

ALRO TRIES TO DEFUSE NUI BEACH DISPUTE > PAGE 3

ROLLING ON



Traffic tailback at the Heroines Monument. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

PEAK HOUR TRUCK BAN, NEW BUS SERVICE ANNOUNCED TO EASE TRAFFIC JAMS

The Phuket News
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All trucks will be banned from travelling on any major roads in Phuket during peak traffic hours starting July 1, following an order issued by Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum.

"Phuket Province is facing traffic problems due to an imbalance between the number of vehicles and the available road space," said the order, published online last Friday (June 7).

"The growth of tourism and tourism-related businesses has led to an increase in the number of public service vehicles, cargo transport,

and vehicles serving tourists, which is the main cause of severe traffic congestion," the order said.

"The Phuket Provincial Police studied the causes of traffic congestion and identified two approaches to solve the problem: long-term and urgent solutions. The congestion is mainly caused by large trucks using the roads, especially during rush hours, which disrupts traffic flow and requires immediate attention.

"The police collected information and presented it to the Land Traffic System Management Subcommittee of Phuket Province on May 17, 2024. The meeting concluded with a resolution for the Phuket Provincial Police to issue an announcement specifying routes and times when driving, stop-

ping, and parking are prohibited for trucks with three or more axles and 10 or more tyres in Phuket Province," the order concluded.

The order was authorised under Section 139 (1) (2) of the Land Traffic Act B.E. 2522 (1979), the order noted.

The order applies to all roads in Phuket under the jurisdiction of the Phuket Highways Office.

The periods during which driving, stopping or parking of trucks along main roads were given as from 6am to 9am and from 4pm to 7pm every day "except government holidays or public holidays".

While the Phuket Highways Office also administers some roads in lower Phang Nga, including the section of Route 402 from the Khok

Kloi Intersection in Phang Nga up to and including the bridges onto the island, the peak-hour ban on trucks will apply only to Phuket Highways Office roads south of the Tha Chat Chai Check Point, where all traffic from the mainland enters the province.

NEW BUS

The Phuket Provincial Land Transport Control Committee has finally agreed to request permission to operate a new bus route operating from Phuket airport to Rawai.

The confirmation came at a meeting of the committee chaired by Phuket Vice Governor Sattha Thongkham at Phuket Provincial Hall on June 5.

The new service to be proposed, designated a 'Category 4' service...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



NEWS PAGE 3

DSI raid targets illegal nominees



LIFE PAGE 8

'Mad cow' boost for blood donors



SPORT PAGE 16

Filipinos rule at Laguna Marathon



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News



Brit caught basking in the nude > p4

Environment Day takes a hit

The Phuket News
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Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO), along with Phuket Town Mayor Saroj Angkanapilas led an event at Saphan Hin on June 5 to mark World Environment Day.

Mr Rewat explained that the United Nations established June 5 as World Environment Day to commemorate global environmental cooperation, first observed on June 5, 1972. This year, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has focused on 'Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience'.

The event in Phuket aimed to emphasise the importance of land restoration and drought resilience in Phuket and foster environmental awareness and conservation among the youth and citizens of Phuket.

The PPAO's initiative was supported by several local organisations, including Phuket City Municipality, Rassada Municipality, Phuket Provincial Environmental Office, Phuket Natural Resources and Environment Office, Phuket Land Development Station, Phuket Agricultural Office, Phuket Public Health Office, Marine National Park Operation Center 2 (based at



Photo: DMCR

Sirinath National Park), the Mai Khao Sustainable Foundation, Rotary Club of Phuket, Prince of Songkla University Phuket Campus, Phuket Rajabhat University other local educational institutions along with government agencies, private sectors, and volunteer environmental groups.

The activities aimed to engage 350 participants and included:

- Exhibitions on environmental care, land restoration, and drought adaptation
- A painting contest reflecting soil restoration themes
- Displays of eco-friendly products
- A panel discussion on 'Global Warming... Can

Phuket Stay Cool?'

- A youth forum on the topic 'Future Sustainable City'

Mr Rewat expressed hope that the event would raise environmental awareness and inspire collective action among all sectors in Phuket. He emphasised the need for behavioural changes to ensure sustainable environmental preservation.

Global environmental crises such as climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution were critical issues, Mr Rewat said.

He called for collective efforts to nurture environmental consciousness among youth and foster a culture of sustainable resource use. "By

setting a good example, adults can help make Phuket a livable and sustainable city for future generations," he said.

TAKING A HIT

The June 5 eco-celebrations followed the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) confirming coral bleaching at reefs off the Racha islands, south of Phuket.

The DMCR conducted a survey from May 30-June 1, during which officials inspected areas at Ao Rang Kai and Ao Banana (Banana Bay) at Racha Noi Island and at Ao Tu and Ao La at Racha Yai Island. The areas are all popular tourist sites.

Coral bleaching was found

affecting natural areas such as rocks, branches, glazes, giant clams and pale anemones, said a report by the DMCR.

The affected areas included natural reefs at depths of 3.5-10 metres, and at artificial reefs at depths of 10-13m, noted the report.

The water temperature was recorded at 31°C.

However, the survey team did report seeing two leopard sharks, about 2.5-3m long, in the Kai Rang Bay area, which they took to be a good sign.

Seafarer Divers provided the boat and the diving equipment for officers to conduct the survey, the DMCR noted.

Diving Instructor Thawatchai Jiwsuwan, a volunteer joining the survey, will compile the images and a report to be submitted to DMCR for further consideration, the report said.

Further, just one day after World Environment Day, two young hawksbill sea turtles were rescued from being tangled in discarded fishing nets at Mai Khao Beach.

Local resident Winai Trankit alerted officials from the Upper Andaman Sea and Coastal Resources Research Center of the two turtles rescued on June 6.

Two sea turtles had been found entangled in marine debris, specifically discarded

fishing nets, in front of Mai Khao Palm Beach Resort Hotel, Mr Winai said.

DMCR officials arrived at the scene and provided immediate assistance. One of the turtles, identified as a hawksbill turtle, was found to be in good health with no visible injuries. The team promptly released this turtle back into the sea.

The second hawksbill turtle, however, was in a weakened state. DMCR officials carefully extracted the turtle from the debris and conducted an on-site physical examination.

The juvenile hawksbill turtle, with a shell 31.5cm wide and 35cm long, and weighing approximately 3.2kg, showed signs of physical weakness but had a generally good body condition, reported as "BCS 3/5".

The turtle was transported to the Sireetarn Marine Endangered Animals Rescue Centre in Phuket at Cape Panwa for further medical evaluation and rehabilitation.

Marine biologists at the centre are conducting detailed health assessments and initiating the necessary treatments to restore the turtle's health. Once fully recovered, the turtle will be released back into its natural habitat, the officers confirmed.

PLTO to 'request permission' for new bus from airport to Rawai

Continued from page 1

...operating 'Line 8580', will operate between Phuket International Airport and Rawai, using the bypass road to avoid traffic in Phuket Town.

The route was first approved by the committee on Oct 27, 2011, and later received endorsement from the Central Land Transport Control Board on Aug 22, 2012, said an official report of the meeting.

"This route aims to improve travel convenience for both residents and tourists in Phuket," said the report.

However, no explanation was given as to why the service had not been introduced for more than a decade after the Central Land Transport Control Board, which approves all public transport services in the country, gave its



PLTO Chief Adcha Buachan.
Photo: PR Phuket

approval.

Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) Chief Adcha Buachan told the meeting that the PLTO received from private operators "applications of interest" in operating the proposed new bus service from Feb 27 to Mar 28 this year, the official report confirmed.

However, *The Phuket News*

has been unable to find any public notices issued by the PLTO announcing the opening of the "applications of interest".

The proposed route of the new bus service traverses 51km, starting from the bus parking area at Phuket airport, heading south then turning onto Route 4031, then turning south onto Thepkasattri Rd (Route 402),

then continuing onto the bypass road and down Chao Fa West Rd to Rawai.

From the "applications of interest" received, the proposed bus fares will be:

Phuket Airport to Muang Mai, Thalang Town and Tha Reua: B50

Phuket Airport to Darasamut Intersection (near Central shopping mall): B80

Phuket Airport to Nakok intersection (near NT office on Chao Fa West Rd in Chalong): B110

Phuket Airport to Chalong Circle: B120

Phuket Airport to Baan Rawai: B150

The proposed operation will use standard 'Type 2' buses, which are categorised by the land Transport Department as "2nd class air-conditioned buses with no more than 30 seats", Mr Adcha said

Between eight to 10 buses will be in operation, providing a minimum of 32 trips per day (16 round trips), the report noted.

"The meeting concluded with unanimous agreement to request permission for the operation of this new bus route, which is expected to significantly enhance the transportation infrastructure in Phuket Province," the report concluded.

PLTO Chief Mr Adcha, by no small coincidence, on June 5 also attended a meeting at the Dara Hotel to meet with what the PLTO in its announcement described as "the first small group meeting of the data analysis study project regarding traveling by public transport".

The meeting was organised by the Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning (OTP) and chaired by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat.

ALRO checks Nui Beach land

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The Phuket branch of the Agricultural Land Reform Office (ALRO) conducted a survey of a disputed land area totaling some 68 rai at Nui Beach on June 5 in the hope of finally resolving the ongoing dispute over land plot boundaries in the area.

The inspection followed a violent assault at the beach last month. The assault broke out after a heated dispute over two claimed plots of land at the tourist-popular beach.

Police issued a statement to assure the public that they were working quickly in response to the assault. At last report, police had charged one of the main assailants, Chalothorn 'Boy' Chotipanang, with assault and at least three others were to be charged for their role in the attack.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum specifically made clear, in defence of allegations posted online, that police had no vested interest in the matter and were committed to taking legal action against any criminal offenses from either side.

Following up on the incident, Rear Admiral Tinnakorn Kantantamee, Deputy Director of the Phuket branch of Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC), which serves as the political arm of the Thai military, led an inspection at Nui Beach last week.

Joining the ALRO inspection team on June 5 were officials from the Phuket Forestry Center, the Phuket branch of ISOC, Karon Police



Photo: PR Phuket

along with local district officials, Karon Municipality officials and Phuket MP Chalermpong Saengdee.

The surveyed land, designated for agricultural use within the Agricultural Land Reform Zone (ALRO), lies adjacent to Nui Beach and the Nak Kerd Mountain Range National Reserve Forest.

The dispute centres around conflicting claims to an 18-rai portion of the land.

Chalothorn 'Boy' Chotipanang, charged for the assault on May 23 and who acts as land caretaker for his father, Thana Chotiphanang, claims ownership of the ALRO land.

Singha Pengkaew, the victim of the gang assault on May 23, claims possession of the disputed Nui Beach plot.

The Phuket Provincial Police Special Operations Unit was also present to maintain order during the survey, the report confirmed.

Manit Eksuwan, a legal expert at the ALRO Phuket office, explained that the survey aimed to delineate the boundaries of the ALRO and forest areas to create a definitive map for resolving the dispute.

"Four key points were identified for initial surveying, and once the map is finalised, further action will be taken against those found trespassing in the ALRO area. The conclusions from this survey are expected within the week," Mr Manit said.

Sorasak Rananan, Director of the Phuket Forestry Center, highlighted the collaborative effort among vari-

ous sectors. Surveyors from Forest Resource Management Office 12, Krabi Branch, joined to ensure clarity in the operations. The reported encroachment on Nui Beach is still under investigation, he said.

Meanwhile, Karon Police Chief Pol Col Khundet Na Nongkhai, explained that police had a dual role in the issue: assisting ALRO and forestry officials in the boundary survey; and collecting evidence for ongoing investigations.

"Significant progress has been made, with investigators focusing on identifying the extent of state damage and gathering complete evidence to expedite the case to the public prosecutor," Pol Col Khundet said.

"Additionally, one offender has

surrendered regarding the physical harm incident, and summonses have been issued for three others," he added, more than a week after Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum assured publicly that summonses for at least three others involved in the assault were pending.

No explanation was given for the delay in charging the three others for their role in the May 23 assault, despite the overwhelming video evidence available and posted online immediately after the attack.

"The authorities expect to achieve clear land boundaries and resolve the ownership dispute soon, providing a definitive solution to this long-standing issue," the official report said.

DSI raids local accountants over foreign nominee companies

TAWEEWAT SURASITH, Director of the Security Case Division of the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) led a raid on an accounting firm in Kathu and two other locations last week for creating companies for foreigners by using nominees.

The joint operation, carried out on June 6, included the Region 8 Police, led by Pol. Lt. Gen. Surapong Thanomjit, and Phuket Provincial Police, headed by Pol Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum.

Officers from the Tourist Police Division, Immigration Bureau, Department of Business Development, Department of Tourism, and the Forensic Science Institute also joined the raid.

The operation targeted Phuket Best Accounting Co Ltd, located in the Phuket Goldenville The Space housing estate off Phra Phuket Rd along with two other



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

related sites, one an address also in The Space estate and the other a residential address at the Phuket Rock Garden housing estate in Ratsada.

Mr Taweevat said the case had been under DSI investigation as a special case since late last year, based on strong evidence suggesting the company was registering

businesses for foreign nationals in violation of the Foreign Business Act of 1999, causing significant economic harm.

During the raids, officers seized documents and communication devices containing financial information linked to foreign nationals, which will be used to further investigate foreign investors involved in



money laundering schemes, he said.

During the raids the offices found documentation confirming the creation of companies for foreign nationals from Russia, Pakistan and India, with financial transactions ranging from B200-300 million with ties to real estate, hospitality and restaurants.

In its report of the raids, the DSI said that the joint task force has expanded its investigation to seven additional locations. These sites were associated with foreign nationals using nominee companies to operate tourism businesses illegally.

The Department of Tourism identified violations under

the Tourism Business and Guide Act of 2008, leading to the immediate revocation of tourism business licenses for five companies.

Further investigations may result in revoking the licenses of over 10 more companies connected to this network, the DSI noted.

The operation was carried out in line with the policy of DSI Acting Director-General Pol Lt Col Yuthana Praedum to target key offenders. The DSI's Security Case Division is gathering intelligence on networks of legal advisory and accounting firms in Phuket, Pattaya and Chiang Mai, the DSI added.

The ongoing efforts aim to dismantle these networks and prosecute foreign investors using illicit funds for money laundering through nominee businesses, the DSI report said.

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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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WED JUNE 19

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Wind 4 m/s

THU JUNE 20

High: +36°
Low: +27°
Wind 4 m/s

Photo: Phuket Airport Immigration Checkpoint

Russian arrested at airport for money laundering charge

IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AT Phuket International Airport have arrested a Russian man wanted on money laundering charges.

The 31-year-old man, not named in an airport immigration report posted online, was placed under arrest at 12:15am last Friday (June 7).

Present to take the man into custody were officers from Kathu Police, said the report.

The Russian man was wanted on arrest warrant No. J673/2566 issued by Phuket Provincial Court on Dec 25, the report confirmed.

The man stands accused of committing the offense of 'money laundering'.

He was arrested at the Phuket Immigration Checkpoint in the International Arrivals Hall, and has now been taken to Phuket Provincial Court for further legal action, the report said.

The Phuket News

Police bust drug network, seize 41,000 meth pills

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Phuket Provincial Police are claiming victory in dismantling major drug network operating across Phuket with the arrests of four suspects and the seizure of more than 41,000 methamphetamine (ya bah) pills.

Police announced the arrests at a press conference on June 6, as follows:

Krit 'Pan' (family name withheld by police) was arrested after he was found in possession of 37,400 ya bah pills and 659 grammes of crystal meth (ya ice). He has been charged with illegal possession of a Category 1 narcotic with intent to sell.

Apidej 'Jay' (family name withheld by police) was arrested after he was found with 2,004 ya bah pills and 309.53g of ya ice. He faces charges of illegal possession of a Category 1 narcotic for sale, aimed at commercial distribution.

Miss Somporn 'Joy Choi' (family name withheld by police) was arrested after she was found with 1,275 ya bah pills and 2.03g of ya ice. She has been charged with selling a Category 1 narcotic with intent for commercial distribution.

Sathaporn 'Boy' (family name withheld by police) was arrested after he was found in possession



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

of 600 ya bah pills and 3.79g of ya ice. He is also accused of selling a Category 1 narcotic, intended for commercial trade.

The arrests were the result of an operation by officers from the Phuket Provincial Police Investigation Division, working with Thalang Police and Patong Police, officials explained.

The raids netted 41,279 ya bah pills and 97g of ya ice in total, with an estimated street value exceeding B3 million, police said.

Further investigations are underway to identify and apprehend

additional network members and seize related assets as per the law.

In the period from June 1-7, Phuket Provincial Police conducted extensive operations leading to the arrest of 36 individuals involved in drug activities. The efforts throughout the week resulted in the confiscation of 45,778 ya bah pills, 1,024.73g of ya ice and 0.1g of heroin, police noted.

Police will continue their efforts in cracking down on drug-related crimes, police noted in announcing the arrests.

Eakkapop Thongtub



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Laguna Phuket Marathon runner hit by motorbike

A CHINESE MAN TAKING part in the Laguna Phuket Marathon 2024 suffered a head injury when he was struck by a motorbike last Sunday (June 9).

Police were called to the scene, at Na Muang Intersection in Moo 8 Thepkasattri, at about about 5:30am.

At the scene, officers found Waranya Khuatthong on the road beside her white-black Honda motorbike, registered in Surat Thani.

Ms Waranya was driving from Muk Dok Khao to the airport when she collided with Chinese national Yang Guang, police said.

Mr Yang sustained a head injury in the accident, police confirmed.

Ms Waranya suffered injuries to her arm and face,

Both received first aid at the scene. The extent of Mr Yang's injury was not reported.

Police said they were continuing their investigation..

Eakkapop Thongtub

Brit warned for sunbathing naked

A BRITISH MAN HAS BEEN REMANDING by police for sunbathing naked next to a convenience store in Thalang.

Pol Lt Sinth Saijit of the Thalang Police was informed of the man's behaviour by local residents at 4:50pm on June 6.

Local residents expressed their concern that the incident created an unsightly spectacle for passersby, including students from a nearby school.

Officers arrived at the scene, a convenience store opposite Thalang Hospital, to find the man, completely naked, lounging in the area beside the convenience store.

The man, identified as Philip Raymond North, 32, from Liverpool, was using a plastic advertising sign as a makeshift mat.

Mr North told officers that he was staying at a hotel near Nai Yang Beach.

He had traveled to the convenience store by motorcycle to buy powdered tea and decided to disrobe and sunbathe there, as he found the weather pleasant and reminiscent of a beach setting.

The officers informed Mr North



Photo: Thalang Police

that public nudity was inappropriate and instructed him to dress immediately.

Mr North initially requested 20 more minutes to finish his tea, but instead was told to return to his accommodation and advised to sunbathe at the beach instead.

Local residents reported that Mr North had been engaging in similar behaviour for the past two to three days, much to the dismay of local residents.

Officers at the scene said that while Phuket is a popular tourist destination known for its beautiful beaches, public decorum must be maintained, especially in areas frequented by families and children.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Carrying the Royal flag

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The 'Royal Flag of Celebration' was carried northwards from Phuket Town to the Sarasin Bridge last Friday (June 7), where it was handed to Phang Nga Governor Supoj Rottreuang Na Nongkhai.

The formal events marking the departure of the royal emblem, being carried throughout the country in honour of His Majesty the King's 6th Cycle Birthday (72 years) on July 28, began at Phuket Auditorium, located next to Phuket Provincial Hall, at 8am

The route from Provincial Hall to the Sarasin Bridge spanned three districts, with the procession passing through 10 significant checkpoints on the island: Phuket Provincial Hall; Suan Luang (The King's Park); Wat Anuphas Kritsadaram (Wat Ketho); Kathu District Office; Kathu Municipality; GMS Duty Free Mall; Wat Tha Ruea; Wat Phra Nang Sang; Region 8 Police headquarters; and Sai Kaew Beach in Mai Khao.



Photo: PR Phuket

At the Sarasin Bridge, Phang Nga Governor Supoj, who coincidentally has previously served as a Vice Governor of Phuket, ceremoniously received the royal emblem at 3pm.

The 'Flag of Royal Celebration' arrived in Phuket one day earlier. Over the span of two days, the procession traveled a total distance of over 83 kilometres.

The official 'Flag of Royal Celebration' arrived in Phuket from Krabi by boat, making landfall at Wisit Panwa Pier at Cape Panwa around midday

on June 6.

Clad in a yellow shirt, Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat led a procession of similarly attired officials to receive the flags, which all sported an official royal emblem.

Joined by his wife Busadee Suwannarat, who also serves as the President of the Phuket branch of the Red Cross Society, Governor Sophon received the Governor of Krabi province Somchai Hanpakdeeputima and colleagues who arrived by boat before handing over the flags

at an official ceremony conducted at the pier.

Once the numerous flags had been exchanged, Governor Sophon gave an official speech in front of a portrait of His Majesty the King on the special stage before the procession of flag bearers began.

Governor Sophon once again led the procession as it took to the streets as part of the official 'Walk, Run, Cycle' initiative – some participants elected to walk, while others, including Governor Sophon and his wife, opted for a slow

run and some cycled on bikes.

The procession travelled along Sakdidee Rd and continued to the Phuket Provincial Administration Center on Tha Kraeng Rd in Phuket Town, next to Phuket Provincial Hall.

The flags were then placed at the Phuket Auditorium, where an exhibition in honour of His Majesty the King was held. The exhibition showcased the royal history and duties, screened films celebrating the history of the Thai nation, and served as the centre of volunteer activities

for public service and charity.

The celebrations also featured traditional folk performances, contests of royal compositions and local arts and cultural displays.

The 'Flag of Royal Celebration' event was a display of the public's loyalty and appreciation for His Majesty the King's benevolence. The sea of yellow-shirted participants taking part in the activities underscored the unity and reverence felt by the people towards their monarch, said official reports of the auspicious occasion.

Phuket Town hosts inaugural Asia Pride Alliance event

THE INAUGURAL MEETING of the Asia Pride Alliance was held in Phuket on June 5 as a number of representatives from various countries across the region met to discuss gender diversity and equality.

Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat chaired the occasion which was held at the Michelin-starred Tu Kab Khao restaurant in Phuket Town.

Governor Sophon was joined by his wife Busadee Suwannarat, who serves as the President of the Red Cross Society in Phuket, in addition to a number of representatives from countries across Asia.

The overseas delegation was in Phuket from May 31 until June 10 to take in a number of initiatives that are taking place on the island during Pride month throughout June.

No specific details were given as to the exact countries the delegates hailed from, likewise whether they were from public or private



Photo: PR Phuket

sector organisations, with the PR Phuket post on Facebook merely stating that the visitors were "leading partners in the promotion of gender diversity."

However, it was disclosed that the Asia Pride Alliance is part of the Cabinet's directive to promote gender diversity and equality as it strives to host the InterPride World Conference and additional Pride-themed events in future.

Officials from the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) worked with the Bangkok Pride

group and local authorities in Phuket to plan and execute Wednesday's event, which they say is regarded as a key initiative in helping promote and build gender equality and diversity moving forward.

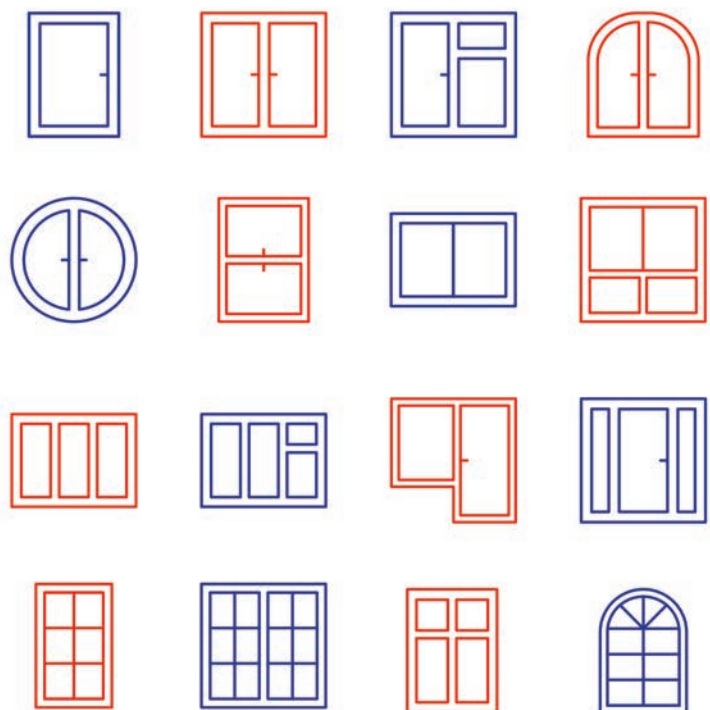
Local organisations supporting the event included the Phuket Hotels Association, The Phuket Chamber of Commerce, the Hotels Association Southern Chapter, the Tourism Council of Phuket and the Phuket Tourism Association.

The Phuket News

See 'Patong Pride' on page 13.



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Jetstar relaunches key flights

Bangkok Post

Australian carrier Jetstar will reconnect Queensland and Thailand for the first time since the pandemic with direct services between Bangkok and Brisbane three times per week starting from Dec 13.

The new service is forecast to bring in more than 190,000 additional inbound seats to Queensland over three years, worth A\$116 million in overnight visitor expenditure and up to 630 jobs, according to the Queensland Department of Tourism and Sport.

The route is supported by the A\$200-million Attracting Aviation Investment Fund, which has now secured 32 new or returned aviation routes for Queensland since February 2022.

Queensland and Thailand have not had a direct air connection since Thai Airways International ceased its Brisbane flights on Mar 29, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Jetstar flights will be the only non-stop service between Bangkok and Brisbane. The flying time of just over eight hours is approximately half the current travel time via indirect routes.

Each flight, using a Boeing 787 Dreamliner, will also carry up to 15 tonnes of freight capacity for Queensland exporters including meat, fish, fruit and vegetable growers.

Compared to pre-COVID figures, Queensland has recently seen record numbers of visitors from Thailand, making the new



Photo: Jetstar

route from Bangkok all the more important, said Michael Healy, Queensland's minister for tourism and sport.

"It's terrific to see Jetstar take flight between Bangkok and Brisbane for the first time," he said.

"Being a low-cost carrier, Jetstar will help make travel to Brisbane more affordable for international students and passengers travelling from across Asia, the UK and Europe, using Bangkok as a hub."

The service will depart Brisbane at 2:20pm on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from Dec 13 and return at 8:25am on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Jetstar currently already provides direct flights from Melbourne and Perth to Phuket.

TAKING OFF TO KRABI

Last Friday (June 7) marked the start of Jetstar Asia's direct service from Singapore to Krabi, as flight 3K573 departed from Changi Airport Terminal 4, establishing a new direct route to one of Thailand's most sought-after travel destinations.

The Singapore low-cost carrier will fly six return flights each week, operated by their expanding fleet of Airbus A320s, offering over 60,000 low fares between Singapore and the popular holiday destination each year.

The split schedule means three weekly services take off from Singapore in the morning, landing in Krabi less than two hours later, giving travellers a full day to enjoy the Andaman hotspot.

For those travelling from Europe and Australia, there are three evening flights each week, providing connectivity for those wanting to visit Krabi via Singapore, the carrier said in its announcement.

Jetstar Asia CEO, John Simeone, said this was the first of three exciting routes Jetstar Asia was launching in June as they continue to expand their network.

"Thailand remains incredibly popular with our customers so it's great to add beautiful Krabi to our network alongside Bangkok and Phuket," Mr Simeone said.

"Our fantastic low fares make it easier than ever for travellers to take that dream holiday or quick weekend away and enjoy all Krabi has to offer.

"And with the choice of morning or evening services, it's not just Singaporeans who are excited about this new Jetstar route as those travelling from Australia can enjoy seamless connectivity through Singapore on our Jetstar Airways' (JQ) services from Melbourne and Perth."

Director of Tourism Authority of Thailand Singapore office, Kulpramote Wannalert, remarked that Krabi's natural beauty and vibrant tourism offerings were now more accessible than ever.

"Jetstar Asia's new direct service from Singapore to Krabi marks a significant milestone in enhancing regional connectivity and accessibility, promising an unforgettable experience for travellers from Singapore and beyond," Ms Wannalert said.

Makers of 'Jurassic' film warned against environmental damage

NATURAL RESOURCES and Environment (MNRE) Minister Pol Gen Phatcharavat Wongsuwan has welcomed the planned shooting of 'Jurassic World 4' in national parks in Southern Thailand, but said the production must not damage the environment.

"I am delighted that Thailand's national parks have been chosen as locations for a world-renowned movie," said Pol Gen Phatcharavat.

"This not only spreads the word about the value of the parks but also boosts tourism and generates income for communities

He said the ministry has instructed authorities to enforce regulations to ensure the filming does not harm natural resources and the environment.

Production of the film must also be eco-friendly to reduce carbon emissions,



Ao Phang Nga National Park. Photo: TAT Phang Nga

Pol Gen Phatcharavat said.

Athapol Charoenshunsa, Director-General of the Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), said the Department of Tourism has informed his agency that the film and video review committee has granted permission for the filming of 'Jurassic World 4' to take place from June 13-16.

Shooting locations for the

film will be in Bangkok, Phang Nga, Krabi, Phuket and Trang.

Peston Film Co Ltd, the coordinating company for the production, has sought permission to shoot the movie in three national parks.

They are Sunset Beach in Koh Kradan of Hat Chao Mai National Park in Trang (five days); Huai To Waterfall in Khao Phanom Bencha National Park in Krabi (three days);

and Khao Tapu, Koh Song Phi Nong and Koh Nakaya in Ao Phang Nga National Park in Phang Nga (five days).

The natural landscape of Huai To Waterfall will be featured in a major scene with large trees resembling ancient forests, providing an ideal site for the film.

Required permit fees and a damage deposit of B2 million have already been paid. The

filming fee in the national park is set at B3,500 per day.

The film's proposed content has been reviewed by the film review committee.

The authorities said filming locations in the permitted areas must not be blocked or hindered throughout the filming period.

Measures will be taken to control noise pollution, equipment and other technical

aspects for safety reasons and to prevent damage to natural resources, the environment and wildlife, DNP Chief Mr Athapol said.

The natural landscape must be kept intact, and filming must not get in the way of park visitors, he added. Filming will be supervised by national park chiefs.

Downplaying fears of the forest being harmed, Mr Athapol said most scenes will be filmed in a studio or using computer graphics. The authorities were informed of props to be used, such as artificial rocks, and were assured natural elements will be left untouched.

"We have learned from the filming of 'The Beach' at Maya Bay [released in 2000]. Therefore, everything will be supervised strictly," he said.

Bangkok Post

Cop surrenders following fatal hospital shooting

KHON KAEN

Bangkok Post

A local police officer surrendered to authorities last Saturday (June 8) in connection with the fatal shooting of a patient at a public hospital in Muang district.

The gunman reportedly confessed that he shot the 29-year-old Myanmar man because he was upset with the latter disturbing his father, who was receiving treatment in the next bed at Khon Kaen Hospital.

Pol Sgt Veeraphong Buayen, 34, attached to the Phra Yuen station in Khon Kaen, turned himself in at the Khon Kaen provincial police office at 9:30am.

Pol Maj Gen Anuwat Suwannaphum, commander of the Khon Kaen police, said on Saturday afternoon that the suspect appeared stressed and confused, but admitted to having shot the victim.

"The suspect confessed to have shot the Myanmar worker whom he had not known before," he said.

"He had just met the victim for the first time and felt that the man had an agitated manner that he didn't like. This drove him to fire a shot in the head. He said he didn't know why he had done it."

The officer earlier contacted police investigators and reportedly admitted to having gunned down Kyaw Swar Aong,



Police escort Pol Sgt Veeraphong Buayen to his house in Khon Kaen to search for his gun and other evidence on June 8. Photo: Bangkok Post

29, at the hospital on the night of June 6, which was reported to local police at about 1am on Friday (June 7).

Police and forensic officials found the victim with a gunshot wound to the occipital bone in his skull inside a ward on the fifth floor. Hospital staff took him to the emergency ward for treatment but he was pronounced dead shortly afterward.

A preliminary investigation showed that Pol Sgt Veeraphong had worked at the Waeruwan police station before moving three years ago to the station in Phra Yuen district, his birthplace. The victim worked at a fishing net factory that was in the area served by the Waeruwan station.

A source familiar with the investigation said Pol Sgt Veeraphong was suffering from depression and coronary

artery disease. He was also known to have used drugs, said the source.

The officer's immediate superior transferred him from investigations to a duty officer's position in the station to reduce his stress.

Pol Maj Gen Anuwat and other senior officers interrogated Pol Sgt Veeraphong on Saturday after his father took him to surrender to police. No reporters were allowed inside during the questioning.

The suspect has been charged with premeditated murder and illegal possession of a weapon and ammunition. He refused to take part in a crime reenactment at the hospital, police said.

The victim's Thai girlfriend, identified only as Manee, said on Saturday that she never thought a law enforcer would commit such a crime.

Government focus on domestic abuse

BANGKOK

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT and Human Security Minister Varawut Silpa-archa is looking to curb domestic violence, which accounted for almost 70% of all reported cases of violence in the last two months.



Varawut Silpa-archa. Photo: Bangkok Post

Following a meeting between high-level ministry officials on Monday (June 10) Mr Varawut said that the Human Security Emergency Management Center has been accelerating efforts to protect the well-being of citizens experiencing domestic issues and assign a 24/7 rapid deployment task force to serve people nationwide.

He also revealed several important findings by the Human Security Emergency Management Centre in its report for April and May.

According to him, the survey targeted 6,655 individuals receiving state assistance.

Insufficient income, poor domestic relationships and violence were the

top problems these people regularly faced, he said.

The findings showed that there was a total of 410 victims of violence in April and May, 281 of them involved domestic violence.

Of the victims, 302 were female, 108 were male, and 223 were children, said Mr Varawut.

The violence against children and the elderly occurred only within the family, and most were physically assaulted.

Mr Varawut said this showed that the situation regarding relationships in families is becoming more fragile and that the ministry needed to work more proactively to reduce domestic violence. Bangkok Post




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'Mad cow' restriction lifted from blood donations



Requirement



Application Form

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS – WHO CAN GIVE BLOOD



Photo: Thai Red Cross Society

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Foreigners from the United Kingdom, Ireland and France who were previously excluded from being allowed to make blood donations, are now allowed to do so, the Phuket Red Cross Regional Blood Center (PRBC) has confirmed.

"These donors were unable to donate due to variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, commonly known as Mad Cow Disease... Thailand is one of the first non-European countries to welcome back these donors," Nancy Rower of the

Thailand Rh-Negative Blood Donation Facebook Group told *The Phuket News*.

The change to allow such foreigners to make blood donations has been very well received.

"The Western population has a relatively high percentage of Rh-Negative, as much as 15% to 22%, depending on the region," Ms Rower explained.

"This is an EXTREMELY Rare Blood Type in the Thai population, less than 0.3%," she said. "If you are Rh-Negative, please donate every 90 days. This will help many patients in need, both Western and Thai."

Ms Rower stressed that Rh-Negative of all blood types was much needed.

The national Thai Red Cross Society confirmed the change to allow 'CJD-risk foreigners' by amending its list of eligibility requirements late last month.

The PRBC confirmed the change to *The Phuket News* last Saturday (June 8).

The move to allow more foreigners to give blood comes as the nation aims to achieve 10 million CCs in blood donations this year in honour of His Majesty The King's 6th Cycle Birthday (72 years), to be commemorated with national celebrations on July 28.

Also, to mark World Blood Donor Day on June 14, donations at 12 Regional Blood Centers throughout the country, including in Phuket, from June 10-14 will see the donor receive a special souvenir T-shirt.

The full schedule of mobile blood donation clinics to be held by the PRBC in Phuket throughout the rest of June is as follows:

June 17: 09:00 - 12:00 - Takupa Sae-nanukul School, Phang Nga
June 18: 09:00 - 12:00 - Ramada Khaolak hotel, Phang Nga
June 18: 13:30 - 16:00 - Seaview Resort, Khao Lak, Phang Nga
June 19: 13:00 - 16:00 - Novotel Phuket Kamala Beach, Phuket
June 19: 13:00 - 16:00 - Blue Tree Phuket

June 20: 09:30 - 13:00 - Krabi Provincial Cooperative Office, Krabi

June 21: 12:00 - 18:00 - Lotus's Thalung (beside S&P)

June 21: 12:00 - 18:00 - Lotus's Phuket, bypass road (beside Uniqlo)

June 22: 09:00 - 12:00 - Mazda Phuket Chaofa showroom (Chao Fa West Rd, Wichit), Phuket

June 23: 13:00 - 16:00 - Hope Church, bypass road, Ratsada, Phuket

June 24: 10:00 - 15:00 - Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket hotel, Cherng Talay

June 24: 13:00 - 16:00 - The Kee Resort & Spa, Patong

June 25: 09:30 - 13:00 - Ao Luek District Office, Krabi

June 26: 12:00 - 18:00 - Central Phuket, Floresta Building, 2nd floor (conference room)

June 26: 13:00 - 17:00 - Bangkok Hospital Phuket, 3rd floor (conference room)

June 27: 09:30 - 13:00 - Lam Thap District Office, Krabi

June 28: 09:00 - 15:00 - Rawai Park, Phuket

June 28: 12:00 - 18:00 - Central Phuket, Floresta Building, parking

area 'G'

The Blood Bank at Vachira Phuket Hospital is also continuing its 'Mobile Blood Donation' drive. The full schedule for Vachira Blood Bank's mobile blood donation clinics is as follows:

June 17: 10:00 - 15:00 - Keemala hotel, Kamala

June 18: 10:00 - 15:00 - Karon Municipality

June 19: 10:00 - 15:00 - Cherng Talay Municipality

June 20: 10:00 - 15:00 - Chalong Municipality

June 21: 10:00 - 15:00 - The Nap Patong hotel

June 24: 13:00 - 16:00 - Kathu Witaya School

June 25: 10:00 - 15:00 - Phuket Provincial Hall

June 26: 10:00 - 15:00 - PEA, Thalung

June 27: 10:00 - 15:00 - PEA, Phuket (Phuket Town)

June 28: 10:00 - 15:00 - Twinpalm hotel, Surin Beach

People presenting themselves to donate blood are asked to:

Bring your ID card to verify your identity each time you donate.

Ensure you are in good health.

Get enough sleep the night before.

Eat a complete meal.

Avoid high-fat foods such as pork leg rice and chicken rice.

Do not donate blood while taking antibiotics to ensure good quality blood.

Drink 3-4 glasses of water.

People can donate blood directly at the Phuket Regional Blood Centre, located at 38/193 Rattanakosin 200 Pi Rd in Talad Neua, Phuket Town.

The centre is open:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8:30am to 4:30pm

Tuesday, Thursday – 8:30am to 8pm

Saturday, Sunday, Public Holidays – 9am to 3pm

For more information contact the PRBC:

- Phone: 076-251178

- Mobile: 081-9588854

- Facebook: Phuket Red Cross Blood Donation Center

- LINE: @rdi1296r

People can also donate blood at the Blood Bank on the 4th floor of the outpatient building at Vachira Phuket Hospital, on Yaowarat Rd in Phuket Town. The Blood Bank is listed as "always open" For more information: Tel: 076-361234 ext 1287; or visit Facebook: ธนาคารเลือด รพ.วชิระภูเก็ต (Vachira Phuket Hospital Blood Bank)

Where to eat in PHUKET

The July/August 2024
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 about your F & B outlet

Want to be in it?

CONTACT JASON TODAY – gm@classactmedia.co.th

Breathing easy at SOHO

JP Mestanza
tv@classactmedia.co.th

Nothing beats a relaxing meal near the water, whether by the pool or the sea. SOHO Pool Club is a rare place where you can do both at the same time. Feeling famished, my wife and I wanted to have a nice meal in a beautiful new and fun setting. We hit the jackpot with this location in Phuket's Boat Lagoon Marina.

Walking into SOHO Pool Club, you're greeted by a tropical, upscale, elegant and fun motif. The venue feels like an outdoor rooftop club in New York, but with bamboo lining the walls and banisters, and spacious areas throughout. Despite the typical heat of the Phuket sun, SOHO Pool Club has a gentle breeze that comes in from the sea, a welcome respite from the weather.

There is seating everywhere: near the pool, on the second-floor balcony, near the boats, just by the bar – the world is your oyster. We sat near the sea, to catch the sun as it was setting behind the establishment, and to get a glimpse of the boats returning from their day-time excursions. We kicked things off with delicious drinks, including a delightful Mango Mojito that included real bits of the sweet fruit.

We started with the Nacho Avocado to nibble on, and this didn't disappoint! As a former server at a Mexican res-



Photo: SOHO Pool Club

taurant, I know my way around a good nacho, and this is one of the best in Phuket. A hearty starter that included avocado, minced beef, tomatoes, onions – and topped with melted cheese.

The best part? They used cheesy chips, instead of plain chips, which added more flavour. It's not only fresh, but easy to eat, very shareable, and is highly recommended. Speaking of shareable, SOHO Pool Club is the perfect place for any group event, especially with its hearty portions and seating by the pool.

For dinner, we ordered Chef Ai's famous Khao Soi with Chicken, a Northern Thai-style curry noodle dish served with chillies, pickled cabbage, chopped shallots and lemon, which was

simply phenomenal. Not only was it a creamy curry, but the chicken was falling off the bone and packed with flavour. It's a great blend of crunchy, creamy, spicy, savoury and sweet.

My wife ordered the Pan-Fried Seabass with Lemon Garlic and Grilled Vegetables, a classic dish that was as fresh as can be. The seabass was cooked to perfection. The flavours were unreal, especially with a bit of crispy seabass skin. It was just the right balance of protein and vegetables, making it a guilt-free feast for the senses. A healthy dish that was as fresh as it was tasty.

You would think that an upscale pool club would skimp on the portions, but SOHO Pool Club seems on a mission to fill bellies as the portions are

hearty. But there's always room for dessert! The lemon tart arrived, served with natural almond cream and Italian meringue, which completed our meal on a high. A great compliment to a tasty first meal ever at SOHO Pool Club, to which I will 100% be returning.

SOHO Pool Club is located past the security gate inside Phuket Boat Lagoon marina in Koh Kaew. Open 10am-10pm. Price range: B400-799. Facilities: Best to book a table. Major credit cards accepted. Car park on site. Has smoking area. Free WiFi hotspot. Reservations: 082-7437144. Website: SohoPhuket.com. See also 'SohoPhuket' on Facebook, and 'SohoPoolClub' on Instagram.



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POP QUIZ

1. What is the current official population of Thailand?
2. Which is taller, a full-grown Tyrannosaurus Rex or an adult giraffe?
3. How old was Pelé when he played in his first FIFA World Cup in 1958?
4. What was Nobel Prize winner Lech Walesa's occupation at the Lenin Shipyard, Gdansk?
5. La Scala opera house is in which European city?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across

 1. Light
 5. Snowman prop
 9. Black ink item
 14. Food thickener
 15. Neck of the woods
 16. Bathroom item
 17. Aggressive fishes
 20. Manifests
 21. Snob
 22. Come again
 23. Songbird
 24. Salk's conquest
 27. Saddam Hussein, e.g.
 32. Exclamation of surprise
 35. 1988 Olympics site
 37. Type of type
 38. Is stoic
 42. Novice: var. sp.
 43. Blend
 44. Query
 45. Anthropoids
 48. Mess up
 50. Bank posting
 52. Noted blind mathematician
 56. Egg-shaped instrument
 60. Japanese art
- of flower arrangement

 62. Relied on himself to make it
 64. Cast out
 65. Kind of court
 66. Paddy output
 67. Some tides
 68. Ring sport
 69. Poet laureate of 1692
- Down

 1. Worse, as excuses go
 2. Mojave plant
 3. Freaked out
 4. Certain contract
 5. Cracker spread
 6. Colored eye part
 7. Compose
 8. Avid
 9. Radiant
 10. Ella's forte
 11. Wrapped garment
 12. The "E" of B.P.O.E.
 13. Midterm, say
 18. Down's opposite
 19. Musher's transport
 23. Desiring
25. Floral necklace
 26. Small amount
 28. Hydromassage facility
 29. Cotton fabric
 30. Wood sorrels
 31. Aquarium
 32. Conductor Klemperer
 33. It'll grow on you
 34. Some pods
 36. Car with a bar
 39. Ages
 40. Emergency ____
 41. Go over
 46. Ground grains
 47. Levelheaded
 49. Spiro's predecessor
 51. Powders
 53. Keats poem
 54. Legislate
 55. Indian dignitary
 56. Wilson brother
 57. Hamster's home
 58. Voyaging
 59. Farrier's tool
 60. Arab ruler
 61. Send to the canvas
 63. Kind of shot

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1. 66 million (unofficial 71.85m); 2. 1. Rex (but only just at full height, 6.1 metres); 3. 17; 4. Electrician; 5. Milan, Italy

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				
62							63							
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

14	P	O	P	S		B	L	U	E		G	R	A	V	E				
12	A	X	L	E		W	I	N	E		C	O	O	L	E				
17	R	E	A	C	H	A	M	I	L	E	S	T	O	N	E				
18	A	N	Y	O	N	I	T		P	H	O	N	I	C					
24					M	E	A	T							R	E	N	T	
25	B	A	S	E				P	A	C	T	S							
31	U	N	P	E	G			D	U	M	B	O		M	O	T			
37	F	O	O	T	I	N	O	N	E	S	M	O	U	T	H				
43	F	A	T		R	O	S	I	N		E	M	O	T	E				
45					C	O	S	E	C						I	N	O	N	
51	P	A	C	A						A	C	C	T						
57	E	R	A	S	E	S		O	B	O	E		R	S	A	T			
60	W	O	N	T	B	U	D	G	E	A	N		I	N	C	H			
61	I	N	T	R	O	V	E	R	T	S		C	O	H	O				
62	T	Y	S	O	N			N	E	S	T					E	W	E	R

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

3.4

metres is the highest jump on a pogo stick, achieved by Dmitry Arsenyev of Russia on the set of 'La Notte dei Record' in Rome, Italy, on Nov 20, 2018.

50

people on average use the same bathroom on a plane flight.

70

percent of all guns in Mexico come from the United States.

7,000

US dollars in gift tax had to be paid by each member of the audience that Oprah gave a "free" car to.

32 million

bacteria can be found on every square inch of your skin.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Storm approaching Kamala. Photo by Kurt Heck

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

This week in history

June 14, 1789

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

June 15, 1978

King Hussein of Jordan marries American Lisa Halaby, who takes the name Queen Noor.

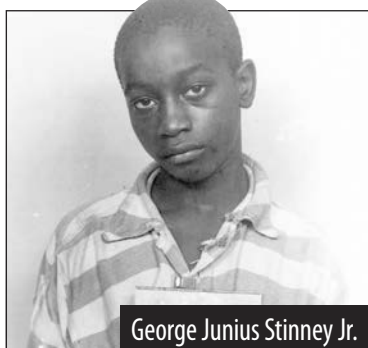
June 16, 1944

At age 14, George Junius

Stinney Jr, an African-American wrongfully convicted of murder in less than 10 minutes during a one-day trial by an all-white jury, becomes the youngest person executed in the United States in the 20th century.

June 17, 1631

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



George Junius Stinney Jr.

June 18, 1815

Duke of Wellington and Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher defeat Napoleon Bonaparte in

the Battle of Waterloo, forcing him to abdicate the throne of France for the second and last time.

June 19, 1978

Garfield, the long-term holder of the Guinness World Record for the world's most widely syndicated comic strip, makes its debut.

June 20, 1837

Queen Victoria succeeds to the British throne.

Source: Wikipedia

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SUN16JUN



Copa Tailandesa

A new U19 Football tournament "Copa Tailandesa" comes to Arena, Hua Hin aimed at encouraging new emerging talent to get noticed on the 16th to 18th June. The extravaganza is open to the public, it's free to attend the tournament games at Arena, Hua Hin and tickets are on sale now for the party on the 18th of June at admin@copatailandesa.com

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Wednesday BBQ Night

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THU20JUN



Skål International Phuket Dinner - June

You are cordially invited to our Monthly Dinner for June, a Black & Gold-themed evening at Club Med Phuket! This special event marks the farewell dinner for our beloved hosts, Vincent and Raja, who will be leaving Thailand. Let's come together to wish them well on their new journey. We will be celebrating the camaraderie of Skål, on a very special party set just for us! Get your black and/or gold frocks and your dancing shoes as we will be navigating popular tunes through the ages after dinner. Registration 6pm. Members THB 1200. Non-Members THB 1600. To find out more visit - facebook.com/SkalPhuket

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FRI5JUL



Grow Boating Evening - July 2024

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm on Friday the 5th of July 2024. Drinks sponsor for the evening will be the South East Asia Pilot. The 20th Anniversary - 7th edition of the South East Asia Pilot has recently gone to print and Grenville Fordham will be on hand to tell us all about the cruising bible to South East Asia. See southeastasiapilot.com This edition of Grow Boating will follow the Annual General Meeting of the TYBA who will cosponsor the event. There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee. For more info - facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket

SAT17AUG

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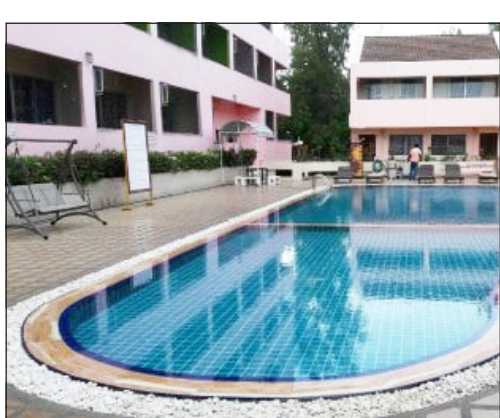
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GROW BOATING EVENING - JUNE

Another busy and fun Grow Boating evening at the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar at Phuket Boat Lagoon on Friday June 7. The drinks sponsor was Phuket Boat Lagoon and the delicious buffet was sponsored by the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar for all attendees. Looking forward to the next event on July 5. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee. For more info visit 'GrowBoatingPhuket' on Facebook.



PATONG PRIDE

Patong closed out a week of activities to celebrate Pride Month with a vibrant parade along the Patong beachfront last Sunday evening (June 9). More than 3,000 people joined the event, including Jiraphon Sinthuprai, Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office; Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat; and Suruthai Lertkasem, Director-General of the Public Relations Department. The parade featured a dazzling procession including the Ali Rananda, who was crowned Miss Queen Andaman Power 2024, the 9th Andaman Rainbow Pearl pageant held at the Jungceylon mall in Patong. "The event not only celebrated diversity and inclusion but also underscored the ongoing push for gender equality and the advancement of equal marriage laws in Thailand. This year's parade stands as a powerful statement to the world, advocating for the rights and acceptance of LGBTQI+ individuals everywhere," organisers said. Phuket will continue its Pride Month celebrations, culminating with the grand parade through the streets of Phuket Old Town on June 29.



Buri Ram's Chang International Circuit. Photo: Supplied

Thailand Moto GP tickets on sale from June 18

MOTO GP

TICKETS FOR THE PT Grand Prix of Thailand 2024 will officially go on sale on June 18, the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) announced on June 6.

The fifth edition of the Thailand race will be held at Buri Ram's Chang International Circuit on Oct 25-27.

There will be a press conference on the same day to officially launch the new partnership with the race's new title sponsor, PTG Energy, and announce the ticket sale at the headquarters of the Sports Authority of Thailand.

A representative from motorcycling event organisers Dorna Sports will also be present at the June 18 event.

PTG Energy became the event's new title sponsor

last week after agreeing to a three-year deal worth B300 million.

Organisers expect the ticket sales to move faster this year due to growing demand from local motorsport fans.

"MotoGP has been gaining more popularity in Thailand so we've arranged for the tickets to be on sale sooner than last year," said Tanaisiri Chanvittayarom, managing director of Chang International Circuit.

"Last year the tickets for the Grand Stand were sold out within 2.29 minutes, and we expect the feedback to be even better this year and hopefully create a new record."

Fans can purchase tickets at 7-Eleven shops or buy online at allticket.com on June 18 from 2pm onwards.

AFP

Max wins Montreal thriller

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato

michael@boxofneutrals.com

Max Verstappen won a dramatic mixed-weather Canadian Grand Prix after an early safety car clipped the wings of a dominant Lando Norris in Montreal last Sunday (June 9).

The race got underway in sopping-wet conditions, with pole-getter George Russell leading a slow-moving field off the grid.

By lap 6, however, a dry line was emerging, and Russell, Verstappen and McLaren's Norris and Oscar Piastri emerged as the frontrunners, moving clear at the front of the field.

Verstappen stepped up the pressure in the drier conditions, closing to within a second of Russell on lap 13, harrying the Mercedes driver to force him into an error. Ironically the Dutchman was the first to blink, running off the road exiting the first turn.

His timing couldn't have been worse. Norris and Piastri had been biding their time, trading fastest laps, and now the young Briton was all over the back of the title leader. On lap 20 he pounced, powering past the Red Bull Racing car and on the following tour relieving Russell of the lead.

Norris's pace was spectacular, and by lap 25 he was more than 10 seconds up the road and looking set to dominate the race.

Logan Sargeant, however, brought



Verstappen crosses the finish line to win the Canadian Grand Prix. Photo: AFP

that dream to an end when he binned his car in the barriers exiting turn 4.

A safety car was called just as Norris hit the brakes for the final chicane. McLaren hesitated, and by the time it decided to pit him for fresh intermediates, he'd already passed the pit entrance.

Verstappen, Russell and Piastri all made cheap pit stops for new intermediate tyres. Norris, who was the first driver stuck behind the safety car, stopped on the next lap and dropped to third.

Verstappen cleanly restarted the race on lap 30, but the action this time was more subdued.

Mercedes had designs on challenging Verstappen for victory, but Russell didn't even have time to challenge Norris for second, settling instead for the team's

first podium of the season.

His teammate Lewis Hamilton finished fourth ahead of Piastri and Aston Martin pair Fernando Alonso and Lance Stroll, with Daniel Ricciardo scoring his first Sunday points of the year in eighth and Alpine duo Pierre Gasly and Esteban Ocon completing the top 10.

Charles Leclerc retired after engine problems after 40 laps to leave Ferrari scoreless, while Sergio Pérez's lamentable afternoon started with a first-lap crash with Pierre Gasly and ended with him spinning into the wall with 19 laps to go.

He limped back to pit lane with a severely damaged rear wing, spitting carbon fibre across the track, for which he will serve a three-place grid penalty at the next race in Barcelona on June 23.

Tawanchai retains ONE Featherweight world title

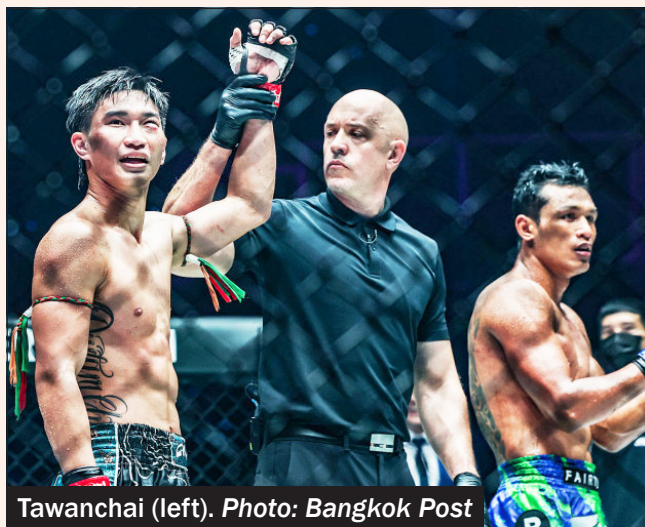
MMA

ONE CHAMPIONSHIP electrified the sold-out Impact Arena in Bangkok, Thailand, with ONE 167: Tawanchai vs. Nattawut II last Friday (June 7).

In the main event, Tawanchai PK Saenchai overcame a spirited effort from 'Smokin' Jo Nattawut to successfully defend his ONE Featherweight Muay Thai World Championship in their highly anticipated rematch.

Much like in their initial clash, the fierce rivals delivered a striking showcase, as they exchanged powerful blows from start to finish. Tawanchai seized control early with his relentless attack, putting his Thai compatriot on the defensive.

Nattawut turned the tide in the third frame, staggering the defending titleholder with heavy artillery and putting him on the back foot. However, Tawanchai dug deep in the final two



Tawanchai (left). Photo: Bangkok Post

rounds and delivered the more telling blows down the stretch.

When the scorecards were read, Tawanchai's effective offense earned him a majority decision win to retain his gold.

In the co-main event, reigning ONE Flyweight Muay Thai World Champion Rodtang 'The Iron Man' Jitmuangnon returned to action in style, defeating Denis 'The Bosnian Menace' Puric in a 141.25-pound catchweight kickboxing bout.

The Thai megastar unleashed blistering combina-

tions on Puric, catching 'The Bosnian Menace' with flush strikes to the head and body. However, Rodtang also displayed his elusiveness, effectively evading his opponent's power punches.

The 39-year-old Puric came alive in the third and final round, but Rodtang stood his ground and finished strong, walking out with a unanimous decision victory on the judges' scorecards.

Bangkok Post

Thai boxers secure Paris Olympics slots

OLYMPICS

BAISON MANEEKON, Thailand's 75kg powerhouse, made history by qualifying for the Olympic Games for the second time on June 2.

Baison secured Thailand's eighth Olympic berth with a spectacular 4-1 victory over Italian boxer Melissa Gemini in the 2nd Boxing Road to Paris World Qualifying Tournament at Indoor Stadium Hua Mark.

To make her victory all the sweeter Baison also received a B550,000 cash bonus for her impressive performance in the quarter-finals.

"Before the fight, I felt really excited because it was the last fight and I didn't know if I would qualify for the Olympic Games or not," Baison said afterwards.

"I am feeling really relieved now. I did quite well and will now focus on the Olympics. I believe that I'll win a medal at Paris Games, but there the opponents will be much stronger."

Earlier on June 2, Weerapon Jongjohor won Thailand's seventh ticket to Paris with a 5-0 victory in the men's 80kg division.

Weerapon, a nephew of Thai Olympic gold medallist



Baison Maneekon celebrates after securing a spot at the 2024 Olympic Games. Photo: Bangkok Post

Somjit Jongjohor, defeated Hussein Iashaish of Jordan 5-0 in the men's 80kg division.

Every shot from Weerapon was greeted with loud cheers from the crowd, and he did not disappoint his fans.

The Thai boxer won the all the five rounds on points in his semi-final bout against Iashaish and he progresses to make his Olympic debut.

"I am very happy to have claimed a place in the Olympic Games," Weerapon said following his landmark win. "However, I need to be better than this, so I will try to improve myself."

Nilawan Techasuep saw her Olympic dream end on June 3 when she was completely outclassed by Turkish fighter Esra Yildiz in the women's 57kg quarter-finals.

Nilawan lost all five rounds on points to her Turkish opponent.

Six Thai boxers have already secured their berths at Paris 2024 prior to the Bangkok event, which was the last boxing qualification tournament for the Olympics. The Games begin on July 26 and run to Aug 11.

The six Thai boxers already qualified are Thitsan Panmot (51kg) and Bunjong Sinsiri (63.5kg) in the men's category and Chuthamat Rak-sat (50kg), Thananya Somnuek (60kg), Janjaem Suwannapheng (66kg) and Jutamas Jitpong (54kg) in the women's category.

A total of 51 quotas – 23 females and 28 males – were on the line at the world qualifier in Bangkok. Bangkok Post

A feast of football at Euro 2024

FOOTBALL

AFP

Euro 2024 begins in Germany today (June 14) with France and England the leading heavyweight contenders for a tournament which will be played out in some of the continent's finest stadiums across a football-mad nation.

Fans will descend on 10 stadiums in Germany, many with memories of the unforgettable summer of 2006 when the country last staged a major tournament.

Back then there were question marks about the host nation's chances, yet they reached the semi-finals.

There are similar doubts this time surrounding Julian Nagelsmann's team, given Germany have exited the last two World Cups in the group stage and lost in the last 16 at the last Euros.

However, it would be foolish to talk down the three-time European champions too much given the players at their disposal.

"I have the feeling that we can win the tournament. And most of the time, my



Kylian Mbappe is looking to help France win a first European Championship since 2000. Photo: AFP

intuition is not too bad," said Nagelsmann, whose team play Scotland in the opening game in Munich this evening.

FEARSOME

There are good reasons why France and England are widely seen as the favourites to raise aloft the Henri Delaunay trophy at Berlin's Olympic Stadium on July 14.

France are Europe's top-

ranked nation and have been in the last two World Cup finals. Their team has evolved since Qatar in 2022 but the quality at their disposal, beyond Kylian Mbappe, is fearsome and they are eager to win a first European Championship since 2000.

"Like other nations we have the potential to maybe go all the way, but we must not already be thinking about

the semi-finals or a possible final," warned coach Didier Deschamps.

It is not always the case that everything goes to form. But if it does, and France and England top their groups, they will be on a collision course to meet in the semi-finals at Borussia Dortmund's Signal Iduna Park.

England carry the burden of never having won the Euros.

Beaten on penalties by Italy in the 2021 final, Gareth Southgate's team lost a nail-biting quarter-final to France at the last World Cup.

The two men who could give them the edge are Harry Kane and Jude Bellingham.

Kane will in familiar surroundings having just scored 44 goals in his first season for Bayern Munich, whose Allianz Arena hosts the first semi-final. The other semi-final venue was Bellingham's home ground for the three years he spent at Dortmund, and he comes to the Euros after a fine first campaign at Real Madrid, fresh from winning the Champions League and La Liga player of the season.

"Are we one of those teams who can win? Of course," said Southgate, whose team are in Group C with Denmark, Serbia and Slovenia.

"I'd be an idiot if I said no, but if I said yes, that doesn't mean there's not a lot of work ahead of us."

LESS-FANCIED

Absent from the last two World Cups, Italy will be in Germany to defend their European title, despite losing twice to England in qualifying.

The Azzurri are in a group with Spain, semi-finalists at the last Euros but who have not won a major tournament knockout game in 90 minutes since Euro 2012.

There may be as many as eight realistic potential champions, including 2016 winners Portugal, still led by Cristiano Ronaldo, even though he is now 39.

Belgium and the Netherlands will hope to make an impact too, but the Euros – the third edition since expanding to 24 teams – is richer for the presence of less-fancied nations.

Ukraine will be afforded widespread sympathy and have a decent team under Serhiy Rebrov.

Albania, under the Brazilian Sylvinho, appear at only their second Euros, while Georgia make their debut.

Managed by former France and Bayern Munich defender Willy Sagnol, and led by Napoli winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, they will be worth watching.

All 51 matches will be broadcast live in Thailand on PPTV as the main free TV channel, with additional coverage on NBT and Channel 9.

Alcaraz plays down chasing Nadal, Djokovic records

TENNIS

CARLOS ALCARAZ SAID emulating Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic's successes seems "impossible" after winning his maiden French Open title last Sunday (June 9) with victory over Alexander Zverev.

The 21-year-old came from behind to win 6-3, 2-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 and claim his third Grand Slam triumph.

Alcaraz's victory made him the youngest man to win Slam titles on clay, grass and hard courts.

With Roger Federer retired, Nadal expected to hang up his racquet this year and Djokovic having a poor season by his high standards, Alcaraz could be primed to dominate the sport for years to come.

Although he is already making history, he has some way to go to match Nadal's record of 14 French Open titles or Djokovic's men's best total of 24 Grand Slams.

"Both things are out of the ordinary," he admitted. "You have to be an alien to get it. What Rafa did with 14 is practically impossible.



Alcaraz poses with the trophy. Photo: AFP

"The 24 Grand Slams I hope I can but it is almost impossible. Both things are out of the ordinary."

Alcaraz is the eighth Spanish man to win the Coupe des Mousquetaires.

"In Roland Garros, knowing all the Spanish players who have won this tournament and be able to put my name on that amazing list is something unbelievable," he said.

"Something that I dreamt about, being in this position, since I was started playing tennis, since I was five, six years old. So it's a great, great feeling."

Third-ranked Alcaraz has already won three ma-

ior titles, five Masters 1000 tournaments and become the youngest ever world number one, but said Sunday's triumph was his proudest moment so far.

Alcaraz will next turn his attentions to the grass-court season and the defence of his Wimbledon title.

But he already has one eye on returning to Roland Garros next month for the Paris Olympics, where he is expected to play alongside the 38-year-old Nadal in the doubles.

"Coming back here is going to be a special feeling to play doubles with my idol Rafa Nadal," he said. AFP

Chinese shuttlers dominate at Indonesian Badminton Open

BADMINTON

THAI MIXED DOUBLES pair Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai fell at the semi-final stage of the US\$3 million (B110mn) BWF Indonesia Open in Jakarta last Saturday (June 8).

Dechapol and Sapsiree went down to Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqlong of China 19-21, 19-21 at the World Tour Super 1000 event.

The Thai pair beat Zheng and Huang in their last meeting at the French Open but the Chinese top seeds proved too strong this time around as they booked their place in the final in just 43 minutes.

However, Zheng and Huang were then stunned in the final by compatriots Jiang Zhenbang and Wei Yaxin who won 21-11, 21-14.

In the women's singles final China's Chen Yufei defeated top-ranked An Se-Young 21-14, 14-21, 21-18 in what was a repeat of



Dechapol and Sapsiree in semi-final action. Photo: Bangkok Post

the previous week's final at the Singapore Open.

China's world No.2 Shi Yuqi claimed his fourth title of the year when he edged out fourth seed Anders Antonsen of Denmark 21-9, 12-21, 21-14 in the men's singles title match.

In the men's doubles event, China's second seeds Liang Weikeng and Wang

Chang rallied to defeat Malaysia's Man Wei Chong and Tee Kai Wun 19-21, 21-16, 21-12.

China was denied a clean sweep, however, when Baek Ha-Na and Lee So-Hee of South Korea defeated Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan 21-17, 21-13 in the final of the women's doubles title.

Bangkok Post

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Sport



Looking ahead
to Euro 2024
kick-off > p15

PODIUM SWEEP

Filipino runners dominate Laguna Phuket Marathon

Filipina athlete Christine Hallasgo crosses the finish line to win the women's half marathon last Sunday (June 9). Photo: Laguna Phuket Marathon

MARATHON

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Runners from the Philippines dominated the Laguna Phuket Marathon 2024 last weekend, sweeping the honours across the full and half marathon categories.

The Filipino team from Team 7-Eleven captured an impressive overall haul of 13 medals and were in control of most of the race categories on Sunday's (June 9) main day.

In the full marathon, covering a distance of 42 kilometres, Arlan Arbois Jr claimed the gold medal to finish as overall champion in an impressive time of 2 hours 34 minutes and 48 seconds. Arbois Jr was participating in the male 18-29 age class.

Clocking in 7 minutes and 25 seconds behind his countryman to claim second place and a silver medal was Florendo Lapiz with a time of 2h 42m 13s. Lapiz was competing in the male 30-39 age group.

Kazuma Minamibata and Seigo Yoshimi, both from Japan, came

in third and fourth with times of 2h 49m and 25s and 2h 53m 23s respectively.

Filipina runners dominated the female full marathon with three of the top four finishes. Maricar Camacho was the overall winner with a time of 3h 16m 38s, while compatriots Jennylyn Nobleza and Lizane Abella finished in third and fourth place respectively with times of 3h 32m 25s and Lizane Abella 3h 35m 20s. Japan's Satowa Ota claimed second place overall with a time of 3h 21m 17s.

Nobleza's time was good enough for her to secure a silver medal in the 30-39 age class of the female full marathon, similarly Abella who scooped a bronze medal in the same age category for her exploits.

NO HALF MEASURES

The Filipino dominance continued in the male class of the half marathon, which covered a distance of 21km. Richard Solaño continued to do his home country proud by securing the overall champion spot with a time of 1h 13 and 24s to claim the gold medal.

Not far behind Solaño were fellow countrymen Prince Joey Lee, who claimed bronze with a time of

1h 15m 24s, and Jameskevin Cruz, who finished in fourth spot with a time of 1h 16m 40s. Lee and Cruz also claimed silver and bronze medals respectively for finishing second and third in their 16-19 age class.

In the women's half marathon, Christine Hallasgo from the Philippines came out on top as the overall female champion with a time of 1h 23m 38s to claim the gold medal. Taking bronze in third place was her compatriot Nhea Ann Barcena 1h 29m 40s, who finished just behind Morikawa Chiaki of Japan who claimed second place with a time of 1h 27m 53s.

The Philippines' Cherry Andrin finished in 5th place overall in the female half marathon with a time of 1h 38m 18s, which was good enough to secure her a gold medal in her age category of 16-29, while just one place behind her was Myrel Benignos in 1h 38 47s, which was good enough to secure her a silver medal in the same age class.

Finishing just 3 seconds behind Benignos in seventh place was Filipina Jennelyn Isibido with a time of 1h 38m 50s, which also secured her a bronze medal in the female 40-49 age class of the half marathon.

LEGENDARY FIGURE

Elsewhere, the Thai team of Nuttapong Thongsak, Aunwat Bunmak and Sarayut Thannil won the 42km Marathon relay with a time of 2h 43m 49s.

Krzysztof Hadas of Poland won the men's 10km race with a time of 33m 19s, while Australia's Siena Milgate won the women's race in a time of 41m 5s.

Ho Yin Tse from Hong Kong won the men's 5km race in 16m 50s and Hayley Newman from Australia came out on top in the women's race with a time of 19m 7s.

The 2km kids run, specifically for young aspiring athletes aged 12 and below, was won in 7m 24s by Patiphan Chuainu of Thailand in the boys class and Sirinya Kamllai in the girl's class with a time of 8m 11s.

There was also a specially crafted medal and commemorative gift given to Mike Cartwright from Hong Kong, a legendary figure in the Phuket Marathon community, who celebrated his 300th marathon on Sunday when he completed the 42km distance.

Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat was at the finish line last Sunday to greet all the finishers and extend extra special congratulations

to the winners in each race category.

Governor Sophon also joined Yupaporn Saengjunsri, Head of Marketing and Sales at Core Nutrition, to hand out medals to all athletes within their respective classes at an official ceremony after all the races had finished.

It was estimated that around 10,000 runners and visitors from more than 40 countries attended and participated at this year's marathon, which has become established over the past 18 years as Southeast Asia's favourite destination marathon.

The two-day format saw the 2km kids run, 5km and 10km races take place on Saturday morning (June 8), with the half marathon, marathon relay and full marathon taking place the following day.

Organisers were using this year's event, themed "Awake Your Inner Dragon", to inspire people to exercise and live a healthier lifestyle.

The weekend event was also expected to contribute hundreds of millions of baht to Phuket's tourism economy through accommodation bookings, food and beverage spend.

Dates for next year's Laguna Phuket Marathon have been already officially confirmed for June 14-15, 2025.