

**COVID RESTRICTIONS, PHUKET ENTRY RULES EXTENDED > PAGE 2**

# DETAINED



Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) inspects the old Phuket Prison in Phuket Town. Photo: PPHO

## HUNDREDS OF ASYMPTOMATIC INFECTED HELD AT 'CARE CENTRES' ON ATK TESTS ONLY

**The Phuket News**  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

More than 200 people across Phuket have been placed in quarantine custody at venues being called 'COVID-19 Care Centers' after testing positive for COVID-19 by rapid antigen test only.

The centres, also being called "community care centres", have been set up at four locations on the island, including at the old Phuket Prison on Damrong Rd in Phuket Town, where 500 mattresses on the floor have been set up in anticipation of a mass of people being held there.

The centres are for people who test positive for COVID-19 by "antigen test

kit" (ATK) and who are not suffering any signs of infection, Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) Chief Kusak Kukiattikoon said in announcing the launch of the initiative during a live broadcast online last week.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew was present for the announcement, and visited the old prison later that day (Aug 11).

Joining the the governor and Dr Kusak were Phuket Vice Governors Pichet Pananpong and Piyapong Choowong, along with Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office Director Nanthasiri Ronnasiri and other high-level provincial officers.

"Right now, the Phuket Governor and relevant officials together have

set up COVID Care Centers which will open today [Aug 11] for those who have tested positive via antigen test kits but are still healthy," Dr Kusak said.

"They do not need to see a doctor or be taken into local quarantine or even a field hospital, but we will send teams of medical staff to check them frequently," he added.

However, Dr Kusak gave no explanation of how long people living healthily with no signs of infection will be kept at the centres, and gave no explanation of how often they will be tested, or on which conditions they will be allowed to go home.

Previously, Phuket health officials allowed asymptomatic COVID

patients to self-quarantine at home.

Governor Narong said, "The main centre will be at our old Phuket prison, where there are no prisoners anymore. The building was developed [into a centre] over a couple of days by staff under control of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation [PPAO, or *OrBorJor*] President Rewat Areerob and Phuket City Mayor Saroj Angkanapilas," he added.

Centres have been set up in each of Phuket's three districts: at the old prison in Phuket Town to serve Muang District; at Wat Thepwanaram in Baan Manik and at Wat Phrathong, both to serve Thalung; and at the the Ramada by Wyndham Phuket Patong to serve Kathu District.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**NEWS** PAGE 3

**Phuket Town in lockdown waiting game**



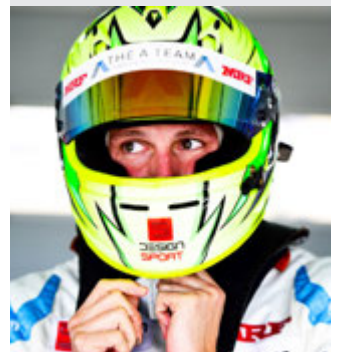
**LIFE** PAGE 9

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# News



**Outbreak  
greatest threat  
to Sandbox > p6**

## Island isolation measures extended

The Phuket News  
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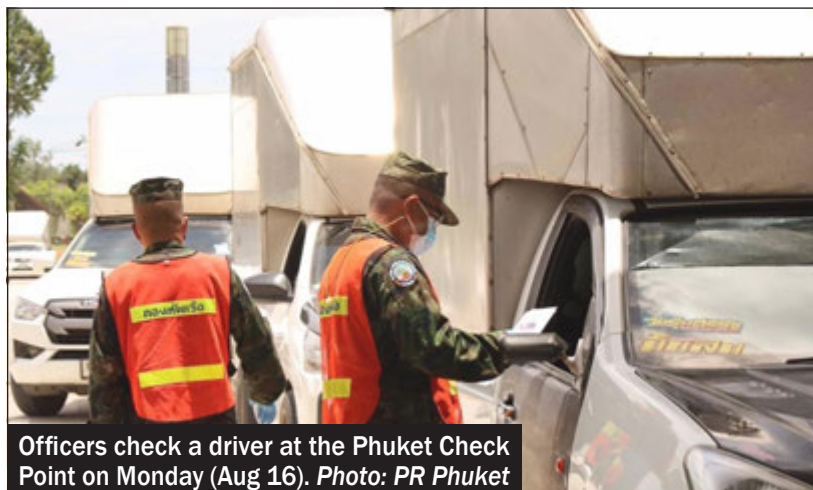
Measures adopted by Phuket officials to contain the spread of COVID-19 have been extended until Aug 31 under a new order issued by the Phuket Governor.

The order was issued by Governor Narong Woonciew and posted online just before 10pm last Saturday night (Aug 14). The order came into effect on Tuesday (Aug 17), when the previous order was set to expire, and will remain in effect until Aug 31.

Essentially, all restrictions remain in place as per the previous order including schools closed until the end of the month, 'risky' venues banned from serving alcohol and limitations on social gatherings in private residences and groups of no more than 50 people in public spaces.

The only real amendment to the pre-existing order is that residents of Phuket, those who work here permanently and tourists under the Sandbox scheme will now be allowed entry to Phuket.

Previously only emergency ser-



Officers check a driver at the Phuket Check Point on Monday (Aug 16). Photo: PR Phuket

vices, delivery drivers and those conducting essential urgent business in Phuket, including tourists heading directly to the airport to leave Phuket, or Thailand, from the airport, were allowed to enter.

Phuket Vice Governor Piyapong Choowong explained the key measures and other information, as follows:

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

"New exemptions will now apply for people who are registered as Phuket residents with a Phuket listed address

or people who work permanently in Phuket," said V/Gov Piyapong.

"This group of people can enter the island from Aug 17 after the measures come into effect. However, they still need to be fully vaccinated and test negative by RT-PCR or antigen rapid test within 72 hours before arriving in Phuket."

Being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 entails having received two doses of the Sinovac or Sinopharm vaccine, or one injection of the Sinovac vaccine and one injection of the AstraZeneca vaccine, or at

least one injection of the AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least 14 days before arriving.

Alternatively, arrivals must have been discharged from medical care for recovering from COVID-19 no more than 90 days before arriving.

"People who work permanently in Phuket must present a confirmation document, issued by the company they work for, to officers at the border checkpoint.

"The exemption will also include tourists under the Phuket Sandbox scheme. Tourists who complete their mandatory 14-day stay in Phuket can go out and return to Phuket. They must present the necessary documents to officers to prove that they are tourists under the scheme.

"We are also discussing measures which will see antigen test booths at the checkpoint to facilitate arrivals," V/Gov Piyapong added.

"Otherwise, the core of the order will remain the same, meaning that all arrivals of all kinds of vehicles from the mainland are to be refused entry to Phuket," V/Gov Piyapong said.

The checkpoint onto Phuket will

remain closed to all traffic except for emergencies from 11pm to 4am each night.

The closure of venues deemed 'risky' across the island will remain the same as Phuket is still classified as an 'orange-zone' province. V/Gov Piyapong confirmed that Phuket will continue to follow measures set down by the CCSA.

"Even though the Communicable Disease Committee discussed the possibility of lifting the ban of alcohol consumption in restaurants, we did not agree to lift the measure," he said.

"The serving and consumption of alcoholic beverages in restaurants and hotels will remain banned," he repeated.

Migrant workers are not permitted to enter or leave the province, V/Gov Piyapong said.

"Regular ATK or RT-PCR testing will be conducted and should the rate of infection rise above 10% of the total population of the camp then it will be placed into a bubble and seal lockdown.

"The District Chiefs will have direct ongoing contact with the camp managers in their areas," he added.

## 'COVID Care' becomes custody

Continued from page 1

"And yesterday [Aug 10], Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Governor Yuthasak Supasorn gave us 10,000 antigen test kits [which local officials call ATKs], which we will be used in the proactive screening [to identify COVID-positive people]," Governor Narong continued.

Governor Narong later on Aug 11 visited the prison to inspect conditions there, where 500 thin mattresses have been set up on the floor in the dormitory areas, shower curtains have been installed for privacy, pot plants have been placed to brighten the place up and curtains have been put up on many of the windows with bars.

The interior of the prison has been repainted and cleaned thoroughly, and many of the signs that were intended for prisoners have now been removed.

As of Monday this week (Aug 16), the PPHO reported that 204 asymptomatic patients were staying at the COVID centres after mass "proactive screening" was launched to test vendors and workers at the Phuket Town Fresh Market on Ranong Rd in Phuket Town, and local



PPHO Chief Dr Kusak (centre) at Phuket Prison. Photo: PPHO

residents in the area, which was placed under lockdown for seven days following a spate of infections that saw the market closed last week (see page 3).

By the time that the PPHO first reported the number of "ATK confirmed" infected, last Friday (Aug 13), there were already 136 people reported as being held at the shelters. On that day the PPHO reported just 26 people as "confirmed" infected by ATK tests.

The number of COVID inmates rose rapidly over the following two days, with 70 new cases reported last Saturday (Aug 14), but only 186 reported as being held at the shelters.

The next day, last Sunday (Aug 15), saw 78 cases reported, comprising 11 who tested positive in the proactive screening conducted in

communities and 67 who tested positive by ATK tests conducted on boats, according to the report.

However, the total number of people reported as being held at the centres totalled just 204.

By Monday this week (Aug 16) the number of new ATK cases plunged dramatically, with just seven new cases reported. Of note, the total number of people reported on Monday as being held at the centres still totalled just 204.

At the time of going to press the daily reports did not report how many people had been released from ATK detention at centres and allowed to go home.

The reports also did not confirm how many people who tested positive by ATKs were confirmed as infected with COVID-19 by RT-PCR tests.



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# Infections batter Phuket Town

**The Phuket News**  
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As of Tuesday (Aug 17), residents living in the heart of Phuket Town were waiting to see if the lockdown brought into force on Aug 11 would be lifted so they could resume their daily lives.

The lockdown was brought into force after a spate of infections at the Phuket Town Fresh Market 1 on Ranong Rd, leading to more than 100 confirmed cases in the area.

According to the order issued by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew last week, the lockdown, bound by the perimeter of Ranong Rd, Soi Phuthorn and Bangkok Rd, was due to expire at midnight Tuesday night (11:59pm, Aug 17).

Under the order, "No people are allowed to enter or leave the area, except for the delivery of food, cooking gas, medical equipment, as well as emergency ambulance and medical staff."

Twelve checkpoints were set up to guard the perimeter. "Officers from Phuket City Municipality, Phuket City Police, Royal Thai Navy Third



**More than 13,000 people living in the area or working at the markets were tested with antigen test kits in just two days last week as officials hoped to prevent more infections throughout the area. Photo: Phuket City Municipality**

Area Command and other relevant officers are assigned to standby at each checkpoint," the order noted.

"During the lockdown, officers from the Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) and Phuket City Municipality will test people in the area [for COVID-19] using RT-PCR tests or antigen test kits.

"Phuket City Municipality will deliver food and other essential goods for people in the area, and arrange for staff to clean and sanitise the markets," the order said.

However, whether or not the lockdown would be lifted depended on how many people tested positive on Tuesday in the mass community screening that had been underway since last week using 'antigen test kits' (ATKs), Mayor Saroj told *The Phuket News*.

"Right now, the area around the market is still under lockdown. To lift or remain the lockdown is under the authority of Phuket Communicable Disease Committee," he said.

"Today [Aug 17], we sent our officers and staff from the

Phuket City Medical Department to the market to conduct a second test of the people who work on the fourth floor of the fresh market. We have started testing Thai people from 9am and will test migrant workers from 1pm," he said.

"After receiving the results of the second test, we will report the results to the Phuket Public Health Office [PPHO] and the [Phuket Communicable Disease] committee, so they will consider whether they will lift the lockdown or not," he added.

"I would like to explain that not all vendors and people working in the Phuket Town Fresh Market 1 [on Ranong Rd] and at Phuket Town Fresh Market 2 [near Robinson department store] live in Phuket Town. Some of them are from other areas across the island, so the PPHO needs to check those people later," Mayor Saroj said.

Asked how many people in the area had been tested so far, Mayor Saroj said that he only knew that more than 1,000 people had been tested.

A health officer at Phuket City Municipality, who asked not to be named, last Friday (Aug 13) told *The Phuket News* that more than 1,300 people in the lockdown area already had been tested, leading to 55 people testing positive by antigen test kits.

"On Aug 11 [Wednesday], we tested 870 people in our proactive screening at the market and found 11 people infected, those were four Thais and seven migrant workers," she said.

"And yesterday [Thursday, Aug 12], we changed the location for the testing to the petanque venue at Saphan Hin. We tested 543 people,

those were 429 Thais and 114 migrant workers. Forty-four people, 21 Thais and 23 migrant workers, tested positive," the health officer added.

Health officers have also conducted spot checks in high-risk areas elsewhere in Phuket Town, with officers working into the night. Mass testing of 132 people in the Phooophon Night Plaza area, located outside the lockdown zone, found one new person infected, confirmed the PPHO in a separate report.

At the time of going to press, if the Phuket Communicable Disease Committee agreed to lift the lockdown on the lockdown zone, Phuket City Municipality Fresh Market 1 on Ranong Rd would have been allowed to open on Wednesday (Aug 18) after the order issued last week for it to close for seven days expired at midnight Tuesday night.

However, under extra orders issued so far, the Downtown Market across the road will remain closed through Sunday (Aug 22) and the Phuket City Municipality Fresh Market 1 will remain closed through Friday, set to reopen on Saturday (Aug 21).

## Police scan arrivals for outstanding warrants

REGION 8 POLICE CHIEF LT GEN Kitrat Panpetch this week donated 51 smart card readers and 20 smartphones to be used at the Phuket Check Point to ensure that no people wanting to come to Phuket are wanted on outstanding arrest warrants.

Lt Gen Kitrat Panpetch handed over the devices, which scan Thai ID cards, on Monday (Aug 16), with B14,359 given as the cost of the card readers, but no cost of the phones reported.

Present at the handover, Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Col Aganit Danpitaksat noted that the Phuket Check Point at Tha Chatchai had become a provincial disease screening point since the Phuket Sandbox scheme was launched on July 1.

"From a meeting with CCSA [the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration], the Royal Thai Police has ordered all officers at the checkpoint to use a Checkpoint Control system by using a Covid Control application," Col Aganit said.

"The application needs to be used with the card readers to check all drivers' criminal history and any outstanding arrest warrants. Therefore, we are introducing such a system to be used with hope of seeing concrete results. It also makes for a higher level of crime prevention, as well as boosting confidence among tourists coming to Phuket," he said.

Lt Gen Kitrat explained that the new system will shorten the time officers take checking drivers. "The phones and card readers work together to check for outstand-



**Lt Gen Kitrat assists officers with the devices. Photo: PR Phuket**

ing arrest warrants, the person's criminal history and their COVID-19 infection history. The information will be saved and shared in a 'Big Data' system of the Region 8 Police," he said.

"The system is also transparent and able to be examined, so we can create trust among tourists and local people very well," he added.

No mention was made at the handover that just nine days earlier national police chief Pol Gen Suwat Jangyodsuk ordered officers to check domestic arrivals to Phuket for elements of criminality after the murder of 57-year-old Swiss tourist Nicole Sauvain-Weisskopf, whose body was found near the Ao Yon Waterfall on Phuket's east coast on Aug 5. *The Phuket News*

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Wind 11 m/s

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High: +30°  
Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

THU AUG 26

High: +30°  
Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

## Layan squatters served arrest warrants

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Two squatters refusing to vacate state land at Layan Beach have been served arrest warrants for refusing an order issued by a government official, MaAnn Samran, Chief of Cherno Talay Tambon Administrative Organisation (*OrBorTor*) has confirmed.

The warrants were served after the Cherno Talay OrBorTor petitioned the court late last month, Mr MaAnn told *The Phuket News*.

Mr MaAnn confirmed that arrest warrants were issued for three people, but he only spoke of two people who he named only as Mr Akkarachai and Mr Leechua. Both had ignored all official notices to vacate the land they were illegally occupying, despite the Supreme Court ruling last year that the land they were on belonged to the state.

"For the case involving Mr Akkarachai, the court on July 22 asked him to pay B400,000 or B600,000, I'm not sure. The prosecutor had filed a request to deny bail," Mr MaAnn said in a hurried conversation.



Cherno Talay OrBorTor Chief MaAnn Samran busy overseeing the COVID-19 'proactive screening' mass testing in Cherno Talay. Photo: Cherno Talay OrBorTor

"As for Mr Leechua, the court has postponed his court date," he said.

Mr MaAnn met with officers from the Legal Execution Department (LED) to discuss whether workers can enter the properties and demolish any structures still standing.

"We need to look into this as the court has postponed one of the trial dates," he said.

The results of the meeting with the LED officials have yet to become known.

"We need to be very careful. Even though we have a good intention to get the land

back, when someone files a lawsuit and the court accepts the lawsuit, everyone is afraid because we need to pay bail ourselves," Mr MaAnn said.

"Officers at a previous meeting told me to wait until all the legal processes have been completed, and I told them

that I do not have any problems doing it that way, but I asked them whether that would take a long time," he said.

"Other people want me to wait because they are not locals born here, but I am. I want to clear the land for my local people. As a politician, I hope I can make a great benefit for my people," he added.

"I want to do so, but I cannot do it alone, as things are beyond my authority. I need to follow the orders of higher officials," Mr MaAnn said.

"For my part, I have already contacted a company to demolish the structures on the land. I am just waiting for other officials to be ready, so we can demolish the structures on the land and get our land back," he said.

Mr MaAnn noted that recent developments in the rising number of COVID cases on the island had disrupted the efforts to reclaim the land.

"Last week, we planned to go to examine the land again, but we did not because there was an outbreak of COVID-19 infections in Cherno Talay, and the *OrBorTor* office needed to be closed for two weeks," he said.

## Man shot, beaten in Patong attack

POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING an attack in Patong that saw a 23-year-old man being shot in the leg and hit on the head with a baseball bat.

Patong Police were first alerted to the attack by the 191 national police hotline at 5:45pm on Aug 11, after rescue workers from Kamala Tambon Administrative Organisation (*OrBorTor*) reported taking a wounded man to Patong Hospital.

The man, identified as Teepakorn Klaewban, 23, had been shot in the right thigh and had suffered an impact injury to the head. Teepakorn was later transferred to Bangkok Hospital Phuket in Phuket Town.

Officers returned to inspect the scene of the attack, on Soi Phra Baramee 9, the next day, where they recovered a plastic handgun modified to fire one round at a time and the baseball bat used in the attack after the items were reported found by a "good citizen" in the area.

At the scene was the Honda PCX motorbike that Teepakorn



Teepakorn Klaewban, 23, had been shot in the right thigh and had suffered an impact injury to the head. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

was riding when he was attacked.

Officers noted what appeared to be a bullet hole in the licence plate.

Patong Police reported that they have yet to question Teepakorn, noting that they hope to learn the motive for the attack.

The weapons found will be checked for fingerprints as part of their investigation, police reported.

Eakkapop Thongtub

## Fisheries worker killed in tragic accident

A MAN WAS KILLED IN PA Khlok last Friday (Aug 13) in a tragic accident when he was entangled and trapped in heavy-duty industrial machinery used to clean fishing nets.

The incident occurred at the Aquaculture Research and Development Center, Coastal Region 5, Phuket, in Moo 4, Pa Khlok.

Lt Col Thitiwat Asasing of the Thalang Police was notified of the accident around 3pm and proceeded to the scene immediately, joined by rescue workers and emergency service personnel.

On arrival, they discovered the body of 36-year-old Pongtap Wangsawiboon trapped head-first in the machine. It was instantly evident that Mr Pongtap, who worked as an officer at the Department of Fisheries, was already dead.

It took staff from the Kusoldharm Foundation over 30 minutes to free Mr Pongtap's body by using equipment. Once freed, his body was taken to hospital for further examination.

Work colleague Somboon Kanungkarn, 36, who was operating the machinery with Mr Pongtap at the time of the accident, recalled they had collected fishing nets from cages



Rescue workers and emergency services personnel at the scene. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

at the nearby pier and were preparing the heavy-duty cleaning machine. Whereas he did not see exactly what had happened, Mr Somboon believes his colleague may have slipped and fallen into the machine which then pulled him in.

On realising the desperate situation, Mr Somboon managed to hit the emergency stop button on the machine. He called to co-workers for help and they tried to retrieve the body but were unable.

Mr Somboon confirmed that he and Mr Pongtap had worked at the facility for over 10 years and never had any difficulties before. He was shocked and vowed to take more care in the workplace in future after the sad demise of his friend.

Eakkapop Thongtub



# PPAO seeks B21mn for COVID support measures

The Phuket News  
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The Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO, or *Or-BorJor*) council has agreed to request B21 million to develop COVID-support services at the Phuket Provincial Hospital and a further B14mn to develop the Promthep Cape 'skywalk' and the 'glass terrace' viewpoint project at Surin beach.

The news came at the PPAO Council budget meeting on Aug 11 chaired by PPAO Council Chairman Hat Katanchareekul, where it was agreed to request a total budget of B999 million for the fiscal year 2022.

Present at the meeting were PPAO President Rewat Areerob, council members and other officials.

Mr Rawat revealed after the meeting that the PPAO needs to transfer B39,522,838 from the budget allocated this year to fiscal 2022, which begins on Oct 1.

The B39mn has been earmarked for 'new investment' projects in the next fiscal year,



PPAO President Rewat Areerob at the meeting on Aug 11. Photo: PPAO

including B25,315,000 to be spent on construction of a residential building for PPAO officers, he said.

"The amount of B7,890,750 is to be spent on the design and other actions for the skywalk at Promthep Cape in Rawai, and B6,313,088 is to be spent on the glass terrace at Surin Beach in Cherng Talay," he said.

A further B40,130,000 will be spent on projects presented by the PPAO's Public Health Department and the Transport Department, he added.

"The Public Health Department

needs at total B21.13mn for their projects," Mr Rewat explained.

B9.95mn is to be spent on construction of a 'multifunctional building' at Phuket Provincial Hospital (locally called the 'OrBorJor Hospital'). The PPAO owns the buildings and the site the hospital stands on, but the services provided by the hospital are provided by the Thonburi Hospital group.

"A budget of B9.9mn [is needed] for the development of intensive care units (ICU) and negative pressure rooms, and

B40,000 for the development of the building for persons under investigation (PUI)," Mr Rewat added.

B1.24mn is to be spent on developing a '1669 Emergency Center', he noted. The 1669 hotline is the national emergency number specifically for emergency medical services coordinated nationwide by the Narenthorn EMS Center.

"The Transport Department [of the PPAO] needs B19mn budget for development of piers across the island," Mr Rewat said.

## Foreign woman rescued from dangerous surf

LIFEGUARDS AT SURIN Beach in Cherng Talay are urging all beachgoers to swim only between the red-yellow flags after a foreign woman was rescued from a dangerous rip current last week.

The foreign woman, rescued late on the afternoon of Aug 12, was brought safely back to shore at about 5:45pm, one lifeguard at the beach, who asked not to be named, told *The Phuket News*.

"The woman appeared to have been drinking [alcohol] before entering the water," he said.

The woman had also entered the water in an area marked with red 'no swimming' flags, he added.

"We had already installed red flags along the beach and warned the woman not to swim in the dangerous area near the rocks, but she did not follow our warnings," the lifeguard added.

"She was caught in a rip current which took her away from shore," he said.

After the woman was safely back on the beach she was administered oxygen to help her recover from exhaustion, he noted.

"While we were going



The woman was caught in a dangerous rip current near the rocks at the beach. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

to help her, a foreign man came to us and told us that he would go to help her. We spent a while telling him to stay on the beach and let us do our job because the waves were strong," the lifeguard continued.

"I understand his good intention, but we did not want to rescue another person," he added.

"To all beachgoers, if we set flags marking areas where it is safe to swim, please swim only in the areas marked and follow lifeguards' suggestions," he said.

"For those who come to the beach with children, do not let them swim alone. Take care of your children, don't just relax and eat, keep an eye on them," he said.

Additional reporting by  
Eakkapop Thongtub

## Sandbox Express Bus extended

THE 'SANDBOX EXPRESS Bus' has been extended to continue taking Sandbox tourists from Phuket to Suvarnabhumi airport in Bangkok until at least Aug 30, and Sandbox tourists can now also choose to take a private minivan to the capital, officials confirmed.

The extended and expanded services were announced through the "Official Phuket Information Center", operated by the Phuket office of the Ministry of Interior, on Monday (Aug 16), the same day that the service was initially scheduled to cease operations.

The bus will continue to operate every Monday, Thursday and Saturday, costing B1,800 per person per trip.

Shared vans also now depart every Monday, Thursday and Saturday, costing B2,300 per person in a van shared among six passengers, a staffer operating the Sandbox Express Bus contact line confirmed to *The Phuket News*.

If a passenger prefers, he or she can hire a van to occupy all by his or herself, at



The Sandbox Express Bus to Suvarnabhumi will continue until Aug 30.

a cost of B13,500, and travel on the day he or she prefers, the staffer also confirmed.

The bus itself will continue to pick up passengers from Central Festival Phuket at 5am and from the PTT petrol station in Thalang at 5:30am. The bus is scheduled to arrive at Suvarnabhumi airport at about 9pm the same day.

To reserve a seat on a bus, passengers must submit documents to the SHA Plus Manager at the hotel or other accommodation venue where they are staying with the following details:

- Passenger's email and phone number
- Destination (Suvarnabhumi International Airport or the destination province)
- Flight (if available)

• Date of flight (if applicable)

• RT-PCR or Rapid Antigen Test results no later than 72 hours before departure (if not a passenger from the Phuket Sandbox project); or a Release Form if the passenger is from the Phuket Sandbox project

• Copy of passport and immigration stamp

• Immigration entry document number

The SHA Plus Manager will reserve a seat on a certified vehicle so that the passenger can travel out of the province. The documents listed above will still need to be submitted to the SHA Plus Manager.

All bookings for the bus for Phuket Sandbox tourists must be made via the SHA Plus Manager at the passenger's SHA Plus hotel. Bookings are open daily from 8:30am to 4pm.

"Please reserve your seat before 12:00 (noon) one day before departure," the announcement said.

Call Ms May at 093-5800889 or Khun Panya at 086-4927882 for details.

*The Phuket News*

## Baby with COVID mum delivered safe

DOCTORS AT VACHIRA PHUKET Hospital have safely delivered a baby boy via a cesarean section conducted on his mother, who is infected with COVID-19.

The mother, a 30-year-old Myanmar woman, was full term at 39 weeks into her pregnancy. Her newborn baby boy, her second child, was delivered at 12:50pm Monday (Aug 16).

Both mother and child were in safe condition, with the newborn boy healthy, doctors reported. The hospital declined to name the mother or the child.

This was the fourth time doctors had safely delivered a baby by caesarean section for pregnant COVID patients, the hospital reported, with mother and child safe on all four occasions.

"In this operation, the anesthesiologist



Photo: Vachira Phuket Hospital

used an intrathecal anesthetic, or posterior block. This method does not cause the spread of infection. It is safe for both the patient and the child, and medical personnel.

"The pediatricians have taken care of the child from birth and moved him to an isolation ward for close monitoring. The chances of a child becoming infected from the womb are very low," the hospital added. *The Phuket News*

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# Outbreak the greatest threat

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The rate of COVID-19 infections across the island is the greatest threat to the Phuket Sandbox scheme, with the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) ready to launch a campaign specifically targeting US arrivals to stabilise the number of arrivals under the project, TAT Phuket Director Nanthasiri Ronnasiri has announced.

Speaking at the daily COVID situation meeting led by Governor Narong Woonciew on Aug 11, Ms Nanthasiri noted that bookings had continued well for the first 10 days of August.

"It is a good sign. In only 10 days there are already bookings for more than 140,000 room nights. It is expected that if the COVID-19 outbreak can be controlled well this high season [Oct-Feb], the economy may grow," she said.

Alluding to the killing of Phuket Sandbox tourist Nicole Sauvain-Weisskopf, Ms Nanthasiri noted that "many situations occurred during the past week". However, she added that news of Ms



The arrival of the first direct flight bringing tourists from Hong Kong on Aug 10 was hailed as good news. Photo: AoT Phuket

Sauvain-Weisskopf's death echoing around the world so far has had little effect on Sandbox bookings, adding that TAT Phuket had contacted TAT branches in 29 countries around the world to assess the impact on tourists' concerns.

"Initially, it has had no effect. This is consistent with the number of bookings that are still increasing. July closed with 190,000 room nights booked. As for this

month [August], it has been a good start... Only 10 days in, total bookings reached 148,000 room nights. And the total number of people who have arrived under the Sandbox project since July 1 has reached a total of 19,166 people," Ms Nanthasiri said.

Ms Nanthasiri highlighted the arrival of Cathay Pacific flight from Hong Kong on Aug 10 as good news. "The flight brought another 150 long-haul

tourists from Hong Kong, America, Canada, Germany and Belgium," she said.

"But the concern is probably the number of daily infections in the country. This may affect the confidence of foreign tourists in travel decisions. Yesterday, the United States declared Thailand a Level 4 very high risk area, advising not to avoid travel to Thailand, but it is not yet a travel ban," she said.

"The TAT has therefore accelerated public relations in the area of city marketing, separating Phuket from Thailand," Ms Nanthasiri said.

"To point out that Phuket is ready to receive tourists under the Phuket Sandbox project, because the number of infected people we have is still under control," she added.

Ms Nanthasiri pointed out that the US so far is the number one source market for tourists arriving under the Phuket Sandbox scheme. "The TAT has therefore communicated to TAT offices in the US and Canada to accelerate understanding [of the situation]," she said.

"The TAT is ready to move forward in marketing to promote Phuket tourism in July and August, with success in September considered as the target," she added.

"We are in negotiations with various airlines that have replied that they are still flying to Phuket as planned. There is also an additional airline that wants to fly in.

"During the month of October, which marks the beginning of the high season, there should be more tourists fleeing the cold coming in.

This should have a positive effect on Phuket tourism, the Phuket Sandbox and the overall economy of the country," Ms Nanthasiri concluded.

TAT Governor Yuthasak Supasorn said the current outbreak is more severe and lasting longer than expected. It has led to stringent measures to curtail the number of new infections.

More destinations are expected to welcome inoculated tourists from October to the first quarter of next year, but the most effective method to lure tourists is to reduce the quarantine period across the board, he said.

"After the outbreak subsides, we will propose a plan to ease quarantine rules, not only in Sandbox areas but the whole country, to generate more travel as many countries have started to reduce the mandatory period to seven days," Mr Yuthasak said.

With these conditions, TAT is maintaining its forecast this year of 1.2 million international arrivals generating B85 billion, he added.

However, if the outbreak continues to linger, the agency plans to slash its estimate, he said.

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## Sandbox 7+7 plan gets green light

THE CENTRE FOR COVID Situation Administration (CCSA) in Bangkok on Monday (Aug 16) approved the long-awaited Phuket Sandbox 7+7 extension plan, allowing Sandbox tourists to spend their first seven nights in Phuket then the next seven nights in another 'Sandbox' approved area.

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Governor Yuthasak Supasorn said that from Monday tourists can join the programme. However, participants have to apply for a Certificate of Entry (COE) indicating which areas they intend to travel to before departing for Thailand. The Foreign Ministry will open the system for registration within this week, Mr Yuthasak said.

The other Sandbox areas included in the 7+7 plan are Khao Lak, Kho Yao Yai and Koh Yao Noi in Phang Nga; Koh Phi Phi, Railay Beach and Koh Ngai in Krabi; as well as Koh Samui, Koh Pha-ngan and Koh Tao in Surat Thani.

Mr Yuthasak said the CCSA on Monday also approved every Sandbox area



The Phuket Sandbox 7+7 'travel bubble'. Image: TAT

to receive tourists who have been vaccinated with Sputnik V which could help clear an obstacle for Russian tourists.

However, the weakness of the scheme is the mandatory stay, forcing tourists to roam the island for two weeks before being allowed to travel to other provinces, he explained.

The virus situation which prompted lockdown has complicated the situation as public transport serving cross-provincial travels in the dark red zone are banned, including flights from Phuket to Samui, which were suspended. Therefore, the 7+7 extension plan which mainly connects tourists via boat is seen as an alternative for tourists who will be able to

enjoy more travel options, he said.

Charintip Tiyaphorn, president of the Tourism Council of Krabi, said after the plan was officially approved, the booking trend is anticipated to improve from October as the high season will roll out from then.

Phuket Vice Governor Vikrom Jakthee confirmed last Sunday (Aug 15) that local officials were hoping to create a Phuket - Phang Nga - Krabi 'sealed area' for Sandbox tourists, which was hoped to bring economic relief to tourism suffering areas off the island and give potential tourists more reasons to come to Thailand via the Sandbox scheme.

The Phuket News



# Police deny using live ammo on protesters

## BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

As anti-government demonstrations continue in the capital, police have denied firing live ammunition at protesters during chaotic scenes in front of Din Daeng police station on Monday night (Aug 16), saying only rubber bullets were used to prevent them causing much damage.

Rajavithi Hospital announced on Tuesday morning it had found a bullet lodged in the head of a seriously wounded young protester rushed there by ambulance on Monday night who remains in a coma. It was not known who shot him and the man was not carrying any ID.

The hospital announced the young man was not breathing on arrival and there was a bullet wound in the left side of his neck. Doctors performed emergency CPR and after about six minutes he started showing vital signs again.

A computerised brain x-ray showed a bullet lodged in the man's brain stem. The first and second neck vertebrae were fractured.

At time of press, he was still in a coma and on a ventilator. His vital signs were steady. The man was in the care of a team of brain and nerve surgeons, the hospital said, adding it would keep the public informed of his condition.

Six other protesters were confirmed injured, three of them reportedly with bullet wounds. All were placed under



Protesters clash with police last Sunday (Aug 15). Photo: Apichit Junakul

hospital care.

Pol Col Rathachai Sriwichai, the Din Daeng police chief, denied his men used live rounds against the protesters.

Monday's violence marked the fourth consecutive night of demonstrations as protesters demand that Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha resign for his mis-handling of the COVID-19 situation.

Sunday saw a series of significant "car mob" rallies around the Din Daeng intersection which descended into violence.

It was reported that bricks and giant firecrackers were thrown at crowd control officers who were using large cargo containers stacked up as a line of defence in the area near Prayut's residence.

Police responded by firing tear gas and water cannons at the advancing protesters which forced a brief retreat before they were able to regroup.

Red-shirt leader Nattawut Saikuar,

who co-organised Sunday's car mob rallies, arrived at the scene amid boos and jeers as he tried in vain to persuade the protesters to go home.

Earlier in the day, Mr Nattawut promised the movement's wider rallies would be peaceful. He also said protesters would avoid confrontations with police and stay away from politically sensitive places, including Government House and the prime minister's residence.

On Monday, Seksakol Atthawong, an assistant minister at the Prime Minister's Office, lodged a complaint against Mr Nattawut over his role in the car mob rallies.

In the complaint filed with the Crime Suppression Division, Mr Seksakol accused the red-shirt leader of violating the emergency decree, the communicable disease control law and Section 116, the provision for sedition.

## Temples offer refuge for COVID-19 victims

### BANGKOK

AT A TIME WHEN THE virus has frightened many monks into suspending their alms rounds and closing their temple doors, Wat Suthi Waram in Bangkok has done the opposite and now doubles as a community isolation centre for residents sick with COVID-19.

Slipping on protective overalls over their saffron robes, the monks and a handful of volunteers conduct routine testing of people in the neighbourhood and bring those infected to quarantine at prayer halls converted into isolation facilities.

Food and water are handed to stricken communities as part of the aptly-named project "Phra Mai Ting Yom" (Monks Never Leave Laypeople Behind).

The testing team comprises four monks and 15 volunteers who travel around in rescue vans on loan from the Ruam Katanyu Foundation that are fully equipped with disinfectant sprays. They first performed the tests within communities which are most vulnerable - those



Phromphong: Testing times. Photo: Bangkok Post

with a large population of elderly, pregnant women, and children.

Phramaha Phromphong Kainno, an assistant abbot of the temple, said monks could not afford to "sit back in this time of crisis".

"The health system's hands are full right now while COVID-19 testing is hard to obtain," he said.

The temple's centre is now functioning as a one-stop facility where tests and an isolation programme are run in tandem.

"I want temples to be the kernel of community living like in the old days when monks and laypeople depended on each other," the assistant abbot said.

Bangkok Post

## Controversial test kits get green light

### BANGKOK

THE PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTRY ON Monday (Aug 16) gave the green light to the Government Pharmaceutical Organization (GPO) to buy 8.5 million antigen test kit (ATK) sets from Lepu Medical Technology, following the completion of the bidding to import the product.

Deputy permanent secretary for public health Sura Visetsak said the GPO can now go ahead and sign a procurement contract with Ostland Capital, the bid winner, as tests had confirmed that the kits were of an acceptable standard.

Dr Sura said the procurement process met with all necessary legal requirements and there were no foreseeable hiccups with the GPO moving to the next stage.

The ministry held a press briefing to announce the ratification which was attended by representatives from the GPO, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Dr Mongkol Kunakorn, chief of the Department of Pathology at the Faculty of Medicine, Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University.

Dr Mongkol, who oversaw the process, said that his laboratory is the FDA's partner for conducting tests on new medical products.

He said that the results showed that there is no significant difference between Lepu Medical Technology's kits and other brands which have already been tested and met the quality guidelines set by the FDA.

The announcement came a day after the



The purchase of 8.5 million ATKs from China has been approved. Photo: AFP

Anti-Corruption Organisation (ACT) of Thailand stated there was no evidence of corruption in the procurement plan, despite expressing concerns as to the quality of the Chinese-made ATKs.

The government had faced much criticism over its plan to purchase the test kits, which come cheaper than other ATK brands, after the product was recently recalled in the United States over concerns that test results may not be accurate.

The Thai public had continually expressed concern over the procurement plan, including whether corruption is involved.

However, Mana Nimitmongkol, secretary-general of the ACT, said there is no evidence of corruption in the ATK procurement plan.

Bangkok Post

## No COVID retest for patients before hospital discharge

### BANGKOK

THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED that a further COVID-19 test for patients in a much improved condition is no longer required prior to discharge from hospital, although they should continue to self-isolate at home until the 14th day.

In the current circumstances, hospitalised COVID-19 patients whose condition has improved may be discharged from the hospital in less than 14 days, the typical COVID quarantine period.

A COVID test to see whether they are still infected prior to discharge is now not a requirement, according to the latest version of the official COVID-19 treatment protocol dated Aug 4, deputy government spokesperson Traisuree Taisaranakul confirmed last Friday (Aug 13).

The updated protocol advises that the genetic material of the SARS-CoV-2 virus causing COVID-19 may still remain in the mucus or saliva of a recovered person for quite some time, depending of the strain of the virus, which means they will continue to test positive for COVID-19 despite having recovered.

The protocol, issued by the Department of Health together with medical experts



Deputy Government Spokesperson Traisuree Taisaranakul. Photo: NNT

and medical schools, suggests a test prior to discharge is not necessary, while the course of treatment should be determined based on the patient's symptoms.

Patients who have been discharged early from hospital must continue to self-isolate at home until day 14. They must immediately contact a hospital should they develop a high-grade fever, a cough, tiredness, or a chest pain, have difficulty breathing, or develop a lack of appetite. Patients who complete the 14 days without new symptoms can resume their daily activities as usual, while maintaining social measures including masking, hand hygiene, and physical distancing. NNT



# Ultimate Snorkelling Spots

## ADVERTORIAL

By 5 Star Marine

**N**eed some inspiration on top-class snorkelling spots just a speedboat ride away from Phuket? Here's a selection of our picks:

### 1. Racha Islands

The two idyllic Racha Islands, Koh Racha Yai and Koh Racha Noi, are also referred to as Raya Islands and provide the ideal destination to enjoy nature. With some of the best snorkelling reefs in Thailand under 1 hour away from Phuket, they feature quiet, tropical white powdery beaches with crystal-clear turquoise waters. These islands provide a balanced combination of relaxing spots, tranquil locations plus amazing coral rich sea life. Being part of Phuket waters, we have been able to continue running our speedboat tours here throughout the Phuket based restrictions also.

### 2. Koh Haa

Travel 1.5 hours by private speedboat to reach this exotic and lesser-known group of 5 islands (hence the name) situated just south of Koh Lanta in the Mu Ko Lanta National Park. This island group is a little more remote and unspoilt, meaning you can get the chance to experience protected lagoons with stunning water clarity. This also makes it a perfect destination to enjoy a diverse range of colourful and rich marine life including remarkable coral walls, schooling fish, clown fish, porcupine pufferfish, snapper, barracuda and scorpionfish.

### 3. Koh Rok

This pair of tropical islets in the Andaman Sea deliver



Camel Rock at Phi Phi.

crystal-clear waters and almost 1 mile of impressive coral reefs. Although a little further afield, you are rewarded with the ability to explore coral gardens and marine life such as angelfish, pufferfish, Moray eels and possibly even sea turtles and whale sharks. A haven for underwater photography, where you can swim close to the colourful clownfish, or head to Siam Bay and simply leave the fine white sand beach to snorkel just off the shore with an abundance of aquatic creatures above the coral reefs there.

### 4. Phi Phi Islands

Around the Phi Phi Islands you are spoilt for choice with a variety of fantastic snorkelling spots on offer. It contains striking coral reefs inhabited with impressive marine life; from Monkey Bay and Hin Klang, to Bamboo Island and Shark Point – the list goes on. Hin Klang, for example, has an extensive coral reef which is formed over a huge underwater rock covered with hard and soft coral gardens. With a number of different spots to choose from, crystal clear waters



Koh Racha.

and a large variety of marine and coral life, Phi Phi is a great choice for swimming and snorkelling in tropical waters.

### 5. Similan Islands

Enjoy a memorable boat trip to the renowned Similan Islands; a stunning archipelago in the Andaman Sea which is said to be home to the oldest coral reefs in Thailand. Its fame is heavily due to having some of the best coral reefs, some say in the world, and beaches with soft snow-white sand. The crystal blue waters are warm and filled with intensely colourful coral life, where the different corals come together and form sloping reefs on the east side of the islands, and on the west side distinctive coral boulders can be found.

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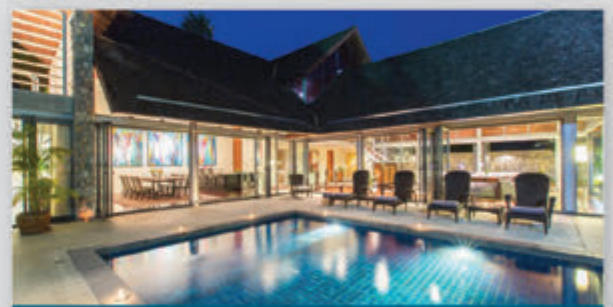
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Human Catapult over 4 buses, 1982 Royal Adelaide Show.



Ian and Baz enjoying less death-defying times at Cape Panwa.

# A Meal with... SUPERMAN!



## A MEAL WITH...

**Baz Daniel**  
baz\_gunner2000@yahoo.com

Call me 'Mister Unadventurous', but I've honestly never thought what jolly fun it would be to climb to the top of a high building and throw myself off onto a small pile of cardboard boxes to break my fall, or possibly my neck! So, finding myself seated opposite a man who has basically done that sort of thing for a living for much of his 68-year life, was somewhat intimidating.

Ian Bruce Jamieson, who makes his sea-view home on Cape Panwa, could be described as Phuket's own 'Superman', having lived an amazing life as a stuntman, bungy jumping entrepreneur, film director, author and marketing guru all over the world. So, you'd be forgiven for thinking that he might be some sort of maniacal brute, covered in scars and breathing fire, but in fact, he's charming, softly-spoken and immediately puts you at ease with his self-deprecating humour.

The setting in which we enjoyed supper together was as breathtaking in its beauty as some of Ian's escapades have been for their terror and danger. We were guests at the luxurious poolside restaurant of My Beach Resort on a

beautiful, west-facing beach on Cape Panwa overlooking the crystal waters of Chalong Bay. My Beach Resort is an elegant, stunningly-situated escape which has featured in the Michelin Guide for Thailand for the past three years. It offers several dining options with menus ranging from authentic southern Thai cuisine, to their famed 'Meat Me' Sunday lunch with wagyu steaks, lamb chops and many other meaty treats (Tel: 076 305 066-69 for details or line @mybeachphuket)

I asked Ian how he became involved in the death-defying world of stunts. "It was by mistake, as many of my exploits seem to be! At school in Adelaide, I managed to fracture my skull pole-vaulting, then at 16 I was paralysed in a car crash. However, I desperately wanted to get into films and thought that becoming a stuntman would help me, so I enrolled in stunt school. After nine months of training, I was the only one of 130 enrollees who was hadn't dropped out or been injured, and against the odds I did become a stuntman and went on to work in films and shows all over the world, including with Evel Knievel who became a good friend.

"I wrote two books about my adventures, firstly 'Bring on the Stuntmen', then recently I published 'Kaskader', which means stuntman in Polish, focusing on my three-month tour of Poland in 1986. It describes an appalling accident I suffered when I made a jump from a high tower and my legs hit the landing pad, but my body crashed into the ground. I was injured quite badly, but still managed to perform again after just three weeks of rest, which endeared me greatly to the Polish audiences!"

Eyes boggling, I asked how Ian came to make Phuket his home. "I started a film company making action documentaries and came to Thailand in the mid-1980s to produce a documentary titled 'Pirates of the South China Seas'. I fell in love with Thailand and in 1991 moved to Phuket to live with my wife and children. After returning to live in Australia for a while, I eventually moved permanently to Phuket in 2004."

Ian continued, "I nearly died several times during my stuntman career and I'd promised my wife I'd quit after my accident in Poland. I thought a less dangerous means of earning a crust would be in bungy jumping, so I set up Tarzan's Bungy Jumping in Kathu in 1991, then franchised it out to Greece, Poland and finally Moscow in 1994."

Since Ian moved back to Phuket, he's split his energies between writing and publishing his latest book, managing a range of bungy, stunt and film projects and working as a consultant and entrepreneur. It was through the latter that we met in 2005 when I was writing for Art Asia Press and Ian was their General Manager. We became friends and as a result I now found myself sitting opposite this extraordinary man, trying to make sense of his complex journey.

I put it to Ian that he was perhaps really two people in one... the incredibly brave, dare-devil adventurer and the mild-mannered, businessman and entrepreneur. I had the distinct impression of having hit a nail on its head.

"Yes, I'm a Gemini you see, and I think you're right that two conflicting personalities live inside me fighting it out for dominance."

Driving home, I thought that maybe Ian's fascinating character was an apt metaphor for Phuket's own dilemma when it emerges from the COVID nightmare. Will Phuket emerge in a well-balanced, thoughtful way, or will it throw itself headlong off a high platform back into the mayhem of short-term profit at any cost? Only time will tell, but whatever the future, Phuket remains a fascinating place because of such charming locations as My Beach Resort and such unique characters as Ian Bruce Jamieson.



Ian takes the plunge in Poznan, Poland.



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## POP QUIZ

1. In which city would you find the famous Lotus Temple?
2. Which California valley is famed as one of the premier wine regions in the world?
3. Escape artist Harry Houdini was an American immigrant originally born in which country?
4. The bombardment of which sea fort in South Carolina started the American Civil War?
5. In July 2008, who was acquitted of the murder of BBC Crimewatch presenter Jill Dando and freed from prison?

Answers below, centre

## SUDOKU

Hard

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

## Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

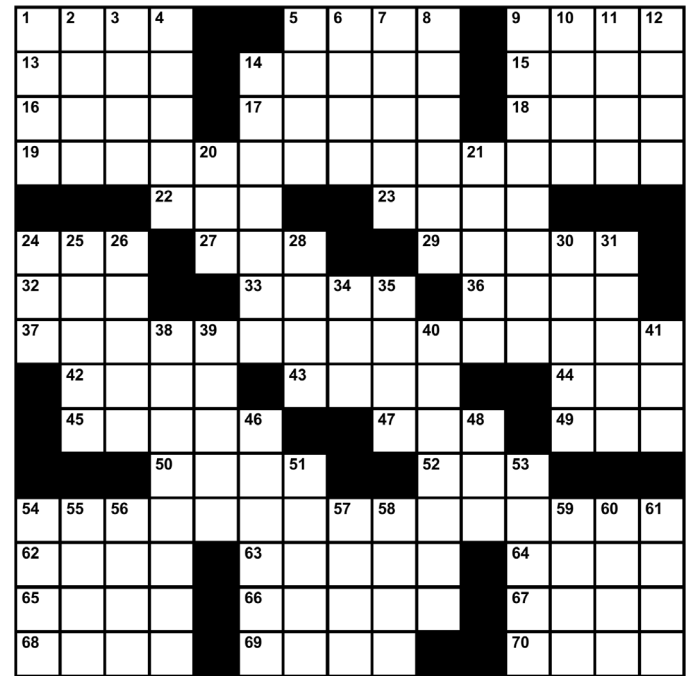
1. Middle \_\_\_\_
5. Federal org.
9. June honorees
13. Pull partner
14. \_\_\_\_ Boothe Luce
15. Clickable image
16. "Someone \_\_\_\_" (2006 movie)
17. Attack
18. Swiss painter Hans
19. Site of illicit bar for the leisure class?
22. Jam
23. Deodorant brand
24. Second sight
27. Unburdened
29. Out of style
32. Taiwanese girl group
33. Chesterfield, e.g.
36. Sparsely populated North Dakota city
37. Simply relax?
42. Contemptible one
43. "The Open Window" writer
44. Factor XI (abbr.)
45. OK, in a way
47. Undertake, with "out"

49. Az \_\_\_\_ R&B group from Philly
50. Bypass
52. Journal
54. A soft touch brings relief?
62. Mythological ferryman
63. Cunning
64. Popular Serbian folk singer
65. Gunks
66. Broke off
67. Experienced
68. Brickbat
69. Check
70. Reno calculation

Down

1. Primatologist's study
2. Mouthful
3. Cigarette brand
4. Bundle
5. Long bone
6. Back talk
7. Hunts
8. Establishes
9. Diacritical marks
10. Israeli port city
11. Fully cooked
12. Agitated state
14. Live peacefully together

20. White wine aperitif
21. Start of a refrain
24. Jolting therapy, for short
25. Wrap
26. Black tea
28. Buck passers?
30. Mawkish
31. A-list
34. J.F.K. overseer
35. Says "When?"
38. Poisoning from tainted grain
39. Mosque officials
40. Gave way
41. Bother, with at
46. Feudal sovereigns
48. Excessively
51. Jeer
53. Ptychozoon
54. Musical pieces
55. Carbon compound
56. Ancient colonnade
57. Fries, maybe
58. Posited Big Bang substance
59. E-mail, e.g.
60. \_\_\_\_ coffee
61. Hebrew letters



Visit: [www.ilovecrosswords.com](http://www.ilovecrosswords.com)

## Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

## GOT YOUR NUMBER

2

Volkswagen Beetles only were sold in the car's first year of production, 1949.

70

percent of female online gamers chose to play as male characters rather than contend with sexual harassment.

80

percent of office kitchen teaspoons disappear within five months, according to one study.

400

years old is how long that Greenland sharks, a native species of the North Atlantic, can live, scientists have discovered.

1

million

plastic bottles are sold around the world every second.

Source: *Uberfacts*

## ISLAND VIEW



Laem Sai Pier near Mission Hills. Photo by John Bennett

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## This week in history

### Aug 20, 2002

A group of Iraqis opposed to the regime of Saddam Hussein take over the Iraqi Embassy in Berlin, Germany for five hours before releasing their hostages and surrendering.

### Aug 21, 1959

United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs an executive order proclaiming Hawaii the 50<sup>th</sup> state of the union. Hawaii's admission is currently commemorated by Hawaii Admission Day.

### Aug 22, 1910

Korea is annexed by Japan with

the signing of the Japan-Korea Treaty of 1910, beginning a period of Japanese rule of Korea that lasted until the end of World War II.

### Aug 23, 79 AD

Mount Vesuvius begins stirring, on the feast day of Vulcan, the Roman god of fire.

### Aug 24, 1967

Led by Abbie Hoffman, the Youth International Party temporarily disrupts trading at the New York Stock Exchange by throwing dollar bills from the viewing gallery, causing trading to cease



Jaycee Lee Dugard.

as brokers scramble to grab them.

### Aug 25, 1823

American fur trapper Hugh Glass is mauled by a grizzly bear

while on an expedition in South Dakota, inspiring many tales of his survival, including major films such as *The Revenant*.

### Aug 26, 2009

Kidnapping victim Jaycee Dugard is discovered alive in California after being missing for over 18 years. On June 2, 2011, Phillip Garrido was sentenced to 431 years to life imprisonment for kidnapping, imprisonment and sexual assault. His wife Nancy was sentenced to 36 years. During her 18 years as captive, Dugard bore two daughters.

Source: *Wikipedia*



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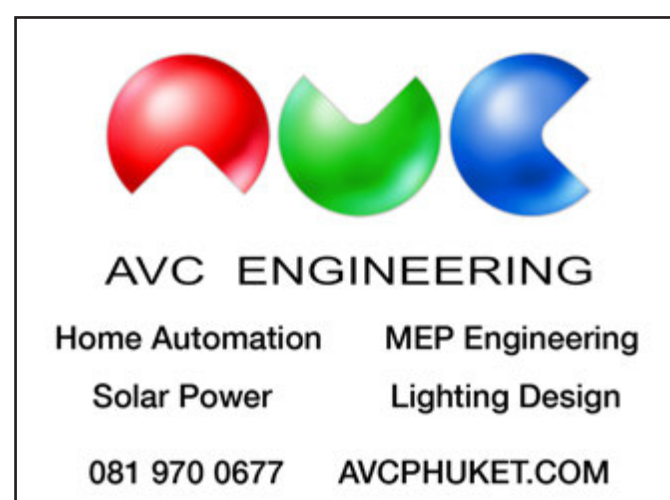
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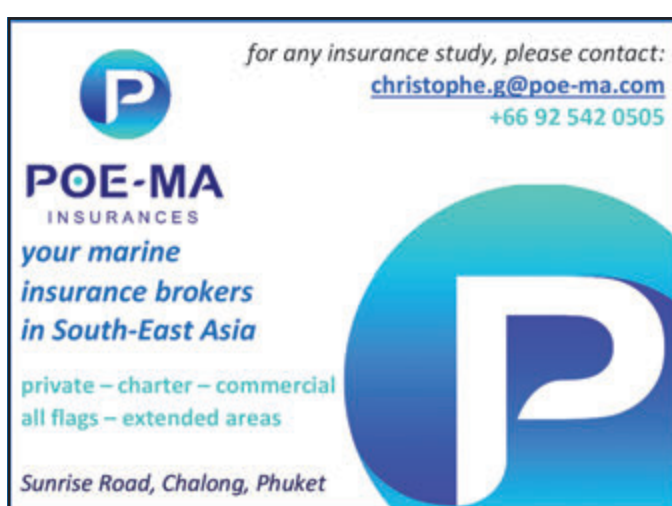


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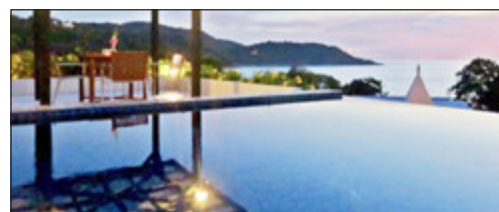
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*Jason Beavan*



# Cows level the series at ACG

## CRICKET

Neil Quail

Overshadowed by local health and safety restrictions currently in place, the second game of the five match series between Thalang Cows and Patong Penguins played on Aug 8 was a somewhat muted affair, with the Cows securing a relatively comfortable win, but importantly returning the series to level pegging.

Underwhelming performances with the bat from both teams registered a total of only seven players that reached double figures, while only one innings – that of Cows' Sameer Khan – managed to exceed 30 runs, leading to one of the lowest scoring limited over games recently played out at the ACG.

The low score was made more surprising by the fact a well-shorn and arid outfield suggested ideal batting conditions. But a return to using the red ball swung the game in favour of the better bowling side, albeit with 13 catches dropped during the match.

Sami Pir and Stuart Hamilton opened the Cows' innings



Thalang Cows' Sami Pir bowling his way to man of the match in the game against Patong Penguins on Aug 8. Photo: Michael Way

only for Pir to be caught by Imtiyaz Mushtaq off the bowling of Seemant Raju in the 3<sup>rd</sup> over who then shortly after claimed the wicket of Michael Thomas.

At 8 for 2 after just four overs, Cows were in some disarray when captain Joe

Ninan came to the crease only to be met by controversy when he refused to walk after what appeared a clear edge off the bowling Raju.

Ninan did fall in the 10<sup>th</sup> over when he was caught behind by Anthony Van Blerk for 24, Hamilton having been

dismissed in the immediate delivery prior for 18, caught by Curt Livermore.

Ali Khan was caught on the boundary by Craig Morgan, before Michael Flowers and Sameer Khan put on a defiant 74-run partnership until Khan was bowled for

37 by Mushtaq to leave the score on 139 for 6.

The Sadaranghani brothers then combined with spin bowler Saju Abraham for back-to-back dismissals when first Rishi took a nonchalant, one-handed catch on the run to dismiss Bhanu Pratap, and then a catch by Manish dispatched Flowers for 25.

Wasim Mir's brief showing served only to give Mushtaq and Gaur each a brace of wickets and catches respectively, before Abraham claimed his third wicket thanks to a catch by Raju to dismiss Mayur Deuskar, bringing the Cows' innings to a close on 145 all out in the 25<sup>th</sup> over.

## EARLY SHOWERS

Given opening duties, Phuket cricket stalwarts Van Blerk and Raju began the Penguins' chase but both were taking early showers by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> over with Van Blerk holing out to Ninan off Mir's pace bowling and then Raju picking out Pir off a Guddu Manoj delivery, leaving the score at 19 for 2.

Much was expected of Mushtaq and Morgan but the partnership only yielded 25 runs and heralded a disastrous

mid-order collapse with the three wickets of Adam Drew, Rishi and Morgan falling in just 4 overs to leave the score on a troubling 65 for 7.

Livermore and Gaur dug in valiantly until Flowers uprooted the latter's stumps in the 20<sup>th</sup> over. A 25-run partnership ensued between Livermore (28) and Abraham before 13-year-old Masa Clarke made his maiden innings, the youngster acquitting himself very competently in his first senior cricket match to return on 1 not out on top of a fine effort in the field.

The Penguins finished on 119 for 9 after 25 overs, giving a 26-run victory to the Cows and levelling the series at 1-1.

Man of the match was awarded to Pir for his 2 for 10 off 4 overs, including a wicket maiden. Other notable bowling performances went to Abraham for his 3 for 12 off 13 deliveries, and Livermore for his 3 for 29 off 5 overs and 28 runs with the bat.

The third game of the series, scheduled for last Sunday (Aug 15) was cancelled due to COVID-19 safety protocols but it is hoped the series can start up again soon.



**English Premier League Predictions**

thephuketnews.com/predictions.php

## Strong show from Thais at Scottish Open

### GOLF

THAILAND'S ARIYA Jutanugarn and Atthaya Thitikul narrowly missed out on victory at the 2021 Trust Golf Women's Scottish Open last Sunday (Aug 15) after Ryann O'Toole closed out an incredible round of 64 to win her first LPGA title.

O'Toole, the 34-year-old American, shot a bogey-free round of 64 to be 17 under par for the tournament. It was her first title at the 228<sup>th</sup> attempt and after 11 years on tour.

Atthaya was only one stroke behind the leaders going into the final round at Dumbarnie Links, a round of 66 saw a total of eight birdies to finish in a tie for second place alongside New Zealand's Lydia Ko.

"I putted pretty well and hit a pretty solid round today of 6-under," Atthaya said. "It's not enough for the win, but I just know that I tried my best and I'm proud of myself."

"My focus for this year is trying to improve myself every day and then trying to get the member card on the



Atthaya Thitikul finished second. Photo: AFP

LPGA," she added.

Former World No. 1 Ariya Jutanugarn had an impressive final round that saw an eagle on the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole and three birdies on the back nine to leave her at -13 and in third place.

Jasmine Suwannapura's 69, which included seven birdies, left her at -7 and in a tie for 15<sup>th</sup> place. The 2020 AIG Women's Open runner up said afterwards she has found this week a great learning experience.

"I haven't really played on a windy golf course before," she commented. "We only play in Scotland for two weeks a year, so to be able to come back here and play

a really windy course and the links course, it's really fun for me."

Other Thais on the leader board included Pajaree Anannarukarn who finished in 22<sup>nd</sup> place after a second consecutive 69, and Patty Tavatanakit who shot a superb final round of 67 which included two eagles and two birdies to finish in 27<sup>th</sup>.

Thai Trust Golf invite Prima Thammaraks posted a third consecutive 72 to finish at -2, which was also enough to seal her the 5<sup>th</sup> qualifying spot for the AIG Women's Open at Carnoustie this week.

The Phuket News



# Fans help Premier League roar back into new season

## FOOTBALL

Ben Tirebuck

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

The Premier League stormed back into action last weekend as the 2021/22 season unfolded with much fanfare with fans returning to stadiums to witness a series of thrilling encounters.

Full capacity crowds had been absent since March 2020 but an estimated 400,000 spectators attended across the weekend's 10 top-flight games, bringing a highly charged, buoyant atmosphere to proceedings.

Brentford, playing in the top-flight for the first time in 74 years, gave their fans at a first-ever full house at the Brentford Community Stadium plenty to cheer as goals from Sergi Canos and Christian Norgaard earned a 2-0 win over Arsenal in the season curtain-raiser last Friday (Aug 13).

Manchester United strolled to a 5-1 demolition of Leeds with a Bruno Fernandes hat-trick and four Paul Pogba assists the highlights. New



Overcome by emotion after scoring, Chelsea's Trevoh Chalobah sinks to his knees and is congratulated by teammate and captain Cesar Azpilicueta. Photo: AFP

signing Raphael Varane was paraded to fans pre-match and received a rapturous welcome from the United contingent in the 72,732 Old Trafford crowd.

Liverpool eased to a 3-0 win over newly-promoted Norwich with goals from Mohamad Salah, Roberto Firminio and Diogo Jota. Virgil van Dijk made his comeback and looked assured throughout.

### RAW EMOTION

Chelsea had it equally easy as they beat a feeble looking

Crystal Palace 3-0 at Stamford Bridge, the pick of the goals coming from academy graduate Trevoh Chalobah. Despite being at the club for 14 years, this was Chalobah's league debut and he capped it with not only a fine display and a clean sheet but a stunning strike from 30 yards for his team's third goal. In a touching display of raw emotion, Chalobah broke down in tears when he sank to his knees to celebrate.

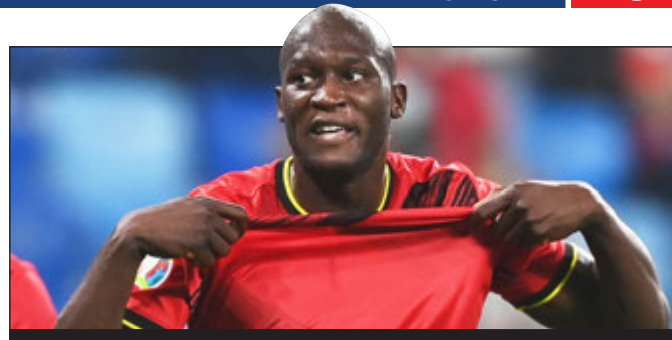
Everton looked in trouble as they trailed 0-1 to South-

ampton at half time, increasing the already significant pressure on new boss Rafa Benitez. However, whatever he said during the break worked a treat as the Toffees came roaring back to win 3-1.

Brighton left it late to seal a 2-1 win at Burnley, Leicester defeated Wolves 1-0 courtesy of master striker Jamie Vardy and newbies Watford came out 3-2 winners in a crackling encounter with Aston Villa.

On Sunday, Son Heung-min continued his hold over reigning champions Manchester City as his second half strike was enough to earn Spurs a 1-0 victory. It was Son's seventh career strike against City who gave record signing Jack Grealish his debut but were unable to create any meaningful attacking threat.

West Ham came away from Newcastle with a 4-2 win in a pulsating affair at St. James' Park. The home side were 1-0 up after only five minutes courtesy of Calum Wilson's strike but the Hammers clicked into gear and dominated thereafter and could even afford a missed penalty from Michail Antonio.



Change of shirt: Lukaku is back at Chelsea. Photo: AFP

## More 'complete' striker Lukaku back at Chelsea

### FOOTBALL

CHELSEA'S ROMELU Lukaku said on Monday (Aug 16) he believes he is now a "complete" striker as the club's record signing settles back into life at Stamford Bridge.

Lukaku rejoined Chelsea in a £98 million (B4.5 billion) move from Inter Milan last week.

The 28-year-old was unavailable for Chelsea's 3-0 win against Crystal Palace in their Premier League opener last weekend.

But Lukaku could make his debut in Sunday's (Aug 22) trip to Arsenal and the Belgium forward plans to show how much he has developed since the last time he played for the Blues.

Almost 10 years after arriving in west London as an unknown teenager, Lukaku

returns as one of the world's top strikers.

"I just feel more complete," he said. "I've tried to master all the facets that a striker needs and I just want to keep improving on the small details all the time and keep improving on my strengths as well."

"The two years in Italy helped me master all the facets of the game for a striker and now I'm ready," he added.

Lukaku fired 27 goals and laid on 11 assists last term as Inter stormed to the Serie A title.

He also boasts vast Premier League experience after stints with West Brom, Everton and Manchester United.

Chelsea struggled for goals at times last season, but Lukaku is confident he can fill any role required by boss Thomas Tuchel and help fire the team to title glory.

AFP

## Fans barred from Tokyo Paralympics

### PARALYMPICS

SPECTATORS WILL BE BARRED from the Tokyo Paralympics over coronavirus fears, organisers said Monday (Aug 16), as Japan battles record infections despite emergency measures in several parts of the country.

The decision for the Paralympics, which open on August 24, had been widely expected and follows similar rules in place for the Olympics.

Virus cases are surging across Japan, with over 20,000 new daily infections recorded in recent days, driven by the more contagious Delta variant. Tokyo and five other areas are currently under a state of emergency.

However, Japan's government has insisted the Paralympics will be held safely, and that it remains committed to hosting them.

Around 4,400 athletes are expected to take part in the Paralympics, and like their Olympic counterparts they will face daily testing and restrictions on their movement.

Despite the surge in virus cases in Japan during the Olympics, Games officials said there was no evidence of a link to the massive sporting event.

Cases had been rising before the Games began, and a state of emergency was already in place in Tokyo as the Olympics opened.

At least 31 people associated with the Paralympic Games have tested positive so far, with other cases reported among teams



Fans will be barred from the upcoming Paralympics. Photo: AFP

that arrived early for training camps.

"While it is encouraging that the Olympic Games were delivered safely and successfully, those attending the Paralympic Games should not get complacent," International Paralympic Committee chief Andrew Parsons has said.

"We cannot ignore the current case numbers in Japan and Tokyo, and I urge every single stakeholder for the Paralympic Games to be vigilant."

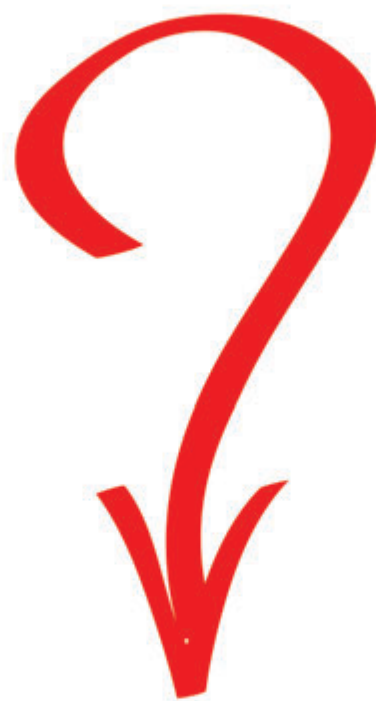
The decision to bar spectators has the backing of a majority of Japanese, according to a poll published by the Kyodo news agency earlier Monday.

A total of 64.7% of respondents said the event should be held without fans, with 19% of those surveyed saying the Games should be cancelled.

Polls in the run up to the Olympics and Paralympics consistently found Japanese opposed to holding the Games this year, but the Kyodo poll found 62.9% of respondents expressed "some degree of satisfaction" about the Olympics. AFP



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# Sport

editor3@classactmedia.co.th



**The Premier League's back in style > p15**



Dylan celebrates victory in Bahrain as part of the 2019/2020 MRF Challenge Formula 3 Championship where he secured 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the drivers standings. Photo: Aditya Bedre

## LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

### MOTORSPORT

**Ben Tirebuck**

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Longer term Phuket residents, particularly those of a motorsports persuasion, may well recall the name Dylan Young.

Dylan spent several years living here with his family between 2010-2014 and frequently made the headlines with his racing exploits, most notably when he signed on to compete in the 2013 MRF Challenge Formula 2000 Championship which ran alongside multiple F1 Grand Prix's in the support categories under the watchful eyes of F1 team bosses.

As his career progressed, Dylan relished in the challenge of going up against the world's best. He was team mates with Mick Schumacher, son of seven-time F1 World Champion Michael Schumacher, during the 2016/2017 MRF Challenge Championship and who is now racing in F1 for Haas.

Dylan has also competed against the likes of Harrison Newey, son of Red Bull F1 designer Adrian Newey, for-

mer F1 driver Daniil Kvyat and current F1 driver Carlos Sainz Jr. of Ferrari who recently finished 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Hungarian Grand Prix behind World Champion Lewis Hamilton.

Dylan raced in the highly competitive 2019/2020 MRF Challenge Formula 3 Championship where he secured 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the drivers standings. As the only Australian in the field he stormed home with three wins and nine podiums across the 15-race international season, including victory in Bahrain, where he finished ahead of David Schumacher, son of former F1 driver Ralf Schumacher. Dylan fell just short of securing the title from Belgium's Michelangelo Amendola despite winning the final race of the Championship in Chennai in February, 2020.

#### EURO ADVENTURE

More recently Dylan secured a partnership with renowned French auto team Graff Racing to compete in the Formula 3 Ultimate Cup Series in Europe.

Everyone always wants to make a good impression in their first day at work but Dylan took it one step further.



In fact several steps further as, on the weekend of July 16-18, he delivered a stunning debut performance with three podiums at the Paul Ricard F1 Circuit, the venue that recently hosted the French Formula One Grand Prix. A truly incredible bow for his new team.

Driving the F3 Tatuus T-318 powered by a Renault engine, he finished with a P3 in races 1 and 2 before clinching 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the final race of the weekend out of a field of 19 drivers. He also achieved the fastest lap time in race 3, passing Nico Prost, former Lotus Renault F1 reserve driver and son of four-time Formula One World Champion Alain Prost, during the opening lap on the

way to P2.

As the only Australian in the Championship, Dylan's performance raised eyebrows amongst the paddock due to the fact he had been out of race action since February 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite absolutely zero testing or action since clinching the '19/20 MRF Challenge Vice Championship in February of last year, he drove like an absolute champion.

"Overall I'm pretty happy with the weekend," Dylan said post-race in somewhat modest fashion.

"Due to COVID-19, I was out of a seat since February last year with no driving so I think we showed a pretty strong performance for this

weekend with a podium in each race. Especially the last race with P2 where it was fun to have some fights on track and get fastest lap.

"I want to send a big thank you to all the team at Graff for giving me such a great car with no issues all weekend. My engineer Antoine and mechanic Sylvain were absolutely awesome and I think now the aim is to push for race wins from the next event.

"I'm over the moon to be getting back on track after the mess of 2020. To say I'm pumped is an understatement," he added.

Pascal Rauturier, Team Manager at Graff Racing was understandably delighted with his new recruit's performance and is looking to the future with confidence.

"In collaboration with the team, all our drivers have shown great performance all the week end. Congratulations to Dylan for the three podiums and the best time in race 3," he said.

Next up are events in Le Mans, France (September), Magny Cours, France (October) and Estoril, Portugal (November).

#### 'AUSSIE BATTLER'

Crucially, Dylan is a rare example of a driver who is competing without financial backing from family. This has demanded enormous character, hunger and drive to endure the financial and emotional obstacles that have been presented over the years. Yet Dylan's relentless pursuit has seen him become one of Australia's most marketable drivers as he has successfully built a team of investors and Australian brands who together are sharing in his journey. As his website states, Dylan personifies the Aussie battler.

With the blistering start to his European adventure with Graff, expect Dylan to be a man in demand as race teams from across the world take notice and express interest in chasing his services. International racing options via the likes of the renowned Indy Car, the Le Mans 24 hours and FIA World Endurance Championship are almost certain to come his way.

It is great to see Dylan's career continue to flourish and extra special to know that his time in Phuket has contributed to his success – long may it continue!