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COMING UP



Tourists are starting to return to Bangla Rd, Patong. Photo: PPHO

TEST & GO SCHEME BREATHES LIFE INTO BANGLA, PATONG'S TOURISM BAROMETER

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Tourists have started to return to Bangla Rd, Patong, which has been deemed to be a barometer of how many tourists are in Phuket's traditionally busiest tourism town, with Patong hotel and restaurant businessman Preechavude 'Prab' Keesin this week offering cautious praise and thanks going to the Test & Go tourism scheme.

Test & Go, launched on Nov 1 along with other tourist entry schemes, allows vaccinated tourists to enter Thailand by spending just one night in hotel quarantine while waiting for their COVID test results after landing.

"Patong is already well known as a popular area, but Bangla Rd is like an index that measures how crowded it is," Mr Prab said this week.

"Most of the customers like that it is mostly open-air, and because it is near the beach," he added.

Many businesses along the famed nightlife strip have reopened, but there is still a long way to go before Patong truly starts to recover, Mr Prab noted.

"Many of the hotels that have opened are the high-end ones along or near the beachfront. People who have hotels by the sea have an advantage, but most of those in the nooks and crannies in the alleys are still closed. About 20% of businesses

have reopened. We need to improve more," he said.

Mr Prab said hopes were high for large numbers of tourists to return. "But it all depends on the tourists who will come to Phuket. We have reopened to 63 countries [under the Test & Go scheme], but how many people will come?" he posed.

"I hope that it will reach 1 million. It's a big hope, but I wouldn't go expecting it," he added.

The number of tourists who have already arrived are making a difference, Mr Prab said.

The Phuket Reopening Daily Report issued by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) on Monday marked that from Nov 1-15 a total of 10,130

people had arrived in Phuket under the Test & Go scheme, compared with 5,769 people who had arrived under the Sandbox scheme.

A further 56 arrivals entered 'Alternative Quarantine' while five arrivals were in transit only.

Last Sunday alone (Nov 14) saw 1,776 Test & Go arrivals, along with 364 Sandbox arrivals and five Alternative Quarantine arrivals, all arriving on 13 international flights, marked the report.

As of Monday 76,576 people in total had entered the country under the Test & Go scheme since Nov 1, the report noted, a figure that PM Prayut Chan-o-cha has already expressed his satisfaction with...

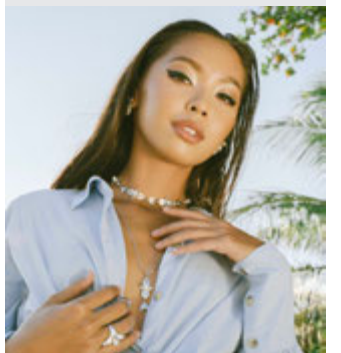
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Alcohol rules change for the afternoon



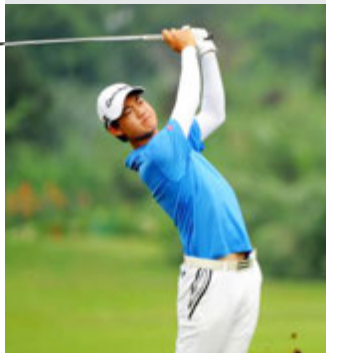
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Jennifer Fredin: A Phuket model for the future



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Thai golf star Jazz joins Asian Tour in Phuket



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News



Rawai teen stabbed to death > p4

MRTA moves forward with light rail

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The Mass Rapid Transport Authority (MRTA) kept the 'Phuket Mass Transit System' project moving forward with a public meeting held in Phuket Town last week to gain feedback from local residents about the project.

The project, also often called the Phuket Light Rail, will see a light-rail mass transit system connecting Tha Noon, just north of Phuket in Phang Nga, with Phuket International Airport and continuing down the island to Phuket Town and terminating at Chalong Circle in the south of the island.

The plan is to alleviate traffic along Thepkasattri Rd, Phuket's main transport artery running north-south through down the "spine" of the island.

Present to open the proceedings on Nov 12, at the Royal Phuket City Hotel, was Phuket Vice Governor Piyapong Choowong.

Saroj T. Suwan, MRTA Assistant Governor explained that the aim of the meeting was to publicise the project and to listen to opinions and



Photo: MRTA

suggestions from local people about Phase 1 of the project, from Phuket airport to Chalong Circle.

At the event the MRTA presented information on two main alternatives under consideration for the project.

The first was the "Steel Wheel Tram" and rubber wheel drive system, also often called a "rubber-tyred tram", common in many Western countries.

The other was the Autonomous Rail Rapid Transit (ART), a LiDAR-guided articulated bus system for urban passenger transport developed by CRRC Zhuzhou Institute Co Ltd, unveiled in Zhuzhou in Hunan province in 2017.

The other aspect explained at the meeting was that the mass transit

system is part of an integrated plan being developed alongside the Kathu - Patong Expressway Construction Project, being developed by the Expressway Authority of Thailand (EXAT). The expressway will run parallel to the Thepkasattri Rd, with EXAT expecting to open the expressway in 2026.

"Such joint efforts will be able to mitigate the impact on traffic on National Highway No. 402 [Thepkasattri Rd] during the construction of the project and on the people in the area," Mr Sarot said.

"At the same time, Phuket residents and groups of stakeholders in the area are allowed to participate in expressing opinions and suggestions on the alternatives. In implement-

ing the project, the MRTA will use the information received from this meeting to be used as a guideline for further improvement of project operations," he said.

Of note, all large-scale public infrastructure development projects by law must conduct public feedback meetings in order to legally fulfill Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirements.

"When the project is completed, it will increase the efficiency and standardized travel options ready to support travel and tourism of Phuket in the future," Mr Sarot said.

People were invited to seek more information about the project through the MRTA website (www.mrta.co.th) or its Facebook page, or call the MRTA headquarters in Bangkok at 02-716 4044.

According to the current plans, the "railway system" will be Light Rail Transit (low floor TRAM) with carriages 2.4-2.65 metres wide and 30-40m long overall.

There will be 21 stations along the route, with the system elevated from Phuket International Airport as it parallels Highway No. 4031, but returning to ground level where it

joins Thepkasattri Rd. The "Thalang Station" will be underground.

The current plans also include changes to one way streets through the heart of Phuket Town and the size and location of parking centres for people using the transit system, including a car park for 200 cars and 500 motorcycles to be built at the terminus near Chalong Circle.

Transport Minister Saksayam Chidchob earlier this year ordered an in-depth analysis of a proposal to dump the Phuket light-rail project in favour of a 'smart bus' system that would reduce the cost of launching a mass transport option on the island by some B15.2 billion.

Phase 1 of the project, from Phuket airport to Chalong Circle, is budgeted to cost more than B35 billion.

The cost of Phase 2 of the project, connecting Phase 1 with Tha Noon in Phang Nga, has yet to be estimated.

In Phuket for a public feedback meeting held at the Royal Phuket City hotel last year, Mr Sarot explained that construction of the Phuket light-rail project is now expected to begin in 2023 and open to serve passengers in 2026.

A good start, but a long way to go, says Patong magnate Prab Keesin

Continued from page 1

"We now have employment and the opportunity to do business. It has been quite difficult for quite some time, but our success depends on the government, ourselves, and the community as well, in how strong or how much we fight against the obstacles that arise in this era," Mr Prab said.

Rising numbers of infections in source market countries, such as Germany, were causing concern, he continued.

"But if we have good protection and have good vaccines,

we may be able to restrict the number of infections here, but most importantly. I want to focus more on the perspective of mortality. If there are fewer deaths, then we should be able to relax and be allowed to continue doing business. That is, if we don't let our guard down," he said.

After recording 55 COVID deaths in September, officials marked 44 deaths in total in October and so far 13 deaths already this month.

"It is the current understanding that vaccines will

not prevent infections. We still have to protect ourselves, wear a protective mask, wear gloves, maintain social distancing, wash our hands with alcohol sanitiser, and so on. Please help us, this is a personal responsibility," Mr Prab said.

"Most importantly, vaccines are weapons of protection [from serious infections] and we have a good strategy for vaccinating people in the Phuket area, but we shouldn't be aiming for 70% - we should be aiming for 100%. It's better to vaccinate as many people as

possible, with three injections where possible," he added.

The number of people in Phuket vaccinated has become one of the key reasons tourists are coming to Phuket, Mr Prab noted.

"When it comes to the decision to travel, it's not just the number of infections alone. Coming to Phuket, they look at how many people who have been vaccinated here. That's part of the safety. When an incident occurs, how good is our public health system at the hospital? The most important thing besides that is how much we can open a business to support them. Both the economic recovery and the public health system must go together," he said.

Thai tourists have become vital for Phuket's recovery, Mr Prab also noted, as he urged local operators not to raise their prices to levels that will again leave domestic tourists considering Phuket an expensive destination.

"Phuket has to adjust to remember that we must take good care of Thai tourists. That is what we have learned from COVID-19: know how to care for Thai tourists as much as possible. We must provide



A tourist passes the checkpoint to Bangla Rd. Photo: PPHO

good service and change our mindset a lot in this regard," he added.

BANGLA INSPECTED

Mr Prab's comments came as Deputy Director-General of the Department of Health Dr Kajonsak Kaewjarat visited Phuket in person to inspect the COVID prevention measures in effect along Bangla Rd, Patong.

Joined by current PPHO Chief Dr Kusak Kiattakoon and PPHO Deputy Chief Dr Anon Kaewbamrung, Dr Kajonsak led officials from the Office of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and from the Phuket office of the Department of Disease Control in conducting the inspections.

The purpose of the inspections were to carry out the

PPHO campaign to inform patrons and operators of venues of the regulations under the Alcohol Control Act B.E. 2551 and related laws.

The inspection teams also aimed to "raise awareness, recognise and motivate for business owners and the public as well as give advice on various practices to comply with COVID-19 prevention and control measures", the report added.

The PPHO report marked no infections at any of the venues inspected, and reported no breaches of any laws or regulations of any kind.

However, *The Phuket News* over the weekend was informed of a cluster of eight infections at one "restaurant" on Bangla Rd, where the infected have been asked to stay at home.



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Governor fine-tunes COVID rules

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The hours that restaurants and other “eateries” across Phuket are allowed to serve alcohol has been revised, and no longer allows alcohol to be served throughout the mid-afternoon, following the revision of several provincial orders this week.

Under a new order issued on Monday (Nov 15), restaurants and other “eateries” – that is, any venue with a permit to serve food – have been permitted to serve alcohol from 11am to 2pm and from 5pm to 11pm only.

The new rules, signed into effect by order of Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew, were announced in Phuket Provincial Order No. 7188/2554, posted online on Monday (Nov 15), and came into effect on Tuesday (Nov 16).

The new order revised the previous standing order on the regulation of establishments and venues regarding the prevention of COVID-19.

Of note, when Governor Narong in September requested that venues in Phuket be allowed to serve alcohol in



Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) Chief Dr Kusak Kiattikoon (centre) and Deputy Director-General of the Department of Health Dr Kajonsak Kaewjarat (2nd from right) speak with a venue owner in Phuket Town. Photo: PPHO

order to serve tourists, he asked for venues to be allowed to serve alcohol from 11am to 2pm and from 5pm to 10pm.

However, once approved, the initial order that allowed alcohol to be served by restaurants in Phuket stipulated only that alcohol may be served until 10pm. The order did not mandate at which time the serving of alcohol may commence.

The Phuket News has been unable to find in any subsequent provincial order a mandated time that restaurants may

start serving alcohol, despite the time for serving alcohol later being extended to 11pm.

At the time of going to press, Phuket officials had yet to explain why the new rules were brought into effect.

Under the new order, service places such as entertainment venues, pubs, bars, karaoke venues, cockfighting stadiums, fish fighting arenas, boxing stadiums and gambling venues are all to remain closed.

However, the maximum number of attendees at major public events has now been

lifted. The number of people allowed to attend a public event is now unlimited, but the event must still comply with “COVID Free Setting” requirements, notably ensuring one square metre of space per attendee, the order said.

The same requirement applies to flea markets, bazaars and walking street markets, the order added.

NO MORE GOPHUGET Domestic travellers coming to Phuket no longer need to register their travel details

on gophuket.com following another provincial order being revised this week.

The order, posted online on Monday, came into effect from Tuesday (Nov 16).

The changes to entry regulations are “to relax measures and accelerate the recovery of economic and social activities in parallel with public health measures, therefore, in order to be in line with the current situation and to stimulate the economy,” Governor Narong explained in the order.

Under the revised order, people no longer need to register their travel details on the gophuket.com website. Previously, arrivals had to enter their travel details and be issued a QR code to present to officials at the checkpoint onto the island in order to be allowed into Phuket.

Arrivals now need only show officials their registration on the ‘Mor Prom’ app operated by the Ministry of Public Health.

The second revision no longer requires children under 12 years old to present evidence of testing negative for COVID-19 within seven days of arriving.

All other provisions under

the previous order remain the same, except the provision regarding students travelling into and out of Phuket regularly to attend classes, which has been repealed.

All people entering Phuket must be vaccinated against COVID-19 with: Sinovac - 2 doses; Sinopharm - 2 doses; AstraZeneca - 2 doses; Pfizer - 2 doses; Moderna - 2 doses; Sputnik V - 2 doses – OR Completed a 2-dose “crossed formula” vaccination as prescribed by the Ministry of Public Health – OR Have received 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least 14 days before arriving.

People under 18 years of age who have received 1 dose of Pfizer vaccine at least 14 days before arriving are allowed to enter, as are people who have recovered from symptoms of COVID-19 not more than 90 days previously.

Those not fulfilling any of the conditions above must have been tested for COVID-19 by RT-PCR or ATK (Antigen Test Kit) with a confirmed negative result from a hospital or laboratory.

All people entering Phuket must download and install the Mor Prom app.

Darasamuth School closed for a week over infections

DARASAMUTH PHUKET SCHOOL has closed for seven days after a cluster of seven students and one home room teacher were found to be infected with COVID-19.

The school announced the closure late last Sunday afternoon (Nov 14).

“This last week we have seen 8 new cases of positive for COVID-19 infections. One student from Kindergarten class 3/5 received a positive test result. The student in question has been off school since November 2nd, and therefore did not put the rest of the students in KG 3/5 at risk,” the school said in its announcement.

“Another student in IEP 5/8 Group A. Five students in EP 4/9, who were considered HRC and became positive while in home quarantine, as well as one homeroom teacher who also tested positive while doing home quarantine.

“The students as well as their teacher have been in home quarantine since Tuesday November 9th,” the announcement added.

Public health personnel from the Laem Chan Health Center in Wichit last Saturday assisted administering ATK tests to teaching staff, kitchen staff and school bus drivers. “All had negative test results,” the announcement said.

A mass cleaning and sterilisation of all classrooms, offices and common areas in every building around the school was carried out last Saturday, supervised by Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket



Phuket health chief Kusak Kiattikoon has yet to recognise any infections at Phuket schools. Photo: PPHO

Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO, or OrBorJor), the school confirmed.

The school will now remain closed through Sunday, Nov 21 for further deep cleaning of all classrooms, offices and common areas and air conditioning units and to allow the air to clear and the remaining virus to die down, the school said.

Students will be tested by ATKs before being allowed to attend classes, the school assured.

Of note, no government officials have reported any clusters of infections at any schools in Phuket. The notice by Darasamuth School was shared by the Phuket Info Center, operated by the Phuket office of the Ministry of Interior, only after the school made the announcement.

The Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) has yet to publicly recognise the cluster, and the PPAO has yet to report any action being taken at the school.

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Low: +25°

Wind 4 m/s

MON NOV 22



High: +31°

Low: +25°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE NOV 23



High: +31°

Low: +25°

Wind 7 m/s

WED NOV 24



High: +32°

Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

THU NOV 25



High: +32°

Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

Teen surrenders for fatal stabbing

Eakkapop Thongtub
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A 19-year-old man wanted for the fatal stabbing of another teenager in Rawai last week surrendered to police just hours later. Boonyapat 'Not' Petcharat, of Moo 6, Kathu, presented himself at Wichit Police Station at about 3am on Nov 11. He also brought with him to give to police the folding pocket knife used in the fatal stabbing, Chalong Police Chief Col Sarawut Chuprasit confirmed later that day.

Boonyapat was taken to Chalong Police Station to face charges for the killing. By that time, police had already been issued an arrest warrant for the fatal altercation that led to the death of 18-year-old Nakarin Somboon, Col Sarawut explained.

The arrest warrant empowers the police to press several charges, including gang attack causing injury or death, carrying a knife in public and trespass while carrying a weapon, he said.

Officers were called to the house,

**MAIN: Police at the scene of the stabbing. INSET: The knife used. Photos: Phuket Provincial Police**

in Soi King Patana 8, Moo 4, Rawai, at about 7pm on Nov 10. They arrived to find Nakarin unconscious and unresponsive, lying in a pool of blood inside the house.

Nakarin had sustained at least 10 knife wounds, including a deep stab wound to the right chest, Col Sarawut explained.

Nakarin was rushed to Chalong Hospital, but later succumbed to his

injuries and was pronounced dead, he said.

"A group of five teenagers, including the accused, arrived at the victim's house on two motorcycles. The group went together as the suspect had previously had a disagreement [with Nakarin] before," Col Sarawut said.

"When he [Boonyapat] entered the house, he went into the bedroom of the victim and began fighting [sic]. After

finishing the fight in the house, they came out to fight each other outside the house," he continued.

"Mr Not, the accused, used a short-bladed knife that he was carrying with him and stabbed Mr Nakarin Somboon, 18 years old, about 10 times," Col Sarawut confirmed.

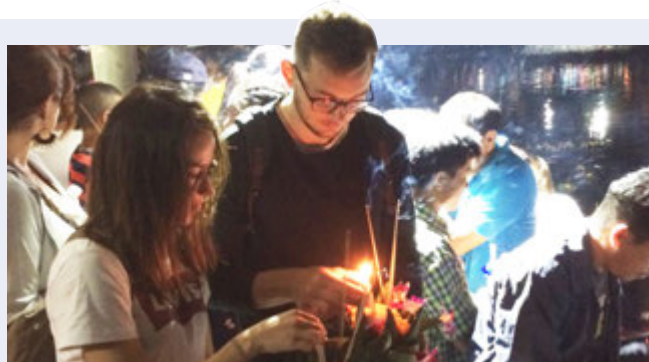
"After that, the accused and others fled [on their motorcycles]. At that time the victim had not died. He was taken to Chalong Hospital and later died at the hospital," he said.

Police are still searching for the four other people, two men and two women, involved in the attack, he said.

"From our investigation, we know their names," Col Sarawut said, naming a Mr Petcharat as one of the four wanted.

Under the arrest warrant, all five involved in the attack stand to face the same charges, he said.

Col Sarawut has yet to reveal what had prompted the five to attack Mr Nakarin at his home. As of Tuesday (Nov 16), Col Sarawut had yet to confirm whether any of the four other suspects were in custody.

**A couple light candles on their krathong before setting it afloat. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub / file**

People urged to observe COVID measures for Loy Krathong

PHUKET VICE GOVERNOR Pichet Panapong has confirmed that large-scale events to commemorate the traditional Thai festival Loy Krathong, to be celebrated nationwide today (Nov 19), can be held across the island.

Vice Governor Pichet announced the news during a radio interview on Nov 10. "Loy Krathong events can be held, but they must be under strict disease prevention measures," he said. "We ask for cooperation from the people and tourists to protect and take care of yourselves," he added.

V/Gov Pichet noted that the tourism situation in Phuket had improved since the Nov 1 reopening of the

country to vaccinated tourists with only one night of hotel quarantine while waiting for the results of the PCR test on arrival.

"There are more tourists coming in. Tourist attractions are more active and there are more cars on the road," he said.

The first nine days of the reopening had seen 9,679 people arrive in Phuket from abroad, according to the newly launched "Phuket Reopening Daily Report" issued by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

From Nov 1-9, 5,544 Test & Go tourists had arrived in Phuket, along with 4,099 entering under the Sandbox scheme and 36 entering Alternative Quarantine, the report noted.

The Phuket News

Another man jumps from bridge

RESCUE WORKERS and local fishermen last Sunday continued their search for the man who jumped off the bridge leading onto Phuket and into the water below last Saturday (Nov 13).

The man, at the time of going to press, was believed to be "Mr Piyanat", 25, from Takua Thung District, Phang Nga.

Busaba Kammut, village chief of Baan Bang Chan, Moo 7, Takua Thung District, said she believes the man who jumped into the water was her son, Piyanat.

He had sent her a message via the LINE app earlier in the morning the day he disappeared, but she did not get the chance to read it before the message was cancelled, she said.

Police investigating the incident recorded the message, and Ms Busaba's statement, as evidence before continuing the search. However, it was not explained further why that would lead Ms Busaba to believe her son is the man missing.

Police have not commented on the identity of the man, despite having the motorbike in custody after recovering it from where it

**Rescue workers ready to continue their search for the missing man last Sunday (Nov14). Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub**

was parked halfway across the Thao Thepkasattri Bridge.

Lt Col Santi Prakompran, Deputy Superintendent of the Khok Kloi Police, in Phang Nga, said his officers were first notified of the incident at 8am last Saturday.

Officers arrived to find the red-black BMW motorcycle, registration number 1Kong-1141, parked halfway across the bridge.

Teams comprising local fishermen and rescue workers used boats to search the area, including under the bridge and hundreds of metres either side of the bridge, he said.

However, the man had yet to be found, Lt Col Santi confirmed last Sunday.

Local resident Thavorn Sona-un, 58, said he was fishing with friends on the Sarasin Bridge and heard a

loud splash in the water below.

"I thought it was a fish, but then I saw a man wearing a helmet in the water under the bridge being pulled by the current out towards Phang Nga Bay."

The last Mr Thavorn saw of the man in the water was when he was already 100 metres from the bridge.

Local fishermen rushed out in boats to rescue the man, but when they arrived at the area where the man was last seen, he had already disappeared, Mr Thavorn said.

"They jumped into the water and searched, but were unable to find him," Mr Thavorn added.

The search for the missing man was the second search launched in two weeks after a person had jumped off one of the bridges at the northern end of Phuket into the fast-moving water below.

Buncha Suksunit, 25, a resident of Baan Pru Sompan in Moo 8, Tambon Thepkasattri, parked his pickup truck halfway across Thao Srisoonthorn Bridge, leading off the island, and jumped over the side late on Nov 3.

Despite days of searching, his body was not recovered.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Airport asks to relocate testing

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Phuket International Airport has formally requested that RT-PCR tests of tourists arriving from abroad no longer be conducted at the airport. The request came ahead of an expected surge in the number of tourists this month, and in the months following.

The formal request came at a meeting at the airport with Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong and Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) Chief Dr Kusak Kukiattikoon on Nov 11.

"The process takes a lot of space and requires specialized personnel," Phuket airport General Manager Monchai Tanode explained.

However, current regulations under the Ministry of Transport requires Airports of Thailand (AoT) to organise swab samples to be taken from arrivals at all six airports that AoT operates within the country, including Suvarnabhumi and Don Mueang international airports in Bangkok, he said.

"Phuket airport is aware of the guidelines for passenger screening to strictly comply



A tourist has a swab sample taken after arriving at Phuket airport. Photo: PR Phuket

with public health standards set by the government and strictly follows the process of international arrivals at Phuket airport," Mr Monchai noted.

However, he added, "The RT-PCR testing process requires a large number of health personnel and a waiting area to be prepared, and a large facility where the tests are conducted.

"AoT therefore has joined this meeting between Phuket airport and related agencies to find measures to facilitate passengers as much as possible, but also come up with a solution that must be under strict disease control measures as well," he said.

"It is estimated that in November 2021 there will be an average of 2,387 international

arrivals per day," Mr Monchai predicted.

"Considering the increase in passenger estimates, coupled with physical constraints at Phuket airport, this may affect the testing process within the airport and directly affect the arrival process and the airport service quality," he said.

"There will be congestion

in the terminal building and we will be unable to increase the capacity to accommodate future tourists," he added.

"Therefore, it is advisable to request assistance [for AoT] to no longer be responsible for organising the detection of infectious diseases within Phuket airport, and we ask to consider having the tests for infection conducted at a hospital or a lodging facility or a quarantine facility set by the government, or a place that a partner hospital has prescribed, as the case may be," Mr Monchai said.

"This is to ensure that internal operations and operations at Phuket Airport are more convenient, faster and more efficient," he concluded.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew noted in a post on his official Facebook page on Nov 11 that AoT Phuket, which operates Phuket airport, also requested that foreign airlines allow passengers to prepare paper documents of RT-PCR test results for entering the country to be ready, for the speed of staff work and to reduce congestion.

It was also requested for domestic airlines to be no longer required to have pas-

sengers present to airline staff their travel registration on gophuket.com website or present their proof of vaccination or COVID tests in order to board flights to Phuket, as currently still required by provincial order issued by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew.

Governor Narong himself on Nov 11 noted that removing that requirement to enter Phuket by flight needed further discussion.

"We still have to wait for the resolution of the next Communicable Disease Committee meeting," Governor Narong said.

The request to have domestic arrivals by flight landing in Phuket no longer being required to present their gophuket.com travel details registration and proof of vaccination or COVID tests to airline staff follows AoT Phuket last Thursday confirming that no such documents were needed to passengers travelling from Phuket to Bangkok.

"Passengers can travel to Bangkok as usual without having to show vaccination documents or test results," AoT Phuket said plainly in its announcement.

Enough water for tourists, dry season, assures Songsak

DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR Songsak Thongsri has assured that Phuket has enough fresh water reserves to cope with any increase in demand from tourists and see island residents through the coming dry season without any emergency measures.

Mr Songsak was on the island to lead a delegation to inspect the main reservoirs at Bang Wad in Kathu and the and the Khlong Kratha reservoir in Chalong last Sunday (Nov 14).

He also led an inspection of the Phuket branch of the Provincial Waterworks Authority main office, also located near the Bang Wad reservoir, to be updated on the current status of the water supply system feeding homes and businesses on the island.

Mr Songsak noted that the country reopening to receiving tourists under the new schemes launched on Nov 1 will have an impact on Phuket's water reserves.

However, he told the press, "The total volume of water from all three sources [including the Bang Neow Dum reservoir in Srisoonthorn] is approximately 22 million cubic metres.

"It's an exciting number, because although the overall picture of Phuket uses about 36 million cubic meters of water per year, the amount of water in the three reservoirs is now considered to be sufficient to meet the demand for water in the four months of the dry season, from February to May," he said.

"And now that the country has opened [to tourists], it is believed that Phuket will be a tourist destination with a large number of tourists, and the service of the water supply



Photo: PR Phuket

will certainly not be a problem," Mr Songsak assured.

"And please believe that during the coming drought, Phuket will definitely not suffer from water shortages," he added.

Mr Songsak reminded the press of the project to supplement Phuket's water supply with the construction of a pipeline from a reservoir in Phang Nga that has been dedicated to support Phuket's water needs, "ensuring that the government has given priority to water management, and trust in the supervision and budget allocation to drive growth in all sectors, especially the tourism sector."

Mr Songsak's assurances comes as work on the pipeline from Phang Nga continues, though a detailed update has not been presented to the public for over a year. At last report work on the pipeline from the reservoir had stalled.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew in July last year attended a meeting with a Cabinet committee to help gain momentum in resolving Phuket's crippling water-supply situation.

By November last year, Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan at a meeting in Phuket ordered the Office of National Water Resources (ONWR) to expedite projects to resolve the problems. *The Phuket News*

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THE LEADING HOTELS OF THE WORLD

Changing the face of tourism

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket bidding to host the World Specialized Expo 2028 has the potential to change the face of the island's tourism industry, says Rangsiman Kingkaew, Vice President of Strategic Tourism at the Phuket Tourist Association.

Mr Rangsiman's claim gained wholesale support from Phuket's industry leaders, 16 of whom massed at a meeting at Provincial Hall to sign a petition supporting the bid on Monday (Nov 15), one day before Phuket Governor Narong Woonciw was to present the proposal to the mobile Cabinet meeting in Krabi.

The move is part of a plan to help broaden Phuket's economic base and reduce the island's overdependence on destination tourism, Governor Narong explained in announcing the proposal on Nov 3.

The World Specialised Expo 2028 is the second largest event after the World Expo, Mr Rangsiman said. "This is an important issue that will change the shape of Phuket's tourism sector



Rangsiman Kingkaew, Vice President of Strategic Tourism at the Phuket Tourist Association. Photo: Radio Thailand Phuket

from just tourism to leisure. It is more business tourism," he added.

Specialised Expos lasted about three months, Mr Rangsiman explained.

"In the past, such expos have attracted about 5 million tourists. The highest is about 11 million people. Phuket is expected to host the most tourists from the event, with an average of over a million people each month," he said.

"This will change how we work significantly. There

will be hundreds of meetings held before the big event. This creates employment and will bring a relatively high economic turnover," he added.

"According to a study by the TCEB (Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau), it is estimated that the income generated will be at least B40 billion baht and create jobs for about 100,000 people.

"It will make Phuket a new landmark for meetings, and the advantages of holding a Specialized Expo or an

event of this nature include the rapid acceleration of the development of utilities and public utilities infrastructure in order to support the event, and which must be completed before 2028," Mr Rangsiman continued.

"If it is approved by the Cabinet, we would have to prepare to submit bids to other countries in December 2021," he added.

CONTENDERS

The countdown to enter a bid

to host a World Specialized Expo began in July, when the United States notified the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) that it is seeking to organise a Specialised Expo in Minnesota between May 15 and August 15, 2027.

Any other countries wishing to organise a Specialised Expo in 2027/28 have until Jan 28, 2022 at 5pm CET to notify the BIE of their candidature," the intergovernmental organisation in charge of overseeing and regulating World Expos since 1931 said in its announcement.

The Minnesota bid, submitted on July 29, aims to hold a Specialized Expo under the theme, "Healthy People, Healthy Planet: Wellness and Well-Being for All". As explained by Governor Narong last week, the Phuket bid, to be submitted to Cabinet on behalf of all the Andaman coast provinces, also aims to be held under the theme of Medical and Wellness Tourism.

The Minnesota bid was submitted by letter directly from US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, handed to the Secretary General of the BIE, Dimitri S. Kerkentzes,

by Brian Aggeler, Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Paris.

The host country of Specialised Expo 2027/28 will then be elected by the 169 Member States of the BIE gathered in a General Assembly, the BIE explained.

Expos – also known in the United States as "World's Fairs" – are global events that explore a chosen theme through engaging and immersive discoveries. Among the different categories of Expos, Specialised Expos are global events designed to respond to a precise challenge facing humanity and may take place in the interval between two World Expos.

Specialised Expos are limited in terms of duration – lasting up to three months – and space – with the site not exceeding 25 hectares. The exhibition site is entirely built by the organiser, participants being provided with pavilion space.

The most recent Specialised Expo, Expo 2017 Astana, took place in the capital of Kazakhstan, Nur-Sultan, under the theme "Future Energy", and welcomed almost 4 million visitors.

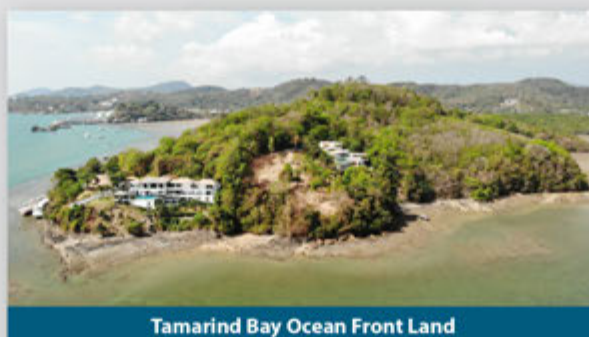
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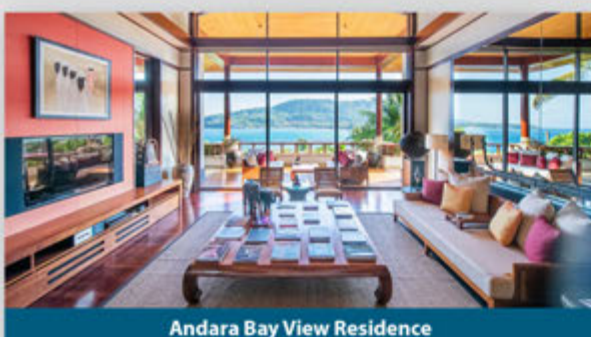
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Anutin defends decision to have fourth COVID-19 shot

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul has said he needs a fourth shot of COVID-19 vaccine because he needs to attend a World Health Organization meeting in Switzerland later this month.

The Bhumjaithai Party leader, 55, received two Sino-vac shots in February and later an AstraZeneca shot as the booster but said he would need another AstraZeneca shot to qualify for entry without quarantine – this despite Swiss entry rules showing Sinovac is one of the vaccines the country approves.

Anutin told a meeting at the ministry last Thursday (Nov 11) that Thailand could be the first country to start administering fourth shots.

“Now that more countries have reopened, we may have to rethink our vaccination strategy. Not every country approves entry [without quarantine] of people who have been vaccinated with the



Anutin claims another AstraZeneca shot is necessary for him to enter Switzerland. Photo: Bangkok Post

Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines, or the mixed regimens recommended by the [Thai] government,” he said.

The ministry earlier recommended a mix-and-match approach of vaccinations based on local research. Under it, Sinovac was picked as the first shot and AstraZeneca as the second. Another formula adopted later was AstraZeneca-Pfizer.

Anutin’s comments led to speculation that he might be admitting for the first time the Chinese-made vaccine might be inferior although he clarified the next day that this was not the case. The fact that he

needed another shot was due to different standards adopted by countries.

He added that people who need to go abroad or those who get Sinovac or Sinopharm shots earlier can register to get mRNA vaccines.

Nobody wanted to get too many shots, he said. “Too much antibody is not good, except for those who, like me, have to go abroad.”

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Public Health has called on unvaccinated people to get their shots against COVID-19 or they may face restrictions.

The call comes as the ministry plans to ramp up its

inoculation campaign over the next two weeks to achieve a target of administering 100 million doses.

More than 85mn doses have been administered while 10mn people have yet to receive a dose.

Dr Kiatiphum Wongrajit, the public health permanent secretary, said Nov 27-Dec 5 is being proposed as the nationwide vaccination week with various agencies expected to participate in the inoculation drive.

He added that the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) may also issue new social sanction measures that require people to show proof of vaccination when entering public places.

“The CCSA wants the target group to get their shots and it may come up with measures to give people an incentive to get vaccinated,” Dr Kiatiphum said.

“And if necessary, the CCSA may impose a rule requiring people to show they have received at least one dose when attending activities in public places,” he added.

Thailand takes up Apec baton from NZ

BANGKOK

THAILAND IS READY TO take over the baton of hosting the 2022 Apec chairmanship from New Zealand, as the prime minister declared the 2022 Apec theme “Open. Connect. Balance”.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha attended the remote handover from New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern last Friday (Nov 12).

Ms Ardern said the 2021 theme of Apec, which is “Join, Work, Grow. Together”, was inspired by the native Maori population.

“Traditionally, building a waka [canoe] involved the entire Maori community working in harmony toward a common goal. These waka enabled Maori to traverse vast expanses of ocean,” she said.

“Likewise, building Apec prosperity requires a collaborative effort from all Apec economies to reach a common goal. New Zealand is thankful for being able to support Apec through hosting the 2021 Apec.”

She added that with the handover in 2022 to Thailand, New Zealand was confident



Prime Minister Prayut holds a waka paddle as he takes over the Apec chairmanship. Photo: via Bangkok Post

that Thailand would paddle the Apec canoe forward with enthusiasm, creativity, and ingenuity.

Meanwhile, Prayut thanked New Zealand for handing over the waka paddler for Thailand to propel forward the Apec canoe. He said the country is honoured to be hosting Apec in 2022, and would work with Apec economies to ensure mutual benefit.

He also invited the Apec leaders to “synergise” their strength in creating an open, dynamic, resilient, and peaceful Apec community.

He explained the 2022 theme of “Open. Connect. Balance”, as Apec being “open” to all opportunities, “connected” in every dimension, and “balanced” in all aspects.

Bangkok Post

Maya Bay reopening set for Jan 1

BANGKOK

THE FAMED MAYA BAY IN KRABI province will probably be reopened to tourists on Jan 1 authorities have announced, with regulations in place to preserve the rehabilitated beach and bay from the ecological ruin it previously suffered.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Varawut Silpa-archa announced the tentative opening date on Monday (Nov 15).

He said Hat Noppharat Thara-Mu Koh Phi Phi National Park was in the final stage of building an improved pier on the island and defining the swimming zone for beachgoers.

The Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation closed the bay on Phi Phi Ley Island in June 2018 after it was overwhelmed by tourists, leading to the destruction of reefs and the marine ecology.

Although the beach is small, at just 250 metres long and 15 metres wide, the bay has drawn global attention since it featured in the movie *The Beach*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, filmed there in 1999.

The minister, in Krabi for a Cabinet meeting, said reopening of the bay will come with strict conditions.

The number of visitors would be limited, visiting hours restricted to 10am to 4pm, and each tourist would be able to spend only one hour swimming in a designated zone, in order to protect the reefs



Tourists pack the beach at Maya Bay in Krabi in 2017, before it was closed in June 2018. Photo: Hat Noppharat Thara-Mu Koh Phi Phi National Park

being nurtured by park officials.

Boats would be allowed to anchor only in another bay on the other side of the island.

More than half of the corals suffered major damage before the bay was closed three years ago. At its peak, the bay was crowded by 4,000 visitors and 200 boats a day, far beyond the area’s ability to handle.

Park officials have planted coral on reefs over more than 10 rai of the bay.

Thon Thamrongnawasawat, a Kasetsart University marine biologist and member of the national park’s committee, suggested in 2019 that daily visitors should be limited to 2,400 a day and they be required to book trips in advance online.

Bangkok Post

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Jennifer Fredin – a Star is Born

Bruce Stanley

Jennifer Fredin is a home grown success story. This young graduate of British International School Phuket (BISP) is on her way to becoming a major television and runway celebrity.

She currently is featured on the Singapore-based reality TV hit SupermodelME Revolution shown on AXN Asia. This is not an ordinary show of high fashion and celebrity catwalks. This is a competition among 12 of Asia's most beautiful and talented young women who compete in endurance events that exceed limitations, defy expectations and challenge perceptions with dexterity and stamina. The winner will become Subaru's brand ambassador; get a cover feature on Harper's Bazaar magazine Singapore and a contract with Storm Model Management as a supermodel.

Jennifer joins 11 other exceptional young women who live in the SupermodelMe house in Singapore and compete in challenging tasks often at very short notice to see who can perform beyond their limits.

"One of the first tasks was to manoeuvre along a catwalk set on a bar more than 10 metres above ground. As I have always had a fear of heights, I was quite terrified until I realized that I was willing to overcome my fear," she says. "And I did it wearing very high heels!"

2021 is the sixth season for Super-



The winning photo for Jennifer in Episode 3 of SupermodelMe. Photo: Joel Lim

modelME, sponsored by Subaru, with a theme of empowerment promoting the idea that beautiful models can also be strong and talented. Judges for the competition represent leading Asian influencers in fashion, entertainment, beauty and modeling. Jennifer is the only Thai participant joining other contestants from China, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines.

Jennifer has always presented as a high achiever. She graduated from the British International School Phuket as her class Valedictorian, the student with the highest grade point average. Her favourite courses were chemistry,

biology and maths and she made the A team in football at 15 years old. In her free available time, she is a competitive gamer preferring World of Warcraft for the past 11 years.

"I was born in Bangkok and started school in a normal Thai elementary school, but had a lot of trouble with my classmates as I am mixed race. My mother is Thai and my father is Swedish and I wasn't accepted at that school. Fortunately, I moved to the American School in Bangkok where I was with other luk krung students and I immediately felt at home."

Her family moved to Phuket in 2006 and she was enrolled at BIS until her

graduation in 2018. She enjoyed performance and her dance classes with the well-known Kathy Roche, who led the school's dance program for many years.

"During my last couple years at BIS, I helped several friends who needed a model for their make-up training courses. I really enjoyed the transformation of how I appeared after their treatments. I did not look at myself much back then as I preferred reading, especially science, in my free time. But after my photos were shared, I was asked to model swimwear and the offers kept coming for photo modeling at high-end resorts."

After graduating from BIS, Jennifer was offered a job to work at a Phuket video production company where she could use her skills learned in photography and modeling. It quickly developed into her career path.

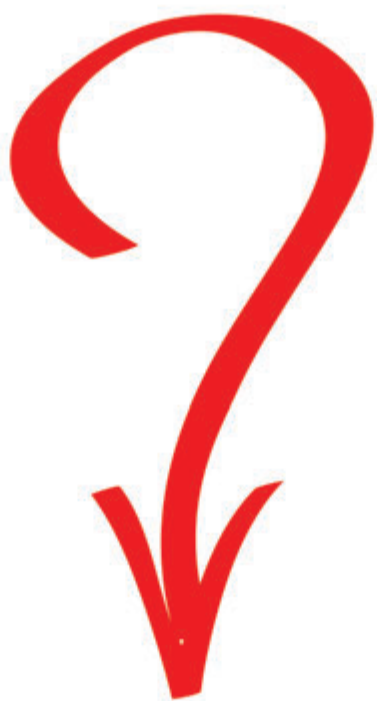
In addition to a busy schedule with modeling and performance, Jennifer has found time to explore various cultures in Europe, preferring the sunny shores of Spain and Italy. She represented Thailand in the MS EuroAsian pageant in Naples.

"I have a fairly self-motivated and determined character so I will see how I can develop my career. Meanwhile I keep fit with Muay Thai and follow a variety of exercise regimes from the internet."

At the start of next year, Jennifer plans to move from Phuket to Bangkok to put her developing career into high gear.



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US\$200mn 'Red Notice' skips cinemas

David Griffiths

It is perhaps a sign of the times when the biggest film to be released in Phuket this week is on a streaming platform despite the fact that cinemas are open. And when we say big – we mean big in every single way. Not only is Netflix's *Red Notice* starring three of the biggest names in Hollywood at the moment – the film itself is the most expensive Netflix film ever made with a budget of around US\$160 million. The good news is that this time we also have a big budget film that works in every single way.

Directed and written by Rawson Marshall Thurber (*Skyscraper*), *Red Notice* begins with Special Agents John Hartley (Dwayne Johnson – *Moana*) and Urvashi Das (Ritu Arya – *The Umbrella Academy*) hot on the heels of notorious art and relic thief Nolan Booth (Ryan Reynolds – *Deadpool*) as he is about to steal one of Cleopatra's rare golden eggs.

However, when Hartley suddenly finds himself named as an accomplice of Booth's he suddenly has to find himself teaming up with Booth and going up against his arch rival, The Bishop (Gal Gadot – *Wonder Woman*), in a bid to find the other golden eggs and clearing his name.

The plot of *Red Notice* seems simple, but it's not. Thurber's screenplay is intricate with twists and turns galore that are forever catching their audi-



Ryan Reynolds, Gal Gadot and Dwayne Johnson in *Red Notice* (2021). Image: IMDB

ence off guard. You could forgive a film starring three big names if it decided to become a walking cliché but that is something that *Red Notice* certainly never does. Instead it becomes a smart film that seems like a cross between *Ocean's Eleven* and *Indiana Jones* and somehow manages to work to the point that it is sure to become one of the most memorable films of 2021.

As a film it is sleek – really sleek. The screenplay delivers a believability to it while its action set pieces look so good they could have been taken straight from a Bond film – there are fast cars, ritzy locations and chases galore, and somehow it all comes together to create something quite magical. Some people may be a little worried

about seeing Rawson Marshall Thurber's name as director given that his last action film – *Skyscraper* – was such an awful clichéd mess, but Thurber has obviously learnt from his mistakes because *Red Notice* is flawless.

In fact one of the things that makes this film so special is the fact that Thurber has mixed together his past genres so well. While everybody wants to forget *Skyscraper*, we need to remember that Thurber is also the man responsible for the best comedies of the last decade – *We're the Millers*. That brilliant comedic timing is certainly present here in *Red Notice*, the film contains some absolute zingers with dialogue – and this is one time when outside the *Deadpool* universe where

Ryan Reynolds' smart-ass routine actually works well and enhances his character. You get a strong feeling while watching the film that part of Reynolds' performance working so well most likely comes back to Thurber's screenplay.

The other thing that makes *Red Notice* work so well are the performances of its stars. Gadot, Johnson and Reynolds have a special magic between them that makes them one of the best ensembles we have seen over recent years. Whether it be delivering comedic lines between each other or locked in battle with some spectacular fight sequences, these three work together brilliantly well. Gadot cements herself as a screen siren who can deliver both action and drama with her role of The Bishop while Johnson once again mixes action and comedy together brilliantly well and shows why he deserves to be called the biggest star in Hollywood at the moment.

Red Notice is perhaps one of the biggest surprises of 2021. This is one slick action/crime flick that also contains just the right amount of humour without tripping itself up. Its three leads bring their A-Game and they are working with a screenplay that delivers a truly memorable heist film. This is an amazing film and once again Netflix have delivered a game-changer in the cinematic universe.

Red Notice is currently screening on Netflix in Phuket and is for an adult audience.

4/5 Stars

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POP QUIZ

1. Sacha Baron Cohen's 'Admiral General Aladeen' was the dictator of which fictional republic?
2. The three orders of classical architecture are Ionic, Corinthian, and which other order?
3. Which city, located in southern India and the highest of India's major cities, is nicknamed the 'Silicon Valley of India'?
4. What was the middle name of Hunter S. Thompson?
5. Which battle against Roman rule in southern Britain ended with the defeat of Queen Boudica?

Answers below, centre

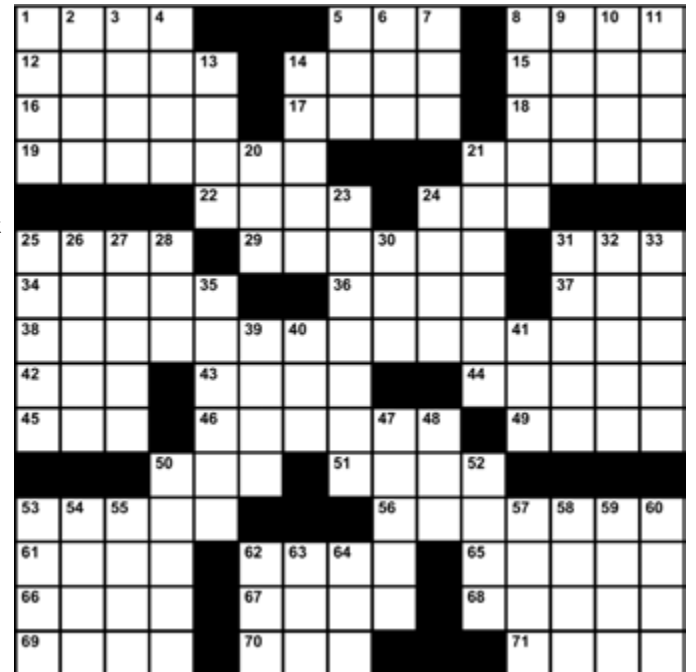
SUDOKU

Easy

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

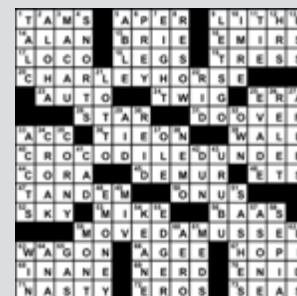
Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across**
1. Arctic fish
 5. Chinese life force
 8. Ski lift
 12. Donkeywork
 14. Contemptible one
 15. One of the Muppets
 16. Writer Brookner
 17. Night birds
 18. Diamond of note
 19. Be careful!
 21. I don't believe it! (goes with 56 across)
 22. Pampering places
 24. Transport
 25. High: Prefix
 29. Polish or Czech
 31. B'way crossers
 34. Tie up
 36. "Sure"
 37. Water-logged
 38. Warning that a subject is off-limits
 42. H.S. requirement
 43. Prefix at NASA
 44. Glower
 45. Rock's ____ Speedwagon
 46. Unkempt
 49. Telephone button
 50. The Cards of the N.L. Central
 51. Circus cries
 53. "Forget it!"
- Down**
1. Cat's scratcher
 2. Tennis star
 3. Rather
 4. Officer Training group, abbr.
 5. Farm animal
 6. Computer in film
 7. Dog tags, e.g.
 8. Julio Iglesias, for one
 9. Cordon ____
 10. Middle Eastern prince
 11. Dramatic part
 13. Fan sounds
 14. Entire
 20. Internet addresses
 21. Luxury vessels
 23. Refuse
- 24. "Later!"**
- 25. Tree in the birch family**
- 26. Film director Sergio**
- 27. Spicy music**
- 28. Professional suffix**
- 30. Stagnate**
- 31. Worry**
- 32. Land**
- 33. Guide the course**
- 35. Robust**
- 39. Saltimbocca ingredient**
- 40. Unit of work**
- 41. Abbr. after Brooklyn**
- 47. Excellent**
- 48. Phone trio**
- 50. Steak topping**
- 52. Minn. neighbor**
- 53. Spoon**
- 54. Government safety org.**
- 55. Time lag**
- 57. Macbeth dagger**
- 58. Religious image: Var.**
- 59. Hawaii's state bird**
- 60. Use the teeth on**
- 62. Thickness**
- 63. Emirates, for short**
- 64. Smartphone forerunner**



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

solitary cracker that survived the sinking of the *Titanic* sold for nearly \$23,000 in a 2015 auction.

18

percent of drivers fleeing the Los Angeles Police manage to escape arrest.

400

dollars was the littering fine the Western Australian government issued NASA in 1979 when pieces of Skylab fell on the region.

32,000

US dollars is the latest annual salary offered for a 'Panda Nanny' in China – a real job where you get to spend 365 days a year with panda babies.

3.7 billion

people under age 50 worldwide are infected with the herpes virus.

Source: *Uberfacts*

ISLAND VIEW



Sunrise over Bang Wad. Photo by Jeffrey Ephreim Villanueva Villegas

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

This week in history

Nov 19, 1994

In the United Kingdom, the first National Lottery draw is held. A £1 ticket gave a one-in-14-million chance of correctly guessing the winning six out of 49 numbers.

Nov 20, 1947

Princess Elizabeth marries Lt Philip Mountbatten at Westminster Abbey in London.

Nov 21, 164 BC

Judas Maccabeus, son of Mattathias of the Hasmonean family,

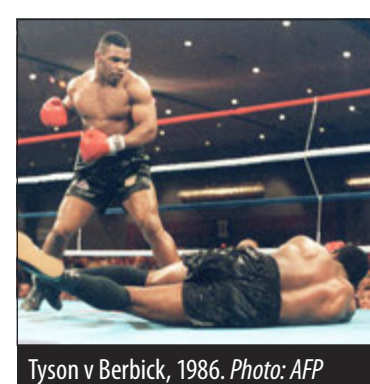
restores the Temple in Jerusalem. The event is commemorated each year by the festival of Hanukkah.

Nov 22, 1986

Mike Tyson from Brooklyn, New York defeats Trevor Berbick by TKO in the second round to become the youngest heavyweight champion in boxing history at age 20.

Nov 23, 534 BC

Thespis of Icaria becomes the first recorded actor to portray a character onstage.



Tyson v Berbick, 1986. Photo: AFP

Nov 24, 1974

Donald Johanson and Tom Gray

discover the 40% complete Australopithecus afarensis skeleton, nicknamed "Lucy" (after The Beatles song "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds"), in the Awash Valley of Ethiopia.

Nov 25, 1984

Thirty-six top musicians gather in a Notting Hill studio and record Band Aid's 'Do They Know It's Christmas?' in order to raise money for famine relief in Ethiopia.

Source: *Wikipedia*

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FRI

19
NOV



Friday Mussels night

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

SAT

20
NOV



Saturday Brunch

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SUN

21
NOV



Sunday roast

12PM – 9PM: All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet Beef, Pork, Chicken & Lamb – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, Fried mushrooms, Grilled Tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes – Apple sauce, Gravy, Mushroom sauce,

Horse raddish, Mint Sauce. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 350 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 175 baht P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

MON

22
NOV



Pizza Monday

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WED

24
NOV



Wednesday BBQ night

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

FRI

26
NOV



Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners hosted by AustCham

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand

(AMCHAM), British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber of Commerce, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC) and the Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC), is delighted to invite you to join us for "Phuket Sundowners" at Saii Laguna Phuket, on Friday 26 November 2021, from 18.00 - 21.00 hrs. All attendees are asked to bring their COVID-19 vaccination proof or certification to show on entry to the event. 500 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members. 900 THB for non-members. Limited capacity, so book early to avoid disappointment. For registration code for Australian Alumni members, please contact AustCham team at 02 109 9616 or email to office@austchamthailand.com

FRI

3
DEC



The Grow Boating Networking Evening for December 2021

The Grow Boating Networking Evening for December 2021 will be held at the Port of Call restaurant and Bar at the Ao Po Grand Marina on Friday the 3rd of December from 5pm. We are delighted to announce that Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co., Ltd. - The Sponsorship Experts will be the drinks sponsor for the evening. Enjoy a drink or two on Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co., Ltd. as The Sponsorship Experts wish all industry stakeholders a prosperous 2022 and look forward to seeing everyone on the boardwalk at the Thailand International Boat Show, 6-9 January 2022, Royal Phuket Marina. See www.paulpoole.co.th There will be a light buffet sponsored by the Port of Call restaurant and Bar and as always all of your favourite beverages will be available. 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. To join our mailing list please send an email to growboatingphuket@gmail.com. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/growboatingphuket/> Grow Boating is kindly supported by our media partner The Phuket News, Live 89.5 radio and Phuket News TV. See www.thepuketnews.com



DAILY EVENT
UPDATES ON


SAT

4
DEC



A Night At The Popra

The event is a banquet style dinner and show. The money raised by ticket donations and auction items will be directly used to buy and distribute Life Bag supplies through One Phuket. Ticket donations are B5,000 per seat for VIP and B3,500 per seat for standard. Both ticket donations include a 5-star 3 course meal and free flow beverages.

SUN

5
DEC



Christmas Market

The launch of the Good Shepherd charity thrift shop pre Loved Too. Proceeds support Good Shepherd Phuket Town to educate underprivileged children. Great gift ideas, twinkle lights, fun, food, shopping and Christmas music, with 20+ talented local vendors. Sunday from 3 - 8pm @ Raw Cafe & Vegan Bistro, Visit Road Rawai. More on FB - Prelovedtoo. Rawai

FRI

17
DEC



Treasure Island the Panto

Theatrx presents, Treasure Island the Panto at the Junkyard Theatre. Three days only - Fri Dec 17 @ 6:30pm, Sat Dec 18 at 12noon & 6:30pm, Sun Dec 19 at 12noon & 6:30pm. "Early Bird" discounted ticket donation - children B600 & Adults B1,200 includes Tapas dinner and popcorn special. Proceeds to the Good Shepherd Phuket Town. Bookings - 089 874 2942.




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ALL SMILES AT THE AUSSIE SUNDOWNERS IN PATONG

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (AMCHAM), British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber of Commerce, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC) and the Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC), held the "Phuket Sundowners" and members briefing at Four Points by Sheraton Phuket Patong Beach Resort, on the Patong beach road, on Wednesday, November 10.



THE BARK ARTISTS IN PHUKET

The Australian Consulate-General, Phuket hosted the Old Masters – Australia's great Bark artist exhibition at the Quintessential Art gallery at Taste Bar and Grill in Bang Tao. The opening night, November 9, 2021, presided over by H. E. Mr Allan McKinnon, Australian Ambassador to Thailand.

F1 title fight gets personal

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

A career-best drive from Lewis Hamilton not only won him the Sao Paulo Grand Prix against the odds last Sunday (Nov 14), but it threatened to change the complexion of the final stint of the championship.

It's lap 48 of 71 of the Sao Paulo Grand Prix, and Lewis Hamilton is pulling alongside Max Verstappen on the 630-metre run to Descida do Lago.

Both drivers are late on the brakes, but Hamilton has his nose ahead. Desperate to hold the lead, Verstappen plays his last card: he opens the steering and veers off track. Hamilton, on the outside, yields to avoid a crash.

"Crazy," Hamilton radios to his team as he rejoins the track still behind the Dutchman, and to his and Mercedes's bewilderment, the stewards decide not to open an investigation.

It was the last of what Mercedes boss Toto Wolff called "many, many punches in the face" in a seismic weekend in this wild season.

Wolff felt like his team was taking fire from all sides in Brazil, starting with Red Bull Racing am-



Hamilton celebrates what he said was one of the best weekends of his career in Brazil after his exquisite drive. Photo: Nelson Almeida/AFP

plifying its lobbying of the FIA over suspicions Mercedes is breaking the rules in pursuit of straight-line speed. Verstappen was even in on the act, feeling Hamilton's rear wing after qualifying, which is itself against the rules.

In scrutineering an unrelated breakage was found on Hamilton's wing and he was stripped of pole and sent to the back of the grid. Verstappen was handed a fine.

OVERTAKING BONANZA

Mercedes's loss was the sport's gain, for it precipitated a 15-place

overtaking bonanza in the Saturday sprint, a race of just 24 laps. It was vintage back-against-the-wall Hamilton.

But Wolff was unplaced. He protested that his team should have been allowed to make repairs, and he was incensed when Red Bull Racing found damage to Verstappen's rear wing on Sunday morning and was allowed to fix it without penalty.

Having then watched Hamilton get run off the road battling for the lead after recovering from 10th, you can imagine how he felt when the stewards decided that was the time

to take a hands-off approach.

"It felt like everything was against us, and I think that's what Lewis has felt all his life and we now feel it together as a team," said Wolff.

"We're going to fight – that is the emotion we're feeling in the garage at the moment."

Hamilton wasn't content to take the beating. Already racing on a higher level to have recovered 23 places since the sprint, he lifted once more, beautifully dummying Verstappen into the first turn to force him into a slower line down

to Descida do Lago.

By the time they both hit the brakes, the Mercedes was already well ahead. His 24th pass complete, Hamilton was free to take a famous 101st victory.

"I didn't know what was possible, but I just gave it everything," he said. "This has definitely been one of the best weekends, if not the best weekend, I have experienced in my whole career."

The Sao Paulo Grand Prix was the opening of a final, gloves-off chapter of this title race. The fun and games of the off-track tit for tat is gone; now the barbs and accusations land personally as the reality of what's at stake grow clearer on the horizon, and both sides appear increasingly prepared to do whatever it takes, to pay whatever cost, to get their hands on the championship first.

This weekend's Qatar Grand Prix (Nov 19-21) is crucial to setting the scene for the December finale. Verstappen can take the wind from Hamilton's sails with a 10th victory, but if Mercedes can use the heady cocktail of Brazil as momentum to win in Doha, then F1 is almost certain to arrive in Abu Dhabi with everything still to play for.

It's the most hotly contested F1 championship in years. Just three races to go.

Phuket News

English Premier League Predictions

thephuketnews.com/predictions.php

Australia win maiden T20 World Cup

CRICKET

MITCHELL MARSH smashed an unbeaten 77 as Australia hammered New Zealand by eight wickets to clinch their maiden Twenty20 World Cup title last Sunday (Nov 14).

Chasing 173 for victory, Australia depended on a 92-run second-wicket stand between David Warner, who made 53, and Marsh to achieve their target with seven balls to spare in Dubai. Warner was bowled by Trent Boult but Marsh kept up the charge to power Australia home to their long-awaited T20 crown and add to their five 50-over World Cup trophies.

Glenn Maxwell, who made 28, joined Marsh, who hit six fours and four sixes in his 50-ball knock, to put on 66 runs and hit the winning boundary as the Aussies came charging in to celebrate the triumph.

"It's huge. We felt like a lot of people wrote us off but we spoke about being the first team to do this for Australia and it feels really



Australia celebrate their T20 World Cup triumph. Photo: Aamir Qureshi / AFP

special," said Matthew Wade.

Skipper Kane Williamson hit a valiant 85 in New Zealand's 172-4 after being invited to bat first in a crucial toss won by Aaron Finch as teams chasing have won all but one game at the venue.

Williamson, who was dropped on 21, started cautiously but once settled took on the opposition bowling to reach his first half-century of the tournament. He finished with 10 fours and three sixes in his 48-ball blitz before Josh Hazlewood bowled him with a leg-cutter.

Australia suffered an early blow in their chase when Finch departed for five off Boult but the left-right batting pair of Warner and Marsh combined to take

apart the bowling with fours and sixes galore.

Australia, whose previous best was a runners-up finish in 2010, came into this edition's semi-final with one loss to England and beat Pakistan in the final-four clash with a chase of 177.

Australia fast bowler Hazlewood returned figures of 3-16 and leg-spinner Adam Zampa had 1-26.

Warner, with 289 runs in total, ended second behind Pakistan's Babar Azam (303) in the tournament's batting chart.

The seventh edition of the tournament was moved out of India due to the coronavirus pandemic to be staged in Oman and United Arab Emirates. AFP

Gerrard the new Villain in town, Smith in at Norwich

FOOTBALL

AFP

Aston Villa and Norwich City have moved swiftly to appoint new managers after both clubs had recently dispensed with their previous head coaches.

Steven Gerrard will get his first taste of management in the Premier League after the Liverpool legend was appointed Aston Villa boss last Thursday (Nov 11).

Gerrard left his role as Glasgow Rangers manager to take charge of the Villains, who sacked Dean Smith on Nov 7 after five successive league defeats.

The 50-year-old Smith now takes over at Carrow Road on a two-and-a-half-year contract, the club said on Monday (Nov 15). He replaces former boss Daniel Farke who was dismissed on Nov 6.

Considered one of the greatest players in Premier League history, 41-year-old Gerrard guided Rangers to a first Scottish Premiership title in 10 years last season, with the



Former Premier League legend Steven Gerrard has been appointed as the new Aston Villa manager. Photo: AFP

club finishing the campaign undefeated in the league for the first time in 122 years.

Gerrard, who took the reins at Ibrox in May 2018, also made progress in Europe, reaching the knockout stages of the Europa League for the past two seasons.

"The board of Aston Villa are delighted to appoint Steven as our new head coach," said Villa CEO Christian Purslow, who was managing director of Liverpool when Gerrard was at the club.

"Aston Villa is a club with

a rich history and tradition in English football and I am immensely proud to become its new head coach," said Gerrard.

Villa are languishing in 16th place in the Premier League, two points above the relegation zone, after 11 games.

Gerrard's first game will be at home to Brighton tomorrow (Nov 20). He takes his side to face Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool on Dec 11.

'PROGRESSIVE'

Norwich have tasked Smith with saving them from rel-

egation. The club currently sits bottom of the league with five points.

"It has been a whirlwind seven days, but I'm really pleased to be back and working for Norwich City in the Premier League," said Smith.

"Norwich City is a big club, with a massive hardcore of supporters who are fully understanding in what it means to be part of the club and its community," he added.

Former Chelsea manager Frank Lampard was believed to have been Norwich's initial top candidate, but the ex-England star pulled out of the running once Smith emerged as a rival for the job.

The Canaries' next Premier League game is at home to Southampton tomorrow and Smith said he could not wait to get going.

"From the age of 16 I've been working in football. I think in that time I've had four months out and didn't enjoy it," he said.

"It's great to get straight back in with a club that are determined to be progressive."



The Swiss players celebrate their fourth goal. Photo: AFP

Swiss pip Italy for World Cup ticket

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS Italy missed out on automatic qualification for next year's World Cup after being held to a goalless draw by Northern Ireland in Belfast on Monday (Nov 15), ceding top spot in Group C to Switzerland who beat Bulgaria 4-0.

The Italians needed to match Switzerland's result to qualify directly but while Roberto Mancini's side could only stutter to a stalemate, the Swiss went on the rampage in Lucerne to book their ticket for Qatar.

The Azzurri will now have to negotiate a play-off next March in order to reach the finals, as they did in 2018 when they famously failed to qualify for the World Cup after a miserable aggregate defeat to Sweden.

England, the team the Italians beat in the Euro 2020 final in July, clinched their qualification with a rampant Harry Kane bagging four goals in 15 minutes in a 10-0 win in San Marino, the lowest ranked of FIFA's 210 competing nations.

Further goals from Harry Maguire, Emile Smith Rowe, Tyrone Mings, Tammy Abraham, Bukayo Saka and a Filippo Fabbri own goal ensured Gareth Southgate's men advance to the finals as group winners.

Kane now has 48 goals for England, level with Gary Lineker and behind only Bobby Charlton (49) and Wayne Rooney (53).

"Every time I wear an England shirt I am proud and when I score goals it is one of the nicest feelings I can have in my career. Nice to be among those names," said Kane. AFP

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Sport



Lewis keeps title hopes alive > p14



Prom Meesawat aka the 'Big Dolphin' will compete in both upcoming Asian Tour golf events in Phuket. Photo: Asian Tour

'BIG DOLPHIN' LOOKING TO MAKE A SPLASH IN PHUKET

GOLF

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Excitement is building ahead of the restart of the Asian Tour in Phuket next week as all eyes turn towards the Blue Canyon Phuket Championship and Laguna Phuket Championship, two back-to-back US\$1 million (B33.4mn) events dubbed the "Asian Tour's Phuket Series".

The Blue Canyon Phuket Championship will be played at Blue Canyon Country Club from Thursday to Sunday (Nov 25-28), while the Laguna Phuket Championship will be staged at Laguna Golf Phuket from Dec 2-5.

Thailand's two-time Asian Tour winner Prom Meesawat, aka the 'Big Dolphin', recently returned from a taxing few months in Japan and is aiming to make a splash in Phuket at both events.

Prom returned from Japan last month and underwent his quarantine in Phuket's sandbox – which gave him the freedom to play Blue Canyon and Laguna Golf Phuket twice.

"I hadn't played Blue Canyon

since the 2007 Johnnie Walker Classic," said Prom, who took part in a virtual press conference head of the Asian Tour Phuket Series.

"Not much has changed to the Canyon course. It's always a good course. It's going to be fun. You really need to be careful with your tee shots as it's tree-lined. Also, I hadn't played Laguna Phuket since the Thailand Open in 2009. They have changed a lot of greens there. It's quite tricky and small and very slopy but there are still a lot of birdie opportunities."

BURLY FRAME

Prom is known as the 'Big Dolphin' due to his burly frame coupled with the fact he is from the seaside town of Hua Hin.

He spent the end of last year and beginning of 2021 recuperating from a ruptured appendix, which took five months to fully recover from.

He said he was playing really well by the time he headed to play in Japan in September, but the trip proved to be a disappointment.

Said the Thai star: "It is difficult to find a place to practice there, so after tournaments there would be no practice for three days and

my game dropped.

"It was quite a difficult time in Japan. And the courses are quite tight and narrow. I still did okay but not as good as I expected. Even though I have a good short game the grass is different there and I needed more time to practice on it."

Upon hearing the Asian Tour was due to restart, the 37-year-old decided to pack up and head home.

"I felt it made sense to go back and prepare for the Phuket Series. I think it was a good idea for me to do that," he said.

Since returning to Thailand, Prom has played three tournaments as a warm up for the Phuket series, including the Singha Pattaya Open, held on Oct 21-24 at the Burapha Golf & Resort, which he was contesting for an astonishing fifth time. He finished third behind compatriots Phachara Khongwatmai and Sadom Kaewkanjana.

He then finished second behind Sadom at the Thailand Open held at Pathum Thani between Oct 28-31, a tournament which his father Suthep Meesawat won in 1991. However, a disappointing joint 22nd place finish at the Singha Esan Open in Khon Kaen between Nov 4-7 was not ideal preparation for the two

upcoming Phuket events.

Prom, however, remains upbeat. "It's such a good sign that the Asian Tour is back," he said. "I know we still have to worry about COVID, but everyone is looking forward to going back and seeing each other. It is very positive the Tour is back and will get strong again."

'BACK TO NORMAL'

Meanwhile, Jazz Janewattananond, the reigning Asian Tour Order of Merit champion, has confirmed he will also be competing in the two Phuket events.

"When I heard the Asian Tour is on, I felt like things are going to be back to normal," Jazz told the Asian Tour in a promotional video earlier this month.

"When the pandemic hit it was really hard for us," he added. "Where I come from in Thailand, it was really hard, the country was shut down. We could not go back home, everyone was facing a similar situation, but you gotta move on and power through it."

"Everything is going to be fine you know, it's just one of those things. Our region is improving, the pandemic situation in Asia is improving because they are al-

lowing us to set up tournaments, and the Asian Tour is doing better. It's just a win-win situation for the players, the Tour and the region," he added.

Jazz is a six-time winner on the Asian Tour – four of which came in 2019 – and is grateful for the opportunities it afforded him.

"The Asian Tour is where it started: the whole golf professional process. I played the first one when I was 12 or 13, I can't remember."

"It's the vibe there, everyone is friends, you go there to enjoy your week, you stay in the same hotel, you take a bus to the golf course. So, there is a connection there with me and my golf, and childhood and Asian Tour. We kind of all grew up together."

"It's great to have a Tour in our region that is really well run and very good to improve young players like me. If I didn't have the Asian Tour I don't know where my career will be at."

After the Phuket Series, the Asian Tour is planning to complete its season with two events in Singapore in January. All four tournaments will be broadcast live on television with further details to be announced soon.