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## GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS

A woman is scanned while shopping at Central Festival shopping mall earlier this week. Photo: Tanyaluk Sakoot

### RELAXATION OF COVID RESTRICTIONS BREATHES LIFE BACK INTO BUSINESSES ACROSS THE ISLAND

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More than 30,000 people were recorded as visiting the Central Festival and Central Phuket Floresta shopping malls from 11am to 8pm last Sunday (May 17) as Phase 2 of the relaxation of the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions came into effect, allowing scores of businesses across the island to re-open.

The easing of restrictions, confirmed last Friday (May 15), saw the sales of food and drinks allowed to resume in restaurants, food courts, cafeterias and eateries, excluding pubs and bars and drinking of alcohol.

Shopping malls, department stores and community malls are allowed

to stay open from 10am to 8pm.

Also allowed to resume operations are retail and wholesale shops, limited meeting services at meeting rooms in hotels or convention centres, beauty clinics, cosmetic clinics and manicure shops, both inside and outside shopping malls.

Fitness centres outside shopping malls, department stores or community malls can resume operations only for yoga or free weight sections. Other exercise equipment, treadmills, cycling machines or group exercises are not allowed.

Areas that are to remain closed are cinemas, bowling alleys, game arcades, skating rinks, karaoke bars, amusement parks, water parks, zoos, snooker and billiard halls, game shops, fitness centres, health shops, Thai traditional massage, foot massage,

tutorial schools, amulet trading shops and convention/meeting facilities.

Meanwhile, with still no notices from provincial officials, Phuket's beaches also remain closed to all visitors.

Late on Monday afternoon Phuket Governor Phakaphong Tavipatana led the Phuket Communicable Disease Committee and relevant officials on an inspection tour of both Central Festival and Central Phuket Floresta malls, together branded as Central Phuket.

"We found that there is sufficient preparation according to the standards of disease control required by the [mandatory] guidelines. They are doing very well," he said.

Although the number of visitors to the malls on the first day of re-opening were near capacity – Central

Festival can accommodate 19,500 visitors a day and Central Phuket Floresta 25,000 people – Governor Phakaphong noted that the malls did not appear to be crowded.

"In general, it seems people are coming to just buy what they need and go back home. You can see by just looking around that it is not too crowded. They hurry to buy, then they hurry back home," he said.

Governor Phakaphong thanked people for understanding the virus countermeasures in place.

However, he suggested more signs be posted in English. "There are more than 5,000 foreign tourists still in Phuket, and there are 10,000 foreigners who live and work here. English-language communication about COVID-19 preventive measures must be added for foreigners," he said.

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**Airport remains closed until further notice**



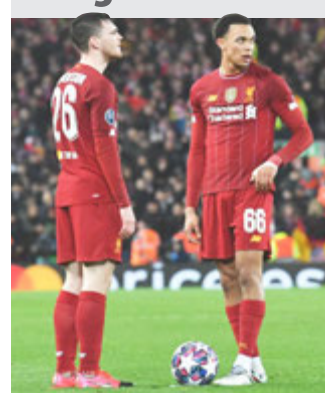
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# News

## Patong shopping staffer latest COVID-19 case

PHUKET PUBLIC Health Office (PPHO) Chief Dr Thanit Sermkaew this week confirmed that Phuket's latest confirmed case of COVID-19 was a 27-year-old Thai woman who worked at a "shopping centre" in Patong.

Speaking to *The Phuket News* on Tuesday (May 19), Dr Thanit declined to specify which "shopping centre" the woman worked at.

The woman had travelled to Prachinburi with one of her two female roommates with whom she lived with in Patong. After the pair had arrived in Prachinburi, the roommate was confirmed as infected with COVID-19, he said.

The PPHO was notified of the case by Prachinburi Provincial Health Office on May 8. Officials immediately tracked down the woman in Phuket, now branded as Case 225, and confirmed that she was not experiencing any signs of infection, he said.

The woman also initially tested negative for the virus on May 8, he added.

"The woman explained that on Mar 17 she had lost the sense of taste and smell, but still had no fever. Later, those symptoms disappeared," Dr Thanit noted, explaining why the woman had not presented herself to a doctor.

"We had her placed in quarantine at Patong Hospital as a precaution. She was tested again for the virus on May 15, and she tested positive," he said.

Phuket health officials on May 8 also had the women's remaining roommate in



PPHO Chief Dr Thanit. Photo: PR Phuket

Patong immediately placed under quarantine at Patong Hospital, Dr Thanit confirmed.

The roommate has tested negative for the virus twice, but remains in quarantine at the hospital as a precaution, Dr Thanit said.

Samples from the roommate in quarantine at Patong Hospital have been sent to Ramathibodi Hospital and the Bamrasnaradura Infectious Diseases Institute, both in Bangkok, to confirm whether or not she is not infected, he added.

Similarly, samples from the four cases reported as positive in Phuket last Sunday have also been sent to Bangkok for confirmation, Dr Thanit said.

Until those results come back, their status remains unchanged as confirmed as positive, he said, adding that he expected the test results from Bangkok to be returned no later than next week.

"Currently, all four people are still in quarantine at Vachira Phuket Hospital," he Dr Thanit said.

"There will be no decisions as to whether any areas will be placed under lockdown again until those test results have been confirmed," he added.

*Khunanya Wanchanwet*

## Thousands venture out as island businesses reopen

The Phuket News  
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Wilaiporn Pitimanaaree, Senior Vice President of Central Pattana, told *The Phuket News* that the Central malls were upholding their "Central Clean, Confident" highest safety measures for maximum safety.

The measures are set to be as least intrusive but as effective as possible so visitors experience close to "normal life" while at the malls, she explained.

All stores and common areas are sprayed with disinfectant, and the air-conditioning systems are cleansed, every day, Ms Wilaiporn said.

On entering the malls, visitors must register their entry and exit through the Thai Chana web portal to help health officials with any possible tracking of visitors that may be required, she added.

"We have also launched a new function in Line @centralLife for customers to register. It will track customers and warn them when they are approaching two hours here. Customers are notified to comply with the guidelines on cleanliness measures," she said.

For those not yet willing to risk venturing out or just want to stay at home as a precaution, Central is supporting the "Stay at Home Stop for the Nation" policy with delivery and drive-thru services, Ms Wilaiporn explained.

"All services comply with safety standards," she added.

### WELCOME RESPITE

Thanusak Phungdet, President of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the relaxation of the restrictions, which has thrown many suffering businesses on the island a lifeline.

The reopening of Central Phuket alone saw some 3,000 people return to work, Ms Wilaiporn confirmed.

"On the good side, business is back and running at the shopping malls, which is a fresh moment for people. It shows that we are getting back to normal," Mr Thanusak told *The Phuket News* this week.

However, he cautioned, "But we are



Governor Phakaphong enters Central Phuket mall for an inspection tour last Sunday (May 17). Photo: PR Phuket

still having a hard time because the major income to Phuket province is the tourism industry. People are going back to work at small businesses, but they must save their money as a top priority. Don't waste money on unnecessary things. While waiting for your salary, you must save and plan your money."

Free meals and food contributions by charitable movements on the island as well as survivor bags from government assistance programs were still an important part to help non-employed people in Phuket, he said.

"There are fewer people who need charity food because they now will have some money to buy food and basic essentials, but there are still many unemployed people who need help," he added.

Mr Thanusak urged small business operators to do what they can to keep their businesses alive waiting on financial relief to arrive from the government and banks.

"Other than that I have very little advice at all. Do not invest with any big expenses that you cannot afford, and use the time now to improve employees' skills or renovate buildings, rooms or properties to be valuable so that you will be ready when the right time comes," he said.

### NOT ENOUGH

Dr Chayanon Pucharoen, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies at the PSU Phuket Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism, only two weeks ago reported that his economic indicator forecast predicted that the COVID crisis was to cost Phuket more than B127 billion – far beyond his

initial estimates. The reopening of scores of businesses across the island last week has done little to change his opinion.

He told *The Phuket News* on Tuesday that it is "big business" that needs to return to brighten Phuket's prospect of a full recovery from the crisis – and for that to happen Phuket airport must reopen.

"Right now, people are going back to work at some small businesses and that is a good sign, but it is still small businesses that are operating, not big businesses. Big businesses still need tourists to use their services," he said.

"Also, Phuket province is still having a hard time. We see people going out to shop and spend money after the subdistrict lockdown was lifted, but they are using their savings. I believe that such people can rely on their savings for only two to three months.

"How well the island's economy will recover depends on the government for now. The economy will improve when the government opens the airport, then tourists will come, but safety and virus-prevention measures are needed for this to happen," he added.

Like Mr Thanusak, Dr Chayanon urged business operators to make the best use of the forced downtime.

"Business owners must not stop employee training. You should train staff to have better skills and even add new skills in time for when tourists return in the future.

"But in the meantime, you need to find new sources of income until tourists return," he said.



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# Bang Tao Lockdown lifted

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The lockdown restrictions were finally lifted in Bang Tao at midnight last Friday night (May 15), but Chief of the Cherg Talay Tambon Administration Organisation (OrBorTor) MaAnn Samran is still asking people in the area to stay home as much as possible to avoid a further outbreak of COVID-19.

Mr MaAnn confirmed that the checkpoints that had cut off all but essential traffic from entering – or leaving – Moo 2, 3 and 5 of Cherg Talay for more than a month were removed at 00:01am Saturday (May 16).

He also confirmed to *The Phuket News* this week that he had not received any order from provincial authorities to either maintain the lockdown or lift the restrictions.

With silence from the provincial government, he decided to abide by the previous order, he explained.

The previous order had actually expired three days earlier, at midnight last Wednesday night (23:59pm, May 13).

The decision to lift the lockdown in the three areas was a turnabout on Mr MaAnn's stance just four days earlier, when he told *The Phuket News* that he had no authority to take any action without an order



Local council sound trucks this week made their way through the small streets in the villages of Cherg Talay, urging people to stay indoors. Photo: Cherg Talay OrBorTor

from provincial superiors.

Cherg Talay Police, who set up the checkpoints, confirmed to *The Phuket News* that they had removed their officers and the checkpoints at the instructions of the Cherg Talay OrBorTor.

"Actually many officials were involved in the lockdown, but the local administrative office was the main one to manage and control the checkpoints," one Cherg Talay police officer told *The Phuket News*.

Cherg Talay villages Moo 2, 3 and 5 have been under lockdown since April 13, when the island underwent its "Tambon Lockdown", preventing any non-essential travel between any of Phuket's 17 subdistricts. Phuket was the only province in the country to have travel between subdistricts banned to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

However, when the Tambon Lockdown was lifted on April 30, the three villages in Cherg Talay

and four other areas on the island remained under lockdown as at that time there had been recently confirmed cases of people infected with the virus in those areas.

Thanit Sermkaew, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Health Office, on Monday last week confirmed that the lockdown restrictions in place in Bang Tao were set to be lifted last Thursday (May 14) – as long as there were no new confirmed infections in those areas.

Now released from lockdown orders, local residents may move freely throughout their own community, which at this stage appears to have suffered the longest continual lockdown period for a residential area in the country.

Regardless, Mr MaAnn said he is urging people to stay home as much as they can, and only venture out when they need to.

"Of course, people can go out of the area to work and make money for living. However, now that the lockdown has been lifted, people's lives are not very different because places are still not allowed to open, and some people cannot go back to work," he said.

"The obvious change is that a lot more cars are passing through the area, but I still want people to stay home and go out only when necessary," Mr MaAnn added.

Meanwhile, Cherg Talay OrBorTor sound trucks this week wound their way through the small streets in the villages urging people to stay indoors.

The sound trucks also explained that more food and relief packages for people in need were being distributed.

Any residents still needing urgent assistance were urged to call the OrBorTor's Social Welfare Division at 076-271096-7 ext 125.

## Phuket Zoo probe continues

CHALONG POLICE HAVE yet to conclude their investigation into the complaint filed by Phuket Zoo owner Suriya Suriya Tanthawee Wong claiming breach of the Computer Crimes Act against Australian Minh Nguyen, American Joy Marian Somers and Thai nationals Hussein Ahmad and Hassun Kohkhar.

The four were charged last month for entering the zoo grounds without permission and for posting online claims that animals at the zoo appeared to have been abandoned. The zoo appeared



One of the tigers at Phuket Zoo when inspected by officials. Photo: Pongchart Choueorm

to be unkept and the animals, especially one tiger, was so thin it was presumed to be underfed.

All four under investigation were released on B100,000 bail each on Apr 23, Chalong

Police Chief Col Sarawut Chu-prasit told *The Phuket News*.

"The four accused denied all allegations and confirmed that they were allowed to go inside the zoo," he said.

"Now, the case is still in the process of collecting evidence, including compiling witness statements and documents. Once we have completed gathering our evidence, which I expect will take no more than one month, the case will be submitted to the Public Prosecutor's Office," Col Sarawut added.

*Khunanya Wanchanwet*



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## Phuket airport remains closed

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Phuket International Airport will remain closed until further notice following an order issued by the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT).

The order was issued last Friday (May 15), just hours before the previous order issued by the CAAT specifically allowing the airport to reopen was set to come into effect.

The Airports of Thailand management team at Phuket airport (AoT Phuket) broke the news just under nine hours before the previous order by the CAAT would allow Phuket airport to re-open to limited domestic flights at 00:01am (May 16).

Phuket airport has been "closed" since April 10, with a ban on all flights except government and/or military aircraft; emergency landings; technical landing aircraft without passengers leaving the plane; aircraft providing humanitarian or medical aid; cargo aircraft; and any aircraft granted



Phuket Vice Governor Supoj Rotreuang Na Nongkhai personally inspected the airport to ensure its readiness to reopen. Photo: AoT Phuket

permission to repatriate foreigners to their home countries. The same conditions will now continue to apply until otherwise ordered.

Since Phuket airport's "temporary suspension", as Phuket officials have called it, staff at the airport have posted online a daily account of their extensive efforts to clean and maintain the facility.

Hopes that the airport would reopen last Saturday rode high for nearly a day after the CAAT had announced

that it had granted permission for the facility to resume limited domestic flights.

Much thought and effort had gone into preparations, with CAAT Director Dr Chula Sukmanop noting that the re-opening of the airport followed a request by the Phuket Governor with the approval of the Phuket Communicable Disease Committee announced two days earlier (May 13).

The re-opening order noted that Phuket airport must adhere to the

schedule of operating hours already stipulated for other airports in the country that had already resumed limited domestic services on May 1, including Krabi airport.

Airlines providing flights to Phuket also were to adhere to strict mandatory health guidelines already stipulated by CAAT.

Passengers arriving in Phuket were to complete a form detailing their personal medical history to be submitted to officers at the airport. The form was to be handed to health officials in case further action is needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the notice explained.

Ahead of the expected reopening Phuket Governor Phakaphong Tavipatana even broke his usual silence on lockdown restrictions to explain that all persons arriving on the island, in addition to completing the form, will have to install the "Mor Chana" app on their phones so officials can follow up on disease investigation.

"All arrivals on the island must observe a home quarantine," he added.

## Inbound flight ban extended to June 30

THE BAN ON INBOUND international passenger flights has been extended for another month to June 30. Citing the need to contain the spread of the COVID-19, the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) issued the announcement on its website last Saturday evening (May 16) to extend the ban from May 31.

No passenger flights originating outside the country may land at Thai airports until June 30. The exceptions are state or military aircraft, emergency or technical landing, humanitarian aid, medicine and relief flights, repatriation and cargo aircraft.

The extended flight ban has led to speculation that the state of emergency decree may also be prolonged beyond May 31, although the number of new COVID-19 cases has remained steady for two weeks, even falling to zero on two days last week.

Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam, the Cabinet's legal expert, said that while the communicable disease control law gives provincial governors the power to take necessary actions, he said he worried about inconsistencies in its application.



Passengers wait for a flight at Suvarnabhumi airport last week. Photo: Varuth Hirunyatheb / Bangkok Post

He cited the examples of Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga, neighbouring provinces that had different restrictions, prompting migration of people in those provinces.

"Such problems made it necessary to issue the emergency decree in the first place to trump provincial orders... Our only fear is that we're going to have 77 different standards if we rely only on the disease control law," he said, referring to the 76 provinces in Thailand plus Bangkok.

Discussing the flight ban extension, Mr Wissanu said it had nothing to do with a possible extension of the emergency decree. "If the emergency decree is scrapped, we can still restrict flights if the situation warrants it," he said.

Bangkok Post

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# Long distance buses return

## Phuket to Bangkok long-haul service set to resume on June 1

### THAILAND

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Long-haul buses out of Phuket to Bangkok are set to start rolling again on June 1 as the state transport company Transport Co, better known by its Thai initials “*BorKorSor*”, resumed its long-distance buses out of Bangkok to Northern Thailand and the Northeast on Monday (May 18).

From June 1, buses bound for Phuket will depart Bangkok from Mor Chit 2 bus terminal at 6am and the New Southern Bus Terminal (“*SaiTai Mai*”) at 6:40am.

The bus from Phuket to Bangkok will depart from Phuket Bus Terminal 2 in Rassada at 6:45am each day, the *BorKorSor* has announced.

Officials at the Phuket Bus Terminal 2 in Rassada held a meeting last Friday (May 15) to prepare for the resumption of bus services.

Also starting from June 1 will be buses between Bangkok and Samui, and Bangkok and Trang

From June 1, buses bound for Samui will depart Bangkok from Mor Chit 2 bus terminal at 6am and the New Southern Bus Terminal (“*SaiTai Mai*”) at 6:30am. The bus from Samui to Bangkok will depart at 5:30am each day.

From June 1, buses bound for Samui will depart Bangkok from Mor Chit 2 bus terminal at 6am and the New Southern Bus Terminal (“*SaiTai Mai*”) at 6:30am. The bus from Samui to Bangkok will depart at 5:30am each day.

Buses from Bangkok to Trang will depart from Mor Chit 2 bus terminal at 6:15am and the New Southern Bus Terminal (“*SaiTai Mai*”) at 6:45am. The bus from Trang to Bangkok will depart at 6:40am each day.

#### ‘Face masks at all times’

A number of strict health procedures will need to be adhered to. Passengers are to be spaced accordingly with one metre between each traveller, and all staff and



The long-haul bus service between Phuket and Bangkok is set to resume from June 1. Photo: The Phuket News file / Tanyaluk Sakoot

passengers travelling on the buses must wear a face mask at all times and should expect to have their temperatures checked every two hours, the *BorKorSor* explained in its announcement.

All touch areas are to be cleaned frequently, and buses are to be cleaned thoroughly and left open for one to two hours while parked in the sun after cleaning, the *BorKorSor* added.

All persons are to wear face masks at all times while at the bus terminal.

Any persons found with a body temperature above 37.5°C will not be allowed to board the bus, the *BorKorSor* explained clearly.

Also, all passengers must complete a document reporting to provincial authorities their medical history and travel plans to help health officials work to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the *BorKorSor* added.

#### Register First

The Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket)

has issued a strong reminder that all people wanting to leave Phuket must register with provincial authorities first through the online form at [www.phuket.go.th](http://www.phuket.go.th)

Whether or not people will be approved to leave travel will depend on the “necessary reason” given, and all people must follow the COVID-19 prevention measures as prescribed by the government, PR Phuket explained.

Applicants must also obtain a “Fit to Travel” document in order to travel across provinces and to show officials when they arrive at their destination, where they must observe a 14-day quarantine, PR Phuket repeated.

The Fit to Travel permit, which can be downloaded by applicants after they have been approved, must be presented at the Phuket Check Point in order to be permitted to leave the island.

Only after applicants have been issued a Fit to Travel should they register with the Phuket Provincial Police through the PhuketSmartCheck-in app to book their “queue” to



Officials at Phuket Bus Terminal 2 in Rassada met on May 15 to plan resumption services. Photo: Phuket Bus Terminal 2 / Facebook

leave Phuket, the PR post explained.

Phuket Provincial Police reminded people last Sunday (May 17) that the PhuketSmartCheck-in app stops accepting applications at 6pm each day.

People can confirm whether they have been approved to leave by entering their name and Thai government ID card number in the form at <https://www.phuket.go.th> from 7pm each day.

Phuket Provincial Police yesterday also repeated that apart from those already permitted to enter Phuket (such as drivers making essential deliveries and medical personnel), all other people must have an essential reason to enter Phuket.

Emergency patients, people with doctor appointments or those attending court or required to assist police with investigations were being approved to enter Phuket, the post noted.

The Provincial Police urged people wanting to enter Phuket to register first through the PhuketSmartCheck-in app.

People can check the app after 8pm each day to see if they had been approved to enter the province.

People who are not approved entry to Phuket may have submitted incorrect information or documents, and may submit a new request through the app, the post noted

“If you are still not approved, you will have to wait for provincial authorities to announce that the province is open to allow people to come back in,” the post said plainly.

People entering Phuket will be screened and must provide officials with necessary information to help them prevent the spread of COVID-19, the police explained in their post.

Health officials may require people entering Phuket to observe a 14-day quarantine period, the post noted.

Meanwhile, “*BorKorSor*” Phuket confirmed to *The Phuket News* on Tuesday (May 19) that minivans are currently not being permitted to leave the island as an alternative means of transport to exit Phuket.

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# Is Your Garden Full of Beans?

The Phuket News  
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**T**he very first time an expat ventures into a local Thai establishment for lunch, she will probably find a plate of green veggies on the table. We are not talking posh restaurants here, but the kind of open roadside eateries frequented by Thai workers, where the food is presented for your inspection in large metal pots. The platters of greens? Usually a mix of morning glory and cashew tree leaves, maybe some Chinese kale or chives, perhaps okra. Certainly, beans. A gamut of exotic flavors.

The free beans on offer will be string or green beans (*tua fak yao*) cut into manageable lengths, and if you are lucky, winged beans (*tua tak yaw*). And beans are on our menu today because they are delicious, easy to grow and, as we shall see later, a source of nitrogen.

String beans come originally from Mexico, but are now widely grown

throughout the tropics and are commonly seen climbing wooden supports in local small-holdings. The pods are extremely long – up to eighteen inches – and are a staple of Thai food. They have a crunchy texture, and a slightly sweet taste which adds to their popularity with Thais. Particularly rich in vitamin K (as well as A and C), they are an ingredient in stir-fries, curries and much, much more.

Winged beans are the aristocrats of the family - with a tongue-twisting name to match – *psophocarpus tetragonolobus*. The pods are an attractive bright green, and shaped with four raised 'winged' edges that give them their name. They are easy to find as packeted seeds, grow quickly, especially in the shorter days when there is less sunlight, and will climb happily over any fence or large shrub. The author grew a couple of plants from seed which rapidly enveloped an entire avocado tree. Pods are produced after about 55 days.

We could go on to consider bean-like okra or lady's fingers (*kra siap*), but they have been re-classified botanically

and are now, believe it or not, included as members of the hibiscus genus..

These beans are, needless to say, delicious, but have to be picked young. Left too long on the vine, they become fibrous and inedible. With their delicate flavor, they are best eaten raw, but can be used in spicy *nam prik* or as a stir-fry vegetable. Mixed with prawn pate, they become a favorite dish called *sambal*. As is the case with many Thai edible plants, it is a pity that they are not more widely cultivated, since all parts of the plant can be eaten. The cooked leaves taste like spinach, the flowers like mushrooms. Even the nodulous roots can be eaten. Apparently they taste nutty....

And that, by a roundabout route, brings us to nitrogen, the last of our three key soil requirements, along with potash and phosphate. For where beans and indeed all legumes, possess added value is that they help fix nitrogen in the soil. Without getting too technical, certain micro-organisms inhabit their roots, and help produce nitrogen which is stored in root nodules. Left in the ground, these nodules

add substantially to the available nitrogen in the surrounding soil. Indeed, it is common Western horticultural practice to alternate legumes such as clover, alfalfa, soy bean, or peanuts with other crops so that the follow-on crop benefits from the richer levels of nitrogen in the earth.

Nitrogen is a paradox. It is the largest constituent of the very air we breathe, and every Thai rai contains thousands of pounds of the stuff. It is essential for plant cell growth, it helps produce chlorophyll (the green agent needed for photosynthesis), and is present in the DNA that enables cells to reproduce. It is a constituent (3% or 4%) of plant tissue, and exists in such organic matter as compost, urea and manure. Yet it is the commonest deficiency in plants since it is not always in an available form. Succulent green foliage indicates a healthy supply; pale green or yellow leaves indicate it is in short supply. Weak roots may also be a sign of its absence.

So don't forget your beans. They not only taste good: in your garden, they do good as well....

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# Netflix-launched 'Extraction' brings big action to the small screen

David Griffiths

**H**e plays one of the most recognisable action heroes on our big screen, now Australian actor Chris Hemsworth has turned to the small screen to deliver the film that may just launch another franchise. While the Netflix released Extraction may not be one of the films that finds itself in the running for the one newly revamped Oscars it is one of the better action films to have surfaced over the past few years.

Hemsworth plays Tyler Rake, a psychologically and emotionally damaged Australian soldier who now heads up a covert mercenary team that also consists of Nik Khan (Golshifteh Farahani – Paterson), who seems to virtually run the team while Rake recovers from the last journey they have been on.

Rake finds himself thrown into the world of underworld crime though when he and his team are hired to rescue a young boy named Ovi (Rudhraksh Jaiswal – The Tenant) who is the son of a jailed Indian gangster. However, when Rake and his team begin the rescue they realise that everything isn't as it seemed and they are now the hunted – trapped in a situation where every move means they are closer to death. However Rake decides that he will see Ovi get to safety no matter the cost or risk.

If you are looking for a film with a strong storyline then you should really look elsewhere. The plot itself is pretty basic – in fact you can pretty much sum it up as Chris Hemsworth vs The Bad Guys – but having said that, this is a film where the thrill of watching it comes from the amazing action sequences delivered to screen by rookie feature film director Sam Hargrave.



Hargrave's stunts are not simply 'good' stunts. They are pure cinematic masterpieces. Think of the stunts that you have seen in films like Mission Impossible and John Wick 3 and that is pretty much what you get from Extraction. Hargrave has worked on the stunt team for a tonne of Marvel films and here it feels like the reigns are thrown off and he gets the opportunity to experiment to his heart's content. The result is a film that has its audience on the edge of their seat as it just bounces from action sequence to action sequence – the pinnacle being an 11-minute long sequence that just leaves you totally breathless. This is possibly the film that shows that Hargrave could well be one of the most exciting directors to hit the action genre in the past decade.

Unlike many action films that put stunts over plot Extraction does put a heavy emphasis on creating strong characterisation for its hero – Tyler Rake. Yes there are times in this movie where it seems the motivation behind Rake is to cause carnage and a body

count wherever he goes, but there are moments in this film when you realise that the filmmakers are determined to explore his character a little more in depth. They might be few and far between but the film does explore the emotional scars that Rake covers – even down to the post traumatic stress that seems to have torn his life apart.

Extraction is the perfect cinematic vehicle for Chris Hemsworth. With his Thor character becoming more and more the comedic relief of the Marvel franchise it has become very easy to forget that under all that muscle (and the occasional fat suit) is a good actor. He is more than capable of mixing up action with acting ability. His performance in 2018's 12 Strong saw him have to match the acting ability of Michael Shannon, something he did with complete ease. Here Hemsworth again gets the chance to show his acting ability as he goes into the inner darkness of Tyler Rake – a darkness brought about by family tragedy.

Extraction could well be one of the biggest sleeper hits of 2020. It certainly was not expected that a Netflix action film being released while the world was in lockdown would be one of the most exciting films of the year but that is exactly what has happened. With amazing action sequences that keep your eyes glued to the screen the only disappointing thing about Extraction is that we haven't had the chance to see it on the big screen. If you love action films then you certainly don't want to miss this one.

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](https://www.facebook.com/subcultureentertainmentaus)*



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POP QUIZ

- 1. Phuket's two MPs are from which party?
- 2. How many beaches are in Phuket? (To the nearest 10 will do)
- 3. The Zodiac sign Libra is represented by which image?
- 4. What instrument has been nicknamed the 'Mississippi Saxophone'?
- 5. In alphabetical order, which three particles make up an atom?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

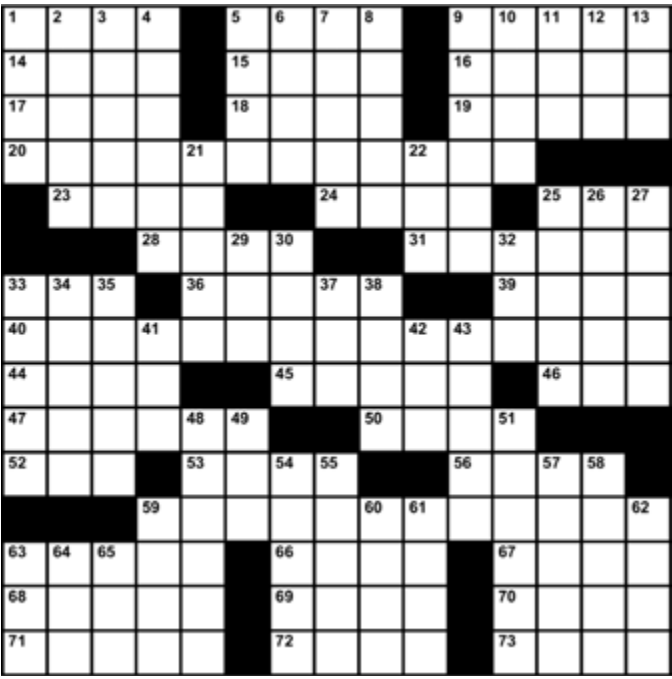
- Across

  - 1. Nurse's quality
  - 5. Sonatas, e.g.
  - 9. Transport
  - 14. Top spot
  - 15. Soon, in a sonnet
  - 16. Fine-grained quartz
  - 17. Low-cal
  - 18. Jaeger bird
  - 19. Pouter
  - 20. Be patriotic
  - 23. "\_\_\_ chance"
  - 24. Court petitioner
  - 25. Pipe material
  - 28. Zest
  - 31. Reddish-brown
  - 33. Drain
  - 36. Kind of hose
  - 39. Wine, prefix
  - 40. Popular country singer
  - 44. Pop star India. \_\_\_
  - 45. Plant support
  - 46. Thatcher and Major
  - 47. Baroque evolution
  - 50. Maintain
  - 52. Wind direction
  - 53. One way to turn
  - 56. Fence piece
  - 59. Having red hair
  - 63. Coach
  - 66. On the water
  - 67. Manilow song setting
  - 68. Dean Martin's "That's \_\_\_"
- Down

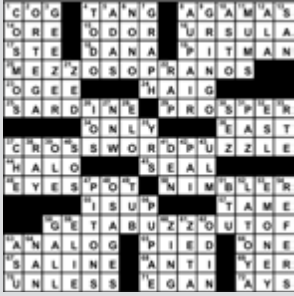
  - 1. Math class, for short
  - 2. Pertaining to bees
  - 3. Old style back in fashion
  - 4. Puts out
  - 5. Broken arm mold
  - 6. Pharaoh's symbol
  - 7. Rakes
  - 8. Big mess
  - 9. Pony car first introduced in 1966
  - 10. Anticipating
  - 11. Least bit
  - 12. Address abbr.
  - 13. "\_\_\_ Blues" (Beatles tune)
  - 21. Smooth jazz player
  - 22. \_\_\_ Miserables
  - 25. Before surgery
  - 26. Poison
  - 27. Earth pieces
  - 29. Eye rhyme
  - 30. Calculator button
  - 32. Theater designation
- 33. Fill with fright
  - 34. Brother of Moses
  - 35. Important to set this right
  - 37. Que. neighbor
  - 38. Bismarck's state, abbr.
  - 41. Hudson contemporary
  - 42. Get by
  - 43. "Walk the Line" actress, Witherspoon
  - 48. French wine
  - 49. Robert Burns's "Whistle \_\_\_ the Lave O't"
  - 51. Unruffled
  - 54. Old French coin
  - 55. Out of port
  - 57. Glorify
  - 58. Sitting Bull's home
  - 59. Mrs. Dithers in "Blondie"
  - 60. Spree
  - 61. Male deer
  - 62. Hires competition
  - 63. Part of X-X-X
  - 64. Kill Bill star
  - 65. Windswept spot

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Palang Pracharath Party; 2) 43; 3) Scales; 4) Harmonica; 5) Electron, Neutron, Proton



Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

16.5

centimetres is how much a female baboon's butt can swell up to when she's ready to mate.

33

percent more sugar and 25% more salt and fat is contained in a typical ultra-processed meal than a meal comprised of natural and minimally-processed foods.

98

percent of a jellyfish is water – that's why they evaporate in the sun.

50,000

Americans died from drug overdoses in 2015 – the most ever.

560

million is the estimated number of login names and corresponding passwords that have been hacked.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Storm approaches from the east coast. Photo: Sherri Drolet

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

This week in history

May 22, 1887

First ever Rugby World Cup kicks off with New Zealand playing Italy at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand. (New Zealand defeated France 29-9 to win the final.)

May 23, 1934

Infamous bank robbers Bonnie and Clyde are ambushed by police and killed in Bienville Parish, Louisiana.

May 24, 1830

"Mary Had a Little Lamb" by Sarah Josepha Hale is published.

May 25, 1953

The first public television station in the US officially begins broadcasting as KUHT from the campus of the University of Houston.

May 26, 2004

US Army veteran Terry Nich-



Bonnie Elizabeth Parker and Clyde Chestnut Barrow. Photo: FBI

ols is found guilty of 161 state murder charges for helping carry out the Oklahoma City

bombing (on April 19, 1995).

May 27, 1907

Bubonic plague breaks out in San Francisco. (121 cases, 113 deaths.)

May 28, 1999

In Milan, Italy, after 22 years of restoration work, Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece The Last Supper is put back on display.

Source: Wikipedia

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# Shake up for leading F1 teams

## FORMULA ONE

AFP

Spanish driver Carlos Sainz will replace four-time Formula One world champion Sebastian Vettel at Ferrari next season, while Daniel Ricciardo has signed a “multi-year” deal with McLaren from 2021.

Sainz, 25, will leave McLaren following the 2020 season to partner 22-year-old Charles Leclerc at Ferrari, forming the team’s youngest pairing in the past 50 years.

“With five seasons already behind him, Carlos has proved to be very talented and has shown that he has the technical ability and the right attributes to make him an ideal fit with our family,” Ferrari team boss Mattia Binotto said in a statement on May 14.

“We’ve embarked on a new cycle with the aim of getting back to the top in Formula 1. It will be a long journey, not without its difficulties,” he added, referring to the additional challenges created by the coronavirus pandemic.

“We believe that a driver pairing with the talent and personality of Charles and



Carlos Sainz finished sixth in the Formula One drivers’ championship in 2019. Photo: AFP

Carlos... will be the best possible combination to help us reach the goals we have set ourselves.”

Sainz emerged in pole position to succeed Vettel at Maranello after the German announced on May 12 he was quitting Ferrari after talks over a new contract broke down.

Sainz, whose father, also Carlos, is a two-time world rally champion, drove for Red Bull’s feeder team Toro Rosso

and Renault before impressing with McLaren last season.

He secured the once all-conquering British team’s first podium place in almost six years in Brazil last year.

“It’s a dream,” said Sainz in a video he posted on social media. “I think you can imagine how happy I am, and what a special day it is for me.”

### Domino effect

Australian Ricciardo will

drive for McLaren next season when he takes over the seat left vacant by Sainz.

Ricciardo, 30, will line up alongside Britain’s Lando Norris, 20, in 2021 after he leaves Renault at the end of this season.

“Daniel is a proven race-winner and his experience, commitment and energy will be a valuable addition to McLaren and our mission to return to the front of the

field,” said McLaren team principal Andreas Seidl.

“With Daniel and Lando as teammates, I believe we have two racers who will continue to excite our fans and help the team grow.”

Ricciardo has won seven races and recorded 29 podium finishes since his F1 debut with the HRT team at the British Grand Prix in 2011.

He drove for Red Bull’s junior team Toro Rosso in

2012 and 2013 before making the jump to the flagship Red Bull team in 2014. He finished third in the drivers’ standings in 2014 and 2016.

He failed to muster a single top-three finish in a disappointing first season at Renault.

Ricciardo’s exit at Renault could open the door for Fernando Alonso to reunite with the team where he won world titles with in 2005 and 2006, although they are reportedly keen to find an in-house replacement.

Alonso, 38, quit F1 in 2018 but hasn’t ruled out a return to the sport.

Vettel’s future meanwhile remains uncertain.

“What’s been happening in these past few months has led many of us to reflect on what are our real priorities in life,” said the 32-year-old Vettel.

“I myself will take the time I need to reflect on what really matters when it comes to my future.”

After the first 10 races of the coronavirus-hit 2020 campaign were either cancelled or postponed, organisers hope to start the season in Austria with back-to-back races on July 5 and 12.

## McIlroy shines as golf returns

### GOLF

PROFESSIONAL PLAY RETURNED last Sunday (May 17) in the TaylorMade Driving Relief skins match at Seminole Golf Club in Florida as world No.1 Rory McIlroy teamed up with Dustin Johnson against Rickie Fowler and Matthew Wolff.

McIlroy triumphed in a sudden-death, closest-to-the-pin competition to earn six skins and edge Wolff and Rickie Fowler, 11-7.

“I’m really happy,” said McIlroy. “It’s been awesome, and it was nice to get back on the golf course and get back to some sort of normalcy.”

“It feels good to get back out on the golf course and have a little competition,” said



Johnson and McIlroy both celebrate the win. Photo: AFP

Johnson. “I think that hopefully if everything goes well we can start the Tour here in three or four weeks. I know we’re all looking forward to getting back and playing some golf.”

The charity match, supported by UnitedHealth Group, raised more than US\$5.5 million (B176mn) for COVID-19 relief efforts.

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Back into the swing of things > p11

## PLAYING A WAITING GAME

### FOOTBALL

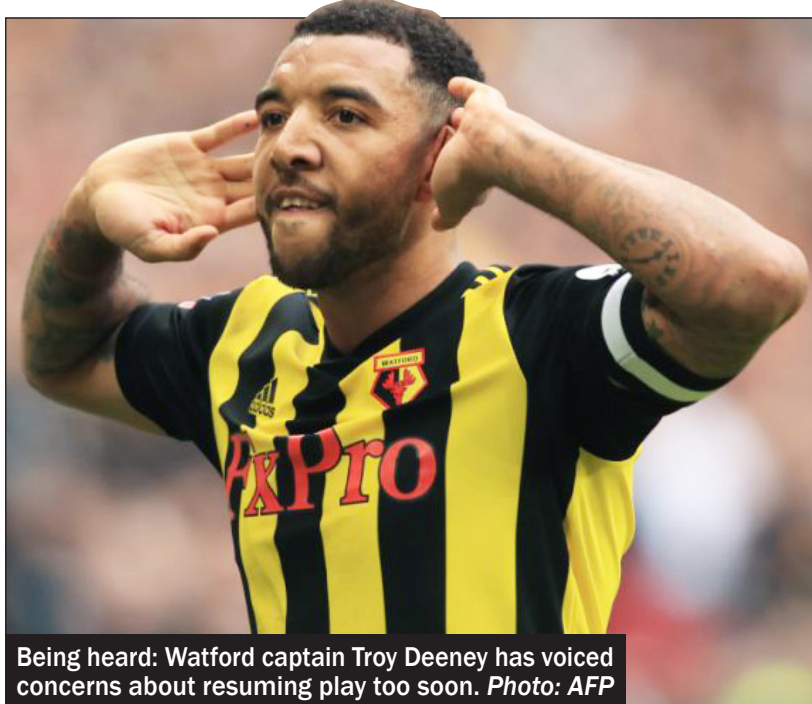
The Phuket News  
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Plans for the Premier League to resume the season on June 12 are being undermined as a heated debate between players about the risks of playing amid the coronavirus crisis continues to rumble.

Top tier clubs in the UK returned to training in small groups on Tuesday (May 19) after the latest stage of "Project Restart" was approved, enforcing strict medical protocols including sessions to last no more than 75 minutes for any single player and groups not to exceed a maximum of five players.

Players must also arrive wearing their kit and leave three parking spaces between their vehicle and any other at the training ground. There will be no access to communal areas such as canteens or physio rooms.

While Premier League chiefs believe the campaign is essential to safeguard the financial and sporting



Being heard: Watford captain Troy Deeney has voiced concerns about resuming play too soon. Photo: AFP

future of the game, some stars are not so convinced.

Watford captain Troy Deeney has been one of the most prominent in voicing his concerns against returning to the pitch too soon.

"I'm not even talking about

football at the moment. I'm talking about my family's health," Deeney said on Instagram.

"I'm not going to put my family at risk. What are they going to do, take money off me? I've been broke before so it doesn't bother me.

"They're talking about not playing in front of fans until 2021. So if it's not safe enough for fans to be inside a stadium, why should it be safe for players to be in there?"

Manchester City stars Sergio Aguero and Raheem Sterling have also raised concerns about restarting, while Newcastle's Danny Rose, on loan from Tottenham, launched a furious rant about the situation.

"Government is saying 'bring football back' because it is going to boost the nation's morale. I don't care about the nation's morale, bro, people's lives are at risk," he said.

"Football shouldn't even be spoke about coming back until the numbers have dropped massively."

The UK has been hit hard by the coronavirus with close to 35,000 deaths and almost 250,000 infections, at time of press.

### 'Looking forward to playing again'

In contrast to the concern and anger expressed by some of his peers, England captain Harry Kane has

expressed a more moderate attitude.

"I think the majority of players are looking forward to playing again as soon as possible but we know we want it to be as safe as possible too," Kane told British daytime TV show, Good Morning Britain.

"I guess everyone is different and has their own personal view."

Chelsea striker Tammy Abraham is keen to resume action but with caveats.

"To go out on the pitch is a big thing for me. But my dad is asthmatic and the last thing I need is to catch the virus myself or be in contact with anyone with the virus," Abraham told AFP.

"The Premier League and the Government have to come to a decision on whether or not it's safe enough to play again and we take it on from there. I am ready to play tomorrow if it is safe."

As the debate lingers on, football in Germany resumed last weekend as the Bundesliga returned to action in front of empty stadiums, raising hopes that the Premier League can follow suit.

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