

**FINAL EVICTION NOTICES SERVED AT LAYAN > PAGE 5**

## BIG PUSH



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

## 4AM CLOSING GAINS MOMENTUM AS TOURISM MINISTER SUPPORTS BANGLA

Eakkapop Thongtub  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The move to extend the closing time of nightlife venues in key tourist areas to 4am received a boost last week when Minister of Tourism and Sports Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn visited Bangla Rd, Patong, to be greeted by scores of nightlife workers holding placards calling for the change.

Mr Phiphat's visit was one of many stops on his inspection tour of nightlife areas popular with foreign tourists. Before visiting Bangla Rd on Sept 8, he had already visited Khao

San Rd in Bangkok as well as Koh Samui and Koh Pha-ngan.

Research conducted by Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, Phuket Rajabhat University and the NIDA Institute had confirmed strong support to extend nightlife trading hours, Mr Phiphat said.

"The results of the research conducted by all three institutions were the same. People, including tourists, will spend the most from 1am to 3am. That is the peak period. After 3am the spending starts to slow," he said.

"The results of the studies will be presented to the CCSA [Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administra-

tion, which still remains the ruling government authority in the country] and the Prime Minister, and to the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Interior, to discuss changes to the law so special zones can be set up in each tourist province," Mr Phiphat said.

Of note, Patong already has an entertainment zone which includes Bangla Rd. For years nightlife operators have petitioned the government to extend the zone, and to allow later closing times for venues within the zone only.

Mr Phiphat said that during his visits to popular nightlife areas he

found strong support for extending the closing time.

"More than 60-70% of foreigners agree that we should open such areas as special zones," he said.

Business operators also agreed, with a positive effect on the economy, he noted.

"By staying open two hours later, there will be an increase in economic effect, or value, by 23-24%," he added.

His visit to Bangla Rd was no different. Mr Phiphat said he had spoken with many tourists – mostly from India, the Middle East, Africa, Egypt, Australia and Malaysia – and the response was "quite good"...

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**NEWS** PAGE 2

**Phuket taxis warned 'must do better'**



**LIFE** PAGE 8

**Steve Rosse returns to the Andaman**



**SPORT** PAGE 16

**Local expat sets sail for world windsurf comp**



**Lile-it**™

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE



execeditor@classactmedia.co.th

# News



**Prisoners  
work for their  
freedom > p5**

## Nightlife eyes B100mn boost

Continued from page 1

“More than 70% of tourists want to extend the hours of the nightlife establishments at night until 4am. They all agree to extend the closing time from 2am because it’s still a fun time,” he said.

“But this is not only in Phuket, but also Khao San Rd, Koh Pha-ngan and Samui – they all have the same problem,” Mr Phiphat added.

Mr Phiphat pointed out that he will visit the popular Walking Street in Pattaya before the end of the month. “We will go to survey, discuss and ask tourists there,” he said.

Mr Phiphat highlighted the possibility of different closing times being allowed at different popular tourist areas. “It depends on the tourists who visit in each place. It may not be the same for other provinces,” he said.

“Each location must also hold a public hearing first to see if the local residents in that area agree or not. If you don’t agree, we won’t support it,” he said.

Mr Phiphat called on nightlife business owners to make sure the safety of their patrons is made a top priority.

“When opening late at night, safety must be taken



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

care of, especially of tourists. Along Bangla Rd each venue has their own security staff. One establishment may have two to three security guards [sic] when the whole venue employs nearly 200 people,” he said.

“We have police volunteers, Tourist Police and Provincial Police to support the safety of tourists, but when tourists are concentrated in one area, the security guards might not be enough,” he said.

### BONUS HOURS

Extending the closing time of nightlife venues in Patong by

two hours, from 2am to 4am, could see revenues by Patong operators boosted by B100 million a month, said Patong Entertainment Business Association (PEBA) President Weerawit Kreuasombat.

“Because those hours are the peak period, extending the closing times can create quite a lot of economic value,” he said.

“Tourists on average spend B3,000-4,000 a night, but we are still not meeting the demand of tourists who use entertainment services,” he added.

“At present, 100% of enter-

tainment venue operators in the Patong area are open, with the majority of tourists being Indians,” Mr Weerawit said. Of note, before the pandemic, the PEBA represented some 580 entertainment business operators in Patong.

“And we know now that Russians are coming back soon, as well as tourists from Europe. If the closing time is extended, it will definitely increase income,” Mr Weerawit added.

“Currently, the average daily income from entertainment venues in Patong is around B20mn per day, and

the whole month is around B600mn,” he said, repeating that the extra trade could easily boost revenues by B100mn a month.

“Operators asking to open until 4am is not new. It is a request that has been presented to officials for quite a long time,” Mr Weerawit noted.

Regardless, extending the closing time remained a no-brainer, Mr Weerawit said, adding that other sectors would benefit from the money circulating throughout the economy.

“The extension will have economic effects and stimulate tourism,” he stated.

### LEGAL HURDLE

Tourism Minister Mr Phiphat told reporters, “We must gradually solve the problems together. I am ready to discuss and drive the extension of the time for entertainment venues to remain open as requested so that tourists can have fun and enjoy drinking with friends.

Like Mr Weerawit, Mr Phiphat also explained the roll-on economic effect that would benefit other sectors of the community, including agriculture.

Mr Phiphat also called on the media to conduct their

own surveys to identify public opinion on the issue.

However, Mr Phiphat explained that the formal proposal was unlikely to be ready in time to be presented at the CCSA main monthly meeting for September, he said.

The formal proposal would most likely be ready for the CCSA meeting in October, he added.

“The hardest thing is to amend the law, but if we don’t make a start, nothing can happen,” Mr Phiphat said.

“So we must take all the facts learned and discuss them with the Prime Minister, the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Health,” he concluded.

Meanwhile, not yet to be recognised by any official parties in this latest push for late closing for nightlife venues is that common practice is for venue operators to pay officials to ‘facilitate’ late trading, and face no legal action for breaking the law.

When the issue last came to the fore, Preechawude ‘Prab’ Keesin, head of the Pisona Group of companies in Patong, in 2017 said, “It’s no secret that some venue operators pay officials in order to be ignored and close later.”

## Taxis drivers warned ‘must do better’, reminded of the rules

TAXI DRIVERS IN Phuket must improve their behaviour to help protect Phuket’s image as a tourist destination, Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Rodkwan Yodrabham told a meeting of taxi drivers and representatives last Friday (Sept 9).

His message was delivered to a meeting of taxi drivers, police and transport officials, who had the rights of independent taxi drivers to pick up passengers explained to them, among other points discussed.

Present at the meeting, held at the Phuket Provincial Government Center, was Adcha Buachan, Chief of the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO).

Vice Governor Anupap pointed out the incident at Ratsada Pier on Sept 2 in which four tourists, young

women from Israel, returning from Phi Phi Island were forced to exit the passenger van they had legally ordered through an app and take another taxi operating as part of a “group” at the pier.

Following the incident many comments online openly called Phuket taxi drivers controlling tourists’ access to taxi services “mafia”. (See page 1 story in *The Phuket News* last week.)

“This affects the image and reputation of the country and Phuket as a world-class tourist city,” Vice Governor Anupap said.

Mr Anupap also recognised that independent taxi drivers illegally using private vehicles – not legally registered taxis – to provide taxi services through an app has “caused controversy” and “affected the occupation of legal public transport operators”.



Photo: PR Phuket

“Therefore, this meeting is being held to rehearse the use of public taxi services in the Phuket area, to clarify and understand the legal regulations and set guidelines for hiring, picking up and dropping off passengers of public service cars and taxis that are provided through the application,” he said.

“This is in order for the public hire car service providers to have knowledge and understanding of the different practices in order to create a

good image of Phuket in the future,” he concluded.

### NO ILLEGALS

Following the incident at Ratsada Pier that inspired the meeting, the Phuket Land Transport Office issued a notice warning people not to use illegal taxis, and for owners of private cars not to use their cars as taxis – or else face full prosecution under the law.

The warning was posted online on Sept 6, while Tourist Police travelled to Koh Samui

to visit the female foreign tourists who were caught up in the taxi dispute at Ratsada Pier and offer their apologies.

The warning, issued by PLTO Chief Adcha Buachan, came with no relevance to the Ratsada Pier incident. The van the Israeli tourists had ordered was confirmed by police and the PLTO to be fully legally registered as a commercial passenger vehicle complete with “yellow and black” licence plates.

The tourists had ordered the van to pick them up from the pier through the Bolt app.

Any people found using vehicles not registered as taxis to provide a taxi service will be prosecuted under the full extent of the law. People caught doing so faced up to five years in jail or a fine of B20,000 to B100,000, or both, Mr Adcha warned in the notice.

According to Mr Adcha,

the warning came in response to complaints on social media about illegal taxis in operation.

“According to social media data and complaints about the illegal use of private cars to hire passengers, a quarrel has caused trouble and affected the occupation of legal public transport operators and affected the image and the reputation of the country and Phuket as a world-class tourist city,” Mr Adcha said in the warning.

“Passengers should choose to hire a legal car. By choosing an illegal car, the passenger may not be covered in the event of an accident or it may not be convenient by wasting their travel time and may be required to testify in court if the driver is arrested and prosecuted,” he added.

*The Phuket News*



# Child hit at school under probe

Eakkapop Thongtub  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The director of a private school in Phuket Town has had a formal police complaint filed against him for hitting a 9-year-old boy and repeatedly pushing the boy's head into a wall.

The parents of the boy, Itthip "Nong Ninja" Boonrung, filed a formal complaint at the Damrongdharma Center (Phuket Provincial Office of the Ombudsman), last Friday (Sept 9).

The parents had already filed a formal complaint at Phuket City Police Station.

Charan Kwankaew Nitikornchamnansek, Director of Phuket Damrongdharma Center, received the formal complaint to investigate the incident, presented by lawyer Anantarak Petchhin.

The man implicated is director of Thepamnuay Witaya School on Thepkrasattri Rd on the north side of Phuket Town. Itthip's mother Chalermkwan Rachaphonsaen, 54, told reporters she thought it best to not publicly name the school director at this stage.

The assault left Itthip with a split lip and bruises on his head.



The family files their complaint at Phuket City Police Station. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

"The physical injuries are not that much, but it's the psychological impact. Nong Ninja is frightened that he will be attacked by the director again," Ms Chalermkwan said.

Ms Chalermkwan said they were unaware of the incident until their daughter, Itthip's younger sister, told her and her husband that Itthip "had a headache".

"The old director was around for about five years. This new director has been around only about five months," she said.

This was not the first inci-

dent in which the school director had physically intimidated children at the school, Ms Chalermkwan added.

"This time there are witnesses," she said.

Mr Anantarak, the lawyer who drafted the formal complaint, noted, "In addition to hurting this student, the school prohibits students from eating pork, eating seafood, and deducts money from teachers' salaries to support their religion."

The school is linked to a well-known hospital on the island, he said.

"They also let some teach-

ers have no qualifications," he added.

"As this incident involves a registered education institution, it must involve the relevant government agencies," Mr Anantarak said.

One former teacher at the school, who asked to be named only as "Kru Yui", said he left the school because of the new school director.

"This director is a person who takes his own beliefs and loves his family as his main principle and does not listen to teachers or children," Kru Yui said.

## DENIAL

The school director presented himself at Phuket Town Police Station last Saturday (Sept 10).

Mr Komkrit (who asked for his family name not to be published) denied the allegations against him and handed over CCTV footage of the day in question in the hope that it satisfied police investigators.

Mr Komkrit denied he had assaulted Nong Ninja. He had never even scolded Nong Ninja, he said.

Mr Komkrit gave police CCTV footage of his office reportedly recorded on the day of the incident.

While Mr Komkrit was at the police station it came to light that the "witnesses" Nong Ninja's mother, Ms Chalermkwan, referred to was Nong Ninja's 4-year-old sister, who told the parents what happened. The 4-year-old girl was questioned by officers at the Damrongdharma Center last Friday.

Mr Komkrit declined to respond to questions as to why such a young child would fabricate such a specific lie.

Mr Komkrit said that Nong Ninja was a "special child" who he often let play

on his computer in his office.

"But sometimes if I am not in the room I have to take him to do other activities in the school as there is a power board with many plugs in it that could be a danger of electric shock for him," Mr Komkrit said.

"As for the claims that I assaulted him, for which the parents have filed a complaint against me, that is not true," Mr Komkrit added.

"If Nong Ninja's parents have any problems, they should come and discuss them with me first," he said.

"The problem may be from a notice issued by the finance department about tuition fees. The parents have owed tuition fees since 2021, but they have not come to negotiate," he said.

Meanwhile, Taiwiwat Pachakan, who is still the homeroom teacher of Nong Ninja's sister, came to the defence of Mr Komkrit.

He confirmed that Nong Ninja was known to be a child of special needs, and was often seen in and around Mr Komkrit's office.

"As for the director, as far as I know, the director is a good-natured person," he said.

## Police lead Bangla work permit checks

OFFICIALS ARE CONDUCTING checks on night venues along Bangla Rd in Patong in response to a formal complaint accusing venue operators of illegally hiring foreign entertainment performers.

Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Col Akanit Phithaksart, who only two years ago served as Patong Police Chief, led inspections of five venues on Sept 7.

Joining Col Akanit for the "random" inspections were Immigration officers, Kathu District officials and officers from the Patong Police Station.

The five venues inspected were Hollywood Phuket, Barfunk Phuket, Illuzion Phuket, Sugar and New York Live Music Bar.

Officers questioned foreigners found working as singers, musicians and DJs at the venues, but all the foreigners singled out for checks were found to be working legally.

Regardless, the officers warned the venue operators against illegally hiring any foreigners and to "strictly and accurately comply with



Photo: PR Phuket

the laws and regulations".

Col Akanit said that further "random" inspections would continue "to ensure that no wrongdoing is found, especially regarding foreign workers working illegally without work permits".

The inspections follow a group of disgruntled workers in the local entertainment industry filing an official letter of complaint urging authorities to act on the number of illegal workers across the island.

The group submitted the complaint to the Damrongtham Center (Provincial Office of the Ombudsman)

last month, stating that illegal workers were taking jobs of Thais and thus denying them an opportunity to make a living.

Phromphiriya Thammaupatham, 37, representing the group, explained that a huge proportion of people working in Phuket's service and entertainment venues such as pubs and bars were foreigners who were usually not permitted to work.

"Many people are on tourist visas or do not have the necessary work documents to allow them to legally work here," he said.

The Phuket News

## Life without glasses, after you're 50?

**Yes, it is possible!**

**"Total solution to say goodbye to eye glasses - Forever"**

- Your key solution to a world without glasses.
- Quick and easy procedure, fast recovery.
- State-of-the-art technology to bring back your youthful or Maximize your vision.
- Lifetime solution for cataract, free yourself worrying cataract degeneration.

To know more about BrightView Surgery, please contact us at

[www.brightviewcenter.com](http://www.brightviewcenter.com)
+66 7625 4425
 BPK.Intermarketing@bgh.co.th



The Phuket News

## CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

PURIYA BEAVAN  
EditorCHRIS HUSTED  
Executive Editor  
084 307 7408  
execeditor@classactmedia.co.thBEN TIREBUCK  
News / Sport Editor  
061 806 8132  
editor3@classactmedia.co.thCHUTHARAT 'UM' PLERIN  
Thai Editor  
088 766 1615  
thai@classactmedia.co.thJASON BEAVAN  
General Manager  
086 479 7471  
gm@classactmedia.co.thSIRIPORN (NOK) SEANGMAS  
Sales Support  
086 479 7470  
sales@classactmedia.co.thNIRAVIT 'MOS' VORAVANITCHA  
THANAPONG 'OAK' KHAO-AMPHAIPHAN  
Graphic designersThe Phuket News  
@thephuketnews

ADVERTISING

ClassAct Media

The Phuket News

WINDOW ON PHUKET

Where to eat in PHUKET

Новости Phuket

ข่าวภูเก็ต

NEWS TV

LIVE 89.5

Phuket TICKETMASTER

076 612 550 ext. 605

Fax: 076 612 553

Info@classactmedia.co.th

thephuketnews.com

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

## PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

www.foreca.com

FRI SEPTEMBER 16



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SAT SEPTEMBER 17



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SUN SEPTEMBER 18



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

MON SEPTEMBER 19



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE SEPTEMBER 20



High: +32°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

WED SEPTEMBER 21



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

THU SEPTEMBER 22



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

## Hunted for vicious beating

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Police have tracked down and arrested a man in Chalong wanted for beating his ex-girlfriend unconscious with an iron rod and detaining her against her will in May this year.

Armed with an arrest warrant issued on Aug 29, officers arrested the man, named only as "Mr Worawat", at his rented accommodation in Chalong on Sept 5, reports the Central investigation Bureau (CIB).

In a report posted on Sept 7, the CIB explained that Worawat contacted his ex-girlfriend via Facebook Messenger on May 21, saying that he wanted to talk about reconciling their differences.

The woman then traveled to meet Worawat at the appointed place, but he was nowhere to be found. The woman then returned to her rented room, unknowing that Worawat had followed her home on his motorbike.

As she reached the front door to



Photo: CIB

her apartment block, Worawat approached her and punched her several times in the face, then forced her to take him up to her room.

A friend of the woman was in her apartment, but that did not deter

Worawat from continuing his attack, with Worawat beating the woman and her friend with an iron rod. The ex-girlfriend was beaten until she was unconscious, the CIB reported.

Worawat then took the women

back to his house, where they were threatened to not try to escape.

When Worawat was not looking, one of the women managed to send a text message to a friend calling for help, leading to Chalong Police being notified of the situation and being able to "help the victims", the CIB noted in its report.

The CIB report did not explain why Worawat was not apprehended at that time, but did note that it was learned later that Worawat had fled to Chalong.

The two women later filed a formal complaint at Patong Police Station.

Officers finally tracked Worawat to where he was staying in Chalong, where he was placed under arrest on Monday, the CIB added.

It was not reported whether Worawat was arrested at the house where he kept the two women hostage.

Worawat was taken to Patong Police Station, where he denied all charges against him, the CIB report concluded.



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

## Remains of dead baby found at Phuket temple

POLICE INVESTIGATING the body of the newborn girl found dumped on temple grounds in Phuket last Friday (Sept 9) have so far reported no progress in determining who is the mother or the person who dumped the body.

Police were called to the temple, Wat Anuphat Kritisadaram (Wat Ket Ho) in Thung Thong, Kathu, at about 5pm last Friday after three monks walking by noticed a rotten smell and started investigating the source.

The monks found that the smell was coming from a black plastic bag under a bodhi tree about 50 metres from the multipurpose hall at the temple.

The bag had been torn open. Inside was the remains of a new-

born girl, reported Kathu Police Chief Col Rungrit Ratanaphakdi.

The monks informed the abbot immediately, who organised for police to be notified, Col Rungrit continued.

Forensic police and doctors from Vachira Phuket Hospital at the scene said that from initial inspections they were unable to determine the age of the newborn.

Officers are continuing to question monks at the temple, and have checked what CCTV footage is available of the temple's grounds.

The CCTV footage is far from complete, with many cameras not working, police said.

The body was taken for examination by forensic police officers, who have yet to report their findings.

Eakkapop Thongtub

## Arrests net haul of meth pills, 'ice'

POLICE HAVE ARRESTED A Phuket couple found in possession of more than 1.3 kilogrammes of crystal meth (ya ice) and more than 45,000 methamphetamine pills (ya bah).

Achira 'Top' Chakthong, 33, of Phuket Town, and Nantikan 'Ket' Wongwilas, 31, of Kathu, were arrested near commercial buildings at the Ocean View housing estate on Srisuthat Rd in Phuket, leading to a search of the house where Achira lived on Soi Phu Yai Baan in Phuket Town.

In making the arrests, officers seized 1,367.26 grammes of ya ice and 45,695 ya bah pills, the Phuket Provincial Police reported on Sept 8.

The raid was led by Lt Col Pichit Thongto, said the report, which marked the arrests of five drug suspects. The report did not mark when any of the arrests were made.

In arresting Achira and Nantikan, officers seized what police described as a self-made "BB gun", created to fire .45-calibre bullets. Also seized were two ".45 ammunition pouches" and 55 .45-calibre bullets.

In total, 31 items of evidence were seized, including a Honda PCX motorbike valued at about B40,000, a gold necklace valued at about B30,000 and a Kasikornbank account in the name of Supattra Boonyong with a balance of B24,998.54.

The pair were taken to Phuket City Police Station and charged with illegal possession of a Category 1

The drug haul seized by police.  
Photo: Phuket Provincial Police

narcotic with intent to sell. Achira was also charged with illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Of the other suspects arrested, Wuthichai 'Bee' Sommit, 36, registered as living in Karon, and Akaraphon 'Not' Pranomram, 27, originally from Nakhon Ratchasima, were arrested at an unregistered house in Soi Khoktanode 2, Chalong, after Wuthichai was found with four ya bah pills and Akaraphon was found with just one ya bah pill.

Both Wuthichai and Akaraphon were taken to Chalong Police Station and charged with illegal possession of a Category 1 narcotic.

Chayaphon 'Lek' Meepat, 49, from Nakhon Si Thammarat, was arrested at Chaofa Thani housing estate on Chao Fa West Rd, Chalong, after he was found with two ya bah pills.

Chayaphon was also taken to Chalong Police Station and charged with illegal possession of a Category 1 narcotic. Eakkapop Thongtub



# Officials serve eviction notices at Layan Beach

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The last remaining squatters illegally occupying beachfront land at Layan Beach have been served yet another final notice, ordering them to vacate the plots by Sept 30 or else officials will remove their buildings and chattels for them.

This time officials are serious, said Paween Kumar, Director of the Phuket Legal Execution Office, which served the eviction notices on Monday (Sept 12).

Present to support the action were Phuket Vice Governor Anupap Rodkwan Yodrabam, Phuket Land Office Chief Wisit Chokchai and Manoch Puchalad, President of the Chong Talay Tambon Administration Organisation (OrBorTor).

The legal channels of appeal had been exhausted. The courts have ruled that the land is state property, Mr Paween said.

The eviction notices were posted at four locations.

"The demolition is scheduled to be completed by Sept



Photo: PR Phuket

30 or on the next business day," Mr Paween warned.

"The buildings must go. If no action is taken, the executing officer will proceed with decisive action in accordance with the law," he added.

"Previous eviction notices had been served, giving people the right to appeal within 15 days," Mr Paween said.

"This has been going on since 2018, and has been fought through the courts until the very end," he said.

"In addition, there have been complaints about such encroachment, including the lack of expediting action by

relevant agencies. So far there has been no action against people who have buildings on state land," Mr Paween noted.

"Therefore, a meeting of relevant agencies in the area was called, and it was concluded that the intruders would be given the opportunity to demolish the buildings within 15 days. There are no more chances to fight the case. If the deadline arrives and the buildings have not yet been demolished, the relevant departments will come to demolish them all," he assured.

Vice Governor Anupap said that the action to serve the

final eviction notices followed Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew requesting the relevant agencies to comply with the law, "which today has been executed", he said.

The land in question in total covers 178 rai along three kilometres of unspoiled beachfront, altogether estimated to be worth more than B10 billion.

The Department of Special Investigation (DSI) originally served eviction notices in 2017 after the Supreme Court ruled that the occupiers were illegally encroaching on state land.

The final remaining squatters who refused to move, including the well-known Tony's Restaurant at Layan Beach, were last issued a final eviction notice in June last year, served by former Chong Talay OrBorTor MaAnn Samran.

However, by the end of July still no action against the squatters had been taken.

No action was taken against the squatters for the duration of Mr MaAnn's time in office.

He was voted out in local elections in December last year.

## Community service helps prisoners to freedom

A PROJECT WHERE selected inmates from Phuket prison conduct supervised work within the local community in exchange for a decrease in their sentence was launched last week.

The "Public Work For Society" project, launched on Sept 8, sees inmates who have exhibited good behaviour while in prison selected to carry out certain tasks within the local community.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew last week visited the site of the old fresh market at Don Chom Thao Road Soi 2 on Thepkasattri Rd where inmates were helping clear and dredge drainage ditches which had become blocked and compromised after recent heavy rainfall.

Governor Narong was joined by Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Somprat Prabsonkram, and both commended the inmates' work while providing them with refreshments as they worked.

Accompanying and overseeing the inmates were Krisana Thipayachon, the Chanthaburi Provincial Prison Director who is current serving as Acting Director of Phuket



Photo: PR Phuket

Provincial Prison, along with Thepkasattri Mayor Sirichart Trairat and Thepkasattri Moo 5 Village Headman (Phu Yai Baan) Wichai Kraithap.

The project is a collaboration between Phuket Prisons and Thepkasattri Municipality to provide prisoners displaying good behaviour the chance to contribute positively to the local community.

In exchange for one day's monitored work in the local community the prisoners are afforded one day's reduction from their overall sentence.

It is also hoped the project can help start assimilating reformed inmates into society again by carrying out manual work that benefits the local community.

The Phuket News

## Police remember fallen officers

NATIONAL POLICE Commissioner Lt Gen Suwat Chaengyodsuk was in Phuket last Sunday (Sept 11) to officiate the unveiling of a memorial to commemorate 103 officers of the Region 8 Police who have died in the line of duty.

The event coincided with the 28th anniversary of the formation of Region 8 Police, which oversees all police operations in the seven Upper Southern Thailand provinces of Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi, Ranong, Surat Thani, Chumphon and Nakhon Si Thammarat.

Region 8 Police for nearly 22 years were originally based in Surat Thani, but moved to their new headquarters at Tha Chatchai at the northern end of the island in 2015. The new base of operations, covering 185 rai, was built at a cost of B169 million.

As part of the official opening of the memorial last Sunday, Lt Gen Suwat laid wreaths to remember the 103 officers of the Region 8 Police who lost their lives while on duty.

Also present to officiate



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

the occasion was Lt Gen Surachate Hakparn, along with Region 8 Police Commander Amphol Buarabporn and a host of other top-ranking local police officers, their wives and other members from locals groups and the local community.

Lt Gen Suwat praised the fallen officers as "brave heroes".

"It's hard to find anyone to compare to as such good role models than police of-

ficers," he said.

Lt Gen Suwat also read a prayer to commemorate "the merits of those who served with dedication and sacrifice of personal happiness for the well-being of the people even at the cost of their own lives".

"Your goodness will be etched in our hearts forever. May the souls of all heroes rest in peace in the world," Lt Gen Suwat said.

Eakkapop Thongtub

## Mastery Learning • American Curriculum

Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education



Ensuring success for all by providing education based upon student mastery of all subjects.

Enroll Today!



QSI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF PHUKET

81/4 Moo. 1 Chalemphrakiat Ror. 9 Road Kathu  
www.phuket.qsi.org • 076 304 312



# MSMEs need vital support

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Support and assistance with financial restructuring were critical factors needed to help Micro and Small- to Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), Deputy Prime Minister Supattana Pongpunmeechaow announced at the 28<sup>th</sup> APEC SME Ministerial Meeting held in Phuket last week.

"MSMEs are important to driving the economy and prosperity of the region. More than 98% of businesses in the region are MSMEs, which can generate economic value from 40-60% of APEC's GDP," Mr Supattana Pongpunmeechaow, who also serves as Minister of Energy, said at the event, held at Sai Laguna Phuket from Sept 5-10.

Almost 300 representatives from 21 APEC economic zones attended both onsite workshops and online forums at the event to discuss trends and issues affecting MSMEs.

Weerapong Malai, Director of the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion (OSMEP), officiated the opening of the 28<sup>th</sup> APEC SME Ministerial Meeting with his keynote address, which was followed by events under the theme "Accelerating Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Adoption among APEC MSMEs".

MSMEs provided jobs for more than 224,905 workers on the island, Mr Weerapong said.



Photo: PR Phuket

"In Phuket, there are 42,598 MSMEs, 69% of which are in the service sector, especially tourism and related businesses such as hotels and resorts, condominium suites, restaurants and other tourism businesses, followed by the trade sector, which accounts for 26%," Mr Weerapong said.

Attendees from the 21 economic zones also had the opportunity to see the potential of small and medium-sized enterprises in Phuket, Mr Weerapong said.

Among those who took part in the APEC talks were representatives from the United States, Russia, Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea.

The main theme of the series of talks was the overall

recovery of SMEs in APEC through Bio-Circular-Green Economy (BCG) and high-impact ecosystems, Mr Supattana Pongpunmeechaow said.

The talks were focussed on four subtopics:

- Accelerate the application of bio-economy circular economy and green economy (Accelerating BCG Adoption);
- Inclusive Digital Transformation;
- The Next Normal MSME Financing and Debt Restructuring; and
- Coping with developing markets and change (Coping with evolving market landscape: high impact policy).

The subtopics were all in line with international focus and cooperation to accelerate the [United Nations] Sustain-

able Development Goals, Mr Supattana Pongpunmeechaow said.

## FOCUS TOPICS

Among the key topics discussed were "Ready for the 'Next Normal': How MSMEs should adapt to an evolving market landscape", with Dr Chao-Chiun Liang from the Industrial Technology Research Institute in Taiwan joining the panel discussion on "Evolving Trends in the Next Normal: Implication on MSMEs and Policymakers".

Siriporn Rathie, Country Programme Manager for UN Women's "WeEmpowerAsia" project, gave a presentation during the "Markets of Last Resort: Corporate & Public Procurement in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic" session.

Her presentation focused on gender-responsive procurement to demonstrate how this would create a win-win situation for both MSMEs and procuring entities, while simultaneously help address issues with gender divide.

See Pei San, General Manager of Far East Flora in Singapore gave a presentation in the session "Enhancing Resilience: Case Studies of MSME Promotion and Adaptation". Representing a Singapore-based MSME, she shared how her business has been able to cope with the COVID situation and leverage digital technology to adapt to the next normal trends.

As the focus turned to technology-driven success, Michael Bäk, Head of Public Policy for Facebook Thailand from Meta, joined the panel session, "Evolving Trends in the Next Normal: Implication on MSMEs and Policymakers". He discussed key trends that have emerged or been intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic; examples of MSME adaptation to the trends; and digital tools/innovations which will be crucial in promoting MSME recovery and resilience going forward.

Joining Mr Bäk was Jamie Brennan, Head of Thailand Global Selling, Amazon. Ms Brennan gave a presentation during the session "Digital Market and Platform Economy: How Should MSMEs Navigate

the Rise of Online Platforms?" As a representative of a global platform firm, she discussed how MSMEs could leverage digital platforms to narrow their digital gaps and reach new markets, especially international ones, while also cautioning against potential challenges they may face amidst the rise of the platform economy.

## FRAMEWORK

The talks concluded last Saturday (Sept 10), with the announcement of a framework for the APEC region's trade and investment system.

The framework is to be "flexible, comprehensive and more dynamic through collaboration in order to achieve free, open, fair and transparent trade by promoting quality growth for the benefit and well-being of the people," Mr Supattana Pongpunmeechaow said.

"For MSME entrepreneurs, this includes support for startups, increasing access to MSME funding, access to global markets and global value chains, to empower and prepare MSMEs to face new challenges and effectively contribute to the wider economy.

"Importantly, it will help MSMEs recover through the application of BCG and a high-impact ecosystem by leveraging technology and innovation to create value, reduce waste generation and promote a sustainable business model," he concluded.

# Airlift to support Phuket recovery in H2 2022

SINCE THE EASING OF travel restrictions in Thailand, pent-up demand has continued to push travelers to Phuket. The first half of 2022 created positive market sentiment, as the island welcomed 1.78 million visitors, a 342% increase over the same period last year, reports Bill Barnett, CEO and founder of hospitality consultancy C9 Hotelworks.

European source markets delivered higher volumes in the first quarter, while Asian source markets gained traction in international visitation in the second quarter. As regional countries in Asia reopened borders to overseas travel, Phuket has seen an influx of family-oriented travelers, Mr Barnett noted in C9 Hotelworks' latest report, "Phuket Hotel and Tourism Update".

"With an increase in international travelers, Phuket's hotel sector performance is starting to see a recovery trend in occupancy. As a result of more

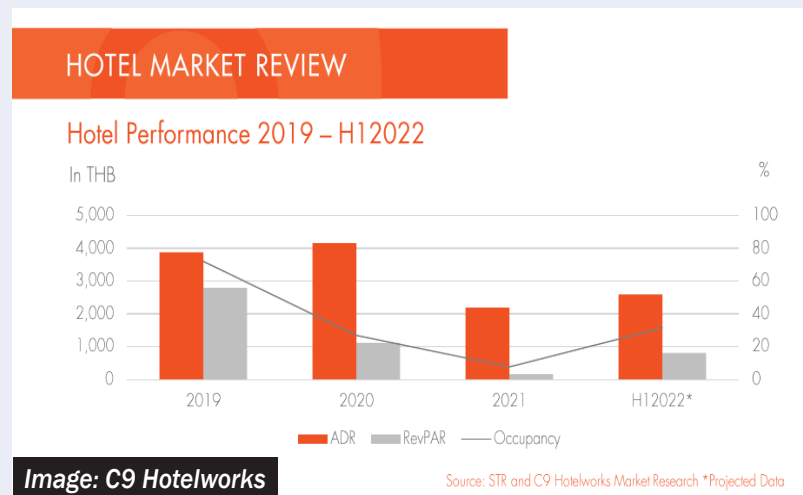


airlift, the island registered an overall occupancy rate of 31.5% in H1 2022, up from 5.1% in the first half of 2021," Mr Barnett noted.

"The upswing in demand was highest on the island's west coast as the preferred choice of travelers. Looking forward, a seasonal transition will see international scheduled and charter flight winter schedules come into effect at the end of October and continue through March 2023.

"C9 is forecasting an optimistic outlook that Phuket tourism will continue recovering, albeit at a moderate pace moving into 2023. Factors driving this view are the continued zero-COVID policy in Mainland China, and limited airline seats for Russian snowbird travelers this winter season," he added.

Phuket's tourism continues to be fragmented without Mainland China. India by mid-year pushed to the top of geographic source



markets, Mr Barnett noted among trends in the industry.

Newly opened demand generators include Andamanda Phuket Water Park and Robinson Lifestyle Thalang shopping mall, while a rising number of brand conversions and shift to franchises in chain-managed properties is being seen at midscale and upscale hotel tiers, he added.

Looking forward, Mr Barnett noted that the island's Light Rail Mass Transit project is continuing

at the feasibility and public consultation stage.

However, he also noted, "Lack of development debt financing continues to impact the incoming hotel pipeline with 31% of new projects remaining on hold.

"Despite an extended period of stress for hotel owners in Phuket, only one significant transaction was recorded over the two-year pandemic period," he said.

The Phuket News



# Tourism predicted to slow after nationwide flooding

## BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The impact of flooding in 21 provinces nationwide is expected to slow tourism activities in the third quarter and corporate travel in particular, while pent-up demand from delayed trips might cause congestion in the final quarter.

Kanchanaburi, Suphan Buri, Nakhon Nayok, Prachin Buri, Chon Buri, Chanthaburi, Samut Songkram, Ratchaburi, and Hua Hin and Cha-am in Prachuap Khiri Khan face the biggest impact from trip cancellations.

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Governor Yuthasak Supasorn said the third quarter was normally the peak time for corporate trips such as CSR outing tour groups and incentives because hotel prices during this season were remarkably low and could match their budget.

Meanwhile, state agencies have to use their remaining budget by Sept 30, which marks the end of the current fiscal year.



A cyclist stumbles on a flooded street in the Bang Khen district of Bangkok on Sept 8. Photo: Nutthawat Wicheanbut

"Some corporate groups have already cancelled or postponed their trips this month which mostly impacted destinations in the East and the Central region. Even though agriculture is the hardest hit sector, tourism in many places could be affected as purchasing power has decreased significantly," said Mr Yuthasak on Monday (Sept 12).

According to TAT's risk assessment gathered from its offices in five regions, heavy rainfall which has burdened

floodwater drainage hampered travel in many parts of the country, such as Khao Chamao National Park in Rayong, which advised tourists to avoid swimming in the waterfall.

Meanwhile, a camping site in Chanthaburi urged travelers to refrain from outdoor activities such as trekking and camping.

For the North, if downpours mostly occur in areas that have reservoirs to contain water flow, the impact might be minimal as dams in the

region still have the capacity to absorb downstream flow.

However, the region still needs close monitoring as it is forecast to receive an estimated rainfall 10-20% above average in October.

The Northeast and the South still have to be cautious about possible flooding this month, particularly river basins and hill slopes which risk flash floods.

At present, more than 16 provinces in the Northeast along the Mun and Chi rivers have a total of 412,462 rai of agricultural land inundated.

With a surge of local and international tourists expected during the high season, Thailand could face tourism density in many areas which requires well-prepared management and strategies to lure tourism activities away from main destinations.

January to August saw 102.9 million domestic trips which generated B566 billion.

The TAT remains confident with the target of 160mn domestic trips with revenue of B656bn, mainly driven by a robust market in the fourth quarter, said Mr Yuthasak.

# HM King, Queen offer condolences

## BANGKOK

THEIR MAJESTIES THE King and Queen on Saturday (Sept 10) offered their condolences to His Majesty King Charles III of Britain over the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

"Queen Suthida and I as well as all members of our family are profoundly saddened by the announcement of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II," His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua said.

"The people of Thailand join the people of the United Kingdom in mourning the great loss of the beloved monarch and in remembrance of Her Majesty's glorious and enduring legacies as a constitutional monarch totally dedicated to her subjects."

Her Majesty Queen Sirikit The Queen Mother also offered her condolences to King Charles III and his family.

"Meeting Her Majesty, was always a truly enrich-



The Thai national flag flies at half-mast at Government House on Friday (Sept 9). Photo: Wassana Nanuam

ing experience. It is with a very heavy heart that I offer to Your Majesty, to all members of the royal family, my heartfelt sympathy and condolences for this great loss."

On Friday government offices lowered the national flag to half-mast for three working days as a mark of respect.

"I have learned with profound sadness of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II," said caretaker Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan.

"On behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the people of the Kingdom of Thailand I would like to extend our deepest condolences to you in this time of sorrow." Bangkok Post

# Supreme Court upholds rulings in Saxena embezzlement case

## BANGKOK

THE SUPREME COURT HAS UPHELD lower court rulings against financier Rakesh Saxena, sentencing him to 335 years in prison in three lawsuits in connection with the Bangkok Bank of Commerce (BBC) embezzlement scandal.

Saxena had been fighting his cases since he was indicted by prosecutors 26 years ago.

The ruling, read out on Monday (Sept 12) by the Bangkok South Criminal Court, brought to an end three cases of fraud and embezzlement that were believed to have contributed to the collapse of the bank and the start of the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

Saxena, 70, was accused of embezzlement during his time as a BBC treasury adviser and is widely reputed to have been involved in dozens of high-risk ventures and deals over the course of three decades.

He played a key role in running the BBC business from 1993 to 1995, especially in the lending of funds to investors. The bank was shut down after incurring huge losses.

Saxena was accused of aiding the then president of the now-defunct BBC, Krirkiat Jalichandra, and others in authorising loans worth more than B30 million to 10 firms without proper examination of their ability to repay.

The loan authorisation was not approved by the bank's executive committee and thus was in violation of Bank of Thailand's



Saxena in Bangkok on June 9, 2021. Photo: Somchai Poomlard

governing rules. Moreover, the defendant and his alleged accomplices also colluded to embezzle the money.

The prosecution asked the court to punish the defendant under the Securities and Exchange Commission Act and order him to return the funds to the bank.

The Criminal Court found Saxena guilty of violating Sections 307, 308, 311 and 315 of the Stock Exchange of Thailand Act and Section 83 of the Criminal Code and handed down a 335-year prison term. However, under the law, the defendant would serve a maximum of 20 years.

The Criminal Court also imposed a fine of B33mn and ordered him to return B2.5 billion to the bank.

Saxena appealed the ruling, but the Appeal Court stood by the lower court's decision. Bangkok Post



## FAMILY STAYCATION



School's Out! Bring the little ones and take advantage of our exclusive Family Staycation offer! The special promotion includes an overnight stay in a One Bedroom Pool Villa Suite for two adults and two children (below 12 years) and some exceptional benefits.

Room rate:  
**THB 7,500**

Book and stay:  
now - 30 September 2022

Contact reservations@salaphuket.com or call 076 33 8888

\*\*Applicable for Thai Nationals and Expats with current Phuket Residential address (subject to availability).

- 1 night in One Bedroom Pool Villa Suite
- Breakfast in the SALA Restaurant
- A signature beachfront picnic lunch
- Kids eat for free from our kid's menu

WWW.SALAPHUKET.COM





# Cycling with Steve


**BLAZING SADDLES**

Baz Daniel  
baz\_gunner2000@yahoo.com

It was the mid-1990s and I was working as a senior vice president for one of the world's largest communications groups based in Bangkok. I seemed to be forever jet-lagged from flying around Asia-Pacific to various meetings. I had high blood pressure, took sleeping pills to cope with work stress and jet-lag and had intractable sinusitis from the acrid air pollution of the city.

In short, I was not a happy bunny and one of the few pleasures that kept me sane was reading a column in

Thailand's *Sunday Nation* newspaper titled 'The Rock' by an American writer named Steve Rosse.

It was a column written about life in Phuket from the point of view of Steve, who had abandoned a career in film production in New York to 'escape' the rat race into a palm-fringed tropical island idyll. Well, that was the theory, but in fact Steve's Phuketian reality, as told through his column, was far from the rose-tinted dream that the tourist marketing departments would have us believe.

Steve's stories were quirky, often sad, even harrowing, but they radiated truth and were often very funny. Most importantly to me, they were set within the fabled tropical isle named Phuket, populated by a rogue's gallery of keenly-

observed misfits and liars, bar-girls and bimbos... all back-dropped by the most stunning vistas, infused with a sand-between-the-toes romance.

I would sit in the scorching, polluted Bangkok air on my Sundays dreaming of another life and of my own escape, and I can remember saying to myself, "I want a life in a tropical island idyll when I get out of this stressful nightmare. Someday... someday!"

Well, I did eventually manage to jump out of the grinding maw of big corporate life and in fact I came to live in Phuket in May 2006 to take on a dream-sounding semi-retirement job as the editor of *Phuket Magazine* published by John Everingham's iconic Art Asia Press. 2006 was the tail-end of the halcyon days of printed glossy magazines, before the world exploded and "content", as it became known, migrated totally into the dark Satanic realm of online media and audiences lost their ability to concentrate for longer than a nano-second!

It was great fun and what Art Asia Press lacked in financial acumen it made up for in creativity, enjoyment and hedonism. The job was a wonderful "calling card" through which I met the movers and shakers of Phuket and I soon met one of the island's most successful entrepreneurs named Bart Duijkers, who'd been the General Manager of the world-famous The Boathouse on Kata Beach, involved in Andaman property development and later became the owner of the wonderful The 9th Floor restaurant secreted away on its eponymous floor of a rather gritty condo tower in the dark backstreets of Patong.

Time-wipe some 12 years later to November 2018 and I'm sitting down to a delicious music and art-themed supper at said 9th Floor restaurant, which Bart had asked me to help him arrange and then had kindly invited my partner Pattie and I to join. Opposite us at a long table full of local luminaries gearing up for a raucous evening, was a fellow I didn't recognise. Bespectacled and a little intense perhaps, he seemed somewhat ill at ease.

"Hi, I'm Steve Rosse," an American accent announced.

"Not *THE* Steve Rosse who wrote 'The Rock' column in the *Nation*?" I asked.

"Well, yes," he said, looking both pleased and embarrassed – and so, at last, I met the man who unknowingly had been so influential in my decision to live in Phuket.

I had a trip to Khao Sok planned the following week for a Blazing Saddles ar-



ticle on cycling and river fishing in the National Park (ibid. *The Phuket News* - 6 January 2019) and Steve asked if he could join me. During our trip we became friends and I learned that he had returned to live in the States in 1997 and that his present trip was only his third time back in Phuket since then.

Steve confided, "Each time I found the experience of being back in Phuket overwhelming. The place has changed, I've changed. I did not feel what I expected to feel. The traffic, pollution, money-grabbing attitude all left me anxious, worried and sleepless. I've been kind of crushed, psychologically, each time."

Alarmingly, Steve also told me that he'd recently suffered a heart attack and had come back this time because he realised it might be his last chance to visit Phuket. He said he was travelling with nitroglycerin, in case he suffered another heart event... which he almost did when he couldn't find it one night of our trip!

I'd brought an extra bike along for Steve in case he wanted to try a ride while we were in Khao Sok and one afternoon I took him out on a little spin along some back lanes following the course of the river between the massive, vaulting limestone cliffs. At one point he took his hands off the handle-bars and reaching heavenwards shouted, "I'm alive!", which has to be one of the most enthusiastic responses I've ever received for taking someone on a bike ride!

On the way back to Phuket we stayed a night at the lovely beachside cottages in the National Park at Thai Mueang. Steve told me that he'd fallen in love with the quiet backwater of the Andaman coast and if he ever actually managed to retire to Thailand, he would make this area his home.

I took this with a pinch of salt, but in fact Steve did return to the Andaman to live last year and he now runs a successful YouTube channel titled 'Postcards from Turtle Beach' from up the Andaman coast.

Steve later told me, "I will always be in debt to you. I think that your offer to take me cycling in Khao Sok changed my life. No exaggeration."

Proof indeed of the magic and serendipity which bicycles and words can weave.

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

UPHOLSTERY  
**CURTAIN**  
WALLPAPER  
BLIND  
CARPET

**GREAT VALUE.  
LUXURY FEEL.**

**PROFESSIONAL**  
Curtain repeating, stitching,  
sewing and installation.

**MADE TO ORDER  
INSTALLATION  
& SERVICES**

WhatsApp

www.phuketcurtain.com sales@phukecurtain.com 095 428 2299, 076 216 666



# On the death of Queen Elizabeth II

Andy Tong Dee

I regret to say I only nearly met the Queen. I was at one point just two metres from her at a small garden party she held for members of the armed forces. She commissioned me as an officer twice; once when I joined the British Army, and again when I transferred to the Royal Navy. She was my boss, and I cheerfully risked my life on her behalf on many occasions for over 20 years.

She came to the throne six years before I was born and reigned for 70, during which time she gave faultless service to our nation. She was also head of state of 14 other countries and Head of the British Commonwealth of 56 nations.

The British Monarchy has been a huge success under her reign. She always knew what to say at the right time. She has acted as a source of unity not just for our nation, but for the British Commonwealth. I have no doubt that this success will continue under her son King Charles III. He has shown genuine respect for other cultures and religions and a real concern for the environment and the disadvantaged. This has all proved very popular with the British public.

Talking of which, the world seems amazed at how, within just a few days, we can so smoothly change both our head of state and prime minister. I am certain that the world will be similarly dazzled by how well we can bury our Queen and crown our new King. With nearly 1,000 years of royal tradition, we Brits know how to do spectacle. But when the bunting is all swept up, the flags taken down, what remains?

I recall a time when Britain was divided and in crisis until we elected Margaret Thatcher as our prime minister in 1979 to sort things out. Unions were working to bring down the elected government; the Armed Forces and economy were in tatters;



Andy Tong Dee in full uniform.

strikes crippled the nation; inflation stood at 13.5%; everything seemed broken. I can remember doing my homework to candlelight when I was a teenager as the lights were literally going out.

Today, people in Britain probably wonder if that

will happen to them this winter, so reliant are we from energy from elsewhere; the pound has plunged in value; inflation is at 10% and rising; government debt has soared; strikes are back; Scotland is fractious; the EU Commission wants to punish us forever over Brexit; we cannot recruit enough people to man our greatly diminished armed forces.

British expats and their Thai partners here have direct experience of the UK's decline. There are consulates in Phuket for many countries, but not the UK. Thais can submit visa applications and do biometric testing for Italy and Germany here in person, while those applying to the UK must go to Bangkok. Such applications are habitually processed by such EU countries in just two weeks. Recently, a British friend of mine returned home with cancer; his Thai wife had to wait three months for her visa before she could join him. He was dead by the time she got it, despite her frantic efforts and no number available to ring about it. The US, Philippines and French consuls all send staff to Phuket periodically to support their citizens; the UK does not, so we must go to the embassy in Bangkok, which I hear is now about as welcoming as a fortress. Clearly all is not well with the UK.

So this second Elizabethan era ends, and another begins. I don't know if our new Prime Minister Liz Truss is the right person to get us out of the crisis we are in, but I am sure our new King is the right one to lead us through it. His mother has taught him well and has shown him a perfect example of what a monarch should be. With his withering gravitas, I am sure he will be as effective as the Queen at holding his prime ministers to account on our behalf in their weekly meetings.

So I'll end by saying, thanks for all you have done, Queen Elizabeth, and done so well. You will be deeply missed by our nation and the Commonwealth.

Requiescat in Pace. Rest in peace.

**THAI**  
RESIDENTIAL

Phuket's No.1 Trusted Real Estate Advisor

## Are You Trying To Sell Your Phuket Property?

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



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



## POP QUIZ

1. John Cabot, commissioned by Henry VII in 1496 to discover new lands, was originally from which country?
2. What is the most well-known bridge to cross the Vltava river in Prague?
3. What is Sylvester Stallone's real first name?
4. In car nomenclature, what does "GTO" stand for?
5. Thimphu is the capital of which small landlocked country?

Answers below, centre

## SUDOKU

Medium

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

## Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

1. Floating, perhaps
5. Arctic dwellers
10. Bring down the house
14. Shut up
15. Accustom
16. Auspices: Var.
17. Novice: Var.
18. Hoisted, nautically
19. Certain raptors
20. For one thing
23. Doctor's order
24. Damage
25. Shiny on top?
29. Gawk
34. Is into
38. Intimidate
39. Postal scale unit
40. Sooner or later
44. Grafting shoot
45. Artist's asset
46. Flower holder
47. Like some carpets
49. Sots' spots
51. Called the shots
53. Philip, to Camilla
58. Nearly simultaneously
65. "Watch out!"
66. "Plaza \_\_\_\_"
67. Ordinance

Down

1. At the breakfast table
2. Angler's gear
3. Our "mother"
4. Ho hello
5. Page (through)
6. Con
7. Feline vibrato?
8. Geometrical solid
9. Of an anatomical partition
10. Stagger
11. Indian tourist stop
12. Brass component
13. Latin infinitive
21. Decline
22. 86 is a high one
26. Be in a cast
27. Drawing
28. Dork
30. Ballpark figure
31. Jersey, e.g.
32. Cap
33. Abound
34. Univ. paper
35. Mark of a ruler
36. Greek earth goddess: Var.
37. Kind of alert
41. Fish
42. Shag rug
43. Robert Burns's "Whistle \_\_\_\_ the Lave O't"
48. Approvals
50. "My dear man"
52. Cow
54. Jocks' antitheses
55. A Bush
56. Book of maps
57. Watery parts of milk
58. In doubt
59. "O Sanctissima," e.g.
60. Branch headquarters?
61. Bridge site
62. \_\_\_\_-en-scène
63. Case
64. Common past participle

## Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Italy; 2) Karluv most (or Charles Bridge); 3) Michael (Michael Sylvester Gardenzio Stallone); 4) Gran Turismo Monogatari; 5) Bhutan

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21						22				
23								24						
					25	26	27	28		29	30	31	32	33
34	35	36	37		38					39				
40				41				42	43					
44								45			46			
47					48			49			50			
					51		52				53	54	55	56
58	59	60	61				62	63	64					
65					66						67			
68					69						70			
71					72						73			

Visit: [www.ilovecrosswords.com](http://www.ilovecrosswords.com)

## Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

## GOT YOUR NUMBER

3

days is how long it took staff at the British Museum to notice a fake cave drawing installed by the artist Banksy as a hoax.

17

hours spent awake impairs your physical performance as much as being drunk.

3,066

is how many shows Bob Dylan has played. He has been touring nonstop since June 1988 on the 'Never Ending Tour'.

180,000

bees live on the roof of the Notre Dame in Paris. They all survived the fire in 2019.

400 million

stars are born every day (4,800 every second).

Source: Uberfacts

## ISLAND VIEW



Karon Beach. Photo by Guilio Sterchele

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

## This week in history



Photo: AFP

September 16, 2007

OneTwoGO Airlines Flight 269 crashes at Phuket International Airport, killing 89 of the 130 persons on board.

September 17, 1925

Mexican artist Frida Kahlo suffers near-fatal injuries in a bus accident, causing her to abandon her medical studies and take up art.

September 18, 1851

First publication of *The New-York Daily Times*, which later becomes *The New York Times*. The inaugural edition costs readers (the equivalent of) 30 US cents.

September 19, 2006

The Thai army stages a coup against the elected caretaker government of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The Constitution is revoked and martial law is declared.

September 20, 2001

In an address to a joint session of Congress and the American people following 9/11, US President George W. Bush declares a 'War on Terror'.

September 21, 1937

J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* is published. It goes on to receive wide critical acclaim and is nominated for the Carnegie Medal and awarded a prize from the New York Herald Tribune for best juvenile fiction.

September 22, 1823

Joseph Smith claims to have found the golden plates after being directed by God through the Angel Moroni to the place where they were buried, forming the basis of Mormonism.

Source: Wikipedia



# Trades & Services



The Phuket News



@thephuketnews

## CORPORATE SERVICES

**VERTIGO**  
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

WE MAKE YOU LOOK GOOD.

VERTIGO VIDEO PRODUCTIONS.COM

f i t y

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Waterproofing & Crack Repair**

20 year WARRANTY

under yearly checkup plan...

Drone Survey

Pipe Inspection

TCM Asia Co., Ltd - quality services since 2003

office@tcm-asia.com 086-9439834

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Plumber**  
German Water Team Ltd. Part

We repair what your husband fixed

MASTERCRAFTSMAN  
WE REPAIR AND BUILD NEW:

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

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

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

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

22/12 Moo 6 Chaofa R.d west Chalong A.Muang Phuket 83139

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**tile-til**  
SMART TILES  
Tile Leveling System

Baan Wana - Cherng Talay  
Tel : 076 620168

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

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

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**WOOD FLOOR PHUKET - 20 YEARS**

Solid wood floors and engineering.  
Decks supplied and installed - Teak & NZ Pine.

f /solidwoodfloorphuketthailand

Matt 081 271 2684 or Jessica 062 372 6624

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

The Curtain Shop

UPHOLSTERY  
**CURTAIN**  
WALLPAPER  
BLIND  
CARPET

PROFESSIONAL  
Curtain repeating, stitching, sewing  
and installation.

GREAT VALUE. LUXURY FEEL.

WhatsApp

www.phuketcurtain.com sales@phuketcurtain.com 095 428 2299, 076 216 666

## MARINE SERVICES

**Marine Engineering Specialists**

**C & C MARINE**

YANMAR mtu

**C & C Marine (Thailand) Co., Ltd.**

16/2 Moo 4, Soi Nanai, Thepkasatri Rd., Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200  
Tel: +66 (0)76 273247 Fax: +66 (0)76 273248 Mob: +66 (0)81 078 4507  
Email: cholmes@candc-marine.com www.candc-marine.com

## OTHER

**Mac-Nels**

**MACNELS SHIPPING PHUKET**

ANY SHIPMENT ANY WHERE

OFFICE: 076 603907

MOBILE: CALL PETER 0863645862

www.macnellsphuket.com

## OTHER

**FASTSHIP**

บริการส่งพัสดุต่างประเทศ  
International Express Delivery Services

Fastship Phuket Branch  
0950690002 @fastshipphuket  
www.fastshipphuket.com

**WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?**

The **Phuket News** Your Island - Your Paper

Новости **Пхукета** Твой остров - твоя газета

ข่าว **ภูเก็ต**

**WINDOW ON PHUKET**

The map of PHUKET English 中文 Русский

Where to eat in PHUKET

**LIVE 89.5** NEWS TV

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th



FRI

16 SEP



**Friday Mussels Night**

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

SUN

18 SEP



**Sunday Roast**

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

MON

19 SEP

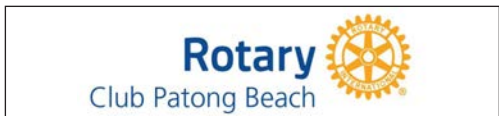


**Monday BBQ Night**

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

20 SEP



**Rotary Club - Weekly Meeting**

Come join Rotary Club of Patong Beach's Tuesday dinner meeting at Four points by Sheraton Patong. September's speaker lineup: Sep 06 - Dinner Out - The 9th Degree, Boat Lagoon, Sep 13 - Dr. Kaniita Chatamma – Managing back pain, Sep 20 - Who am I? Vanessa Temple & Sep 27 - Saweang Kaola (Jack) - SOS food bank in Phuket. Email club Sec. Hans at info@rotarypatong.org to register.

WED

21 SEP



**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

THU

22 SEP



**Stand-Up Comedy - DANA ALEXANDER (Amazon Prime, BBC!)**

From London to Phuket, The Comedy Club Bangkok and Junkyard Theatre are very proud to present

the Canadian TV comic powerhouse that is DANA ALEXANDER! Originally from Canada and UK based since 2011, Dana took the UK by storm, with BBC TV appearances on RUSSELL HOWARD'S GOOD NEWS, Edinburgh Comedy Fest Live, and The Culture Show alongside rave reviews for her Edinburgh Fringe shows. In Canada, her TV credits include The Winnipeg Comedy Festival (which can be seen on AMAZON PRIME), Video on Trial (MUCH MUSIC) and CBC Comedy, plus her own national half-hour comedy special on CTV. All this while touring Canada, the UK and internationally, performing in over 40 countries with her firebrand comedic style, drawing her material from raw life experience with an original and hilarious outlook. So after phenomenal success with DWAYNE PERKINS, Phuket prepare yourself once again as DANA ALEXANDER is coming to bring back the laughs for one night only and only at Junkyard Theatre. From B550 in advance online at bit.ly/SEPT22-COMEDY-PHUKET / ComedyClubBangkok.com. B800 at the door. Chris@ComedyClubBangkok.com



**Grow Boating Evening**

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar at the Phuket Boat Lagoon from 5pm on Friday the 7th of October. We are delighted to announce that our drinks sponsor for the evening will be BASCO Boating a global community for leisure boating where Buyers, Advancers, Sellers, Content seekers and Operators congregate to Connect, Advise and Trade with one another. See https://www.bascoboating.com/ There will be a delicious finger food buffet sponsored by the Boardwalk Bistro for all attendees and if you are still hungry then there will be burgers for just 100 baht. As always, all your favourite beverages will be available from the bar. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee and if you know anyone you think would be interested in coming, please invite them along. To join our mailing list please send an email to growboatingphuket@gmail.com Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/growboatingphuket Grow Boating is kindly supported by our media partner The Phuket News, Live 89.5 radio and Phuket News TV. See www.thephuketnews.com

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

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

**Full Time Nanny**

Looking for a nanny to take care of 1y9m old child. Live in or work 7am to 7pm English or/and Thai speaking Nanny experience 3 years 18000, Napakpapha, nicky\_karpuzov@yahoo.com, +6639503078

BUSINESSES FOR SALE

**Resort for sale /rent**

3 Rai grass land , 8 houses 18 double rooms + porch, some with kitchen, Pool 12/6m own Well, Restaurant/Bar parking, 5min.walk to Macro/Lotus Supermarket,very quiet location.must see 'Horst :eng.'/ germ. Tip- Thai, 67/18 Soi Sermsuk (opp. Makro/ Lotus , Chalong/Rawai), bigasail33@Yahoo.com

PROPERTY FOR RENT

**Land for sale near Mission Heights**

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

**Reserve your space NOW!**

076 612 550, sales@classactmedia.co.th

PROPERTY FOR SALE

**Pool Townhouse best location**

PRUKSA Ville 82/1 Kathu. 24hrs security, Corner unit, private pool, big garden, Sala. 3 Bedroom, european Kitchen, 4 Aircon. Covered carpark. FULLY FURNITURED. ruen\_narayan@hotmail.com, +66895938690

**Alcoholics Anonymous**

If you want to drink that is your business

**If you want to stop that is ours**

**Daily Meetings**

Patong, Chalong, Phuket Town, Bang Tao & Karon

**CALL**

081 895 4763

help@aaphuket.org

Google www.aaphuket.com

PROPERTY FOR RENT

**Stunning Villa For Rent/Sale**

Stunning Villa for rent or sale in Chalong. 795,2 square meter or almost ½ Rai Land. 4 Bedrooms each with bathroom & shower. 1 laundry room with dishwasher and washing machine. Fully equipped kitchen. Aircon units and ceiling fans in all rooms. Saltwater Pool 8m x 4m + jacuzzi + outdoor shower. Water system with very high-quality water filter. Long term rental min 6 months price 60,000 THB incl. garden and pool cleaning or available for sale 16,800 000 THB. adam.goodman@hotmail.com, 0910161167

**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





Photo: Mr. Ten from Bangkok



## MALAYSIAN INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS IN PHUKET

Asia MICE company successfully organised a dinner to celebrate Malaysia's Independence Day (Merdeka) at Phuket Boat Lagoon Resort on August 27. In attendance were Malaysians living in Phuket with special Malaysian food for the dinner. The event was graced by the Consul-General of Malaysia, the Governor of Phuket and the CG of Russia. Some Malaysians flew in from Bangkok and Malaysia to join the event. A great night was had by all who attended.

# WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?

## WINDOW ON PHUKET

Карта Пхукета  
普吉岛 地图  
**The map**  
of PHUKET  
English 中文 Русский

Where to  
**eat**  
in PHUKET

The **Phuket News** Your Island - Your Paper

**LIVE 89.5**

Новости **Пхукета** Твой остров - твоя газета

ข่าว **ภูเก็ต**

Phuket **NEWS TV**

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





Sityodtong (left) and Suchart. Photo: Bangkok Post

## ONE to stage weekly fights at Lumpinee

### MMA

ONE CHAMPIONSHIP and the Royal Thai Army have announced a partnership to produce a new weekly live show titled "ONE Lumpinee".

ONE is planning to host 52 live events in Thailand in 2023, with each being broadcast in over 150 countries through ONE's global media rights partnerships, organisers told a press conference at Bangkok's Lumpinee Stadium on Monday (Sept 12).

The landmark partnership will help transform Muay Thai and the martial arts ecosystem in Thailand into a global attraction, while establishing Lumpinee Stadium as the "Mecca of Muay Thai" [sic] and the premier hub of sports entertainment and tourism in the country through martial arts competitions produced

by ONE.

ONE chairman and CEO Chatri Sityodtong said: "ONE Lumpinee will be a landmark partnership between ONE Championship and the Royal Thai Army that will unite and ignite the Muay Thai and martial arts ecosystem in Thailand like never before."

Gen Suchart Dangprapai, director of the Royal Thai Army Sports Centre, said: "This is a great opportunity to publicise the collaboration between the Royal Thai Army Sports Centre and ONE Championship."

"Chatri will work with us in the dissemination of Muay Thai and all martial arts all over the world."

ONE also announced that it will be making its return to Thailand on Jan 14 at Impact Arena in Bangkok for "ONE on Prime Video 6," airing in US primetime on Jan 13.

Bangkok Post

# Verstappen on the brink of title after Ferrari bungle

## FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato  
michael@boxofneutrals.com

Max Verstappen was gifted a comfortable victory after yet another embarrassing Ferrari strategic blunder cruelled Charles Leclerc's chances at the Italian Grand Prix last Sunday (Sept 11).

Leclerc had taken an against-the-odds pole position on Saturday and led the race early, with Verstappen unable to close the gap from second, having quickly recovered from seventh on the grid.

However, Ferrari was tempted to gamble the lead during an early virtual safety car, called on lap 12 when Sebastian Vettel's Aston Martin stopped on track with an engine failure.

The Italian team had been worried that inaction would be pounced upon by Red Bull Racing stopping Verstappen and earning an undercut advantage, but rather than giving Leclerc a set of hard tyres that could make it to the end of the race, the Monegasque was switched to mediums, guaranteeing him a second stop.

Verstappen responded by extending his stint until lap 25. He rejoined 10.5 seconds behind Leclerc but halved the gap by the time the Ferrari driver made his second service on lap 33.

It gave Leclerc a 20-second deficit to close in 20 laps, but even on a fresh set



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

of soft tyres Leclerc could hardly make a dent in Verstappen's formidable lead.

Ferrari needed a safety car, and one fortuitously emerged six laps from the finish when Daniel Ricciardo's McLaren suffered an engine failure in the second sector, but it was an awkward part of the track from which to recover the car, and the race ended without being restarted.

The passionate Ferrari tifosi jeered the result, but Verstappen didn't care. His lead now stands at 116 points off the back of five successive victories, putting him within reach of a second championship.

"We had a great race," Verstappen said of his easy victory. "We had a really good race car and we were just controlling the gap at the end."

Leclerc, who faces title defeat at the

next round, said he was disappointed the race couldn't be restarted, though he tactfully avoided mentioning the strategy blunder directly.

"I wish I could've won in front of the amazing tifosi we have here, but I just couldn't today," he said.

George Russell finished third, his fourth podium finish in five races and his seventh top-three finish of the season.

"No matter if we're fast or slow, we keep getting these podiums," he said. "We've got to be satisfied with that."

Carlos Sainz was a strong contender for driver of the day thanks to a super-aggressive first stint. The Spaniard started 18th thanks to an engine penalty but completed 14 clean passes in the first 13 laps to put himself just beyond the podium.



## MACNELS SHIPPING PHUKET

ANY SHIPMENT ANY WHERE

IMPORT AND EXPORT SERVICES, AIR AND SEA FREIGHT

COMMERCIAL CARGO AND PERSONAL GOODS  
INCLUDING HOUSE HOLD RELOCATIONS

- DOOR TO DOOR SERVICES
- CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FORMALITIES
- PROJECT CARGOES INCLUDING BOATS
- WAREHOUSING AND STORAGE
- STRONG AGENCY NETWORK WORLDWIDE
- 20 YEARS STAFF EXPERIENCE IN PHUKET

☎ OFFICE: 076 603907

☎ MOBILE: CALL PETER 0863645862

www.macnelsphuket.com

## Teenager Alcaraz wins US Open to become youngest world no.1

### TENNIS

SPANISH TEENAGER Carlos Alcaraz claimed his maiden Grand Slam title at the US Open last Sunday (Sept 11), becoming the youngest man to ascend to the world number one ranking and cementing his status as the poster boy of tennis' new wave.

The 19-year-old dragged his weary body to a 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (7/1), 6-3 victory over Norway's Casper Ruud in the final.

Alcaraz, the first teenager to claim the top ranking, is the youngest Grand Slam men's champion since his idol Rafael Nadal at the 2005 French Open.

On a day of landmarks, he is also the youngest champion in New York since Pete Sampras in 1990.

It was a gruelling tournament for Alcaraz.

In the final, he claimed the record for most time spent on court at a single Grand Slam, passing the 23 hours and 21 minutes it took



Alcaraz with the trophy. Photo: AFP

Kevin Anderson to finish runner-up at Wimbledon in 2018.

Most of his 23 hours and 40 minutes were taken up by the more than 13 hours it took him to play three successive five-setters to reach the final.

Nadal was quick to congratulate the player widely seen as his successor.

"Congratulations @carlosalcaraz for your first Grand Slam and for number 1, which is the culmination of your great season. I am sure there will be many more," tweeted the 22-time Slam title winner.

The US Open is Alcaraz's fifth trophy of 2022 following Masters triumphs in Miami and Madrid as well as Rio and Barcelona.

It was in Madrid that he announced himself as a serious threat to the sport's heavyweights when he became the first man to defeat Nadal and Novak Djokovic at the same claycourt event.

Still in his teens, his career earnings are already close to \$10 million (B365mn).

Poland's Iga Swiatek defeated Tunisia's Ons Jabeur to win the women's final 6-2, 7-6 (7/5) on Saturday. AFP



# Sports world honours Elizabeth II

## ALL SPORTS

The Phuket News  
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

A stream of sporting stars paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II after it was confirmed last Thursday (Sept 8) that the longest serving monarch in British history had passed away.

In an official statement, the Royal Family said she died peacefully at Balmoral Castle, bringing to an end a 70-year reign as head of state.

Tributes poured in for the 96-year-old from sporting governing bodies and personalities including five-time Ballon d'Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo and seven-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton.

"Throughout these years, I've felt the everlasting love of the UK for its Queen, and how important Her Majesty was and will forever be to the British people," Manchester United's Ronaldo posted on Instagram.

"I pay my respect to her memory and I mourn this irreplaceable loss with the country that I've learned to call home. My thoughts and prayers are with the Royal Family."

Hamilton said: "She was a symbol of hope for so many and she served her country with dignity, dedication and kindness."



A tribute to Queen Elizabeth II at Yankee Stadium in New York on Sept 10. Photo: AFP

Roger Federer hailed Queen Elizabeth II for her "elegance" and "grace" while Brazilian football great Pele said her "deeds have marked generations" and her "legacy will last forever". Pele was knighted by the Queen in 1997 although as he never held British citizenship the knighthood is only honorary.

English football stars including national team captain Harry Kane, Raheem Sterling and former striker Gary Lineker all paid tribute as did former captain David Beckham who said the Queen "served her country with dignity and grace". Current national team manager Gareth Southgate said the Queen showed

the world "what it is to be British".

England women's manager Sarina Wiegman explained how the Queen had sent a letter of congratulations to her and the team claiming to have been inspired by the Lionesses' Euro 2022 win in July.

"In that letter she called us an 'inspiration for girls and women'. It is you, your Majesty, who was the inspiration with your unrelenting work ethic, leadership, dignity and kindness," Wiegman said.

### 'IRREPLACEABLE'

Further tributes were shared by tennis legends Rafael Nadal and Billie Jean King, the New York Yankees

baseball team, the NFL, NHL's Vancouver Canucks, Germany's national football team, snooker great Ronnie O'Sullivan, cyclist Sir Chris Hoy and Sir Mo Farah.

"I don't think there's anyone who doesn't appreciate this great woman," said Portuguese football manager Jose Mourinho, while F1 President and CEO Stefano Domenicali said: "Formula 1 mourns the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II."

British heavyweight boxer Tyson Fury tweeted, "Thoughts & prayers with my Queen tonight, may God be with you" and former England cricketer Darren Gough thanked a "remarkable lady", adding on

Instagram: "Zero fuss & carried her duties on until the very end... Thank you, Your Majesty."

The Queen was one of horseracing's biggest advocates and 20-time champion jump jockey AP McCoy said she had an "irreplaceable presence" while fellow jockey Frankie Dettori described it as the "honour of a lifetime" to ride for the Queen and "a greater honour to have known such a remarkable person."

All football, cricket, rugby, golf and horse racing events were cancelled in Britain last Friday as a mark of respect.

Professional football further postponed all fixtures at the weekend although the PGA Golf Championship at Wentworth and the cricket between England and South Africa did resume on Saturday.

England and South Africa players joined staff and spectators to honour the Queen ahead of the start of play in the third Test at the Oval which saw soprano Laura Wright sing God Save the King – the first rendition at a sporting event of Britain's now altered national anthem.

This weekend's Premier League games will go ahead although the matches between Manchester United and Leeds and Chelsea and Liverpool have been postponed due to police resources being required in preparation for the Queen's state funeral on Monday (Sept 19).

## Chelsea turn to Potter with hopes of him creating magic

### FOOTBALL

GRAHAM POTTER WAS APPOINTED as Chelsea's new manager on a five-year contract last Thursday (Sept 8) following the shock sacking of Thomas Tuchel.

The 47-year-old Englishman moves to Stamford Bridge from fellow Premier League club Brighton where he earned widespread admiration for his work. He led the Seagulls to a ninth-place finish last season and took them up to fourth in the table this term while demanding entertaining and tactically astute performances from his players.

"I am incredibly proud and excited to represent Chelsea FC, this fantastic football club," Potter said.

"I am very excited to partner with Chelsea's new ownership group and look forward to meeting and working with the exciting group of players and to develop a team and culture that our amazing fans can be proud of."

Chelsea chairman Todd Boehly said he was "thrilled" to bring Potter to the club.

"He is a proven coach and an innovator in the Premier League who fits our vision for the club," Boehly said.

Potter was mooted as a candidate for the Manchester United job eventually filled by Erik ten Hag but when Chelsea came calling, Brighton were unable to stand in his way as he had a release clause in



Graham Potter. Photo: AFP

his contract.

Potter's impressive work in three years with Brighton, and during his previous spells at Swansea and Swedish club Ostersunds FK, marked him out as a rising managerial star.

His success in the dug-out has come after a modest playing career that included eight Premier League appearances at Southampton, but was mostly spent in the lower leagues.

Already tipped as a future England boss, Potter will face the sternest test of his career as he assesses a volatile situation at Stamford Bridge.

Tuchel's relationships with his players had reportedly deteriorated and there were tensions with the club hierarchy.

"I am very disappointed that Graham will be leaving us. He has done exceptionally well over the past three-and-a-bit seasons – he is an exceptional head coach and an exceptional person," said Brighton chairman Tony Bloom. AFP



THAILAND'S  
PVC WINDOW  
SPECIALISTS  
SINCE 2004



Contact us for the lowest  
prices in Phuket



PROJECT SUPPLIES DIRECT

Head Office at Tesco Lotus Thalang Phuket

English 087 061 7631 or Thai 095 463 6422

f PVC Phuket f NathanUpvcBrown

Read online





editor3@classactmedia.co.th

# Sport



**Tributes to Elizabeth II flood in > p15**

## WINDS OF CHANGE

### Phuket expat helps spur windsurfing renaissance

Riccardo Giordano (airborne) gets an aerial view of his son in action. Photo: Brian Stamm



#### WINDSURFING

Chris Husted  
execeditor@classactmedia.co.th

Long-term Phuket expat Brian Stamm will be representing the United States at the Windsurfer World Championships 2022 in Palermo, Sicily, next month. Asked how he managed to be registered for the global windsurfing championships, light-heartedly he laughed, “I asked!”

At the time Brian registered, he was the only person from North or South America to enter the world championships. Since then another American has joined the event, Mark Powell, bringing the ‘Team USA’ contingent to just two athletes.

The Windsurfer World Championships 2022 will be raced at Albaria Mondello Beach, on the northern outskirts of Palermo Italy, on Oct 3-9. There will be up to nine course racing races, one

Marathon, one Slalom and one Freestyle event, with up to nine races for each category and up to four races per day.

The championships are for Windsurfer LT and WS One Design boards. Competitors of any country, and at least 12 years old, are allowed to compete. Two windsurfers, Andrea Samogin and Romeo Romei, will be competing under the Thai flag.

Brian will be racing on a Windsurfer LT, but at 58 years old he is not kidding himself with expectations. “I probably will enter all the categories – and probably get my ass kicked in all of them,” he jokes.

“All I want to do is have a good time, not die and not finish last – in that order!” he adds, noting that the event organisers do require a fit to compete certificate to prove entrants are of appropriate fitness levels.

**FRIENDS REUNITED**  
Brian’s love of windsurfing

dates back 1973, when he first stepped onto a windsurfer at Newport Harbour in Southern California, where windsurfing was born.

His enthusiasm for the sport grew, leading to Brian to purchase a Windglider in 1983 and self-train for six months to hopefully qualify for the US National team for the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, the first Games where windsurfing was introduced as a demonstration sport.

Despite his best efforts, Brian soon realised that he was not Olympian material and decided that concentrating on college might be a better option. He did get his degree in Commercial Photography and went on to become *Wind Surf* magazine’s staff photographer. Along the way he made friends with several key competitors who today all live in Thailand and have now sparked a windsurfing renaissance around the world.

Among the friends made

was Bruce Wylie, who went on to win Gold in the exhibition windsurfing competition at the ‘84 Games, and fellow Olympian Riccardo Giordano. Bruce is now Chief Commercial Officer of Cobra International, based in Chon Buri, working alongside Riccardo, who is coincidentally originally from Palermo.

After years out of contact, Brian met Bruce at a Stand Up Paddle event in Bangkok, and the two lamented the demise of the windsurfer.

Joining the conversation was Svein Rasmussen, yet another Olympian living in Thailand, running the water-sports powerhouse Starboard. Of note, Svein placed 11<sup>th</sup> in the main Windglider course racing event at the ‘84 Games.

By yet another coincidence, Bob Wilmott, who won silver at the windsurfing exhibition event at the ‘84 Games also has a key role in sailing in Thailand. He is Team Manager for ‘Team Hollywood’, well known for

their winning ways at Phuket Race Week and the Phuket King’s Cup Regatta.

As an aside, it is difficult to overstate just how important the ‘84 Olympic Games was for setting the stage for Thailand to take the leading role in the global windsurfing industry today, decades later.

#### EXPLOSION IN POPULARITY

After several pitches to the owner of Cobra Inter, Bruce was finally given the green light and a small budget to go ahead with redeveloping the classic windsurfer to test the market.

“They took the original design and made it much lighter, about half the weight, and brought it up to modern production standards – and it is now a huge success,” Brian notes.

The result was an explosion in popularity in the re-incarnated Windsurfer across Europe and Australia. Of the 361 entries at the Windsurfer

World Championships 2022 in Palermo, with a waiting list of about another 100 entrants, many of the entries hail from France and the Netherlands in addition to the huge number of entries from Italy.

At this stage 38 windsurfers from Australia alone are entered to compete, among racers from 24 countries in total, including Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

“They just can’t make them fast enough,” Brian laughs.

For now Brian continues his training, mostly offshore from Nai Yang Beach and in the water in front of The PlayYard on the east coast in Mai Khao.

“I have seen a handful of people going out windsurfing,” he says. “You see kite boarding, kite surfing, wing foiling... but I am the only one out there on an LT.”

## Blue Tree to host inaugural Aquathlon

#### RUNNING / SWIMMING

BLUE TREE PHUKET HAS confirmed it will be hosting its inaugural Blue Tree Aquathlon, a multisport race consisting of run and swim elements, on Sept 24.

Athletes from Phuket and surrounding areas are welcome to join the event which will take place between 7am and 11am. Categories

will be open for everyone to get involved including children and adults, from beginners to advanced. Competitors will initially complete a swim immediately followed by a run on the Blue Tree Phuket grounds.

“Blue Tree Phuket is more than a water park,” commented Paolo Randone, Deputy Managing Director of Blue Tree Phuket. “We have fantastic facilities that are perfect for multi-sport events. We have not

only our huge crystal lagoon but also running tracks, fitness trails, a forest park, a pump track, beach area and a skate park.

“We also have an amazing array of food and beverage options in a variety of restaurants and food trucks, all within 140 rai of beautiful tropical landscaped land,” Mr Randone added.

“Our first ever Blue Tree Aquathlon will be a great way to

launch our high season of destination sporting events, including international sports events such as Pho3nix Kids Triathlons and Spartan APAC Championship 2022, which will be happening in November this year.”

Single category participation is priced at B850, which includes a finisher shirt and a lagoon ticket.

Relay team participation is priced at B1,500, which includes two



Image: Blue Tree Phuket

finisher shirts and two lagoon tickets.

Registration for the Blue Tree Aquathlon is now open and goes on until Sept 22. To register visit: <https://bluetree.reserveyourvenue.com/event/09-24-2022/blue-tree-aquathlon-2022>. *The Phuket News*