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FORWARD MOTION



The three Move Forward Party Phuket MPs elect and their team thanked voters for giving the party a clean sweep of all three Phuket MP seats. Photo: Move Forward Party Phuket

MOVE FORWARD PARTY WINS ALL THREE MP SEATS IN PHUKET

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The three Move Forward Party candidates elected to represent Phuket as members of Parliament in the House of Representatives in the national election last Sunday (May 14) have given their thanks to those who voted for them, and vowed to 'do their best' for the island's residents.

The three candidates made it a clean sweep of all three Phuket MP seats contested in the election, accord-

ing to unofficial results announced early Monday morning (May 15). The election marked the first time Phuket had three MP seats up for grabs to represent the island. Over the previous two decades, Phuket had only two seats.

Somchart Techathavorncharoen was declared the unofficial winning candidate for Constituency 1, which comprises Phuket Town (Talad Yai and Talad Neua subdistricts), Koh Kaew and Ratsada. Assigned No 2 on the ballot, Mr Somchart garnered

18,604 votes.

"Thank you to all the trust that the people of Phuket have given me today. From now on, the Move Forward Party and I will continue to push for progressive policy issues. Let's make the Thailand that we dream of together come true as soon as possible," Mr Somchart said in a post on Facebook at 1am Monday, after the unofficial tally was announced.

The Phuket branch of the Move Forward Party joined in, posting a notice online on Monday, saying,

"Thank you to all the team members and everyone who is a part of this victory. We have already proven that our action is listening to the problems of the people and finding solutions together, which is what the people voted for.

"We will do our best work. [We have] 300 policies and many more to make Phuket and Thailand better than ever. Ready to go!! And thank you very much everyone.... Thank you!" the local Move Forward organisers said.

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'Move Forward Party' cleans up

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Placing second in Constituency 1 with 16,086 votes was Piya Sidokbuap of the Ruam Thai Sang Chart Party, followed by Jirayut Songyos of the Palang Pracharat Party, who garnered 10,470 votes.

Move Forward's Chalermpong Saengdee won Constituency 2, which comprises Wichit, Chalong, Rawai, Karon, Patong and Kamala, with 21,913 votes.

Nuanchan Samart of the Ruam Thai Sang Chart Party placed second in the constituency with 14,967 votes, followed by Wongsakorn Chanakij of the Bhumjaithai Party, who garnered 9,596 votes.

Making it a clean sweep for the move Forward Party in Phuket was Thitikan Thitipruethikul, who won Constituency 3, which comprises all of Thalang District along with Kathu subdistrict, with 20,421 votes.

Orathai Kerdsup of the Chat Phatthana Kla Party placed second in the constituency with 16,469 votes followed by Wiwat Jindapol of the Bhumjaithai Party, who placed third with 13,692 votes.

BY THE NUMBERS

Orapin Acheevasuk, Director of the Phuket office of the Election Commission of Thailand (ECT Phuket), confirmed that voter turnout for the election was 75.06% – not the 80% hoped for, but higher than the



Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew cast the first vote at the polling station set up at the Phuket Auditorium in Phuket Town. Photo: PR Phuket

official 70% target.

However, 2.78% of all votes cast were deemed to be spoiled ballots and a further 3.98% of ballots had the 'No vote' box selected, she noted.

Official ballot counting centers were set up at Saphan Hin for Constituency 1, at the Tapao Yai building at Wichit Municipality for Constituency 2 and at Muang Thalang School in Tambon Thepkasatri for Constituency 3.

Of the total 100,995 eligible voters in Constituency 1, 76,178 (75.43%) turned out to cast their votes. Of those, 70,733 (92.85%) were deemed valid and accepted, but 1,996 (2.62%) were deemed to be spoiled ballots and a further 3,449 (4.53%) selected the

'No vote' box, Ms Orapin explained.

In Constituency 2, of the 102,355 eligible voters in the district, 75,074 (73.35%) cast votes. Of those, 70,176 (93.48%) were valid and accepted, but 2,113 (2.81%) were spoiled ballots and a further 2,785 (3.71%) had the 'No vote' box selected.

In Constituency 3, there were 109,826 eligible voters in the district. Of those, 83,826 (76.33%) turned out to cast votes. Votes counted as valid and accepted totalled 78,282 (93.39%), but 2,423 (2.89%) were deemed to be spoiled ballots and 3,120 (3.72%) had the 'No vote' box selected.

In the days leading up to the election, Ms Orapin

expressed her concern for the number of spoiled ballots in any one constituency. Any voting district where the number of spoiled or rejected ballots exceeded 3% of the number of eligible voters for that area would result in the election result for that area being annulled, she explained..

PEACEFUL

Polling at the 377 polling stations set up across the island went largely without incident. Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew cast the first vote at the polling station at the Phuket Auditorium in Phuket Town, marking the start of polling across the island.

The polling station at Phuket Auditorium, at the

government administration center on Tha Kraeng Rd, home of Phuket Provincial Hall, was just one of 22 polling stations set up throughout the Talad Yai subdistrict in Phuket Town, where votes were cast for candidates contesting for Constituency 1 in the election.

Governor Narong urged people to exercise their right to vote, noting that it took little to make their mark in the election. After casting their vote, people can go about their day as usual, he said.

Before the election the Royal Thai Police issued a firm warning that wearing clothing with logos of political parties or names of their candidates during the election period on May 13-14 could be considered illegal campaigning and thus result in a hefty fine or even imprisonment.

In accordance with election law, alcohol sales and distribution was also forbidden nationwide from 6pm last Saturday (May 13) until 6pm last Sunday (May 14). The ban applied to all people in the country.

Under the law, violators face a fine of up to B10,000 or up to six months in jail, or both. The Royal Thai Police were consistent in their warnings that the ban included a ban on "alcohol consumption gatherings". However, no reports of alcohol ban violations were reported in Phuket.

The one lone incident throughout polling on the is-

land last Sunday was an elderly man in Thalang being asked to join police for questioning after he tore his ballot up by accident at a polling station at Wat Srisoonthorn School. According to family members, the man thought a dotted line printed on the ballot indicated where the ballot was to be separated from the main form.

Regarding legalities involving the campaigning and the election itself, Ms Orapin confirmed that there was one case of an illegal election offense which is in the process of investigation by the police.

Ms Orapin urged people who did not exercise their right to vote to report their reason for not casting a vote through the correct channels, such as through a letter to the district registrar, the ECT Phuket office or through the website of the Office of Registration Administration under the Department of Provincial Administration.

People have until May 21 to do so, she added.

Not providing a reason for not voting may affect their right to vote and may invalidate certain political rights, such as running for public office, for a specified period in the future, Ms Orapin noted.

The ballots from last Sunday's election will now be sent to the Election Commission of Thailand main headquarters in Bangkok for confirmation before the MPs elect can be sworn in.

Motorbike rentals targetted in safety drive

PHUKET OFFICIALS HAVE SET their sights on inspecting motorbike rental shops as part of the measures to be set out to help reduce the number of deaths and injuries in accidents on Phuket's roads.

The move was revealed at a special meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on May 8 chaired by Phuket Vice Governor Anupap Rodkwan Yodrabam.

The meeting was held specifically to discuss and draft guidelines to be implemented for controlling and organising motorcycles for rent in the Phuket area, said an official report of the meeting.

Among those present at the meeting were Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) Chief Adcha Buachan along with senior police and officials from agencies involved in road safety.

A multi-agency task force is to be

set up, which will create a database of all vehicle rental operators on the island and draft a list of measures to be enforced, said the report.

The task force will coordinate with vehicle rental business operators to ensure they are informed of the special measures to be introduced, and will conduct random inspections to ensure that the special measures are enforced, the report noted.

The meeting also discussed the provincial policy of '100% helmet' use by all people riding motorbikes, and set out a plan to get "the public to participate in obeying traffic rules and wear 100% helmets", the report added.

However, exactly how motorbike rental agents are to enforce the helmet wearing requirement after the customer leaves the shop was not explained.

The official report of the meeting by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket) also noted, "If Thai people wear helmets near 100%, it will reduce deaths by 6,984 people per year [nationwide].

"If this can be done, controlling and organising motorcycles for rent in the Phuket area more efficiently will produce tangible results," the report concluded.

STUDENT TRAINING

Up to 350 students from five schools and colleges in Phuket will be able to obtain their first motorcycle driving licenses through a series of official riding clinics in May and June, the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) has announced.

The funding to organise the clinics has been provided by the De-

partment of Land Transport's Traffic Safety Foundation, which in turn is financed through the annual 'lucky' license place auctions, explained the PLTO Chief Mr Adcha.

The safe riding education offered by the clinics will be available to male and female students of 15 years old, which is the legal age to obtain a driving license for a personal motorcycle in Thailand.

The courses will include both theoretical and practical training sessions under the guidance of experienced instructors. The training will conclude with written exams (E-Exam) and practical driving exams conducted according to the PLTO standards for motorcycle licenses.

Those who pass the exams will receive their licenses and become eligible drivers of motorcycles for personal use.



Emergency workers attend to a woman tourist injured in a motorcycle fall earlier this month. Photo: Phuket Tourist Police

The PLTO has already coordinated with five Phuket schools and colleges and allocated quotas for students who are interested in joining the clinics. The schedule of the clinics is as follows:

May 20 - Phuket Polytechnic College (50 students); May 27 - Werasatree Anusorn School (50); June 10 - Phuket Technical College (100); June 17 - Phuket Vocational College (100); and

June 24 - Phuket Rajabhat University (50). *The Phuket News*

Officials look to ramp up safety

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Rawai Municipality is considering stronger measures to prevent people from descending onto the rocks at Promthep Cape following the death of a Russian tourist who was swept off rocks by a large wave at the cape last Friday (May 12).

The body of 32-year-old Yuri Smoyan, 32, was found in the water about 200 metres offshore from Laem Daeng in the Nakalay area of Kalim, north of Patong, last Sunday (May 14).

Local fishermen found his body more than 18km by sea from where he was swept into the water on the southern side of Promthep Cape last Friday.

The local fishermen discovered the body at about 12:50pm. They informed the search and rescue centre set up at Yanui Beach. Officers from Rawai Municipality, Tourist Police and rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation responded to the report.

Friends of Mr Smoyan who were with him when he was swept off the rocks at Promthep Cape confirmed to officers that the body found



Rescue workers bring the body of 32-year-old Russian tourist Yuri Smoyan ashore at Pak Bang Beach in Rawai last. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

was dressed in the clothes matching those worn by Mr Smoyan when he disappeared.

Kusoldharm rescue workers along with personnel from the Thai Maritime Enforcement Command Center Region 3 branch (TMECC Region 3), who had joined the search, brought the body back to Pak Bang Beach in Rawai, where Mr Smoyan's friends confirmed that the body found was his.

Present when the body was

brought ashore were Muang District Chief Pairoj Srilamoon, Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos and Rawai Deputy Mayor Thiraphong Thaowdang.

Forensic Police had Mr Smoyan's body taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital for post-mortem examination as standard procedure before being allowed to release his body to his family.

Confirmation that Mr Smoyan's body had been found brought to an end the

mass multi-agency search launched in the hope of finding him alive. The search teams comprised officers and personnel from the Tourist Police, Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command, Rawai Municipality, local rescue foundations and lifeguards, among others. Commercial drones were launched to try to locate Mr Smoyan from above.

Search teams on speedboats, rubber dinghies and jet-skis scoured the coast and

searched offshore. However, initial search efforts were hampered by strong wind and waves, making it especially dangerous for search teams to venture too close to rocky areas along the coast.

Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos admitted to *The Phuket News* on Monday (May 15) that this was not the first time a tourist had died after being swept into the sea by a large wave while standing on the rocks at Phuket's southernmost point.

"Actually, there is a sign at the cape to warn people [who want to go down to the end of the cape]. However, we are looking into a solution to prevent any further accidents like this," Mayor Aroon said.

"This is not the first time. There have been cases like this before and we have to find a way to stop it," he added.

Rawai Municipality first posted signs at Promthep Cape to warn tourists of the danger of standing on the rocks more than 10 years ago.

More signs were posted after Chinese tourist Gao Yang, 20, slipped on the rocks and fell into the water at the cape.

Mr Gao was studying in Singapore and was in Phuket on holiday with a group of

friends, when they visited Promthep Cape in time for sunset.

Mr Gao slipped on the rocks close to the water and fell in. His friend tried to grab him and ended up with cuts and bruises, but Mr Gao was washed away.

At that time Rawai Municipality even considered installing a small fence to try to prevent people from descending onto the rocks at the tip of the cape, but decided against it as it would be an eyesore for all the tourists visiting Phuket's most popular sunset viewpoint.

"To put an appropriate solution into effect, the municipality must arrange meetings with the local residents and come to an agreement together with a solution," Mr Aroon said on Monday.

"We may have to prohibit people from going down the cape," Mr Aroon said.

However, he added, "But before we can do that I have to set a meeting with the local leaders in Rawai, and have this added to the agenda to be raised at the next municipality meeting so we can issue an official rule to prevent further accidents."

Brit punches tuk-tuk driver

A BRITISH MAN FROM MANCHESTER has been arrested for punching a Patong tuk-tuk driver in the face after a motorbike being driven by one of his friends hit the driver's tuk-tuk parked by the side of the road.

The incident happened on May 9. The tuk-tuk driver, Amin Longklang, filed a complaint with Patong Police at about 9:20pm, police confirmed.

A group of tourists were speeding along on motorbikes on Thaweewong Rd (Patong beach road) when one of them struck his tuk-tuk, parked by the side of the road, Mr Amin said.

The rider stopped, but an argument quickly ensued. Friends of the rider also stopped, and one of them dismounted his motorbike, walked up to him and punched him in the face, Mr Amin reported.

After he was punched in the face, the foreigners mounted their motorbikes and sped off.

Mr Amin's account of the assault was confirmed by a video of the incident posted online.

However, the video posted online clearly showed his tuk-tuk parked by the side of the road alone with its hazard lights flashing. It was not parked in line with any other tuk-tuks, which is very unusual for tuk-tuks parked along the beach road, indicating that Mr Amin was most likely driving along the road then pulled over.

The video also showed several people running in to join the affray, attempting to prevent the foreigners from speeding off.



Screenshot: Supplied

Some of them landed punches of their own on one of the foreigners.

Police later identified the foreigner who punched Mr Amin in the face as Jack Mark Paul Hoban, age not reported, from Manchester.

Officers tracked him to a hotel in Kata, where they placed him under arrest at about 3pm on May 10, police said.

Hoban was taken to Patong Police Station, where Mr Amin identified him as the man who punched him in the face.

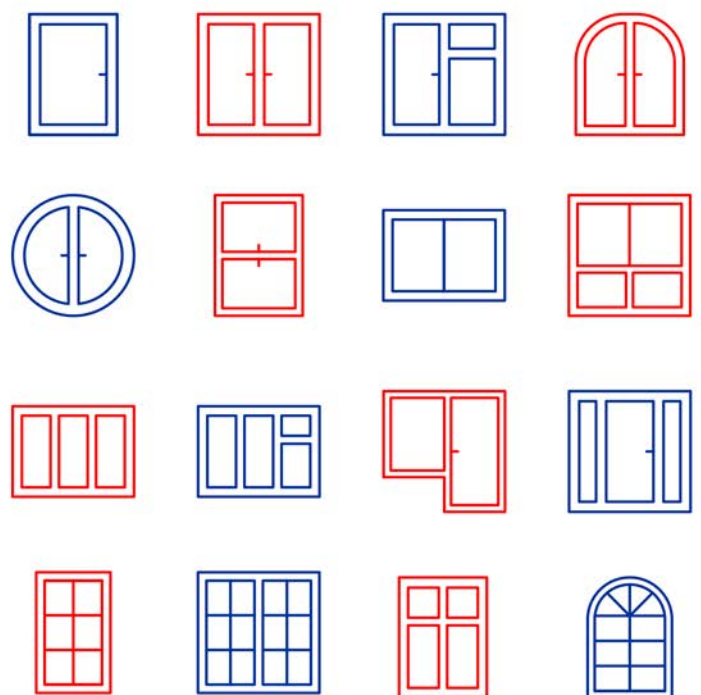
Hoban has been charged with physical assault causing injury, police confirmed.

It was not confirmed whether a medical report confirming that Mr Amin had suffered an injury was required in order for police to take action in this case – as has often been cited by police as necessary before officers can take any action in many previous cases.

After completing any legal and court-ordered obligations, Hoban is now facing deportation and possible blacklisting from re-entering the country for at least a defined period under the 'Phuket Crime-Free' campaign, under which foreigners are issued 'red cards' for any incidents that cause harm or a public disturbance. *The Phuket News*



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The Phuket News

CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

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

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FRI MAY 19



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SAT MAY 20



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SUN MAY 21



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

MON MAY 22



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE MAY 23



High: +32°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

WED MAY 24



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

THU MAY 25



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Drunk van driver kills motorcyclist at 6am

A PHUKET PASSENGER VAN DRIVER has been charged with drunk driving causing death after his van collided with a motorbike in Samkong last Saturday (May 13), causing the 54-year-old motorbike rider to slam into a roadside power pole.

The accident occurred on Yaowarat Rd about 100 metres from the three-way intersection between the Sam Kong Intersection and Bangkok Hospital Phuket, at about 6am.

Officers and emergency responders arrived at the scene to find the body of Korkua Kulsathit, 54, lying near his heavily damaged Honda Wave motorcycle.

Nearby was a grey Phuket-registered Toyota passenger van fitted with back-on-yellow licence plates, indicating that the van is legally registered to be used as a taxi, with heavy damage to its front. The driver, Natthaphong Samart, 48, was waiting for police.

Witnesses told police that Mr Korkua was riding towards the three-way intersection when he was struck from behind by the van. Before the accident, the van was seen driving behind the motorbike at high speed. The van collided into the back of Mr Korkua's motorbike, sending him into the roadside power pole.

Nattapong was taken to Phuket City Police Station and tested for alcohol, returning a blood alcohol content of 230 milligrams per 100ml (230mg/dL).

Nattapong confessed to the charges against him, police said. *Eakkapop Thongtub*

Man charged for vicious beating of woman in Patong

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Patong Police have confirmed that a man has been charged for viciously beating a woman in a karaoke car park in Patong late last month.

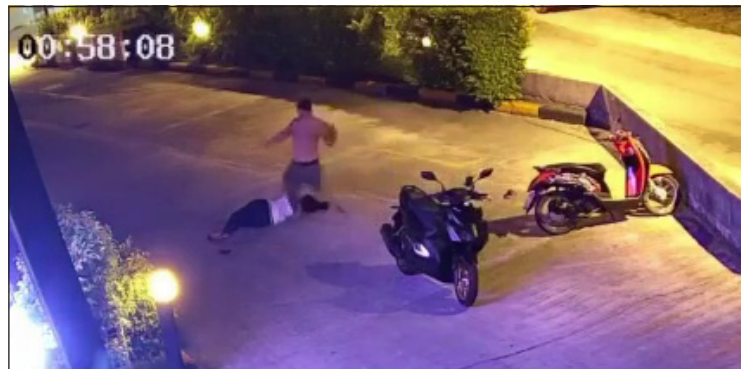
The incident came to public notice after a video from CCTV footage showing the beating was posted online by Patong Police. The video post was later removed, understandably due to the graphic images shown as the man carried out his attack.

Pol Lt Col Pairat Jitrapirrom of the Patong Police Station on May 10 identified the man and woman in the incident as Thai man "Waranyoo", 30, and his girlfriend "Ms Narisara", 40.

The attack occurred just before 1am on Apr 25. The video posted, lasting 2 minutes 45 seconds, showed Waranyoo approaching Ms Narisara as she pulled up in front of the karaoke, which was described by police in the initial post as "near the Patong Bay Hill Hotel".

Waranyoo points and shouts at Ms Narisara as he approaches her. Ms Narisara barely dismounts her motorbike before Waranyoo lands a full-force punch to her face.

He then holds Ms Narisara by the hair so he can land repeated heavy blows to her face. Overpowered by Waranyoo's size and strength, Ms Narisara is simply



Waranyoo is seen kicking Ms Narisara in the back of the head with full force as she lay unconscious on the ground. Image: CCTV / Patong Police

unable to defend herself.

As Ms Narisara falls to the ground, Waranyoo continues to hold her head up by her hair so he can punch her in the face with full force. In just over a minute of continual beating, Waranyoo punches Ms Narisara in the face with full force 29 times. The force of each punch whips her head back as she remains unable to defend herself.

After just over a minute of continual beating, Waranyoo steps away as Ms Narisara collapses onto the ground unconscious. Waranyoo steps away and removes his shirt, showing several large tattoos on his upper body.

Just 15 seconds later, he walks back to her and kicks her in the back of the head while she remains unconscious on the ground. Again, the force of the kick visibly whips her head forward from the impact.

Waranyoo then walks away, visibly still angry, and motions and speaks with what appears to be the manager of the karaoke venue. Of note, staff from the karaoke venue can be seen approaching Waranyoo and looking on, but not intervening in the attack.

Ms Narisara regains consciousness about one minute later. Waranyoo returns as soon as she lifts herself from the ground, but she manages to flee.

Lt Col Pairat confirmed that Waranyoo had been charged with assault causing physical injury.

"The case was filed to the court on May 1. The man admitted to physical assault and now the court is ordering extra information about Mr Waranyoo, who is currently under probation," he said.

"Now all we can do is wait for the court," Lt Col Pairat said.

Patong motorbike taxi driver threatens woman, fined B2,500

A PATONG MOTORBIKE taxi driver has been fined B2,500 and ordered to attend eight hours of mandatory behaviour training for verbally abusing and threatening a woman who refused to use his taxi service.

Patong Police Deputy Chief Pol Lt Col Phum Semawanon identified the driver as Prasertchai Phothavorn, 37, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

The incident occurred on Rat U-Thit 200 Pi Rd at 4am on May 10.

Prasertchai had stopped to offer his motorbike taxi service, but the woman, who later asked reporters to name her only as "Wilaiwan", 32, repeatedly refused.

As shown in a video posted



Photo: Patong Police

online, Prasertchai then started verbally abusing Ms Wilaiwan and even threatening her.

Prasertchai was fined for four offences: using a private vehicle to provide taxi services; operating a vehicle with an expired driver's licence; operating a vehicle with expired road tax; and operating a motorbike without a helmet.

Prasertchai admitted to the charges and fined B2,500, Lt Col Phum said.

Eakkapop Thongtub

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Police cafe to bolster incomes

National police chief opens 'Punrak Cafe' at Phuket Immigration

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

National Police Chief Pol Gen Damrongsak Kittipraphat was in Phuket last week to officiate the formal opening of the 'Punrak Cafe' at Phuket Immigration Office in Phuket Town.

Immigration officers from across the island assembled to welcome the country's top police general, before joining him at a brief meeting, on May 11.

Also to arrive on the island for the event were Immigration Bureau Deputy Commissioner Pol Lt Gen Phanthana Nuchanart, Immigration Division 6 Commander Pol Maj Gen Praphansak Prasarnsuk, Immigration Division 6 Deputy Commander Pol Col Chalermchon Laemthong and Sumana Kittipraphat President of the Police Housewives Association.

Present to represent Phuket were Phuket Vice Governor Anupap Rodkwan Yodrambam, Phuket Provincial Police Chief Pol Maj Gen Sermphan Sirikong, Phuket Immigration Chief Pol Col Thanet Sukchai and Boonwandee Woonciew, who as wife of Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew serves as President of the Phuket Red Cross Society.

Gen Damrongsak explained that



Photo: Phuket Immigration

the 'Punrak Cafe' branch in Phuket is the fourth Punrak Cafe to open in the country. The other three are in Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan and Chiang Rai. Another two branches are expected to open this year.

"The Punrak Cafe is one of the welfare projects organised by the Police Housewives Association to help create opportunities, create encouragement, generate income and help improve the quality of life of the police," Gen Damrongsak said.

"The Punrak Cafe is also a convenience for foreigners who come to use the service. It helps to strengthen the good image of the organisation as well," he added.

He also thanked the Police Housewives Association and the immigration officers in Phuket who have jointly pushed for the opening of Punrak Cafe in Phuket.

Ms Sumana explained that the first Punrak Cafe outlet was launched in 2020 under an initiative by former

national police chief Pol Gen Suwat Chaengyodsuk who "wanted to create opportunities to make extra income and as a welfare for police families," she said.

The foundation concept is "Punrak", meaning "share love", she added.

The first branch opened at a Border Patrol Police headquarters, the second branch at a Central Investigative Police headquarters, the third branch at a Royal Thai Police headquarters and the fourth

branch is now open at Phuket Immigration, which is the first branch in the region, she said.

The coffees at the Punrak shops are made from Arabica coffee beans introduced to Thailand by King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama 9) under his Royal Project initiated in the 1970s for people in Thailand's far north to avoid living in abject poverty by having an alternative to growing poppies for opium for income, Ms Sumana said.

The Royal Project focussed on farmers in the Doi Tung area of Chiang Rai. However, Ms Sumana explained that the coffee beans used by Punrak Cafe outlets were the product of teachers and students from the Benjama Border Patrol Police School 1 in the Doi Sam Muen Community of Wiang Hae District in Chiang Mai Province.

The coffee grown at Doi Sam Muen has been inspected by True Coffee experts through field visits, she noted.

"It was found that the coffee beans are of good quality. It should be promoted, extended and its market expanded," she said.

True Coffee has also been involved in ensuring that all employees and baristas at all branches are well trained, she added.

Mass fish death at Nai Harn lake blamed on natural rainwater runoff

AN INFLUX OF FRESH-water from heavy downpours earlier this month has been blamed for causing thousands of fish to die at Nai Harn Lake.

The mass fish death was first reported to *The Phuket News* by local residents on May 8. "There are dead fish floating everywhere in Naiharn lake today. Never seen anything like it," one resident said.

"There are thousands of fish found dead and floating on the surface of Nai Harn Lake today," another wrote.

Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos explained to *The Phuket News* on May 10 that officers at the Rawai Municipality public health division were informed of the mass fish death on May 8, and began investigating the cause.

"We contacted the public health office to check the water condition to see whether the water is polluted or not and find out what killed the fish," he said.

Officers tested the water and found no evidence of pollution. However, they did find that the PH level of the water had changed dramatically, Mr Aroon explained.

Heavy rains in the area



Thousands of dead fish were left floating in the lake on May 8. Photo: Supplied

had resulted in a large influx of freshwater into the lake, which is usually brackish through the small channel across Nai Harn Beach that connects the lake to the sea.

The fish that had died were saltwater fish, he added.

The influx of water had altered the salinity of the water. "The volume of runoff from the after heavy rain caused an imbalance of the water PH level [in the water]," Mr Aroon said.

He added that the surface water had been affected much more than water at deeper levels in the lake, which had maintained some of its salinity.

Officers were dispatched to remove the dead fish to

prevent the water being further fouled, he said.

The event was natural, but not normal, Mr Aroon admitted.

"This has never happened before when it comes to the beginning of the rainy season. This year, the tide was very low and it was very dry before the rain came," he said.

"There was no rain for a while, and the water at deep levels had been hot and salty, but rain from recent days made the water much less salty, causing an imbalance in the water PH, resulting in the death of the fish," he explained.

Mayor Aroon said he has ordered municipality workers to excavate the channel connecting the lake to the sea in the hope of restoring the lake water to its normal salinity by allowing more saltwater to enter the lake at high tide.

"I inspected the lake yesterday and today [May 9-10], and the water in the lake is getting better already," he added.

"There are no more dead fish floating in the water, and the fish I could see were swimming about normally," he said.

The Phuket News

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Tigerair flights from Taiwan launched

AIRPORTS OF THAILAND management and staff at Phuket International Airport (AoT Phuket) welcomed 190 arrivals from Taiwan on the first flight Tigerair to the island last week.

Flight IT503 departed from the Taiwanese capital Taipei and landed at Phuket International Airport around 3:35pm on May 10, completing the TPE-HKT route (Taoyuan International Airport – Phuket International Airport), according to AoT Phuket.

There were a total of 190 passengers onboard the flight who were greeted and bestowed gifts by representatives of Phuket International Airport.

The Taiwanese Airbus A320 left Phuket around 5pm and arrived in Taipei just after 10pm. Prior to the Phuket flight, the same aircraft had flown the Taipei-Bangkok flight several times.

After COVID-19 pandemic restrictions were lifted, the Taiwanese low-



Tigerair's first flight landed in Phuket on May 10. Photo: AoT Phuket

cost carrier resumed flights to Bangkok before adding Phuket as a new destination. According to AoT's 2019 yearly report, Phuket was not listed among Tigerair's destinations that year.

Phuket International Airport's May schedule shows 46 companies operating international flights to and from Phuket, which is lower than the number of companies in the first quarter of the year, despite the return of Chinese carriers, both low-cost and full-service.

Chinese carriers now make up around one-third of all the companies flying to Phuket from abroad.

The Phuket News

Phuket forecast to take low season arrivals hit

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Tourist arrivals to Phuket during this year's low season are expected to be around 50% of the numbers recorded in 2019, the last pre-pandemic year.

The key headwinds now are sluggish arrivals from China and the bankruptcy of Go First affecting arrivals from India, said Thaneth Tantipiriyakij, President of the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA).

Speaking to the *Bangkok Post*, Mr Thaneth added one more negative factor, presented in the article as "the temporary closure of Phuket International Airport from 1 am until 7 am until the beginning of July." This is likely to mean yet another delay in the completion of the runway repair which prevents Phuket airport from servicing any flights at night, as witnessed by FlightRadar24.

According to Mr Thaneth, Chinese airlines had been widely using those night slots before the COVID-19 pandemic and are still interested in them for extra flights. Yet, due to repair works, the slots are not available. Mr Thaneth forecast Chinese arrivals to reach only 30-40% of the pre-crisis levels of 2019 during this low season. The forecast for the whole market stands at 50% of 2019.

Phuket's tourist business witnessed seasonal changes in arrivals in April, when visits from India fell 12.3% month-



Foreign tourists at Phuket International Airport. Photo: TAC Phuket

on-month while visits from Russia dropped 32.7% compared to March. China arrivals grew by 3.5% and failed to provide any compensation for the drops in Indian and Russian arrivals.

In this situation, Phuket's only choice for this low season would be trying to gain more visitors from the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia. According to Mr Thaneth, the period after the Hajj (annual Muslim pilgrimage to holy places) is popular for tourism in this country. The president of the TPA also noted the improvement of transportation accessibility to Thailand from this region, including both direct flights from various cities and flights through local

aviation hubs.

Mr Thaneth stated that he would like to see the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) continue its aggressive marketing strategy in the Middle East.

Regarding the TAT's tasks in the Chinese market, Mr Thaneth said the authorities "should deal with the impact of fake news concerning unsafe vacations in Thailand that had circulated on Chinese social media platforms." He did not provide any examples of these "fake news".

At the same time, Mr Thaneth stressed the need for strict measures to eliminate nominee businesses and zero-dollar tours which damage the reputation of Thailand.

Thailand lures foreign filmmakers with 'Amazing Workation' scheme

THE THAILAND FILM OFFICE under the Ministry of Tourism and Sports has launched a new initiative aimed at strengthening the kingdom's status as the preferred shooting location for all types of foreign film productions.

The Thailand Film Office is spearheading the effort offering foreign filmmakers to combine work and leisure in Thailand.

The 'Amazing Workation' initiative has three key elements: Great Incentives, Great Services, and Great Relaxation, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) said in a press release on May 10.

Great Incentives include maximum rebates of up to 20% for foreign film productions investing B50 million, with a cap of B150mn per project, as well as income tax exemption for foreign film actors from Aug 2, 2023, to Aug 1, 2028.

Great Services involve world-class facilities and hospitality for filmmakers, while Great Relaxation offers unique cultural experiences and leisure activities ready for them in Thailand.

"Thailand is already a favourite filming location for foreign TV and film makers, who applaud the kingdom's diverse geographical characteristics, historical sites, natural beauty, fascinating culture, and filmmaking services and government support. The latest Amazing Workation initiative will certainly help further strengthen this appeal," said TAT Governor Yuthasak Supasorn.

According to the TAT, 171 foreign films



April alone saw 33 foreign film productions in Thailand. Photo: Department of Tourism

were shot in Thailand in the first four months of 2023 earning revenue of B1.29 billion. These represented an increase of 18 films and B118mn in revenue when compared to the same period in 2022.

In 2022, Thailand was chosen as the location for 348 foreign film productions earning revenue of almost B6.4bn.

Thailand has recently hosted some of the world's most high-profile TV productions. Notable among them are the third season of the reality TV series 'The Real Housewives Ultimate Girls Trip' which was shot in Phuket and premiered on the Peacock streaming service on Mar 23, 2023. The final two episodes of season 27 of ABC's 'The Bachelor' series were also filmed in Krabi and aired on Mar 20 and 27, 2023.

On the big screen, the Czech adventure comedy movie 'Ostrov' was shot almost entirely in Phuket and Krabi and released in movie theaters across Europe in February. *The Phuket News*

Tour guides fight back with proposal

TOUR GUIDES SUBMITTED A PROPOSAL to prime ministerial candidates of several political parties before the national election was held last Sunday (May 14) in a bid to eliminate illegal tour guides and nominee businesses.

They also anticipate the newly proposed Tourist Guide Act will improve the scope of the profession, leading to more job opportunities.

Representatives of the Professional Tourist Guides Association of Thailand on May 11 visited the offices of political parties to submit a proposal to prime ministerial candidates seeking clarity on policies related to tour guides.

Starting with Pheu Thai Party in the morning, Paisarn Suethanuwong, a committee member of the association, said the tourism industry has gained fewer benefits than it should because many foreign businesses and tour guides are returning to the country.

Major political parties have not paid attention to this profession as most of them focus on developing tourist attractions, he said.

Mr Paisarn said there are almost 60,000 licensed tour guides, down from more than 70,000 in 2019, partly because some were uneasy about rejoining the industry, while others did not renew their licences.

He said some people claim foreign tour guides are flooding the industry because there is a shortage of workers, but Mr Paisarn insisted the number of English- and Mandarin-speaking tour guides is sufficient to accommodate growing markets, with an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 English-speaking guides and at least 10,000 Mandarin-speaking guides.

A shortage does exist with other languages, he acknowledged, such as Polish, Russian



Representatives of the Professional Tourist Guides Association of Thailand pay a visit to the office of Pheu Thai Party to submit a proposal to prime ministerial candidates seeking clarity on tour guide policies. Photo: Bangkok Post

and Korean.

Mr Paisarn recommended solutions to solve this issue rather than allowing illegal foreign tour guides to work here. These options include hiring English-speaking local guides to assist foreign tour leaders.

For the long term, he called for policies to help the younger generation pursue a career in the profession.

Mr Paisarn said such initiatives would be facilitated by the Tourist Guide Council, the new body that was proposed in the draft of the Tourist Guide Act.

The council would have the authority to take part in drafting regulations, take action against unlawful activities by cancelling tour guide licences and investigating illegal tour guides, and negotiating for better welfare and wages for workers.

The council could also issue tour guide diplomas as well as propose amendments to inefficient regulations, such as tour guide dress codes and a minimum tour guide numbers per group. *Bangkok Post*

Coalition faces senate hurdle

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Pita Limjaroenrat, the leader of the Move Forward Party (MFP), announced a plan on Monday (May 15) to form a coalition government comprising five former opposition parties and one new party, with a combined 310 MPs and himself as prime minister.

However, the proposed move may not be plain sailing after a number of senators made it clear they will not support its prime ministerial candidate.

Mr Pita made the announcement after the Election Commission declared the MFP as the winner of the most seats last Sunday's general election with 152 MPs – 113 from constituencies and 39 from the party list.

He said he took the victory as a mandate from the people for his party to be the leader in forming the next government.

Mr Pita said he called Paetongtarn Shinawatra, a Pheu Thai prime ministerial candidate, and congratulated her for her determination during the campaign and invited



Pita Limjaroenrat (centre) and members of the Move Forward Party wave from an open-top vehicle in Bangkok on Monday (May 15). Photo: Bangkok Post

her party to join a coalition.

Ms Paetongtarn, in return, congratulated Move Forward and said the media should be informed that the two parties had talked in the interests of transparency, confirming that Pheu Thai has no plans to compete with the MFP to form a new government.

“[Pheu Thai] accepts the fact that the MFP will lead the formation of the new government and further agrees with the invitation it has extended

to parties from democratic alliances to join the new government,” a statement released by Pheu Thai said.

“The party is of the opinion that the issues and process relating to the formation of the new government are for the MFP to decide,” it added.

When asked if the party would back Mr Pita as the prime minister, Ms Paetongtarn said Pheu Thai would accept the people's decision.

The three other former

opposition parties Mr Pita had contacted were Thai Sang Thai, Prachachart and Seri Ruam Thai. The five parties won 309 MP seats combined.

Mr Pita said he was contacting Pen Tham, or the Fair Party, which had one party-list MP, to join the coalition. He said it was a party which had worked hard for peace in the three southernmost border provinces.

The six parties would have 310 MPs in total, enough to

be a majority government, he said.

“We would form the government as soon as possible so that there will not be a political and economic vacuum. Please be assured that Move Forward will be fast and meticulous,” Mr Pita said.

Asked whether Move Forward worried that senators would not vote in support of the coalition to meet the required 376 votes of endorsement for prime minister, Mr Pita said he was not concerned about it as the party has a mandate from the people.

SENATE RESISTANCE

However, the proposed move has opposition in the senate.

Under the constitution, the 250 senators appointed by the now-defunct National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) are allowed to join MPs in electing a prime minister in parliament.

It will be the second and last time they will co-elect a prime minister after Sunday's election. In the 2019 election, they joined MPs in voting for Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha to become prime minister.

However, Senator Jadet

Insawang said that upon assuming the post of a senator, he took an oath to protect the constitutional monarchy.

“The MFP and Mr Pita once announced they would scrap Section 112 [the lese majeste law], which will affect the monarchy. This is unacceptable,” he said.

“If the MFP gathers the support of 376 MPs [more than half of the 750 members of the Lower and Upper Houses] there is no need to seek the Senate's support for [a prime ministerial candidate]. But if they only get 309, they'll have to.

“For me, if Mr Pita, the MFP's prime ministerial candidate, is nominated for a vote in parliament, he won't get my vote,” Mr Jadet said.

Senator Kittisak Rattana-waraha said that the senators would look at the qualifications of any prime ministerial candidate nominated for a vote in parliament.

“One of the qualifications is that the candidate must be loyal to the country, religion and the monarchy,” he said.

He went on to say that it is premature to comment on the makeup of a coalition government.

Police seek arrest warrants for abettors of ‘Aem’ Cyanide killer

BANGKOK

POLICE WILL REQUEST ARREST warrants from the court for associates of alleged serial killer Sararat “Aem” Rangsiwuthaporn, who advised and helped her destroy evidence of her crimes, according to the deputy national police chief.

Speaking to reporters on Monday (May 15), Pol Gen Surachate Hakparn revealed that he hoped to be able to submit the case to the attorney general by the end of this week.

He also said that police visited Sararat at the Central Women's Correctional Institution in Bangkok on Monday to conduct more questioning in order to issue arrest warrants for her accomplices.

Pol Gen Surachate added that only a strong case allows the courts to issue warrants, no matter how much public demand there may be. Officers were due to complete the investigation into Sararat's B78 million worth of transactions by Wednesday (May 17).

Officers also brought Sararat's brother and sister-in-law in for questioning and did not find any links that proved them complicit in the crimes.

“Ms Sararat's case is solved because of the watertight proof we have. We will let you know if there is any update on new suspects,” said Pol Gen Surachate.

Thannicha Aeksuwannawat, Sararat's lawyer and a long-time friend, will continue



Sarat (centre) was arrested in Bangkok on Apr 25. Photo: Bangkok Post

to act as her adviser.

Saratat, 36, dubbed “Aem Cyanide” and who is four months pregnant, was arrested on Apr 25. Her arrest followed a complaint filed by the mother and elder sister of Siriporn “Koy” Khanwong, 32, of Kanchanaburi.

Siriporn collapsed and died in Ratchaburi, where she had gone with Sararat to release fish for merit-making, on Apr 14. Cyanide was found in her body.

The list of Sararat's alleged victims has continued to grow with the Criminal Court on May 9 approving an arrest warrant for the alleged cyanide poisoning of a 15th victim in 2015.

Most victims were linked to the suspect through private saving schemes and financing of cars, Pol Gen Surachate said. “All the dead victims were found to have been with Aem before they died. All the murders were for the purpose of clearing debts.”

Bangkok Post



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Lens replacement surgery with trifocal lens implants is a superior alternative to LASIK (Laser Vision Correction) for correcting vision in the over-50 age group. While LASIK primarily addresses distance vision, trifocal lens implants provide a complete solution for all ranges of vision. This means you can achieve clear vision for both near and far distances, eliminating the need for reading glasses altogether.

During the lens replacement surgery, which is performed on an outpatient basis, your natural lens is gently removed and replaced with a trifocal lens implant. The surgery is safe

and well-tolerated by patients, with a quick recovery period.

Trifocal lens implants utilise advanced technology to distribute incoming light, ensuring it reaches the appropriate focal points on your retina. This innovative design allows your brain to effortlessly adjust to the varying distances, resulting in clear vision at any range.

The benefits of trifocal lens implants extend beyond the visual realm. Patients who undergo this procedure often report an improved quality of life, experiencing newfound freedom from the constant hassle of reading glasses. Activities such as reading, working on

computers, enjoying hobbies, and even driving become significantly more convenient and enjoyable.

Trifocal lens implant technology is a game-changer for individuals over 50 who desire clear vision without the constant reliance on reading glasses. If you find yourself frustrated with the limitations of reading glasses, I encourage you to schedule a consultation to explore this transformative procedure further. Together, we can determine if trifocal lens implants are the right choice to restore your vision and provide you with a renewed sense of freedom and convenience.



To learn more or schedule a consultation, visit www.brightviewcenter.com or email bpk.brightview@bgh.co.th.

About the Author: Dr. Captain Wiriyaluppa, MD is an experienced ophthalmologist with over 13 years of experience in Refractive Lens Exchange surgery. He has performed over 1,000 successful procedures with exceptional outcomes, and he is recognised as one of the most experienced Trifocal IOL implant surgeons in Thailand. In 2022, he received the "Trifocal User Award" from Carl Zeiss Meditec AG (Germany), recognizing him as one of the highest experienced surgeons in Thailand when it comes to Trifocal Lens implantation.



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May/June 2023 issue

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POP QUIZ

1. In which country is Transylvania found?
2. Do goldfish eat meat?
3. What was the original name of the City of Phoenix, Arizona?
4. Who was William Shakespeare's wife?
5. Thai-British racing driver Alexander Albon Ansusinha currently races for which Formula One team?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Hard

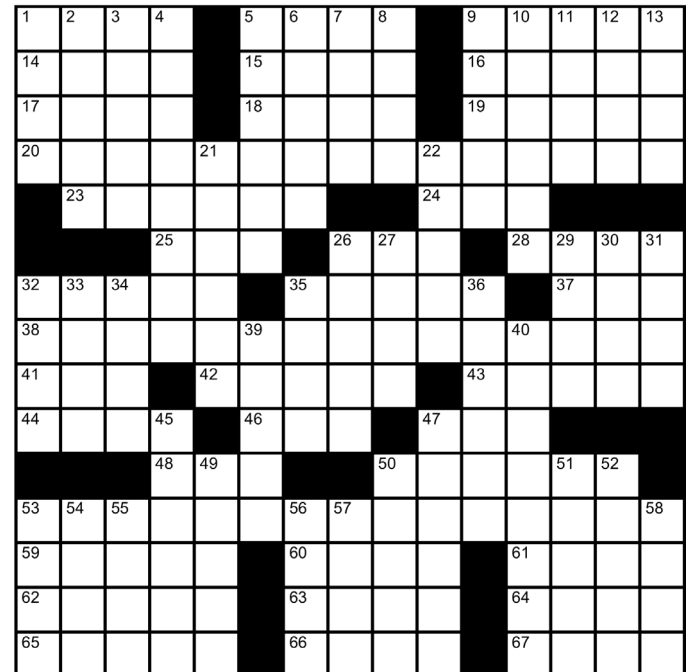
		5			6	3		1
		7	1					
		3		2	7			
9							6	
2		8				5		4
	1							2
				5	3		8	
						8	4	
8		9	7			1		

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across**
1. Groban or Brolin
 5. Like some piano keys
 9. Receptacle
 14. Celebes buffalo
 15. Push
 16. Bizet work
 17. Foot
 18. Get to
 19. Orbital point
 20. Valuable books
 23. Second shot
 24. Appoint starter
 25. Cable network
 26. Kind of hour
 28. One of the Pillars of Islam
 32. Brown fur
 35. Companion of Artemis
 37. Go right
 38. Valuables
 41. Modern address
 42. Wretched
 43. Afflict
 44. Plain
 46. Preschoolers?
 47. Pitcher, of a sort
 48. Self center
 50. The bear is its symbol
 53. Valuables
- Down**
1. Cooler
 2. Way to walk
 3. Amiens is its capital
 4. Commonly used
 5. City in Northern California
 6. Modern ____
 7. Look like a wolf
 8. Desideratum
 9. Neotropical mammal
 10. Snooty
 11. Tender in Tijuana
 12. Burnett of CNBC
 13. "O, gie me the ____ that has acres o' charms": Burns
- 21. Sampler**
- 22. Mind set?**
- 26. Ordained**
- 27. Mysterious: Var.**
- 29. Census data**
- 30. Prefix with god**
- 31. Witty remark**
- 32. Hightail it**
- 33. Unit of pressure**
- 34. Pot over a fire**
- 35. One of the Ringling Brothers**
- 36. Strip**
- 39. Billiards bounce**
- 40. Most unsteady**
- 45. ____ nut tree**
- 47. Overflow**
- 49. Hypothesis**
- 50. More malodorous**
- 51. Ensepulcher**
- 52. Insect-eating lizard**
- 53. Labyrinth**
- 54. Organic compound**
- 55. Salty septet**
- 56. Eat like a bird**
- 57. Bridge toll unit**
- 58. Berth place**

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Romania; 2) Yes (They are omnivores); 3) Pumpkinville; 4) Anne Hathaway (m. 1582-1616); 5) Williams Racing



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

mile per hour is the average speed of the Greenland shark, *Somniosus microcephalus* (meaning roughly 'sleepy small head').

17

times to Pluto and back is how far all the DNA in your body could stretch, if uncoiled.

35

percent of the world's population has 20/20 vision.

43

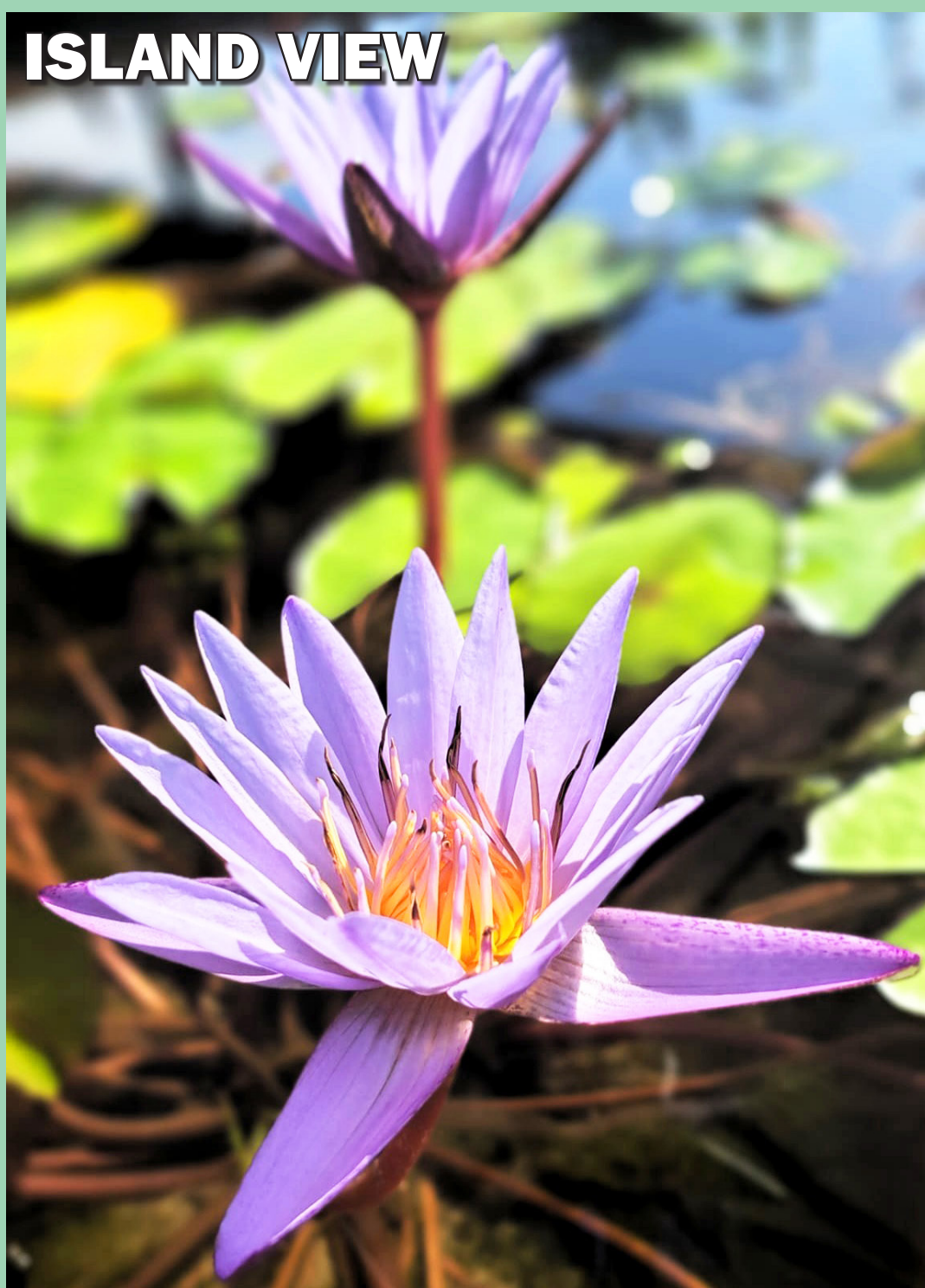
percent of Americans say they have assigned seats in their living rooms.

1 million

Mexicans were deported from the US during the Great Depression. An estimated 60% of them were US citizens.

Source: *Uberfacts*

ISLAND VIEW



Lotus in bloom. Photo by *Sutharat Khaodee*

Got an unusual or particularly beautiful picture of Phuket?
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This week in history

May 19, 1962

A birthday salute to US President John F. Kennedy takes place at Madison Square Garden, New York. The highlight is Marilyn Monroe's rendition of 'Happy Birthday'.

May 20, 1570

Cartographer Abraham Ortelius issues *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, the first modern atlas.

May 21, 1998

President Suharto of Indonesia resigns following the killing of students from Trisakti University earlier that week by security forces and growing mass protests in Jakarta against his ongoing corrupt rule.



Royal Thai Army Chief Prayut Chan-o-cha, 2014.

May 22, 2014

General Prayut Chan-o-cha becomes interim leader of Thailand in a military coup d'état, following six months of political turmoil.

May 23, 1934

Infamous American bank robbers Bonnie and Clyde are ambushed by police and killed in Bienville Parish, Louisiana.

May 24, 1992

The ethnic cleansing in Kozarac, Bosnia and Herzegovina begins when Serbian militia and police forces enter the town.

May 25, 1925

John T. Scopes, a teacher in Dayton, Tennessee, is indicted for teaching Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.

Source: *Wikipedia*

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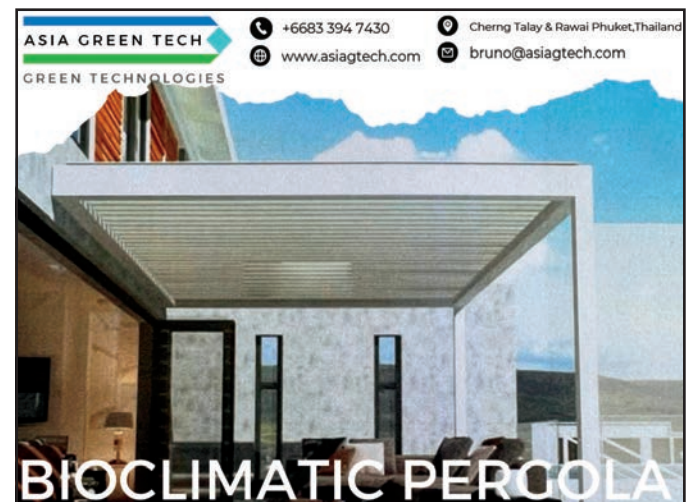
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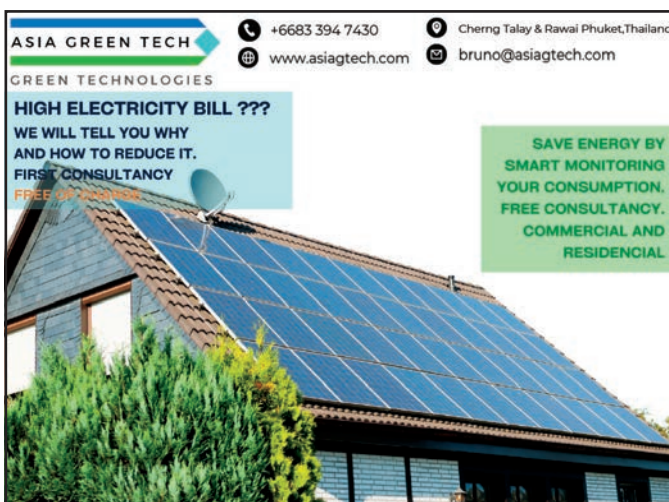
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FRI 19 MAY

SUN 21 MAY

WED 24 MAY

FRI 26 MAY

SHAKERS

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AustCham Thailand

JOINT CHAMBERS MEMBERS BRIEFING - EMPOWER YOUR BRAIN
Friday 26th May 2023
16:30 - 18:00 hrs
3rd Floor, Three House - Blue Tree Phuket
Free of charge for AustCham members, Partner Chambers' members and Australian Alumni members

AUSTCHAM Members Briefing - Empower Your Brain

Most of us are aware that keeping our bodies physically active is important to remain healthy and prevent illness. This is the same approach that we need to take for brain health too. Brain health is a critical piece of your overall health. It underlies your ability to communicate, make decisions, problem-solve and live a productive and useful life. Join our upcoming event where these topics of common brain diseases in working ages and ways to keep your brain healthy will be shared by Dr Chakorn Chansakul, Neurologist from Bangkok Hospital. Event location: Tree House, 3rd Floor, Blue Tree Phuket. 16:30 - 18:00 hrs. Free of charge for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members. www.austchamthailand.com/event

Friday Mussels Night

6 PM onwards: Belgian style mussels served with French Fries. All you can eat. Your choice, Your style: Marinier, 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

Sunday Roast

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

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

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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

THU 25 MAY

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Please come and join us for a fun golf day and help support this worthy cause.

Check-in: 12.30pm BCC Members: 3,000THB Non-Members: 3,500THB
Shagun Start: 12.30pm

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AustCham Thailand

JOINT CHAMBERS PHUKET SUNDOWNERS
Friday 26th May 2023
18:00 - 21:00 hrs
2nd Floor, The Garden, Blue Tree
900 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members and Australian Alumni Members
500 THB for non-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 Joint Chamber Phuket Sundowners at The Garden, 2nd Floor, Blue Tree Phuket, from 18.00 - 21.00 hrs. THB 500 for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members and THB 900 THB for non-members. www.austchamthailand.com/event/

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BOATS, YACHTS FOR SALE

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PROPERTY FOR SALE

Cha Am Beach Condo for Sale
72 SqM Unfurnished One bdrm bath kitchen. 1 Air cond 25 mtrs to beach 4th floor Cattareya Condo Swimming Pool Fitness Parking 24 hr security CCTV. Panadda Sathaisong, 089 635 7311, mypinellasm@gmail.com

URGENT

RPM by owner
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CARS, TRUCKS FOR SALE



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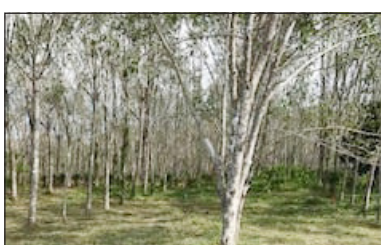
Excellent condition; purchased 2016 with 8000km; local driving only by elderly driver; 112000km; cameras; BMW service; leaving Thailand. B750,000. John.johnhkt2560@icloud.com, 0869890919

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UFE PHUKET MAY NETWORKING EVENING

Another entertaining and well-attended UFE Phuket event held at Pickleball Phuket Club Kathu on Tuesday, May 9. Thanks to Kim's Cafe for the fantastic array of tasty treats.



GROW BOATING MAY NETWORKING EVENT

Another great networking evening for the marine industry on Friday, May 12. Thanks to Royal Phuket Marina for the drinks and Isola Ristorante for sponsoring the food. See you all at the next event on June 2.

Medal rush for Thais at SEA Games

SEA GAMES

Bangkok Post

Thailand were in second place in the overall medal table at the 32nd Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Cambodia on Tuesday (May 16) with just one day of competition remaining.

Thailand had amassed a total of 265 medals to sit behind Vietnam (321) and ahead of Indonesia (236), with the final day of competition still to be played, at time of press.

Among the stand-out medalists was Tokyo Olympic champion Panipak Wongpattanakit who led the Thai taekwondo team to three golds last Sunday (May 14).

Panipak defeated Thi Kim Tuyen Truong 2-0 to win her fourth successive SEA Games gold medal in the women's 49kg final while Sasikarn Tongchan won the women's 62kg final and Thanakrit Yodrak claimed the third gold of the day in the men's 58kg decider. Masayuki Terada won gold in the men's 73kg judo.

Meanwhile Thai boxers excelled, winning a total of nine out of 12 boxing gold medals.

Natthaphong Thuamchar-



The Thai women's badminton team pose with their gold medals on the podium. Photo: Bangkok Post

oen won the men's 48kg final, defending champion Bunjong Sinsiri retained his title in the men's 67kg final, Weerapon Jongjoho triumphed in the men's 80kg title and Janjaem Suwannapheng won the women's 69kg final.

Thanarat Saengphet (men's 51kg), Somchay Wongsuwan (men's 63.5kg), Jakkapong Yomkhot (men's 86kg), Jutamas Jitpong (women's 54kg) and Baison Manikon (women's 75kg) all also won gold.

Tennis stars Luksika Kumkhum and Peangtarn Plipuech won the women's doubles gold medal and table tennis

players Orawan Paranang and Suthasini Sawettabut won gold in the women's doubles.

In golf Eila Galitsky and Navaporn Soontriyapas combined to win the women's team gold, while Eila also won silver in individual competition.

The men's golf team of Ratchanon Chantanawanit, Arsit Areephun and Jiradech Chaowarat also won gold.

There was a further Thai double in petanque as they claimed titles in both the women's triples and the men's triples finals. This followed gold in the mixed triples (2 women 1 man) final event

on May 11.

In sepak takraw, Thailand won gold after they defeated Cambodia 3-0 in the final match of the men's team regu round-robin competition.

FASTEST MAN IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

In cricket the Thai women's team delivered another gold after their victory over Indonesia by a whopping 103 runs in the 50-over final. They also claimed gold in the T20 tournament against the same opponents.

In track and field Thailand's Soraoat Dapbang be-

came the fastest man in Southeast Asia when he won the 100 metres title on May 12 with a time of 10.37 seconds, while the Thai women's 4x100m relay team also won gold and the men's team won silver.

Jariya Wichaidit won the women's javelin throw with a distance of 52.60 metres while a leap of 2.28 metres proved enough for Tawan Kaedam to earn the men's high jump gold medal and Areerat Intadis won the women's shot put title with a throw of 16.71 metres.

In fencing Voragun Srinualnad beat Vietnam's Vu Thanh An in the men's sabre final.

Thailand's women badminton team claimed gold when they defeated Indonesia 3-0 in the final on May 11, their sixth successive title at the Games and ninth overall. In fencing Voragun Srinualnad beat Vietnam's Vu Thanh An in the men's sabre final.

In women's football, Thailand thrashed Cambodia 6-0 to win the bronze medal while the Thai women's volleyball team beat Vietnam 3-1 to win gold, their 14th successive title and 16th overall.

Elsewhere, the Thai pair of Wattana Phu-Ob-Orm and Kritsanut Lertsattayathorn rallied to a 4-3 victory over Laos in the men's 6-red snooker doubles final.

In weightlifting Sriprapa Tho-kaew won gold in the women's 55kg, with silver medals for Witsanu Chantri in the men's 67kg final, Anucha Doungsri in the men's 73kg and Suratwadee Yodsarn in the women's 57kg division.

In traditional boat race, Thailand won the men's TBR 12 crews (U24) 500m event in a time of 2:09.327 and in gymnastics, Thailand won silver in the group event with 17.4670 points.

Additional reporting by
The Phuket News

Top volleyball teams to take part in Thai leg

VOLLEYBALL

THE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL Nations League Thailand 2023 will take place at Indoor Stadium Hua Mark, Bangkok from June 27 to July 2, organisers confirmed last Friday (May 12).

The pool will feature Thailand, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and Turkey competing in a total of 16 matches across six days.

There will be only one session of play both on Tuesday and Wednesday starting at 5pm, while matches from Thursday to Sunday are divided into two sessions of play – the afternoon session (two matches) starting at 1pm and evening session (one match) starting at 8:30pm. Separate tickets would be required for both sessions.

Tero Entertainment managing director Brian L Marcar said: "The Volleyball Nations League in Bangkok is going to be one of the highlights of this year's sporting calendar."

"The Thai women's team have enjoyed incredible suc-



Thailand's women's volleyball team in action at the SEA Games in Cambodia on May 15. Photo: Bangkok Post

cess across the globe over the past few years and this is a fantastic opportunity for the Thai fans to cheer them on in person.

"This will be an amazing week for all fans with eight of the world's most exciting and highly-ranked teams playing in the event."

Selected matches will be televised live on Channel 7HD.

Channel 7HD acting managing director Pattan-

among Nupan said: "Channel 7HD is delighted to be the Thai broadcast partner for the Volleyball Nations League."

"Fans around the country can cheer the Thai women's team as well as enjoying all the excitement from the other top international teams."

Tickets starting from B300 are now available at thaiticketmajor.com.

Bangkok Post

Australian spin star Lyon warns England over Ashes boundary ploy

CRICKET

AUSTRALIAN SPIN BOWLER Nathan Lyon has dismissed concerns that England could use short boundaries for the upcoming Ashes to supercharge their attacking "Baz-ball" strategy, saying it worked both ways.

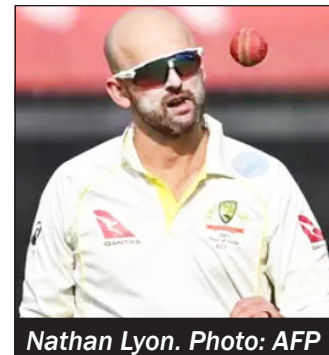
The Times in London reported this month that the hosts had discussed bringing in the boundary ropes to the minimum 59 metres permitted by the International Cricket Council.

That would help England's explosive top-order batsmen punish Australia's bowling attack, spearheaded by Lyon, Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood.

But 119-Test veteran Lyon pointed out that Australia's batsmen would also profit.

"Travis Head's pretty excited about the 59-metre boundaries as well," Lyon told cricket.com.au on Monday (May 15).

Off-spinner Lyon, who has taken 482 Test wickets – 101 of them against old foes England – is relishing facing the fearless approach of captain



Nathan Lyon. Photo: AFP

Ben Stokes and the rest of England's batsmen.

"I've planned for that and I'm excited by that challenge," he said.

"I want to challenge myself against the best players, and this brand of cricket they're playing is certainly bringing the crowds back."

"I've been hit for six... it must be getting close to 300 [times] now for me."

"I'm not worried by it at all, I'm not scared by it. It provides a chance [of taking wickets] in my eyes."

Since New Zealand's Brendon McCullum took over as coach and Stokes as skipper, England have turbo-charged the way they play.

They have adopted an aggressive strategy to apply pressure and keep crowds

entertained.

England head into the five-Test series, starting on June 16 at Edgbaston in Birmingham, having lost the 2021-22 Ashes in Australia 4-0.

Star England seamer Stuart Broad ruffled feathers last month when he claimed the result didn't count in his mind because strict COVID-19 rules made it impossible for the team to function normally during the tour.

But Lyon countered: "100% I'm counting that, that was a 4-0 victory to Australia."

Meanwhile, the England and Wales Cricket Board announced late Sunday that James Anderson has suffered a "mild strain to his right groin" just a month before the Ashes get underway.

The 40-year-old Anderson, the most successful fast bowler in Test history with 685 wickets, sustained the injury on the opening day of Lancashire's County Championship match against Somerset at Old Trafford on May 11.

Anderson had a scan on the injury on Saturday, with Lancashire coach Glen Chapple saying it was not "anything too serious". AFP

Brighton rock Gunners' title hopes with shock win

FOOTBALL

AFP

Manchester City are on the brink of winning the Premier League title after Arsenal crashed to a shock 3-0 defeat against Brighton last Sunday (May 14).

Mikel Arteta's side were rocked by second half goals from Julio Enciso, Deniz Undav and Pervis Estupinan at the Emirates Stadium.

Second placed Arsenal trail City by four points and a defeat for the Gunners at Nottingham Forest tomorrow (May 20) would hand Pep Guardiola's men their fifth title in six years.

Fired by Ilkay Gundogan's brace and Erling Haaland's latest goal, City's 3-0 win at Everton earlier Sunday had moved them within touching distance of the title and Arsenal's loss makes the silverware almost certain to remain in Manchester.

Even if Arsenal beat Forest, City will be champions for a third successive season if they defeat Chelsea at the Etihad Stadium in their next game on Sunday.

City have three games to play, with the Chelsea clash followed by trips to Brighton and Brentford, while Arsenal have just a home match against Wolves after their trip to Forest.

Arsenal's recent four-game winless run, including a 4-1 thrashing at City, allowed their rivals to seize top spot,



Brighton's Deniz Undav celebrates after scoring his team's second goal against Arsenal. Photo: AFP

an opportunity they have exploited in ruthless fashion.

Although Arsenal's unexpected title challenge seems destined to fall short, it has still been a hugely encouraging season for the north Londoners after over a decade of underachievement.

SAINTS DOWN

Elsewhere, Southampton's 11-year stay in the Premier League came to an end on Saturday when a 2-0 home loss to Fulham saw their relegation confirmed.

Leeds United were unable to climb out of the bottom three after a pulsating 2-2 home draw with third-placed Newcastle.

However, Sam Allardyce's team will be ruing several missed chances, including a first-half penalty miss from Patrick Bamford, that could yet prove crucial in

their quest to beat the drop.

Nottingham Forest remain three points clear of the relegation zone after their own four-goal thriller at Chelsea ended 2-2, while West Ham lost 2-0 at Brentford, meaning the Hammers are not yet mathematically safe.

In the battle for a place in the Europa League next season, Aston Villa beat Tottenham 2-1 to move level on points with Spurs in sixth, while Manchester United edged closer to a return to the Champions League next season with a 2-0 win over Wolves.

Eberechi Eze scored twice as Crystal Palace continued their revival under Roy Hodgson with a 2-0 win over Bournemouth while relegation looms for Leicester City who remain in 19th place after a 3-0 defeat to Liverpool on Monday.



Polking. Photo: AFP

Thais in 'tough' Asian Cup pool

FOOTBALL

THAILAND COACH Mano Polking admitted that his men were handed a tough assignment in the Asian Cup draw in Doha on May 11.

The War Elephants will face Saudi Arabia, Kyrgyzstan and Oman in Group F at the continental showpiece scheduled from Jan 12-Feb 10, 2024.

"We have a lot of homework to do. We know a little bit about the teams but now we need to do deeper analysis," said Polking, who attended the draw ceremony.

"On paper, our biggest challenge is, of course, Saudi Arabia, who beat Argentina at the World Cup. However, we still have eight months left before the tournament begins.

"We are a Pot 4 team,

so we have to perform well every step and do our best to qualify for the next round."

Holders and hosts Qatar will play China while Japan face a heavyweight clash against Iraq in the group stage of the enlarged 24-team Asian Cup.

Hajime Moriyasu's Japan side, the most successful country in the history of the competition with four titles, are the top-ranked team in Asia and beat Spain on the way to the last 16 at the Qatar World Cup.

Of other title contenders, Australia, the 2015 champions, are in Group B alongside Uzbekistan, Syria and India.

South Korea, now under German legend Juergen Klinsmann and boasting Asia's best player in Son Heung-min, are in Group E along with Malaysia, Jordan and Bahrain. *Bangkok Post*

Berlin Olympics in 2036 'Imaginable', confirms Germany's sports minister

OLYMPICS

GERMAN SPORTS MINISTER NANCY Faeser (SPD) said last Friday (May 12) she could "imagine" hosting the 2036 Olympics in Berlin, 100 years since the 1936 Summer Olympics hosted by the Third Reich.

Then Chancellor Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party had attempted to use the 1936 games as a propaganda tool for the regime, three years before the outbreak of World War II.

Speaking with online news site 'The Pioneer', Faeser said it was "conceivable that you deal with it in a special way at the place where it happened, where exclusion and this terrible disregard for humanity took place".

"The 1936 games were terrible. The Nazis organised the games as a means of promoting themselves."

The Social Democrat politician said the country would have "to do a lot of work" to highlight the nature of the 1936 games while promoting human rights in Germany and across the globe.

"If we demand these criteria [human rights], then I think we have to set a good example and allow a major sporting event in Germany again."

During the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, Germany was very critical of the host country and respect for human rights in the wealthy gas state.

The minister said she felt "it would be



Berlin's Olympic Stadium could host the 2036 Games. Photo: AFP

the right step to apply to host the games again. I'm promoting it very strongly."

The 2028 Summer Olympics have been awarded to Los Angeles, with the following Games four years later scheduled to take place in Brisbane.

According to the principle of rotating the games between continents, a return to Europe is probably in 2036.

Germany last hosted the Olympics in Munich in 1972.

The German Olympic Committee (DOSB) will meet at the end of this year to decide whether to apply for upcoming games and in which regions and cities they should be held.

The Berlin Olympic Stadium, with a capacity of 74,064 and still used as the main national stadium today, was built by Adolf Hitler's Nazi government for the 1936 Olympic Summer Games. *AFP*

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Sport



Thai athletes dazzle at SEA Games > p14

RIDE TO UNITE

Charity ride to promote sports inclusivity

Members of the Pan Pan Kun Project in training ahead of the eight-day charity ride from Phuket to Bangkok. Photo: Pan Pan Kun

CYCLING

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A charity bike ride from Phuket to Bangkok early next month is aiming to promote inclusivity in sports and raise funds for a series of sports-related events for members of the disabled community.

Organisers of the Pan Pan Kun Project (Cycle to Share) explained the ride will cover a distance of approximately 1,000 kilometres across eight days through six provinces, departing from Laguna Phuket at 6am on June 4.

Pan Pan Kun are collaborating with the Together Foundation and Taejai.com, a civic crowdfunding platform which supports NGO-related projects, to organise the event which aims to build and promote an

inclusive sports environment where everyone can enjoy sport activities together with or without disabilities.

The project was announced at a press conference on Apr 25 at Phuket Provincial Hall, overseen by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciw.

Also in attendance were Vice Governor Danai Sunantarod; Ratchadaphon Oin from the Phuket Office of the Tourism and Sports Ministry; Rujirapan Juangroongruangkit, President of the Pan Pan Kun Project; Prapha Hemmin, Activities and Corporate Relations at Laguna Phuket and representatives from relevant government and private sectors.

Ms Rujirapan explained that the project aims to connect disabled and non-disabled people through sports by promoting without any discrimination, underlined by three core principles:

1. Raising awareness among the public to support people with

disabilities to have more access to sports activities.

2. Promoting wider community participation in sports.

3. A commitment to inspire the public and deliver powerful experiences for participants to embrace active lifestyles and overcome individual challenges.

'ALLYMPICS'

Funds raised through donations supporting the Phuket to Bangkok cycle will go towards creating a series of monthly events for the disabled community and a broader, annual event the group have called the 'Allympics' which would see disabled people participating in running, badminton, chair-ball, frisbee, chequers and table tennis.

Ms Rujirapan explained it is hoped the first round of the 'Allympic' event, the first such structured event of its kind in Thailand, will

start in September and conclude in November.

The Phuket to Bangkok cycle aims to attract celebrities, cycling teams and community riders from the general public. The well known journalist and anchor for TV station Ch7HD Sornsawan Phuvichit has already confirmed her participation, as has actress Surampha Yokchotisakul, and many more from the celebrity world are expected to confirm prior to the start of the event.

Everyone is welcome to join, if even only for selected stages and distances as every involvement and contribution helps the greater cause, Ms Rujirapan said. Similarly, extensive sponsorship packages supporting the event are also available.

The Pan Pan Kun Project (Cycle to Share) was founded by a group of four sports enthusiasts: Rujirapan "Mook" Juangroongruangkit, Thomas Tapken, Montree Saenwianchan,

and Jiraksa "Niu" Ratjatanwan, to create a charity ride project to raise awareness and funds to support a great cause.

Each year the concept and objective of the charity campaign is adjusted to what types of problems are being faced in our present society. Their slogan is: "We share the wills. We all can do it too."

The first long-distance cycle event from Bangkok to Chiang Mai took place in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic when the organisers collaborated with the FOOD FOR GOOD project and Taejai.com with the objective of providing nutritious and healthy food to children in remote areas of Thailand.

For more information on the upcoming Phuket to Bangkok cycle please contact Khun Malinee Toomsap [Bebe] at malinee.toomsap@gmail.com, call 095-169-6269 or visit www.panpankun.com.

Dojo students shine at national wrestling competition

WRESTLING

HAVING WON A PLETHORA of medals at a variety of national and international competitions in judo and jiu-jitsu in recent months, the students of The Dojo at Blue Tree, Phuket demonstrated exactly how adept they are at the art of kurash wrestling with another impressive show earlier this month.

The Phuket-based students were taking part in the Kids, Cadet, Junior and Senior Kurash Wrestling Thailand Championships 2023 in Phitsanulok province in the north of the country from May 6-9.

This was the 10th year the national

competition was held, with over 300 athletes, officials and referees from more than 40 clubs from all over the country taking part.

The students from Dojo at Blue Tree Phuket performed brilliantly and emerged with a total of 10 medals from the competition, including six gold, one silver and three bronze.

Gold medals went to students Gabin, Platon, Timur and David, while Anton and Dojo head instructor Alexis Plantard won gold in the men's 73kg and 90kg weight class respectively to both earn Champion of Thailand awards.

Student Leo won a silver medal while Naithon, Tomo and Sota all won bronze medals from their bouts



Photo: Alexis Plantard

and Kiichi finished in an admirable fifth place in his contest.

Furthermore, Timur won recognition by being named as the best national competitor in the boy's 10-12 years old age category for his outstanding display and the team won the trophy for best team performance in the 9-14 years old class.

This fine overall performance

comes after the team won the best overall team in the 10-12 year age class at last year's tournament, proof that the team is growing and getting stronger, according to Alexis.

"The team have been on fire at recent jiu-jitsu and judo tournaments so it is so great to see them not only developing their skills but winning medals in yet another discipline, this time in kurash wrestling," Alexis told *The Phuket News*.

The Dojo team claimed the number one national ranking within Thailand in the under-12 age group at the National Championships of Judo in Nakhon Sri Thammarat on Apr 20.

The tournament was the first

time that the Sports Authority of Thailand permitted foreign competitors to enter and the 11 members of the Dojo team seized their chance by winning an impressive seven-medal haul.

This feat came off the back of the National Championships of Jiu-Jitsu in Bangkok on the weekend of Apr 7-9 where the team claimed a staggering 19 medals.

"The progress of the team is outstanding and I could not be prouder," said Alexis. "All the recent achievements prove that all the hard work the students put in at the Dojo pays off and prepares them to perform to the best of their abilities come competition time. We are developing a fine team of athletes." *Ben Tirebuck*