

## ROAD SAFETY PUSH TO TARGET MOTORBIKES > PAGE 5

# OPEN DOOR



PLTO Chief Adcha Buchan (right) explains his case at a meeting last week. Photo: Chalermpong Saengdee / Facebook

## LOCAL TRANSPORT OFFICE TO LIFT BAN ON REGISTERING NEW APP TAXIS

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) will lift its ban on any new taxi drivers being registered in Phuket following a meeting in Phuket with Padipat Suntiphada, the First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Thailand.

The meeting, joined by PLTO Chief Adacha Buchan, was held at the PLTO office in Phuket Town on June 13 to discuss resolving issues directly related to Phuket's ongoing traffic crisis.

News of lifting the ban was first shared online by Phuket MP Somchart Techathavorncharoen, of the Move

Forward Party (all three Phuket MPs are from the Move Forward Party).

MP Somchart quoted Mr Padipat as saying at the meeting, "What is the career like? Because a self-employed person has the right to control what noodles they should have in their shop. If there are only 1,000 people who consume noodles, should there not be more than 100 shops? And would having the noodle shops registered violate any rights?" he posed.

MP Somchart then quoted PLTO Chief Mr Adcha as saying, "In the way of transportation, we want everyone to have a career and be able to compete completely. Everyone is registered. Anyone who is unable to pursue a career because they cannot compete with others must withdraw

from the business... Section 43 of the Constitution [sic] prohibits interfering with people's right to work. Everyone has the right to compete or have a career with freedom. As for provincial transportation, we agree that we should have free vehicle registration. Everyone can enter the system to pursue a career."

While apparently now citing the Constitution as the cornerstone of such a ban not being allowed to be in place, Mr Adcha has never publicly confirmed when the ban was brought into effect.

Also of note, Section 40 of the current Constitution is the relevant section regarding the right to work.

Section 40 is headed, "A person shall enjoy the liberty to engage in

an occupation" and stipulates: "The restriction of such liberty under paragraph one shall not be imposed except by virtue of a provision of law enacted for the purpose of maintaining the security or economy of the country, protecting fair competition, preventing or eliminating barriers or monopoly, protecting consumers, regulating the engagement of occupation only to the extent of necessity, or for other public interest."

"Enactment of the law to regulate the engagement of occupation under paragraph two shall not be in a manner of discrimination or interference with the provision of education by educational institutions."

The PLTO has yet to announce the decision to lift the ban on its...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



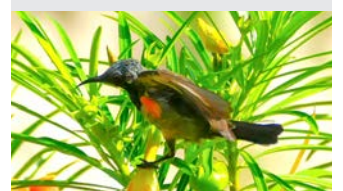
## NEWS PAGE 3

### Monsoon brings more drownings



## LIFE PAGE 9

### Hidden wonders of the low season



## SPORT PAGE 16

### Top Rugby 11s action at ACG



Lile-it™

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE



exceditor@classactmedia.co.th

# News



**Police hunt Srisoonthorn predator > p4**

## Moving forward on new app taxis

Continued from page 1

...official Facebook page. What the PLTO has announced most recently is its formal request for more than B1 million for road safety projects. Submitted on June 10.

News of lifting the ban has been met with a large volume of support, yet with some people commenting online against the move.

Of note, MP Somchart has taken a balanced view on allowing people to work as taxi-app drivers. In August last year he called for people to report taxi-app driver rip-offs, namely by not charging the correct fares according to the government mandated rates.

In September last year, MP Somchart presented Phuket's public transport problems to Parliament as an example of what happens when a centralised government based in Bangkok focuses only on mega-investment projects.

Fellow Phuket MP

Chalermpong Saengdee also shared news of the ban being lifted.

MP Chalermpong pointed out that Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Pol Col Phasakorn Sonthikul was present at the meeting.

Pol Col Phasakorn explained that during the tourism high season some 49,000 vehicles traverse Thepkasattri Rd each day. That number falls to 10,000 vehicles at other times, but it is still considered congested.

Officials monitor traffic levels through different programs including Google Maps, and use the information to address issues to help alleviate traffic congestion.

"If Phuket wants to solve the problem, it should have good mass transit, which will cause the amount of cars on the road to be greatly reduced," Pol Col Phasakorn said.

"Meanwhile, in the Mueang District area, there



**Padipat Suntiphada, the First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Thailand. Photo: Chalermpong Saengdee / Facebook**

are heavy traffic jams at two points: the 'Lotus-Samkong underpass' intersection and the Darasamuth Underpass intersection.

"As for Patong, whether it's during the tourist season or during normal times, there will be quite a lot of cars accumulated. Initially, the

police have coordinated with the Patong Municipality and business operators and there will be a meeting to discuss [this] together," he added.

"Meanwhile, Phuket Highways Office Chief Yutthana Phitak, also at the meeting, revealed that in fiscal year 2024, the government had allocated

the budget for roadworks over two kilometres from Heroines Monument underpass [sic] to in front of Thai Watsadu," MP Chalermpong said.

Building an underpass at the Heroines Monument will certainly have an impact on local people, MP Chalermpong pointed out.

"As part of solving the problem, temporary new bus routes may be established and help to reduce congestion during construction, so that everything can be fully implemented. Therefore, routes should be increased and laws enforced towards drivers," he said.

Regarding taxi-app drivers, MP Chalermpong noted that police and PLTO officers will still be obligated to take action against any illegal taxi drivers.

Mr Padipat himself posted online that he was motivated to call such a meeting in Phuket after receiving multiple com-

plaints about traffic problems in Phuket.

Many of the problems were the result of a lack of communication, he said, as he called on all people affected by the issues to work together to solve the problems.

Mr Padipat said that in total nine issues were discussed during his visit to Phuket, including improving in providing assistance to Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO) in its initiative to improve 'Subdistrict Health Promoting Centres', which serve as frontline community clinics.

Mr Padipat noted that in his opinion the PPAO had been doing "very well" in serving the people, but admitted that the organisation needed help to achieve its goals. Mr Padipat said he and his team would expedite garnering and delivering any support it could by working with the Ministry of Phuket Health in Bangkok.

**SAii Phuket LAGUNA**

### ON SUNDAYS, WE BRUNCH

Easy, breezy brunch is back!

Gather the gang and spend your Sunday feasting on irresistible Mediterranean fare.

Indulge in mezze, tapas and desserts from the sumptuous buffet and savor bottomless a la carte main course.

**Perfect Lazy Afternoon | Pool Access | Live Music**

**EVERY SUNDAY**  
12.00 pm - 3.00 pm  
At Miss Olive Oyl

From THB 999++ per adult (food only)  
THB 550++ per child aged 4 - 12 (food + soft drinks)

For reservations, please email us at [ogs.laguna@saiiresorts.com](mailto:ogs.laguna@saiiresorts.com)  
+66 (0) 76 360 600 @SAii.lagunaphuket

## Funds approved for old prison park

A BUDGET OF B169.5 MILLION has been given the green light to allow design and development of a public park on the grounds of the former Phuket Prison in Phuket Town.

The announcement was made on June 13 when the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) Council met to review and approve a number of budget requests to enable construction and development at a variety of locations across the island.

PPAO Council Chairman Hat Katanchalikul oversaw the meeting, which also included PPAO President Rewat Areerob and selected PPAO councillors.

The main item for discussion on the agenda was the request for budget to develop a public park at the site of the old Phuket Provincial Prison on Damrong Rd in Phuket Town. The plan is to transform the site into an "eco-tourism attraction" and green area that is to be "the lungs of Phuket Town" where people can exercise and enjoy the outdoor space.

The approved budget of B169.5mn will allow work to begin on developing specific aspects relating to the park, explained Mr Rewat, in addition



Photo: The Phuket News

tion to the construction of a car park able to accommodate 300 vehicles.

The design for this has been completed and approved by the local community, Mr Rewat added, and now budget approval has been passed, the project will advance to tender stage for contractors to actually carry out the design and construction process.

Development work on the project started as far back as late November 2022 when the wall around the old Phuket Prison was demolished. This followed the Treasury Department on Sept 30, 2022 issuing a notice granting permission to the Office of the Permanent Secretary for Interior for Phuket to use the state land, measuring 37-2-41 rai. The prison originally covered a total area of 47 rai 3 ngan 34 square wah: 6 rai 1 ngan within the walls, and 41 rai 2 ngan 34 square wah outside

the walls. The project area for the public park is to cover about 33 rai and 21 square wah, officials have confirmed.

There was then a public hearing held by officials on Dec 12 last year to solicit feedback and suggestions from local residents on what to do with the proposed green space.

In addition to budget being approved for the public park at the former prison site, eight other projects were given a green light for funding to a total of B153mn, including:

- B12mn for road surface and maintenance work on the main route from Chao Fa East Rd to Chao Fa West Rd, as well as improvements on the traffic island and road lighting.

- B34.5mn to solve flooding problems along the main route connecting the water transportation system at Chalong Bay Tourist Port.

- B1.87mn to improve the Ethics Center building at Wat Lang San on Toh Sae Hill.

- B11.9mn for construction of a multi-purpose dome building at Baan Mai Riap School.

- B34mn for development of a kidney dialysis center at Baan Manik Tambon Health Promotion Hospital to serve residents in the Thalang area.

The Phuket News



# Deadly surf claims four lives

**Eakkapop Thongtub**  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Strong waves and rip currents have returned to Phuket's beaches now the annual south-west monsoon has returned, with four drowning deaths at beaches along the west coast in little more than a week.

Deadly surf claimed the lives of a 44-year-old American man James Edmond Newman and 48-year-old Thai national Waranya Chanphai, who worked as a professional nurse in Surin Province, at Mai Khao Beach on Monday morning (June 17).

Pol Lt Col Ronnapoom Permpoon of the Tha Chatchai Police was called to the beach by Winai Sae-iew, Village Headman of Moo 4, Mai Khao, at 7:07am.

Police soon arrived at the scene, in front of a hotel at the southern end of the beach, just north of the airport, along with support from Phuket Tourist Police, officers from the Phuket Tourist Assistance Center (TAC), a medical team from Vachira Phuket Hospital, Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers. The body of Mr Newman had been already pulled onto the beach and the body of Ms Waranya was still in the water amid strong waves and strong winds.

The body of Ms Waranya was brought ashore as tourists and local residents looked on. The bodies of



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

the couple were taken to Thalang Hospital, police confirmed.

The couple checked in at a hotel in the area last Saturday (June 15), police reported.

Officers believe one of the two encountered serious difficulty in the waves, and the other went in to help them, with neither of the two surviving.

The couple entered the water early, before lifeguards arrived at the beach, Mr Winai noted.

However, red flags were already posted along the beach overnight, but higher up along the shoreline.

The deaths of Mr Newman and Ms Waranya followed the drowning of Russian national Aleksei Apostolov, 63, at Surin Beach last Sunday

(June 16) after he, too, reportedly ignored a red 'no swimming' flag at the beach.

Cherng Talay Police were informed of the incident at about 3pm. Lifeguards told police that the man came to the beach alone and ignored a red 'no swimming' flag to enter the water. He soon became exhausted and succumbed to the waves.

Mr Apostolov was unconscious and unresponsive by the time lifeguards were able to bring him back to shore. Unable to detect a pulse, lifeguards performed CPR.

The Surin Beach Rescue Unit soon arrived and continued CPR en route to Thalang Hospital, where Mr Apostolov was pronounced dead.

Mr Apostolov was known to

be staying at a condo development nearby, police noted.

Officials were to inform the Russian Embassy of his death.

Phuket's notorious 'drowning season' truly began when American expat James Everett du Bois, 49, was dragged out to sea by a strong rip current at Nai Harn Beach, on Phuket's southern west coast, on June 9.

He was swimming with his wife, Siriamon Petcharawut, 49, who with the help of lifeguards was able to bring herself and their 3-year-old child back to shore.

Lifeguards immediately launched a search for Mr du Bois, but were unable to find him, and a more intensive search for him was launched as soon as rescue workers could be assembled.

Rescue workers and Rawai Municipality set up a search centre on the beach to coordinate the search effort, yet the search was called off after Mr du Bois's body was found washed ashore at the northern end of Nai Harn Beach late on June 10.

## TRAINING

In the hope of saving more lives at the beaches, the Phuket office of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports Office (MoTS Phuket) last weekend conducted a workshop aimed at enhancing the safety potential in water tourism within the 'Andaman

Tourism Development Zone'.

The training sessions, part of the 'Generation 1' project, began last Friday (June 14) and continued through last Sunday (June 16).

The workshop was held at the Nai Yang Beach Resort & Spa and the beachfront area of Sirinat National Park.

Key figures who attended include Panlop Prajong, a policy and planning analyst at MoTS Phuket, and Sanansin Chalermmuang, of the Phuket branch of the Tourism Council of Thailand.

Taking part in the training were lifeguards from both the public and private sectors, said an official report of the training.

The project aimed to develop and increase the potential of personnel involved in tourism to effectively aid in water disaster rescues and provide basic life-saving assistance, Mr Panlop explained.

"This will efficiently address fundamental issues and maximize effectiveness, ultimately promoting the tourism image of Phuket Province and the Andaman Tourism Development Zone," he said.

The training, covering surf safety and resuscitation and revival techniques, including how to use an AED (automated external defibrillator), was provided by a team of instructors from Phuket's own Life Saving Thailand School.

## Senator candidates selected

THE PROVINCIAL SELECTION COMMITTEE led by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannrat has confirmed the names of 38 candidates to be forwarded to Bangkok for consideration in the national selection process in determining the country's next Senate.

The committee held its round of provincial selections at the Phuket Auditorium building, located next to Phuket Provincial Hall, last Sunday (June 16).

The selection process went "smoothly", said an event report of the event. The selection process was completed by 2:45pm.

A total of 116 candidates were reviewed, following the 'district-level' selection process held last week. As a result, the names of 38 candidates will be forwarded to Bangkok, with two candidates for each of 19 of the 20 categories to be represented.

In Phuket, not one person registered their intention to vie for senator status by representing the group 'Mass Media, Literary creators or others of the same nature'.

"The election of senators in Phuket Province went smoothly. A total of 19 groups, comprising 38 individuals, were selected," Governor Sophon said.

"The officials will provide further details to ensure the selected individuals can receive their certificates and proceed to the national selection level. We would like to extend our gratitude to all parties who supported the organization of the senator elections at the national level. Everything in Phuket Province is in good order," he added.

The official report noted that Mueang Phuket District Chief Suwit Suriyawong, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum and other "other



Photo: PR Phuket

election inspectors", including ECT Phuket Director Orapin Acheevasuk were present to "supervise operations to be in accordance with the law."

Of note, in addition to Governor Sophon, the provincial committee to select the senatorial candidate finalists comprised: Suwit Suriyawong, Mueang Phuket District Chief; Pol Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum, Phuket Provincial Police Commander; Wuttichai Bamrungrat, originally from Chiang Mai currently serving as Chief of the Phuket branch Department of Local Administration (DOLA); Wikrom Jaktee, Phuket Provincial Administrative Chief (Palad); and Uthai Thabthong, chief of the Phuket branch of the Department of Provincial Administration (DOPA).

Orapin Acheevasuk, Director of Phuket office of the Election Commission of Thailand (ECT Phuket)

All 38 candidates can collect their required documents at the Phuket office of the Election Commission of Thailand (ECT Phuket) from 10am on Friday (June 21) so they can prepare to travel to Bangkok, where the national-level – and final – selections will be held at Muang Thong Thani on June 26.

The results are due to be announced on July 2, declaring the 200 senators to serve for one term of five years. *The Phuket News*



## SATURDAY BRUNCH

AT SALA RESTAURANT

FRESH SEAFOOD, LIVE STATIONS,  
UNLIMITED A LA CARTE, GUEST MIXOLOGIST,  
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AND BEACH GAMES.

29 June 28 September  
27 July 26 October  
31 August

Time: 13.00-16.00 hrs

1,990\* BAHT  
PER PERSON

076 33 8888 | events@salaphuket.com | www.salaphuket.com



## CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

**PURIYA BEAVAN**  
Editor**CHRIS HUSTED**  
Executive Editor  
084 307 7408  
execeditor@classactmedia.co.th**BEN TIREBUCK**  
News / Sport Editor  
061 806 8132  
editor3@classactmedia.co.th**CHUTHARAT 'UM' PLERIN**  
Thai Editor  
088 766 1615  
thai@classactmedia.co.th**JASON BEAVAN**  
General Manager  
086 479 7471  
gm@classactmedia.co.th**SIRIPORN (NOK) SEANGMAS**  
Sales Support  
086 479 7470  
sales@classactmedia.co.th**NIRAVIT 'MOS' VORAVANITCHA**  
**THANAPONG 'OAK' KHAO-AMPHAIPHAN**  
Graphic designersThe Phuket News  
@thephuketnews

## ADVERTISING

ClassAct Media

The Phuket News

WINDOW ON PHUKET

Where to eat in PHUKET

Новости Phuket

ข่าวภูเก็ต

NEWS TV

LIVE 89.5

Phuket TICKETMASTER

076 612 550 ext. 605

Fax: 076 612 553

Info@classactmedia.co.th

thephuketnews.com

99/7 Moo 1 (Billion Plaza),  
T. Kathu, A. Kathu, Phuket 83120

## PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

www.foreca.com

FRI JUNE 21

High: +36°  
Low: +29°  
Wind 11 m/s

SAT JUNE 22

High: +36°  
Low: +28°  
Wind 11 m/s

SUN JUNE 23

High: +35°  
Low: +28°  
Wind 11 m/s

MON JUNE 24

High: +35°  
Low: +27°  
Wind 4 m/s

TUE JUNE 25

High: +35°  
Low: +28°  
Wind 4 m/s

WED JUNE 26

High: +37°  
Low: +28°  
Wind 4 m/s

THU JUNE 27

High: +36°  
Low: +27°  
Wind 4 m/s

## Teens in knife attack ambush at Heroines

POLICE HAVE BROUGHT in at least four youths for their role in a knife attack on a rival teen that started at Saphan Hin and ended in an ambush at the Heroines Monument.

According to a report filed with the Thalang Police Station, the incident occurred on June 13, with the report signed as received at 11:49pm.

Natthakorn Kantaphong, a resident of Cherg Talay, reported that he went to sit at the Saphan Hin gymnasium with friends when saw Kandit 'D-Mac' Srimuang, a rival, waiting for him.

Natthakorn called a friend to pick him up and had a friend bring a motorbike, which was handed over to him in front of the Limelight shopping mall in Phuket Town.

Later, Natthakorn was riding his motorbike northbound on Thepkasattri Rd, and when he and his friends reached the Heroines Monument, they encountered D-Mac's group, which Natthakorn said had been waiting to ambush them.

There were "six to eight" people in D-Mac's group, together on about three motorbikes, said the report.

A knife was used to slash at Natthakorn, but Natthakorn and his group managed to flee.



Photo: Thalang Police

CCTV footage from Srisoonthorn Municipality showed the ambush in action at the Heroines Monument. The assailants can be seen riding around the monument in the wrong direction in order to ram into then attack their victims. Other traffic drove past as the attack was carried out. The report noted that the ambush occurred at 10:57pm.

However, separate CCTV footage at another location, time stamped 9:12pm June 13, showed a collision between two motorbikes near shops where motorbikes can be seen speeding through.

After the collision, which appeared to be near head-on, the people involved in the collision were out of view but shouting could be heard.

Photos released by Thalang Police also showed at least four youths brought in for questioning. So far Thalang Police have not confirmed any charges over the incident.

Eakkapop Thongtub

## Rawai masseuse slain over jealousy

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A man has been arrested for the murder of 21-year-old Phuket masseuse Benjarat 'Nong Cream' Cheychan, 21, who was last seen leaving her house in Rawai on June 3.

Ms Benjarat was last seen leaving her house with a man driving a grey Bangkok-registered Toyota pickup truck. She told friends that she was going to resolve a dispute with a relative over car repayments.

Concerned for her safety, her mother reported her missing to Chalong Police the next day.

Ms Benjarat's body was found in an area beside Petchkasem Rd in Moo 1, Tambon Nong Prong, Khao Yoi District, Phetchaburi, three days later, on June 7.

Ratikan Chuenkasem, 32, owner of a windshield wiper shop, was on his way to work when he found her body in a grove beside Petchkasem Rd. He immediately reported the discovery to police.

Police began their investigation, sealing off the area, questioning witnesses and checking any CCTV foot-



Photos: Phetchaburi Provincial Police

age from the area. Officers reported no signs of wounds from a physical attack, but said they were still waiting on results of a post-mortem examination by forensic doctors at Khao Yoi Hospital.

Phetchaburi Police took Anuwat Pimmat, 22, into custody just two days later (June 9). He was arrested at an eatery in Tambon Thongchai of Bang Saphan District in Prachuap Khiri Khan at about 10pm.

Anuwat was wanted under an arrest warrant issued by the Phetchaburi Criminal Court and charged with murder and concealing a body.

During a re-enactment on June 10, Anuwat told police he had met Benjarat through a dating app and had developed a serious relationship with her since the Songkran festival in April.

He took a flight from Bangkok to Phuket to meet her and she had picked him up from his hotel in a car. They had then gone to Prachuap Khiri Khan to collect a pickup truck they planned to return to her former boyfriend in Bangkok.

As they were passing through Sam Roi Yot district of Prachuap Khiri Khan on June 3, Mr Anuwat answered a phone call from his wife. When Benjarat found out he was not single, she shouted at him and slapped his face, Anuwat said.

He became furious and strangled her.

According to police, Anuwat said he then drove around looking for a place to dump the body, which he eventually did on the side of the highway in Khao Yoi district of Phetchaburi.

## Man wanted for groping girl, 12

POLICE ARE TRYING TO track down a Thai man in his 50s wanted for groping a 12-year-old girl beside Thepkasattri Rd in Srisoonthorn last week.

The parents of the girl, a Mathayom 1 student, reported the incident to Thakang Police about midday on June 12. Pol Lt Col Chanita Bunyanuwat, Deputy Superintendent (Investigation) at Thalang Police, received the report.

The girl had left the housing estate and was riding her bike to school at about 7am when a man she described as chubby, dark-skinned and probably in his 50s called out to her while she was passing the Mae Sompong Market.

The man asked if the girl wanted help finding a place to park her bike. He came up to the girl, placed a hand on her cheek, then used his hand to reach inside her shirt and touch her breasts.

Frightened, the girl pushed his



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

arm away and sped off to school, where she told a teacher what had happened. The teacher then contacted and informed the girl's parents.

The girl's grandmother explained that she and the girl's parents had been unable to accompany the girl to and from school because of work. The girl's grandfather will now take on that responsibility.

Eakkapop Thongtub

## Truck driver threatened with gun

POLICE ARE TRYING TO TRACK down the driver of a white pickup who allegedly pulled out a gun and threatened the driver of a truck and trailer last week.

Wichit Police were informed of the incident at about 2pm on June 10.

Kwannapa Patjirang, wife of the truck driver, explained that she was in the truck with her husband while they were travelling northbound on Chao Fa West Rd when they noticed a white Toyota Revo pickup being driven erratically.

The pickup did not have any licence plates attached to the front or back of the vehicle.

The couple first noticed the white pickup as they were travelling north along Chao Fa West Rd, Ms Kwannapa said.

The pickup pulled up alongside and the driver invited her and her husband to step out of the truck. The pickup driver reportedly held up a gun to show them his threat. The couple declined and stayed in the truck.



CCTV screenshot: Wichit Police

The same again happened when they pulled up at the traffic lights just north of the King Power outlet, Ms Kwannapa added.

By the time they had reached the Naka Intersection, her husband just wanted to keep on driving to get away from the pickup driver, she said.

The truck and pickup went separate ways when the pickup entered the Darasamut Underpass and the truck stayed on the surface road.

Wichit Police Deputy Chief Pol Lt Col Wuttichai Chanfai received the complaint, and confirmed that police were now looking for the pickup and its driver.

Wichit Police Chief Pol Col Chatri Chukaew has been informed of the incident, Pol Lt Col Wuttichai noted.

Eakkapop Thongtub



# Motorbike safety hits spotlight

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The rising number of people killed and injured in road accidents in Phuket has spurred provincial officials to launch a series of workshops targeting local district and community leaders to take action, with specific focus on motorbike riders

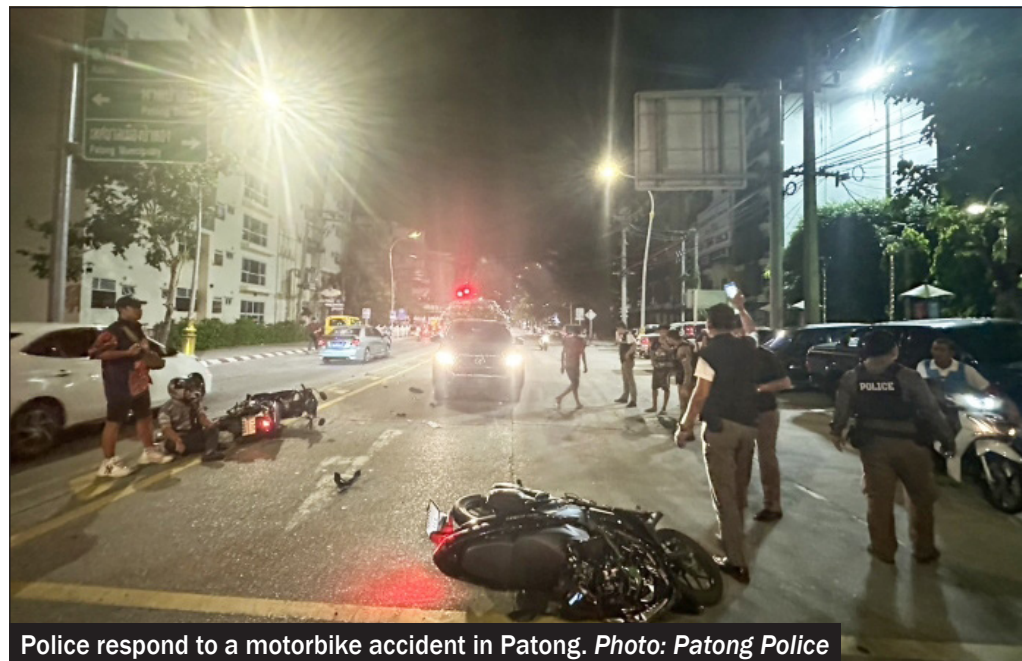
Phuket Vice Governor Sattha Thongkam explained the new initiative at an event held at The Pogo Design Hotel in Ratsada on June 13.

The workshops are to be held under the banner 'Develop the Potential of District Leaders and Local Government Organisations in Managing the Risk of Road Accidents'.

The aim of the workshops, organised by the Phuket Provincial Office, is to "Enhance District Leaders and Local Government Organizations' Capabilities in Road Accident Risk Management".

The initiative is part of the 'district drive project' aimed at promoting safe motorcycle riding across Phuket, Mr Sattha explained.

The workshops are designed to equip district-level and leaders of local govern-



Police respond to a motorbike accident in Patong. Photo: Patong Police

ment organisations (municipalities and OrBorTor) with the skills and knowledge necessary to implement effective road safety management mechanisms at all levels.

Attendees at the event included heads of government agencies, lecturers and workshop participants.

"Phuket is experiencing an increasing number of road accidents, resulting in significant loss of life and property, which is a major obstacle to our economic development. The number of injuries and

fatalities continues to rise, particularly among motorcycle riders and passengers. Preventing and addressing road accidents is an urgent priority for our province," Vice Governor Sattha said.

Mr Sattha outlined the 'Phuket Province Road Safety Action Plan 2024', emphasising a vision of 'Phuket Province Aiming for Safe Road Travel for Everyone'.

The plan integrates five main strategies: risk district management, law enforcement integration, organisational

measures, public relations, and data integration.

The ultimate goal is to reduce injuries and fatalities, improve vehicle standards, road conditions and strengthen road safety mechanisms at all levels, Mr Sattha explained.

Charan Kwankaew, Deputy Chief of the Phuket Provincial Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office (DDPM-Phuket), provided a detailed report on the alarming road accident statistics in Phuket.

"Phuket Province records over 20,000 general injuries

and more than 3,000 serious injuries annually from road accidents. From 2021 to 2023, there was a significant increase in fatalities, with 96 deaths in 2021, 137 in 2022, and 168 in 2023. So far in 2024, there have been 93 deaths," Mr Charan said.

Of note, national road safety agency ThaiRSC marks 'only' 83 deaths and 11,800 people injured in road accidents in Phuket so far this year, including one death on June 13.

The data indicated that motorcycle users are the most affected group, Mr Charan said.

In 2023, the Department of Disease Control classified Mueang Phuket District and Thalang District as very high-risk areas, with Kathu District also considered high-risk.

In response, the Phuket Provincial Road Safety Administration Center, through DDPM-Phuket, initiated its 'district drive project' for safe motorcycle riding, Mr Charan noted.

"This project is funded by the Health Promotion Foundation (Thai Health Promotion Foundation, or SorSorSor) via the Southern Province Traffic Accident Prevention Support

Plan," he said.

The project's objectives align with the Road Safety Master Plan 2022-2027, aiming to reduce road accidents, injuries and fatalities, particularly from motorcycle use. The initiative operates at both provincial and district levels, involving training and support from the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office, Maharat Nakhon Si Thammarat Hospital, and Thung Yai Hospital, Mr Charan explained.

The workshops target district secretaries, police, district public health officers, hospitals and local administrative organisations, with 40 participants from 32 agencies.

"The goal is to develop more mentors at the district and local government levels, enabling them to drive road safety management mechanisms effectively across all administrative levels," Mr Charan said.

"The initiative also aims to establish village/community constitutions on road safety management, reducing the number of high-risk districts and ultimately decreasing motorcycle-related injuries and fatalities in Phuket Province," he added.

## PPAO hosts 'Pride Talk' LGBTQ+ open forum

THE PHUKET PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION (PPAO) held its 'Pride Talk Vol. 1' event on June 12 to hear experiences, opinions and suggestions from Phuket's LGBTQ+ community.

PPAO President Rewat Areerob presided over the event, held at the Simon Cabaret entertainment venue in Patong. Joining the event were representatives from various public and private sector partners.

The event was jointly organised by the Phuket LGBTQ+ gender diversity group Andaman Power and network partners.

The event aimed to create a supportive and inclusive society in Phuket. By embracing gender diversity from within the country to the international level, Phuket can push for the creation of a sustainable economy, such as being a centre for various aspects of the LGBTQ+ group, equal marriage, employment, hospitality and tourism services, international exhibition conferences and skilled labour, Mr Rewat explained.

The Pride Talk Vol. 1 event featured three main segments: "Do you Hear Me?", "Space for Sustainability," and the presentation of awards to influential LGBTQ+ figures. The awards celebrated individuals and organisations for their contributions to promoting sexual diversity.

The awards handed out comprised:

Organisation or Group Championing Sexual Diversity:

Andaman Power, a public service organisation led by Nopasorn Sitthiwech (Vicky) and Supakorn Suwan (Aek).

Influential Person in Education:

Likhit Lalang (Teacher Aor), Thai language teacher and head of community relations at Satree Phuket School.



Photo: PPAO

Influential Person in Tourism:

Somyot Pathan (Khal), President of the Old Phuket Town Community Enterprise.

Influential Person in Creative Business Development:

Chanok Kaewseenual (Tangmo), pioneer in the entertainment business on Paradise Soi.

Influential Person for Promoting Phuket's Reputation:

Teerasak Pholngam (Kim), CEO of Tablespoon Co., Ltd. (part of the Tu Kab Khao Restaurant Group).

Influential Person in Career Development for the LGBTQ+ Community:

Wirat Ruairin (Mami Tan), Managing Director of Simon Cabaret Phuket.

Influential Person in Arts and Culture:

Khanat Wangkiat (Jack Tui), a local artist.

The PPAO plans to integrate the insights gathered from the event with various stakeholders and allocate budgetary support for LGBTQ+ activities, said an official report of the event.

Additionally, efforts are underway to establish an association to further formalise and advance the initiatives discussed, the report added. *The Phuket News*

## Another injured sea turtle rescued

ANOTHER SEA TURTLE who had become entangled in discarded fishing nets washed ashore in Phuket last week

The young sea creature was discovered by lifeguards on the sands of Kalim Beach, just north of Patong, on June 13. The turtle had become entrapped in the netting amongst a variety of other debris.

Lifeguards from Patong Surf Life Saving Club managed to cut the fishing net away in order to free the turtle successfully before alerting officials from the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR).

DMCR officials then visited the scene and took the young turtle to the Marine and Coastal Resources Research Center at Cape Panwa where it will undergo rehabilitation before being released back into the sea. There was no mention as to the gender, age or weight of the turtle in official reports.

This latest addition was the third turtle that has been taken in by the rescue centre following two similar situations in less than a week;



Photo: Patong Surf Life Saving Club

on June 8 two hawksbill sea turtles were rescued after becoming tangled in discarded fishing nets at Mai Khao Beach, one of whom was released back into the water and one of whom was taken into care for rehabilitation by DMCR officials at the Cape Panwa facility.

Then on June 11 another young hawksbill turtle was found washed ashore south of Patong with part of its flipper amputated after being caught in a discarded fishing net. The wounded turtle was taken in by officials from the Cape Panwa facility where it continues to receive care.

Prior to this, on June 5,

DMCR officials discovered the remains of a heavily decomposed adult green turtle at Nai Harn Beach which they buried at the site.

The turtle had washed ashore and, although no external wounds were observed, the internal organs were too decomposed to ascertain the cause of death, the DMCR explained in its report.

This incident, as well as the three recent cases of turtles being washed ashore in a state of injury and distress, highlights ongoing concerns about marine life and the health of coastal ecosystems in the region.

*The Phuket News*



# Ombudsman targets nominees

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket officials have been ordered by national Ombudsman Songsak Saicheua to resolve the issue of ownership or possession of land or real estate by disguised agents of foreigners.

The issue of foreigners holding ownership of land through a company by using nominees was so rife that it raised concern that it would affect the national economy, Mr Songsak told officials via a teleconference broadcast from Surat Thani Provincial Hall last Friday (June 14).

The teleconference included officials from Phuket, Surat Thani, Krabi, Phang Nga and Prachuap Khiri Khan provinces.

Also joining the meeting were officers from the Region 4 branch of the Internal Security Operations Command (Isoc), which serves as the political arm of the Thai military.

Joining the teleconference in Phuket were Phuket Vice Governor Norsak Suksomboon and officials from a handful of relevant government agencies.

Mr Songsak reminded officials that the Ombudsman has duties and powers according to the Organic Act on the Ombudsman, B.E. 2017, in resolving the problems of the people.

Foreigners holding or possessing land or real estate through the use



National Ombudsman Songsak Saicheua. Photo: NNT

of disguised agents or nominees in many provinces was causing an impact on stability, and could have wide economic and social implications, he said.

If the problem were not resolved quickly, it would cause the country serious damage, Mr Songsak warned.

The Office of the Ombudsman was investigating the issue, Mr Songsak noted. Related laws, research, articles and news from various media, including field visits to find facts, and meetings with relevant agencies and experts to gather information, along with opinions and suggestions from all sectors, were all being considered, he said.

"In this regard, we request that Phuket, Surat Thani, Krabi, Phang Nga and Prachuap Khiri Khan provinces, ISOC Region 4, provincial branches of the Lands Department, provincial offices of the Ministry

of Commercial Office and Area Revenue Offices under the Revenue Department, and related agencies, are to provide information on actions taken in cases of ownership or possession of land or real estate by camouflaged agents of foreigners in the area," Mr Songsak said.

According to an official report of the teleconference, opinions and suggestions were provided as feedback directly to Mr Songsak. However, specific details of the opinions suggestions were not included in the report.

The order from Ombudsman Songsak follows an intensive crackdown by officials on foreigners setting companies using nominees as shareholders or in positions of management.

The most recent raid saw 98 foreigners, mostly Russians, among 231 suspects arrested in raids that saw

assets worth over B1.5 billion seized.

## WIDESPREAD THREAT

The order also follows Mr Songsak delivering the same instructions to officials on Koh Samui, located within Surat Thani Province, on June 13.

Speaking at the Koh Samui District Office, with 4th Army Region Commander Lt Gen Santi Sakuntanark beside him, Mr Songsak said, "The problem of foreigners owning or possessing land or real estate through disguised agents or nominees is intensifying and becoming very common. This issue is particularly prevalent in tourist and agricultural areas, with significant involvement by investors from China, Russia, India, Pakistan and Myanmar.

"Methods used include allowing Thai nationals to own land through family relationships (such as marriage to a Thai person or ownership by children), renting or purchasing through Thai nationals, setting up Thai legal entities and later transferring ownership, and using Thai entities to purchase land or real estate at inflated prices. This has widespread negative impacts on the country's security, economy, and society," he explained.

"The current laws are outdated and ineffective in addressing this issue. If not resolved quickly, it will cause serious damage to the country," Mr Songsak warned.

An inspection by ISOC Region 4 reported significant changes to many hillsides and elevated areas on Koh Samui, now filled with luxury villas and houses under construction. Most of these areas are occupied by foreigners, including those from China, Germany, Russia and France, who operate through legal entities using Thai nominees as major business and real estate partners, he explained.

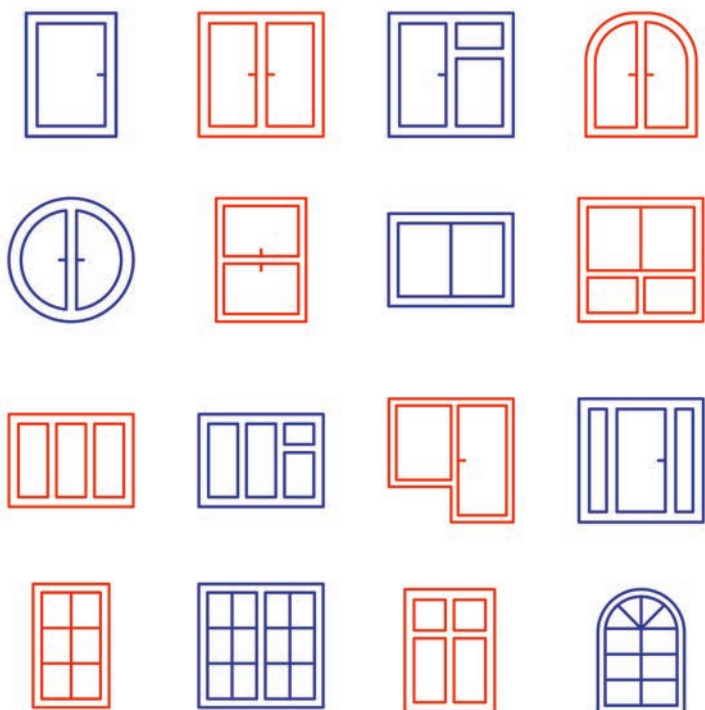
"This transformation is turning conservation and agricultural areas into land for building construction, destroying Koh Samui's natural identity and environment, including land, mountains, forests, waterways and communities. Additionally, some land title documents issued on Koh Samui may be incorrect or not legally compliant, leading to the sale of land to foreign investors."

Regarding the outdated laws, Mr Songsak stated that there will be recommendations to urgently amend the relevant laws. "One suggestion is to draft a central law specifically addressing 'camouflage' agents and transactions, as no specific law currently covers this issue," he said.

"While private investment and development are important, they must comply with legal regulations. Relevant government agencies should seriously address this issue and strictly enforce the laws to protect the nation's security and interests," Mr Songsak concluded.



## Safe, Secure, Soundproof Windows and Doors



087 061 7631 Nathan Window Man Brown pvcphuket.com

## TAT bullish on casino investment

THAILAND STANDS A good chance of attracting investments in entertainment complexes as MGM China Holdings is looking for new overseas investments, according to the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

After meeting Pansy Ho, chairperson and executive director of MGM China Holdings, on June 13, TAT Governor Thapanee Kiatphaibool said MGM China wants to promote Macau tourism to the Thai market, while also searching for new investment options in Thailand's proposed entertainment complex.

She said investment from a global company would stimulate international markets in Thailand, particularly Asian travellers led by China, Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

Thailand is drafting the new legislation and regulations required to regulate entertainment complexes, which will include legal casinos.

Ms Thapanee said the TAT plans to hold discussions with MGM over possible collaboration to improve Thailand's competitiveness through new tourism-related products, including man-made attractions, which should be promoted along with regular activities



Photo: NBT

throughout the year.

According to the Tourism and Sports Ministry, the Thai tourism sector has to secure B2.4 trillion in the last seven months of this year to meet its target of B3.5trn, as it only generated B1.1trn during the first five months.

Iwan Dietschi, senior vice-president of hospitality at MGM China, an operator of two integrated resorts in Macau, said the Thai market is among its top priorities as it represents the company's largest group of visitors from Southeast Asia and the fastest growing market.

Thai customers at MGM hotels in 2024 have increased 30% year-on-year, said Mr Dietschi. MGM China established a sales representative in Thailand, aiming to expand this market further.

Hotels in Macau have rebounded, largely attributed to visitors from Southeast

Asia as well as China, who remain a major source market for Macau tourism despite the economic slowdown.

The company joined the 'Experience Macao Roadshow in Bangkok' tourism event organised by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) at CentralWorld.

Mr Dietschi declined to elaborate on investment opportunities related to entertainment complexes in Thailand.

According to MGTO, visitors from Thailand were the fifth-largest nationality group of arrivals in Macau during the first five months of 2024.

Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG), which is headquartered in Macau, also joined the roadshow to tap high-spending Thai tourists, banking on its nine luxury hotels featuring 5,500 rooms.

Samantha Lyu, senior manager for media services at GEG, said the tourism market in Macau has gradually improved, mainly driven by Chinese tourists after an additional 10 cities in mainland China were permitted to apply for the Individual Visit Scheme to travel to Macau.

She said GEG has a plan to open a new office in Bangkok.

Bangkok Post



# Three Thai cities vie to host World Pride event

## BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Chiang Mai, Phuket and Khon Kaen will compete to host the 2025 InterPride World Conference, according to Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) president Chiruit Isarangkun Na Ayuthaya.

Mr Chiruit said on Monday (June 17) the government will select the winner on July 11 before the TCEB names the city as the venue in its bid to host the gathering at this year's event in Colombia in October.

The InterPride World Conference is an annual conference organised for five days and attended by approximately 600 Pride organisations from 40 countries, to discuss the state of LGBTQ+ movements and exchange their experiences in achieving gender equality.

The event has been held 41 times since 1982, mostly in Europe and North America, but never in Asia.

"If Thailand is selected to be the host next year, it will be the first time the event



Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin at the launch of this year's Bangkok Pride Festival on June 1. Photo: Bangkok Post

will be hosted in Asia," Mr Chiruit said.

He said the bid to host the 2025 InterPride World Conference is a chance to show the world that Thailand supports gender inclusivity.

For Phuket's preparations, Pattanachai Singhavara, director of the TCEB's southern region office, will raise awareness about the conference among locals.

Phuket is a well-known destination with sun, sand, sea, outstanding local food and facilities to support international conferences, said Mr Pattanachai.

"We hope that Phuket will be selected," he said.

Another event the government wants Thailand to host is WorldPride in 2030.

It is among the most important events for LTBGQ+ globally, hosted by InterPride, said Mr Chiruit.

It would attract a large number of people to Thailand and that will generate huge income for the country.

He said last year's WorldPride event in Australia attracted about a million participants, contributing a large amount of income to the local economy.

On Thailand's readiness for the WorldPride bid, Mr Chiruit said the country had made great progress regarding gender inclusivity, specifically in regards to the launch of the Marriage Equality Law, which, at time of press, was to be voted on by the senate on Tuesday (June 18).

The senate upper house is expected to approve the legislation, after which it will go to King Maha Vajiralongkorn for royal assent and come into force 120 days after publication in the official Royal Gazette. If passed, Thailand would become only the third place in Asia where same-sex couples can tie the knot, after Taiwan and Nepal, and activists are hoping the first weddings could be celebrated as early as October.

The new legislation will change references to "men", "women", "husbands" and "wives" in marriage laws to gender-neutral terms.

It also gives same-sex couples the same rights as heterosexual ones when it comes to adoption and inheritance.

# Chatuchak fire sparks calls to protect animals

## BANGKOK

ANIMAL PROTECTION activists are calling for changes to laws governing sales of pets and exotic animals following a deadly fire at a pet market in the Chatuchak district of Bangkok on June 11.

The blaze, which started about 4:10am and took 90 minutes to bring under control, killed thousands of animals, mainly in cages, living in 118 pet shops in an area covering 1,400 square metres.

A joint statement from 10 groups called for measures to ensure such a tragedy does not occur again, emphasising concern that the incident had put Thailand under a harsh global spotlight, while lamenting the suffering the animals experienced.

The groups' petition included three demands to deal with the case at hand, along with future mitigation measures, with the goal to have a system that promotes sustainable welfare for animals.

The petition also demanded standardised measures for buildings in which pets are sold, as well as a call for enforcement of related laws,



Photo: Bangkok Post

including the Agriculture Ministry Notification on Animal Welfare Arrangements in Pet Sales Locations BWE 2563 (2020).

Somchuan Rattanamankalanont, director-general of the Department of Livestock Development, said most of the animals died from smoke inhalation. One picture showed a Mexican Black King snake that had bitten its own tail prior to dying.

The surviving animals, including roosters, Savannah monitor lizards and bearded dragon chameleons, were sent to the Kasetsart Veterinary Teaching Hospital for treatment.

Fifty-eight vendors in the market have qualified for certification as disaster victims, said officials from the Chatuchak District Office.

Bangkok Post



  
**THE FOREST**  
 Patong - Phuket

  
**WORLD**  
 CORPORATION PLC

- Loans now available for foreign buyers
- A Patong Beachfront condo with fully-equipped communal areas, upholding 5-star hotel standards
- Managed by a world-class, professional hotel management team, adhering to 5-star standards



☎ 02 026 6658    @WORLD\_CORP

🌐 WWW.WORLDCORP.CO.TH

@ SALES@WORLDCORP.CO.TH






# Privy to special needs

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

**P**rivy Councilor Admiral Pongthep Nuthep, Chairman of the Rajapranugroh Foundation under Royal Patronage, visited Rajapranugroh School 36 in Kamala last week to inspect the school and present royal items to students.

The Privy Council of Thailand is the body of appointed advisors to the Monarchy of Thailand. His Majesty the King alone appoints all 18 members of the council.

The school, formerly known as Baan Kamala School, was built in the wake of the tsunami of Dec 26, 2004.

Adm Pongthep's visit was to assess the operations of the school in order to build morale and encouragement for students and school personnel, said an official report of the visit.

Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat, who is also Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Phuket branch of the Rajapranugroh Foundation, was present to welcome Adm Pongthep, along with the school's director, Nipa Kaewprakong, on hand to lead the welcoming committee.

Adm Pongthep also led a meeting that was joined by the island's highest-ranking officials to discuss key issues affecting the school.

The school provides education for 847 students, from kindergarten and Prathom 1 (primary) to Matayom 6 (secondary), with 34 classrooms and 84 teachers and school staff.

The school and students receive support from the Rajapranugroh Foundation through scholarships and school uniforms to students who lack opportunities, and through the donations of school equipment,



sports equipment and funds for construction and improvement of school buildings.

The school aims to develop learning to the fullest potential of students in order to create a more harmonious society, in accordance with HM The King's principles, said the report.

The school maintains special focus on teaching mathematics and English, and includes lessons in meditation. The school also provides inclusive education for children with special needs.

Adm Pongthep's visit was also to review how current problems are being tackled by the school.

The Governor and Kathu District Chief will take care of and assist in coordinating cooperation from the public and private sectors to provide marching band instruments to students and provide televisions to be used as a teaching media, said the report.

As for the problem of a shortage of drinking water at the school, the chairman of the school board along



Photos: PR Phuket

with the owner of Andara Hotels and the Paradise Group, which owns and operates The Plaza Surin in its portfolio, will support the budget for the purchase and installation of high-quality water filters, the report noted. A cheque of more than B1.2 million was presented for the cause.

During his visit Adm Pongthep visited an exhibition highlighting student vocational training activities and an exhibit of public-private cooperation network groups supporting the development of the quality of education for students at the school.

He also met and spoke with students at the school, from young kindergarten children to older students ready to enter the workforce.

Among the exhibits and presentations were students displaying their skills and credentials in promoting the arts and more technical abilities to help contribute to the positive development of Phuket, and Thailand.



**THAI**  
RESIDENTIAL

Phuket's No.1 Trusted Real Estate Advisor

## Are You Trying To Sell Your Phuket Property?

List Your House, Villa or Luxury Condo with  
**Thai Residential**  
and Increase Your Chances  
of a **Successful** Sale.

PHUKET@THAIRESIDENTIAL.COM | +66 94 8411 918 | WWW.THAIRESIDENTIAL.COM  
THAIRESIDENTIAL CO., LTD. 82/37 SAM PAO COURTYARD, MOO4, PATAK ROAD, T.RAWAI, PHUKET, 83130





# Green Season Hidden Tiny Wonders

## NATURAL PHUKET

Simon Lomas

**A**fter the heat at the end of high season comes the endless humidity and the need for 10 showers a day just to cool off. This is when Phuket's wildlife comes alive. Suddenly all the plants and trees get a well-needed watering and spring to life. That again brings out all the small insects and in turn the birds and other creatures that feed on them. The great thing about Phuket's weather this time of year is that it can change within minutes. It can be raining at one end of the beach and sunny at the other end. Raining in one street and dry in the next. Yes, it really is that localised here in Phuket.

That has many advantages. If you are walking out for lunch, a drink in the evening or out and about in the day, when a downpour happens you run into the nearest restaurant or bar and discover a great new place that you normally would have walked past without a second glance.

The same goes when out on a tour or even just walking to the beach. Here in Phuket we have lots of very small colourful birds and creatures that normally even the locals miss and have never seen before. Mostly people don't see them as they are small and people do not look closely as they are too busy going on about their business, oblivious to the world alive around them, including small birds.



Among the more common tiny birds here are Flower Peckers. These tiny birds are only 8-10cm long and about 6 grammes in weight. They have quite a quiet 'chirp chirp' sound. They tend not to be too scared as long as you are still and quiet; they just go about their business.

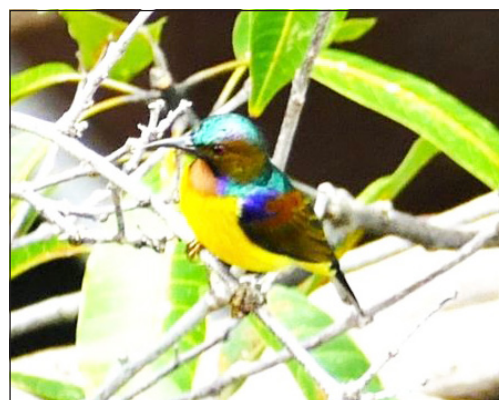
There are several different types but the most common on Phuket are the Red (or scarlet)-backed Flower Pecker

which is very easy to identify as it has a bright red stripe running from the top of its head right down its back. It has a black beak, face and wings with a white belly.

The Orange-bellied Flower Pecker has a black head, white throat and orange belly. The orange does extend onto its back between its wings but not onto its head.

Then you have the Fire-breasted Flower Pecker. This looks similar to the Orange-bellied version but has a more yellow belly and a red flash on its chest rather than all orange.

These beautiful birds are not rare at all, but being so small and staying under the shelter of smaller trees people just do not see them as they walk past. On the hill just past the paying path down to Freedom Beach there is a shelter where you park motorbikes in the shade. Here there are a couple of small trees and you get all three of these Flower Peckers all in the same tree together.



Another stunning bird or birds you get here are the Sunbirds. Here in Phuket the main three types you get are the ornate Sunbird, the Olive-backed Sunbird and the Brown-throated Sunbird. These birds are very distinctive by their small size and very long curved beaks. They are around 11cm in length.

The Olive-backed sunbird is easy to spot and quite common. They have an olive-coloured back and yellow belly with the male having a blue patch from the chin to upper breast but the female just has the yellow belly.

Brown-throated Sunbirds in some books are described as dull looking but here in Phuket they seem to be very brightly coloured. Again they have olive wings and a bright yellow belly, but the head, shoulders and back are very bright. They have a metallic-looking green or blue head, a brown throat with turquoise flashes to the sides of the throat. They also have blue flashes on the shoulders and upper wings. The

female is less colourful with the olive head and wings, a brown throat and yellow belly.

Then lastly is the Ornate Sunbird. The ones I have seen are not as 'ornate' as their brown-throated cousins. These birds again are olive-backed and yellow-bellied, but have a metallic blue throat and chest. Some have a yellow belly all the way down, others can have a white belly under the blue chest. There are other sunbirds here too, but these are by far the most common. They are very pretty to see when out and about. They like to live in forest edges and tree lines. They have a very expansive diet of nectar, insects, spiders, fruit and berries.

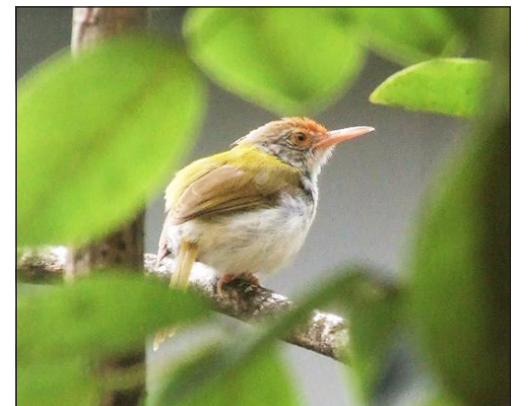


Another common bird here is the flycatcher. Of these there are so many to mention. These are small perching birds that dart out to catch flies in the air. By far the brightest ones that I have seen here in Phuket are the Yellow-rumped flycatcher. This stunning bird is so colourful and stands out from all around it. It's a small bird that feasts on all the small flying insects, which is why it's easier to see in the green season, especially when it is calm and clear after the rain, when all the flies come out.

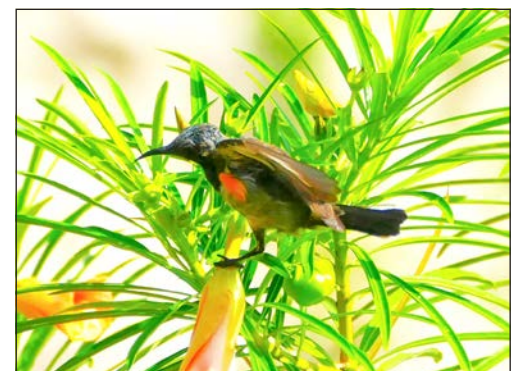
Meanwhile, the Asian brown flycatcher, although by far the most common flycatcher here, is also the hardest to spot. The reason being it is a small brown bird. To be fair it is more than that as it has a light brown head and wings and a cream-coloured belly. But what to me makes it more distinctive is the white rings around its eyes.

All other flycatchers prefer small trees and bushes around water holes, ponds and similar areas as that is where there are the most flies. So if you are in a nice outside restaurant in the evening away from the more built-up areas and you are not getting bitten by mozzies then it's down to the flycatchers around. Some are really beautiful and ornate, but I am concentrating

on the birds you can see every day around the main tourist towns without venturing into the jungles and nature reserves.



Last but not least, the tiny Common Taylor Bird is one bird almost everyone will hear sooner or later in Phuket. It's hard to see as the call is loud and sharp and the sound makes you think it's coming from a much larger bird. I had one as an alarm clock as it sat outside my window and it went off at 7am every day. It took me several days to see it as I was looking for something much larger. It's very easy to identify when you do finally see one as its tail sticks up in the air. It has a slight chestnut colour to the top of its head and a pale orange or pink beak, and a yellowy olive back and wings and a pale belly. Its song is very repetitive. It's a staccato sound almost like a child making a sound like a raygun or even pistol shot. Short sharp chirps. They eat small insects, larvae, small fruits and seeds.



I know there are so many small birds here in Phuket and there is no way to do a write up on all of them all. These are just a few of the more common ones that most people will walk past and not notice even though they are in plain sight. After all that's what my articles are supposed to be about in the first place - to open people's eyes to what hidden wildlife is here in Phuket and in plain sight that no one knows is here. So now the green season is here and the crowds have gone, you have a much better chance to see things that others miss.



POP QUIZ

- 1. People with what hair colour require more anesthesia than others?
- 2. What name is given to a planet outside the solar system that orbits a star?
- 3. Which legendary twin brothers are credited with the founding of Rome?
- 4. Martha Jane Canary of the Wild West was better known by what name?
- 5. Who has won the most Grammy Music Awards of all time?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Hard

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across

  - 1. Break
  - 4. Feline treat
  - 10. Erupt
  - 14. Make known
  - 15. On dry land
  - 16. Locale
  - 17. Is changeable
  - 20. Mythical creature
  - 21. Mission
  - 22. Joust verbally
  - 24. Shoot
  - 25. Musical gift
  - 28. Exists in a suspended state
  - 33. Jerk
  - 34. Carbamide
  - 35. Like some bookstores
  - 36. Docile
  - 37. Comparative word
  - 40. Star turn
  - 43. Hammer part
  - 44. Opposite of 35-Across
  - 47. Was in a position to pay
  - 52. Even one
  - 53. Discharged a debt
  - 54. Not deceived by
  - 55. Discover
  - 57. Digital tome
- Down

  - 1. Chitchat
  - 2. Be sick
  - 3. Dull
  - 4. Players
  - 5. Grayish
  - 6. Marvel Comics superhero
  - 7. Excluding
  - 8. Al Basrah residents
  - 9. Next to last
  - 10. Kangaroo holders in a way
  - 11. African shrubs
  - 12. Sinuous swimmer
  - 13. Roll
  - 18. Alert
  - 19. Certain tape
  - 22. Brood
  - 23. Kind of phenomena
  - 24. Govt. agency
  - 26. Biographical bit
  - 27. Embarrassed
- 29. Pool tool
  - 30. Load from a lode
  - 31. Albanian currency
  - 32. Bolt
  - 36. Bit of raingear
  - 37. Caffeine source
  - 38. Self starter?
  - 39. "Go on..."
  - 40. "Bingo!"
  - 41. Dashed
  - 42. Heavenly
  - 43. Third degree?
  - 44. Durable Chinese fabric
  - 45. Extreme suffix
  - 46. Journalist's question
  - 48. Brightly colored fish
  - 49. City on the Rio Grande
  - 50. Iraqi money
  - 51. Masked critter
  - 56. Mini-whirlpool
  - 57. Sicilian smoker
  - 58. Heineken, e.g.
  - 59. Ends partner
  - 60. Jam ingredient?
  - 61. In vitro items
  - 62. Mythical bird
  - 63. Large amount
  - 64. Blue shade

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Redheads (need about 20% more than others); 2) Exoplanet (or extrasolar planet); 3) Romulus and Remus; 4) Calamity Jane; 5) Beyonce (32 awards)

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14				15							16			
17				18							19			
			20					21						
22	23						24					25	26	27
28				29	30	31					32			
33				34							35			
			36					37	38	39				
40	41	42					43					44	45	46
47				48	49	50					51			
52				53							54			
			55	56					57	58	59			
60	61						62						63	64
65					66							67		
68					69							70		

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

in every 10,000 chickens can change their gender.

2

escalators only are in the entire US state of Wyoming, which covers 97,914 square miles.

80

percent of the world's opioids are consumed by the United States.

1,160

US dollars a month and \$13,926 annually is how much New Yorkers save on average by using public transportation.

60 billion

US dollars of sunken treasure is estimated to be still sitting at the bottom of the world's oceans.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Natai Beach. Photo by Todd Miller

Got an unusual or particularly beautiful picture of Phuket? Email it to [execeditor@classactmedia.co.th](mailto:execeditor@classactmedia.co.th)

This week in history

June 21, 1900

Boxer Rebellion. China formally declares war on the United States, Britain, Germany, France and Japan, as an edict issued from the Empress Dowager Cixi.

June 22, 1633

The Holy Office in Rome forces Galileo Galilei to recant his view that the Sun, not the Earth, is the 'center of the Universe'.

June 23, 1611

The mutinous crew of Henry Hudson's fourth voyage sets Henry, his son and seven loyal crew members adrift in an open boat in what is now Hudson Bay; they are never heard from again.

June 24, 1939

Siam is renamed Thailand by Field Marshal Plaek Phibunsongkhram, the country's third prime minister.



Field Marshal Plaek Phibunsongkhram

June 25, 1876

Battle of the Little Bighorn and the death of Lt Col George

Armstrong Custer.

June 26, 1870

The Christian holiday of Christmas is declared a federal holiday in the United States.

June 27, 1971

After only three years in business, rock promoter Bill Graham closes Fillmore East in New York, the 'Church of Rock and Roll'.

Source: Wikipedia



# Trades & Services



## CORPORATE SERVICES

**VERTIGO**  
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

WE MAKE YOU  
LOOK GOOD.

VERTIGO VIDEO  
PRODUCTIONS.COM

f i+ t y

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Waterproofing & Crack Repair**

20 year  
WARRANTY

under yearly checkup plan...

Drone Survey

Pipe Inspection

TCM Asia Co., Ltd - quality services since 2003  
office@tcm-asia.com 086-9439834

## OTHER

Want your  
**BUSINESS**  
listed here?

Reserve  
your space **NOW!**

076 612 550  
sales@classactmedia.co.th

## OTHER

Want your  
**BUSINESS**  
listed here?

Reserve  
your space **NOW!**

076 612 550  
sales@classactmedia.co.th

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**WOOD FLOOR  
PHUKET - 24 YEARS**

Solid and engineered wood floor  
Sand & refinish/Deck supplier

f /solidwoodfloorphuketthailand  
t Matt 081 271 2684 or Jessika 062 372 6624

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Tile-it**  
SMART TILES  
Tile Leveling System

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

Baan Wana - Cherg Talay  
Tel : 076 620168

www.tile-asia.com | letstalk@tile-asia.com

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

MASTERCRAFTSMAN  
WE REPAIR AND BUILD NEW:

- ALL KINDS OF HOT AND COLD WATER SYSTEMS
- HOT WATER SOLAR SYSTEMS AND SOLAR PUMPS
- POOL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE
- REPAIR ALL KINDS OF WATER SYSTEMS AND POOL PUMPS
- A VARIETY OF WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS TO FIT YOUR NEEDS

SHOWROOM NEXT TO WAT CHALONG  
OPEN FROM 8AM TO 5PM

**Plumber**  
German Water Team Ltd.Part  
We repair what your husband fixed

www.germanwaterteam.com  
Email: germanwaterteam@yahoo.de

094 594 8868 (THAI)  
089 645 4848 (GER / ENG)

22/12 Moo 6 Chaofa R.d west Chalong A.Muang Phuket 83130

## OTHER

**ME LOGO**

T-shirt, Cap,  
Polo-shirt, Flag,  
apron, Tote bag

Embroidery, Screen Print,  
Sublimation

f ME LOGO ผลิตภัณฑ์ พร้อมงานปัก-สกรีน @melogo 096 637 9000

## MARINE SERVICES

**Marine Engineering  
Specialists**

**C & C MARINE®**

YANMAR mtu

**C & C Marine (Thailand) Co., Ltd.**  
16/2 Moo 4, Soi Nanai, Thepkasattri Rd., Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200  
Tel: +66 (0)76 273247 Fax: +66 (0)76 273248 Mob: +66 (0)81 078 4507  
Email: cholmes@candc-marine.com www.candc-marine.com

**WANT TO TALK TO  
PHUKET?**

The **Phuket News** Your Island - Your Paper  
Новости **Пхукета** Твой остров - твоя газета  
ข่าว **ภูเก็ต**

**WINDOW ON PHUKET**  
The map of PHUKET English 中文 Русский  
Where to eat in PHUKET  
**LIVE 89.5** NEWS TV

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th



FRI

21 JUN



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT  
98/18 Vises Road,  
Rawai  
081-891 4381  
www.shakersphuket.com  
shakersphuket@gmail.com  
FB: shakersphuket

### Friday Mussels Night

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

MON

24 JUN



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT  
98/18 Vises Road,  
Rawai  
081-891 4381  
www.shakersphuket.com  
shakersphuket@gmail.com  
FB: shakersphuket

### Monday 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 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

SUN

23 JUN



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT  
98/18 Vises Road,  
Rawai  
081-891 4381  
www.shakersphuket.com  
shakersphuket@gmail.com  
FB: shakersphuket

### Sunday Roast

12PM – 9PM: All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet Beef, Pork & Capon chicken – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, Fried mushrooms, Grilled Tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes – Gravy, Mushroom sauce, Horse raddish, Mint Sauce. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 350 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

WED

26 JUN



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT  
98/18 Vises Road,  
Rawai  
081-891 4381  
www.shakersphuket.com  
shakersphuket@gmail.com  
FB: shakersphuket

### 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 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

listed here?

Reserve your space NOW!

076 612 550 sales@classactmedia.co.th

Listen for

DAILY EVENT UPDATES ON

LIVE 89.5

THU

27 JUN

ARCHITECT & HOTELEX

27 - 30 JUNE 24

นวัตกรรม ก่อสร้าง ตกแต่ง

CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION

MORE THAN 1,000 PRODUCT ITEMS

For House Condo Villa Pool Villa Resort Spa

งานสินค้า นวัตกรรม ออกแบบ ตกแต่ง

สินค้าก่อสร้างและบำรุงรักษาอาคาร บ้าน คอนโด วิลล่าพูลวิลล่า ของตกแต่งภายในและภายนอก อุปกรณ์เครื่องใช้สำหรับโรงแรม รีสอร์ท สภา กว่า 1,000 รายการ

PRE-REGISTER

CALL / WHATSAPP : 088-751 3569

@picasia Architect Phuket 076 217 199, 088 751 3569

### Architect & Hotelex Exhibition 2024

Construction technology, interior design and hotel supplies exhibition. More than 1,000 products on show. FI.2 Central Phuket Floresta. For more information, visit picphuket.com/shop/architect

FRI

5 JUL



### Grow Boating Evening - July 2024

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 5th of July 2024.

Drinks sponsor for the evening will be the the Thai Yachting Business Association (TYBA). See https://www.thaiyachtingbusinessassociation.com/ This edition of Grow Boating will follow the Annual General Meeting of the TYBA. There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee. For more info - facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket

SAT

17 AUG

MALAYSIA INDEPENDENCE DAY GOLF THAILAND PHUKET 2024

RED MOUNTAIN GOLF CLUB - PHUKET

PARTICIPATION FEE

Golfers: 5,900 THB/person (RM830.00, US\$175.00)

Inclusive of green fee, golf cart, caddy, transfer from hotel to/from Golf course, lunch before tee off & Gala Dinner.

Non Golfers: 2,000 THB/person (RM325.00 OR US\$68.00) to attend the Gala Dinner

Proceed of this Golf Tournament will be donated to a Charity selected by the organizer in December 2024

LODGING IN PHUKET: Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Chao Fah Hotel Price: 2,200 THB (RM350.00 or US\$75.00) per night incl. 2 breakfast.

Date: August 17, 2024 – Saturday

Registration: 10.30 hr.

Brunch/Lunch: 11.00 – 11.45 hr.

Briefing & Group Photo – 11.50 hr.

Shotgun Tee off at 12.00 hr.

Gala Dinner @ Ramada Plaza Ballroom Time: 18.30 hr.

RESERVATION: Email: midgpthai@gmail.com

Phuket Tel: +66 81 271 2429 – Dave Chang

Bangkok Tel: +66 81 826 9575 – VT Ten

Asia MICE Planner, Malaysia Club Thailand, TOURISM MALAYSIA, RAMADA

This event is jointly organized by Asia Mice Planner, Malaysian Club Thailand, Only One Tour International & Malaysian Thai Friends Group

### Malaysia Independence Day Golf Thailand Phuket 2024

Calling all swingers! Get your clubs ready for Malaysia Independence Day Golf tournament at Red Mountain Golf Club on August 17th! Register now for B5,900 per person, including green fee, golf cart and caddy, round trip hotel transfer, lunch and Gala Dinner at the Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Chao Fah Hotel. Proceed of this Golf Tournament will be donated to a Charity selected by the organizer in December 2024. This event is jointly organized by Asia Mice Planner, Malaysian Club Thailand, Only One Tour International & Malaysian Thai Friends Group. Contact Dave for more info on 081 271 2429.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### PROPERTY FOR SALE

URGENT

Bangtao Land for Sale

Prime location near Surin beach! Perfect for residential or commercial development opportunities. Reach out now for viewing or further details. Orana Saewong (THAI) | Fredy (ENG/DE), bangtaolandforsale@gmail.com, 0928706065

### PROPERTY FOR SALE

Golf Townhouse: Poolside Haven

This 280 SqM, 3-bed, 4-bath Townhouse at Phuket Golf and Country Home, Kathu is for sale at 10M. Click the link for 3D tour and info. 10,000,000, Lou Mouille, 68/20 Soi Chonlaprathan, Kathu, Kathu District, Phuket 83120, lou@ap-natai.com, 0980218331

### PROPERTY FOR SALE

Amazing Kata Sun-sets!

71.95 sqm 1 BR fully furnished seaview condo for sale by owner in Kata. Foreign individual freehold Chanote. Owner occupied, never rented. Very well maintained and includes many upgrades; 5G Internet and 3BB TV, retractable awning on balcony, custom furnishings, ceiling fans, window screens, storage space, and more. With a large seaview balcony that includes a built-in jacuzzi. A corner unit next to the swimming pool, with views of both Big Buddha and amazing Kata seaview sunsets! Serious buyers only. Save yourself an agent's fee. Price is fixed at 5.7mB. After transfer/legal fees of approx. 2.5%, Buyer pays 5.8mB, Seller gets 5.6mB. Call 082-254-0760 to arrange a viewing.

### WEBSITES, IT

FOR SALE PROPERTY WEBSITE

Established lux. property website, business, platform, brand for sale, inc. brand name, extensive database. Ideal website/platform, if looking to get into the rental & sales market in Phuket. Please contact personalassitantphuket@gmail.com

### BOATS, YACHTS FOR SALE

HENRI CAPTAIN

MORE THAN 100 USED BOATS FOR SALE IN THAILAND

HENRI-CAPTAIN.COM

BOAT LAGOON MARINA, PHUKET +66(0)636382661

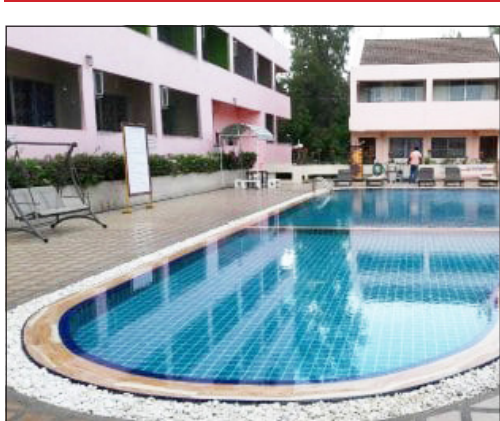
## PROPERTY FOR SALE



### 6 Bed Pool Villa

Exceptional opportunity to own a 6 bedroom pool villa in Cherrng Talay. Main house has 3 bedrooms and 3 shower rooms, open plan fitted kitchen, lounge and dining area. There's a separate 3 bedroom guest house with pool bar. Contact Tom on 0818484464 for more details. Tom, 0818484464

### PROPERTY FOR SALE



### Cha Am Beach Condo for Sale

72 SqM Unfurnished One bdrm bath kitchen. 1 Air cond 25 mtrs to beach 4th floor Cattareya Condo Swimming Pool Fitness Parking 24 hr security CCTV. Panadda Sathaisong, 089 635 7311, mypinellasmall@gmail.com

## CLASSIFIEDS

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Chalong, Phuket Town, Bang Tao & Karon

CALL

081 895 4763

help@aaphuket.org

Google www.aaphuket.com





DIAMOND RESORT PHUKET NETWORKING EVENT

Diamond Resort Phuket organised an invite-only networking event for their partners and friends. Held at Infuse Restaurant on Saturday, June 8, guests were treated to an array of tasty treats from the kitchen and ice-cold drinks that kept the conversation and networking going well into the evening.



 **STAY UP TO DATE**  
with our daily email updates on everything Phuket

**SCAN NOW**  

to start receiving our emails, at 7pm,  
only **THB 1,500** per year



## Thais host VNL finals

### VOLLEYBALL

THAILAND HEADED into the women's FIVB Volleyball Women's Nations League 2024 (VNL) off the back of another loss in the tournament preliminaries last Sunday (June 16) when they were blanked by Germany in Hong Kong.

The VNL started in Bangkok yesterday (June 20) and runs until Sunday where the Thai team will face the world's best seven teams. The Thais were guaranteed a place in the Finals as the host country.

However, the preliminaries weren't ideal preparation for the Thai spikers as they lost to the Germans 3-0 (25-17, 25-21, 25-20) in Pool 5 in Hong Kong.

Hitter Chatchu-On Moksri was the top scorer for the Thai team with 13 points and Wimonrat Thanapan came second with six.

It was the third defeat for the Thais in the Hong Kong-based preliminary round following defeats to defending champions Turkey and Poland.



Thai spikers in action against Bulgaria on June 13. Photo: VNL

Thai spirits were lifted, however, with a pulsating 25-23, 22-25, 25-18, 22-25, 15-10 victory against Bulgaria at the Hong Kong Coliseum on June 13.

Outside hitter Ajcharaporn Kongyot led the Thai attack with 18 points (15 kills, 2 blocks, 1 ace), opposite spiker Pimpichaya Kokram scored 17 points (16 kills, 1 ace) while middle blocker Thatdao Nuekjang, who captained the side, had 15 points (11 kills, 2 blocks, 1 ace).

Going into the VNL finals, and following last Sunday's defeat to Germany, Thailand dropped one spot to 14<sup>th</sup> in the world rankings.

*Bangkok Post*

## Tour time for rugby nations



### THE GLOBAL RUGBY COACH

As domestic rugby seasons end across Europe and the Southern Hemispheres, emphasis switches to national team selection and tours overseas, with club supporters subsequently averting their adrenalin focus, often showering their selection venom on social media.

End of season also sees many players heading to the departure lounge with more going than coming as salary caps are cut. Coaches also taste the wrath of failure. I remember sitting in one premier league club's coaching office when a hugely successful coach was sacked. It was difficult to breathe, no-one raised their head, no one spoke the following day. It is an emotional brutality that can shape your future. I ran the sports psychology at the club and one of the topics I presented was, "How to cope."

For those players remaining in situ and those going on tour, there is both relief and excitement.

So, who is going where, and are there any 'juicy reunions'?

The much-maligned England coach, Steve Borthwick (who already knows he is not having his contract renewed, win or lose the next World Cup) takes an England squad rich in experience in the forwards but young and eager in the backs to Japan for a one-off test tomorrow (June 22) and then to New Zealand for two tests, in Dunedin and



England are set to take on Japan and New Zealand. Photo: AFP

Eden Park, Auckland on July 6 and 13, respectively.

Borthwick's predecessor, the even more maligned Eddie Jones, lies in wait as coach of Japan. Considering the power of England's forwards, defeat is unlikely, but if it were to happen, I'll send the "How to cope" paper!

Scotland disappear to the Americas with four fixtures, starting in Canada before a quick dash to Washington DC to face the US, then Chile in Santiago, finishing in Montevideo with a tough test against Argentina, who I tip to win.

Ireland sends an emerging squad to play two tests against a new look South Africa with several young debutants. Ireland will need to get some semblance of parity in the forwards to stand any chance of demonstrating their attacking prowess.

Wales play South Africa at Twickenham, then Australia in Sydney and Melbourne, before concluding with a final game against the Queensland Reds. Both Australia and Wales are spiralling downward. In previous decades this fixture would have been a must watch, with quality attacking play across the park. Now even selling tickets is a challenge.

France is scheduled to play Argentina and Uruguay, although both are still to be confirmed. C'est la vie!

*The Global Rugby Coach, Mike Penistone, is a globally renowned professional rugby coach based in Phuket who is also an ambassador for the Asia Center Foundation, a charity for disadvantaged children. For more information visit: [www.rugbycoachingconsultancy.com](http://www.rugbycoachingconsultancy.com).*

## UNLOCK YOUR PROPERTIES POTENTIAL, TAILORED PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES, UNPARALLED RESULTS

### - EFFICIENCY

FREE UP YOUR TIME AND ENJOY ISLAND LIFE

### - ADAPTABLE SOLUTIONS

TAILORED SOLUTIONS TO YOUR NEEDS

### - RETURNS

MAXIMISE YOUR RENTAL INCOME

### - CLEAR COMMUNICATION

REGULAR UPDATES & TRANSPARENT REPORTING

PHUKET REAL ESTATE  
REDEFINED  
WWW.CITADELPHUKET.COM



## DeChambeau edges McIlroy to win his second US Open

### GOLF

BRYSON DECHAMBEAU CAPTURED his second US Open title last Sunday (June 16), but it was an epic late collapse by Rory McIlroy that will be long remembered.

Overtaken by McIlroy with six holes remaining to play, DeChambeau kept his poise over the dome-shaped greens and sandy waste areas of the Pinehurst course to rally for the crown.

McIlroy, thwarted in a bid to end a 10-year major win drought, led by two strokes with five holes to play.

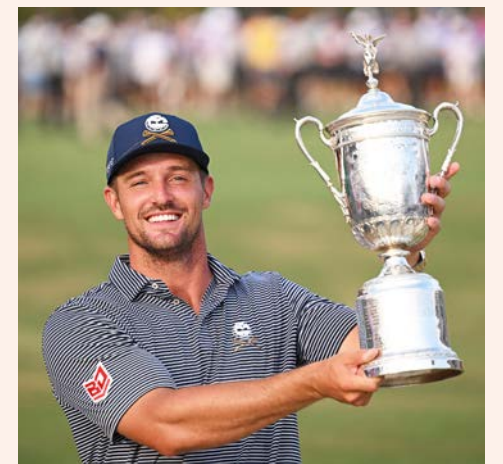
But the four-time major winner from Northern Ireland made bogeys on three of the last four holes – two on short par putts at 16 and 18 – to help hand DeChambeau the trophy.

DeChambeau, who also won the 2020 US Open, fired a one-over-par 71 to finish on six-under-par 274 while McIlroy shot 69 to stand on 275 after 72 holes.

In a collapse mindful of Greg Norman's epic 1996 last-round loss to Nick Faldo at the Masters, McIlroy missed par putts from 2.5 feet at the par-4 16<sup>th</sup> and just inside four feet at the par-4 18<sup>th</sup> – tension-packed bogeys that left McIlroy one behind in the thriller.

McIlroy left the course without speaking to media after his agonising collapse.

In addition to taking the US\$4.3 million (B158mn) winner's prize from a record



DeChambeau with the trophy. Photo: AFP

\$21.5mn purse, DeChambeau will jump from 38<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> in the next world rankings and have five more years of starts in all majors.

The 30-year-old American became the second active player of Saudi-backed LIV Golf to win a major title after Brooks Koepka in the 2023 PGA Championship.

"I still can't believe it," said DeChambeau. "It's unbelievable."

It was the sixth consecutive win by an American in a major since Spain's Jon Rahm took last year's Masters.

Americans Tony Finau and Patrick Cantlay shared third on 276, two off the pace, with Finau firing a 67. France's Matthieu Pavon was fifth on 277 after a 71, one stroke ahead of Japan's Hideki Matsuyama, who fired a 70 to stand on 278. AFP



# Thai World Cup heartbreak

## FOOTBALL

Bangkok Post

It was heartbreak for Thailand as they defeated Singapore 3-1 in their last 2026 FIFA World Cup second stage qualifying game but still fell agonisingly short of advancing.

The victory on June 11 at Rajamangala National Stadium drew Thailand level on eight points with China but, with both teams having an identical goal difference, the War Elephants finished third on the head-to-head record.

The tears and dejection that followed the anguish of exiting the qualifying campaign elicited a quick apology from the Football Association of Thailand chief Nualphan Lamsam.

"I apologise to the Thai football fans," she said after the match. "One more goal and we would have made it."

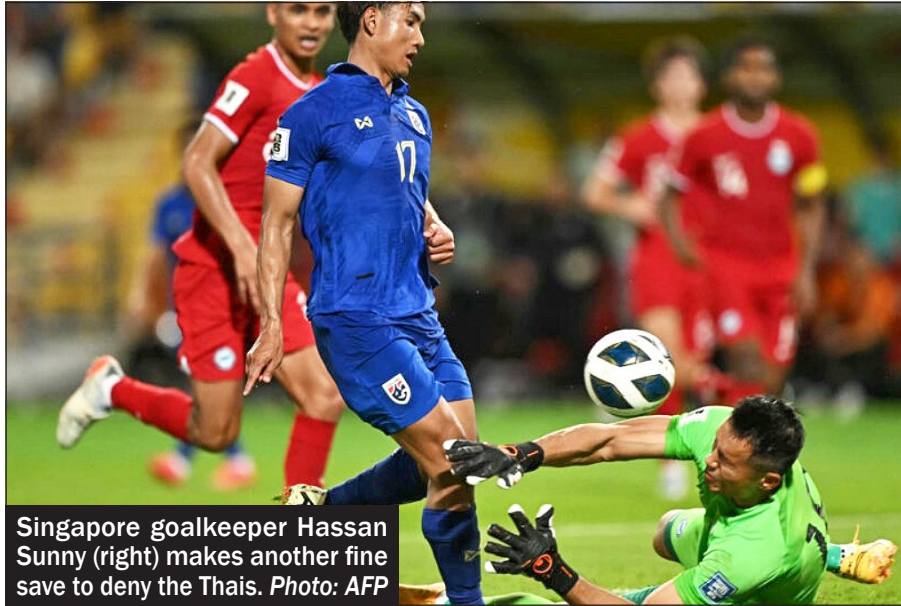
"Every player did a great job today. Some of them were in tears after the match."

Thailand head coach Masatada Ishii was also disappointed with the outcome.

"It was my responsibility, and I couldn't help the Thais qualify for the next phase. I'm disappointed," the 57-year-old Japanese tactician said.

"Every player has done his best for the team, but it was all over after the last week's away game with China when we didn't get three points."

Thailand captain team Theerathon Bunmathan said: "We had a big crowd at the venue and I was confident that we



Singapore goalkeeper Hassan Sunny (right) makes another fine save to deny the Thais. Photo: AFP

would qualify for the third round. But we couldn't make it. I am disappointed and would like to apologise to the Thai fans."

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said he was satisfied with the team's performance despite the disappointment of not progressing.

"As a Thai, I am proud that our national team does not have any foreign players. This is the pride of all people in the country," said Mr Srettha, no doubt alluding to the Singapore and Chinese squads which have several foreign or naturalised players.

Having a Thai coach for the national team would be also be a good thing, he said.

A major reason why the Thai team did not score more against Singapore was veteran goalkeeper Hassan Sunny

who made 11 key saves in a man-of-the-match display.

The 40-year-old became a hero overnight in China, a country of 1.4 billion people, and also saw Chinese football fans send him money to say thank you for his unlikely role in keeping their World Cup dreams alive.

The stopper told Singapore's state broadcaster CNA that fans in China had used the Alipay account of his food stall in the city-state to transfer money to him after photos of its payment QR code were circulated online.

Chinese citizens and visitors in Singapore have been visiting Sunny's restaurant located in the city's eastern suburbs to thank him, which saw the modest food outlet run out of food on June 13 because of strong demand.



Photo: Sports Association of Phuket

## Chalong Cup kicks off

### FOOTBALL

THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EDITION of the Chalong Cup kicked off last Saturday (June 15) with a record 33 teams participating in the ever popular 7-a-side tournament which runs until the end of the month (June 30).

Chalong Mayor Thanaporn Triwong oversaw the opening ceremony at the Phuket Republic indoor football stadium in Chalong, joined by fellow council members and representatives from various public and private sector entities.

The competition has been divided into four separate categories, organisers explained: nine teams in the under 12 years of age group; 12 teams in the male open age; six teams in the senior male age class (age 40 and above); and six teams in the female open age.

Trophies will be given out to the winning teams and runners-up in each category,

although it was not specified how the competition is structured in relation to the number of games played or the points system.

The objective of the competition is to promote a healthier lifestyle among residents, encourage youngsters to get involved in sport while potentially uncovering young football talent, organisers explained.

On a broader scale, the event is geared to unite the local community through playing sports and having fun. To emphasise this, many teams entered in fancy dress or incorporated fun themes into their team's image.

As part of the opening ceremony there was a live musical performance from a brass band, a traditional Thai dance performance and a cheerleading performance delivered by students from a local school.

The Phuket News

## Euro football feast underway

### FOOTBALL

GERMANY THRASHED 10-man Scotland 5-1 as the Euro 2024 hosts kicked off the tournament in style in Munich last Friday (June 14), the start of a journey they hope culminates in a record fourth continental title.

Florian Wirtz, Jamal Musiala, Kai Havertz, Niclas Füllkrug and Emre Can all scored for Die Mannschaft, with a late own goal from Antonio Rüdiger scant consolation for the outclassed Scots, whose night went from bad to worse when Ryan Porteous was sent off for a two-footed challenge on Ilkay Gundogan just before half time.

Elsewhere, England managed a nervy 1-0 win against Serbia in their opening game on Sunday with Jude Bellingham's 13<sup>th</sup> minute header proving to be the difference, while the other game in Group C saw Denmark and Slovenia draw 1-1, with Christian Eriksen on target for the Danes exactly 1,100 days after he suffered a cardiac arrest and collapsed in



Germany's players celebrate their fourth goal. Photo: AFP

his country's opening game at Euro 2020.

Spain impressed in their Group B opener against Croatia, strolling to a 3-0 win. The occasion was especially notable for Spain's Lamine Yamal, who plays as a winger for Barcelona, as he became the youngest player in the competition's history at 16 years and 338 days old.

Albania's Nedim Bajrami struck after just 23 seconds against Italy, the fastest goal in European Championship history, before The Azzurri fought back to secure a 2-1 win thanks to an Alessandro Bastoni goal and a glorious effort from Nicolo Barella.

Switzerland also caught the eye in beating pre-

tournament dark horses Hungary 3-1 in Group A, with captain and former Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka particularly impressive, while Wout Weghorst struck for the Netherlands in the 83<sup>rd</sup> minute, just two minutes after coming on as a substitute, to secure an opening 2-1 victory against Poland in Group D.

France needed an own goal from Austria's Maximilian Woeber for their opening 1-0 win, Slovakia shocked Belgium by the same scoreline, while Romania recorded just their second ever win at the Euros with a comprehensive 3-0 victory against Ukraine on Monday (June 17).

The Phuket News

Explore Phuket's newest Pool Club

Let's get social

find us at  
**Boat Lagoon Marina**  
Phuket

[www.sohophuket.com](http://www.sohophuket.com)

- chilled out beach club vibe
- open to everyone, no membership needed
- great Thai and Western menu
- fantastic place for your event or party



# Sport

editor3@classactmedia.co.th



**Euro 2024  
kicks off in  
style > p15**



Action from the three-day event at the ACG. Photo: Supplied

## Phuket International Rugby 11s a roaring success

### RUGBY

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The weekend of June 7-9 saw the hugely successful return of the Amora Hotels & Resorts Phuket International Dimbulla Rugby 11s to the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) in Thalang. Teams and supporters from Australia, China, Dubai, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Malaysia, Reunion Island, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the UK and the United States all descended on the island for an unforgettable weekend of 11s rugby and general fun.

Weather conditions obliged as the traditional Athena Siam Coffin Dodgers Over 35s and the Whitesmith One Foot in the Grave Over 45s kicked off the weekend's proceedings on the Friday (June 7).

With plenty of experience on show there was no lack of skill and technique as the group games progressed and it was evident early on that Barrelhouse Rugby Club from Dubai had come with purpose in the over 35s division as they progressed to the Cup final where they defeated Pronto Rugby from the UK 12-0.

The Phuket Viagrabonds won the Bowl final after proving to be too good for the HK Bulls, while BROB Parametric Peregrine endured a tough fight against a tenacious Chiang Mai Cobras team before emerging victorious 10-0 to claim the Plate title.

In the Whitesmith's over 45s a strong Taipei Silverbacks side battled through to face an equally determined opponent in the KL Tigers in the Cup final, where the former ultimately triumphed by a score of 14-0.

Meanwhile, the San Miguel Wanderers Wrinklies dominated the HKFC Contemtables to take home the Bowl while the Pally Pigs were made to work hard against a strong Japanese Asia Dragons side before ultimately claiming the Plate thanks to a 7-0 win.

### SPORTING GESTURE

Saturday (June 8) saw the women's teams kick the action off, with debutants Kafrine Lakour from Reunion Island advancing to the Plate final against new invitational side the SEA Barbarians, a game which was drawn 5-5 at full-time with both teams deciding to share the title. However, in a fine sporting gesture,

the SEA Barbarians gave the trophy to Kafrine as they had travelled so far to join the tournament.

The Bangers Belles won all their group games and were favourites going into the Cup final against the Sandy Bay Phoonanis, whom they had beaten in the group games by the narrowest of margins, 7-5. In a tight affair both teams probed for an opening but solid defense kept the score at 0-0. With extra time looming, the Phoonanis worked the ball wide and a two-on-one overlap saw them score to be crowned the Aussie Bar Lady's Open Champions by a score of 5-0.

The much-anticipated men's open tournament with 12 teams was too close to call with a series of pulsating group games wowing the large number of spectators present.

Defending champions Bank Maumalat Bullets were looking strong, winning all their group games, before dispatching The Groote Eylandt Mudchooks and the Chiang Mai Cobras in the quarter-and semi-finals respectively.

The Bullets faced off against fellow Malaysian side South Klang Dragon Rugby Club in the Cup final, after the latter had powered past Pronto Rugby of the UK and the

Raw Dogs from the United States, among others.

### PLUCKY

The Cup final was full of end-to-end action with last ditch tackles and missed opportunities as fast, skillful players gave it their all. Amazingly the game finished 0-0, leading to extra time where a 'golden point' would be decisive.

By the half-time stage of extra time there was still nothing separating the two outstanding teams. However, as the clock ticked down, a mistake at the breakdown by South Klang gave the Bullets the opportunity to finish the game, which they duely did as the penalty was dispatched for a 3-0 win. A breathtaking final that will take some beating in the years to come.

Meanwhile, the Shield final was an equally engaging affair, with the Swamp Dogs from Australia taking down Hyde Street Gulls from New Zealand by a score of 15-10.

The Bowl final was another cracker with the Bangkok Southerners edging out local side the Phuket Vagabonds 7-5, while Pronto Rugby won the Plate final against a plucky Chiang Mai Cobras 12-0.

Special mention to all teams that

made such an entertaining weekend of action possible, including SCAA Causeway Baywatch from Hong Kong and the Ningbo Rhinos from China, who were on their first ever international tour.

Once the action concluded the awards were presented by Amora Hotels & Resorts Group Director Narej Farik along with Rugby 11s CEO Dilip Kumar and Whitesmiths' John O'Brian, while Koji Tokumasu of Japan Rugby fame was on hand to present the Women's Champions trophy.

The Asia Center Foundation was present all weekend raising funds for the scholarship program and their emotional afternoon show to thank sponsors and supporters brought a tear to many people's eye. To learn more about the foundation contact Roelien Muller at roemuthai@gmail.com.

Next up for 11s Rugby is the Amora Hotels & Resorts Da Nang International Rugby 11s (Aug 31 – Sept 1); Colombo International Rugby 11s (Oct 26-27); and the Amora Hotels & Resorts Chiang Mai International Rugby 11s (Nov 23-24). Dates for next year's Phuket 11s tournament will be released shortly, organisers stated.