓ VALUE A TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION?
- ✓ SEEKING PEACE AND A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE?



**WAIVER OF CAPITAL LEVY  
& APPLICATION FEE FOR  
ON-ISLAND TRANSFERS.**

[www.uwcthailand.ac.th](http://www.uwcthailand.ac.th)

**APPLY TODAY!**





execeditor@classactmedia.co.th

## News



**Thief stabs woman at temple > p4**

# Push for zero infections continues

*Continued from page 1*

"However, the foreign tourists must stay in Phuket for seven days before they can travel to other areas [in Thailand], and they must follow the public health measures" he noted.

"Phase 3, in the fourth quarter of 2021 (October-December), is an extension of Phase 2, with foreign tourists who are fully vaccinated and testing negative for COVID-19 test being able to travel directly into other pilot areas such as Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga, Samui District, Surat Thani Province, Pattaya City, Chonburi Province and Chiang Mai directly via plane and travel in those areas without quarantine.

"However, the group of foreign tourists must stay within the pilot areas for seven days before traveling to other areas, and they must follow other public health measures as well," Governor Narong explained.

"And Phase 4, during the first quarter of 2022, fully vaccinated foreign tourists who test negative for COVID-19 will be able to enter Thailand without quarantine," Governor Narong said.

"The implementation of the plan will make Phuket a 'Better Phuket', a 'New Phuket' and will allow for Mega Fam trips, all following our Phuket 'GEMMSST' strategies to become a leader in enhancing Thailand's tourism services that tourists are well versed in and trust the country's SHA safe travel public



**More than 1,600 people turned out at the Indoor Sports Stadium at Saphan Hin for the first day of round two of the mass-vaccination campaign last Sunday (May 9). Photo: PR Phuket**

health safety standards," Governor Narong added.

"In the period of May to June 2021, the Tourism Authority of Thailand will publicise the tourist plan and let the private sector offer packages," he announced.

"As for Phuket, we will prepare the area to be ready, safe, a white area [for receiving tourists]," he added.

"In July, we will have 6,000 tourists from nearby countries which will generate about B284.40 million, while tourists from far away countries will be about 23,700, which will generate B2.59 billion. More tourists are coming in the following months," Governor Narong said.

Governor Narong admitted that the current situation was still uncertain as there were still new infections confirmed every day, but added that

measures were being enforced in Phuket to help contain the number of daily infections to less than 10 a day.

A proactive screening campaign is underway across the island, he said.

"Any persons who test positive will be quarantined at a 'Local Quarantine' facility and will remain in quarantine or under medical care until they have recovered," he noted.

Governor Narong also confirmed that from tomorrow (May 15) there will no longer be any rapid antigen tests for people arriving on the island from 'red zone' provinces.

If the arrival cannot prove they are fully vaccinated or have tested negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours of arriving, after May 15 they will be required to observe a 14-day quarantine "at their own residence or

hotel at their own expense", he said.

## COVID COUNT

The confirmation of the July 1 push followed Tourism and Sports Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn announcing that the number of COVID-19 cases in Phuket must reach zero before it reopens to foreign tourists.

He also announced that the government intended to move ahead with its plan to collect B300 from foreign tourists starting next January to set up a tourism fund for emergency use.

"We have to speed up inoculations, particularly in Bangkok, to achieve herd immunity by the fourth quarter. The number of daily infections should be below 200 by the end of this month to restore international tourism confidence," Mr Phiphat told the *Bangkok Post*.

Once the spread is under control, the government will resume travel bubble discussions with Singapore, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Laos and Malaysia, he said.

No country wants to engage in a travel bubble discussion with Thailand when there is still a high rate of infection, said Mr Phiphat.

The 'Phuket Tourism Sandbox' campaign to receive vaccinated tourists without quarantine requires higher standards, he said. The government anticipates zero cases on the island before July 1.

Of note, while the daily number of infections in Phuket hovered in

the teens and twenties last week, the number earlier this week fell to averaging 10-12, with officials reporting just eight new infections on Monday (May 10).

If 70% of residents on Phuket are vaccinated but new cases still emerge, the ministry will discuss with the Public Health Ministry about further action, said Mr Phiphat.

He said the ministry is maintaining its goal of 3-4 million international tourists arrivals, assuming the tourism sandbox in pilot areas carries on as planned.

In the fourth quarter, 10 areas are scheduled to take part in the sandbox initiative: Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi, Koh Samui, Pattaya and Chiang Mai should already be participating, while Bangkok, Phetchaburi, Prachuap Khiri Khan and Buri Ram begin in the fourth quarter.

Mr Phiphat said neighbouring countries and the Chinese market must be watched closely, particularly the latter with its Golden Week Holiday slated for October. It is unclear whether the Chinese government will allow outbound travel by that time.

He said the global pandemic has highlighted the urgent need to establish a tourism fund, which has already been approved by the National Tourism Policy Committee. Fees collected from the fund can help the tourism industry cope with future uncertainties, said Mr Phiphat.

## Rapid tests to cease for all arrivals, quarantine measure in effect

RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS will no longer be used to determine whether or not people may enter Phuket from tomorrow (May 15), Phuket Vice Governor Piyapong Choowong has confirmed.

Vice Governor Piyapong delivered the news through a video broadcast online late last Friday (May 7), after Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew broke the news during a high-level meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall earlier in the day.

Since Apr 22 all people arriving in Phuket from 'red zone' areas, now expanded to 25 provinces (see below), have been required to prove that they are fully vaccinated or have tested negative for the virus within 72 hours of arriving.

If the arrival has been unable to prove either, they were required to undergo a rapid antigen test as an initial step to determine whether or not they were infected.

The rapid antigen test has been free for Thais, but has cost foreigners B500 a time.

From May 15, that will no longer apply as the test will no longer be used, Vice Governor Piyapong explained.

"The Phuket Governor has set the goal to have zero cases of new infections within two weeks. We will do everything. No matter what it takes. We cannot be at risk like this anymore," Vice Governor Piyapong said.

"From now to May 14, we will still conduct the rapid antigen test, but from May 15, all arrivals from any areas without a COVID-free certificate or vaccination certificate must face 14 days quarantine," he said plainly.

"For day-trippers or others, I cannot reveal all the details, but the provincial order will come later," he added.

"We want to send a sign to the country that we are cleaning up our province. The three vice governors [in



**A man is tested at the Phuket Check Point at Tha Chatchai as part of the process of being allowed onto Phuket. Photo: PR Phuket**

Phuket] have been ordered to take care of each district by cooperating with local administration officers as well as community leaders to do proactive screening," V/Gov Piyapong noted.

"Within the coming two weeks, the result will be clearer in practice," he said.

"Right now, we are vaccinating religious leaders for all religions, as they are in frequent contact with people," V/Gov Piyapong said.

"It is very likely that we will have enough vaccines to provide vaccinations for every person on the island. If you

are still deciding whether or not to get vaccinated, please come to get vaccinated," he urged.

Krabi, Trang added to 'red zone' entry list

Phuket officials have added Ranong, Krabi, Trang and Phatthalung to the list of 'red zone' provinces for which people arriving from must comply with the requirement to prove that they are fully vaccinated or have tested negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours of arriving, or else face a rapid antigen test as an initial step to determine whether or not they are infected.

The provinces were added to the previous list of 21 'red zone' provinces in an order issued late on May 6.

As such, the full list of 25 'red zone' provinces, including Phuket, required to abide by the more stringent measures in order to enter Phuket as of last night is now: Bangkok, Chonburi, Chiang Mai, Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani, Samut Prakan, Samut Sakhon, Nakhon Pathom, Suphan Buri, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Rayong, Tak, Nakhon Ratchasima, Udon Thani, Sa Kaeo, Khon Kaen, Songkhla, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Narathiwat, Surat Thani, Ranong, Krabi, Trang, Phatthalung and people who leave Phuket and return.

The official order, signed by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew, is marked to remain in effect until May 15.

The order also made formal the requirement for all goods transport drivers passing through the checkpoint onto the island during the

hours 11pm to 5am, when all other traffic onto the island is prohibited, to pass the same requirements as people arriving from 'red zone' provinces.

"If any driver is unable to prove [the above] with a certificate, they must wait until the time that Phuket Check Point normally opens [so they may be tested by health officials]," the order noted.

"Drivers must also show the goods they are delivering to staff at the checkpoint," the order added.

The checkpoint onto Phuket was ordered to close nightly from 11pm to 5am after health officers working there became "exhausted".

In the first seven days since the requirement came into effect on Apr 22, the officers had tested more than 22,000 people coming onto the island.

As of Monday (May 10), the medical workers at the checkpoint had tested more than 52,000 people.

*The Phuket News*





This is not an advert to promote our boat tours – unusual right?  
Well, these are unusual times and so we are asking you all to:

# **PLEASE SUPPORT PHUKET'S LOCAL BUSINESSES**

Small businesses have been hit hard by this pandemic,  
and need your support now more than ever

Let's help keep our local restaurants,  
shops and small businesses going

## **SHOP SMART – SHOP LOCAL SHOP SAFE**



*Take care and be kind, From The 5 Star Marine Team*



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**KIATTIKUL 'JOM' CHUMANEE**  
Translator  
082 729 0270  
translate@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  
THANAPONG 'OAK' KHAO-AMPHAIPHAN**  
Graphic designersThe Phuket News  
@thephuketnews

ADVERTISING

ClassAct Media

The Phuket News

WINDOW ON PHUKET

Where to eat in PHUKET

Новости Пхукета

ข่าวภูเก็ต

PHUKET 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 MAY 14

High: +34°  
Low: +27°

Wind 7 m/s

SAT MAY 15

High: +34°  
Low: +27°

Wind 7 m/s

SUN MAY 16

High: +33°  
Low: +27°

Wind 7 m/s

MON MAY 17

High: +32°  
Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

TUE MAY 18

High: +32°  
Low: +27°

Wind 14 m/s

WED MAY 19

High: +32°  
Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

THU MAY 20

High: +32°  
Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

## Neighbourhood COVID testing begins

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket health officials have launched a campaign to test people in communities across the island for COVID-19 to help identify people who are infected and limit the spread of the virus.

The “proactive screening campaign”, organised by the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO, or *OrBorJor*), began at Phuket Community Hall in Phuket Town last Friday (May 7), where RRT-PCR test swab samples were taken from more than 300 local residents.

PPAO President Rewat Areerob explained that the campaign is being funded by the National Health Security Office (NHSO).

“The project is to keep people disease-free and safe by making sure people at risk receive prompt diagnosis and treatment, and helps to build confidence among local residents and tourists in Phuket,” he said.



A woman has a swab test sample taken at Phuket Community Hall in Phuket Town last Friday (May 7). Photo: PPAO

“This third wave of COVID-19 is highly infectious. It is quick to infect and difficult to treat. If we do not screen people within the province or focus on risk groups made known by timelines [of movements of people now confirmed as infected with COVID-19], the infections may spread.

“Therefore, we must quickly manage to find the

vulnerable group as soon as possible,” he added.

The “proactive screening” in communities will continue until May 15, Mr Rewat said.

“If there is a trend [of rising number of infections] in many districts, we will have to extend the screening, but if the number of infections falls we will bring the project to a close,” he explained.

VACCINATION  
OUTREACH

The community COVID test campaign last Friday was also held at Laem Tukkae on Koh Siray, on the east side of Phuket Town, where health personnel and medical staff from Vachira Phuket Hospital held a vaccination outreach clinic.

The village is home to one of the largest communities of Urak Lawoi sea gypsies in the country, today with some 1,600 residents living in an estimated 343 households in the village.

At least 311 people in the village received their first vaccination injection last Friday, reported the PPAO.

The villagers will receive their second vaccination injection on May 30, the report added.

“This is the first community visited by public health workers to provide the COVID-19 vaccination service to the community,” Mr Rewat noted.

“The Chao Lay [sea gyp-

sies] do not have access to technology and social media, and may not understand the language [Thai]. So the PPHO, Vachira Phuket Hospital and health volunteers have come to provide help to people in the area. The villagers themselves are very cooperative with vaccination efforts,” he said.

“Everyone is enthusiastic. They know that getting vaccinated helps prevent serious symptoms if they contract COVID-19, which their community leaders have communicated to them all along,” he added.

A separate vaccination outreach clinic was also held last Friday at Wat Mongkol Nimit on Thepkasattri Rd in Phuket Town, where 262 monks, nuns and laymen working in temples in Phuket were vaccinated for COVID-19.

Among those present were monks, nuns and laymen from Baan Manik temple in Cherng Talay, Wat Thepwanaram in Srisoonthorn, Wat Kathu and Wat Ketho, also in Kathu.

## Runway road closed for B38mn widening

THE ROAD PARALLEL TO the runway at Phuket International Airport (Route 4031) has been closed so that a private contractor can finish the long-awaited road-improvement project, which includes preventing landslides from spilling across the road and making it safer and wider.

The road parallel to the runway will remain closed until all works are finished, which is expected to happen by Nov 1, says an official announcement signed by Samak Luedwonghat, Chief of the Phuket Highways Department.

The section closed stretches from Muk Dokkhao to Phuket International Airport in Mai Khao. Motorists are advised to use alternative routes.

“We apologise for any inconvenience while the work is being carried out,” the notice says.

Route 4031 made headlines in August 2016, when a landslide dangerously plunged downhill and across the road. No motorists were injured in the landslide, but the road was blocked by debris.

In September 2019, a B71.32 million agreement was signed for upgrades to Route 4031 and prevention of future landslides along the road.



Route 4031 is under its final stage of repairs and improvements after a landslide covered the road in 2016. Photo: Phuket Highways Department

The first part of the project was to reduce the slope and enhance the stability of the topsoil to prevent further landslides under a budget of B32.97mn. To do this the road was closed for four months, from Sept 1, 2020 to Dec 30.

The second part of the project (which has just started) is to expand a section of the road to two lanes each way and create a 1.5-metre-wide safety shoulder along one side of the road, under a budget of B38.35mn. This is to be done by November this year. *The Phuket News*

## Man arrested for robbing, stabbing woman, 63, at Phuket Town temple

POLICE HAVE ARRESTED A 48-year-old man wanted for robbing and stabbing a woman in Wat Charoen Samanakit (Wat Lang San) in Phuket Town last week.

The robbery sparked outrage among Phuket Town residents as the suspect had stabbed Sombat Chanhong, 63, with a pair of scissors and grabbed her wallet while she was meditating in the temple alone at about 7am on May 6.

Phuket City Police Deputy Chief Lt Col Sathit Noorit together with Chalong Police arrested Khanchana Maneemai, 48, originally from Krabi, along the Rawai beachfront last Saturday afternoon (May 8).

Police also seized a Krabi-registered Honda Wave that Khanchana was riding when he was arrested and used to flee the scene after he stabbed Ms Sombat.

The arrest came after police checked CCTV cameras to track down the suspect, and learned that he was homeless and often slept on Rawai Beach.

Khanchana confessed to robbing and stabbing Ms Sombat last Thursday. He also confessed to stealing a shirt and six duvets from a laundry shop in Wichit a few days earlier, said police.

Khanchana told police that he used



Photo: Phuket City Police

to live in Krabi, but came to Phuket on his motorbike after an argument with his father.

He did not have permanent accommodation in Phuket, and slept on beaches and at roadside pavilions, he said.

Khanchana confessed to committing 10 thefts in Wichit, Rawai and Phuket Town.

He sold the stolen items and spent the money on buying HIV medication. The medicine cost B70 a time, Khanchana told police.

Police noted that Khanchana had been arrested by Patong Police for the charge of theft in 2017.

Lt Col Sathit confirmed that Khanchana was taken to Phuket City Police station and charged with committing robbery by using a vehicle to flee.

*Eakkapop Thongtub*



# ICU bed shortage near critical

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The number of beds available for COVID-19 patients in intensive-care units (ICU) at Phuket government hospitals is nearing 'critical', Vachira Phuket Hospital Director Dr Chalermpong Sukontapol has revealed.

If the number of patients needing ICU care continues to rise, patients at government hospitals may soon need to be transferred to private hospitals, or even to hospitals outside Phuket, Dr Chalermpong said.

Dr Chalermpong revealed the news during a live broadcast at Vachira Phuket Hospital last Sunday evening (May 9), joined by Phuket Vice Governor Piyapong Choowong.

Dr Chalermpong explained that the number of beds available in Phuket for general care of people confirmed infected with COVID-19 during the current outbreak was not a concern.

"The number of beds being used in hospitals is high, while the number of beds being used at the field hospital is not very high," he said.

In first raising the alarm over a possible shortage of ICU beds in



Vachira Phuket Hospital Director Dr Chalermpong Sukontapol (right) explains the ICU bed shortage issue during the live broadcast last Sunday (May 9). Screenshot: Official COVID-19 Information Center Phuket

Phuket last week, Dr Withita Jaengiam, an epidemiologist at Vachira Phuket Hospital, explained, "In Phuket, 50% of the [confirmed] cases do not have any symptoms, 30% have light symptoms of pneumonia."

However, Dr Withita also noted, "...and 10% have severe symptoms. That means we need a lot of breathing apparatuses [to treat patients]."

Of the patients in care at Vachira hospital, the main government hospital on the island, Dr Withita noted last week, "About 50% of the cases have symptoms of pneumonia for which patients need breathing apparatus."

Dr Chalermpong yesterday further explained that patients considered PUI (person under investigation, for possible COVID infection) have separate rooms where they wait for the results of their swab tests.

"There are about 280 rooms for PUI cases in all hospitals, but not all of the rooms are proper negative pressure rooms for COVID-19 infected cases," he said.

But of those who do suffer symptoms of infection, suffer serious symptoms, Dr Chalermpong noted.

"In this outbreak, most of the infected cases [being treated] in

hospital have severe symptoms, as the virus moves to their lungs. They need to receive close observation and treatment in hospitals," Dr Chalermpong said.

"Currently, the infected cases [at government hospitals] have severe symptoms, so we cannot let them stay at the field hospital at PSU [Prince of Songkla University Phuket campus in Kathu]."

"There are 170 beds there, but we have never used over 100 beds," he said.

A second field hospital has been set up at the Phuket Rajabhat University (PRU) campus in Rassada, north of Phuket Town, but the number of people in care at the PSU field hospital has not yet reached a level for health officials to start using the field hospital set up at PRU.

"This kind of incident is happening in many provinces, like Bangkok, Samut Sakhon, Samut Prakan, Songkhla and Surat Thani," Dr Chalermpong said.

"Vachira Phuket Hospital has nine ICU rooms. Only five of the nine rooms are negative-pressure rooms for severe-symptom cases, while the remaining four are now used for cases with light symp-

toms under close observation," he explained.

"For now, the five cases in our five negative-pressure rooms have very bad symptoms, while the symptoms of the four cases are still stable and under consideration to be moved out of the rooms," he added.

"If the nine rooms are full of severe symptom cases, that will be a big critical stage. We may need to transfer our patients to other provinces or private hospitals, which may involve additional costs," Dr Chalermpong said.

"We have only a small gap to reach the critical stage," he warned.

"In these two weeks, I want to ask every person to avoid gathering for any activities," Dr Chalermpong urged.

"One more thing is that please register to get vaccinated to achieve herd immunity and to reduce the chance for you to have severe symptoms if you are infected," he said.

"We will have 100,000 doses of Sinovac coming in the middle of this month and another 100,000 doses in the beginning of June," Dr Chalermpong explained.

"In June, we will receive 240,000 doses of AstraZeneca," he said.

## Vaccine registration for expats stalls

THE REGISTRATION OF FOREIGNERS working in Phuket to receive the state COVID vaccination through the 'Phuket Must Win' web portal got off to a rocky start this week, with companies unable to register their foreigner workers as of 3pm Tuesday – the day employers were promised they could register their foreign workers.

Pracha Asawathira PhD, an academic with the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, announced the May 11 launch date during a two-hour live online broadcast late on May 5.

Mr Pracha handed over the announcement to Worapol Ungtrakul to explain the details. Mr Worapol is a member of the Phuket Tourist Association who is part of the task force assigned to oversee the operation of the 'Phuket Must Win' web portal ([www.ภูเก็ตต้องชนะ.com](http://www.ภูเก็ตต้องชนะ.com)).

Expats working in Phuket must be registered under the name of the company they work for, which means the HR staff must register for them, Mr Worapol explained.

"Their work permit must be valid too," he noted.



A man receives a COVID vaccination at the Indoor Sports Stadium in Saphan Hin on Monday (May 10). Photo: PR Phuket

"Expats who do not work for any company still have to wait for the next phase of registration, which will allow foreign individuals to register by themselves," he added.

The 'Phuket Must Win' web portal has undergone an overhaul, Mr Worapol said.

"Right now, our vaccination system is like 'Version 2'. Registered people can make their own choice where and when to receive their vaccination injections. If any date or time is full, it will not appear for people to choose," he explained. *The Phuket News*

## Chalong Hospital open once again

CHALONG HOSPITAL reopened to receiving patients on Tuesday (May 11) after it was closed for cleaning and its staff quarantined and tested for COVID-19 following a 74-year-old woman outpatient testing positive for the virus after she visited the hospital.

"Right now, Chalong Hospital is ready to reopen, as our high-risk staff already finished their quarantine and are all tested negative," said an announcement posted on the official COVID-19 information Facebook page, 'Phuket Anti-COVID19'.

"The management of Chalong Hospital announced the temporary closure on May 3 because we were informed that a patient was confirmed infected, and our medical staff



Health officers from Chalong Municipality sanitise Chalong Hospital during its closure. Photo: Chalong Municipality

were considered high risk people," the announcement said.

"To boost the confidence among those coming to the hospital, officers of Chalong Municipality have already come to sanitise all areas of the hospital," it noted.

The hospital was to reopen on Monday (May 10), Chalong Hospital Director Suchart Nichawanna said in his initial announcement to close the facility.

He also confirmed that 45 staff and medical personnel deemed to have had high risk exposure to the 74-year-old woman were admitted to stay at The Royal Paradise and Spa Hospital in Patong, which is currently serving as a 'Local Quarantine' facility.

Meanwhile, 14 personnel deemed to have had 'low-risk exposure' exposure to the woman were allowed to self-quarantine and monitor themselves for signs of infection at home.

Four patients who were receiving treatment at Chalong Hospital during the 74-year-old woman's visit were transferred to Dibuk Hospital, along with their relatives, who were in close contact with the patients.

*The Phuket News*

**WINE & COFFEE SHOP - WINE BAR**  
**WINE TASTING - ANTIPASTI - DESSERTS**  
**HOME DELIVERY AVAILABLE**

The Barrel Laguna, 33-34 Canal Village Laguna Shopping, Thalang, Phuket, Thailand  
 Phone: 062 489 5192 | Email: thebarrellaguna@bbb.co.th | Open Time: 10am-8pm (Sunday Closed)

**ALCOHOL MAY BE A HEALTH HAZARD!**

**THE SWINGING STICKS**  
 Designed in Germany \* Copyright & Patented

**THE ALL BLACK**

**LEVITATION & SPEAKER**

**ART TEC DESIGN**  
 ART-TEC DESIGN CO., LTD.

New Shop opened in PHUKET  
 71/89 moo 5  
 Hua Khuan North Road  
 Close to Fanta Sea  
 Kamala / Phuket 83150

**NEW**

**www.ATD.to**  
 hi@ATD.to \* +66 630829923

The Swinging Sticks is a double pendulum kinetic energy sculpture. You may also have seen The Swinging Sticks in the Iron Man 2 movie. The fluid movement of this handcrafted, precise kinetic sculpture creates a calming, hypnotic effect.

Art-Tec Design Co., Ltd - at thorized importer & seller of The Swinging Sticks



# Blue Horizon Developments Continues To Give Back To The Phuket Community Amid The Pandemic

## ADVERTORIAL

Blue Horizon Developments is not just known for its award-winning developments like Grand Himalai Oceanfront Residences and Best Western Plus The Beachfront, but the property developer has also earned recognition in recent years for its thoughtful CSR activities, even during times of crisis.

At Blue Horizon Developments, the value of giving back to the community has always been at the company's core. Since its launch in 2005, the property developer has been doing everything in its power to help change the lives of people in need for the better in addition to climbing the ranks to becoming one of the most decorated property developers in Southeast Asia.

In fact, Blue Horizon Developments has been involved with the charity Phuket Has Been Good to Us, which was established after the 2004 tsunami to help improve the economic and life chances of young people. The company has been sponsoring Native English Teachers in local schools around Phuket so that over 700 underprivileged students of varying ages can get access to quality English education that helps them attract opportunities from around the world. Despite the



Blue Horizon Developments (BlueHorizon-Thailand.com), working with the charity Phuket Has Been Good to Us, has been sponsoring Native English Teachers in local schools around Phuket so that over 700 underprivileged students of varying ages can get access to quality English education.

COVID-19 pandemic, the property developer has continued to sponsor Native English Teachers who did a stellar job in creating a positive and effective learning environment, completing the education curriculum, and helping students achieve even higher results than in previous years.

Furthermore, when the COV-

ID-19 pandemic hit Phuket and small local businesses were struggling to make ends meet, CEO & Founder Andres Pira distributed food and other necessities to nearby residents together with Blue Horizon Developments' employees to help those suffering from a loss in income.

The organization has also or-

ganized several beach cleaning activities over the past year where its employees visit the different beaches of Phuket, collect waste, assort them by material, and recycle the waste.

"Giving back is certainly rewarding in more ways than one," says Pira. "When we are part of

something that's bigger than ourselves and successfully accomplish what the set out to do, it pushes us to strive further in helping spread a smile across people's faces. Blue Horizon Developments wishes to continue to be a guiding light and expand its CSR initiatives to create a bigger impact."

## B1bn for job-creation projects, help for COVID unemployed

THE PHUKET PROVINCIAL Government has received just over B1 billion to dedicate to job-creation projects and to support those left out of work, and out of income, by the ongoing economic crisis.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew revealed at a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on May 5 that the provincial government had received a budget of precisely B1,000,249,488 under the national project to develop and support the "grassroots economy".

The budget must be spent on projects that satisfy at least one of four criteria: to develop local products, tourist attractions, services; to improve the quality of agricultural products; to support and improve labour skills; and to develop infrastructure to support the economic recovery and development of the community.

"So far, 18 projects have been proposed and are now under consideration," Governor Narong said.



Governor Narong at Phuket Provincial Hall. Photo: PR Phuket

"The Phuket Government has set a goal to help at least 10,000 of 13,247 people who have been registered with the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation [PPAO, or OrBorJor] as unemployed because of COVID-19 economic crisis," he noted.

"Also, to help 'sensitive' people [the disabled and the

elderly) and those who file a request for help," he added.

"I will call all three district chiefs, village and sub-district chiefs [Kamnan and Phu Yai Baan] and relevant officers to hold a meeting together and discuss the preparation for the projects, in order to accomplish our goal," Governor Narong said.

The Phuket News

## Government refuses to back billion-baht THAI cash injection

THE FINANCE MINISTRY will not recapitalise financially troubled Thai Airways (THAI) of which it is the biggest shareholder, the State Enterprise Policy Office (SEPO) chief said this week.

The remark by SEPO Director-General Pantip Sripimol came amid concerns the carrier will regain the status of a state enterprise through the re-acquisition of the ministry's majority stake in THAI.

The airline lost its state-owned status last year when the ministry decided to reduce its stake to under 50%, to help ease the debt-rehabilitation process.

Several Cabinet ministers, however, were concerned the government would need to guarantee a loan worth billions of baht to prop up THAI if it were to come under the state enterprise umbrella again.

Reportedly supporting THAI's reinstatement as a state enterprise were Finance Minister Arkhom Termpitayapaisith and Deputy Prime Minister Supattanapong Punmeechaow, who is also chief of the government's economic team.



A Thai Airways International jet sits parked on the tarmac of Suvarnabhumi airport. Photo: Wichan Charoenkiatpakul

They argued the reinstatement, which would require the Finance Ministry returning as a majority shareholder, would boost the airline's financial strength and its bargaining power with creditors.

Creditors were to meet on Wednesday (May 12) to decide whether to accept the airline's debt restructuring plan.

Meanwhile, Ms Pantip insisted the ministry would not seek to recapitalise the airline and was prepared to see its stake diluted if other shareholders bought more shares.

The ministry holds a 49.9% stake in THAI. She said if the

ministry injected more funds into the company, it would be akin to attempting to divert money to "fill up the sea", a move which would be hard to justify to taxpayers.

Now that THAI is operating as a private company, it is no longer entitled to state assistance and the Finance Ministry is under no legal obligation to offer help to a private firm despite the vast shares it owns in the airline.

SEPO Chief Pantip declined to say whether THAI should be reinstated as a state enterprise, saying it is a matter of policy yet to be considered.

Bangkok Post



# Sinovac safe for over 60s

Bangkok Post

Senior citizens have no need to worry about getting inoculated with Sinovac's COVID-19 vaccine, as a study carried out in China has confirmed its suitability for use in adults over the age 60, said Sophon Mekhton, assistant to the Public Health Minister and chairman of the COVID-19 vaccine management sub-committee, on Monday (May 10).

The results of the independent study, Dr Sophon said, should dispel any remaining doubts about the safety of Sinovac jabs for senior citizens, which stemmed from a lack of empirical data for the age group after the vaccine was rolled out.

Dr Sophon said many have received Sinovac jabs across the world and the vaccine was found to be safe.

The study found the company's vaccine, which uses culture-grown virus particles to stimulate the body's immune response, is effective and safe, which is reassuring, he added.

Responding to the World Health Organization's (WHO) previous statements regarding



A study carried out in China has confirmed the Sinovac vaccine's suitability for use in adults over the age 60, the COVID-19 vaccine management sub-committee has said. Photo: AFP

Sinovac's vaccine, Dr Sophon urged the public to not cling on to old information.

The WHO had earlier said that an independent assessment of Sinovac jabs showed the vaccine poses a low risk of serious adverse effects for adults over 60.

The same study, however, backed Sinovac's claims that two doses of the jabs can effectively and safely prevent

virus transmission in other age groups.

The AstraZeneca vaccine, which will be ready in about a month, will ultimately be the primary COVID-19 vaccine for individuals over the age of 60. AstraZeneca has been the vaccine of choice for senior citizens in Thailand, although the lack of supplies has prompted a switch to Sinovac.

Last Friday (May 7), the national communicable diseases committee approved the use of Sinovac's COVID-19 vaccine for people over 60.

Dr Sophon said all vaccines have a chance of causing negative side-effects, although the likelihoods are very slim, before assuring the government has a plan in place in case senior citizens vaccinated with the Sinovac vaccine de-

velop unwanted side-effects.

Thailand has imported 3.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines from Sinovac to date. A further 500,000 doses donated by China will arrive this week, while the two million bought by the Government Pharmaceutical Organisation will be delivered later this month.

## PRIVATE SHOTS

Meanwhile, the price for a package of two shots of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine offered by private hospitals will be no more than B3,000, hospital executives say.

The Private Hospital Association announced the plan after a meeting last Thursday (May 6) to discuss a common approach to offering alternative vaccines. Moderna is likely to be the first brand to be ordered by the Government Pharmaceutical Organization (GPO) on their behalf.

Private hospitals have started surveying the demand for the vaccine. Once they get an estimated number, they will ask the GPO to buy it for them, Dr Chalerm Harnphanich, chairman of the association, said after the online meeting.

All member hospitals agreed to offer the package

at the same price, estimated at not more than B3,000, including service fee, insurance and value-added tax, said Dr Chalerm, also chairman and CEO of SET-listed Bangkok Chain Hospital Plc.

He said the Moderna vaccine cost \$37 to \$38 (B1,200) a dose. Two doses are required.

The hospitals are also working with the General Insurance Association and the Office of the Insurance Commission on coverage in case of side effects or allergies.

The premiums are likely to be B50-100 for the coverage of 90-100 days after the first shot.

If side effects are serious and required hospitalisation, the insured will be compensated with B100,000 or 1 million in case of death.

Dr Chalerm was not sure about the arrival time of the vaccine but assured there would be no delay.

"As soon as the Food and Drug Administration approves it and we receive the products, we will distribute them to over 400 [private] hospitals nationwide as soon as possible," he added. The FDA is expected to approve the vaccine this month.

## Thailand inks pre-Brexit export quota deal with EU

THAILAND AND THE European Union (EU) have signed a new tariff rate quota deal, under which a pre-determined number of the kingdom's goods can be exported to the bloc at pre-Brexit tax rates.

The agreement, which replaces a similar agreement that had to be renegotiated following the United Kingdom's departure from the economic bloc on Jan 1, will come into force next month.

Pimchanok Pitfield, Thailand's permanent representative to the World Trade Organization (WTO), said on Tuesday (May 11) she signed the agreement with José Fernando Costa Pereira, Portugal's ambassador and permanent representative to the EU's Political and Security Committee (PSC) in Brussels, Belgium recently.

"Products covered in the agreement include rice, poultry and fishery products, which Thailand will still be able to export to the EU with the same trade privileges extended before



The trade agreement between Thailand and the EU comes into effect next month. Photo: Bangkok Post file

Brexit," she said.

This agreement, however, only deals with quotas for goods which had been regulated under a previous agreement. Export duty reductions will be sought in separate trade negotiations which will be held between Thailand and the EU, as well as the United Kingdom, she said.

The Commerce Ministry will negotiate for higher quotas and lower duty rates for agricultural and fishery product exports from Thailand to the EU and Britain, she said.

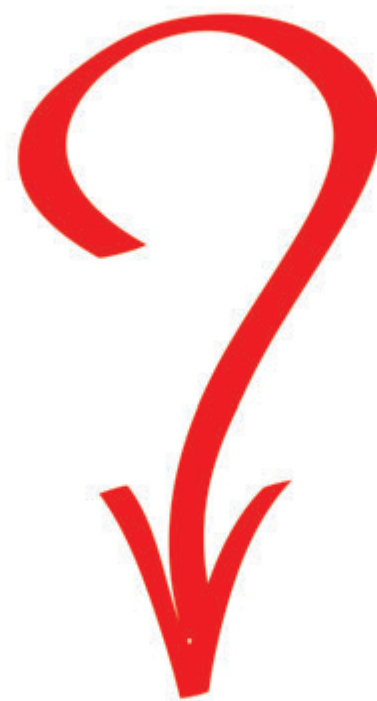
Since 2019, the Department of Foreign Trade has

been acting as Thailand's main negotiating body in talks with both the EU and Britain, in a bid to – at the very least – secure the same export quotas and privileges which Thailand used to receive from both parties before Brexit, she said.

Between 2017 and last year, the value of two-way trade between Thailand and the EU had averaged between B1.4 trillion each year, in which Thailand imported products worth B656 billion from the EU per year and exported products worth B744bn per year to the EU.

Bangkok Post

**psd** PROJECT SUPPLIES DIRECT  
**THAILAND'S PVC WINDOW SPECIALISTS**  
 SINCE 2004



Contact us for the lowest prices in Phuket

**psd** PROJECT SUPPLIES DIRECT

Head Office at Tesco Lotus Thalang Phuket  
 English +66 87 061 7631 or Thai +66 81 539 2031  
 Facebook PVC Phuket Facebook NathanUpvcBrown





# From Paris with love at L'Arôme

**Ben Tirebuck**  
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

**F**ans of contemporary French cuisine are in for a treat with the recent opening of L'Arôme by the sea in Patong.

The three-storey restaurant and bar sits on the beach overlooking the stunning Andaman sea and affords gorgeous views of Patong Bay. Its location, formerly that of popular Italian restaurant White Box, is ideal and offers a semblance of calm; close enough to the hustle and bustle of Patong without being overwhelmed.

The international L'Arôme stable has six restaurants throughout China and two in Paris, one of which, FANFAN PARIS, is Michelin-listed. Their website states "restaurant concepts based on originality, culinary authenticity, quality service and passion".

This ethos is more than apparent from the outset of my visit as my partner and I are warmly and professionally welcomed by host Micheline and led to the roof-top bar on level three of the property for pre-sunset drinks.

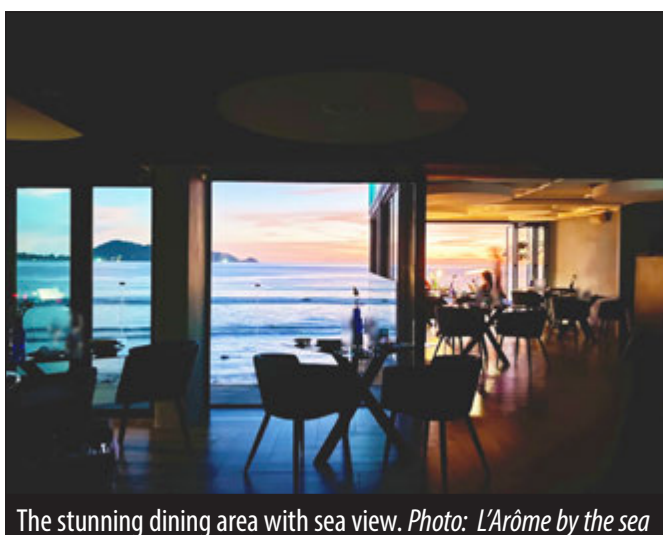
The spectacular sea views and stunning sunset are complemented by a choice of deliciously refreshing mocktails as we eagerly survey our evening menu.

Alcoholic beverages are off the menu in the current COVID-19 climate yet this does nothing to detract from the ambience or experience as we select our dishes and head down a level to the main dining area.

Tables are immaculately presented and fully respect social distancing rules. There are a total of 40 covers on this level, the perfect number and layout to enjoy the atmosphere without feeling overcrowded.

Shortly after being seated we are offered a small delectable treat of watermelon infused with sun-dried fish, perfect for cleansing the palate in advance of the culinary delights ahead.

For starter the tuna tartare flavoured with lime



and sesame oil and served with hand-crafted flowers of beetroot and radish with an avocado purée is simply a delight; the combination of flavours come together perfectly for a light, refreshing taste explosion.

Likewise the scallop carpaccio which offers thinly sliced Hokkaido scallops with mango, alfalfa sprouts and citrus purée. It is divine and my only quibble is I want more of it!

Fear not though as the main courses are on their way. We order the dijon crusted lamb rack with red wine sauce and the 250g Tajima Wagyu Ribeye steak.

The lamb is delicious and perfectly cooked, accompanied by creamy mash potato and a selection of seasonal vegetables chosen by the chef.

The steak, however, is the showstopper for both my partner and I. Considering ourselves somewhat as steak aficionados, we have consumed our fair share over the years with the pick coming in a small Japanese steakhouse in Tokyo several years ago.

L'Arôme's steak at least equals if not better than that offering. It really is that good. Cooked to perfection,

it literally melts in one's mouth. It is so perfectly seasoned that it did not require the additional side sauces. The fact it is served on a slab of hardened Himalayan rock salt only added to the visual allure – they say you eat with your eyes and I had close on gobbled this down before it even hit the table!

Dessert managed to maintain the incredibly high standards with the rich dark chocolate mousse, miroir glaze and praline "Le Trianon" a true delight.

On speaking with Micheline afterwards, we learn that all the chefs at L'Arôme are internationally-experienced Thais who take the concept of contemporary culinary trends in Paris, specifically from FANFAN, and combine their own ideas.

"We have kept our menu small, choosing to pay attention to cooking techniques and plating design for each of our dishes," she says.

"The dishes that currently feature on our menu are based on the bestselling flagship recipes from our Michelin-listed restaurant in Paris, FANFAN PARIS. Hence you can be sure to receive authentic French flavours," Micheline adds.

L'Arôme only opened on April 19<sup>th</sup> yet clearly word has already travelled fast as it is busy on the evening we visit and there is a vibrant atmosphere in the air. The fact they have taken the plunge to open during such an exceptionally challenging time is brave and deserves huge kudos. It also suggests they are supremely confident in their offering, and justifiably so. The staff are attentive and knowledgeable and an appropriate pacing between courses is adhered to throughout.

Ongoing promotions include the sunset pinto set (selection of 4 bar food plus 2 mocktails) for B680, the 3-Course Menu Decouverte for B999 and the 4-Course Menu Degustation for B1499.

I genuinely believe the future is bright for L'Arôme and would highly recommend a visit. It's only a matter of time before I return!

WANT TO TALK TO  
PHUKET?

WINDOW  
ON PHUKET

The map  
of PHUKET  
English 中文 Русский

Where to  
eat  
in PHUKET

The Phuket News  
Your Island – Your Paper

LIVE 89.5

Новости Пхукета  
Твой остров – твоя газета

ข่าวภูเก็ต

Phuket NEWS TV

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th



# Sane Sane, but different



## BLAZING SADDLES

**Baz Daniel**

baz\_gunner2000@yahoo.com

**M**uch beloved by me and many other local cyclists is our bicycle's ability to take us to relatively quiet, undiscovered corners of the Andaman which have remained fairly unblemished by the ravages of mass tourism and commercialisation. One such beloved corner of 'forgotten Phuket' is Ao Sane Cove, with its three little beaches overlooking the much larger and more commercial Nai Harn Beach in the island's southwest corner.

Perhaps it's the steep little access road that runs almost through the super-luxe Nai Harn Resort's car-park that deters many from journeying out along the promontory at the northern end of Nai Harn Beach, or maybe it's the fact that this hilly little road is a dead-end terminating at the Baan Krating Resort, but whatever the reason, the glorious Ao Sane Cove and rocky surroundings remain largely off the casual visitors' radar and so retain a charming sleepy, ramshackle ambience.

Early writers about Phuket from Steve Rosse in his regular Sunday 'On the Rock' column in The Nation in the 1990s through to Derek Davies writing in the UK's Sunday Telegraph in



The beautiful Ao sane beach.

his 2003 article titled 'Never Mind the Marmite' waxed lyrical about the early ramshackle authenticity of the unspoilt Phuket of yesteryear. According to these romantic snapshots of a bygone Phuket, there was a lazy, laid-back, sand-between-the-toes ambience about beach life in those seemingly far-off days before mass tourism took hold and strangled the authenticity out of this lovely island replacing it with mayhem, pollution and stress.

Before the current pandemic, mayhem, pollution and stress (which sound like a firm of particularly venomous lawyers!) had sadly become the "new normal" of Phuket life which mass tourism had unleashed and as a result, quiet, relatively undiscovered corners such as Ao Sane, which offered a temporary escape to a saner, more charming, vision of island life, had become in-

creasingly rare jewels.

One of the few blessings of our current state of massively diminished tourism is a reinvigorated natural world and on Ao Sane Beach last week this was abundantly apparent. I had cycled there from Chalong by way of the steep Promthep and Windmill Hill climbs, but the beauty of cycling south down to Ao Sane is that you can also choose to take the benign, flatter routes via Soi Sai Yuan, or Wiset Rd, thereby eliminating the lung-bursting climbs.

I arrived on the beach by 5:30pm and found myself one of only five people on the three, rock-strewn, small beaches as a stunning sunset broke over the headland to the west of us.

As you'll know if you regularly read this 'Blazing Saddles' column, I am a great believer in combining cycling with other forms of exercise, particularly for

the upper body, in order create a more balanced overall workout (see Blazing Saddles – 'Strokin' in Phuket', Mar 28 2021) and so I had decided to do some snorkelling while I was at Ao Sane this particular evening.

I threw a snorkel mask around my neck and waded out into the churning waves, then ducked down into the magical underwater realm to see how 'Covid Days in Phuket' were playing out amongst the marine denizens. The answer seemed to be, "exceedingly well, thank you very much" by the looks of things! A noticeably large number of fish were frolicking down there in an explosion of piscine exuberance. Coral was rejuvenating, blue starfish were embracing the rocky crevices and sea urchins waved their spiny greetings. It was glorious to witness and represented a transcendent escape into a diverting and harmonious parallel world.

I spent almost an hour swimming about the rocky outcrops, before clambering back onto the beach to sit and watch the sunset with a cold rewarding drink. Certainly, times are tough for many in Phuket during this pandemic, but we are blessed indeed to have at hand escapes to delightful throw-back corners of Phuket such as Ao Sane to take us back to a far saner time!

*'Bicycling' Baz Daniel has been penning his Blazing Saddles column, chronicling his cycling adventures in Phuket and beyond, since 2013.*



**THAI**  
RESIDENTIAL

Phuket's No.1 Trusted Real Estate Advisor

**Beach Front Land  
For Sale  
in Khao Lak from  
2.781 Million THB per Rai**  
*Agents Welcome*

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



36 Rai (57,600 Sqm) Land for Sale Close to Beach in Khao Lak



245.55 Rai (392,880 Sqm) with Beachfront Land for Sale in Khao Lak (Can be Subdivided)



POP QUIZ

1. What was the original name of the City of Phoenix, Arizona?

2. Jean-Claude Juncker is a former Prime Minister of which country?

3. Name the only British Isles freshwater fish that can swim backwards?

4. Who was William Shakespeare's wife?

5. Jenson Button won the 2009 Formula One World Championship driving for which team?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across

1. Monroe's successor

6. Yammers

10. "Hamlet" has five

14. Storyteller

15. Unsightly

16. Binary

17. High enders

20. Fifth-century scourge

21. Border monitors (abbr.)

22. Absorbed, as a cost

23. Caesar's meal starters?

26. Bach composition

28. \_\_\_-l'Eglise, France

31. E or G, e.g.

32. International language

33. \_\_\_-time low

34. "Seize \_\_\_!"

35. Arctic jacket

38. High enders

42. \_\_\_-proof

43. Caviar source

44. Afflict

45. Gathered dust

46. Black gold

47. Dutch pottery city

49. 1940s-60s world leader

51. Dorm room staple
53. "We \_\_\_ the World"

54. Dash

56. Plaudits

60. High enders

64. 1952 Olympics host

65. Home, informally

66. Heart chambers

67. Western or Buy

68. Arabic miracle

69. Leather whip
- misconduct

27. Aroma

28. Truth

29. Scat queen, to friends

30. Hinged dredgers

34. "And I Love \_\_\_" (1964 tune)

35. Mature

36. "\_\_\_ I care!"

37. Early European

39. Bandy words

40. Hoaxes

41. Lady Macbeth, e.g.

46. Fish hawk

47. Strip of potency

48. Crude stone artifact

49. Bigwig

50. Clear, as a disk

52. "Andy Capp" cartoonist Smythe

55. "Empedocles on \_\_\_" (Matthew Arnold poem)

57. City on the Yamuna River

58. Dilute

59. Alone

61. Auction offering

62. \_\_\_ Today

63. Utmost
- Down

1. Eastern pooh-bah

2. "Dang!"

3. Common contraction

4. Fashionable

5. Funeral slabs

6. Pursue relentlessly

7. "Give it \_\_\_!"

8. Disheveled

9. Harmonize

10. Play title word

11. Relating to a steward

12. Spoonful, say

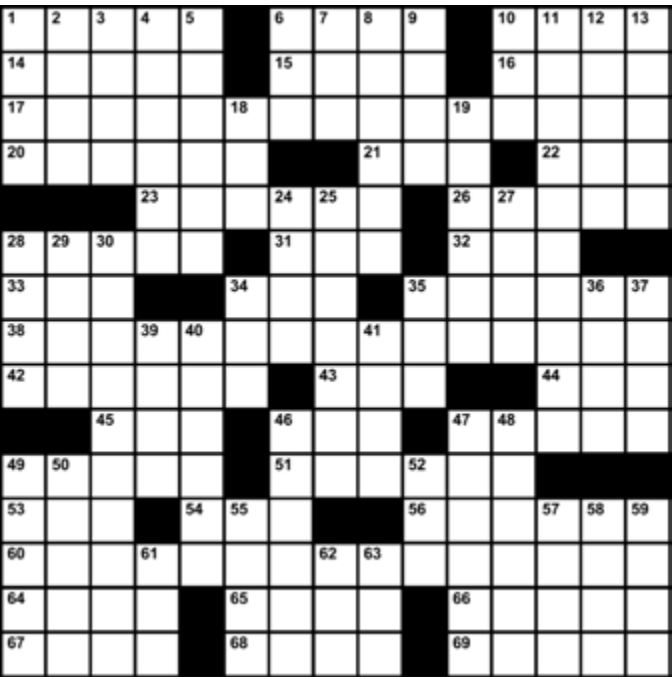
13. Cold shower?

18. Spicy stew

19. Corn dish

24. Like, with "to"

25. Mark for



Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Pumpkintown; 2) Anne Hathaway; 3) The eel; 4) Anne Hathaway (m. 1582-1616); 5) Brawn GP

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

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

15.4

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

1,000

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

117 million

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

6.24 billion

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

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW

Please don't lose hope — Bangla Rd. Photo: Li Shaokun

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

This week in history

**May 14, 1955**  
Eight Communist bloc countries, including the Soviet Union, sign the Warsaw Pact defense treaty.

**May 15, 1905**  
The City of Las Vegas, Spanish for "The Meadows", in Nevada is founded when 110 acres (0.4km 2 ), in what later would become downtown, are auctioned off.

**May 16, 1988**  
US Surgeon General C. Everett Koop officially reports that the addictive properties of nicotine are similar to those of heroin and cocaine.

**May 17, 1992**  
Three days of protests against Thai Prime Minister Suchinda Kraprayoon begin in Bangkok, leading to a military crackdown that results in 52 confirmed deaths, hundreds of injuries, many disappearances, and more than 3,500 arrests.

**May 18, 1980**  
Mount St Helens erupts in Washington State, the most disastrous volcanic eruption in US history, killing 57 people and causing US\$3 billion in damage.

**May 19, 1962**  
A birthday salute to U.S. President John F. Kennedy takes place at Madison Square Garden, New York City. The highlight is Marilyn Monroe's rendition of "Happy Birthday".

**May 20, 1570**  
Cartographer Abraham Ortelius issues Theatrum Orbis Terrarum, the first modern atlas. Source: Wikipedia

Protesters and military personnel during the Black May protests. Photos: Ian Lamont [harvardextended.blogspot.com]



# Trades & Services



The Phuket News



@thephuketnews

## CORPORATE SERVICES

**VERTIGO**  
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

"Powerful Videos For All Industries"  
Boost Awareness, Visibility & Build Trust

f v | 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

**AVC ENGINEERING**

Home Automation    MEP Engineering  
Solar Power    Lighting Design

081 970 0677    AVCPHUKET.COM

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

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

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

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

22/12 Moo 8 Chaofa R.d west Chalong A Muang Phuket 83130

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

Baan Wana - Cherg Talay  
Tel : 076 620168

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

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

## PERSONAL SERVICE

**New Year – New You**

Get the life you want with support from Expat Life Coach.

New Year offer, only 2,500 baht for first 90 minute consultation.

Contact us today to arrange an informal chat  
expatlifecoach@outlook.com

## PERSONAL SERVICE

**We Clean**  
Phuket.net

Covid-19 Disinfection Service

20% OFF - quote code PN05

081 737 7850  
fb.me/WeCleanPhuketNet.EN  
LINE ID: WeCleanPhuketNet

## PROPERTY SERVICES

**LUXURY VILLA CLUB**  
DIRECT ★ RENTALS ★ SALES

Villa and Yacht Websites  
Photography, Videos, Drone  
Villa Rental, Sales & Marketing  
Property Inventories  
25 Years Experience

Joanne@luxuryvillaclub.com

## OTHER

**MACNELS SHIPPING PHUKET**

ANY SHIPMENT ANY WHERE

☎ OFFICE: 076 603907  
☎ MOBILE: CALL PETER 0863645862  
www.macnellsphuket.com

**WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?**

The **Phuket News** Your Island – Your Paper  
Новости **Пхукета** Твой остров – твои газеты  
ข่าว **ภูเก็ต**

**WINDOW ON PHUKET**  
The **map of PHUKET** Where to **eat** in PHUKET  
English 中文 Русский  
**LIVE 89.5** **NEWS TV**

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th



**FRI**

**14 MAY**



**RESTAURANT BAR**  
 98/18 Vises Road Rawai  
 Oli: 081/891 4381  
[www.shakersphuket.com](http://www.shakersphuket.com)  
[shakersphuket@gmail.com](mailto:shakersphuket@gmail.com)  
 GPS: N07 46.971 E098 19.001

### Friday Mussels night

1.2 Kg mussels served with French Fries Your choice, Your style: Marinier, Provencal, Garlic & cream or Thai style We have a kid's playground zone. Price vary from 295 baht to 350 baht depending on choice ordered. [www.shakersphuket.com](http://www.shakersphuket.com) [www.facebook.com/shakersphuket](http://www.facebook.com/shakersphuket)

**SUN**

**16 MAY**



**RESTAURANT BAR**  
 98/18 Vises Road Rawai  
 Oli: 081/891 4381  
[www.shakersphuket.com](http://www.shakersphuket.com)  
[shakersphuket@gmail.com](mailto:shakersphuket@gmail.com)  
 GPS: N07 46.971 E098 19.001

### Sunday roast

12PM – 9PM: All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet Beef, Pork & Lamb – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Car-

rots, Fried mushrooms, Grilled Tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes – Gravy, Mushroom sauce, Horse raddish, Mint Sauce. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 350 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 175 baht P.P. [www.shakersphuket.com](http://www.shakersphuket.com) [www.facebook.com/shakersphuket](http://www.facebook.com/shakersphuket)

**MON**

**17 MAY**



**RESTAURANT BAR**  
 98/18 Vises Road Rawai  
 Oli: 081/891 4381  
[www.shakersphuket.com](http://www.shakersphuket.com)  
[shakersphuket@gmail.com](mailto:shakersphuket@gmail.com)  
 GPS: N07 46.971 E098 19.001

### Monday BBQ night

6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Prawns & Squids, salad buffet, Baked potatoes, potato salad & various 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](http://www.shakersphuket.com) [www.facebook.com/shakersphuket](http://www.facebook.com/shakersphuket)



**WED**

**19 MAY**



**RESTAURANT BAR**  
 98/18 Vises Road Rawai  
 Oli: 081/891 4381  
[www.shakersphuket.com](http://www.shakersphuket.com)  
[shakersphuket@gmail.com](mailto:shakersphuket@gmail.com)  
 GPS: N07 46.971 E098 19.001

### Wednesday Ribs night

6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ Pork Ribs served with Salad Buffet, Potato Salad & Choice of Sauces.



We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 325 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. [www.shakersphuket.com](http://www.shakersphuket.com) [www.facebook.com/shakersphuket](http://www.facebook.com/shakersphuket)

**EVERY DAY**



### PVC Phuket Food Challenge 2021

PVCPhuket.com presents the Phuket Food Challenge! Are you sick of paying for your meal even though you finished the whole thing? Running now at Lets Meat Phuket Town, Islander Rawai and Aussie Bar Patong you can earn your meal, worth 495 baht, for free! If you can finish your special sausage sandwich in less than 20 minutes! Check out Phuket Food Challenge on Facebook for full details. [nathan@pvcphuket.com](mailto:nathan@pvcphuket.com)

**CARS, TRUCKS FOR SALE**



#### 18 Seater Mitsubishi Bus x 2

18 Seater Mitsubishi Bus (2 buses), Year December 2011. Yellow Registration Plates. THB 950,000 (each). Contact: Robin Lee on Mobile 061 829 8293.

**PROPERTY FOR SALE**



#### Land for sale near Mission Heights

Land is 1,656 square meters approx on 3 Chanote titles. Has concrete road, water and electric. Small quiet village close to Mission Heights. I'm looking for 4.5 million Baht, negotiable. Call 093 629 4400.

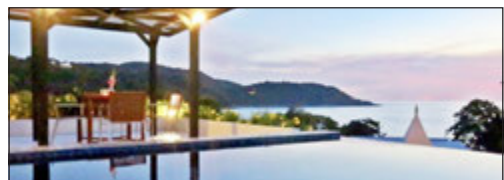
**PROPERTY FOR RENT**



#### HALF PRICE CONDO LAGUNA AREA

200m to Bangtao, 2 pools, Jacuzzi, sauna, gym, BBQ, 140 sqm. Free: bikes, electric scooters, drinking water, coconuts, 3TVs, Netflix, 200TV channels. HALF PRICE 076 324404 [phuket@casuarinashores.co](mailto:phuket@casuarinashores.co)

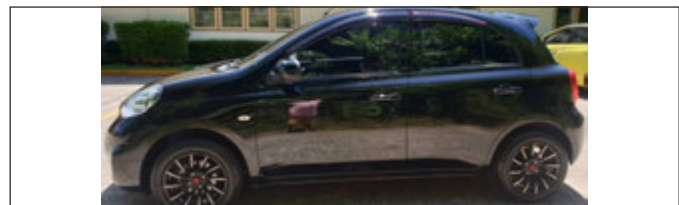
**PROPERTY FOR RENT**



#### Kata Gardens Private Pool

Kata Gardens Private Pool Penthouses. Walk to Beach Ocean View 1, 2 and 3 Bedroom Units Available. 2 Common Area Pools. [plrkata@outlook.com](mailto:plrkata@outlook.com), +66909959767, Graham Herdman

**CARS, TRUCKS FOR SALE**



#### 2017 late model Nissan March

Bought Oct 2017. 51,000 KM. Excellent Condition. Upgraded Rims, tint & accessories. All service at Nissan in Phuket. One owner. Call 098 269 5814.

**CARS, TRUCKS FOR SALE**



#### Car rent @ fair covid prices

Mitsubishi Xpander, top model new car, monthly price B17,000. Car from 400 Bht daily, 8,000 monthly. Toyota Vios top model new, from 10,000 Bht monthly. Call 0848474377. Email: [stigisaan@gmail.com](mailto:stigisaan@gmail.com)



**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.com](mailto:help@aaphuket.com)  
 [www.aaphuket.com](http://www.aaphuket.com)





**QSI International School of Phuket**  
 +66-076-304-312  
[phuket@qsi.org](mailto:phuket@qsi.org)  
[www.qsi.org/phuket/](http://www.qsi.org/phuket/)

**QSI Phuket is looking for Certified Native English Speaking Teachers for 2020-2021 school year**

**Preschool/Kindergarten Teacher**

**Qualifications:**

- Native English Speaking Teachers
- Bachelor or higher degree in Education Only
- Experience in teaching is required
- Teaching license is preferred

**Interested teachers**  
**Please send email with the following attachments:**

- A cover letter with stating the position you are applying for
- Your resume with a recent photo
- A scan of your education certificates and transcripts
- A scan of your passport's photo page

**Send CV to [Phuket@qsi.org](mailto:Phuket@qsi.org)**  
**<https://www.qsi.org/thailand/pkt> Tel. 076 304 312**

**SUCCESS FOR ALL**





# STAY UP TO DATE

with our daily/weekly  
email updates on  
everything Phuket



[thephuketnews.com/subscribe-newsalert-daily.php](http://thephuketnews.com/subscribe-newsalert-daily.php)



# Hamilton pinches Spain win

## Briton's daring dash after inspired pit stop beats Verstappen

### FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato  
michael@boxofneutrals.com

Lewis Hamilton pulled off a daring dash to pinch victory from Max Verstappen and extend his championship lead at the Spanish Grand Prix last Sunday (May 9).

Hamilton took his 100<sup>th</sup> pole on Saturday but couldn't hold the lead on the first lap, with Verstappen getting the better launch and cutting down the inside of the Mercedes at the first turn.

The Dutchman made an early break, but the Briton made steady gains in the first stint to get back within a second on lap 25, in time for the first pit stop window.

Red Bull Racing pre-empted a Mercedes move by pitting Verstappen, but Mercedes held its nerve, keeping Hamilton out on old tyres until lap 29.

He emerged with a six-second gap to the lead, but the winds were starting to turn in Spain. On fresh rubber Hamilton was substantially faster than Verstappen, and in only three laps he was all over the back of Verstappen and haranguing him for the lead.

But passing is difficult at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, and the longer the pair ran on their tyres, the less of an advantage Hamilton's newer rubber offered.

It was then that the Mercedes pit wall pulled a blinder, hauling



Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton battle at the first turn of the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix last Sunday (May 8). Photo: AFP

Hamilton into the pits for a surprise second stop on lap 43, handing him 23-second deficit with 23 laps to close and pass.

Such was Hamilton's pace – and so ailing were Verstappen's tyres – that he got the job done in just 17, allowing him to cruise home in the final six laps to claim a 98<sup>th</sup> career victory.

"I feel great after this. I feel like we could go again," a jubilant Hamilton said. "It was a long way

to come back from 20-odd seconds back, but it was a good gamble. Really great strategy by the team.

"Just a remarkable job by everyone here in this team through and through. What a day."

#### STOIC IN DEFEAT

With three wins and a second place from the first four races, this is Hamilton's strongest start to a season in his career, and he now leads the championship by 14 points.

Verstappen was stoic in defeat, the Dutchman admitting that the challenging and technical Barcelona track proved Red Bull Racing remains a step behind Mercedes in pure pace.

"In a way I could see it coming," he said. "There was not much we could've done."

"It shows we are not where we want to be. We have to push hard and catch up because we are a little bit slower."

Valtteri Bottas finished a distant third in the second Mercedes after falling to fourth on the first lap behind Ferrari's Charles Leclerc. Within a matter of laps he'd lost touch with the battle for the lead, and though he was able to strategise his way past the slower red car, he was 26 seconds off the lead by the time he reached the flag.

"It's a bit of a shame, but at least we made it to the podium," he said. "As a team we're still scoring solid points but not perfect points, so there's still work to do."

Leclerc came home a strong fourth for Ferrari in a race quiet once Bottas found a way through to the podium.

Sergio Perez recovered from eighth on the grid to finish fifth. The Mexican spent much of the race behind McLaren's Daniel Ricciardo before snatching the place from the Australian with a bold late-braking move around the outside of turn one.

Ricciardo came home sixth, equalling his best result for McLaren this season in a much improved performance after a difficult start to his career in orange.

Carlos Sainz followed Ricciardo over the line less than a second adrift for seventh ahead of Lando Norris in the second McLaren.

Esteban Ocon lost places late for Alpine thanks to an overly ambitious tyre strategy to finish ninth, and Pierre Gasly score one point for 10<sup>th</sup> for AlphaTauri.

## Osaka casts doubt on Tokyo Olympics

### OLYMPICS

JAPANESE TENNIS STAR Naomi Osaka has said she is "not really sure" the delayed Tokyo Olympics should go ahead as the city battles a surge of coronavirus cases less than three months before the start of the Games.

A virus state of emergency in the Japanese capital and other parts of the country was extended last week as organisers weigh up whether to press ahead in the face of mounting pressure to cancel the global spectacle.

When asked if it were correct to host the Games in the middle of a global pan-

demic, the 23-year-old reigning US and Australian women's champion told the *BBC* "to be honest, I'm not really sure" if they should be held as planned from July 23.

"I'm an athlete, and of course my immediate thought is that I want to play in the Olympics," the four-time Grand Slam winner said at

the Rome WTA tournament.

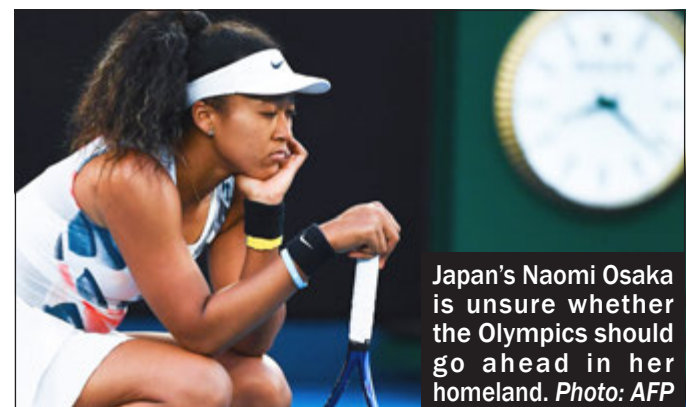
"But as a human, I would say we're in a pandemic, and if people aren't healthy, and if they're not feeling safe, then it's definitely a really big cause for concern."

Osaka's uncertainty was echoed by compatriot Kei Nishikori who admitted it could be difficult to host the Olympics even behind closed doors due to the high number of athletes expected to take part.

"I don't know what they are thinking, and I don't know how much they are thinking about how they are gonna make a bubble, because this is not just 100 people like typical tournaments," he said after beating Fabio Fognini in the Italian Open first round on Monday.

"It's 10,000 people in the village and playing tournaments. So I don't think it's easy, especially with what's happening right now in Japan. It's not doing good."

More than 10,000 athletes from 200 countries and regions are set to travel to Tokyo for



Japan's Naomi Osaka is unsure whether the Olympics should go ahead in her homeland. Photo: AFP

the Games, with a decision expected in June on how many domestic fans, if any at all, can attend.

Meanwhile, International Olympic Committee chief Thomas Bach has been forced to postpone a visit to Japan after the coronavirus state of emergency was extended.

Bach's trip was scheduled for May 17-18 but organisers "decided to postpone it based on various situations including the [government's] extension of a virus state of emergency".

Japan's state of emergency, which is less strict than blanket lockdowns in other countries, was last week extended to the end of May in the hardest hit

regions, including Tokyo.

Seiko Hashimoto, president of the Tokyo 2020 Games, said last Friday (May 7) that it would be "very difficult" to arrange Bach's visit given the state of emergency.

Despite a smaller death toll than many countries, Japan's vaccine rollout is moving slowly and some areas have seen record cases as more infectious variants drive fresh waves of contagion.

More than 300,000 people have signed an online petition launched last week titled "Cancel the Tokyo Olympics to protect our lives" in a bid to sway the government and Olympic officials. *AFP*

**QSI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF PHUKET**  
AMERICAN CURRICULUM • MASTERY LEARNING

CONTACT US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION @ 076 304 312 • QSI.ORG/PHUKET



# Relegation confirmed for Baggies and Fulham

## FOOTBALL

Ben Tirebuck

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

The fate of both Fulham's and West Bromwich Albion's season has finally been confirmed as both teams joined Sheffield United in relegation from the Premier League.

The Baggies were soundly beaten 3-1 by Arsenal last Sunday (May 9) to condemn them to the drop and inflict a first relegation from the top-tier on manager Sam Allardyce.

"It is a disappointing night but we have to take it on the chin," former England manager Allardyce told the *BBC* post-match. "Everyone has to accept it and recover quickly."

It remains to be seen whether Allardyce will continue as manager as the club look for an immediate return from the Championship.

Likewise with Scott Parker at Fulham, although initial speculation suggests he will remain in the hot-seat as the Cottagers look to bounce straight back up. Their fate



Fulham striker Aleksandar Mitrovic reacts after his team's loss to Burnley on Monday evening (May 10) confirmed their relegation from the Premier League. Photo: AFP

was sealed on Monday evening as Burnley won 2-0 at Craven Cottage

In Parker Fulham have a manager who has already achieved the feat, after he guided the side to promotion via the play-offs last season after they were relegated the previous year.

He has received extensive praise for his side's style of play and they have recorded impressive victories away at Liverpool, Everton and Leicester City.

However, since the win at

Anfield in March they managed to amass only a single point from the subsequent seven games – relegation form in anyone's language.

Posing a serious goal threat was arguably their greatest downfall as they managed a paltry 25 goals in 35 games with only Sheffield United hitting the target fewer times this season.

"I'm hurt, I'm gutted and the players are," said Parker after relegation was confirmed.

"Everyone at the football club has tried everything pos-

sible to stay in this division. The facts are we've fallen a little bit short in our quality."

Elsewhere, Manchester United's 3-1 win at Aston Villa meant Manchester City's title celebrations were put on hold after City themselves lost 1-2 at home to Chelsea. However, if by the time this report hits the streets United has dropped points in either midweek game against Leicester or Liverpool, the title will have already gone to their cross-city rivals.

Arguably the biggest shock of last weekend was Newcastle trouncing Leicester 4-2 at the King Power Stadium. It indicated that unrest in the northeast maybe isn't as bad as often portrayed and there could be reason for optimism going into next season.

Leeds United beat a tired-looking Tottenham 3-1, a scoreline that belied the dominance of the home team who have had a remarkably impressive return to the top-flight and also have much to look forward to next season.

West Ham's top four aspirations took a serious hit as they were beaten 1-0 by Everton.

## IPL 'can't happen' while COVID rages, says Ganguly

### CRICKET

THIS YEAR'S SUSPENDED Indian Premier League (IPL) cannot be completed in India while the country battles a raging coronavirus crisis, India's cricket chief Sourav Ganguly has said.

The IPL was abruptly halted at the halfway stage last week after several players became infected. India is reporting nearly 4,000 deaths and about 400,000 new cases a day.

Ganguly, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, said there was no way for the lucrative tournament to resume before India play the final of the World Test Championship against New Zealand in England on June 18.

"Too early to say how we can find a slot to complete the IPL," Ganguly told *Sportsstar* magazine in India last weekend.

"There are lots of organisational hazards like 14-day quarantine. It can't happen in India. This quarantine is tough to handle," he added.

Last year's IPL was moved to the United Arab Emirates because of the pandemic and a number of English coun-



India's cricket chief Sourav Ganguly. Photo: AFP

ties have offered to host the remainder of this IPL.

As pandemic case numbers took off in India, more than 10 players and support staff in the IPL teams tested positive in the biosecure "bubbles" set up for the league.

The IPL was halted after four players from Royal Challengers Bangalore, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Delhi Capitals tested positive.

Most foreign players have since left India.

New Zealand wicketkeeper-batsman Tim Seifert and Chennai Super Kings' Australian batting coach Michael Hussey remain under treatment after testing positive. Hussey recently returned a negative test. AFP

## English clubs dominate euro competitions

### FOOTBALL

HAD A TEPID ARSENAL managed to find a way to overcome Villarreal last Thursday (May 6) in their Europa League semi-final second leg it would have meant a clean sweep for English teams contesting the two major European club competitions this season.

Instead, the "Yellow Submarine" will meet Manchester United in the final in Gdansk on May 26 after the Red Devils overcame Italian side Roma 8-5 on aggregate.

The 2-1 aggregate victory was extra sweet for Villarreal's manager Unai Emery who was dismissed as Arsenal head coach in December 2019.

Emery has developed something of a love affair with the competition and this will be the fifth time he has taken a team to the final stage. Remarkably, he won it with Sevilla three years on the trot between 2014 and 2016 before taking Arsenal to the final in 2019 where they lost to Chelsea.

United will be the fa-



Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel is in his second consecutive Champions League final. Photo: AFP

vourites but it would be imprudent to discount Emery and the uncanny hold he has on the competition.

Over in the more glamorous Champions League, English teams continue their euro-stranglehold as Manchester City and Chelsea contest the final on May 29 in, at time of press, Istanbul.

City were exceptional in both legs of their semi-final against Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) as were Chelsea who overcame Real Madrid 3-1 on aggregate.

It means Thomas Tuchel makes the Champions League final for the second consecutive year after he guided PSG to the showpiece last season, where they lost

to Bayern Munich.

For City it is their debut in the pinnacle match of European club football, a trophy that their Abu Dhabi state backed owners have coveted for many years. It explains why they have spent so lavishly on player signings over the years and why they recruited Pep Guardiola as manager.

Irrespective of the winners, it demonstrates the financial clout and dominance of the Premier League and explains why top teams in the Italian and Spanish leagues were so keen for the recent ill-fated European Super League to take flight as they seek a more level playing field. Ben Tirebuck

psd Pvcphuket.com Presents psd  
Safe, secure and soundproof windows, Balustrade glass and UV window films

THE FIRST ONE TO BEAT ALL 3 CHALLENGES WINS 1000 THB TO SPEND ON FOOD AND BEVERAGE IN ANY OF THE RESTAURANTS BELOW

**PHUKET FOOD CHALLENGE**

THE FOOD IS FOR FREE IF YOU CAN FINISH IT IN 20 MINUTES IF NOT IT'S 495 THB

LET'S MEAT, PHUKET TOWN ISLANDER, RAWAI AUSSIE BAR, PATONG

In co-operation with thephuketnews.com The Phuket News



editor3@classactmedia.co.th

# Sport



**Relegation for Baggies and Fulham > p15**



Ariya Jutanugarn celebrates with the trophy after becoming the first Thai to win the Honda LPGA Thailand golf tournament last Sunday. Photo: Lillian Suwanrumpha

# HISTORY MAKER

## GOLF

**The Phuket News**  
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Ariya Jutanugarn became the first Thai player to win the Honda LPGA Thailand tournament after a drama-packed final hole at the Siam Country Club Old Course in Pattaya last Sunday (May 9).

Ariya staged one of her biggest fightbacks by firing a final round nine-under-par 63 for an overall score of -22 to become the first Thai to win the tournament since its launch 15 years ago.

By lifting her 11<sup>th</sup> LPGA Tour title with her winning

four-day total of 22-under-par 266, former world number one Ariya also broke a three-year winless streak.

Former amateur champion and compatriot Atthaya Thitikul, who missed a birdie putt on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole to force a play-off, was one shot back overall and carded a four-under 68 on the final day of play.

The victory had been a long time coming for former world number one Ariya, who first played the course as an 11-year-old and went close to winning in 2016.

"I've been waiting for so long," a teary Ariya said of her victory afterwards.

"I'm proud of myself. This means the world to me because

one of my biggest dreams is to be able to win in Thailand, and I finally did," she added.

"I had a tough time the last two years. Sometimes, I tell myself I want to rest and stop [playing golf] for a while. But at the same time, I know I cannot give up as I need to try harder and one day, that win will come again."

For her victory, Ariya received US\$240,000 (B7.5 million) in prize money.

Ariya started her final round on Sunday five shots off the lead in ninth place but fired an ominous warning to her rivals early on with three successive birdies starting from the first hole.

After making pars on holes

four and five, the two-time major champion stormed towards the turn with three birdies in her next four holes.

She continued her birdie blitz on 10 and 12 and remained steady with another five straight pars from the 13<sup>th</sup> hole before a closing birdie on 18 sealed victory.

### DELAY IN PLAY

Heavy storms forced a delay in play for over an hour which Ariya admitted did not make things easy on her nerves as she had finished her round and was waiting to see how rival Atthaya fared once play resumed.

Atthaya, who had the chance to force a play-off

with a birdie at the last hole, could only manage to close with a par which sealed an emotional victory for the 25-year-old Ariya.

"This is a new experience, having been so close to a win," said Atthaya who won twice on the Ladies European Tour when she was an amateur.

"On that last putt I just felt, okay, give me one good one and I'll do the best I can. I'm already proud of myself that I could do the best I can. Although I missed it, I am still proud of myself."

Another Thai player who delivered a brilliant final round was 21-year-old Pajaree Ananarukarn. The 2019 LPGA Rookie of the Year finished

with a 9-under 63 for a tied 13<sup>th</sup> place.

Thailand's Patty Tavatanakit, who held a one-shot lead after three rounds, ran out of steam on the final day and could manage only a 70.

The ANA Inspiration champion finished tied for fourth on 268 with South Koreans Ryu So-Yeon and Amy Yang, and American Angel Yin.

The two lowest scores of the day were both by Thai players – Ariya and Pajaree.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha congratulated Ariya on Monday saying she set a good example with her efforts and determination to overcome adversities.

# COVID cases rock national football teams

## FOOTBALL

THREE NATIONAL TEAM footballers, two men and one woman, have been diagnosed with COVID-19, forcing an immediate suspension of practice and quarantine for all other players and staff at the camp.

The Football Association of Thailand (FA) disclosed last Saturday (May 8) that six people – two players

and four officials – had contracted the virus and were either now in isolation or being treated in hospital.

The infections occurred as the team was preparing for upcoming mini-tournaments ahead of the Asian qualifiers for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

One player and one official from the women's national football team have also tested positive, according to the FA which has been testing

both the men's and women's teams every seven days.

The players and staff who tested positive were contacted by medical workers who asked about their condition and checked their personal timelines.

The players and staff whose COVID-19 test results were negative have gone into isolation in their rooms at the football camps which is away from public areas.

The FA said the health authorities will carry out swab tests every 3-5 days until they can be certain of a COVID-free environment at the camp.

The players and staff have all received the first of two doses of vaccine.

Practice has been suspended while the admission of another batch of players to the camp has also been deferred indefinitely.



Thailand players attend a training session last Thursday (May 6). Photo: Bangkok Post

When practice resumes, it might take a different form to ensure maximum public health safety, according to the FA. Bangkok Post