

SONGKRAN BRINGS WELCOME TOURISM BOOST > PAGE 6

WATER FIGHT



Water fights soaked Bangla Rd on Apr 12. Photo: Phuket Info Center

PATONG POLICE TRANSFERRED OVER BANGLA WATER FIGHTS, BARS LATE TRADING

Eakkapop Thongtub
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Five top-ranking Patong Police officers, including Patong Police Superintendent Col Suchin Nilabadee, have been transferred pending an investigation into allowing water fights on Bangla Rd during the Songkran celebrations and for allowing bars to open past the 11pm closing time.

Maj Gen Sermphan Sirikong, Commander of the Phuket Provincial Police, announced the transfers last Sunday (Apr 17). He named the other four Patong police officers transferred as Lt Col Preecha Baringpattanakul,

Lt Col Prasert Thongplee, Maj Suchart Chomphusaeng and Maj Wuttiwat Liangboonjinda.

Thai media dubbed the group as the “five tigers”, with “tigers” being the standard label given to people in elevated positions of power and influence.

The lax enforcement of COVID-19 regulations in Phuket’s most-popular tourist town came to a head on Apr 12 as thousands of tourists, bar staff of Thai locals enjoyed water fights, including the banned splashing of water, along Bangla Rd.

Photos and videos of the water fights quickly splashed across social media sites and news reports nation-

wide, gaining the attention of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha.

PM Prayut ordered Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew to take immediate action to ensure tourists were aware of the COVID-19 prevention measures in effect to prevent further flouting of the COVID rules. Governors of other provinces throughout the country were ordered to do likewise.

First-hand reports to *The Phuket News* confirmed that over-enthusiastic water fights on Bangla Rd continued into the early hours of the morning. One reader explained that a bucket of water was thrown into his face while he was riding his motorbike along the beach road, causing him to run into

the back of the car in front. He was unharmed, but now faces paying for the damages to both vehicles.

Police on Apr 13 issued formal warnings to bar operators along Bangla Rd and forced all large water containers to be emptied. However, no legal action was taken against any persons for the blatant breach of COVID measures.

Some venue operators appeared to be genuinely surprised by the crackdown. One said that he did not know about the nationwide ban on water play during Songkran this year. He said he had even paid a supplier B500 to bring in water for people to use to play.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

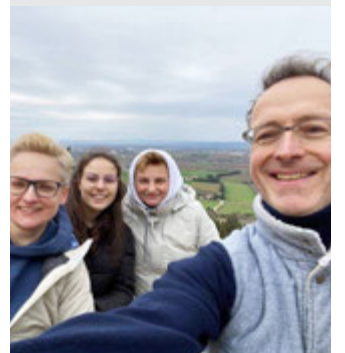
NEWS PAGE 3

Brit, adopted son charged for child sex abuse



LIFE PAGE 8

Phuketians help provide refuge for Ukrainians



SPORT PAGE 16

Chiang Rai Lions roar to victory over Phuket



execeditor@classactmedia.co.th

News



Little Tiger cleared of charging 'foreigner' prices > page 5

Bangla fights for the right to party

Continued from page 1

Under a nationwide ban ordered late last month, mass events may be held to celebrate Songkran but only in designated areas and only if traditional practices are held to observe Songkran.

Checkpoints were also set up at the entrances to Bangla Rd on Apr 13 for police and Kathu District officers to check people entering the "party zone" that night. Regardless, people were still allowed to carry water guns onto Bangla Rd, where water fights continued.

Although the water fights were on a much smaller scale than the night before, they were allowed to continue in flagrant disregard of the order handed down by the Prime Minister – but only until 11pm, when the bars were shut down by local police.

Similar outbreaks of water fights in tourist-popular areas throughout the country, including Khao San Rd in Bangkok, received a similar response from authorities.

LATE TRADING

By no coincidence assistant national police Lt Gen Surachate Hakparn arrived in Phuket last Sunday (Apr 17), following a video posted online showing the Patong Bay Hill hotel holding a late-night party well beyond the official 11pm closing time for venues selling alcohol.

Lawyer Sittra Biabangkard last Saturday (Apr 16)



Hotel staff rallied in Soi Bangla to show they need their jobs. Photo: PR Phuket

posted a three-minute video on his Facebook page saying he had received complaints from Phuket residents that the Patong Bay Hill Resort Hotel had opened its entertainment venues beyond the legal closing time for years, annoying local residents with excessive noise.

Mr Sittra said he had informed the authorities, but no action was taken. He had come to Phuket to confirm in person that the hotel's nightlife venues operated until sunrise. He questioned why the Phuket police chief had not enforced the law and turned a blind eye to violation of COVID-19 rules.

"I think it is not possible for entertainment outlets in the hotel to have operated beyond the allowed opening

hours, catering to about 1,000 clients per day, without the knowledge of the authorities. Large bribes may have been paid," Mr Sittra said.

With national attention gaining momentum, Patong police ordered the hotel's nightlife venues to close pending further legal action.

BLOWBACK

In response to the post and the sudden active interest by local police, some 50 employees of the Patong Bay Hill hotel gathered on Bangla Rd last Saturday night (Apr 16) to deliver the message that they need their jobs.

The peaceful rally began at 11pm with people holding placards emblazoned with messages such as "We are hungry" and "We do not want

to lose our jobs"

Photos of the demonstration featured in the report by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket) did not show any officials or police officers present at the scene. No public disorder or acts of violence were reported.

One of Patong Bay Hill employees said that if the business is closed or suspended, a lot of people would lose their jobs. "Phuket has gone through two years of the COVID-19 epidemic during which people have been struggling to survive and now are risking to lose what they have left because of the complaint," the employee said.

"Has anyone come to see us and look after us? Everyone's life is difficult. But

he came to show his power causing widespread impact and damage to the establishment," the employee added.

It was stressed that most Patong people – born and raised there – understand the "context" of their lives and the nature of a resort town where people have to develop tourism as there are "no rubber plantations, no palm plantations".

With Patong's assets being a "beautiful beachfront" and a "world-class city", it has a specific way of development which is now under threat due to criticism, it was stressed.

"How will the employees be? No one knows. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, there has been no agency on hand to provide us assistance. The employees have had to struggle to survive and make a living and now face this [criticism]. Let's help push for our country," the employee said.

MIDDLING

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew on Monday (Apr 18) trod carefully in responding to the news of the resort being ordered closed and the mass water fights on Bangla Rd during Songkran.

Governor Narong said that the public and business operators had been well informed of the need to follow the COVID-prevention rules during the Songkran holidays to prevent the spread of infections.

Phuket Provincial Police in concert on Monday morning posted a notice repeating the

official public notices issued on Apr 2 and on Apr 4 warning all people and business operators to follow the mandated COVID-19 protocols.

"As for the incident, it is understandable that most of the tourists who travelled to Phuket wanted to enjoy themselves. They wanted to have fun, while the business operators have struggled for the past two years," Governor Narong said.

"The guidelines for practice of supervision in ensuring in accordance with the law, government agencies must take care of each other. The last Songkran festival, for example, in the matter of splashing water, the administrative and police departments were in control."

However, he added, regarding this year's Songkran celebrations, "There was a violation, which was the result of the fact that everyone wanted to engage in water play for Songkran, especially foreigners. So we have to understand each other.

"With regard to hotels in the Patong area that violated the law, there are legal proceedings which are expected to be filed in court today [Apr 18]," he said.

Of note, since the Bangla water fights and the order for the hotel to close, at the time of going to press Phuket health officials had yet to mark any increases in the number of new COVID cases reported on the island each day.

Aussies in Phuket called to submit postal votes for May 21 election

THE AUSTRALIAN Consulate-General for Phuket and neighbouring provinces is calling for all Australians in Phuket and nearby to register to cast their postal votes for the upcoming general election in Australia on May 21.

The consulate has posted a notice on its official website explaining the requirements and conditions for submitting a postal vote.

"The next federal election will be held on 21 May 2022. If you are still in Australia, you can pre-poll vote from 9 May 2022.

"The AEC recommends overseas voters cast a postal

vote in this election. If you plan to be overseas at the time of the election, make sure you check your enrollment and request a postal vote as soon as possible on the AEC website," the notice said.

Australians in Thailand are encouraged to vote via postal vote, which can either be posted to the AEC directly, or mailed or dropped off to the Consulate-General.

Australians can send their postal vote addressed to:
Australian Consulate-General – Federal Election 2022
6th Floor CCM Complex
77/77 Chalermprakit
Rama 9 Road (Bypass Road)
Muang Phuket 83000



Image: Australian Government

To drop off your postal vote, please drop it off at the Consulate-General during the following hours:

Monday – Friday 08:30-16:00, excluding Consulate-General public holidays.

The notice reminded visi-

tors that photo ID is required to enter the Consulate-General and that all visitors are subject to security screening.

Postal votes must be returned as quickly as possible to ensure they are received by the AEC in time to be counted.

The Australian Electoral Commission will start sending postal votes immediately after the declaration of nominations. Postal votes are expected to be sent from April 26, the notice explained.

Requests for postal votes will close on May 18. The Australian Electoral Commission recommends people apply for a postal vote as soon as possible to ensure there is enough time for it to be posted to them and returned to the Australian Electoral Commission by June 3, 2022.

"When you go overseas you must meet requirements in order to remain on the electoral roll, and in some cases,

to avoid a fine. Voting is mandatory for Australians. However, being overseas is a valid reason for not voting," the notice said.

Up to date information on elections and eligibility, and copies of relevant forms (e.g. applications for postal votes, application to be registered as an overseas elector) are available from individual electoral commission websites.

"We are unable to advise you or comment on the eligibility of individual voters. Eligibility is a matter for the relevant electoral commission," the notice explained. *The Phuket News*

Brit arrested for pedophilia

Eakkapop Thongtub
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A 78-year-old British man has been arrested in Phuket for indecent sexual acts involving at least eight boys.

The news was revealed at a press conference at Phuket Provincial Police headquarters led by assistant national police chief Lt Gen Surachate Hakparn together with Region 8 Police Commander Lt Gen Amphol Buarabporn last Sunday (Apr 17).

The announcement follows the arrest of the British man's 32-year-old adopted son, named by police only as "Ekarat", who also goes by the nickname "Nikki", at his home in in Khok Kloi, Phang Nga, just north of Phuket, last Saturday (Apr 16).

Ekarat, a swim coach in Phuket, was arrested for procuring minors for the purpose of sex assault.

Ekarat was presented to the press at the press conference on Apr 17.

Lt Gen Surachate named the British man as John David Ross Young, a long-term resident of Moo 2, Pa Khlok, on Phuket's east coast, where he had lived for about 10 years.

Young had previously engaged in real estate business. He was involved in the buying and selling of land and buildings, namely pool villas, at a development in Moo 7, Baan Yamu, Pa Khlok, in 2012, Lt Gen Surachate said.



Ekarat (right), also known as 'Nikki', a swim coach in Phuket, at the press conference at Phuket Provincial Police headquarters on Apr 17. Photo: Supplied

Young had since retired and was no longer working. The 78-year-old is a widower. His wife was a New Zealand national. Their two sons are currently in New Zealand, Lt Gen Surachate continued.

Young came to Thailand in 1999 and during his stay in Pa Khlok had become well known in the Pa Khlok community for his charity

and community work to help local villagers in need. "He was loved by the general villagers, and was known for handing money to children, especially boys in the community," Lt Gen Surachate said.

Police were first alerted to indecent acts conducted on children in the Pa Khlok area in December 2020, but investigations were stifled

as villagers refused to cooperate with police as most of them had received help from Young, Lt Gen Surachate continued.

On Mar 15 this year, local community welfare charity For Freedom International Foundation brought the parent of a 13-year-old boy to file a formal complaint against Young with the Thalang Police.

The criminal complaint, No. 156/2565, resulted in a warrant being issued and the arrest of Young on Mar 18, Lt Gen Surachate said.

The investigation identified 10 children brought into the home. Police were able to confirm that eight of the children, all boys, had been abused.

Police found evidence of a total of 19 incidents of sexual assault.

Five other children in the area were being questioned, Lt Gen Surachate added.

The 13-year-old whose testimony led to the arrest of Young had confirmed that Young's 32-year-old adopted son Ekarat had persuaded the boy to go to Young's house to learn to swim at the pool at Young's residence, where the boy was assaulted.

CCTV footage at the home confirmed that Ekarat had lured the boy to the home at about 2:30pm on Mar 14, Lt Gen Surachate said.

Following an investigation an arrest warrant for Ekarat was issued on Saturday (Apr 16), with Ekarat arrested the same day, he said.

Police are continuing their investigation to pursue charges against Young and Ekarat for taking a child under 15 years old from his parents or guardians without reasonable cause for committing indecent acts and for committing indecent acts against children under 15 years of age.

Four dead, 28 injured in Seven Days

PHUKET CONCLUDED THE SEVEN Days of Danger road safety campaign for Songkran 2022 with four deaths and 28 people injured in 32 accidents across the island.

The Seven Days campaign concluded at midnight last Sunday night (Apr 17), confirmed Phuket Vice Governor Anupap Rodkwan Yodrabam at the daily briefing on Monday (Apr 18).

Phuket officials recorded a total of five accidents Day 7 of the campaign, from midnight to midnight Apr 17, said Udomphon Kan, Head of the Phuket Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office (DDPM-Phuket), which compiled the daily reports for the campaign.

The five accidents resulted in four people admitted to hospital for treatment, and one death, that of a male, Mr Udomphon reported.

In total, Phuket officials recorded just 32 accidents throughout the whole seven days of the campaign, he added.

Of the 28 people injured, 20 were male and eight were female, he continued. Mr Udomphon did not give the ages of those recorded as injured in road accidents during the seven days.

However, according to a DDPM-Phuket report released separately on Monday, Yod Sawangthong, 75, was killed when he fell from his motorbike by himself in front of Municipal School 2, Baan Kathu. He was not wearing a helmet.

Emergency responders were unable to detect a pulse when they arrived at the scene. Mr Yod was pronounced dead on arrival at



Police stopped and checked 12,525 vehicles during the seven days. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town.

The same DDPM-Phuket report noted that police stopped and checked 12,525 vehicles at the 10 checkpoints across the island during the seven days.

Police also recorded the following number of traffic violations during the seven days:

- Not wearing a helmet while riding a motorbike: 2,047
- Driving without a licence: 1,733
- Not wearing a seat belt: 226
- Violating traffic signals: 164
- Driving an unsafe motorcycle: 121
- Driving opposite traffic flow ("ghost driving"): 104
- Using a mobile phone while driving: 88
- Dangerous overtaking: 58
- Speeding: 51
- Drunk driving: 41

According to the Thai Road Safety Committee, the national road-safety council better-known as 'ThaiRSC', Phuket has suffered 27 deaths and 4,492 people injured since the beginning of the year.

The Phuket News



MACNELS SHIPPING PHUKET

ANY SHIPMENT ANY WHERE

IMPORT AND EXPORT SERVICES, AIR AND SEA FREIGHT

COMMERCIAL CARGO AND PERSONAL GOODS INCLUDING HOUSE HOLD RELOCATIONS

- DOOR TO DOOR SERVICES
- CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FORMALITIES
- PROJECT CARGOES INCLUDING BOATS
- WAREHOUSING AND STORAGE
- STRONG AGENCY NETWORK WORLDWIDE
- 20 YEARS STAFF EXPERIENCE IN PHUKET

☎ OFFICE: 076 603907

☎ MOBILE: CALL PETER 0863645862

www.macnellsphuket.com

The Phuket News

CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

PURIYA BEAVAN
Editor**CHRIS HUSTED**
Executive Editor
084 307 7408
executive@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 APR 22



High: +30°

Low: +26°

Wind 4 m/s

SAT APR 23



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

SUN APR 24



High: +30°

Low: +26°

Wind 7 m/s

MON APR 25



High: +29°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE APR 26



High: +28°

Low: +26°

Wind 4 m/s

WED APR 27



High: +30°

Low: +25°

Wind 7 m/s

THU APR 28



High: +30°

Low: +25°

Wind 7 m/s

Crime blitz targets guns, drugs

Eakkapop Thongtub
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Provincial Police announced 10 arrests involving firearms and drugs after just three days into the campaign to crack down on crime during the Songkran holidays.

The campaign was launched under the direction of Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Sermphan Sirikong as part of a nationwide clampdown on crime from Apr 8-17.

The arrests, led by Lt Col Phit Thongto of the Phuket Provincial police, were announced on Apr 12.

Four of the arrests were at one house in Moo 9 Thepkrasattri, where Anan 'Loh' Phuakkhao, 31, was found in possession of 1,010 methamphetamine pills (ya bah) and a homemade handgun made to fire 12-gauge cartridges (commonly called a 'Thai Pradit') along with three cartridges.

Anan was taken to the Thalang Police Station and charged with possession of a Category 1 narcotic with intent to sell and possession of an illegal firearm and ammunition.

Patawee 'Kid' Rayasakul, 20, was arrested at a roadside construction site shelter near the house after he was found



Photos: Phuket Provincial Police

with eight ya bah pills and another Thai Pradit handgun with three 12-gauge cartridges.

Anusit 'Loh', 37, and Sathon 'Paek' Roongruang, 32, were also arrested at the house after he was found with a Thai Pradit of his own along with three 12-gauge cartridges, while Sathon was found with an 11mm semi-automatic handgun and eight bullets.

Both were taken to Thalang Police Station and charged with illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition, while Sathon was also charged with carrying a firearm in a public area without reasonable

cause or permission.

Somchai 'Daeng' Maimad, 43, originally from Phang Nga, was arrested at a house in Moo 6, Kathu, after he was found in possession of 87 methamphetamine pills (ya bah) and a Smith & Wesson .32-calibre handgun with 17 bullets.

In placing Somchai under arrest officers seized his Phuket-registered Toyota Soluna car valued at about B200,000 and his Phuket-registered Honda Wave 110 motorbike valued at about B10,000.

Somchai was taken to

Kathu Police Station and charged with possession of a Category 1 narcotic with intent to sell and illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Meanwhile, two men were arrested at the same house in Moo 2 Kathu during the period.

Suchart 'Chart' Achayata, 55, was arrested at the house after he was found in possession of a Thai Pradit along with one 12-gauge cartridge.

His housemate, Jaroon 'Book' Jongrak, 36, was found with 2.2 grammes of dried cannabis mixed with tobacco and a bamboo bong.

Both were taken to Kathu Police Station, where Suchart was charged with possession of an illegal firearm and ammunition while Jaroon was charged with possession of a Category 5 narcotic (marijuana) for unauthorised use.

Teerawut 'Bob' Chai-Tui, 42, originally from Koh Sukon in Trang, was arrested at a rented room in Soi Thanit Tuasai 1, off Sakdidee Rd in Wichit, after he was found in possession of 400 ya bah pills and items believed to be used for drug taking and distribution.

In placing Teerawut under arrest officers seized his Honda Steed motorbike valued at about B50,000.

Teerawut was taken to Wichit Police Station and charged with illegal possession of a Category 1 narcotic with intent to sell.

Two women were arrested at the same house in Moo 4, Thepkrasattri, for illegal possession of ya bah pills.

Pikul 'Kung' Tamkaew, 38, originally from Sakon Nakhon Province, was found in possession of nine ya bah pills while Prachong 'Zhong' Kongtiam, 60, was found in possession of 15 ya bah pills.

Both women were taken to Thalang Police Station and charged with illegal possession of a Category 1 narcotic.

Homeless woman, 55, found taking refuge under pickup truck in Patong

POLICE SAFELY TOOK INTO protective custody a 55-year-old homeless woman found sleeping under a pickup truck parked at a home in Patong on Apr 8

Officers from the Patong Police were informed just after 9am that a woman was sleeping under a pickup truck in Soi Sanam Kao, off Phra Barami Rd.

Patrol officer Sub Lt Suchart Boonra responded to the call, and arrived at the address accompanied by a fellow patrol officer to start talking with the woman.

The woman initially refused to come out from under the pickup. It took Sub Lt Suchart 30 minutes of talking to coax the woman to come out from under the car.

The woman, identified as Pleaw Wongkhonburi, said she had nowhere to go, nowhere to stay.



Photo: Patong Police

Sub Lt Suchart then convinced Ms Pleaw to accompany the officers back to Patong Police Station, where they gave her a drink and arranged welfare support officials to come to provide assistance.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Patong home gutted in house fire

A HOME OFF PHRA BARAMI RD in Patong was destroyed by a house fire on the night of Apr 10. There were no deaths or injuries.

Patong Municipality fire teams were called to the home, located in Soi Phrabarami 3 in the Baan Khok Makhm Community, opposite the Caltex petrol station on Phra Barami Rd, at 11pm.

Firefighters took just 10 minutes to douse the blaze, but by that time the inside of the home had been destroyed by the fire.

Also heavily damaged was a Toyota Vios parked under the home.

However, despite firefighters' efforts, the upper level of the modest home later collapsed due to structural damage.

Investigators have yet to confirm the cause of the fire, but suspect it was likely caused by an electrical short circuit.

Investigators are continuing the investigation into the cause of the fire, Patong Municipality reported.



Photo: Patong Municipality

Present at the scene on the night were Patong Mayor Chalerm Sak Ma-neesri and Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) Kathu District 2 representative Supachart Kitdamnern.

Also present were Patong City Council member and President of Ban Khok Makhm Community Kasem Khaminthong along with Patong City Councillor Suchitra Piromrit to see what assistance could be provided to the family whose home had just been gutted.

Eakkapop Thongtub

the Phuket News

Little Tiger cleared after dual pricing complaints

Eakkapop Thongtub
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Little Tiger Restaurant at Tri Trang Beach has been cleared of any wrongdoing following an inspection conducted by the Phuket Commerce Office on Apr 14.

Officials from the Phuket Commerce Office, accompanied by Phuket Tourist Police, arrived at the restaurant at about 5pm to investigate the complaints posted online over high prices charged by the restaurant and foreigners being charged different prices.

The post online sparked a furore of complaints posted online.

The post explained that a group of Thai friends visiting the island had stopped off at a small restaurant on Muen Ngern Rd on the way to Tri Trang Beach on Apr 12.

The price for stir-fried chicken with Thai basil served with a fried egg was B200, the complaint noted.

"Don't let this kind of thing ruin Phuket's tourism," said the post.



Napat Piromrit, owner of Little Tiger Restaurant, with Phuket Tourist Police officers on Apr 14. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

The same dish at small restaurants in non-tourist areas in Phuket costs about B65.

Napat Piromrit, the owner of Little Tiger Restaurant, which overlooks Tri Trang Beach, responded to the complaints, saying that when the group arrived they were given two different menus: one priced to be given to Thai customers, the other one priced to be given to foreigners.

Ms Napat said she didn't know why the Thai tourists had complained.

"As we can show on the bill, they paid B100 for the chicken basil dish, not B200 [as marked on the "foreigner menu"]," she said.

The problem stemmed from the fact that the group of Thai tourists were handed both menus. Members of the group had selected their dishes from the foreigner menu when showing staff which dishes they wanted to order, Ms Napat said.

Ms Napat also defended her prices on the Thai menu,

saying she used high-quality ingredients. The mixed meat tempura costs B450 for Thais, and B500 for foreigners.

The cost of paying for the location of the restaurant was also high, she noted.

"Also, the prices include enjoying our flower garden, which people can enjoy a walk through. We have been closed for two years. In that time, the jungle and garden had become overgrown and we need to pay for restoring it to the beautiful condition it was before," Ms Napat said.

Key to the Phuket Commerce Office findings was that the prices charged were clearly displayed, said a report of the inspection.

The officers also explained that the restaurant used two menus: a "General Menu" with standard dishes priced at the more usual B50-80, and a "Premium Menu" designed so that "foreigners would order food correctly".

The investigation found that the shop had been legally registered for commercial use.

No other findings of the investigation were revealed.

Chairat Sukbal passes away

LONG-SERVING FORMER Patong deputy mayor Chairat Sukbal has passed away. The news was announced by his cousin Aon Sitthipong at 8:08pm on Apr 6. Mr Chairat was 59 years old.

Mr Chairat was very well known and well liked for both his service as Patong deputy mayor and for his personal nature.

Originally from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Mr Chairat graduated with a degree in public administration at Ramkhamhaeng University in Bangkok, and then completed an MBA from the recently opened Phuket campus of Prince of Songkla University in 1987.

He later graduated from the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) with a master's in public administration in 2001.

Mr Chairat was very successful as a businessman in Phuket. Among the businesses he set up were the Pow Wow Restaurant and Pub, the Beach Resortel, Safari Discotheque and the Wyndham Resort & Spa Phuket.

Explaining his reasons for entering politics, he told *The Phuket News* in an interview in 2012, "If I remained just a businessman, I would not be able to help anyone or do



Chairat Sukbal, 1963 - 2022. Photo: The Phuket News / file

anything for people. Many businessmen don't go into politics because they see it as difficult. They are happy just being rich.

"But you can't take your riches with you when you die, so I realised I should be working for the good of others."

So, in 2004, he ran successfully in elections for Patong Municipality. He served as deputy mayor for nearly 10 years.

An outpouring of messages of condolences have streamed online since news of his passing broke.

Testament to the support Mr Chairat had from all corners of the Phuket community, many of the messages have been from long-term Phuket expats. *The Phuket News*

Transport drivers get basic service training

THE PHUKET PROVINCIAL LAND Transport Office (PLTO) has launched a training campaign for drivers of taxis, tuk-tuks, buses and public and service vehicles in order to give users an impression and build confidence in the transportation system.

The first training session was held at the Bhukitta Boutique Hotel on Phang Nga Rd in Phuket Town on Apr 9, with Phuket Vice Governor Anupap Rodkwan Yodrabam officiating the opening.

Also present were Natthee Thinsaku, Vice Chairman of the House of Representatives Tourism Committee, and Jaturong Kaewkasi, the Surat Thani Provincial Transport chief currently serving as the Acting Chief of the Phuket Provincial Transport Office.

Mr Jaturong said that Phuket has 13,431 public transport vehicles, including buses, minivans, metered taxis, private-hire taxis (with green licence plates) and tuk-tuks.

"With the number of service cars or taxis with a green licence plates numbering up to 4,107 vehicles, we have found that tourists still have problems with it not being convenient to travel," Mr Jaturong said.

"There has been an unfair exploitation by public taxi and service cars in Phuket. This affects the confidence of tourists and the image of Phuket and Thailand as it appears in the news on social media and various channels," he added.

"The PLTO attaches importance to this issue. Therefore, it has worked with agencies in all sectors to establish a project



Photo: PR Phuket

to enhance the service of drivers of public and service cars in Phuket," Mr Jaturong explained.

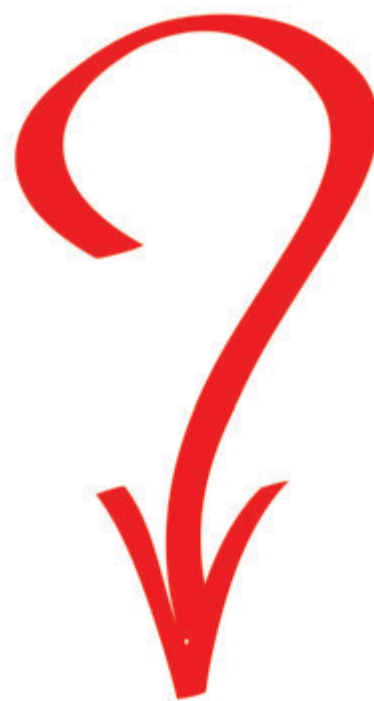
"The training is to be held under the policy guidelines and budget support from the House of Representatives Tourism Commission," he added.

"The training is to create knowledge and understanding about the law, technology and health and hygiene and safety standards related to public transport vehicles," he continued.

"And [for drivers] to have service consciousness at heart to international standards to make users [passengers, usually tourists] feel impressed and build confidence in the transportation system and create a good image of tourism in Phuket," Mr Jaturong said. *The Phuket News*



THAILAND'S
PVC WINDOW
SPECIALISTS
SINCE 2004



Contact us for the lowest
prices in Phuket



PROJECT SUPPLIES DIRECT
Head Office at Tesco Lotus Thalang Phuket
English +66 87 061 7631 or Thai +66 81 539 2031
Facebook: PVC Phuket, NathanUpvcBrown



Songkran brings welcome boost

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket generated more than B3 billion for the island's economy from tourist spending during the Songkran holidays, says the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

Nanthasiri Ronnasiri, director of the TAT Phuket Office, last Sunday (Apr 17) said that tourist spending had generated B3bn for Phuket.

However, Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew on Monday (Apr 18) confirmed that tourist spending on the island during the Songkran holidays was "more than B1 billion".

Following Governor Narong's clarification on Monday, the B3bn figure announced by Ms Nanthasiri was likely derived from the TAT accounting for the "multiplier effect" as cash injected into the local economy by tourists is re-spent by businesses and local residents on the island.

Phuket had about 70,000 hotel rooms available, accounting for 70% of all local hotels opened for business, Ms Nanthasiri said.

Between Apr 13-15, most hotel rooms were fully booked



Tourists board a ferry at Rassada Pier, bound for Phi Phi Island, on Apr 12. Photo: PR Phuket

for the first two nights, particularly in popular tourist sites such as Patong, Kamala, Surin, Kata and Karon beaches, she added.

During the period, the province recorded 188,245 domestic and international visitors who spent a combined total of B3.24bn, Ms Nanthasiri said.

However, while Ms Nanthasiri touted more than 188,000 visitors to Phuket during Songkran, according to the Phuket Reopening Daily Report issued by the TAT itself, the number of international arrivals for the week totalled 19,508.

Meanwhile, Phuket airport director Monchai Tanode said more than 800 domestic and international flights took off and landed between Apr 11-17.

Phuket Marine Office Chief Natchapong Pranit said up to 10,000 tourists had visited the island by boat and ferry each day.

Officers at the island's 22 piers were instructed to ensure COVID-19 safety measures were adhered to, including passenger number restrictions, alcohol consumption controls and boat inspections, he said.

NEW FLIGHTS

The inaugural Nok Air direct

flight from Ubon Ratchathani touched down in Phuket on Apr 8, while AirAsia relaunched direct flights from Singapore on Apr 12.

Nok Air flight DD9100 landed at Phuket airport at 10:45am on Apr 8, with 171 passengers on board welcomed by airport staff at Gate 9 of the Domestic Terminal.

The arrival marked the new Nok Air service operating one flight a week in each direction between Phuket and Ubon Ratchathani.

The inbound Ubon Ratchathani-Phuket flight operates on Fridays, departing the Isan city at 8:45am.

The return flight from Phuket to Ubon Ratchathani departs the island on Sundays at 3:45pm.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Ubon Ratchathani office praised the new flights for connecting two major provinces, one in the South and the other in the Northeast.

"The flights help support the travel needs of people to travel more conveniently and quickly, connecting the big cities, bringing them closer together," said the TAT Ubon Ratchathani office in its announcement.

Meanwhile, AirAsia resumed direct flights between Phuket and Singapore on Apr 12, "hoping to help revive the tourism industry and responding to the policy of opening the country".

Arun Lilapanthisit, Manager of the Thai Air Asia branch at Phuket International Airport, announced that AirAsia will operate two flights a week, every Tuesday and Saturday, between Phuket and Singapore.

The move was hoped to help tourism to the island during the Songkran holidays, Mr Aun said.

Mr Arun noted that AirAsia had been operating flights to and from Phuket for 12 years, and was supporting the drive to boost tourism to the island by re-opening flights connecting the island with 12 destinations throughout the country.

"Currently, there are five direct flights from Phuket, and in total more than 19 flights per day," Mr Arun said.

"Direct flights to Don Mueang, Suvarnabhumi, Khon Kaen, Udon Thani and Chiang Mai have received a good response. During March there was an average passenger load of 78%, and advance reservations across all routes during Songkran is 80-90%," Mr Arun said.

AirAsia is offering special promotion rates to help encourage tourists to take advantage of the flights during the Songkran holidays, Mr Arun added.

"It should be a good opportunity for AirAsia to play a part in stimulating the economy in Phuket. Meanwhile, AirAsia has also worked with the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Singapore office to attract more tourists to come to Thailand," he noted.

Test & Go, Thailand Pass may go

THE GOVERNMENT will consider scrapping the Test & Go entry scheme and Thailand Pass registration as it aims to pull in more visitors to help the tourism sector.

Tourism and Sports Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn on Apr 13 said the ministry and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) would put forward a proposal for the cancellation at a meeting of the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) today (Apr 22).

If approved, the changes are expected to take effect on May 1, meaning tourists would be able to enter the country using vaccine passports instead of having to wait up to five days for their documents to be approved, as required by Thailand Pass, he said.

Mr Phiphat said the ministry estimates that at least 10 million tourist arrivals, and B1-1.5 trillion in tourism income, hinges on what travel policies each country formulates at this stage of the pandemic.

"Thailand is ready to



Tourists queue to clear document checks at Phuket airport. Photo: Aot

welcome back foreign visitors as our public health system is adequately equipped," he said.

"However, there has been concern about the number of domestic deaths caused by COVID-19, while daily caseloads of infections after Songkran will also be taken into account when the government considers further reopening the country to tourists," Mr Phiphat said.

Restrictions have been gradually eased since November to revitalise the tourism sector.

The government lifted the requirement for a pre-travel RT-PCR test for air travellers arriving in Thailand under the Test & Go, Sandbox and quarantine programmes from Apr 1.

RT-PCR tests on arrival

for foreign visitors are also expected to be replaced by antigen tests from next month.

TAT Governor Yuthasak Supasorn said more than 100,000 hotel rooms were booked under the government's "We Travel Together" hotel subsidy scheme during Songkran.

The fourth phase of the scheme, intended to stimulate domestic travel, will end on May 31 and the government will consider extending it if hotel operators agree.

Under the scheme, participants pay only 60% of normal room rates, with the government responsible for the rest. The subsidy was initially capped at B3,000 per night for up to five consecutive nights in the first stage but has now been stretched to 10 nights.

Mr Yuthasak said more than 450,000 Songkran revellers were expected to take part in activities in Bangkok organised by the TAT and City Hall to mark the five-day festival, with an estimated cash flow of B1.8 billion.

Bangkok Post

Anucha hears fishing fleet woes

ANUCHA NAKASAI, MINISTER TO the Prime Minister's Office, was in Phuket on Apr 7 to hear complaints from Phuket's commercial fishing fleet and assure them that the legally mandated location devices required would be used for legitimate purposes only.

Mr Anucha, speaking at Phuket Fishing Port in Rassada, assured the local fishermen that the government intends to solve their problems "effectively to be sustainable".

Joined by other senior associates at the Prime Minister's Office, and by Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong, Mr Anucha explained that the purpose of his visit was to monitor the progress of the requirement for large fishing vessels to be linked to the government's Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and the installation of an Automatic Identification System (AIS) device on board.

Mr Anucha's review comes as he has been assigned to serve as the chair of the national committee tasked with overseeing issues affecting the Fishermen's Association of Thailand.

For reasons unexplained, Phuket commercial fishing vessel operators have objected to the legality of the being required to have the devices installed.

The requirement was instituted among a slew of new laws under the national government's campaign to clamp down on human trafficking in the area.

Of note, the location tracking system would also be able to determine whether a fishing boat had been near coral reefs or other protected areas.

Mr Anucha assured the fishermen that the Prime Minister was concerned about problems affecting fishermen in the area and



Mr Anucha speaks to the national press at the Phuket Fishing Port. Photo: PR Phuket

was working to solve the problem

"There is a strong need for resolution. We must be careful in solving the problem because in some cases the problem is related to legal issues. For information for consideration and troubleshooting to be correct according to the relevant laws or regulations to prevent new problems that may arise later along with urging to find solutions for both the government and fishermen to benefit from both sides on the basis of good cooperation and understanding," he said.

He urged the fishermen not to worry about the installation of an AIS device.

"The information provided by the devices is encrypted and will be available only to relevant officials and used for ship tracking purposes only," he said.

The operator will be responsible for intentional damage to the device only, he added.

Also raised was the official request to extend the period that fishermen may legally fish in specified waters that are regulated by law.

"As for the proposal for an additional 30 fishing days, we ask everyone to understand the context of the state of natural integrity to achieve ecological balance, and the need for safety during monsoon season," Mr Anucha said. *Eakkapop Thongtub*

Endemic switch on track

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The Ministry of Public Health is keeping to its original schedule of declaring COVID-19 an endemic disease on July 1 despite a forecast indicating an increase in fatalities, mainly among senior citizens.

Dr Chakkarat Pitayowonganon, director of the epidemiology division of the Department of Disease Control (DDC), said it will be two to four weeks before there is a clear indication if cases will climb to over 100,000 cases per day under a worst-case scenario forecast by the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA).

"Right now, we see a decline in the number of daily infections from about 30,000 RT-PCR tests per day before the Songkran festival to only 16,000 cases per day," Dr Chakkarat said.

However, the number of deaths and those patients who need ventilators has increased. The DDC expects these numbers to rise during the first week of May.

According to the ministry, the average number of people



Visitors pack Safari World Bangkok in Khlong Sam Wa for a special Songkran last weekend. Photo: Sarot Meksophawannakul

who died due to COVID-19 over the past seven days was 107 cases per day, of whom 90% were elderly.

Dr Chakkarat said if there are no other possible risks such as new variants, then COVID-19 will be declared an endemic disease on July 1. To prepare for the endemic, he said the ministry must convince 2 million senior citizens, aged over 60, who still have not had their COVID-19 vaccination, to get their first shot.

A ministry study found that the two-dose vaccine could reduce the death rate by five times and up to 31 times if boosters are also given to the elderly. It also found that half of the population has

enhanced immunity levels against COVID-19, and that is expected to reach at least 70%.

Dr Chakkarat added that the department has received a report of small clusters in many places, adding that the next round of outbreaks is expected to come from locations and institutions where gatherings are standard, such as military camps, schools and factories, instead of infections in families.

Meanwhile, Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul is preparing to propose a plan for an easing of measures to the CCSA today (Apr 22).

Anutin also responded to a proposal by the Tourism & Sports Ministry to switch the

RT-PCR test requirement to antigen tests for international arrivals.

He said the move will happen one day but a study is required first, adding the current number of infections is not much different from that of the past few months.

Infection figures must be assessed to ensure the country's readiness to declare COVID-19 as an endemic disease in July as planned, he said.

"Getting infected with COVID-19 is normal due to face-to-face contact in daily life.

"If we're all vaccinated, the prospect will not be quite as worrisome," he added.



Photo: Bangkok Post

Don't remove face masks in toilets, scientists warn

BANGKOK

PEOPLE ARE BEING warned not to remove face masks when in public toilets and closed spaces such as elevators after a study by researchers at Chulabhorn Research Institute found that COVID-19 can easily be contracted via airborne transmission while using these facilities.

The study, published in the Journal of Water and Health, focused on the effects of face masks and ventilation and the risk of infection where an individual used a public toilet after a COVID-19 infected person. One involved neither of them wearing a face mask and others where they both wore N95 or surgical face masks.

The study found that without face masks, there was a 10% risk of being infected, but the risk increased to almost

100% if the infected person coughed or sneezed in the toilet. However, if both wore face masks, the risk was just 0.01%. A 10-minute wait time could also reduce the risk of being infected, but face masks offered the best protection.

Thammanitchpol Denpetkul, a lecturer at the faculty of tropical medicine, Mahidol University, said the virus can be transmitted via droplets and aerosols even smaller than PM2.5 dust particles.

He said respirators such as N95, KN95, KF94 and FFP2 offer the most effective protection when using public toilets while surgical masks are the second-best option.

"Some cloth masks may not be good enough to protect against the virus... but if someone uses an N95 mask and wears it properly, the risk is one in 100,000," he said.

Bangkok Post

Songkran travel claims 278 road deaths

BANGKOK

THERE WERE 1,917 traffic accidents, which claimed 278 lives and injured 1,869 people, during the seven days of the government's national road safety campaign for the Songkran festival, Nirat Pongsitthithaworn, deputy interior permanent secretary, said on Monday (Apr 18).

Chiang Rai province had the most accidents at 66. Chiang Mai had the highest number of injured people at 63 and Bangkok logged the biggest death toll at 13. Six provinces – Nakhon Phanom, Pattani, Yala, Ranong, Samut Sakhon and Sing Buri – were free of road fatalities, Mr Nirat said.

On Sunday, the final day of the campaign, there were 188 traffic accidents, injuring 171 people and killing 31.

Boontham Lertsukkeekasem, director-general of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, said the number of accidents and injured people had declined but road deaths rose from the same



Motorists on the Asian Highway in Ayutthaya on Apr 13. Photo: AFP

period last year.

It was also confirmed that a total of 7,925 drivers were arrested for driving under the influence or reckless driving during the seven-day period and placed on probation by the courts.

Department of Probation director-general Witthawal Sunthornkachit said 7,141 were charged with drink-driving, 765 with driving under the influence of illicit drugs and 19 with reckless driving.

Of the 7,141 on drink-driving charges, 13 were also ordered by the court to wear an electronic monitoring device and prohibited from leaving their homes for seven days from 7pm-5am – 10 of them in Ubon Ratchathani

and three in Sukhothai.

Mr Witthawal said the number of drivers charged with drink-driving was up by 1,080 from 6,061 in 2021 during the same period.

He said all of those found guilty of drink-driving would undergo evaluation. Those found to be at risk of becoming addicted to alcohol would be sent to a medical facility run by the Public Health Ministry for treatment.

Those found to be at risk of repeating the offence would be put in a camp for rehabilitation and behavioural adjustment for three consecutive days. They would also have to report regularly to probation officials and perform public services for a set period, Mr Witthawal said. Bangkok Post



AQUELLA
GOLF - COUNTRY CLUB



Summer
GOLF COURSE RENOVATION
PROMOTIONS

30 th April - 13 th May 2022	
1,500 THB for Thai Residents	1,450 THB for Aquella Club Card Holders
14 th May - 31 st May 2022	
1,900 THB for Thai Residents	1,700 THB for Aquella Club Card Holders

- ✓ 18 hole green fee, inclusive of caddy, cart & 1 tray of driving range balls
- ✓ 20% F&B discount on the day of play

- ✓ 1 complimentary voucher for Aquella Golf & Country Club, mini putt putt course
- ✓ 10% Proshop discount on the day of play

+66 (0) 76 679 308
Golfreservations1@aquellagolf.com
www.AquellaGolf.com



Lena, Elena and Dacha staying at Coco de la Baume's place in Spain take a photo with Coco's brother-in-law.



From left: Warwick and Suzanne Downes with Serhii Sinchevskyi and Vika Artemenko at the Downes' home on Coconut Island, off Phuket's east coast.

Phuketians helping displaced Ukrainians

Scott Murray

A number of Phuket-based families have pitched in to help displaced Ukrainians flee the devastation ravaging their country.

From their home in Layan, Hugo and Coco de la Baume were so disturbed by the images they saw coming out of Ukraine that they were determined to do something to help. Hugo contacted the Ukrainian Red Cross and made a financial donation, and they told him what they desperately needed was help housing refugees.

So Coco went online and discovered the Facebook site "Accommodation, Help & Shelter for Ukraine", but with

visas being needed to travel to the US and the UK most of the fleeing Ukrainians were being housed in Europe and Scandinavia.

The de la Baumes have a summer home in Spain. Initially, they thought it would be too far away, but they offered it up anyway.

Coco has a large home, so she didn't want to just take one person or a couple, but she could take a family with pets or a small group. She ended up getting three women: two are good friends from Kyiv (Lena, a 56-year-old economics professor) and Elena (a 54-year-old translator), as well as Dacha, a 28-year-old petrol products trader they picked up along the way.

Using the "Accommodation, Help & Shelter for Ukraine" site, the de la

Baumes first connected with the trio as they crossed the Ukrainian-Slovakian border. The three women had filled up a Skoda with as many possessions as possible, five cats and a dog, and were hoping for the best. Elena even gave the keys to her apartment to a family fleeing the carnage in Chernihiv.

The women were keen to go to Spain because they thought their chances of getting a job would be much greater in a place with fewer refugees.

The drive from the Slovakian-Ukrainian border to Marbella, Spain, is 3,300km, too long for the three to be driving without a rest. So Coco offered her in-law's home in Provence, France, to break up the journey. Coco's mother-in-law, in her 80s, was skeptical at first, but once she met the three women, she insisted they stay for three nights as they were emotionally exhausted.

Fully rested, the women then drove the final 1,500km to Coco's house in southern Spain on the Costa del Sol where a full fridge and housekeeper were expecting them. Coco also arranged for a Russian friend to help take them around and get acquainted with the Marbella area. They have been in Spain for close to a month now and Coco says they are welcome to stay until the de la Baumes return in mid-June.

So how is it going so far? "Dacha asked if she could read all the books in our library – you know they are good people, if they are asking about your books," says Coco.

Meanwhile, from their home on Coconut Island just off Phuket's east coast, Warwick & Suzanne Downes sat transfixed at the images of Ukrainians fleeing the war zone and wanted to try and help.

So Suzanne went online and through reading The New York Times found a website organised by Harvard University students called "ukrainetakeshelter.com".

The site is like a "meet and match" site for Ukrainian refugees and people who are stranded and those willing to house them. You put up your details of what you can do, how many people you can take, if you can take pets, etc., and misplaced Ukrainians search the posts and contact who they think would fit well with.

A day after Suzanne posted her details, Serhii Sinchevskyi and Vika Artemenko saw her ad, contacted Suzanne and the next day she drove up to see them near Surin Beach, where they were staying in a small serviced apartment.

Serhii and Vika come from Chernihiv City, the site of heavy fighting. The couple left for holiday in Phuket on Feb

13 and were supposed to fly back Mar 9. They were actually on Phi Phi Island when the invasion occurred, and made their way back to Phuket. They couldn't fly home now even if they wanted to as their local airport has been badly damaged in the fighting, and there is no running water or electricity in their home. Serhii says every second building in their town has been bombed.

The Downes have not just taken Serhii and Vika into their home, but they have made them feel at home as well, having meals with them and taking them around Phuket, trying to take their mind off the devastation in their homeland where their parents are still living. Serhii's parents are still in Chernihiv District and Vika's are in western Ukraine.

Serhii and Vika want to go back to Ukraine when the situation has improved. They are planning to fly to Warsaw in Poland, from where they will take a bus back into Ukraine.

Serhii notes that if you would like to help Ukrainians in distress, this site is recommended: <https://pnw.com.ua/en/>

Holger Schwab and Helga Langer run Sea Bees Diving company, based out of Ao Chalong, and they have been in Thailand for 27 years. Shocked by the images of Ukrainians fleeing the war zone, they too wanted to see if they could provide any assistance.

Holger's family comes from Oettingen, famous for its beer brewery, a small town of 6,000 people, 100km north of Munich. One of their tenants, Larissa, is Ukrainian and it was through her family that they came in contact with the family they are now housing, a grandmother, Larissa's daughter and three granddaughters aged 10, 12 and 14.

The Ukrainians arrived by train at the Munich train station where they were transported to Holger's home.

Helga says the girls are already in school and the German government is providing health insurance and a work permit to the mother if needed and they are welcome to stay in Helga's home until late May or June when her family will head back to Europe.

They have a lot of friends living nearby, who are all helpful to either drop off food or make sure that they are ok.

These three families have stepped up and offered their homes to people in dire need.

Scott Murray has been the Managing Editor at Dragon Art Media for more than 13 years. Dragon Art Media publishes the well-known magazine 'SEA Yachting'.

Mastery Learning • American Curriculum Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education



Ensuring success for all by providing education based upon student mastery of all subjects.

Enroll Today!



QSI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF PHUKET

81/4 Moo. 1 Chalemphrakiat Ror. 9 Road Kathu
www.phuket.qsi.org • 076 304 312

'Secrets of Dumbledore' bodes well for 'Fantastic Beasts'

David Griffiths

The Wizarding World is a world that simply just keeps giving to cinema fans and this time it has delivered a film that is going to be surprising for both fans and non-fans alike. In the past both the 'Harry Potter' and 'Fantastic Beasts' films have been viewed as something that is largely for a family as a whole, but *Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore* moves away from that with a more adult-oriented film that rests heavily on the spy/thriller genre.

After the events of the previous film both Albus Dumbledore (Jude Law – *Closer*) and Gellert Grindelwald (Mads Mikkelsen – *Doctor Strange*) are both taking stock and preparing for the future. Dumbeldore has been putting together a small team, led by Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne – *Les Misérables*), to try to counteract anything Grindelwald can plan, while Grindelwald encourages the damaged Credence Barebone (Ezra Miller – *Justice League*) to kill Dumbledore, while he devises a plan to be elected to become the most powerful Wizard in the Wizarding World.

Together as a team director David Yates (*The Legend of Tarzan*) and co-

screenwriters Steve Kloves (*Wonder Boys*) and J.K. Rowling (*Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*) have created a film that brilliantly reminds the audiences of similarities between the politics of today and events of the past while still managing to move both Newt and Dumbledore's stories along in an interesting direction.

As a film, *Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets Of Dumbledore* takes on a darker tone as Grindelwald's plan to gain power and destroy the Muggle world mirrors what Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party's plans were back in the 1940s. To hammer that point home the filmmakers set a large chunk of this film in Germany while dressing various characters in outfits that are clearly based on the clothes worn by many in the Nazi Party.

That darker tone filters throughout the film and the result is a movie laced with suspense. Following on from the 'supernatural massacre' from the first film it is established early on in this film that Grindelwald will slit the throat of any creature no matter how cute it is while the audience is constantly placed on the edge of their seat and kept guessing at whether characters such as Queenie Goldstein (Alison Sudol – *Dan in Real Life*) are double agents who are in grave danger.

Like the film itself, the filmmakers



Jude Law, Eddie Redmayne, and Callum Turner in *Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore* (2022). Image: IMDb

have also given a darker edge to Jacob Kowalski (Dan Fogler – *Fanboys*). Gone is much of the comedy shtick that was present around his character in the previous two films. Here he is fuelled by both depression and anger that has been brought on by Queenie turning to the dark side and as an audience member you can't help but worry about the safety of a Muggle who seems determined to go up against a gifted wizard like Grindelwald and his followers.

It was hard to imagine that films in the Wizarding World would ever reach the heights that some of the better *Harry Potter* films did, but *Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore*

shows that there is still creativity to be had with this franchise. The darker tone enhances the film and makes it a lot better than a lot of people expected it would be. This film is a surprisingly well written and suspenseful affair.

Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets Of Dumbledore is currently screening in Phuket and is rated G.

4/5 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

THAI RESIDENTIAL



Ocean's Edge Panwa Peninsula

- ✓ 5 Bedrooms
- ✓ 5 Bathrooms
- ✓ Thai Freehold
- ✓ Stunning Views
- ✓ 740 sqm Living Area

Reduced to 79 Million THB



Tamarind Bay Ocean Front Land

- ✓ Cape Panwa Land for Sale
- ✓ Stunning Sea Views
- ✓ Ocean Front
- ✓ Private Estate
- ✓ Amazing 5,284 sqm plot

Reduced to 120 Million THB



Villa One Ayara Surin

- ✓ Private Ayara Estate
- ✓ Stunning Sea Views over Surin Bay
- ✓ Recently Modernized 5 Bedrooms
- ✓ Excellent Rental Potential
- ✓ Large Land Plot of 1,452 sqm

Reduced to 99 Million THB



Andara Bay View Residence

- ✓ Luxury Penthouse on Millionaire's Mile
- ✓ Meticulously Maintained 4 Bedrooms 5 Bathrooms
- ✓ Stunning Views over the Andaman Sea
- ✓ Fantastic Rental Potential
- ✓ 845 sqm Built Area

Now 4,888,000 USD



West Sands Beach Front Villa

- ✓ 3 Bedrooms Luxury Villa
- ✓ 3 Ensuite Bathrooms
- ✓ Beachfront Property
- ✓ 4-star resort with gym, restaurant and swimming pool
- ✓ 471 sqm plot

Reduced to 28 Million THB



Walk to the Beach, 6 Bedroom Villa Layan

- ✓ Amazing Beach Side Villa
- ✓ Thai Freehold
- ✓ 6 Bedrooms
- ✓ 7 Bathrooms
- ✓ 800 sqm of built area

Reduced to 60 Million THB

POP QUIZ

- Which river runs through the Grand Canyon?
- Is the time 12:00am midday or midnight?
- Licence plates for Phuket cars heading abroad must carry the letters "PKT", but Phuket airport's code is HKT. Which airport has the code PKT?
- Why was an episode of Peppa Pig banned from being shown in Australia?
- What is Kim Kardashian's full name today?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

- Stewed fruit
- Bolivian ____
- Mild laxative
- Laughs, maybe
- Tasty treat
- Grad
- Content of some bags
- Start of some cloud names
- Sapporo sash
- It's definite
- Car nut
- Tasty treats
- Not digital
- Arise
- Little kick
- Class-conscious grp.
- "O Sanctissima," e.g.
- Way to walk
- Charge
- Tasty treat
- General in gray
- Tropical snake
- Possessive pronoun
- Some bends
- Taboos
- Beach item
- Tasty treat
- Folklore creature
- Nodule

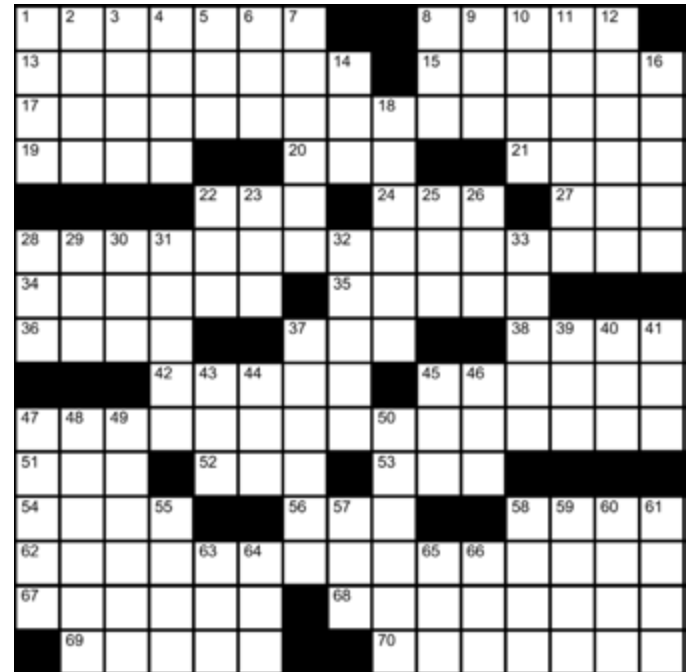
- Certain print
- Deflects

Down

- A sparkling wine
- Shade of blue
- Remote control button
- Overly decorous
- Salad topper
- Bus. card abbr.
- Related on one side
- Grand ____ ("Evangeline" setting)
- Common Market letters
- 1986 #1 hit for Starship
- Simple eyes
- Carved figure
- Coupling
- Smoke and fog mixtures
- Chain
- Sean ____ Lennon
- Breathalyzer attachment
- Dupes
- Easily tamed bird
- Dracula, at times
- ____ Ng" (They
- Might Be Giants song)
- Photographer Goldin
- Star in Perseus
- Back in?
- Copper coins
- Caribe
- Away
- D.C. setting
- Science writer, Willy
- Colo. neighbor
- Blood-typing letters
- Nest builder
- Good buddies use them
- Smart guys?
- City in Ontario
- Jai alai ball
- Smell the coffee
- Sean Connery, for one
- Baseball great
- Engine sound
- Fungal spore sacs
- Beach site
- Dregs
- Crumb
- Get prone
- Second degree?
- Across, in verse

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Colorado River; 2) Midnight; 3) Port Keats Airport, Northern Territory, Australia; 4) It taught children to not be afraid of spiders; 5) Kimberly Noel Kardashian West



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

2.5

hours is how long it took for James Earl Jones to record all of his Darth Vader lines for Star Wars. He was paid \$7,500.

32

minutes of free time each day is all the average parent gets to enjoy.

199

years is how long it took to build the (Leaning) Tower of Pisa.

40,000

US dollars a year is how much American Airlines saved in the 1980s (about US\$105,600 today) by removing one olive from each food tray served in first class.

1.3 billion

US dollars was how much the world's most expensive bottle of vodka was worth in 2018. That same year it was stolen and found empty on a construction site.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



The Shore at Katathani, Kata Noi Beach. Photo by Istvan Gal

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

This week in history

April 22, 1889

At noon, thousands of people rush to claim land in the Land Rush of 1889. Within hours the cities of Oklahoma City and Guthrie are formed with populations of at least 10,000.

April 23, 1985

Coca-Cola changes its formula and releases New Coke. The response is overwhelmingly negative, and the original formula is back on the

market in less than three months.

April 24, 1184 BC

Traditional date of the fall of Troy.

April 25, 1915

World War I: The Battle of Gallipoli begins: The invasion of the Turkish Gallipoli Peninsula by British, French, Indian, Newfoundland, Australian and New Zealand troops, begins



Bill Cosby.

with landings at Anzac Cove and Cape Helles.

April 26, 2018

American comedian Bill Cosby

is found guilty of sexual assault.

April 27, 1667

Blind and impoverished, John Milton sells the copyright of *Paradise Lost* for £10.

April 28, 1973

The Dark Side of the Moon by Pink Floyd, recorded in Abbey Road Studios goes to number one on the US charts, beginning a record-breaking 741-week chart run. Source: Wikipedia

Trades & Services

 The Phuket News
 @thephuketnews

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

Drone Survey

Pipe Inspection

under yearly checkup plan...

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT



MN.PAINTING

German/English: 087 894 8255

No Job too Big
No Job too small

HOME IMPROVEMENT



Lile-it
SMART TILES
Tile Leveling System

Baan Wana - Cherng Talay
Tel : 076 620168

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT



WOOD FLOOR PHUKET - 20 YEARS

Solid wood floors and engineering.
Decks supplied and installed - Teak & NZ Pine.

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT



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

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

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

www.germanwaterteam.com
Email: germanwaterteam@yahoo.de
22112 Moo 8 Chaofa R.d.west Chalong A.Muang Phuket 83136

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

OTHER



Mac-Nels

MACNELS SHIPPING PHUKET

ANY SHIPMENT ANY WHERE

☎ OFFICE: 076 603907

☎ MOBILE: CALL PETER 0863645862

www.macnellsphuket.com

OTHER



CARING FOR OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS 24 HOURS PER DAY.

hugme

โรงพยาบาลสัตว์อภัย
HUGME ANIMAL HOSPITAL

100/16 MOOT SRISUNTHON, THALANG, PHUKET 83110
☎ 076 510 656

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

22
APR



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT
 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai
 Oil: 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: Mariniere, White wine, 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

SUN

24
APR



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



Sunday roast

12PM – 9PM: All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet Beef, Pork, Chicken & Lamb – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, Fried mushrooms, Grilled Tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes – Apple sauce, Gravy, Mushroom sauce, Horse raddish, Mint Sauce. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 350 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 175 baht P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket

com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

MON

25
APR



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



Pizza Monday

12 PM till closing: 20% discount on all our pizzas We have a kid's playground zone. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

WED

27
APR



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT
 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai
 Oil: 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, Ribs 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

FRI

6
MAY



Grow Boating Networking Evening - May 2022

We look forward to seeing you at the next Grow Boating Evening at the Isola Restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm on Friday the 6th of May. We are delighted to announce that our drinks sponsor for the evening will be Thailand International Boat Show & JAND Events. The Thailand International Boat Show 2023 will take place at the award-winning Royal Phuket Marina between the 12th and the 15th of January 2023, with over 6,000 visitors and more than 100 exhibitors expected to attend. For more details see their website at <https://www.thailandinternationalboatshow.com/> There will be a delicious free buffet for all attendees and as always all of your favourite beverages will be available from the bar. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee. We hope to see you there and if you know anyone you think would be interested in coming please invite them along. Grow Boating is kindly supported by our media partner - The Phuket News, Live 89.5 radio and Phuket News TV.

FRI

13
MAY



Phuket Bike Week 2022

Welcome all riders and friends to 26th anniversary Phuket Bike Week 2022 " New normal ride together " May13-15, 2022 at The PlayYard Beach, Mai Khao, Phuket. www.phuketbikeweek.com



22nd Phuket International Rugby 10s

It's Great To Be Back. The 2022 Aussie Bar Phuket International Rugby 10s with teams from around the region competing for bragging rights in what has become one of Asia's premier social rugby events. The venue is Thanyapura Sports Club and put the date 13-15 May in your diaries for a weekend of action and fun. For more information contact phuket10s@outlook.com or check out the website www.phuket10s.com Sponsored by Aussie Bar Phuket, Athena Siam Co.Ltd, The Phuket News, World Flair and raising funds for the Asia Center Foundation no into their 20th year of giving kids a chance! Thanyapura Sports Club. phuketrugby@gmail.com

THU

19
MAY



SKAL INTERNATIONAL PHUKET NETWORKING EVENT

1st post Covid event hosted by Banyan Tree Phuket at Angsana. We will celebrate our 26th anniversary and what better way to celebrate with drinks sponsored by Cocktails & Co who will be launching their new product in Thailand. 096 270 9080, contact@skalphuket.org Join us by invitation only. *ALCOHOL MAYBE A HEALTH HAZARD! SKAL International Phuket




DAILY EVENT UPDATES ON


JOBS

Full Time Nanny
 Looking for a nanny to take care of 1y9m old child. Live in or work 7am to 7pm English or/and Thai speaking Nanny experience 3 years 18000, Napakpapha, nicky_karpuzov@yahoo.com, +6639503078

BUSINESSES FOR SALE



Resort for sale /rent
 3 rai grasland,6 building 12 rooms ,internet ,own Well ,big pool,parking,restaurant ,5min walk to Makro Lotus any offer considered. 3 rai grasland,6 building 12 rooms ,internet ,own Well ,big pool,parking,restaurant ,5min walk to Makro Lotus any offer considered, bigasail33@yahoo.com



BOAT LAGOON BAR FOR SALE

The Lagoon Saloon Phuket (LSP) in Boat Lagoon is FOR SALE. See our Facebook page for more bar details. Contact Khun Ora on Mobile 082 222 7499. Negotiable.



PROPERTY FOR RENT



Land for sale near Mission Heights

Land is 1,656 square meters approx on 3 Chanote titles. Has concrete road, water and electric. Small quiet village close to Mission Heights. I'm looking for 4.5 million Baht, negotiable. Call 093 629 4400.

PROPERTY FOR RENT



Stunning Villa For Rent/Sale

Stunning Villa for rent or sale in Chalong. 795,2 square meter or almost ½ Rai Land. 4 Bedrooms each with bathroom & shower. 1 laundry room with dishwasher and washing machine. Fully equipped kitchen. Aircon units and ceiling fans in all rooms. Saltwater Pool 8m x 4m + jacuzzi + outdoor shower. Water system with very high-quality water filter. Long term rental min 6 months price 60,000 THB incl. garden and pool cleaning or available for sale 16,800 000 THB. adam.goodman@hotmail.com, 0910161167

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
 www.aaphuket.com



Australian Visas
 Need An Australian Visa or Expert Advice?
 Have the confidence dealing with an Australian Lawyer and Agent, based right here in Thailand but regulated in Australia.
 Your application will be prepared and lodged for you, as well as expert advice as to the best visas and approach.
 We can assist with all visa types, including Tourist, Partner, Work, Study and Family visas.
 Had a visa refusal - our team specialise in getting you the result you want.
Phone: 084 400 9487
www.AustralianVisas-Thailand.com






CHAÎNE DES RÔTISSEURS PHUKET, THAILAND - APRIL 2022

Members and friends embarked on an Italian adventure together with Chef Luca De Negri at Red Sauce restaurant at the Rosewood Phuket on April 7, 2022. The Italian colours of red, white and green were worn by the guests and added to the Italian theme.

WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?

WINDOW ON PHUKET

Карта Пхукета
普吉岛 地图
The map
of PHUKET
English 中文 Русский

Where to
eat
in PHUKET

The **Phuket News** Your Island - Your Paper

LIVE 89.5

Новости **Пхукета** Твой остров - твоя газета

ข่าว **ภูเก็ต**

Phuket NEWS TV

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th

Tyson looking to unleash Fury against Body Snatcher

BOXING

TWO MEN WHO WERE once friends will come to blows at an expectant Wembley Stadium tomorrow (Apr 23) as Tyson Fury defends his World Boxing Council (WBC) heavy-weight title against compatriot Dillian Whyte.

The British rivals will square off in the ring at the iconic venue in front of an expected 94,000 fans in a highly anticipated bout.

Whyte, constantly referred to as the 'perennial' challenger for the WBC belt, finally gets his chance against the self-proclaimed 'Gypsy King' and he cannot wait for the opening bell to ring.

"I just want the violence to begin," the 34-year-old known as the 'Body Snatcher' told BT Sport on Monday (Apr 18). "I'm calm, I'm cool, but inside it's just raging and violence. It's just going off in my head."

Fury took to his Instagram account to retort: "The king is coming. I can't



Fury embraces Wembley. Photo: AFP

wait to put on another show-case at Wembley Stadium".

Fury goes into the bout as the overwhelming favourite, having never been beaten in 32 professional fights – the only minor blemish on his record was a draw in his first fight with Deontay Wilder in Dec 2018.

He also has the height and weight advantage, standing 6ft 9 inches and weighing in at 277 lbs for his last against Wilder in Oct 2021.

Whyte stands 6ft 4 inches and weighed 247 lbs during his last fight against Alexander Povetkin in Mar 2021. His professional record reads 28 wins in 30 bouts with 2 losses.

Ben Tirebuck

F1 calendar expansion puts squeeze on classic races

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

There's no doubt F1 is enjoying a global boom in 2022. A heady combination of a locked-down world desperate for live events after two years of pandemic, the Netflix smash hit 'Drive to Survive' and the nailbiting 2021 championship campaign decided on the last lap of the last race has proved intoxicating.

The skyrocketing crowd numbers bear out the bout of F1 mania. The sold-out Australian Grand Prix was the best attended weekend in almost 30 years and one of the most popular events in the sport's history. Tickets for this weekend's Emilia-Romagna GP at the historic Imola circuit have also been exhausted.

The next race, a debut event in Miami, sold its 80,000 seats in less than 40 minutes despite the cheapest tickets costing around US\$640 (B21,000).

The British Grand Prix in



Ferrari's Charles Leclerc salutes the crowd at the Australian GP in Melbourne on Apr 9. Photo: AFP

July has reported the fastest sell-out in its history, and even Singapore, not until October, has already sold all its weekend grandstand tickets.

F1 plans to meet the burgeoning interest with aggressive expansion plans to ramp up the number of races with Las Vegas confirmed as a venue from 2023 and New York mooted.

Events at Zandvoort in the Netherlands and at Imola in Italy have also been revived,

and Kyalami in South Africa is firming for a return to put F1 on every inhabited continent.

But the with calendar capped at 24 races under the current commercial agreements it's escaped no-one's attention that the races out of contract are all deep in F1 heartland.

Along with Mexico and France, the heritage Belgian and Monaco grands prix are all up for renewal for 2023 but are at serious risk of being

dropped as the sport hasn't been afraid to turn the blowtorch on the previous untouchable events.

"The arrival of offers from new promoters has an advantage for the F1 platform, and that is to force the organisers of traditional grands prix to raise their level of quality in terms of what they offer the public and infrastructure and management of the event," F1 CEO Stefano Domenicali said earlier in the year.

"It's not enough to have a pedigree anymore. You also have to demonstrate that you are keeping up."

Clear is that the slack will come from Europe. With the Middle Eastern races all on very long and very lucrative contracts and with the sport's expansion plans centred on the US, it's the 10-race European leg that will be downsized by either rotating among themselves or being axed altogether.

The debate between money, heritage and expansion will only become inflamed as the difficult decisions are made, but whether it'll be enough to derail the runaway train of F1 interest remains to be seen.

Phuket News

English Premier League Predictions

thephuketnews.com/predictions.php

Male fighters must improve, says Thai boxing chief

BOXING

THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL Boxing Association of Thailand (IBAT) Pichai Chunnachira warned that standards will need to improve among the country's male athletes if they are to succeed in winning medals at the SEA Games in Hanoi next month.

His comments came after the Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament held at the Angsana Laguna Phuket resort (Apr 3-9) where the Thai women's team were presented with the Queen's Cup for winning the women's team championship division.

"In this tournament, we can see that the women's team is doing well, winning the women's trophy. For the men's team, there is a need to improve," Mr Pichai cautioned.

"All nations have developed a lot, especially in Asean. Team standards at the SEA Games have improved a lot. That is good news for Asean as we move closer to Asia's top leaders, such as Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and India.

"As a whole, we are satisfied with the performance of youngsters in their fights, and we think the association is heading in the right direction for the SEA Games in Vietnam," he added.

The tournament saw boxers compete in 10 men's and eight women's divisions, including boxers from 12 nations: New Zealand, Palestine, Cambodia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Taiwan,



The trophy ceremony. Photo: PR Phuket

Singapore, Nepal, India and Thailand.

The winner of the top prize "gold medal" in each division received US\$2,000 (about B60,000), while "silver medal" winners received US\$1,000 and "Bronze medal" winners received US\$500 each.

Thailand entered two teams and their boxers reached the finals in 10 divisions, eventually winning five of the finals, three in the men's divisions and two in the women's divisions.

Thai national boxer Banjong Sinsiri defeated Kazakhstan fighter Aslanbek Shimbergenov to win the gold medal in the 69kg category.

Banjong was also bestowed the title of Best Fighter of the tournament, picking up prize money of US\$2,000 in the process.

India won the men's team trophy, for which they were presented the King's Cup. Nguyen Thi Tham of Vietnam, who won the Women's 51kg division, was named Best Female Boxer of the tournament.

The Phuket News

Dreams of the quadruple still alive for Liverpool

FOOTBALL

Ben Tirebuck
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Liverpool's dreams of a historic quadruple trophy haul remains on track after they beat Manchester City last Saturday (Apr 16) to progress to the FA Cup final.

In a repeat of February's League Cup final which the Reds won, they will face Chelsea in the May 14 showdown after Thomas Tuchel's team defeated Crystal Palace in the second semi-final on Sunday to advance to their fifth FA Cup final in the last six years.

Liverpool started the game in scintillating fashion, dominating the game and racing to a 3-0 first-half lead courtesy of Ibrahima Konate's opening goal and a Sadio Mane brace. City fought back in the second-half with goals from Jack Grealish and Bernardo Silva but it was too little too late.

Reds boss Jurgen Klopp hailed the performance among the finest of his tenure: "Absolutely proud, incredible. The



Liverpool players celebrate their third goal in the FA Cup semi-final win against Manchester City at Wembley last Saturday (Apr 16). Photo: AFP

first half was one of the best we ever played. We did all the right stuff, we scored in the right moments. We were outstanding. I loved each second of it."

Liverpool are embroiled in a fierce title fight with City, who, at time of press, are one point clear of Klopp's men at the top of the Premier League with seven games left. They could also face one another in the Champions League Final.

However, Klopp insists the fixture congestion caused

by their progress to another final will make the quadruple harder to achieve.

"The quadruple talk I can't believe it. Qualifying for this final makes the quadruple even more difficult," he said. "I don't think we have a full free week before the last matchday. But we beat the strongest team in the world and that's a pretty special moment."

Goals from Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Mason Mount were enough for Chelsea to book

their place in the final where they will be looking to avenge the League Cup final loss.

"We will be well prepared because we play against one of the best teams in the world," said Tuchel.

"They are in outstanding form. It will be another hard fight. We will try to make it hard for them. It is unbelievably difficult to beat them. But that is what a cup final is about. We need everything at the top level."

Meanwhile, Arsenal and Tottenham both slipped up in the Premier League as Cristiano Ronaldo's hat-trick against Norwich in a 3-2 win saw the Red Devils reignite their top-four finish hopes.

Spurs were beaten at home by Brighton 1-0, while the Gunners lost 0-1 at Southampton to slump to a third consecutive loss.

Ronaldo's 50th club hat-trick moved United above Arsenal into fifth on goal difference, three points behind Tottenham. United host Arsenal in a crunch Premier League game tomorrow (Apr 23).



Sean Dyche. Photo: AFP

Relegation-threatened Burnley sack Dyche

FOOTBALL

RELEGATION-THREATENED Burnley announced last Friday (Apr 15) they had sacked long-serving manager Sean Dyche with eight games of the Premier League season remaining.

The Clarets are 18th in the English top-flight four points adrift of safety after just four league wins all season.

"Results this season have been disappointing and, while this was an incredibly difficult decision, with eight crucial games of the campaign remaining, we feel a change is needed to give the squad the best possible chance of retaining its Premier League status," chairman Alan Pace said in a club statement.

Pace said he wanted to "place on record our sincere thanks to Sean and his staff

for their achievements at the club over the last decade".

The 50-year-old Dyche, who signed a new contract due to run until 2025 in September, had been the longest-serving manager of any club in the Premier League, having taken charge in Oct 2012.

He twice led the Clarets to promotion from the Championship and brought European football to Turf Moor in 2018 despite a limited budget, but his side have been in the bottom three virtually all season.

"The process of replacing Sean has begun and further announcements will be made to supporters in due course," said Pace, whose ALK Capital group took over at Turf Moor in Dec 2020

At time of press, Burnley have 25 points after 31 games, three behind Frank Lampard's Everton, who are in 17th place.

AFP

'Thai Messi' aiming to make his own name big in Japan

FOOTBALL

HE IS KNOWN AS THE "THAI MESSI" and grew up idolising Diego Maradona - now Chanathip Songkrasin is making his own name after joining one of Asia's top clubs.

The five foot two attacking midfielder is a hero in Thailand, where he captains the national team and advertises everything from credit cards to energy drinks.

Now the 28-year-old is breaking new ground after a January move to Japanese champions Kawasaki Frontale, which have won the J-League four times in the last five years.

Chanathip was born in central Thailand and first learned football from his father, a huge fan of Argentine legend Maradona.

His father showed him videos of the midfield great and encouraged his son to copy his bamboozling tricks and dynamic dribbles.

Chanathip made his Thai league debut in 2012 and had a trial with German side Hamburg, before earning himself a move to Japanese team Consadole Sapporo in 2017.

He spent four and a half years with the northern outfit, scoring 15 goals in 123 games, before joining Frontale this year for a reported J-League record transfer fee thought to be just under US\$4 million (B135mn).

Now he is pulling the midfield strings



Chanathip Songkrasin. Photo: AFP

for Japan's leading club and has helped Frontale top the J-League table 10 games into the new season.

Chanathip says he struggled when he first moved to the J-League but his "imagination and vision have developed" after almost five years in Japan.

Chanathip will switch focus to his national team this summer when Thailand play their qualifying matches in June for next summer's Asian Cup.

The "War Elephants" will face Uzbekistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka in a round-robin tournament and are desperate not to miss out after failing to reach the final round of qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup.

Chanathip is confident his team will make it to the Asian Cup finals in China next year.

"As a player if you don't think you can get through then it's all over," he said. "I think we can do it." AFP

2022 AUSSIE BAR PHUKET
INTERNATIONAL RUGBY 10'S

Athena Siam Limited
Management Contracting

13-15 May 2022

ThePhuketNews

AUSSIE BAR

20th Anniversary
Asia Center
Foundation

AUSSIE BAR

AUSSIE BAR

www.phuket10s.com

Sport

editor3@classactmedia.co.th



Quadruple still on for Klopp's Reds > p15

MAYUR SIZZLES AT ACG

Asia captain Mayur Deuskar turns on the style with the bat. Photo: Phuket Cricket



CRICKET

Michael Flowers

Last Sunday (Apr 17) saw cricket action return to the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) in sweltering conditions as an Asia select team faced off against a Rest of the World (RoW) collective in an eight-a-side T20 match.

RoW captain Curt Livermore elected to bowl, sending in 16-year-old Eddie Chataway to open alongside Michael Flowers. The latter soon dismissed Abu Bakar LBW for 5 (5) in his first over and Yasir Yayha 3 (8) in his second, caught behind by Bangkok

Parrot regular Paul Jeffels.

Sunny Bowry and Jagsir Brar then collaborated to reach 50 after 6 overs before Michael Rhys Thomas (MRT) removed Brar 19 (20) to bring in-form Asia captain Mayur Deuskar to the crease.

In the 14th over Anthony Van Blerk dismissed Bowry 20 (31) to leave Asia in some trouble at 88-4.

Jashu Reddy, in just his second appearance, then made an immediate impact by putting away two loose Van Blerk balls for 4 in his first 3 balls faced and Asia really broke the shackles in the 16th over when Deuskar put caution to the wind and hammered Neil Quail for 22

off the over to lift his team to 129-4 after 16 overs.

Livermore made a double breakthrough in the 17th over by claiming the wickets of Reddy 12 (8) and Saju Abraham 2 (3), leaving Deuskar and Damian Westwood as the last pair at the crease.

Deuskar 67* (34) continued his terrific vein of form and blasted his way through the final 3 overs as Asia posted a below par but defendable total of 171-6.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Following lunch, Asia got off to a great start with the new ball, as Westwood caught Jeffels 1 (4) behind off Brar's very first delivery.

Father and son came then came together as James Chataway joined his son at the crease, the pair injecting some pace and guiding RoW to 50-1 after 7 overs.

However, the tide of the game soon changed as Yasir's first ball dismissed James 36 (22) and Asia picked up their second wicket.

Livermore joined Eddie Chataway and looked to continue where James had left off as he hit 3 boundaries in the 10th over, meaning RoW headed into the drinks break at 85-2, 14 runs and 1 wicket ahead of where Asia had been at the same point and roughly halfway to the target.

On resuming play, RoW

were unable to maintain their run rate and were bogged down by some accurate bowling. Eddie Chataway 23 (35) was finally dismissed with a bizarre double bouncer from Bowry's first ball, bringing Van Blerk to the crease.

The following over saw the key wicket of Livermore 33 (21) fall as Yayha took a catch in the deep off Deuskar's bowling to reduce RoW to 114-4 after 14.1 overs.

MRT joined Van Blerk in the middle but the pair were unable to find the necessary boundaries to lift the run rate. Needing 20 from the final over, Brar was brought back into the attack to knock over Van Blerk 15 (16) and

leaving the new batsman Flowers with a target of 19 to win from just 4 balls.

Flowers 0 (4) was unable to find the fence and was caught behind by Westwood attempting a ramp shot on the final delivery. A terrific final over with 2 wickets and just 2 runs conceded, leaving RoW with a 17-run defeat.

Brar was the pick of the bowlers with 3-23 from 4 overs while Deuskar continued his terrific form with the bat and figures of 1-17 from 4 overs to collect the Man of the Match honours.

If you are interested in playing cricket in Phuket please contact Phuket Cricket on Facebook.

Northern Lions beat Phuket Tigers to retain inter-provincial golf cup

GOLF

THE PHUKET TIGERS TEAM were soundly beaten by the Chang Rai Northern Lions team in the second game of the "Golf SAT Sports Chiang Rai Phuket Series 2022" inter-provincial golf tournament held at Laguna Golf Phuket on Apr 9.

The series had been arranged by the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) in collaboration with officials from Phuket and Chiang Rai provinces in an effort to connect and enhance the relationship between the two sporting cities while promoting both as attractive golfing destinations to domestic and overseas tourists.

The first game of the tournament had taken place at Santiburi Golf Country Club in Chiang Rai on Jan 8 where the home team won the contest.

The return leg of the series was played in stifling conditions at the Laguna Phuket course, with the Chiang Rai Northern Lions emerging as eventual winners by seven and a half points over the Phuket collective to retain the trophy.

The opening ceremony had been inaugurated by Phuket Deputy Governor Pichet Panapong who also attended the awards ceremony immediately following the day's play.

Also present at the awards ceremony were the President of the Phuket Sports Association Thammawat Wongcharoenyos,



The Chiang Rai Northern Lions team celebrate with the trophy. Photo: PR Phuket

the Director of the SAT Phuket office Damrong Chaisena, SAT advisor Lt Gen Watcharapateep, Deputy chief judge of the Phuket Court Boonjuan Panich, Deputy Governor of Professional Sports Thanukit Chanchum, in addition to numerous distinguished guests.

Thanusak Phungdet, President of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, presented the runners-up award to the Phuket Tigers team while Phuket SAT chief Thammawat presented the joint award for highest birdie to Somchai Chanpratuang and Sadis Chaiyo of team Chiang Rai.

The winners trophy was awarded to the Chiang Rai Northern Lions team by Boonjuan Panich, Deputy chief judge of the Phuket Court.

Team Chiang Rai also donated B30,000 as a sponsorship to the Sports Association of Phuket which they confirmed will be used to promote further sporting activities with a corporate social responsibility (CSR) theme.

Meanwhile, the Asian Development Tour (ADT) and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Tour have confirmed they have jointly-sanctioned four events to take place in Phuket next month.

The "Beautiful Thailand Swing" will see players from both Tours competing for a purse of US\$75,000 (B2.5 million) in each tournament.

The four-event swing will tee off with the Laguna Phuket Challenge (May 3-5), followed by the Laguna Phuket Cup (May 8-10), both to be played at Laguna Phuket.

The Blue Canyon Classic (May 13-15) will then take place at the Blue Canyon Country Club Lakes course, followed by the Blue Canyon Open (May 18-20) at the Canyon course.

The Phuket News