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THIRD WAVE



A health worker sanitises a bar on Bangla Rd before the main wave of infections in the latest outbreak started to take hold. Photo: PR Patong

PHUKET DECLARED 'RED ZONE' AS BARS CLOSED, RESTRICTIONS IN FORCE FOR NEW OUTBREAK

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciw on Monday (Apr 19) ordered all people flying into Phuket to be subjected to an "Antigen Rapid Test" for COVID-19 unless they could prove they had been fully vaccinated or had a COVID-free Certificate issued within 72 hours of arriving on the island confirming

they were not infected with the virus.

The move to have all unvaccinated, untested people arriving via the airport tested for COVID-19 came as the latest measure to try to contain the spread of infections across Phuket, which as of Monday had reached 227.

The order was announced by the Phuket Communicable Disease Committee, chaired by Governor Narong, on Monday night (Apr 19), and was marked to be in effect from

Wednesday (Apr 21) to Apr 30.

Under the same order, however, people arriving in Phuket by road would be required to be tested only if they could not satisfy the requirements and were arriving from any of the other 17 'red zone' provinces declared by the Centre for COVID Situation Administration (CCSA) last Friday (Apr 16).

"Those who do not meet any of the requirements in No 1 and 2 are

required to do an 'Antigen Rapid Test' with a price of B300 and must wait for 15 minutes for the result," the official announcement said, issued late Monday night.

All arrivals to Phuket must install the MorChana app, register their travel details through the www.gophuket.com web portal, and have their arrival and travel details reported to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for the area where they are...

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Vaccine delivery allows immunity drive to resume



LIFE PAGE 8

Alessandro Fraa reveals secrets to the good life



SPORT PAGE 15

Hasta la vista, Jose! Mourinho given the boot!



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News



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Local COVID restrictions ramped up

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...staying, the announcement noted.

Those who transport goods and do not stay in Phuket overnight, and have a permission document, are exempt from the new requirement, the announcement added.

Phuket was among 18 provinces declared 'red zones' by the CCSA last Friday. The other 17 red zone provinces comprised: Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Chon Buri, Samut Prakan, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Samut Sakhon, Pathum Thani, Nakhon Pathom, Nakhon Ratchasima, Nonthaburi, Songkhla, Tak, Udon Thani, Suphan Buri, Sa Kaeo, Rayong and Khon Kaen.

In his address to the press last Friday, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha stressed that no nationwide curfew had been introduced, but said people were strongly "encouraged" to stay at home between the hours of 11pm and 4am each night.

The CCSA also issued a new national order "re-categorising" the red-zone "Maximum Controlled Area" provinces, including Phuket. The remaining 59 provinces in the country are now considered "Controlled Areas", with less stringent measures to prevent the spread



Governor Narong Woonciew at Provincial Hall on Monday (Apr 19). Photo: PR Phuket

of COVID-19.

The order came into effect last Sunday (Apr 18) and is to remain in effect until at least Apr 30.

The nationwide order mandated the closure of all entertainment venues, such as pubs and bars, throughout the country, and a full ban on restaurants selling alcohol. Consuming alcohol on the premises is also banned.

Any gatherings of more than 50 people were banned unless there is permission

from provincial officials, amusement parks and playgrounds have been ordered closed, and all in-person classes at educational institutions are now prohibited.

All shopping malls throughout the country have been ordered to close from 9pm, restaurants must close to patrons at 9pm, but are allowed to serve takeout until 11pm, all convenience stores and supermarkets must be closed from 11pm-4am, and all gyms and fitness centres

nationwide must close at 9pm.

However, red-zone provinces, including Phuket, now have even more stringent measures. Following the CCSA order issued last Friday, Governor Narong issued a revised order last Saturday, under which diving and snorkelling have been banned.

The wording in the order – that, "Diving and snorkelling are prohibited" – indicates a blanket ban, with no clarification on whether that applies to individuals using

personal diving and snorkelling equipment.

In issuing the revised order, the Phuket Communicable Disease Committee also confirmed that there will be no lockdown in Phuket due to the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic so far in affecting the economy, tourism, people's businesses and livelihoods.

Yet the revised Phuket order mandated that outdoor sport venues may remain open until 9pm but indoor sports venues, "such as gyms, fitness centers, and badminton venues" were banned from opening.

The rate of infections in Phuket and elsewhere in the country in the run-up to the Songkran holidays dealt a severe blow to what small hopes were held of revitalising at least domestic tourism during the holidays.

Phuket Tourist Association President Bhumikitti Raktaengam noted on Apr 14, just before the Songkran holidays, "From our research [by the PTA], 15% of tourists had cancelled their trip to Phuket, while 30% of tourists only postponed their trip to June or July."

"Compared with April last year, this year is much better than last year," he added, though Phuket went into a two-week "tambon lock-

down" on Apr 13 last year, under which people were not permitted to leave their subdistrict without express, urgent matters to attend to.

Phuket was the only province in the country where a "tambon lockdown" was enforced, though people on Koh Lanta were also not permitted to leave their district during their lockdown.

"Yesterday [Apr 13], I went to investigate areas on the island and found that it was quiet in the city but crowded at tourist attractions like Promthep Cape," Mr Bhumikitti said.

However, Dr Chayanon Pucharoen, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies at PSU Phuket's Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism, pointed out the drastic impact the current outbreak has had on the island's ability to generate income for the resident population.

"In the best case, we expect that B23 billion in income will be generated in April. The income can be considered as B5,162 per registered capita," he said.

"But as a result of the outbreak, we have to calculate the new number, as 45% of tourists have changed their trips. So it's only B2,800 per registered capita. The number is nearer the poverty line," he added.

Party organisers to face legal action

PROVINCIAL POLICE Region 8 Chief Lt Gen Kittirat Phanphet has confirmed that the three entertainment venues in Phuket linked to the current outbreak of COVID-19 will face legal action.

Lt Gen Kittirat publicly made the assurance on Apr 15, when he told the press that a committee chaired by Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Col Suwat Kaewphrom had been set up to follow up on the legal process and ensure all the parties involved are held to account for their part in holding three mass parties in Phuket that officials have publicly linked to "most" of the initial cases of confirmed infections on the island.

In reporting the initial spike in confirmed cases on the island, Vice Governor Piyapong Choowong on Apr



A screenshot taken from a video of one of the three parties held in Phuket. Screenshot: via Eakkapop Thongtub

7 noted that of 26 new cases, 20 were directly linked to venues where the three mass parties were held – Cafe Del Mar Phuket in Kamala, and the Shelter and Illuzion nightclubs, both in Patong.

Six of the cases were also directly linked to entertainment venues in Thong Lor, Bangkok, he added, but did not elaborate on whether any of the six Thong Lor cases were counted among the 20 cases linked to the mass

parties in Phuket.

"Most of these cases are likely to be high risk [exposure], many cases have been quarantined in local quarantine," he said.

"More people are likely to be infected. We have to make preparations to re-open Field Hospital 2 [originally set up at the Prince of Songkla University Phuket campus]," he added.

"From the current situation, some people may pan-

ic, and we have been asked what we have done about this outbreak. The PPHO Chief [Phuket Provincial Health Office Chief] has already examined the venues of the parties, which are believed to be the origin of this outbreak and questioned involving people since the first day," he said.

"Since this outbreak began, the Phuket Government has issued orders including the closure of the three entertainment venues for 14 days, Apr 8-2," V/Gov Piyapong said.

The nationwide order issued last Friday (see page 1), will now see the venues closed until at least April 30.

"The closures are to reduce the risk of infection, as you know the origin of the cluster are from this kind of place," V.Gov Piyapong said.

The Phuket News

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Mass vaccinations to resume

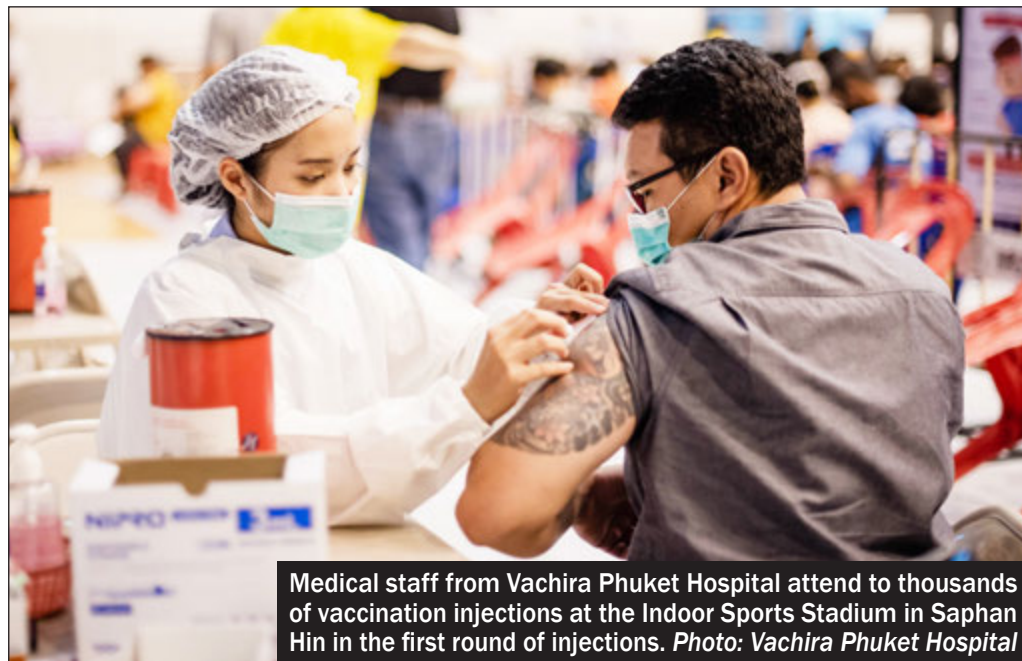
The Phuket News
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Nearly 100,000 doses of the Chinese-made Sinovac vaccine 'CoronaVac' arrived in Phuket on Monday (Apr 19) to provide the second vaccination injection for the people who received their first jab earlier this month.

In total, 99,480 vaccines were delivered, arriving at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town.

Hospital pharmaceutical staff checked that the vaccine doses' temperature remained within the correct limits (between 2-8°C) during transport, and confirmed the number of doses delivered, and the serial number and lot number of the doses, confirmed a report by the Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO)

Of the 99,480 doses of the vaccine confirmed received, 39,480 doses will remain in store at Vachira hospital, 30,000 doses will be delivered to Thalang Hospital, 20,000 doses to Patong Hospital and 10,000 doses to Chalong Hospital, Vachira hospital Director Dr Chalermpong Sukontapol explained in a video posted



Medical staff from Vachira Phuket Hospital attend to thousands of vaccination injections at the Indoor Sports Stadium in Saphan Hin in the first round of injections. Photo: Vachira Phuket Hospital

online on Monday.

The vaccine doses will be used to resume the mass-vaccination campaign, which was to restart on Thursday (Apr 22) and continue through to Apr 30, he said.

The doses will be used to provide second vaccination injections for 90,000 members of the public, as well as 9,000 medical and public health personnel and 480 police, military and frontline personnel.

The PPHO has announced a goal of providing 8,000-9,000 injections a day

The five vaccination service centres used in the initial mass-vaccination rollout will reopen to continue the campaign, located at the Indoor Sports Stadium in Saphan Hin, Angsana Laguna Phuket resort in Cherno Talay, Phuket Orchid Resort in Karon, Phuket International Airport (X-Terminal building) and Jungceylon shopping mall in Patong.

"Those who already have had the first injection will receive an SMS for an vaccination appointment on their

phones. The SMS will tell you the date and time you have to come to the vaccination stations," Dr Chalermpong said.

"For those who are waiting for vaccination in May, we will inform you later," he said.

People who have already had their first injection but who have not received an SMS confirming the second vaccination appointment can check at the "Phuket Must Win" website (click here).

"If you do not find your name, you can come to the vaccination station and present

your certificate to staff after 3pm each day, Dr Chalermpong said.

"Please come to get your second injection!" he urged.

Joining Dr Chalermpong in the video was PPHO Chief Dr Kusak Kukiattikoon and Phuket Vice Governor Piyapong Choowong.

"I want to remind you that if you are vaccinated, you still have a chance to be infected, but the symptoms will not be very bad. We still need to follow the disease control measures and keep being hygienic," Dr Kusak said.

Vice Governor Piyapong added, "This vaccination will be only for the second injection. Those who want the first injection, we will open for registration on Apr 20 [Monday]. For vaccination in May, we will not welcome walk-in people, as we want to reduce the congestion."

The arrival of the vaccines followed the Phuket office of the Ministry of Interior posting on its official COIVD-19 information Facebook page, 'Phuket Anti-COVID19', a warning of "Fake News" circulating, also announcing that the mass vaccinations will resume Apr 22-30.

However, the "Fake News" report claimed that people will be vaccinated in the same order, day for day, as they received their first injection. That has not yet been confirmed by official sources.

The "Fake News" warning instructed people to confirm their second-injection appointment through the www.ภูเก็ตต้องชนะ.com website only.

The arrival of the vaccine doses on Monday also followed Dr Chalermpong last week repeating that more vaccine doses were on their way to resume the mass-vaccination efforts in the hope of reopening the island to international tourists on July 1.

"In May, we will receive 200,000 doses of Sinovac for the second 100,000 people. In June, we will receive 200,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine for the third 100,000 people," he added.

"For now, we have about 6,000 doses in store, which will be provided to monks and those who are sensitive with chronic diseases," he noted.

"More vaccine doses will come later for us to vaccinate 70% of the people on the island," Dr Chalermpong added.

30 Chalong Police officers ordered to self-quarantine

PHUKET PROVINCIAL Police Commander Maj Gen Pornsak Nuannoo has played down concerns over 30 officers at Chalong Police Station being ordered to self-quarantine after it became known that two people now confirmed as infected with COVID-19 had visited the police station on April 10-11.

Maj Gen Pornsak on Apr 18 denied rumours that any officers at Chalong Police Station were infected with COVID-19.

The 30 officers were ordered to self-quarantine for 14 days as a precaution. They have been sent for "preliminary testing", he added.

Twelve of the officers were considered "high risk", and the remaining 18 officers were considered "low risk", Maj Gen Pornsak said.

The rumours circulating were claiming that officers at the station themselves had tested positive for COVID-19.

"These are just ru-



Maj Gen Pornsak said that officers being infected were just rumours. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

mours," he said.

Chalong Police often eat together at the Yak Yai Market across the road from the police station.

Sanong Wanich, 37, of the Mae Boom Kitchen food stall at the market, said that the officers always observed COVID-protection measures when they came to eat together.

Market owner Kannika Hempraphan, 46, assured that all COVID-protection measures were practiced at the market.

"We have temperature checking, hand washing gel available and spacing for each order. The tables are wiped clean with alcohol all the time after the customer leaves the table, and all vendors wear a mask," she said.

Ms Kannika urged people to not be dispirited during the current outbreak.

The COVID situation during the first and second waves was tolerable, but this third wave is very fast. Many people have little funds, little savings, and don't know how to get by," she said.

"Do not be discouraged. It will not last long. Most importantly, we must take care of ourselves first. The market orders everyone to be aware of themselves by wearing a mask, washing their hands with gel and keeping their distance. Everyone has to take the best care of themselves during this time," Ms Kannika added.

Eakkapop Thongtub



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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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Wind 14 m/s

SUN APR 25

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Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

MON APR 26

High: +30°
Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

TUE APR 27

High: +30°
Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

WED APR 28

High: +31°
Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

THU APR 29

High: +31°
Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

Yacht delivery stumped by pedestrian bridge

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Attempts to deliver a luxury yacht from Phuket to Surat Thani, for eventual delivery to Koh Samui, never made it off the island last week as the boat on the back of a trailer failed to make it under a pedestrian bridge.

A Thalang traffic police officer on duty on the night of Apr 14 explained to *The Phuket News* that the truck driver had issues with four pedestrian bridges in total on Thepkasattri Rd.

The officer, who asked not to be named, received his first call from the truck driver seeking assistance at about 8pm.

The boat, a Prestige 500 measuring 50 feet long, was unable to make it under the pedestrian bridge near Baan Tha Reua School on Thepkasattri Rd.

Traffic Police arrived to make sure no cars or motorbikes tried to pass the boat while the problem was being sorted out.

Then the driver had issues getting the boat safely under the pedestrian bridge near Provincial Electricity Authority Thalang branch just north



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

of the Heroines Monument.

After about half an hour, and letting some air out of the trailer tyres, the boat was safely taken under the bridge.

At 11pm, the driver arrived at Thalang Police Station in person to ask for help, as this time the boat was unable to make it safely under the pedestrian bridge in front of Baan

Lipon School in Srisoonthorn.

This time the officer asked the driver to sort the problem out himself.

"I told him to try to resolve the problem by himself first. If he really needed help, to please call us again," the officer said.

Before ending his shift, the traffic police officer went

to check on the progress in getting the boat clear, and the driver told him that he will take the boat back to Boat Lagoon Marina in Koh Kaew.

"The driver said the radar on the boat had broken during the efforts to get under the bridge," the officer said.

The Phuket News later confirmed that the boat has

been returned to Boat Lagoon.

The clearance of the pedestrian bridges is supposed to be five metres.

However, one bystander noted that repeated resurfacing of the road may have left the height clearance notices inaccurate.

Additional reporting by Eakkapop Thongtub

Pink 'Pho Thong' to go electric

THE PHUKET PROVINCIAL Administrative Organisation (PPAO) will replace its famous pink 'Pho Thong' buses, which have faithfully served the public in and around Phuket Town for more than a decade, with 24 electric buses, starting from Oct 1.

PPAO President Rawat Areerob at a meeting on Apr 17 said an auction will be held for the private sector to invest in the electric buses.

One condition is that the operator must not charge students and the elderly, he said.

The EVs will be bought to run on arranged routes, and some new routes added, it was explained at the meeting.

The plan is part of its drive to make the city more environmentally friendly, Mr Rewat added.

Unlike the blue buses seen trundling around Phuket, locally called 'songtaew' (literally 'two planks') and which have been serving the island since 1967, the 'Pho



Phuket's famous pink Pho Thong will soon be replaced with electric buses. Photo: PPAO

Thong' were launched with a fleet of only eight pink buses in September 2009 under a project by then-PPAO President Paiboon Upataising.

The fleet was later expanded with new routes added to serve the public at very cheap fares.

The Pho Thong, coloured pink as that is the official provincial colour for Phuket, remains Mr Paiboon's legacy. Mr Paiboon, at one time a Phuket Senator, passed away in 2015 after a long battle with cancer.

The Phuket News

Drug arrests net 12k meth pills, half kilo of ice

PHUKET PROVINCIAL POLICE have arrested three suspects in two raids, resulting in more than 500 grams of crystal meth (ya ice) and more than 12,300 pills methamphetamine (ya bah).

The first arrest came on Apr 7 after a tip-off, according to the official police report made available.

Anucha 'Golf' Pinnoi, 28, was arrested at 10:30pm at the ground floor of a condominium complex on Mueang Naka Rd in Wichit.

Anucha was reported to be in possession of 546.38 grams of ya ice, 508 pills of ya bah, together with 31 9mm bullets and 15 other items of evidence.

Police also searched a unit in another condominium complex on the same road and seized a motorbike and a bankbook as evidence, said the report.

Anucha was taken to Wichit Police station and charged with possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell and illegal possession of ammunition, the report confirmed.

At 8:40pm the next day (Apr

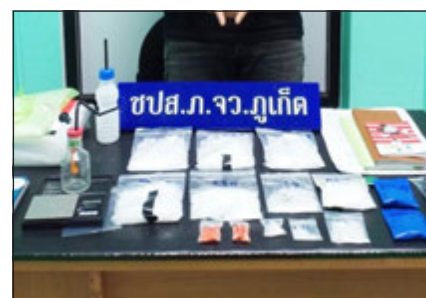


Photo: Phuket Provincial Police

8), police arrested Chalothorn 'An' Wongchiwacharoenkul, 24, and Pranit 'Kan' Phengsri, 24, at a toilet of a petrol station on Phra Phuket Kaew Rd in Kathu.

The pair were found to be in possession of 11,800 pills of ya bah and 360 grammes of kratom leaves.

Following the arrests, police searched a house in Moo 4, Kathu, and seized a pickup truck and a motorbike as items of evidence, the report added.

Chalothorn and Pranit were taken to Kathu Police Station and charged with possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell and possession of a Category 5 drug, the report noted.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Saving James Bond Island

Efforts underway to prevent iconic karst from toppling into the sea

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Efforts are underway to determine the natural erosion of the base of Koh Tapu, better known as 'James Bond Island', in Phang Nga Bay in the hope of preventing the iconic pillar of rock from toppling into the sea.

Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) Warawut Silpa-archa, who also serves as the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives, inspected the site on Apr 15 for a briefing on what action is being taken to protect the natural landmark, which has drawn countless thousands of tourists to see the towering karst, famed for its inclusion in the classic James Bond movie The Man with the Golden Gun.

Joining Mr Warawut for the update was Phang Nga Governor Chamroen Ti-payapongtada.

MNRE Director-General Sommai Techawan explained that a team had been assembled to carry out a "SAVE



Khao Tapu" mission to assess the risk of the karst collapsing.

The karst stands 31 metres tall, has a circumference of 11m and a diameter of 3.56m, he added.

Mr Sommai also explained that a "geotechnical survey" was underway, hoping to calculate the rate of erosion by use of a 3D-scan geophysical, measurements of wave

undulation, marine seismic activity, an echo sounder and hydrographic surveys.

"Once the data is obtained, the team will analyse it in order to draft conservation guidelines, which may be used to strengthen and increase the stability of the foundation without losing the scenery," Mr Sommai said.

"The use of foundation

engineering techniques will help to reduce the intensity of the waves that affect the foundation. The action [taken] will be integrated with the relevant agencies and people in the area in order to keep an eye on changes that may occur in the future," he added.

Officials became increasingly aware of the impact of marine erosion in the area after

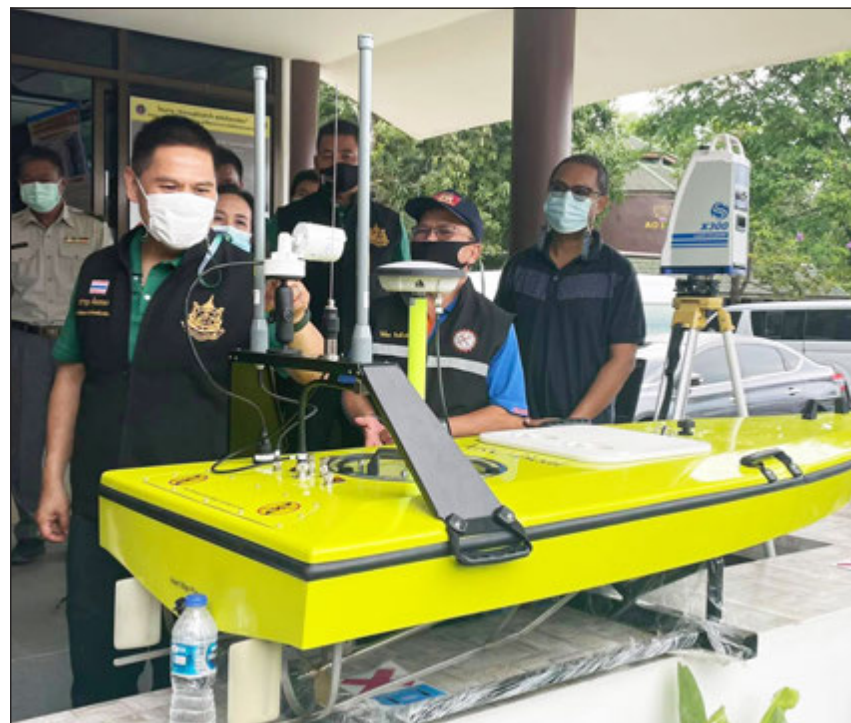
several islands "cracked" and had large sections plunge into the waters below, Mr Warawut was told.

Among the islands already well reported in the news as affected by marine erosion were the Ang Thong Islands in Surat Thani, Koh Talu in Phang Nga and Prasat Hin Phan Yot in Satun.

In October last year, a large

section of the popular sight-seeing karst officially called Koh Mae Urai, located two kilometers southwest of Koh Poda, between Phi Phi Island and the Krabi mainland, collapsed, sending some 30,000 tonnes of rock onto a popular coral reef below.

The area will remain sealed off for safety for at least two years.



Turtle nest found near Promthep Cape

OFFICERS AT THE Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) have confirmed that a nest of eggs believed to have been laid by a green sea turtle has been found on Laem Pai Beach, in Moo 6, Baan Laem Promthep, Rawai, near the southernmost point of the island.

Aroon Soros, who is waiting on official confirmation of his re-election as Mayor of Rawai, went to the beach last Sunday (Apr 18) after being informed that local resident Plernthana Chartsuk, 45, had found turtle tracks on the beach at 10pm last Saturday night.

Mr Plernthana informed an officer at Rawai Municipality who later called the PMBC to come and inspect the nest.

Officers located the nest and deemed it was in a safe location, higher than the high tide mark, and decided to leave the eggs in place.

A fence was installed around the nest and officers were assigned to protect and monitor the nest 24 hours a day.

One PMBC officer said



that the tracks in the sand indicated that the nest was laid by a green sea turtle.

The tracks measured a metre wide. The turtle that laid the eggs is believed to weigh about 60-70 kilograms, the officer said.

The PMBC officers do not know how many eggs are in the nest, as they did not move them, the officer noted.

However, he said he believed that the nest would contain about 100-120 eggs.

"I will order DDPM officers and civil defense volunteers to monitor the beach and the nest, as we believe that it is highly possible that more turtles will come to lay their eggs on

the beach," Mr Aroon said.

The finding of the nest follows the first hatchlings from the first olive ridley turtle nest known to be laid on Mai Khao Beach in 20 years hatching and being released to the sea on Apr 7.

The nest, found on Feb 19, contained 131 eggs intact and one egg that had already cracked open.

"After 47 days of waiting, the first baby turtle climbed up from the nest at about 11pm [Apr 7]. Then officers uncovered the nest to help the other hatchlings," said Prarop Plangngarn, Chief of Phuket Marine National Park Operation Center 2.

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Red zone quarantines in force

People leaving Phuket may face quarantine in other provinces

The Phuket News
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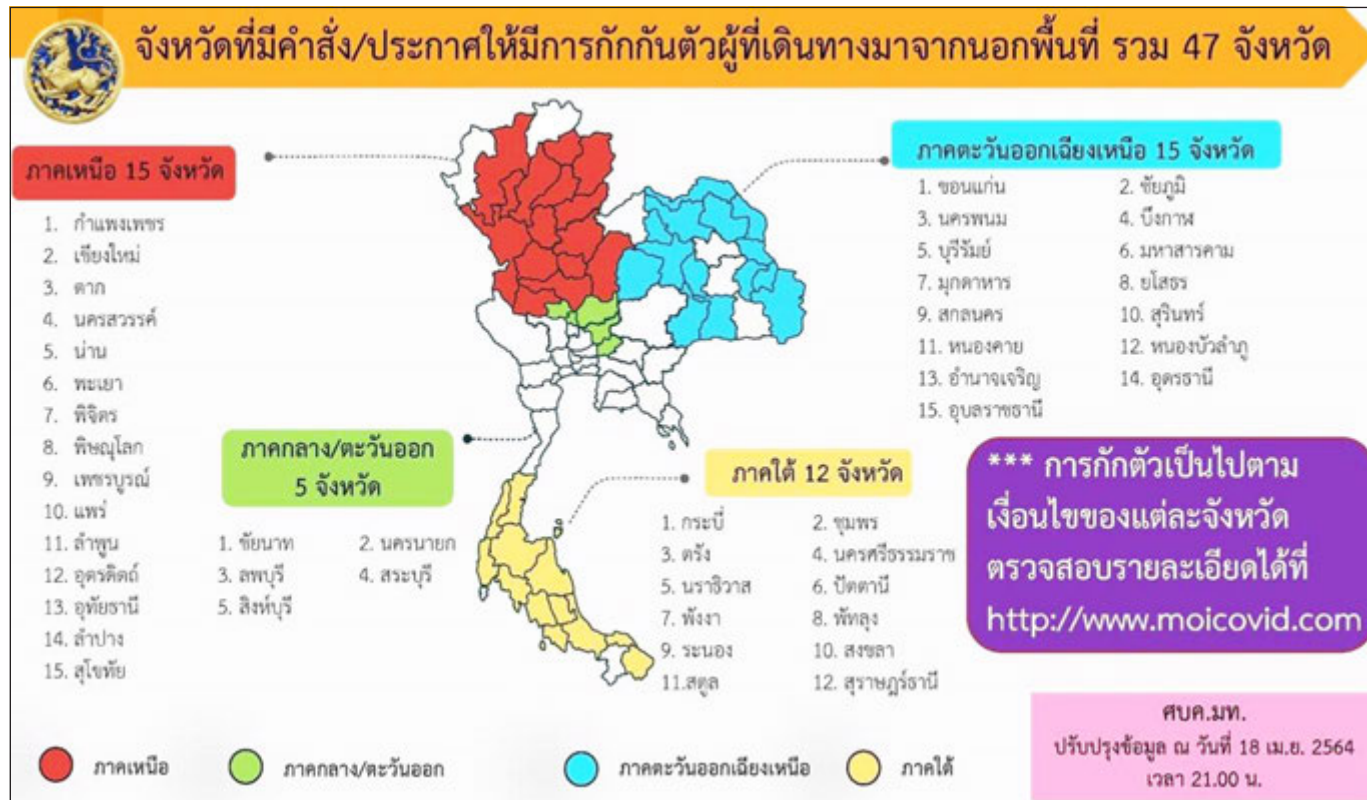
People from Phuket heading for Surat Thani or even Krabi now face quarantine on arrival now that Phuket has been classified as a 'red zone' for COVID infections amid the current outbreak.

The sterner measures for Phuket arrivals comes as the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) confirms that the number of confirmed infections on the island has climbed to 208.

The move also follows the Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) in Bangkok last Friday (Apr 16) "re-categorising" Phuket as among 18 'red zone' provinces in the country.

As such, officials in Surat Thani province, home to Koh Samui, issued an order last Saturday (Apr 17) for all arrivals from red-zone areas to face sterner requirements for entering Surat Thani province.

People from Phuket arriving in Surat Thani must now scan and register through the



In total 47 provinces so far have introduced strong measures, including mandatory quarantine, for people arriving from red-zone areas, including Phuket. Image: Ministry of Interior

"Save Surat" web portal.

All arrivals from red-zone areas will also face a mandatory 14-day quarantine on arrival, the Surat Thani provincial order noted.

Provincial officials in Krabi province, across the bay from

Phuket, on Apr 17 also issued their own provincial order for all arrivals from red-zone areas.

People arriving from Phuket must now register on the Krabi provincial web portal "QT 14".

Arrivals from red-zone areas will not face any mandatory quarantine if they can prove they tested negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours before arriving in Krabi, or if they can prove they are fully vaccinated against the virus (must prove two injections, depending on the vaccine used).

Any arrivals unable to satisfy these requirements must observe a mandatory 14-day quarantine on arrival in Krabi, the Krabi provincial order noted.

Phang Nga Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada, who years ago served as Governor of Phuket, also issued a revised order ramping up the COVID-protection measures in Phang Nga province as mandated by the CCSA on Friday.

Under the new provincial order for Phang Nga, all the forced closure of schools and entertainment venues is enforced as well as the closure of

shopping centres at 9pm and the forced operating hours of 24-hour stores from 4am to 11pm.

However, the requirements for people arriving from Phuket and other red-zone areas has not changed since the Phang Nga provincial order issued last week.

All people arriving in Phang Nga from red-zone areas including Phuket will be first risk assessed to determine whether or not they will be forced to observe a 14-day mandatory quarantine.

Of note, the order marks that the 14-day quarantine can be observed "at home". The order made no mention of where people not from Phang Nga are expected to observe a mandatory quarantine if required.

The order did note that no quarantine will be required of anyone who have been released from a quarantine within three days of arriving in Phang Nga.

People who have had their first vaccination injection at least two weeks earlier will also not be required to observe any mandatory quarantine, the order added.

Day trippers to Phang Nga are required to just follow the DMHTT COVID-protection measures, the order said.

Since the nationwide order by the CCSA to ramp up COVID-protection measures was issued on Friday, 47 provinces in the country have issued their own orders which may result in arrivals from red-zone areas having to observe a quarantine period on arrival.

However, each province has the right to implement its own measures.

People in Phuket looking to travel to any other provinces in the country are advised to confirm with official sources in the destination province of any requirements for people arriving from Phuket.

The 47 provinces so far (at the time of latest update, on Apr 18) are:

North – 15 provinces: Kamphaeng Phet, Chiang Mai, Tak, Nan, Phayao, Phetchabun, Phrae, Lamphun, Uthai Thani, Nakhon Sawan, Uttaradit, Phitsanulok, Phichit, Lampang and Sukhothai.

Northeast – 15 provinces: Khon Kaen, Chaiyaphum, Nakhon Phanom, Bueng Kan, Buriram, Maha Sarakham, Mukdahan, Yasothon, Sakon Nakhon, Surin, Nong Khai, Nong Bua Lamphu, Amnat Charoen, Udon Thani and Ubon Ratchathani.

Central – 5 provinces: Chainat, Saraburi, Singburi, Lopburi and Nakhon Nayok.

South – 12 provinces: Chumphon, Trang, Narathiwat, Pattani, Phang Nga, Songkhla, Satun, Ranong, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Krabi, Surat Thani and Phatthalung.

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Home isolation plan aimed to free up beds

Bangkok Post

The Public Health Ministry has reacted to the spike in COVID-19 infections by drawing up a plan to allow patients with less serious symptoms to self-quarantine at home to save hospital beds for the most serious cases.

Under the home isolation plan unveiled last Monday (Apr 19), hospitals may consider allowing COVID-19 patients with no symptoms to recover at home, albeit with a number of conditions.

Hospitals will be required to follow a set of criteria when considering COVID-19 patients to self-quarantine – it is only recommended if the patients do not develop other symptoms and they would be required to self-quarantine for a full month.

The contingency plan is in response to growing concerns that hospital beds are filling up fast in the current third wave of the pandemic, and that swift action must be taken in case the situation worsens.

The Public Health Min-



Even though the home isolation system is under consideration, it is not yet necessary because about 3,000 beds are still available. Photo: Pornprom Satrabhaya

istry was quick to point out on Monday that even though the home isolation system was under consideration, it is not yet necessary because about 3,000 beds were still available.

Department of Medical Services (DMS) director-general Somsak Akksilp said fears over the current situation related more to long waits for hospital beds rather than a shortage of beds and said coordinated efforts were already being made to address the issue.

Dr Somsak said hospitali-

sation was still compulsory for all COVID-19 patients but that mild and asymptomatic cases, known as “Green” cases, could be sent to field hospitals and so-called “hospitals”.

“We’re making preparations for the home isolation programme but it is not yet implemented,” he said.

He said all hospitals under the ministry’s supervision were being instructed to set aside ICU beds as more severe cases were anticipated this week.

The DMS is working close-

ly with medical schools in the management of ICU beds.

“We have a total of 9,317 beds, an increase from 6,000-7,000 beds. About 3,000 beds are still available,” he said.

Under the home isolation plan, COVID-19 patients must be asymptomatic, under 40 years old and not be categorised as obese and/or have other underlying health problems, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic kidney disease, coronary artery disease, stroke, or other diseases doctors rule as unsafe for self-care at home. They must also provide consent to home isolation and, if they live in condominium units or dormitories, the building supervisors must also grant permission.

Hospitals would be required to check on those patients on a regular basis for 14 days and hospitalise them if their symptoms deteriorate. Move Forward Party MP Wayo Asvarungruang expressed his support for the home isolation plan, but called on the government to do more to educate the public about it.



Photo: AFP

AstraZeneca vaccine approved despite fears

THE ASTRAZENECA vaccine will be the mainstay for the state’s COVID-19 vaccination programme, Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul confirmed last Thursday (Apr 15).

“There are many factors for each country whether to use or not use the vaccine,” Mr Anutin said. “But we have expertise to closely monitor the vaccine information.”

“We base decisions on scientific knowledge, not news. If something happens, we will let the public know. Please do not worry about it.”

Thailand has relied on using 71 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine and two million doses of CoronaVac developed by China-based Sinovac Biotech to inoculate about 35 million people or 50% of the population.

The ministry will start the COVID-19 jab rollout this June and aims to have 50% of

the population immunised by the end of this year.

However, the authority is struggling to deal with trust and fear following unfavourable news about the risk of blood clots. Last week Denmark became the first country to stop using the AstraZeneca vaccine, as European officials investigate dozens of reports of very rare blood clots combined with low platelet counts that have arisen in the bloc, as well as in Britain. The WHO along with Britain and the European Medicines Agency continues to recommend AstraZeneca’s shot on the grounds that its benefits outweigh any risks.

At time of press, two people – one a senior monk with chronic heart disease and a 41-year-old man also with coronary problems – died after getting shots. The ministry ruled out any link to the vaccines. *Bangkok Post*

Close to 300 road deaths over Songkran

A TOTAL OF 277 PEOPLE were killed and 2,357 injured in almost 2,400 road accidents over this year’s Songkran holiday period, with drink-driving involved in over a third of crashes reported this year, traffic officials said last Saturday (Apr 17).

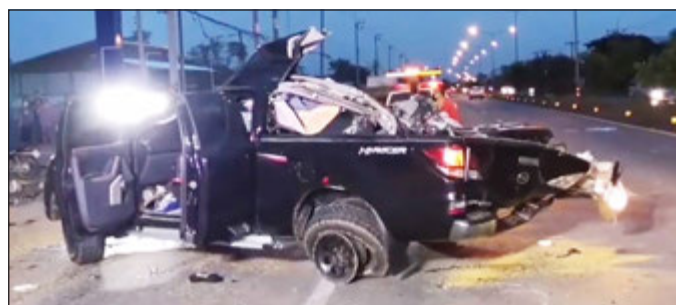
Deputy permanent secretary for the interior and chairman of the road accident prevention sub-committee, Asnit Samphantharat, said the figures represent accidents reported between April 10-16, when authorities stepped up its road safety campaign in light of the anticipated surge in holiday traffic across the country.

On Friday, 26 people died and 255 others injured in 253 accidents. Speeding was the leading cause of accidents that day, followed by drink-driving, he said, before adding 83% of Friday’s crashes involved motorcycles.

Over the seven-day period, Nakhon Sri Thammarat saw the highest number of accidents with 106, followed by Chiang Mai (77) and Songkhla (69).

Pathum Thani had the highest number of fatalities at 10, followed by Bangkok (9) and Chiang Mai (9).

Drink-driving was cited



The wreckage of a pickup truck hit by a lorry from the opposite lane in Ubon Ratchathani last Friday which killed a nine-year-old girl and her father. Photo: Bangkok Post

as the cause of 36.6% of all accidents over the holiday period, followed by speeding (28.3%) and cutting lanes (17.8%). Motorcycles were involved in 79.2% of the accidents, followed by pickup trucks.

Most of the accidents occurred on highways (39.5%), followed by tambon or village roads (36%). Meanwhile, the majority of the accidents took place between 4pm and 8pm (29%) and from 12pm to 4pm (21.1%).

The largest proportion of victims were aged 15-19 (15.3%), followed by those aged 30-39 (14.4%).

Authorities stopped 2.4 million vehicles during the period, mainly motorcycles (2.3 million). Almost half a million motorists, or 459,644, faced charges

ranging from failing to wear helmets, not having a valid driver’s licence and failing to fasten seat belts.

Phuket concluded the seven days of danger campaign with one death and 21 injuries recorded.

Meanwhile, Suriyan Hongvilai, spokesman of the Office of the Judiciary, said a total of 12,664 traffic offences were brought before court between April 10-16, 12,627 of which were settled in courts.

Of the total, 12,213 cases involved drink-driving, followed by driving without a licence (816), driving under the influence of narcotics (40) and reckless driving (34).

The number of accidents over the Songkran holiday was higher than during the New Year’s holiday by 3,212 cases. *Bangkok Post*

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A Meal with... the Chef of Longevity



A MEAL WITH...

Baz Daniel
baz_gunner2000@yahoo.com

Living in Phuket is a veritable guru of longevity, someone who can tell us a lot about how to live a long and healthy life. Alessandro Frau is the owner and Executive Chef of the fabulous Acqua restaurant. Acqua is one of the most award-winning restaurants in Thailand and Alessandro is also the winner of Thailand's coveted Iron Chef Award, not to mention a sack-full of other top culinary gongs. He also hails from the fabled Mediterranean island of Sardinia, which contains one of the world's 'Blue Zones', where inhabitants live on average to a much older age than the rest of us, while also tending to stay healthier and happier as they ascended the towering peaks of age.

The research on the 'Blue Zone' inhabitants' ability to achieve healthy, happy ageing shows that there's a lot more to it than merely eating the right fodder. Abundant movement and walking, sunshine and clean fresh-air, spending time outdoors, plant-based diets with limited calorific intake, occupational passion, tending not to retire, lack of stress and smoking, extended social groups and families... all correlate with good health and longevity.

Meeting Alessandro again recently at Acqua, I was immediately struck by how he exemplifies many of the characteristics of healthy living. He works passionately with his great team designing and running his restaurants (he is currently opening a new one in Bangkok), yet still finds time to work out several times every week. He's sociable and friendly, yet extremely knowledgeable and passionate about his chosen career and is also well known as a teacher.



Alessandro Frau.

I started by asking Alessandro how we can keep our calorific intake in check when dining in such tempting citadels of fine dining as Acqua. "The key is to eat limited amounts of the finest produce and ingredients, prepared to perfection. It's all about quality not quantity! We offer a wide range of creations focused on a very healthy selection of ingredients, both local and international, as certain places are best for their specialties and seasons. For example, Sicilian red prawns, Puglian burrata cheese, Sardinian sea urchins, the best French oysters and American lobster, and the best seafood from the Andaman.

Fresh from attaining his diploma in tourism management in Italy, Alessandro's culinary journey encompassed many stellar locations from the

famed Grosvenor House Hotel in London, to Mexico, to Sweden, Finland and Paris, before arriving in Phuket in 2004.

Aged just 28, Alessandro was appointed Executive Chef at the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket, overseeing the running of 12 outlets and 130 Chefs. He says, "This was a wonderful learning experience, but I missed the passionate creativity of being a hands-on chef in my own kitchen, so decided to create my own restaurant using my experience from around the world to manifest my vision of the perfect culinary experience. And so, Acqua was born."

I asked Alessandro about the influence his Sardinian roots play in his culinary philosophy. "My vision for Acqua was always based on authentic influences derived from the tradition and culture of Italy and Sardinia, which I continue to refine using the latest cooking techniques and ingredients, presented in an artistic, modern manner."

In writing about the ageing benefits of Sardinian cuisine, I'd be remiss if I didn't ask about the benefits of drinking a certain red, grape-based, beverage.

"Ah, the greatest anti-ageing secret of all," said Alessandro with a smile as he poured me a glass. "In particular you must try this local Cannonau di Sardinia beverage, made from Grenache grapes, which grow especially thick-skinned on the island. Cannonau has the highest levels of polyphenols of any wine... antioxidants which are linked to heart health and protection from cardiovascular disease. You don't have to go overboard on Cannonau though, as the locals drink on average just two glasses a day."

As I departed from my evening with Phuket's world-famous Chef of Longevity, I felt at least 10 years younger. Whether this was the result of the great food, the terrific company, or the Cannonau beverage, it's difficult to say, but if you want to achieve the same anti-ageing effect, I urge you to get over to Acqua at your first opportunity and find out for yourself.



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It's a 'Seaspiracy'



SUSTAINABLY YOURS

Palmer Owyong

On March 24, the documentary Seaspiracy dropped on Netflix. The film details the environmental devastation caused by the seafood industry and the human rights abuses in Thailand, the third-largest exporter of fish in the world.

The two major claims that the film makes are that the Dolphin-Safe Tuna and Sustainable Seafood labels are fraudulent and created by corporations to manipulate consumers into continuing to purchase their products.

CRITICISMS

Critics paint the film as a one-sided portrayal of the fishing industry that creates a false narrative. For example, the Marine Steward Council (MSC), a non-profit profiled in the documentary, claims that the assertion the film-maker makes about there being no such thing as sustainable fishing is wrong. A statement released by the MSC said, "Research shows that fish stocks that are well-managed and sustainable, are also more productive in the long-term." However, the statement neglected to cite the research they were referencing.

The National Fisheries Institution (NFI) criticizes the film for using a 2006 study that incorrectly claimed that the oceans will be empty by 2048. Its author, marine ecologist Boris Worm, debunked this claim. He followed it up with a study in 2009 which concluded that properly managed fisheries can recover, and cited several places including parts of the US, Iceland and New Zealand as improving. Nevertheless, Worm cautioned, "Across all regions, we are still seeing a troubling trend of increasing stock collapse. But this paper shows that our oceans are not a lost cause."

One thing not addressed is the attempt in recent years to make the supply chain more sustainable by the Seafood Task Force. This organisation consists of businesses, NGOs and government representatives, and was founded in 2014 to deal with the illegal fishing and labor practices being prac-

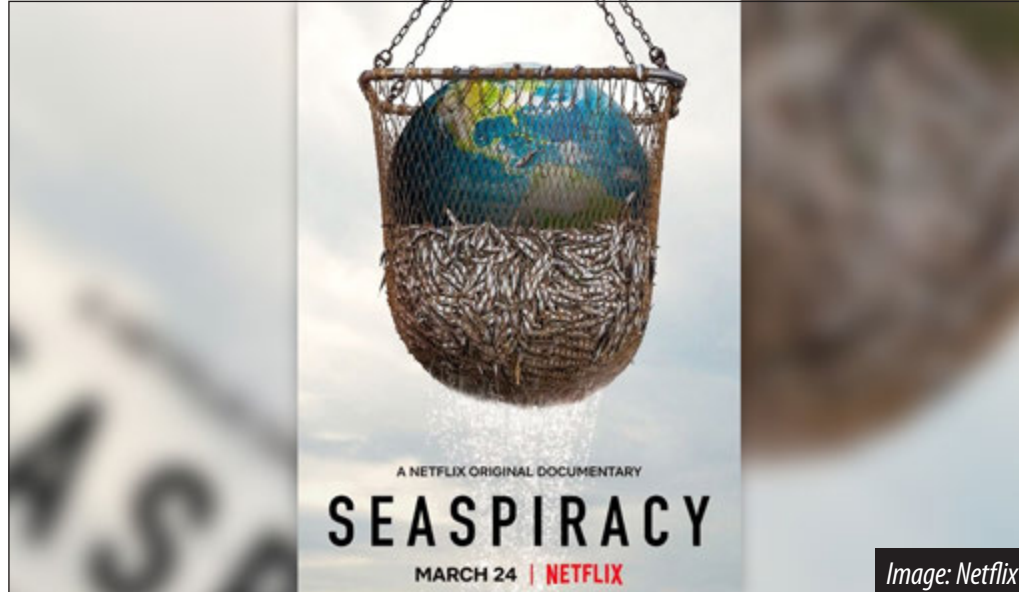


Image: Netflix

ticed in Thailand, although it has since spread to Indonesia and Vietnam. Its stated mission is to provide oversight to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities that are harming the marine ecosystem or taking part in human rights abuses.

The question is, how effective have they been? According to a report by Singapore's Channel News Asia, the new regulations are ineffective and the owners of the fishing vessels have just found ways around them. Given that as of 2018 there are almost 39,000 fishing vessels in Thai waters, it's not surprising as it would be nearly impossible to monitor them all.

The film was also critical of fish farming, which is where almost half of the world's fish comes from. The film claims that the salmon industry in Scotland produces as much organic waste as the entire human population of the nation. This creates a breeding ground for diseases including sea lice and chlamydia and often leads to the death of up to 50% of the fish.

Supporters argue that when farmers are trained properly, the practice can be a healthy and valuable source of fish. But how do you know whether the person who farmed your fish was properly trained or not?

One of the most embarrassing moments of the film came when Mark Palmer, the associate director of the International Marine Mammal Project (IMMP), the organisation responsible for the Dolphin-Safe Tuna label

sheepishly admitted that they can't guarantee dolphins or other marine mammals aren't being harmed.

David Phillips, the director of the IMMP fired back in a statement, "The Dolphin-Safe tuna program is responsible for the largest decline in dolphin deaths by tuna fishing vessels in history. Dolphin-kill levels have been reduced by more than 95%, preventing the indiscriminate slaughter of more than 100,000 dolphins every year."

However, a 2014 study by the National Resource Defense Council concluded that there are about 650,000

marine mammals killed or seriously injured every year because of industrial fishing practices. This includes dolphins, whales, porpoises and seals. According to the World Wildlife Fund, it is the single greatest threat to cetaceans there is. As Ali Tabrizi, the Seaspiracy filmmaker, puts it: "If dolphins and whales die, the ocean dies. If the oceans die, so do we."

A 2020 study published by James Cook University noted that the vast majority of the cetacean bycatch are dolphins and estimated that around 80,000 per year are caught in gill nets. The study notes that the number of dolphins in the Indian Ocean has declined by 87% from their numbers before 1980.

Dolphin-Safe Tuna was implemented in the early 1990s, so it begs the question, if the program is so effective why are there still so many dolphins and other marine mammals dying every year?

While the film may have its faults, it is nevertheless a damning indictment against the fishing industry that brings up pressing environmental and social issues. In Part 2 of this article, we'll look at 15 reasons you should give up or reduce your consumption of seafood.

Palmer Owyong is an environmental activist working with the Kamala Green Club and the Global Sustainability Hub.

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POP QUIZ

1. What does the acronym NASA stand for?
2. Classic novel 'Little Women' was first published in which year?
3. Which English architect is best known for rebuilding the Houses of Parliament?
4. Which Asian city, with a population of more than 27 million, is the most populous city proper (living within city limits) in the world?
5. To help with stage-shyness who invented the alter-ego Sasha Fierce?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

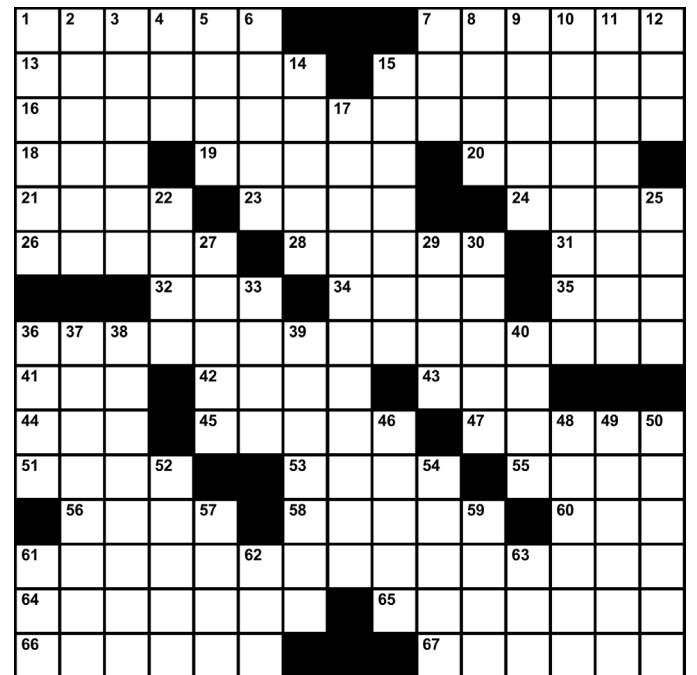
1. Shoreline protector
7. Flipper's constellation?
13. Long Island ____
15. Noble head topper
16. Piquant parade
18. Congratulations, of a sort
19. Money substitute
20. Bristle
21. Direction (var.)
23. Jackman or Grant
24. Japanese icebreaker
26. Military scouting
28. Author, White Feather
31. Back talk
32. "____ Ng" (They Might Be Giants song)
34. Italian monks
35. Sitting pols
36. Piquant parade
41. "____ di Stasio," French film
42. Thickness measures
43. "Fantasy Island" prop
44. Short order, for short

Down

1. ____ Tower
47. Not just trim
51. Exec
53. "Your majesty"
55. Take orders
56. "Oh, my aching head!" e.g.
58. Drenched
60. Wiehl of FOX News
61. Piquant parade
64. Changing of lean to elan, e.g.
65. Cyber user
66. Strain
67. Go-getters
1. ____ Roo
2. Cooling-off period
3. Ulcer type
4. Certain computer file
5. Rash goddesses
6. Roost
7. DeLuise
8. Assayers' stuff
9. Derby prize
10. Turkey part
11. Putting off
12. His "4" was retired
14. Myst character

15. Encodes

17. Haute couture
22. Heroin, slangily
25. Cathedral recess
27. Colon cleaner
29. ____ Europe
30. Man and Casino
33. Brightly colored seed cover
36. Tittle-tattles
37. Shed light on
38. ____ Review
39. TV series, 1991-95
40. Weapon storer
46. About 1% of the atmosphere
48. On fire
49. Certain angler
50. Green teas
52. It takes two to do it....
54. "Snowy" bird
57. Novelist Jones
59. Legendary Tibetan
61. Video maker, for short
62. He played a robot on TV
63. Pronged spear



Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) National Aeronautics and Space Administration; 2) 1868; 3) Sir Charles Barry; 4) Shanghai; 5) Beyonce

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

drop of human blood travels 60,000 miles through the body every day.

24

years ago Ethan Zuckerman created pop-up ads. In 2014, he issued an apology for creating the 'internet's original sin'.

350

calories per day can be burned by simply maintaining good posture

4,743

serial killers worldwide were identified by the FBI as active between 1900 and 2016; 3,204 of them were from the US.

599 million

US dollars was the net worth of Wall Street trader and convicted sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein at the time of his arrest in July 2019.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Patong Beach. Photo: Chris Holy

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

This week in history

April 23, 1885

Coca-Cola changes its formula and releases a new brand "New Coke". The response is overwhelmingly negative, and the original formula is back on the market in less than three months.

April 24, 1993

A bomb planted and detonated by the IRA devastates the Bishopsgate area of central London.

April 25, 1916

Anzac Day is commemorated

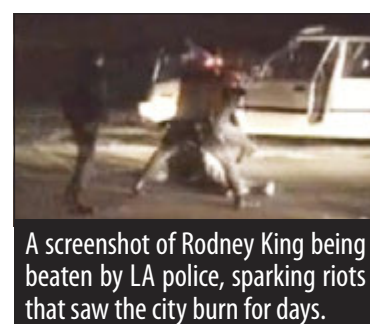
for the first time on the first anniversary of the landing at ANZAC Cove.

April 26, 1564

Playwright William Shakespeare is baptised in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England. His actual date of actual birth remains unknown.

April 27, 1667

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



A screenshot of Rodney King being beaten by LA police, sparking riots that saw the city burn for days.

April 28, 1986

High levels of radiation resulting from the Chernobyl disaster are detected at a nuclear power plant in Swe-

den, leading Soviet authorities to publicly announce the accident. In response to international reports, the city is evacuated six days later.

April 29, 1992

Riots in Los Angeles follow the acquittal of police officers charged with excessive force in the beating of Rodney King. Over the next three days 63 people are killed and hundreds of buildings are destroyed.

Source: Wikipedia

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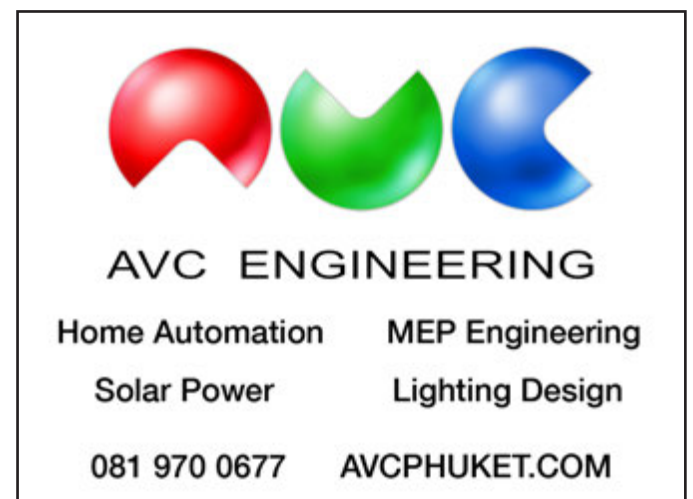
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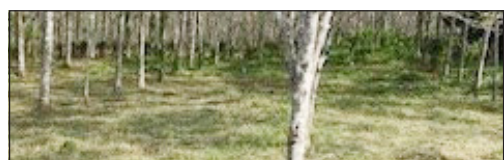
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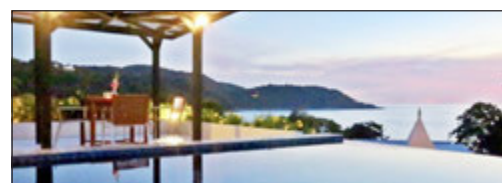
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Max wins as Hamilton spins

Incident-packed race sees victory tally levelled at one apiece

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

Max Verstappen survived deluge and debris at Imola last Sunday (Apr 18) to claim his first win of the season in his championship battle with Lewis Hamilton.

Verstappen snatched the lead from pole-getter Hamilton at the first braking zone, muscling the championship leader wide and over the kerbs, breaking part of his front wing.

Hamilton didn't have much time to respond. A pre-race downpour had soaked the track and was creating chaos further down the field, and Nicholas Latifi collided with Haas rookie Nikita Mazepin to send himself into the barriers.

The safety car was called, but the track remained treacherous. Sergio Perez found his way out onto the gravel and picked up a penalty for overtaking cars while the race was neutralised, and Mick Schumacher spun into the wall while just trying to warm his tyres.

The race resumed on lap



Race winner Max Verstappen battles the wet conditions on his way to victory at Imola last Sunday (Apr 18). Photo: AFP

seven, and Verstappen wasted little time stretching his legs, growing his advantage to more than five seconds after only a couple of laps, but as the circuit dried and the grooved wet-weather tyres lost their tread it was Hamilton who came to the fore, and from lap 20 he began reeling in the Dutchman in anticipation of the pit stop window.

Red Bull Racing, having been mugged for victory in Bahrain through complacency at the pits stops, wasted no time bringing Verstappen in for slick tyres. Hamilton ran

another lap with strong pace, but a slow pit stop undid the strategy and spat him back into the race still behind the Dutchman.

Worse, in his haste to challenge for the lead Hamilton locked up his dry-weather tyres on a patch of wet asphalt and slid through some gravel and into the wall. By the time he eased himself out of the barrier and back to the pits he'd dropped to ninth.

Mercedes' bad luck hadn't expired yet. Further down the field Valtteri Bottas was battling to retain ninth from

Williams driver George Russell when they came together in a ferocious 330-kilometre-per-hour crash.

The young Briton, tipped to take the Finn's seat next season, had slipstreamed the Mercedes through turn one and was moving around his outside to execute a pass when he felt Bottas jinked to the right to cut him off. He instinctively moved left and onto the painted white line, where his car lost traction and careered into his rival at speed. The two wrecks then sped through the gravel trap

and into the barriers.

Each blamed the other, and Russell even charged over to Bottas, who was still strapped in his cockpit, to ask if "he was trying to kill us both", to which he received a flip of the middle finger.

The post-race cooling of tensions did little to change opinions.

ONE-POINT LEAD

The race was suspended to clear the debris, after which Verstappen was free to control the restart without a competitive rival to pressure him,

freeing him to gallop to a comfortable 22-second win.

But while Verstappen was serene in the lead the battle for the podium raged until the end.

McLaren's Lando Norris got the jump on Ferrari's Charles Leclerc at the restart, but both would ultimately be passed by Hamilton at the end of a mammoth recovery drive that took him from ninth to second in a final 30-lap dash on a single set of tyres.

The Briton also took a bonus point for fastest lap late in the grand prix, ensuring he maintains a one-point lead in the drivers championship.

Norris clung on for third despite running on the delicate soft tyre for the last 30 laps.

Ferrari teammates Leclerc and Carlos Sainz showed strongly for fourth and fifth ahead of McLaren's Daniel Ricciardo, who defended hard against Aston Martin's Lance Stroll and AlphaTauri's Pierre Gasly in the last phase of the race.

Kimi Raikkonen finished ninth for Alfa Romeo ahead of Alpine's Esteban Ocon with the final point of the grand prix.

Cows clip Penguins' wings in one-sided game

CRICKET

SAMI PIR'S 77 RUNS OFF 58 balls for the Thalang Cows helped his side to a relatively easy win at the ACG last Sunday (Apr 18) against the Patong Penguins.

It was a game that may well have seen a different outcome but with Penguin batsmen struggling and several dropped catches added into the mix, success was always going to be a struggle.

Penguins captain, Michael Flowers, opened the batting with partner Seemant Raju, looking to push the run rate from the outset.

However, Raju's (8) drive at a short delivery from Guddu in the fourth over deflected low towards the gloves of Jeremy Bootsy, who claimed the catch.

Bootsy then caught James Chattaway, followed moments later by Justin Swart who top edged his first ball from Bhanu Pratap for the bowler

to also claim the catch.

The Penguins' top four batsmen found themselves spectators by the start of the 11th over with a score of 60 for 4 after Bootsy caught James Chattaway, Bhanu Pratap caught and bowled Justin Swart and Joe Ninan caught Flowers.

A 30-run partnership from Curt Livermore and Mayur Deuskar during the next five overs offered encouragement, but a stunning reflex catch from Michael Thomas at close

range curtailed Livermore's progression.

Sajal Gaur joined Deuskar to add 40 valuable runs, with the latter claiming his half-century before falling to a Sameer Khan delivery in the 26th over with the score on 156 for 7.

Gaur (23 not out) and Shilash Sharma (6 not out) were able to see out the remaining overs, eventually presenting the Cows with a total of 180 to win from 30 overs.

In response, the Cows opted for a dynamic opening duo of Bootsy and Sami Pir with both taking little time to enter attack mode.

By the 4th over Bootsy had claimed 18 runs before falling to Swart's trap at backward point, being caught by Deuskar.

With Pir and Paul Evans partnering for 87 runs, a quite unbelievable catch again by Deuskar in the 15th over ended Evans' innings as he blasted a Livermore delivery only to find Deuskar sprinting along the long on boundary, and somehow managing to hang on to the ball with an outstretched hand.



Sameer Khan in action for Thalang Cows en route to victory against Patong Penguins at the ACG last Sunday. Photo: Michael Way

With the score on 119 for 2, Ninan accompanied Pir for a further five overs, during which Pir (77) claimed his half-century. Gaur was to end Pir's party in the 20th over as the game edged to its inevitable conclusion, the Cows needing only 19 more runs by the time Ninan departed in 22nd over.

Pratap and Khan finally

put the game to rest in the 26th over, with a relatively comfortable win for the Cows.

The game's MVP went to Pir for his 77 runs, with mentions to Khan for his 2 for 18 off 6 overs.

Anyone interested in playing cricket here in Phuket, please contact via the ACG Facebook page.

Neil Quail

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Spurs sack Mourinho, blunt Blades relegated

FOOTBALL

Ben Tirebuck

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Jose Mourinho was sacked as Tottenham Hotspur manager last Monday (Apr 19) as Sheffield United's miserable season also came to an effective end as they were finally relegated from the Premier League.

Mourinho's dismissal came on the same day that Spurs announced they were one of 12 clubs forming a breakaway European Super League and only six days before they are to face Manchester City in the final of the Carabao Cup at Wembley.

"Jose is a true professional who showed enormous resilience during the pandemic," said Spurs chairman Daniel Levy. "On a personal level I have enjoyed working with him and regret that things have not worked out as we both had envisaged."

He leaves after 17 months in charge with the club seventh in the league.

On Saturday (Apr 17),



Jose Mourinho has been sacked after 17-months in charge at Tottenham Hotspur. Photo: AFP

Sheffield United's 0-1 loss to Wolves, coupled with Newcastle United's win against West Ham earlier in the day, resigned the Blades to relegation from the top flight.

After last season's heroics saw them finish in a highly respectable ninth place finish, confounding everyone who had tipped the newly-promoted team to struggle, this season has been the complete opposite from the outset.

Much heralded manager Chris Wilder's departure from the club last month symbolised the decline, and the inevitable was then more than just writing on the wall.

Going into Saturday evening's game against Wolves, they knew they had to win yet were unable to do so despite their opponents patchy form of late.

With six games remaining, the Blades have suffered the joint-earliest relegation in Premier League history, alongside Ipswich Town (1994-95), Derby County (2007-08) and Huddersfield Town (2018-19).

They now face a rebuild in the Championship with the club in crisis on and off the field after Saudi chairman Prince Musaad Bin Khalid Al Saud confirmed his resignation after the match due to personal reasons.

Newcastle took a huge step towards safety after substitute Joe Willock's late winner capped a thrilling 3-2 win against West Ham.

It was a major blow for the Claret's top-four aspirations particularly after they looked set to scrape a draw after coming back from two goals down. West Ham played two-thirds of the contest with only 10 men after Craig Dawson's red card, the first of his 345-game career in English football.

The result propelled Steve Bruce's side into 15th place, eight points above Fulham who occupy the final relegation spot after conceding a 97th-minute equaliser against Arsenal in their 1-1 draw on Sunday.

"We were so close today, so it's been painful," a dejected Fulham manager Scott Parker said post-match.

Elsewhere, Manchester United beat Burnley 3-1 thanks to a Mason Greenwood brace, Spurs and Everton played out a pulsating 2-2 draw and Leeds drew 1-1 with Liverpool.

Leicester, Chelsea reach FA Cup Final

FOOTBALL

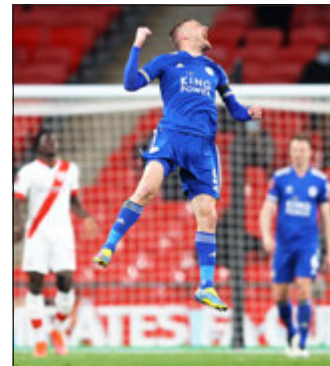
LEICESTER REACHED the FA Cup final for the first time in 52 years as Kelechi Iheanacho's solitary goal earned a 1-0 win over Southampton in front of 4,000 fans at Wembley last Sunday (Apr 18). They will face Chelsea who defeated Manchester City 1-0 on Saturday thanks to a Hakim Ziyech goal.

The biggest crowd for a football match in England for 13 months was made up of key workers and local residents as part of a test event for the return of fans in bigger numbers in the coming weeks; the final itself on May 15 is expected to see 21,000 in attendance.

Leicester were the better side throughout, and the breakthrough came 10 minutes into the second half as Vardy's pace left Jan Bednarek trailing in this wake.

From Vardy's cross, Iheanacho fluffed his first effort, but the ball broke kindly back to him to slot home his 12th goal in as many games.

"We have the chance to create history," said Leices-



Leicester's Jamie Vardy celebrates as his team progress to the FA Cup Final. Photo: AFP

ter boss Brendan Rodgers post-match. "That is what this game is about, creating a memory."

On Saturday, Chelsea ended Manchester City's quest for a historic quadruple of trophies as Hakim Ziyech's goal earned a 1-0 win.

Chelsea were good value for another impressive win under Thomas Tuchel and will be favourites for the German's first silverware in English football when they face Leicester on May 15.

"It was a very strong performance. I'm very happy and proud," said Tuchel, who has lost just twice in 19 games since replacing Frank Lampard in January. AFP

Breakaway Euro league faces backlash

FOOTBALL

Continued from page 16

The breakaway league is being backed by US investment bank JP Morgan, who confirmed that it was "financing the deal".

The founding clubs will share 3.5 billion euros (approximately B125bn) for infrastructure investment and to offset pandemic costs, and are expected to receive a further 10bn euros in "solidarity payments" over the life of the initial commitment – much more than in the current Champions League.

Under the plan, two groups of 10 will play each other home and away, with the top three qualifying for the quarter-finals. The fourth and fifth-placed teams would play off for the two remaining spots.

Then the competition would adopt the same two-leg knock-out format currently used in the Champions League before a single-leg final in May. Games would take place midweek, allowing clubs in theory to continue participating in domestic leagues.

FURIOUS FEEDBACK

The reaction from fans and



UEFA chief Aleksander Ceferin. Photo: AFP

pundits across Europe has been furious.

"It's the death of football... Football is based on the concept of competitive balance, sporting competition and qualifying on merit," said Tim Payton, head of the Arsenal Supporters Trust.

Supporters from all the English-based teams involved protested angrily outside their respective grounds on Monday.

"One thing I understand and that people think is not right is the competitiveness," said Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, who confirmed he was not consulted on the proposals. World governing body FIFA expressed its "disapproval" and called on all parties "to engage in calm, constructive and balanced dialogue".

The Premier League, the richest in Europe, issued a furious statement to say "the concept of a European Super League would destroy" the

dream that any team could "climb to the top and play against the best".

The powerful European Club Association said it "strongly opposes" the plans after its own chairman, Juventus supremo Andrea Agnelli, stepped down.

Having been heavily involved in negotiations with UEFA over a new Champions League format, Agnelli came in for stinging criticism from Ceferin.

"I've never seen a person that would lie so many times, so persistently as he did. It's unbelievable," Ceferin said.

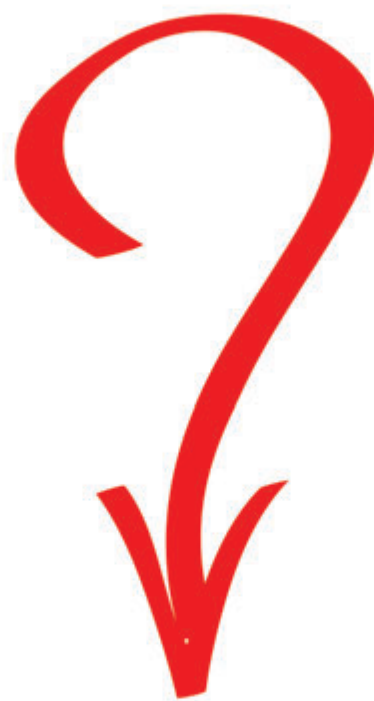
German giants Bayern Munich distanced themselves from the project, with chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge saying: "We are convinced that the current structure in football guarantees a reliable foundation."

But Real Madrid chief Florentino Perez, who was announced as the first Super League president, said the breakaway reflected the big clubs' wishes.

"Football is the only global sport in the world with more than four billion fans and our responsibility as big clubs is to respond to their desires," he said. AFP



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Sport



Verstappen wins Imola thriller > p14



Sea Eagles Golf Academy players Pasoot (I.T) Luengcharoenwatana, Namo Luangnitikul, and Louise Landgraf have qualified for the IMG Junior World Golf Championships due to take place at Torrey Pines, San Diego from July 12-16. Photo: BISP Media

YOUNG TRIO SWING BIG

GOLF

Lee Blake, BISP

Three young students from British International School, Phuket (BISP) are the toast of golfing circles across the island after they all qualified for the IMG Junior World Golf Championships, due to take place at Torrey Pines in San Diego, USA from July 12-16.

Year 8 student Pasoot (I.T) Luengcharoenwatana and Namo Luangnitikul from Year 7 both qualified for the event at last month's TGA finals and Junior World qualifier at Nakon Nayok. Year 7 student Louise Landgraf qualified several weeks previous via another ranking and qualification process.

In the Under 13 girls division at the TGA finals, Namo delivered an amazing

performance, shooting -9 for three rounds and winning the event by three shots. Included in her win was a hole in one on hole three from 147 yards. Namo qualified for the Junior World Championships ranked number one in the Under 13 girls age group in Thailand.

In the Under 13 boys division, I.T finished strongly to qualify in third place. After a slow start, he fought back well to shoot -2 for the last

two rounds to qualify.

Last month, both Namo and I.T also competed in the Thailand Junior Development Tour Grand Masters and produced some outstanding results.

Held at the championship Alpine Golf Club in Bangkok, this was the grand final for the junior tour competed over three rounds.

In the boy's class division, following a first round of 65

(-7), I.T went on to win by eight shots. In the girl's class, following a first round of 67 (-5), Namo went on to win by nine shots.

"I'm extremely proud of the success of our golfers - they have been working so hard, especially on the mental side, for big events," said BISP Sea Eagles Golf Academy coach Oliver Bates.

"In Bangkok recently, Namo and I.T didn't just win,

they destroyed the course and the rest of the field. Louise also continues to improve and impress and it's great to see these golfers inspiring other young people to take up and enjoy golf."

Congratulations to all the golf students on their recent efforts and achievements.

For more information on British International School, Phuket please contact info@bisphuket.ac.th.

European football at war as breakaway league confirmed

FOOTBALL

PLANS FOR A SUPER LEAGUE announced by 12 of European football's most powerful clubs plunged the game into an unprecedented crisis last Monday (Apr 19) as the UK government threatened to invoke competition law to block a breakaway.

Six Premier League teams - Liverpool, Manchester United, Arsenal, Chelsea, Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur - joined

forces with Spanish giants Real Madrid, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid as well as Italian trio Juventus, Inter Milan and AC Milan to launch the competition.

They plan to leave the UEFA-sanctioned Champions League and start their new tournament "as soon as possible", with plans for three more founding members to join and five other clubs to be invited annually.

The competition threatens to completely upturn the world's biggest sport and leaves the prestigious

Champions League - itself the fruit of the last major shake-up in European football in 1992 - facing an uncertain future.

Britain's culture secretary Oliver Dowden said the English clubs could find themselves subject to a formal review under British anti-trust law, which prevents the formation of monopolies or corporate cartels.

"We will put everything on the table to prevent this from happening," the minister said, vowing a "very robust response".

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin lashed out at the breakaway plan, calling it a "disgraceful self-serving proposal from a select few clubs purely fuelled by greed".

The Slovenian added that European member associations were "all united against this nonsensical project" and said players involved would not be allowed to play for national teams, effectively banning them from taking part in European Championships and World Cups.

However, organisers of the Super League said they would file



A Tottenham fan makes his feelings about the proposal clear. Photo: AFP

a motion "before the relevant courts" to stop players being banned and "ensure the seamless establishment and operation" of the competition, according to a letter addressed to Ceferin and FIFA chief Gianni Infantino. Continued on page 15