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PROMISES



Phuket Vice Governor Piyapong Choowong (centre) leads officials in a pledge to abstain from, and to fight, corruption. Photo: PR Phuket

OFFICIALS TAKE THE PLEDGE AS PHUKET NAMED LEAST CORRUPT PROVINCE IN THE COUNTRY

The Phuket News
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Phuket has been named the least corrupt province in the country in a national annual assessment of government agencies by the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC).

Suksan Prasara-ae, Director of the NACC office in Phuket, presented a plaque commemorating the accolade to Phuket Vice Governor Piyawong Choowong at a meeting held at Phuket Provincial Hall on Dec 9, marking International Anti-Corruption Day.

In total, Phuket's provincial assessment score was 94.06 points. "Which is the highest average score in the country," Mr Suksan explained at the meeting.

In this year's assessment, Phuket pipped Nakhon Sawan to the top spot. Lopburi ranked third. Phang Nga ranked ninth. Krabi did not make the top 15.

Last year, Phuket ranked 25th in the national assessment, Mr Suksan noted.

News that Phuket is the least corrupt province in the country was met with much scepticism online. Thailand

currently ranks 104th of 179 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index by Transparency International.

The achievement marked Phuket being awarded "AA" ("double A") status under International Transparency Assessment (ITA) guidelines, after assessment of "integrity and transparency in the operation of government agencies", Mr Suksan explained.

He highlighted seven local government bodies for their contribution to Phuket receiving the award: Phuket City Municipality, Cherng Talay Municipality, Koh Kaew Municipal-

ity, Wichit Municipality, Pa Khlok Municipality, Thepkasattri Tambon Administrative Organisation (*OrBor-Tor*) and Patong Municipality.

After receiving the award on behalf of the province, Vice Governor Piyapong presided over a declaration of intent to combat corruption and announced a no-gift policy, or a gift for performing duties, and reminded the officials present of the policy for government officials in the Phuket area to act with integrity.

As part of the proceedings the officials present were shown a video of Prime Minister and Minister of...

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Phuket pioneer Alan Cooke passes away



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Controversy for Verstappen in F1 title victory



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Crewman dies as fishing ship sinks > page 4

Phuket launches 100% helmet campaign

The Phuket News
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Phuket Provincial Police have launched a new “100% helmet” campaign, and will start enforcing increasing fines for motorbike riders and passengers repeatedly caught not wearing helmets, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Sermphan Sirikong has announced.

The declaration came at an event held to launch the campaign at the Phuket Provincial Police headquarters in Phuket Town on Monday (Dec 13).

Region 8 Police Commander Lt Gen Amphol Buarabphon led a similar event in Patong at the same time on Monday afternoon.

“The project is a campaign for people to be aware of the traffic rules and to reduce the loss of life.

“In Phuket today, every police station across the island has implemented the project,” Maj Gen Sermphan said.

Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Lt Col Sathit Nurit explained, “Now, road accidents cause loss of life and property, including



The campaign is underway. Photo: PR Phuket

the economy. Most of this happens with motorcyclists, especially those who do not wear helmets.

“As a result, Pol Lt Gen Amphol Buarabphon, Commander of Provincial Police Region 8, has instructed all police stations under the Provincial Police Headquarters Region 8 to implement such a project.

“The purpose is to encourage motorcyclists, both riders and passengers to realise the importance of wearing a helmet,” he said.

“This will help prevent and reduce severe accidents that will affect life and body as well as to raise awareness of motorcycle users to respect

traffic laws by wearing a helmet while riding a motorcycle,” Lt Col Sathit said.

The campaign came into force on Monday (Dec 13), with officers giving warnings, Lt Col Sathit said

“A helmet will be given to the offender, and the offender must return the helmet to police within seven days,” he added.

But later motorbike drivers will be charged for not wearing a helmet, and they will be charged if their passengers are not wearing a helmet, Lt Col Sathit explained.

“The fines will increase as the campaign continues,” he added.

“From Feb 1 to Mar 31 offenders will be fined B200 for each time they are caught. From April 1 to May 31 next year offenders will be fined B300, and from June 1, 2022 onwards offenders will be fined at the highest rate required by law [B500],” Lt Col Sathit said.

The same scale of fines was explained by Region 8 Police Commander Lt Gen Amphol at the event in Patong, where leading officials signed a Memorandum of Understanding and a procession by big bike riders was held throughout the town.

Meanwhile, Deputy Interior Minister Nipon Boonyamane on Monday chaired a meeting at the new Phuket Provincial Hall on the road safety campaign to be held in Phuket for the New Year holidays.

Present for the meeting were Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Pinsuwan and heads of relevant government departments, including the Phuket Land Transport Office.

Vice Governor Amnuay explained that the campaign will cover three main areas of road safety to be implemented by local officials.

“First are management systems

which focus on 100% safe driving and provide effective monitoring systems at all levels,” he said.

“Second are the main risk factors, with the campaign to focus on the wearing of helmets, speeding and drunk driving.

“Last are general risks in the area. This focuses on training people and inspecting the condition of vehicles and roads that pose risk of accidents,” Vice Governor Amnuay said.

“This is the time of year that many tourists come to Phuket,” he cautioned, adding that accidents still occurred in many areas across the island.

According to the national Thai Road Safety Council (Thai RSC), 66 people have died and 12,212 have been injured in traffic accidents in Phuket so far this year.

“Therefore, we want each sub-district and all departments to work together to take care and focus on road accidents, and help publicise the measures to prevent accidents to the public in order to reduce road accidents during the coming New Year season, and during normal times,” Mr Amnuay said.



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Phuket pilots anti-corruption efforts

Continued from page 1
...Defense Gen Prayut Chan-ocha making the same declaration of intent to mark

International Anti-Corruption Day, this year observed in Thailand under the theme, “Don’t do it, don’t tolerate it, don’t ignore it, join Thais against cheating.”

PILOT SCHEME

At the meeting on Dec 9, Phuket was also announced as one of 11 provinces under a pilot project to encourage public participation in the fight against corruption.

Present to make the announcement were Pracha Terat, Chairperson of the Office of the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) Subcommittee on Strengthening and Enhancing Civil Society Participation, and Tossaporn Ratanamasthip, of the Royal Thai Armed Forces’ National Defence Studies Institute.

The other provinces involved in the pilot project were Saraburi, Amnat Charoen, Chiang Mai, Chonburi, Samut Prakan, Buriram, Nakhon Sawan, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Chumphon and Trat, Mr Pracha explained.

The campaign is part of the national reform plan combined



PACC Chief Pracha Terat said Phuket is part of an 11-province pilot project to fight corruption. Photo: PR Phuket

under the government’s “Big Rock” platform, Mr Pracha said.

Some 881 “Big Rock” national reform projects are to be rolled out, at an estimated cost of B65.5 billion, mostly tapped from this and next year’s fiscal budgets and the central fund.

The Cabinet has approved the Big Rock policy in May, five months before Pol Col Thitsan Utthanaphon, the now-former Chief of the Nakhon Sawan Police also known as “Joe Ferrari”, and six others were indicted on four charges for torturing to death 24-year-old drug suspect Chiraphong Thanapat while trying to extort B2 million from him during an interrogation on Aug 5.

The meeting in Phuket was a “workshop” to support and drive public participation in anti-corruption through which the PACC is working together

with the Anti-Corruption Organization of Thailand (ACT) and the Phuket Provincial Anti-Corruption Action Center, Mr Pracha said.

“This forum was organised to be a forum for exchanging information on the situation of Phuket in related matters, such as the results of the assessment of integrity and transparency in the operation of government agencies [the ITA Awards], and the implementation of related policies and measures on the prevention and suppression of corruption of government agencies,” he said.

“Public participation in surveillance and recommendations on the mission of government agencies according to the principles of good city management service helps network partners to promote good governance against corruption and support the work of the provincial community organizations,” Mr Pracha noted.

“It also showcases the origins and importance of Big Rock, promoting public participation in the fight against corruption under the revised national reform plan the prevention and suppression of corruption and misconduct,” he said.

Swiss man, 57, killed in taxi van wipeout

Eakkapop Thongtub
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A 57-year-old Swiss man was killed when the driver of a passenger van lost control while coming down a steep hill north of Promthep Cape on Monday morning (Dec 13).

The van swerved across the road and struck the Swiss man on his motorbike before slamming into a roadside power pole.

Acting Lt Col Ying Pimprapat of the Chalong Police was called to the scene, on the coastal road south of Nai Harn Lake, at around 8am. Acting Lt Col Ying was told that a foreign tourist had been seriously injured in an accident.

Police along with paramedics from Rawai Municipality and an ambulance from Chalong Hospital arrived at the scene to find the Phuket-registered commercial passenger van, fitted with green licence plates, on its side beside the road.

The driver, Somchai Kobkoi, 44, was waiting at the scene.



Photos: via Rawai Mayor Aron Soros

A Phuket-registered Yamaha N-Max scooter-motorbike destroyed by the force of the impact was beside the power pole, which bore marks from the impact.

The Swiss man, identified by his passport as Carlo Rino Silvio Francioli, from Lostallo, near the Italian border, was on the ground beside the motorbike. He was seriously injured, unconscious and unresponsive.

Emergency responders performed CPR and rushed

him to Chalong Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Acting Lt Col Ying reported an "eyewitness" explaining that the passenger van, registered as a taxi vehicle, was travelling downhill at high speed when the driver lost control.

The van swerved across the road and struck the motorbike driven by the tourist, then slammed into the power pole broadside, leaving the van on its side beside the road.

Acting Lt Col Ying said the witness statement was recorded as evidence, and that officers will check any CCTV in the area to confirm the exact cause of the collision.

The body of the Swiss man was taken to the morgue at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town.

The Swiss Embassy in Bangkok has been informed of the accident so that the man's relatives can be informed of his death, Acting Lt Col Ying said.

Family of slain motorbike taxi driver still 'clueless' as to reason for murder

FAMILY AND FRIENDS of the motorbike taxi driver shot dead at Phuket Bus Terminal 2, north of Phuket Town, on the night of Dec 4 are still without any clue as to why the execution was carried out.

The victim, Champa Wanchan, 54, was shot dead while sitting in a white plastic chair in the parking area for motorcycle taxis at the bus terminal at about 10:20pm.

Witnesses confirmed that the man who shot Mr Champa multiple times at close range was Vean Aiadchuthong, well known at the bus station for shooting dead two rival motorbike taxi drivers at the same venue in January.

Vean was out on bail so he could prepare his defence against the double homicide charges he was already facing.

Mr Champa's wife and daughters last Saturday (Dec 11) escorted Mr Champa's body to Wat Kosit Wiharn, little over two kilometres south of the bus station where he was slain.

Last Saturday marked the last day of prayers before Mr Champa's body was cremated.

Present to pay their re-



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

spects were friends and family, and fellow motorbike taxi drivers from the bus station.

One of Mr Champa's daughters said the family was still clueless as to why her father was murdered.

After Vean was arrested at his accommodation in Phuket Town, he was brought in for questioning, she said.

However, Vean has since denied carrying out the execution, admitting only to coming to the bus station on that night, she added.

In addition to the charges he already faces for the double murder at the bus station in January, Vean now faces additional charges of murder, illegal possession of a firearm and carrying a firearm in a public area without permission or reasonable cause.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Phuket gets new state drug rehab

A NEW STATE-RUN drug habilitation centre has opened on the island in the hope of steering more people away from using, and dealing, drugs.

Phuket Vice Governor Piyapong Choowong presided over the opening ceremony of the project, called the Kwan Land Center, at Wat Chergn Talay, on Dec 8.

Phinathip Na Thalang, a behavior control officer working with the Director of the Phuket Provincial Probation Office, explained that the centre is one of a collection set up throughout the country in line with the government's policy to focus on the prevention and treatment of drug problems.

"It has been set on the national agenda that organisations from all sectors must play a role and participate in driving the problem down while not affecting the lives of the people as a whole," she said.

The Ministry of Justice has accelerated its programme by allowing people to take part by informing offenders in their community about the project and have



Photo: PR Phuket

them enter the treatment process appropriately, Ms Phinathip said.

Having people voluntarily enter drug rehabilitation also breaks the trade cycle and the finances of drug dealer networks, she said.

"The Department of Probation has coordinated with the Department of Provincial Administration, Ministry of Public Health and other related parties, so that the probation office in each province assigned to coordinate with various departments to create a project to solve problems with drug users and drug addicts in the form of the Kwan Land Center," Ms Phinathip explained.

The first 50 people to undergo the rehabilitation

programme at the centre are those currently under probation. They have been assigned to undergo treatment at the centre for 12 days, from Dec 6-17.

"It is very gratifying that all parties have come together to realise the problem of drug addiction by all sectors joining together to drive the prevention and solution of drug problems in Phuket to be effective with the goal of providing addicts a way to receive standardised rehabilitation therapy," Vice Governor Piyapong said.

"At the same time, this will reduce the number of drug traffickers and drug addicts in the Phuket area as well, which will create a better society in the future," he said. *The Phuket News*

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Wind 18 m/s

MON DEC 20



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Wind 11 m/s

WED DEC 22



High: +31°

Low: +25°

Wind 11 m/s

THU DEC 23



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Wind 11 m/s

Construction of Islamic centre begins

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The blessing ceremony to begin construction of a B56 million Islamic Ethics Training Center at the northern end of Phuket was held last Sunday (Dec 12), completing a rite that allows construction to begin at the site, next to Thalang Technical College on the main road leading to the airport.

The project is being funded by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO, or *OrBorJor*).

Present to lead the official part of the event was PPAO President Rewat Areerob, joined by other leading PPAO council members as well as Thalang District Chief Suwit Suriyawong and a host of other local officials.

Also present was Komol Dumlak, Chairman of the Phuket Islamic Committee, and representatives of the Phuket Provincial Islamic Women's Affairs Working Group.

"The PPAO has foreseen the importance of every religion that the people of Phuket respect. Therefore, the construction of an Islamic Ethics Training Center in Phuket Province has been established, as a venue for meetings, training, seminars and various activities for children, youth and the general public," Mr Rewat said.



Photo: PPAO

"The centre is for promoting to children, youth and the general public to cultivate morals and ethics. It is to be a place to support religious activities at the provincial, regional and national level," he added.

The project has previously been the target of malicious posts online, claiming that the Phuket government was spending B250mn on the project.

Pol Col Krishna Pattanacharoen, deputy spokesman for the Royal Thai Police, in October revealed that the national Anti-Fake News Center had confirmed the posts online as bogus after "checking facts" with the Phuket

Public Relations office (PR Phuket).

PR Phuket confirmed a construction project was in the pipeline but for an Islamic Ethics Training Center as part of the policy of promoting and upholding all religions, and not building a mosque.

The PR Phuket office also added that the allocated budget for the project had been set at B56mn as part of the 2019 fiscal budget, and not B250mn as claimed in the post.

Adding to the issues surrounding construction of the centre is that the 19-rai site next to the Thalang Technical College is located within

the boundaries of the Bang Khanun National Protected Forest.

"Permission to build had been granted to the PPAO by the Forest Department and a contract has been signed and full surveyance completed to establish the construction boundaries," the Anti-Fake News Center explained.

Col Krishna reiterated that people should not trust such inaccurate information and called for cooperation from people to not share such information on social media channels.

He added that fake news is damaging in that it not only distorts the facts but can confuse people and ultimately be detrimental to the country.

However, the land around Thalang Technical College is currently under investigation by the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) to determine which land remains private property as evidence of occupation and ownership presented by some claimants date back to before the decree establishing the protected forest reserve.

According to the DSI, a check of land holdings by people in the Bang Khanun National Reserved Forest found that there are 265 people who have rights to and use the forest area, totaling 310 plots, with an area of more than 2,698 rai.

New road to connect Pa Khlok and Srisoonthorn

THE PHUKET PROVINCIAL Administration Organisation (PPAO, or *OrBorJor*) has officially opened a new road between Na Nuea and Khuan Ta Taen to help people travelling from Pa Khlok to Srisoonthorn and back.

The official opening ceremony was held in Pa Khlok last Saturday (Dec 11), presided over by PPAO President Rewat Areerob.

Also in attendance were senior PPAO officials, the management team from the construction company, local community leaders and local residents.

PPAO Deputy *Palad* Chutima Sanitprem said that the local road renovation project was included in the local development plan for 2018-2022 years and was allocated a budget of B2.45 million.

The road constructed is 1.1km long and six metres wide.

The project is in line with the development strategy to promote and support the development of infrastructure systems and public utilities with the needs and needs of the people and develop the province to support modern and



The Na Nuea - Khuan Ta Taen Road is now open. Photo: PR Phuket

environmentally friendly growth in line with the 'Phuket Smart City' initiative, Ms Chutima said.

Also the opening of the new road should help drive tourism, the local economy and other aspects in the overall picture of Phuket, she added.

"The new local road between Tambon Pa Khlok and Tambon Srisoonthorn is ready for use by people in the area," Mr Rewat said.

Mr Rewat added that the completion of the project shows that PPAO "is close to the people in the area."

"The opening of the local road is a solution for people to travel easily and safely to resolve the problem [of travelling between the two areas] and answer the demands of the public," Mr Rewat said. *The Phuket News*

Crewman dies as fishing ship sinks

RESCUE WORKERS LATE LAST Sunday recovered the body of a fisherman who was left adrift in the water after the fishing boat he was on struck a sunken vessel and started taking on water off Phuket's east coast late last Saturday night (Dec 11).

Two other fishermen on the boat, the *Chokhongthong*, were rescued.

Crewman Jaroon Juprasert, 68, told the reporters after he was brought ashore at Saphan Hin that he and two others on board were coming back to Phuket after having spent four days at sea catching fish. The catch was not big due to weather conditions, he said.

About 8:20pm, somewhere between Koh Tapao Yai and Koh Tapao Noi, about three or four kilometres from Phuket, the *Chokhongthong* struck the wreck of a sunken ship and began to sink slowly, Mr Jaroon explained.

The captain ordered his crew to put on life jackets, connect each other with a rope tied to the vessel and also tie empty water bottles for better buoyancy. Yet, one of the crew - Prakanchai Suparat, 60 - was lost in the sea. It is believed that the rope that was attached to him was probably loose.



The body of Prakanchai Suparat, 60, was brought ashore at Saphan Hin last Sunday (Dec 12). Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Mr Prakanchai still had his life jacket and drinking water on him.

A Royal Thai Navy helicopter, Marine Police and Kusoldharm rescue workers in a rubber dinghy continued their search last Sunday, scouring Phuket Bay for Mr Prakanchai.

They finally found a body matching his description among mangroves about one kilometre from the mouth of the Klong Koh Phi canal.

The body was brought back to Saphan Hin, where relatives confirmed it was that of Mr Prakanchai.

His body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital for post-mortem examination in the hope of confirming the cause of death. *Eakkapop Thongtub*

Phuket loses a true pioneer

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

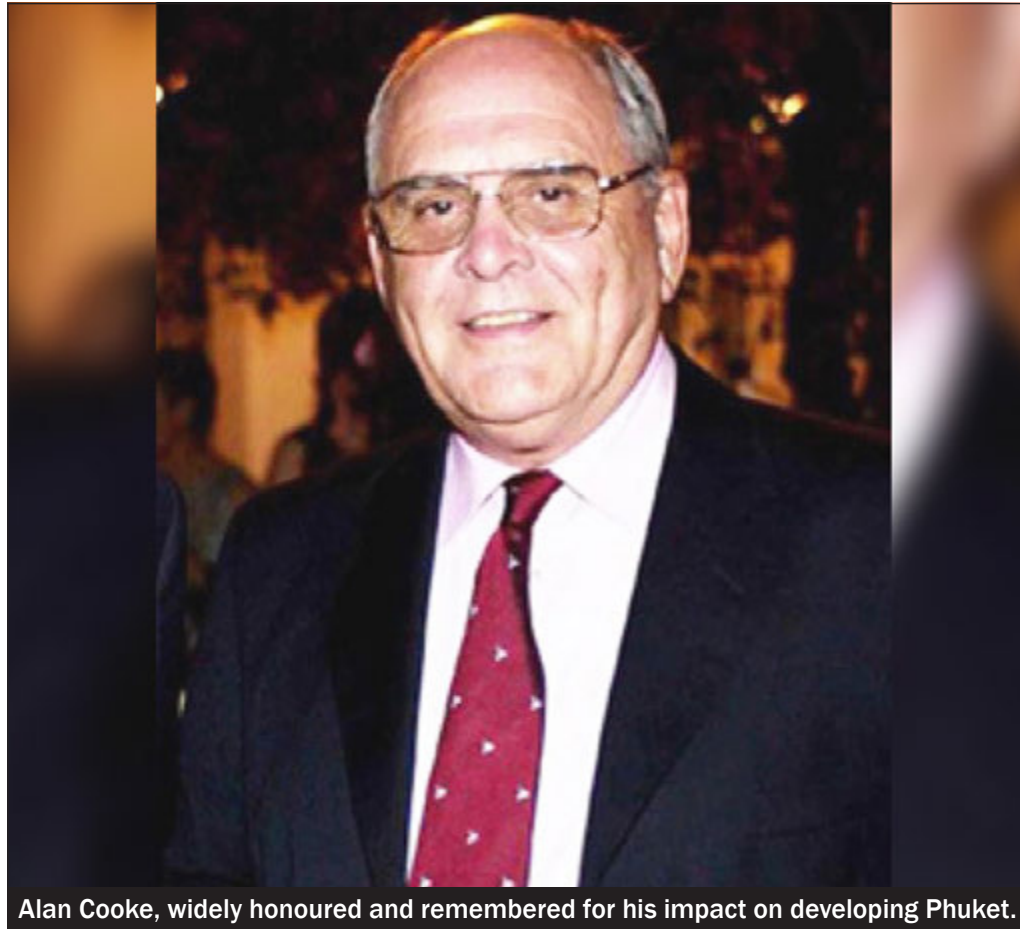
Alan Cooke, who served as the British Honorary Consul in Phuket from 2001 to 2008, for which he was awarded an MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) personally received from HM Queen Elizabeth II, has passed away.

Mr Cooke, or just "Cookie" to his friends, passed away at his home in Phuket last Wednesday (Dec 8). He was 85.

"It is with great sadness I announce my dear friend and predecessor in the role of British Honorary Consul to Phuket passed away peacefully at his home today in Phuket... Rest in Peace Alan," wrote Martin Carpenter, who himself served as British Honorary Consul in Phuket for 12 years.

Mr Cooke was awarded the MBE for his dedicated assistance provided to British nationals, especially during the 2004 tsunami and the disastrous crash of One-Two-Go Flight OG 269 at Phuket International Airport three years later.

He also started the Hash



Alan Cooke, widely honoured and remembered for his impact on developing Phuket.

House Harriers in Phuket and was instrumental in building Phuket's Deep Sea Port.

Even his "retirement" in Phuket could not contain him to his Island Furniture store still open today on Chao Fa West Rd in Wichit. Alan found himself also called to help

create the Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX), acting as initial consultant to Gulu Lalvani in the construction of Royal Phuket Marina, and to lobby successfully in the abolition of some, and the reduction of other, boat import taxes and duties to Thailand.

He also established the Alan Cooke Cricket Ground (ACG) in Thalang, which stands as his legacy in creating Phuket's first cricket league.

Prior to Alan's funeral on Wednesday this week (Dec 15), his body was kept in vigil at his home in Thalang.

Khun Siriporn, Alan's long standing partner in Phuket, invited friends to pay their respects at the house each evening through Tuesday (Dec 14), with prayers taking place from 7:30pm each day.

On Tuesday evening, after the prayers there was an 'Open House' wake with refreshments served.

Alan's funeral and cremation was held on Wednesday (Dec 15) at Manik Temple from 11:30am, followed by a celebration of Alan's life at the Alan Cooke Cricket Ground.

Hashers, past members of the British Business Association Phuket, cricketers, colleagues and friends of Alan, were all welcomed to pay their respects.

An outpouring of condolences for Alan's friends and family have streamed online since news of Alan's passing broke.

"Very sad to hear this, he was a real gentleman and pillar of the community May he Rest in Peace," wrote fellow Phuket pioneer and long-term expat Neil Cumming.

"RIP Alan and thank you for your generous contribution of the ACG for kids and adults alike..." wrote Stewart Lees.

Ian Hewett, well known for his long-standing role in Phuket's marine industry, wrote, "So sorry to read this. I met Alan just after the Tsunami when we took a speedboat to Phi Phi and around the bay. I was looking for missing charter boats and Alan wanted to see for himself what the situation was."

"Really sad news. A pillar of society, I enjoyed his sardonic wit on many occasions. Sincere condolences to his family & friends. RIP Alan," wrote friend Peter Notley.

Phuket's cricketing community, deeply grateful for Alan's role in establishing cricket on the island, marked his passing through their Phuket Cricket Facebook page.

"Very sad news for Phuket and Phuket Cricket. Alan did so much for Phuket Cricket through his love of the magnificent game. Thoughts are with his family and friends in these difficult times," the group wrote.

"We will forever be grateful for the magnificent venue that is the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG), where we all have shared so many good times and will continue to do so. RIP Alan."

Gems fair hoped to generate B150mn

A GEMS AND JEWELLERY FAIR HELD in Phuket from Dec 9-12 is hoped to generate B150 million in sales to help boost the island's economy.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce Jurin Laksanawisit officiated the opening of the Phuket Gems & Jewelry Fest at Central Festival Phuket, joined by Ministry of Commerce Permanent Secretary Bunyarit Kalayanamit and Department of International Trade Promotion Director-General Phusit Rattanakul Sereeruengrit.

A total of 79 international buyers registered for the Phuket fair, altogether hailing from 31 countries, including the United States, Russia, Spain, India, the United Arab Emirates, among others, he added.

"Orders and contracts are expected imme-



Deputy PM Jurin. Photo: PR Phuket

diately and within the short term no less than B150mn is expected to be generated, which is important for tourism in the Andaman region, including Phuket," Mr Jurin noted.

"Collaboration between the Ministry of Commerce and the Gem and Jewelry Association has resulted in Thailand's gem exports growing 27.95% over 10 months, bringing in more than B150 billion in revenue," Mr Jurin pointed out. *The Phuket News*

Christmas

GALA DINNER AT COSMO

Enjoy the magic of Christmas whilst taking in the stunning views across Nai Harn Bay, over a sumptuous Buffet Dinner complete with all the trimmings at 7:30pm. South African singer-songwriter Eric Canham will entertain you with Festive songs throughout the evening while Santa Claus and his helpers will greet children with gifts.

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Food fairs to bolster recovery

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Tourism officials have launched a slew of food festivals to be held in Phuket throughout December in the hope of boosting domestic travel to the island to help the local economy.

Branded as the “Thai Taste Therapy Festival”, the campaign was officially launched by Chai Nakhonchai, Director-General of the Department of Cultural Promotion, and Apichai Chatchalermkit, Deputy Governor for Tourism Products and Business at the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), last Friday (Dec 10).

The slogan of the campaign is “Thai food – the most delicious medicine in the world”, aimed at highlighting the health benefits of Thai cuisine.

“One of the outstanding features of Phuket cuisine is the herbs and local ingredients, which are unique to Phuket and the main theme of the Thai food festival. The festival is for tourists and foreigners residing in Phuket to know Phuket food in the dimension of medicinal properties that are beneficial to health,” Mr Chai said.

“It presents a new perspec-

tive on Thai food in line with the situation where people around the world are increasingly concerned about health. The Thai Taste Therapy Festival will help expand Phuket’s Thai food culture internationally.

“It helps to promote the image of Phuket as a City of Creative Gastronomy as recognised by UNESCO, and it helps generate income for all sectors from upstream to downstream, from local communities to restaurants and hotels, which promotes a sustainable economy,” Mr Chai said.

Mr Apichai of the TAT noted, “Highlighting the medicinal benefits of Thai food will encourage tourists to be interested in traveling to visit the source of herbs and raw ingredients as well as to find the owner of the recipe who cooks the dish.

“This is the true meaning of valuable culinary tourism, because it gives tourists the opportunity to complete a variety of experiences related to food. It also benefits the local community and business operators in the tourism industry, and in all sectors, leading to the creation of food tourism

in a truly sustainable way.”

Irin Riksan, project manager of the festival, explained that the festival is packed with activities in Phuket throughout December, such as the “Thai Taste Therapy Trip” Phuket travel packages.

Thai Smile Airways has also joined to support the campaign.

Sanchan Sathapornwuthikhun, Director of Inflight Services at Thai Smile Airways said, “Thai Smile and MasterCard will take everyone on a journey to explore delicious and healthy dishes at famous

restaurants in the Thai Taste Therapy editions to be held in six locations: Chiang Rai, Nan, Chiang Mai, Surat Thani, Krabi and Phuket.”

The airline is offering discounts on tickets bought for flights to those destinations paid for via Mastercard, he added.

GOING LOCAL

Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO, or *OrBorJor*), has announced a series of food and goods festivals to be held in Phuket in December and January to help boost local people’s incomes.

The “Rhoi Nat Yat Dai” festival (“Food & Goods Festival”) will first take place at Patong Beach on Dec 17-19.

“This event is a continuation of the ‘Roi Rim Lay’ festival, which is a project to strengthen the foundation of Phuket’s economy, and aims to stimulate and revitalise Phuket’s economy after being affected by the COVID-19 epidemic,” Mr Rewat explained.

The first edition will be held at Patong Beach on Dec 17-19. The highlight of the event is ‘O-Tao Giant Pan’

[in which the popular oyster-based dish will be cooked in a giant wok], which will be offered for free tastings for visitors,” he said.

The second edition of the festival will be held at Sanam Chai, located opposite Phuket Provincial Hall on Narisorn Rd, in Phuket Town on Jan 7-9. The third event will be held at Laguna Phuket in Cherno Talay, Thalung, on Feb 4-6.

“The purpose of this event aims to encourage people to put their money into the Phuket economy, which will bring real benefits to the people, namely farmers, producers and local business owners who will be able to make more money,” Mr Rewat explained.

“It also promotes tourism in Phuket by bringing food and cultural identity, including the use of traditional Phuket costumes during tourism presentations,” Mr Rewat said.

“This event also is part of the campaign to reduce global warming. The event will not use foam in food packaging and no alcoholic beverages will be sold as well,” Mr Rewat said.

Live entertainment will also be performed at the events, he added.



Photo: PR Phuket



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New leadership team at PHA

THE PHUKET HOTELS Association, a non-profit organisation with 72 member properties, has embarked on an exciting new era with the appointment of a new senior leadership team.

Bjorn Courage, General Manager of the InterContinental Phuket Resort, who has more than 25 years of experience in the hospitality industry, has been named the association’s new president, succeeding founding president Anthony Lark, ex General Manager of Amanpuri, Trisara, and now Executive Director at HMD, Shinta Mani and Bensley Collection hotels.

Sumi Soorian, who has been with the Phuket Hotels Association since its foundation in 2016 and most recently served as Development Director, has also been promoted to Executive Director. A marketing and communications professional who specialises in project management and business development, Sumi graduated in the USA and has worked in multiple countries, including Australia, China and Thailand.

Bjorn moves into the role of President at a time of optimism for Phuket’s tourism and hospitality industry. The



Bjorn Courage and Sumi Soorian.

island was one of the first Southeast Asian destinations to safely reopen to international visitors when it launched the innovative “Phuket Sandbox” programme in July 2021, and its hotels and resorts are now gearing up for a strong recovery in the winter high season and beyond.

There can be few more qualified people to lead this proactive organisation than Bjorn. During the course of a 25-year career, he has worked with many of the industry’s most iconic brands, including IHG, Hilton, Waldorf Astoria, Six Senses and Mandarin Oriental. He also successfully completed Cornell University’s Executive Leadership programme.

“During these initial times of recovery from the COVID pandemic, I am proud to serve our member hotels, communities and destination to the best of my ability. I will strive to continue and further evolve the

important work done by the association, working groups and member hotels to-date, especially in regard to our association’s three key pillars: Marketing, Environment and Education. Thank you to Anthony for his leadership since the inauguration of the Phuket Hotel Association and for continuing to serve the Association as Senior Advisor,” Bjorn commented.

Since it was founded in January 2016, the Phuket Hotels Association has grown to represent 72 of the island’s top internationally-branded and independent luxury and midscale hotels and resorts, comprising just over 10,400 rooms. Each of these members has made a commitment to the destination and, through the Phuket Hotels Association, are actively investing in a sustainable future through long-term environmental and educational initiatives.

The Phuket News

Premchai sent to prison over 'black leopard case'

KANCHANABURI

Bangkok Post

The Supreme Court has sentenced construction tycoon Premchai Karnasuta to a prison term of three years and two months for hunting in Thungyai Naresuan Wildlife Sanctuary nearly four years ago, known as the "black leopard case".

The ruling was read out at Thong Pha Phum District Court last Wednesday (Dec 8) but was shrouded in confusion after the initial reading by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) was incorrect.

The OAG, through its spokesman Itthiporn Kaewthip and deputy spokesman Prayut Phetchakhun, originally said Premchai was sentenced to two years and six months for hunting in Thungyai Naresuan Wildlife Sanctuary nearly four years ago, his former driver to two years and nine months in prison and his hunter to three years and one month.

The announcement said the Supreme Court reduced the Appeal Court's sentences by eight months because a



Premchai Karnasuta arrives at the Thong Pha Phum court in Kanchanaburi on Dec 8. Photo: Piyarat Chongcharoen

change to the Wild Animal Preservation and Protection Act two years ago removed "acceptance" of wildlife carcasses as an offence.

The OAG later sent a message to the media correcting the sentences and apologising for the misinformation. It said the amendment to the law had no effect on the prison terms of the three men.

All three were in fact acquitted on the carcass acceptance count but were still found guilty of possessing wildlife carcasses and their jail terms

of eight months for this offence remained in force.

Premchai, the 66-year-old president of Italian-Thai Development Plc, arrived at the court with a walking cane and a bandage over his left eye. The two other defendants in the case were also present at the court.

His former driver Yong Dodkruea, 68, was sentenced to three years and five months in prison and his hunter Thanee Thummat, 59, to three years and nine months.

The Supreme Court upheld

the Appeal Court's order that they pay B2 million in compensation for damage to nature resulting from their illegal hunting.

The defendants were ordered to be fitted with electronic tags while waiting to be taken Thong Pha Phum prison. They were also tested for COVID-19.

The three defendants, along with a woman cook, were arrested at their camp in Thungyai Naresuan Wildlife Sanctuary in Tambon Chalae of Thong Pha Phum district on Feb 4, 2018, for hunting of wildlife, including killing a rare black panther, a kalij pheasant and a barking deer. They also faced other related charges.

In December 2019, the Appeal Court sentenced Premchai to three years and two months in prison, Yong to three years and five months and Thanee to three years and nine months. All three appealed to the Supreme Court.

Nathee Riemsan, the 46-year-old cook, was given a suspended prison term of one year and eight months. She did not appeal the sentence.

Thai COVID response best in Southeast Asia

BANGKOK

THAILAND RANKS FIFTH among 195 countries in the 2021 Global Health Security (GHS) Index, leading Southeast Asia in terms of the quickest response to COVID-19.

Deputy government spokeswoman Rachada Dhundirek said Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha would like to thank medical frontliners, other related parties and the Thai people for their cooperation in following the government's COVID-19 measures.

Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said Thailand's rank was an improvement on the 2019 GHS Index, when it placed sixth. This year, the country earned an average total of 68.2 points out of 100. In the category of rapid detection and reporting, it ranked No.1 (91.5 points), he said.

The report, released by the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, with research conducted by Economist Impact, measured the capacities of 195 countries to prepare



The index ranked Thailand fifth globally. Photo: AFP

for epidemics and pandemics.

The United States topped the chart followed by Australia, Finland, Canada, Thailand, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, Germany, South Korea and Sweden.

In Southeast Asia, Thailand led, followed by Singapore (24th), Malaysia (27th), Indonesia (45th), the Philippines (57th), Brunei (64th), Vietnam (65th), Myanmar (85th) and Laos (99th).

Although the government was pleased with the nation's ranking, the data demonstrated that all countries including Thailand have insufficient health capacities over a longer duration, leaving the world acutely vulnerable to future health emergencies.

The GHS Index shows the foundational elements that leaders should prepare their countries for to avoid future outbreaks. Bangkok Post

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How to lead Gen Z'ers

ON CAMPUS

By Sita Kajaikiatgamjorn

We live in a fast-changing world; in this digital age, technology has become a part of our lives and changed how we live. We have to adapt to the advancement of digital innovation in order to survive and thrive. At the same time, people development is considered to be even more necessary.

The upcoming Generation Z, those born between 1997 and 2012, will have a major impact on the world. According to social analyst Mark McCrindle, Gen Z is the largest generation ever. By 2025, Gen Z will make up 27% of the workforce. Therefore, to be a good leader it's necessary to focus more on successful people management.

Gen Z'ers consider themselves as "digital natives" because they have no idea about the world before technology. This generational gap often leads to miscommunication and conflict. Therefore, in order to lead Gen Z'ers successfully, leaders need to understand the nature of the people in this generation.

Gen Z is quite unique compared to other generations. While the traditional leadership style focused

on command and control because it "worked" for people in prior generations, this leadership style may not work for Gen Z'ers as they value their independence perhaps more than their predecessors.

In the past, people worked to pay their bills, doing whatever work they could do. In contrast, Gen Z'ers are pickier; they want to work in a job that holds meaning beyond just getting paid and waiting to retire. They mostly prefer to have their own standpoint, and they want to be heard. So, as a leader, it's better to not try to control them but inspire them and let them learn from their strengths and weaknesses. Coaching leadership style is a good choice because it unlocks the hidden skills in people without fundamentally changing who they are, making Gen Z'ers happier in the workspace. This style is similar to a coach in the sporting world who directs the team to success.

Here are the keys to successful coaching leadership:

Start with trust. Build trust by forging a relationship with your team. A good leader will not tell the team what to do, a two-way conversation is needed. Ask questions and listen more to better understand the team member's work motivation.

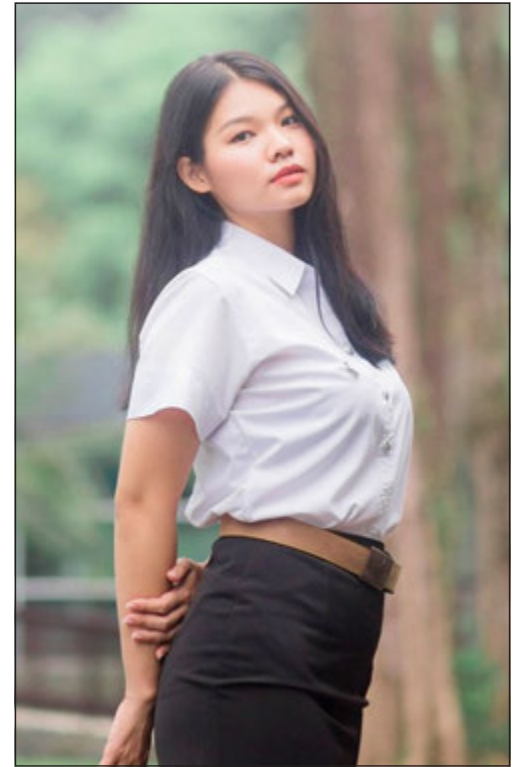
Let them engage more. Coaching is different from commanding; it is

focused on developing the people. Collaborating and working together with your team will unlock their potential. It will enable them to have their own standpoint or style of working and help elevate team performance in the long run. In return, your team will be able to coach others in the future.

Provide feedback. Don't complain. Complaining is useless, it never makes things better. If you want your team members to fix a problem, instead of complaining, give constructive feedback to help them learn and understand what they need to improve. By doing so, you will boost your team's performance, while at the same time not destroying their confidence.

Support your team. Support your team members' ideas and provide the necessary resources and tools they need. Being supportive will help them perform better and increase their creativity.

To sum up, if you want to make Gen Z'ers work for you, don't be a boss, be a leader like a coach. Listen first and try to understand who we truly are. Trust-building is a good start. Ask questions. Collaborate and show support. Providing feedback instead of complaining will lead to true people development. Coaching leadership can be hard and time-consuming, but it is the leadership style that works best when leading the Gen Z'ers.



Sita Kajaikiatgamjorn is a fourth-year student majoring in International Business: China at the Faculty of International Studies, PSU Phuket Campus – and all Gen Z. Photo: Khirakon Maneesa-Ard

NOTE: The view and opinion expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of Prince of Songkla University (PSU) Phuket Campus and its employees or official policies of PSU Phuket.

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Having fun for a good cause



PHUKET MUSIC SCENE

Andy Tong Dee

Phuket's got talent! A Night at the Popra, held at Underwood Art Factory's new Junkyard Theatre on Dec 4 was the third of a series of charity shows run by Gary Crause of Legend Music and the Phuket Academy of Performing Arts. This time the show was centered around music from films, covering 36 songs from 34 popular movies.

Putting on such a spectacular show inevitably involved a huge amount of work from the cast, its producer Gary and his wife Debbie who managed the show's many costumes.

The raunchy chords of the AC/DC song *It's A Long Way To The Top* opened proceedings and featured the ever-popular George Cordeiro dressed in schoolboy uniform as Angus Young. After that, the tight backing band of Chakrit Bilangload (drums), Rob Cooke (bass), Noel Trinidad, (keyboards), Blaze Crause (guitar) and Laura Sun (sax) took us through a rollercoaster of sing-a-long standards such as *Purple Rain*, *We Will Rock You*, *Fame* and *I Will Survive* for nearly four hours including breaks.

But if the backing band was a cake, then the singers inevitably were going to be the icing, with Rannze Davies,



The cast (from left): Cherie Horne, Gary Crause, George Cordeiro, Laura C. Sun, Ruby Redl, Debbie Crause, Dasha Gorodtsova, Bella Yongsakul, Rob Cooke, Rannze Davies, Nick Davies, Jay LeShark.

Cherie Horne, Dasha D'Aria, Ruby Redl and Bella Yongsakul all professionally delivering strong, confident vocals. However, for me, my good buddy George pipped them all to be the cherry on top with his energetic performance of some 1950s rock and roll standards such as *Rock Around The Clock*, *Jailhouse Rock* and *Great Balls of Fire*. George soon had everyone on their feet and ably showed the young pups that, at a spritely 72, he still has got more than what it takes!

After an intermission for the charity auction of prizes generously donated by many local businesses, the fifth and final set finished with Gary himself singing "Let's Do the Time Warp" and

the whole cast dancing on stage.

If there were three words that I would choose to best describe Gary, they would be altruistic, organised and energetic. He was a founding member of One Phuket, which was formed last February to help those in most need of assistance as the COVID economic crisis battered Phuket's economy. This charity was supported by other local charities, Class Act Media, 5 Star Marine and Prince of Songkla University.

Gary spearheaded local releases of the Phil Collins' classic *Another Day in Paradise*, Bill Withers' *Lean on Me* and Band Aid's *Do They Know It's Christmas*, all performed by local musicians

and singers, and all to raise money for charity and increase awareness. He also ran the Lean On Me Live Festival held at the Blue Tree Arena last March, featuring many local bands which alone raised B250,000. It will take a while to know the final figure for this show, but money raised will be in the many hundreds of thousands of baht.

So who should be applauded as Star of the Show? George? Dasha? Cherie? Rannze? Perhaps Gary's son Blaze gave us a clue when he told me backstage after the show, "It's been a huge amount of work, with the show postponed four times because of COVID, but it's been worth every moment for such a fantastic show."

"My dad did a terrific job picking people for their strengths and organizing things. None of this would have happened without him. He's the show's unsung hero."

OK, Gary... So maybe you weren't the best singer of the night, maybe you didn't play a blistering guitar solo, and maybe you really should have bid for those dancing lessons in the auction, but I'm 100% sure if it came down to a vote by the cast or audience, there would be no contest.

So Phuket Music Scene's Star of the Show? It could only ever be you, Gary.

Time to take a bow, mate!

Andy Tong Dee is a local expat, musician and live music enthusiast. Follow him at www.phuketmusicscene.com

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POP QUIZ

- 1. What is the state fish of Hawaii?
- 2. What is the melting temperature of chocolate?
- 3. Which is the tallest bridge in the world?
- 4. The Pitti Palace is a vast palace in which European city?
- 5. Who was the last man to walk on the Moon? And in which year?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across

 - 1. Indian martial art
 - 6. Calculate astrologically
 - 10. Exploitative type
 - 14. Old war story
 - 15. Unattractive tangelo?
 - 16. Bad idea
 - 17. Sugar ____
 - 18. Happiness
 - 20. Eton and Epstein, e.g.
 - 22. Blonde shade
 - 23. Vietnamese musical instrument
 - 24. Relax
 - 27. "My bad!"
 - 30. For fear that
 - 34. Rosary recital
 - 37. Sharp
 - 39. Post office department
 - 41. For her and him
 - 42. Interpretations
 - 43. Fix firmly
 - 44. Start of an idea
 - 45. Congeal
 - 46. Canal locale
 - 48. Pie in the sky?
 - 51. He leads a band
 - 59. Large, flightless bird
- Down

 - 1. Favor one side?
 - 2. Banned orchard spray
 - 3. Dwelling: var.
 - 4. Confection
 - 5. Bean products?
 - 6. Die
 - 7. Seasons
 - 8. Is remiss
 - 9. Church offering
 - 10. Biblical connector
 - 11. Music category
 - 12. Expires
 - 13. Beluga yield
 - 19. H+, e.g.
 - 21. Where the heart is
 - 24. Hard to pin down
 - 25. Media attraction
 - 26. Photo finish?
 - 28. Engine need
 - 29. Man with a
- mission

 - 30. Son of Jacob and Leah
 - 31. Balances
 - 32. Conductor Koussevitzky
 - 33. Assignment
 - 35. Entanglement
 - 36. It may follow you
 - 37. Go quiet
 - 38. Maximum
 - 40. Suffix with auction
 - 44. Apple variety
 - 46. Mania starter
 - 47. Cliffside dwelling
 - 49. "____ So Good," Mangione song
 - 50. Sight-related
 - 51. Brand, in a way
 - 52. Grand
 - 53. Handwoven rugs
 - 54. Riviera city
 - 55. Rimsky-Korsakov's "The Tale of ____ Saltan"
 - 56. Insect stage
 - 57. Trim to fit, maybe
 - 58. Catsup and strawberry
 - 59. Opposite of hence

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) The humuhumunukunukuapua'a ("fish with pig-like nose"); 2) 30-32°C (86-90°F); 3) Millau Viaduct, France (343m); 4) Florence; 5) Eugene Cernan, 1972

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
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59										60				
61						62					63			
64						65					66			

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

4

seconds of awkward silence is all it takes to significantly increase your anxiety during a conversation.

40

copies of genes that code for the tumor suppressor protein p53 is why elephants rarely get cancer. Humans have only two.

162

dollars is how much the average US household spends each year on lotteries. Households that make less than \$10,000 spend about \$597 a year.

20,000

US dollars per episode was the clothes budget for 1970s TV show *Charlie's Angels*.

150 million

work days and up to 189 million school days were missed each year in the US due to people having colds – before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



View from the Big Buddha. Photo by Michael Rafael

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

This week in history

Dec 17, 1903

The Wright brothers make the first controlled powered, heavier-than-air flight in the *Wright Flyer* at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

Dec 18, 1271

Kublai Khan renames his empire "Yuan", marking the start of the Yuan dynasty of Mongolia and China.

Dec 19, 1606

The ships *Susan Constant*, *God-*

speed and *Discovery* depart England carrying settlers who founded, at Jamestown, Virginia, the first of the 13 colonies that became the United States.

Dec 20, 1955

Cardiff is proclaimed the capital city of Wales.

Dec 21, 1988

A bomb explodes on board Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland,



Seconds into the first airplane flight, near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina; December 17, 1903.

killing 270. This is to date the deadliest air disaster to occur in British soil.

Dec 22, 1968

Cultural Revolution: *People's Daily* posted the instructions of Mao Zedong that "The intellectual youth must go to the country, and will be educated from living in rural poverty."

Dec 23, 2007

An agreement is made for the Kingdom of Nepal to be abolished and the country to become a federal republic with the Prime Minister becoming head of state.

Source: Wikipedia

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FRI

17 DEC

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shakersphuket@gmail.com

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SAT

18 DEC

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Saturday Brunch

Indulge in a buffet of fresh, chilled seafood and an unlimited selection of delicious a la carte creation from our talented culinary team. Enjoy beverage promotions, full pool access and live music. 1,685 baht per person. Every Saturday. 1pm until 4pm. Free transfers for bookings of 4 guests or more. Sala Phuket, Sala Phuket Maikhao Beach, events@salaphuket.com, 076 338 888

SUN

19 DEC

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98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

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shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket

Sunday roast

12PM – 9PM: All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet Beef, Pork, Chicken & Lamb – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, Fried mushrooms, Grilled Tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes – Apple sauce, Gravy, Mushroom sauce, Horse radish, Mint Sauce. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 350 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 175 baht P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

MON

20 DEC

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WED

22 DEC

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THU

23 DEC

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4-ball Texas Scramble

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- On-course refreshments
- Goodie bag (includes shirt)
- Prize Giving Ceremony

FORMAT

- 12:30 PM Shot Gun Start
- 4-ball Texas Scramble

Xmas Hospitality Golf Challenge 2021

The Xmas Hospitality Golf Challenge 2021 being held at Laguna Golf Phuket, a 12:30pm Shot Gun start, 4-ball Texas scramble. Teams of four players THB 18,000. Entry fee includes green fee, caddy fee, buggy, on-course refreshments, goodie bag and prize giving ceremony at O'Hara's Irish Bar. More info contact Mark on 061 486 6736 or mark.hio1211@gmail.com

SAT

25 DEC

Christmas Gala dinner at Cosmo

Christmas Gala dinner at Cosmo

Enjoy the magic of Christmas whilst taking in the stunning view across Nai Harn Bay, over a sumptuous Buffet Dinner complete with all the trimmings at 7:30pm. South African singer - songwriter Eric Canham will entertain you with festive songs throughout the evening while Santa Claus and his helpers will greet children with gifts. THB 3,333 net per person. Children under 2 years eat free; from 2 up to 11 years at 50% off. Reservation, Cosmo at The Nai Harn Phuket, fbreservation@thenaiharn.com, 076 380 200

SUN

26 DEC

BOTTOMLESS BOXING DAY GRANDE INDIAN BRUNCH

Bottomless Boxing Day Grande Indian Brunch

Enjoy Boxing day with our Special Bottomless Grande Indian brunch starting at 11:30am, featuring Authentic Indian dishes with global inspiration, celebrated with beats, bubbles & Grande Vibes! Venue: Portosino Entertainment: DJ, Live Band & much more! Food: Authentic Indian Menu with a Global Twist Availability: Limited tables available, book now to confirm your table! Time: 11:30am – 3.30 pm. Date: 26 Dec 2021 Brunch Price: THB 999++ with Free Flow: THB 1,599++ Children 6-12 years for THB 499++ Children Under 6 years eat for free when dining with a paying adult. For booking in advance please contact us on ha224-fb1@accor.com or via Facebook Messenger. *Above prices are per person excluding taxes & service charge

SAT

1 JAN

NEW YEARS DAY GRANDE INDIAN BRUNCH

New Years Day Grande Indian Brunch at Portosino

Enjoy New Years day with our Special Grande Indian brunch starting noon, featuring Authentic Indian dishes with global inspiration, celebrate first day of 2022 with beats, bubbles & Grande Vibes! Venue: Portosino Entertainment: DJ, Live Band & much more! Food: Authentic Indian Menu with a Global Twist Availability: Limited tables available, book now to confirm your table! Time: 12:00pm – 4.30pm. Date: 1 Jan, 2022 Brunch Price: THB 1,499++ Brunch with Free Flow: THB 2,022++ Children 6-12 years for THB 699++ Children Under 6 years eat for free when dining with a paying adult. For booking in advance please contact us on ha224-fb1@accor.com or via Facebook Messenger. *Above prices are per person excluding taxes & service charge

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SINAE PHUKET LUXURY HOTEL OFFICIALLY OPENS

The new "Charm of Siray Bay", **Sinae Phuket Luxury Hotel** officially opened on December 3, 2021. Selected local VIPs, owners friends and partners enjoyed a relaxing evening of great food, drinks and music for the opening celebration.



JOINT CHAMBERS PHUKET SUNDOWNERS

Another great joint chambers Phuket Sundowners organised by AUSTCHAM was held at the Hilton Karon on December 09, 2021, 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) and the Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC), Looking forward to the next one in January.

Thongchai earns PGA Tour Champions card

GOLF

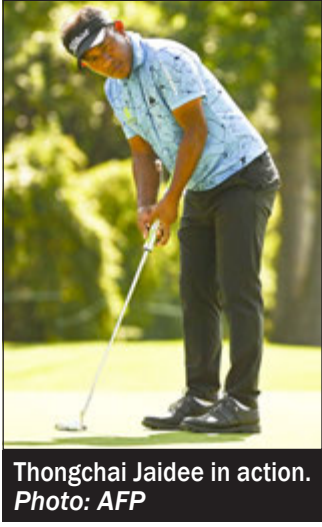
THAILAND'S THONGCHAI Jaidee regained his PGA Tour Champions card by finishing tied second in the final stage of the qualifying tournament at TPC Tampa Bay last Friday (Dec 10).

The Asian golf legend closed with a final round of four-under-par 67 to finish three shots behind Rob Labritz, and level with David Branshaw.

Thongchai and Branshaw shared runner-up honours at 14 under before the Thai birdied the first play-off hole (No.10) to earn the No.2 spot.

"I performed well this week," Thongchai said. "I'm putting very well. Everything is better than it was earlier this year. Hopefully I can keep it going."

Two years ago, Thongchai earned his playing rights on PGA Tour Champions from the qualifying school but the COVID-19 pandemic dashed his hopes of performing well in the over-50 circuit as he missed a large portion of the 2020-21 season due to travel restrictions that kept him in Thailand.



Thongchai Jaidee in action. Photo: AFP

He did finish strongly at the end of the recent season though with two successive top-10 finishes.

"It feels great. I played a solid round, was solid all week and I've now got back my tour card. Hopefully next year will be a lot better than this year. COVID affected everything and shut things down. It was very difficult for everyone," he said.

"In my last two tournaments, I finished top-five and top-10 and it brought my confidence back. I worked very hard before coming over here.

"It's difficult to get the five cards and I'm happy I did it."

Bangkok Post

Thanyapura Trail Run sees over 1,000 people participate

TRAIL RUNNING

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Last Sunday (Dec 12) saw over 1,000 people take part in the "OR Thanyapura Trail Run 2021", an event organised by public and private sector bodies to welcome the high-season and encourage sports tourism on the island.

The event was inaugurated at 6:46am at the Thanyapura Sports & Health Resort in Thalung by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew who signalled the start of the trail run for the athletes.

He was joined by Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO, or *Or Bor-Jor*) President Rewat Areerob, Jirapohn Khaosawad, the Chief Executive Officer and President of PTT Oil and Retail Business Public Company Limited (OR), in addition to various heads and executives of government agencies and representatives of select private sector organisations.

"This year's 'OR Thanyapura Trail Run 2021'



Photo: Thanyapura Trail Run Phuket Facebook

competition is the eighth time the event has been held at Thanyapura Sports & Health Resort, and this year is special as there is great support from OR, PPAO and the private sector," Mr Rewat said.

"More than 1,000 people took part in the challenge to scale the top of the Khao Phra Thaeo mountain," he added.

"The objective is to raise awareness of the importance that playing sports and exercising has on people's health while stimulating the ecotourism economy for Khao Phra Thaeo. Income generated after expenses will be donated to public charity. For example, PPAO will allocate a share of the income towards utility

packages for the unemployed in Phuket and the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project, part of the Wild Animal Rescue Foundation of Thailand."

Ms Jiraporn explained that the trail run is part of an initiative being run by OR called "Empowering All toward Inclusive Growth" that strives to create benefits for society, the community and the environment.

"It is an honour for OR to be the main sponsor of the Thanyapura Trail Run 2021, an event that avid runners have been waiting for," she said.

Ms Jiraporn added that the event was made possible thanks to the cooperation of many agencies, including

Thanyapura Sports & Health Resort, OR, PPAO and others that have all lent great support.

"OR fully supports Thai tourism which has been so badly affected by COVID-19," she said.

"Phuket successfully piloted the Phuket Sandbox project as the first province open to fully vaccinated foreign tourists, an initiative which we believe has helped drive domestic tourism and stimulate the Phuket economy," she added.

Additional highlights included a range of local delicacies that were distributed to the runners and observers. These included Garcinia juice from Kamala Bang Wan Tourism Community, Kosui dessert from Lipon Tourism Community, the sacred dessert of Ew Pueng from Baan Khian Tourism Community, Sai Oua Gai from Bang Rong Tourism Community and Khao Yam from Cherrng Talay Tourism Community.

The occasion fully adhered to mandatory health and safety measures to control and prevent any possible spread of COVID-19.

Hazlewood out of Adelaide Test

CRICKET

AUSTRALIA WERE DEALT A BLOW on Monday (Dec 13) when paceman Josh Hazlewood was ruled out of the second Ashes Test against England in Adelaide, with Jhye Richardson or Michael Neser in line to replace him.

The 30-year-old suffered a side strain during Australia's nine-wicket thumping of the visitors in the opening Test at Brisbane and has returned home to rest.

"Hazlewood returned to Sydney yesterday afternoon for further assessment and rehabilitation with a decision on his fitness for the Boxing Day Test (in Melbourne) to be made in due course," Cricket Australia said.

His absence is a big blow ahead of the Adelaide day-night Test which started yesterday (Dec 16), with Hazlewood boasting a pink-ball record of 32 wickets at just 19.90.

He didn't bowl on the third afternoon in Brisbane, although after an overnight scan he did get through six overs on day four.

Australian captain Pat Cummins said at the time Hazlewood was "a bit sore".

"[It's] nothing too serious but didn't want it to turn into a huge injury," Cummins said then.

Richardson is widely seen as favourite to replace him and join Cummins and Mitchell Starc as Australia's three-pronged pace attack in what would be only his third Test.

The 25-year-old played his only two Tests against Sri Lanka almost three years ago but has been in outstanding early season



Hazlewood will miss the Adelaide Ashes Test due to injury. Photo: AFP

Sheffield Shield form. The uncapped Neser has also been in good early season nick.

Australia is further sweating on the fitness of David Warner who is nursing bruised ribs.

The explosive opener scored 94 in Brisbane but didn't bat in Australia's second innings when just 20 runs were needed to win.

Cummins said after the Test that he expected Warner to recover in time, with the experienced Usman Khawaja waiting in the wings should he not be fit.

Meanwhile, England captain Joe Root has said his team must fix their fielding and batting to get back into the series.

"We know where we need to get better, and the way we responded in the second innings showed a great amount of character and fight which will stand us in good stead," Root commented. AFPw

2020/21 PREMIER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2020/21

Premier League CHAMPIONS 2020/21

The Phuket News

English Premier League Predictions

thephuketnews.com/predictions.php

Klopp backs Gerrard as his successor at Anfield

FOOTBALL

Kieran Canning

Jürgen Klopp said he would “love” Steven Gerrard to be his successor after ensuring the former Liverpool captain’s return to Anfield as Aston Villa manager ended in a 1-0 defeat last Saturday (Dec 11).

Mohamed Salah’s second-half penalty secured a vital three points for the Reds as, at time of press, they remain just one point behind Manchester City at the top of the Premier League.

Klopp’s men should have been more convincing winners as they dominated the vast majority of the game although they had to withstand a nervy finale where Gerrard believed his side should have been awarded a penalty when Alisson Becker bundled over Danny Ings.

“The first 75 minutes was incredible football,” said Klopp. “We played in the spaces we wanted to play but we did not finish the situations which is tricky.



Steven Gerrard (centre) and Jürgen Klopp (right) at the end of last Saturday’s game at Anfield. Photo: AFP

“We scored with the penalty then the relief was obviously too big and it was an unnecessary open game. [The last 15 minutes] was like tooth ache! Nobody needs that.”

Gerrard said before the game he would gladly sacrifice some of his legendary status among the Liverpool support for a result on his first trip to Anfield as part of the visiting team.

The man who scored 186 goals in 710 games as a Liv-

erpool player was welcomed with gentle applause as he emerged from the tunnel, but there was no great fanfare for his return until the Kop chanted his name shortly after the full-time whistle.

“You have to understand when you come to the Premier League, you are going to have these days,” said Gerrard. “There is a lot of emotion, but I tried to focus on Aston Villa and make sure that is the priority.”

Gerrard, who joined Villa last month after three and a half years as Rangers manager, has been tipped as Klopp’s successor when the German’s contract expires in 2024.

“The good thing is I have no problem with this sort of thing,” said Klopp on the speculation over his future. “I will not be here forever so I would love it to be Stevie, but no I did not feel under pressure today.”

Gerrard admitted there “was a level between the sides” for the majority of the match as Villa were camped inside their own half although he was adamant his side deserved a penalty.

“For me there were two penalty incidents in the game. They got theirs, we don’t get ours,” said Gerrard.

“You can be too gung ho against these sides too early. The plan was to take it to the latter stages and then get more of our attacking players on the field.

“Hopefully I can be more bold and ambitious against these sides in the future.”

AFP

Thai War Elephants trample bitter rivals

FOOTBALL

THAILAND COACH MANO Polking was delighted in the wake of his team’s convincing 4-0 victory over a “very aggressive” Myanmar side in their second AFF Suzuki Cup Group A outing in Singapore last Saturday night (Dec 11).

Veteran striker Teerasil Dangda led the way as the Thais stormed to the top of the pool table with two wins from as many matches.

Teerasil scored on either side of the break to go joint top on the all-time AFF Suzuki Cup goalscoring chart with further goals from substitutes Worachit Kanitsribumphen and Supachok Sarachart rounding out the victory.

Polking said he was delighted by the win and also paid tribute to Teerasil for his history-making goals.

“We’re very happy with the performance of the team, we made progress and controlled the game, the midfield especially, with players that are strong on the ball and created more clear chances,” said Polking.

“As for Teerasil, he brings



Teerasil Dangda celebrates after scoring against Myanmar. Photo: Bangkok Post

everything that a striker needs in terms of technique, especially a finish. I joke with him that he’s not so young anymore but you can still see the amazing quality he has,” he added.

“We have seen Myanmar before and they are very aggressive every time when we [Thailand] face them. We saw many tackles which were not intended to win the ball. We knew that they are aggressive and this is the thing that we had prepared for during training.”

The War Elephants were set to play against the Philippines on Tuesday (Dec 14) and Singapore tomorrow (Dec 18).

Bangkok Post



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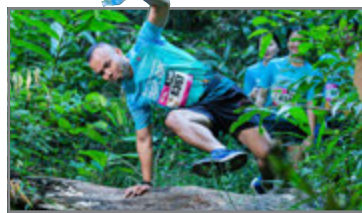
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Sport

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Huge turn out for Thanyapura Trail Run > p14



Verstappen's title has been forged in the fire of one of F1's most intense campaigns. Photo: AFP

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

Max Verstappen is a Formula 1 champion at last, and though the circumstances of his triumph over Lewis Hamilton were controversial, his place in the pantheon of motorsport greats is secure.

F1 in 2021 was never going to go quietly. Verstappen Lewis Hamilton had fought too hard, put too much on the line, for this most enthralling season to simply fade away. The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix last Sunday (Dec 12) was always going to be something special.

The twist took 53 of 58 laps to reveal itself in the guise

of Nicholas Latifi's crashed Williams. The Canadian was unhurt, but the deployment of the safety car did serious damage to the lead Hamilton had worked hard to construct in a dominant race performance.

Verstappen, running second with nothing to lose, stopped for fresh tyres. Hamilton, with everything to lose, could only stay out.

Only five lapped cars buffered the leader from the fresh-tyred Verstappen, but in a bizarre decision by race control those five cars alone were allowed to unlap themselves, leaving Verstappen to fill Hamilton's mirrors as the race resumed for one final lap.

Mercedes boss Toto Wolff howled with rage over his radio connection to race director

Michael Masi, but it was in vain. It took just five corners for Verstappen to exploit his new rubber, and he scythed into the lead with a daring late-braking move to break the points deadlock in his favour and claim his maiden world championship.

"It's unbelievable," Verstappen said. "It's insane. I don't know what to say."

Mercedes was thinking the same. The team protested the result on the grounds that race control had broken its own rules on lapped cars and safety car restarts, and when the stewards rejected the argument, Mercedes lodged an intention to appeal directly to the governing body's tribunal, potentially holding up the formalising of the result for weeks.

Race control would appear to have a case to answer, and it's a pity this classic championship has ended under the cloud of such obscure acrimony, but the delayed coronation must not prevent recognition of Verstappen as a meritorious champion.

He played his hand to perfection through the race, and it's his unerring capacity to get the most from his car and himself that has defined his season in its totality, his first in genuine championship contention. His surety when so many others would have cracked under pressure is remarkable.

The stats bear it out: he won 10 of the 22 races, claimed 10 poles and led more laps than the rest of the

field combined.

Those numbers are all the more impressive for coming against the heft of Hamilton and the might of Mercedes, combined the dominant force of almost the past decade.

Rather than feel the weight of expectation, the pressure of such formidable competition drove him to these heights. Thrilling for us is that Hamilton, so good at finding extra gears when his back finally hits the wall, reached new heights of his own, and the one-upmanship continued until the new rivals were far clear of the mere mortals of the midfield and even their own teammates.

"I think in general the quality has been very high, I think set by myself and

Lewis of course," Verstappen said. "We have been pushing each other to the limit every single time."

"In the championship that we had, that was massive, so the level of focus required was very high."

Verstappen's title has been forged in the fire of one of F1's most intense campaigns. The result is the formation of a rivalry not simply between old master and young challenger but between two iconic world champions. Between equals.

Verstappen has taken his first step into the pantheon Hamilton first entered 13 years ago. How enhanced he is by the experience remains to be seen, but for certain is that there's no turning back for F1's newest world champion.

'World-class' B40mn Kathu Municipality Stadium opens for public use

SPORTS

A BRAND-NEW SPORTS venue has been officially opened in Kathu, providing what officials refer to as a world-class facility for local residents to exercise and develop their sporting skills.

Located at Kathu Municipality School 2 on the southeast corner of Phuket Villa Kathu, Kathu Municipal Stadium consists of an international quality standard football pitch and a synthetic running track that can be used for athletics.

It has been certified by the Athletics Association



The brand-new Kathu Municipality Stadium. Photo: Kathu Municipality

of Thailand and is the second stadium in Phuket that can accommodate both indoor and outdoor sports.

Vice Governor of Phuket

Pichet Panaphong presided over a merit-making ceremony to officially inaugurate the stadium on Father's Day (Sunday, Dec 5).

Pichet praised the Kathu municipal administration for their focus on supporting and improving the quality of sports facilities to national standards

to help continue the development of sports activities and skills for all.

Apart from being an area for residents of Kathu to exercise, the venue also has the potential to host events at both national and international levels, Pichet said. It provides a great opportunity for children and residents of Kathu to practice and develop their skills to become professional athletes, he added.

Pichet was joined at the opening ceremony by Kathu Municipality Mayor Chaianan Suthikul who confirmed that the venue cost more than B40 million to build. He added that the construction lasted just over two years and has the additional option to build

a 5,000-seat amphitheater to accommodate spectators.

"The health of citizens is imperative and therefore it is important to have an allocated area for people to exercise," commented Mayor Chaianan.

"This new stadium will provide a quality venue for people to exercise and improve their health, a place for children and youngsters in particular to continuously practice and develop their sporting skills."

"It is also a venue that promotes sports excellence and sports tourism at the provincial, national and international level," he added.

The Phuket News