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STAYING ALIVE



MAIN: Surin Beach. INSET: Lifeguards rush to bring the teens ashore. Photos: Eakkapop Thongtub

LIFEGUARD CALLS FOR MORE ACTION AS TWO TEENAGERS DROWN AT SURIN

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Viroon Chuasaman, Head Lifeguard at Surin-Bang Tao Beach, has repeated his call for intensive campaigns to educate tourists and local residents of the dangers of rip currents and strong waves during the southwest monsoon after two 15-year-old boys drowned at Surin beach last weekend.

Pramet Nonthabutr, a Mathayom 3 student at Thalang Pranangsang School in Tambon Thepkasattri, was one of five friends who ignored red

'no swimming' flags and ventured into the sea at Surin Beach last Saturday (July 13).

The red flags, placed by lifeguards, were meant to signal dangerous swimming conditions. The students were soon swept away by strong waves.

Lifeguards quickly responded, deploying jet-skis to rescue the students. An eyewitness recounted seeing three students in the water, calling for help as two of their friends were swept away.

Four were pulled from the water, but only three survived. One of the rescued students later died despite CPR efforts and emergency transport

to Thalang Hospital. Pramet 'Nong Mix' Nonthabutr remained missing.

Rescue operations, including efforts by the marine rescue team and the Kusoldharm Foundation, started Saturday evening, but were soon suspended due to the dangerous conditions and failing light.

The search resumed on Sunday (July 14), but strong winds and worsening weather conditions again forced authorities to halt the search.

Anusorn Nonthabutr, the 49-year-old father of Pramet, last Sunday held a ceremony at the beach, lighting 36 incense sticks and praying for his son's body to be returned.

Mr Anusorn expressed his deep gratitude to all those involved in the rescue efforts and asked for their safety to be prioritised over the search if conditions remained dangerous.

The lifeguard on duty confirmed that poor weather conditions had severely hampered visibility and made the search more challenging. The water had become cloudy and difficult to navigate, with waves growing increasingly dangerous.

Lifeguards confirmed they would resume the search as soon as it was safe to do so. A helicopter was also brought in to join the search.

However, the body of Pramet was...

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Drum Circle marks 12 years



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Spain celebrate Euro 2024 win



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PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

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News



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Screenshot: via Bangkok Post

Boat capsizes off Phi Phi, Chinese tourists rescued

TWO CHINESE TOURISTS AND a Thai were safely rescued after their boat driven by the Thai man capsized in a rainstorm and his waves in Ao Nang bay in Muang district last Sunday morning (July 14).

The incident happened near Phi Phi Ley island at about 11am when people on a speedboat belonging to Narayana Marine Co were able to rescue a Chinese man, a Chinese girl and a Thai boat driver.

Men on the speedboat, the 'Varit', jumped into the sea and managed to give life vests to the three victims clinging to the capsized boat in the rainstorm. The three were then hauled by rope safely to the speedboat.

Of note, under a weather notice issued by the Marine Department Region 5 Office based in Phuket banned all vessels less than seven metres in length from putting to sea while the weather warning was in effect, from July 12-17. *Bangkok Post*

Major traffic changes tabled for Heroines

The Phuket News
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Phuket officials are to propose to the Phuket Governor a raft of suggestions on how to modify traffic flow at and near the Heroines Monument in order to ease traffic congestion while construction of the Heroines Underpass is underway.

The proposals include several measures that will directly affect traffic, including closing U-turn points north and south of the Heroines Monument, and re-regulating the times during which U-turns can be made at the Koh Kaew Intersection.

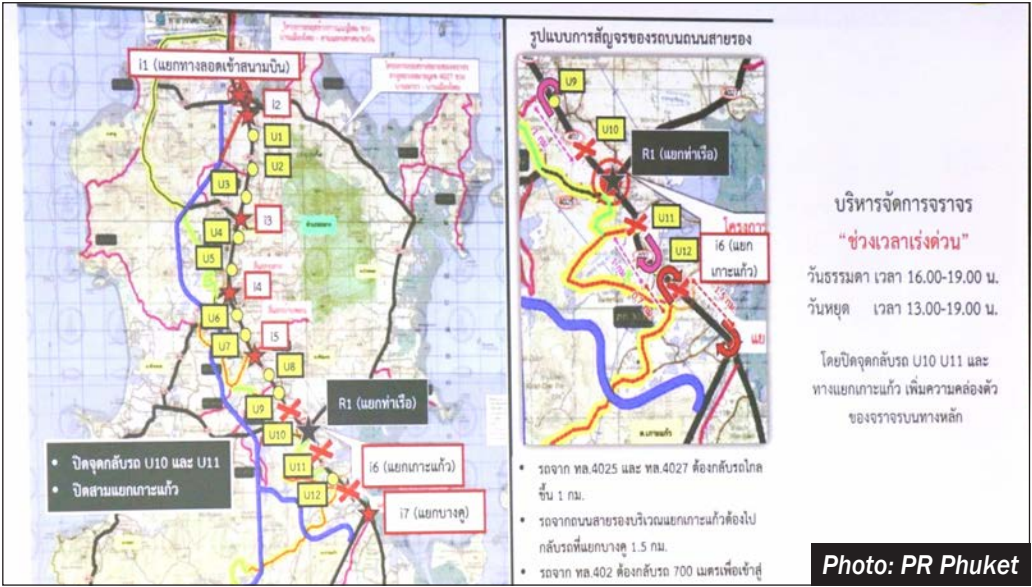
The proposals were raised at a meeting at the Phuket Highways Office last Friday (July 12) aimed at addressing the trial closure of several intersections in preparation for the construction project.

Phuket Vice Governor Sratttha Thongkham chaired the meeting, with Ratchasak Sutthinuon, Director of Department of Highways Region 17 office, and Phuket Highways Office Chief Yuthana Pitak present, along with a host of other government officials, private sector representatives and local residents.

The meeting aimed to gather opinions from various stakeholders on the proposals.

The Phuket Highways Office will compile the feedback to develop an action plan for managing traffic congestion during the construction period from October 2024 to April 2027, said an official report of the meeting.

Initial measures discussed included closing U-turns 10 and 11 (the U-turns immediately north and south of the Heroines Monument)



and closing the U-turn at the Koh Kaew Intersection on weekdays from 4pm-7pm and weekends from 1pm to 7pm.

Other proposals included converting U-turn 9 (currently the second U-turn point north of the Heroines Monument) into a small roundabout and closing U-turn 12 (the U-turn immediately north of the Koh Kaew Intersection), as well as constructing a new U-turn at the "Yi Teng intersection" and adjusting traffic lanes at the Bang Khu Intersection.

The proposals will be reviewed in a follow-up meeting before being presented to Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat for implementation.

"The outcome of the measures will be communicated by the Phuket Provincial Public Relations Office and local media to ensure that all sectors cooperate and support the traffic

management plan for the benefit of the public," said the official report of the meeting.

During his visit to Phuket on July 5, Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said that while waiting for the completion of the Heroines Underpass, short-term measures would be implemented, including blocking certain sections to speed up traffic and expanding city roads to distribute vehicles more efficiently.

PM Srettha expressed confidence that these measures would significantly reduce traffic in Phuket in the short and long term.

"We understand that this road, with its numerous traffic lights, roundabouts, and U-turn points, causes significant delays. We have implemented short-term measures to speed up traffic flow and plan to expand the city's road network," the PM said.

Greater surf-danger awareness needed among local schools

Continued from page 1
...found washed ashore at Surin Beach at about 11:20pm last Sunday night.

Cherng Talay Police, local officials, Kusoldharm Foundation members and emergency responders confirmed the identity of the deceased with Pramet's father.

The body was then transported to Thalang Hospital for examination before being handed over to the family for religious rites.

GET THE MESSAGE
Speaking to *The Phuket News* earlier this week, Mr Viroon was at pains to explain that red 'no swimming' flags meant it was dangerous. "Do not enter



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

the water where red flags are posted," he said plainly.

"The yellow-red flags mean you can swim with caution under lifeguard supervision," he added.

"When we see these flags, we should understand that the area is restricted.

"Since Phuket is surrounded by islands and beaches, schools should pay closer attention and include this kind of information in their

education," Mr Viroon urged.

"This information should be announced at every school to inform children about the meaning of the flags and that they should not play at the beach during restricted times."

Hotels and airports should also pay closer attention to warning tourists about the importance of the different flag colours, Mr Viroon noted.

"This basic information needs to be communicated

to all visitors," he said.

BROKEN RECORD

Mr Viroon first called for better campaigns to inform people of the dangers of the surf at Phuket beaches during the southwest monsoon, from May through October, after five people drowned at Phuket beaches in quick succession only last month.

Lifeguards call for better surf danger awareness among tourists to help reduce the number of people drowning at tourist-popular beaches.

In Mr Viroon's opinion, the current efforts of lifeguards to save tourists from drowning are merely addressing the problem's symptoms rather than its root cause.

"We need the relevant

authorities, such as the Tourism Authority of Thailand, to actively promote the dangers of ignoring red flag warnings during the monsoon season," Mr Viroon told *The Phuket News*' Thai-language sister newspaper *Khao Phuket*.

Mr Viroon proposed a proactive approach to tourism safety, suggesting that information about the dangers should be communicated as soon as tourists arrive at the airport.

Such an information campaign should then be reinforced at accommodations and hotels to ensure that tourists are fully aware of the hazards during the monsoon season.

"We must consider the reality of our beaches. In a one-kilometre stretch, how

many lifeguards do we have compared to the number of tourists? Is it enough to ensure their safety?" Mr Viroon questioned.

He highlighted a concerning statistic that 70-80% of tourists ignore the red flag warnings and the lifeguards' advice.

"Tourists come here wanting to swim, and it's challenging to stop them. On days when the weather permits, we do allow swimming," he added.

By prioritising preventive measures and safety awareness, Phuket can better protect its visitors and minimise the risks associated with swimming during the monsoon season, Mr Viroon concluded.

Phuket wins right to bid for InterPride

The Phuket News
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Phuket has been selected to represent Thailand in the country's bid to host the InterPride World Conference 2025.

The decision was made by the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB), and announced last Friday (July 12), after a competitive selection process involving three provinces: Phuket, Chiang Mai and Khon Kaen.

The announcement came following a detailed presentation by a delegation from Phuket, which included notable figures such as Somphon 'Vicky' Sitthiwet, Vice President of Andaman Power Phuket Group; Somyot Pathan, President of Phuket Old Town Community Tourism Enterprise; and Bhumikitti Raktaengam, Chairman of the Sustainable Tourism Development Foundation.

They were supported by representatives of various private sector networks in Phuket.

High-ranking officials



Photo: PR Phuket

from Phuket also showed their support, including Phuket Vice Governor Norasak Suksombun, Thiwat Seedokbuab, Deputy President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO); Phuket Town Mayor Saroj Angkhanapilas and Wirintra Paphakityaphat of the Tourism Council of Thailand Region 11 branch, which covers Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi.

With Phuket now selected to represent Thailand, the next step will be presenting the bid at the InterPride World

Conference in Colombia in October.

If successful, Phuket will host over 1,000 LGBTQ+ leaders from around the globe in 2025, marking a significant milestone for both the province and the country.

The local community is rallying behind Phuket's bid, urging everyone to support this endeavor and showcase the province's readiness and enthusiasm to host this prestigious event, noted an official report of the announcement.

The InterPride World Conference, an annual event

lasting five days, focuses on discussing the state of LGBTQ+ movements and exchanging experiences in achieving gender equality. The event is expected to generate up to B1.1 billion for the country.

In support of advancing rights of the LGBTQ+ community in Phuket, the Phuket Provincial Office, led by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat, officially declared its support for gender equality and diversity by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) titled 'Pride & Equality Phuket' on Wednesday (July 10).

The MoU followed a month of Pride events across the island in June, marking 'Pride Month', starting with events in Patong and concluding with a grand parade throughout the streets of Phuket Town on June 29.

As part of Pride Month, Phuket hosted the inaugural meeting of the Asia Pride Alliance with representatives from various countries across the region meeting to discuss gender diversity and equality.



Image: Patong Police

Motorbike taxi drivers assault Kuwaiti tourist

THREE MOTORBIKE taxi drivers have been arrested for a vicious assault on a Kuwaiti tourist in Patong early Monday morning (July 15).

Patong Police were called to the scene, in front of the Central shopping mall on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, at about 1:46am.

Officers arrived to find all three suspects still at the scene.

The victim, identified by police as 30-year-old Kuwaiti national Turkey Alazemi, had already been taken to Patong Hospital. The extent of his injuries was not reported.

The three suspects arrested were named as Jatuphon Srirak, 37, registered as living in Moo 2, Ratasda; Sayumphu Triranphet, 25, from Songkhla; and Thanakorn Liike, 25, from Nakhon Ratchasima.

The three motorbike taxi drivers were taken to Patong Police Station for questioning,

Patong Police confirmed.

The investigating officer in the case was given as Pol Lt Col Chayakorn Tangsakul. A copy of the report was sent to Patong Police Chief Col Chalermchai Hirsawat, police noted in a brief report posted online.

Patong Police late Monday afternoon confirmed that all three motorbike taxi drivers had been charged with causing bodily harm to others.

The end of the assault was recorded on video by a passerby, still showing Mr Alazemi being kicked repeatedly until he hit the ground.

Police so far have not revealed what caused the assault, though some observers noted it was most likely that Mr Alazemi had parked his motorbike in the area that the motorbike taxi drivers deem to be their domain.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Brothers who assaulted police officer back in New Zealand

TWO BROTHERS FROM NEW ZEALAND who were facing multiple charges after an assault on a police officer in Phuket are back home after spending nearly four months in detention in Thailand.

The *New Zealand Herald* confirmed that Hamish and Mattson Day had returned home but the date of their return was not given.

"They would be grateful for a bit of space and privacy for them and their family during the coming weeks," the newspaper quoted the Day family as saying in a written statement.

"They want to express their sincere gratitude for the overwhelming support they've received from their family, friends and the New Zealand Government. As they begin readjusting and focus on their well-being, they ask for your understanding and respect."

The family said they would not comment further.

Hamish, 36, and Mattson, 38, were on holiday in Phuket when they were arrested on Mar 16 and charged with assaulting a police officer, robbery, obstruction of police duty, driving without a licence and bribery.

They appeared in Phuket Provincial Court and were remanded in custody. No other details were available on the final disposition of the cases against them, which could have resulted in lengthy prison sentences. However, their visas were revoked and they have been blacklisted from ever visiting Thailand again.

The incident involving the duo was captured by a passerby and the resulting video that went viral on social media shocked many people. It showed Mattson Day grappling with a police officer on the side of the road, while Hamish



Images from a video taken by a passerby showing the Day brothers assaulting the police officer and taking his gun. Photo: Supplied

Day can be seen holding the officer's firearm.

Pol Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum, the Phuket police chief, said at the time that the incident began when the brothers refused to stop after an officer saw them speeding on their rented motorcycles.

Pol Sen Sgt Maj Somsak Noo-iaad pursued the two tourists and called for backup. When the pair later stopped in front of a restaurant on Chaofa Road in Muang district, the officer told them they had violated the traffic law and asked for their licences.

At this point, police said, the New Zealanders offered a bribe but the policeman rejected it and told them to pay their fine at the station.

As they walked towards their motorcycles, Pol Sen Sgt Maj Somsak used his mobile phone to take their pictures. This angered the brothers and one of them attacked the officer, wrestled him to the ground, seized his gun and handed it to his brother, Pol Maj Gen Sinlert said.

During the struggle, the gun was fired once but no one was hit.

The backup team arrived a few minutes later and prevented the incident from escalating further. *Bangkok Post*

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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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THU JULY 25



High: +36°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s



Photo: NBT Phuket

Fire rips through Karon Night Market

A DEVASTATING FIRE ripped through Karon Night Plaza shopping mall in the early hours of last Saturday morning (July 13), damaging multiple shops and causing millions of baht of damage, officials have confirmed.

Police Lieutenant Colonel Aeksak Kwanwan, Inspector of Investigations at Karon Police Station, was notified of the fire around 1:40am before alerting Karon Mayor Jadet Wicharasorn and emergency services.

Subsequently, three fire trucks and disaster relief officials rushed to the scene on the beach front road in the popular tourist resort. A further fire truck from nearby Mueang district was also engaged to lend support.

It took close to one hour for the firefighters to bring the blaze under control and it transpired that more than 20 shops at the plaza, typically seafood vendors and clothing stores, had been affected by the fire.

Authorities said a thorough investigation is under way in an attempt to determine the cause of the fire and also to confirm how many shops had been damaged to enable further assessment to be carried out for insurance purposes.

Initial estimates put the damage in the tens of millions of baht, officials said. They also confirmed that there were no injuries or casualties as a result of the blaze.

The Phuket News

Phuket Immigration to close for major holidays

The Phuket News
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Phuket Immigration has announced that its offices will be closed for two major holidays this month: Asarnha Bucha Day and Khao Pansa (Buddhist Lent Day), and His Majesty the King's birthday.

Asarnha Bucha Day and Khao Pansa will be observed on Saturday (July 20), with the public holiday observed on Monday (July 22).

His Majesty the King's birthday will be commemorated nationwide on Sunday, July 28, with the substitution public holiday observed on Monday, July 29.

Phuket Immigration, along with all government offices will be closed on both Mondays: July 22 and July 29.

Asarnha Bucha day, also known as the "Day of Dharma", is the full-moon day of the eighth lunar month, commemorating the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago.

Khao Phansa is the start of a period of three lunar months during the rainy season when monks are required to remain



Image: Phuket Immigration

in one particular place or temple and undertake deep meditation.

Both Asarnha Bucha and Khao Pansa are public holidays, with all government offices closed and an alcohol ban in effect for the full 24 hours of each day. The ban does not include duty free shops at international airports.

With the two holidays this year falling on the same day, the ban on the sale of alcohol will be in effect for the 24 hours of Saturday (July 20), starting at midnight tonight (Friday, July 19).

Government offices including Immigration, District Offices and the local Department of Land Transportation office will all be closed over both

Mondays, July 22 and July 29.

Main branches of banks will be closed, but some bank branches in shopping malls will remain open.

Thailand Post branches and kiosks in shopping malls will remain open as normal, while hospitals will provide emergency and ongoing regular treatments only – ancillary services such as weight loss and skin care will not be available.

All Royal Thai Police and Tourist Police stations will remain open and some local consulates will be open to serve their respective citizens.

No ban on the sale of alcohol has been announced for the commemoration of His Majesty the King's birthday.



Photo: Kamala Police

All safer as cement truck overturns on Kamala Hill

BRAKE FAILURE HAS been blamed for a cement truck overturning on the Kamala-Patong Road on Kuan Yak hill in Kamala last week.

As recorded on another motorist's dashcam, the truck was travelling down the steep hill towards Kalim July 10 when the truck started swerving, and eventually overturned in the middle of the road.

No people were injured in the accident.

The truck was carrying cement when it overturned.

Kamala Tambon Administration Organisation (Or-BorTor) Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department workers arrived to clear the truck from the scene, while traffic travelling past the scene was restricted to one lane.

According to the initial report by Kamala Police, the brakes on the truck failed, leading to the accident.

Kamala Police reported at 7:44pm that the road was finally fully clear for traffic to flow to resume normally.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Freeloading Russian enrages local food vendor, spurs outrage online

A LOCAL FOOD VENDOR IN PATONG was left outraged last week after a drunken Russian man was caught helping himself to food from the vendor's cart without permission or without paying.

The incident happened on Phra Mettha Rd on July 11 where Abdullah Roti had positioned his food cart before leaving briefly to shower and pray.

Whilst praying he was notified by a friend that a foreign man was helping himself to the array of goods from the food truck and so rushed back to his cart.

He found the Russian man standing in front of the cart using a ladle to scoop up the various rice and curry dishes that Mr Abdullah had prepared and planned to sell throughout the evening.

Mr Abdullah said the Russian man was heavily intoxicated with alcohol and was unresponsive to the looks and comments of several bypassers who were lambasting his anti-social behaviour.

Mr Abdullah himself then said to the Russian man, in English, that the food was



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

not available for free but had to be paid for, to which the Russian man did not respond.

The food cart owner then threatened to call the police in an attempt to settle the issue but once again the Russian man ignored him and carried on eating "without a care in the world," according to Mr Abdullah.

True to his word, Mr Abdullah called Patong Police who arrived at the scene shortly afterwards before escorting the drunken Russian to the police station. Mr Abdullah joined them and expressed his anger and disappointment at the incident, claiming B30,000 in damages from the offender.

No details on the Russian man were revealed by police, including whether he was a tourist or long-term expat living in Phuket. Eakkapop Thongtub

Special admin talks held

The Phuket News
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Mongkolchai Somudorn, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, along with Anu Yaemsang, Director of the Office of the Decentralisation Commission for Local Administrative Organisations, under the Office of the Permanent Secretary, which operates under the Office of the Prime Minister, attended a meeting in Phuket last Friday (July 12), to discuss Phuket City Municipality's request to be granted status as a special form of local government organisation.

The meeting was attended by Phuket Town Mayor Saroj Angkanapilas along with the executive committee of Phuket City Municipality. Representatives from the private sector, including the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, Phuket Industrial Council, Phuket Tourism Industry Council, Chartered Tourism Community Enterprise, Phuket Old Town community, and various community presidents within the Phuket Municipality area, also participated and presented information.

The Office of the Decen-



Photo: PR Phuket

tralisation Commission for Local Administrative Organisations, serving as the secretary of the committee, gathered valuable insights during the site visit, said an official report of the meeting.

The information gathered during the visit will be presented to the Decentralisation Committee for Local Government Organisations for further consideration in determining Phuket City Municipality's potential development into a special local government organisation, the report said.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Last Saturday (July 13), Mr Mongkolchai, along with his team, visited the waste incineration plant at Saphan

Hin and the water treatment plant operated by Phuket City Municipality.

In the afternoon, the group inspected the water plant receiving point from Kathu Municipality, located behind the Lotus's shopping mall on the bypass road in Samkong.

They also reviewed a dam construction project by the Phuket Provincial Public Works and Town & Country Planning Office and received a summary of the flooding issues in Phuket Municipality. They also examined the raw water source for tap water production and discussed the recurring flooding problem at Soi Phaniang.

Last Sunday, the delegation met with community leaders and residents to address

longstanding issues in the Hua Tha community and the mangrove forests at Baan Ao Kung on Phuket's east coast. Mr Mongkolchai, who also serves as the secretary of the Committee for Supervising and Monitoring Problem Solving of the Assembly of the Poor, visited the Al-Islah Mosque area in Mai Khao to engage with local leaders and residents.

The Ban Ao Kung Mangrove Forest Conservation Group presented issues concerning the Hua Tha - Tha Ton Kho community, particularly about the encroachment claims on five villagers' houses in the Baan Kho En area.

Villagers asserted that they had been living and earning a living in these homes since before 1994, and the community now comprises 52 households. The relevant authorities will need to verify this information using military maps or related aerial photographs to confirm land ownership and seek a resolution, said an official report of that visit.

The visit continued to Ban Ao Kung in Moo 9, Pa Khlok, where the group followed up on the mangrove forest problems affecting the coastal community.



Photo: PR Phuket

Patong Municipality targets breast cancer

PATONG MUNICIPALITY has initiated a royal health project to combat breast cancer, in line with the royal initiatives of the late Princess Mother. The event was held at the Arunrat meeting room of the Patong Resort Hotel on July 10, with Mayor Chalernsak Maneesri presiding over the opening ceremony.

The project, known as the 'Royal Initiative Health Project to Combat Breast Cancer', was organised by the Public Health Service Center, under the Department of Public Health and Environment of the Patong Municipality, in collaboration with local community leaders.

The event saw participation from municipal executives, heads of government departments, public health officers, local health volunteers (VHVs), community committee members, and numerous residents.

Mayor Chalernsak highlighted the importance of the

initiative, which aims to raise awareness about the royal initiatives in public health and encourage community involvement in continuing these efforts. The project focuses on educating the public about breast cancer and promoting self-examination practices to improve early detection and care.

Participants received comprehensive training on breast cancer awareness, self-examination techniques, and ways to care for family members. The training aimed to equip attendees with the knowledge to reduce breast cancer incidence and mortality rates within the community.

The session was honoured by the presence of Dr Tuentaa Tansakul, a general surgeon and breast cancer specialist, along with a team of experts from Bangkok Hospital Siriraj, who provided valuable insights to the attendees.

The Phuket News

B338mn requested for 'necessary' projects

THE PHUKET PROVINCIAL OFFICE, headed by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwanarat, is to request a budget of B338 million for projects deemed "necessary" for the development of the island as a sustainable tourism destination.

Governor Sophon announced the budget amount at the second meeting of the Phuket Integrated Provincial Administrative Committee for Fiscal Year 2024, held at Phuket Provincial Hall last Friday (July 12).

The key focus of the meeting was the review and discussion of the fiscal year 2025 operational plan for Phuket Province.

A total of 32 projects were proposed for budget allocation, amounting to B338,166,400, said an official report of the meeting.

The budget includes B8mn earmarked for integrated provincial administration expenses.

The projects were divided into two main categories:

Category 1: 20 important projects requiring a budget of B199,581,700.

Category 2: 12 necessary projects aimed at addressing provincial issues or supporting the provincial development plan, with a total budget of B138,584,700, including the integrated provincial administration expenses.

The meeting reviewed the resolutions from the Integrated Spatial Management



Photo: PR Phuket

Policy Committee's meeting held on June 12. The committee had approved the operational plan for fiscal year 2025 with the following budget recommendations:

Projects to be supported within the budget limit, totaling 20 projects with a budget of B199,240,410.

Projects to be supported beyond the budget limit, including four projects with a budget of B70,232,700.

Projects not to be supported, consisting of eight projects with a total budget of B68,693,290.

Governor Sophon Suwanarat emphasised the importance of these projects for the continued development and problem-solving efforts within Phuket Province.

The collaboration between government agencies and the private sector is seen as crucial for achieving the province's strategic goals and enhancing the quality of life for its residents, said the official report of the meeting. *The Phuket News*

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Patong vendors warned against price gouging

VENDORS AT MALIN Plaza Patong Market and Banzan Fresh Market in Patong have been warned against price gouging during an inspection by the Phuket Provincial Office of the Ministry of Commerce.

Some vendors at the tourist-popular markets were found not clearly displaying prices during the inspection, carried out on July 10, an official report of the inspections confirmed.

Leading the inspections was Pathumphon Yamkerd of the Phuket Provincial Commercial Office, joined by other Commercial Office officials as well as officials from the Sanitation and Environmental Health Department of Patong Municipality along with officers from the Patong Police.

During the inspection, store operators were advised to clearly display product prices to prevent consumer exploitation. The measure allows consumers to compare prices before making purchases, ensuring a fair marketplace and promoting transparency, said the official report.

The inspection also aimed to enhance Phuket's tourism image, as both markets are popular destinations for Thai and international tourists. By



Photo: PR Phuket

ensuring transparent pricing, the authorities hope to maintain the appeal of these markets as tourist attractions in the Patong area, the report explained.

Periodic inspections are part of the Phuket Provincial Commercial Office's ongoing efforts to prevent what was called "opportunistic pricing practices".

Despite these efforts, however, some vendors were found not to be displaying clear price tags, the report said.

Officials explained to the vendors that failure to clearly display prices constituted a violation of the Act on Prices of Goods and Services, B.E. 2542 (Sections 28, 29, 40, 41). Offenders may face fines up to B10,000.

Consumers who encounter unclear pricing or suspect exploitation can report their concerns to the 24-hour hotline 1569, the center for receiving complaints about product and service prices. *The Phuket News*

Illegal tour firms adopt new tactics

Bangkok Post

More than 100 tour operators are at risk of breaking the law for using nominees or a price-dumping strategy, while new fraudulent tactics offer cheap tours disguised as direct sales or multi-level marketing companies, according to the Tourism Department.

Jaturon Phakdeewanit, director-general of the department, said the number of suspected illegal tour companies might be relatively small compared with 13,000 licensed firms nationwide, but their operations could inflict huge damage on Thai tourism, with most of the income flowing overseas instead of benefiting local businesses.

The department previously revoked the licences of 10 tour companies for being nominee businesses, while 30 companies were investigated, Mr Jaturon said.

He said those convicted were mostly large operators who hired illegal foreign tour guides.

They are now being investi-



Tourists walk towards Wat Phra Kaeo inside the Grand Palace, which remains one of Thailand's leading tourist attractions. Photo: Somchai Poomlard

gated further, digging into their sales and transaction records to see how they use networks and price-dumping strategies.

In addition, the department aims to complete its examination of all suspected companies by the end of this year.

Mr Jaturon said some of them have not registered for a tour licence or are not operating via nominees anymore, but rather pretend to be an overseas direct-selling and multi-level marketing company that holds meetings and incentive trips

to Thailand.

For instance, they would offer a cheap membership fee to Chinese tourists, with a free four-day trip.

During the business trips, these companies would take members to visit fixed shopping sites under their networks, forcing tourists to buy products and souvenirs in those places.

Illegal companies would also earn profits via commission fees from venues.

Mr Jaturon said these actions are equivalent to selling

illegal tour packages without a tour licence.

A special joint operational centre was recently set up, gathering six governmental agencies to crack down on illegal tour businesses.

Mr Jaturon said there have been constant complaints to the centre, although some cases were false accusations.

Adith Chairattananon, honorary secretary-general of the Association of Thai Travel Agents, said the emergence of these illegal tours has affected licensed inbound tour operators as they have lost a significant market share to those cheap packages.

He said this issue is also harmful for the government's B3.5 trillion tourism revenue target, due to low package prices and financial circulation that would largely flow out to foreign networks.

Mr Adith said the government should take legal action against suspects, enabling the local economy to reap the most benefits from the visa-free scheme for 93 countries that will start this month.

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Prime Minister sets E-wallet start date

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Registration for the B10,000 digital wallet handout will kick off on Aug 1, Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin has confirmed.

The prime minister confirmed the Digital Wallet Policy Committee met on Monday (July 15) to discuss preparations for registering eligible recipients and vendors for the scheme.

He said agencies concerned were also instructed to introduce measures to address irregularities and thoroughly review eligibility if the scheme's conditions were breached.

Mr Srettha said the handout involves massive spending to stimulate the economy, so the government must look into all legal concerns and technical issues to ensure everything is above board.

Deputy Finance Minister Julapun Amornvivat, who chairs a sub-committee working on the details of the handout, said the main committee agreed with the proposal not to borrow from the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC).

He said the committee also agreed with the proposed scaling down of the programme from B500 billion to B450bn, adding it would still have a positive impact on the economy and



The digital wallet handout will start on Aug 1, PM Srettha Thavisin has confirmed. Photo: Bangkok Post

the scheme covers 50 million people, meaning approximately 90% of eligible people registered.

Mr Julapun said that funding for the project would come from two sources - the 2024 fiscal budget (B165bn) and the 2025 fiscal budget (B258bn).

Previously, the government said it planned to disburse B172bn of funds from a BAAC loan although this would create legal hurdles as BAAC law says the bank can only provide financial help to farmers and not offer its loans as economic stimulus.

Mr Julapun insisted that despite the change to the funding sources, the money would be distributed by the last quarter of this year. The prime minister will announce specific details of the scheme on July 24, he added.

Meanwhile, the chief government whip, Wisut Chainaroon, said on Mon-

day that a bill to allow the spending of B122bn from the 2024 fiscal budget to fund the digital wallets was to be tabled for a House debate on Tuesday (July 16).

He said the House is expected to spend about five days examining the bill in the first reading, adding that the government MPs will try their best to speed up the scrutiny process and pass the draft legislation as soon as possible.

Mr Wisut shrugged off the opposition camp's plan to seek the Administrative Court's intervention if the bill was passed.

"We'll expedite the examination because the people need the money. I believe the scheme can stimulate the grassroots economy," he said.

The Digital Government Agency, which is responsible for digital ID registration, said the registration system for the digital wallets via the Tang Rat app is 100% ready.

Phuket's Suchata wins Miss Universe Thailand 2024

BANGKOK

SUCHATA CHUANGSRI has been crowned Miss Universe Thailand 2024 after a dazzling final event held at The Mall Lifestore Bangkapi in Bangkok last Sunday (July 14).

Representing the capital, Ms Suchata triumphed over 39 other contestants and will now go on to represent Thailand at the Miss Universe 2024 pageant, which is scheduled to take place in Mexico later this year.

Born in Phuket in 2003, Ms Suchata is the daughter of hoteliers and is trilingual and fluent in Thai, English, and Mandarin.

She pursued Chinese studies at Triam Udom Suksa School and is currently studying Political Science with a focus on International Relations at Thammasat University.

Ms Suchata's dedication to beauty pageants was shaped by a personal health challenge at 16 when she had surgery to remove a benign breast lump.

Ms Suchata previously



Suchata Chuangsri. Photo: NNT

competed in the 2022 edition of the contest, achieving third runner-up and later being elevated to second runner-up.

The experience inspired her to use her platform to promote breast cancer awareness and highlight its impact on women worldwide.

Finishing in second place at Sunday's Miss Universe Thailand 2024 in Bangkok was Surisa Susanna Renaud, who also hails from Phuket.

Kanruthai Thasabut from Ubon Ratchathani finished in third place, while Boonyisa Chantrarachai from Maha Sarakham finished fourth. NNT

New Senate set for first meeting

BANGKOK

THE NEW SENATE IS scheduled to meet for the first time on Tuesday (July 23) to elect the speaker and deputies after being sworn in, according to the Senate Secretariat.

Napaporn Jaisajja, the Senate secretary-general, said now that the 200 new senators have reported for duty, the first meeting has been set scheduled for next Tuesday and will be chaired by the most senior senator as stipulated by the regulations.

The most senior senator is Pol Lt Gen Yutthana Thapakdee, followed by Lae Dilokvidhyarat and Boonsong Noisopon, she said, adding the three will be informed of the regulations so they can prepare.

In the event Pol Lt Gen Yutthana is unable to perform the inaugural duties, the others can stand in.

The appointment of the Senate Speaker and deputies will be submitted for royal approval by the prime minister and the second meeting will be scheduled after the



Senate candidates in Nonthaburi on June 26. Photo: Bangkok Post

royal endorsement, she said.

Asked about reports that several senators wanted candidates for the key posts to share their vision of the role before the vote is taken, Ms Napaporn said the senators could meet unofficially if they want to know more about one another.

Senator Nantana Nantavaropas, who represents the mass communications field, said on Monday (July 15) her group of senators wanted to vie for the posts, but the candidates had not yet been finalised.

She supported the call for candidates to share their vision and agreed that a woman should also be chosen to serve as speaker or deputy speaker.

She also urged Senators to

make their choices based on a candidate's qualifications.

Ms Nantana said that her group comprises 30 members with similar outlooks and among their priorities is to push for amendments to the organic law on Senate elections.

Senator Yukol Chanawatpanya, who represents the elderly, disabled, and ethnic group, on Monday denied reports that he was approached to vote for a particular candidate.

He also stressed that the speaker must be knowledgeable and impartial.

"Senators shouldn't be partisan or factional. They must serve the country and the people using their knowledge and expertise," he said.

Bangkok Post



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Better by the dozen

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Approaching a drum circle for the first time may seem like you're in an Indiana Jones movie. It's a strange new land with different rhythms interweaving simultaneously, a tribal feel, and all kinds of people. For many, a drum circle is a strange activity and as such they avoid it.

The drum circle is one of the most misunderstood human activities. That fact that it is so unique explains at least in part, why. At the core a drum circle is a polyrhythmic percussion symphony, with drummers and dancers, and different people who come for a variety of reasons.

When both drummers and dancers are present it is referred to as a 'full house'. The drumming rhythms make the dancers dance, and their dance tends to make the drummers play with more passion. It is like an interpersonal double feedback loop, based on audio and visual stimuli. The result is often musical ecstasy. The drum-dance provides the soundtrack and show to the drum circle.

While rhythm is the common thread that connects people, there are many reasons why people attend a drum circle. Some come to relax,



others to get excited. Some come to meet others, while some come to contemplate or write in their journal. Some people come for wellness reasons which include de-stressing, healing and refreshing from a long week of hard work. The list goes on... Few events encapsulate such diversity: age, nationality, political views, religion, sexual orientation, philosophy, culture, etc.

There is a joy you see when look-

ing at people's faces. It can be a smile with a deep sense of contentment. You may see people nodding at each other, with a sense of communion and understanding. When the deep groove and 'entrainment' take hold, you witness a community of great diversity playing in perfect harmony. Entrainment is a term that refers to when human brain waves attune to an external rhythm, usually engendering relaxation, well-being and euphoria.

The Phuket Drum Circle (PDC) is a free and public gathering that takes place every Sunday at Nai Harn Beach, or at a designated indoor location if it rains. In the last year, the size of the drum circle has tripled to an average of 250 participants per session. While there are drum circles in most cities of English-speaking countries, and in many other nations, the PDC is the only public drum circle in Asia with a year-round schedule, a website and Facebook page. It is run by an administration of volunteers with equal voting rights. The PDC doesn't really belong to any person or organisation. It belongs to Phuket, Thailand. In the future, it may be overseen by the government or TAT. The PDC is possibly a prototype model for future drum circles in Thailand, and Asia. This activity has been around for millennia.

If you have never been to a drum circle, this anniversary is a great time to experience one. The energy and good vibes ring through. The 12th anniversary is on Sunday, July 21 at Nai Harn Beach (south side) from 4:30pm till after sunset, and beyond.

In case of rain the drum circle will be at the lovely Lakeside Bar and Hotel, 500 metres from the beach location. For updates check the Facebook page 'Phuket Drum Circle'. Whatever happens, enjoy the feeling, entertainment feels good in the body.



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Welcome to the 'green season'

NATURAL PHUKET

Simon Lomas

Many people all over the world picture places like Phuket as all year round idyllic tropical island paradises. Year-round sun, clear calm waters, blue lagoons teaming with fish and the odd turtle swimming by. Yes, this is a true description of Phuket – with a bit of an imagination or if you believe the advertising photos – for five to six months of the year. But the other six months you will see a totally different side to living in the tropics.

This does not mean it's like the newsreels you see on television with hurricanes or the oceans trying to recapture the land by air drop. It's just a different weather pattern to be enjoyed just the same. There are massive advantages to visiting Phuket in the 'Green Season' – so called as the island springs back to life after months of sun and turns green again when the first rains come. This in itself is a stunning sight. The brown grass is green once more, the trees and bushes have all the grey hue washed off and are green again. Many trees and plants suddenly burst into flower. The air is alive with the sounds of life. Birds, crickets, frogs, insects and countless types of geckos and lizards. During the day the new flowers have attracted a massive variety of butterflies and they are all sunning themselves in the first rays of the morning sun. The sudden abundance of flowers, seeds and insects also brings in new colourful birds to feed on everything else.

Then in the evening you get the stunning sunsets because you need broken clouds for the sun to reflect off to create the fantastic colours. In high season when there are no clouds you get fairly plain sunsets – which are good, but nothing compared to what you can get during the green season.

However, beware early mornings and evenings is the danger time for the mozzies. They are more active when there is standing water like ponds or puddles and areas with more vegetation. So wear socks if you are going to have a sunset drink in a location if there is a water storage pond or gardens close by as they love exposed ankles. At night keep a fan on and swinging as they like still air. If you know you are on the tasty side for the mozzies then the higher floor level the

better. BUT being around a pond does offer a great show at night just after sundown. Many places have fireflies all dancing around the plants at the water's edge and great to see if you have not seen them before.

For me the real spectacle is the chance to sit down in a nice bar or on the balcony when a massive thunderstorm rolls in over the ocean. The purple and pink hue to the sky, the silvery edges to the clouds followed by the spectacular lightning shows. You will see the clouds start to build up at sunset so you will know one is on its way. Then the distant rumble of thunder telling you it's time to get to your bar, restaurant or balcony before the rains come. The wind freshens before the first big splats of rain warn those still out you have a couple of minutes before the heavens open. Don't worry the storms do not often last for hours but it may delay you an hour or two. So a good excuse for another drink before the rain passes by.

Not only do the storms give great lighting shows as they approach but they give great entertainment as the volume of water overwhelms the drains and many streets turn into rivers very quickly. You get great value entertainment watching the more lightweight people not realising the depth or the strength of the water, and those who still try to ride the motor scooters in a foot or two of water who just flood the engines and have to push them to dry land. But even in all this you see all the geckos, frogs and everything else scrambling for a dry spot. Then, in an hour it's all gone and back to normal.

After the rain, the following morning the sky is clear blue again as the haze from the humidity has gone, the air feels clean and cool. The streets are clean and so is the beach. The weeks or months of people on the beach dropping food, smoking and general dust washed away overnight giving a clean fresh feel to even the busiest of beaches.

But do be warned. During green season the weather and wind come directly on shore to most of the main tourist towns as they are mostly on the west side of Phuket. So you get the best sunsets, but this also means you get big waves, strong swells and rip currents. Don't worry this is not all beaches all the time and the fantastic lifeguards on the beaches check where is safe to swim and clearly mark the areas with flags. RED flags mean DO NOT SWIM HERE. Many times these areas look safe but they may have strong undercurrents that you can't see, so just check the flags to know if you are in a good

area. During the green season you will get good beach days and plenty of sun but you should expect some rain too. I tell everyone to expect 50/50 and then you will be prepared for that so you are happy when you get better than that.

When out and about in the green season, no matter what you do you tend to see more. There are less boats doing diving and snorkel tours and less people in the water. That means less underwater noise to drive the wildlife away. In the garden areas in hotels, on the edges of the towns and in the more rural areas, the flowers are out and wildlife comes back. So again this is a great time to walk and look around you. When the rain comes the motorbikes taxis are harder to find as they take shelter too. Then the tuk-tuks and taxis are more inclined to charge premium

rates as demand is higher. So a nice gentle stroll is by far the way to see the most.

The last reason why Green season is so good in Phuket is it saves the 'Green' in your wallet too. Flights are cheaper, hotels are cheaper, many tours are cheaper, as are many things that you negotiate for too. The street bars, restaurants, tours and beaches are all much, much quieter. It tends to be cooler as there is less humidity especially later on in the season. This makes it a great place to be during the months of May right through to November. That's when the weather changes again back to the endless sun and postcard images of a tropical island. So that's just a few great reasons to enjoy the green season in Phuket and all it has to offer rather than avoid it.



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Phuket News - Talking to Phuket

POP QUIZ

- Who was the lead singer of the 1970s band 'Hot Chocolate'?
- On which Hawaiian island is the capital Honolulu?
- Famous actor Ryan Gosling was born where?
- Acer is a genus of trees commonly known by what name?
- What is US President Joe Biden's wife's name?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

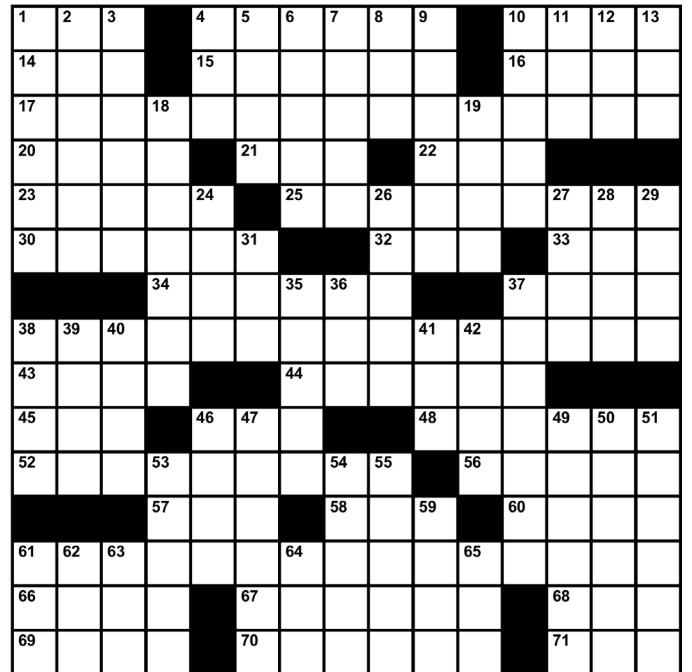
Across

- Wharton degree
- Arable lands
- Blockhead
- Televise
- Fuss
- Clickable image
- Community events
- Augury
- Store convenience, for short
- Greek H
- It was founded in 1909
- Given a term
- Twist
- American ____
- Forum greeting
- Address
- Gush
- Local map
- Bowls over
- Certain shark
- Relations
- "Monty Python" ailer
- Blank folio
- Secondary school in France
- Prefix with natal
- Neckpiece
- Greyish brown eagles

- "Love ____" (soul ballad)
- Dam
- Big citrus fruit
- Crack
- Pool agitation
- Dormitory annoyance
- Disfigure

Down

- Some fraternity members
- Electronic image
- Unpaid debt
- Sentence starter
- Itty-bitty bit
- Attics
- English assignment
- Experiences
- "Fiddler on the Roof" setting
- Couch
- Wood sorrel
- Campaigner, for short
- Lt.'s subordinate
- Boxes
- News bit
- Water carrier
- Kind of jacket
- Family head
- Continuously
- Wet, as morning grass
- Bring home
- Draw forth
- U.S.S.R. successor
- Dogie, e.g.
- "The Open Window" writer
- Identical
- Landlord's due
- A little work
- Lockup
- Suds
- Hits just beyond the infield
- Riot
- "What fools these mortals be" writer
- Prefix with day or year
- Contest effort
- Texas battle
- More elfin
- Wight, for one
- Be in arrears
- Nancy Drew's boyfriend
- A hand
- Came in first
- Craggy peak



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

- Errol Brown; 2) Oahu; 3) London, Ontario, Canada; 4) Maple; 5) Jill Biden

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

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6.5

times a year on average Jupiter is hit by impacting meteors big enough to generate fireballs visible from Earth (865.08 million km away).

20

moves are the most needed to solve any Rubik's cube.

150

years is how old female Greenland sharks need to be before they start reproducing.

3,500

guns per 100,000 people bought back by the government correlated with a 74% drop in gun suicides, according to an Australian study.

488 million

social media comments a year are fabricated by China's government to distract its citizens from bad news and political debates, said a Harvard study in 2016.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



View from Monkey Hill. Photo by Jeffrey Ephreim Villanueva Villegas

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

This week in history

July 19, 1947

Prime Minister of the shadow Burmese government, Bogyoke Aung San and eight others are assassinated.

July 20, 1960

Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) elects Sirimavo Bandaranaike Prime Minister, the world's first elected female head of government.

July 21, 1983

The world's lowest temperature in an inhabited location

is recorded at Vostok Station, Antarctica, at -89.2°C (-128.6°F).

July 22, 1706

The Acts of Union 1707 are agreed upon by commissioners from the Kingdom of England and the Kingdom of Scotland, leading to the creation of the Kingdom of Great Britain.

July 23, 1980

Phạm Tuân becomes the first Vietnamese, and the first



Viktor Gorbalko with Phạm Tuân. Photo: Wikicommons

Asian, in space on board Soyuz 37 as an Intercosmos Research Cosmonaut.

July 24, 2001

Simeon Saxe-Coburg-Gotha,

the last Tsar of Bulgaria when he was a child, is sworn in as Prime Minister of Bulgaria, becoming the first monarch in history to regain political power through democratic election to a different office.

July 25, 1609

The English ship 'Sea Venture', en route to Virginia, is deliberately driven ashore during a storm at Bermuda to prevent its sinking; the survivors found a new colony there. Source: Wikipedia

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Phuket Drum Circle 12th Anniversary

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Wednesday BBQ Night

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FRI 2 AUG



Grow Boating Evening - August 2024

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar at the Phuket Boat Lagoon from 5pm. We are delighted to announce that our drinks sponsor for the evening will be the South East Asia Pilot. The 20th Anniversary - 7th edition of the South East Asia Pilot has recently gone to print and Grenville Fordham will be on hand to tell us all about the cruising bible to South East Asia. southeastasiapilot.com There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar for all attendees and as always, all your favourite beverages will be available from the bar. facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket

SAT 17 AUG

MALAYSIA INDEPENDENCE DAY GOLF THAILAND PHUKET 2024

Malaysia Independence Day Golf Thailand Phuket 2024

Calling all swingers! Get your clubs ready for Malaysia Independence Day Golf tournament at Red Mountain Golf Club on August 17th! Register now for B5,900 per person, including green fee, golf cart and caddie, round trip hotel transfer, lunch and Gala Dinner at the Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Chao Fah Hotel. Proceed of this Golf Tournament will be donated to a Charity selected by the organiser in December 2024. This event is jointly organized by Asia Mice Planner, Malaysian Club Thailand, Only One Tour International & Malaysian Thai Friends Group. Contact Dave for more info on 081 271 2429.

FRI 23 AUG

AustCham Thailand
JOINT CHAMBERS PHUKET SUNDOWNERS
Friday, August 23, 2024
18:00 - 21:00 hrs.
Venue: nH Boat Lagoon Phuket Resort
Corporate sponsor: BDO

AustCham Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, AMCHAM, BCCT, Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber, CanCham Thailand, FTCC, GTCC, NTCC, Phuket Chamber of Commerce, TICC and Thai-Swedish Chamber, Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners. This event is scheduled to take place on Friday 23 August 2024, 18.00 - 21.00 hrs., at nH Boat Lagoon Phuket Resort. Get to know and learn from our corporate sponsor BDO in Thailand, an accounting advisory firm that provides comprehensive audit and assurance, advisory, tax and legal, and business services and outsourcing to small and large companies in Thailand and beyond. THB 650 members, THB 1,200 non members. office@austchamthailand.com

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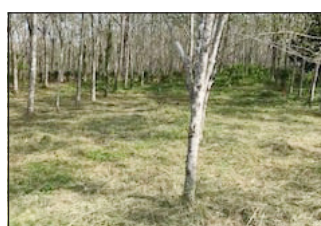
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ROTARY CLUBS IN PHUKET INSTALL NEW PRESIDENTS

The 10 Rotary Clubs of Phuket held a joint club presidents installation ceremony on July 12 at The Pago Design Hotel Phuket. Congratulations to Cabbie Rein, the new Club President of the Rotary Club of Patong Beach, and to all the new club presidents.



THE YACHT SALES CO. REGATTA 2024

The annual Yacht Sales Co Regatta came to a close on Monday, July 15, after five days of competition on and off the water, ending with a prize giving dinner at Kan Eang 2 on Monday evening. The weather gods threw all kinds of weather at competitors in Multihull and Monohull classes over the course of the regatta. Competitors have come from afar including the UK, Australia, China and Thailand. There was no rain, then there was a lot of rain. There was no sun, then the sun broke through. There was little wind, then there were tremendous gusts of wind. Congratulations to all winners, participants, sponsors, the Phuket Yacht Club and organisers for a fantastic regatta.

Photos: Scott Murray - SEA Yachting

New Red Bull F1 livery designed by Thai teen

FORMULA ONE

A 16-YEAR-OLD THAI schoolboy has been lauded after designing the new livery for the Red Bull Racing team's Formula One cars that competed in the British Grand Prix at the Silverstone circuit on July 7.

Chalaj Suvanish, a Grade 11 student at Prince Royal's College in Chiang Mai, won the design contest with his innovative "Stallion Red" livery for the two Red Bull Racing cars.

An avid Red Bull Racing fan, Chalaj entered his design in the first REBL CUSTMS racing car livery contest this year.

His design is the first REBL CUSTMS look of the season, according to Oracle Red Bull Racing.

"I used red in the design of the car to represent the spirit and strength depicted in the Red Bull logo and took inspiration from the way flow-vis paints are used in aerodynamic testing," Chalaj said in a post on RBR News's @redbulletin



Chalaj Suvanish at the British grand prix on July 7. Photo: Prince Royal's College

on the X platform.

"I love watching Oracle Red Bull Racing win and I can't describe how it would feel to see them win in my livery," he added.

Flow-vis paints are used on the surface of Formula One cars. After being applied, the paint follows the air flows created by the aerodynamics of the racing vehicles.

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the British grand prix while Red Bull Racing driver Max Verstappen, the current world champion, claimed second place, with teammate Sergio Perez finishing a disappointing 17th.

Bangkok Post

Wimbledon joy for Alcaraz

TENNIS

AFP

Carlos Alcaraz overpowered seven-time champion Novak Djokovic in straight sets to retain his Wimbledon title last Sunday (July 14) in a brutal statement that the new era of men's tennis has arrived.

The Spanish third seed produced a performance combining awesome power with delicate touch to win 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4), collecting the fourth Grand Slam of his young career.

Alcaraz equals the Open Era record for most Grand Slams won at the age 21 or under, joining Boris Becker, Bjorn Borg and Mats Wilander and is just the sixth man to win the French Open and Wimbledon back to back.

Djokovic, 37, who had knee surgery just weeks ago, was aiming to win a 25th Grand Slam – which would have been a record in the men's and women's game.

But he had no answers in the Centre Court sunshine as the electric Alcaraz pounded him from the back of the court and treated the crowd to an array of his trademark drop shots, hitting 42 winners to Djokovic's 26 over the course of the match.

"Honestly, it is a dream for me winning this trophy," said the Spaniard. "I did an interview when I was 11 and I said my dream is to win Wimbledon."

"For me this is the most beautiful tournament, the most beautiful court and the most beautiful trophy."

Alcaraz paid tribute to his beaten



Alcaraz with the trophy. Photo: AFP

opponent, who only found his range in the third set.

"Djokovic is an unbelievable fighter, I knew he was going to have his chances," said Alcaraz, who had needed five sets to defeat the Serb in the 2023 final.

"It was difficult but I tried to stay calm going into the tie-break and tried to play my best tennis. I was glad at the end I could find the solutions."

Djokovic, still without a title this year, will now turn his attention to the Paris Olympics as he seeks to win gold for the first time.

Meanwhile, in the women's singles final on Saturday, Barbora Krejickova of the Czech Republic defeated Italy's Jasmine Paolini to record her second

Grand Slam singles triumph.

Krejickova, the 31st seed, won 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 to add the 2024 All England Club crown to her 2021 French Open victory.

Her win comes 26 years after her mentor Jana Novotna, who died of cancer in 2017, claimed the Wimbledon title.

Krejickova, who will return to the top 10 following her victory, came into Wimbledon after a testing season.

A back injury and illness meant she went winless on the tour from February until June.

"I was injured and ill and didn't have a good start to the season and now I'm Wimbledon winner. How did that happen?"

Frawley the hero as Ireland level Springboks series

RUGBY

CIARAN FRAWLEY KICKED A last-minute drop goal to give Ireland a dramatic 25-24 win over Rugby World Cup holders South Africa in a Durban thriller last Saturday (July 13), and a draw in the two-Test series.

It was the second drop goal of the match by Frawley as the visitors came from five points behind after leading 16-6 at half-time.

Ireland dominated the first half, but played second fiddle to the record four-time World Cup winners after the break and a string of Handre Pollard penalties put the Springboks 24-19 ahead.

A Frawley drop goal on 70 minutes narrowed the gap to two points before he struck again in the final minute on just his sixth Test appearance, sending another drop goal between the posts in the enthralling clash of the top two ranked rugby union nations.

Meanwhile, New Zealand came from behind to beat England in the second Test in Auckland to secure the series 2-0.

Tries by wing Mark Tele'a either side of half-time secured a 24-17 victory to follow up their 16-15 victory in Dunedin a week previous.

A spirited England side led 14-13 at half-time after tries by Tommy Freeman and Immanuel Feyi-Waboso.

However, All Blacks' playmaker Beauden



Ireland on their way to victory. Photo: AFP

Barrett came off the bench to swing the momentum as he set up Tele'a's second try before Damian McKenzie landed two penalties.

Elsewhere, Georgia denied Eddie Jones his first win of his second stint as Japan head coach after scoring a late try to claim a 25-23 victory in Sendai.

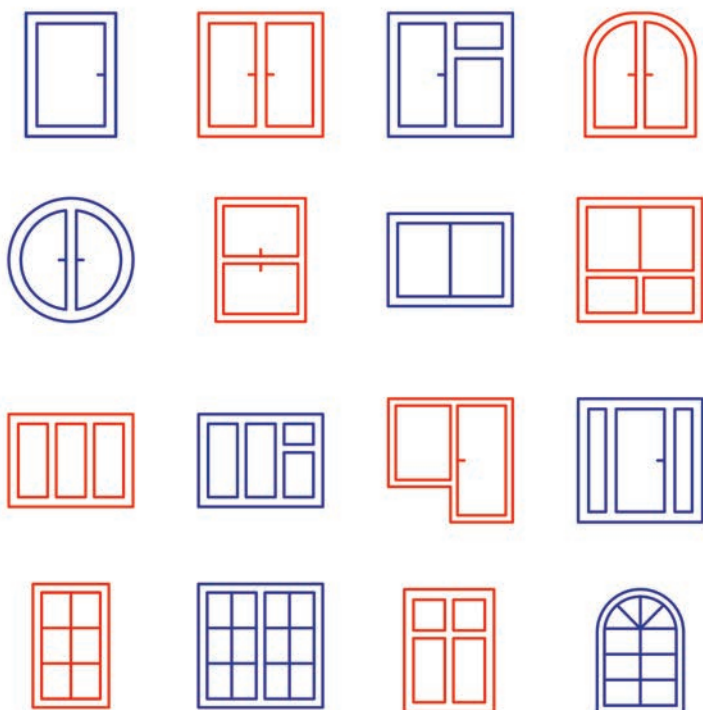
In Washington, Scotland romped past the United States 42-7 with Duhan van der Merwe scoring a record-equalling 27th international try to draw level with Stuart Hogg as the country's record try-scorer in international rugby.

A challenging week for France ended with a 33-25 defeat by Argentina in Buenos Aires, hours after two of their players, Hugo Auradou and Oscar Jegou, were arrested and formally charged with the aggravated rape and beating of an Argentine woman.

The pair remain in custody until a hearing is scheduled to determine if they will await trial in detention or under house arrest. AFP



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Thailand's Olympic trailblazer

OLYMPICS

Bangkok Post

In a busy Bangkok skate park, 12-year-old Vareeraya Sukasem, wearing a white collared Singha-sponsored shirt, practises her moves in the park's shaded facilities. On Sunday (July 21) the young skateboarder will depart for Paris to compete in the Olympics.

Vareeraya will represent Thailand in street skateboarding, standing out as one of the youngest athletes at the Olympics. Accompanying her to the City of Lights will be her mother, Tulraya Chantawong, her coach and her father.

Travelling around the world for skateboarding has been tiring at times for Vareeraya, but practising in various facilities with advanced, standardised equipment has significantly improved her technique.

Having skateboarded for six years, Vareeraya owes her start to her mother, who encouraged her to pick up her first board. Her mother says that the sport's male dominance makes her daughter's success even more impressive.



Vareeraya will represent Thailand in street skateboarding. Photo: Varuth Hirunyatheb / Bangkok Post

"I feel some pressure but I am excited to become a Thai girl representative to compete in this sport," Vareeraya said.

Vareeraya has been training under coach Kenny Reed at her local indoor skatepark, Hua Mark. Despite the language barrier, with Reed, an American who speaks little Thai, and Vareeraya, whose

English is limited, the two have navigated the challenges and made significant progress together.

Reed has coached her for the past three years and has taken great pleasure in witnessing her evolution, particularly the remarkable improvement in her skills over the past year.

He has designed an intuitive training schedule for her, featuring three intense training days followed by rest days and lighter sessions. He emphasises that the schedule must be adjusted based on her daily condition to prevent injury.

"We evaluate the risks of certain obstacles and certain tricks depending on how she

is feeling," Reed said. "The obstacles have a lot of impact and it takes a toll on your muscles."

Both Vareeraya and her mother are passionate about encouraging young Thai girls to take up skateboarding hope the young athlete's upcoming Olympic adventure can inspire others to dream.

'TRIUMPHANT STEP'

Vareeraya was part of the Thai contingent that met with Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin at a special function at Government House on July 8 that was led by Thai Olympic secretary-general Wit Devahastin na Ayudhya.

Mr Srettha thanked all the sports associations whose athletes have qualified for Paris 2024 and congratulated them for their great efforts.

"In the name of the Thai government, I would like to welcome the Olympic Committee of Thailand, all sports executives, officials, athletes and all the people involved. I would also like to congratulate all the sports associations and athletes from 17 sports who have qualified for the 33rd Olympic Games in Paris, France.

"For all the athletes who will represent Thailand at the Olympics, it is a result of the hard work put in by all the sports associations and the athletes themselves, who put their hearts and souls into years of training. This, to me, is already a triumphant step for everyone," he added.

"Developing our athletes to achieve international standards is the government's priority. We are ready to provide more funding for athletes and we will take care of our athletes when they end their sporting careers as well with jobs and welfare benefits."

The Olympic Games in Paris will take place between July 26-Aug 11. Thailand will have 51 athletes from 17 sports competing in Paris – the biggest squad among Southeast Asian nations.

Badminton with nine players is the biggest squad while boxing will have eight fighters in Paris.

Other sports are athletics (2); cycling (4); equestrian (1); golf (4); judo (1); modern pentathlon (1); rowing (1); sailing (2); kiteboard (2); shooting (3); skateboarding (1); swimming (2); table tennis (3); taekwondo (3); and weightlifting (4).

England great Anderson proud as 'best job in the world' ends at last

CRICKET

ENGLAND GREAT JAMES Anderson said he felt "really proud" after bringing down the curtain on a remarkable Test career with a thumping win over the West Indies at Lord's last Friday (July 12).

His final appearance before international retirement saw the 41-year-old paceman take a typically frugal 3-32 in 16 overs as the West Indies were dismissed for just 136 to give England victory by an innings and 114 runs inside three days.

The England selectors had already agreed with Anderson that this first of a three-match series would represent his farewell to national on-field service as they look to rebuild ahead of the 2025/26 Ashes series in Australia.

Anderson, now set to mentor England's quicks for the rest of the season, bowed out with a remarkable 704 wickets from 188 Tests.

Only spinners Shane Warne (708 Test wickets) and



Anderson at Lord's for the last time. Photo: AFP

Muttiah Muralitharan (800) have enjoyed more bowling success at this level, with India batting hero Sachin Tendulkar (200 matches) the lone cricketer to have played more Tests than Anderson.

"It's been quite an amazing week," Anderson told Sky Sports. "I've been overwhelmed with the reaction of the crowd and everyone around the ground, and the lads as well. I'm just proud of what I've achieved."

"Obviously this morning was quite emotional with the two teams lined up, and the reaction from the crowd was pretty special. I'm still trying to hold them (tears) back now but I think I am just really proud," added Anderson after ending his Test

career where it started – with a debut against Zimbabwe at Lord's in 2003.

"Playing for 20-odd years is an incredible effort, especially for a fast bowler, so I'm just happy that I've made it this far, happy that I've been lucky enough to stay injury-free pretty much throughout my career."

"Playing for England is the best job in the world and I've been privileged to do it for a long time."

England captain Ben Stokes hailed Anderson by saying: "He has just been an incredible inspiration to so many people. The amount of games and the amount of wickets he's taken are just absolutely phenomenal."

AFP

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Sport



Thailand's young Olympic hopeful > p15

EURO STARS!



Majestic Spain claim Euro 2024 title

Spain captain Alvaro Morata holds the trophy as celebrations with teammates begin following last Sunday's (July 14) Euro 2024 final win against England in Berlin. Photo: AFP

FOOTBALL

AFP

Substitute Mikel Oyarzabal scored a dramatic late winner as Spain triumphed in the Euro 2024 final last Sunday (July 14), beating England 2-1 to confirm their re-emergence as a force on the international stage.

England had been dreaming of winning a first title in almost six decades and it looked as if it could be their night as Spain lost influential midfielder Rodri to injury at half-time.

Yet Spain shrugged that off to take the lead within two minutes of the restart through Nico Williams, who was set up by his fellow star winger, Lamine Yamal.

England came from behind as they have done so often at the tourna-

ment, substitute Cole Palmer driving in the equaliser on 73 minutes, moments after entering the fray.

But their resurgence in the game was cut short when Oyarzabal, the Real Sociedad forward, turned in a cross in the 86th minute to hand Spain a record fourth European Championship crown, and a third in the last five editions.

"It has been a marvellous day in which a team has been deservedly crowned champions of Europe," Spain coach Luis de la Fuente told broadcaster TVE afterwards.

They previously won in 1964, 2008 and 2012, the last two titles coming either side of their triumph at the 2010 World Cup during the golden era of Xavi Hernandez, Xabi Alonso and Andres Iniesta.

Whether this generation, led by the brilliant Yamal playing here a day after his 17th birthday, manage

to repeat the achievements of that magnificent side remains to be seen, but theirs was a fitting victory.

Spain were comfortably the best team over the month-long tournament in Germany, winning all seven games contested, and were not intimidated by the atmosphere at the Olympiastadion, where the majority of the crowd were given over to England's cause.

England had hoped to finally claim a first men's international title since their fabled victory at the 1966 World Cup, but fell just short in their first ever final on foreign soil.

After the agony of their defeat on penalties to Italy three years ago, England are the first side ever to lose back-to-back Euros finals.

"To lose the final is incredibly tough," said their manager, Gareth Southgate. "Congratulations to Spain, they were the best team in

the tournament and the best team tonight."

OPPORTUNITY MISSED

England captain Harry Kane, substituted after 60 minutes, said the Three Lions' second-successive defeat in the tournament's showpiece game will "hurt for a long time".

"It's an opportunity missed. These finals aren't easy to get to. You have to take it when it comes and we haven't done it again.

"It's hard to put into words how we're all feeling right now... We did well to get back into the game and struggled to build on that. It's extremely painful and it'll hurt for a long time."

Despite having to be replaced at half-time after picking up a knee injury, Spain midfielder Rodri was voted player of the tournament for his overall excellent performances

as Spain also overcame hosts Germany and France to reach the final.

The Manchester City man's only goal of the tournament came in scoring the equaliser in a 4-1 win over Georgia in the last 16.

However, he was hailed by coach Luis de la Fuente as a "perfect computer" for his metronomic passing and reading of the game that proved vital to carrying a young side through a devilishly difficult draw to glory.

Rodri has now lost just once in his last 80 games in all competitions for club and country and can add the Euros to a glittering list of silverware in that time.

The 28-year-old has won two Premier League titles, the Champions League, one FA Cup, the UEFA Super Cup and the Club World Cup with City, as well as the Nations League with Spain.

Phuket school basketball competition wraps up

BASKETBALL

THE 2024 PHUKET SCHOOL Basketball League came to a climax on July 6 at the Sports Building in Saphan Hin.

The annual contest, which adopts the three-on-three player format on court, saw a total of 355 athletes from 77 teams compete in male and female categories across four separate age groups of under-12 years of age, under-14, under-16 and under-18.

The winners of the female

under-12 class was KS Club, while Kajonkietsuksa School were runners up and Phuket Thai Hua School finished third.

Kajonkietsuksa School came out on top in the male under-12s, with the runners-up and third place teams both from Kajonkietsuksa School.

Kajonkietsuksa School also finished in first place in the female under-14 age group, with Phuket Thai Hua School runners-up and Kajonkietsuksa School third, while KS Club B won the male under-14s, with teams from Kajonkietsuksa

School finishing second and third.

Phuket Wittayalai School won the female under-16 age class, while teams from Phuket Women's School finished in second and third.

Phuket Wittayalai School also triumphed in the male under-16 age group, while KS Club saw teams finish second and third.

In the female under-18 age group first place went to Team Boy Band, with Boy Band B in second and Phuket Wittayalai School in third place.

KS Club won the same age class in the male category, with Phuket

Wittayalai School finishing second and Kajonkietsuksa School in third.

Once play had concluded at 6pm there was an official closing ceremony overseen by Thammawat Wongcharoenyot, President of the Phuket Sports Association, Damrong Chaisena, Director of the Phuket office of the Sports Authority of Thailand, and Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO).

Mr Rewat and Prasit Sinsawaphak, Deputy Mayor of Phuket Town, distributed medals



Photo: Supplied

and prizes to the winning teams as part of the closing ceremony.

The annual competition is organised by the PPAO to encourage a more active and healthy lifestyle for youngsters while developing the values of sportsmanship by understanding the dynamics of winning and losing. *The Phuket News*