

**BYPASS LANES FULLY REOPEN TO TRAFFIC > PAGE 2**

## SAFETY SLIDE



Officials are looking to allow traffic to resume up Patong Hill, despite 'soil movement' cracking the road even further. Photo: Phuket Info Centre

## OFFICIALS SCRAMBLE TO ALLOW UPHILL TRAFFIC DESPITE SUBSIDENCE

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

Phuket officials earlier this week were hoping to allow small vehicles up Patong Hill again within “two to three days”, if the road were safe enough – despite “soil movement” at the site only days earlier that saw more of the road crumble.

Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong inspected the landslide site on Monday (Nov 14), joined by Kathu Mayor Chai-anan Sutthikul.

“The contractor has accelerated the compacting of the soil to make

the foundation strong,” Mr Pichet said. “Within three days we will be able to open the road for cars to use the upward lane again, but if it rains, that may delay the reopening a little more,” he added.

Another “test run” would be held before allowing regular traffic up the hill again, he assured.

Mr Pichet said that heavy machinery was working on creating “layers” in the embankment.

“Large rocks weighing at least 700 kilogrammes will be used to lock the base of the embankment. The large rocks will be excavated one meter into the embankment and buried by

up to three metres of smaller stones to fill the gaps between the large rocks. Then we will use a textile sheet to cover it up,” he said.

“Then a clay cement mixture will be used and mixed with the soil so that it can solidify and be able to balance and support the relatively steep slope,” he added.

The embankment needs to be strong enough to support the traffic load above, and the machinery needed to repair the damaged road, which is 70m long, he said.

“Therefore, today’s work is trying to accelerate this process to allow the construction work on the embank-

ment to be completed as quickly as possible in order to alleviate the suffering of the people,” Vice Governor Pichet said.

“The Prime Minister [Prayut Chan-o-cha] and the governor [Narong Woonchew] care about this,” Vice Governor Pichet noted.

“I will take care of the technical aspects of construction engineering, which must be strongly adhered to while the work is being accelerated,” he said.

On Monday when Mr Pichet was inspecting the site, only motorbikes were allowed over the hill in both directions. “Small vehicles” – namely...

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

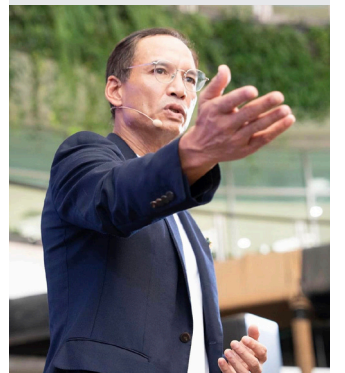
SEE INSIDE FOR YOUR

**FIFA  
WORLD  
CUP  
WALL  
CHART**

**FREE!** 

**NEWS** PAGE 3

**Elected governor  
for Phuket back  
on the agenda**



**NEWS** PAGE 4

**Arrest of NZ man  
for weapons  
'overblown'**



**SPORT** PAGE 16

**FIFA World Cup  
2022 ready to  
kick off in Qatar**



**Lile-it** <sup>TM</sup>

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE



exceditor@classactmedia.co.th

# News



**Russians return with more flights > p5**

## Alternate hill road nears completion

*Continued from page 1*

...cars, pickups and passenger vans – were allowed downhill from Patong to Kathu only.

Small vehicles were banned from travelling uphill past the landslide site at midnight last Friday night (00:01am, Nov 12) after officials recognised what was described as “soil movement” at the site.

Of note, the uphill ban came into effect hours after “soil movement” occurred at the landslide site. Vehicles were allowed to continue up the hill, within metres of the dangerous edge of the road, even after the “soil movement” had been recognised.

The ban also came just 36 hours after the road was deemed safe and small vehicles were allowed to travel up the hill on the preceding Thursday afternoon.

**PROMISES, PROMISES**  
Kathu Mayor Chai-anan on Monday was in two minds

about how long the repairs would take to eventually allow full traffic to resume in both directions over the hill.

Mr Chai-anan told *The Phuket News*’ Thai-language sister newspaper *Khao Phuket* that he was confident the repairs – called “temporary” – would be completed within the initial announced deadline of 45-60 days, meaning the road would reopen around mid-December.

However, that statement of confidence flew in the face of an announcement by provincial officials only two days earlier that they were expecting the repairs to take longer – especially since uphill traffic was banned after the “soil movement” at the site.

The extra weight of vehicles travelling up the hill had resulted in the cracks in the road left by the initial landslide widening further, said a report by the Phuket Info Center.

The current repairs were



The privately built road up Patong Hill is hoped to open to vehicles this weekend. Photo: Patong Development Foundation

initially touted as “temporary repairs” under a B20 million project by Kathu Municipality.

A separate report by the Phuket Info Center released last Sunday (Nov 13) said that “staff” at the site had confirmed that the work entails making the road down the hill wider, making the slope of descent less dangerous and making the sharp curves less dangerous.

Meanwhile, reports of heavy traffic in Kamala continue, as that is the main, and shortest, route open for vehicles travelling from Phuket airport to Patong.

The only other alternative route is for motorists to drive down to Chalong Circle in the south of the island then access Patong via Kata and then Karon.

Officials also reported on

Monday morning that the groundwater levels and the soil tension readings in the soil at the Patong Hill landslide site were “normal”. That was before rain delivered by scattered showers soaked isolated areas across the island on Tuesday.

### ‘PRAB ROAD’

Construction of the privately built road from near the Patong Go-Kart track in Kathu to the Chao Por Seua Temple (“Tiger Temple”) at the top of Patong Hill over the past week have continued with lightning progress.

Contractors reported last Sunday (Nov 13) that they had “only 500 metres to go” to complete the road. “Only two days to go!” they said in a post online. By Tuesday workers had completed another 100m of the road.

Work on the three-kilometre road began just some three weeks ago, with construction already underway when the project was publicly

announced on Nov 1.

The road, about eight metres wide, is constructed with reinforced concrete and complies with the required standards for such concrete roads to be used for the public, the contractors explained in the post last Sunday.

The Patong Development Foundation, which is acting as the main coordinating body for the project, confirmed that as of Nov 10, donations received to complete the road totalled B2,085,377.52.

### CHALONG - PATONG

Meanwhile, Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) President Rewat Areerob last Saturday (Nov 12) inspected progress of the road under construction from behind the Klong Kata reservoir in Chalong to 50 Pi Rd in Patong.

Good progress was being made since heavy rains had eased, Mr Rewat said, adding that the project was “approximately 73% complete”.

**ixina** yes to your dream kitchen

\*\*\* PROMOTION

**10%**

ON KITCHEN

FREE

- 3D DESIGN
- DELIVERY + FITTING
- SINK & TAP



**ixina**

IXINA GERMAN KITCHENS

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

095 727 5911 Eng-FR

082 368 3657,  
064 683 7529 Eng-Thai

ixina Thailand

www.ixina.co.th

## Bypass lanes fully reopen

THE USUAL FLOW OF traffic returned to the northbound lanes of the bypass road last week as the Phuket Governor declared the lanes reopened.

Governor Narong Woonciw declared the lanes reopened at midday on Nov 9. By 12:30pm traffic was already increasing, but moving, along the usually busy road.

The initial plan, following announcements the previous night and that morning, was to reopen the lanes past the landslide site at 4:30pm on Nov 9. However, Governor Narong thought it best to reopen them as soon as safely possible to help alleviate traffic congestion.

The northbound lanes were closed three weeks earlier for safety reasons following two landslides that spilled onto the road during the heavy rains mid-last month.

The lanes remained closed while two buildings of an incomplete, abandoned hotel built atop the steep slope where the landslides occurred were demolished.



The usual traffic returned to the northbound lanes on the bypass road on Nov 9. Photo: PR Phuket

During that time northbound traffic was redirected onto the southbound lanes, resulting in traffic along the bypass road being restricted to one lane each way for the period, with traffic flowing in opposite directions along the same road without a safety divider separating them.

Governor Narong on Nov 9 said the lanes were now open to all types of vehicles.

Although the demolition work was completed on Nov 8, officials had decided to keep the lanes closed during the morning of Nov 9 while demolition debris was

carried away from the site, and to allow workers from Ratsada Municipality to clean the road, he said.

Work also needed to be done to complete installation and repairs to power lines and power poles past the landslide site, Governor Narong explained.

Governor Narong urged motorists to exercise caution while using the road. Although the road had now fully reopened, motorists tend to drive quickly along the road, often resulting in accidents, he said.

*The Phuket News*



# Elected governor on the agenda

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

**K**orn Chatikavanij, a former Democrat finance minister and now leader of the Chart Pattana Kla Party, has affirmed the party's stance to allow Phuket people to elect their own governor.

Mr Korn's confirmation came at an event at Central Festival Phuket shopping mall last Saturday (Nov 12) held to announce the party's two candidates for Phuket in the upcoming national election, currently scheduled to be held May 7 next year.

Vying for seats as Members of Parliament in the House of Representatives are candidates Thames Kraitat, contesting Phuket Voting District 3, and Orathai Gerbsub, contesting Phuket Voting District 2.

The event on Saturday was held under the banner "D.I.Y. Phuket" – advocating "Phuket Province manage itself".

"We planted flags in Phuket because we have two candidates in two districts who are new generation, capable and fully committed to serve the people of Phuket," Mr Korn said.



Mr Korn explains the party's mandate at the event last Saturday (Nov 12). Photo: Chart Pattana Kla

"The DNA of the party is to solve the problems of the people's brothers and sisters in Phuket. The national parties have been quarreling with each other a lot. Chart Pattana Kla Party therefore sees the new generation, born here and raised here, but has gone out to experience the outside world, to become a success," he added.

"I have experience with

the two candidates and we see the need to develop Phuket first, namely, Phuket has to manage itself – choose your own governor, make your own decisions and allocate your own budget in order to accommodate tourists who will travel here, which will be tens of millions of people in the next few years. And we believe that we can work well together with the people of

Phuket," Mr Korn said.

Joining Mr Korn for the event was Suwat Liptapanlop, a former deputy prime minister and now Chairman of the Chart Pattana Kla Party.

"The COVID-19 pandemic brought all the economy to a halt, resulting in a bad economic situation. We have to borrow and go into debt to solve the problem; this goes for both the government and

[for members of] the public," Mr Suwat said.

"As a result, the country's GDP has decreased accordingly, but the most important thing is the debt of the private sector and unemployment among the people," he added.

"The problem is not only from COVID-19 pandemic, but also from problems of war causing the price of oil to rise again, causing inflation," he said.

"In this, it is the SME entrepreneur who will suffer the most," Mr Suwat noted.

"We came to Phuket because Phuket people have suffered the most, because the tourists have disappeared and Phuket is a city based on a tourism economy," Mr Suwat said.

"With 40 million tourists missing [nationally], Phuket's main tourism economy has been heavily impacted. More than 400,000 people have been seriously affected. The main point is that Phuket must be restored. The economy must be managed first, which is the specialty of the Chart Pattana Kla Party," Mr Suwat concluded.

Mr Korn also attested to seeing firsthand the impact

of the pandemic on Phuket's economy, and people, during his visit to the island last year.

"I think we have to face the fact that the infrastructure broadly speaking is still substandard, care for the environment is still probably not as good as we would like to see to preserve what we have for future generations," Mr Korn explained in an exclusive interview with *The Phuket News*.

"I think there's a lot of work to do still to uplevel Phuket into a truly premium destination. There are also in my opinion other potential for Phuket especially for the young generation," he said.

It was during that visit that Mr Korn first confirmed his stance on Phuket having an elected governor.

Mr Suwat is also very familiar with Phuket's economic situation. He was last on the island in May for the opening of the B4.5 billion Andamanda Phuket water fun park in Kathu.

The park was developed and is operated under the Proud Group, of which Mr Suwat's daughter, Proudpuh Liptapanlop is Executive Director.

## Russian tourist drowns at Karon

A RUSSIAN TOURIST drowned at Karon beach last Sunday (Nov 13). Pol Lt Col Ekachai Siri, of Phuket tourist police, named the man as Vladimir Kharitonov, 60. His death was reported about 10:30am.

Mr Kharitonov and his wife Marina, 60, arrived in Phuket on Nov 9. They checked in at the Best Western Karon Beach Hotel and were to check out on Nov 22.

Ms Kharitonov told police that about 9am last Sunday she and her husband went swimming in the sea at Karon beach. Soon afterwards, she left to collect some belongings. When she returned to the beach she saw a lifeguard giving her husband cardiopulmonary resuscitation. He said Mr Kharitonov had passed out and was without vital signs.

Mr Kharitonov was taken by ambulance to Chalong Hospital, where a doctor said he died before being brought from the beach. A post-mortem at Vachira Phuket Hospital confirmed he died from drowning.

Ms Kharitonov said she



A tourist police officer questions a lifeguard at Karon beach in Phuket, where a Russian tourist drowned on Sunday. Photo: Achadthaya Chuenniran

did not question the circumstances of her husband's death. She would take his body back to Russia for the funeral.

Police said there was a no-swimming flag on the beach. The lifeguard who performed CPR said there was no rip current near the

beach. He saw the Russian man lying face down in the water, and believed he had passed out because of some illness.

The death had been reported to the Russian consulate in Phuket, Lt Col Ekachai said.

Bangkok Post

Soul of Asia is closing after many years in Phuket as the leading art gallery in Thailand. Everything has to go. Come and make an offer.



!!! Everything is for sale incl me????

Artist: Yang Peng



Contact tel. 084 246 5999 @ www.soulofasia.com

The Plaza Surin

Porto de Phuket (Opposite food hall)

19/1, 19/2 Porto de Phuket, Bandon-Cherngtalay Rd., T.Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110



The Phuket News

## CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

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

ADVERTISING

ClassAct Media

The Phuket News

WINDOW ON PHUKET

Where to eat in PHUKET

Новости Phuket

ข่าวภูเก็ต

Dhinet NEWS TV

LIVE 89.5

Phuket TICKETMASTER

076 612 550 ext. 605

Fax: 076 612 553

info@classactmedia.co.th

thephuketnews.com

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

## PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

www.foreca.com

FRI NOVEMBER 18

High: +30°  
Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SAT NOVEMBER 19

High: +31°  
Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SUN NOVEMBER 20

High: +31°  
Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

MON NOVEMBER 21

High: +31°  
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE NOVEMBER 22

High: +32°  
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

WED NOVEMBER 23

High: +30°  
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

THU NOVEMBER 24

High: +30°  
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

## Arrest of NZ man 'overblown'

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A well-known, long-term Phuket expat has come to the defence of New Zealand man Gareth Davies, calling the high-profile arrest of Mr Davies last week for illegal possession of weapons 'overblown' and hyped up for presentation to the local media.

Mr Davies was taken into custody after officers raided his home in Moo 1, Kathu, last Monday (Nov 7).

Officers reported finding seven long-barreled firearms, including an AK and an M16, both described as weapons of war. A further 19 handguns were discovered along with what police described as 11 explosives and a large number of bullets of various sizes.

At the home to present to the press the items seized in the raid was Region 8 Police Commander Pol Lt Gen Surapong Thanomjit. Joining him was Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew.

However, long term Phuket expat Bob Mott has called into question the high-profile nature of the raid. Mr Mott has been operating marine and boat-building companies in Phuket for more than 20 years. For the past 12 years he has been operating Faraway Yachting Charters Co Ltd, a boat charter company set up and operated under regulations of the Board of Investment (BoI).

"Nearly all he [Gareth] had was ordered on Lazada, a Thai online ordering website. Add to that most of what he had that they added in the photos for publicity effect for the police were legal to own replicas that shoot plastic pellets. All there for show," Mr Mott said.

"The photos had the added effect of being a high profile bust," he added.

Mr Davies spent just one night detained at Kathu Police Station, Mr



Mott explained.

"They called me to come and get the keys to his house and look for his ATM and credit cards. I brought him some food as well," he said.

"He went to court without representation and was released on B50,000 bail, which I paid as his ATM card would not allow him to withdraw over B20,000," Mr Mott explained.

"He has to report every 12 days to a local police station. As far as I know he has a couple of charges of illegally owning firearms which relate to the real guns [he had], not the pellet guns [BB guns], which are legal for him to own," Mr Mott noted.

"He is not selling them. He is a collector and none ever left his house. He had a sand pit in his house that he used to rarely shoot into," Mr Mott explained.

In explaining the raid to the press last Monday, Lt Gen Surapong said that the arrest followed a tip-off to police, obtained through a complaint filed with Phuket Provincial Court.

Mr Davies, a retired mechanical engineer, sold the firearms and devices online, Lt Gen Surapong said.

However, unlike with other cases reported by police, Region 8 Police have yet to offer a public "clarifica-

tion" of Mr Davies' arrest, especially considering nearly all the firearms seized were BB guns.

Mr Mott added that police reporting that sounds of guns being fired in the house had been heard were likely misunderstood.

Mr Davies had recently purchased a nail gun for home renovations. "For the past month he has been using this to tidy up his house by getting things on shelves secured to walls," Mr Mott said, adding that police confirmed it was legal to have the nail gun.

"The police are after the suppliers from Bangkok who are Thai and they cut Gareth out of the LINE group and disappeared. They are professional criminals selling guns on Lazada. There were two Lazada deliveries while the police were there: one had a near new handgun that the police didn't know how to cock, Gareth had to show them how; the second delivery had shells, I think," he said.

"The whole thing is a case of stupidity on his behalf. He didn't even know how much he had in the house and was actually getting worried about having all the guns and how to get rid of them due to the current police efforts catching people selling and owning guns illegally," Mr Mott added.

Mr Davies is well known and well liked in Phuket's yachting community, Mr Mott noted. Mr Davies has been living in Phuket for 35 years.

"He was a major participant in recovering bodies in Khao Lak after the tsunami [in 2004]. He worked with the American government and marines recovering bodies and he worked with a child protection unit stopping children being stolen if their parents had died in the disaster.

"He helped officials also with taking truck loads of water and medical gear with him that he purchased out of his own funds," Mr Mott said.

"The day in court was his birthday. Phuket Yacht Club staff and many of his friends were at the club the following day to celebrate his birthday. I had collected his two dogs and returned them to him at the club," he added.

"He also donates to Soi Dogs and Paws," Mr Mott said.

"Many are trying to help him as he is very well liked in the expat and sailing community in Phuket. His wife died of cancer a few years ago leaving him alone and not long after his knees gave away and he is wheelchair bound.

"About a month ago I had to call an ambulance to come and collect him. He had fallen and could not get to his phone or wheelchair and the dogs were [messing] everywhere in the house. He had been laying there for three days," Mr Mott explained.

"They took his phone to look for evidence – where they will find none in regards to selling guns. They are holding his passport. There is no date set for a hearing," Mr Mott noted.

"Basically he was being a stupid farang that should have know better. He's not a big time crook, but he deserves some support," Mr Mott concluded.

## Officials target illegal land excavation

FOUR SUSPECTS HAVE been arrested in Phuket in connection with illegal land excavation in Cherng Talay, the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket) has announced.

The arrests were conducted on an undisclosed day "in the area of Kamala Mountains National Forest Reserve in Cherng Talay" by a team of officials led by Thalang District Chief Bancha Thanu-in, PR Phuket reported last Friday (Nov 11).

"Phuket province [the provincial government] has seriously ordered all agencies

to integrate their efforts in suppression of illegal excavation of soil," the report said.

Other agencies involved included the Phuket office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE); the regional branch of the Internal Security Operations Command (Isoc); Cherng Talay Police; the regional office of the Royal Forestry Department; Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organisation (OrBorTor); and the Phuket Provincial Defense Office.

Acting under directions of Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew and Vice Governor

Anuphap Rodkwan Yodrabam, the officials arrested four suspects named in the report as Mr Supachok, Mr Wichai, Mr Narongsak, and Ms Kritiya (family names withheld).

The raiding party also seized two backhoes, five 10-wheeled trucks and one pickup truck.

The suspects were arrested on charges of clearing the forest and excavating land illegally in violation of the National Forest Reserves Act (1964) and an unspecified order by the Phuket office of the MNRE. All four were taken to Cherng Talay Police Station

for processing, the report said.

PR Phuket added that the investigation started after Cherng Talay residents reported alleged illegal excavation in the national forest reserve, resulting in a complaint filed with the local branch of Isoc, which serves as the political arm of the Thai military.

According to the preliminary investigation, the soil from the forest was used to "fill a rice field behind Pasak Shrine".

"The Governor of Phuket has instructed all agencies to integrate their work on the suppression of illegal land



Officials arrested four suspects and seized seven vehicles in connection with allegedly illegal land excavation in Cherng Talay. Photo: PR Phuket

digging in order to prevent soil slides and flooding in the Phuket area," PR Phuket said.

The Phuket News

thephuketnews



# Aeroflot to add extra flights direct to Phuket

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Russia's largest airline and flag carrier Aeroflot is planning to add more direct flights to Phuket this month amid growing demand for outbound travel from Russia.

"Aeroflot airline is increasing the volume of regular passenger flights to Phuket as part of its winter schedule. This month, the carrier is planning to expand its flight program, including [new flights] from Russian regions," the Russian Consulate in Phuket announced through social media last Saturday (Nov 12).

The announced expansion includes: direct Phuket flights from Vladivostok and Novosibirsk twice a week; direct Phuket flights from Krasnoyarsk three times a week; and a third direct Phuket flight from Moscow daily (to supplement the existing two).

The Russian Consulate did not announce the exact date for the new flight service to start. The announcement only said it was expected in November.

Currently, the available direct flights from Russia are limited to two daily flights from Moscow by Aeroflot and three flights per week from Moscow by IKAR. Those flights were resumed in late October.

Despite limited travel options, Russian arrivals to Phuket have been showing



Aeroflot is currently operating two direct flights to Phuket daily and plans to add more. Photo: Sebastian Hoyer / Flickr

steady growth from late September. During October, some 23,089 Russian nationals passed through immigration control at Phuket International Airport compared with around 3,200-4,200 each month from May through September.

As of last Sunday (Nov 13), Russian nationals were by far the leading group of foreign tourists to Phuket in terms of direct arrivals to Phuket International Airport.

Since the reopening of direct flights last month, Russia has pushed India to second place in the list of top source markets for Phuket tourism. Russian arrivals have climbed to twice that of Indian arrivals, and more than three

times higher than Australian or British arrivals.

The top ten countries in terms of arrivals for Nov 1-13 were reported as:

- Russia – 24,329
- India – 11,769
- Australia – 7,110
- UK – 6,138
- Germany – 5,530
- Kazakhstan – 4,531
- Singapore – 4,446
- Malaysia – 3,625
- USA – 3,170
- South Korea – 2,870

Total arrivals for Nov 1-13 stood at 99,515 passengers with Russia accounting for nearly 25%.



Tourism Minister Phiphat at the World Youth Festival event in Bangkok earlier this week. Photo: MoTS

## Tourism ministry seeks B8.7bn 'booster shot'

THE TOURISM AND Sports Ministry is planning to ask the Cabinet this month to support the tourism industry, saying a 'booster shot' is required for Thailand to attract 18-20 million tourists next year.

Of the total budget, B7.2bn would be allocated for the fifth phase of the 'Rao Tiew Duay Kan' (We Travel Together) campaign to promote domestic tourism, Tourism and Sports Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn said on the sidelines of the World Travel Market held in London.

Another B1.5bn is for the Tourism Authority of Thailand's (TAT) marketing budget, comprising B1bn for overseas activities and B500mn for the domestic market.

The TAT was assigned to wrap up details of the so-called 'New Year Gift' package within two weeks for the proposal to be presented to the Cabinet on Nov 28, he said.

"The TAT aims to attract at least 18 million visitors next year, but the government's target is a minimum of 20 million. That is a conservative projection compared with the Bank of Thailand's estimate of 25-28 million tourists," said Mr Phiphat.

"However, to achieve 20 million visitors or 80% of the tourism revenue we tallied in 2019 is not an easy task next year amid the gloomy economic outlook. We have to ask for more budget as a booster shot is required to stimulate tourism, especially domestic travel," he said.

Bangkok Post

## CPI rises 5.98% year-on-year

OFFICIAL DATA FIGURES HAVE indicated that Thailand's headline consumer price index (CPI) rose 5.98% in October from a year earlier, slightly lower than forecast and the slowest pace in six months.

The rise follows September's 6.41% increase and was just shy of the 6.0% forecast in a Reuters poll, reports state news agency NNT.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, the core CPI index, which strips out energy and fresh food prices, was up 3.17% in October from a year ago, versus a forecast rise of 3.20%.

The ministry said in a statement that inflation in November would slow due to lower consumer goods prices while other prices remained stable despite increasing costs, helped by government measures to ease the cost of living.

However, high energy costs, the weak baht currency and rising domestic demand could limit the rate of the decline.

Senior commerce official Poonpong Naiyanapakorn told a briefing that the inflation situation is slowing, adding that it is expected to slow in the remaining two months.

The ministry noted that headline inflation forecast for the year is still seen at the 5.5% to 6.5% range.

The Trade Policy and Strategy Office (TPSO) reported the inflation rate was 108.06 in October – a 5.98% expansion.

TPSO Director Ronnarong Phoolpipat explained the expansion decelerated for the second consecutive month. September's



TPSO Director Ronnarong Phoolpipat. Photo: NNT

inflation rate expanded by 6.41% and August's rate by 7.86%.

For the first 10 months of the year, inflation has expanded by 6.15%. This remains within the TPSO's projected frame of 5.5-6.5%, Mr Ronnarong said.

According to the TPSO chief, there is a tendency for inflation to slow down during the remaining two months of the year. Inflationary factors are starting to stabilize, with the Dubai crude price remaining under US\$100 per barrel.

At the same time, the Thai baht remains within the predicted range. Furthermore, the Department of Internal Trade has kept product prices as well as quantities at appropriate levels.

Mr Ronnarong said many other countries are experiencing accelerating inflation. Such countries include Singapore, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, India, and the United States. NNT

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

**Yes, it is possible!**

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

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

To know more about BrightView Surgery, please contact us at

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



## Expats get online visa extensions

### BANGKOK

THE IMMIGRATION Bureau (IB) unveiled its Electronic Extension of Temporary Stay (e-Extension) service on Nov 8 to make it easier for expats to apply for visa extensions.

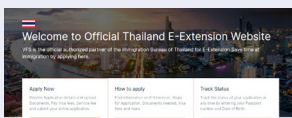
Pol Gen Damrongsak Kittiprapas, the national police chief, said the e-Extension would enhance visa services as the system lets them lodge the extension request online.

The service covers the whole process including the payment of fees via the website: [Thaiextension.vfsevisa.com](http://Thaiextension.vfsevisa.com).

The website will reduce the time to process the application from one hour to three minutes, Gen Damrongsak said.

According to the IB, over 200,000 expats seek to extend their visas each year for about a dozen reasons including taking holidays, teaching jobs, studying, working at a state agency or due to family ties.

The growing number of



The new web portal for receiving applications.

applicants spurred concern about the time-consuming and inconvenient nature of the process.

The e-Extension service will be piloted first for expats living or working in Bangkok.

They can file an application online via the new website.

However, they must show up in person to verify their identity and get a visa sticker at the IB office on Chaeng Wattana Road.

The IB plans to make the service available at all IB offices nationwide in the future.

The online application process is partnered with VFS Global, which is the authorised partner for the UK Government to receive passport applications from British citizens.

*Bangkok Post*

## Anutin dismisses bid to re-outlaw cannabis

### BANGKOK

*Bangkok Post*

Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul dismissed a plan to return marijuana to Type 5 narcotics status on Monday (Nov 14), saying that would fall under the remit of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB).

According to Anutin, the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes has, after much discussion and debate, already been decided upon.

"The opposition should learn more about the context of the proposed cannabis use and change their mindset about it now that the law has been issued," Anutin said.

The minister also insisted that domestic cannabis cultivation will not increase use among those under the legal age of consumption as the plant is harder to use than cigarettes and alcoholic drinks.

"We have also prohibited the sale and use of the plant among minors. The prohibition behind the law should



Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul. Photo: *Bangkok Post*

be solely dependent on their family," he stated.

Earlier, many MPs expressed their concerns about the bill and cited widespread recreational use of the drug among youths after the plant's legalisation.

Anutin also stressed that rumoured concoctions such as cannabis cola or clustered flowers will never see the light of day if the latest cannabis and hemp bill is not dismissed.

The new bill will include a notification process, according to the minister, that will instruct producers and vendors on which product categories they can carry legally.

"We needed to issue the notification to reduce public and political concerns on the use of cannabis cola or clustered flowers for recreational purposes, which might lead to a tendency for them to vote against the bill.

"In the meantime the notification will strengthen investor confidence in their medicinal cannabis businesses."

Anutin claimed that he has not yet planned to submit a proposal to the ONCB to include the plants on the narcotics list.

"Even though we have not observed anything untoward, we are highly concerned about the safety of users," he added.



## SALA RESTAURANT



Al Fresco dining at it's best, on the shores of Mai Khao Beach. Offering an exceptional blend of mouth watering international cuisine and scrumptious traditional Thai delicacies.

Located beachfront at  
SALA Phuket Mai Khao Beach Resort

076 33 8888

[www.salaphuket.com](http://www.salaphuket.com)

## Mastery Learning • American Curriculum

Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education



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

**Enroll Today!**



## QSI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF PHUKET

81/4 Moo. 1 Chalemphrakiat Ror. 9 Road Kathu  
[www.phuket.qsi.org](http://www.phuket.qsi.org) • 076 304 312





**AUSSIE BAR**

**PHUKET'S  
TOP SPORTS  
PUB**

★★★★★★★★



**BB BEACH BUMS**

ALL DRINKS  
**BUY 2  
GET 1  
FREE**  
FOR DURATION OF WORLD CUP



**PHUKET BISP SOCCER 7s**

Join us for a spectacular action-packed soccer tournament  
**BISP SOCCER SEVENS**  
25-26 November 2022

bisp7s.com

Our main sponsor



Follow us on      **bisphuket**

Event hashtag: #bisp7s



**Making a Difference**

Audit & Assurance  
Advisory  
Tax & Legal  
Business Services & Outsourcing Services

[www.bdo.th](http://www.bdo.th)  [info@bdo.th](mailto:info@bdo.th)  [bdothailand](https://www.linkedin.com/company/bdothailand)



**GO THE SOCCEROOS!**

Our Xmas List now available  
contact 076 271 049 or 080 398 7399 or [nicholas@ladypie.com](mailto:nicholas@ladypie.com)



**KW PHUKET**  
KELLER WILLIAMS

SALES • RENTALS • CONSULTING • AGENT TRAINING

 +66 (0)61 796 7261  
 [james.hutley@kwthailand.com](mailto:james.hutley@kwthailand.com)  
 jamescoach  
 KellerWilliamsPhuket  
 [kellerwilliamsphuket.com](http://kellerwilliamsphuket.com)



VIEW LISTINGS

JOIN THE WINNING TEAM IN PHUKET!

# FIFA WORLD CUP 2022

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

ข่าวภูเก็ต

Новости Пхукета

**WINDOW ON PHUKET**

**Phuket NEWS TV**

Where to eat in PHUKET

**LIVE 89.5** Radio

## LAST 16

DEC 3, 10PM KHALIFA STADIUM

| WINNER GROUP A | 2 <sup>ND</sup> GROUP B |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| VS             |                         |

DEC 4, 2AM AHMAD BIN ALI STADIUM

| WINNER GROUP C | 2 <sup>ND</sup> GROUP D |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| VS             |                         |

DEC 5, 10PM AL JANOUB STADIUM

| WINNER GROUP E | 2 <sup>ND</sup> GROUP F |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| VS             |                         |

DEC 6, 2AM STADIUM 974

| WINNER GROUP G | 2 <sup>ND</sup> GROUP H |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| VS             |                         |

## QUARTER FINALS

DEC 11, 2AM AL BAYT STADIUM

| WINNER 1A/2B | WINNER 1C/2D |
|--------------|--------------|
| VS           |              |

## SEMI FINALS

DEC 14, 2AM LUSAIL STADIUM

| WINNER QF2 | WINNER QF1 |
|------------|------------|
| VS         |            |

DEC 9, 10PM EDUCATION CITY STADIUM

| WINNER 1E/2F | WINNER 1G/2H |
|--------------|--------------|
| VS           |              |

## FINAL

DEC 18, 10PM LUSAIL STADIUM

| WINNER SF1 | WINNER SF2 |
|------------|------------|
| VS         |            |

## QUARTER FINALS

DEC 10, 2AM LUSAIL STADIUM

| WINNER 1B/2A | WINNER 1D/2C |
|--------------|--------------|
| VS           |              |

## SEMI FINALS

DEC 15, 2AM AL BAYT STADIUM

| WINNER QF4 | WINNER QF3 |
|------------|------------|
| VS         |            |

DEC 10, 10PM AL THUMAMA STADIUM

| WINNER 1F/2E | WINNER 1H/2G |
|--------------|--------------|
| VS           |              |

## THIRD PLACE

DEC 17, 10PM KHALIFA STADIUM

| 2 <sup>ND</sup> SF1 | 2 <sup>ND</sup> SF2 |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| VS                  |                     |

## LAST 16

DEC 4, 10PM AL THUMAMA STADIUM

| WINNER GROUP D | 2 <sup>ND</sup> GROUP C |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| VS             |                         |

DEC 5, 2AM AL BAYT STADIUM

| WINNER GROUP B | 2 <sup>ND</sup> GROUP A |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| VS             |                         |

DEC 6, 10PM EDUCATION CITY STADIUM

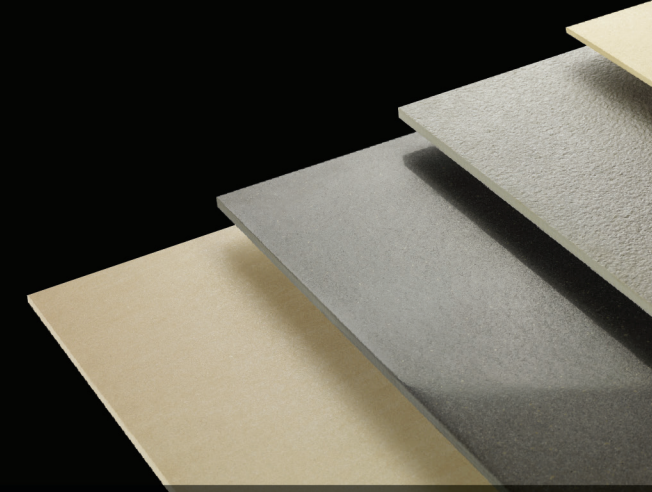
| WINNER GROUP F | 2 <sup>ND</sup> GROUP E |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| VS             |                         |

DEC 7, 2AM LUSAIL STADIUM

| WINNER GROUP H | 2 <sup>ND</sup> GROUP G |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| VS             |                         |

**tile-it**  
PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

[@tileitthailand](https://www.facebook.com/tileitthailand) [@tileitthailand](https://www.instagram.com/tileitthailand) [@TileAsia](https://www.twitter.com/TileAsia)



[www.tile-asia.com](http://www.tile-asia.com) | [letstalk@tile-asia.com](mailto:letstalk@tile-asia.com) | Tel: 076 620168

Phuket Showroom: 177/35 Baan Wana, Sri Sunthorn Rd.,  
Cherng Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110.

**CAPTAIN HOOK'S SMOKEHOUSE**

**Free BBQ sauce**  
when buy 3 kgs  
of smoked ribs



[chsmokehouse.com](http://chsmokehouse.com)

Note: Match times are listed in Thai time



# FIFA WORLD CUP 2022

**QATAR NOVEMBER 20 - DECEMBER 18**

Note: Match times are listed in Thai time

Phuket News

ข่าวภูเก็ต

Новости Пхукета

WINDOW ON PHUKET

Phuket NEWS TV

Where to eat in PHUKET

LIVE 89.5 Radio

## GROUP A



| DATE/TIME    | VENUE             |     | RESULT |     |
|--------------|-------------------|-----|--------|-----|
| NOV 20, 11PM | AL BAYT STADIUM   | QAT |        | ECU |
| NOV 21, 11PM | ALTHUMAMA STADIUM | SEN |        | NED |
| NOV 25, 8PM  | ALTHUMAMA STADIUM | QAT |        | SEN |
| NOV 25, 11PM | KHALIFA STADIUM   | NED |        | ECU |
| NOV 29, 10PM | AL BAYT STADIUM   | NED |        | QAT |
| NOV 29, 10PM | KHALIFA STADIUM   | ECU |        | SEN |

## GROUP B



| DATE/TIME   | VENUE                 |     | RESULT |     |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----|--------|-----|
| NOV 21, 8PM | KHALIFA STADIUM       | ENG |        | IRN |
| NOV 22, 2AM | AHMAD BIN ALI STADIUM | USA |        | WAL |
| NOV 25, 5PM | AHMAD BIN ALI STADIUM | WAL |        | IRN |
| NOV 26, 2AM | AL BAYT STADIUM       | ENG |        | USA |
| NOV 30, 2AM | AHMAD BIN ALI STADIUM | WAL |        | ENG |
| NOV 30, 2AM | ALTHUMAMA STADIUM     | IRN |        | USA |

## GROUP E



| DATE/TIME    | VENUE                 |     | RESULT |     |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----|--------|-----|
| NOV 23, 8PM  | KHALIFA STADIUM       | GER |        | JPN |
| NOV 23, 11PM | ALTHUMAMA STADIUM     | ESP |        | CRC |
| NOV 27, 5PM  | AHMAD BIN ALI STADIUM | JPN |        | CRC |
| NOV 28, 2AM  | AL BAYT STADIUM       | ESP |        | GER |
| DEC 2, 2AM   | KHALIFA STADIUM       | JPN |        | ESP |
| DEC 2, 2AM   | AL BAYT STADIUM       | CRC |        | GER |

## GROUP F



| DATE/TIME    | VENUE                 |     | RESULT |     |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----|--------|-----|
| NOV 23, 5PM  | AL BAYT STADIUM       | MAR |        | CRO |
| NOV 24, 2AM  | AHMAD BIN ALI STADIUM | BEL |        | CAN |
| NOV 27, 8PM  | ALTHUMAMA STADIUM     | BEL |        | MAR |
| NOV 27, 11PM | KHALIFA STADIUM       | CRO |        | CAN |
| DEC 1, 10PM  | AHMAD BIN ALI STADIUM | CRO |        | BEL |
| DEC 1, 10PM  | ALTHUMAMA STADIUM     | CAN |        | MAR |

## GROUP C



| DATE/TIME    | VENUE                  |     | RESULT |     |
|--------------|------------------------|-----|--------|-----|
| NOV 22, 5PM  | LUSAIL STADIUM         | ARG |        | KSA |
| NOV 22, 11PM | STADIUM 974            | MEX |        | POL |
| NOV 26, 8PM  | EDUCATION CITY STADIUM | POL |        | KSA |
| NOV 27, 2AM  | LUSAIL STADIUM         | ARG |        | MEX |
| DEC 1, 2AM   | STADIUM 974            | POL |        | ARG |
| DEC 1, 2AM   | LUSAIL STADIUM         | KSA |        | MEX |

## GROUP D



| DATE/TIME    | VENUE                  |     | RESULT |     |
|--------------|------------------------|-----|--------|-----|
| NOV 22, 8PM  | EDUCATION CITY STADIUM | DEN |        | TUN |
| NOV 23, 2AM  | AL JANOUB STADIUM      | FRA |        | AUS |
| NOV 26, 5PM  | AL JANOUB STADIUM      | TUN |        | AUS |
| NOV 26, 11PM | STADIUM 974            | FRA |        | DEN |
| NOV 30, 10PM | EDUCATION CITY STADIUM | TUN |        | FRA |
| NOV 30, 10PM | AL JANOUB STADIUM      | AUS |        | DEN |

## GROUP G



| DATE/TIME    | VENUE             |     | RESULT |     |
|--------------|-------------------|-----|--------|-----|
| NOV 24, 5PM  | AL JANOUB STADIUM | SUI |        | CMR |
| NOV 25, 2AM  | LUSAIL STADIUM    | BRA |        | SRB |
| NOV 28, 5PM  | AL JANOUB STADIUM | CMR |        | SRB |
| NOV 28, 11PM | STADIUM 974       | BRA |        | SUI |
| DEC 2, 2AM   | LUSAIL STADIUM    | CMR |        | BRA |
| DEC 3, 2AM   | STADIUM 974       | SRB |        | SUI |

## GROUP H



| DATE/TIME    | VENUE                  |     | RESULT |     |
|--------------|------------------------|-----|--------|-----|
| NOV 24, 8PM  | EDUCATION CITY STADIUM | URU |        | KOR |
| NOV 24, 11PM | STADIUM 974            | POR |        | GHA |
| NOV 28, 8PM  | EDUCATION CITY STADIUM | KOR |        | GHA |
| NOV 29, 2AM  | LUSAIL STADIUM         | POR |        | URU |
| DEC 2, 10PM  | EDUCATION CITY STADIUM | KOR |        | POR |
| DEC 2, 10PM  | AL JANOUB STADIUM      | GHA |        | URU |

**VERTIGO**  
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

We make you look good.

Based in Phuket and Bangkok  
www.VertigoVideoProductions.com

**LUCKY  
SHOT  
SPORTS  
BAR  
KATHU**



**PATRICK**  
CHANTHAM



Our Xmas List now available  
contact 076 271 049 or 080 398 7399 or nicholas@ladypie.com

**PHUKET BISP7s**  
SOCCER

British International School, Phuket

Join us for a spectacular action-packed soccer tournament  
**BISP SOCCER SEVENS**  
25-26 November 2022

bisp7s.com

Our main sponsor  
**ANGSANA LAGUNA PHUKET**

Follow us on bisp7s  
Event hashtag: #bisp7s



Open seven days a week from  
World Cup Monday onwards  
at the only British pub in Koh Kaew



# Trades & Services



## CORPORATE SERVICES

**VERTIGO**  
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

WE MAKE YOU LOOK GOOD.

VERTIGO VIDEO PRODUCTIONS.COM

f i t y

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Waterproofing & Crack Repair**

20 year WARRANTY

Drone Survey

Pipe Inspection

under yearly checkup plan...

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

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**ASIA GREEN TECH**  
GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

+6683 394 7430  
www.asiagtech.com

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

**BIOCLIMATIC PERCOLA**

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**ASIA GREEN TECH**  
GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

+6683 394 7430  
www.asiagtech.com

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

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

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

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**WOOD FLOOR PHUKET - 20 YEARS**

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

f /solidwoodfloorphuketthailand  
Matt 081 271 2684 or Jessika 062 372 6624

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Tile-e-til**  
PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

**SMART TILES**  
Tile Leveling System

Baan Wana - Cherng Talay  
Tel : 076 620168

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

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

The Curtain Shop

UPHOLSTERY  
**CURTAIN**  
WALLPAPER  
BLIND  
CARPET

PROFESSIONAL  
Curtain repeating, stitching, sewing and installtion.

**GREAT VALUE. LUXURY FEEL.**

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

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**ASIA GREEN TECH**  
GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

+6683 394 7430  
www.asiagtech.com

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

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

## MARINE SERVICES

**Marine Engineering Specialists**

**C & C MARINE®**

YANMAR mtu

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

**WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?**

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

Новости **Пхукета** Твой остров - твоя газета

ข่าว **ภูเก็ต**

**WINDOW ON PHUKET**

The map of PHUKET English 中文 Русский

Where to eat in PHUKET

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

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th



**FRI 18 NOV**

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

### Friday Mussels Night

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

**Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners**  
Friday 18th November 2022  
18:00 - 21:00 hrs.  
Sail Laguna Phuket  
900 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members

### Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners hosted by AustCham

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (AMCHAM), British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber of Commerce, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC), Phuket Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce, invite you to join us for Phuket Sundowners at Sai Laguna Phuket, on Friday 18 November 2022, from 18.00 - 21.00 hrs. Join us for a wonderful night of making new connections and catching up with familiar faces in the Australian-Thai business community. As well as, getting to know and learn from our corporate sponsors Silk Legal, a boutique law firm based that specializes in commercial transaction, foreign direct investment, technology, blockchain and artificial intelligence. 500 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members 900 THB for non-members. For registration code for Australian Alumni members, please contact AustCham team at 02 109 9616 or email to office@austchamthailand.com

**AustCham Thailand Business Briefing on THE FUTURE OF RECREATIONAL AND MEDICAL CANNABIS IN THE TOURISM SECTOR**  
Friday 18th November 2022  
17:00 - 18:00 hrs.  
Sail Laguna Phuket  
Free of Charge for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members

### AustCham Thailand Business Briefing

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (AMCHAM), British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber of Commerce, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC), Phuket Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce, invite you to join us for Business Briefing on "The future of Recreational and Medical Cannabis in the Tourism Sector", Friday 18 November 2022, from 17.00 - 18.00 hrs. The future of Recreational and Medical Cannabis in the Tourism Sector Will cannabis be a high or just a bad trip for Thailand's tourism sector? This talk will highlight topics to gain practical insight about operating a medical cannabis business focused on tourism in Thailand. Topics include: Marketing and pitch deck considerations for start-ups. Changes to the Cannabis and Hemp Act and how they will affect businesses in the sector. The future of medical cannabis in Asia. Speakers: Dr. Paul Crosio, a Partner at Silk Legal who was recently recognised as one of the Top 200 Global Cannabis Lawyers of 2022. Diego Sala, Managing Director of Siam Trade Development specialises in regulated activities surrounding cannabis products, dietary supplements, and medical devices. Free of charge for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members. For registration code for Australian Alumni members, please contact AustCham team at 02 109 9616 or email to office@austchamthailand.com

**SUN 20 NOV**

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

### Sunday Roast

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

**Want your EVENT listed here?**

**MON 21 NOV**

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

### Monday BBQ Night

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

**WED 23 NOV**

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

### Wednesday BBQ Night

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

**AN EVENING WITH PAUL 'GAZZA' GASCOIGNE**  
8500THB  
Meet & Greet + Photo Op  
The Life of Gazza - Full Story - Q&A  
3 Course Dinner + Live Auctions  
6PM-10PM

### An evening with Paul 'Gazza' Gascoigne

A living LEGEND and arguably one of the greatest football players of all time, GAZZA is coming to Phuket 23rd November, to host THE sportsman's dinner. Don't miss this unique and one time opportunity to listen to hilarious and amazing stories. The night will include: - Meet and greet Gazza. - Photo opportunity with a Legend - Free flow bar (6-7:30pm) - Listen to his life story. - Q&A. - 3 course meal. - Live auction.

All of the above for B6,500 per person. To reserve your tickets for this great event, visit - <https://megatix.in.th/events/an-evening-with-paul-gazza-gascoigne>, Email: Lucy@highlifethai.comw

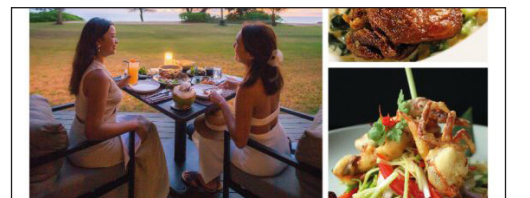
**WED 7 DEC**

**BDO PHUKET BREAKFAST BRIEFING**  
**CASH IS KING**  
Raising Capital To Super Charge Your Business

### BDO Phuket Breakfast Briefing - 'Cash is King'

BDO in Phuket, in conjunction with Hughes Krupica, is pleased to invite you to an exclusive breakfast briefing on "Cash is King: Raising Capital to Supercharge Your Business". Learn the 10-step guide to raising capital and the five key legal and structuring issues you should consider. Preparing your business for growth requires access to capital in the same way as those who require cash to keep the business going. Hear from our experts as to what businesses need to do to prepare themselves for a capital raise, be it debt or equity. Our Speakers: 1. Matthew Cutt: Advisory Partner at BDO Thailand 2. Desmond Hughes: Co-founder and Senior Partner at Hughes Krupica. Time: 9:00 - 11:00 hrs. (Registration starts at 8:30 hrs.) Location: Captain Room, NH Boat Lagoon Resort, Phuket. This event is free of charge and has limited capacity. Register now to book your slot. Visit: <https://bit.ly/3E18J0> or email BDO at marketing@bdo.th BDO in Thailand, Captain Room, NH Boat Lagoon Phuket Resort, marketing@bdo.th

**EVERY DAY**



### SALA RESTAURANT

SALA RESTAURANT Located beach and poolside, SALA Restaurant offers indoor, alfresco and rooftop dining with a lineup of fresh seafood, international dishes and authentic Thai favourites. Lounge on oversized daybeds, choose from an extensive beverage menu including a variety of delicious drinks, classic mixers and an international drinks selection. Mr. Anthony Van Sleuven, 333 Moo. 3, Maikhao, Thalang, Phuket 83110, anthonyvans@gmail.com, nueng21011984@gmail.com, 076-338888, 076-338889

### BOATS, YACHTS FOR SALE

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

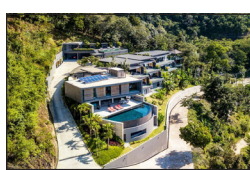
### CARS & BOATS

**Cayenne 2020 Special color**  
V6 3.0 L eHybrid - 8 Speed Tiptronic S - Exterior: Mahogany Brown Metallic - Interior: Black / Beige Two-Tone Leather - Wheels: Alloy Porsche size 21" - Tyres: Yokohama avid GT (new) - Soft close doors (all 4) - Panoramic Roof - Seat 14 Ways - Comfort Access Key System - Burmester Hi-End Sound System - Adaptive Air Suspension - Night vision system Mileage 2x,xxx / 7,5xx,xxx, 0985308234 admin@motorium.co.th

### CARS, TRUCKS FOR SALE

**Porsche Cayenne 2020 Like NEW**  
V6 3.0 L eHybrid - 8 Speed Tiptronic S - Exterior: White Pearl Metallic - Interior: Black / Bordeaux Red Two-Tone Leather - Wheels: alloy Porsche size 21" - Tyres: Michelin Pilot Sport 4S (new) - Soft close doors (all 4) - 2x rear entertainment screens - Panoramic Roof - Porsche Crest embossed - Sport chrono package - Sport Seat 14 Ways - 4-zone Climate - Comfort Access Key System - BOSE Surround Sound System - Sport exhaust system Porsche - Adaptive Air Suspension - Front seats cool air ventilation Mileage 5x,xxx / 7,3xx,xxx, 0985308234 admin@motorium.co.th

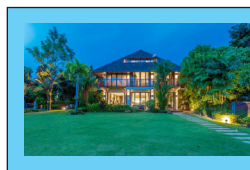
### PROPERTY FOR RENT



### Luxury Ocean View Pool Villa

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

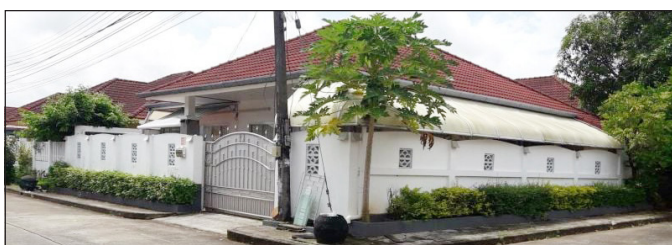
### PROPERTY FOR RENT



### Bangtao private villa

Bangtao private half acre villa setting, 5 ensuite bed, 7 baths, 2 kitchens, 3 pools, gym, sauna, 2 min walk to beach, 24 hr security. Weekly, monthly rates. Available until Jan 04/23. Call 0818927082 or email nokey@loxinfo.co.th

### PROPERTY FOR SALE



### OWNER GOING BACK HOME

FOR SALE: FURNISHED HOUSE WITH INCOME IN PAKLOK 500 MTRS FROM HEROINES MONUMENT. FOR SALE: ONE RAI PLUS OF LAND CLOSE TO MISSION HILLS GOLF COURSE 10 MINUTES TO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, 15 MINUTES TO AIRPORT. Interested party contact owner on 093 629 4400. jmicchia@yahoo.com

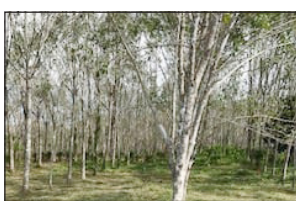
### PROPERTY FOR SALE



### Phuket lot for sale

One rai plus (1,888 sqm), in small development. on Mission Hills Golf Course with road, power. Sea view and golf course view from upper villa tier. Private, quiet. For sale 5.5 M THB. Call 0818927082 or email nokey@loxinfo.co.th

### Land for sale near Mission Heights



Land is 1,656 square meters approx on 3 Chanote titles. Has concrete road, water and electric. Small quiet village close to Mission Heights. I'm looking for 4.3 million Baht ONO. Call 093 629 4400. iccertainshuahin@gmail.com





## PHUKET'S MELBOURNE CUP BRUNCH 2022 A MAJOR SUCCESS

On Tuesday Nov 1, over 60 guests joined a fundraiser at Firefly Pool and Restaurant at The Pavilions Phuket. Guests enjoyed brunch, watched 'The Race That Stops a Nation' and strutted their stuff on the catwalk over the pool as they vied for best-dressed titles in Fashions on the Field. Fundraising was integral to the event with live and silent auctions to raise much-needed funds for children's charity Phuket Has Been Good To Us (PHBGU). Thanks to the generosity of prize donors and guests, the brunch raised sufficient funds to employ a qualified English teacher and cover their visa, work permit and school supplies for a year. Phuket Has Been Good To Us is a Thai registered children's charity established after the 2004 Asian Tsunami destroyed the schools they teach in. Their mission is to improve the economic opportunities and life chances of underprivileged Thai children by funding and implementing high quality, practical English language education for free in two government schools in Phuket.



## BRIGHTVIEW CENTER, BANGKOK HOSPITAL PHUKET, RECEIVED A ZEISS TRIFOCAL AWARD

Dr. Captain Wiriyaluppa, Ophthalmologist -Vitreoretinal Surgery, presented the Zeiss Trifocal Award from Carl Zeiss Meditec (Germany), the world's leading manufacturer of intraocular lenses. With specific criteria only met by highly experienced and outstanding ophthalmologists in the range of Trifocal Lens implantations, the award recognises him for long-standing advocacy and performing this lens replacement surgery in the sizeable number of patients -currently in the top two rankings of Thailand. Mr. Teerapong Boonrodchu, Managing Director of Carl Zeiss Co., Ltd., presented this recognition to Dr. Captain in the presence of Mr. Samuel Lee, Head of Sales, Southeast Asia, Carl Zeiss Co., Ltd., and Dr. Lalita Kongseeha, Deputy Hospital Director, October 20 at Courtyard by Marriott Phuket Town. This has brought cheers and glistening pride to Bangkok Hospital Phuket upon the latest achievement of Dr. Captain Wiriyaluppa.



## SUAY - 13 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Over 150 people joined the invitation only celebration of one of Phuket's most popular restaurants, Suay restaurant Cherngtalay, last Sunday evening (Nov 13). The theme was 'Keeping it Classy' and with the fabulous Chef's special creations, live classic Pop Jazz, drinks and special shows, it sure was a classy evening!





New Zealand's women celebrate. Photo: AFP

## Women's Rugby World Cup a 'massive success'

### RUGBY

BOSSES HOPE A SHOW-stopping end to the women's Rugby World Cup will spur much-needed investment in the women's game after decades of neglect.

New Zealand's 34-31 defeat of fellow-heavyweights England before a capacity crowd at Eden Park last Saturday (Nov 12) was a fitting end to the grandest edition of a tournament more often regarded as a niche event since its inception in 1991.

Record crowds, including 40,000 for the decider, moved World Rugby chairman Bill Beaumont to hail the six-week, 12-nation tournament a "massive success", even though it made a substantial financial loss.

He said a shortfall in sponsorship and broadcast rights was partly due to a lack of

commitment World Rugby itself had made to the women's 15-a-side game although the tournament in New Zealand has now raised the bar.

In anticipation of more money flowing into the women's game, World Rugby has increased the number of teams from 12 to 16 for the next three tournaments – in England (2025), Australia (2029) and the United States (2033).

England's event will have a wider geographical spread than New Zealand – where costs restricted matches to just two cities – while triple-header fixtures in group play will instead be double-headers or even standalone games.

An annual global WXV competition, to be played by 18 teams in non-World Cup years, will also be introduced in September 2023 to maintain momentum between tournaments. *AFPw*

# Russell wins his first ever F1 race in São Paulo

### FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato  
michael@boxofneutrals.com

George Russell saw off a late challenge from Mercedes teammate Lewis Hamilton to win his first race at the São Paulo Grand Prix last Sunday (Nov 13).

The young Briton, who joined the frontrunning team this season, controlled the race with the composure of a driver with the reputation of a future world champion to deliver Mercedes its first win of the season and lead the German marque's first one-two finish in more than two years.

Russell started the race from pole ahead of Hamilton and Max Verstappen, but the race was put behind the safety car after only a handful of corners when Daniel Ricciardo rear-ended Kevin Magnussen, putting both out of the race.

Lando Norris then crashed into Charles Leclerc in a clumsy overtaking attempt at turn 6, leaving Russell leading Sergio Perez and Carlos Sainz



George Russell celebrates after winning the Formula 1 Brazil Grand Prix last Sunday (Nov 13). Photo: AFP

as the last drivers standing among the frontrunners.

Sainz was forced into an early pit stop with a brake duct blockage and Perez then stopped to try to undercut Russell for the lead, but he rejoined the track in traffic, scuppering his chances.

Sainz and Hamilton later capitalised on the Mexican's lost time by undercutting him themselves to take second and third, respectively.

Russell led easily throughout, building a comfortable buffer for what was looking like a comfortable race win, but a late safety car to recover Norris's stopped McLaren on track turned the race into a 10-lap dash to the flag.

Hamilton had slightly fresher tyres than his teammate and kept himself within about a second of the leader, but Russell's pace through the twisty middle sector kept him

at arm's length through the long back straight and into the circuit's best overtaking opportunity at turn 1.

Hamilton kept up the pressure but was never genuinely close enough to challenge, and Russell took the chequered flag with a 1.5-second margin to record the first grand prix victory of his career.

"What an amazing feeling," he said. "I felt in control. Lewis was super-fast, and then when I saw the safety car I thought, 'Jeez, this is going to be a really difficult ending'.

"He put me under so much pressure, but I'm so happy to get away with the victory."

Hamilton praised the one-two as a team triumph after a year of hard work to return Mercedes to the top of the podium in a hitherto winless season.

"Huge congratulations to George," he said. "What an amazing drive he did today. He truly deserves it."

Sainz claimed third place to limit the damage done to Ferrari's lead over Mercedes for second in the constructors standings.



THAI  
RESIDENTIAL

Phuket's No.1 Trusted Real Estate Advisor

## Are You Trying To Sell Your Phuket Property?

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

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





# Man City stung by Bees as Gunners extend lead

## FOOTBALL

AFP

Arsenal head into the World Cup break five points clear at the top of the Premier League after they beat Wolves 2-0 last Saturday (Nov 12) as Manchester City suffered a shock 1-2 home defeat to Brentford.

City had not lost at the Etihad since February, but were stunned by Ivan Toney's response to being left out of England's World Cup squad.

The Brentford captain headed in his 10<sup>th</sup> goal of the season to give the Bees an early lead, but City responded before half-time thanks to Phil Foden's sumptuous strike.

Pep Guardiola warned ahead of the game that his side might have one eye on the World Cup with 10 of the City starting XI heading to Qatar.

A lacklustre City performance was punished in the eighth minute of time added on when Brentford cut open Guardiola's men on the counter-attack and Toney tapped in Josh Dasilva's cross.

Arsenal took full advantage to set up an intriguing title battle when the Premier League returns from a six-week hiatus on Boxing Day.

Martin Odegaard led by example for the Gunners as the Norwegian fired home twice from close range in the second half.



Brentford's Ivan Toney scored twice to shock Manchester City. Photo: AFP

Newcastle remain in third place after inflicting Chelsea's third consecutive league defeat 1-0 at St. James' Park thanks to Joe Willock's stunning strike, while Tottenham scored twice in the final 10 minutes to win a 4-3 thriller against Leeds United.

The Magpies are now just two points adrift of Manchester City after a run of 22 points from a possible 24.

Liverpool signed off until Boxing Day on a positive note as Darwin Nunez struck twice against Southampton in a comfortable 3-1 win.

Nunez has been erratic since his move from Benfica, but the Uruguayan is already up to eight goals in his debut season at Liverpool after two cool finishes before half-time.

Aston Villa continued their resurgence

under new boss Unai Emery with a 2-1 win at Brighton, courtesy of two goals from Danny Ings, while Manchester United signed off for the break with a 2-1 win at Fulham.

Leicester's rise up the table continued with a 2-0 win at West Ham which leaves the Hammers in trouble one point above the relegation zone.

Everton are also only a point above the bottom three after a 0-3 thrashing at the hands of Bournemouth.

Marcus Tavernier, Kieffer Moore and Jaidon Anthony were on target for the Cherries and there were angry confrontations between the Everton players and travelling support at full-time.

Nottingham Forest moved off the bottom as Morgan Gibbs-White scored the only goal of a 1-0 win over Crystal Palace.



Ben Stokes. Photo: AFP

## Stokes inspires England to T20 World Cup victory

### CRICKET

ENGLAND SKIPPER JOS Buttler hailed Ben Stokes as "a true match-winner" after the allrounder's unbeaten 52 helped steer them past Pakistan to win the Twenty20 World Cup last Sunday (Nov 13).

In the process they became the sport's first dual white-ball champions, holding both the 50- and 20-over titles.

Buttler's side restricted Pakistan to 137-8 in front of 80,462 fans at a heaving Melbourne Cricket Ground, with player-of-the-match and tournament Sam Curran bagging 3-12 and Adil Rashid chipping in with 2-22.

In reply, England stuttered to 49-3 in the sixth over as they struggled to get any momentum against a fiery pace

attack, with boundaries hard to come by.

But Stokes and Moeen Ali (19) used their experience and cool heads to guide England to 138-5 with six balls to spare, climaxing a riveting tournament that spanned 45 games over nearly a month.

"He always stands up in the biggest moments, he's a man who can take a lot of pressure on his shoulders and perform," Buttler said of Stokes.

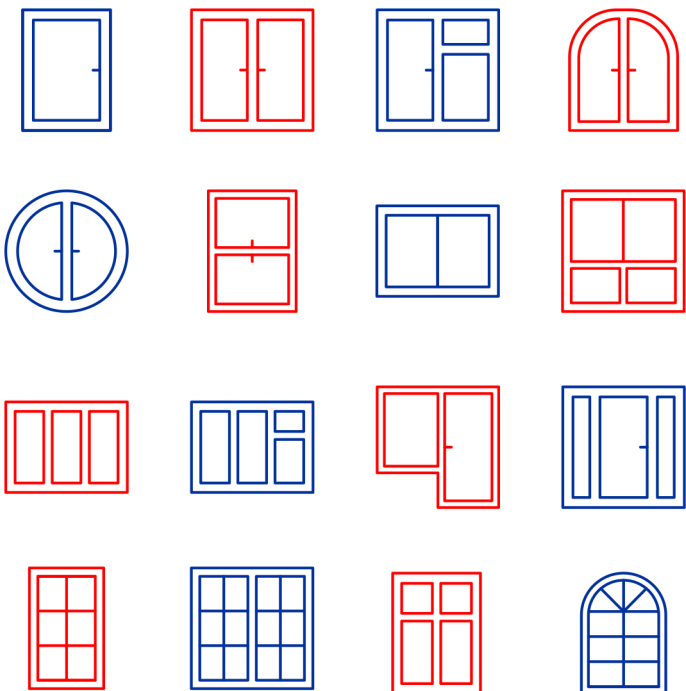
"When he's there you know you have a good chance. He's a true match-winner. He's one of the great players of English cricket," Buttler added.

It was England's second T20 crown after tasting success in 2010, joining the West Indies as the only two-time winners since the tournament's inception in 2007.

AFP



Safe, Secure, Soundproof Windows and Doors



087 061 7631 @nathan Upvc brown pvcphuket.com

VISIT THAILAND YEAR 2022

AMAZING NEW CHAPTERS

NOV & DEC SPECIAL

BLUE TREE PHUKET

**BUY 1 GET 1 FREE**

**TICKET**

**INCLUDED**

- UNDERWATER SCOOTER
- WAKEBOARD
- TOWEL

**ADULT TICKET**

**1,100 THB**

ADULT HEIGHT 121 CM. AND ABOVE

**CHILD TICKET**

**600 THB**

CHILD 91 - 120 CM. HEIGHT

**MUST TRY!**

- SUPER FLY
- CLIFF JUMPING
- ROCK CLIMBING
- ZIPLINE
- NINJA WARRIOR

BLUE TREE PHUKET OPEN DAILY

bluetree.fun +66 (0) 76 602 435 info@bluetree.fun



# Sport

editor3@classactmedia.co.th



**Russell delight after first ever F1 win > p14**

## UP FOR GRABS!

### All eyes on Qatar as World Cup kicks off

A total of 32 teams will be contesting the 2022 FIFA World Cup, which kicks off in Qatar on Sunday (Nov 20). Photo: AFP

#### FOOTBALL

AFP

The first Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup ever to be held in the Middle East will be unlike any that has come before, but there may still be a familiar name on the trophy with Brazil heading to Qatar as the favourites to succeed France and end two decades of European dominance.

For the last decade, most mentions of Qatar and the World Cup have focused on the controversial decision to give the tiny Gulf state the tournament as well as criticism of its human rights record.

There has therefore been little attention paid to what might happen on the pitch between the opening game

on Sunday (Nov 20) and the final, at the 80,000-capacity Lusail Iconic Stadium on Dec 18.

Indeed, there has been little time to even think about the football.

The club season in Europe – where the richest teams hoard the world's best players and from where the majority of those taking part in Qatar will come – only halted last weekend, a week before the World Cup opener between the hosts and Ecuador.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the men's World Cup is not just the first in the Arab world.

It is also first to be held at the end of the calendar year – every previous edition, right back to 1930, has been staged between May and July, in the northern hemisphere summer.

The searing desert heat in Qatar at that time of the year made that an impossibility.

Nevertheless, adjusting football's traditional calendar has been a challenge, and national teams have had next to no time to prepare.

There have been hardly any pre-tournament friendly matches as players departed their clubs to join up with their national teams to then be thrown into the deep end of a World Cup game just a few days later – provided no injuries have been picked up beforehand.

#### GLOBAL POWERHOUSE

In these circumstances, perhaps there is not much to learn from past World Cups.

However, it remains notable that only once (Brazil in 1958) has a non-European team won a World Cup played in Europe, in 11 editions.

In contrast, of the 10 played outside Europe, only

twice has a European team won the trophy, albeit those were the last two: Spain in South Africa in 2010, and Germany in Brazil in 2014.

Europe is the global powerhouse of the world's most popular sport, and has produced every World Cup winner since Brazil in 2002.

France go to Qatar as the holders after triumphing in Russia in 2018, yet Les Bleus have problems and hanging over them is the spectre of 2002, when they went to South Korea as holders and reigning European champions, only to crash out in the group stage without scoring a goal.

In Kylian Mbappe they have one of the most electrifying attacking players on the planet, and Karim Benzema is fresh from winning the Ballon d'Or.

But no team has retained the World Cup since Brazil in

1962, and injuries are a problem for French coach Didier Deschamps, who will have to do without key midfield duo N'Golo Kante and Paul Pogba.

There are question marks about Europe's other traditional powerhouses, with Italy failing to qualify despite winning Euro 2020.

There are issues over form and fitness for England and Germany, while it remains to be seen if Spain have the defence or the attack to be serious contenders.

Cristiano Ronaldo will be there with Portugal, but at the age of 37 some wonder if he might be more of a hindrance to his team than anything else.

With a formidable squad beyond the flair of Neymar, five-time world champions Brazil therefore stand out, while their old rivals Argentina also go to Qatar in excellent shape.

"Argentina and Brazil look far superior to everyone else," said Spain coach Luis Enrique recently.

Argentina have been on a 35-game unbeaten run and will be on a collision course to meet Brazil in the semi-finals should both sides top their group.

At 35, it is now or never for Lionel Messi if he is to win the greatest trophy of them all.

"I am just lucky to be able to go to this World Cup given I am 35 now," said the Paris Saint-Germain superstar, who has been in outstanding form for his club.

"I am in good shape physically, better than last year. But Brazil and France are the big favourites."

**See our World Cup 2022 Wall Chart on pages 7-10 for a comprehensive guide to all matches**

## Broadcast rights to show World Cup in Thailand still unconfirmed

#### FOOTBALL

DESPITE FOOTBALL'S GLOBAL governing body Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) agreeing to drop the price of the broadcasting rights for the 2022 World Cup, as recently as Tuesday morning (Nov 15) no official agreement had been made.

FIFA reduced the fees "by a little", Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) governor Kongsak Yodmanee said on Monday.

However, the reduced price was still above SAT's budget of B1.1 billion, which the SAT simply couldn't

afford, said Mr Kongsak.

As a result, the SAT was hoping FIFA would lower the price further, especially considering the price offered to Thai authorities is "on the higher side" compared to prices offered to Thailand's neighbouring countries.

FIFA had initially asked for about B1.6bn in exchange for the broadcasting rights for the tournament.

On Monday the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the national sports agency to allocate B600 million towards the cost of broadcasting matches.



NBTC's Trairat (left) and SAT's Kongsak present the MoU. Photo: Apichart Jinakul

The MoU was signed by Mr Kongsak and acting NBTC secretary-general Trairat Viriyasirikul, who emphasised the agencies' commitment to try and broadcast the tournament on free-to-air TV in Thailand, but neither the NBTC

chief nor Mr Kongsak made clear how the country would find the rest of the money.

The financial support from the telecom regulator comes – controversially – from its research and development fund.

The NBTC has been criticised by academics and even some board members for wrongly using the fund after Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan guaranteed on Nov 2 to air the tournament live in Thailand.

However, some board members disagreed and called on the NBTC Office to conduct a study on whether the proposal will be economically

viable, raising concerns in regards to sufficient liquidity as it only had about B2bn left in the budget.

The month-long tournament will kick off on Sunday (Nov 20) with the opening match between host nation Qatar and Ecuador.

The tournament runs until the final on Dec 18, with 32 teams contesting in 64 matches for the most prestigious trophy in football.

Football fans in Thailand are keeping their fingers crossed that a deal can be reached for the rights purchase with Mr Trairat saying the NBTC hoped its support would give all Thais an opportunity to watch all the games. *Bangkok Post*