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VIGILANCE



A relative touches a portrait of a 3-year-old victim of the nursery mass shooting at Wat Si Uthai temple in Nong Bua Lam Phu province. Photo: AFP

SCHOOL SAFETY, DRUGS, GUNS UNDER SCRUTINY AFTER DAY CARE MASSACRE

The Phuket News
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Following the horrific massacre at a day care centre in Nong Bua Lam Phu last week that saw 37 people killed, including 24 children, in the worst mass killing by a single person in Thailand's recorded history, Phuket Governor has ordered safety measures be ramped up at schools and greater efforts made to curtail illicit drug use and

a crackdown on weapons.

Governor Narong Woonciew issued his mandate to heads of local government agencies at a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on Oct 7, just one day after the Nong Bua Lam Phu massacre.

The assembly began with a minute's silence in the memory of those killed in the attack.

Present at Phuket Provincial Hall were chiefs of all official agencies in Phuket as well as local Buddhist and

Islamic leaders Phra Khru Metta Phirom and Komol Dumlak.

Addressing the meeting, Governor Narong explained that he was there to listen to the opinions of all parties and jointly work out a plan to prevent violent incidents in Phuket's educational institutions, reported the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

The Governor stressed that emphasis must also be made on drug suppression with all sectors actively

fighting drug abuse in the province. Heads of government agencies were urged "to be strict about the behaviour of their officers especially in the matter of drugs".

"If officers are involved in drugs, legal action must be taken. As for weapons, they must be closely controlled to prevent incidents," the meeting was told.

Governor Narong reminded people that the national hotlines 1300 and 1567 can be used to inform relevant...

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Foreigners to face higher park entry fees



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Students target effective plastic bag ban by law



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Phuket King's Cup Regatta back on schedule



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News



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Mental health enters spotlight

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...authorities of drug abuse. Drug testing every three months was also mentioned as one of the measures of strict narcotics control.

ATMOSPHERE OF FEAR

The massacre has taken an emotional toll on people throughout the country, with sensitivities running high over potentially dangerous people in their own neighbourhoods.

In Phuket, a man known to have refused his medication for a mental condition and who was seen walking around in the dark carrying a machete on Koh Maphrao last Friday night (Oct 7) was taken into custody and returned to Vachira Phuket Hospital for treatment.

The village headman of Baan Koh Maphrao, in Moo 6, Koh Kaew, reported the man's behaviour to Muang District officials at 11am last Saturday (Oct 8), said Muang District Chief Suwit Suriyawong.

The man, identified later only as "Mr Charan", 37, was seen walking in the village throughout the night, unable to sleep. He walked amongst the chickens, disturbing them all night, while carrying what was described as "a short dark weapon" and a machete, Mr Suwit said.

Local police had already been informed of Mr Charan's behaviour, but local residents thought it prudent to inform local administrative officials as well, as they believed he could be a danger to the public, he added.

District officials, accompanied by Territorial Defense personnel (OrSor) and patrol police in Koh



Officers take mental patient Mr Charan into custody at Laem Hin Pier last Saturday (Oct 8). Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Kaew, travelled by boat to Koh Maphrao, also called "Coconut Island", only to discover that Mr Charan had already taken a boat to Laem Hin Pier on Phuket. However, that was where he was quickly taken into custody.

Officers found Mr Charan was carrying in his bag two long knives and psychiatric medication issued by Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Mr Charan initially refused to return to Vachira hospital. Officers invited him to get into a pickup that would take him to Vachira hospital. Instead, Mr Charan lay on the ground and told officers they would have to pick him up and place

him in the car. The officers obliged and placed him in the back of the pickup, but Mr Charan later agreed and was taken to Vachira hospital to receive further treatment.

Mr. Charan's mother told police that her son had been more unpredictable in his behaviour, adding that he was more likely taking illicit drugs for his condition instead of the medication prescribed by Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Mr Charan had been to therapy many times, she said, but had never shown long-term signs of recovery.

The exact mental issue that Mr Charan has been diagnosed with has yet to be named by officials.

Mr Charan did have an appointment to return to Vachira hospital on Monday (Oct 10), his mother said.

Police noted that Mr Charan tested positive for drug use through a preliminary urine test. They also said that he was being held under technically under a charge of attempted murder.

SLASH WITH INTENT

The ramped up efforts by police saw a man armed with knives caught carrying 22 meth pills (ya bah) and 1.2 grammes of crystal meth (ya ice) being arrested near the sea gypsy village in Rawai after he tried to slash arresting officers

while attempting to flee.

The arrest was announced by Akara Suwatthikul of the Phuket Provincial Defense Office, noted a report by PR Phuket.

Still calling the area "Thai Mai Village (Chao Lay)" – the "New Thais Village (Sea Gypsy)" – in Moo 2 Rawai, the report said the man was arrested at about 5pm last Saturday (Oct 8).

The man was named only as "Pichai" (family name withheld), also known by his nickname "Mook".

Among the host of officers involved in the arrest were OrSor personnel and police officers, noted the report, which claimed the officers were operating on the behalf of Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew.

Pichai was found in possession of two B100 banknotes, 22 meth pills and three bags containing a total of 1.2g of ya ice.

"While the officers were searching and placing Pichai under arrest, he attempted to flee and armed with knives attempted to injure officers in order to escape capture," said the report.

Pichai has been charged with possession of a Category I narcotic with intent to sell, carrying a weapon in a public area and with resisting arrest by use of force, the report confirmed

Officers are to continue their investigation and will continue with their campaign with relevant agencies "to carry out strict siege, search and rigorous measures to prevent and solve the problem of drug epidemic in all areas of Phuket", said the report.

Phi Phi among new 'special service' park entry fees for foreigners

THE PHI PHI ISLANDS national park areas and other popular national park destinations for Phuket tourists have been included in a list of national parks that now charge foreigners extra for entry.

The new parks fees, issued by the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), were posted on the DNP official Facebook page on Sept 30.

The post, showing only the new order, evidenced that the new fees were quietly signed into immediate effect on Sept 19 by DNP forestry officer Monchanok Wongwijit, on behalf of DNP Director-General Ra-



DNP Director-General Rachada Suriyakul na Ayutthaya (3rd from left) joins Ao Phang Nga National Park officers at James Bond Island last Saturday (Oct 8). Photo: DNP

chada Suriyakul na Ayutthaya.

The latest park entry fee announcement noted only prices for foreigners. Under the order, entry fees for Thai nationals to all national park areas remained unchanged.

The order marked that entry to Khao Yai National Park in Nakhon Ratchasima province, Thailand's first national park and third largest national park in the country, now costs foreign adults B400 and foreign

children B200 each to enter.

In the Gulf of Thailand, national park areas near Koh Samet and the Ang Thong Islands now cost foreigners adults B300 each for entry, and foreign children B150 each.

Entry to the Haad Nopparat Thara Beach - Phi Phi Islands National Park, including areas on Phi Phi Don Island, Phi Phi Lei Island and Bamboo Island (Koh Maipai), cost foreign adults B400 and foreign children B200.

Under the order, the new entry fees have now been expanded to affect access to national park areas in the Koh Lanta area, including Koh Rok island, Koh Ngai island and Koh Ha Island, as well as the popular dive sites at Hin Daeng and Hin Muang. Access to DNP protected areas at these locations will now cost foreign adults B400 and foreign children B200.

The latest announcement for national park entry fees

follows the DNP in June announcing a slew of price rises for foreigners entering national park areas.

In the June announcement, which announced the restructuring of parks into categories according to entry fees charged, the Similan Islands National Park and the Surin Island National Park, also both popular destinations for Phuket tourists, were placed into a category of their own.

Foreign adults are now charged B500 each time for entering the park and foreign children charged B250 for each visit. Thai national adults are charged B100 and Thai children B50 each. *The Phuket News*

Taxis vow no more violence

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To prevent more violent reactions by taxi queue drivers in Kamala, discussions led by Phuket officials last week tabled having 15 locations designated as pick-up and drop-off points for passengers using “other transport services”.

At the meeting, held at Kamala Police Station, local taxi operators vowed to the Kathu District Chief they would not cause any violent incidents to affect the image of Phuket tourism again, claimed a report by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

Present at the discussions were Kathu District Chief Siwat Rawangkul, the Kamala Police Chief, Phuket Tourist Police officers, officials from the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO), Kamala Tambon Administrative Organisation (OrBorTor) Deputy President Jaroon Kobkoi and an assortment of Kamala taxi operators.

The meeting resolved five key points “by agreement”, said the PR Phuket report.

First, the taxi operators are to acknowledge the results



Photo: Kathu District Office

of the action of the relevant government agencies if they cause disturbances in their occupation, such as being prosecuted according to relevant laws, said the report.

That included the need to order the revocation, seizure or suspension of a public transport vehicle or driving license, and the need to send any drivers for “training”, if required, the report added.

Second, the taxi operators are also to recognise the

decisions made by the PLTO in case an app is not operating within the confines of the law. “The Department of Land Transport has requested cooperation from the Ministry of Digital Affairs to deal with apps that violate the relevant laws,” the report noted.

Third, while waiting for police action on any incident, the PLTO is to investigate and strictly enforce the law regarding the violation of any laws involving public taxis. This

is to be done “by allowing operators to help by being the eyes and ears” of officials, the PR Phuket report said.

The breaking of any laws regarding taxis and their drivers will result in prosecution, the report assured.

Fourth, there are to be no more incidents involving violence, “as shown in the news”, the report continued. All operators involved must discuss concerns and come to an agreement within the group

“so that serious incidents will not affect them, and which will definitely affect the image of tourism again”, the report said.

The fifth, and most important point, was, “If all operators comply with the terms of the agreement successfully, the relevant government agencies will expedite the determination of 15 designated pick-up and drop-off points in Kamala in accordance with the relevant laws.”

The report did not elaborate on exactly who will be determining where the 15 “pick-up, drop-off points”, called “taxi ranks” anywhere else in the world, will be located.

The report also did not make it clear exactly which taxi drivers will be allowed to pick up or drop off passengers at the 15 locations.

Also of key importance, despite some reports claiming that the result of the meeting being a certainty, the fifth point literally began with the word “If”.

The issues covered at the meeting saw officials maintaining their focus on taxi apps operating illegally following an incident in Kamala on the Saturday night of Oct 1.

A woman taxi-app driver was accosted and had her car damaged by a taxi queue driver in front of Cafe del Mar. The woman had picked up the order to pick up the passenger through the JustGrab app.

As of June 13 this year, JustGrab (operated by GrabTaxi), is allowed to pick up and drop off passengers in only two areas: 1) Phuket Town, 2) Patong-Karon.

Without reasons explained, JustGrab drivers in Phuket are no longer allowed to pick up or drop off passengers anywhere outside of the two zones.

Of note, the JustGrab driver involved in the incident in Kamala was fined B2,000 and had her driver’s licence suspended for 30 days for her part in the “altercation” – that is, for turning up in front of Cafe del Mar to pick up a passenger.

The taxi-queue driver who damaged her car “agreed” to pay B5,000 in damages to her vehicle, and also had his licence suspended for 30 days.

However, the taxi-queue driver, unlike the JustGrab driver, suffered no financial penalty for his violent behaviour in the incident.

Raids on pubs, bars fail to find evidence of sex, drugs

A SERIES OF RAIDS on pubs and bars in Phuket Town accused of operating as brothels and venues for the sale of drugs found no breaches of any laws that officials brought action against.

The raids on six popular venues in Phuket Town last Friday night (Oct 7) were carried out on by a contingent of no less than 20 officers from 9pm to 10:30pm, said a report by the Muang District Office.

The report named a long list of officials involved in ordering and carrying out the raids, including that the raids came under the direction of Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew, and consequently by Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong, Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Somprat Prabsonkram, Muang District Chief Suwit Suriyawong and Wichet Suyanan, a “Deputy District Officer” also from the Muang District Office.

The raids were led by Deputy District Security



Photo: Muang District Office

Officer Danai Jaikeng joined by police officers commanded by Phuket Town Police Deputy Chief Pol Lt Col Chatchai Chunu, said the report.

Also bolstering the ranks of the raiding party were Territorial Defense personnel (OrSor) attached to the Muang District Office.

The six pubs and bars raided were named as Ploenchit, Sound Up, At Five, Cosmos, Ther and The

Column.

The raids were instigated by a complaint posted on popular Thai-language social media page that accused some of the venues of operating as brothels with drugs sold on the premises, notably in the bathrooms, said the report.

However, according to the report, the officers found no evidence supporting the accusations.

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Chinese anglers safely ashore

Eakkapop Thongtub
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Four Chinese businessmen on a fishing trip in a small boat south of Phuket were safely recovered and brought back to the island last week after their boat suffered engine failure overnight.

According to a report by state news agency NBT, the four Chinese men were reunited with family members in Phuket at 7am on Oct 5.

The four men chartered a small boat on the morning of Oct 4 to go fishing at Racha Noi Island, south of Phuket, said the report.

The men had failed to return to Phuket by 9pm, prompting concerned family members to report the failure to make contact with the boat to the Phuket Marine Office.

The last known position of the boat was reported to be behind Green Island, between Maiton Island and Phi Phi Lei Island.

Other boats in the area were alerted to be on the lookout for the boat, and



The four Chinese businessmen were brought ashore the next day. Photo: NBT

the Andaman Maritime Safety and Traffic Control Center (CSCA) took command of the mission to find the missing boat, said the report.

Passing ship 'Adriatic Energy' reported locating the boat at 1am on

Oct 5, resulting in Navy boat T233 of the Third Area Naval Command based at Cape Panwa being dispatched to render assistance and bring the boat and the people on board safely back to Phuket.

No official reports of the rescue clarified whether or not the Chinese businessmen were tourists.

Present to welcome the four back on land were Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew and a host of other very important officers and representatives from related agencies.

The rescue came as officials noted that the Thai Meteorological Department (TMD) was maintaining its heavy weather warning for the southern Andaman coast, with 70% of the area expected to experience passing thunderstorms during the period.

Waves in Phang Nga waters at the time were forecast to average one to two metres high, and average about one metre high closer to Phuket.

The official reports, local and national, made no mention of any action against the small fishing boat operator for ignoring the TMD weather advisory's call for all small boats to stay ashore during the spate of heavy weather.

The advisory had been in effect for more than a week.

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If you are a military veteran or were a member of the emergency services, and you are interested in meeting some likeminded people here on Phuket, Phuket Veterans are keen to hear from you.

Contact Steve on 089 587 0819
or see www.phuketveterans.com for more information



Officers arrest Sathit at a shooting range in Rawai. Photo: Wichit Police

Jewellery thief arrested at Rawai shooting range

A MAN WHO STOLE B270,000 in jewellery from a friend's house in Wichit last month has been arrested at a Phuket shooting range in Rawai.

The suspect, named only as "Mr Sathit" (family name not reported), was arrested on Oct 6, said a report by the Wichit Police.

The report noted that Likit Waothong, a resident of Saphan Hin, technically Moo 6, Wichit, reported the thefts to Wichit Police at about 11:10pm on Sept 18.

A burglar had somehow entered the house and stolen a gold necklace, two gold rings and a bracelet altogether valued at about B270,000 from inside their home.

It was only at about 6pm that day that Mr Likit realised that the items had been

stolen, said the report.

An investigation led officers to identify Sathit as the thief and a warrant for his arrest (Jor. 568/2565) was issued on Oct 5, said the report.

Officers tracked down and arrested Sathit at the Phuket Shooting Range in Rawai at about 1pm the next day (Oct 6), the report said.

Sathit was taken to Wichit Police Station and charged with burglary. According to the police report, Sathit admitted to stealing the items.

He told police that he had offloaded the stolen items for spending money, to travel around and to pay off debts, said the report.

Police did not confirm how much money or whether any of the stolen items had been recovered.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Veg Fest draws to a close with a blaze of fireworks

Eakkapop Thongtub
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Thousands of people lined the streets of Phuket Town and took part in the final mass ceremony of Phuket Vegetarian Festival involving street processions with the 'Farewell Ritual' at Saphan Hin on Oct 4.

More than 30 Chinese shrines taking part in the festival joined the auspicious occasion, officially called the last day of the nine-day festival.

Mah Song spirit mediums and devotees paraded images of the Nine Emperor Gods along the streets amid a cacophony of fireworks to drive away evil spirits and bad luck, shrouding the onlooking crowds with smoke.

The mass rituals at Saphan Hin to call the Jade Emperor and the Nine Emperor Gods to return to the heavens with bonfires of notes of prayers and blessings concluded with a blaze of fireworks, with heavy downpours not dampening the spirits of those taking part.

The festival concluded with the lowering of Go Teng poles late the next afternoon (Oct 5). The poles are raised at the beginning of the festival so the Nine Emperor Gods may descend to Earth, and lowered at the conclusion of the festival to mark they have returned to the heavens.

The ceremonies to lower the poles



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

were held at all Chinese shrines taking part in the festival, starting at 4pm. Traditionally, the poles are lowered at sunset, marking the final conclusion of the Phuket Vegetarian Festival.

The conclusion to this year's festival came after nine days of festivities, including fire walking and other ablutions ceremonies, as well as processions through the heart of Phuket Town with thousands of people lining the streets undaunted by sporadic heavy downpours.

TOURISM BOOST

Nanthasiri Ronnasiri, Chief of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office, said at a press conference staged by Phuket officials at Jui Tui shrine before the festival began said an estimated 100,000

Thais and about 80,000 foreigners were expected to join the festival over the nine days, from Sept 26-Oct 4.

In total 900 domestic flights and over 500 international flights will arrive during that time, she said.

The festival was estimated to help generate B3.4 billion for the island economy, Ms Nanthasiri predicted.

At the press conference, the Phuket Tourist Association, the Phuket chapter of the Thai Federation of Industries, the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) and Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew presented a united front in promoting this year's festival.

Governor Narong specifically welcomed the move for the TCEB to provide its support for the annual event.

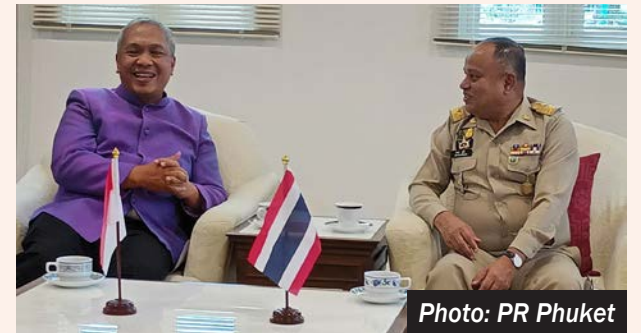


Photo: PR Phuket

Governor Narong hosts Indonesian delegation

OFFICIALS WELCOMED the Consul-General of the Republic of Indonesia, Songkhla Province, to Phuket last week as part of a meeting to promote and discuss good relations.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew met Suargana Pringgana and his delegation at the Governor's Lounge at Phuket Provincial Hall on Oct 3, the first time the officials had met in person.

During the meeting they discussed a range of issues including immigration and the assistance provided by Phuket Province to Indonesian nationals based here, particularly during religious fasting periods and the COVID-19 pandemic, for which Mr Pringgana expressed his sincere thanks.

Phuket's aspirations to host the World Specialised Expo 2028 was another topic discussed, something Mr Pringgana said he gladly supports and would willingly condone in reports back to his home country Indonesia in efforts to garner further support.

Joining the meeting were Kanathip Sukcharoen, Head of Phuket Provincial Office; Krishna Tipayachan, Commander of Phuket Prison; Padungsak Kalamik, Director of Phuket Provincial Justice Office; Pol Lt Col Kanisorn Ti Rakarn, Deputy Superintendent of Phuket Provincial Immigration; and Samerjit Limlikit, Head of the Phuket Temporary Passport Office.

The Phuket News

Teens tracked down, arrested for stealing temple donations

POLICE HAVE TRACKED down and arrested two local youngsters after they stole a donation box from Wat Ladthi Wanaram (Wat Tai) in Chalong last Saturday (Oct 8).

According to a police report, Chalong Police Deputy Chief Lt Col Kanaen Somrak was notified of the theft from the temple, on Chao Fa East Rd, at 2:50pm.

Through CCTV footage from the area, police identified the culprits leaving the scene on a red Honda Wave motorcycle with Nakhon Si Thammarat license plates.

The two young men were sitting on the motorcycle with the donation cloth placed between. The box, covered with white cloth, was clearly visible on the footage.

The suspects were tracked to Soi Yodsanae, where officers placed them under arrest at 3:40pm.

The suspects were named in the report as Mr Tong (17 years old) and Mr Folk (16 years old). Real names of



Two teenagers stole a donation box from Wat Tai last Saturday (Oct 8). The culprits were arrested in less than an hour and a half. Image: Chalong Police

the duo were withheld due to their age. Both confessed to the theft, police said.

Mr Tong and Mr Folk were taken to Chalong Police Station for legal processing, the report added.

Officers also contacted

their parents and invited them to the station as both suspects are considered juveniles by law.

The stolen donation box contained B560 in cash, police added.

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TAT plans new stimulus

Bangkok Post

With local tourism receipts set to fall below the government target of B656 billion because of nationwide floods and economic volatility, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) plans to accelerate the use of the fiscal 2023 budget to revive sluggish demand.

TAT Governor Yuthasak Supasorn said a promotional campaign to help absorb travel costs for local tourists is essential because the market is plagued by several unfavourable factors.

With the new fiscal year starting this month, the agency hopes lower travel costs will allow tourists to save money and spend more on their trips.

"Flooding and a weak economy might be critical obstacles for local consumption in the final quarter," Mr Yuthasak said.

Moreover, with subsidy schemes such as 'We Travel Together' ending this month, some travellers with purchasing power may opt for overseas destinations, limiting domestic revenue and making it likely that the target will be missed, he added.

He said most domestic tourists typically travel within Thailand on weekends or long holidays, making it unlikely they would spend more even if there were marketing campaigns persuading them to stay longer.

TAT will soon outline new projects for the upcoming festive season, which is expected to help revive the market, said Mr Yuthasak.

"People who have demand for travel still go, but they might spend less," he said.

For inbound tourism, the number of foreign travellers is expected to



The TAT ramped up its efforts with a roadshow in France late last month. Photo: TAT

reach the forecast of 10 million.

The TAT is already working on projects such as a mission to increase aircraft seat capacity this winter to more than 50% of the level in the fourth quarter of 2019, said Mr Yuthasak.

Many airlines are adding flights and reporting stronger load factors.

He said there are ongoing campaigns to spur foreign spending by providing longer periods of stay for arrival and tourist visas, which the government approved last month.

"I'm still optimistic tourism can be a mechanism to drive the country forward," said Mr Yuthasak.

The TAT, the Culture Ministry, the Thai Chamber of Commerce and the Thai Board of Trade signed a memorandum of understanding on Oct 6 for a project to support local tourism by adding value to cultural

products and services.

The new initiative is expected to be driven by technology and digital platforms.

MICE MANPOWER SHORTAGES

The MICE (meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions) segment in Thailand is seeing a strong rebound this year, but local operators are struggling to prepare enough manpower to serve the market, says the Thailand Incentive and Convention Association (TICA).

"Most destination management companies [DMCs] have been suffering for years and had to lay off employees," said TICA President Sumate Sudasna.

"Now that the businesses have started to recover, we cannot replace the employees fast enough," she said.

Mr Sumate said the strong growth stemmed from the relative speed of Thailand's reopening, when compared with regional competitors.

The MICE business is recording positive momentum, particularly for meetings and incentives, he said.

"There are a lot of events planned for the end of this year because of years of pent-up demand," said Mr Sumate.

He said estimated revenue in the fourth quarter might reach 60% of the same period in 2019, a year the industry described as being "overwhelmed".

The current market has not fully recovered because the Chinese have not returned, which has been attributed to the nation's zero-COVID policy.

There has been an influx of MICE visitors from Singapore and

India, as well as travellers in the sector from Europe, Australia and North America, said Mr Sumate.

With the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit planned for Bangkok next month, he said many five- and six-star hotels were fully booked, which prompted MICE groups to reschedule their meetings and incentive trips until after the event.

Mr Sumate said a wide range of food and activities in Thailand remain appealing for clients in the corporate segment, in addition to the weak baht that benefits foreign arrivals.

He said even though Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan could reopen in the fourth quarter, they may need more time to promote the MICE market as this segment typically has to plan trips months or years in advance.

Although the reinstatement of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha might trigger another round of protests, Mr Sumate believes the situation will be under control and should not negatively impact the industry.

"The most concerning factors are global inflation and the prolonged Russia-Ukraine conflict," he said.

Chuwit Sirivajjakul, executive director of the East Asia region for the Tourism Authority of Thailand, said China is showing positive signs, with a large corporate meeting with 400 participants scheduled to take place in Thailand next month.

However, the Chinese company organising the meeting has encountered difficulty finding DMCs in Thailand to help manage their activities here as operators are still recovering from the pandemic, he said.

Phuket airport hopes for Russian, Chinese flights

FLIGHTS FROM RUSSIA to Phuket are scheduled to resume from late October while the Chinese market may begin coming back around the year end, said Monchai Tanode, General Manager of Phuket International Airport.

Mr Monchai was speaking to the media last Saturday (Oct 8) after a merit-making ceremony to mark the 34th anniversary of operations at Phuket International Airport. The anniversary was celebrated under the slogan "Prime Destination through Secondary Hub Airport". Representatives from various government agencies and the private sector joined the event.

Mr Monchai said that the improvement in the COVID-19 situation resulted



Airport staff welcome visitors arriving on an inaugural flight from Yangon, Myanmar, last Sunday (Oct 9). Photo: AoT Phuket

in growing numbers of flights and passengers served by Phuket International Airport.

In January-August this year 849,406 passengers went through the airport, the num-

ber of flight arrivals and departures totaled 9,167, he said.

Mr Monchai also confirmed that three Russian airlines have notified Phuket International Airport about

their readiness to fly to and from Phuket performing at least two flights per day. Mr Monchai did not name the companies.

The Phuket News' sister

paper *Novosti Phuketa* earlier reported that Russia's flag-carrier Aeroflot confirmed two regular flights per day from Oct 30 and IKAR Airlines announced an unspecified number of flights from Oct 29. Russia's S7 Airlines announced flights to Bangkok from Nov 2 (five flights per week), yet it is not clear if S7 going to be the third Russian carrier to fly to Phuket.

Mr Monchai forecasts passenger traffic through Phuket International Airport will reach 13 million people next year. In 2019 the airport recorded its historical maximum of 18mn.

"After 34 years of operations the Phuket International Airport is ready to continue to develop and drive constant changes for good including taking care of the community and the environment alongside

its aviation business. We are ready to step into our 35th year of quality operations, building confidence in passengers and satisfying clients under the motto 'Safety is the standard. Service is the heart'," the airport said.

Mr Monchai admitted that the airport faces challenges and sometimes experiences problems such as the recent emergency repairs of the runway resulting in flight delays and diversions.

Mr Monchai did not mention the most recent incident when the airport came under fire after security personnel forced two tourists to leave the taxi they ordered via an app because the car was not from a cooperative listed among the airport's partners.

The Phuket News

Country grieves after massacre

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The mass shooting at a nursery in Nong Bua Lam Phu last Thursday (Oct 6) has prompted an urgent review of the country's policy on firearms possession for current and former police officers, national police chief Pol Gen Damrongsak Kittiprapas said on Saturday (Oct 8).

The Royal Thai Police will discuss the matter with the Ministry of Interior and other organisations involved in the registration of firearms, Pol Gen Damrongsak said.

Armed with a shotgun, a pistol and a knife, former police officer Panya Khamrab stormed the child development centre in the northeastern province at about 12:10pm to carry out his attack, leaving 36 dead and another 10 injured. Police confirmed there were 24 children among the dead, aged two to three years old.

Following the attack, 34-year-old Panya fled the scene in a vehicle. On arriving home he murdered his wife and son before taking his own life, police said, ending the rampage at about 3pm.



A woman leaves an offering for the victims of the mass shooting and knife attack outside the nursery in Nong Bua Lam Phu on Sunday (Oct 9). Photo: AFP

A preliminary investigation showed the gunman was in and out of the nursery within four minutes, suggesting he had already mapped out the location and selected it earlier, according to deputy national police chief Pol Gen Torsak Sukwimol.

Police were alerted by the time he left the premises but the nearest station is located 15 kilometres away, he said,

adding officers still managed to arrive at the crime scene within roughly 10 minutes of being dispatched.

Pol Gen Torsak also cited a study by the FBI while attempting to analyse why the killer carried out the attack. Three main factors were identified in the US study.

The "inside factor" could be a psychological problem, vulnerability and substance-

induced psychosis, while the "outside" factor may include family, social and economic pressure, Pol Gen Torsak said, referring to the first two factors.

The third factor refers to a situation that could provoke the attacker's impromptu violent response to it, he added.

The mother of the gunman confirmed her son was a methamphetamine addict

who had gone to court on the morning of Oct 6 to attend a hearing on a drug case. He had been booted out of the police force on June 15 for possession of methamphetamine pills in January.

After leaving the court, he appeared stressed out, took some narcotics and started to feel paranoid, Pol Gen Torsak quoted the mother as saying. The woman said her son then grabbed his gun and headed to the child development centre.

Apologising to all those affected by her son's attacks, the woman said he had been under a great deal of stress since he lost his job and was incapable of repaying his debts.

'SHARED GRIEF'

On Sunday, saffron-robed monks led prayers for the dead on a second day of ritual mourning at a temple close to the nursery.

Earlier, families wept as they knelt outside the nursery in a ceremony to help release their children's souls. Some clutched their children's portraits, beloved toys and favourite food, which they placed outside the compound as offerings.

Officials solemnly carried

children's treasured possessions out of the nursery to return to families – favourite blankets and much-loved toys, each carefully placed in name-tagged bags.


His Majesty the King Maha Vajiralongkorn met survivors and relatives at a hospital late on Friday, saying he "shared the grief" of the families and pledging to support them.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha expressed his deepest condolences to the bereaved families, adding that he had instructed the Social Development and Human Security Ministry to step up its compensation payments to them.

Prayut, who joined prayers Sunday evening, has also ordered a swift investigation and police have said they expect to interview about 180 witnesses in the coming days.

The deadly rampage was Thailand's worst mass shooting since a soldier opened fire at the Terminal 21 shopping mall and other locations in Nakhon Ratchasima on Feb 8, 2020.

In the 2020 massacre, the gunman killed 29 people and wounded 58 others before being shot dead.



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Dr. Sittipon is a doctor of dermatology who treats

patients of all ages in a bedside manner, from acne in children to abnormal skin concerns in adults. He spends time with the patients and asks a series of questions in order to provide personalized care.

Dr. Nattaphong is a board-certified general and plastic surgeon with the Thai Medical Council. He enjoys working with patients and must determine the best treatment approach for each individual. Dr. Nattaphong is dedicated to providing excellent results for patients who want pumping lips, a flat nose, adorable eyes, and other procedures.

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'Ticket to Paradise' putting fun back into cinema

Comedy seems to be a strange genre of cinema these days. In the past the comedy films that were released seemed very different to the films we have reaching screens today. Back then filmmakers were okay making outrageous comedies or comedies that had heart. These days it feels like most filmmakers try to make their comedies 'different' or 'alternative' and a lot of the time those films barely make the audience raise a smile yet alone a laugh... and as for heart, well forget it – that seems to be a foreign concept.

That is where the new film from director Ol Parker (*Mamma Mia Here We Go Again*) comes into the picture. *Ticket to Paradise* is almost a call back to those good old days of comedy. A film where you can't but feel yourself caring about the characters at hand and having a good laugh along the way.

Filmed mostly in Australia, *Ticket to Paradise* sees divorced couple, David (George Clooney – *Up in the Air*) and Georgia (Julia Roberts – *Pretty Woman*), who are constantly telling people around them how much that hate each other having to work together when their daughter, Lily (Kaitlyn Dever – *Dear Evan Hansen*), goes to Bali, falls in love and decides to get married straight away.



George Clooney and Julia Roberts in 'Ticket to Paradise' (2022). Image: IMDb

Upon arrival in Bali David and Georgia discover that Gede (Maxime Bouttier – *Meet Me After Sunset*) is actually a pretty nice guy and that Lily's best friend Wren (Billie Lourd – *Booksmart*) is pointing out that Lily is the happiest she has ever been. Still the former couple are determined that they are going to put a stop to this marriage one way or another.

The plot itself sounds very simple, and that is the first thing that seems to work in favour of the film. Ol Parker had a point and a moral that he wanted to tell with the film and he didn't go too far out of the way to get that across to his audience. There were no confusing metaphors or hidden meanings that will leave people scratching their head or having to search online for explanations after the film. No, this was just a good old-fashioned film that most people will

find themselves thoroughly enjoying.

To his credit Parker delivers a fully rounded screenplay to the audience that seems to have all bases covered without falling into too many Hollywood cliches. While David and Georgia are pretty much the villains of the piece, Parker has written them in such a way that they are likable villains, even to the point where most audience members may realise that they become their favourite characters despite what they are doing on screen. A lot of writers would have perhaps written Georgia as an almost Wicked Witch type of character, but here Parker presents her to the audience as a character who feels scorned, can't stand her ex but has enough redeemable features to make her completely likable, and more perhaps even more important relatable, to the audience.

It is the fact that most audience members will find themselves being able to understand all of the character's motivations that will make them ultimately feel closer to the characters themselves... which in turn makes you actually care what happens to them in the end. It seems like a crazy concept these days, but it is nearly impossible to make a good film if the audience doesn't feel like they can feel any emotion towards the characters at hand. Yes, there are times in this film that

are completely predictable, and I would be lying if I didn't say that I picked the ending a mile off, but what is most important here is just how enjoyable the journey to get to that ending is.

The comedy in this film works as well. There are the outrageous scenes, like the dolphin scene shown in the trailer, but for the most part the comedy comes from witty dialogue that kept raising chuckles throughout the film.

What also came to the fore for this film was the acting. Clooney and Roberts are on fire like the seasoned veterans they are throughout the film and the younger cast also rise to the occasion. Kaitlyn Dever once again shows why she is one of the most exciting young actresses in Hollywood at the moment while Maxime Bouttier does more than enough to suggest that he is a star on the rise.

Ultimately *Ticket To Paradise* is an enjoyable comedy with heart and likable characters. Queensland comes up a treat on screen and the beautiful surroundings lends itself nicely to the heartfelt story. This is a film that is a lot better than many will give it credit for.

Ticket To Paradise is currently screening in Phuket and is rated '13'. 3.5/5 Stars

David Griffiths

Saying bye-bye to plastic bags

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A local environmental group led by students at UWC Thailand International School, Phuket is gaining momentum and working towards having single-use plastic bags phased out by law through a six-month project.

The group, 'Plastic Free Phuket', is already 55 members strong from the student body alone, not including UWC staff and a growing number of people joining in at cleanups at beaches along the west coast.

The group already has support for its initiative from One Phuket, Sustainable Maikhao Foundation and Prince of Songkla University (PSU), as well as PSU lecturer Dr Chantinee Boonchai, a PhD graduate in Environmental and Development Systems at University of Queensland, Australia.

"Particularly since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Phuket has experienced an increase in plastic use and demand for waste management. Thriving off of tourism, Phuket has suffered economically throughout the pandemic, leading to a sharp decline in sustainable practices," the group explains in its mission statement.

"Waste disposal difficulties caused by the over-consumption of single-use plastics in Phuket has led Phuket's incinerators to surpass capacity, with landfills also filling rapidly. This is partly due to a lack of education regarding the harms of single-use plastics on the environment, with thousands of plastic bags being attained and thrown away everyday across Thailand.

"A ban on single-use plastic bags in Phuket could set a standard of sustainability, not only for the inhabitants of the province, but for provinces across Thailand and neighboring Southeast Asian countries," it adds.



Photo: Plastic Free Phuket

BYE BYE PLASTIC BAGS

The plan is to emulate the student-led Bye Bye Plastic Bags initiative that successfully saw a ban on single-use plastic bags introduced in Bali in 2019, making international headlines.

If approved the project will see a six-month transition period combined with a widespread public-awareness campaign for businesses to use alternative items or stop using bags altogether.

After six months the ban will go into effect and businesses will be expected to be no longer providing plastic bags. When businesses renew their business licenses, they will also be checked to see if they are providing plastic bags. If they are, they cannot renew their license until suspending the use of plastic bags.

"We encourage the replication of this system in Phuket to move towards becoming more environmentally aware. Phuket's reliance on tourism and overuse of plastic bags is similar to that in Bali before their own ban was enacted, providing support for Phuket's

ability to make the same change. Despite the ongoing pandemic, Bali has seen increased international interest in the sustainable tourism it aims to promote," the group notes.

While national plastic bag regulations exist and apply to large chain stores in Phuket, such as Makro and Lotus's, it is clear that this action alone is not sufficient, especially with the presence of many successful small businesses on the island, who continue to use single-use plastic bags.

A plastic bag ban will reduce the use of single-use plastic bags in all businesses.

To gauge interest and support for a ban on plastic bags on behalf of small business owners, presumably one of the groups whom this ban would affect most, the Plastic Free Phuket team conducted a series of interviews with vendors at the Boat Avenue Friday Night Market.

Of those surveyed, 82% of stalls from a sample interviewed said they would happily switch to sustainable packaging, with the most common object being concern over profit changes or cost competitiveness if not all vendors adopted sustainable options.

"This statistic indicates strong support for a ban on plastic bags from small business owners in Phuket," the group notes.

As more support arrives, the group plans to present its proposal to the Phuket Governor.

BEACH CLEANUPS

The beach cleanups conducted by the group are instrumental in not only cleaning trash and other debris from Phuket beaches, but also in raising awareness. All people are welcome to join. The next cleanup will be at Bang Tao Beach on Oct 30.

For more information about Plastic Free Phuket, visit their Facebook page, email plasticfreephuket@uwcthailand.ac.th or call 093-1744606.



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POP QUIZ

1. In which country does the Nile begin?
2. "Honestly, it's not for everyone" is the slogan of which American state?
3. Which world-renowned person died just five days after Princess Diana?
4. What is the name of the heat scale that measures the spiciness of chillis?
5. In which year did Suvarnabhumi Airport officially open?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Hard

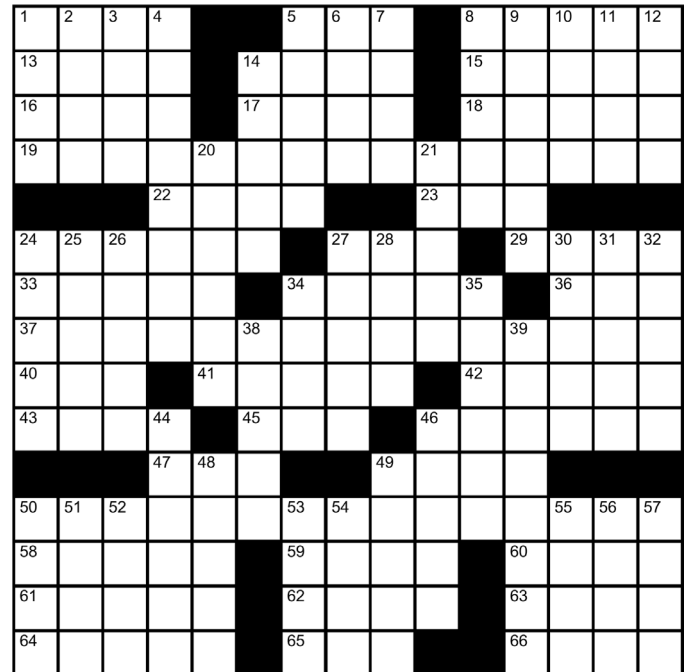
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Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across**
1. Embargoes
 5. Paw
 8. Nautical pole
 13. On the safe side
 14. Vice president under Jefferson
 15. 747, e.g.
 16. High time?
 17. Crowning point
 18. Hockey sites
 19. Chopper cleaner
 22. Offensive
 23. Jump into a pool?
 24. Drools over
 27. Simpleton
 29. Handle
 33. Drupelets
 34. Drive
 36. Mud
 37. Media snapper
 40. Aquatic shocker
 41. Informatory
 42. Billiards move
 43. "Nerts!"
 45. Freelancer's enc.
 46. Hip hop's Souljah
 47. Cousin of an ostrich
 49. Delighted
 50. Blue Sky rep
 58. Billy and namesakes
- Down**
1. Boston or Chicago, e.g.
 2. Frostbite treater
 3. Brightly colored
 4. Subjective
 5. Fief
 6. General assembly?
 7. Wine sediment
 8. Jag
 9. Statue base
 10. Eastern royal
 11. Signs, as a contract
 12. Makeup, e.g.
 14. Makes an illegal move on the mound
 20. Film genre
- 21. "A Doll's House" playwright**
- 24. Dressed like Superman**
- 25. Earthy pigment**
- 26. "Twelfth Night" role**
- 27. Charm**
- 28. Light on one's feet**
- 30. Old pay-to-graze arrangement**
- 31. "All That Jazz" director**
- 32. Schlepper**
- 34. Hawkeye's home**
- 35. Veneer**
- 38. ___ Camp**
- 39. Comics publisher**
- 44. Penn's partner**
- 46. Down at the heels**
- 48. Chaotic**
- 49. Knight mare?**
- 50. Omani moolah**
- 51. Sharpness**
- 52. Top drawer**
- 53. Bickering**
- 54. One to grow on?**
- 55. River to Donegal Bay**
- 56. ___ East**
- 57. Sticky fixer**

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Uganda; 2) Nebraska; 3) Mother Theresa; 4) The Scoville scale; 5) 2006.



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| 3 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 8 |
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GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

year on Uranus is equal to a little more than 84 years on Earth.

46.9

percent of our waking hours are spent simply daydreaming, according to a Harvard University

7,300

is the estimated total population of both captive and wild elephants in Thailand.

156,721

is how many Post Offices India has (as of 2021), the most of any country in the world.

4.4 billion

US dollars is how much the US government could save over 30 years by using \$1 coins instead of \$1 bills.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Karon Beach from the shade. Photo by Guilio Sterchele

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

This week in history

October 14, 2012

Felix Baumgartner jumps to Earth from a balloon in the stratosphere. He sets world records for skydiving 39km (now broken) and reaching a top speed of 1,357.64km/h (Mach 1.25), becoming the first person to break the sound barrier without vehicular power.

October 15, 1995

Saddam Hussein is re-elected president of Iraq through a referendum. His deputy announces that he had won

99.96% of some 8.4 million valid votes cast.

October 16, 1962

Cuban missile crisis begins: Kennedy is informed of photos taken by a U-2 showing nuclear missiles (the crisis lasts 13 days from this point).

October 17, 1943

The 415km Burma-Thailand Railway is completed by the Empire of Japan to support its forces in the Burma campaign of World War II.



Felix Baumgartner makes his jump from the stratosphere. Photo: Red Bull

October 18, 1963

Félicette, a Parisian stray cat, becomes the first cat launched

into space. She is recovered alive after a 15-minute flight and a parachute descent.

October 19, 1935

The League of Nations places economic sanctions on Italy for its invasion of Ethiopia.

October 20, 1977

Rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd's airplane crashes. Lead singer Ronnie Van Zant and guitarist Steve Gaines perish in the crash.

Source: Wikipedia

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

SUN

16 OCT



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

081-891-4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

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Sunday Roast

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

MON

17 OCT



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

081-891-4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket

Monday BBQ Night

6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Fish, Prawns & Squids, salad buffet and veggies, Choice of potatoes, cold and hot sauces, Bread, Buns & garlic bread. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 395 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195

baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

TUE

18 OCT



Rotary Club - Weekly Meeting

Come join Rotary Club of Patong Beach's Tuesday dinner meeting at Four points by Sheraton Patong. October's speaker lineup: Oct 04 - Dinner Out - Baan Ar-Jor, Maikhao, Oct 11 - Jazon Edouard - HeadStart International School Phuket Expansion, Oct 18 - Pual Merry & Kimmy Upatising - Inclusion World Championship for Sailing, Sat 29 OCT District Governor La-Or Chinda Official visit. Email club Sec. Hans at info@rotarypatong.org to register.

WED

19 OCT



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

081-891-4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket

Wednesday BBQ Night

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

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THU

20 OCT



Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners hosted by AustCham

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (AMCHAM), British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber of Commerce, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC), Phuket Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce, invite you to join us for Phuket Sundowners at SAii Laguna Phuket from 18:00hrs. B500 for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members, B900 for non-members. Includes cocktail-style food, and free-flow adult beverages and soft drinks. Bookings - austchamthailand.com, office@austchamthailand.com



Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners Business Briefing

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (AMCHAM), British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber of Commerce, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC), Phuket Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce, invite you to join us for Business Briefing on The future of Recreational and Medical Cannabis in the Tourism Sector, Thursday 20 October 2022, from 18.00-21.00 hrs. The future of Recreational and Medical Cannabis in the Tourism Sector: Will cannabis be a high or just a bad trip for Thailand's tourism sector? This talk will highlight topics to gain practical insight about operating a medical cannabis business focused on tourism in Thailand. Topics include: Marketing and pitch deck considerations for start-ups. Changes to the Cannabis and Hemp Act and how they will affect businesses in the sector. The future of medical cannabis in Asia. Speakers: Dr Paul Crosio, a Partner at Silk Legal who was recently recognised as one of the Top 200 Global Cannabis

Lawyers of 2022. Diego Sala, Managing Director of Siam Trade Development specialises in regulated activities surrounding cannabis products, dietary supplements, and medical devices. How much does it cost: Free of charge for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Member For registration code for Australian Alumni members, please contact AustCham team at 02 109 9616 or email to office@austchamthailand.com

FRI

21 OCT



Marriott Bonvoy Inaugural Southern Thailand Charity Golf

Marriott Bonvoy invites you to join the Inaugural Southern Thailand Charity Golf Day on October 21. The day is all about having fun and it will be the biggest charity golf day in Thailand! You will engage with a full field of golfers from the business and social golf community in Phuket and from across Thailand! For details about the event contact Blue Canyon Country Club at proshop@bluecanyonphuket.com or call 081 894 9274.

SUN

20 NOV



Join the Race of Legends – Laguna Phuket Triathlon 2022

LPT is back and you have ONLY 2 MONTHS left to register for this renowned race in Laguna Phuket. Choose your favorite option between Individual or Team Triathlon, Sprint Triathlon, and Duathlon. When you sign up for the race, you have access to special promotions in all #LagunaPhuket hotels, within walking distance from the race venue! BOOK YOUR ROOM NOW, rates from only THB 2,000 a night, including breakfast for two. Use the code: LPT2022 Event date: Sunday 20 November 2022 Book your hotel & race at your door step Sign up now: https://www.lagunaphukettri.com, Giulia.B@lagunaphuket.com

JOBS

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Home Based. Must have Excellent Writing & Computer skills. International Candidate (English Mother tongue). Property Business 4 Hours a day, & 1 hour Saturday. Send CV - personalassistantphuket@gmail.com

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Xioami Monitor 34 inches. Bought from Lazada 10 days ago for B9,100. "No Input and converts to Sleep Mode". Now B2,782. Phone: 0937843763. Email: mylesrandall1@gmail.com

COMMUNITY



CALLING ALL VETERANS AND FORMER EMERGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL

Did you know that we have an active social networking group on Phuket specifically for veterans of military service and the emergency services? Phuket Veterans provide a social networking opportunity, as well as further support when things go wrong. Along with this, Phuket Veterans train often to support the local emergency services and the Department for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) in preparation for the next crisis to hit this island. The qualifications that were achieved during service may have expired, but the skill sets are still there. Dont worry, the training is light and generally takes place near a pub. As well as full (free) membership, families of members are offered associate membership too. Commitment and participation is entirely up to the individual members. If you are a military veteran or were a member of the emergency services, and you are interested in meeting some likeminded people here on Phuket, Phuket Veterans are keen to hear from you. Contact Steve on 089 5870819 or see www.phuketveterans.com for more information.


PROPERTY FOR SALE



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IFS JOB VACANCIES

Hotel Facilities Manager

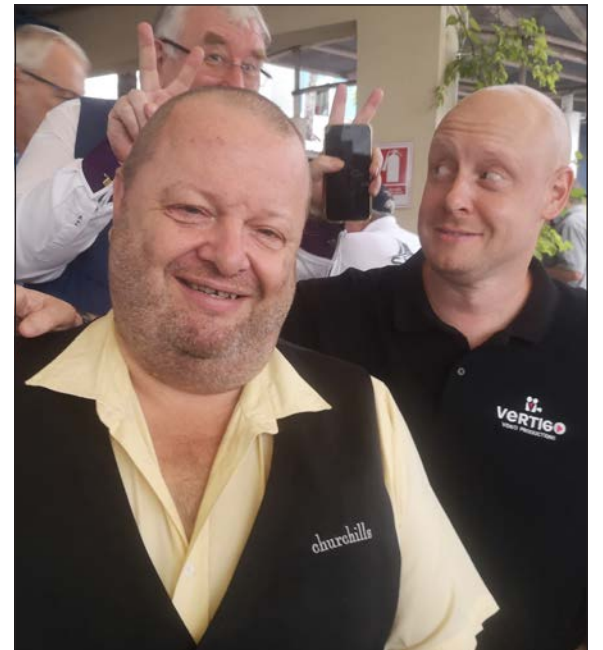
(Based in Phuket)

Position summary and requirements:

- Engineering, Administration, Business or Facilities Management related qualification.
- Proven experience in hospitality related services, preferably orientated towards Facilities Management.
- Experienced in the leadership and general management of hospitality services teams ie. Engineering, House-Keeping, Landscaping, Security and Training.
- Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office.
- Knowledge and understanding of HSE responsibilities. Willing to study for additional formal qualifications if necessary.
- Good commercial and financial awareness.
- Ability to prepare action plans and implement them.
- Demonstrate a good level of spoken English, written and interpersonal skills, including an ability to communicate, negotiate and consult with all levels of staff and to produce related reports.

Send your CV and Application directly to: Scott Duncanson

Email: scott.d@ifs-thailand.com



GROW BOATING EVENING AT BOARDWALK BISTRO AT THE PHUKET BOAT LAGOON

Held on Friday, October 7, guests enjoyed catching up with friends and colleagues from the Phuket marine industry, all helped by the sponsorship of drinks by BASCO Boating and tasty finger food sponsored by the Boardwalk Bistro. A little rain couldn't dampen the positive atmosphere. Grow Boating is proudly supported by *The Phuket News*, Live 89.5 radio and *Phuket News TV*.

Where to eat

in PHUKET

The November/December 2022 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

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Spanish rookie hits paydirt

Eugenio Lopez-Chacarra nets US\$4mn for LIV Bangkok victory

GOLF

AFP

Unheralded Eugenio Lopez-Chacarra, who turned professional only in June this year, secured a massive US\$4 million (B150mn) pay day last Sunday (Oct 9) by winning the breakaway LIV golf tour event in Bangkok.

The Spaniard had not finished inside the top 20 previously at a LIV event but landed a monster cheque after carding a final round three-under 69 to hold off former US Masters champion Patrick Reed by three strokes at Stonehill golf club in Pathum Thani.

The 22-year-old followed up his opening two rounds of 65 and 63 to finish on 19-under par.

There was a three-way tie for third in the 54-hole event with Englishmen Paul Casey and Richard Bland finishing on 15-under par alongside American Sihwan Kim.

"It's great," said Lopez-Chacarra, who until a few



Eventual winner Eugenio Lopez-Chacarra in action on day two of the tournament. Photo: AFP

months ago was still a college student.

"I'm playing with the best players in the world, and that's what I've wanted to do since I was little and I'm learning from each of them.

"It's been a dream, and I can't be more excited for the next years to come."

A stellar field including British Open champion Cameron Smith, big-hitting Bryson DeChambeau and multiple-major winners Dustin Johnson, Phil Mickelson and Brooks Koepka all competed

in the tournament. They were joined by home heroes Sodom Kaewkanjana and Phachara Khongwatmai, plus a host of Ryder Cup- and major-winning stars including Henrik Stenson, Lee Westwood, Ian Poulter, Sergio Garcia, Louis Oosthuizen and Reed.

'DEEP POCKETS'

The \$25mn event in Bangkok was the Saudi-backed LIV tour's first in Asia.

The deep pockets of Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund have allowed LIV to of-

fer eye-watering prize money – last place in Bangkok took home \$120,000 – but have also drawn accusations of "sportswashing", given the kingdom's dubious human rights record.

The revolutionary tournament format of LIV Golf aims to supercharge the sport of golf. Each event sees a 48-man field compete in 12 teams of four, with a shotgun start, on-course music and entertainment that creates an electric atmosphere.

After three rounds of golf,

the champion is announced and the prize of \$25mn shared.

A host of top players have joined the series, plunging golf into a bitter civil war with the US PGA Tour banning players who sign for LIV.

And last week's event was overshadowed by a row over world ranking points, after LIV said it would be co-sanctioned by the developmental MENA (Middle East and North Africa) Tour but the official rankings body OWGR refused to recognise it and award points.

LIV has previously staged five events in its first season, but without any ranking points awarded for its players – including former world number one Dustin Johnson.

LIV Golf CEO and commissioner Greg Norman had said previously he was no longer prepared to negotiate with US PGA Tour chiefs while denying the Saudi-funded circuit was a "breakaway" league.

In an interview with *The Australian* newspaper last month, Norman said he had offered to meet with PGA

Tour officials but they had repeatedly declined, instead focusing on reforming their tour to hang on to leading players.

"That's why we are where we are today," Norman claimed in the interview.

"We tried awfully hard, I know I did personally for the past year... when we knew we were never going to hear from them, we just decided to go.

"We have no interest in sitting down with them, to be honest with you, because our product is working.

"Our business model from day one was always built around being inclusive. It was always an additive to all tours.

"This notion we're trying to destroy tours is not true. The PGA Tour is trying to destroy us, it's as simple as that.

"But the PGA Tour has not sat down and had a conversation with myself or any of my investors."

The tour travels to the Royal Greens Golf and Country Club in King Abdullah Economic City, Saudi Arabia for the next leg, starting today (Oct 14).

Djokovic takes 90th career title with Astana victory

TENNIS

NOVAK DJOKOVIC claimed the 90th title of his career and the fourth of 2022 with a dominant straight-sets victory over Stefanos Tsitsipas in the ATP final in Astana, Kazakhstan last Sunday (Oct 9).

The 35-year-old Djokovic triumphed 6-3, 6-4 in 75 minutes to add to the trophies he won this season in Israel, Rome and at Wimbledon.

It was the ninth consecutive match victory for the fourth seed, who guaranteed himself a spot at the 2022 ATP Finals as a result of the win.

"I dared to dream, actually," Djokovic replied when asked if he had ever imagined he would win 90 titles.

"I always hoped that I would be going to have a great career. Obviously, didn't know the amount of finals I was going to play, the amount of tournaments I was going to win, but my



Djokovic on his way to victory. Photo: AFP

intention was always to reach the highest heights in our sport."

The Serb was banned from the Australian and US Opens and the entire North American hard court swing over his refusal to be COVID vaccinated before returning for Roger Federer's farewell in the Laver Cup team event

in London last month.

His time away had increased his motivation, he agreed. "Well, it did," Djokovic said. "I could not ask for a better re-start of the season. I'm super-pumped and motivated to end the season as well as I have done these past couple of weeks."

AFP

Atthaya rises to World No.2

GOLF

THAI TEENAGER ATTHAYA Thitikul has climbed to a career-high No.2 in the world rankings, thanks to a win and a top-four finish on the LPGA Tour in recent weeks.

The 19-year-old from Ratchaburi was fourth at the Volunteers of America Classic in Texas on Oct 2 after claiming her second LPGA win at the NW Arkansas Championship a week earlier.

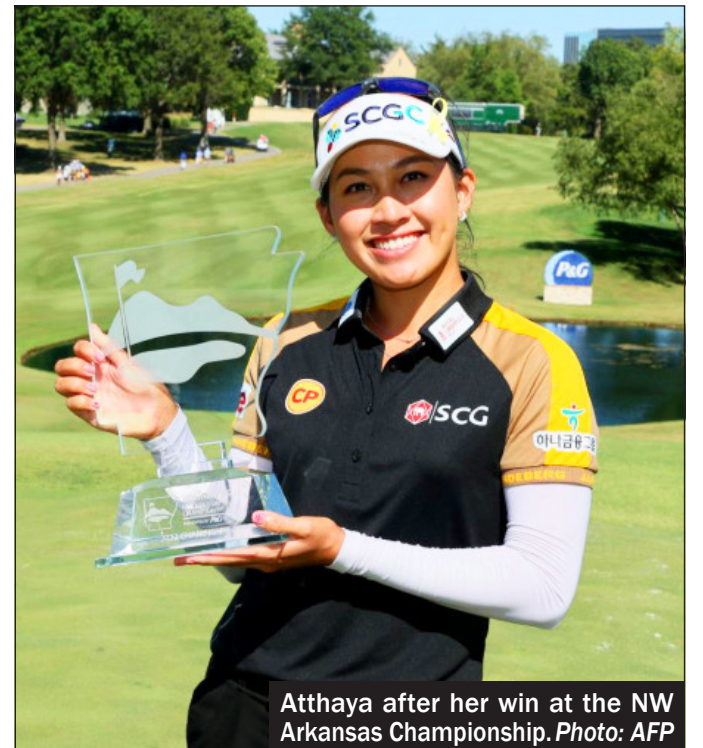
In the latest world rankings published on Oct 3, Atthaya moved up one spot to No.2, overtaking American star Nelly Korda, who dropped to third.

South Korea's Ko Jin-Young remains the top-ranked player.

The other top-10 players are No.4 Minjee Lee, No.5 Lydia Ko, No.6 Brooke Henderson, No.7 Chun In-Gee, No.8 Lexi Thompson, No.9 Nasa Hataoka and No.10 Kim Hyo-Joo.

Atthaya is the fourth multiple winner of the 2022 LPGA Tour season.

She is also the first rookie since South Korea's Park Sung-Hyun in 2017 to win multiple times on the LPGA Tour.



Atthaya after her win at the NW Arkansas Championship. Photo: AFP

Stardom found Atthaya early. At the age of 14, she became the youngest player, male or female, to win a professional golf tournament.

The teenager's maiden LPGA win came in March at the JTBC Classic.

"It means a lot to me to get my second win because you prove that you can do it," Atthaya said after her victory at the NW Arkansas Championship on Sept 25.

"It means the world to me

on my rookie year to win twice already. And then, yeah, it's kind of like a big [achievement]."

The other Thais in the top 100 of the world rankings are No.32 Patty Tavatanakit, No.59 Ariya Jutanugarn, No.61 Moriya Jutanugarn and No.82 Pajaree Anannarukarn.

Ariya remains Thailand's only golfer of either gender to have reached the No.1 ranking.

Bangkok Post

Gunners fire back to the top

Arsenal maintain title credentials after overcoming Liverpool

FOOTBALL

AFP

Bukayo Saka's double sent Arsenal back to the top of the Premier League after a 3-2 win over Liverpool last Sunday (Oct 9).

The Gunners led three times at the Emirates as Gabriel Martinelli struck within a minute and Saka scored in first-half stoppage time.

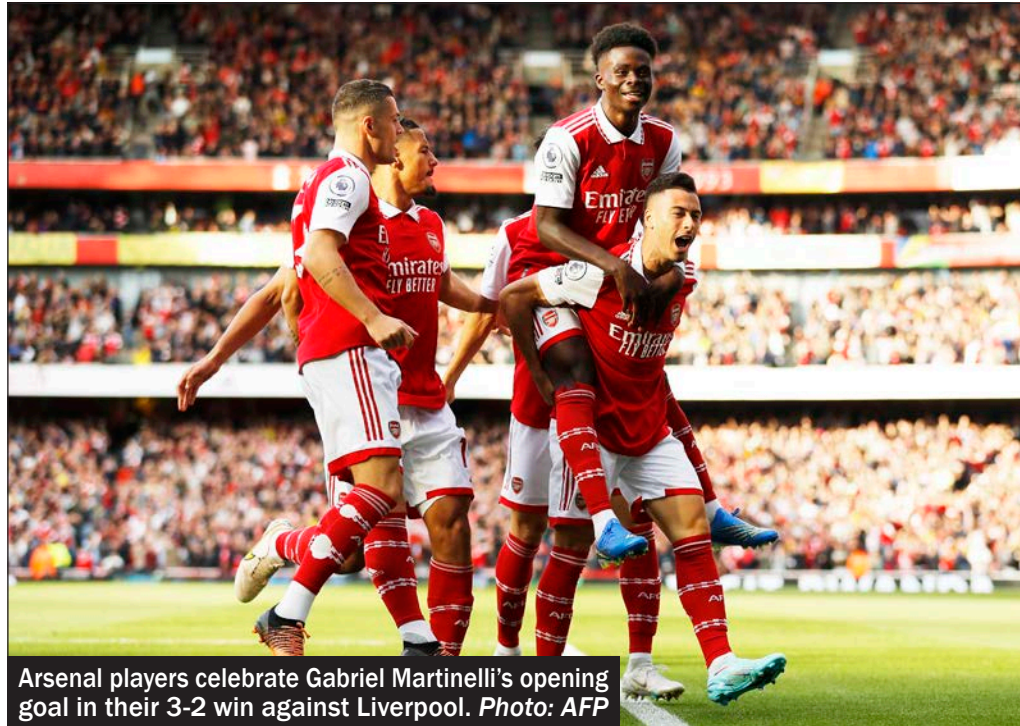
Darwin Nunez and Roberto Firmino replied for Liverpool either side of half-time but Saka's penalty condemned Jurgen Klopp's men to defeat.

Liverpool are now 14 points adrift of the leaders after winning just two of their opening eight league games.

Worse could be to come for Liverpool as they face Manchester City at Anfield on Sunday (Oct 16) and lost Luis Diaz and Trent Alexander-Arnold to injuries.

"We don't have to look yet at the table, but we know where we are," said Klopp. "We are not top. We have to sort it and we will."

Arsenal restored their one-



Arsenal players celebrate Gabriel Martinelli's opening goal in their 3-2 win against Liverpool. Photo: AFP

point lead over Manchester City and further strengthened their case to be considered serious title contenders after beating Tottenham in the north London derby on Oct 1, leaving their fans dreaming of a first league title since 2004.

"Liverpool were very efficient in the way they converted their chances, but we showed a lot of composure and char-

acter in difficult moments to overcome them," said Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta.

City recorded a 4-0 rout of Southampton 24 hours earlier as Erling Haaland extended his incredible scoring run to 10 successive games.

Joao Cancelo, Phil Foden and Riyad Mahrez all netted for Pep Guardiola's side before Haaland added his customary

goal to seal yet another one-sided success at the Etihad Stadium.

Haaland has scored an astonishing 20 goals in his first 12 competitive games since his £51 million (B2.1 billion) move from Borussia Dortmund in the summer.

"I am so upset with him! He didn't score three goals!" Guardiola joked about Haaland.

"Expectations of him are so high that people expect he is going to score three or four goals every game."

Guardiola's remarkable team have lost only one of their last 37 league games as they chase a fifth English title in the last six seasons. They have scored 24 goals in their last six games, winning eight of their last nine across all competitions and are the first club to score at least three goals in nine consecutive top-flight home matches since Wolves in 1959.

SUPER SUB RONALDO

Meanwhile, Cristiano Ronaldo's 700th club goal helped Manchester United to a 2-1 win over Everton on Sunday.

Ronaldo has had to get used to life on the bench under Erik ten Hag but a first-half injury to Anthony Martial gave the five-time Ballon d'Or winner the chance to reach another incredible goalscoring landmark.

United trailed after just five minutes at Goodison Park as Alex Iwobi curled into the top corner.

But the Red Devils hit back through Antony's third goal in as many games before Ronaldo struck the winner.

At Stamford Bridge, Chelsea racked up a third win in new boss Graham Potter's four games since replacing the sacked Thomas Tuchel as they beat Wolves 3-0 thanks to goals from Kai Havertz, Christian Pulisic and Armando Broja, his first strike for the club.

Tottenham are three points behind Manchester City after Harry Kane's eighth goal of the season secured a 1-0 win at Brighton.

Bournemouth put under-fire Leicester boss Brendan Rodgers back on the hot seat with a 2-1 win at Dean Court. The second bottom-placed Foxes have now lost seven of their last eight games.

Fifth placed Newcastle thrashed Brentford 5-1 at St James' Park, West Ham came from a goal down to defeat Fulham 3-1 and Crystal Palace also came from behind to beat Leeds 2-1 thanks to Eberechi Eze's winner 14 minutes from time.

Thai women show fight at FIVB World Championships

VOLLEYBALL

THAILAND PUSHED the mighty United States to five sets before falling just short in their final match at the FIVB Women's World Championship in Lodz, Poland last Saturday (Oct 8).

The Americans came out flat and seemingly unprepared for the robust Thai defence, with Thailand taking the first two sets.

However, the defending Olympic champions gradually found their form and wore down their opponents, ultimately prevailing 23-25, 21-25, 25-19, 27-25, 15-13.

Thailand was led by Chatchu-on Moksri with 19 points and Pimpichaya Kokram with 16.

The USA entered the tournament ranked first in the world and have since slipped behind Italy and Brazil.

Despite the loss, the match was a big confidence-builder for the 14th ranked Thai women, who have shown that they can hold



The team celebrate their upset win against the Dominican Republic on Oct 1. Photo: Thailand Volleyball Association

their own with the sport's elite teams.

In the first round they fashioned a pair of upsets over superior opposition from Turkey and the Dominican Republic on their way to four wins in five contests. In the second round they lost in four sets to Canada and Germany and in three sets to No.4 Serbia prior to the showdown with the Americans.

Thailand have ended their campaign with a seventh-place finish in the eight-team Pool F with 10 points (wins and points from the first round carry over to the second). The top four teams in each pool will advance

to the quarterfinals of the championship that is being held in Poland and the Netherlands until Oct 15.

The ultimate goal is the country's first berth in the Olympics in Paris in 2024. Slots for 11 teams are still at stake, plus an automatic berth for host France. The qualifying tournaments for the Olympic Games will take place in September and October next year.

Twenty-four teams defined by the FIVB rankings will be eligible for the qualifying rounds. The rankings for the women's teams will be announced on Monday (Oct 17).

Bangkok Post



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Sport



Firing Gunners sound title warning > p15

CHAMPION!

Verstappen wins back-to-back world titles after victory in Japan

Max Verstappen celebrates on his car following his victory at the Japanese Grand Prix last Sunday (Oct 9), which handed the Dutchman his second world championship. Photo: Toshifumi Kitamura/ AFP



FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

Max Verstappen won his second world championship after a dominant wet-weather drive to win the Japanese Grand Prix last Sunday (Oct 9).

The Dutchman started the race needing to outscore Charles Leclerc and Sergio Perez by eight and six points respectively, but a first-lap crash and intensifying rain meant the race was suspended for more than two hours and put at risk of not restarting.

But with around 45 minutes to go the weather cleared enough to get the race back underway with a rolling restart.

Verstappen controlled the restart beautifully, and after a pit stop a handful of laps later to switch from full wets to intermediate tyres he started to pump in fastest laps.

He broke from the field at more than a second a lap to put victory beyond doubt long before the end of the 28-lap time-limited race, which he won by a crushing 27 seconds, but his championship victory was far from assured with Leclerc in second and Perez in third.

In those positions Perez would be defeated by Leclerc would go to the next race in Austin still in contention by a point.

But as the race wore on, Leclerc struggled increasingly to keep his tyres alive around

the demanding circuit, and Perez began to bear down on him.

With five laps to go they engaged, but Leclerc's defensive work despite his ailing rubber was commendable in clinging to the place.

But his hard work was undone at the final chicane, where he outranked himself and ran deep. He rejoined the track and crossed the line just ahead of Perez but had cut the track to hold the position, and the stewards immediately put him under investigation.

It took just minutes for them to rule in Perez's favour, swapping their positions on the podium and thereby handing Verstappen his second championship – despite some confusion over

whether reduced points would be awarded for less than 75% of the race being completed, though these regulations apply only in the case of a suspended race.

'INCREDIBLE'

"Incredible of course!" Verstappen said, having been told partway through the post-race interviews that Leclerc's penalty had handed him the title. "It's very special also to do it here, in front of all the Honda people, all the Japanese fans.

"It's crazy, mixed emotions. Winning the race, but looking back – what a year we've had. It's been incredible.

"I'm so thankful to everyone who has worked so hard. The work we've done together

with Honda, to win twice with them is so emotional. I'm very proud we could do it here.

"Just the season we've had, the one-twins, leading the constructors [championship] – it's been a special year, and you need to remind yourself as these kind of years you don't have very often."

The race was surprisingly tame after the resumption despite the chaos of the original start which saw Carlos Sainz crash out of the race in treacherous conditions and Thai driver Alex Albon stop with a technical problem.

The safety car was subsequently deployed to recover the cars, but the recovery truck was sent onto the track before the field had bunched up behind the leader.

Pierre Gasly was still making up ground after a first-lap pit stop for repairs and was speeding past the scene of the crash when the truck appeared through the thick mist, leaving the Frenchman furious with race control's handling of the situation.

Other drivers were also appalled even as they trailed behind the safety car while crossing the crash scene, noting the low visibility and slippery conditions made it extremely dangerous in the event any driver lost control or were caught unsighted.

The FIA defended its use of the recovery vehicle while cars were on track, noting its standard procedure if the safety car is in control of the race.

Dates confirmed for Phuket King's Cup Regatta 2022

SAILING

THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta (PKCR) has announced that the 34th edition is to be held this year from Dec 3-10 at Kata Beach.

This will be the first PKCR since 2019 due to cancellations enforced by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions implemented on domestic and international travel and immigration.

"On behalf of The Royal Varuna

Yacht Club, the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand and the PKCR Organizing Committee we look forward to welcoming everyone back to Thailand," organisers said on the PKCR website.

"We would like to thank our Royal Patron His Majesty the King of Thailand, previous participants and sponsors for continuing to support the PKCR.

"We appreciate all the time and effort that has gone into preparing for participation in the event and racing in the Regatta."

The event is open to boats eligible to compete in the classes as published in the Notice of Race. However, to help with the safety and integrity of the event, and in compliance with a statement from World Sailing on March 1 this year, entries shall be open to boats entered or sailed by persons from any nation, but not persons holding only Russian or Belarusian nationality.

Further, boats and competitors shall not display any sail letters, symbols, flags or slogans repre-

senting Russia or Belarus on any boat, place or clothing associated with the event.

The penalty for a breach of this rule will be exclusion from further participation in the event and the removal of the boat from the results.

The ruling was a direct response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine on Feb 24 this year.

"Both on and off the water, our sport is united by the values of equality, inclusion, respect and fairness," the World Sailing statement explained.



Photo: Guy Nowell

"We are now asking our sailing family to come together as a sporting force for good by working with us at this incredibly difficult time."

Online entries can be submitted at www.kingscup.com, where the complete PKCR 2022 schedule can also be viewed. *The Phuket News*