

BOY BLINDED BY STAPH INFECTION > PAGE 2

LOST & FOUND



Family members were present when Ms Lange was brought safely out of the jungle on Monday (May 16). Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

MISSING GERMAN TOURIST RESCUED FROM PHUKET JUNGLE AFTER SEVEN DAYS

Eakkapop Thongtub
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A 75-year-old German tourist suffering from Alzheimer's who had been missing for a week was rescued from dense jungle in Sirinath National Park on Monday (May 16).

The tourist, Barbara Lange, had not been seen since she went for a morning walk a week earlier, on May 9. A large-scale search for her by

land, air and sea was launched after officials were notified of her disappearance two days later, on May 11.

Ms Lange was found beside a small stream in Sirinath National Park by one of the search teams numbering 40 officers in total assigned to search the park on Monday.

After carrying her clear of the jungle, an effort that took two hours, rescue workers confirmed that Ms Lange was exhausted but had suffered no wounds or debilitating injuries.

At time of press it was not known how long Ms Lange had been at the location where she was found, or how she managed to survive the past week.

Ms Lange suffers from Alzheimer's, but family members had previously confirmed that she was taking medication for her condition.

Ms Lange was just two kilometres from the hotel where she was staying when a search team found her on Monday.

However, where she was found was more than 15km from where she was last seen on CCTV walking along a road in Nai Yang.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciw and Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong both made their way to the where an ambulance was waiting to take Ms Lange to Thalang Hospital.

Also called to the scene were Ms Lange's family members who came to Phuket with her on holiday.

At last report, Ms Lange was well...

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Police probe teens over vicious attacks



LIFE PAGE 9

One Phuket, Lean on Me unite for cause



SPORT PAGE 16

Louise makes national French team selection



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News



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Boy blinded by staph infection

The Phuket News

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Nonthaphat 'Nong Boat' Sae-ong, the 12-year-old boy blinded by an acute sinusitis bacterial infection spreading to his eyes and spinal fluid, has arrived at Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok, one of the leading hospitals in the country, for treatment.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew joined Nong Boat on his journey to Bangkok, with the entourage arriving at the hospital on May 12.

Also accompanying the boy and his grandparents were Dr Supalak Laongpetch, Deputy Director of Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town, and Yaowanaree Heimy, a psychologist at the Phuket Children's and Family Home at Koh Siray.

Nong Boat was admitted to Siriraj following his grandparents last week calling for government action after the boy was left blind in both eyes by an infection that they said was the result of Nong Boat receiving his second Pfizer vaccination.

In making their plea, the grandparents explained that Nong Boat lost his eyesight after receiving his second Pfizer injection late last year. They also said they had received no support from government agencies.

Nong Boat began developing serious symptoms nine days after receiving the second vaccine injection on Nov 25 last year. On day 10 after receiving the vaccine, he suffered



Photo: PR Phuket

severe convulsions during which he lapsed into unconsciousness. He was initially rushed to Thalang Hospital, then transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town.

He spent two weeks in the intensive care unit at Vachira Hospital. When he regained consciousness he could no longer see out of both eyes.

Nong Boat, his parents and grandparents all believed that the Pfizer vaccine had caused the critical health issues.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew on May 9 called an urgent press conference to explain the case, where leading doctors in the province dismissed the claim that a second injection of the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine had left Nong Boat blind.

Vachira hospital ear, nose and throat specialist Dr Kongkrit Kanjanapaisit said that tests had confirmed that Nong Boat had a severe bacterial infection in his nasal cavity. The infection had caused the area around the eyes to swell, leading to the visible inflammation around Nonthaphat's eyes.

Dr Kongkrit did not downplay the seriousness of the infection. In determining the nature of the infection, a lumbar puncture (also called a spinal tap) had confirmed that the cerebrospinal fluid was infected.

The infection may eventually cause permanent loss of eyesight, and may affect parts of the brain, he said. "It is not a common infection. It is not surprising that a regular doctor was unable to immediately

identify it," Dr Kongkrit noted.

Nong Boat's prognosis was difficult to foresee. "We need to treat the infection quickly and drain the sinuses, then immediately give a course of antibiotics. We also need to administer medications to dissolve clots in order for the blood to flow better. After we have treated it fully, we can give a better prognosis," Dr Kongkrit said.

The degree of infection, and depending on how successful treatment is, may leave Nong Boat with a long-term vision deficiency, Dr Kongkrit noted. "It is too early to tell. It all depends on how well the treatment goes, the patient, and whether there will be any side effects," he said.

"But we need to treat this as quickly as possible, otherwise his vision might not recover 100%," he added.

Dr Mueanprae Boonlorn of the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) said that the case had been referred to the Ministry of Public Health Region 11 office for consideration of whether any compensation could be provided considering the nature of the case.

However, she maintained, in line with the other doctors' opinions, that the infection afflicting Nonthaphat was not caused by the vaccine injection.

"It was a coincidence that the two events occurred in a close time frame," she said.

At Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok

last Friday (May 13) Vachira Phuket Hospital Deputy Director Dr Supalak said that the two key issues already discussed with medical staff at Siriraj were the action taken by staff at Vachira hospital in Phuket to reassure Nong Boat and his grandparents that the correct action was taken, and to determine the best treatment for his current condition.

"All of which are to build confidence for parents and Nong Boat to continue treatment," she said.

Ms Yaowanaree, a psychologist at the Phuket Children's and Family Home, assured that the Social Development and Human Security Office had taken all measures within its powers to provide assistance to Nong Boat after learning about his condition.

"Including during this trip, together we will provide care and assistance during the treatment, including taking care of social assistance after this," she said.

Mr Kan, Nong Boat's grandfather, expressed his thanks and gratitude, saying he now felt more confident in the support being given to Nong Boat and held more hope for his recovery.

He specifically thanked Governor Narong for taking a direct personal interest in the case.

"We are very anxious. Last night we couldn't sleep, but Nong Boat was giving me encouragement, saying he was confident that he would recover and be able to see again," Mr Kan said.

German tourist found alive after seven days

Continued from page 1

...and recovering at Thalang Hospital, officials confirmed.

MASS SEARCH

Earlier on Monday morning Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong had confirmed that

the search for Ms Lange, already in its seventh day, would continue despite rising fears over whether she was still alive.

In releasing more details as to how Ms Lange had disappeared, Vice Governor Pichet explained that Ms Lange ar-

rived in Thailand with family on May 3, and stayed at the Maikhao Palm Beach Resort.

She had wandered off on May 5, but was found safe onshore from Koh Pling later that day and safely returned to the hotel, he said

Ms Lange was staying in a separate room from family members, giving her the freedom to come and go without disturbing them. She liked to go walking each morning, added V/Gov Pichet.

Search officers confirmed that Ms Lange left her hotel room at 8am last Monday. She was wearing a blue sleeveless shirt and gray jacket. CCTV showed at that time she was carrying the jacket instead of wearing it. After leaving the hotel she was seen walking towards the beach.

Ms Lange was seen on CCTV walking back from the beach, but then turning south. She was last recorded on CCTV at 11am near the Phuket Marriott Resort and Spa, Nai Yang Beach.

"At that time she was walking strongly and still wearing the blue sleeveless shirt. After that, there has been no sign of her. No CCTV cameras in the



Ms Lange was found near a small stream just two kilometres from the hotel where she was staying. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

area recorded any images of her," V/Gov Pichet said.

The mass search efforts involved hundreds of officers, volunteers and members of the local community in the Mai Khao and Nai Yang areas.

A Royal Thai Navy helicopter brought in scoured more than 20km of coast from Tha Chatchai all along Mai Khao Beach, and covering the area up to a kilometre offshore, but found nothing

Blue debris in the water previously reported by a local

fisherman was identified to be the remains of an inflatable rubber ring, V/Gov Pichet confirmed early on Monday.

On land, search efforts scoured the beaches, from Mai Khao all the way down to Layan, and focused on local roads and pathways, and trails in Sirinath National Park.

Monday was the first time officials had noted that waterways in the area would be searched, and was exactly where Ms Lange was found hours later.

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Vicious attacks by teens

Eakkapop Thongtub
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Wichit Police this week summonsed four young female students over a vicious beating of an 11-year-old girl at the girl's own home late last month. Police became aware of the incident only last Sunday (May 15) after the mother filed a complaint after she learned of the attack only over last weekend.

The mother, Sansanee Klaan, told reporters that she saw the video of the attack, which was posted online, at 1am last Saturday (May 14).

"I couldn't believe it. It was a barbaric act in which my daughter was attacked in her own home," she said.

The video was posted online on a Facebook page under the name Fern Kulwadee, who called for anyone who knew about the attack to contact her.

The video of the attack, now widely shared, sparked outrage among viewers online.

Following Ms Sasanee bringing the attack to the attention of police, by Tuesday (May 17) three more videos were shared online of the same girl attacking other young girls who were also dragged to the



Two of the children involved in the attack at Wichit Police Station on Monday. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

ground by the hair and kicked repeatedly, including vicious kicks to the head.

The 11-year-old girl was attacked in a room at her own house, Ms Sasanee explained. The parents had gone out but left her daughter at home with her older sister to look after her.

The older sister was unaware that her younger sister had been beaten by the girls until she was shown the video.

The attack happened on Apr 24, Ms Sasanee pointed out.

"When I found out I woke her [her daughter] and asked why she didn't tell anyone. She said that the girls threatened to kill her if she did," she said.

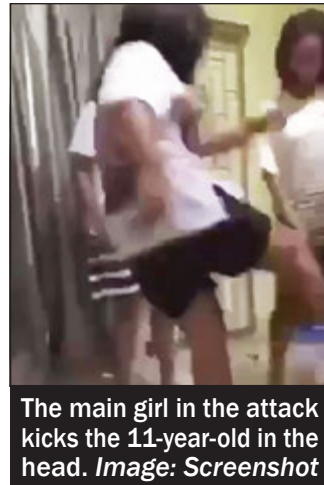
The video shows that the door to the room was closed

and the curtains drawn to prevent anyone from seeing. Then the video shows the three girls starting the incident by asking each other, "Who is going to start?"

Then the attack proceeds. The main instigator of the attack was a 15-year-old girl, who starts the attack by dragging the 11-year-old to the floor and then kicking the girl in the head.

The 15-year-old continues her attack with repeated kicks, with the thud of each blow landing clearly heard in the video.

A second girl wearing blue-white striped shorts joins the attack with several kicks of her own. Where the kicks landed are mostly out of view



The main girl in the attack kicks the 11-year-old in the head. Image: Screenshot

from the video, one stamp-style kick was plainly at head height.

The third girl seen in the video stays mainly out of the attack, but helps to hold the 11-year-old in position while her friends continue the assault by dragging the 11-year-old across the floor by her hair and repeatedly kicking her.

The person hiding in the corner recording the video is never seen in the recording.

Ms Sasanee vowed to bring legal action against the teenage girls for the attack.

"I have contacted all the parents of the children involved. I want to see them and ask them why they let their children do this, because this is unacceptable," she said.

Suwat announces opening of B4.5bn Andamanda project

THE ANDAMANDA WATER park project in Kathu costing B4.5 billion to build was officially launched at a press event in Bangkok on May 10.

The fun and culture park tourist attraction will open its gates to visitors on May 21, said former Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop, who presided over the "opening ceremony" at the Siam Paragon mall in the capital. Mr Suwat served as Deputy Prime Minister under the Thaksin Shinawatra administration in 2006.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew flew to Bangkok to join the event. Also present was Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Deputy Governor for Domestic Marketing Thapanee Kiatpaiboon, Phuket Tourist Association President Bhumikitti Ruktaengam.

Executive Director of Proud Group, Proudputh Liptapanlop, also an Oxford graduate and daughter of former PM Suwat, was also present for the occasion, as was Brian Walker Smith of premier water park designers Whitewater West Industries Co Ltd, which designed the Andamanda project.



Former Deputy PM Suwat announces the launch from Bangkok. Photo: PR Phuket

The 58-rai development, under construction for years, aims to be a one-stop entertainment center, "combining good culture and various points of interest", said Mr Suwat.

The project features three key elements: a water park, a hotel and lifestyle retail area, he said.

"It will become one of the destinations in Phuket that everyone must visit, and will be an important driving force in the revitalisation of the tourism economy in Phuket, which is ready to welcome tourists from all over the world and hoping to receive 1 million tourists a year, in line with and supporting Thailand's tourism policy," Mr Suwat said.

The Phuket News

Woman believed killed by brother's dog

POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING the death of a woman who is believed to have been mauled to death by her brother's pet dog.

The woman's body was discovered on the porch of a house at Baan Bang Pae in Pa Khlok around 9:30am on May 10 by a friend who then notified authorities.

Lt Col Suchart Luecha and Maj Gen Niwat Timket of the Thalang Police proceeded to the scene along with staff from the Muang Mai branch of the Kusold-harm Foundation. Phuket Vice Governor Phichet Panapong also attended the scene.

On arriving they discovered the body of a 38-year-old woman lying on her back on the front porch with puncture wounds about her neck, believed to have been inflicted by one of the two Thai ridgeback dogs that reside at the house.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the deceased woman lived at the house and the dogs belong to her brother, who also resides at the property along with two other family members.



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

The three siblings had journeyed to Bangkok, it was revealed, leaving the sister alone to, presumably, look after the dogs.

Both of the dogs are Thai ridgebacks aged between one and two years who the brother had acquired about five months ago, police confirmed. Both dogs were confined in a caged area at the property. As one of the dogs had blood around its mouth and on its fur, it is believed they had possibly attacked the woman when she went to feed them.

Police confirmed that a full autopsy needed to be

conducted to clarify the cause of death and that security camera footage on the property would be able to help them understand better what had happened exactly.

The body of the woman was taken to Vachira Hospital where forensic doctor Arthit Suravisankul confirmed that there were three bite wounds on the left hand side of her neck. He added that a full autopsy would be required to provide further information which would be dependent on the decision of both the police and the deceased's family.

Eakkapop Thongtub

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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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Wind 4 m/s

WED MAY 25

High: +30°
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

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Wind 4 m/s

'Flying SorKor' suspected in hill grab

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Officials will proceed with legal action over the illegal excavation of a hill in the Kamala Hills National Forest Reserve and are investigating whether the land document presented to claim the land is genuine.

Kathu District Chief Siwat Rawangkul accompanied by a host of other officials, including security personnel, revisited the site on May 10.

Mr Siwat confirmed that a ban on any further excavation at the site has been put in effect as no building permits have been issued by any government office to allow any form of construction, including earthworks, at the site.

However, by the time officials arrived to first inspect the site on May 6, all heavy machinery had already been removed.

Of note, officials arrived to inspect the site the day after the construction was reported by Isra News, which noted that officials had been informed of the construction but had yet to take action.

Only after Isra News reported the construction to Wittaya Nawiphan, Director of the Forest Resources Management Region 12 Office, which



Kathu District Chief Mr Siwat leads the inspection of the site on May 10. Photo: PR Phuket

is based in Krabi, was immediate action taken.

The location of the excavation site has led to some confusion.

The site is in the far eastern reaches of the Kamala Hills National Forest Reserve, but is located on the boundary between Kathu Subdistrict and Koh Kaew Subdistrict, which also places it on the border between Kathu District and Muang District.

As plainly seen in satellite images on Google Maps, the site is located at 7°56'09.599"N 98°21'44.639"E, placing it high in the hills halfway by direct line between the Tin Mine Museum and Siam Niramit on the bypass road.

Officials have been given seven days to correctly identify which local administration is responsible for the site where the excavation is located, Mr Siwat said.

Regardless, both relevant District offices have issued a ban on any further work at the site to ensure the ban would be legally in effect.

"As for the excavation, there is no permission from both localities, which the authorities will proceed with according to the law," Mr Siwat said.

Officers are also investigating the NorSor 3 land-use document presented to claim the land, Mr Siwat confirmed.

The NorSor 3 document appears

to have been issued for a plot covering about 40 rai, Mr Siwat said.

However, the construction site being claimed covered only about four rai, he noted.

The practice of using one land title document to claim another plot of land of similar shape is well known in Phuket as a 'Flying SorKor', as the practice usually uses a SorKor land-use document to claim land of similar shape but different dimensions elsewhere.

The newly issued fake document is then used to upgrade the status of the land claimed to Chanote title, which is usually beyond dispute.

The Office of Natural Resources and Environment is now investigating the illegal excavation as well to determine whether any environmental laws had been broken, Mr Siwat said.

OTHER ILLEGALITIES

The Isra News report last week also noted that the site was 90 metres above sea level, meaning any construction, including earthworks, were illegal.

The Isra report also noted that the original gradient of the slope of the land was more than 35%, meaning that any construction was also furtherly illegal.

Phuket officials have yet to recognise either of these two illegalities.

No bleached corals off Phuket, reports DMCR coastal survey

AN INSPECTION OF THREE coral sites in Phuket waters have dismissed claims that the corals are suffering heightened coral bleaching, reports the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR).

The inspections were carried out after reports by local residents noted that the corals at three locations – off Koh Lone, Naka Yai Island and Ban Laem Khad, all off Phuket's east coast – showed more white corals than previously observed.

DMCR Director-General Sophon Thongdee said that after receiving the reports an inspection of the three sites was launched, reported state news agency NNT.

"The survey of the coral bleaching situation was of the coral reefs at depths of three to five metres," Mr Sophon said.

"The reefs were found to be in good condition. The survey found that about 1% of all living corals [at the sites] were naturally pale white, but no bleached corals were



About 1% of the corals at the three reefs inspected were found to be naturally white. Photo: DMCR

found," he added.

"As for the sea temperature, it was found to be 31°C for areas with pale-white corals, namely Khoad Coral, also called galaxy corals, and coral anemones," Mr Sophon noted.

The DMCR survey team will continue to monitor the areas for any signs of coral bleaching, Mr Sophon added.

The Phuket News

Wanted: Immigration volunteers

PHUKET IMMIGRATION IS seeking expat volunteers to provide assistance to foreigners at the main Phuket Immigration Office in Phuket Town.

The call for new recruits was posted on the official Phuket Immigration Facebook page on May 9.

Applicants must be more than 20 years of age of any nationality. Men and women are invited to apply, but must have a domicile or residence in Phuket and staying in Thailand on long-term one-year visa

Applicants must also have no criminal record and "have a service mind".

Applications are being received until May 25. Interviews will be conducted on May 26-27, with the successful candidates announced on May 30.

Successful candidates will undergo training on May 31 and start work in their new roles on June 1.

The application form is available here: <https://shorturl.ae/UDSI4>

All applications are to be completed and sent by email to: kamlangpol.hkt@gmail.com

The successful candidates will be announced on the Phuket Immigration website and official Facebook page.

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Apply from 9-25 May 2022

Interview on 26-27 May 2022

Result announcement on 30 May 2022

Training on 31 May 2022

Start work on 1 June 2022

The notice posted by Phuket Immigration calling for expat volunteers.

Founded in 2007 by British expat Kevin Moss after years working as a volunteer with the Region 8 Police, the Phuket Immigration volunteers have for years provided invaluable assistance to foreigners new to applying for services at Phuket Immigration.

Kevin passed away last year after a brief battle with cancer, but his legacy of the Phuket Immigration Volunteers lives on.

Major rules changes and confusing application of the rules have left many foreigners stymied in knowing how to proceed.

A key aspect of the volunteers' role has been the ability to speak languages other than English in helping foreigners understand the Immigration rules the foreigners must comply with.

The Phuket News

the Phuket News

Navy probes mangroves under threat

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Officers from the Royal Thai Navy are leading an investigation into claims of encroachment into a protected mangrove forest area near Klong Mudong in Wichit.

Leading an inspection of the area on May 11 was 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 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.

The complaint alleged that people had invaded the Klong Mudong mangrove area by entering and occupying an area along the canal, Capt Pratchai said.

The encroachment had prevented the villagers from making a living by fishing and catching crabs, he added.

"The complaint also said that there had been encroachment into the protected mangrove forest, which had destroyed natural resources and caused ecological and environmental



The state of just one site among the mangroves at Long Mudong. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

damage," he said.

Winai Samsi, an assistant to the village headman (Phu Yai Baan), said that the Makham Khu community comprised more than 500 people living in 121 households.

The area was originally used for tin mining since 1947, but after tin mining was abandoned in 1985-1988, the villagers were allowed to stay, he said.

"Villagers have made a living through fishing, such as using nets, raising shrimp and raising fish in [aquaculture] cages," Mr Winai added.

However, other people had moved into the area and disturbed the natural ecosystem with trash and other waste dumped into the canal, he said.

The inspection confirmed that new construction had taken place in the area, Capt Pratchai noted.

"We saw the condition of the area where construction had been done in areas where houses and mangrove forests are mixed, affecting areas used by villagers for their livelihoods," he said.

"It was quite complicated in

order to ensure there is balance with people living with nature. If there is no nature, people will be in trouble. There must be zoning. I think that we still can't set clear zones for this area. If the zones were clear and well maintained, there would be no complaints," Capt Pratchai said.

"As for the process of resolving this issue, the Third Area Command will be involved only as a mediator and a mentor for the community to help society and the community solve this problem. There should be

a suitable way and a good solution, because if a government agency does not like the people on either side, will there be inequality? Intervention is possible, the 3AC will not abandon the community. We will do our best for the Makham Khu community to have a good quality of life. This is a sustainable and fertile mangrove forest," said Capt Pratchai.

Wattanachai Petthitiwat, Policy and Plan Analyst at the Phuket Mangrove Forest Resource Management Center, took a stronger line.

The mangrove forest in the area covered more than 40 rai, Mr Wattanachai said.

"The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources has allowed the Phuket Provincial Government to use this area for the benefit of local villagers but must protect the area that has been declared a mangrove forest conservation area. The benefits measures have been discussed with community leaders and all stakeholders in the area," he said.

"This visit has confirmed the complaint that the protected mangrove area is being exploited. We must see if serious damage has been done or if it has affected the traditional way of life of the community. If it has affected mangrove forests, legal action will be taken. Any invasion of the area by any person will be prosecuted according to the law," said Mr Wattanachai.



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Andaman tourism gets a boost

The Phuket News
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Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew joined Minister of Tourism and Sports Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn in Bangkok on May 9 to announce the month-long 'Aqua Lumina' series of festivities to be held in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi to help boost tourism to the region.

The festival, in full called the "Aqua Lumina Illumination Festival, the Miracle of Light from the Andaman Sea" will start on May 14 and continue through to June 12.

"The festival is to revive the economy and stimulate tourism to the area, and build confidence among both Thai and foreigners tourists in the quality of travel to be enjoyed," Mr Phiphat said at the press launch event, held at the Central World shopping mall in Bangkok.

"In 2022, the COVID-19 situation around the world is expected to ease and there are a number of quality tourists from around the world who plan to travel abroad," he said.

"This is an opportunity for Thailand as a tourist destination to shown its potential in tourism by holding activities including sports, arts and culture of Thailand coupled with the combination of innovation in organizing activities that have been recognized internationally in



Tourism Minister Phiphat announces the new campaign to the press. Photo: MoTS

line with the needs of a wide range of tourists and reach the target audience effectively," Mr Phiphat added.

"The festival will feature music festivals, sports events, a light-and-sound festival as well as food fairs promoting local delicacies and recreational activities that can encourage travel [to the Andaman provinces] by both Thai and foreign tourists," he continued.

"This will help provide stability for tourism industry operators all throughout the supply chain, including hotels and other accommodation operations, airlines, transport,

shops, restaurants, and communities dependent on tourism, and even entrepreneurs in the creative economy industry sectors such as entertainment, performing arts, fashion, Thai food and so on," he said.

"There will be at least 90,000 tourists attending the events, including Thais and foreigners, generating cash flow of not less than B700 million," Mr Phiphat added.

TAT Deputy Governor of Domestic Marketing Thapanee Kiatpaiboon explained that the festival had been organised by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

"The objective is to make sure that these three provinces are the first tourists think of when thinking about travelling again," she said.

"And this will be during the 'Green Season' months of May-June, where such activities will help create a trend and attract families on holiday," she added.

The festival has begun in Krabi, where it will be held from May 14-25, with events held at the Royal Lanta Boat Museum (also called the HTMS Lanta Museum) and Lan Phra Athit, a popular scenic viewpoint for tourists at the mouth

of the Krabi River. The event area covers more than 30,000 square metres, Ms Thapanee said.

The Phuket segment of the tri-province festival will be held from today (May 20) through May 31 at Nai Harn Beach, where 12,000sqm of space has been allocated, while the festival will conclude from May 27-June 12 at Memories Beach in Khao Lak, which has over 14,000sqm event space available, she added.

"Each area has its own uniqueness and different activities," Ms Thapanee said.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew explained that the Phuket stage of the Aqua Lumina festival will be held under the theme 'Land of the Guardians of the Andaman'.

The Phuket festivities will feature a spectacular light-and-sound show on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday only, and there will be live entertainment including a special 'Glowing Nora' dance, in which performers will twirl fire sticks while performing the traditional Southern Thailand Nora dance, he added.

"There will also be live performances by local bands as well as activity booths for everyone to join in the fun. We want to encourage everyone to realise the importance of the sea and people of all ages can take part," he said.

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Bike Week praised a success

DR NATEE RATCHAKITPRAKARN, chairman of the advisory committee to the Deputy Prime Minister, has praised Phuket Bike Week 2022 as an event that successfully stimulated the tourism economy of Phuket and Thailand and instilled confidence among both Thai and foreign tourists to travel to the island.

The three-day event, which drew to a close last Sunday night (May 15), attracted an estimated 20,000 visitors, with some 2,000 vehicles in total taking part, altogether generating some B200 million for the island's economy.

Coming from afar to join the event were big bike enthusiasts from all regions of Thailand as well as Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Cambodia and Vietnam.

This year marked the 26th edition of the annual event, which was held under the theme "New Normal Ride Together", and collectively under the banner of helping the island's battered tourism industry to recover.

The event was jointly supported by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, with Tourism Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn attending the event's press launch last



Bike Week riders ready at Tha Chatchai for a rally around the island. Photo: PR Phuket

month in person.

Wittaya Singkala, Acting President of Phuket Bike Week Association, explained at the official opening ceremony on Saturday at The PlayYard Phuket in Mai Khao, the home for this year's Bike Week festivities, that the event aimed "to focus on promoting tourism with diversity, creativity and ready to convey the culture of the people who are happy, love big engines".

"People can travel here to see the beauty of the sea, the beautiful beaches of Phuket, while enhancing quality tourism and elevate the area as a world-class tourism destination," Mr Wittaya said.

The target group of big bike riders was one of high purchasing power, happy to spend on activities they enjoy, Mr Wittaya added.

"These types of tourists with high spending power are

what's needed to stimulate tourism after COVID-19," he said.

Also present at the official opening was Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong, along with people from many walks of life, including representatives from local government agencies in Phuket.

"Phuket Bike Week 2022 is considered a joint driving force in Phuket's tourism sector," V/Gov Pichet said.

"The event promotes the area as a world-class tourism hub that connects both sea and land tourism as one. The event also strengthens friendships and good relations between tourists who love big motorbikes from all over the world. This is another activity that can stimulate the tourism business of Phuket to recover stable and strong in the long term," V/Gov Pichet added.

The Phuket News

Thailand now open for business, says Prayut

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha used the recent Asean-US Special Summit in Washington, DC, to tell the world that Thailand is ready to welcome international travellers back with open arms.

Prayut described the visit in a Facebook post as an important opportunity to tell world leaders at the meeting last Friday (May 13) that Thailand has now fully reopened to international visitors and is moving towards a "Next Normal" in the post-COVID world.

Thailand is ready to welcome back visitors – whether they are business, leisure travellers, or those attending meetings or seeking medical care, he posted.

He said more than 300,000 travellers had visited Thailand one week after the Test & Go entry scheme was scrapped on May 1. Many more arrivals are expected from this month until September, and at least 1



Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha (centre) and representatives from Thailand at the US-Asean Special Summit in Washington, DC. Photo: Bangkok Post

million are tipped to visit during the high season between October and November, he added.

Prayut held talks with US president Joe Biden and other high-ranking officials on the issues of cooperation, support for growth and recovery in Asean, and Thailand's role as the host of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Summit in November.

Speaking after Friday's summit session, Prayut said he urged the US and all Asean leaders to drop their determination to compete and win against one another and focus

more on the humanitarian aspects of not only the Russia-Ukraine war but other issues as well.

"As for its role in the region, Thailand will concentrate on defusing conflicts and preventing confrontation," he said.

"We are willing to fully collaborate with every country in working toward the recovery of the economy and to ensure peace and security."

In his speech at the meeting, Prayut pointed to the need for Asean and the US to focus on building security, economic and climate frameworks.

Asean will need a strong mechanism to build trust among its members before an ideal security landscape can be built to facilitate the region's economic recovery and sustainable growth, he said.

New digital technology and strong supply chains will become driving forces in building a better economic landscape, he added.

The trip also helped assure the US private sector that Thailand is on the road to economic recovery and is ready to rejoin the global supply chain and contribute to digital economy transformation, sustainable development and clean energy, said Prayut.

Biden heralded the meeting a success, saying: "We're launching a new era in US-Asean relations... that is meaningful, substantive, and mutually beneficial."

To show its commitment to Asean, the Biden administration pledged over US\$150 million (B5.2 billion) of investment for maritime security, infrastructure and other initiatives.

Visitors must still face wear masks after COVID becomes endemic

BANGKOK

THE NATIONAL Communicable Diseases Committee has started to discuss post-pandemic plans, including requirements for visitors to keep wearing face masks.

Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said after chairing the committee's meeting on May 11 that the panel was considering measures to control COVID-19 after it becomes endemic.

New cases and fatalities had dropped faster than expected because of public cooperation and increasing vaccinations, said Anutin.

Steps were taken during the meeting to prepare the redefinition of COVID-19 as endemic including lowering the COVID-19 alert from Level 4 to Level 3 and provincial authorities asked to prepare their own action plans.

The plans would be based on universal protection, universal vaccination and the adequacy of hospital beds, doctors, medical supplies and vaccines.

The Department of Disease Control (DDC) has also been asked to seek effective COVID-19 measures if night-



Anutin. Photo: Bangkok Post

clubs, bars and other night entertainment venues are allowed to reopen, said Anutin.

The Thailand Pass entry registration for arrivals could be lifted because new infections were being found in fewer than 10 visitors a day, he added. However, the DDC would plan measures to encourage foreign tourists to wear face masks at all times to help control COVID-19.

"Right now controlling the disease is not a problem but controlling people's behaviour is. We still need to encourage people to put on face masks," said Anutin.

New COVID-19 cases declined for the fifth consecutive day on Monday (May 16) when the daily caseload of 3,893 was the lowest since Jan 4th.

Bangkok Post



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When Sharks Attack

Three easy steps to survive and thrive in the ocean

Daren Jenner,
Thailand Section Chief,
International Surf Lifesaving Association

As the debate rages on whether a shark or barracuda attacked 8-year-old Naphat Khrystencko at Kamala Beach on May 1, the lessons to be learned have been buried in the sand.

KNOW THE FACTS

Worldwide, your chance of being attacked by a shark while enjoying the ocean is 1 in 11.5 million, and the chance of dying from a bite is less than 1 in 264 million annually, according to the University of Florida's International Shark Attack File.

The International Shark Attack File is a compilation of all known shark attacks. The file is administered by the Florida Museum of Natural History and the American Elasmobranch Society, a professional organisation of international workers studying sharks, skates and rays. Compared to a shark attack, a typical beachgoer is 75 times more likely to be killed by lightning, and 450 times more likely to drown in a rip current.

During my eight years of service as an ocean lifeguard on Phuket's beaches, there were two suspected shark attacks islandwide, with zero fatalities. In that same time frame, 253 people died, and 417 more were seriously injured in ocean drowning incidents. Rip currents were, by far, the number one cause of injuries and death at Phuket's beaches.

UNDERSTAND PREDATOR BEHAVIOUR

Predatory fish in the ocean bite for two main reasons,

both related to survival: to eat, and to defend themselves. Barracudas and sharks do not purposefully target humans for food. If this were the case, there wouldn't be many survivors once a bite is initiated. Yet, according to the Florida Museum Worldwide Shark Attack (USA) summary, only 12% of unprovoked shark attacks on humans in 2021 were fatal.

"Most sharks are not dangerous to humans – people are not part of their natural diet," says the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (USA). To help explain this, a recent study has confirmed that sharks can mistake humans for their natural prey due to poor vision and murky water. The lead author, Dr Laura Ryan, said in a statement, "... white sharks have much lower visual acuity than us, meaning they cannot see fine details, and lack colour vision." This explains why the vast majority of shark attacks on humans are limited "investigation" bites, and end in the shark swimming away.

This is the most likely explanation for the recent incident at Kamala Beach. The water at Kamala is often murky, which led to a case of mistaken identity and an initial investigation bite. The encounter then abruptly ended.

REDUCE YOUR RISK

To reduce the remote possibility of a marine predator bite even further, take the following precautions:

- ~ Avoid swimming in murky water, or at dawn or dusk
- ~ Don't swim near schools of fish or where people are fishing
- ~ Avoid swimming near river and klong outlets after heavy rains
- ~ Swim near a lifeguard
- ~ Avoid wearing jewelry



- ~ Avoid excess splashing
- ~ Swim with a buddy
- ~ If in doubt, don't go out

Now that you know the facts, be ocean smart, and enjoy Phuket's beautiful beaches safely.

Learn more about snorkeling and surfing safety on Phuket's beaches.



Daren Jenner is the International Marine Safety Officer, Thailand Section Chief, International Surf Lifesaving Association. He worked on the front lines as an ocean lifeguard on Phuket for eight years, and is the author of numerous water safety articles for The Phuket News.



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One Phuket Sustainability Fair and Lean On Me Live Fest 2

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On the 18th of June, One Phuket hosts not one, but two events at the White House at the Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina. The two events are to raise awareness around living sustainably in Phuket, and to raise funds for the island's local charities and foundations through One Phuket.

The first event, the One Phuket Sustainability Fair, starts at 11am and will see a true community collaboration between Sustainable Maikhao Foundation, Phuket SWAP, the Phuket Academy of Performing Arts, Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina and individual members of One Phuket. The Fair will have an outdoor eco market, swap shop and a variety of food vendors. Entry to the Fair will be B200 per adult and B50 for children under 12.

Inside the marquee will see sustainability companies and organisations, charities, schools and artists exhibiting their products and programmes, as well as sustainability workshops and talks.

All Phuket students and school grades have been invited to enter the One Phuket Sustainable Art Contest. Group and class entries should be made



The Sustainable Maikhao Foundation has been instrumental in organising cleanups in the Mai Khao area.

from ocean trash, whilst individual entries can be presented in any medium. From 1pm the art entries will be judged and winning pieces will be auctioned off to raise funds for local charities and foundations. Individual entries will be taken with a B100 donation per entry, and group or class entries will be taken with a B500 donation.

On the day there will be various activities for kids to take part in, including a skating area.

The second event, the Lean On Me Live Fest 2, will start at 3pm inside the air-conditioned marquee. This too has

seen the local community band together with 12 bands offering up their services and local sound and production company MM Productions sponsoring the full sound system, lights and backline.

The local bands include performances from school bands, The Ozone Kids Band, Senior Citizens and Midnight Pickles, where after the flurry of the islands professional gigging bands will take to the stage.

These will include February Cherry (Hard Rock Café), Rockin' Angels (Rockin' Angels Blues Bar), The Naughties (Coconut Bar Rawai), Gypsy Sun (Michael Angelo's Bar), Moody Paul, Colin



Colin 'Illy' Hill is just one of the top artists to take to the stage of the Lean on Me Fest 2 event.

'Illy' Hill, The FUZZtonez and Curious Itch. Original disco band Dark Fiber will complete the evening's lineup.

For information on the eco market and swap shop contact Sarah at phuketswapshop@gmail.com

For information on exhibiting at the event contact Cynthia at cynthia@projectfiasco.com

To register and enter the Sustainable Art Contest contact Michelle at sustainablemaikhao@gmail.com

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POP QUIZ

1. Which Hollywood actor has a son genuinely named Kal-El (as in Superman)?
2. What is footballer Cristiano Ronaldo's full name?
3. Which cathedral contains the world's oldest working clock and the best surviving copy of the four original Magna Cartas?
4. In which year did the General Assembly of the World Health Organisation (WHO) eliminate homosexuality from the list of psychiatric diseases?
5. Syracuse, New York is named after a city on which Italian isle?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Hard

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

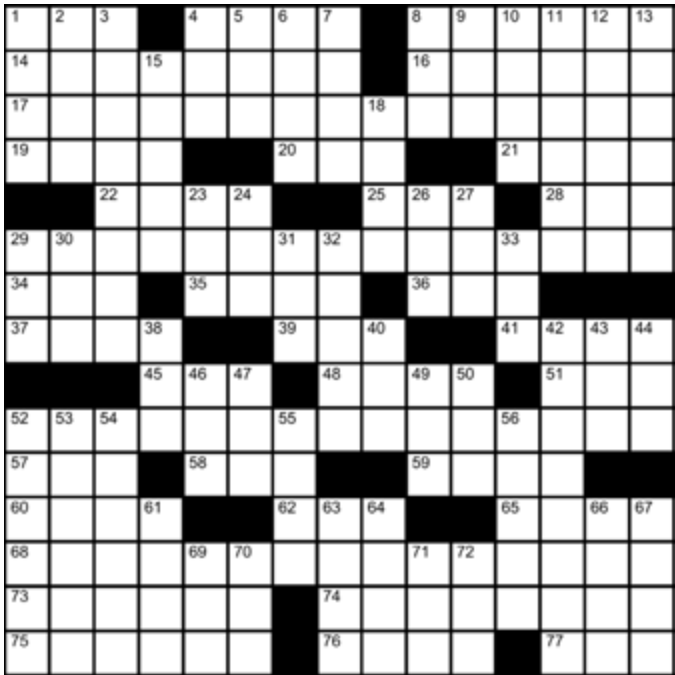
Across

1. "___ be my pleasure!"
4. Enthralled
8. Quickly, in music
14. Medieval lord
16. Squares things
17. Rental papers
19. Exec's note
20. Unfamiliar
21. Circular opening?
22. That certain something
25. Carbonium, e.g.
28. Call
29. Home business
34. Singer DiFranco
35. Doorpost
36. Ending of the Bible
37. Houston ___
39. BET alternative
41. Cork's place
45. "___-Hoo," 1959 rockabilly song
48. Colossal
51. '60s hot spot
52. Vacation spots
57. Fertility clinic stock
58. Half a score
59. Shed
60. Race's end
62. "___ Me," Withers hit
65. Kind of store
68. Don McLean song

Down

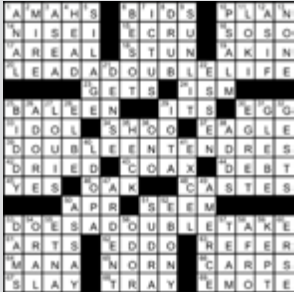
1. Prayer leader
2. Cash register part
3. Sea rescue adjective
4. Carney or Monk
5. School of whales
6. Beehive, e.g.
7. Tierney
8. "Dog Day Afternoon" character
9. Adaptable truck, for short
10. Drag queen's collection
11. Supplement
12. Swarming one
13. Make rigid
15. Crack filler
18. ___ Towers
23. Rule opposed by Gandhi
24. Palindromic title
26. Dedicated lines
27. Mongongo
29. Blackguard
30. Wallet find

31. Low-fat meat
32. "Ghosts" writer
33. Wolf or devil preceder
38. Have chits out
40. Clever
42. Get going
43. Tore
44. German river
46. Many a time
47. It needs refinement
49. Diamonds
50. Engine part
52. Diet
53. Do the Wright thing
54. Certain topographies
55. Cross
56. Bathroom cleaner?
61. Greek consonants
63. Be a rat
64. Chemical compound
66. Appearance
67. Stumbles
69. Fabrication
70. Chemical ending
71. Even if, briefly
72. Not square



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

4

months of the life of the average American driver is spent waiting for red lights to turn green.

38

restaurants only in the entire US serve genuine Japanese Kobe beef. It can cost more than \$200 for a steak.

40

percent of food produced in the US is never eaten, while 1 in 8 American households can't afford an appropriate food supply.

1904

was the year the modern T-shirt was created. It was marketed to single men who didn't know how to sew or replace buttons.

4,000

lattes was the order placed with Starbucks by Steve Jobs when making the first public call from an iPhone. He then said "just kidding" and hung up.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Enjoying Bang Tao Beach. Photo by Natalia Shamina

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

This week in history

May 20, 1871

French troops invade the Paris Commune and engage its residents in street fighting. By the end of "Bloody Week", 20,000 communards had been killed and 38,000 arrested.

May 21, 1455

Start of the Wars of the Roses: At the First Battle of St Albans, Richard, Duke of York, defeats and captures King Henry VI of England.

May 22, 2017

Twenty-two people are killed at an Ariana Grande concert in the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing (23, if including the bomber).



Bonnie and Clyde.

May 23, 1934

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

May 24, 1883

The Brooklyn Bridge in New York City is opened to traffic after 14 years of construction.

May 25, 1977

Chinese government removes a decade-old ban on William Shakespeare's work, effectively ending the Cultural Revolution started in 1966.

May 26, 1887

Dracula, a novel by Irish author Bram Stoker, is published.

Source: Wikipedia

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SUN
22
MAY




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 AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (AMCHAM), British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber of Commerce, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC) and Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce, invite you to join us for Phuket Sundowners to be held on Friday 10th June, 2022, at the Angsana Laguna Phuket. Please register in advance, as walk-ins are not allowed for this event. Limited spaces, please book early to avoid disappointment COVID-19 Requirements: Attendees must be able to show proof of at least double vaccinated and a Negative test result (ATK/RT-PCR) conducted within 24 hours of arriving at the event. Cost: Baht 500 for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members. Baht 900 for non-members.

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PLATINUM JUBILEE CHARITY GALA DINNER
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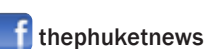
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GROW BOATING MAY 2022 NETWORKING EVENT

Another fun event, this month held at Royal Phuket Marina on Friday, May 6. Special thanks to the drinks sponsor for the evening, Thailand International Boat Show & JAND Events. The Thailand International Boat Show 2023 will take place at the award-winning Royal Phuket Marina January 12-15, 2023.

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Thai medal chase at SEA Games

SEA GAMES

Bangkok Post

Thailand swept the men's and women's 4x100 metre relay titles at the 31st SEA Games in Vietnam Monday night (May 16) to maintain second place in the overall medal table.

At time of press, Thailand had won 35 gold, 38 silver and 51 bronze for an overall total of 124, still some 70 short of leaders Vietnam and 17 ahead of third-placed Philippines.

Supawan Thipat, Supanich Poolkerd, On-uma Chattha and Athicha Phetkum clocked 44.39 seconds to win gold in the women's 4x100m in Hanoi on Monday, edging Vietnam and Malaysia. It was Thailand's 24th title in the event in 31 Games.

Earlier, the Thai men – Chayut Kongprasit, Sora-at Dabang, Siripol Phanpae and Puripol Boonson – sealed the gold in a SEA Games record time of 38.58sec.

Thailand's Joshua Robert Atkinson won his third gold medal of the Games in the men's 800m title. The Australian-Thai clocked 1 minute 55secs ahead of Jirayu



The Thai women's 4x100m team celebrate their gold medal victory on Monday (May 16). Photo: SAT Facebook

Pleenaram as the Kingdom finished one-two in the event.

With the 800m win, Joshua became the first runner to claim three golds at one Games in nine years. On Sunday, he had secured gold medals in the 400m and mixed 4x400m relay events.

Elsewhere, in the women's discus throw, Thailand's Subenrat Insaeng comfortably claimed the gold medal with an attempt of 53.09 metres.

In gymnastics, Thailand's Sasiwimon Mueangphuan and

Indonesia's Rifda Irfanaluthfi were joint winners in the women's floor exercise as they both scored 12.70 points.

Earlier Monday, Thailand's Adilan Chemaeng beat Vietnam's Nam Nguyen Trung Phuong 3-0 in the final of the men's standing Class D (60-65kg) in pencak silat.

The Kingdom won seven gold medals on Sunday with success in sepak takraw, mountain biking, tennis, athletics and petanque.

In sepak takraw, Thailand

won both men's and women's team regu gold medals. The men's team defeated Cambodia 3-0 in the last of their round-robin competition to claim the title as the women's team defeated bronze medalists Malaysia 3-0 to claim gold.

In mountain biking, Methasit Boonsane won the men's downhill individual event with a time of 3 mins and 6 secs and Vipavee Deekaballes landed the silver in the women's event after crossing the

finish line in 3 mins 42 secs.

Tennis stars Luksika Kumkhum and Anchisa Chanta combined to win the women's team gold after a 2-0 victory over Vietnam while men's shot putter Jakkapat Noisri won silver with a throw of 17.32 metres.

In petanque, Ratchata Khamdee and Aekkarin Kaewla won men's doubles title after they beat Cambodia in the gold medal match and bodybuilders Wanchai Kanjanapimine and Siriporn Sornchuay won silver in the mixed pairs (open) event.

However, it was disappointment for Baison Maneeakon, one of Thailand's top hopes in boxing, after her 69kg division was cancelled because there were only two participants.

The 2020 Olympian would have made her SEA Games debut in Vietnam.

WAR ELEPHANTS REACH SEMIS

The Thai men's football team reached the semi-final of the competition after emphatic 5-0 wins against Singapore and Cambodia and a 1-0 victory over Laos saw them finish top of Group B.

They advance to face Indonesia in the semi-final, scheduled to be played yesterday (May 19).

"We have achieved our target of reaching the semi-finals," said Thailand coach Manu Polking after qualification was secured. "I am happy that we have stuck to our style and done well in the tournament."

Elsewhere, there was controversy as Singapore's Olympic hero Joseph Schooling had his first gold of the Games dramatically snatched away when their sprint relay team were disqualified on Saturday after one of their swimmers had left his blocks early at a changeover.

Schooling, 26, stunned Michael Phelps to win the 2016 Olympic 100 metre butterfly title and has won 27 SEA Games golds, along with three Asian Games golds.

The disqualification ends Singapore's winning streak in SEA Games 4x100m freestyle relays dating back to 2001.

Malaysia finished second but were also disqualified for the same offence which left hosts Vietnam to take the gold with silver for Indonesia and bronze going to Thailand.



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Title is Man City's to lose

FOOTBALL

Kieran Canning

Manchester City came from 2-0 down to salvage a vital point in a 2-2 draw at West Ham on Sunday (May 15) to keep their Premier League title hopes in their own hands.

City travelled to the London Stadium knowing they needed a maximum of four points from their final two games of the season to guarantee a fourth title in five years.

However, the Hammers took full advantage of City's injury crisis at the back as the pace and poise of Jarrod Bowen put Liverpool right back in the title race.

Pep Guardiola was without Ruben Dias, John Stones and Kyle Walker and a makeshift defence was easily cut open on the counter-attack with Bowen scoring twice before half-time.

Jack Grealish came up with the biggest goal of his City career so far just four minutes into the second half to start the comeback before an unfortunate own-goal from West Ham's Vladimir Coufal levelled the scores.

Guardiola's men missed the chance to secure all three points and move to the brink of the title when Riyad Mahrez's penalty was saved by Lukasz Fabianski four minutes from time.

At time of press City were four points clear of Liverpool at the top of the table, with the quadruple-chasing Reds playing their game in hand away to Southampton on Tuesday (May 17).



Jack Grealish scored a vital goal to spark a Manchester City comeback at West Ham on Sunday (May 15). Photo: Justin Tallis / AFP

"Now there is no debate about goal difference, just win our game and we will be champions," said Guardiola.

"Our stadium will be sold out and we will give all our lives to do it. It's an incredible chance to win one game to be champions," he added.

Elsewhere, Harry Kane's penalty moved Spurs into fourth with a nervy 1-0 win over Burnley as Arsenal blew the chance to go above their north London rivals, losing 0-2 at Newcastle on Monday.

Defeat at Spurs saw Burnley drop into the relegation zone after Leeds snatched a late 1-1 draw at home to Brighton.

Burnley now need something from their final two games to survive as Pascal Struijk's late leveller at Elland Road gave Leeds hope.

Everton are also still in a three-way battle to beat the drop after having two men sent off in a 3-2 home defeat to Brentford.

Dominic Calvert-Lewin put the Toffees in front before Jarrad Branthwaite was dismissed for pulling down Ivan Toney on 18 minutes.

Seamus Coleman's own goal levelled for the Bees, but Everton led again at half-time thanks to Richarlison's penalty.

Two goals in two minutes from Yoane Wissa and Rico Henry turned the game around and Everton's misery was compounded by a late red card for Salomon Rondon.

Everton were due to host Crystal Palace yesterday (May 19) while Burnley travelled to Aston Villa. AFP



Liverpool players celebrate with the FA Cup. Photo: AFP

Liverpool win FA Cup after dramatic penalty shoot-out

FOOTBALL

JURGEN KLOPP HAILED his "mentality monsters" as Liverpool held their nerve to win the FA Cup after a dramatic penalty shoot-out against Chelsea kept the quadruple chasers' history bid alive last Saturday (May 14).

Klopp's side won 6-5 on penalties at Wembley as Greek defender Kostas Tsimikas was the unlikely hero with the decisive kick after Alisson Becker kept out Mason Mount's effort.

A hard-fought final had finished a 0-0 draw after extra-time, setting the stage for a nerve-jangling shoot-out.

For the second time this season, Liverpool emerged victorious against Chelsea on penalties, having already beaten them 11-10 following another 0-0 draw in the League Cup final in February.

Liverpool's first FA Cup triumph since 2006 keeps them in the hunt to become the first English team to win all four major trophies in a single season.

"It was an incredible, intense game," Klopp said. "We are mentality monsters but there were mentality monsters in blue as well. Chelsea played outstanding but in the end there must be one winner and that was us today."

Liverpool have won both domestic cups in the same season for the first time since 2000-01, with Klopp getting his hands on the famous old trophy for the first time.

Even if they are unable to win a second league title in three seasons, with Manchester City looking likely to retain their title, they could still cap an astonishing campaign by winning the Champions League final against Real Madrid in Paris on May 28. AFP

Rugby opens new frontier by picking USA as World Cup hosts

RUGBY

THE RUGBY WORLD CUP WILL BE staged in the United States for the first time in 2031 after the game's governing body named the host nations for five men's and women's tournaments last Thursday (May 12).

Australia will hold the men's World Cup in 2027 with the women's tournaments going to England (2025), Australia (2029) and the United States (2033).

By taking the showpiece to North America, officials hope to grow the sport in a non-traditional rugby nation and make a dent in a lucrative market dominated by home-grown sports such as American football, baseball, basketball and ice hockey.

"Today, we have approved three exceptional Rugby World Cup host nations – England, Australia and USA – providing unprecedented certainty and an unparalleled opportunity to accelerate the growth and impact of rugby globally," said World Rugby chairman Bill Beaumont.

"It is great for rugby, for fans and for the host nations."

USA Rugby chief executive Ross Young said: "We look forward to partnering with World Rugby in the years ahead to ensure that our preparations for these tournaments and the events themselves are a paradigm-shifting catalyst for the growth of our sport, not only here in the United States



Rugby officials are hoping to grow the sport in North America. Photo: AFP

but around the world."

The hope is that by 2031 the Eagles – as the US men's team are known – might be competitive enough to match the achievement of 2019 hosts Japan, another emerging rugby union nation who reached the last eight of their home World Cup three years ago.

The Eagles, however, have yet to qualify for next year's World Cup in France, with the team facing Chile in a two-legged qualifier in July.

Australia last staged the World Cup in 2003 when the Wallabies were beaten in the final by England.

"We're beyond thrilled to be welcoming not one, but two Rugby World Cups to our shores," said Rugby Australia chairman Hamish McLennan.

Sue Day, the chief operating officer of England's Rugby Football Union and former England captain, said: "We are thrilled to be hosting the 2025 women's World Cup – it's going to be incredible." AFP

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Sport



Good start for Thais at SEA Games > p14



MAGNIFIQUE!

Phuket's golfing sensation Louise Landgraf selected for French national team

Louise will be representing her father's home country of France in an upcoming junior tournament. Photo: Supplied

GOLF

Ben Tirebuck

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

The story of young Phuket-based golfing sensation Louise Landgraf continues to go from strength to strength after she was invited to represent the French girls national team at under-14 age level.

The invitation, which she accepted, came after Louise won the U-14 French International Golf Championships at the Chantilly Le Vineuil Golf Club near Paris on Apr 22-24, which she competed in during the school break. She qualifies to represent France thanks to her father Marc, a French national.

The win also means the 13-year-old Year 8 student

from British International School, Phuket (BISP) qualifies for the Amundi Evian Golf Junior Masters to be held on Sept 20-22 at the Evian Golf Club in France.

Louise started slowly on her first round at the Chantilly Le Vineuil course on Apr 22 as her 8am start coincided with a chilly temperature of around 4°C, something the Phuket native is very much unfamiliar with!

However, she soon settled to finish the round on a respectable score of 76, 5 shots over par but only 2 shots off the lead.

Perhaps having become slightly more acclimatised to the cooler weather conditions and therefore comfortable with her game, Louise's talent started to shine through on her second round as she

shot a total of 4 birdies and 3 bogeys with a score of 1 under par 70 to claim the lead and finally a 3rd round score of 72 (+1) to ultimately win by 4 shots.

Chantilly Le Vineuil is renowned as an uncompromising course and to finish under par is always considered a great achievement by its members and guests. Clearly Louise had found her groove when it mattered most.

Now back in Phuket, Louise is preparing herself for the USA Summer Golf Tour where she will play a total of four tournaments in the 13-14 age group of the girl's division over a period of four weeks.

The itinerary includes the Sean Foley Junior World Star of Golf on the Palm Course at Angel Park Golf Club in Las Vegas on June 28-30,

which Louise will go into with particular confidence having won there last year.

On July 6-7 she will compete in the FCG International Junior Championship at the St Mark Golf Course in San Marcos, California, closely followed by the IMG Academy Junior World Championship at the Rancho Bernardo Country Club near San Diego on July 12-14.

Louise will round off her North American tour at the FCG Callaway Junior World Championship at the Desert Princess Golf Club in Palm Desert, California on July 18-20.

Naturally, Louise's parents will be accompanying her throughout the entirety of the trip.

Shortly after returning from the U.S. tour Louise

will then head to Evian to join the French U-14 girls national team for a training camp in August before she plays in two tournaments. The first takes place on Aug 20-21 closely followed by the Golf Junior Grand Prix U-14 at the Master Course in Evian on Aug 23-24.

Clearly Louise possesses a special talent but having the right support network is also key. Her parents have allowed her to pursue and develop her affiliation with golf at her pace and of her choosing, never pushing or pressurising her.

"From the very first day she picked up a golf club, we have encouraged and supported Louise but never pushed her," says Marc. "We support her to do whatever she wants and whatever she feels most comfortable with.

She simply loves playing golf and, as such, my wife and I have gladly supported her and will continue to do so."

She has been working with coach Sira Boonguer (aka Pro Noon) over the last three years and has recently been under the expert tutorship of Pawat Prachoomsrisakul (aka Pro Golf). Marc credits both coaches with really helping Louise develop and progress to reach the next level.

Louise is also affiliated with the Kempferhof Golf Club in Plobsheim, France and is advised by golf coaches and trackman experts Laurent Cabanne and Thierry Abbas, the "Cabbas" dream team.

We're pretty sure there will be yet another next level to come very soon so watch this space as Louise's remarkable story continues to unfold.

Wins for Sarun and Guxin in Beautiful Thailand Swing series

GOLF

SARUN SIRITHON WON A playoff to win the Laguna Phuket Cup last Monday (May 9) and Chen Guxin produced a stunning back-nine charge with seven birdies in his last eight holes to win the Blue Canyon Classic on Sunday (May 15).

Sarun, 27, finished tied -14 with Malaysia's Shahrifuddin Ariffin, the overnight leader, sending the second event in the Beautiful Thailand Swing series to extra holes.

The duo twice traded pars on

18 to send the playoff to the 9th tee in a switch up that proved third time lucky for Sarun as he sunk his putt for birdie and a breakthrough Asian Development Tour (ADT) victory, sealed with a modest little fist-pump.

"I am very happy. This is my first ADT win, my first professional win," said Sarun after posing with his cheque for US\$13,125 (B457,000).

"I've practiced very hard for this win so I feel great today with what this success means for my career," he added.

Thailand's Tawit Polthai fin-

ished solo third a stroke shy of the playoff on -13 while England's Joe Heraty stormed home with a 62 to head a three-way share of fourth place with the Thai duo of Vanchai Luangnitikul and Ekpharit Wu.

Meanwhile, China's Guxin won his maiden ADT and MENA Tour victory at the \$75,000 Blue Canyon Classic from overnight leader Denwit Boriboonsub on Sunday.

An eventual -8 score of 63 helped the 18-year-old from Hunan province set the clubhouse target at -16, a target Boriboonsub was unable to match.

The win was just Guxin's third

as a professional and the \$13,125 payday has propelled the teen to the summit of The ADT Order of Merit with a total of \$20,389 through four events.

"This is my first win outside of China which makes me very confident for the future," Guxin said of his lowest round as a professional.

"My big goal is I hope I can get onto the Asian Tour this year."

Witchayapat Sinsrang closed with a 67 to snare solo third place on -13, three shots shy of playing partner Guxin.

The fourth and final event in



Chen Guxin. Photo: Asian Tour

the Beautiful Thailand Swing series, the Blue Canyon Open, started on Wednesday (May 18) at Blue Canyon Country Club in Thalang.

The Phuket News