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BUS BUZZ



Photo: PKCD

'SMART BUS' LAUNCHES FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE FOR VEG FEST IN PHUKET TOWN

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Phuket 'Smart Bus', an electric vehicle, is providing a free shuttle service in Phuket Town during the Phuket Vegetarian Festival. If the 'pilot project' is deemed successful, the bus might be called on to continue to operate in Phuket Town.

The new free service was jointly announced at the offices of the Phuket City Development Foundation (PKCD) last week.

The Phuket City Development Foundation (PKCD) is a local-private consortium. Formed in 2016 by a consortium of 25 investors, driven by key people from prominent Phuket business families, PKCD at its launch vowed to bring a "Singapore-style" network of buses to Phuket within five years.

In turn, PKCD launched the Phuket Smart Bus into public service in less than 18 months.

The Phuket Smart Bus made history in 2018 when it started rolling from Phuket International Airport,

marking the end of the service's extended trial period and becoming the first public bus service in action along the island's west coast.

The 'Smart Bus' service operating from Phuket International Airport to Rawai is operated by Phuket Smart Bus Co Ltd (PKSB), an affiliate of the Phuket City Development Group of companies (PKCD).

Present on Oct 12 to make the joint announcement of the new free shuttle service in Phuket Town were Phuket Town Deputy Mayor Prasit Sinsawaphak; Montree Manator,

Deputy Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand Phuket Office (TAT Phuket); Kongsak Khuphongsakorn, President of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce; and Waitha Upatisarn, Chairman of PKCD's Executive Committee.

This project will start with Phase 1, throughout the Phuket Vegetarian Festival from Oct 15-24. The bus will operate from 10am to 10pm each day, operating along a circular route throughout the town.

The bus will serve the following bus stops:

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Man killed as Benz ploughs into Fest crowd



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Keeping the bad guys in check in your garden



SPORT PAGE 16

Dojo students continue their impressive rise



Lile-itTM

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

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News



Police stage
'active shooter'
exercise > p5

FREE SHUTTLE BUS TIMETABLE											
ตั้งแต่วันที่ 15-24 ตุลาคม 2566											
From 15 - 24 October 2023											
	Sun 15/10	Mon 16/10	Tue 17/10	Wed 18/10	Thu 19/10	Fri 20/10	Sat 21/10	Sun 22/10	Mon 23/10	Tue 24/10	
First bus	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00	
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	21:30	21:30	21:30	21:30	21:30	21:30	21:30	21:30	21:30	21:30	
	22:00	22:00	22:00	22:00	22:00	22:00	22:00	22:00	22:00	22:00	
Last bus	22:00	22:00	22:00	22:00	22:00	22:00	22:00	22:00	22:00	22:00	



'Smart Bus' goes shuttle

Continued from page 1

- Opposite the main Thai Post Office (on Montri Rd)
- Opposite the Pearl Hotel (on Montri Rd)
- Bang Neow Intersection (Phuket Rd and Ong Sim Phai rd)
- UOB Bank (on Phuket Rd)
- Coffee Talk (on Ratsada Rd)
- Islamic Bank (on Yaowarat Rd)
- Wat Mongkol Nimit (on Thepkasattri Rd)
- Limelight Phuket shopping centre (on Dibuk Rd)

"There are a large number of tourists traveling to the Phuket Old Town area during the Phuket Vegetarian Festival. This causes heavy traffic in the area. This project is to relieve traffic congestion," Deputy Mayor Prasit said.

"If this project receives

good response, it will be expanded to Phase 2 for tourists to ride electric buses during Friday, Saturday and Sunday, from 10am to 8pm," he added.

Deputy Mayor Prasit explained that the objectives of the pilot project were five-fold:

- To relieve traffic congestion problems in the Phuket Old Town area
- To help alleviate the problem of insufficient parking in the area. Additional parking spaces will be created for those who want to park in the Phuket Old Town area;
- To promote traveling with clean energy vehicles;
- To promote environmental protection and reduce the number of cars in the Phuket Old Town area, which will help reduce air pollution as well; and
- To promote tourism in the Phuket Old Town area.



Pita Limjaroenrat at the landfill of the Phuket City Municipality Waste Incinerator at Saphan Hin. Photo: Phuket City Municipality

Move Forward's Pita in Phuket to hear issues

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Former Move Forward Party leader Pita Limjaroenrat was in Phuket last Sunday (Oct 15) to conduct several site inspections and speak with local residents and officials about key issues affecting them and projects they wanted to see move forward.

Joining Mr Pita were Phuket's three MPs, all representatives from the Move Forward Party, elected to office in the national election earlier this year: Somchart Techatavorncharoen for Phuket District 1; Chalermpong Saengdee for Phuket District 2; and Thitikan Thitipruethikul for Phuket District 3.

Of note, Move Forward

candidates won all three Phuket seats for Members of Parliament by strong margins during the national election in May.

Mr Pita visited the Phuket City Municipality Waste Incinerator at Saphan Hin, and the adjoining landfill, to hear about the need to cope with the island's growing volume of waste generated, and delivered to the landfill, each day.

If measures were not taken soon, Phuket would soon need to send its solid refuse off-island, Mr Pita was told.

Mr Pita then joined Phuket Irrigation Office Director Kriksak Leenanon at the Klong Kata reservoir in Chalong to discuss projects underway there.

One project that began on June 20 is to expand the

reservoir capacity. The project is due for completion on Feb 14 next year.

Mr Pita also inspected the road around the reservoir, sections of which collapsed into the water during heavy rains last year. Mr Pita was shown that some temporary repairs have already been made in some areas, but was told the Phuket Irrigation Office was still waiting for budget approval in order to proceed with permanent repairs to the road.

Mr Pita then headed north to Ratsada, stopping at the Guan Yu Shrine in Chalong along the way.

At Ratsada, Mr Pita joined Ratsada Mayor Nakarin Yosangrat on a tour of the Tha Jeen Canal, separating Koh Siray from Phuket, to see the

mangroves there firsthand and hear Mayor Nakarin's plans to develop the area into an eco-tourism attraction

Mr Pita joined local officials and residents at the Saphan Yao Pier at Laem Hin, where Kueakiat Jitkuea, President of the Koh Kaew Tambon Administrative Organisation (OrBorTor) and his staff explained the plans they have for developing the pier to something more like Chalong Pier to help develop the area and generate incomes for local people.

While in Phuket, Mr Pita visited both the Kathu Shrine and the Jui Tui Shrine in Phuket Town to make merit and observe the Phuket Vegetarian Festival currently underway.

Governor sets out Veg Fest fireworks ground rules

PHUKET GOVERNOR Sophon Suwannarat has ordered a crackdown on the use of illegal fireworks, or the dangerous use of fireworks that endanger people, during the Vegetarian Festival under laws that can incur up to three years in prison or fines of up to B50,000.

The order, issued on Oct 11, instructed district officials to enlist the help of law enforcement in the crackdown, first and foremost to inspect all shops selling fireworks to ensure they have permits to do



Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat. Photo: PR Phuket

so and those who are legally licenced to sell fireworks are not selling any fireworks deemed illegal.

Any vendors found illegally selling fireworks are to be charged under Section 47 of the Firearms,

Ammunition, Explosives, Fireworks and Firearms Imitation Act.

Among the fireworks listed as illegal were bamboo shoots, roses, rockets, chicken eggs and any other "forward-shooting firecrackers", and "any other similar objects that can be physically dangerous and cause other people to suffer".

Similarly, any persons found using the "illegal fireworks listed, or using any legal fireworks in a physically threatening manner, are to be charged under a public safety provincial order issued on Sept 14,

2016 that will see violators punished Section 5 of National Council for Peace and Order Order No. 27/2016 issued on June 10, 2016.

Violating the public safety provisions incur a penalty of up to three years in prison or a fine of up to B50,000, or both.

The order specifically noted that the crackdown is to ensure that the use of fireworks during the Vegetarian Festival is consistent with the practices and intent of the traditional festival.

The Phuket News

Man killed as Mercedes-Benz ploughs into Veg Fest crowd

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A 62-year-old woman was taken into custody after the Mercedes-Benz she was driving ploughed into roadside stalls set up for the Vegetarian Festival near the Jui Tui Shrine in Phuket Town, one of the oldest Chinese shrines on the island and one of the main shrines taking part in the festival.

The woman, named as Aroon Thongsarn, was taken into custody at the scene, in front of Wat Kajorn Rangsan on Ranong Rd, near the Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT Phuket), in the late afternoon of Oct 12.

The police were informed of the incident at 2:10pm, said Pol Lt Romtheera Suwannaphan of the Phuket City Police.

Officers arrived with Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers to find a Mercedes-Benz, a C 300 Bluetec Hybrid registered in Bangkok, stopped in the middle of the small one-way street.

The Benz had sustained heavy damage to its front in the collision with the Toyota



Photo: Phuket City Police

sedan that had stopped in front of it. The windshield of the Benz had a head-sized hole smashed through it.

Witnesses reported that the Benz had crashed through several of the roadside stalls set up for the Vegetarian Festival before hitting several motorbikes and coming to a stop only after it had slammed into a car stopped in front.

One man was killed when he was struck by the car. His body was on the road between the front of the Mercedes and

the back of the Toyota sedan. Local media reports said that the man, 49 years old, had pushed his wife and child to safety before he was struck.

Seven other people were reported as injured in the incident. All were rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital. Initial reports noted that three of the injured were 'green' patients, three were categorised as 'yellow', and one was red, meaning critical.

Ms Aroon was taken to Phuket City Police Station

to be tested for alcohol and "for further legal", police confirmed.

At time of press police still had yet to confirm what charges she may face for the incident.

Local media reports immediately following the incident noted that Phuket City Police Chief Col Prathueng Pholmana had explained that Ms Aroon had first struck a motorbike, then lost control of the vehicle. She may have panicked and pushed the accelerator instead of the brake.

Israelis can extend stay, says Immigration

ISRAELI NATIONALS stuck in Phuket and unable to return home to Israel can extend their stay, Phuket Immigration has announced.

Israeli tourists who are unable to return home were asked to contact Phuket Immigration to apply for a temporary stay in the Kingdom, said an announcement issued by Phuket Immigration on Oct 11.

Israeli nationals traveling in Thailand on visa exemption, a 30-day visa or a 60-day tourist visa can extend their stay once and not more than 30 days, by providing the following documents:

- Application form (TM.7) available at the Phuket Immigration Office

- Photos (4x6 cm) are required with the application

- Copy of passport pages (bio page and the last entry to Thailand)

- Address registration (TM.30)

- Fee B1,900 (cash only)

Israeli tourists who have completed a 30-day extension to stay described above and are still unable to return to the country can apply for extension of stay as a 'case of necessity', with certification or request made by an



Photo: The Phuket News / file

embassy or consulate. A 'case of necessity' extension of stay is for no more than 30 days at a time, and requires the following documents:

- Application form (TM.7) with picture (4x6 cm)

- Form STM.2 (Form acknowledging the criteria and conditions for permission to stay temporarily in the Kingdom)

- Form The Acknowledgment of Penalties for a Visa Overstay (signed)

- The original letter from the embassy or consulate in Thailand

- Copy of passport pages (bio page, last entry to Thailand and extension stamp)

- Address registration (TM.30)

- Fee B1,900 (cash only)

Phuket Immigration, on Phuket Rd in Phuket Town, can be contacted by calling 076-221905 or the hotline 1178.

The Phuket News

Brit tourist stranded after wife leaves with passport

A TOURIST FROM THE UNITED Kingdom found himself without travel documents or money after a family dispute led to his wife leaving with his passport and some family belongings.

The man's predicament came to public attention after a report by Phuket Tourist Police. The case was reported last Saturday night (Oct 14) among other accounts of Tourist Police officers assisting foreign visitors in various complex situations.

Phuket Tourist Police did not disclose the name of the British man and concealed his face in the photos. The exact date of the incident was not revealed, but it is believed to have taken place either on Oct 14 or during the preceding week. One of the photos clearly showed an official wearing a Vegetarian Festival T-shirt.

"A tourist from the United Kingdom approached Tourist Police seeking assistance regarding an argument with his wife. The woman left the hotel with her spouse's passport, so he requested help in tracking her down and retrieving his passport and money," noted Phuket Tourist Police.

The unnamed tourist explained that he had already paid for his return tickets but could not board the flight without his passport, and he had no money even for basic necessities.

"Police officers provided the tourist with temporary accommodation and contacted Phuket Bus Terminal to arrange a seat on a Bangkok-bound bus for the man, allowing



A British man asked Phuket Tourist Police for help after his wife left with his passport. The Brit was fed and sent to Bangkok to contact his embassy. Photo: Phuket Tourist Police

him to contact the British Embassy and make arrangements for his return home," reported Phuket Tourist Police.

The police did not clarify whether it was deemed appropriate to assist in "tracking down" the British man's wife, as he initially requested.

One of the photos published by Phuket Tourist Police showed the man seated on a bench at Phuket Bus Terminal 2, the standard departure point for Bangkok-bound buses.

Just like most other foreign embassies, the British Embassy in Bangkok can issue an emergency travel document that permits a British national to travel to the UK from abroad when they cannot use their passport. Typically, the document is valid for a single or return journey, yet the application costs £100 and a credit or debit card is needed for payment (check GOV.UK for more information). *The Phuket News*



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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

www.foreca.com

FRI OCTOBER 20



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SAT OCTOBER 21



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SUN OCTOBER 22



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

MON OCTOBER 23



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE OCTOBER 24



High: +32°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

WED OCTOBER 25



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

THU OCTOBER 26



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

Phuket Town tackles flood concerns

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket City Municipality has conducted a series of site inspections to determine where pumps are to be set up to help drain any excess runoff and rainwater from throughout Phuket Town.

Phuket Town Deputy Mayor Supachoke La-ongphet led a team to undertake the site inspections on Oct 11 to identify where the emergency pumps are to be set up.

According to an official report of the inspections, the flood-risk survey was carried out in response to the Thai Meteorological Department issuing a notice warning of heavy to very heavy downpours throughout the week.

The precautionary measure was also in response to the Office of National Water Resources (OWNR) issuing an announcement warning officials to monitor reservoirs and local waterways that are at risk of overflowing during the period



Photo: Phuket City Municipality

Oct 12-18, the report added.

The official report made no mention that heavy to very sporadic downpours are very normal for Phuket during this time of year, as all residents and even tourists know.

The report also made no mention that the inspections and precautionary action to prevent flooding had anything to do with the nine-day Phuket Vegetarian Festival, which began on Sunday (Oct 15).

Instead, the report noted

that officials were "continuously moving forward with intensity in caution, through prevention and planning measures to deal with flooding in urban areas by exploring additional water pump installation points".

Regardless, for residents in Phuket Town, the move to have pumps set up at vital points to prevent flooding throughout the town is a prudent move, considering officials have Bang Yai Canal on watch for risk of breaching its banks with each

new heavy downpour, as they did again only a week earlier.

Of greater concern to officials, and Phuket Town residents, is that Bang Wad reservoir in Kathu is already at capacity.

According to the Phuket Irrigation Office, as of Oct 9 Bang Neow Dum reservoir in Srisoonthorn was 80.7% full and Klong Kata reservoir in Chalong was 66% full, but as of Monday (Oct 16) Bang Wad reservoir in Kathu was already

98.9% full.

When officials release water from Bang Wad reservoir, it flows into the Bang Yai Canal, which runs through the heart of Phuket Town, adding to the risk of the canal breaching its banks and flooding the town.

Officials have made monitoring Bang Yai Canal for risk of flooding a regular practice ever since the historic flooding throughout the town last year.

During the visit to Phuket by Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin in August, Phuket City Mayor Saroj Angkhanapilas explained to PM Srettha the need to expedite projects to help prevent and alleviate flooding in Phuket Town.

Doing so would help improve the area's economic performance and improve Phuket Town's image as a tourism destination, he said.

Mayor Saroj has already presented a drainage system construction project costing B226 million to help protect the Phuket Old Town area from repeated flooding.

Four killed in road accident while en route to Phuket

A RELATIVE OF FORMER Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew and three other people lost their lives in a road accident in Phang Nga while travelling to Phuket for the three-day holiday last weekend.

Takua Thung Police were notified of the, on Highway 4 in Tambon Kalai, at around 2:30pm last Friday (Oct 13).

At the scene near Wat Si Rattanaram School, officers and rescue workers found two damaged trucks and a severely wrecked Nissan Almera sedan with Songkhla license plates. Four individuals were trapped inside the sedan.

After recovering the victims from the vehicle, rescue workers confirmed their demise and transported the bodies to Phang Nga Hospital for further examination and autopsy.

The deceased were identified as the driver Mr Phumiphat Woonciew, 29, from Songkhla, and passengers Ms Piyaporn Madsaku, 29, from Nakhon Si Thammarat; Ms Juriporn Saranan, 27, from Phatthalung; and Ms Jinnapat Suthat Na Ayutthaya, 26, from Songkhla.

Both truck drivers were at the scene and prepared to provide state-



Four people died in a head-on collision on Highway 4 in Phang Nga last Friday (Oct 13). Photo: Courtesy of Kitti Wongrattanawut

ments regarding the accident. One trucker was a resident of Phuket, while the other was from Samut Prakan.

Preliminary findings indicated that Mr Phumiphat was driving westbound towards Phuket to spend the long weekend on the island. While passing Wat Si Rattanaram School, he failed to navigate a curve, causing his vehicle to cross the median line and collide with two eastbound trucks.

Truck drivers, Sayant Mathawathi and Phongsa Chaithom, were subjected to alcohol tests at Takua Thung Police Station, with results returning negative.

Takua Thung Police officers also requested alcohol tests for Mr Phumiphat at Phang Nga Hospital, but the results had yet to be disclosed at time of press. *The Phuket News*

Police investigate apparent gun suicide in Phuket Town

POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING the death of a 43-year-old manager of a car detailing centre in Phuket Town by apparent gun suicide last Saturday night (Oct 14).

Police were called to the scene, on Viraponghongyok Rd, north of the Nimit Circle (also called the 'Seahorse Circle') on the east side of Phuket Town, at about 8:10pm, reported Phuket Info Center.

Pol Lt Surachai Watitsuphaphol of the Phuket City Police soon arrived at the scene, joined by Phuket City Police Chief Pol Col Pratuang Pholmana and rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation.

Officers arrived to find the body of the man, Supachai Panya on the floor of the bathroom at the centre. He had suffered a single gunshot to the head. A .45-calibre Glock handgun was found on the floor nearby.

Officers found no sign of a struggle at the scene, and no signs of theft.

Mr Supachai was believed to have died no more than one hour before officers arrived. His body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

From their preliminary investigation, police said that Mr Supachai had been drinking beer. He had an argument with his girlfriend and left his



Photo: Phuket Info Centre

house to go to the car detailing centre, where he worked as manager, alone.

The shop was closed for the day, but Mr Supachai let himself in as he had keys to the workplace, officers said.

His girlfriend's younger brother had come to see Mr Supachai at the shop, but found him dead on the floor, officers said.

Mr Supachai was reportedly known for suffering from depression, police added.

However, police noted they are continuing their investigation.

If you or anyone you know is in need of emotional support and counseling, please contact the Samaritans of Thailand at their 24-hour hotline at 02-113-6789 (English & Thai), or the Thai Mental Health Hotline at 1323 (Thai). The Phuket News

Police hold 'Active Shooter' drill

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Officers from Region 8 Police staged an 'active shooter training' emergency-response drill at Central Phuket shopping mall on Monday (Oct 16) before the mall opened to shoppers.

Region 8 Police Commander Pol Lt Gen Suraphong Thanomchit and Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Sermphan Sirikong jointly led the 'incident response' simulation, held on the first floor of Central Phuket mall 'Floresta' building from 8:30am to 9:30am.

The exercise simulated a lone male criminal discharging a firearm inside the mall, explained an official report of the drill.

Under the simulation, the criminal entered the mall concealing his face and carrying a firearm. He refused to allow the officers to search him, and the simulation then proceeded as if the criminal shot people inside the mall, injuring his victims and then taking people hostage.

The simulation continued with Wichit Police Station being notified of the incident



Photo: PR Phuket

and coordinating forces and reporting to the commander before proceeding with the response.

The outcome of the simulation was that the 'shooter' was the only person to die and the hostages escaped safely.

Emergency medical personnel were on hand to help participants designated as 'injured' and EOD police officers inspected the suspect's bag and found no explosives.

Tourist Police fulfilled

their role by ensuring that participants designated as 'tourists' at the mall were informed of the situation and guided appropriately.

The drill was a rehearsal of the annual incident response plan, said Pol Maj Gen Sermphan.

"This [simulation] has been done once before at Phuket Boat Lagoon and this rehearsal is linked to the real situation that happened in Bangkok earlier this month," he added,

referring to the shooting spree by a 14-year-old that killed three people and left several others injured on Oct 3.

"After learning the theory from expert personnel from the Royal Thai Police, the personnel of Region 8 Police and Phuket Provincial Police and various related agencies are very ready to serve citizens and tourists, especially during this period, the traditional Vegetarian Festival in Phuket, with a large number of citizens

and tourists traveling into the area," Maj Gen Sermphan said.

"Police officers are ready in every aspect, including traffic, Tourist Police, Immigration police. We are ready to provide safety for citizens and tourists, both Thai and foreigners," he added.

"This builds confidence and increases the effectiveness of our work. It can clearly be seen that the statistics of incidents have decreased, including traffic accident statistics and other aspects," he concluded.

The incident response at Central Phuket followed a training session held at Phuket Rajabhat University on Oct 10 which saw 150 participants attend, including police officers from 11 police stations as well as security personnel from across the island.

Region 8 Police Commander Pol Lt Gen Suraphong presided over the opening ceremony of the event, joined by Region 8 Police Deputy Commander Pol Maj Gen Saksira Phueakam and Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Sermphan.

Also present for the training were Phuket Rajabhat University (PKRU) Presi-

dent Assoc Prof Dr Hiran Prasarnkarn along with Phuket Tourist Association President Thanet Tantipiriyakit and Thai Hotels Association Southern Chapter President Suksit Suwanditthakul.

Maj Gen Saksira explained that the training was for participants to respond to situations in which criminals commit crimes with firearms.

"This training is for police officers and private sector network partners to have knowledge and skills to respond to situations, as well as to build confidence in the safety of citizens and tourists, especially foreigners in Phuket Province," he said.

The participants comprised five officers each from 11 police stations in Phuket as well as security personnel, Phuket Rajabhat University staff and students.

"We want trainees to take as much knowledge and experience as possible from the trainers and be able to put it into practice to effectively take care of people, tourists and themselves while in such situations to ensure safety in case something happens," Region 8 Police Commander Lt Gen Suraphong said.

Family involved in hit-and-run make plea to find guilty party

A PHUKET MAN HAS come forward to share with the media an account of a hit-and-run accident involving his family and a pickup truck in the hope the guilty party can be identified.

Mr Wittaya, his wife and young son on Oct 8 were riding their Honda PCX motorbike near the Robinson shopping mall in Thalang, where they were heading to pick up provisions, when they were hit by the pickup whose driver then proceeded to speed off from the scene without checking on the three stricken passengers.

"It was just before 8pm and we were heading to Robinson so I could pick up some milk and goods for my children," 36-year-old Mr Wittaya explained.

"I was driving my bike in the left hand lane of the road, as usual, with my wife and son as passengers approaching Wat Tha Rue on Thepkasattri Rd when suddenly the speeding truck collided with us," he added.

All three passengers were



Photo: PR Phuket

knocked off the bike and suffered injuries; Mr Wittaya's wife suffered bruising and cuts to her torso, legs and arms, his son suffered a series of nasty cuts to his face, legs, ankle, wrist and hands and Mr Wittaya himself suffered facial wounds that required 20 stitches.

"Blood was pouring from my head wound and I was very dizzy, I could not see properly initially," Mr Wittaya recalls. He did, however, recall the driver of the pickup truck that caused the collision did not hang around, instead deciding to speed away from the scene of the crash.

"Pickup trucks should not be driving that fast," Mr Wittaya protested. "I

imagine he was travelling around 80-100 kilometres an hour, which is reckless when there is a small child as a passenger. It could have been fatal had the pickup truck been travelling even faster."

Mr Wittaya did explain that a kind-hearted taxi driver did stop at the scene to check on him and his family and helped carry his son out of the road to safety.

"I would like to thank the taxi driver for his help at a time when we really needed it," Mr Wittaya said.

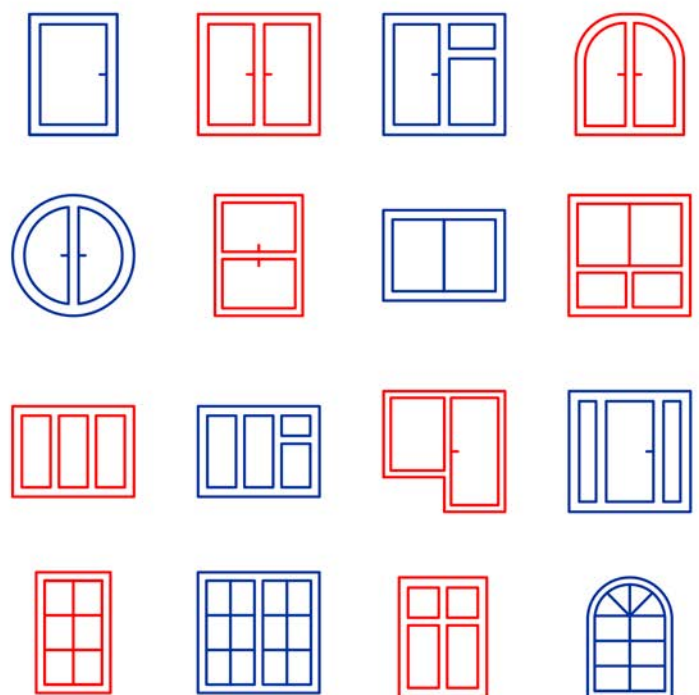
Mr Wittaya is keen for the speeding culprit that collided with him and his family to show responsibility and come forward.

"I have made an official complaint to the police but if anyone nearby at the time of the incident has car camera footage it would be very helpful if they could also come forward in the hope we are able to identify the vehicle that caused this distress," he said.

The Phuket News



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Photo: TNA

Cabinet nods 90-day stays for Russians

THE CABINET HAS given its approval for an extension of the visa-free stay for Russian tourists to 90 days in an effort to boost tourism in Thailand.

Following a Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister and Finance Minister Srettha Thavisin and the Minister of Finance disclosed their plans to extend the duration of the visa-free period, reports state news agency TNA.

The decision comes as part of a broader initiative to stimulate the tourism sector, replacing the previous 30-day visa-free period with a more extended 90-day stay, the TNA report said.

Recognising the frigid

winter weather in Russia and the desire of Russian travelers to escape it, the government aims to encourage them to stay in Thailand for a longer period, the report added.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister said he was set to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin during his participation in the 3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in the People's Republic of China.

The diplomatic interaction marks a friendly gesture between the two nations, potentially leading to more substantial discussions and agreements, the TNA report concluded.

The Phuket News

TAT expects B9bn haul from Veg Fest tourism

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT Phuket) expects the Phuket Vegetarian Festival this year to generate a staggering B9 billion for the local economy.

"From an initial survey, it is expected that there will be more than 600,000 tourists coming to the area, generating more than B9bn in income," TAT Phuket Director Lertchai Wangtrakuldee said.

The figures given presume B15,000 spent by each tourist coming to Phuket for the nine-day festival, from Oct 15-23.

"And now it is known that some hotels in the city near the Clocktower Circle have adjusted room rates higher, and there are still people booking to stay with occupancy at 80-90%," Mr Lertchai continued, speaking just three days before the festival began.

"This is one thing that can indicate that the tradition of observing precepts and eating vegetables in Phuket can create income for Phuket residents,"



Crowd favourite 'Nong White Bear' stands tall in Phuket Town. Photo: TAT Phuket

he said.

"The TAT has communicated to around the world in both Thai and English regarding the beliefs of Phuket people with the tradition of observing precepts and eating vegetables in Phuket Province," Mr Lertchai explained, according to an official report.

"Documents have been prepared for download about the holiness of the gods, showing the various routes of the shrines [processions] in Phuket Province and wanting people

who come to visit to know the history of the tradition of observing precepts and eating vegetables," he said.

"TAT Phuket in collaboration with Limelight Avenue Phuket Shopping Center has organised an exhibition of every aspect of the festival's tradition of eating vegetables, from vegetarian food to setting the altars and so on, so that people from other provinces and tourists [sic] can come to see the tradition exhibition and gain real experience during the

event," he continued, promoting the commercial shopping centre's role in the festival.

The TAT Phuket office is also holding a campaign to provide shrines with environmentally friendly food boxes that are naturally biodegradable, he added.

"The TAT invites Thai and foreign tourists to join in the merit-making ceremony at various shrines and watch the processions of various shrine icon images this year," Mr Lertchai concluded.

Veg Fest vendors warned against price gouging, taking advantage

THE CHIEF OF THE PHUKET Provincial Commerce Office has warned restaurant operators, food vendors and fresh produce suppliers that not displaying prices clearly may land them with a fine of up to B10,000.

Woranit Aphiratjirawong said in an interview on Radio Thailand Phuket last Friday (Oct 13) that her office was carrying out its campaign to prevent vendors from taking advantage of consumers, especially during the Phuket Vegetarian Festival, which continues through Monday (Oct 23).

Not displaying prices clearly and accurately was punishable under Section 28 of The Price of Goods and Services Act 1999, she said.

Prices of vegetables over the past week had already started to spiral, Ms Woranit said.

"At present, the price of vegetables has increased, and vegetarian restaurants must have signs that clearly display product prices so that entrepreneurs will not take the opportunity to increase



Photo: PR Phuket

prices unfairly," Ms Woranit noted.

"Officers will be assigned to the area for random inspections. If any store does not have a sign showing the price of the product, it is considered an offense according to Section 28 of the Price of Goods and Services Act 1999, which requires a fine not exceeding B10,000," she said.

"Citizens who witness an offense can inform the hotline 1569 or call 076-213203, or call the Damrongdharma Center [Provincial Ombudsman's Office] hotline 1567 24 hours a day," she added.

Ms Woranit said that prices of vegetables were expected to increase further as the Vegetarian Festival

continues this week.

"It is expected that during the event period between 15-23 October, the prices of many types of vegetables will increase further," she said.

At the Phuket Municipality Fresh Market 2 in Phuket Town, prices of some vegetables such as kale, bok choy and Chinese cabbage, which are used in large quantities during the festival each year, had already increased by B5-15 per kilogramme, Ms Woranit noted.

"Especially the price of kale, which was previously B35 baht per kilogramme, but is now B50 per kilogramme. That is almost double," she said.

The Phuket News

Plunge in Chinese visitors after mall shooting 'nothing to worry about'

ABOUT 60,000 CHINESE tourists have cancelled their trips to Thailand since the Siam Paragon shooting on Oct 3, which left three people dead, including one Chinese tourist, and four injured.

Data from Airports of Thailand (AoT) showed the number of Chinese tourists arriving since the incident was 590,000, a 9.2% decline compared with bookings of 650,000, government spokesman Chai Wacharonke said last Saturday (Oct 14).

However, the number is still within the range of expectations because the number of people booking tickets is always higher than the number who purchase tickets, he said.

"Normally, the number of bookings is within a range of plus or minus 15% of the real travel figures, so the reduction of 9.2% of Chinese visitors after the incident is normal. It shows that Chinese tourists are still confident in travelling to Thailand," he said.

Mr Chai also took the opportunity to thank those Chinese tourists who had made the trip despite the tragedy.

"We'd like to thank Chinese tourists for understanding



A Chinese man takes a selfie at Phuket airport on Sept 25, the first day on which temporary visa exemptions for Chinese visitors took effect. Photo: PR Phuket

Thailand and having confidence in the government," he said. "Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin has instructed agencies to comply with standards to ensure safety for tourists and Thais alike."

Chinese visits to Phuket peaked in July when the number of direct international arrivals via air reached 74,766 people according to Phuket Immigration. Since then monthly visits from China have been only declining. In August Phuket saw 64,674 Chinese arriving via Phuket airport. The number dropped further down to 37,343 in

September – a figure lower than in March (45,147 visits) and April (46,697 visits), when the Chinese market just started its recovery after Beijing lifted COVID-19 restrictions on outbound tourism.

Neither Phuket officials nor local hospitality heavyweights, such as Phuket Tourism Association (PTA), have provided any explanation for this drastic reverse of the trend.

According to Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) President Thaneth Tantipiriyakij, the number of domestic and international arrivals to Phuket in September was equivalent to 68% of the pre-pandemic level.

About 13 million tourists visited Phuket in 2019, including 3.1mn Chinese tourists, compared with around 900,000 Chinese visitors this year as of last week of September, Mr Thaneth said.

The visa-free scheme for Chinese and Kazakh nationals that kicked off on Sept 25 was tipped to boost that number to 1.7mn Chinese this year, he added, speaking about one week before the Siam Paragon shooting.

Additional reporting by The Phuket News

Evacuation of Thais from Israel war zone underway

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

A further 130 Thai workers arrived home safely from Israel on a Royal Thai Air Force plane on Monday (Oct 16), the fourth group to have returned since the Israel-Hamas war broke out on Oct 7.

The 127 men, two women and a 5-year-old girl landed at Don Mueang airport at 6:50am on Monday and were received at the Wing 6 terminal by Defence Minister Sutin Klungsang and air force chief-of-staff ACM Seksan Kantha.

Before boarding the aircraft at Ben Gurion airport in Israel, all passengers were examined by an air force medical team and went through security checks.

After landing and going through an immigration process, they were taken from Don Mueang airport to the Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute, where they would be met by waiting relatives.

Mr Sutin said the aircraft would return to Israel and bring home another group of Thais on Wednesday (Oct 18), taking the same route.

At time of press, a total of 264 Thai workers had been evacuated from Israel on four separate flights. A further flight carrying 244 Thai nationals, 33 of whom were students, landed at Bangkok's Su-



Thai workers evacuated from Israel disembark their flight at Don Mueang airport in Bangkok on Monday morning (Oct 16). Photo: Bangkok Post

varnabhumi airport on Monday morning, bringing the overall number of Thais evacuated to 508.

Workers who returned on Monday would be initially paid B15,000 compensation each by the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security would take care of transport to their home provinces.

Their return came as Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin confirmed an additional Thai worker had been killed in Israel and another was taken hostage.

The latest fatality increased the Thai death toll to 29 and the number of those taken hostage to 18, Mr Srettha confirmed.

The Prime Minister was speaking at Suvarnabhumi airport prior to his departure for China to attend the 3rd Belt

and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing between Oct 16-20.

He also confirmed that he had given instructions to the Foreign Ministry to find more flights to enable the evacuation of approximately 7,000 Thais who wished to return home from Israel by the end of November.

Asked about the Thais taken hostage, the Prime Minister admitted there had been no positive signs of them being released, despite reports of progress in negotiations.

Mr Srettha said the continued fighting and the rising death toll of Thai workers was worrying. He had instructed officials to do everything they could to get the hostages released and bring them home as soon as possible.

PM aims to settle sub issue on China visit

BANGKOK

PRIME MINISTER SRETTHA Thavisin said on Monday (Oct 16) he would discuss a possible solution to the wrangle over a Chinese submarine Thailand has commissioned with the Chinese government during his trip there.

The S26T Yuan-class submarine was originally due to be delivered to Thailand last month, but the pandemic has been blamed for delivery sliding back to next April.

China Shipbuilding & Offshore International Co – which is contracted to build the submarine under a G2G agreement – offered a CHD620 engine after Germany refused to sell its MTU 396 diesel engine to China as it is designated a military-defence item.

“I don’t want to offer any hope because the matter is delicate and requires good management. But I insist a clear solution is needed. I will try to hold talks and find a solution acceptable to all sides,” Mr Srettha said ahead of flying to Beijing.

The PM will attend the 3rd Belt and Road Forum for



PM Srettha arriving in Beijing. Photo: Bangkok Post

International Cooperation at the invitation of President Xi Jinping where he will take an opportunity to boost the confidence of investors from both China and other countries in Thailand's economic connectivity, digital infrastructure and sustainable development.

Mr Srettha is also scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Li Qiang and the chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Zhao Leji, to discuss the reinforcement of the Thailand-China comprehensive strategic partnership and strengthen cooperation in trade and investment, connectivity, and people-to-people relations.

Bangkok Post

Woman charged after two wild elephants electrocuted

SURAT THANI

A WOMAN HAS BEEN charged with violating the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act after two wild elephants were electrocuted by a live wire stretched around her durian plantation to protect her fruit trees.

The plantation is located at Moo 9 village in tambon Khlong Sa in Kanchanadit district, inside the boundary of Tai Rom Yen National Park.

Chaiyaporn Chaiyos, the park chief, went to the plantation with veterinarians and local leaders on the morning of Oct 12 to investigate after local residents told them they had seen two dead elephants.

They found the elephants lying dead in the middle of a laterite road alongside the durian plantation. One was about 30-35 years old and the other about 20-25 years, Mar Chaiyaporn confirmed.

The first elephant had a deep wound from a burn on its trunk. The officials



National park officials inspect the bodies of the two electrocuted elephants in Kanchanadit district of Surat Thani. Photo: Bangkok Post

believed it was electrocuted after touching the wire before falling to the ground, and the second elephant died from trying to help its companion.

The authorities found a live electrical wire stretched around the plantation, which belonged to a woman identified as Suwannee.

The woman was charged with violating the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act of 2018, causing the death of the two elephants. If found guilty, she would

be liable to up to 10 years' imprisonment and/or a fine up to B1 million.

Mishaps involving elephants have been on the increase in recent years as their population is rising while their habitats are under threat from human activity.

In the past five years, there have been about a half-dozen reports of elephants being electrocuted, either through contact with power lines or electrified fences put up by farmers.

Bangkok Post

BLUE TREE PHUKET

GHOSTLY GATHERING Halloween Celebration

28 - 31 October 2023

28 - 31 Oct	31 Oct
LAGOON ACTIVITIES AND HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS ALL DAY	HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREATE PARADE 3 PM LAGOON
KIDS PLANET'S HALLOWEEN WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITIES ALL DAY	HAUNTED HOUSE GAMES AND ACTIVITIES 2 - 2.30 PM, 4 - 5, AND 5.30 - 7 PM LAGOON
bluetree.fun 076 602 435	LAGOON MOVIE NIGHT 7 PM BEACH BUNGALOW



Photos: Patrick Campbell

Bad guys in your garden



GREEN THOUGHTS

Patrick Campbell

Insects are everywhere. One million different species is probably an underestimate. And while most *arthropoda* are in decline, victims of pesticides and loss of habitat, your average gardener in Phuket will attest that these critters still lurk everywhere in his carefully tended flower beds and vegetable plots.

Nonetheless, indiscriminate spraying with insecticides is not the answer. Pollinators such as bees, beetles and butterflies are so crucial to our ecosystems that we cannot survive without them. Others, natural predators such as dragonflies, lacewings, praying mantids and ladybirds already prey on the bad guys. Pollinators and predators alike are beneficial both to the environment and to humans.

The bad guys are mostly vegetarians that devour our precious shoots and foliage, but the ones that get the worst press are those that bite or sting humans and can transmit diseases. In this regard, our number one enemy is the mosquito, which has acquired extra menace in Thailand because one species, *aedes aegypti*, a large striped species, is the vector of dengue fever. Figures have risen sharply; in the country at large, there were more than 46,000 cases in 2022. Almost certainly, this increase is related to excessive rainfall and the existence of casual puddles of water favoured for breeding purposes by *aedes*. Oddly, malaria, which kills more than 600,000 people each year, is virtually unknown in the kingdom.

But even mosquito or midge bites are unpleasant enough, the more so if you are allergic to them. The female mosquito is the blood sucker, (the male feeds harmlessly on pollen) needing the transfusion to provide sustenance for eggs which she will later deposit in water. Having pierced the host's skin with her sharp proboscis, she injects an anticoagulant saliva which allows the



blood to flow more easily. It is this fluid which dilates our capillaries, and causes both the swelling and subsequent irritation.

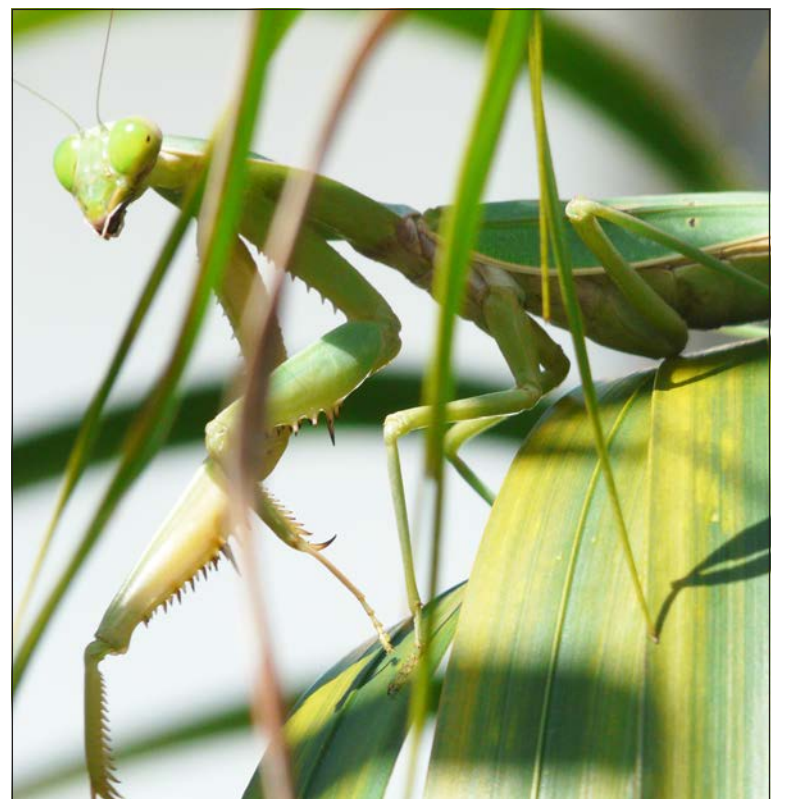
As gardeners we can take precautions. Ensure that any standing water (e.g. fish or lily ponds, or lotus vases), actually *contain* fish. Even small varieties such as guppies or sword tails will immediately gobble up any eggs or larvae. Other natural predators include insect-eating birds and large insects such as dragonflies, spiders and praying mantids. I used to have an infestation of Oleander hawk-moth caterpillars which devoured all the foliage on my *tabernaemontanas*. A local coucal discovered this abundant and succulent harvest. End of story – at least for the caterpillars...

Try to avoid gardening in the early morning or before sunset when 'mozzies' are on the prowl, and avoid areas of deep shade and lush vegetation. Wear a repellent on exposed skin: Veet is effective for several hours and though less potent, natural products based, for example, on citronella, eucalyptus oil or neem, are a useful deterrent. Enclose feet and ankles: the levels of CO2 which

attract the insects are higher in these areas of the body. Mosquitoes know all about smelly feet. Also, encourage their natural enemies – birds, skinks and lizards.

If mosquitoes are enemy number one for the gardener, others can prove equally – well – irritating. Take ants. They are ubiquitous, having colonised every part of the globe bar Antarctica. Here in the tropics, they can certainly bite and sting, especially the aggressive weaver ants that create leaf nests in trees, or the large black ants that breed underground or in saucers at the base of flower pots. They characteristically spray formic acid; after a massed attack by red ants, one can smell the acid on one's skin.

What makes ants more of a problem than they are, unlike mosquitoes, social creatures with colonies which they protect so effectively that they have few natural enemies. Even spiders will not venture near these fortresses manned by soldier ants. But their principal nuisance for the gardener is their capacity to forge relationships with other creatures such as aphids and mealy-bugs. These tiny insects feed destructively



on plant sap and produce a sweet substance called honeydew which is 'milked' by the ants. In return the ants offer a symbiotic relationship whereby these sap-suckers are protected from predators such as ladybirds. Plants weakened by such attacks often develop fungal diseases or die.

Oddly, neither mosquitoes nor ants are top of the most feared or hated insect list. That dubious honour goes to the spider. True, there are many venomous species of spiders, especially in Australia. And in the kingdom, black tarantulas and brown widows carry a nasty bite. But on balance, they are the gardener's ally, consuming mosquitoes and flies which are ensnared by their webs. Useful bio-controls...

Nonetheless, it has been estimated that up to 50% of women are arachnophobic. Fear of spiders runs deep...

Patrick Campbell's book 'The Tropic Gardener', described in one Bangkok review as the best book on Thai gardening for 50 years, is available for B500 (half price) to personal callers from 59/84 Soi Saiyuan 13 in Rawai (Tel: 076-613227 or 085-7827551).



HeadStart International School Cherngtalay

Following the highly successful opening of our new campus in August 2023, HeadStart International School Cherngtalay is excited to announce the next phase of our development plan as we look to expand our state-of-the-art facilities to ensure an even more enriching learning environment for our burgeoning school community in the north of Phuket.

With over 165 children representing nearly 30 nationalities from Preschool to Year 6 enrolled, our Cherngtalay campus is already a hive of energy and enthusiasm, offering the perfect setting for academic excellence. Our newly designed learning spaces are inclusive and accommodating, ensuring all students have the support they need to thrive academically and socially as well as helping to foster a unique community feel for students, parents and teachers alike.

Our world class arts and sports facilities allow students to explore their passions to the fullest and have enabled us to establish an extensive programme of extra

curricular activities that offer opportunities for creativity and physical development.

Our commitment to excellence extends to our faculty. We have recruited top-notch educators and provided ongoing professional development to ensure our students receive the highest quality education.

We are now excited to confirm the second phase of development due for completion by August 2024. This will see the expansion of our Foundation and Primary classrooms to a two form entry (a total of 408 students) along with the introduction of a Secondary programme, with two classes (or 48 students) per year group from Year 7 to Year 9.

HeadStart International Cherngtalay's transformation to a two form entry school marks a significant milestone. This expansion reflects our commitment to meeting the growing demand for quality education in Phuket and allows us to welcome more students into our vibrant learning community, fostering diversity and enriching the educational experience for all - *inspiring a love of learning*.



For more Information about HeadStart visit our website: www.headstartphuket.com

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POP QUIZ

1. How long is Bangla Rd?
2. Do wild cacti (cactus plants) grow in the Sahara?
3. Which *Grease* song starts, 'Summer lovin' had me a blast'?
4. '.ai' is the official URL extension of what?
5. Which Spanish monarchs sponsored the first voyage of Christopher Columbus?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

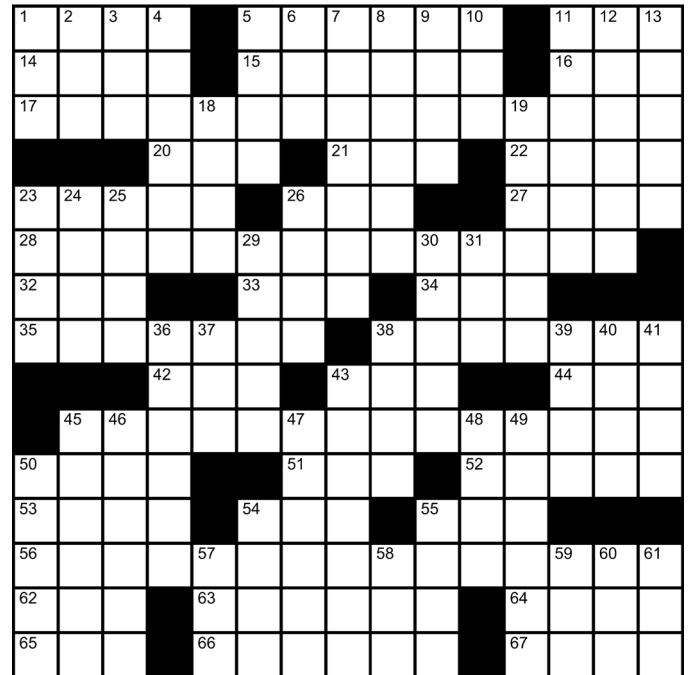
2		3				1		4
	8	6		4		7	2	
			2		3			
	9	2				8	7	
			9		8			
	3	4				9	1	
			1		2			
	4	5		3		2	8	
6		9				3		1

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across**
1. Contemptible person
 5. Goya, for one
 11. Rice University mascot
 14. Asian buffalo
 15. News office
 16. Chinese dynasty
 17. Nothing left but Smokey's skeleton?
 20. Charge carrier
 21. One of a couple
 22. It's overhead
 23. Place
 26. Eats
 27. Camera diaphragm
 28. Bullwinkle for dessert?
 32. Coffee ____
 33. Half and half
 34. Migratory fish
 35. "____ Sally"
 38. Final parts of operas
 42. Parisian way
 43. Indian tongue
 44. ____ system
 45. Templeton's fruit?
 50. Buddy
 51. Blight victim
 52. Iraqi port
 53. Jason's ship
 54. Elhi org.
 55. Photo
 56. Missives to Bambi?
 62. Matter for a judge
 63. Ennui
 64. Cut
 65. Founded: Abbr.
 66. Decline
 67. Keeler
- Down**
1. Large amount of money
 2. Japanese hatchet
 3. Donnybrook
 4. Crackpot
 5. Black, to Blake
 6. Butter holder
 7. Reduce to ashes
 8. Final transport
 9. Canal sites
 10. Irritation
 11. One side in baseball negotiations
 12. Twerp
 13. Catalogs
 18. Foofaraw
 19. Jim Palmer, notably
 23. Pond gunk
 24. Like some traffic
 25. Long stretches
 26. Suspend
 29. St. Anthony, notably
 30. Allots, with "out"
 31. "____ the glad waters of the dark blue sea": Byron
 36. Shake
 37. Calendar abbr.
 38. Goblet feature
 39. Blackens
 40. Skiers' aid
 41. Letter after theta
 43. Hilly country
 45. Trios
 46. Most immense
 47. Greek deity
 48. Parting words
 49. Break down
 50. Close-knit group
 54. Somewhat, in music
 55. Hymn of praise: var.
 57. Moose ____, Saskatchewan
 58. Fish story
 59. Outback runner
 60. Barbecue offering
 61. Hog heaven?

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) about 340 metres; 2) No, cacti are native only to the Americas; 3) Summer Nights; 4) Anguilla (British Overseas Territory in the Caribbean); 5) Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

S	A	M	O	A	N	A	B	E	T	S	U	B
A	L	E	P	P	O	S	E	T	H	A	N	A
W	O	N	T	R	O	C	K	T	H	E	U	P
E	N	D	S	D	O	E	N	A	D	I	R	
R	E	S	S	L	O	W	H	O	C	H	I	N
M	E	E	T	A	R	E	A					
A	L	G	A	E	N	A	R	G				
D	O	E	S	N	T	F	L	O	A	T	T	O
D	Y	E		H	O	E						
D	E	E	P		S	C	A	M				
R	I	D	E	S	A	S	T	E	A	M		
A	L	A	C	K		E	A	R				
S	I	R		I	S	I	N	T	H	E	S	A
T	A	T		M	O	O	D		O	Y	S	T
A	D	S		T	O	N	U	S		P	E	T

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

in 3,748,067 are the odds of you being attacked and killed by a shark.

30

minutes is all it took for Sting to write 'Every Breath You Take' after he woke up with the line "Every breath you take, I'll be watching you" in his head.

80

times is how much heavier the Earth is compared with the Moon.

150

Hertz is how high human screams spike — the higher the pitch, the more terrifying the scream is perceived by other people.

1

sextillion

(one thousand trillion) supercomputers would be required to store all the DNA in the world.

Source: *Uberfacts*

ISLAND VIEW



Promthep Sunset. Photo by student Valentin Labreze

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

This week in history

Oct 20, 1720

Caribbean pirate Calico Jack (John Rackham) is captured by the Royal Navy and later convicted of piracy and hanged at Port Royal. Jack's first mate, Karl Starling, designed the Jolly Roger flag, a skull with crossed swords.

Oct 21, 2021

A shooting occurs on the set of the film *Rust*, in which actor Alec Baldwin discharged a prop weapon which had been loaded, killing the director of photography, Halyna

Hutchins, and injuring director Joel Souza.

Oct 22, 1962

US President John F. Kennedy announces that American reconnaissance planes have discovered Soviet nuclear weapons in Cuba, and orders a naval 'quarantine' of the Communist nation.

Oct 23, 1991

Signing of the Paris Peace Accords which ended the Cambodian-Vietnamese War. Commemorated as a public



First photo from space. Photo: NASA

holiday in Cambodia.

Oct 24, 1946

A camera on board the V-2 No. 13 rocket takes the first photograph of the Earth from outer

space, at an altitude of 105km.

Oct 25, 1147

After a siege of four months, crusader knights led by Afonso Henriques, who later becomes the first King of Portugal, reconquer Lisbon.

Oct 26, 1881

The Gunfight at the O.K. Corral, a 30-second shootout at 3pm between outlaws and four lawmen, including Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, takes place in Tombstone, Arizona.

Source: *Wikipedia*

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MON 23 OCT



Monday BBQ Night

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JOBS

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WED 25 OCT



Wednesday BBQ Night

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

THU 26 OCT



Skål International Phuket Dinner - October

We are delighted to extend an invitation to you for the Monthly Skål International Phuket Dinner, hosted at the exquisite Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort on the 26th of October, from 6pm. This exclusive event is tailor-made for hoteliers, tourism, and travel professionals. It's an opportunity to connect, collaborate, and celebrate in an atmosphere that perfectly mirrors the spirit of Skål International. To find out more visit - facebook.com/SkalPhuket

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JOB

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Looking for a Personal Assistant to help a British Business man who intends to buy a property in Phuket where he will live part of the year. Duties to include arranging viewings, help organise maids, housekeepers, masseuses, gardener, chef. Arriving October 29th, 2023 and staying in Surin Beach, Phuket. Please email with photo. Phil Solomons: sirround-sound27@gmail.com, +44 7788 725846

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FRI 27 OCT



Joint Chambers Member Briefing on How Engineering Excellence can SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE your hotel facility

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, British Chamber Thailand (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber (GTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber (NTCC), Phuket Chamber, Thai-Italian Chamber (TICC) and Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce, invite you to join us for Joint Chambers Member Briefing from 17.00 - 18.00 hrs. In this session, you will get to know more from our corporate sponsor, Meinhardt, about engineering excellence which goes beyond the initial construction phase. It's an ongoing commitment to efficient, reliable, and sustainable practices that can have a profound and positive impact on your hotel or facility's profitability, reliability, and sustainability over time. Free of charge for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members. 900 THB for non-members. Advance registration required - office@austchamthailand.com



Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners by AustCham Thailand

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, British Chamber (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber (GTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber (NTCC), Phuket Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Swedish Chamber, invite you to join us for Sundowners at SAI Laguna Phuket from 18.00 hrs. Make new connections and catch up with familiar faces in the Australian-Thai business community. Also get to know our corporate sponsor, Meinhardt, an engineering consultancy service which offers full engineering consultancy services. • 500 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members • 900 THB for non-members. Includes cocktail-style food, and free-flow selected beverages. Register in advance, walk-ins are not allowed, via office@austchamthailand.com or 02 109 9616.

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FRI 3 NOV



Grow Boating Evening

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm on Friday the 3rd of November. We are delighted to announce that our drinks sponsor for the evening will be the Thailand International Boat Show 2024 (TIBS) which will take place at the award-winning Royal Phuket Marina between 11 – 14 January 2024, with over 6,000 visitors and more than 100 exhibitors expected to attend. See www.thailandinternationalboatshow.com There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant for all attendees and as always, all your favourite beverages will be available from the bar. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee and if you know anyone you think would be interested in coming, please invite them along. To join our mailing list click this link https://facebook.us16.list-manage.com/subscribe... Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/growboatingphuket Grow Boating is kindly supported by our media partner The Phuket News, Live 89.5 radio and Phuket News TV. See www.thephuketnews.com

TUE 7 NOV



Melbourne Cup 2023 at Casa Boho

Fabulous Fun Fundraiser at Funky Casa Boho at the Hyatt Regency Kamala - The Melbourne Cup 2023. From 9:30 to 14:30, guests will enjoy free-flow selected beverages & brunch with: - Fashions on the Field to find the most stylish guests - with prizes awarded for Best Hat, Best Dressed, Best Suited, and the Chicest Couple. - Exclusive prizes to bid on and raffles to win. - Screening of the famous thoroughbred horse race. - Dancing with resident DJ. Casa Boho is the perfect party venue, with aircon, ocean breezes and panoramic views across Kamala Bay. Dress code: At the races. Hats a must! Venue: Casa Boho, Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort, Kamala. Donation: 3,500 baht. For tickets, please contact Tina Hall tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org Phuket Has Been Good To Us must raise 450,000 baht from this fundraiser to pay for an English Teacher for 2024, so PLEASE join us for this party with a purpose

WED 15 NOV



La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Phuket Dinner - Nov 2023

Contemporary Australian Dinner. An amazing menu that brings Melbourne to the Andaman, with paired drinks, has been created specifically by Chef Oat for this months La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Phuket Dinner. Held at HEH Restaurant in Talat Yai on November 15, from 6pm. Dress code - Jacket's optional for men, no jeans, with Chaîne ribbon. Members - THB 5,000 p.p., limited invited guests - THB 5,500 p.p. To book your seat at this very special dinner, please visit - phuket-ticketmaster.com *Pay via Bank Transfer and only pay the dinner price, booking fees only apply to other payment options. (By attending this event, you consent to being photographed, and these photos may be used for promotional and advertising purposes. If you have any concerns, please inform the Chaîne Phuket committee.)



Photos: Eakkapop Thongtub

FESTIVAL OF THE GODS

The Phuket Vegetarian Festival was launched into action as thousands of people turned out for the raising of the Go Teng poles at participating shrines across the island last Saturday evening (Oct 14).

Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat and other leading provincial figures, such as Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Sermphan Sirikong, joined the first official event of the festival at the Jui Tui Shrine in Phuket Town, one of the largest Chinese shrines in Phuket, at sunset.

Mah Song spirit mediums and devotees also observed rituals and ceremonies to mark the opening of the festival. The raising of the 'Go Teng' poles – also called 'lantern poles', although many of them are more than 20 metres long – is to allow the Jade Emperor and

the Nine Emperor Gods to descend from the heavens and walk the Earth for the nine days of the festival.

Street processions began on Monday with Mah Song and devotees making their way from the Jchoor Su Gong Naka Shrine, better known as the Naka Shrine, in Wichit through Kathu and into Phuket Town. The procession continued to Saphan Hin, where more rituals were observed, before the procession made its way back to the Naka Shrine.

Throughout the week other shrines continued to hold their ablutions and rituals to pay tribute to the Nine Emperor Gods, along with their own street processions across the island, and in Phuket Town.

The official nine days of the festival will draw to a close

on Monday (Oct 23) with processions from all participating shrines making their way through Phuket Town to Saphan Hin, where a final bonfire will be held during which thousands of prayers for ancestors and the Gods are burnt as offerings.

The final night of the festival has long been renowned as spectacular, and noisy, with thousands of people lining the streets of Phuket Town to watch as each major shrine taking part in the festival has devotees carrying an image of their key god to be honoured at the 'mass farewell ritual' at Saphan Hin.

The mass rituals call the Jade Emperor and the Nine Emperor Gods to return to the heavens with bonfires of notes of prayers and blessings. The rituals conclude at midnight with a blaze of fireworks.



World Rugby to adopt 'smart' mouthguards

RUGBY

AUTHORITIES WILL start using 'smart' mouthguards to help protect players from head injuries, rugby's global governing body has confirmed.

World Rugby will use the smart mouthguard technology to alert independent pitchside doctors about potential concussions.

The data supplied would then be used by the doctors when performing the head injury assessments that determine whether or not a player that has suffered a suspected concussion can return to the field of play.

The in-game alerts sent by the mouthguards to the doctors would show whether a player had "experienced a high level of acceleration which could lead to an injury," World Rugby said in a statement on Oct 11.

"The latest scientific research and expert opinion is telling us one thing: reduce the forces players experience on their heads at all levels of the game," said World



Rugby union is in the spotlight over brain injuries. Photo: AFP

Rugby's chief medical officer Dr Eanna Falvey.

"The advances in smart mouthguard technology mean elite players will be better cared for than ever before."

World Rugby said it is investing 2 million euros (B76.5mn) in the technology, which will make its debut in the upcoming WXV elite women's rugby competition in New Zealand, starting later this month.

Elite players will be required to wear smart mouthguards in training as well as matches.

The governing body is also recommending mouthguard use at all levels of the game across the world and increasing return to play protocols to three weeks.

AFP

Springboks meet England in Rugby World Cup semi-final

RUGBY

AFP

Defending champions South Africa edged hosts France 29-28 in a thrilling seven-try encounter last Sunday (Oct 15) to reach this weekend's Rugby World Cup semi-finals, where they will meet England.

French President Emmanuel Macron was among the 79,500 crowd expecting – and getting – a match of the highest quality between Fabien Galthie's France team, third in the world rankings, and Jacques Nienaber's Boks, in second place.

A pulsating first half finished with France 22-19 ahead when Thomas Ramos converted a penalty after Springboks lock Eben Etzebeth was shown a yellow card for making head contact with Uini Atonio as he tackled the mammoth prop.

But the momentum swung back South Africa's way as Etzebeth made up for his earlier misdemeanour by crashing over for a try before his team were able to hold on for victory.

Earlier, Owen Farrell scored a late drop goal and penalty to secure a tense and nervy 30-24 win for England against Fiji.

England took control early on before Fiji produced a stirring fightback in Marseille although in the end Farrell's 20 points with the boot proved decisive.

The loss denied Fiji the chance to make history and a first-ever last-four



South Africa edged France in a thrilling quarter-final tie last Sunday (Oct 15). Photo: AFP

appearance as they fell at the quarter-final stage for the third time as England secured their semi-final showdown with South Africa on Sunday (Oct 22).

"We always knew Fiji were going to have some good patches and they did. To find a way to win and get through to the semi-finals is a big step forward but we know we have plenty of work to do," said man-of-the-match Farrell afterwards.

Elsewhere, three-time champions New Zealand inflicted more World Cup heartbreak on Ireland last Saturday (Oct 14), beating them 28-24 in a tense quarter-final to bring a bitterly disappointing end to Irish captain Johnny Sexton's stellar career.

The defeat ended Ireland's run of 17 successive Test victories and denied them the chance of reaching the last four for

the first time in their history.

The Irish pounded away in the dying minutes, but the All Blacks stood firm and 38-year-old Sexton was left to contemplate what might have been as the whistle blew on his extraordinary career.

"You've got to work hard for fairytale endings and we didn't get it but that's life," he said.

The All Blacks meet Argentina in tomorrow's (Oct 21) semi-final after the Los Pumas overcame Wales 29-17 in their quarter-final.

Emiliano Boffelli's 19 points from the kicking tee, allied with tries from Joel Sclavi and Nicolas Sanchez, were enough to see Argentina past a Wales side for whom Dan Biggar and Tomos Williams crossed for tries, with the former playing his 112th and final Test.

Young Thai shuttler on the rise

BADMINTON

THAILAND HAS A NEW RISING STAR in the world of badminton after Pitchamon Opatniputh won the girls' singles final of the BWF World Junior Championships in Spokane, Washington, USA, on Oct 8.

The 16-year-old defeated Indonesia's Chiara Marvella Handoyo 21-11 21-9 in just 34 minutes, and immediately dedicated her world junior badminton world title to her late grandfather.

Nicknamed 'Pink', the Chiang Mai native fulfilled a promise she had made to herself after the death of her grandfather last year.

Pitchamon's grandfather had passed away just before she left for the 2022 World Junior Championships, and she invoked his memory as soon as she came away after securing the title with an easy win over a struggling Handoyo.

The Indonesian appeared to be suffering physically and had no answer to the Thai.

"I feel so proud of myself and I'd like to thank everyone cheering for me," Pitchamon said afterwards.

"I feel the pressure is lesser now, and I want to say that I could do it for my grandpa because last year I tried to do it for him but I could not, but this year I could.

"My grandpa was my friend, philosopher and guide.

"I didn't go in with any expectations. Before I played, I was ready to accept a loss too."

Pitchamon is the seventh Thai to win



Pitchamon celebrates her win. Photo: AFP

the world junior title after Ratchanok Intanon (girls' singles), Kunlavut Vitidsarn (boys' singles), Manepong Jongjit and Rodjana Chuthabunditkul (mixed doubles) and Kittinupong Kedren and Dechapol Puavaranukroh (boys' doubles).

Both Ratchanok and Kunlavut went on to win three world junior titles in a row and later became world champions at senior level.

Pitchamon's triumph should be a tonic for Thai badminton after its players had put up dismal performances at the recent Asian Games in Hangzhou.

Patama Leeswadtrakul, president of the Badminton Association of Thailand, congratulated Pitchamon on her success.

She also praised her coach Kasemsak Chatuchinda for making her a better player.

Pitchamon was a member of the Thai women's team which won the gold medal at the 2023 SEA Games in Cambodia.

Bangkok Post

Countdown on to Thai Moto GP

MOTO GP

THE COUNTDOWN TO the OR Thailand Grand Prix 2023 is underway as Thailand gears up to host the world-class motorcycling event for the fourth time.

The Thailand MotoGP Grand Prix 2023 will be held at Buri Ram's Chang International Circuit from Oct 27-29.

The new trophy for the 2023 championship was officially unveiled during a press conference on Oct 11, presided over by Nanat Hongchuwech, the advisor to Minister of Tourism and Sports.

"With the hard work of the Sports Authority of Thailand and the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Thailand is now ready to welcome all the spectators and tourists who will be heading to Buri Ram for the race," Mr Nanat said.

"We believe that the support of all parties involved will make this the best Moto GP event and give the audience the most satisfying experience in Thailand.

"It will showcase our potential to host a world-class sports event which will be broadcast to around 800 million people in 200 countries



The new OR Thailand MotoGP Grand Prix trophy is officially launched at the Oct 11 press conference. Photo: Bangkok Post

worldwide," he added.

Apart from world-class MotoGP riders such as current world championship leader Francesco Bagnaia of Ducati, fans will also get to see Thai Moto2 ace Somkiat Chantra in action in Buri Ram.

The 24-year-old The Idemitsu Honda Team Asia rider won his second career title at the Japan Grand Prix earlier this month.

There will also be the OR Thailand Grand Prix Expo to which all ticket holders can have free access. Daily admission ticket costs B100

and three-day B200 tickets are also available, allowing fans to attend concerts, Muay Thai events and other meet and greet activities.

Fans can purchase tickets for the Grand Prix via All Ticket Counter Service at 7-Eleven stores or www.allticket.com while Expo admission tickets can be purchased at All Ticket booths from Oct 27-29 at the event venue.

For more information, please visit the Chang Circuit Buriram Facebook page.

Bangkok Post

UEFA confirm Euro hosts

FOOTBALL

AFP

The United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland will co-host Euro 2028, while Italy and Turkey will be joint hosts of the 2032 tournament, UEFA announced on Oct 10.

England, which hosted the women's Euros last year, last organised a major men's tournament in 1996, when the European Championship involved just 16 teams.

Between them, England and Scotland hosted 12 games during Euro 2020 that was held in various locations across the continent with both semi-finals and final taking place at Wembley.

Six of the proposed venues for the 2028 tournament are in England, with two stadiums in London and others in Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle and Birmingham.

Belfast, Dublin, Glasgow and Cardiff are also in line for matches.

"I grew up with Euro 96 being one of the most amazing memories of my childhood. And we have a chance to do that all over again for lots more people," said UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak following the announcement.

Turkey, which has bid unsuccessfully to stage every European Championship going back to 2008, was initially a candidate for both Euro 2028 and 2032.

However, in July it agreed to join Italy in a bid for the 2032 edition, without saying at the time if it would pull out of



Gareth Bale (centre right), who led the UK and Ireland bid delegation, flanked by UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin and fans at the UEFA headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland, on Oct 10. Photo: AFP

the running for 2028.

Italy hosted matches in Rome at Euro 2020 but has not hosted a tournament on its own since the 1990 World Cup.

It hosted the final stages of the four-team Euro in 1968 and the eight-team tournament in 1980.

Turkey, which hosted this year's Champions League final in Istanbul in June, has never been awarded a major international competition.

But after four failed attempts, and having joined forces with Italy, the lack of any rival contenders means Turkey will now get its chance.

That is despite human rights concerns still lingering following Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's re-election in May – he has not shown any clemency towards, or announced an amnesty for,

tens of thousands of political opponents who have been imprisoned.

The Turkish Football Federation promised to offer spectators "the ultimate European Championship experience".

Russia initially declared an interest in hosting either the 2028 or 2032 Euros but UEFA said it would not consider any bid from the Russian Football Union after Russian clubs and national teams were suspended from all UEFA competitions due to the war in Ukraine.

Elsewhere, Saudi Arabia has revealed plans to bid to host the 2034 World Cup.

The announcement came after FIFA recently confirmed Morocco, Spain and Portugal will host the 2030 World Cup, with games also to be played in Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay as the footballing showpiece celebrates its centenary.

'Born winner' Rooney hired as new Birmingham manager

FOOTBALL

FORMER MANCHESTER United star Wayne Rooney has been hired as the new manager of Championship club Birmingham.

Rooney has agreed a three-and-a-half-year contract to replace John Eustace at St Andrew's after leaving Major League Soccer side DC United.

Eustace, in charge for just 15 months, was sacked despite guiding Birmingham to sixth place in the Championship this season and Rooney will be expected to oversee a push for promotion to the Premier League.

"I am absolutely delighted to be joining Birmingham City at such an exciting time. It is very clear that they have a plan and are committed to realising their ambition for the club," Rooney said on Oct 10.

"We are fully aligned on what is expected. I have been building my managerial career, putting myself in challenging environments, to get me ready for this opportunity," he added.



Wayne Rooney. Photo: AFP

Joining Rooney on his Birmingham backroom staff are former England teammate Ashley Cole, currently England Under-21s assistant coach, and John O'Shea, the assistant coach of the Republic of Ireland.

US-based Shelby Companies Limited completed a takeover of Birmingham in July and soon afterwards seven-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady became a minority owner in the club.

"Wayne is a born winner. We believe, with the support of his coaching staff, the club, and our supporters, he will take Blues forward on the next stage of our journey," Birmingham co-owner Tom Wagner said.

"He and his staff have the full support of the Board and everyone at the football club." AFP

Afghanistan defeat champions England in World Cup shock

CRICKET

AFGHANISTAN PULLED OFF ONE of the greatest World Cup shocks last Sunday (Oct 15) when they defeated defending champions England by 69 runs in New Delhi.

Chasing 285 to win, after opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz had hit a blistering 80, England were bowled out for 215 despite Harry Brook's 66 with spinners Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Rashid Khan claiming three wickets each.

"It's a very proud moment to be here in the World Cup beating the last champions, it is a good moment for the whole nation and the team. A wonderful performance for the bowlers and the batters," said Mujeeb.

The stunning upset gave Afghanistan just their second World Cup win to add to a lone victory over Scotland at the 2015 tournament.

They came into the clash having lost their opening two games in India and on a 14-match losing World Cup streak.

"Congratulations to Afghanistan, they outplayed us today," said England skipper Jos Buttler.

Elsewhere, India bowled out Pakistan for just 191 in their high-profile World Cup clash on Saturday after their bitter rivals lost their last eight wickets for just 36 runs.

In front of around 120,000 fans, the home side claimed an eighth win in eight World



Afghanistan celebrate. Photo: AFP

Cup meetings against their neighbours.

The hosts elected to bowl first in Ahmedabad at the world's biggest cricket stadium and Mohammed Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya, Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja took two wickets each as Pakistan collapsed from 155-2 to get bowled out in 42.5 overs.

The hotly-anticipated match raised enormous interest with fully booked city hotels charging more than 10 times their usual rate and desperate fans even booking full-body check ups in local hospitals to be sure of a place to stay.

Meanwhile, Twenty20 cricket, the game's shorest format, will feature at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, it was confirmed on Monday (Oct 16).

Lacrosse, squash, softball and flag football (a version of gridiron) will also feature as new sports at LA2028, the International Olympic Committee confirmed, although the inclusion of boxing remains "on hold" IOC officials announced. AFP

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Sport



Final four at Rugby World Cup > p14

JUDO MASTERS

Phuket Dojo students continue to conquer

The Phuket Dojo team at the Cambodian National Judo Championships in Phnom Penh on Oct 8. Photo: Alexis Plantard



MMA

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The team from the Dojo at Blue Tree Phuket continue to impress at international tournament level after winning yet more medals on their travels recently.

On the weekend of Oct 7-8 the team travelled to Phnom Penh for the Cambodian National Judo Championships where they once again exhibited their burgeoning skills to finish the tournament with an impressive eight-medal haul.

Dojo team captain Gabin continued to lead the way by winning the gold medal in his category and he was ably matched by fellow student Oscar who also claimed the top honour in his class.

Dojo teammate David won a silver medal, losing only one of his five fights which was against teammate Gabin, while Oliver demonstrated his impressive consistency by reaching his 15th final of the year to also claim silver.

Tomo excelled to reach the podium and claim a bronze medal in the under-14 age group, despite only being 11 years old himself; he was also awarded his judo orange belt classification for his development and progress.

There were also bronze medals for Dominic, who battled on admirably despite suffering a dislocated shoulder during competition, and 8-year-old Kiichi who shone by securing third-place in the under-12 age group.

Opponents clearly underestimated Kiichi as the young competitor belied

his age to overcome several bigger and tougher challenges on his way to the podium with an excellent display of technically precise judo.

Last but not least, Dojo lead instructor Alexis Plantard continued to set an example to his students by winning a gold medal in the senior age category.

SUCCESS DOWN UNDER

Prior to the tournament in Cambodia the team contested the Australian National Judo Championships on the weekend of Sept 9-10, and once again the medals continued to flow.

Oscar and Oliver both won golds in their respective classes, as did young Kiichi who claimed his first international tournament. As an additional bonus, Kiichi was also awarded his judo orange belt classification in recognition of his ongoing progress.

ing progress.

Team captain Gabin took home a silver medal and Alexis continued to set a great example to his students as he claimed two gold medals in the senior 90kg and master 90kg classes.

The team's overall performance meant they finished fifth out of 13 clubs, a tremendous display considering only six athletes from the Phuket-based club were involved.

'THE SPIRIT OF JUDO'

The Phuket News aren't the only ones who are charting the development and progress of the Dojo Phuket team as recently all their hard work paid off with a mention in the renowned French martial arts magazine *L'Esprit Du Judo*, which translates as 'The Spirit of Judo'.

The monthly magazine is considered the leading global authority on the

sport of judo with over 70,000 copies sold each month around the world.

The article in the September edition profiled a number of French coaches based throughout the world who are demonstrating a positive influence in growing the sport of judo within the local community which has manifested in results and achievements at championship level.

Alexis was one such coach mentioned for developing excellence and performance within his students at the Dojo at Blue Tree Phuket, something he aims to continue doing for a long time yet.

Everyone is welcome to attend Dojo at Blue Tree Phuket to learn martial arts and become the best version of themselves. For more information contact: dojo@bluetree.fun or visit their Facebook page.

Woodball competition for one and all underway this weekend

WOODBALL

THE 2023 PHUKET CITY MUNICIPALITY Open Woodball Competition starts today (Oct 20) and runs until Sunday, with spectators encouraged to come along to witness a fun-filled competition.

The three-day competition at the Woodball Stadium in Saphan Hin runs from 7am each day, with trophies for the top-placed finishers and a total prize pot of B67,000 up for grabs.

The competition is structured into six separate categories:

1. Men's and women's singles aged 60 years old or over

2. Mixed doubles where one competitor must be under 60 years old paired with a partner aged 60 or over

3. Men's and women's teams aged 60 or over

4. General men's and women's teams (no age limit)

5. Mixed gender teams over the age of 60

6. Male and female singles (no age limit)

Competition rules and regulations comply with the Woodball Sports Association of Thailand official guidelines and prizes will be distributed as follows:

1. Winners in the pairs competition will receive B1,000 per team,



A demonstration at the Oct 9 press conference. Photo: PR Phuket

runners-up B800, third-place B600 and finishers between fourth and eighth B300 per team. All such finishers will also receive an official competition trophy.

2. All winners in the team category will receive B4,000 per team,

second-placed teams B3,000, third-placed teams B2,000 and the fourth best placed team B1,000. All four teams will also receive an official competition trophy.

3. Winners in the individual category will receive B1,000, runners-up B800 and third-place B600, with all players finishing between fourth and eighth receiving B300. All such finishers will also receive an official competition trophy.

All prizes and trophies will be distributed on the day by Phuket City Mayor Saroj Angkanapilas.

At a press conference on Oct 9 to announce the event, Mr Saroj emphasised the importance of sports in maintaining a healthy

lifestyle whilst fostering the values of fair competition, including winning, losing and how to show humility and forgiveness. "Sports build people and people build the nation," he said.

Thammawat Wongcharoenyot, President of the Phuket Sports Association, echoed Mr Saroj's comments, adding that the competition is a further opportunity to promote tourism in Phuket and its role as a leading sports destination.

Mr Saroj concluded the press conference by welcoming Phuket residents to come along and cheer the participating athletes during competition that he said should provide plenty of exciting and enjoyable action.

The Phuket News