

MOVE FORWARD IN PHUKET APPEALS FOR PEACE > PAGE 3

WET WORKS



THAT SINKING FEELING: Fear of repeated flooding of Phuket Town's key streets has prompted officials to launch a B226mn drain improvement project. Photo: PR Phuket

OFFICIALS PRESENT B226MN FLOODWORKS PLAN FOR PHUKET TOWN

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Deeply concerned that Phuket Town will continue to suffer flooding with each heavy downpour, Phuket City Mayor Saroj Angkanapilas presided over a public hearing last week to present a drainage system construction project costing B226 million to help protect the

Phuket Old Town area from repeated inundation.

At the hearing, held at Royal Phuket City Hotel on July 13, Mayor Saroj explained that the project presented was only Phase 1 of a greater plan to install and improve the drain network from around the Phra Aram Bridge to Soi Ton Pho.

The need to improve the drain network throughout the town was

made clear with the repeated flooding of the area, he said.

Heavy continual rainfall on Nov 15-16 last year resulted in floodwaters of one to 1.5 metres deep, which cars would not drive through and causing damage to many properties, he said.

One month earlier, in October last year, Phuket Town suffered its worst flooding in 30 years.

"The goal is to let people in the

area know about the implementation of the project to solve the flooding problem in the Old Town area," Mr Saroj said.

The project will install new drains and improve old drains covering a distance of 1.61km. The project will cost B226mn, he added.

Mr Saroj said the public hearing was to inform local residents of the project, and to gather any opinions...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



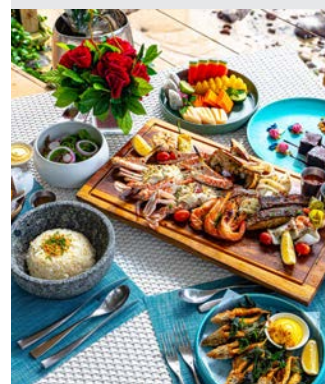
NEWS PAGE 5

Lavrov opens local Russian consulate



LIFE PAGE 9

The tasteful sanctuary of Sea Salt Lounge



SPORT PAGE 16

Wimbledon left stunned by unseeded win



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PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

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News



Grab driver threatened with machete > p4

Officials act to solve flood woes

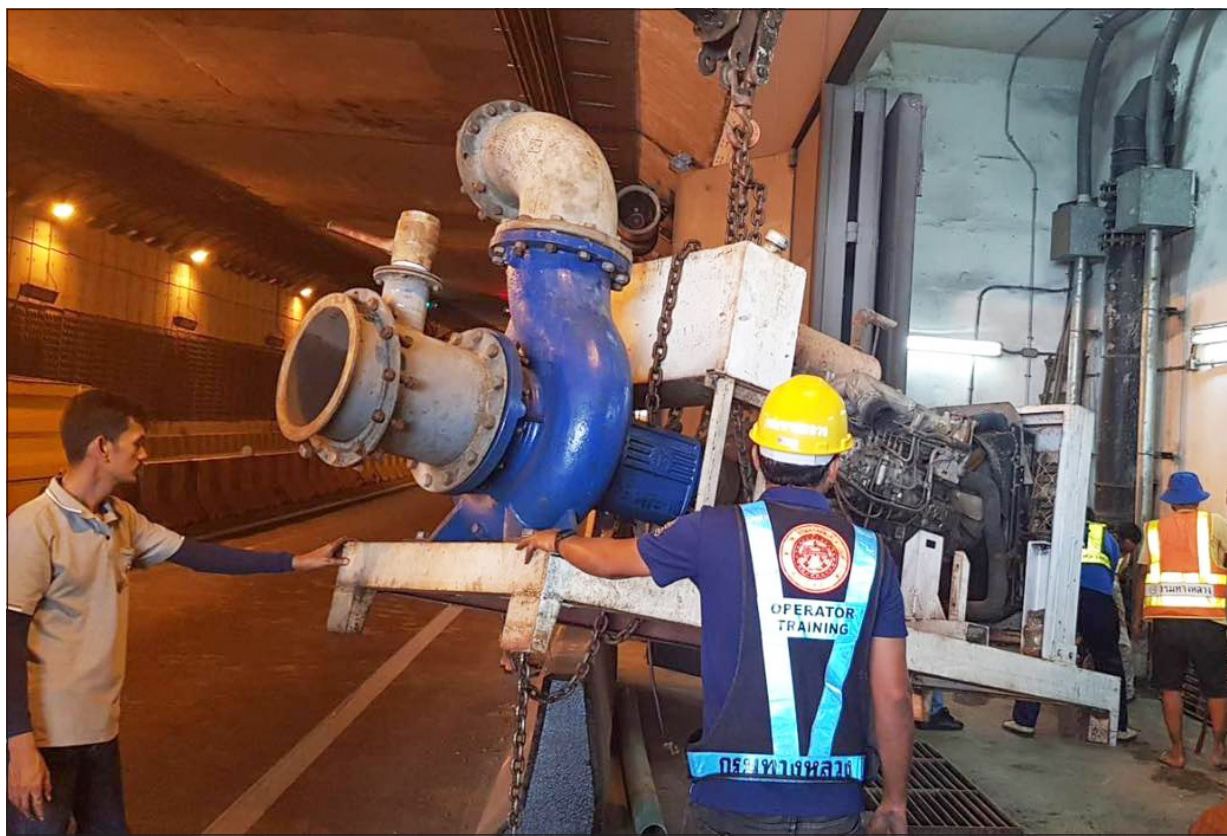
...and suggestions from local residents on how the project might be best carried out.

While the record floods that ensued in October last year resulted from an exceptional period of sustained, continual heavy rain, concerns for Phuket Town repeatedly flooding have been growing with lesser rainfalls resulting in minor flooding throughout the town.

Earlier this month heavy rainfall for just one day, on July 9, saw streets flooded in Phuket Town and impassable for small vehicles. Local residents and shopowners were forced to take emergency measures to sandbag the entrances to their homes and stores.

The level of water flowing through the Bang Yal Canal, which rises dangerously with each downpour in Phuket Town area, had disaster officials and emergency teams on watch in case the canal burst its banks. A large mobile pump was installed beside the Phra Aram Bridge as a precaution.

The B226mn project to improve the drains network is aimed at drawing floodwater from the streets and into the canal, but releasing the runoff into the waterway at a safe point further downstream, away from the heart of Phuket Town and closer to where the canal empties into Phuket Bay.



A new pump was installed in the Darasamut Underpass last Friday (July 14). Photo: Phuket Info Center

PUMPED UP

The Darasamut Underpass near the Central shopping mall on the bypass road was closed to all traffic last Friday (July 14) as workers installed a new pump in the tunnel to help prevent the underpass from flooding, again.

While the installation was carried out, southbound traffic on the bypass road was redirected onto Phra Phuket Kaew Rd, leading to

traffic delays on the secondary roads through Kathu.

The Phuket Highways Office has hired a contractor to repair the water pump system in the Darasamut Underpass, in the hope of eventually avoiding having the essential tunnel closed again due to flooding – as had happened again during the heavy rainfall on July 9.

The confirmation came via Phuket MP Somchart Techathavorn-

charoen in a post on his official Facebook page on July 10.

The contractor, Grundfos (Thailand) Co Ltd, was procured through a contract signed on June 16.

Grundfos, a major pump provider, has 120 days to complete the works.

The contract marks that the works must be completed by Oct 14, 2023 – right in the middle of the month that Phuket is renowned for torrential downpours.

The contract value is B1.889 million. The daily fine for breach of contract – that is, failing to complete the project on time – is B4,722.50

News that at least a contractor had been hired to finally fix the pumps in the underpass will be music to the ears of many motorists who have been caught out by the tunnel being closed due to rising floodwater. After being closed for safety on July 9, the underpass finally reopened to traffic at about 7am the next day.

All three pumps in the underpass have repeatedly failed, fellow Phuket MP Chalermpong Saengdee noted.

A pump provided by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO) has been installed on site, but is unable to cope with the volume of water flowing into the underpass with each heavy downpour.

The PPAO pump was installed “temporarily” after the underpass was closed due to flooding in May.

At that time, following yet another pump failure in the underpass, Wongsakorn ‘Bank’ Chanakit, the Bhumjaithai Party candidate for Phuket District 2 in the national election on May 14, inspected the site and claimed that the essential safety equipment in the Darasamut Underpass, including the pumps, had never had been fully maintained, and never had a full overhaul.

Rawai accident leaves rescue vehicle out of operation

A RESCUE VEHICLE belonging to Rescue Team Volunteers Phuket was out of operation for several hours last Friday (July 14) and was to be left in a repair shop for a full day or more after a minor accident and a prolonged dispute with a foreign motorcyclist in Rawai.

The accident was reported by Rescue Team Volunteers Phuket at around 10am last Friday, but this time one of the parties involved was Vincent Modell, a long-term Phuket expat and one of a handful of foreign rescue volunteers on the island.

According to the report posted on Facebook at 10:49am, a rescue vehicle in a green and yellow livery slowed down at Soi Houpru to let another vehicle turn when it was rear-ended by a



A Yamaha Grand Filano collided with a rescue vehicle in Rawai last Friday (July 14). Photo: Rescue Team Volunteers Phuket

red Yamaha Grand Filano scooter driven by a foreign man allegedly from Eastern Europe or Russia.

The motorcycle rider initially denied responsibility

for the accident and blamed the rescue vehicle for causing the incident by braking too hard. However, he later agreed to compensate for the damage.

It took four hours to settle the dispute, including both parties going to the Chalong Police Station and negotiating in the presence of police officers.

“The damage on the car denotes the bike was already on the ground before the collision. [It is] all lower body damage, this indicates the driver braked hard at the last minute,” explained Rescue Team Volunteers Phuket on their official Facebook page.

Both vehicles had only minimal damage and remained drivable. None of the individuals involved sustained any serious injuries.

The main loss was the loss of time, as the dispute took four hours to settle, explained Vincent Modell, the driver of the rescue vehicle involved in the accident.

“Both the rider and his wife who arrived later were of the opinion that the accident was a result of me braking hard, which was not the case. I couldn’t say why he hit my car, but I can assume he was traveling too closely. The bike dropped before hitting the

car,” Mr Modell told *The Phuket News*.

“For four hours of time that I should have been on duty, I had to deal with people who were not sorry about the collision, only sorry that they had to pay,” he added.

The case was settled without being officially recorded by Chalong Police, although an agreement was reached at the Chalong Police Station.

Mr Modell said he was unable to provide any information about the other party, as neither the Filano rider nor the woman introduced themselves to the rescue worker.

Mr Modell concluded his story with a humble request to people to respect rescue workers’ time, as the very nature of first-responders’ work assumes that time is crucial.

The Phuket News

Personal data trader nabbed

Details of 2 million Facebook users sold to gambling websites

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Officers from the Cyber Crime Investigation Bureau (CCIB) raided a home on Wichit Songkram Rd in Kathu last Friday (July 14) following the arrest of a Phuket man for selling personal data gleaned from 2 million Facebook accounts.

The man, Padungkiat Somsoo, 27, was arrested in Trang, then brought to Phuket, where the home in Kathu was raided at about 12:30pm, the CCIB reported.

Phadungkiat was arrested under a warrant issued by the Phuket Provincial Court. He was wanted for offenses under the Computer Crime Act 2007, the Gambling Act 1935 and Personal Data Protection Act 2019 (PDPA), the CCIB noted in their report.

Officers had learned that Padungkiat, a Faculty of Engineering university graduate in computer science, was a system administrator for an online gambling website, explained CCIB commissioner Pol Lt Gen Worawat



Image: CCIB

Watnakornbancha.

Seized as evidence in the raid were mobile phones, computers, bankbooks and data storage devices.

Padungkiat bought the personal data of more than 2 million Facebook accounts for the small sum of only B8,000

last year, Lt Gen Worawat said.

He bought the personal data as part of his marketing plan for the online gambling website that he worked for. He later gave up the admin job and turned to selling personal data collections, he added.

Padungkiat was sold the

data through private Facebook groups, one of which had about 100,000 members, the CCIB reported.

The customer database included information such as users names and surnames, phone numbers, bank account numbers and Line ID details.

The data was sold at various rates, from B500 for details of 100,000 names to B3,500 for the full list of more than 2 million names, Pol Lt Gen Worawat said.

Buyers could use the personal data to promote online gambling marketing or for

online scams by using the information obtained to contact targets by telephone, or sending an SMS or contact them through their Line account, Lt Gen Worawat added.

Padungkiat had developed a 'ready to use' system, complete with a full working website and data interface, and a working database ready to be uploaded, he said.

Padungkiat said he had sold the data, in varying amounts, "about six times", he added.

Padungkiat sold the personal data for about one year. In that time he had about "15 to 20 customers", providing him an average income of about B50,000 a month, Lt Gen Worawat said.

Phadungkiat was taken to be charged with the offenses listed in the arrest warrant, while officers continue to expand their investigation, Lt Gen Worawat noted.

The CCIB in their report urged people to be wary of the information they provide online, warning that the information may be used against them.

Move Forward in Phuket calls for peace

A GROUP OF ABOUT 30 people turned out at the Mingmongkol Statue (Dragon Statue) at Queen Sirikit Park in Phuket Town on July 13 to call for peace and maintain their support for Pita Limjaroenrat, the Move Forward Party prime ministerial candidate who was declined the position of prime minister by a House of Representatives and Senate combined vote earlier that day.

The Move Forward Party leader received 324 votes in his favour, 182 votes against and 199 abstentions in the first prime ministerial vote. The result left him 51 votes short of his target.

Wearing orange shirts, the colour of the Move Forward Party, people at the gathering held small placards accusing members of the Senate of being "cheats" and criticising the vote to deny Move Forward leader Mr Pita the position of prime minister.

Larger, similar gatherings were held in Bangkok later that night (July 13).

The gathering in Phuket was peaceful, but watched



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

over by police at the scene. There were no incidents, and the gathering soon dispersed.

Move Forward won all three Phuket MP seats in the May 14 election, with each seat won by clear strong margins.

Nantawat Saengngoen, Deputy Assistant to Chalermpong Saengdee, the elected MP for Phuket District 2, urged people to be peaceful and maintain hope for the future.

"Those who haven't voted yet [abstained], if you didn't vote today, it doesn't mean you won't vote for us next time. It depends on how

the party understands how to negotiate or talk," he said.

The House and Senate will convene again on July 19 to vote again for a prime minister to lead the next government.

"Everyone needs to comes together to cheer each other up and not create hate, not cause trouble," Mr Nantawat said.

"Do not insult anyone, respect each other, because everyone came for democracy and we want all the people in the country to be happy. This is our main goal," Mr Nantawat concluded.

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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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THU JULY 27



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Wind 4 m/s



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Truck driver crushed by three-tonne glass frame

A 44-YEAR-OLD TRUCK driver was found in the back of his truck crushed to death by a sheet of glass and frame weighing several tonnes in Cherng Talay last Friday (July 14).

Lt Col Warawut Sensob of the Cherng Talay Police was informed of the incident at 2:30pm.

The incident occurred in front of a warehouse under construction in Moo 6, Cherng Talay.

Officers arrived to find the truck and trailer, registered in Surin province, parked in front of a large warehouse that is being rebuilt.

In the trailer officers found the body of Chitjit Puengboon, 44, from Nakhon Phanom province, crushed by a large sheet of glass several inches thick encased in a frame.

Together the glass and frame was estimated to weigh about three tonnes.

Officers had a crane already on site lift the

sheet of glass so rescue workers could recover the body, which was then transported to Thalang Hospital.

Fellow truck driver Apisit Khumsuwan, 29, explained to police that he and Mr Chitjit had driven down from Bangkok together to deliver their freight to the warehouse under construction.

Mr Abhisit said that he had no idea how Mr Chitjit came to be crushed by the sheet of glass and frame.

Kulchira Phumprathum, 40, an assistant to the village headman (Phu Yai Baan) of Moo 6, Cherng Talay, told reporters that it is believed that Mr Chitjit was in the back of the truck when the sheet of glass was being lifted out.

Somehow the slips for lifting the glass came free from the lifting hook, causing the sheet to fall onto Mr Chitjit, he said.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Grab driver threatened with machete over parking space

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A man has been charged for threatening a Grab taxi driver with a machete at Naithon Beach in a dispute over the Grab driver parking in an area claimed to be reserved for a local taxi queue.

The two men involved in the dispute were called to Sakhu Police Station on July 11, explained Sakhu Police Chief Pol Col Salaan Tantisasankul.

The Grab driver, Phrompitak Kongyod, 28, a resident of Moo 6, Sakhu, had parked near the Baan Naithon Park at the beachfront.

He was approached by a man, later identified as Santi Raiwalthipkul, 52, a resident of Moo 4, Sakhu, who told him that he could not park there as it was reserved for use by local taxi drivers.

An argument ensued and Santi walked off and grabbed a machete from his saleng (motorbike with sidecar) parked nearby. Santi walked back to Phrompitak and threatened him to leave.

Police were initially alerted to the incident when Phrompitak went to Sakhu Police Station to report the threat. However, the incident was recorded on video which was posted online, sparking outrage among netizens.

Santi told police that he is not a taxi driver or involved with local taxis in any way, Col Salaan said.



Screenshot: via Eakkapop Thongtub

Santi said he had the machete because he needed it for his work as a fisherman, he added.

Santi has now been charged with using a weapon to threaten others, Col Salaan confirmed.

SEEING RED

Meanwhile, a motorbike taxi driver in Patong has apologised for losing his temper at a foreign tourist after he refused to uphold the fare as presented by Grab when the ride was booked.

Patong Police reported the incident late last Sunday (July 16) after a video clip of the motorbike taxi driver losing his cool gained traction on social media platforms earlier that day.

The motorbike taxi driver, Chamnong Salee, and the foreign tourist involved had both presented themselves at Patong Police Station to shake hands and put the incident behind them. The

foreign tourist was not named in the post by Patong Police.

The tourist had ordered a ride through Grab, which presented the fare as B56. However, when Chamnong arrived, he would not accept anything less than B100.

The video posted online showed Chamnong shouting angrily and yelling abuse at the tourist through a wooden gate where the tourist was staying.

Chamnong then kicks the gate, and then while continuing to verbally abuse the tourist gets on his motorbike, shows the tourist his middle finger and drives off.

Chamnong at Patong Police Station agreed to pay the owner of the house B1,000 for damages to the gate, Patong Police reported, though no discernable damage to the gate was visible in the video footage posted online.

Additional reporting by
Eakkapop Thongtub

FARANG AFFAIRS

By Stephff

https://farangaffairs.com

YOU BELIEVE IT IS ACTUALLY POSSIBLE TO CATCH A TAXI WHEN IT'S RAINING.



Delivery pickup slams into Heroines Monument barrier

THE DRIVER OF A DELIVERY pickup truck that slammed into the steel barricade protecting the Heroines Monument early last Friday (July 14) has been charged with reckless driving causing damage to government property.

Lt Col Noppadol Tonemane of the Thalang Police said officers were informed of the accident at 3:30am.

Police and rescue workers from the Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation arrived at the scene to find the Bangkok-registered Toyota pickup fitted with a refrigerated box on its tray stopped halfway across the barrier installed to protect the monument from invading vehicles.



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

The entire front of the pickup truck had been destroyed by the impact.

The driver, named by police as Sanphet Rao, 21, was at the scene of the accident, police noted. Sanphet had escaped the accident uninjured.

Police said Sanphet was travelling northbound on Thepkasattri Rd when he fell asleep at the wheel, leading to the accident.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Russian FM opens local consulate

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, officially opened the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Phuket at Royal Phuket Marina last Saturday (July 15).

Joined by Evgeny Tomikhin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Kingdom of Thailand, Mr Lavrov was welcomed to the event at 4pm by Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Pinsuwan.

Leading the welcoming delegation was Caretaker Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai, joined by Asi Mamane. Director-General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of European Affairs; Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Col Jirasak Siemsak; and Gulu Lalvani, CEO and founder of Royal Phuket Marina.

Also present for the occasion were a small gathering of important government officials, members of Phuket's private sector and members of Phuket's Russian community.

The Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Mr Lavrov and Mr Don had a fruitful discussion on issues of mutual interest, including ways to increase trade, enhance cooperation in science, technology and innovation (STI), culture, sports and tourism.



Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

Additionally, they expressed support for the commencement of negotiations on a free trade agreement (FTA) between Thailand and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) at the earliest opportunity.

The ministry also said the two senior diplomats also exchanged views on regional and global issues, such as the situations in the Asia-Pacific region, Ukraine and Myanmar.

"Today's event adds a bright page to the 126-year history of diplomatic relations between our countries. It is difficult that at this moment we have managed to create a strong foundation of Russian-Thai relations, allowing us to build our cooperation reliably, in a mutually respectful way, regardless of the fluctuations

of the geopolitical environment," Mr Lavrov said.

"[To] Develop active political dialogue, trade-economic cooperation, cultural and educational exchanges with our Thai partners. Let us not forget that one of the key tasks of diplomacy is to protect the rights and legitimate interests of Russian citizens abroad," he added.

"It is well known that Thailand is one of the favorite vacation destinations of Russians. Even being here for a short time, you realize that Phuket is so popular for a reason – beautiful nature, warm climate (including rainy seasons, gotta love them too), cheerful people. After the resumption of direct airline, there was a distinctive trend in the growth of tourist flow from Russia to Thailand.

Since October 2022, Thailand has been visited by more than a million Russian citizens, with half of them spending their vacations in Phuket... I am convinced that these numbers will only grow in the future.

"Today with my colleague, Foreign Minister of Thailand Don Pramudwinai spoke about steps that must be taken so that the cards of the Russian payment system 'World' can be used here without any problems. This will give an extra momentum to an increase in tourist flow.

"Phuket is a famous resort, but Russian diplomats here will have intense work. They will have direct consular functions related to ensuring the interests of Russian citizens in Phuket, as well as business links and promoting cooperation between

Thailand and Russian regions. One of the nearest tasks is to establish fraternal links of Phuket with the Kamchatka Krai.

"Today's opening ceremony of the permanent office of the Consulate General of Russia in Phuket is an important but not the last step in expanding Russia's diplomatic presence in Southeast Asia. There are plans to open additional diplomatic missions in other friendly states of the region," Mr Lavrov concluded.

The Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Phuket is located in the central square of the Royal Phuket Marina complex on Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew.

The Consulate General in Phuket has been operating since 2020 and is also responsible for the provinces of Phang Nga, Krabi, Ranong, Trang, Satun, Chumphon, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Narathiwat, Phatthalung, Songkhla and Yala. The post of Consul General is occupied by Vladimir Sosnov.

The Russian consulate in Phuket can be contacted as follows:

Address: 63/501 Moo. 2 Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew Subdistrict, Mueang District, Phuket Province
Phone: 095-2598081

Email mail: phuketconsul@yandex.ru

Telegram: t.me/PHUKETCONSULATE

Facebook: RusConsulatePhuket
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Phuket officials to splurge B849k on another 'City Pillar'

A THREE-DAY CEREMONY TO commemorate the installation of a 'City Pillar' ('Lak Mueang') at the grounds of the new Phuket Provincial Hall will be held on Aug 5-7, officials have confirmed.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew confirmed the ceremony – and the new monument – at a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on July 12, joined by Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Pinsuwan and Chantana Sithiphan, head of the Phuket office of the Ministry of Culture.

The City Pillar is being constructed by the engineers from the Fine Arts Department, who joined the meeting by online conference call.

An official report of the meeting reported the cost of building the new City Pillar in numerals as B849,900, but in writing as "eight hundred and ninety-four thousand and nine hundred baht".

A replica of the wooden panel that covers the original 'City Pillar' will also be installed at the site of the new City Pillar at Phuket Provincial Hall, at a cost of B428,810 funded by the Sustainable Development Foundation, Governor Narong confirmed.

The Phuket Provincial Cultural Office has contacted the Royal Brahmin Office and the Office of the Royal Household. Phra Suriya Songklod and Phra Sayom Phu Yant will consecrate the soil around the site of where the new pillar is to be built during a ceremony from Aug 5-7, Governor Narong noted.

All relevant government agencies and departments were instructed to make preparations for the occasion.

The 'Lak Mueang' is a 'city pillar shrine',



Photo: Phuket Culture Office

a traditional structure used by cities and towns throughout Thailand to serve as the symbolic "centre of the soul" of the community.

Phuket already has five 'Lak Mueang' erected across the island. The new monument at Phuket Provincial Hall will be the sixth such 'Lak Mueang' built in Phuket.

The one already long standing at Baan Muang Mai in Tambon Thepkasattri, Thalang, currently serves as the provincial 'Lak Mueang' for the island.

However, Phuket officials decided to build a second, grander, 'Lak Mueang' also in Baan Muang Mai under a project that began in 2010.

In explaining the construction of the second 'Lak Mueang' at Baan Muang Mai, Fine Arts Department architect Naruporn Saowanit, explained that all provincial 'Lak Mueang' in the country must be similar to the main 'Lak Mueang' in Bangkok, the design of which follows design principles set out by King Mongkut, Rama 4.

"'Lak Mueang' in every province must have arches on all four sides and must be located on higher ground than the nearby roads and houses," he said. *The Phuket News*



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Yachting sponsorship in Thailand – an opportunity

ADVERTORIAL

For the first time ever, 2022 saw yachting feature in Thailand's Sponsorship Platforms Top 10, according to the Asia Sponsorship News (ASN) Thailand Market Analysis 2023.

Standing in ninth place, with a spend of US\$1.9 million (1.2% of Thailand's total sport sponsorship), was both an encouraging sign and a call to action to rights holders to build on this achievement. After all, yachting worldwide attracts multi-million dollar sponsorships from the likes of Rolex, Volvo, Panerai and Emirates to name a few. Yet, notwithstanding its Top 10 spot, yachting in Thailand struggles to attract and/or keep major monetary sponsors.

The yachting event landscape, incorporating both yacht racing events (regattas) and boat shows, has changed noticeably in recent years, especially so since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thailand's longest running boat show, Phuket International Marine Expo (PIMEX), which ran from 2003 to 2017, was eclipsed by the Phuket-based Thailand Yacht Show (TYS), which ran between 2016 and 2020 – but seems to have missed its comeback opportunity in 2022/23 – while 2023 saw the inaugural Thailand International Boat Show (TIBS) in Phuket. Ocean Marina's Pattaya Boat Show (OMPBS) was replaced by the all-new Thailand Yacht Show (Pattaya) in 2022 but it looks unlikely to run again.

On the yacht racing scene,



Photo: Scott Murray

the country's bigger regattas (those usually seeing 30+ entries) have suffered badly. The biggest of all, the Phuket King's Cup Regatta (PKCR), accustomed to racing start lines featuring 100 yachts, hosted just 17 non-dinghy entries in December 2022. Phuket Raceweek (PRW), regularly enjoying entries in the high 30s, did well with 20 yachts in July 2022, but has cancelled the 2023 event. The Bay Regatta (TBR), once forced by its popularity to limit entries to 50, welcomed 16 yachts in February 2023, while Samui Regatta (SR), the darling of the big racing yachts out of Hong Kong, was down to just four entries in May 2023. Pattaya's Top of the Gulf Regatta (TOGR) held its last event in 2019 due to declining numbers.

So, while event organisers and rights holders work out how to revive (or, in the case of new events, establish) their brands, perhaps now is the time for them to revisit how they think of, and approach, the question of sponsors and

sponsorship. Unfortunately, yachting event rights holders in Thailand have traditionally tended to view sponsors and their money as something that "gets in the way" of the event and its participants; consequently they resentfully do the bare minimum to "keep the sponsors happy", expecting them to be there, cash in hand, next year. They are usually disappointed.

The reality that yachting rights holders must acknowledge is that, as Marine Business World editor, Jeni Bone, wrote in a 2013 article for Sail-World.com, "Sailing and sponsorship – you can't have one without the other."

"Sponsorship isn't free money," says Paul Poole of The Sponsorship Experts Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co Ltd (PP(SEA)CL), adding that, while dedicated effort is essential to ensure sponsors get the ROI they are looking for, "organisers should see sponsorship in a positive light – something that enables them to host better quality and more sustainable events

and even to engage with their local community in a more meaningful way."

Where to start? The first thing rights holders must recognise is that – like every other aspect of marketing – the search for, and management of, sponsors must be approached professionally. According to The Sponsorship Playbook, produced by PP(SEA)CL, there are three distinct phases to consider: Packaging & Pricing Sponsorship; Identifying & Sourcing Sponsors; and Managing Sponsors. These phases deal with such essentials as identifying and evaluating the rights on offer, then structuring them at various sponsorship levels, setting sales objectives, developing target lists and approaching targets and – critically – sponsorship activation or leveraging the sponsorship.

It is in the latter area that so many sponsors get it wrong – and never return because the sponsorship "didn't work for them". "Activation is the carrying out of marketing and promotional activity as part of

a sponsorship i.e. 'bringing the sponsorship to life' through a variety of planned activities," says Paul Poole. According to a recent industry survey, sponsorship decision-makers budget on average US\$2.20 for activation for every US\$1.00 they spend on rights fees.

As Southeast Asia's market leader, PP(SEA)CL has worked with several of Thailand's yachting event rights holders, including (boat shows): PIMEX, TYS, OMPBS, TIBS and (regattas): PRW, SR, TBR, TOGR. As a direct result of PP(SEA)CL's engagement by the rights holders, these events enjoyed successful sponsorships with (government): Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT), Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) and (private sector): Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), Mount Gay Rum (MGR), Rodenstock and Franke – among others.

To illustrate what can be achieved with professional, well-planned activation, it is worth taking a look at how JLR leveraged their two-year sponsorship of PRW, using it as the platform to launch the 5.0 V8 powered XFR and XKR in 2009 and the All New XJ in 2010 into the Asia-Pacific marketplace.

Their activation plan included yacht branding and significant VIP hospitality as well as on-road and track driving experiences under test conditions with expert instruction. A dedicated team was formed to make this happen.

In 2009 JLR realised a 6:1 return on investment in terms of sales of cars as a result of

orders taken at PRW. This grew to 12:1 in 2010 making the sponsorship a very cost effective business decision with a tangible result.

Today, a business's environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) credentials are important and yachting is well-positioned to provide a platform for activation compatible with ESG imperatives. At the same time, enlightened HR leaders could find value in the team-building opportunities presented by getting directly involved in sponsoring (and crewing) a racing yacht as part of their activation.

Addressing one of the concerns voiced both by holders of prestigious rights seeking sponsors and prominent brands looking for events to sponsor, Paul Poole said, "Brand clean" is a concept that can work for top shelf events and brands.

A title or presenting sponsor can find it worth acquiring all the rights to an event in return for being the only brand associated with it, while rights holders don't feel their event is sinking under the weight of myriad sponsors' logos."

Is now the time that Thailand's yachting event rights holders will grasp the opportunity of 'rebirth' to embrace a professional approach to sponsorship acquisition and management and, in so doing, raise the perception of their events as major players in their field?

For more information, visit: www.asiasponsorshipnews.com, info@asiasponsorshipnews.com, www.paulpoole.co.th, info@paulpoole.co.th.

Class Act Media bestowed two APAC Insider awards

THE PHUKET NEWS HAS been awarded 'Most Comprehensive Media Outlet 2023 - Southern Thailand' and IMAGE asia / Class Act Media has been awarded 'Most Comprehensive News & Media Company 2023 - Southern Thailand' in the '2023 South East Asia Business Awards' of United Kingdom-based APAC Insider Magazine.

The awards were publicly announced last Friday (July 14). Entries to the awards opened on Feb 20 this year, and closed on



Apr 5.

"2023 has been a year of healing. For businesses of all sizes, it's acted as an outlet for creativity and innovation that may have otherwise been dampened following

the world's emergence from the pandemic. It's thanks to this worldwide recovery that pre-existing businesses were able to find their feet again, whilst new businesses were granted the opportunity to

start making a real impact on the world," the magazine said in its announcement.

"South East Asia is occupied by some of the most steadfast companies who have not only persevered through the pandemic, but have also sought to lift themselves, and others, up towards a better tomorrow. Success is born in South East Asia, and it's evident through this year's selection of winners.

"As a result of this steadfast determination to keep going, no matter the odds, APAC Insider launched the

2023 edition of the awards programme, where it celebrates the award-winning companies that continue to make a difference."

Awards Co-ordinator Laura O'Carroll commented on this year's winners: "We are always proud to lend a platform to the businesses that are shaping the future, and this year's South East Asia Business Awards programme is no different. I extend my congratulations to all who've been recognised in APAC Insider's 2023 programme, and wish you all the best in

the year to come."

Class Act Media and IMAGE asia were bestowed two accolades at last year's UK-based annual APAC insider awards.

Class Act Media & IMAGE asia General Manager Jason Beavan commented on this year's awards, "Very honored to be nominated, and overwhelmed with winning. Huge credit to the team, fantastic recognition on all the hard work they do day in day out. I'm privileged to work with them."

The Phuket News

Senators retaliate against threats after first PM vote

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Senate Speaker Pornpetch Wichitcholchai has sought police protection for senators and their families who said they were threatened after the first prime ministerial vote on July 13, as senators file complaints against those they believe responsible.

Mr Pornpetch said on Monday (July 17) that senators claimed they and members of their families were threatened by individuals, their privacy was infringed upon and people were watching their residences and business premises.

Reports of threats being made against senators emerged after only 13 voted in favour of sole prime ministerial candidate Pita Limjaroenrat, leader of the election-winning Move Forward Party (MFP), in the joint sitting of the Senate and the House on July 13.

Mr Pita's eight coalition allies had 312 votes in the House. With support from only 13 senators he fell short of the needed majority of the



Senator Somchai Sawaengkan (centre) after filing his complaints on Monday (July 17). Photo: Bangkok Post

two chambers by 51 votes, with most senators abstaining from the vote.

Pornpetch said that 33 senators were officially absent from the July 13 joint sitting, adding that two were at a meeting in Beijing that he approved, six were senior officials of the armed forces who had other important duties that day, nine took leave for private business overseas and had not been informed of the joint sitting beforehand, and 16 senators took sick leave.

On July 13, 43 senators did not cast a vote, showing that 10 of them were present at the meeting but chose not to vote.

A group of senators said on Monday they were gathering evidence to support legal complaints against the people who posted threats against them and their families after the July 13 vote.

Senator Seri Suwannapanon said senators would not tolerate the bad behaviour that was ruining the nation, society

and the beautiful lifestyle of Thai people, adding that he had filed defamation lawsuits against two lawyers he said had heavily criticised him, suing each for B500,000.

"There will be criminal and civil lawsuits against everyone who made accusations on social media, to send the message that freedom of expression must neither affect nor damage others," Seri said.

He said there were threats against senators' businesses, although most vendors and workers at those places had voted for the MFP.

Senator Somchai Sawaengkan claimed the daughters of some senators even received rape threats.

"It is time to change society. Freedom of criticism does not mean freedom to threaten people who have different opinions," Mr Somchai said.

The unelected Thai Senate was appointed after the 2019 General Election with 194 members hand-picked by the government.

The Senate's voting rights will expire by law under Section 272 of the Thai Constitution in June 2024.

Prayut announces his retirement from politics

BANGKOK

OUTGOING PRIME minister Prayut Chan-o-cha announced his retirement from politics on July 11, although he will remain as the country's leader until the formation of a new government.

Prayut joined the United Thai Nation (UTN) party only weeks before May's elections, although they failed to gain traction with voters, coming in a distant fifth place behind the opposition Move Forward Party and Pheu Thai.

In a statement, Prayut urged members of UTN to protect "the institutions of nation, religion, and monarchy" – a reference to the previously untouchable three pillars of Thai society.

A long-running fixture in Thai politics, the army chief seized power in a 2014 coup before cementing his control in highly controversial 2019 elections.

Prayut's popularity had been on a downward spiral in the last year, as he battled divisions within his



Photo: Bangkok Post

sprawling coalition – barely surviving in July 2022 his fourth no-confidence vote.

His government has faced intense criticism over its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economy, with Thailand recording its worst economic performance since the 1990s under his tenure.

And large, youth-led pro-democracy rallies that sprang up in Bangkok in 2020 called for his resignation, as well as more wide-reaching reforms.

Under Prayut's government, lese majeste prosecutions rocketed.

More than 200 people faced royal defamation charges in the wake of the 2020 street protests, which included calls for changes to the previously untouchable monarchy.

Bangkok Post

Police press murder charge over slain German national

BANGKOK

POLICE HAVE PRESSED A CHARGE of premeditated murder against the prime suspect in the murder case of a German property broker in Chon Buri.

Deputy national police chief Pol Gen Surachate Hakparn said on July 14 that German national Olaf Thorsten Brinkmann, 52, is the prime suspect among the four arrested for their alleged involvement in the murder of Hans Peter Walter Mack, 62.

He said the police changed from a previous offence, murder, which is only punishable by life imprisonment, while premeditated murder is punishable by death.

The other three suspects were Petra Christl Grundgreif, 54, Nicole Frevel, 52, and Shahrukh Karim Uddin, 27. All have denied any involvement.

Pol Gen Surachate said that police also seized a speedboat belonging to Brinkmann and found that he planned to dump Mack's dismembered body into the sea. Police also obtained CCTV footage showing Brinkmann and Mr Uddin, a Pakistani with Thai nationality, in a fishing gear shop.

An owner of an electric saw also testified that he sold the saw to two foreigners that was used to dismember Mack's body.

Police also found a signal from Mack's mobile phone in Cambodia and are investigating how his phone ended up in the neighbouring country.



Brinkmann is arrested in Bangkok on July 11. Photo: Bangkok Post

According to police, Uddin claimed Ms Grundgreif had asked him to open a pool villa to hold a party for a VIP guest on July 4. On that day, Brinkmann, Grundgreif and the victim arrived and went inside the villa. Uddin said he had been told to wait outside.

After waiting for more than three hours, Uddin decided to go inside the pool villa. When he opened the door, he said he found Mack lying unconscious on the sofa. He then asked the two German nationals what they were doing.

He said Brinkmann suddenly pushed him to the wall and used a gun to threaten him that he would abduct his younger sister and his wife and take them to sell in Cambodia if he would not cooperate and would kill his parents in Phuket if he betrayed his gang.

Bangkok Post

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Tom Cruise in 'Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One' (2023). Image: IMDb

'Dead Reckoning' pure plot-driven action

David Griffiths

There is little doubt that the team behind *'Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One'* went all out to promote the movie to anyone who would listen. In the post-COVID world where a lot of films sneak into cinemas with little fanfare, it was pretty refreshing to see a team go all out – the cast were doing breakfast TV appearances; billboards

were everywhere and Tom Cruise was doing guest appearances in front of landmarks right around the world.

There was little wonder that people have been so excited by the fanfare, but what about the film itself? Does it hold up to all the excitement? Well, the answer is simple – yes, yes it does. But be warned this is not just a film about crash and bash – this is an action film with a serious side. Think about films like *The Hunt for Red October* and *The Firm* and you will be starting to feel the vibe this movie puts out.

The film's opening sequence is a real surprise. The Russians have developed a new top-secret sub that nobody knows about. Therefore, the crew are surprised when suddenly they find themselves under attack – they fight back with catastrophic results. Even worse, the attack leaves a key to a device that the whole world wants out in the open for the taking.

Without going into spoiler territory, that leaves the United States terrified as the keys are the only things that can control a rogue AI that threatens world domination. The IMF – Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise – *Rain Man*), Benji Dunn (Simon Pegg – *Shaun of the Dead*) and Luther Stickwell (Ving Rhames – *Pulp Fiction*) are soon scrambled and placed on the case to get the keys and bring them to the US.

However, of course things don't go to plan and soon Ethan and his team find themselves once again teaming up with Ilsa Faust (Rebecca Ferguson – *The Greatest Showman*) and a gifted young cat burglar named Grace (Hayley Atwell – *Captain America: The First Avenger*) in a bid to stop the keys falling into the hands of the opportunistic White Widow (Vanessa Kirby – *The Crown*), who plans on selling them to the highest bidder.

To make the task even harder an old foe returns and hires a hitwoman, Paris (Pom Klementieff – *Avengers: Infinity War*), to kill Ethan and his crew. And those in the US Government who don't trust the IMF have sent Jasper Briggs (Shea Whigham – *Non-Stop*) to arrest Ethan and bring him in.

Directed by long-time Tom Cruise collaborator Christopher McQuarrie (*Jack Reacher*), *Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part 1* is not the movie that a lot of people are going to expect it to be. If they are wanting a *Fast & Furious* style film with a lot of action and very little story, then this is not the film for them. Instead, this is more of a thinking person's action film.

Yes, there are some impressive stunts, Tom Cruise certainly makes sure of that, but there is also a spy/thriller/espionage story here that any *James Bond* film would be envious of. From emergencies on Russian subs through to foot chases on cobblestone Venice streets and a huge finale involving the Orient Express, everything is all brought together with an amazing

unique screenplay that explores a crime that may be closer to what our world will face one day than many will care to believe. Even the stunts themselves are creative – this isn't just simply car chases and the norm – no these stunt sequences are something very new and if the sequence on the Orient Express involving Tom Cruise and Hayley Atwell isn't enough to convince the Academy to introduce an Oscar for Stunt Work then nothing ever will.

As just mentioned, while the stunts in *Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part 1* are impressive, it is the screenplay, written by McQuarrie and his team, that make the film so memorable. Not only is the plot about a rogue AI well thought out without delving into the territory already explored in films like *The Terminator*, but the fact that they manage to bring characterisation to characters like Paris and White Widow certainly moves this film into a realm that very few action films belong in.

Perhaps the best creation by the screenwriting team though is the character of Grace. They really give Hayley Atwell something to work with and make Grace the character that the audience never really knows if they can trust or not. Her mere presence in this film provides just as much suspense as some of the stunts and thankfully the writers didn't decide to go down the cliched path of making her a love interest for Ethan.

There is very little doubt that *Mission: Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One* is a very impressive film, but the good news is it is a combination of some smart script writing, impressive stunts and great acting that makes it that way. This well-rounded film is a call back to a time when there was as much work and creativity in a script for a spy film as there was in an Oscar winning drama. Let's hope that other action franchises take a leaf out of the *Mission: Impossible* book because this is a real stunner.

Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part 1 is currently screening in Phuket and is rated 13

4.5/5 Stars

David Griffiths has been working as a film and music reviewer for over 20 years. That time has seen him work in radio, television and in print. You can follow him at www.facebook.com/subcultureentertainmentaus

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THB 7,500 + VAT

A5
WB X HB MM
THB 10,000 + VAT

A6
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THB 10,000 + VAT

A7
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THB 10,000 + VAT

A8
WB X HB MM
THB 10,000 + VAT

Limited spaces left available

B1
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Sanctuary at the 'Sea Salt Lounge'

Joanna Matlub

We descended the steps into Sea Salt Lounge & Grill and discovered an unexpected sanctuary, mere moments from Patong. With breath-taking panoramic ocean views complemented by the mesmerising crashing waves against the rocks below, this restaurant certainly made for an enchanting first impression.

The inviting ambience of the al fresco lounge area featured a striking white marble bar as its centrepiece. Tables and high bar stools were filled with couples and groups of friends, as

they sat back and enjoyed watching the sun gracefully descend during sunset. We savoured the moment while sipping on refreshing mocktails, although they also had teas, coffee, fresh juices and other beverages on offer.

Once the sun had dipped below the horizon, we were invited to step into the dining area for our evening meal. We passed through an open expanse of lush lawn and sunken sofa dining areas surrounded by water, perched on the edge. Whether you choose indoor or outdoor seating, each table is thoughtfully arranged to ensure that every guest can savour the stunning views.

The menu took us on a culinary journey, showcasing a blend of flavours with a focus on Western grilled items,

impressive sharing meat and seafood platters, plus there were Mediterranean, Middle Eastern and Asian influences all coming through. With such a diverse menu, there is something to suit every palate, catering to couples, friends and families alike.

The Salmon Fish Cake accompanied by tangy pickled onions and a remoulade sauce was fresh, vibrant and boasted generous portions of succulent salmon. The Grill & Rotisserie selection offered prime cuts of steak, free-range pork and chicken and fresh fish, which were served with side dishes such as Truffle Fries, Baked Spinach and Garlic Mash Potato. We opted for the Australian Tenderloin with Peppercorn Sauce and Grilled Vegetables, which

was cooked to perfection. The Wagyu Burger, Lobster Sliders and Lamb Koftas caught our attention as popular choices amongst other guests.

Overall, we appreciated the upscale, yet relaxed atmosphere, where shades of blue, turquoise and white décor have been tastefully incorporated to complement the ocean.

With Sea Salt Lounge & Grill's breathtaking views, diverse menu and magnificent setting, this hidden gem is an experience not to be missed.

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POP QUIZ

1. How many calories are in a glass of water?
2. What's the name of the largest military installation in the world?
3. PEZ candy is named after which German word?
4. In which US city was famous actor Tom Cruise born?
5. What is the circumference of the Earth around the Equator (to the nearest thousand)?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Hard

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

1. Body of verse
5. Bench-clearing incident
10. Short wave?
14. Steady
15. Protein particle
16. Mishmash
17. "Funny Girl"
20. Cunning
21. Cake-toppers
22. On fire
26. Lace tip
28. Batterer
29. Kind of film
30. Lunch meat
33. Cotton fabric
34. March time
36. Cheer up
38. "Cleopatra"
41. Extend
42. ___ Clinic
43. Math ratio
44. A little bit of work
45. Buckets
47. ___ Scholar
49. Illegal offer
50. Most like a ghost
51. Deep down
54. Coal container

Down

1. Fall off
2. ___ green
3. Galley need
4. Grinder
5. Barbecue offering
6. Start with while
7. Songbird
8. Crag
9. "Mourning Becomes Electra" playwright
10. Put forward
11. Joie de vivre
12. Echo
13. Some London teens, in the '60s
18. Flatten
19. Summer cooler
22. Current amount

23. Security provider
24. Scattering
25. Astound
26. Film material
27. Fawning
30. Binary compound
31. Squares things
32. Least
35. Retire from mil. service
37. Disinfectant brand
39. Clio and Tony
40. Languidly
46. Sleeps late
48. Be undecided
49. Coffins
51. John, abroad
52. Kashmir clan
53. Ginger cookie
54. Bit of sweat
56. Flutter
57. Danger signal
58. Butt
59. Singer DiFranco
60. Nov. honoree
61. Dolly, for one

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

(1) Zero; (2) Fort Bragg (pop est 260,000, nearly 54,000 active troop members); (3) Pfefferminze (peppermint); (4) Syracuse, New York; (5) 40,075km (24,901 miles)

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
62								63				64		
65								66				67		

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

6.5

times a year on average Jupiter is hit by meteors big enough to generate fireballs visible from Earth (774.01 million km).

20

moves are the most needed to solve any Rubik's cube.

150

years is how old female Greenland sharks need to be before they start reproducing.

3,500

guns per 100,000 people bought back by the government correlated with a 74% drop in gun suicides, according to an Australian study.

488 million

social media comments a year are fabricated by China's government to distract its citizens from bad news and political debates, said a Harvard study in 2016.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Waves at Nai Harn Beach. Photo by Klaus Zimmermann

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

This week in history

July 21, 1983

The world's lowest temperature in an inhabited location is recorded at Vostok Station, Antarctica, at -89.2°C (-128.6°F).

July 22, 1706

The Acts of Union 1707 are agreed upon by commissioners from the Kingdom of England and the Kingdom of Scotland, leading to the creation of the Kingdom of Great Britain.

July 23, 1980

Phạm Tuân becomes the first

Vietnamese, and the first Asian, in space on board Soyuz 37 as an Intercosmos Research Cosmonaut.

July 24, 2001

Simeon Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, the last Tsar of Bulgaria when he was a child, is sworn in as Prime Minister of Bulgaria, becoming the first monarch in history to regain political power through democratic election to a different office.

July 25, 1609

The English ship *Sea Venture*,



Viktor Gorbatko with Phạm Tuân. Photo: Wikicommons

en route to Virginia, is deliberately driven ashore during a storm at Bermuda to prevent its sinking; the survivors

founded a new colony there.

July 26, 1943

Michael Philip Jagger of The Rolling Stones is born in Dartford, Kent, England.

July 27, 1953

Cessation of hostilities is achieved in the Korean War when the United States, China and North Korea sign an armistice agreement. Syngman Rhee, President of South Korea, refuses to sign but pledges to observe the armistice.

Source: Wikipedia

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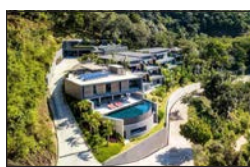
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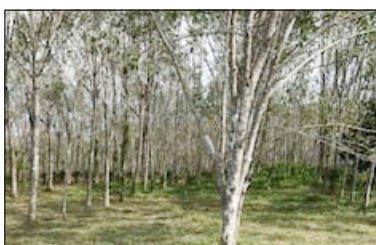
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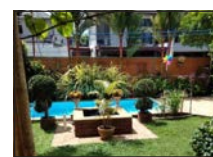
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BCCT MULTI-CHAMBER PHUKET EVENING ON MEDICAL TOURISM

It was great to have the BCCT back hosting an event in Phuket. Held on Thursday, July 12, at the Courtyard by Marriott Phuket Town, over 100 members and guests from all the chambers of commerce in Thailand enjoyed a very informative evening and great networking. Thanks to the speakers David Boucher from Bumrungrad International, Manatase Annawat from Thailand Elite, Bhumikitti Ruktaengam and Sam Sethi from Phuket Chamber of Commerce, and David Arell from Development Management Group, very insightful presentations on the value that medical tourism brings to the Phuket economy.



Running for a good cause at the Rawai Mini Marathon

MARATHON

THE 6TH RAWAI MINI Marathon took place last Sunday morning (July 16) with organisers confirming that funds raised from the race will go towards the purchase of an ambulance for Chalong Hospital.

Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) presided over the opening ceremony at Nai Harn public park and was joined by Aroon Solos, Mayor of Rawai, and Thana Kongkawas, President of the Andaman Rotary Club.

Mr Rewat explained that the run was not only a great way to promote a healthier and more active lifestyle among local residents but that the proceeds would be going to a worthy cause.

He thanked various public and private sector entities involved in organising the event for their cooperation, including Andaman Pearl Running Club, Andaman Phuket Rotary Club, Chalong Police Station, Chalong Hospital



Photo: PR Phuket

and Chalong Municipality, as well as a number of department stores and local companies.

Furthermore, the race received attention from several actors such as Toon Bodyslam, Sacred Thing and Young Kongkrapan Senahoi who got involved and help generate extra publicity.

Mr Solos added that exercise within the community is an important policy for local government and that budget was constantly being allocated to create more spaces for people to work out. The existing running route around Nai Harn Lake is a popular one that many consider an attractive tourist destination, he said.

At time of press there was no official indication as to how much had been raised from the race or when the donation to Chalong Hospital would take place.

The Phuket News

Thai superstar Superlek dominates ONE Fight Night

MMA

Bangkok Post

It was another wild event at Lumpinee Boxing Stadium in Bangkok last Saturday (July 15) as just two fights went the distance at ONE Fight Night 12 and five performance bonuses were awarded to the night's most impressive victors.

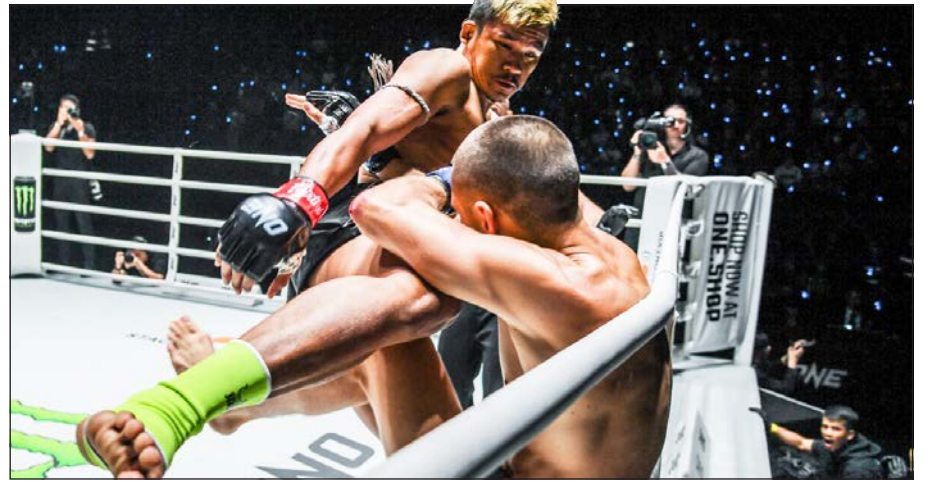
In the main event, Thai superstar Superlek Kiatmoo9 completely overwhelmed his Russian opponent Tagir Khalilov.

The ONE Flyweight Kickboxing World Champion and No.1 ranked Muay Thai contender employed elbows to nullify the fearsome punching game of Khalilov in their 135.25-pound catch-weight Muay Thai battle.

After a dominant opening round for Superlek, referee Olivier Coste stepped in to save the gallant Khalilov from further punishment just before the midway point of the second round.

With the victory, the ONE Flyweight Kickboxing World Champion continued his charge toward Muay Thai gold and called out flyweight Muay Thai king Rodtang Jitmuangnon and bantamweight champ Jonathan Haggerty post-fight.

No.2 ranked Garry Tonon derailed the Shamil Gasanov hype train in the co-main event, taking out the previously undefeated fifth-ranked Russian with his



Superlek (left) completely dominated Khalilov. Photo: ONE Championship

signature knee bar in the second round.

'The Lion Killer' survived an onslaught of knees on the ground from Gasanov in the opening round before turning the tide with a slick sweep.

In the second round, Tonon rolled through for the knee bar and appeared to pause to wait for a Gasanov reaction. Shortly thereafter, the American cranked the leg causing 'The Cobra' to tap in submission.

The win further strengthened the second-ranked contender's case for a shot at the winner of ONE featherweight world champion Tang Kai's mooted battle with former divisional king Thanh Le and netted him a B1.75 million performance bonus from ONE Chairman and CEO Chatri Sityodtong.

Earlier in the night, 21-year-old Muay Thai phenom Phetjeeja sent a resounding message to the atomweight Muay Thai division with a 26-second knockout of former world title challenger Lara Fernandez.

'The Queen' was ferocious from the opening bell and landed a hard right hand in the early exchanges. Phetjeeja unloaded another volley of punches as Fernandez backed up to the corner, forcing the referee to step in and save the stricken Spaniard.

The Thai star also scored a B1.75mn bonus for the crushing victory.

Further bonuses were also awarded to Bogdan Shumarov, Akbar Abdullaev and Amir Aliakbari on a night that featured a series of thrilling finishes.

Nakhon Si United win pre-season football tournament in Phuket

FOOTBALL

A FOUR-TEAM FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT, including one of the country's major professional sides, took place in Phuket last weekend.

The tournament, held at Surakul Stadium, kicked off last Friday (July 14) and concluded on Sunday (July 16).

The main attraction was Bangkok-based side Police Tero Football Club, who ply their trade in Thai League 1 and who finished runners-up in the inaugural AFC Champions League competition back in 2003.

Joining them in the competition were Thai League 2 Nakhon Si United Football Club, as well as Muang Trang United Club and local side Phuket Andaman Football Club, who both play in the Thai League 3 Southern region.

The final match on Sunday was contested between Nakhon Si United FC and Phuket Andaman FC, with the former emerging as 3-1 winners thanks to a sublime performance by their striker Maranyao who scored all three goals.

The winners trophy was presented to the Nakhon Si United FC team in a ceremony presided over by Amnuay Pinsuwan, Vice Governor of Phuket.

In recognition of his man-of-the-match display, hat-trick hero Maranyao was awarded with a separate trophy and the match ball by Thammawat Wongcharoenyot,



Nakhon Si United FC celebrate the win. Photo: Sports Association of Phuket

President of the Phuket Sports Association.

Also present at the awards ceremony were: Thanusak Puengdech, former president of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce; Damrong Chaisena, Director of the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) Phuket office; and Warin Khaothong, Secretary General of the Sports Association Committee.

The pre-season tournament was organised by the SAT Phuket office and the Phuket Sports Association and was entitled 'Phuket Andaman Pre-Season Sports Cup'.

Mr Thammawat explained that the competition was organised to build relations between the four clubs and the athletes while serving as an excellent opportunity for the teams to prepare ahead of the coming domestic season, which starts in September.

It also provided an exciting spectacle for the viewing public while promoting the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and positioning Phuket as a "Sports City", he added.

The Phuket News

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The Price is Rice

FOOTBALL

AFP

Declan Rice became the most expensive British player in history last Saturday (July 15) as Arsenal signed the England midfielder from West Ham United for a reported £105 million (B4.7 billion).

Rice's fee surpassed the previous record £100mn that Manchester City paid Aston Villa for Jack Grealish in 2021 as the Gunners continue their spending spree in a bid to challenge for the Premier League title next season.

The sum is just below the British record transfer fee Chelsea paid Benfica in January to bring Enzo Fernandez to Stamford Bridge for £106.8mn.

Neither club officially announced the fee, but West Ham said they would receive a record transfer fee between two British clubs for Rice, 24.

Rice said in a farewell letter to West Ham supporters his desire to play at the "very highest level" lay behind his decision to join Arsenal.

His switch to the Emirates Stadium on a five-year



Eye on the ball: Declan Rice is now an Arsenal player. Photo: AFP

contract comes after he lifted West Ham's first major trophy since 1980 in the Europa Conference League final against Fiorentina in June.

Having moved across London, Rice will now be competing for the Champions League rather than Europe's third tier trophy.

"In football, amazing opportunities arise. Big clubs, like Arsenal, have come for me and it's really hard to turn down," Rice told Arsenal's

website.

"You only ever get one career and I really believe in what Mikel (Arteta) is building here and the squad he's building. I'm really looking forward to the future with Arsenal.

"I know he is going to get the best out of me. I know I've got more levels to go up in my game and I feel like he's the manager to take me to those next levels."

Fuelled by their agonising

failure to hold off champions Manchester City in the Premier League title race last term, Arsenal have already spent around £200mn this summer in a bid to improve on their second-place finish.

The Gunners have not won the title since Arsene Wenger's 'Invincibles' in 2004, but they made huge strides under Arteta last season.

They led the Premier League table for much of the season before collapsing in the final weeks as City's deep squad overhauled them.

Jude Bellingham's transfer from Borussia Dortmund to Real Madrid could eventually beat Rice's record as, depending on add-on clauses, it might reach £115mn.

For now Rice has a gigantic fee to justify after he joined Germany forward Kai Havertz and Netherlands defender Jurrien Timber as the new recruits in Arteta's squad.

"Declan is bringing undoubted quality to the club and he is an exceptional talent who has the potential to be very successful here," Arteta said.

Rice, released as a 14-year-old by Chelsea, went on to make 245 appearances for West Ham.



The ICC has confirmed equal prize money at their events. Photo: AFP

ICC confirm equal prize money in men's and women's cricket

CRICKET

THE INTERNATIONAL Cricket Council (ICC) announced on July 13 that it will distribute equal prize money to men's and women's teams from now on at its events.

In a statement, the governing body said teams at events such as the T20 and one-day international World Cups will receive equal prize money for both their finishing position in the tournament and winning a match at those events.

"This is a significant moment in the history of our sport," said ICC chair Greg Barclay.

"I am delighted that men's and women's crick-

eters competing at ICC global events will now be rewarded equally."

Prize money at the last men's 50-over World Cup in 2019 totalled US\$10 million (B346mn), nearly three times the \$3.5mn on offer at the 2022 women's World Cup.

Football's governing body FIFA has come under fire for not introducing equal prize money at its World Cups.

The \$152mn in prize money and player participation fees on offer at the upcoming women's football World Cup is still a fraction of the \$440mn handed out to national associations at the men's 2022 World Cup in Qatar. AFP

FAT invites top 16 clubs to help run T1

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION of Thailand (FAT) president Pol Gen Somyot Poompunmuang has opened the door for the 16 top-flight clubs to join the management board of Thai League 1 and help the FAT in running the competition in a better way.

At a meeting attended by the top officials of the Thai League 1 clubs on July 12, Somyot also confirmed that the FAT will organise all domestic competitions under its auspices according to the announced schedules.

A proposal to let a separate entity run the top league was floated by its 16 member clubs after the TV right bids for the new season plummeted to about B50 million.

"I would like to confirm that the new Thai football season will follow their respective schedules and the FAT will assume the responsibility for producing live broadcast signals so that Thai football fans are able to watch the Thai League 1 games," said Somyot.

He added: "They [the Thai League 1 clubs] are



FAT chief Somyot Poompunmuang (centre) at the July 12 meeting. Photo: Bangkok Post

invited to join the management board of Thai League 1 and I hope it would help Thai football move forward.

"However, they would have to come up with a proposal that ensures that no FAT and the Sports of Authority of Thailand regulations are breached in any way.

"There are a lot of strings attached to Thai League 1 with the most important being the development and progress of our national teams."

He added that the FAT would let the T1 clubs to broadcast their games through their own channels

to raise funds for themselves, "but only for as long as there is no taker for the league's TV rights.

"As far as the lower leagues and cup competitions are concerned, we will fulfil our TV commitments to the event sponsors."

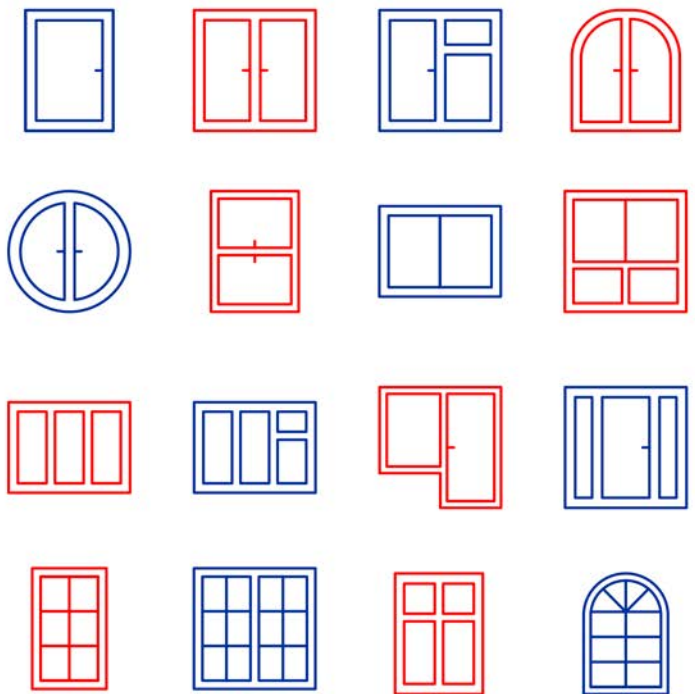
The FAT chief also confirmed that the FAT would soon pay the subsidies due to the Thai League 1 and 2 clubs.

He said the national football governing body will also put in place a number of austerity measures.

The new Thai season is scheduled to get underway next month. Bangkok Post



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Sport



Gunners get their man in Declan > p15



NEW ORDER

Wimbledon singles winners suggest power shift

Carlos Alcaraz celebrates with the trophy after his epic final win over Novak Djokovic. Photo: AFP

TENNIS

AFP

Carlos Alcaraz defeated seven-time champion Novak Djokovic to claim his first Wimbledon title last Sunday (July 16), shattering the Serb's dream of a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam crown, while Marketa Vondrousova became the first unseeded woman to win the women's tournament in the Open era 24 hours earlier.

World number one Alcaraz recovered from dropping the first set and saving a set point in the second to win 1-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 after four hours and 42 minutes on Centre Court.

It was a second major for the 20-year-old Spaniard following his US Open title last year as he became Wimbledon's third youngest men's champion.

The result will also spark fever-

ish speculation over the start of a generational shift, with 36-year-old Djokovic carrying the torch of the 'Big Three' now that Roger Federer is retired and Rafael Nadal is sidelined, perhaps permanently.

Australian Open and French Open champion Djokovic had been bidding to equal Federer's record of eight Wimbledon titles, match Margaret Court's all-time mark of 24 Slams and become the All England Club's oldest men's champion.

When Djokovic won his first major at the Australian Open in 2008, Alcaraz was still three months shy of his fifth birthday.

"You inspire me a lot," Alcaraz told Djokovic after becoming the third Spanish winner of the title, following in the footsteps of Manuel Santana in 1966 and Nadal in 2008 and 2010.

"I started playing tennis watching you. Since I was born you were already winning tournaments. It is amazing," he added with a smile

after firing 66 winners past the Serb, off-setting his 45 unforced errors.

"You came up with some big plays in the big situation and you absolutely deserve it. Amazing," said Djokovic.

Djokovic was playing in his ninth Wimbledon final on a 34-match winning streak having not lost on Centre Court since his 2013 defeat to Andy Murray in the title match, while for Alcaraz it was just a second in the Slams following his US Open triumph.

The Serb took the first set 6-1 before Alcaraz took the second, a mammoth 85-minute set which included an exhausting 26-minute fifth game, which went to 13 deuces and saw Djokovic save six break points before he cracked on the seventh.

The Spaniard breezed through the third set and, despite losing the fourth 3-6, came back firing to win the final set and secure a famous victory.

'TENNIS IS CRAZY'

On Saturday (July 15) Vondrousova

upset the odds in the Centre Court final as she powered to a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Tunisian sixth seed Ons Jabeur.

The 24-year-old Czech clinched an unexpected maiden Grand Slam title at the second attempt after losing to Ash Barty in the 2019 French Open final.

"After everything I have been through, it's amazing I can stand here and hold this trophy," said Vondrousova. "I don't know how I've done it. Tennis is crazy."

Olympic silver medallist Vondrousova joins Jana Novotna and Petra Kvitova as the only Czech women to win a Wimbledon title and is just the ninth unseeded champion at a Grand Slam tournament.

At 42 in the world, she was the second-lowest ranked player to reach the Wimbledon final – only Serena Williams in 2018 was lower at 181.

Vondrousova's triumph completed a remarkable comeback after a rash of

injuries stalled her promising career.

Just 12 months ago, she was an injured bystander at Wimbledon, reduced to watching her best friend Miriam Kolodziejova attempt to qualify for the main draw.

So unexpected was her run that she told her husband Stepan Simek to stay at home in Prague to look after their cat Frankie until the final, when a pet sitter was found to allow her partner to make the trip to Wimbledon.

"It's amazing, tomorrow is our first wedding anniversary," said Vondrousova, who had a dismal record on grass prior to this year's Wimbledon. "I think I'm going to have some beer. It's been an exhausting few weeks."

The tattooed Vondrousova has a fondness for body art and her victory means coach Jan Mertl has to get inked as well.

"I made a bet with my coach. He said if I win a Grand Slam he's going to get one also. So I think we're going to go tomorrow!" she said.

More than 900 turn out for 'Tsunami Walk & Run'

RUNNING

MORE THAN 900 PEOPLE OF all ages and walks of life joined the 'Tsunami Walk & Run' event held in Mai Khao last Sunday (July 16) to promote awareness of tsunami evacuation routes.

Boontham Lertsukekasem, Director-General of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, was present to declare the 'Walk & Run for Tsunami Learning 2023' event officially open, with runners and walkers setting off from the start line at 4pm.



Photo: PR Phuket

The route covered 3.2km from Sala Mai Khao Beach Resort to the offices of the Mai Khao Tambon Administration Organisation (OrBorTor).

Souvenir prizes were awarded to the first five to complete the course.

Mr Boontham highlighted that the event was the first of its kind to be held in Thailand. Similar events were held under the 'Walk & Run for Tsunami Learning 2023' banner over last weekend, with Walk & Run

events held in Phang Nga, Ranong, Trang and Krabi provinces on the Saturday and in Phuket and Satun provinces on the Sunday.

Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Pinsuwan highlighted the loss of life to the tsunami that struck Thailand's Andaman coast more than 18 years ago.

In Thailand, official government estimates marked 5,078 confirmed dead, another 8,457 injured and 3,716 missing, presumed dead, all lost to the tsunami that struck in the morning on Dec 26, 2004.

While confirmed deaths in Phuket were only 259, another 700

remained listed as missing.

"Today is a good opportunity for Phuket residents and local tourists to participate in useful activities by walking-running to learn the evacuation route in the event of a tsunami, which will greatly benefit the public and the government," Vice Governor Amnuay said.

"The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation and Phuket [provincial government] sincerely hope that this activity will be held every year to raise awareness in preparing for a tsunami in the coastal provinces of the Andaman Sea," he added.

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