

**PATONG MOTORBIKE ANTICS LAND FRENCH IN HOT WATER > PAGE 3**

## TAXI WARS



A 'green plate' taxi driver from outside Phuket is stopped by Phuket transport officials. Photo: PR Phuket

## TAXIS FROM OUTSIDE PHUKET FIGHT BACK

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Legally registered taxi drivers from Bangkok and other provinces are challenging the Phuket Land Transport Office's right to ban them from working on the island.

A group of the affected taxi drivers gathered at Saphan Hin last week, where they handed a formal request to Seri Ruam Thai Party representative Anantarak Phethin.

The request called for party leader Pol Gen (Rtd) Sereepisuth Temeeyaves to help resolve the issue. Mr Sereepisuth, a former Commissioner of the Royal Thai Police, is also currently Chairman of the House Anti-Corruption and Misconduct Committee.

Presenting the formal request on behalf of the aggrieved taxi drivers was Mr Thiraphat (family name withheld). Present to observe the proceedings were Kornpitak Assuwan, head of the PLTO's Policy Division, and officers from the Phuket City Police.

The letter explained that legally registered taxi drivers from Bangkok and other provinces were being arrested by PLTO officials for working illegally in Phuket.

However, the charges are unclear. The PLTO officers have been unable to clearly identify which law the taxi drivers had broken.

"They cannot clarify how we have broken the law," Mr Thiraphat said.

Meanwhile, the PLTO is refusing people to legally register a single vehicle as a green plate taxi so they can work as fully legal independent taxi drivers.

At the same time, the PLTO is allowing registered juristic persons – that is, companies and legally registered organisations, such as cooperatives and associations, Mr Thiraphat said.

"If an individual wants to apply for a service vehicle registration – that is, as a 'green-plate' taxi – Phuket [transport] provincial officials require that it must be a registered company and must request permission from the TAT [Tourism Authority of Thailand], and they require other documents which are very complicated," Mr Thiraphat explained.

"The process takes a lot of money, and makes it impossible for ordinary citizens to do so," he said.

"The reason given is to control the number of cars in order to reduce traffic congestion, but they still al-

low companies to apply for vehicle registration services [green-plate taxis] in Phuket as usual," he added.

"This forces ordinary people to have to register their taxis in other provinces that are still open for registration... We have to do this because we want to work legally," he said.

Mr Thiraphat pointed out that many of the drivers had gone into debt in order to buy their taxis, and many were still under finance.

He also argued that there were not enough taxis registered in Phuket to serve the market.

"May the Land Transportation Director be sympathetic and find a solution for green-plate taxis registered in Bangkok and other provinces to be allowed to work in the Phuket area and actually have a career," Mr Thiraphat said...

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



**NEWS** PAGE 4

Gunman kills himself in bus shooting siege



**LIFE** PAGE 8

Young Loic draws recognition for impressive art



**SPORT** PAGE 16

Double delight at Kamala Open Bowls tourney



**Lile-it**™

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE



execeditor@classactmedia.co.th

# News



**Leatherbacks hatch at Nai Yang > p5**

## Local taxi protection challenged

Continued from page 1

### BIG STALL

Officials from the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) finally confirmed that talks had taken place with a group representing the legally registered taxi drivers and tour operators from Bangkok and other provinces that have been banned from working on the island.

PLTO chief Adcha Buachan and Pol Col Jirasak Siemsak, Deputy Commander of the Phuket Provincial Police, met with representatives from the group on Feb 9.

The closed meeting was reported by provincial government channels as held to discuss solutions to the existing problem that has seen green plate taxi operators from outside Phuket face “challenges” – namely their arrest as the PLTO had deemed that they had illegally operated a taxi in Phuket.

Mr Adcha said that the talks, held at PLTO offices, focused on how green plate cars registered outside Phuket “may be able” [sic] to operate in Phuket legally, adding that the aim



‘Green plate’ taxi drivers submit their formal request for Sereepisuth Temeeyaves to help resolve the issue. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

was to find “a satisfactory outcome for all involved”.

However, a major omission from the government news reports that Mr Adcha still gave no indication exactly which law the taxi drivers had broken.

Instead, Mr Adcha diverted the focus away from the critical legal issue by “confirming” that the number of vehicles registered outside of Phuket but operating on the island was not especially high, “but that the PLTO would evaluate ways to allow them to operate here without

contravening existing laws”.

Mr Adcha also stated that any additional specific documents and evidence supporting the group’s claims would need to be submitted to the PLTO to assist the overall evaluation process within one month from the meeting, adding that “the sooner these materials could be provided the better”.

Meanwhile, the ban on all taxis not registered in Phuket from operating on the island remained in full effect.

The representatives complained

that police had specifically set up checkpoints at various places across the island and that arrests had been made although they were unclear as to why they were being targeted as the law was unclear.

They further added that PLTO officers have been unable to clearly identify which law the taxi drivers had broken.

### LOCAL POWER

The crackdown on so-called “illegal taxis” followed more than 100 Phuket ‘green plate’ taxi drivers staging a protest at Phuket Provincial Hall on Feb 2.

In response to the protest, Vice Governor Anupap Rodkwan Yodrambam, “acting on behalf of the Governor of Phuket”, that same day issued a formal notice ordering all government agencies to take action against illegal taxi drivers in Phuket.

The notice made it clear that operating private cars as taxis was illegal, and that the Phuket Provincial Police and the PLTO were to “consider” revoking the driver’s licence and the vehicle registration

of repeat offenders “as punishment as required by law”.

Police and the PLTO were instructed to take active measures in the matter, the notice said.

PLTO Chief Adcha Buachan was very quick to defend the action taken by the PLTO against illegal taxi drivers.

The PLTO had conducted intensive campaigns on social media warning people to not operate illegal taxis, he said.

“Further, from Sept 9, 2022 to Jan 31, 2023, we have acted on all 90 complaints received about this, with 33 cases resulting in fines, and [the remaining] 57 cases are still being processed,” Mr Adcha said.

“The PLTO will work with the Phuket Provincial Police to monitor and arrest illegal taxis and take strict legal action,” he added.

Mr Adcha invited people to report illegal taxis operating in their area by calling the taxi complaint hotline 1584, contacting the PLTO through its Line account @704jhnxb, through the PLTO Facebook page or by the Traffy Fondue application.



## Where do you see Phuket in 25 years?

On April 1<sup>st</sup> Albatross at Canal Village will celebrate 25 years of operations, and rather than celebrating it with a one off party we would like to ask the Phuket community of Thai and Foreign Residents to give us their visions of what Phuket will, or should look like in 25 years (2048 or BE2591) and in 50 years (2073 and BE2626).

Please provide bullet point ideas, or if short texts then not more than 1 page for 25 years and 1 page for 50 years from now.

We look forward to receiving your input.

Please send to [rdg\\_albatross@yahoo.com](mailto:rdg_albatross@yahoo.com) and we will share the results back with you by April's edition.

## Phuket van driver charged for gambling online while driving

A PHUKET VAN DRIVER has been fined B2,000 and had his driver’s licence suspended for 90 days after he was caught gambling online while driving.

The action came after a clip was posted online showing the driver, Suranat Aduman, using his mobile phone while driving from Phuket Town to Patong.

The post pointed out that Suranat was playing online slot machines all along the journey. The passengers were afraid they would be in an accident and that using the phone while driving was dangerous. “Almost crashed many times!” the post said.

Suranat was called to present himself at the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) on Monday (Feb 13), Present to process the accusations against him was Kornpitak Assuwan, Head of the PLTO’s Policy Division.

Mr Kornpitak explained to, and showed, reporters that the video clip posted online did not clearly show that Suranat was playing an online gambling game while driving.

“But it’s an offence to use



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

your phone while driving, which is punishable by a fine of not more than B5,000,” he said.

“After today, he [Suranat] cannot drive for 90 days, and after that he must come back to the PLTO for training in order to get his driver’s licence points back,” Mr Kornpitak added.

“The PLTO would like to advise drivers of all types to strictly follow the law. Now there are tourists coming in, please help maintain a good image for Phuket and Thailand in terms of service and driving etiquette,” Mr Kornpitak said.

“This is something that I would like to recommend to everyone, whether they drive a private car or a taxi

– to strictly follow the law,” he added.

Suranat said that he played the game on his phone “for only a moment” and then hung up.

He was driving from Rat-sada Pier to Patong at about 7pm, with seven passengers in the van.

“I did not know that someone had recorded the clip. It was the first time I did it and I was filmed playing slots,” he said.

“I have to look for a new job for a while now,” he added.

“I would like to remind people not to play on your phone while driving because it will have a bad effect,” he concluded.

Eakkapop Thongtub



# Too much French for Patong

## Police crack down after motorbike mayhem blocks main roads

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Patong Police last week launched a crackdown on foreigners riding motorbikes after a mass rally of motorbike riders, reportedly mostly French, blocked the main roads throughout the popular tourist town, revving their engines and beeping their horns.

Within a period of just four hours, from 7:30pm to 10:30pm on Feb 9, Patong Police caught 39 foreigners on motorbikes for not wearing a helmet, 44 for not having a valid driver's licence and eight for running red lights. In actually enforcing the traffic laws, police seized 15 motorbikes because the rental operator had rented the motorbike to a person without a valid driver's licence.

The crackdown was ordered by Patong Police Chief Col Sujin Nilbadee. Through a post online earlier that day, Patong Police noted they had received repeated complaints about foreigners on motorbikes in Patong, including rude and dangerous behaviour. The complaints specifically noted French tourists as the culprits, Patong Police said.

Many video clips of bad behaviour and dangerous driving by foreigners on motorbikes had been posted online, accompanied



Photo: Patong Police

by comments from local residents urging police to take action, Col Sujin noted.

Some of the videos posted online plainly showed specific groups of foreigners gathering together to rev motorbike engines and zoom dangerously along the streets, he said.

The behaviour was dangerous, and through social media could easily promote a negative image of tourism to Patong, and Thailand, he said.

During the crackdown on Feb 9, seven people were charged with offences under the Traffic Act, Col Sujin confirmed.

### RENTAL SHOPS

Adcha Buachan, Chief of the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO), pointed out that central to the problem was that tourists renting vehicles, notably 'big bikes', did not have a valid driving licence to operate such vehicles in Thailand.

Foreigners without a Thai driver's licence must have an International Driving Permit in order to legally drive in Thailand. A driver's licence from their home country is not enough, he said.

This responsibility fell to rental shops to make sure the tourists renting

the vehicles had the correct licence, Mr Adcha said.

Those who rent a car or motorbike to a person without the correct driving licence are breaking the law and face a fine of B2,000, he added.

"The vehicle must be registered, its road tax must be up to date and the vehicle must be covered by [compulsory insurance under] the Accident Victims Protection Act," Mr Adcha said.

"In the case of Patong with tourists driving in the manner of obstructing traffic or using the roads as a group [as in, like a motorbike gang], it is the PLTO's responsibility to check that the tourists have the correct driver's licences and that the vehicles are fully legal," Mr Adcha explained.

"For those who operate a car rental business, in order to solve the initial problem they must confirm that the person who rents the vehicle has a licence that allows them to drive in Thailand.

"If the person does not, do not let him rent the vehicle, otherwise you will be breaking the law," Mr Adcha concluded.

Before the crackdown on the streets of Patong on Feb 9, officers from the Patong Police and PLTO started visiting car and motorbike rental shops in the area to check the vehicles available for rent, and to whom vehicles had

already been rented out to.

### CONSULAR ASSISTANCE

Patong Police Chief Col Sujin, along with Deputy Chief Lt Col Phum Semvoranon and officers from the Phuket Tourist Police, met with French Honorary Consul for Phuket Alain Faudot the next day (Feb 10) to discuss the issue of complaints against French nationals driving motorbikes irresponsibly in the popular tourist destination and the renting vehicles without a valid licence.

Col Sujin confirmed that the rental operators found guilty of hiring such vehicles to people without a valid licence have been charged with a B1,000 fine as they were responsible for ensuring the correct and legal documentation is in place.

Similarly, anyone found guilty of renting a vehicle without the correct licence would also face a fine of B1,000, Col Sujin added.

He further explained that a number of French nationals had been arrested in the clampdown on Feb 9 and their details had been passed to Mr Faudot.

Mr Faudot was requested by the officers to connect with French nationals to remind them of the road laws in Thailand and the necessity to possess the correct licence when renting vehicles to avoid any further problems, Col Sujin said.

## Patong Police ignore attack on tourist

A PATONG POLICE patrol officer has been accused of ignoring a plea for help from a Canadian tourist after he was violently mugged.

The incident was brought to light through a post on a popular Phuket social media forum last Sunday (Feb 12), with Thais asking officials to help the Canadian man.

Later that day, officers from the Phuket Tourist Police, led by Pol Lt Col Ekachai Siri, were instructed to investigate the assault and robbery.

According to the report, the Tourist Police met the Canadian tourist, William Lamarach, 27, at Bangkok Hospital Siriroj, where he explained that he was attacked and robbed opposite the Patong Condotel building near the Patong beachfront at about 2am on Feb 11.

Five men attacked him and stole his Rolex watch and about B50,000 in cash, he said.

Mr Lamarach then made his way back along the Patong beach road,



A Tourist Police officer with the Canadian tourist, William Lamarach. Photo: PR Phuket

where he saw a police officer on patrol. He informed the officer of the attack, to which the officer allegedly refused to help.

Mr Lamarach went to a nearby clinic for treatment for his injuries, but was told that he needed to see a specialist for his broken nose. He returned to his accommodation, in the Kata area, and went to see a doctor at Bangkok

Hospital Siriroj the next day.

At the hospital he was told that the specialist was unavailable, so he made an appointment to see a different doctor on Feb 12, Tourist Police reported.

The incident has now been reported to the Patong Police Chief in order for the attack to be investigated, Tourist Police reported.

Eakkapop Thongtub

## 3 - NIGHT STAYCATION AT PARADOX SEAVIEW

\* Starts from THB19,999 / package / 2 persons

Get **#FREE**

- Daily Breakfast for 2 Persons
- 1-Time 30 Mins Thai Massage for 2 Persons
- A choice of 1-Time Homemade Pizza at Mint Bar & Restaurant
- Muay Thai Class

**Special #DISCOUNT**

- 20% Discount on Food & Beverages
- 20% Discount on Spa

Booking Period: 1 - 28 Feb 2023 | Stay Period: 1 Mar - 30 Jun 2023

For more info, please contact:

+66 (76) 683 350

reservations@paradoxresortphuket.com

@ Paradox Resort Phuket



The Phuket News

## CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

**PURIYA BEAVAN**  
Editor**CHRIS HUSTED**  
Executive Editor  
084 307 7408  
execeditor@classactmedia.co.th**BEN TIREBUCK**  
News / Sport Editor  
061 806 8132  
editor3@classactmedia.co.th**CHUTHARAT 'UM' PLERIN**  
Thai Editor  
088 766 1615  
thai@classactmedia.co.th**JASON BEAVAN**  
General Manager  
086 479 7471  
gm@classactmedia.co.th**SIRIPORN (NOK) SEANGMAS**  
Sales Support  
086 479 7470  
sales@classactmedia.co.th**NIRAVIT 'MOS' VORAVANITCHA  
THANAPONG 'OAK' KHAO-AMPHAIPHAN**  
Graphic designersThe Phuket News  
@thephuketnews

ADVERTISING

ClassAct Media

The Phuket News

WINDOW ON PHUKET

Where to eat in PHUKET

Новости 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 FEBRUARY 17

High: +30°  
Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SAT FEBRUARY 18

High: +31°  
Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SUN FEBRUARY 19

High: +31°  
Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

MON FEBRUARY 20

High: +31°  
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE FEBRUARY 21

High: +32°  
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

WED FEBRUARY 22

High: +30°  
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

THU FEBRUARY 23

High: +30°  
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

## Two injured as shots fired on bus

**Eakkapop Thongtub & Nattha Thepbamrung**  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

An ex-soldier suffering mental issues shot two people with a homemade gun on a bus bound for Phattalung last Friday (Feb 10). The two were not fatally wounded, but the man later turned the gun on himself, police said.

The bus driver, Somyot Buakaew, 39, told police that the bus departed the bus terminal in Ratsada at 7am with nine passengers on board.

As the bus was approaching the Khuan Din Daeng Hill, near Sapam, he heard a gunshot inside the bus. A woman passenger came running to the front of the bus calling for help, he said.

He then heard a second gunshot, and immediately pulled the bus over for passengers to escape. The shooter remained on the bus alone.

The man who opened fire was identified by police as Krabi resident "Mr Nawin", 25, a psychiatric patient at Ao Luek Hospital, residing in Ao Luek District of Krabi Province, Phuket Provincial Police said in a simple Facebook publication, rather than an official statement.

Police did not reveal the shooter's family name and did not provide any possible motive for the shooting.

The two injured passengers were later fully identified as Churaiphon Rakbanjong, 49, and Naphanat Maneechatri, 26.

When the driver, Mr Somyot, stopped the bus, all the passengers,



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

including those wounded, escaped. Mr Nawin did not prevent them from fleeing, police noted.

Having arrived at the scene, law enforcers supported by a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team sealed off the area around the vehicle and tried to persuade Mr Nawin to surrender. He did not comply.

Officials at the scene included Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Sermphan Sirikong, Phuket City Police Chief Col Pratuang Pholmana.

The siege continued for about four hours with SWAT not attempting an assault and Mr Nawin not willing to surrender.

Phuket officials brought Mr

Nawin's relatives from Krabi, namely his grandmother Mrs Lek, 67, and aunt Ms Pranee, 50. Both women also tried to persuade Mr Nawin to surrender, but failed.

At about 11am, the SWAT team fired tear gas into the vehicle then boarded the bus only to find Mr Nawin's body lying face down. He had shot himself with a single shot to the chest with what police described as a home-made shotgun. His body was taken to Vachira Hospital for post-mortem examination.

An Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team inspected the vehicle and found no objects of danger. Mr Nawin's body was taken to an unnamed hospital for autopsy.

Citing Ao Luek Police, Mgronline

reports that Mr Nawin left a notice in his mother's house saying the following: "Do not worry. I will start a new life. I will take a risk and go for it. And I will not return home."

Just like their colleagues from Phuket, Ao Luek Police made no comment about Mr Nawin's possible motives.

Governor Narong on Feb 10 visited the two injured victims at Mission Hospital Phuket.

Ms Churaiphon and Mr Naphanat were declared out of danger by doctors shortly after being rushed to the hospital last Friday.

The Phuket Provincial Social Security Office also visited to clarify exactly what benefits they would be entitled to, as both were insured.

## Illegal Russian guide arrested

A RUSSIAN MAN WAS ARRESTED on Feb 9 for working illegally in Phuket as a tour guide, a strictly prohibited occupation for foreigners in Thailand.

Pavel Maslennikov, 29, was taken into custody at Soi Romanee by Phuket Tourist Police officers. The time of arrest was not specified to *The Phuket News*.

Mr Maslennikov's arrest followed a tip-off about a foreign man acting as a tour guide and leading a group of 11 Russian tourists to visit Big Buddha.

The group then proceeded to an elephant camp and Wat Chalong, or Chalong Temple, before heading to Phuket Old Town for a city tour. This was when Tourist Police officers finally approached Mr Maslennikov and took him into custody.

According to Phuket Tourist Police, Mr Maslennikov stayed



Mr Maslennikov is reported to have performed four border runs to renew his permission to stay without raising any suspicions. Photo: Phuket Tourist Police

in Thailand as a tourist. Prior to his arrest, he had performed four border runs to Malaysia and back to renew his permission to stay in the country. Oddly enough, this had not caused any questions from Immigration Police at the border crossing in Satun.

At last report, Mr Maslennikov was released on bail and awaiting trial. Nattha Thepbamrung

## Fire guts luxury villa in Cherng Talay

A DEVASTATING FIRE AT A luxury villa in Cherng Talay last Saturday (Feb 11) caused damages estimated to be in the region of B25 million.

The fire occurred at a villa being rented by a 48-year-old French expat in Pasak Soi 1. Officials did not confirm who the owner of the property was.

Pol Lt Khajonkiet Khamwichairat, Deputy Inspector General of Investigation of the Cherng Talay Police, was notified of the blaze around 10:30am and immediately alerted the local Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.

Four fire trucks were subsequently sent to the scene of the fire where it took over 40 minutes for firefighters to contain the blaze although the villa was left completely gutted.

Police said they were unaware how the fire started although a forensic investigation team will survey the site in an attempt to discover the cause of the blaze. Nobody was reported



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

injured in the fire, they added.

The fire came after another blaze at Bankokwatmai School in Thalang on Friday evening, where firefighters were able to extinguish the flames within about 20 minutes.

The fire started on the second floor of the school in an area that had been closed off for renovation work.

Police stated a short circuit was the suspected cause of the fire, adding that nobody was injured in the incident.

The Phuket News



# Leatherback turtles hatch in return to Nai Yang Beach

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

There were celebrations at Nai Yang Beach last Friday night (Feb 10) as a total of 32 baby leatherback turtles hatched and found their way to the sea, which officials declared was proof of nature replenishing and restoring itself across the island.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew joined Sorasak Rananan, Head of Sirinat National Park, along with Sophon Kiamka, Phuket Provincial Public Relations Officer, Surin Yotharak, admin head of Sakhu Subdistrict and a team of veterinarians from the Marine and Coastal Resources Research Center of the Andaman Sea at the scene around 8pm.

The 32 successful hatchlings were from an initial total of 108 eggs that had been brought to a facility at Nai Yang Beach in Sirinat National Park from Mai Khao Beach on Dec 11 last year.

The eggs had been discovered by local resident Boonjerd Sae Tan who had seen the turtle tracks in the sand and then followed the turtle to its nest. On further inspection, wildlife officials from the Department of the Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) confirmed that the mother was a leatherback turtle measuring 110cm in width and 180 in length.

The officials managed to retrieve 79 healthy eggs from the overall 108 laid,



Photo: PR Phuket

of which three were broken, leaving them with 76 overall, which were taken to Nai Yang and placed in a protected area of the beach surrounded by bamboo fencing in order to incubate.

Officials noticed last Friday afternoon that the sand around the sectioned off area had collapsed, meaning that the hatching process had begun. They then helped to dig the 32 hatchlings out of the sand and confirmed that the remainder had yet to hatch, adding that staff would monitor them in order to ensure as many as possible were able to hatch healthily.

Governor Narong stated that the occasion aligned well with Phuket's aspirations to host the Specialised Expo 2028 in that the message behind the campaign is "Future of Life: Living in

Harmony, Sharing Prosperity".

He added that the return of turtles to the island to lay their eggs was proof that natural resources had managed to revitalise themselves over the past few years, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic when the lifeblood of tourism was decimated, and that the future was positive.

The hatching last Friday followed several other instances in Phuket or in the surrounding area in recent months where turtle eggs had been laid or successfully hatched.

On Jan 14 a total of 64 baby leatherback turtles hatched and made it across the sand to the sea at Bang Kwan Beach in Khok Kloi, Phang Nga, just north of Phuket.

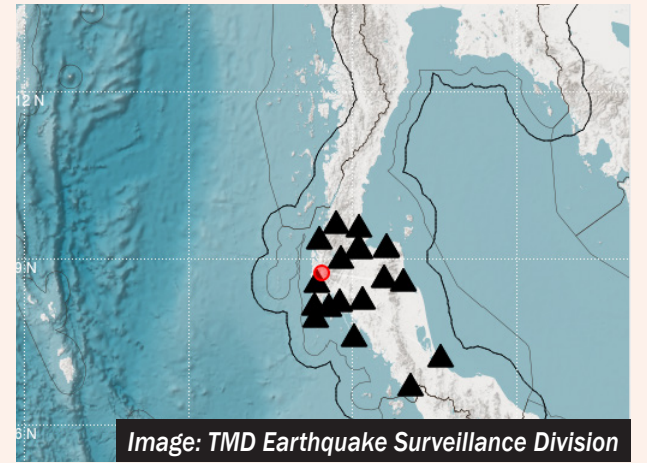


Image: TMD Earthquake Surveillance Division

## Tremor rattles Phang Nga

OFFICIALS WERE ON alert after a light earthquake rattled Phang Nga on Monday afternoon (Feb 13).

The earthquake, registering 3.7 in magnitude, struck with its epicentre in Tambon Tha Na, in Kapong District, Phang Nga Province, at about 2:43pm.

The earthquake was relatively shallow, occurring at a depth of four kilometres, Chompharee Chomphurat, Director-General of the Thai Meteorological Department (TMD), confirmed in an official notice just one minute later.

"If there are any additional details, we will inform you immediately," Ms Chomphareesaid.

People were advised to keep up to date through the TMD's Earthquake Surveillance Division or local official news channels.

Earthquakes in Phuket are rare. At time of press, damage from the earthquake in Phang Nga on Monday had yet to be reported.

Phuket last experienced light earthquakes in 2015, when a series of six light quakes rattled the island in May that year. The tremors ranged in strength from 2.5 to 4.6.

With the Klong Marui fault just to the east of Phuket, the last tremor to rattle the area struck near Koh Yao Yai.

The Phuket News

## Anti-Putin graffiti tagged on Sirinath national park rock

SAKHU POLICE AND NATIONAL park officers are trying to track down who is responsible for spray painting anti-Vladimir Putin graffiti on a rock near Nai Thon Beach.

The graffiti was first noticed by a foreigner at the beach on the morning of Feb 9 who reported it immediately, reported Nai Thon Beach lifeguard Nattawut Boonakaew.

Lifeguards who walked along the beach as a check before closing the beach to swimmers confirmed the graffiti was not on the rock at 7pm the night before, Mr Nattawut said.

The rock is located about 300 metres from the lifeguard station on the beach.

The graffiti said in English, "Putin Killer Stop War", with Russian text underneath.

Mr Nattawut reported the "tagging" to the Sakhu Police as well as to officers at the Sirinath National Park, as the rock is within the national park boundaries.

Officers with the Sakhu Police said they would check footage from CCTV cameras in the area, while the national park officers said the graffiti would be removed from the rock as soon as possible.

"Many people on the beach who saw the graffiti were disappointed with this," Mr Nattawut said.

This was not the first time natural elements have become the victim of "tagging".

A tourist was lambasted for tagging sev-




The graffiti was to be removed as quickly as possible. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

eral rocks at Nai Thon Beach in February, 2020. The culprit was deeply suspected of being a Russian street artist under the tag name 'dem51'.

Challenged by netizens online about defacing the rocks, the "artist" was dismissive. "These are just stones, who cares about them?" he wrote in response to one comment. "I paint where I want. Don't tell me what to do," he responded to another.

In response to that incident, Sirinat National Park Chief Natthawat Nuisriram urged, "Please do not paint, write, advertise or make any sort of signature piece on rocks like this. It is not pleasant. It is illegal. If anyone witnesses painting like this, please send information to us at <https://www.facebook.com/sirinath.np> or call 076-328226 or 076-328226."


"We are responsible for the protection and maintenance of the National Park and this kind of act of vandalism will be punishable with a fine not exceeding B500," Mr Natthawat noted. Eakkapop Thongtub



PHUKET BREAKFAST BRIEFING

**LOOKING FORWARD:  
WHAT DOES 2023 HAVE IN STORE FOR  
PHUKET'S HOTEL AND TOURISM  
INDUSTRY?**

Register here



Friday, 3 March 2023  
09:30 - 11:30 hrs.

Captain Room  
NH Boat Lagoon, Phuket



# THA: Tourism must be priority

Bangkok Post

The Thai Hotels Association (THA) has urged the next government to prioritise the tourism industry as a key economic driver, addressing the labour shortage, low level of safety and security, as well as sustainability.

Marisa Sukosol Nunbhakdi, the THA president, said Thai tourism workers are in high demand in many countries where the industry has revived, including spa therapists and cruise workers, as many of them relocated for new jobs.

This situation amplified the labour shortage following the two-year pandemic shutdown, which caused a number of tourism workers to return to their hometowns permanently.

Another challenge is the agreement with Saudi Arabia to allocate Thai workers to the Middle Eastern country, which seeks manpower from Thailand to fill vacancies in the hospitality sector.

"Hotels in major provinces are now competing for both skilled and unskilled labour," said Mrs Marisa.

"The tourism sector could



Tourists take photos along Sino-Portuguese style shophouses in Phuket Old Town. Photo: PR Phuket

create an economic multiplier for society at every level, particularly grass roots. We need the new government to prioritise this industry and integrate related work from different ministries to speed up the development process," said Mrs Marisa during the "Economic Drives" forum on Feb 9, which gathered candidates for prime minister and representatives from political parties.

In terms of sustainability, she recommended tax cuts and incentives for certified green hotels and green regulations across the whole supply chain.

For example, Singapore provides a sustainability road-

map requiring 60% of hotel rooms to achieve sustainable standards by 2025.

Napas Paorohitya, chief marketing officer at Bumrungrad International Hospital, said Thailand has the potential to be a medical and wellness tourism hub, but challenges remain in terms of value.

Thailand attracted more than 3.5 million tourists for those services in 2019, four times higher than Singapore, which tallied 850,000 visitors.

However, Thailand generated only B43 billion that year, 19% higher than Singapore.

Ms Napas said the country must pivot to high-value industries, offering more ser-

vices in addition to medical check-ups, such as intensity care, customised care and longevity care packages, in order to gain higher margins.

## TAT UPGRADES ARRIVAL TALLY FROM INDIA

India's decision to scrap a negative RT-PCR COVID test requirement for return travellers from Thailand from Monday (Feb 13) should accelerate the tourism recovery amid a sluggish Chinese market, says the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

TAT Governor Yuthasak Supasorn said the end of a major travel restriction could

mean the Indian market rebounds faster than expected, perhaps matching the 2019 tally of 2mn arrivals by year-end, up from the previous estimate of 1.4mn.

As of Feb 7, Thailand had received 2.58mn foreign visitors this year, of which 122,303 were from India.

The Chinese market, which lifted restrictions on independent travel from Jan 8, is resuming slowly this year, registering 119,807 travellers, lagging behind Malaysia, Russia, South Korea and India.

Mr Yuthasak attributed the slow growth of the Chinese market to limited seat capacity as airlines have to prepare for expansion and should be ready to add flights during their summer schedule.

The number of arrivals from China during Feb 1-7 was 28,727, overtaking the Indian market for fourth place in terms of source markets, as the latter registered only 20,960 visitors.

Thaneth Tantipiriyakij, President of the Phuket Tourist Association, said the end of COVID-19 testing requirements in India happened earlier than expected and should create positive momentum

for Phuket as more big tour groups will return soon.

The requirement affected large tour groups from India – particularly the MICE (meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions) segment and wedding groups – as many of them cancelled bookings to avoid increasing costs from RT-PCR tests, he said.

Mr Thaneth said the number of Indian tourists declined by 30-40% because of this policy last month.

According to Phuket Airport Immigration Daily Report, from Nov 1, 2022 to Jan 31, 2023 the Indian market ranked second with 87,660 arrivals, trailing the Russian market which tallied 267,245.

He said even during the mandatory testing for Indian travellers, independent tourists from that nation still visited Thailand as the added cost was considered acceptable.

In terms of tourist supply in Phuket, Mr Thaneth said the province should be able to cope with higher demand from the Indian and Chinese markets as arrivals from Russia typically peak during the cool season.

## Phuket labour shortage easing

THE CRITICAL LABOUR shortage in Phuket, especially in the hotels and hospitality sector, is easing, with only about 3,000-4,000 positions vacant remaining to be filled, Kongsak Khoopongsakorn of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce has revealed.

At the end of last year up to tens of thousands job vacancies needed to be filled to help Phuket's tourism and hospitality sector recover, Mr Kongsak said.

Hotels are reopening rooms to accommodate more Chinese tourists, Mr Kongsak noted.

"At present, about 80% of the 3,000 hotels across the island are open, representing approximately 120,000 rooms, but there are about 30,000 rooms that have not been reopened for service," he said.

With the return of Chinese tourists, Phuket's tourism industry is expected to perform well until after April this year, Mr Kongsak added.

Phuket Provincial Industry Office President Charin Thumrong Kiatikul believes that the news about high service charges among hotels



Kongsak Khoopongsakorn of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce. Photo: PR Phuket

and other tourism businesses succeeded in attracting hospitality workers to return to the island.

"After the overwhelming number of tourists poured into Phuket during the peak season, hospitality jobs rose sharply," he told *The Phuket News*.

Mr Charin believes Phuket's tourism prospects will remain good even after

April, when most Europeans that visit Phuket during high season return home – and not just because of more Chinese travellers visiting the island.

"Phuket is also encouraging tourists from new tourism source markets such as India, the Middle East, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia and Laos," he said.

Nattha Thepbamrung

## BrightView Surgery

# 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

BANGKOK HOSPITAL PHUKET

Accredited

1719  
www.phukethospital.com

MEMBER OF 3DMS



# Corrupt police 'must go'

## BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha admitted on Monday (Feb 13) that police corruption has been going on for years, and stakeholders must make a concerted effort to clean up the police force.

He was responding to questions regarding two senior police officers who are accused of being behind an online multi-billion-baht gambling network, the latest in a series of misconduct allegations that have rocked the Royal Thai Police (RTP).

Last week, media firebrand Chuvit Kamolvisit said the macau888 online gambling network had about B5.5 billion in circulation, which was relatively small compared with another gambling network run by "Inspector Sua" and "General Jor". The pair allegedly used their connections to run the network with B10bn in circulation.

Prayut said the authorities are investigating the activities of the two officers and made it clear that those who are found in the wrong must face legal and disciplinary action.

The government takes the matter seriously and a regulation was issued recently to require state officials accused of corruption to be temporarily dismissed pending investigation, he said.

The problem requires collaboration, he added, noting police corruption has been around for a long time. The govern-



Police officers found in the wrong must face legal and disciplinary action, says the Prime Minister. Photo: Bangkok Post

ment is determined to address the issue, but it needs people to come forward and obtain evidence to back up accusations.

Prayut said he appreciates people who step forward to expose police misdeeds, adding accusations will be looked into and wrongdoers will not be let off the hook.

Asked if the government will press ahead with police reforms before its term ends, the prime minister said a national policing act began to take effect recently, which introduces new rules governing the police force, in line with the national reform plan.

"The police force has good and bad officers and the latter must be dealt with while stressing that work ethics and personal integrity must be taught and instilled," he said.

Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry

lodged a complaint Monday with Nang Loeng police against the Pentor Group Foundation for allegedly operating without being registered.

Pentor Group Foundation is allegedly linked to Pol Lt Col Wasawat Mukarasakul, also known as "Inspector Sua", one of the officers accused by Mr Chuvit of running an illegal online gambling network.

Suttipong Juljarern, the ministry's permanent secretary, said the foundation faces three charges – setting up an unregistered foundation, soliciting without permission and uploading false information into the computer system.

Mr Chuvit last week posted a list of 10 companies allegedly linked to Pol Lt Col Wasawat under the Pentor Group umbrella as he pressed the RTP to take action.



Photo: NNT

## New Human Rights action plan approved

### BANGKOK

THE CABINET HAS APPROVED the latest edition of the National Human Rights Action Plan, which aims to improve the promotion and protection of human rights among all groups of people.

Members of the Cabinet in their weekly meeting on Monday (Feb 13) approved the fifth edition of the National Human Rights Action Plan for the years 2023-2027, as proposed by the Ministry of Justice.

The updated national action plan on human rights addresses the topic of human rights protection in different areas, namely politics and administration, the justice system, public health, education, economy and businesses, and specific population groups.

These groups include

manual workers, victims in court cases, children and women, human rights activists, members of the LGBTQ community, stateless people and ethnic minorities, AIDS patients, and people living with HIV, as well as patients with mental disorders.

Under this action plan and according to a program provided by the Ministry of Justice, government agencies are required to include at least 3 hours of human rights education as part of their personnel training.

The action plan also calls for annual evaluations among relevant agencies during the period of October to December each year. The evaluation will be carried out by a panel of nonpartisan experts who can provide the Cabinet with suggestions on how to ensure successful outcomes from this action plan. NNT

## Thai rescue teams assist in quake-hit Turkey

### TURKEY

THE FIRST THAI RESCUE TEAM arrived in Istanbul last Friday (Feb 10) to assist with search and rescue efforts following the devastating Feb 6 earthquake that, at time of press, had claimed over 36,000 lives in Turkey and Syria.

Public Health Ministry deputy permanent secretary Dr Narong Apikulwanich said that the Thai urban search and rescue (USAR) team – made up of 42 rescue workers and two sniffer dogs – flew to Turkey to assist for 10 days.

The Royal Thai Army also sent 17 officers from the Military Medical Emergency Response Team (M-MERT) to Turkey on Saturday to join the USAR. The M-MERT comprises paediatric orthopaedists, surgeons, emergency medical specialists and internists.

Dr Narong said that the Turkish government had contacted Thailand's Department of European Affairs for necessary medicine and medical equipment worth B3 million from a budget subsidised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr Narong added that the Turkish government had requested a paramedic team from Thailand.

However, Thai emergency medical technicians are not certified by the WHO to operate as paramedic teams, he said.

Dr Narong stated that there would be more discussions on the situation to manage the roles of Thai rescue workers and



A woman in Hatay, Turkey surveys the damage of the earthquake. Photo: AFP

operations for the medical team.

USAR Thailand posted on its Facebook page details about the mission's two rescue dogs – Sierra, 6, and Sahara, 5, which are golden retrievers from the Thailand Rescue Dog Association.

During the Turkish Airlines flight, the pilot and cabin crew expressed their gratitude to the Thai rescue workers for going to assist earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria.

In addition to the assistance provided by the Thai government, the mission is also supported by donations from Charoen Pokphand Group (CP Group) with instant food, Thai Beverage (ThaiBev) for drinking water and blankets, True Corporation for communications sim cards and Dhipaya Insurance for Thai rescue workers' insurance.

For Thai citizens in Turkey needing emergency assistance, the Thai embassy in Ankara can be reached via +90 533 641 5698 for 24 hours and its Facebook page.

Bangkok Post



## SUNDAY STEAK & LOBSTER

LIVE DJ, SUNSET HAPPY HOUR  
WITH FREE TAPAS, STEAK  
AND LOBSTER SPECIAL.

From 5pm.



076 33 8888

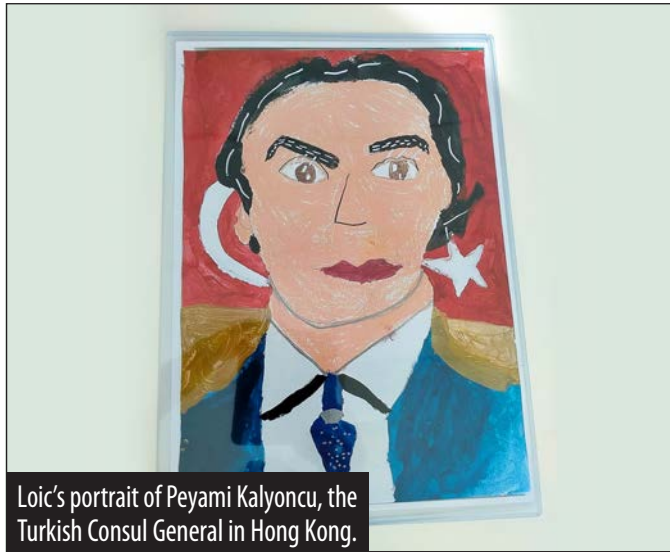
events@salaphuket.com

www.salaphuket.com





Loic, standing at Nai Harn beach, holds open his published 'Starfish to be Rescued', which won him third prize in the XVI International Wildlife Festival 'Golden Turtle'. Photo: contest in Moscow.



Loic's portrait of Peyami Kalyoncu, the Turkish Consul General in Hong Kong.



Loic's collection of award-winning creations, and a couple of his medals.

# Loic's portrait of the future

The Phuket News  
life@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket boy Loic Tim at just 6½ years old has already collected enough awards most artists would be proud of at twice his age.

For those who remember, *The Phuket News* reported Loic winning a major prize at the XVI International Wildlife Festival 'Golden Turtle' photo contest held in Moscow in November. <https://www.thephuketnews.com/phuket-boy-4-wins-major-wildlife-photo-award-86374.php>

Loic was not only the youngest prize winner, but the youngest entrant in the entire photo contest, which saw 10,668 works entered. His photo, "Star-

fish to be Rescued", was taken at Nai Harn Beach. The stunning image was awarded third place in the nomination "Nature through the eyes of children". Loic was just 4 years old when he took that photo.

Yet that prize only added to Loic's growing portfolio of award-winning creations, dating back to 2021.

In November that year Loic won the Bronze Prize in the World Children Drawing Competition 2021 in Sofia, Bulgaria. His entry, 'The Galaxy of Space', was among 6,000 entries from over 50 countries in the 'World Children Drawing Competition', under the theme Green Planet.

For his entry, US Ambassador to Bulgaria Herro Mustafa awarded Loic a letter of recognition honouring Loic as a

'True Cultural Ambassador'.

The school that Loic attends, BCIS Phuket International school in Chalong, also honoured the young artist. "Recognised by the United States of America Embassy in Sofia (Bulgaria) for winning the bronze award of the World Children Drawing Competition 2021 at 4 years old, Loic's incredible masterpiece 'The Galaxy of Space' is an impressionist painting of a green galaxy, where, as he described, all of the planets are environmentally friendly and green," the school announced through its newsletter.

"With this first entry to a world art competition, for which over 6,000 works of art were submitted from over 50 countries, Loic took home not only a fantastic 3<sup>rd</sup> place bronze award, but also an Official certificate and letter of congratulations from the US embassy, which we feel honored to share with our community today. At just 4 years old, he is the youngest winner of the prestigious worldwide competition ever.

"On behalf of BCIS, we are tremendously proud of his achievement, creative talents and his vision of an environmentally friendly Galaxy. Our Year 1 Star has already shown incredible skills at school and within our community, we could not be happier to follow and support his success on a wider scale today, as we invite you to join us in congratulating his remarkable talent," the school acknowledged.

Yet Loic's achievements kept growing. In June last year he was awarded 'Honorable selection' from 3,200 entries in the 24<sup>th</sup> International Youth Art Exhibition in Nova Zagora, Bulgaria, for his painting 'Under the Sea'.

Sombat Laohapongchana, Thailand's the Head Honorary Consul in the Republic of Bulgaria, gave recognition to Loic's creations, and his remarkably young age in his artistic achievements, at an event in Bangkok in July last year, where Loic presented Mr Sombat his first portrait painting.

By August last year, Loic was Gold Prize Award Winner in the Hong Kong DITP and Thailand CP brand children drawing competition with his 'Mommy Chicken Eggs', with Loic now 5 years old.

In October, his 'Lobster Counts on Two Crabs' was selected to be exhibited in the Gallery of Torun Poland for the 21<sup>st</sup> International Children and Youth Art Competition. That same month Loic was invited to attend the award-giving ceremony and exhibition for the International Wildlife Festival Photography Exhibition in Moscow

In December Loic met Peyami Kalyoncu, the Turkish Consul General in Hong Kong, for his winning entry 'The Colorful Owl' in the Gaziantep Mizyal Art Gallery Competition in Turkey, and he was awarded a

That same month Loic won First Place Award in the Early Elementary School division of the Robert Shetterly 'My Hero Project' International Portrait Contest for his painting 'My Papa and Mama'.

Only last month Loic was featured in an article titled 'Celebrating Young Talent' in the popular 'Kanvas Magazine'.

Loic loves – and if it is not obvious yet, finds inspiration in – nature. Living in Phuket, he loves the ocean.

He also has already developed an extended attention span, his mother Nicole notes. "Sometimes he wakes up and just wants to draw. He is so very focussed, and he can sit there for hours drawing or painting," she says.

Although Loic is more prone to drawing and painting, he hasn't given up photography just yet. He still uses his mum's phone when the occasion arises. Loic himself already notices the difference between him and his mum taking photos. "When I take a photo, I take just one... But my mum always takes 10 or 20," he says.

Loic attends the regular art classes at his school, but his imagination and creativity are what set him apart in the international art competitions, where youngsters are not overly appraised by the technical skills, but more on their clarity of concept and expression of ideas. One of Loic's strengths is his impressive use of colours.

Loic says that the awards he has already been bestowed are "great", but he would still draw and paint without them. "Because if there are no awards, it's okay; if you win, it is okay, if you lose, it is okay," he says.

Among his collection, Loic has no favourites. "I like them all," he assures.

Loic also encourages everyone to try their hand at art. "Anyone can draw – just go ahead and try it," he says.

In the meantime, Loic has two more works to be submitted for international competitions for young artists. One of them is to be entered in a competition in the Czech Republic; the other, titled 'American Native tales', is to be entered in a competition in France.

"We hope to give you good news by the end of this year," his mum Nicole says.

## ixina

yes to your dream kitchen

\*\*\* PROMOTION \*\*\*

**BUY KITCHEN GET FURNITURE SET**



## ixina

IXINA GERMAN KITCHENS

📍 108/2 moo.3, Srisunthorn Rd., Srisunthorn sub-district, Thalang district, Phuket 83110

☎ 095 727 5911 Eng-FR

☎ 082 368 3657, 064 683 7529 Eng-Thai

📘 ixina Thailand

🌐 www.ixina.co.th





# A GRIP IT response for blood donations

The Phuket News  
life@classactmedia.co.th

After GRIP IT's first blood donation drive went successfully at Wat Sawang Arom in Rawai in November, the charitable organisation team based in Phuket decided to continue working together with the Phuket Regional Blood Centre (PRBC) and nine Rotary Clubs across Phuket to provide more critically needed blood to the people in need.

GRIP IT's blood drive project started with the team receiving the information about the high demand of blood for patients in hospitals all over the south of Thailand and the lack of blood supply.

In order to help encourage more people to become a blood donor, GRIP IT together with Rotary Clubs in Phuket helped to spread the word about the blood donation drive, and donate five kilogrammes rice to every person who donated blood at the station. "Our goal is to draw more attention to this issue and help PRBC save lives," said Nurama 'Khun Ji' Taleh, the head of GRIP IT team.

At the latest blood donation drive on Feb 7, the GRIP IT team had the chance to talk with the chief of PRBC, Pornthip Rattajak, who has been working there tirelessly for over 10 years, and learned that the centre is constantly in need of blood, especially since the start of COVID-19 pandemic.

"The center needs to reach the goal



A GRIP IT team member supports a blood donor at the blood donation drive at Wat Sawang Arom in Rawai. Photo: Tonia Olsen / GRIP IT

of collecting at least 3,000 units of healthy blood per month to meet the demand at the public and private hospitals that we are responsible for, which are in the six Andaman Sea provinces – Ranong, Phang Nga, Phuket, Krabi, Trang and Satun... but it is not easy," said Ms Rattajak.

She shared that most of the donors are in working age and frequent donors who donate every three months and that the centre also works with local schools to educate the younger population and encourage them to donate their blood as well.

However, the blood types that are the most needed are the special blood types (Rh-negative), which are incredibly rare among Thai people and Asians in general.

"Because we provide blood for the region that is very popular among tourists, we always need all special blood types which are more common among foreigners. It is very important that we encourage those with the rare blood types to donate regularly. Currently, we are in need of A blood type as well," added Ms Rattajak.

After the long serious tone of the conversation, the team asked Ms Rat-

tajak about what she loved most about working there. "I love everything about it. I love seeing the kindness of the people who come in to donate their blood and knowing that what we do saves lives," said Ms Rattajak.

GRIP IT uses the opportunity to also donate secondhand clothes at the same location where blood donation drives are being held, in the hope that it would draw more attention to the blood drive.

"We put our donation boxes in different shops and restaurants all over Phuket to make it easier for people to donate stuff that is still in good condition. Among other things, we received a lot of good quality secondhand clothes that are ready for new owners. We would like to thank you all the donors and the business owners who were so kind and lent us the space for our donation boxes," said Khun Ji.

The blood donation organised by GRIP IT will be held every three months at Wat Sawang Arom in Rawai. However, PRBC is open and goes into different areas of Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi every working day from Monday to Friday. If you are interested in donating your blood, do not hesitate to walk in or contact them at +66 76 211766 to find out the blood drive station closest to you.

Contact GRIP IT if you want to join their next blood drive or need advice on how to help your community at [ji@gripit.life](mailto:ji@gripit.life), +66 993 600840 (Khun Ji) or Instagram @gripit\_forward



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

- Who was Zeus's wife?
- Which is the largest island in the world?
- What is the name for a dog created by crossing a Labrador Retriever and a Poodle?
- What percentage of an iceberg remains unseen underwater?
- In Norse mythology, Yggdrasil is an immense mythical tree. What type of tree is it?

Answers below, centre

## SUDOKU

Medium

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

## Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

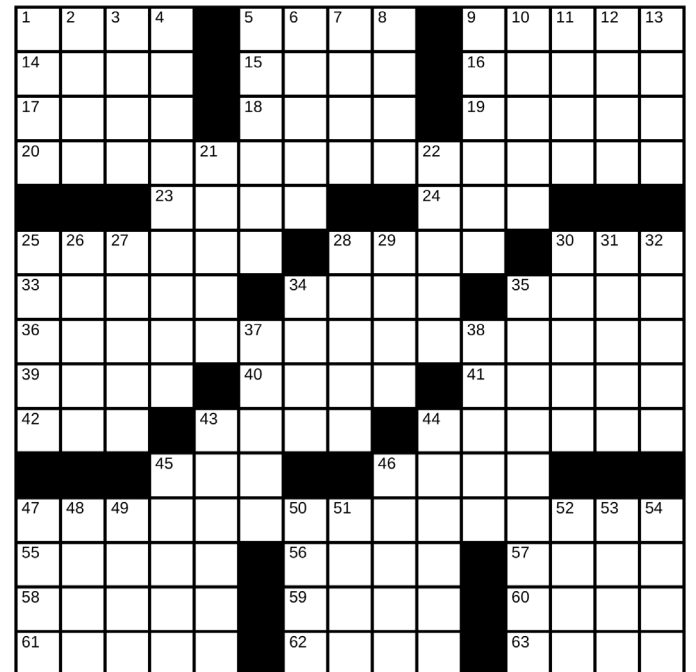
- Garden soil
- Fit to be tried
- Quarrel
- Coloratura's piece
- Catcall
- Gertrude's partner
- Burrows
- It's south of Georgia
- Winner of nine golf majors
- "I agree completely!"
- It parallels a radius
- Time periods, abbr.
- Malodorous
- In the Red?
- Scandinavian rug
- Ending for ego or auto
- Spawning fish
- Gray matter
- Anthem start
- Poet laureate of 1700
- Egg on
- Table part
- Dolly, for one
- Nonplus
- Implant deeply
- Ring around the collar?

Down

- "\_\_\_ Marmalade"
- Ice cream flavor
- Hokkaido people
- Grammatical category
- Hockey game
- Sinus of Valsalva locale
- Ancient mariner
- Peak near Taormina
- "The English Patient" setting
- Obstructs
- Baltic capital
- Berry touted as medicinal

13. Ivy League team

- Quiet
- Not those
- Walloped, old-style
- Cousin of a cockatoo
- Related, in a way
- Moralist
- Husky burden
- Back in
- Swift character
- Regarding
- French bread
- Secondary result
- Some nerve
- \_\_\_ Popular
- Composed
- Weakens
- Corporate department
- Kind of column
- Grandmothers, in the U.K.
- Polish language
- Open container
- Kuwaiti, e.g.
- \_\_\_ other than
- Summit
- Cycle maker
- Polo goal



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

## Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

- His sister, Hera; 2) Greenland (Australia is a continent); 3) Labradoodle or labrapoodle; 4) 90%; 5) Ash tree

## Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

## GOT YOUR NUMBER

2

beats per minute is how slow an alligator can lower its heart rate while resting.

84

seconds into a conversation is how long it takes before questions arise asking for clarification, like "Who? What?"

450

people die falling out of beds in the United States each year.

1,000

bibles printed in 1631 left the "not" out of "Thou shall not commit adultery" – most were burned, but a handful still exist.

500,000

US dollars a year is how much Uberfacts founder/creator makes from his Uberfacts Tweets.

61 million

paggers were in use in 1994.

Source: Uberfacts

## ISLAND VIEW



Cafe Phuket Viewpoint. Photo by Colin Rowntree

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

### February 17, 1867

Scottish merchant ship SS *Dido* becomes the first ship to pass through the Suez Canal.

### February 18, 2013

Armed robbers steal a haul of diamonds worth \$50 million during a raid at Brussels Airport in Belgium.

### February 19, 356 AD

Emperor Constantius II issues a decree closing all pagan temples in the Roman Empire.

### February 20, 1913

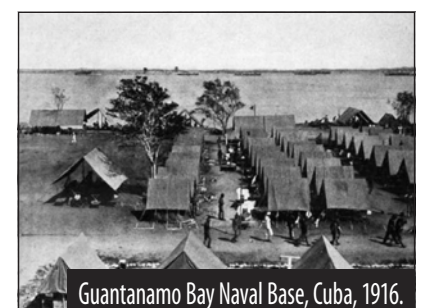
King O'Malley drives in the first survey peg to mark commencement of work on the construction of the Australian capital Canberra.

### February 21, 1952

The British government, under Winston Churchill, abolishes identity cards in the UK to "set the people free".

### February 22, 1632

Galileo's Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems is published.



Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba, 1916.

### February 23, 1903

Cuba leases Guantánamo Bay to the United States "in perpetuity".  
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

Drone Survey

Pipe Inspection

under yearly checkup plan...

**TCM Asia Co., Ltd - quality services since 2003**  
office@tcm-asia.com 086-9439834

## HOME IMPROVEMENT



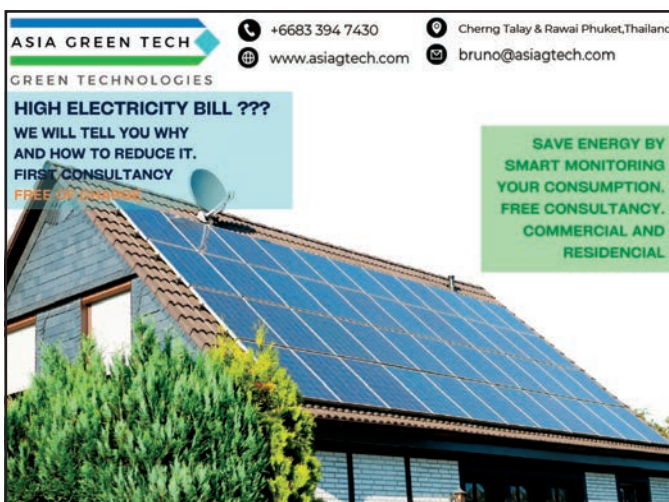
**ASIA GREEN TECH**  
GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

+6683 394 7430  
www.asiagtech.com

Cherng Talay & Rawai Phuket, Thailand  
bruno@asiagtech.com

**BIOCLIMATIC PERCOLA**

## HOME IMPROVEMENT



**ASIA GREEN TECH**  
GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

+6683 394 7430  
www.asiagtech.com

Cherng Talay & Rawai Phuket, Thailand  
bruno@asiagtech.com

**HIGH ELECTRICITY BILL ???**  
WE WILL TELL YOU WHY AND HOW TO REDUCE IT.  
FIRST CONSULTANCY FREE OF CHARGE

SAVE ENERGY BY SMART MONITORING YOUR CONSUMPTION.  
FREE CONSULTANCY. COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENCIAL

## 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 Jessika 062 372 6624

## HOME IMPROVEMENT



**Lile-it**  
SMART TILES  
Tile Leveling System

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

Baan Wana - Cherng Talay  
Tel : 076 620168

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

## 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

## HOME IMPROVEMENT



**ASIA GREEN TECH**  
GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

+6683 394 7430  
www.asiagtech.com

Cherng Talay & Rawai Phuket, Thailand  
bruno@asiagtech.com

- 100% Chlorine Free
- Water Parameters Check
- Salt Chlorinator Installation
- Electric System Check
- Pump Room Installation
- Filtration Check

## MARINE SERVICES



**Marine Engineering Specialists**

**C & C MARINE**

**C & C Marine (Thailand) Co., Ltd.**  
16/2 Moo 4, Soi Nanai, Thepkasattri Rd., Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200  
Tel: +66 (0)76 273247 Fax: +66 (0)76 273248 Mob: +66 (0)81 078 4507  
Email: holmes@candc-marine.com www.candc-marine.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**  
Капра Пхукета 普吉岛地图  
English 中文 Русский

Where to **eat** in PHUKET

**LIVE 89.5** **NEWS TV**

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th



FRI 17 FEB



**STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT**  
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai  
Oil: 081 891 4381  
www.shakersphuket.com  
shakersphuket@gmail.com  
FB: shakersphuket



### 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 19 FEB



**STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT**  
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai  
Oil: 081 891 4381  
www.shakersphuket.com  
shakersphuket@gmail.com  
FB: shakersphuket



### Sunday Roast

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

**Want your EVENT listed here?**  
Reserve your space **NOW!**  
076 612 550 sales@classactmedia.co.th

MON 20 FEB



**STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT**  
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai  
Oil: 081 891 4381  
www.shakersphuket.com  
shakersphuket@gmail.com  
FB: shakersphuket



### Monday BBQ Night

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

WED 22 FEB



**STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT**  
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai  
Oil: 081 891 4381  
www.shakersphuket.com  
shakersphuket@gmail.com  
FB: shakersphuket



### Wednesday BBQ Night

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

**Listen for**  
DAILY EVENT UPDATES ON  
**LIVE 89.5**

FRI 3 MAR

PHUKET BREAKFAST BRIEFING  
**LOOKING FORWARD**  
What does 2023 have in store for Phuket's Hotel and Tourism Industry?

### BDO Phuket Breakfast Briefing: Hotel & Tourism Industry

Looking forward: What does 2023 have in store for the Phuket Hotel and Tourism Industry? With Covid-19 seemingly behind us, it appears to be full steam ahead for the Phuket tourism industry. But with these opportunities come several challenges including changing customer expectations and a skill shortage requiring the industry to revisit its operating model. Reserve a seat at our event and hear from a panel of local industry experts discussing the current, emerging, and future issues for the tourism industry moderated by BDO in Thailand and Hughes Krupica. Reserve your seat now. Click here <http://bit.ly/40lm3is> Matthew Cutt, Marketing@bdo.th, + (66) 076 273 518

WED 8 MAR

**International Women's Day**

### International Women's Day Lunch Wednesday 8th March 2023

Join us for the International Women's Day Lunch at the Four Points by Sheraton Phuket Patong Beach Resort. Connect with like-minded guests and find motivation from inspirational speakers. Share your experiences and your ideas to inspire and stimulate the focus on our well-being: Our Health is Our Wealth. Embracing equity is about recognizing all of the factors that feed into women being disadvantaged and under pressure, then finding ways to share the load and provide support. Our health is truly our wealth and we must focus on our wellness. Let us pledge to dismantle gender stereotyping and forge a world where we support women to put themselves first and to believe in themselves. We ask both women and men to join us by making a donation of 1,500 Thai Baht to book your seat or a table of 10 for 15,000 Thai Baht. To reserve a ticket please contact Tina at [tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org](mailto:tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org) Thank you so much to our amazing supporters: The Australian Consulate-General Phuket, Four Points by Sheraton Phuket Patong Beach Resort and The Phuket News. Tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org Tina Hall.

JOB

### Full-time, live-in Maid

Looking for female around 30-40 years old with English and car driver license to clean house and serve the owner 50-100 nights/year when stay in Phuket. Please contact Email/WhatsApp-phone. Thanks! 20,000-25,000/month, Vibee LI, Anantara Layan Resort, v.li@xtwostore.com, +8615975990233

### Full-time, live-in Housekeeper

Looking for the local around 30-40 years old with English and car driving license to take care of house and support owner 50-100 nights/year when stay in Phuket. Also consider ex-soldier. Please contact Email/WhatsApp-phone. Thanks! 20,000-25,000/month, Vibee LI, Anantara Layan Resort, v.li@xtwostore.com, +8615975990233

**URGENT**  
**Phuket News**  
Class Act Media is Southern Thailand's most comprehensive media company, incorporating Phuket's only English weekly newspaper 'The Phuket News', Russian-language newspaper 'Novosti Phuket', the Thai-language 'Khae Phuket', Phuket's leading English radio station 'Live 89.5', 'The Phuket News TV' (Phuket Xtra) and a host of publication services.

**Thai Reporter/Translator**

The Phuket News is looking for a Thai national as a Reporter/Translator to assist the editorial team to create news stories and translate Thai to English.

**The successful candidate must:**

- Have a good command of English (written and spoken)
- Have a hunger for news
- Be willing to learn
- Be willing to interview Thais and foreigners for stories
- Experience is an advantage but not essential
- Recent graduates are welcome to apply

**We offer:**

- Working 5 days a week/Monday-Friday (08.30 – 16.00 hrs.)
- Able to work from home
- Social security (100%) paid by the company

Interested candidates are invited to fill out an application and attach their full resume in English indicating qualifications, experience and expected salary, with a recent photo on: [the Phuket News.com/job.php](http://the Phuket News.com/job.php)

**Class Act Media Co., Ltd.**  
99/7 Moo 1 T. Kathu A. Kathu Phuket 83120  
Tel. 076 612 550 Fax: 076 612 553

### Thai Reporter/Translator

The Phuket News is looking for a Thai national as a Reporter/Translator to assist the editorial team to create news stories and translate Thai to English. [info@classactmedia.co.th](mailto:info@classactmedia.co.th)

### BOATS, YACHTS FOR SALE

**COMING SOON**  
**MERRY FISHER**  
1095 FLY



**BOAT Merry Fisher 1095 FLY**  
Three double cabins. Generous equipment. Additional living space with flybridge Integrated electric steering + autopilot Cockpit shower (hot & cold water) 220V water heater Fresh water electric toilet 2 Garmin chart plotters 2 wood cockpit tables + Flybridge table. Sundek+sun pad on Flybridge Bow Thruster 2 Fridges + microwave Teak floor Length: 10.45 M Engine Type: Outboard YAMAHA F300x2 Fuel Capacity: 400 L x2 Water Capacity: 260 L Passengers: 10 Pax 0985308234 admin@motorium.co.th

### CLASSIFIEDS

#### Massage for Painful Muscles

Using Therabody technology, only THB 500 for 1 hour. Location Ban Don, easy parking. Call for appointment 092 805 3522.

### BOATS, YACHTS FOR SALE

**URGENT**




**Classic Yacht**  
Classic Gentleman Motor Yacht, Year 2006, 1 Owner, very little Engine hours, private use only. Price: 22,000,000 THB Mobile: +41796614061 Mail: cs@csholdingag.ch Christian Spleiss

**URGENT**



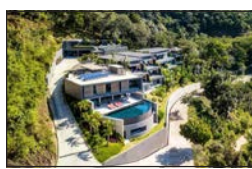
**RIB for sale - Interceptor 50ft**  
The Interceptor 50ft is a wonderful spacious and stable boat for families. She features twin Yamaha four stroke engines 350hp and two cabins (one including a head). She is available for viewing and sea trials. Kindly contact the owner Giorgio 081-827-1947, 6,000,000, Giorgio, Drake Marine Shipyard, giorgionaef@aol.com, 081-827-1947

### PROPERTY FOR RENT



**West Style House in Chiang Rai**  
Modern 2-Storey This house was built using quality material and western engineering standards including 9.5" main supports and partiell double walls. Living space 240m2. Complete Landscape 600m2, 2,700,000, Carlos, Chiang Rai/Donsila, c.weidner@posteo.de, +66912457809

### PROPERTY FOR RENT



#### Luxury Ocean View Pool Villa

The Cube Villa Kalim, is a modern ocean view pool villa with over 800sqm living space with a private 90 sqm infinity saltwater pool. Ocean Rock Villa Estate, 9/4 Soi Prabaramee 7, Kalim Beach, Patong, hello@the-cube-villa-kalim.com, +66(0)92 870 6065,

### CARS, TRUCKS FOR SALE



#### Mercedes Benz C350e 2017 Model

Bought in 2018 Vehicle still in great condition. Very well taken care of. Reason for selling: Want a new car that is fully electric. B1,350,000. teresabarrett7456@gmail.com 083 075 4656.

**Want your property listed here?**  
Reserve your space **NOW!**  
076 612 550, sales@classactmedia.co.th

### PROPERTY FOR SALE



#### Kathu condo for sale

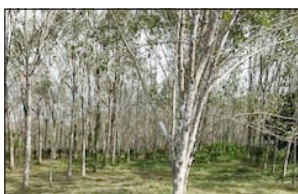
Luxurious condominium 3 bedroom, 3 stage building 220sqm, located in a quiet & peaceful area inside Phuket country club golf course. 177/1 Moo4 Tumbon Maikhao Amphur Thalang, sriwan@assist-properties.com, 0873853239

### PROPERTY FOR SALE



#### 5 villas package 44MB ONO

We have 5 villas and want to sell them all at once, if you are looking for an income business you could rent four and use one for yourself. Located 2 km from the Mission Hill Golf Course on state road 4027. 8km from Thalang and Airport, very convenient, very quiet. 4 villas with 2 bed 2 bath 100sqm living 200sqm land 2 with shared private pools, 1 very big villa 3 bed 3 1/2bath 300sqm living 900sqm land. For all villas we have detailed information and pictures. Mobile 0870608400 or phuketvilla@protonmail.com



#### 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 4.3 million Baht ONO. Call 093 629 4400. iccurntainshuahin@gmail.com

### Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

#### Daily Meetings

Patong, Chalong, Phuket Town, Bang Tao & Karon

CALL

081 895 4763

[help@aaphuket.org](mailto:help@aaphuket.org)

Google [www.aaphuket.com](http://www.aaphuket.com)



# WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?

The **Phuket News** Your Island – Your Paper

Новости **Пхукета** Твой остров – твоя газета ข่าว **ภูเก็ต**

Where to  
**eat**  
in PHUKET

**WINDOW**  
ON PHUKET

**LIVE 89.5**

Phuket  
**NEWS TV**

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

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





Photo: AFP

## LeBron breaks NBA all-time points-scoring record

### BASKETBALL

LEBRON JAMES FINALLY eclipsed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as the most prolific scorer in NBA history on Feb 7, breaking a 39-year record that many throughout basketball believed would never be beaten.

The Los Angeles Lakers star, playing in his 20<sup>th</sup> season in the NBA, passed Abdul-Jabbar's longstanding total of 38,387 points after nailing a 21-foot shot late in the third quarter against the Oklahoma City Thunder.

James flung his arms aloft in relief as the Crypto.com Arena erupted in wild celebration at his new record of 38,388 points.

Abdul-Jabbar, sitting court-side, was among the first to congratulate James as play

was interrupted to salute an iconic moment in NBA history.

James, who eventually finished the game with 38 points on the night for a career haul of 38,390, said afterwards he expected to continue playing for at least two more seasons.

"I know I can play a couple more years – it's all about my mind," James said. "If my mind is still into it, if I'm still motivated to go out and try to compete for championships, I feel like I can still do that."

However, James declined to be drawn on whether his scoring record meant he should now be considered the greatest basketball player in history.

"I'll let everybody else decide who that is," he told Lakers great Shaquille O'Neal on TNT television. "But it's great barber shop talk."

AFP

# Warriors down Andaman CC in final ball thriller at ACG

### CRICKET

Curt Livermore

The Patong Warriors made it back-to-back victories in the T-20 league last Sunday (Feb 12), edging out Andaman CC (ACC) in the final ball to pull off a stunning 5-wicket victory in front of a packed house at the ACG.

ACC captain Rishi Sadarangani (17) got his side off to a quick start, smashing 4 boundaries inside the first two overs before Muhammad Saif removed the ACC opener in the 3<sup>rd</sup> over.

Joe Ninan (24) and Manish Sadarangani (51) then racked up a 43-run stand before Shakiel Raja lured the former into one shot too many in the 9<sup>th</sup> over, Saif taking the catch.

Ashan Fonseka (64\*) joined Manish at the crease and the pair proceeded to find the boundary with regularity to notch up a 78-run partnership and boost the score to 140-2 after 15 overs.

With only 5 overs remaining, Manish was stumped by Ahmad Mughal, triggering a mini-collapse as a further 5 wickets fell with no other batter reaching double figures.

Fortunately for the the batting side, however, Fonseka was still going strong and the Sri Lankan used all of his experience to maintain the majority of the strike to ensure his side reached an impressive 192/9 from the allotted 20 overs.



Faisal Butt helping the Patong Warriors to a nail-biting victory. Photo: Thanawat Phumipraphat

The Warriors' response began in disastrous fashion as skipper Ahsan Ali fell for a golden duck in the first over before Mughal was trapped LBW the following ball.

Sajal Gaur bowled Yassir (10) in the 6<sup>th</sup> before Shivam Sachdeva dismissed Abubakar (23) and Saif (20) to leave the score at 69-5.

Post-drinks saw Raja (47\*) anchor the innings from one side whilst Adeeli Ali (66\*) pasted the boundary with ease from the other, including a match-clinching four from the final ball of the game to send his teammates and much of the crowd into wild celebrations.

Patong Penguins and Kashmiri Cricket Club (KCC) faced off in the day's second game with Mikey Atkinson (105) shining

on his Penguins debut, hitting 17 fours and 1 six. Handy cameos from Morgan (20), Robertson (13) and Livermore (20) provided decent support as the Penguins felt confident in defending their total of 186/7 at the half-way stage.

KCC responded strongly with the bat before Michael Flowers found the breakthrough to remove Zahoor Mutto (22) in the 5<sup>th</sup> over with the score on 44-1.

A brutal 93-run stand between Imtuyaz Mushtaq (81\*) and Shad Wahid (39) then took the game away from the Penguins to secure a 7-wicket victory.

This Sunday (Feb 19) sees the Penguins look to do the double over Patong rivals Warriors at 10:30am before ACC look to bounce back against KCC in the afternoon.

AQUELLA  
GOLF • COUNTRY CLUB

## AQUELLA 6'S SERIES

### Event Schedule

Event 1 - Sun, 26<sup>th</sup> FebEvent 2 - Sun, 30<sup>th</sup> AprEvent 3 - Sun, 25<sup>th</sup> JunEvent 4 - Sun, 27<sup>th</sup> AugEvent 5 - Sun, 22<sup>nd</sup> OctEvent 6 - Sun, 17<sup>th</sup> Dec

12:00 Shotgun Start

2,550 THB  
for Visitor2,250 THB  
for Thai Resident1,950 THB  
for Aquella Club Card Holder

✓ 18 hole green fee, caddy fee, golf cart & 1 tray of driving range balls  
✓ Premium dinner buffet

✓ Tournament and lucky draw prizes  
✓ 1 complimentary drink

+66 (0) 76 679 308

Golfreservations1@aquellagolf.com

www.AquellaGolf.com

## Thailand set to host Amazean Jungle Ultramarathon event

### TRAIL RUNNING

THE GLOBALLY ACCLAIMED Ultra-Trail du Mont-Blanc (UTMB) touches down in Thailand for the "Amazean Jungle Thailand UTMB 2023" ultramarathon race this weekend.

The event takes place today (Feb 17) through Sunday in Betong District, Yala Province, with a cross-border route running between Thailand and Malaysia a unique part of the course.

There are five different distances that participants will be tackling, namely 160 kilometres, 100km, 50km, 25km, 10km, as well as a Saturday Night 5km Fun Run.

Organisers state the trail run offers participants an exciting opportunity to take in the main highlights of the Betong Forest as well as allowing runners in the Betong 160km and 50km challenges a historic moment in crossing the border into Malaysia as part of the race, something no previous race



Photo: UTMB

has incorporated.

The event was announced at a press conference on Feb 2 by Tanukiat Chanchum, Deputy Governor of the Sports Authority of Thailand Department of professional sports and boxing.

Mr Tanukiat stated that the globally recognised race organiser holding an event in Thailand means the country can now be considered as "one of the centres of worldwide trail running" and as having an unrivalled track within the Asia-Pacific region.

He added that the region also stands to benefit from participants and visitors attending the event which will provide a much needed boost to tourism and the lo-

cal economy, and that its is hoped the event will become established for many years to come.

He concluded by confirming that the athletes safety was of paramount importance and all medical services would be on-site and on standby during the entirety of all races.

To register for the 160km, 100km and 50km races, runners must have a valid UTMB Index, achieved by completing at least one race of the UTMB World Series or a UTMB Index race in the relevant category within the previous 24 months.

More information can be accessed at [www.amazean.utmb.world](http://www.amazean.utmb.world).

The Phuket News



# Bees sting Gunners' title charge in VAR controversy

## FOOTBALL

AFP

Arsenal's title challenge stumbled again as the Premier League leaders were held to a 1-1 draw by Brentford last Saturday (Feb 11), as Manchester City beat Aston Villa to keep the pressure on at the top of the table.

Leandro Trossard's first goal for the Gunners since his January move from Brighton was cancelled out by Bees striker Ivan Toney to leave Arsenal without a win in their last three games in all competitions.

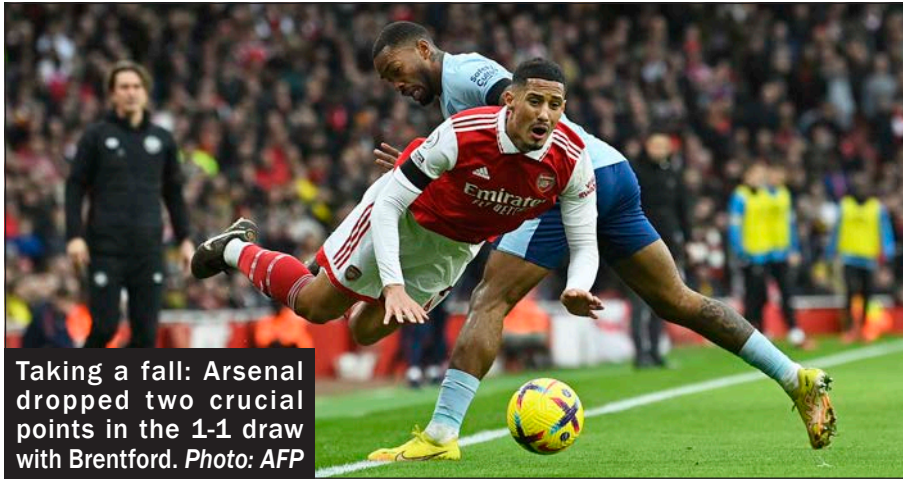
The Gunners still control their destiny as they chase a first Premier League title since 2004, but champions City moved to within 3 points after defeating Villa 24 hours later.

At time of press, Arsenal were set to host City on Wednesday (Feb 15) in a clash that will go a long way to deciding the title race.

Saturday's game was shrouded in controversy as Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta was left fuming that VAR failed to disallow Toney's goal for offside against Ethan Pinnock.

"I just looked back and it is offside, yes," Arteta said. "It's too late, the goal was allowed and we dropped two points."

VAR officials later admitted their mistake as they then missed the fact Christian Norgaard was in an offside



Taking a fall: Arsenal dropped two crucial points in the 1-1 draw with Brentford. Photo: AFP

position when he hooked the ball across for Toney to equalise.

City's victory on Sunday came at a cost as start striker Erling Haaland appeared to pick up a thigh injury as he clashed with Villa goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez before being forced to leave the field.

"Haaland had a knock, he was uncomfortable," said City manager Pep Guardiola. "At 3-0 we don't want to take risks. We'll see and assess in the next days. Hopefully he's ready but we will see."

Rodri, Ilkay Gundogan and Riyad Mahrez all struck before half-time at the Etihad to edge City ominously into Arsenal's rear-view mirror before Ollie Watkins' consolation goal for Villa.

Elsewhere, Tottenham were hammered 4-1 at Leicester and Chelsea laboured

to a 1-1 draw with West Ham, leaving manager Graham Potter declaring his side are still "a work in progress".

Newcastle boss Eddie Howe was frustrated by his former club as second bottom Bournemouth earned a 1-1 draw at Dean Court.

Ten-man Wolves boosted their bid to avoid relegation with a 2-1 win at bottom of the table Southampton, who parted company with their manager Nathan Jones the following day after less than three months in the role.

Crystal Palace drew 1-1 with Brighton and Fulham beat Nottingham Forest 2-0.

Liverpool ended a four-game winless streak with a 2-0 victory in the Merseyside derby against Everton on Monday thanks to goals from Mohamed Salah and Cody Gakpo.

# Late field goal sees Chiefs defeat Eagles in Super Bowl classic

## NFL

PATRICK MAHOMES and the Kansas City Chiefs overcame the inspired Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts to win their second Super Bowl in four years with a 38-35 win in a magnificent contest last Sunday (Feb 12).

Hurts produced four touchdowns, three of them rushing, and threw for 304 yards but ended on the losing side with a late field goal from Harrison Butker settling a ding-dong battle in Arizona.

Mahomes threw for three touchdowns and 182 yards but the Chiefs had game-winning displays across the field as they came back from 10 points down at half-time to hand head coach Andy Reid a victory over his former team.

The game got off to an explosive start with the Eagles scoring a touchdown on the opening drive, before the Chiefs replied with a



Butker's winning kick. Photo: AFP

touchdown on their first drive. It was only the second time in Super Bowl history that both teams had scored on their first possession and that set the tone for the game.

Hurts opened the second quarter in spectacular fashion with a brilliant 45-yard pass deep to A.J. Brown, before completing three rushing touchdowns himself, the first time a quarterback had achieved the feat in a Super Bowl.

Mahomes then led the Chiefs' comeback to tie the game at 35-35. With only eight seconds left on the clock Butker stepped up and his 27-yard field goal was enough to win it for the Chiefs. AFP

# Ireland and Scotland chase Six Nations Grand Slam

## RUGBY

IRELAND AND SCOTLAND WERE left as the only teams in the 2023 Six Nations still in with a chance of a Grand Slam after impressive wins over France and Wales respectively last weekend.

Ireland produced a stunning 32-19 win over Grand Slam champions France in Dublin on Saturday (Feb 11), in what many observers considered to be one of the best opening 40 minutes in Test rugby history.

Full-back Hugo Keenan opened the scoring with a brilliantly crafted try and was a constant thorn in France's side, running over 200 metres in the match, with Les Bleus' defenders having to worry about his incursions from deep in a match where veteran stand-off Johnny Sexton left the field in the 47<sup>th</sup> minute.

Elsewhere, Finn Russell grabbed the headlines in Scotland's record 35-7 thrashing of Wales at Murrayfield, the fly-half pulling the strings with a series of superb kicks and passes that were behind several of the hosts' five tries.

But Russell was able to take centre stage in Edinburgh on the back of another hugely committed effort by the Scotland pack.

As in last week's win over England, they provided quality ball for their playmaker while also contributing to a sound defensive effort that restricted Wales to a lone try.



Ireland and France starred in a classic match last Saturday (Feb 11). Photo: AFP

Elsewhere, England recorded a first victory under new coach Steve Borthwick as recalled flanker Jack Willis led the way for in a morale-boosting 31-14 win over Italy with a fine all-round display.

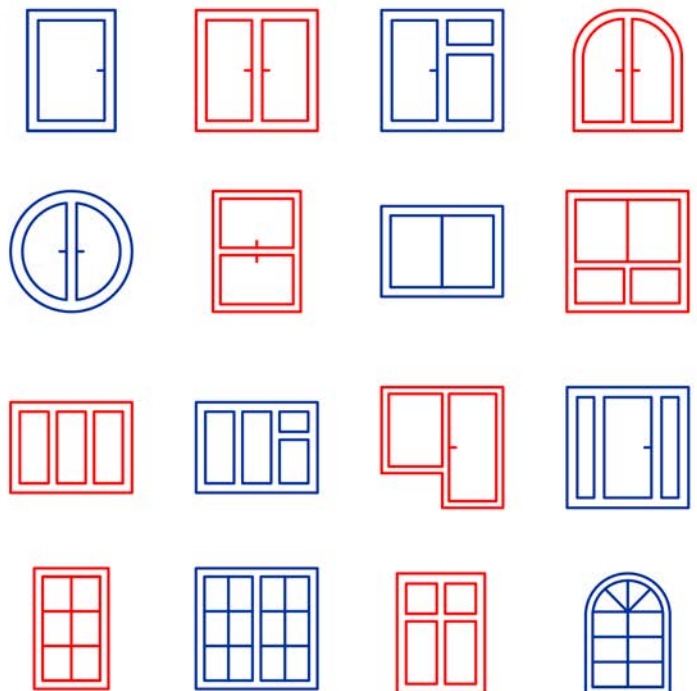
Not only did he score the opening try, but the back-row forward starred in defence, making 20 tackles in the 53 minutes he was on the field.

In the corresponding 2021 fixture, Willis came off the bench to score a try against Italy, only to suffer a severe injury to his right knee minutes later that kept him on the sidelines for a year.

None of that emotional baggage was evident in Willis' performance last Sunday (Feb 12) however as he helped orchestrate a comprehensive victory against the Italians. AFP



## Safe, Secure, Soundproof Windows and Doors



087 061 7631 @nathan Upvc brown pvcphuket.com



# Sport

editor3@classactmedia.co.th



**LeBron breaks  
NBA points  
record > p14**

## PERFECT PAIR

### Aon and Roger win Open Pairs Bowls title



Phuket Open Pairs Championship winners Aon and Roger proudly display the trophy. Photo: Robert Knight

#### BOWLS

AFP

With competition season in full swing at Kamala Lawn Bowls Club, the latest “major” tournament to take place was the 12<sup>th</sup> Phuket Open Pairs Championship last Friday (Feb 10).

Another bumper field of 22 top quality players participated, with representation from Thailand, England, Canada, Germany, Australia, Hong Kong and Sweden.

The draw for pairings was made at random shortly before the competition started, leaving everyone on tenterhooks as to who they would be drawn to partner with.

The format featured 11 pairs initially grouped into

four mini leagues, with the winners of each mini league progressing to the knockout semi-finals. Everyone was fully aware that with such a strong field on show there would be no clear favourites and only top-quality bowling would decide the winners, although progression could still be achieved even with a defeat thanks to the points difference factor.

Notable pairings once the draw had been made included two all female teams, two mixed teams and the husband-and-wife team of Barry and Catherine Smith.

Once the action was under way the top places in two of the mini leagues were indeed decided on points difference as all the teams recorded one victory and one defeat. Advancing from those to

face each other in the first semi-final were Dean Simmonds and Glenn Collins, and “Policeman” Paul Edden and Frank Born, whilst the undefeated mixed pairs of Nidnoi Waranka and Rob Knight and Aon “Sunnee” Sriraska and Roger Goodwin made up the other semi-final.

The game between Rob and Nidnoi and Aon and Roger was expected to be a tight affair although it never materialised as the latter pair surged into an early 7-1 lead, starting with 5 points in the first end, before comfortably winning 16-6.

The other semi-final was a much closer contest, with Dean and Glenn ultimately prevailing on the final end by a score of 9-7.

The stage was therefore set for a highly anticipated quality

final, with three representatives from England and Aon representing Thailand.

#### STERN STUFF

It looked like a repeat of their comfortable semi-final was on the cards as Aon and Roger smashed the first end of the 8-end final with another magnificent score of 5 points. However, Dean and Glenn are made of stern stuff and were unwilling to buckle, replying with a score of 3 on the fourth end.

It thereafter continued to be a closely contested affair and after 6 of the 8 ends the match was finely balanced at 7-5 to Aon and Roger, with top-quality bowling from both pairs being appreciated by the increasingly vocal onlookers.

End number 7 was pivotal as Aon and Roger racked up

another score of 4 to leave Dean and Glenn 11-5 behind and needing a score of 6 to tie and 7 to win. Not an impossible task but unlikely, especially considering the fine form Aon and Roger were in.

Risking all on the final end Dean and Glenn were outmanoeuvred by Aon and Roger who not only protected their lead but also snatched another 2 points to win the championship by a score of 13-5.

The final score arguably distorted exactly how close the match was but there was no disputing the winners were worthy of their title as they both bowled outstandingly throughout the day.

Aon and Roger were crowned as first-time winners and deservedly presented with the brand-new pairs trophy,

which was generously donated by Cath Simmonds.

In the plate competition for league runners up, Carl Mesham and veteran George Sasanow defeated Doug Reid and Ian “Mintie” Mintern by 9 points to 6, which rounded off a top-quality competition played in the finest of spirits by all involved.

The next major competition is the “Blue Riband” Phuket Open Singles Championship on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> where another bumper, top-quality field is expected.

*Kamala Lawn Bowls Club is open six days a week. All equipment is provided and large parties can be gladly catered for. For further information please contact the club on 094-8987476 or 099-1307255.*

## Fully paid trip to Japan on offer at Kamala Beach Run

#### RUNNING

A CHARITY BEACH FUN RUN is being organised in Kamala tomorrow (Feb 18) with attractive prizes on offer including a fully paid trip to Hokkaido in Japan for the overall race winner.

Kamala Subdistrict Administrative Organisation, in collaboration with Dr Ling’s Hang Out Kamala bar and restaurant, are organising tomorrow’s event, titled “Run for Country”, which they hope will

attract plenty of participants to help boost the local economy in the area.

In an effort to attract the numbers organisers have confirmed that the main prize for the overall quickest runner is a trip to fully paid trip to Hokkaido island in northern Japan. The prize includes return flights from Phuket and full accommodation at a recently refurbished two-storey, nine-room hotel called Furano B&B in Kitanomine, Hokkaido prefecture, which, according to its website, is under new management and ideally located close to all amenities.

Organisers confirmed there will be additional prizes on offer on the day totalling more than B100,000.

Furthermore, there will be festivities and live entertainment courtesy of a live band at Dr Ling’s Hang Out where the post-race prizes will be distributed.

The race entry fee is B300 and all participants will receive a running shirt and access to food and refreshments throughout the day. The 6-kilometre race starts at 3pm and the meeting point prior is at Dr Ling’s Hang Out in Kamala.

Organisers explained that the race is geared to promoting tourism and to helping the local economy in the Kamala area.

It is hoped the race will attract tourists who may not have been to Kamala or the surrounding areas before who will be encouraged to explore the many local attractions on offer.

A portion of the overall funds raised will also go towards assisting the construction of Wat Somsri in Chaiyaphum Province, organisers confirmed.



More information is available by calling 094-9969956 or 090-6995459.  
The Phuket News