

RASSADA MAN WINS B18MN ON LOTTERY > PAGE 5

BLAZING TRAILS

PHUKET COUPLE TO SCALE NEPAL'S CHULU WEST FOR SOI DOG



Yanisa and Rohun in training in the hills of Phuket. Photo: Supplied

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket residents Yanisa Kingmala-Beven and her husband Rohun later this month will attempt to climb Chulu West in Nepal to help raise funds for Phuket's Soi Dog Foundation.

The summit of Chulu West, in the Annapurna region of Nepal, stands 6,419 metres high. Yanisa and Rohun plan to make the climb within 21 days.

The couple will begin their trek from Kathumandu on April 27.

"After five days we will leave the trail in Manang at 3,500m and climb up the remote Marsyangdi Valley overlooked by some of the world's mighty 8,000m peaks, including

Manaslu and Annapurna," explains Rohun.

"We should reach base camp at 4,900m by day 9 for acclimatisation and snow-training. We then move slowly up towards a tented high-camp at 5,120m and then Camp 1 at 5,500m. The summit-day challenge begins at 1am with an 8 to 10-hour climb up the West Ridge and finally, the steep knife-edge leading to the summit at 6,419m [21,059 feet]," he adds.

The couple plan to arrive in Pokhara on May 15 and transfer back to Kathmandu by May 17.

Yanisa is leaving Soi Dog after nearly four years as a volunteer coordinator at the foundation's shelter in the north end of the island.

"I love dogs. We have four rescue

dogs of our own," Yanisa told *The Phuket News* before departing for Nepal.

"Our goal is to raise awareness of the appalling suffering of millions of sick, injured, abandoned and homeless street dogs and cats in Southeast Asia," she added.

The goal is to raise US\$3,000 (B87,827) to support Soi Dog projects to rescue and protect dogs and cats throughout Southeast Asia.

"We want to help support Soi Dog projects in Southeast Asia as well as some funds going to help dogs affected by the war in Ukraine," Yanisa added.

The couple have been in training for the challenge for the past nine months.

"I walk 20,000 to 25,000 steps with the dogs five days a week, and I run 5km two days a week

I also do a 10km hill walk with my backpack two times a week," Yanisa explained.

She also does weight training five days a week.

When doing her hill walk in Phuket, Yanisa carries 10-12kg in her backpack, the same weight she will be carrying during the climb.

"This will be only my personal belongings, like supplements, spare clothing, climbing gear, food snacks and first aid kit. We will have a head guide, one Sherpa and a second Sherpa at high altitude to carry up food and set up the tents. We will each be roped to a Sherpa when climbing on...

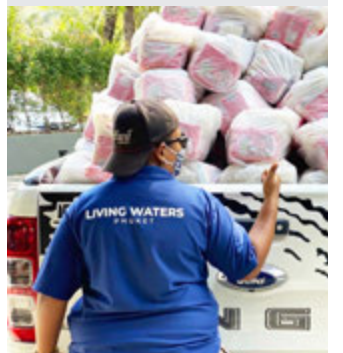
NEWS PAGE 3

Phuket status as special admin area tabled



LIFE PAGE 8

Marriott steps up for largest hotel Life Bag push



SPORT PAGE 16

Local karting star dreaming of a big future



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2


PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

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News



Green turtles hatch at Surin Islands > page 5

Climbing mountains for Soi Dog

Continued from page 1

...the snow from base camp up to the summit," Yanisa explained.

For good luck she will be carrying her Buddhist amulet around her neck, and bringing with her fitness and a positive attitude.

"It will be a challenge. I have never done any mountain climbing before," Yanisa admitted.

"This will be my first time. It will be a big challenge for me. I must say I am excited and nervous."

Yanisa has never experienced the extreme temperatures she will face on the mountain, expected to reach -15° to -20° Celsius. The coldest she has endured is about -5°C while on holidays in Chamonix, France with her husband.

The below freezing temperatures previously cost Rohun the chance to complete a climb of Mera Peak, which

at 6,476m is the highest of the "trekking peaks" in Nepal.

That climb Rohun was also attempting in order to raise money for Soi Dog.

"He made it to within 300m of the summit, but had to turn back because of the extreme cold," Yanisa explained.

"I will be wearing very warm clothes. I do not want to fail because of this," she said.

She said she is concerned, but confident, about the safety aspect of the climb. "Sure, I am confident in the safety. We have been preparing for this, and we will have a Sherpa. We will not be doing this alone," Yanisa said.

"It is not easy to climb Chula West, and not many people our age make climbs like this. I am 51 and Rohun is 64. He has diabetes and high blood pressure, but it is under control," she assured.

After returning from the mountain, Yanisa and Ro-



Yanisa with rescue dog Gi on a training session in the Phuket hills.

hun will go to England for a three-month break for rest and recuperation, and begin their life in retirement.

But when they return to Phuket, Yanisa and Rohun will return to help out as volunteers at Soi Dog.

"I love dogs and I will definitely go back to volunteer. All my lovely dogs are there," Yanisa said.

Soi Dog Operations Director Sam McElroy expressed the strong support from Soi Dog for Yanisa and Rohun's quest.

"We are so excited to support Yanisa in attempting this challenge. She and her husband, Rohun, have been training really hard for it.

"We are speechless at their bravery and commitment to help end the suffering of the stray dogs and cats in Southeast Asia. Yanisa and Rohun both share a passion for animal welfare and have been part of the Soi Dog Family for years," he said.

"Yanisa puts her heart and soul into everything she does and we really hope they can both achieve this ambitious feat on behalf of the 1,600 animals we have here at Soi Dog.

"Your donation to support their challenge will directly go towards helping the stray dogs and cats of Southeast Asia. Everyone here will be cheering them on all the way. Phuket – please get behind them! Go Yani and Rohun!" he said.

The first 28 days of the campaign saw B24,148 of the B87,849 target set raised through donations by just 12 people. The fundraiser will remain open until May 29.

All donations go directly to Soi Dog with no fees or costs. Donations can be made in any currency. Visit <https://www.soidog.org/content/rohuns-fundraiser>

To keep up to date with Yanisa and Rohun's Chula West Challenge, follow them on their Facebook page "Rohun and Yanisa's Fundraiser for Soi Dog" or check the webpage "Rohun and Yanisa's Fundraising challenge" at SoiDog.org.

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Conscription 'lucky draw' held

THE "LUCKY DRAW" FOR MANDATORY military service for men over 21 years old was held in Phuket last week, with 206 men from Rassada and Rawai presenting themselves at the Indoor Sports Stadium at Saphan Hin.

Of the men who presented themselves for conscription on Apr 5, 55 men were called up for the famous "lucky draw". Under the lucky draw system, those who draw a 'bai daeng' (red card) will be entered into the Armed Forces to serve with either the Army, Air Force or Navy for up to two years. Those who draw a 'bai dum' (black card) will be exempt from conscription.

However, instead of relying on luck, 30 of the 55 men called up on Apr 5 presented themselves to "volunteer" for national service, said a report by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

Of note, by volunteering for national service, a conscript may appeal to serve a reduced sentence.

While those who have not graduated from high school are required to serve two years regardless of whether they volunteer, high school graduates who volunteer are required to serve only one year.

In comparison, high school graduates who draw 'bai daeng' (red cards) are required to serve two years.

Similarly, those with an associate degree or higher who volunteer are required to serve for only six months.

Further, as previously seen in Phuket, university students can request defer their conscription until they have graduated or



A recruiting officer holds up a red card marking induction into military service. Photo: PR Phuket

reach 26 years of age.

According to the PR Phuket report, while 30 of 55 men called up on Apr 5 volunteered, by pure coincidence all 25 of the remaining candidates drew a 'bai dum' (black card), meaning they are exempt from conscription.

A further oddity is that while the PR Phuket report noted that 30 men had "volunteered", photos of the event show an Army officer clearly holding up a red card, indicating that at least one person had been conscripted without choice.

The draw on Apr 5 was the second day of conscription of men from Muang District in Phuket, and the fifth day of the annual conscription being conducted on the island, the PR Phuket report noted.

Conscription events were held in Wichit and Karon on Apr 7, and in Chalong and Koh Kaew on Apr 8.

The Phuket News

'Special admin area' tabled

Central government finally responds to formal request filed

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The future of Phuket as a 'special administrative area', entertaining the prospect of Phuket residents being entitled to elect their own Governor, was discussed at a meeting at Phuket City Municipality on Mar 30.

The issue was tabled during a two-day visit by Prof Kowit Phuangngam, Chairperson of the House of Representatives Extraordinary Committee established to consider the problems and obstacles in the provision of public services and public activities.

Prof Kowit was investigating the issues involved in allowing local administrations more authority in dealing with water supply problems, said a report by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

By extension, the discussion at the meeting involved the committee investigating the issues involved in the "establishment of a special form of local government organisation and self-management



Prof Kowit at the meeting in Phuket Town. Photo: PR Phuket

provinces and supervision of local government organisations", said the report.

Among those present for the discussion were Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong and Phuket City Mayor Saroj Angkhanapilas.

The purpose of the discussion was "exchanging opinions", the PR Phuket said.

However, the report made no mention of any suggestions proposed.

"The committee listened to the opinions of the local

administrators and local government officials yesterday and today [Mar 29-30] heard information from the central government," the report said.

"Local authorities in Phuket are to collect information for further action on their relevant parts," the report concluded.

Phuket formally being designated a 'Special Administrative Area' has been proposed many times over the past two decades as a way for the province to cope

with rapid growth in tourism that before COVID-19 saw the island each year generate hundreds of billions of baht for the national economy.

Current proponents for Phuket having more autonomy include Phuket Chamber of Commerce President Thanusak Phungdet along with Rewat Areerob, a former MP representing Phuket now currently serving as President of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO, or OrBorJor).

Mr Thanusak submitted a formal request to Cabinet in Nov 2020 to have Phuket declared a Special Administrative Area. Until the meeting on Mar 30, more than a year later, the central government had remained silent on the request.

The issue of Phuket being left helpless to help itself while being ignored by the central government, which for decades reaped the economic benefits of Phuket's success as a tourism destination, became a key sore point in July 2020 when the island's economy was crushed by the economic impact of the COVID-19 policies.

Deputy Prime Minister Jurin Laksanawisit bore the brunt of the anger from local representatives pointing out the lack of support for Phuket residents left without any income, and dependent on food handouts from private sources to survive.

The issue reared its head again in April last year when Phuket was refused permission to buy its own vaccines in order to be able to reopen to tourism as quickly as possible.

Korn Chatikavanij of the recently formed KLa Party ("Brave Party") in October last year confirmed in an exclusive interview with *The Phuket News* that the KLa Party had become the first national political party to make a more autonomous Phuket with Phuket people being able to elect their own Governor official party policy.

As such, if the KLa Party wins the next national election, making Phuket a Special Administration Area will be part of the party's mandate.

Mr Korn, who served as Finance Minister under the Abhisit Vejjajiva government, was in Phuket to confirm Thames Kraitat as the KLa Party candidate for Phuket in the next general election, currently expected to be held in November this year.

The two current Members of Parliament representing Phuket – Sutha 'Goh Tui' Pratheep Na Thalang and Nattee Thinsakhu – are both representatives from the ruling military-aligned Palang Pracharath Party, led by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha.

Rewat leads mourning over health centre decentralisation bungle

REWAT AREEROB, PRESIDENT OF the Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO, or OrBorJor), led a symbolic mourning of effective government administration on Apr 4 to protest the central government failing to hand over operation of community health centres to the provincial level.

The gathering, with members dressed in black, was held in front of the monument of King Rama V at the old Phuket Provincial Hall in Phuket Town. Rama V is honoured and remembered for bringing the modern form of government to Thailand.

Members of the group held up placards calling for the national government to hand over responsibility of Nawamintha Rachinee 60th Anniversary Health Centers and Tambon Health Promotion Centers on the island to the PPAO.

The Phuket symbolic mourning, during which flowers were laid at the foot of the statue of Rama V, was part of a nationwide movement by Provincial Administrative Organisations (PAO) throughout the country.

Mr Rewat explained that a Cabinet resolution had ordered the local health centres to be handed over to provincial authorities in October last year. However, the handover had yet to happen due to budgetary wrangles.

"The president of the Association of Provincial Administrative Organisations of Thailand sent a letter to the Provincial Administrative Organisation in every province, calling for members to dress in black and prepare placards with messages calling for transfer of the health centres," he said.

The criteria and procedures to be followed



Rewat Areerob leads the mourning ceremony. Photo: PPAO

in handing over responsibility for the health centres were set out in the Cabinet resolution on Oct 5, 2021, he said.

The Board of Decentralization to Local Administrative Organisations was duly informed of the procedures, he added.

"It now appears some agencies involved in budget allocation for the health centres prepared a budget allocation proposal to submit to the Cabinet that did not account for the transfer," he said.

"This has resulted in the delay of transferring such centres and affects public health services. It has caused damage to both the bureaucratic system and the services provided to the people," Mr Rewat said.

"In this regard, the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation has joined forces [with the other PAOs in the country] to submit proposals and appeal to the government and relevant ministers to review the Cabinet resolutions and allocate the budget in accordance with the Notification of the Commission on Decentralization to Local Administrative Organisations in order to continue to work for the benefit of the people," he concluded.

The Phuket News

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Low: +26°

Wind 7 m/s

MON APR 18



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Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE APR 19



High: +28°

Low: +26°

Wind 4 m/s

WED APR 20



High: +30°

Low: +25°

Wind 7 m/s

THU APR 21



High: +30°

Low: +25°

Wind 7 m/s

Residents plea to help glue sniffer

Eakkapop Thongtub
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A local resident in Phuket Town has called for authorities to take action over a man who lives on the streets like a vagrant, stealing items from shopowners at night and reportedly sniffing glue in broad daylight.

Police have failed to take action over the man despite repeated complaints, and welfare officers notified of the man's behaviour have done nothing, said Sophon Kongdaeng, the 33-year-old owner of an auto parts shop on Sri Suthat Rd, on the east side of Phuket Town.

Mr Sophon posted his appeal on Facebook on Mar 31, saying that after his repeated attempts to get authorities to intervene and provide assistance, it was the police themselves who told him to appeal to reporters.

The man in question was reported last year as 'Bank', 20 years old. He was taken into custody after local residents and shopowners complained about his behaviour, walking around in only shorts and continually asking people for money.



Bank seen on the streets of Phuket Town. Photo: via Eakkapop Thongtub

He was usually successful as he has a disabled left arm.

The behaviour that landed him deserving of police intervention last year was licking his hand and wiping it on the door handle of a pharmacy during the height of the COVID-19 fear pandemic.

His latest antics were also caught on CCTV. This time he walked into a building where Mr Sophon keeps

spare parts, among other things, and rifled through them. He tossed onto the floor any items not of interest, leaving some of the items broken.

A previous episode when Bank was caught on CCTV breaking into a store area of a pharmacy, again breaking any items not of interest, saw him taken away for "rehabilitation", Mr Sophon said.

Bank is believed to have been

under the influence of substance abuse at the time he committed both acts.

As learned last year, Bank is technically not a vagrant, as he is registered as living with his grandmother in the Saphan Ruam community in Phuket Town.

"Officials took him for therapy for a while, about three to four months, but after that he was released to cause trouble for local residents just like before," Mr Sophon said.

After yet another recent incident with Bank seen on the street engaging in what looked like substance abuse, and yet another building of a local resident entered and items broken, Mr Sophon filed another complaint with Phuket City Police on Mar 29.

"Police officers came to inspect the place, but there still has been no progress," Mr Sophon said.

"So I filed a complaint with public welfare officers and a narcotics officer, and appealed to government agencies to do something, but still nothing has been done.

"Everything is still the same today, so I decided to petition the media to urge the authorities to prevent further incidents," he said.

Rajabhat opens 'Andaman Biodiversity' learning centre

PHUKET RAJABHAT UNIVERSITY (PRU) has opened its 'Andaman Biodiversity Museum' learning centre, which is open to the public.

The centre was opened on Saturday Apr 2 in honour of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, the third child and second daughter of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX) and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand.

HRH Princess Sirindhorn celebrated her 67th birthday on Apr 2, with officials throughout the country holding special formal ceremonies, and merit-making and blessing ceremonies, in her honour.

The centre was developed under the Plant Genetic Conservation Project, royal initiative of HRH Princess Sirindhorn, explained PRU lecturer Dr Manop Chachiyo, Vice President for Student Affairs, who presided over the opening of the exhibition room and learning centre.

"The centre is to be a learning resource for people of all ages to be educated about the conservation and restoration of Andaman biological resources," he said.

The centre was created as part of the Research and Development science centre at the university.



Photo: PKRU

The opening event featured a presentation of the exhibition "Thai shellfish, Thai heritage, World heritage", showcasing coral species in the region.

Jom Patamakanthin, one of the leading shellfish experts in the country, delivered a special lecture on "Biodiversity, the valuable heritage of the nation".

Dr Manop invited people of all ages and all walks of life to visit the centre.

"It is open to people of all ages, to be a source of learning, conservation and rehabilitation of Andaman biological resources through sustainable practices," he said.

The Phuket News

the Phuket news



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Wandering calf killed by car on bypass road

A YOUNG CALF WAS KILLED on the bypass road last week after it was startled and ran in front of a man driving home with his two children asleep in the car.

Phuket City Police and Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers were called to the scene, near the IKEA store in Moo 5 Rassada, at 10pm on Apr 4.

The officers arrived to find a white sedan with heavy damage to its front, and the male calf dead by the side of the road.

The driver, named by police only as "Mr Jump", said that he was driving home with his two children asleep in the car when he saw a mother and calf walking by the side of the road.

As he neared them, the calf

appeared to have been startled and ran out in front of his car.

Mr Jump said he had no time to avoid hitting the calf, which he said died instantly.

His two children were shocked by the experience, but otherwise unharmed, he said.

Mr Jump said that he looked around and saw many other cows in the field beside the road, but he could not find anyone who might have been tasked with looking after them.

He believed the mother and calf had just wandered away from the herd.

Police said they will investigate who the calf belongs to so Mr Jump may proceed to claim compensation for the damage done to his car.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Clear of debt, lottery winner looks forward

Eakkapop Thongtub
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It certainly wasn't a case of April's Fools Day for one lucky Phuket resident on Apr 1 who won B18-million on the Lottery Plus draw.

The windfall came at a timely moment for 38-year-old Panuwat Santipitak of No Sai Thong Village in Rassada who claimed he has struggled with debts in the past, admitting to racking up a staggering deficit of close to B10mn a couple of years ago.

Mr Panuwat said he regularly buys two or three Lottery Plus tickets containing the numbers 8618 that correspond to the registration plate of the new pickup truck he bought last year.

Once he had purchased the ticket, he visited various temples, including Wat Ta Khai Nakhon Sri Thammarat and Wat Phra That Doi Kham, to make merit and pay respects to Thao Vejsuwan in the hope of fostering good luck.

"It is a common practice for people to buy tickets containing numbers that relate



Mr Panuwat with his wife – and B18 million in cash. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

to something personal or that have special meaning or significance," Mr Panuwat commented.

"I regularly buy the ticket with the same numbers as my car registration and then just hope and dream. This time, however, fortune was on my side as the winning number was drawn."

Mr Panuwat's windfall was delivered in cash by the lottery organisers who arrived at his house in Rassada in a red Ferrari around 5:45pm on Apr 2. They also delivered a hard copy of the winning ticket as Mr Panuwat had purchased

his winning tickets online.

The atmosphere at Mr Panuwat's house was understandably celebratory with various friends and family joining to congratulate him and welcome the lottery representatives and his winnings.

When asked what he intended to do with his winnings Mr Panuwat said he initially planned to build a better house for him and his family to live in. He also said that he would be sensible and not squander the money on unnecessary things, adding that he has learned his lesson from the sizeable debt he amassed a

few years ago and his latest windfall would allow him to completely eradicate any remaining money owed.

"It was foolish of me to get into that situation," he said. "I worked extremely hard to pay that debt off, taking every possible job I could such as food delivery services, general laundry services, working a market stall.

"I did manage to pay most of it off and felt good, lucky, so I decided to buy a ticket. Now I will be able to totally clear my debt and look forward to a happy life. I am very fortunate," he concluded.



Photo: Surin Islands National Park

Green baby turtles hatch on Surin Islands

TOURISTS AND LOCALS alike were treated to a procession of baby green turtles hatching and making their way to the sea at the Surin Islands last week.

In total, 97 hatchlings successfully hatched and made their way into the water at the National Park Protection Unit 3, Ao Chong Khat in the Surin Islands National Park.

Park officials had kept vigilant watch on the nest after the mother had laid her eggs on the beach on Feb 6.

Around 9:30am on Apr 4, the officials noticed that sand protecting the hatching hole had collapsed, signifying the baby turtles were preparing to hatch.

The park officials contin-

ued to monitor the situation until around 5:45pm when the sand further collapsed. The officials then wiped the sand from the entrance to the hatching hole to enable the baby turtles to make their way out into the wide world.

From the total of 128 eggs that had been laid, 97 successfully hatched and safely made their way to the sea, gleefully watched and photographed by local residents and tourists on the island.

Of the remaining eggs, officials confirmed that 29 were undeveloped and two had died during the hatching process. The eggs had a total incubation period of 58 days, they added.

The Phuket News

Health concerns spur plans to tackle wildfires, dust haze

AUTHORITIES HAVE MET TO discuss procedures for combating forest fires, haze and dust pollution across the island.

The meeting, held at the Phuket Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office at Phuket Provincial Hall on Mar 28, was presided over by Phuket Deputy Governor Anupap Rodkwan Yodrabam. He was joined by Udomphon Kan, Head of the Phuket Provincial Disaster Prevention and Mitigation office, and other relevant government agencies.

Mr Anupap stressed how forest fires that are common during the dry season at this time of year produce fine particulate matter known as PM2.5, tiny particles found in the air including dust, soot, dirt, smoke, and liquid droplets that reduce visibility and cause the air to appear hazy when levels are elevated.

Although this air pollutant can be created naturally, it is generally caused by human activity such as open-air burning, crop burning, forest fires, irresponsibly discarded cigarette butts, poorly maintained vehicles and industrial work such as construction or transportation, which causes smog. The topography in certain parts of the island are also contributory factors, Mr Anupap said.

PM2.5 is a concern as it can greatly diminish people's health when levels in the air are high, as they often tend to be in Phuket at this time of year, he added.

Bad ventilation and periods of calm or



Photo: PR Phuket

low winds leading to poor circulation cause the dust to accumulate which can pose a health threat to people which in turn can have a detrimental impact on society and the economy, Mr Anupap commented.

In order to reduce the risks that create this situation and to prevent problems associated with wildfires, Mr Anupap confirmed that a committee was appointed at the Mar 28 meeting in line with the National Agenda Action Plan to tackle the issue of PM2.5 dust pollution.

He added that the committee had drafted a response plan detailing preparatory efforts and action measures which will be assigned to the responsible local government agencies who would work together and cooperate in sharing equipment and resources such as fire prevention equipment.

By working together proactively it is hoped that when these solutions are implemented that the dangers can be minimised, Mr Anupap concluded.

The Phuket News

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Up in Smoke

Clarifying myths about Thailand's cannabis laws

LEGAL MATTERS

Dr Paul Crosio

There has been no shortage of myths about Thailand's supposed liberal attitude to the plant. This has unfortunately led to several investors sinking their fortunes into businesses that likely don't exist today.

It is important to understand that cannabis decriminalisation does not mean deregulation, and anyone seeking to enter the industry should take the time to understand existing restrictions. The recent ministerial announcement, effective in mid-2022, only removes most parts of the cannabis plant from Category 5 of the list of narcotic substances and does not allow liberal use of the plant. Recreational use and products that contain more than 0.2% of THC, remain highly illegal. There are also strict guidelines stating that cannabis can only be used for medical and research purposes. A further extension to cosmetics and supplements is expected.

Current regulations give Thai interests a head start in the country's "budding" cannabis industry. This means foreign investors and entrepreneurs face added hurdles to directly engaging in commercial activities involving cannabis. Among these are restrictions on who can apply for licences and the fact that private foreign companies are currently barred from directly participating in commercial activities involving cannabis until Feb 19, 2024.

Industrial hemp is marginally easier. According to the recent regulations, any activities involving hemp are limited to Thai nationals or companies domiciled in Thailand with a majority-Thai directorship. Yet, even these more liberal regulations for industrial hemp mean foreign operators still require a rigorous screening process, with authorities looking into the background of stakeholders, operational plans, as well as security and safety procedures among many others. The importation of hemp for process is also illegal and there are

limitations on what hemp can be used for.

TO MAKE A SMALL FORTUNE, START WITH A LARGE FORTUNE

Compared to its neighbours, Thailand has been seen as progressive in the realm of cannabis liberalisation. However, this comes with conditions, many of which have not been made clear to investors seeking to replicate the "Green Revolution" in Thailand.

A lack of due diligence, especially when travel to Thailand was difficult, has meant many entrepreneurs and even home growers have unwittingly fallen victim to unscrupulous projects, some of which are just scams. A constant stream of reports of these scams eventually led the Food and Drug Administration to issue a warning that cultivating cannabis is extensively regulated and to be wary of schemes, especially if they seem "too good to be true."

Other scams focused on misinformed farmers who believed they could grow can-

Dispelling Myths and Rumors

SILK LEGAL

The misinformation surrounding the legality of cannabis in Thailand is vast.

Fantasy

1. Cannabis Medical Treatments are readily and freely available.
2. Once I get approved, it's legal for me to have cannabis.
3. Police don't worry about cannabis as it's being legalized.
4. Thailand has an ample supply of cannabis for medical prescriptions.
5. I can grow up to 6 plants in my house and consume as I like.

Fact

1. CBD may be prescribed for certain health conditions. However, not all clinics are open every day, and access to the drug is not as simple as it sounds.
2. It is legal only if your prescription card is valid. Thai law still specifies that if you've got residual traces detectable in your blood and you're not legally permitted to, you're in trouble.
3. Police are still enforcing existing laws as THC remains a controlled substance.
4. The sources of medical cannabis are often from confiscated goods that are reprocessed and may have significant levels of impurities.
5. Just no.

nabis for large profits under licences obtained by others. The government has identified cannabis as a potential cash crop, but growers are obliged to follow a long list of requirements. In this scam, farmers were tricked into growing crops by paying an "upfront" sub-license fee, or they were misled and used as "proof of concept" for companies eventually duping investors.

Other schemes include the advanced purchase scam which took advantage of foreign entrepreneurs wanting to quickly enter the Thai can-

nabis market. In these cases, potential partnerships between foreign entrepreneurs and "authorised" partners led to substantial upfront payments to build grow facilities, obtain licences, or even "bait and switch", where the "herbal" crop, after payments were received, was changed from cannabis to turmeric or ginger.

Indeed, the cannabis industry has huge potential and will be an important addition to Thailand's economic development, but early investment has risks and keen entrepreneurs need to be cautious. The

market certainly exists and has considerable potential, but it is important to conduct thorough due diligence and be aware of who one is dealing with to prevent one's money from going "up in smoke".

Paul Crosio is a Partner at Silk Legal & founding partner of Silk Advisory. He is a practising Australian lawyer with over two decades of corporate experience in turn-around management in Thailand and abroad. For more information, please contact info@silklegal.com.



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Muted Songkran predicted

LOCAL TOURISM SPENDING during the Songkran festival this year is forecast to remain lower than before the COVID-19 pandemic, generating around B11 billion as people are allowed to travel but water splashing is banned.

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Governor Yuthasak Supasorn said B11bn was expected from 3.34 million trips nationwide with an average occupancy of around 41% during Apr 13-17.

Overall tourism spending this year is expected to improve from last year, but is still far below normal years as the country is still battling a high number of COVID-19 cases, prompting the government to extend a stringent social distancing measure, particularly a prohibition on water splashing in all areas.

Most Thais are returning to their hometowns, while some travellers are more likely to choose nearby destinations within driving distance as they want to minimise expenses during the festival, said the TAT.

Of overall travellers, 34% said they will opt for a destination close to their home, while 32% plan to take inter-provincial trips, said the agency.

The Northeast, which usually sees a high number of returnees for Songkran each year, is poised to have 754,380 visitors generating B1.3bn, followed by the central region, which should see 735,166 trips generating B1.4bn, said the TAT.

The East, which is famous for seaside destinations close to Bangkok, is expected to draw 560,980 visitors and generate B2.3bn.



People splash water during the Songkran festivities on Khao San Road in April 2018. Photo: Apichart Jinakul / Bangkok Post

Meanwhile, the southern provinces are estimated to have 445,399 domestic trips, but expenditure during the long holiday is the highest at around B2.78bn.

Mr Yuthasak said even though water splashing and entertainment festivities are not allowed, the TAT is hosting traditional events in three destinations – Bangkok, Ayutthaya and Songkhla – that could generate B2.1bn in tourism revenue from 568,580 participants.

However, Bangkok and Songkhla are projected to have low occupancy rates at 27% and 11%, respectively, as most travellers take one-day trips to reduce costs.

By province, Bangkok remains the most popular destination, mostly based on one-day trips, followed by Chon Buri, Nakhon Ratchasima, Phuket, Kanchanaburi, Phang Nga, Ayutthaya, Udon Thani, Prachuap Khiri Khan and Nakhon Nayok.

The festival last year generated around B6bn from 1.6mn domestic tourists.

Bangkok Post

Schools to reopen on May 17 despite cases

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Schools will reopen as scheduled on May 17 for on-site teaching despite concerns about the rate of COVID-19 infections, according to the Office of the Basic Education Commission (Obec).

Obec is determined to push ahead with the opening of the new term after meeting school district directors and headmasters from across the country on Apr 5.

Obec's secretary-general, Amporn Pinasa, insisted the May 17 opening date for the first term of the academic year still stands. "There will be no postponement," he said, adding he has directed schools to conduct mainly on-site classes. However, remote learning or other teaching methods or a combination of online and other methods may provide a useful alternative.

The ground rule was that on-site classes must conform strictly to COVID-free setting requirements issued by the Public Health Ministry.



Schools will reopen nationally on May 17, it has been confirmed. Photo: Pornprom Satrabhaya

Preparations must factor in the health safety issue associated with getting buildings, teaching methods and teachers ready for the new term.

Education zone offices are duty-bound to supervise schools in their areas closely and prepare them for any crisis stemming from the pandemic after reopening, Mr Amporn said.

He said readiness levels varied. More prone to the impact of crisis are small schools with 120 students or less. Some of these state-run schools face a shortage of teachers. In many cases, retired

teachers were not replaced.

Amporn said he has instructed school zone offices to survey small schools and find out how many do not have enough teachers. Other schools with a surplus of teaching staff may be asked to re-assign teachers to schools hit by shortages.

The announcement came after a survey by the National Statistical Office in 2020 revealed that more than half of Thai families are not ready to educate their offspring at home, as 51% of them lacked the equipment, 26% did not even have internet access, and

40% of parents did not have time to assist their children with participating in the online classes.

In order to mitigate this problem, the Representative for United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) Thailand Kyungsun Kim said it has been working with the Ministry of Education and allied agencies.

Unicef recently released its own reflection on the impact of COVID-19 on education, stating that over 2 trillion hours of in-person schooling had been lost globally since Mar 2020.

"More than four out of five countries have fallen behind in their learning," Unesco Assistant Director-General for Education Stefania Giannini said.

"In particular, the most marginalised – those living in poverty and rural areas, children with disabilities, and the youngest students – have fallen the furthest behind."

She insisted that due to the school shutdown, basic, foundational skills upon which every aspect of education is built have been erased in many countries.

COVID-19 fight far from over, says PM

BANGKOK

PRIME MINISTER PRAYUT Chan-o-cha has admitted that the end of the COVID-19 outbreak in Thailand is nowhere in sight and stressed the need for at-risk groups, now including unvaccinated young children, to get their vaccine shots as soon as possible.

Families with children aged five years and over should get them vaccinated to lower the chance of them developing more severe symptoms if infected with the coronavirus, he said on Apr 6.

A number of young children who died after contracting COVID-19 were found by health authorities to not have received any vaccination against the virus.

Prayut also urged those who have already recovered to continue observing their health carefully and watch for any sign of Long COVID, which may include muscle pains, a persistent cough, anxiety and depression.

In another development, five medical organisations issued a joint statement emphasising the need for people



Photo: Bangkok Post

to get a booster shot and even a second booster while the country is still battling the health threat associated with the highly transmissible Omicron variant.

A booster in addition to two regular jabs has been proven to further reduce the risk of hospitalisation and infection of the lungs, which may require treatment in an intensive care unit and the use of a ventilator.

They are the Royal College of Physicians of Thailand, the Infectious Disease Association of Thailand, the Preventive Medicine Association of Thailand, the Thai Society of Critical Care Medicine, and the Thoracic Society of Thailand.

Bangkok Post

Post-Songkran COVID hotline set up

BANGKOK

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY Office (NHSO) has confirmed a hotline has been set up to cope with the expected rise in COVID-19 infections after this month's Songkran festival.

NHSO deputy secretary-general Atthaporn Limpanyalert said on Apr 5 the 1330 (ext 18) hotline will deal with calls from cases among vulnerable groups including elderly, those with underlying illnesses, people with disabilities, children up to 5 years of age, and bed-ridden patients.

He added the NHSO will register them initially for home isolation and then find hospital beds for them.

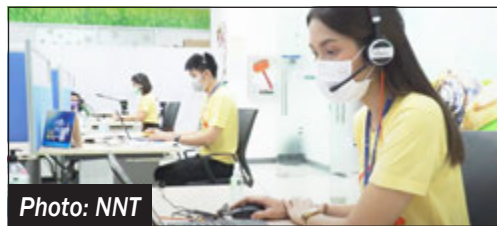


Photo: NNT

Non-vulnerable cases can call 1330 (ext 14) and officials will advise them on their treatment process, which can be health screening and supply of medicine at hospitals, or home isolation for infected and green-coded people with no or mild symptoms.

If the hotline is busy, people can conduct registration by themselves via NHSO's website: <https://crmsup.nhso.go.th/#TicketHI>, or its LINE account: @nhso or <https://lin.ee/zzn3pU6>. NNT

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Aglaonema Shakuntala. Photo: Evangeline Bautista Unsplash



Dieffenbachia bauseii. Photo: Jerzy Opiola



Spathiphyllum. Photo: David Santaolalla

Top pot plants for shade



GREEN THOUGHTS

Patrick Campbell

It's a big generalisation, but on balance, the majority of potted plants available in the tropics enjoy a degree of shade. I am thinking of varieties of nephrolepis such as Boston, maidenhair, or bird's nest ferns, variegated dieffenbachias, aglaonemas – now available in striking reddish shades – philodendrons, purple and green draenas, hymenocallis or spider lilies, spathiphyllum, the vast array of bromeliads. The list goes on. Go to any garden centre in Phuket and these fellows will

be cosseted in a shaded area, usually under green netting, along with phalaenopsis orchids and an abundant supply of mosquitoes.

Usually grown for their lush and varied foliage, it is no coincidence that these, mostly herbaceous plants, are often the same specimens we purchase for our centrally-heated homes in temperate climes, often with disastrous results. But here in the tropics, they won't go potty; they will survive in containers in shady spots outside the house, or even indoors for brief periods.

That so many love shade or filtered sunlight, reflects the origins of these plants in the wild. Most are understory plants: that is to say, they exist in more-or-less dense rainforest or decidu-

ous woodland under the arching tree canopy, where the sun is at best a fitful presence. They are super-adept therefore at utilising what little light comes their way and can survive in conditions where most sun-loving varieties would simply give up the ghost. Put more scientifically, they are adept at absorbing the wave-lengths of far-red light, a form of light which manages to percolate through the overhead canopy and reach their broad and receptive leaves.

And unlike vines, which circumvent the same conditions by frantically hitching a lift towards the light up the nearest trunk – and some lianas may have creeping stems 60 or 80 feet long – these foliage plants concentrate on staying grounded, happy among the leaf litter and rich organic humus of the forest floor. There they expend relatively little energy on flowering: they concentrate on producing super efficient root systems and lush foliage which can efficiently ensure that life-enhancing photosynthesis takes place in conditions alien to their sun-loving cousins.

So by replicating these conditions for your foliage container plants – a degree of shade, shelter from high winds, the use of organic compost, and frequent watering, you give them a start which they will recognise and appreciate. As house plants, these will also have cameo roles to play when we move from the open-air stage to the indoor theatre. But that is for another occasion.

A favourite of mine is dieffenbachia, or dumb cane. Especially the cultivar 'Tropic Snow', a lovely pale green and more aesthetically pleasing than the usual mottled, dark-green variety. Dieffenbachia is a vigorous grower, with fleshy, broad leaves up to a foot or more long. It prefers damp organic matter at its roots, and will readily take from stem sections put horizontally in such soil conditions. What it abhors is full sun: exposed to direct sunlight, the leaves will point upwards in a sheath-like and protective gesture. Left thus exposed, the foliage will discolour and scorch.

Aglaonemas, closely related to dieffenbachias, require similar conditions. Likewise blessed with broad patterned leaves, this herbivorous plant has been cultivated as a lucky emblem in Thailand for centuries. Recently there has been an upsurge of interest. Exotic new cultivars have fetched huge sums of money. As a direct result, you can now find hybrids in plant nurseries which sport remarkable emerald and salmon-pink foliage. However, the commonest



Xanthosoma sagittifolium. Photo: David J Stang

form, pictum, is showy enough with its silvery marked leaves. It is, moreover, much more vigorous than the newer hybrids. I have container specimens in my car-port at least six feet tall. And as with its cousin, leafless cuttings, half-submerged horizontally or vertically in moist soil, will root easily.

Spathiphyllum is less exclusively a foliage plant since, as a member of the lily family, it produces a show of arum-like white spathes. But its masses of dark green foliage and its tolerance of polluted air make it a popular container plant, both indoors and in open shade. Freed from a container, spathiphyllum can be used as ground cover, and will spread quite rapidly, granted its preferred conditions of moist, rich soil and filtered light.

Xanthosoma is, in my experience at least, more difficult to grow. A South American native, it comes from the same Araceae genus as Aglaonema, but unlike its poisonous cousin, its tubers were originally used as a source of starchy food. Low growing lindenii has distinctive arrow-head-shaped leaves, with boldly contrasting white veins. Most attractive. As with all these herbaceous examples, it thrives in moist conditions. So ensure your container is well watered and sheltered from direct sunlight. And remember, all these varieties reappear – when we consider indoor plants.

Dr Patrick Campbell can be contacted at his home Camelot, located at 59/84 Soi Saiyuan 13; Rawai; Phuket 83130. Tel: 66 076-613227 (landline), 065-5012326 or 085-7827551 (mobile). His book "The Tropic Gardener", an indispensable guide to plants and their cultivation in Thailand, is available from Seng Ho bookshop in Phuket Town or Delish in Rawai, or arrange a copy to be delivered by emailing him at drpaccampbell@gmail.com

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Marriott and Living Waters team up

Creating the largest single hotel-based collaboration on life bags

ADVERTORIAL

By Joanna Matlub

The Marriott Bonvoy portfolio of hotels and resorts in Phuket, Phang Nga and Koh Samui have entered a new collaboration with Living Waters Phuket (LWP), a registered charity Foundation. This will ultimately support LWP's efforts with its ongoing emergency food relief initiatives throughout Thailand.

The collaboration commenced at the start of April, and continues its efforts for over two weeks, with a donation of 1,600 Life Bags for communities in Thailand's southern provinces.

"When we learned about the amazing project that Living Waters Phuket has been running and how much our local communities need immediate attention, we wanted to offer our support right away," said Mr Brad Edman, Multi-Property Vice President Phuket and General Manager at Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa. "Marriott hotels and resorts in Phuket have always supported the communities in which we operate, especially during the pandemic. Our collaboration with LWP will help to further support communities in need."

Demand for emergency food aid is at an all-time high due to the pandemic and ongoing effects on tourism, and the fact that thousands of people are still required to live in community isolation for extended periods of time. The Living Waters Phuket Foundation was set up in November 2021 to build brighter futures for communities in need in Phuket and across Thailand. It essentially helps to raise awareness of critical projects and provides funding around essen-



tial relief areas, including emergency food supplies, education requirements, renewable energy and sustainable environmental solutions.

"We are thrilled to see the Marriott Bonvoy portfolio work together with us at this level; this is the largest single hotel based collaboration on Life Bags and is a pleasure to be part of the difference this will make to the communities across southern Thailand," said Shaun Stenning, Founder of Living Waters Phuket. "This is part of the roll out joint initiative with Foundation and the Phuket Hotels Association (PHA) Life Bag Project, which we have been working on in recent months."

In April 2022, all 16 Marriott Bonvoy hotels and resorts in Phuket, Phang Nga and Koh Samui will

work with Living Waters Phuket to organise two major Life Bag Project events; the first in Koh Samui from April 2-5 and the next across the three districts in Phuket from April 19-20.

1,600 Life Bags will be distributed with the goal of helping over 6,400 people in desperate need. Each Life Bag can feed a family of four people for up to four days and contain staple family food products.

"Serving our world is one of Marriott's core values and giving back to the communities where we operate is one of our main commitments. Business Council, GMs, and NextGen team of associates work together closely to support local communities through various activities and initiatives. Phuket has been a major focus for us during the pandemic. We are very happy that we're now able to extend our support to Phang Nga and Koh Samui through our collaboration with Living Waters Phuket," said Mr Daryn Hudson, Head of Marriott Southern Thailand Business Council and General Manager at Four Points by Sheraton Phuket Patong Beach Resort.

There are 16 Marriott Bonvoy portfolio hotels and resorts across Phuket, Phang Nga and Koh Samui taking part in this initiative. For more information, please visit www.marriott.com.

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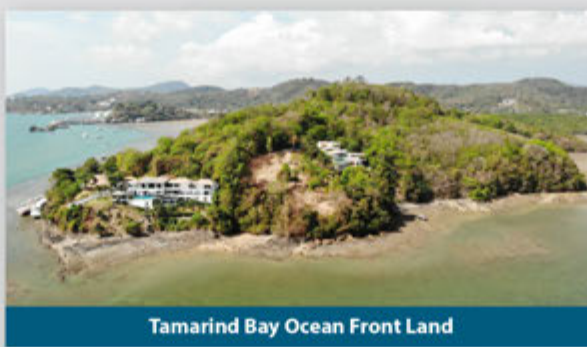
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POP QUIZ

- Who was Apple's first CEO?
- How many bones are in the adult human body?
- Which US state flag is the only one to feature an exposed nipple?
- Horripilation is one of the medical terms for which common temporary condition?
- English author Eric Arthur Blair is better known by which name?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

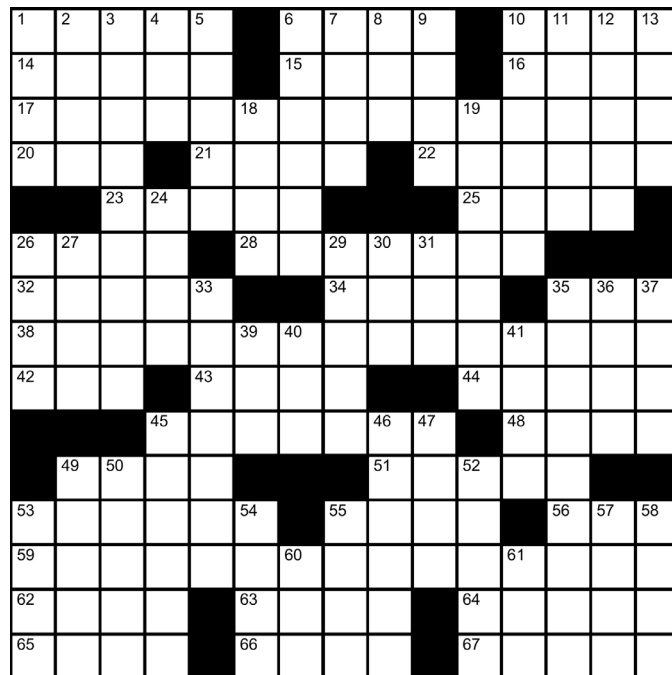
- Elbows and shells
- Kind of seal
- Importune
- "Not ___!"
- Bad spots?
- Some injections
- Office accessory
- Contribute
- Speck
- Unskilled
- ___ for impact
- Cost of living?
- A constellation
- Viewable
- Editor Harold
- Brain wave
- Kind of gun
- In a vigorous manner, in music
- Bill collector?
- A-line line
- Digital tome
- Capital city
- Not busy
- Cousin of an ostrich
- Office accessories
- Kind of arch

Down

- Sobriquet for Haydn
- Mellowed
- Smoothing machine
- Idiosyncrasy
- True inner self
- Go fast
- Tummy trouble
- H.S. biology topic
- Make waves
- Online newsgroup system
- Circulating enzyme
- Distinguished
- Count, now
- Venues
- "___ Love," Denver song
- Captain, e.g.
- Sacred Hindu writings
- At any point
- Moore

documentary

- Bachelor's last words
- Nonpareil
- Goiters
- Compensation from union funds
- Clap
- Organic radical
- Sharer's word
- Chi follower
- ___ snuff
- Attach
- People
- Mitch Miller's instrument
- ___ of Vicksburg
- Dimethyl sulfate, e.g.
- Young but wise one?
- Smudge
- Celestial bear
- Kind of appeal
- Parcel
- Kind of car
- Certain turn
- Sean ___ Lennon



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Albuquerque; 2) Monegasque; 3) Brain freeze; 4) India; 5) Glen Campbell

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

in five UK adults can't change a light bulb or boil an egg, according to a recent survey.

16

kids are hospitalised every day from gun injuries in the US.

46

percent of Americans have had their private information leaked in data breaches within the past five years.

2,400

US dollars is how much Louis Vuitton's luxury Jenga game costs.

500 billion

LEGO bricks have been created since the the first LEGO brick was patented in 1958 – enough to create 10 LEGO towers from Earth to the Moon.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Nai Harn Temple reflected in the lake. Photo by Brian Constable

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

This week in history

April 15, 1912

The British passenger liner RMS Titanic sinks in the North Atlantic at 2:20am, two hours and 40 minutes after hitting an iceberg. Only 710 of 2,227 passengers and crew on board survive.

April 16, 73 AD

Masada, a Jewish fortress, falls to the Romans after several months of siege, ending the Great Jewish Revolt.

April 17, 1975

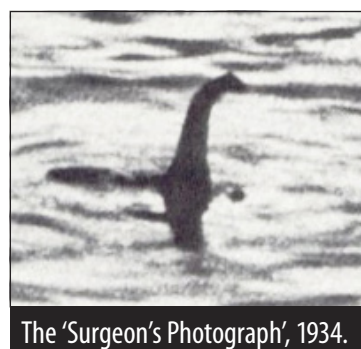
The Cambodian Civil War ends. The Khmer Rouge captures the capital Phnom Penh and Cambodian government forces surrender.

April 18, 1930

The British Broadcasting Corporation announces "there is no news" in their evening report.

April 19, 1927

Mae West is sentenced to 10



The 'Surgeon's Photograph', 1934.

April 20, 1918

Manfred von Richthofen, a.k.a. The Red Baron, shoots down his 79th and 80th victims, his final victories before his death the next day.

April 21, 1934

The 'Surgeon's Photograph', the most famous photo allegedly showing the Loch Ness Monster, is published in the *Daily Mail* (in 1999, it was proved to be a hoax.) Source: Wikipedia

days in jail for obscenity for her play 'Sex'.

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Where to eat in PHUKET

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MON 18 APR



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FRI 13 MAY



22nd Phuket International Rugby 10s

It's Great To Be Back. The 2022 Aussie Bar Phuket International Rugby 10s with teams from around the region competing for bragging rights in what has become one of Asia's premier social rugby events. The venue is Thanyapura Sports Club and put the date 13-15 May in your diaries for a weekend of action and fun. For more information contact phuket10s@outlook.com or check out the website www.phuket10s.com Sponsored by Aussie Bar Phuket, Athena Siam Co.Ltd, The Phuket News, World Flair and raising funds for the Asia Center Foundation no into their 20th year of giving kids a chance! Thanyapura Sports Club. phuketrugby@gmail.com

SUN 17 APR



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WED 20 APR



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6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Ribs 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

FRI 6 MAY



Grow Boating Networking Evening - May 2022

We look forward to seeing you at the next Grow Boating Evening at the Isola Restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm on Friday the 6th of May. We are delighted to announce that our drinks sponsor for the evening will be Thailand International Boat Show & JAND Events. The Thailand International Boat Show 2023 will take place at the award-winning



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DEMAREST'S GRAND OPENING

A great turnout, on April 2, 2022, for the Demarest Clinic grand opening at Royal Phuket Marina. Hundreds were in attendance to celebrate William Demarest Johnson's clinic and vision for the future of Regenerative Medicine: Ageing is Optional.

Where to eat in PHUKET

The May/June 2022 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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Chelsea sanctions prompt soul-searching in football

FOOTBALL

Kieran Canning

The chaos engulfing Chelsea following sanctions imposed on Russian billionaire owner Roman Abramovich has sparked fresh debate over the sources of money that fuel Europe's richest league.

The Premier League club had their assets frozen after Abramovich was targeted by the British government following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, leaving them to cope with a ban on ticket sales and merchandise.

An expedited sale of the European champions will soon bring the curtain down on 19 years of nearly unbroken success under their 55-year-old owner, who has overseen five Premier League titles and two Champions League triumphs.

Chelsea's first home game since the sanctions were imposed was against Newcastle on Mar 13, whose own ownership model is also in the spotlight after a controversial takeover in October by a consortium led by Saudi Arabia's



Chelsea's assets have been frozen as a result of sanctions targeting Russian owner Roman Abramovich. Photo: AFP

sovereign wealth fund.

Rights group Amnesty raised concerns over the purchase, saying it was an attempt to "sportswash" the Gulf kingdom's human rights record.

Newcastle are hoping to follow in the footsteps of Abu Dhabi-backed Manchester City, who have become the dominant force in the Premier League over the past decade on the back of huge investment.

Yet the UAE's decision to abstain from voting on a UN Security Council resolution to condemn Russian "aggression" towards Ukraine and a recent

meeting between City owner Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Syrian president Bashar al-Assad – an ally of Russia's President Vladimir Putin – have led to a renewed focus on City.

Opposition Labour lawmaker Chris Bryant said it would be "good to see the back of" Sheikh Mansour as City owner, while the government criticised his meeting with Assad, saying it undermined prospects for a lasting peace in Syria.

Sports business expert Simon Chadwick comment-

ed that despite the unease about who is funding Premier League clubs, it is difficult to foresee meaningful change in the short-term, with billionaires from across the globe lining up to buy Chelsea.

"European football can wean itself off money from Russia, China and Saudi Arabia but what's left? If they leave, who replaces them?" said Chadwick, global professor of sport at Emlyon Business School.

"If we take the example of Chelsea, one of the options for replacing an outgoing Russian is a consortium of an American and Swiss billionaire, so for British football fans the situation is not going to change."

Football clubs and the Premier League are under fire for apparently neglecting to ask searching questions about where their money comes from as they chase silverware in a hyper-competitive industry.

Chelsea find themselves caught up in geopolitical currents that extend far beyond football but whether the sport has the appetite for fundamental change remains to be seen. AFP

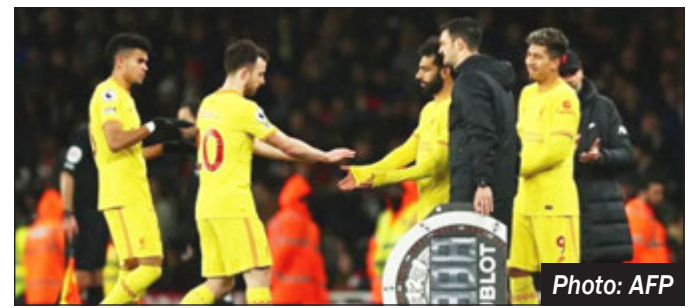


Photo: AFP

Premier League to introduce five subs from next season

FOOTBALL

PREMIER LEAGUE CLUBS will be able to make five substitutions from the 2022/23 season after they belatedly agreed to the rule change.

All 20 Premier League clubs voted in favour of the substitution rule change at a shareholder meeting on Mar 31.

Teams in the English top flight were allowed to make five changes for the final stages of the 2019/20 season in what was known as 'Project Restart' due to fixture congestion caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

However, unlike other major leagues and European competitions, the rule then reverted to three substitutions per side due to fears that extra changes gave an advantage to the bigger clubs with deeper squads.

"From next season, clubs will be permitted to use five substitutions, to be made on three occasions during a match, with an additional opportunity at half-time," the Premier League said in a statement. A total of nine substitutes can be named on the team sheet, it added.

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp and Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola were outspoken critics of the previous refusal to adopt the change given the demands placed upon players by the English game.

"All around the world there is five substitutions. Here we believe we are a special league with just three players, we don't protect the players," Guardiola said last season.

Klopp even accused Premier League CEO Richard Masters of a "lack of leadership" over the matter, saying: "It's not an advantage, it's a necessity." AFP

The lady carrying Thailand's football dreams

FOOTBALL

ALREADY A CELEBRITY AS A MEMBER of one of Thailand's richest families and a top business executive, Nualphan Lamsam has become a household name thanks to her involvement in football.

Affectionately called 'Madam Pang' by the Thai media, the president and CEO of Muang Thai Insurance has been successful in managing both women's and men's football teams.

Nualphan says she does not play football but loves and follows the sport.

She was manager of the Thai national women's side which made history with two successive appearances in the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2015 and 2019, still the country's only senior national football team of either gender to play at the World Cup finals.

She quit the team following a disastrous campaign at the 2019 tournament in France.

Nualphan's latest success was in her role as manager of the national men's team that won the AFF Suzuki Cup in January.

Nualphan has been in football for about 15 years since being appointed manager of the Thai women's team, helping them win the SEA Games title in 2013.

She took over Thai League 1 side Port seven years ago and steered them to the FA Cup title in 2019.

Nualphan, 55, was appointed manager of the national men's team, as well as the U23 side, in August last year after the War



Thailand manager Nualphan Lamsam poses with the AFF Suzuki Cup trophy. Photo: Bangkok Post

Elephants were eliminated in the qualifying stages of the 2022 World Cup.

Nualphan was authorised by the Football Association of Thailand (FAT) to choose the national team coach and she picked German-Brazilian tactician Mano Polking.

The duo enjoyed instant success as Thailand secured their record-extending sixth Suzuki Cup title in January.

"This is a New Year present for all Thais," she said after the War Elephants lifted the trophy on New Year's Day.

After Thailand regained their status as the No.1 Asean side, Nualphan's next target is to try and make the team competitive at the Asian and global levels.

"She may even help us reach the World Cup finals," commented FAT president Somyot Poompunmuang. "We have full faith in her ability." Bangkok Post

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Sport



Thai football dreams flying high > p15

PORSCHE ON TRACK

Young karting sensation in the winning groove as he dreams of F1 stardom



Kamolphu 'Porsche' Anutchakun in action at the recent Toyota True Visions Junior Gokart Championship. Photo: Supplied

KARTING

Ben Tirebuck

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Young Phuket karting sensation Kamolphu "Porsche" Anutchakun continues to go from strength to strength after recently winning two races at the national Toyota True Visions Junior Gokart Championship.

Porsche competed in the 8-9 age category at the 21st annual championship which was held at the Kart Bira Cir-

cuit in Pattaya on Mar 12-13.

Competing against tough competition, 9-year-old Porsche managed to qualify successfully for the two races which were held on Saturday (Mar 12) and Sunday (Mar 13) respectively. He then drove expertly in both races to claim the winner's spot on the podium on both days.

The young speedster, a student at Kajonkietsuksa School in Kathu, had previously made the pages of *The Phuket News* after winning the Singha Kart Cup Championship Of Thailand 2021

on Nov 21 last year while racing in the 7-8 years old age classification.

Porsche won the Singha Karting Rookie A class with a time of just over 14 minutes across 11 laps at a combined distance of 14.63km and an average speed of 65.91km/h.

As part of a field of 16 racers, he also won the fastest lap of the day with a time of 1:05.404. Earlier in the weekend Porsche had won the warm-up race and also finished fourth in the pre-final qualifying race.

The Singha Kart Cup is

wholly supported by legendary F1 driver Kimi Raikkonen and strives to provide a platform to put youngsters onto the first rung of the racing ladder with young drivers like Porsche proof that the ideals of the initiative in finding and nurturing racing stars of the future are certainly working.

Porsche certainly seems to have his feet both firmly planted on the ladder with plans to keep climbing. His mother Danlicha told *The Phuket News* after her son's recent triumph that his long-term goal is to progress into

the big leagues, namely professional Formula One racing.

"He showed an appetite for racing from a very early age when he would join his father who would regularly attend local and national racing events," she said.

"He has been an avid fan of Formula One since he was 3-years-old, watching the races whenever he gets the chance," she added. "Red Bull Racing's Max Verstappen, the current world champion, is his idol and role model – along with his father, of course!"

"His goal is to continue

to improve and keep racing; his dream is to ultimately progress and one day hopefully qualify to become a fully-fledged Formula One driver," Danlicha said proudly.

Whether young Porsche achieves that lofty dream or not remains to be seen, of course.

However, if he continues to progress in the same impressive manner of late then it may only be a matter of time before before the young man is sharing the same race tracks as his idol on the international Formula One circuit.

Foxes unveil statue of Khun Vichai, the 'Possible Man'

FOOTBALL

LEICESTER CITY'S FOOTBALL family came together on Apr 4 for the inauguration of the Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha statue at King Power Stadium – an eternal tribute to the most influential figure in the club's 138-year history.

On what would have been the Thai's 64th birthday, his son and current Leicester City chairman Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha and his family were joined by

distinguished guests to celebrate Vichai's Leicester legacy.

The current Foxes squad, led to a maiden FA Cup success in 2021 by manager Brendan Rodgers, were joined by members of the 2016 Premier League title-winning team and former managers Nigel Pearson, Claudio Ranieri and Craig Shakespeare.

Former club chairman Vichai – affectionately called the Boss or the Possible Man – passed away in a tragic helicopter accident at the home of Leicester City in Oct 2018.

Chief Executive Susan Whelan, a close friend and colleague of Vichai, opened proceedings, before Aiyawatt unveiled the statue of his father in front of a crowd of family and friends.

Whelan said: "Khun Vichai loved this city. He greatly appreciated the affection shown by the people of Leicester and recognised how this community believed in his vision.

"Today, his contribution to the club and to the city is made eternal. For generations to come,

people will stand in this place and tell stories of the Possible Man.

"They will speak of his leadership and ambition, but also of his generosity and kindness. However this site changes, in all the moments we will experience together, his presence will be permanent."

The statue inauguration ceremony was led by Buddhist monks, who travelled to Leicester from Thailand at the request of the Srivaddhanaprabha family.

AFP



Leicester City chairman Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha (second left) and his family pose in front of Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha's statue at King Power Stadium. Photo: Bangkok Post