

SINGAPOREAN TOURIST KILLED IN ACCIDENT > PAGE 3

DEADLY TOY



The gun used in the tragic shooting of a 7-year-old girl in Ratsada. Photo: Phuket City Police

GIRL, 7, SHOT DEAD BY POLICE GUN LEFT LOADED AT HOUSE PARTY

Eakkapop Thongtub
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A Phuket police officer will not face any charges for leaving his 9mm handgun in an unlocked drawer despite a 9-year-old boy thinking that the gun was a toy tragically shooting dead his 7-year-old cousin at a house in Ratsada.

Following growing pressure from comments online calling for police to publicly recognise the incident,

Phuket City Police Chief Col Sarawut Chuprasit finally spoke about the tragic shooting two days later (Aug 8), giving his assurance that police were not ignoring the case.

Police were first informed of the shooting by staff at Phuket Provincial Hospital at about 11am on Aug 6, Col Sarawut said.

The 7-year-old had suffered one gunshot to her upper left chest. She was pronounced dead at the hospital after being rushed from a home in

Moo 3, Ratsada, where a merit making housewarming party was being held, he explained.

A police officer attending the party had placed his handgun, a Sig Sauer P320SP, in a bedside drawer in the upstairs bedroom at the home before joining the festivities downstairs.

The boy and his 7-year-old cousin went upstairs to play in the bedroom, Col Sarawut said.

The boy found the gun. Thinking it was a toy, he pointed it at his

cousin and pulled the trigger, firing one shot into her chest.

Col Sarawut repeated that Phuket City Police were following proper procedure regarding the shooting.

However, instead of charging the officer for the girl's death through gross negligence by his appalling gun safety practices, police were pursuing charges against the 9-year-old boy for negligence causing the death of another person, Col Sarawut confirmed...

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Louise hits the mark once again on USA tour



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PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

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Image: Department of Land Transport

Driver's licence renewals now done on Saturdays

PEOPLE IN PHUKET who have been unable to renew their driver's licences during regular government office hours can now do so at the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) on weekday evenings and on Saturdays.

The move is part of a national push by the Department of Land Transport to have people renew their licences in Bangkok and tourism provinces throughout August-September, reports state news agency NNT.

In total, the extended service is available in 33 provinces. In South Thailand, the extended service is available in Phuket, Surat Thani, Songkhla and

Nakhon Si Thammarat.

In addition to being open during regular government office hours, Land Transport offices in selected provinces, including Phuket, will be open from 4:30pm to 6pm Monday-Friday (except public holidays) and from 8:30am to 4:30pm on Saturdays.

In order to use the service, people must book an appointment through the DLT Smart Queue application (on Google Play and the App Store).

If people reschedule their appointment and book a new time through the app, the original appointment will be automatically cancelled, the NNT report noted. *The Phuket News*

Por Tor 'Hungry Ghost' festival begins in Phuket

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The annual Por Tor Festival has begun, with devotees and participating Chinese shrines across the island honouring the tradition of placating souls released from hell by welcoming them with offerings to make merit and to sate their hunger.

The Hungry Ghost Festival, or Por Tor Festival as it is called in Phuket, began with prayers and offerings to Por Tor Kong, the King of Hell, last Friday (Aug 12) and continued last Saturday with a small parade through the heart of Phuket Town.

The Por Tor Festival traditionally falls on the 15th day of the seventh waxing moon on the Chinese calendar, and Thai-Chinese people believe that the spirits of ancestors are released from hell to visit their relatives during this period.

Thai-Chinese people usually decorate their houses and altars with offerings to appease the spirits of ancestors who may come to visit during the festival.

For "homeless" spirits, those spirits without descendants to visit, devotees arrange a set of food offerings and place them at the back of their houses.



Photo: Phuket City Municipality

Offerings include a cup of tea, mixed snacks, Angku (red turtle cakes), Fa Gao (Chinese cupcakes), triangle-shaped sticky rice, fruit (usually pineapples, bananas and oranges or mandarins), desserts, a tittle of Chinese whiskey, and most importantly, one big red turtle-shaped cake.

To commemorate the festival, Phuket City Municipality has hung red lanterns along

the streets of Phuket Town, along with installing other decorations dotted throughout the town, including a small feature set up on the area beside the Standard Chartered Bank Intersection in the heart of the Old Town area.

As is tradition, turtle-shaped Angku cakes are on display at all areas where festivities are being honoured, and a parade was held through

Phuket Town on Tuesday (Aug 16).

People gathered at Queen Sirikit Park on Thalang Rd at 4pm, from where they continued along Phuket Rd to the Bang Neow Shrine and turned right to make their way to the Por Tor Kong Shrine. The parade concluded by about 6pm.

The Por Tor festival will continue through to Aug 26.

Police dodge gun safety laws in fatal shooting

Continued from page 1

...The police officer who owned the gun and left it loaded and ready to fire in an unlocked drawer with children playing freely in the house was not even being investigated.

Col Sarawut gave no explanation of why the gun was still loaded when the officer left it in the unlocked bedside drawer. He also made no mention of whether the officer had even checked that the "safety" switch was set to on.

The police officer is a relative of the person who owns the home where the incident happened, Col Sarawut said.

The 9-year-old who pulled the trigger was the police officer's grandson, he also confirmed.

Col Sarawut continued his defence of police action in the

case by saying that the charge against the 9-year-old was procedural and expected to be a formality only, considering the child's age and the circumstances of the shooting.

The 9-year-old boy is being provided counselling by a psychologist, he said.

"In this case, we must go through the steps. The police have filed a charge of negligence causing the death of another person. But under the law, if the child is under 12 years old, while it is a real offence, it does not have to be punished.

"The case is being investigated by a psychologist, prosecutors and police officers together. After that, we will take the child to the detention centre.

"Let's go through the procedures according to the rules," Col Sarawut said.

The mother was in deep grief, he noted.

However, according to Col Sarawut, the mother did not blame the police officer for the shooting.

Phuket police have for years carried their firearms while not on duty, resulting in deadly shootings, including a shootout in Phuket Town in which the police officer himself was shot dead.

Despite the deaths by firearms carried by off-duty police over the years, including the shooting of a 25-year-old noodle vendor on Bangla Rd, Patong, by a drunk off-duty officer in February last year, the Royal Thai Police have refused to revise their policy.

Following a spate of shooting incidents, and deaths, involving police not on duty carrying firearms in public places, including pubs, clubs, restaurants and other

venues, in 2016 Maj Gen Chayodom Jintawairoth, Commander of the General Staff Sub-Division at Region 8 Police, said the current policy is safe enough.

While confirming that only officers on duty may legally carry firearms in public, Maj Gen Chayodom also admitted that the Royal Thai Police "does not have a policy for off-duty police officers to carry weapons into public places".

"If off duty officers are involved in a firearm incident and found guilty, they will be punished with both criminal and disciplinary proceedings, accordingly," he said in an official statement issued to *The Phuket News*.

"If after investigation an officer is found guilty of 'such an accusation' (sic) then the punishment would be either to ask the officer to leave the police force voluntarily



Phuket City Police Chief Col Sarawut Chuprasit. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

or he or she will be fired from the current position. This depends on the severity of the offence," he said.

That is if the officer is charged, and even then that is if the police investigation is concluded, or even launched.

Mangrove land corruption probe by NACC hits wall

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A series of high-profile inspections of land encroachment in Phuket conducted by the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) has so far yielded no pro-active results, an official report has revealed.

The news came at a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on Aug 10 chaired by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew and joined by Prateep Kongsanit, Assistant Secretary-General of the NACC Region 8 Commission, and NACC Phuket Director Suksan Prasara-ae.

The meeting followed site inspections on Aug 9 of three mangrove forest areas specifically under investigation for involving corruption. The sites inspected were in Moo 6, Wichit; in Soi Klangthong 1, Wichit; and in Soi Na Saithong 1, Ratsada.

The inspections of the three areas were part of ongoing investigations into whether the encroachment was facili-



Photo: PR Phuket

tated by corrupt officials.

People are still occupying the areas, the meeting was told.

Waste is being dumped and a barbed wire fence has been installed to section off land in the Soi Klangthong mangrove area, and residential buildings have been built in the mangrove forest area in Soi Nah Sai Thong 1, Ratsada, the inspections had confirmed.

However, no concrete information had been uncovered on which to proceed with corruption charges, said an official report summarising the meeting.

“At the meeting, no clear conclusions could be drawn, but the Governor of Phuket has ordered all involved agencies to find solutions to problems to maximise benefits for the government and help reduce corruption in areas prone to corruption,” the report said.

The investigations began after the Royal Thai Navy began its own investigation into claims of encroachment into a protected mangrove forest area near Klong Mudong in Wichit in May.

The investigation at that time was led by Capt Pratchai

Thongrak, Director of the ‘Investigation and News Division Administrative Office’ of the National Marine Interest Center at the Royal Thai Navy (RTN) Third Area Command [3AC], based at Cape Panwa.

Capt Pratchai explained at the time that he had been tasked to conduct the investigation by RTN Third Area Commander Vice Admiral Sompong Nakthong, who had received a formal complaint from local villagers of the Makham Khu (‘Twin Tamarind’) community on April 29.



Officials inspect entertainment venues on Bangla Rd. Photo: PR Patong

More fire safety checks for Patong night venues

PATONG AUTHORITIES have carried out yet another inspection on Bangla Rd, checking that entertainment venues on the renowned street are serious enough about fire safety.

At around 8pm on Aug 9, Patong Mayor Chalerm Sak Maneesri led a team of officials to inspect selected nightclubs for fire safety.

The team, joined by Kathu District Chief Siwat Rawangkul, included officials from the Patong office of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM-Patong), police officers and other officials from Patong Municipality.

The officials checked safety measures at entertainment venues along Bangla Rd “with emphasis on fire prevention

systems, signs showing entrance/exit doors, fire exits, availability of fire-extinguishing equipment, lighting inside the buildings, and other safety measures”.

While the post-inspection report was supported with pictures of fire alarms, fire extinguishers and fire exits at some of the venues visited, which included well-known nightclubs, Patong Municipality did not report how many venues were visited by officials or whether any of them were found not fully ready for a possible emergency.

Inspections in Patong began after a devastating fire at Mountain B pub in Chon Buri on Aug 5 that has now killed 19 and injured over 30, some of them seriously.

The Phuket News

Singaporean tourist killed in collision with tour bus

A SINGAPOREAN WOMAN has died after the car she was driving collided head-on with a small tour bus carrying tourists back from Kata Beach last Friday night (Aug 12).

Police and rescue workers were called to the scene, on Patak Rd in Moo 4 Karon, on the west side of Kata Hill, at about 10:50pm.

Police and rescue workers arrived to find a silver Toyota Yaris with its front destroyed by the impact. A small white bus had also sustained heavy damage to its front right.

Five tourists, all from Singapore, were travelling in the car, police reported.

Lt Col Ekachai Siri of the Phuket Tourist Police later identified the driver of the Toyota Yaris, who died in the accident, as Miss Ho Jia Hui Renee, 21, from Singapore.

The other passengers in the car, all Singaporean nationals, were named as Mr Bryan Teo Li Yan, 30; Mr Poh Mao Xin, 23; Miss



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Pang Jing Ning Eliana, 21; and Ms Ng Ja Xin, 66.

Miss Ho, the driver of the car, was unconscious and responsive at the scene. She was initially rushed to Chalong Hospital along with the other four Singaporeans in the car, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

The driver of the Toyota minibus, Anirut Chomcherd, 32, of Chalong, and two guides also suffered injuries in the collision. The two guides were named as Thai national Nuengruethai

Raknawa, 43, and Korean national Sangmin Lee, 41.

Some of the injured were taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town, police said.

According to the preliminary investigation by police, Ms Ho lost control of the car while navigating the winding road down the steep hill, resulting in the head-on collision with the small tour bus.

Police are continuing their investigation into the accident. Eakkapop Thongtub



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High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

MON AUGUST 22



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE AUGUST 23



High: +32°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

WED AUGUST 24



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

THU AUGUST 25



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

Aussie revives Brit in Patong

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

An Australian tourist has been formally recognised for his life-saving efforts after he revived a British man who had suffered a heart attack and collapsed on the Patong beach road.

Rob Cullen from Melbourne, Australia, received a Certificate of Commendation from Matthew Barclay, Australia's Consul-General in Phuket, last week for his efforts.

"Rob's actions were phenomenal – he is an absolute hero. It fills me with a lot of pride as an Australian to share in Rob's story and chat to him about his quick thinking and critical care for a complete stranger," Mr Barclay said.

Rob and his wife Deb had just left Molly Malone's on the Patong beach road at about 9:30pm last Tuesday (Aug 2) when they saw the British man had collapsed on the footpath.

The fellow tourist was unresponsive.



Rob Cullen, from Melbourne, Australia, receives his Certificate of Commendation from Matthew Barclay, Australia's Consul-General in Phuket, for his efforts. Photo: Australia Consulate-General, Phuket

Rob sprung into action using the CPR skills he learned as part of his work back home and through sheer determination managed to revive the person and maintain their vital signs before emergency services could arrive, Mr Barclay explained.

"Rob says he didn't think twice about assisting and just did what needed to be done," he said.

Rob persisted with his efforts for 15 minutes until the British man, later confirmed to be 73 years old, started breathing on his own, explained Wal Brown, a long-time expat who has worked with the police volunteer programme in Patong and the International Liaison Volunteer Program supporting the Region 8 Police.

"He just kept going until the man

started breathing again, which happened before the ambulance arrived," Mr Brown noted.

Ambulance medics said the British man had suffered a heart attack and rushed him to Patong Hospital. The man was later transferred to Bangkok Hospital Phuket in Phuket Town.

Mr Brown also highly praised Mr Cullen's efforts.

"I couldn't speak of it more highly. Police volunteers always have to be prepared for incidents like this, but it's great when people take the initiative themselves," he said.

"Rob's actions alone can inspire other people to jump in and maybe save a life themselves," Mr Brown added.

Mr Cullen undergoing repeated emergency resuscitation training every two to three years was likely crucial to saving the British man's life, Mr Brown noted.

"It kept his skills sharp and Rob did not hesitate in putting them to use," he said.

Delivery driver faces charge after student struck by pickup

A 48-YEAR-OLD delivery driver is facing a charge of reckless driving after the delivery pickup he was driving struck a child who ran out onto the road near the Heroines Monument early Monday morning (Aug 15).

Police were called to the scene of the accident, the southbound lanes of Thepkasattri Rd just north of the Heroines Monument, at 6am.

Officers from the Thalang Police arrived with rescue workers from Srisoonthorn Municipality and the Kusoldharm Phuket Foundation to find Vikrom Prairit, a Mattayom 3 (Grade 9) student at Muang Thalang School, lying on the road.

He had suffered head and hip injuries on his right side. Rescue workers provided emergency first aid before rushing him to Thalang Hospital.

A grey, Bangkok-registered Toyota Hilux Revo pickup truck modified for making deliveries was still stopped in the right-hand lane, with damage to its bonnet and a cracked front windshield.

The driver, Boonyarit Chamchit, 48, was at the scene waiting for police.

Mr Boonyarit explained to police that he was delivering goods from Bangkok to the bus station in Phuket.

When he arrived at the scene, the student suddenly ran in front of the pickup, leaving him unable to brake in time, he said.

Mr Boonyarit and the pickup were taken to Thalang Police Station.

Mr Boonyarit faces an initial charge of reckless driving causing injury to others while police continue their investigation, officers confirmed.



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Eakkapop Thongtub

B23mn road-safety makeover for Pla Wan Corner set to begin

THE PHUKET HIGHWAYS OFFICE will spend B23 million to improve one kilometre of Sakdidet Rd, leading to Cape Panwa (Route 4023), in order to make the road safer, Phuket Highways Office Chief Yuttana Phithak has announced.

Mr Yuttana announced the news at a public hearing held at the Wichit Municipality offices, chaired by Muang District Chief Suwit Suriyawong, on Aug 9.

The works will be from km 2+000 to km 3+000, with the work focussing on the lane heading from Cape Panwa to Phuket Town, Mr Yuttana explained.

The project will see the road widened and the road surface improved, he said.

The project will cost B23mn, Mr Yuttana noted. Previously, officials had announced that they had requested B30mn to make the road safer.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform local residents of "the reason and necessity" for the project, and to warn them of traffic delays along the road while the project is carried out, Mr Yuttana added.

The meeting was also held to hear local residents' opinions on the project, he said.

"Let the people know, as well as participate by expressing their opinions on the project, that the implementation of such a project is for convenience and safety for road users, and to reduce accidents involving people who use the route," he said.

Muang District Chief Mr Suwit joined Mr Yuttana in explaining the official reason for the public hearing.

"The implementation of the project is to help people travel by improving convenience and safety along the route, which when bet-



Pla Wan Corner, in front of Ao Nam Bor School. Photo: PR Phuket / file

ter developed will have an impact on people in the area," he said.

"Today's meeting is to explain to the public the implementation of any project. However, the project is requested to be based on good wishes for the country, taking into account the interests of the general public as a location," Mr Suwit added.

The official report of the public hearing made no mention of any opinions expressed or reservations any local residents might have about the project. However, it was made clear that the project was approved by those present at the meeting.

Local residents had complained for years about how unsafe the road was, especially at the Ao Nam Bo curve, in front of Ao Nam Bor School. However, amid much controversy, officials finally decided to take action – but only after Vorasit 'Pla Wan' Issara, owner of the upscale Sri Panwa resort, slammed into a roadside power pole at speed at the site in March last year. The dangerous section of road has since been locally called 'Pla Wan Corner'.

Mr Vorasit survived yet another high-speed accident in March this year, this time losing control of his B30mn Bentley while returning from Khao Lak. The Phuket News

Tourism businesses turn to India to support revival

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket tourism officials are hoping for inbound tourists from India to help boost the island's economy following a road show to the subcontinent earlier this month.

The road show, held from Aug 1-6, saw more than 40 tour operators from Phuket travel to the Indian cities of New Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore.

The road show was organised by the Phuket Tourist Association with support from the Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO).

Also named as vital in organising the road show were Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Deputy Governor Thanet Petchsuwan and Pat-tarat Hongtong, Ambassador of Thailand to India.

PPAO Deputy President Anuparb Wechwanichsanong said in a statement that the Phuket delegation of tourism business operators met with 300 tour operators in the three major India cities.



Photo: PPAO

The group Phuket business operators were the first representatives from Thailand to hold promotional activities in India after COVID-19 restrictions had been lifted, Mr Anuparb said.

"The Indian market is considered the number one market in Phuket. From May until July, more than 83,000 Indian tourists have traveled to Phuket, because there are more than 40 airlines per week

that fly directly into Phuket," Mr Anuparb noted.

"August is also a special month as it marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Thai-India relations," he added.

"As a whole, Indian entrepreneurs are very interested in Phuket. It is expected that from August until the end of the year there will be an additional 150,000 Indian tourists arriving, which will

create an economic value of more than B7.5 billion in Phuket," he said.

Business operators in the Phuket Old Town district have already welcomed the arrival of Indian tourists to help their businesses.

Meanwhile, the Phuket Tourist Association is also organising a roadshow to South Korea, with tourism trade meets to be held in Seoul and Busan on Sept 20-21.

Kata Beach to host major music festival

A MAJOR EVENT WITH a line-up of popular Thai artists will be held at Kata Beach at the end of this month to help the area recover from the economic impact of the tourism shutdown during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event, titled 'Kata Beach Life Festival 2022', will be held on the Kata beachfront, just north of the Kata Beach Community Park, on Aug 26-28.

The event, co-organised by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and the Ministry of Tourism & Sports, will include live music concerts and DJs in the evenings over two days as well as a Nature Active Camp, a flea market, a sports competition and a photo contest.

The Nature Active Camp will include morning yoga, surfing, zumba, skim boarding, balance boarding and slack line activities.

DJs lined up to perform at the event include Supersonic, FunkyGangster, Joe Gradante, Mayga, Nu-Trip, Beycan Kemeç, Q Narongwate, Taz Mutch and Tomfunk.

The live music concerts will be performed on stage



Image: Cheeze Events

on the Saturday and Sunday evenings, as follows:

SATURDAY - AUG 27

TELEX TELEXs - 6pm-7pm
No One Else - 7pm-8pm
The Paradise Bangkok Molam International Band - 8pm-9pm
Moderndog - 9pm-10pm

SUNDAY - AUG 28

Sarah Salola - 6pm-7pm
Patrickananda - 7pm-8pm
The Parkinson - 8pm-9pm
4eve - 9pm-10pm

Entry to the event is free.

The event organisers have marked among the COVID measures to be observed at the event that masks are to be worn where needed and that the event is being held outdoors.

All food vendors at the event must use packaging that is CFC free.

The Phuket News

BCCT highlights 'Shifting Demographics: The Hidden Derailer of the Thai Economy'

CHRIS CRACKNELL, CHAIRMAN of Grant Thornton Thailand, will be guest speaker at the British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT) "Phuket Dinner" at SAii Laguna Phuket on Aug 24, delivering a keynote presentation on 'Shifting Demographics: The Hidden Derailer of the Thai Economy'.

"Thailand has been very successful over the past 20 years, and longer, gaining a positive reputation as a tourist destination, in manufacturing and exports ahead of many of its neighbouring countries. The availability of a value-for-money skilled workforce has been one of the key drivers of this success with Thailand attracting high levels of foreign investment to match local investment. This has led to a growing middle class and increased urbanisation, which in turn has helped propel the economy forward," Mr Cracknell explains.

"Over the past few years, much of our attention has been around COVID. COVID has been an accelerator of trends, both good and bad. The Great Resignation became a common discussion point as employment expectations changed and retaining and attracting staff back key issues in many sectors," he added.

"However, is this the full story?" Mr Cracknell poses.

"In the presentation, I will explore a more significant change in Thai demographics which explains some of the success in the good years as well as setting out the



Chris Cracknell.

challenges going forward. However, it is not all doom and gloom as change brings opportunity. I will also identify actions that Thailand and businesses here should take," he adds.

Before the dinner will be a business networking session in a relaxed atmosphere at the resort.

Attendance to the event costs B1,200 for BCCT members and B2,000 for non-members, including a three-course Western set dinner and free-flow beverages.

To book attendance, visit <https://members.bccthai.com/bcct/asp/default.asp>

The Phuket News

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Malaysia eyes Thai weed policy for medicinal use

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul says he is looking forward to a visit from his Malaysian counterpart who he says has expressed an interest in studying the Thai model for legalising cannabis for medical use.

After meeting the country's Thai ambassador, HE Dato Jodie Samuel, Anutin said they had discussed details of Malaysian Public Health Minister, Khairy Jamaluddin's forthcoming trip to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit.

He said Mr Jamaluddin had expressed an interest in studying Thailand's cannabis policy during the 75th World Health Assembly in May as Malaysia weighs passing a similar law to liberalise medical use.

He said the ministry plans to take Mr Jamaluddin on a medical marijuana tour to study the extraction of cannabis cola or clustered flowers for health purposes.



Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said he will take his Malaysian counterpart on a medical marijuana tour to study the medicinal benefits. Photo: Bangkok Post

"If Malaysia joins Thailand in legalising cannabis for medical use, even though our neighbour has much harsher narcotics laws than Thailand, I believe that would reflect well on our success in bringing the plant into our medical system," said Anutin.

Anutin also emphasised once again that the ministry does not approve of recreational use and has launched further regulations banning wrongful public cannabis from being taken in public places.

The House committee

scrutinising the bill on cannabis and hemp is expected to finish work on the bill this week before presenting it for approval in parliament and royal endorsement, said Anutin.

He also said the number of patients admitted with ill symptoms related to cannabis use has dropped in public hospitals.

"It shows that more people have acknowledged the proper way to use cannabis.

"From now on medical staff can openly prescribe

cannabis-based medication and patients can safely rely on cannabis treatment," added Anutin.

However, Bangkok governor Chadchart Sittipunt expressed concern that students might still be able to buy cannabis products even though their sale to anyone under 20 years old is prohibited.

"The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration [BMA] cannot interfere with the enforcement of cannabis decriminalisation but we will control its sale, especially by vendors in the capital. We have launched protocols to limit access to cannabis products by students," said Mr Chadchart.

He added the BMA is screening to ensure vendors are certified by the Public Health Ministry.

Neeranuch Arphacharus, director of the department's Legal Affairs Division, said smoking cannabis in public is considered a nuisance under a public health announcement issued on June 15.

Violators can be reported to the authorities for investigation, she said.



Rescue workers in the interior of the fire-gutted Mountain B pub on Aug 5. Photo: Sawan Boriboon Foundation

Chon Buri pub fire death toll rises to 19

CHON BURI

THE MOUNTAIN B PUB fire on Aug 5 in Chon Buri's Sattahip district claimed its 19th life on Monday (Aug 15), when a 23-year-old woman with critical burns died at Chon Buri Hospital.

Her mother, Veena Insiri, 54, a teacher at Wat Ban Laeng Community School, posted on her Facebook page that her daughter Atitaya, known as Ice, succumbed to her injuries at 2:50am.

Atitaya's boyfriend was 30-year-old singer Chatchai, known as Im, who died in the flames at the pub on the early morning of Aug 5.

She was among those patrons who suffered critical injuries. She had burns all over her body. After one night of treatment at Queen Sirikit Naval Hospital in Sattahip district,

Atitaya was transferred to Chon Buri Hospital, where she was put on a ventilator in intensive care.

Her mother said Atitaya's condition had steadily declined. She developed blood poisoning and went into shock, leading to her death.

The news came days after 17-year-old Siriwan 'Mind' Wongsuk succumbed to her injuries at Thammasat University Hospital in Pathum Thani province and was pronounced dead last Friday.

Siriwan had been transferred to the hospital two days after the inferno and placed on a ventilator but did not respond to treatment.

The teenager had gone to Mountain B with two other friends on Aug 5, one of whom, 18-year-old Phromporn Phoolsawat, died at the fire-gutted pub. Her other friend, 18, managed to escape the fire.

Bangkok Post

OAG to indict four over Billy's death

BANGKOK

THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-General (OAG) has decided to indict former chief of Kaeng Krachan National Park, Chaiwat Limlikit-aksorn, and three other individuals over the disappearance and murder of Karen rights activist Porlajee "Billy" Rakchongcharoen in 2014.

The decision came after the Department of Special Investigation submitted additional evidence which proves the activist was murdered.

Chaiwat will be arraigned on four charges in connection to Billy's disappearance and death, along with Bunthaen Butsarakhom, Thanaset Chaemthet, and Kritsanaphong Chitthet, said Attorney-General Singchai Thanninson on Monday (Aug 15).

The charges include premeditated murder, intimidation using weapons, unlawful detention and concealing a corpse.

The DSI submitted the results of its initial investigation to the OAG back in 2019, but the report was rejected by the OAG's Department of Special Litigation, which said the DSI did not provide sufficient evidence to prove that Billy was murdered.

At the time, the OAG regarded the mitochondrial DNA test – which was used to prove the human skull found in a drum found under a bridge in Kaeng Krachan Park was in fact, Billy's – as unreliable.

As such, it asked the DSI to support its request for arraignment with more solid evidence.



Chaiwat and three others face murder charges. Photo: Bangkok Post

DSI's initial report named five people as suspects, but one name has been dropped from the case.

Billy was last seen on April 17, 2014, when he was detained by Chaiwat and several other park officers at Ma Rew checkpoint at the national park, located at the main entrance to Bang Kloy village.

Chaiwat claimed he wasn't aware of the OAG's decision to indict him, but said he will prepare to turn himself in to face the charges and fight for justice.

The OAG announcement comes as Chaiwat seeks to be reinstated as a civil servant after he was dismissed from his position at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

Phetchaburi's Administration Court recently ruled in Chaiwat's favour after he appealed against his dismissal.

The court said he should be allowed to continue serving as a civil servant until the murder case against him is finalised.

Bangkok Post



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Anyone Can Drown. No one should.

Jayne MacDougall

World Drowning Prevention Day, declared by the United Nations in April 2021, is observed annually on July 25. This global advocacy event serves as an opportunity to highlight the tragic and profound impact of drowning on families and communities and to encourage organisations and individuals to offer life-saving solutions to prevent drowning.

According to the latest World Health Organisation (WHO) data published, Thailand suffered 3,956 drowning deaths in 2020, about 5.49 per 100,000 population. This ranks Thailand #22 in the world. Drowning remains the lead-

ing cause of death for children below the age of 15 in Thailand.

This year, Phuket Hotels Association in collaboration with the Australian Consulate-General in Phuket decided to work together to highlight preventable drownings with a series of activities starting with a media event promoting World Drowning Prevention Day on July 25, followed by a two-week series of intensive training targeting non-life-guard staff at hotels and culminating with a seminar focused on "Collaboration in Water Safety" on Aug 6.

The training component, spear-headed by Phuket Hotels Association, focused on staff who work at hotels and are based near swimming pools or beaches, who are most likely to be "on the spot" when incidents occur. More than 50 hotel staff joined the three

courses offered – including security guards, waiters, sports staff and kids club staff.

Participants were trained in the classroom, the swimming pool and the sea to give them knowledge and skills to help build their by-stander capabilities in the event of a water incident or other accident, with the first aid component also exploring how to deal with some of the more common accidents that could occur, including immobilising injured limbs, bandaging, dealing with sun-stroke, bleeding incidents, choking and heart attack as well as lifts and carries, land and water rescue and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

At all times, the message highlighted to trainees was to think of and assess the danger to themselves first! Trainees were also strongly encouraged to check what equipment was available in their area before they started work each day, check pool or sea conditions and look for hazards regularly – including looking for rips and currents at the beach. This, as well as maintaining a good level of general fitness was reinforced repeatedly.

The lead trainer, Lisa Maddison, from Queensland, Australia, travelled to Phuket to conduct this intensive training. Lisa is the Queensland South Coast Branch Patrol Development Coordinator, South Coast Branch Trainers Assessors and Facilitators Development Officer and Chief Training Officer at Miami Beach Surf Life Saving Club as well as an active lifeguard at Surfers Paradise and Miami Beaches on the Gold Coast. Lisa's most recent Australian awards include the 2022 Surf Life Saving Australia Rescue Medal and the 2022 Surf Life Saving Queensland Life Saving Excellence Award.

The training was supported by three enthusiastic Phuket-based lifesaving trainers and conducted in Patong (see photos of the training on the "Phuket Water Safety Academy" Facebook page). The training was embraced with enthusiasm and more of this kind of training is needed if we are to cater to the return of tourism in the coming months as anticipated.

This is not the first time this kind of training has been conducted in Phuket, with hotels regularly training pre-COVID in a range of lifesaving and general first aid and safety areas. However, the prolonged effects of the COVID pandemic on tourism have resulted in a shortage of hotel staff with advanced water safety skills. Many lifeguards and trained staff have returned to other provinces or found alternate work and many of those who did remain did not have the same opportunities for annual

training for the past three years due to hotel closures coupled with a drastic reduction in tourist numbers.

The seminar on Aug 6, titled "Collaboration in Water Safety", was opened by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew with Australian Consul-General to Phuket Matthew Barclay, Phuket Hotels Association President Bjorn Courage, Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Phuket office (DDPM-Phuket) Assistant Director Amornthep Preekham and Ms Maddison all as guest speakers.

Dr Johan Storck spoke about the Patong Rotary programme to teach children to swim and a panel representing the DDPM, the boating industry, the hotel industry and professional lifeguards discussed the current limitations and opportunities they saw to prevent drowning. One popular proposal was to establish a beach safety committee to oversee beach safety and consistency of approach, signs and standards – a move Governor Narong expressed interest in.

The audience consisted of hotel general managers and consular representatives from Germany, Korea and Austria. Also in attendance were local government and non-profit organisations and hospital representatives.

Despite the event occurring on a Saturday, it was obvious those present were dedicated to the prospect of collaboration to prevent further loss of life by drowning.

Frankly, we can never have too much safety training. The skills learned can have a roll-on effect and this makes communities safer and more resilient. The impact of drowning on a family, a community and a destination are profound. Investing time and effort in training those at the front line and "on the spot" will prevent drowning and make Phuket a safer place for all.

In 2022, the theme of World Drowning Prevention Day this year encourages us all to "Do One Thing" to save lives and prevent drowning.

This could include installing barriers near water, providing safe places for children away from water, teaching swimming, water safety and rescue skills, training bystanders in safe rescue and resuscitation, safe boating enforcement and improving flood risk management.

What will you do?

Jayne MacDougall has organised water safety and lifeguard training in Phuket in collaboration with Australian Lifesaving Organisations for more than 20 years. She is the Project Consultant for Phuket Hotels Association Lifesaving Training.

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It's time to laugh again!



ANDY TONG DEE

Taipan has been a popular Patong nightclub now for over 23 years. Its events manager, Mark Cameron, kindly invited me to what was to be the first comedy show there for three years because of the COVID pandemic.

Mark introduced me to Chris Raufeisen, comedian-in-charge and a founder of Raw Comedy Asia. I also met four other comedians from Bangkok that Chris had brought down with him, Harvey Walden, Ric Diez, Charles Le French and Ider-Od, all with Asian family connections.

When I met them, I guessed right away the two main questions going through these performers' minds: What's the Patong audience like, and what will make them laugh? Or not laugh...

Not laugh? That's because comics like Monty Python's John Cleese are saying comedy today is under a growing threat from 'woke warriors' – those obsessed with racism and gender issues. Comedian Rowan Atkinson (aka Mr Bean) went as far as describing them as like "a medieval mob, roaming around, looking for heretics to burn". Indeed, I was shocked to read recently that a UK comedian had been called in by the po-



Charles Le French. Photo: Raw Comedy Asia

lice after a complaint made after one of his shows. He had to write a statement, but luckily no further action was taken.

Happily, this being the Land of Smiles, these entertainers were unlikely to have a police interview after the show. But are younger people today more easily offended? I asked Chris if he worried about it, and he dismissed it, saying, "To be a comedian, you need to be comfortable taking risks." However, he was worried enough to ask me if I thought he could get away with a tsunami joke, going on to tell the gag without any problems.

Then there are the changes in society that are increasingly multicultural and multinational. When I was a kid watching comedy on TV, the comedians had it easy – the UK then was a pretty homogenous culture and easy to understand. Migration since has changed all that, making it more difficult to tailor jokes to an audience. That's especially true for somewhere as international as Phuket, but comics have to try if they are to do their job, get that laugh and enrich our lives.

So I was not surprised to find the show had a lot of jokes about sex. After

all, except for the eternally celibate, it's something we humans all have in common and can laugh about! Predictably, such jokes soon had the audience rolling about with laughter. However, one performer clearly struggled while telling a joke about Korean intonation of words. It would have been easier for him to stick to sex as a theme, but that lode was in danger of being exhausted.

Hopefully, it can be seen that such comedians today need to be clever, flexible, think quickly on their feet and be skilled at handling an internationally diverse audience. For only then can they achieve Mark's aim and "bring some laughter back to Phuket after these past two years".

Mark cheerfully told me after the show, "It was a roaring success, and I've now been given the green light to do such shows on a regular, monthly basis. This is great news as I can now go search for more talented and seasoned professionals to bring to Phuket."

So hats off to Mark and Taipan for relaunching comedy here. And thanks too to those five brave comedians for coming down here to entertain us – you were definitely all good for a laugh!

Andy Tong Dee is a local expat and musician. He would be interested in hearing from anyone interested in starting out as a comedian here. Check out his website at www.phuketmusicscene.com



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POP QUIZ

1. What is the name of the sea on Italy's west coast?
2. What does the term 'shrinkflation' mean?
3. Which billionaire has a 'virtual assistant' named Jarvis that's voiced by Morgan Freeman?
4. The quote "manners maketh man" features in which 2014 film?
5. For every person on Earth, how many lego pieces are there?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across

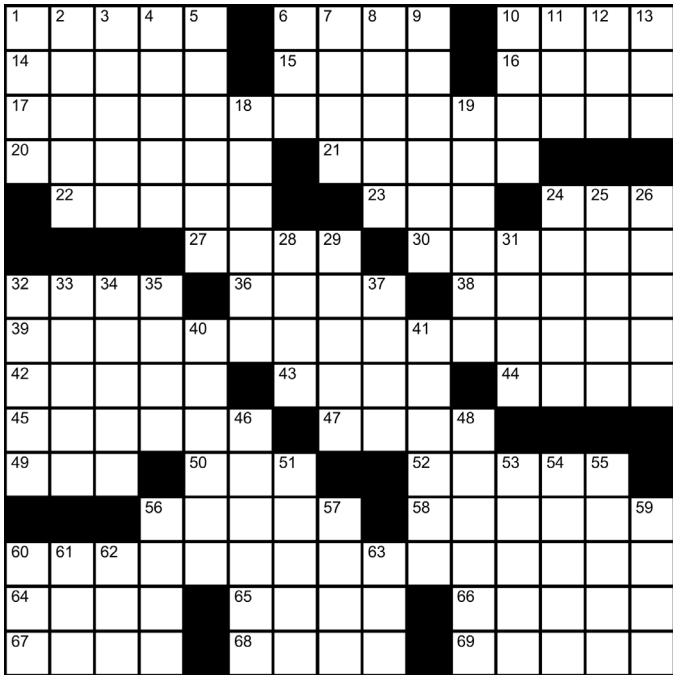
 1. Solitaire unit
 6. Zip
 10. Saturnine
 14. Dress with a flare
 15. Hokkaido native
 16. Red state
 17. Approve
 20. Be that as it may
 21. Wizard of id
 22. Inscribe
 23. Scolding syllable
 24. Game piece
 27. Speech problem
 30. Caribe, var.
 32. Lowlife
 36. Catch but good
 38. ___ Tuesday
 39. Grow with natural skill
 42. Condition
 43. Gray ___
 44. Beams
 45. Draft horses
 47. Gull-like bird
 49. Place for fish and ships
 50. Be indisposed
 52. Candied
 56. Book with legends
 58. Navajo structures
 60. Commit a deadly
- sin

 64. Needle holder
 65. Indian bread
 66. Susan of "Goldengirl"
 67. Facts
 68. Rewards for waiting
 69. Zeno, notably
- Down

 1. Nicolas
 2. Still in the game
 3. Split
 4. Concerning
 5. Prickly plant
 6. ___ cry
 7. Willingly
 8. Lifeless
 9. Prepare to strum
 10. ___ chart
 11. Delay
 12. "Bleah!"
 13. Came across
 18. He founded the Gestapo
 19. Certain musician
 24. Gulf of ___
 25. Kind of fire
 26. Costumes
 28. ___ Delano Roosevelt
29. Spire anagram
 31. German industrial valley
 32. They can pass in the night
 33. Birchbark
 34. Throat dangler
 35. Paltry
 37. Onion's kin
 40. Make bubbly
 41. Zero
 46. Mum
 48. Warm welcomes
 51. Maui neighbor
 53. Cut taker
 54. "The Faerie Queene" division
 55. End of a ballade
 56. Part of a score, maybe
 57. Cashless deal
 59. Adjust for accuracy
 60. Hospital unit
 61. Certain fraternity chapter
 62. Destroy the interior of
 63. Advantages

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1. Tyrrhenian Sea; 2. Items shrinking in size or quality while their prices remain the same or increase; 3) Mark Zuckerberg; 4) Kingman: The Secret Service; 5) 62



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

5

US dollars is how much Frank Sinatra's publicist paid girls to scream at his early performances to get the crowd excited.

10

minutes spent petting a cat or dog can significantly lower stress levels, according to researchers from Washington State University.

38,560

victims of the Irish famine were taken in by Toronto in just six months in 1847. At the time, the city had a population of only 20,000.

276,000

US dollars is how much Nicolas Cage paid for Tyrannosaurus skull. He returned it to the Mongolian government after learning it had been stolen.

50

billion

US dollars is how much Italy spent bailing out the Parmesan cheese industry in 2008.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



New moon at Big Buddha. Photo by Lee Beeley

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

This week in history

August 19, 1692

In Salem, Province of Massachusetts Bay, five people, one woman and four men, including a clergyman, are executed after being convicted of witchcraft.

August 20, 1940

In Mexico City, exiled Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky is fatally wounded with an ice axe by NKVD agent Ramón Mercader. He dies the next day.

August 21, 1911

The Mona Lisa is stolen by Vincenzo Peruggia, a Louvre employee. After keeping the painting hidden in a trunk for two years, Peruggia tries to sell it to a gallery owner who turns him in.

August 22, 1864

Twelve nations sign the First Geneva Convention, establishing the rules of protection of the victims of armed conflict.



Mona Lisa thief Vincent Peruggia.

August 23, 1973

A bank robbery in Stockholm, Sweden turns into a hostage crisis; over the next five days the hostages begin to sympathise with their captors, leading to the

term "Stockholm syndrome".

August 24, 2006

The International Astronomical Union redefines the term "planet", and Pluto is downgraded to a "dwarf planet".

August 25, 1835

The first 'Great Moon Hoax' article is published in *The New York Sun*, announcing the discovery of life and civilization on the Moon. Source: Wikipedia

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Phuket Yacht Club Ao Po club race, all welcome. The Phuket Yacht Club is heading north for a weekend of fun sailing to encourage more yachts to get out on the water. Notice of race and more information can be found at phuketyachtclub.com

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Come join Rotary Club of Patong Beach's Tuesday dinner meeting at Four points by Sheraton Patong. August's speaker lineup: Aug 09 - Brendan Mooney - Andamanda Water Park, Aug 16 - Rainer Schmitz - WOW Workshop Summary, Aug 23 - Kyle Daniels - Mindset for Athletes and Aug 30 - Tommy Hongsyok - Cable car to Patong. Email club Sec. Hans at info@rotarypatong.org to register.



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BCCT Phuket Dinner
Shifting Demographic:
The Hidden Derailer of Thai Economy
Speaker: Chris Cracknell
BCCT & Grant Thornton Thailand Chairman
Friday 28th August 6:30 - 9:00pm
SAI Laguna Phuket

BCCT PHUKET DINNER

You are invited to the BCCT Phuket Dinner at SAI Laguna Phuket. Our guest speaker is Chris Cracknell, BCCT Chair & Grant Thornton Thailand Chairman who will present on 'Shifting Demographics: The Hidden Derailer of the Thai Economy'. Before the dinner join us for some business networking. This is a fantastic opportunity to catch up with old friends,

make new business connections, and share experiences in an open, relaxed and friendly environment. Cost: THB 1,200 for BCCT members and THB 2,000 for non-members including 3-course western set dinner, free flow selected beverages and soft drinks. Booking visit bccthai.com

FRI 2 SEP**Grow Boating Evening Friday, the 2nd of September**

We look forward to seeing you at the next Grow Boating Evening at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm on Friday the 2nd of September. We are delighted to announce that our drinks sponsor for the evening will be Blue Oceanic Shipyard Thailand. An established yard on the Trang river on the Southwest coast of Thailand with a recently installed 600 tonne travel lift. There will be a delicious buffet for all attendees and as always, all your favourite beverages will be available from the bar. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee. We hope to see you there and if you know anyone you think would be interested in coming, please invite them along. A special thanks to our Media Partners The Phuket News, Live 89.5 Radio and Phuket News TV. growboatingphuket@gmail.com

FRI 21 OCT


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PIRATES OF PHUKET - OMGD NIGHT AT THE BOATHOUSE PHUKET

OMGD members, Chaine des Rotisseurs Phuket members and guests boarded their ships and dropped anchor at Kata Beach for a pirate-themed dinner with plenty of pirate beverages and proper pirate food prepared by Chef Jonathan and the team at The Boathouse on Saturday, Aug 6. Pirate princess Alicia, with the help of IWS and other sponsors, made sure all in attendance were kept hydrated with a great selection of pirate drinks from Trinidad and Tobago, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Barbados and Belize. Vive la Chaine.



JOINT NETWORKING EVENT: WELCOMING BDO TO PHUKET

In partnership with Cult Wine Investment, BDO in Thailand hosted a social networking event on Wednesday, Aug 10. A night of fun, learning, networking and beverage tasting held at Carpe Diem, Bang Tao Beach.



Williams is a 23-time Grand Slam winner. Photo: AFP

Serena says 'countdown' to retirement has begun

TENNIS

UNITED STATES TENNIS great Serena Williams announced on Aug 9 that "the countdown has begun" to her retirement from the sport.

"There comes a time in life when we have to decide to move in a different direction," the 40-year-old, 23-time Grand Slam winner said in a post on Instagram.

"That time is always hard when you love something so much. My goodness do I enjoy tennis. But now, the countdown has begun.

"I have to focus on being a mom, my spiritual goals and finally discovering a different, but just as exciting Serena. I'm gonna relish these next few weeks."

Williams won the last of her 23 Slams at the 2017 Australian Open when she was already pregnant with daughter, Olympia.

However, she has failed to add a 24th major which would take her level with Margaret Court's all-time record.

Her final attempt will come at the US Open in New York later this month.

Williams stepped onto a hardcourt for the first time in a year and a half at the WTA Toronto Masters where she fell to a 6-2, 6-4 defeat to Belinda Bencic in the second round last Wednesday (Aug 10).

The former world number one had played her first singles match in over a year when she suffered a first round defeat at Wimbledon in June.

The Phuket News

Nitithorn's Singapore win marks his biggest title yet

GOLF

AFP

Thailand's Nitithorn Thippong seized the initiative as his rivals faltered last Sunday (Aug 14), closing with a flawless three-under-par 69 to win the International Series Singapore.

His four-day, 16-under-par total of 272 was enough to leapfrog previous leaders Gavin Green and Phachara Khongwatmai and hand him a one-shot victory at the sun-baked Tanah Merah Country Club.

The Singapore tournament was part of the new International Series, which received funding of US\$400 million (B14.1 billion) from the Saudi-backed LIV.

The final day of the event was set for a dramatic showdown, with 11 players within three shots of the lead going into the back nine.

However, it was Nitithorn who eventually reigned supreme, crediting his mental game for helping him win his biggest career title to date.

"I'm really [at a] loss for words with this victory. It's my biggest win so far and I cannot describe my feeling. I was fully focused on the process and playing my own game the entire week," he said.

"I kept believing in myself and did not allow myself to be distracted by other pressures. I'm so happy I managed to win this week."



Nitithorn poses with the winner's trophy. Photo: Paul Lakatos / Asian Tour / AFP

Malaysia's Green, who had led the tournament since the second round, could have forced a playoff with Nitithorn had his birdie putt from 15 feet dropped into the hole at the last.

Green instead settled for a share of second place with overnight co-leader Phachara, of Thailand, and Canada's Richard T Lee, all of whom signed off with identical 273s.

"I don't think the last putt could have gone any closer to the hole. I thought I had made it. But it stopped breaking right at the end. But it is what it is. This is golf. I gave it a chance and that was all I could do," said Green.

Australia's Todd Sinnott shot the day's

lowest score of 64 to finish in a tie for fifth with Taiwan's Chan Shih-chang.

Chan looked to be heading for a grandstand finish after snatching the outright lead on 16-under with a birdie on 14. However, a disastrous triple bogey on 18 dashed all hopes of securing his fifth win on the Asian Tour.

LIV Golf rebel Patrick Reed, meanwhile, could not live up to his pre-tournament billing, blaming his putting woes for a tied 31st place finish, eight strokes behind Nitithorn.

"It was a frustrating week, golf-wise. Just one of those weeks when the putter was not working," said the American, who posted rounds of 73, 68, 72 and 67.



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Charity run to help local schools

RUNNING

A CHARITY RUN ORGANISED by Satree Phuket School has been confirmed to take place in October to raise money for local schools in Phuket.

The "Run with hearts together for 113 years Phuket Women SPK RUN 2022" will take place on Sunday, Oct 9 with Satree Phuket School students, parents, teachers, alumni and the general public all welcome to participate.

There will be a 3.5km and a 6.5km Fun Run as well as a 10.2km Mini Marathon, organisers confirmed at a press conference held on Aug 9.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew oversaw the press conference and was joined by Panya Hatthi, Vice President of Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) and Somchai Kongkunakorn, Director of Women's School at Satree and President of Phuket Women's Alumni Association.

The proceeds from each run will go towards assis-



Photo: PR Phuket

ing educational facilities at Satree School and three other schools under the Phuket Primary Educational Service Area Office that, at time of press, were unnamed.

The entry fee for each of the two Funs Runs is B350 and B450 for the Mini Marathon. There is also a VIP category costing B2,000 which gives access to all three races.

Additionally, the run strives to promote a healthy lifestyle among all participating and all Phuket residents on a broader scale.

Those taking part in the runs can choose to walk and enjoy some of the scenery en route, such as the Sino-Portuguese architecture of the Standard Chartered Bank

Building and Clock Tower in Phuket Town as well as Saphan Hin Public Park. The exact locations of the runs were not specified at the press conference but will be disclosed in due course, organisers said.

Those interested in registering can do so until Sept 20 either in person at the office of the Phuket Women Alumni Association at Satree School or online via Line: @SPKRUN2022 or Facebook: SPKRUN2022.

Further information can be accessed via Khun Kan Manee (Tel: 095-3698942), Teacher Destiny (Tel: 092-9553541), Khun Uthaiwan (Tel: 065-7829269) or Ms Song Sri (Tel: 081-6932559).

The Phuket News

Dire United hit rock bottom after Brentford thrashing

FOOTBALL

AFP

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag said he had the “main responsibility” after a humiliating 4-0 loss away to Brentford last Saturday (Aug 13) left the one time kings of English football bottom of the Premier League.

The Bees scored four goals inside the opening 35 minutes to spark joyous scenes at their west London ground.

United fell behind in woeful fashion when goalkeeper David de Gea somehow let a Josh Dasilva shot slip through his grasp before Mathias Jensen struck as the visitors failed to play out from the back.

Ben Mee then scored his first Brentford goal before Bryan Mbeumo rounded off a stunning counter-attack 10 minutes before half-time.

Former Ajax manager Ten Hag had seen his United reign begin with Brighton recording their maiden win at Old Trafford last week, but this defeat plunged the Red Devils to the bottom of the table for the first time in 30 years. It also means the Dutchman is the first United manager to lose his first two games since John Chapman in 1921.

“You have to take responsibility on the pitch as a team and as individuals, that’s what we didn’t do,” said ten Hag.

“What I asked them to do is play



Brentford's Bryan Mbeumo (centre) scores his team's fourth goal past Manchester United's David de Gea in the 4-0 rout last Saturday (Aug 13). Photo: AFP

with belief and take responsibility for the performance. We have to work on that.

“The manager is responsible as well. He has the main responsibility and I’ll take that and work on that.”

United were last crowned champions of England in the 2012/13 season in manager Alex Ferguson’s final campaign before his retirement.

But while Ten Hag was keen to bolster his squad, he was adamant the team he sent out at Brentford were far better than this result indicated.

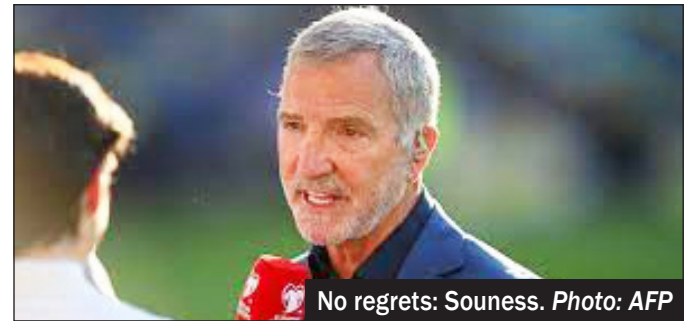
Elsewhere, Arsenal and Man City both won to remain level at the top of the table. Arsenal overcame Leicester City 4-2 thanks to a Gabriel Jesus brace and City hammered Bournemouth 4-0, with Kevin de Bruyne the main architect.

Harry Kane snatched a late equaliser for Spurs in a fiery 2-2 London derby against Chelsea that saw a series of angry confrontations between Thomas Tuchel and Antonio Conte resulting in red cards for both managers.

Liverpool’s faltering start to the season continued as they were held to a 1-1 draw at Anfield on Monday, a result made worse by Darwin Nunez’s red card.

Nottingham Forest won their first home game back in the top flight in 23 years 1-0 against West Ham whose captain Declan Rice missed a penalty.

Aston Villa beat Everton 2-1, Brighton and Newcastle fought out a 0-0 draw, Southampton came from two goals down to draw with Leeds 2-2 and Wolves played out a 0-0 draw with Fulham.



No regrets: Souness. Photo: AFP

Souness’ ‘man’s game’ comments wcause a stir

FOOTBALL

FORMER LIVERPOOL manager Graeme Souness says he does not regret calling football “a man’s game” after Chelsea’s explosive Premier League clash against Tottenham despite a furious reaction to his comments.

Souness said he was glad that referee Anthony Taylor allowed the players to engage in a series of aggressive tackles during the feisty 2-2 draw at Stamford Bridge last Sunday (Aug 14).

Souness, 69, who was a tough-tackling midfielder, relished the physical nature of the London derby, saying: “It’s a man’s game all of a sudden again.”

“I think we’ve got our football back, as I would enjoy football, men at it, blow for blow, and the referee letting

them get on with it.”

But his views, expressed in his role as a television pundit, triggered a backlash from current and former female England players such as Beth England and Eni Aluko.

The Lionesses’ historic Euro 2022 triumph last month has boosted the popularity of the women’s game in England and former players and fans alike took to social media to criticise Souness.

Asked on Monday if he regretted his comments, Souness was unrepentant.

“Not a word of it,” he said. “I’ve been advocating for years that the referees have such a major part to play in the success of the Premier League.”

“My comments yesterday were saying we’ve got our game back. That is the kind of football I remember playing in.” AFP

Surprise date-change overshadows World Cup 100-day countdown

FOOTBALL

FIFA AND QATAR ORGANISERS counted the cost of bringing forward the start of the World Cup by a day as they launched the 100-day countdown to the event last Friday (Aug 12).

Football’s ruling body and the wealthy Gulf state both promised to help fans, sponsors and broadcasters hit by the change but did not give details.

The organising committee said “huge excitement” was building for the World Cup, which will now start on Nov 20, but only a small group of migrant workers gathered at the main countdown clock on the Doha seafront to see the 100 days tick over.

The sudden move to bring forward Qatar’s match against Ecuador – to make it the gala opening match – has added to Qatar’s public relations battle as it counters criticism of its rights record and fan worries about what to expect when they arrive.



A fan snaps a picture of the World Cup trophy on display in Doha on May 10. Photo: AFP

FIFA said its senior leaders had unanimously agreed that the Qatar-Ecuador game and the opening ceremony at the Al Bayt stadium should be a “stand-alone” event.

The move maintained the tradition of featuring the host country or the reigning champions at the first match.

Qatar had been scheduled to play the official inauguration game on Nov 21, but the third match of the day behind Senegal-Netherlands and England against Iran.

The Group A game between Senegal and the Netherlands has now been shifted from 1pm (4pm Phuket time) on Nov 21 to 7pm.

FIFA said tickets for the affected matches “will

remain valid” and added that it would “seek to address any issues arising from this change in a case-by-case basis.”

Some Ecuador fans may have to change flights to arrive in Qatar earlier.

Ricardo Fort, a sports industry consultant and former head of sports marketing for Coca Cola – a major FIFA backer – said the date change would be “a huge problem for sponsors”.

“They invited and confirmed hospitality guests, booked flights and hotels, and contracted with all the necessary logistics.

“Imagine changing it all!” Fort wrote on Twitter. AFP

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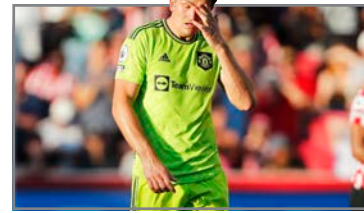
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For more details contact Ian at ilancast@me.com

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Sport



Turmoil at Man Utd after Bees sting > p15

LOUISE AT EASE

Local golf star shines on US tour

Louise with her trophy after winning the Sean Foley World Star Junior Golf tournament in Las Vegas on June 30. Photo: Marc Landgraf



GOLF

Ben Tirebuck
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Local golf sensation Louise Landgraf continued her mightily impressive upwards trajectory in the sport after a hugely successful recent tour of the United States where she competed in four international tournaments in the girls 13-14 year age group.

After an 18-hour flight from Phuket to Los Angeles via Singapore, Louise, accompanied by her father and mother, headed to Las Vegas to compete in the Sean Foley World Star Junior Golf tournament, which ran June 28-30.

Playing at the Angel Park course, Louise and her fellow competitors not only had to contend with extreme temperatures hitting the 45°C mark but also strong winds that affected the players' games and scores.

However, Louise managed to find her focus to eventually win the competition by a hugely impressive 13 shots after posting even par for the first round, +2 for the second and +7 for the third. Louise clearly felt comfortable on the course, despite the challenging conditions, as she won the same event last year.

The Landgraf family then travelled to San Marcos to take part in the FCG International

Golf Junior Championship at the St Mark Golf Club on July 6-7 where Louise finished with a final score of +3 after shooting -1 in her first round and +4 in her second round.

Next stop was the Country Club of Rancho Bernardo for the IMG Academy Junior World Championship on July 12-14, considered the most prestigious junior golf tournament in the world. Scoring -1 after round 1, -1 after round 2 and even par after round 3, Louise finished in third place overall with a score of -2, meaning she automatically qualified for next year's tournament.

There was then an opportunity to step back from

competition as Louise was invited to play at the exclusive Bridges Golf Club at Rancho Santa Fe. In the past this venue regularly hosted the "Battle at The Bridges" tournament which saw superstars from the golfing world compete such as Tiger Woods, Ernie Els, Phil Mickelson and Sergio Garcia.

Louise's final tournament of the tour took place in Palm Springs where she took part in the FCG Callaway Junior World Championship at the Desert Princess Country Club. Shooting scores of -5, -3 and -1 in rounds 1, 2 and 3 respectively, Louise eventually finished in third place with an overall score of -9.

It rounded off a great tour

which provided the young talent with invaluable experience, even if trying to balance finding time to rest and recover after back-to-back tournaments with other activities such as seeing friends, sightseeing and shopping was a challenge.

Louise is now continuing her studies back at British International School, Phuket where she is part of the High Performance Golf Academy.

A member at Loch Palm, Red Mountain and Phuket Country Club, she is continuing to work with her coach Pawat Prachoomsrisakul, known as "Pro Golf", and is further mentored by golf coach experts Laurent Cabanne and Thierry Abbas at Le Kempferhof Golf

Club in Plobsheim, France. Louise has elected to represent the French girls national team at under-14 age level.

Next up for Louise are a couple of regional and national junior golf events in Thailand before she heads to France to take part in the under-14 age group at the Amundi Evian Junior Cup on Sept 20-22 at the Masters Course in Evian-les-Bains.

The tour of the United States may have only just concluded but already Louise is looking forward to next year where she will undertake a six-week trip, playing the same tournaments as this year but with plans to add in a couple more.

Phuket hosts International Karate tournament

KARATE

PHUKET WELCOMES THE "Thailand Karate-Do Championship 2022" to its shores today (Aug 19), the first time the prestigious event has been held outside of Bangkok.

The five-day tournament, running Aug 19-23, will be held at Phuket Rajabhat University and is being organised by Phuket Province in collaboration with the Thailand Karate Federation (TKF), the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) and the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF).

The tournament is expected to attract around 800 people, including athletes from over 20 countries,

some of whom have competed at the Olympic Games.

It is also anticipated to attract well over 1,000 fans and keen followers of the sport, which will be a welcome boost to the local economy and tourism industry still reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The tournament returns to action after a three year hiatus due to the pandemic forcing repeated cancellation.

The competition will be supervised by an Organising Committee formed by the TKF and will be open to male and female athletes to compete in team and individual contests within the Kata and Kumite classes.

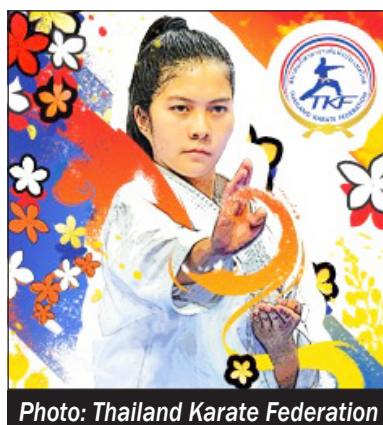


Photo: Thailand Karate Federation

Athletes aged 18 and above will compete in the senior age group with weight categories for women from 50kg to 68kg and 55kg to 84kg for men. Each bout will last three minutes.

Only contests in the senior Kumite class will award cash prizes in each respective weight category with US\$500 (B17,000) for first place, \$300 for second place and \$200 for third. Furthermore, \$700 will be awarded to male teams and \$400 to female teams in each category of the Kumite team contests.

There is also a junior age category for male and female athletes aged 14-17 to contest individual Kata and Kumite bouts which will last two minutes. Additionally, there are under-14, under-12 and under-10 categories where contestants will participate in 90-second bouts in individual Kata and Kumite classes.

The "Thailand Karate-Do Championship 2022" is part of the "Air

Sea Land Southern International Sports Tourism Festival" that will showcase selected events in Phuket, Songkhla, Satun, Phatthalung, Krabi, Phang Nga and Surat Thani, with a supporting budget of B177 million.

Further upcoming events to be hosted in Phuket include the "Phuket Beach Festival International Surfing Contest 2022" at Kata Beach (Aug 23-28), the Phuket Sports City 2022 Run at Saphan Hin (Sept 3), the Esther Bunny Women's Health Run at Laguna (Sept 10-11), the Basketball Under-23 World Championship at Prince of Songkla University (Sept 3-17) and a Bodybuilding World Championship in December at Central Phuket.

Ben Tirebuck