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# ROAM FREE

## LAST TIGERS RESCUED AS PHUKET ZOO CLOSES FOR GOOD



One of the tigers rescued from Phuket Zoo enjoys the new home at WFFT. Photo: WFFT

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Workers this week started cutting apart the cages at Phuket Zoo and the buildings are to be demolished as the owner-operator has confirmed that the site will be razed to become a coconut plantation.

Suriya Tanthawee Wong, 42, Phuket native and owner of the Phuket Zoo, told *The Phuket News* this week that

he doubted he would ever return to operating a zoo – even if tourists return in large numbers.

“Phuket Zoo is closed. Now, we are planting coconut trees in the area to change the use of the land. The former zoo area was 30 rai. We are transforming the whole area into a coconut plantation,” Mr Suriya said.

“Now there are no animals left. We have already found homes for all of the animals, and we probably will not return to operating a zoo again

in the future,” he added.

Mr Suriya blamed the COVID pandemic for the closure of the zoo, which had been operating for 26 years. “Phuket Zoo had been in operation since 1996. The main reason for this closure was the impact of COVID-19. We started to close at that time [in 2020]. We could not bear the cost because there was no income from tourists coming in,” he said.

Over the years, the zoo had gained a notorious reputation among animal

lovers around the world for the conditions the animals were kept in.

Asked what he would like Phuket Zoo to be remembered for, Mr Suriya said he did not want to mention the past. “Let’s just adjust according to the current situation,” he said.

The move to dismantle the cages and raze the buildings follows the Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT), led by Edwin Wiek, successfully rescuing 11 tigers and two bears from the zoo...

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**Vachira probed  
over newborn's  
broken arm**



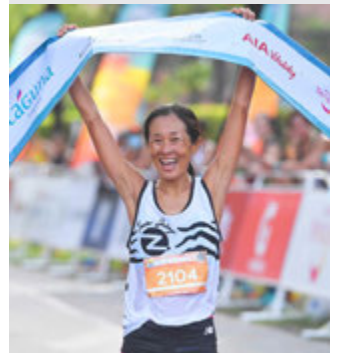
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## News



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# Demolition of Phuket Zoo begins

Continued from page 1

“They are now all at our facilities. However, we are still to rescue six macaques and one gibbon, for whom we still need to raise funds,” Mr Wiek told *The Phuket News*.

“For now all tiger enclosures are ready and open for the tigers to explore, but we are also needing to build one more enclosure, in case that some of them are unable to stay together. All tigers are now in total sharing four enclosures,” he said.

## TIGER RESCUE

Preparations for the rescue operation to safely take into care 11 tigers from the zoo – touted as the largest single tiger-rescue operation in Thailand’s history – began early this year.

Staff at WFFT, based in Phetchaburi, first created two enclosures, one nine rai and the other 10 rai, each with ponds and trees and space for

the tigers to roam

In marking the rescue of Mukda, a 19-year-old Bengal tiger rescued from Phuket Zoo, WFFT last Sunday (June 13) noted, “This is Mukda’s FIRST time outside in a natural habitat. This is the magical difference we make, together!”

“This approximately 19-year-old Bengal tiger’s life story is a bit of a mystery, but we can only assume she was born in a zoo and has only ever known concrete cages. Just look how mesmerised she is by her new-found freedom.”

Mukda was one of several tigers rescued from the zoo earlier this month. Among them, Baithong, Mena and Maruay have also taken to their new home with enthusiasm.

“Mr Maruay, rescued from Phuket Zoo, is absolutely loving his new life... Please join our Tiger Care Team today, and help these majestic animals get the essential care they need after so many years



A worker cuts apart one of the cages at Phuket Zoo. Photo: WFFT

at Phuket Zoo,” WFFT said on June 10 in its appeal for ongoing financial support to continue to provide care for the animals.

Maruay arrived at the sanctuary along with fellow tiger Mee Mee. Their rescue was followed by that of three other tigers: Rambo, Pong and Paeng

“After a long journey to WFFT, we’re pleased to update you that the three new-

est tigers: Rambo, Pong and Paeng are all doing well. We look forward to sharing more updates on them and hopefully soon, they’ll be outside enjoying their expansive habitats and first taste of a semi-wild life. We want to thank our supporters again for making this happen,” WFFT said gratefully on June 9.

“At WFFT, they have pools to swim, grasslands to hide

in and expansive habitats to rediscover their natural behaviours,” the wildlife welfare organisation said.

## BEAR NECESSITIES

While the international spotlight has been on the rescue of the tigers, WFFT has also taken into care two bears from Phuket Zoo who had lived their whole lives in small cages. One is an Asiatic black bear more than 20 years old, and the other a Malayan sun bear more than 10 years old, WFFT explained in a release appealing for funds to safely keep the bears in good health.

Funds are needed to build liveable enclosures for the bears, and to feed them. “Please help us build them the enclosures they so deserve with a lake, shelters, trees to climb and natural terrain – so they can start to overcome their trauma and learn to be bears again,” WFFT urged in its appeal.

“We urgently need to raise the funds to build the Phuket Zoo bears enclosures here at WFFT. Each enclosure will cost around 14,000 euros. Will you please give a gift today, so these bears can finally get the natural, spacious homes and care they urgently need?”

Ongoing support is also needed to feed and care for the tigers, Mr Wiek told *The Phuket News*.

Feeding the tigers requires four to five kilogrammes of meat every day, Mr Wiek explained. “Mostly chicken, with different meats added on different days, such as pork and beef,” he said.

The animals will also need regular medical and health checks, he added.

To learn more about WFFT, or to help support the sanctuary’s new inhabitants, visit the official WFFT website at [www.wfft.org](http://www.wfft.org).

Additional reporting by  
Chutharat Plerin

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## DSI chief in Phuket over Layan land grab

TRAIYARIT TEMHIWONG, DIRECTOR-General of the Department of Special Investigation (DSI), was in Phuket last week to explain to Phuket officials nothing more than that the DSI was still investigating specific claims to parcels of land among the 178 rai at Layan Beach that the Supreme Court has already ruled is state land.

During his visit, on June 7, Mr Traiyarit brought with him an entourage of DSI officials, including Pol Lt Col Piya Raksakul, Director of the DSI’s Banking and Money Laundering Division; DSI Secretary Pol Lt Col Thas Laothawee; Deputy Spokesperson and DSI Director of Public Relations Yaninee Kiatphai boon; and Supachai Khamkhum, Director of the DSI Special Case Operations Center, Region 8 branch.

Joining Phuket Governor Narong Woonciw at the meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall were Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Phinsuwan and a host of heads of local government offices, including the Thalang District Chief and officers from the Phuket Provincial Land Office.

Mr Traiyarit explained that he had requested the meeting following his office receiving a request from the Governor of Phuket, following the governor receiving a letter from the Thalang District Chief.

At the meeting it was explained that Phuket Provincial Land Office had set up a special committee “to consider the matter according to the details of the relevant court judgments by providing fairness to all parties including stakeholders such as tenants, people who had taken out mortgages, etc,”



DSI Chief Traiyarit Temhiwong.  
Photo: PR Phuket

said a DSI report of the meeting.

Mr Traiyarit pointed out that the Supreme court had already ruled that the 178 rai, estimated to be worth B50 billion in total, was state land.

“In the judgment it is clearly stated that the land in that area is the public domain of the land,” he said.

However, it was not explained why special consideration was being provided by local land officials or the DSI to people involved in the multi-billion-baht land grab over land that has not once, but twice been ruled by the Supreme Court to be state land.

Of note, the report marked that Mr Traiyarit added, “As for the special case, the lawsuit was brought against the relevant government officials until the court has a final judgment punishing the offender.”

The DSI report of the meeting and the report of the meeting by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket) both did not identify which government officials had been found guilty of any criminal activity involving people laying claims to the land. *The Phuket News*



# Hospital faces police probe over baby harm

**Eakkapop Thongtub**  
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The parents of a newborn girl who suffered a broken arm while in care at Vachira Phuket Hospital have filed a formal complaint with police to pursue charges.

The parents, mother Atchara Chantrat and father Chakkrit Nimnoo, filed the formal complaint at Phuket City police Station on June 10. Lt Col Ying Chittiwa Thanavitwilas, Deputy Chief of Investigation at Phuket City Police, received the complaint.

The formal complaint followed Vachira Phuket Hospital Director Dr Weerasak Lorthongkham, joined by a team of doctors and nurses, holding a press conference at the hospital on June 8 – after the parents brought the matter to the attention of the police.

Dr Weerasak apologised for the incident and explained that the breaking of the newborn's arm was likely due to the way the baby had been swaddled, with handling of the baby in accordance with standard procedures likely



leading to the breaking of the arm.

However, Dr Weerasak did not admit any responsibility of the hospital for the injury to the infant, and did not name any person responsible for the broken arm.

Mr Chakkrit on June 10 said he and Ms Atchara were not satisfied with the hospital's response.

The couple had previously repeatedly asked for an explanation as to how their newborn baby girl had suffered a broken arm. Their

pleas were ignored until they filed a statement of the incident at Phuket City Police Station on June 7, leading to Dr Weerasak's press conference on June 8.

"The hospital is taking responsibility only for the cost of treatment [for the broken arm], but no responsibility for the person responsible. We do not know who that person is yet, so we decided to file a complaint for breaking the law," Mr Chakkrit said.

"The hospital has set up a committee to investigate this

matter, but has not specified a date for announcing the results [of the investigation]. Therefore, outside agencies, such as the police, Ombudsman's Office and the media, and others, are encouraged to come and help check on this as well," he added.

"Right now we are stressed and worried about our daughter. Will the broken arm present difficulties in the future? Will it return to the way it was before? Because when she was born, everything was normal.

"We would like to know the results of the hospital's work on who broke the child's arm. Therefore we came to file this complaint to encourage Vachira Phuket Hospital to work faster, because it feels like the hospital is hiding something and we have no confidence in the hospital," Mr Chakkrit said.

"We must agree that she [his daughter] receives full treatment for her arm, but I really hope this is the last time we deal with the hospital. I want the person responsible to be accountable according to the law," he said.

## Couple charged for beating toddler to death

A CHALONG COUPLE have been charged for repeatedly beating a 3-year-old from which the young girl died as a result of her injuries.

Lt Gen Amphon Buarabporn, Commander of Region 8 Police, based at the north end of the island, announced the news at a press conference on June 8, joined by Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Sermphan Sirikong and Chalong Police Chief Col Ekarat Plaidueng.

Police were alerted to the brutal treatment of the child when Chalong Hospital at 5pm on June 5 notified Lt Col Somkiat Sarasit, Deputy Chief of Investigation of the Chalong Police, that a young child had died at the hospital, Lt Gen Amphon said.

Officers arrived at the hospital to find the girl dead in the emergency room.

The girl's father, Wanwichai Thienhom, told police that before bringing the girl to the hospital she had vomited and tensed up.

However, the young girl had bruises all over her body, as well as on her left cheek and forehead.

Doctors conducting a post-mortem examination



performed later at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town counted 23 separate bruises – all believed to have been caused by a blunt instrument and all believed to have been inflicted in the past six weeks.

The cause of death was given as abdominal bleeding from multiple bruises in the intestines.

"From the investigation and collection of evidence in the case, there is evidence confirming those who attacked the victim," Maj Gen Amphon said.

Wanwichai and the girl's stepmother, Wanwilai Samnieng, 28, have both been charged for the girl's death, in accordance with an arrest warrant issued by Phuket Provincial Court on June 7, Maj Gen Amphon confirmed.

No other details of the couple's arrest were provided. *Eakkapop Thongtub*

## National Parks still charging foreigners five times more

THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) began enforcing its new schedule of fees on June 7, which continues the DNP practice of charging foreigners five times more than Thais for entering a national park.

The fees were approved by DNP Director General Thanya Netithammakul on Nov 18, last year, and became law with the promulgation of the "Regulations of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation on the collection and exemption of service or compensation and service fees or compensation in service and to provide facilities in national parks, forest parks, botanical gardens and Arboretum 2021" on Dec 9, last year.

However, the schedule of fees did not come into effect until June 7.

Under the new schedule of fees, listed under Group 4 of the schedule, entry to the Similan Islands and Surin Islands national parks costs Thai nationals B50 per child and B100 per adult. Foreigners are charged B250 per child and B500 per adult.

Group 2 of the schedule lists entry to Khao Sok National Park north of Phuket, the tourist-popular Nopparat Thara Beach - Phi Phi Islands National Park in Krabi, and Sirinath National Park on Phuket's west coast as costing B20 per child and B40 per adult for Thai nationals. Foreigners are charged B100 per child and B200 per adult.

The new schedule of fees comes into



effect while the country continues to struggle to attract tourists to help the economy recover, especially in economically hard-hit areas that are dependent on tourists, such as Phuket.

The new fees also came into effect on the same day that Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha was in Phuket to announce his new 'SMILES' strategy for helping the battered tourism industry to recover.

*The Phuket News* maintains that the dual-pricing policy practiced by the DNP, and long supported by the Royal Thai Government, is illegal as it breaches Section 27 of the Constitution of Thailand for "Unjust discrimination against a person on the grounds of differences in origin".

*The Phuket News*

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## PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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TUE JUNE 21



High: +32°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

WED JUNE 22



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Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

THU JUNE 23



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

## MRTA puts light rail fares to the polls

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

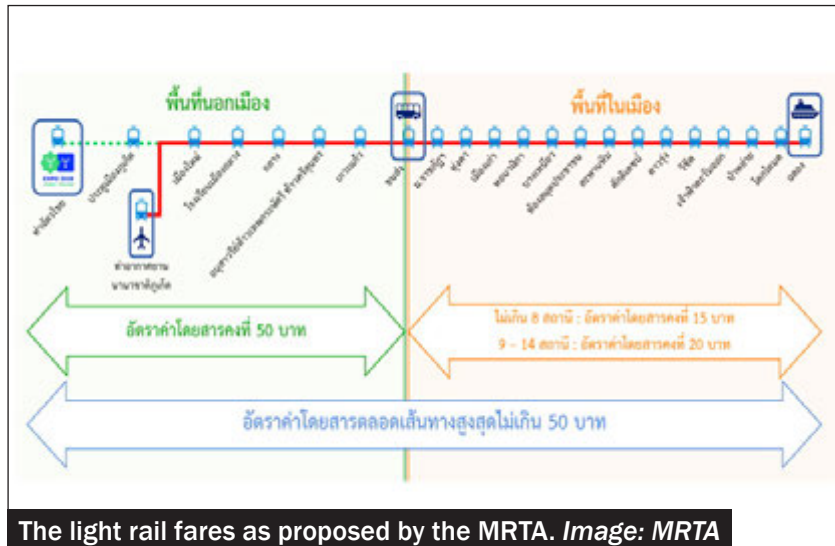
The Mass Rapid Transport Authority (MRTA) has begun gathering public opinion on two issues related to the Phuket light rail project. Respondents are asked to evaluate the proposed fare scheme, as well as provide feedback on the proposal to extend the line further to Tha Chatchai during Phase 1 to accommodate Specialized Expo visitors in 2028.

Opinions are collected online where people are asked to fill in a form posted on the MRTA website: [www.mrta.co.th/phuket-form/index.html](http://www.mrta.co.th/phuket-form/index.html). There are no restrictions on who can speak out; the only personal data required is an email address.

Before proceeding to the main questions, the respondents are asked to specify where they reside (in Phuket or outside) and tell how much time they usually spend traveling in Phuket. It is believed the MRTA means some sort of regular commuting such as everyday trips from home to work and back.

The questionnaire then proceeds to the agree/disagree question about the proposed fares for the light rail project, scheduled to open in 2026.

For the purposes of tariffing, MRTA proposes to divide the entire route into two parts: rural and urban. The suburban area will include all stations from Tha Chatchai or/including Phuket International Airport to Phuket Bus Terminal 2 in Rassada. The urban zone will include all stops from Phuket Bus Terminal 2 to Chalong Pier.



The light rail fares as proposed by the MRTA. Image: MRTA

The proposed pricing scheme is as follows: Rural zone - B50; Urban zone - B15 for 1-8 stations, B20 for 9-14 stations; Full route - B50.

Respondents are kindly asked to just answer whether they agree with the proposed scheme or disagree.

The MRTA also asks the respondents to share their opinion on the idea of expanding the first phase of the project and extending the light rail route to the northernmost point of the island, adding the Phuket Gateway and Tha Chatchai stations. The agency explains that Phuket is currently bidding to host the Specialized Expo in 2028 and if the island is granted the privilege to host the event, the light rail will be a comfortable means of transportation for the expo visitors.

The question is as simple as agree or disagree.

However, the survey form has a separate field for extra suggestions and opinions for respondents to provide deeper feedback.

## PHUKET LIGHT RAIL

Announced more than a decade ago, the Phuket new mass transit project presupposes building a light rail route from Tha Noon in Phang Nga province to Chalong Pier through Phuket Town with a separate branch line to Phuket International Airport.

Thus, the route should run from the northernmost point all the way down south to Chalong through the entire island and remove some of the traffic load from Thepkasattri Rd, currently the main transport artery of Phuket. A lengthy stretch of the railway route should go literally on the middle lane of Thepkasattri Rd, where palm trees and other trees are now planted.

In its current iteration, the light railway project presupposes utilising low-floor trams 2.4-2.65m wide and 30-40m long. However, various options are being discussed such as trams with metal wheels versus rubber tires, autonomous buses, etc. Officials

freely refer to the proposed transport as a railway, a tram, or sometimes even a monorail.

There should be 23 stops on the line if the branch starts from Tha Chatchai and 21 stops if the airport is the northernmost point.

The Phuket Town part of the light rail project will require some of the city's streets to be made one-way. It will also be necessary to organise parking areas near the stations, including a large parking lot for 200 cars and 500 motorcycles at Chalong Pier.

In November 2021, it was announced at a public hearing that the construction of the light railway should begin in 2023 with operation expected to begin in 2026.

So far, the budget of the first phase in its original form (from Phuket International Airport to Chalong) is estimated at B35 billion, the budget for the second phase (from Tha Noon to the airport, including Tha Chatchai and Phuket Gateway) has not yet been announced.



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

## Driver, 74, dies as truck runs off road

A 74-YEAR-OLD MAN DIED when the six-wheeled truck loaded with sandbags he was driving ran off the road and down a steep slope in Chalong last Friday (June 10).

Police and rescue workers were called to the scene, in Soi Nakok, Moo 5, Chalong, at about 8:45am.

The truck was found overturned some 20 metres down the steep roadside slope.

The body of the driver, Deen Jaruek, originally from Tambon Thung Maphrao in Thai Mueang District, Phang Nga province, was found nearby.

Mr Deen had suffered a broken neck.

At this stage police believe the accident was caused by brake failure.

At last report an investigation into the accident was ongoing.

Eakkapop Thongtub

## Vachira continues walk-in jabs

VACHIRA PHUKET HOSPITAL in Phuket Town is continuing its walk-in COVID vaccinations freely available to Thais and foreigners throughout June.

The vaccination injections are available for people receiving their first, second, third or fourth jab.

The vaccines provided are Sinovac, AstraZeneca, Pfizer for children 5-11 years old and Pfizer for adults.

The jabs are provided Monday-Friday, at the Khao Lan area at the hospital from 9am-11am and from 1pm-3pm.

In order to receive a vaccination jab, foreigners need to present only their passport, while Thais need to present only their government ID card.

The jabs provided for the rest of the month are as follows:

- Monday, June 20: Pfizer, for 5-11 year olds (50 only)
- Tuesday, June 21: Pfizer, for 5-11 year olds (50 only)



Photo: Vachira Hospital Phuket

- Wednesday, June 22: Sinovac (50 people only), AstraZeneca (50 only)

- Thursday, June 23: Sinovac (50 people only), AstraZeneca (50 only), Pfizer for adults (100 only)

- Friday, June 24: Sinovac (50 people only), AstraZeneca (50 only)

- Monday, June 27: Sinovac (50 people only), AstraZeneca (50 only)

- Tuesday, June 28: Sinovac (50 people only), AstraZeneca (50 only)

- Wednesday, June 29: Sinovac (50 people only), AstraZeneca (50 only)

- Thursday, June 30: Sinovac (50 people only), AstraZeneca (50 only), Pfizer for adults (100 only)

The Phuket News

the Phuket news



# Tourists charged over Russian's condo fall

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Three tourists have been charged over the death of a Russian woman who fell eight stories from a condo in Patong late last month, Region 8 Police Commander Lt Gen Amphon Buarabporn has confirmed.

The three were charged with recklessness causing death over the incident, which saw Russian national Evgeniia Smirnova, 35, plunge to her death on May 31, he said.

The three charged are US citizen Jamaal Antwaun Smith, 38, Jordanian national Ahmad Radi Mustafa Alatoom, 28, and Russian national Natalia Kosenkova, 35.

All three were in the condo when Ms Smirnova fell.

Lt Gen Amphon said an autopsy had confirmed that Ms Smirnova was heavily intoxicated at the time of her death. "She was very drunk," he said.

"All four of them were very drunk," he added.

Ms Smirnova went to use the external stairs connecting



Lt Gen Amphon announced that the three tourists had been charged. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

the seventh and eighth floors, "which was very dangerous", Lt Gen Amphon said.

"Everyone involved in the incident said that this person [Ms Smirnova] was drunk and unable to climb the stairs," he continued.

Officers had found in the condo a small amount of marijuana, for which the three remaining tourists have been charged for joint possession of a Category 5 narcotic, he added.

However, Lt Gen Amphon made no mention about

the safety of the external staircase on the building that Ms Smirnova fell from, The Emerald Terrace condo off Phra Barami Rd, or confirm whether the staircase complied with building regulations with a low handrail as the only barrier to prevent people from falling over the side.

Regardless, in light of Ms Smirnova's death, Region 8 Police are very concerned for tourists' safety, Lt Gen Amphon said, while assuring that Phuket is a safe place to visit on holiday.

"I ask everyone to help take care of the tourists, and what is implied in such an incident, such as [tourists] getting drunk or travelling alone or in dangerous places and so on, please help support and take care of tourists," he said.

"Now tourists are starting to come in, about 4,000 people a day, with Phuket regaining its popularity as a tourist destination, which is good and beneficial for the economy. We ask people to take care of tourists in particular, we ask people to take care of them because they are our paying guests.

"Don't let issues become unclear or not transparent, the issue will only be talked about in a damaging way. With this situation, the Russian consulate has acknowledged that we have done our best in everything, nothing has been hidden," he said.

Lt Gen Amphon said tourist safety had been made a high priority at a provincial level, with heads of local government offices and agencies – including police, Navy officers and Tourist Police.

## 'Rock on the Beach' Festival hits Patong

PATONG BEACH IS HOSTING the 'Rock on the Beach Music Festival' at Loma Park this weekend as the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) aims to hold more events to attract tourists to the area.

After being held in Patong from today through Sunday (June 17-19), the 'Rock on the Beach Music Festival' will then be hosted at Takola Yacht Marina in Krabi on June 24-26, explained Thapanee Kiatpaiboon, TAT Deputy Governor of Domestic Marketing.

Both events are to be held from 3pm-10pm and entry is free.

The events combined are expected to attract about 2,500 Thai and foreign tourists a day, and a total of no less than 15,000 people, Ms Thapanee said.

The music festival is being organised under the "Thailand Festival Experience" project, using the "Soft Power of Thailand" to attract tourists, she said.

The "soft power" campaign is being rolled out under the TAT's "6F, 4M" concept, namely Food, Film, Fashion Festival, Fight, Friendship and



Image: Patong Municipality

Music, Museums, Master and Meta, she added.

"The aim of the festival is to encourage tourists to travel to and distribute income to business operators in the area," Ms Thapanee said.

The TAT is targeting quality tourists as well as expanding the base of quality tourists from abroad, she added.

"We are targeting tourists in high-income countries with high spending to travel more in the country," she said.

Patong Municipality began promoting the event locally on June 8, announcing that Violette Wautier is to perform tonight (June 17), Ink Waranthon on Saturday (June 18) and The Parkinson on Sunday (June 19).

The time the concerts were to start had yet to be announced.

*The Phuket News*



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# PDPA compliance – the lowdown

## LEGAL MATTERS

Dr Paul Crosio

Effective from June 1, Thailand's Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) B.E. 2562 [2019] regulates the collection, use and protection of personal data and establishes corrective measures against data misuse. The good news is that if you're already compliant with the equivalent EU legislation (GDPR), like many companies in Thailand, you probably don't need to worry.

Thailand's PDPA is heavily based on the EU's GDPR and was proposed by the government in May 2018, though not identical in all respects. While following the GDPR does not guarantee compliance with the PDPA, it does get very close.

PDPA applies to all entities located in Thailand, whether they collect and use the data in Thailand or not. It also applies to entities outside Thailand offering goods and services to users in Thailand. PDPA employs a risk-based approach. Businesses are required to prevent misuse of the data they collect and PDPA compliance always starts with a data privacy policy and procedures that comply with the PDPA.

Because the PDPA is based on the GDPR, there are significant similarities. Both contain comparable rules concerning data processing since both are concerned with consent, contract performance, legal responsibilities,

and legitimate or vital interests. Both laws guarantee data subjects' rights such as the right to be informed, the right to data portability, the right to access, and the right to be forgotten.

However, the PDPA and the GDPR do have some differences. Specifically, the PDPA is less precise than the GDPR regarding its definitions and the protection guaranteed is less strong under the PDPA, though the enforcement is more punishing, and the material scope is slightly different.

Unlike the GDPR, the PDPA does not apply to certain public agencies, and the GDPR's definition of "personal data" is more precise, including IP addresses and cookie identifiers, which the PDPA does not cover. Unlike the GDPR, the PDPA does not define

anonymised or pseudonymised data, even though it provides that a data subject has the right to anonymise their personal data.

### UPDATE YOUR POLICY – IT'S EASY!

The PDPA requires that a website owner verify that their existing data policy complies with the PDPA or it needs to be updated. Businesses should review and upgrade all internal personal data policies, agreements, and procedures if non-compliant. If you already comply with GDPR, then you probably meet these standards already.

### ENSURE THE VALIDITY OF THE CONSENT

Businesses must obtain users'

consent to collect their data, perhaps via pop-ups or a click affirmation to give clear and explicit consent. You should also clearly inform the user about the purpose of data collection and the possibility of withdrawing it. When switching from GDPR to PDPA-compliant websites and vice versa, the website owner needs to contact users to obtain their consent to collect or retain their data or give them the choice to clear the data already collected.

### CROSS-BORDER DATA PRIVACY TRANSFER

The GDPR recognises data privacy transfer between countries. This is not the case under the PDPA as it does not automatically allow an

international data transfer outside Thailand, and then only when the receiving jurisdiction has established data protection measures that are equivalent to the PDPA or under restricted conditions. We would expect countries that meet GDPR standards to comply, but this hasn't been tested.

### ENFORCE THE RIGHTS GUARANTEED

Businesses must enact appropriate mechanisms to ensure they respect individuals' rights to their personal data. A small difference is data portability; when refusing a request for data portability, PDPA requires that data controllers save the justification of objection for each request to verify the data subject and the competent authority involved. This is not the case under GDPR.






### IN SUMMARY...

If you are already GDPR compliant, there is not much to do to comply with PDPA since the GDPR is broader, more precise, and has a stronger legal framework and history.

As always, if in doubt consult with an experienced law firm as there are significant penalties if you get it wrong. Silk Legal has been advising clients on PDPA and GDPR compliance since the Thai law was announced and can be contacted for a compliance audit or simply consult on questions around the PDPA.

#### Brief Summary of the PDPA

##### What the PDPA entails for businesses

-  Significant investments need to be made into the right resources
-  Failure to comply with the PDPA will lead to heavy fines and penalties
-  Businesses have an additional responsibility of keeping personal data safe and secure
-  The PDPA is extraterritorial, meaning it affects all businesses serving the Thai market and Thailand-based customers
-  Businesses will have to designate a Data Protection Officer as well as a team that handles data security.

##### What is the PDPA directed towards?



Image: Silk Legal

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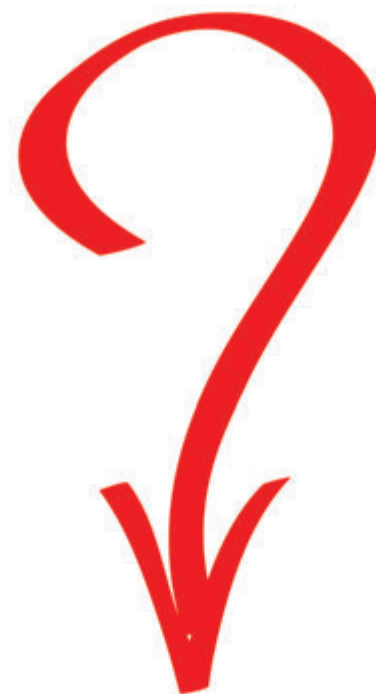
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# Cannabis worries outlined

## BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Cannabis use should be limited to medical purposes only, the chief of the Department of Medical Services said on Monday (June 13).

Director-general Somsak Akksilp warned against the recreational use of cannabis, especially among young people.

For children, cannabis should only be given to treat epilepsy when regular medicines are ineffective, he said.

For other medical purposes, cannabis should be used for palliative treatment and for cancer patients who suffer from nausea and vomiting after chemotherapy and do not respond to medication, Dr Somsak said.

He warned against the use of cannabis by people under 25 years, and for recreational purposes.

"Cannabis impacts the brain and the nervous system and especially with students, whose brains and learning capability are affected," Dr Somsak said. He urged schools, parents and others to be serious about protecting young



Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul inspects cannabis-based products at his ministry in Nonthaburi province last month. Photo: Pattarapong Chatpattarasill

people from cannabis use.

The Department of Medical Services emphasised that cannabis should be used for medical purposes only, and under doctors' supervision, he said.

"We know the pros well, but the cons include addiction and traffic accidents involving drivers under the influence. This already happens in other countries," Dr Somsak said.

Side effects included dry throat, palpitations, insomnia

and anxiety, he said.

Dr Somsak said that the department has already set up the hotline 1165 where people can seek advice on proper cannabis use.

He said more meetings are expected to discuss the pros and cons of cannabis use.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said he expects that a cannabis and hemp draft bill which passed its first reading last

week would become law as quickly as possible.

He said a House committee on vetting the draft bill will consider all public concerns about improper cannabis use, especially among adolescents who are regarded as the riskiest group for recreational use.

Anutin said he was thankful for public concerns over cannabis use raised by many stakeholders. The Ministry of Public Health will look into those concerns seriously, he said.

But he said wanted to make it clear that the ministry has supported cannabis use only for medical purposes and for stimulating the country's economic growth.

Anutin said improper use of cannabis has nothing to do with the government's policy.

Concerns over the recreational use of cannabis follow the plant's decriminalisation last week, with doctors citing problems surrounding a lack of proper regulations.

More than 150,000 people registered to cultivate cannabis via the application and website of the Food and Drug Administration as the legalisation of cannabis and hemp took effect on Thursday (June 9).



A still image from the video shows a police officer wrapping a plastic bag over Mr Jeerapong's head. Photo: Bangkok Post

## Life imprisonment for 'Joe Ferrari' and five police

### NAKHON SAWAN

SIX POLICEMEN WERE sentenced to life imprisonment last Wednesday (June 8) for torturing a drug suspect to death with plastic bags placed over his head.

The sentence was handed down to former Pol Col Thitisan Utthanaphon, 39, who was chief of Nakhon Sawan police station at the time, and five of his subordinates. Thitisan was also known by the nickname "Joe Ferrari" because of his collection of luxury cars.

From Aug 4-6, 2021, they detained drug suspect Jeerapong Thanapat, 24, for questioning at Nakhon Sawan station.

The suspect's head was covered with plastic bags during questioning and he died as a consequence. A video clip of the questioning was leaked, even though surveil-

lance cameras at the scene were removed afterwards.

The defendants were arraigned on charges of malfeasance, coercion and lethal torture.

Thitisan had denied allegations he and his team were trying to extort money from the suspect, saying they were trying to get information from him because they found pictures of drugs in the suspect's mobile phone.

Thitisan had also denied the fatal torture charge and the five other defendants denied all charges.

The Central Criminal Court for Corruption and Misconduct initially gave all six the death penalty.

The sentences were commuted to life because they confessed to some acts, attempted to resuscitate the suspect and gave financial assistance to the victim's family. Bangkok Post

## Same-sex partnership bill approved

### BANGKOK

THE CABINET HAS APPROVED A civil partnership bill that will allow same-sex couples to register their relationship, thus allowing them to receive the same benefits and rights which are accorded to heterosexual couples.

Speaking after the Cabinet meeting last Tuesday (June 7), Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said the move is in line with global trends on diversity, gender equality and human rights.

He said the bill's passing will necessitate amendments to other laws to ensure same-sex couples have the same rights as heterosexual couples – including the right to adopt and inheritance.

The Education Ministry has been instructed to hold public hearings to gather feedback from all stakeholders, including religious leaders.

"This is done to ensure the bill is free from flaw. It will be beneficial to society and in line with international standards," Prayut said.

Deputy government spokeswoman, Rachada Dhnadirek, said the cabinet also approved changes to the Civil and Commercial Codes to support the civil partnerships bill.

The Council of State, which is the government's legal advisory body, will scrutinise the civil partnerships bill, as well as the associated amendments.

Ms Rachada said the bill recognises same-sex civil partnership and grants same-sex couples rights which are accorded



A man holds a sign declaring, 'Love. Right to register marriage is a human right' in Bangkok, Feb 2020. Photo: Bangkok Post

to heterosexual couples, such as the right to adopt.

Under the bill, same-sex couples will be allowed to register their relationship so long as both partners are at least 17 years old. For the relationship to be recognised by the government, at least one individual in the relationship must be a Thai national.

Those who are under the age of 17 must have the permission from their parents, legal guardians, or a court of law. Once a minor registers the relationship with authorities, he or she will no longer be considered as a minor.

In addition to allowing same-sex couples to adopt, the bill also allows a partner to inherit assets left behind by their partner after his or her death.

Under the bill, a civil partnership ends when a partner dies, or when a partner applies to separate, for instance, in the case of abuse or abandonment.

Separations and other disputes relating to same-sex couples will be handled by the Central and Juvenile Family Court.

Bangkok Post



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A wide range of goods can be found at the swapshop.



Sarha Robinson (left) Yoana Estevez.

# The Phuket Swapshop



## SUSTAINABLY YOURS

Palmer Owyong

**Y**ou loved that new shirt when you tried it on in the store, but when you got it home, it was too long or too short, too bright or too drab, too snug or too loose. You wore it once or twice and then tossed it into the back of your closet of regrets.

According to California Closet chief design officer, most people only wear about 20% of their clothes regularly. The rest gets thrown out in the next spring cleaning.

### The Environmental Cost of Clothes

The problem is that every article of clothing you buy has a huge environmental cost. The fashion industry produces 10% of the world's greenhouse gases, which is more than shipping and air travel combined.

It takes 3,781 litres of water to make one pair of jeans, which creates about 33.4 kilogrammes of carbon. Then there are synthetic clothes, which when

washed, dump half a million tonnes of microplastics into the ocean per year, the equivalent of 50 billion plastic bottles, which end up in our food chain. Despite the environmental costs, globally an average garment is worn 120 times. However, this number drops precipitously in wealthier countries like the UK and the US, where an average piece of clothing is worn just seven times.

About 87% of these clothes end up being disposed of in a landfill or incinerated, with the average American throwing away about 32kg of clothes per year. The most common reason sighted was because of weight change, another was that it was an impulse buy.

In this age of fast fashion, we are constantly being manipulated by social media influencers, advertising, and our peers into buying the latest trends and styles to "keep up". But is any of this even making us happy?

### Materialism Doesn't Make Us Happy

Studies show that in general, materialistic people are less happy and more insecure. According to psychologist Tim Kasser, "We found that the more highly people endorsed materialistic values, the more they experienced unpleasant emotions, depression and anxiety, the more they reported physical health problems, such as stomachaches and headaches, and the less they experienced pleasant emotions and felt satisfied with their lives." According to Kasser, materialistic people use stuff to fulfil their unmet psychological needs.

A study from the University of Arizona says that buying less stuff can make you happier. According to Sabrina Helm, who authored the study, "People who buy less and consume less show less depressive symptoms, so there's a positive mental health effect."

**Creating a Circular Economy on Phuket** Some say that the solution to our wasteful ways is a circular economy, which is based on three principles

- Eliminate waste and pollution
- Circulate products and materials (at their highest value)
- Regenerate nature

### The Phuket Swapshop

The Phuket Swapshop is a step toward a circular economy and embodies the second principle "circulate products and materials". This means getting away from the "buy and throw away" mentality that we have become accustomed to. It means reusing and repairing things when they can be, and taking the raw

materials and recycling them into something new when they can't. This way, nothing is wasted.

As the saying goes, "One person's trash is another person's treasure".

Yoanna Estevez and Sarha Robinson currently run the Phuket Swapshop and are two best friends who are both primary school teachers. The idea began in 2019, originally organised by their mutual friend who invited people to vegan cafes and restaurants around the island to exchange their used clothes, books, and household items.

After the founder left the island, she passed it on to the two friends who were inspired by the videos from the beginning of the pandemic, of clear canals in Venice, and news that the ozone hole was restoring itself after decades of deterioration.

Wanting to do their part to help our planet heal, the Swapshop was relaunched on July 4, 2020, but the two were not satisfied with just exchanging stuff. They wanted to support local charities, so they invited their friends, local artists, and musicians to perform and started charging a B200 entrance fee. The first charity was the Life & Home Foundation Orphanage, but they have since raised funds for elephant sanctuaries, an elderly care home, schools and other orphanages.

The premise is simple. You bring your "pre-loved treasures" and leave them in a drop-off zone. They then distribute the items over several tables, which usually include a wide assortment of clothes, books, kitchenware, sports equipment, furniture, toys, shoes and home décor.

You are then welcome to choose from among the goods, picking up as many things as you like. What isn't taken is given to charities around the island.

Besides the "pre-loved treasures", artisanal vendors sell handmade and organic products, like natural soaps, jewellery, artwork and kombucha.

Yoanna and Sarha see the Swapshop as an opportunity to get people away from the big shopping malls and the destructive, fast fashion they sell and a way to give back to the community that they've called home for the past four years.

If you'd like to attend, the next Phuket Swapshop will be held at Boat Lagoon on Saturday, June 18. You can also follow them on their Facebook Page: phuketswapshop.

*Palmer Owyong is an environmental activist working with the Kamala Green Club and the Global Sustainability Hub.*

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# Phuket marks World Oceans Day

**The Phuket News**  
editor1@classactmedia.co.th

**V**arawut Silpa-archa, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), at Loma Park in Patong Beach on June 8 presided over a major event to mark World Oceans Day that was broadcast to more than 30 countries worldwide.

The event was held under the theme “Revitalization: Collective Action for the Ocean”, with the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) hosting similar events in 10 coastal provinces.

The event was to encourage Thai people to conserve and take care of marine resources,” Mr Varawut said.

“To join us to solve problems that accumulated over a long time – including the problem of marine debris, the problem of deteriorating sea water quality, the problem of overfishing, and alleviating global climate change problems – with a commitment to preserve the sea for a long time by not leaving a burden for future generations to face and solve problems caused by today’s generation,” Mr Varawut said.

Collective action is needed, Mr Varawut added.

“All sectors of the community are at the heart of ocean recovery and to make that recovery remain balanced and sustainable,” he noted.

“Currently, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is in the process of accelerating the [conserva-



Photo: Royal Thai Navy

tion] work so that the results can be seen more clearly. especially accelerating our approach to drive the work more efficiently and create a variety of alliances to move forward together in unity.

“The events to mark World Oceans Day were to provide opportunities for people in communities to join together to show the power to conserve Thai marine resources,” Mr Varawut explained.

The event included a showcase of Thai cultural performances, an exhibition of marine resources conservation and successes in marine resource management.

Badges of honour emblazoned “Love the sea the most” were awarded to those who have taken part in marine

conservation efforts and a plaques of honour were awarded to organisations and collective groups who have worked towards the conservation of marine and coastal resources.

Also present to officiate the event were MNRE Permanent Secretary Jatuporn Burusphat, DMCR Director-General Sophon Thongdee, Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew, Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) President Rewat Areerob and a host of local officials, including Patong Mayor Chalerm Sak Maneesri.

Mr Varawut noted, “The marine and coastal resources of Phuket is an important natural resource that generates income and nourishes the people of Phuket, which is ready to accommodate

millions of tourists per year. It generates hundreds of billions of baht in revenue for the country each year.”

“I am proud to see my brothers and sisters in Thailand help to oversee and drive the conservation of marine and coastal resources in Thailand to be evident in many countries, along with expressing the intention of working to preserve the sea for sustainable conservation.

“We will not leave a burden on future generations in facing and solving problems posed by our generation. We believe that the power of the Thai people and cooperation from various sectors is the key to restoring and saving the oceans to remain balanced and sustainable forever,” he said.

Mr Varawut vowed greater coordination to accelerate work efficiency and create diverse partnerships to work together in a unified way.

The event also hosted the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Marine Waste Management by representatives from government agencies, business interests and local communities in pilot areas to help reduce waste in five main estuaries: the Bang Pakong River, the Chao Phraya River, the Tha Chin River, the Mekong River and the Bang Tu Poon River.

The MoU hopes to work towards zero waste being emptied into the rivers, and includes support for waste traps to reduce the proliferation of marine debris.

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## POP QUIZ

1. "Generation Alpha" is defined as people born after which year?
2. How long is the outside lane of a 400-metre running track?
3. What number is the only runway at Phuket International Airport designated as?
4. What was Eleanor Roosevelt's maiden name?
5. An 'ostentation' is a group of which animal?

Answers below, centre

## SUDOKU

Easy

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

## Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

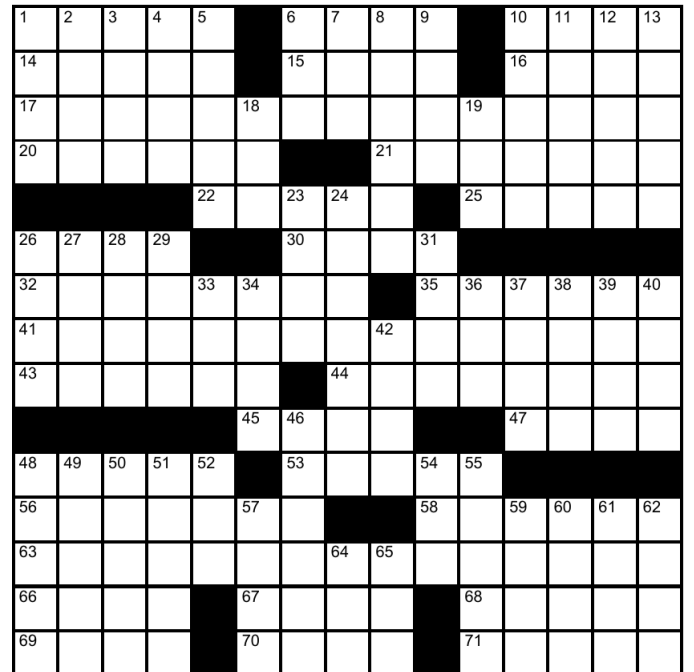
Across

1. Founder of PLF
6. Time out?
10. Morrison and Cramer
14. It was founded in 1909
15. Surgeon
16. Berry touted as medicinal
17. Home-builders association?
20. Skeleton parts
21. Laurels
22. Asportation, e.g.
25. Marshal
26. Aggregation
30. To boot
32. Succulent plant
35. Benign tumor
41. Extortionist?
43. Ranges
44. 1992 Christopher Reid movie
45. Bibliographic abbr.
47. Kid
48. Group of eight
53. Rice
56. Involuntary response
58. Entry
63. Grimm duo?

66. Bladed weapon
67. Descendant of Hezekiah
68. Harden
69. 1990 World Series champs
70. Mug variety
71. In a pen

Down

1. Hill dwellers
2. Thai currency
3. Plain
4. Maple genus
5. Done for
6. Special effects: Abbr.
7. Food scrap
8. Sacred songs
9. Some punches
10. Quipster
11. Less cordial
12. Fruit residue
13. Cream puff
18. \_\_\_-di-dah
19. Pilot's announcement, for short
23. All \_\_\_
24. Train part
26. Normal prefix
27. Astringent
28. \_\_\_ jellies
29. Cap
31. Guisado cooker
33. Chow checker
34. It may follow something
36. "\_\_\_ De-Lovely"
37. Head-turner
38. Thumbs-up
39. Jagger
40. Penny, perhaps
42. In a bad way
46. Plant native to South America
48. Catchall category
49. \_\_\_ myrtle
50. Shaded
51. Vaulted recesses
52. Expire
54. Make a sharp turn
55. Large amounts
57. Blind segment
59. Copper
60. Case
61. Dehydrated
62. Winter toy
64. Kan. neighbor
65. Like some humor

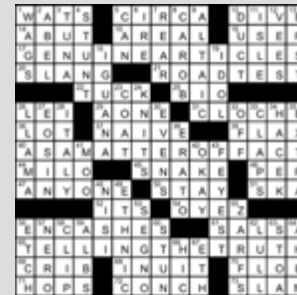


Visit: [www.ilovecrosswords.com](http://www.ilovecrosswords.com)

## Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) 2010; 2) 453 metres; 3) 09; 4) Roosevelt; 5) Peacock

## Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

## GOT YOUR NUMBER

6

minutes is how long it takes for the brain to react to alcohol.

12

minutes is how long it would take a Bugatti Veyron, travelling at top speed, to empty its 26-gallon tank.

80

percent of the toilets in Hong Kong are flushed using seawater to conserve the city's freshwater resources.

7,641

islands make up the Philippines. It was thought to be 7,107 until the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority discovered more in 2016.

2 million

US dollars is how much GPS costs a day. It's free for the entire world except for Americans. Taxpayers in the US fund it.

Source: *Uberfacts*

## ISLAND VIEW



Patong Bay as seen from Kalim. Photo by Cathy Bacorro

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

## This week in history

June 17, 1991

The South African Parliament repeals the Population Registration Act, the legal foundation of apartheid, which required racial classification of all South Africans at birth.

June 18, 1858

Charles Darwin receives a paper from Alfred Russel Wallace that includes nearly identical conclusions about evolution as his own, prompting Darwin to publish his theory.

June 19, 2012

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange requests asylum at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London for fear of extradition to the US after publication of previously classified documents including footage of civilian killings by the US army.

June 20, 1837

Queen Victoria succeeds to the British throne. She is 18 years old.



Queen Victoria. Coronation portrait by George Hayter.

June 21, 1982

John Hinckley is found not guilty by reason of insanity for the attempted assassination of US President Ronald Reagan.

June 22, 1986

The famous Hand of God goal, scored by Diego Maradona in the 1986 FIFA World Cup quarter-final between Argentina and England, ignites controversy. Four minutes later, it is followed by Maradona's Goal of the Century.

June 23, 2016

The United Kingdom votes in a referendum to leave the European Union, by 52% to 48%. Source: *Wikipedia*



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## PHUKET SUNDOWNERS HOSTED BY AUSTCHAM - JUNE 2022

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (AMCHAM), British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber of Commerce, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC) and Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce, hosted the Phuket Sundowners held on Friday, June 10, at the Angsana Laguna Phuket.



## BCCT PHUKET LUNCHEON WITH THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR

British Chamber of Commerce, Thailand (BCCT) was delighted to welcome a select group to the BCCT Phuket Luncheon with British Ambassador H.E. Mark Gooding wOBE. Held at Kata Rocks on June 13, guests enjoyed a relaxed three-course lunch hearing about the British government's current and future activities in Thailand. Special thanks to the sponsor LawtonAsia Insurance Brokers.



# Baku horror show for Ferrari

## Mechanical issues for Scuderia sees title race blown wide open

### FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato  
michael@boxofneutrals.com

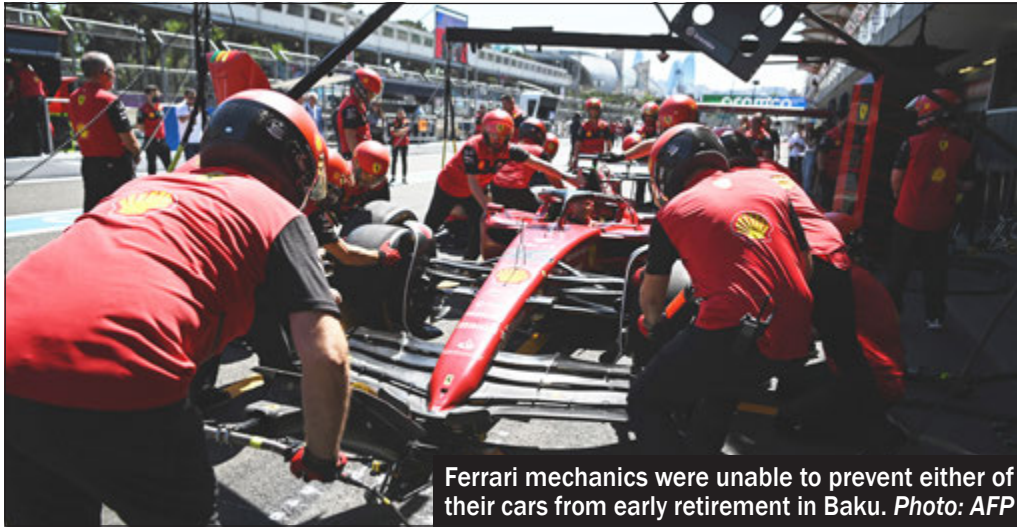
Charles Leclerc was the runaway title leader little more than a month ago, but a series of catastrophic Ferrari failures have left him open to a series of body blows and put his entire championship campaign in doubt.

"I don't really find the right words to describe it. Obviously it's very, very disappointing," Leclerc said after the Azerbaijan Grand Prix last Sunday (June 12).

The anguish on Leclerc's face as he faced the media, with the sound of the race still going on without him in the background, expressed far more than his words could anyway.

Leclerc had retired for the second time in three grands prix, dealing a body blow to his title ambitions this season. On both occasions reigning champion Max Verstappen romped to victory.

Just five races ago, af-



Ferrari mechanics were unable to prevent either of their cars from early retirement in Baku. Photo: AFP

ter a dominant victory in Melbourne, Leclerc held a commanding 46-point lead over Verstappen. That has now been almost completely reversed; he's now a distant 34 points behind, having lost an average of 16 points per race to the Dutchman.

"It hurts," Leclerc said. "I don't know what's going on." The problem is that neither does Ferrari.

The team has suffered a spate of engine problems since introducing a new power unit specification at the start of May. The upgrade focused on

the complex energy recovery system, to which the team has made great leaps since last season, but ever since then both its factory cars and those powered by customer motors have developed a propensity for failing.

Alarming, no two of the failures appear to be alike. In Baku Leclerc's teammate Carlos Sainz suffered a hydraulics problem while Leclerc's issue seemed like a catastrophic combustion problem.

Kevin Magnussen's Ferrari-powered Haas also suffered a power unit shut-off

for reasons so far unknown.

Earlier in the weekend Mick Schumacher's Ferrari motor suffered a massive water leak. In Monaco both Haas drivers suffered MGU-K failures, as did Valtteri Bottas's Alfa.

In Spain Leclerc retired from the lead of the race with a problematic turbocharger, though there's suspicion this had more to do with improper assembly rather than a technical failure given Ferrari's unwillingness to state the cause.

There have been off-track

problems too, notably Ferrari's impressive mishandling of strategy in Monaco to throw away a front-row lockout. In sum, despite Leclerc storming to pole at all four races since receiving the new engine, he's failed to convert any of them to victory.

### QUICK FIX

Ferrari team boss Mattia Binotto had been open in admitting the team has a reliability problem even before the Baku horror show, but he admitted that a permanent fix is still some way down the line.

Leclerc has lost his title lead, Sainz has dropped to 67 points adrift and the team itself has moved to 80 points down on Red Bull Racing.

Ferrari faces a series of urgent problems with 14 rounds remaining.

The first is obviously to discover why its power unit is so prone to breaking and come up with a fix. But power unit development is time consuming and costly, and that's not likely to come for some months. It will also come at the cost of the team's general

performance development.

Then Ferrari needs to understand whether the fixes are on the combustion side or the electrical side. Electrical development is still open until September, but combustion development is banned until 2026 except where a team can prove to the FIA a change is strictly for reliability reasons.

Finally, Ferrari needs to decide when it will bring a new engine to the track. If both Ferrari drivers will need new engines this weekend in Canada, their next fresh power units will incur heavy grid penalties for being over their season-long allocation. Picking a track that facilitates overtaking will be critical.

It's too early to say the wheels have come off Ferrari's campaign, and we've just seen proof of how quickly title fortunes can turn. But the Scuderia can't afford another failure, if not for the points loss, then for the inevitable grid penalties that will compound bad results.

For the sake of the championship fight, Ferrari needs a quick fix.

# Chen denies Ratchanok Indonesia Masters title

### BADMINTON

RATCHANOK INTANON missed a chance to win her first title of the year when she lost to arch-rival Chen Yufei in the women's singles final of the US\$360,000 (B12.5 million) Indonesia Masters in Jakarta last Sunday (June 12).

Chinese top seed Chen overcame the Thai fifth seed 21-16, 18-21, 21-1 in 74 minutes to win the BWF World Tour Super 500 event – her first title since her gold medal at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

Danish ace Viktor Axelsen claimed the men's singles crown after he defeated Taiwan's Chou Tien-chen 21-10, 21-12.

Hometown heroes Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto captured the men's doubles title after they beat unseeded pair Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang of China 21-10, 21-17.

In the women's doubles final, world No.1 duo Chen



Ratchanok (left) with Chen. Photo: AFP

Qingchen and Jia Yifan took home the gold medal after beating Indonesia's seventh seeds Apriani Rahayu and Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti 21-18, 21-12.

The mixed doubles title went to China's Zheng Siwei and Huang Ya-qiong, who downed French pair Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue 21-13, 21-14.

Elsewhere, Thailand's Pitchamon Opatniphuth claimed her second title of

the year after winning the Denmark Masters – a BWF international challenge – in Hillrod on Sunday.

The 15-year-old rising star, who was a part of Thailand's gold medal winning SEA Games team and an Uber Cup team, defeated sixth seed Yun Sung-shuo of Taiwan 21-16, 15-21, 21-16 in the final.

Pitchamon won her first title of 2022 in Sweden.

Bangkok Post

# Golf's power struggle deepens

### GOLF

CHARL SCHWARTZEL'S victory last Saturday (June 11) at the first event of the rebel LIV Golf series brought the curtain down on one of the most dramatic weeks in the history of a sport now in deep turmoil.

The breakaway circuit, fronted by former world number one Greg Norman and bankrolled by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, is now a real and present threat to golf's established tours.

The stars playing in the opening tournament in St Albans included Phil Mickelson, Dustin Johnson, Schwartzel, Sergio Garcia, Martin Kaymer, Graeme McDowell and Louis Oosthuizen. Bryson DeChambeau and Patrick Reed have also been confirmed for future events.

Organisers have vowed to "supercharge" golf, offering 54-hole tournaments with no cuts, simultaneous "shotgun starts" and a team element.

The US PGA Tour responded by banning the rebel golfers, who had not been given permission to play in the LIV tournament. Ten of the 17 listed had already resigned



Charl Schwartzel celebrates victory in the LIV Golf Invitational London. Photo: AFP

their membership.

The dispute could be heading for the courtroom if any of the players banned by the PGA Tour pursue a legal challenge.

Norman's big pitch is for a "free and open market" in golf and he has pledged to back his players to the hilt, even saying LIV Golf would pay any fines.

Another unknown is the issue of world ranking points, currently unavailable at LIV tournaments, but crucial because they help players qualify for the four majors, which are the sport's marquee tournaments.

Aside from the bitter power struggle, there are also accusa-

tions of greed and questions over Saudi Arabia's human rights record.

The money involved is undeniably mind-blowing with a record US\$25 million (B874mn) prize pot in London and a total of \$255mn on offer at this year's eight tournaments.

Amnesty International renewed its call for players to speak out about "human rights abuses" in Saudi Arabia, rather than being "willing stooges of Saudi sportswashing".

The questions are unlikely to go away as LIV Golf heads to the United States, with the sport braced for the next instalment in a gripping drama. AFP



# Youth sailors to the fore at PYC O'pen Skiff Regatta

## SAILING

Scott Duncanson

**T**welve youth sailors aged 9 to 16 and their families descended on the Phuket Yacht Club (PYC) in Chalong Bay on the weekend of June 4-5 for the June O'pen Skiff Regatta.

This was the second event for the year and the largest to date, attracting one international entry from Mumbai, participants from United World College (UWC) and, of course, the home grown PYC youth squad who relished the challenge to meet and compete with so many new faces.

After two weeks of storms and strong winds prevailing, conditions lightened considerably on Saturday (June 4) allowing for a near perfect introduction to regattas for the less-experienced sailors of the group.

After numerous postponements due to low wind speeds, resident PYC coach Garfield skillfully got away four races comprising of windward / leeward, Adventure Course



Photo: Scott Duncanson

and, everyone's favourite, the Multihull Solutions Bridge of Doom Race.

The fleet raced as one but two age-group divisions were created for under-16s and under-13s. Results were mixed with upcoming U13 Sailor Ellie sailing superbly to take first place ahead of the more experienced U16 group in the first race of the day.

PYC sailors were in hot pursuit with Michael and Millie confidently filling the podium positions. Four races were completed in what turned

out to be a nearly three-hour session on the water.

Day two started with not a breath of air and the postponement flag hoisted ashore. Not one for wasting any time, PYC coach Garfield quickly arranged an interactive sailboat tuning and rules session to keep young, eager minds busy while the breeze filled in.

After an hour's delay onshore, all boats launched and racing began with windward-leeward and a triangle courses. To keep things interesting a thunder storm passed each

side of Chalong Bay, luckily bringing more wind and allowing for a further four races to be completed.

As the breeze began to fade sailors returned to the club for the final event of the Regatta, the all-fun Freestyle Session. This is quite unique to the O'pen Skiff class and is an opportunity for the young sailors to impress the judges with some boat handling creativity and balance skills. Essentially anything goes and spectators were treated to some on the water dancing, backflips, frontflips, mast-climbs, dry capsizes and even boom press-ups.

After un-rigging and wash-down of boats and equipment a short awards presentation followed to conclude a highly successful event that introduced nearly half the fleet to the wonderful sport of dinghy sailing.

Phuket Yacht Club operates sailing dinghy training for ages 7-17 each and every weekend. Adult training is also available by appointment. For more information contact coach Garfield at school@phuketyachtclub.com



Photo: Thanawat Phumipraphat

## Tourney wraps at ACG

### TOUCH RUGBY

Continued from page 16

...another gear as they ran in a further two tries, resulting in a deserved 5-3 victory to claim the title of tournament champions.

It was almost a clean sweep of awards for UWC as Merrick Fairall was named as overall player of the tournament. Alex Dupont was awarded young male player of the tournament, Zulaykha Binti Mohd Azman took the young female player of the tournament award, while BISP's Melissa Hewison took female player of the competition.

Vagabonds RFC president Anthony Van Sleetuwen was on hand to present the winner's trophy and then the individual

awards afterwards.

He also used the opportunity to voice his appreciation for the efforts of tournament organiser Tom George, likewise for Darren Blakeley in his role as senior match official over the three Saturdays, and for all the players and supporters involved.

Plans are already in place for another touch rugby tournament, with details to emerge in the coming weeks, while the Vagabonds senior squad can next be seen in action at the Krabi 7s event being held on July 2.

Social touch rugby continues every Thursday at the ACG starting at 5pm and welcomes everyone to enjoy the activity. For all details, please visit the Vagabonds Facebook page. *Neil Quail*

## Prem duo sign big as Reds bag Nunez, Haaland to Man City

### FOOTBALL

LIVERPOOL HAVE REACHED A deal with Benfica to buy the Uruguay striker Darwin Nunez for an initial £64 million (B2.7 billion), the Portuguese club said on Monday (June 13).

The transfer could eventually rise to £85mn, Benfica said in a statement, eclipsing Liverpool's club-record £75mn paid to Southampton for Dutch centre-back Virgil van Dijk in 2018.

Nunez scored 26 goals in 28 league appearances last season in Portugal.

The 22-year-old underwent a medical on Monday and personal terms are not anticipated to be a problem, with the player having expressed his desire to play for Reds manager Jurgen Klopp despite interest from Manchester United.

Nunez is set to sign a reported six-year contract with Premier League and Champions League runners-up Liverpool, who have been in talks with Benfica for several weeks.

He netted in both legs of Benfica's Champions League quarter-final defeat against Liverpool in April, earning praise from Klopp.

Nunez is likely to arrive at Anfield as a direct replacement for Sadio Mane after Bayern Munich stepped up their pursuit of the Senegal forward.

Liverpool have rejected two offers from



Nunez in action for Benfica. Photo: AFP

the Bundesliga champions and are holding out for a fee in excess of £40mn for Mane, who has one year left on his contract.

Meanwhile, Premier League champions Manchester City confirmed on Monday that they have completed the signing of Erling Haaland from Borussia Dortmund in a five-year deal worth £51mn.

"This is a proud day for me and my family," the Norwegian told the club's official website after completing his move, which could rise to £85.5m with agents fees and other add-ons.

"I have always watched City and have loved doing so in recent seasons. You can't help but admire their style of play, it's exciting and they create a lot of chances, which is perfect for a player like me.

"I want to score goals, win trophies and improve as a footballer and I am confident I can do that here. This is a great move for me and I can't wait to get started in pre-season." *AFP*



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# Sport

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**Youth sailors shine at PYC Regatta > p15**

## CROSSING THE LINE

### Thais dominate as Laguna Phuket Marathon returns



Apichai Phujit won the Men's Marathon with a time of 2:50:20. Photo: Supersports Laguna Phuket Marathon

#### MARATHON

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Supersports Laguna Phuket Marathon returned with a roar last weekend as more than 7,000 runners from 63 countries enjoyed a weekend of healthy fun and some impressive run times.

Thais dominated the longer distances on Sunday (June 12) while a mix of nationalities shared the spoils across Saturday's (June 11) shorter distances.

The 10.5km saw some close racing in both the Men's

and Women's divisions. Indonesia's Ronald Setiawan put in a strong performance to cross the line in a time of 36:58 while less than 20 seconds behind was the Thailand's Nattapong Buachay, with compatriot Tanadol Witsarutsin close behind in third.

In the Women's race it was Phuket-based triathlete Dimity-Lee Duke from Australia who dominated the race, finishing in a time of 39:23, almost two minutes clear of Thai duo Voraphan Nuansri in second and Suwaree Thanaeknithiwat further back in third.

Russia's Sergei Zyrianov

led the 5km field from start to finish claiming the Men's title ahead of Mohamed Rasheed of the Maldives in second and Kiyun Kaddoura of France in third. In the Women's race, Australian Siena Milgate hit the front early on and took the win ahead of Thailand's Auksarapuk Sangruksa and fellow Aussie Chiara Jessica Egger in third.

While the cool morning start on Sunday was appreciated by the longer-distance runners, the humidity added to the challenge and the top three finishers in the Men's Marathon went to the Thai runners.

Apichai Phujit claimed the

trophy in a time of 2:50:20, more than five minutes faster than the 2020 winner, while second place went to Teerayut Katrahong and Santi Fung-fueang was in third.

Japan's Satowa Ota won the Women's race with a time of 3:23:47 with Thailand's Nuntaporn Teng Amnuay in second and Sasiwimon Khongjit in third, just 30 seconds behind her compatriot.

In the Marathon Relay it was Team Jetts that claimed the honours in an impressive time of 2:41:18, ahead of Team Surakul in second and Team Blue Tree Running Club 2 in third.

Showing signs of tired-

ness after his 5km win the day before, Sergei Zyrianov went one better than his second place in the 2020 Half Marathon to claim this year's title in a time of 1:13:21. Mohamed Rasheed ran a strong race to finish second with Mood Chaison of Thailand running out of track to chase down Rasheed and having to settle for third.

In the Women's race it was Thai runner Manussanun Kumpituk who went straight to the front and by the 5km mark, she'd carved out a two-minute lead which she held for the rest of the race, crossing the line in 1:34:22, just over two minutes ahead

of Thailand's Supisara Nunta in second place with fellow Thai Nopchaya Handittagul less than one minute further back in third.

The two day format, consisting of the run course together with a 2km Kids Run, makes Supersports Laguna Phuket Marathon one of Southeast Asia's largest destination marathons and a popular choice for families and elite runners alike.

The dates have been set for next year: the 17<sup>th</sup> Supersports Laguna Phuket Marathon will take place June 10-11, 2023. Visit [www.phuketmarathon.com](http://www.phuketmarathon.com) for the latest registration details.

## UWC school BISP in touch rugby final

#### TOUCH RUGBY

THE INAUGURAL VAGABONDS Summer Touch Rugby competition held over three weekends came to an exciting conclusion on Saturday (June 11) at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) in Thalang, with pre-tournament favourites UWC ultimately claiming bragging rights after a thrilling 5-3 victory in the final over British International School, Phuket (BISP).

Action got underway at 10:30am

with ACGC facing off against the Vagabonds Academy team comprising young academy members, parents and Vagabonds senior players.

Having previously defeated ACGC, the Academy were hopeful of another win which would then advance them to a semi-final berth.

Staring down the barrel of the competition's 'wooden spoon' award, however, ACGC raised their game, recording a 3-2 victory and almost immediately returning to the arena to take on UWC for a chance to claim a spot in the final.

Both semi-finals began just after 11:20am as a soft drizzle drifted over the ACG creating ideal playing conditions for BISP and Can't Grumble to exhibit some fine touch rugby skills.

However, it was Can't Grumble that eventually crumbled under the more experienced BISP team's efforts, ending their tournament on the morning's second 3-2 score line.

The second semi-final was a brutally efficient, one-sided affair for UWC to run out 8-1 winners against their flagging and di-

shevelled ACGC opponents, thus securing their place in the final.

Following a brief break, BISP and UWC ushered their starting line-ups onto the pitch for the final to roar immediately into life, supported enormously well by the remaining teams and a crowded ACG gallery of spectators.

Sterling play from both teams kept everyone in attendance entertained as UWC forged ahead by two tries when the half-time break offered a welcome respite for the teams.



Photo: Thanawat Phumipraphat

BISP would push UWC throughout the second-half, which at one point saw them within grasp of the trophy with a 3-2 score. However, the favourites were able to find...

Continued on page 15