

NOROVIRUS OUTBREAK ON THE WANE > PAGE 3

NOMINEE SPREE



DSI Director General Pol Maj Suriya Singhakamol leads the raid in Chalong on June 15. Photo: DSI

DSI RAIDS PHUKET ACCOUNTANTS OVER B440MN IN NOMINEE COMPANIES

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Department of Special Investigation (DSI) has raided a legal accounting firm based in Chalong that is now under investigation for its involvement in facilitating nearly 70 foreigners illegally operating companies with holdings worth an estimated total of B440 million.

DSI Director General Pol Maj

Suriya Singhakamol was in Phuket on June 15 to lead the raid at 10:30am.

While none of the official reports identified the law firm raided, photos posted with one official report clearly identified the office as ST Accounting Plus Solutions, located on Chao Fa East Rd in Moo 8, Chalong.

The office is located in a small shop/office complex about one kilometre north of Chalong Circle, and right next door to the Mueang Phuket

2 Area Revenue Branch Office.

The owner of the company is a Thai woman with a British husband. There are about 40 employees and officers in the company, said one official report of the raid.

Joining the raid was Thawewat Surasit, Director of the DSI's Bureau of Financial and Banking and Money Laundering Crime.

Present to enforce the raid were officials from the Department of

Business Development and police from the Institute of Forensic Science.

Maj Suriya explained to the press that three offices of the company were raided, with boxes of files seized as evidence. Photos taken during the raid showed that among the evidence seized was a pile of passports.

Maj Suriya told the press that "almost 70 foreigners" were found to be involved in the companies under investigation for using nominee...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NEWS PAGE 4

Two crushed by truck on deadly Patong Hill



LIFE PAGE 9

Eden Grill in Cherg Talay flames ahead



SPORT PAGE 16

Laguna Phuket Marathon draws quality turnout



execeditor@classactmedia.co.th

News



Tourists warned of free dope on the beach > p4

Decision time for Phuket Expo 2028

The Phuket News

editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew led the Thailand delegation in Paris last Friday (June 16) as final efforts to promote Phuket as the preferred candidate to host the Specialised Expo 2028 got underway.

At time of press, the Thai delegation was to make its final presentation to the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) member states on Wednesday (June 21) during the organisation's 172nd general assembly.

More than 120 member countries were eligible to cast a vote, with the final result decided on the day of the assembly.

Phuket was competing against four other destinations to host the event: Minnesota, in the United States; Belgrade, in Serbia; Malaga, in Spain; and San Carlos de Bariloche, in Argentina.

The Phuket Tourist Association, Phuket Chamber of Commerce, the Phuket Provincial Federation of Industries and selected private sector entities had collaborated



Governor Narong in Paris last Friday (June 16). Photo: PR Phuket

to organise a special event at the Limelight Avenue shopping mall in Phuket Town on Wednesday between 2:30pm and 7:30pm where the final voting ceremony was to be beamed live from Paris onto large LED screens at the specially constructed venue.

In a public announcement of support for the final stages of the bid, caretaker prime minister Prayut Chan-o-cha

urged people throughout the country to prepare for "good news" in the BIE expo bid. People should be ready for the "good news" at 6pm Wednesday, he said.

In Paris last Friday, Governor Narong and his team of officials unveiled a campaign entitled "Touching the Sense of Harmony" as they leveraged Phuket's UNESCO status as a creative city of

gastronomy and offered up a range of unique dishes to the province in an attempt to wow representatives from countries involved in the voting process.

Held in the French capital at the prestigious Fluctuart venue, a sleek, multilevel, floating art gallery with impressive views of the River Seine, Governor Narong declared his personal pride and that of the people of Phuket

in being able to welcome all the distinguished guests to the Phuket hosted reception.

"It is an honour to be able to present the potential of Phuket as a viable candidate city to host the Specialised Expo 2028," Governor Narong said, adding that Phuket is very much regarded as a world-class tourist destination with over 120 flights arriving on the island from 63 cities each day.

"Phuket has become a second home for many people around the world, such is its allure and popularity," Governor Narong added.

"Phuket very much has its own unique identity, a fact recognised by UNESCO who awarded it status as a creative city of gastronomy. That is why we have prepared a range of special dishes for you all to savour today," he explained.

"With the full anticipated support from the central government, we hope that if we are given the opportunity to host this event, we will ensure it is an absolute success," Governor Narong said.

"We want to be able to connect all citizens of the world and use the opportunity

of hosting the Expo 2028 to build long-term relationships and cooperation towards the development and sharing of stability and prosperity together without leaving anyone behind – this is in line with the concept presented by our slogan "Thailand, Future of Life: Living in Harmony, Sharing Prosperity," Governor Narong explained.

"Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to request everyone's support to vote for Thailand. I have been continuously pushing this bid over the years and, as I will retire in the next few months, it would be a privilege to be able to secure the hosting rights," Governor Narong said.

"Your vote and voice is extremely important and can have a significantly positive impact on Phuket and the residents who live there. Your one voice will be the voice of change. It is a voice that creates opportunities for developing countries. It is a voice that will create new opportunities, create new paradigms and create a sustainable future for the next generation," Governor Narong concluded.

DSI targets foreigners using illegal nominees to control companies

Continued from page 1

...shareholders to illegally allow foreigners to control such companies.

He said the practice of using nominee shareholders was illegal under the Foreign Business Act and brought "much economic harm to the country".

In total, 44 real estate companies, eight tourism companies and 14 other service companies, were under investigation, Maj Suriya confirmed.

"Each of the 44 real estate companies has real estate holdings to the value of B10-20 million, which is equivalent to approximately B440mn in real estate sales business," he said.

"Accordingly, from the evidence found and as a result of previous investigations, we have found that the law firm set up almost 100 companies for foreigners, of which about 44 companies are related to



DSI officers document passports seized during the raid on June 15. Photo: DSI

land," Mr Suriya said.

"Most of the customers are Russians. Each company carries out some of the business activities that are prohibited for foreigners, such as the possession of real estate or land or occupying and renting or trading [real estate]," he added.

"There is also evidence of foreigners working in occupations that are also prohibited," he said. "The investigation also found [the company] has been operating for over 15 years but has never been raided."

"This type of offence is widespread in Phuket, Chiang Mai and tourist areas in the east, and is an area of high value. Foreigners have come to rely on this method of acquiring or possessing high-value land, which causes the state to lose a lot of revenue due to land trading through a nominee company, not normal trading," Maj Suriya said.

Maj Suriya said that the root cause of the wrongdoing comes from law firms that prepare the accounts. "It is the starting point to persuade some

foreigners to believe [that the practice is legal]. Meanwhile, some people already know that it is illegal, and come to use the services of a law firm in submitting a company registration," he said.

"This results in the right to occupy and hold the land as well as real estate and other 'mutually beneficial' businesses as well," he added.

DAMAGE DONE

Officers had yet to determine the extent of the "damage done" by the companies under investigation for using nominee shareholders, Maj Suriya said.

Such companies were prone to tax evasion by not reporting transactions, he said.

"According to the regulations, there will be various taxes and fees [on transactions] of approximately 10% on each purchase. Especially in provinces where land is highly valued, foreigners trade by changing shareholders to

avoid paying taxes. Most of the problems that follow are that the land will belong to foreigners," he said.

"The state loses taxes and fees in conducting these transactions. Through the Land Office alone, which requires about 8% each time [with each land transaction], the state has lost about B35mn in revenue from fees.

With a large volume of land transactions going unreported to the Land Office, the state could have lost revenues totalling as much as B200mn, Maj Suriya said.

MORE ACTION

Following the raid, Maj Suriya together with Mr Taweewat met with Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Pinsuwan at Phuket Provincial Hall at 3pm.

"There are guidelines to consider for both prevention and suppression [of companies using nominee shareholders] in order to reduce the economic damage caused by the busi-

ness of foreign companies in the form of nominees," Maj Suriya said.

"There is a policy for officials to expedite the suppression to all provinces throughout Thailand because of such cases. It is a matter that seriously affects the stability and economic system of the country. It cuts off business opportunities for Thai entrepreneurs," he added.

"From the discussions, Phuket [provincial officials] will work with the business sector, such as the provincial chamber of commerce to hold a seminar so that [business] operators understand the nature of foreign business operations and comply with Thai law," the DSI noted in its own report of the raid.

"The Department of Special Investigation is to also take part in the aforementioned forum," the DSI report noted.

Two killed as truck crushes pickup on deadly Patong Hill

Eakkapop Thongtub
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Two people were killed when a 10-wheeled truck slammed into a pickup truck in front of Suwan Khiri Wong Temple (Wat Patong) on Monday (June 19), with the cause of the accident initially attributed to brake failure.

Police were alerted to the accident at 1:25pm. The 10-wheeler, registered in Nakhon Pathom province, was descending Patong Hill when it crossed into the coming lane, police reported.

The lorry slammed into the pickup, a Phuket-registered Isuzu D-Max, heading up the hill.

Patong Police reported that the truck driver was not injured in the collision.

Police later confirmed that the two men inside the pickup truck were killed in the collision, which saw the truck crush the cab of the pickup.

The pickup driver killed was named by police as Prasat Prateep Na Thalung. His passenger was named by police as Kamet Chuayuan.



Photo: PR Phuket

The truck driver, Piyarat Kaewprasit, 38, was uninjured in the accident, but was taken to Patong Hospital as precaution.

Kotchakorn Boonrawd, 47, said she was sitting down to eat nearby when she heard two loud bangs.

At first she did not see the pickup truck, which was crushed between the lorry and the outside concrete barrier, and thought it was just another truck accident on the hill, with the driver not seriously injured.

Taking a closer look, she

saw the pickup driver Mr Prasat with his head leaning out the window. At that time believed he was still alive and conscious.

"It felt like 15-20 minutes had passed before the emergency staff arrived and offered assistance. If they came earlier, those who died might be able to get help in a timely manner," she said.

Ms Kotchakorn pointed out that there were many accidents on the road descending into Patong before COVID-19. Since the pandemic restric-

tions have been lifted there has been more traffic on the hill road, but still not as much as before the pandemic, she said.

"Most of the cars that have been involved in accidents are heavy vehicles, large vehicles such as tour buses, water trucks, or 10-wheelers," Ms Kotchakorn said.

"At the time of the accident, the number of cars [on the hill road] was still small. If it had happened in the evening when people leave work and children leave school, it could have been much worse," she said.



Photo: CIB

Couple arrested for B20mn Facebook scam

A THAI COUPLE FROM Ayutthaya have been arrested in Phuket for a fraud scam operated through Facebook that duped victims of more than an estimated B20 million.

The Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) reported last Friday (June 16) that the couple were arrested at a rented abode in Srisoonthorn, Thalung. The date of arrest was not reported.

The couple – named only as "Mr Sanit", 37, and "Ms Amporn", 34 – were wanted for defrauding people out of more than B20mn through a scam, CIB reported.

Sanit was wanted on an arrest warrant No. 206/2566 issued by the Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Provincial Court on June 8. Amporn was wanted corresponding arrest warrant No. 206/2566, also issued by the Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Provincial Court.

Both were wanted for

"[working] together to defraud people", CIB noted in its report.

Early last year the couple created a Facebook page to persuade people to join an investment scheme with the promise of high returns, CIB explained in its report.

Photos of large piles of cash and the couple enjoying a lavish lifestyle were posted on the Facebook page to encourage people to join the scheme.

Some of the victims had invested large amounts of money, only later to be unable to contact the couple. The total damage was estimated to be more than B20mn, CIB explained.

Officers managed to track down the couple and place them under arrest, CIB noted.

The couple will now face legal action, CIB concluded in its report.

The Phuket News

Norovirus outbreak winds down, officials stumped by source

THE INCIDENCE OF people suffering from abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhea is gradually declining in Phuket, with the number of patients in hospitals having decreased from 1,000 at the beginning of June to less than 300, confirmed Dr Kusak Kukiattikoon, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO).

Speaking to *The Phuket News* on June 15, Dr Kusak explained that the medical community has already witnessed steady improvement, although the outbreak is not yet over.

"As of yesterday [June 14], there were 291 patients remaining in hospitals in total. Hospitalisations and in-patient treatment constitute around 10% of all cases. No severe cases have been recorded so far," Dr Kusak said.

As the outbreak has not yet concluded, the PPHO Chief reiterated his urging for people to strictly follow basic hygiene rules and be particularly cautious if there is a sick person among



Dr Kusak Kukiattikoon, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO). Photo: PR Phuket

family members.

"I would like to ask people to eat only freshly cooked food, avoid sharing forks and spoons, and wash their hands often. Please keep your houses clean and pay special attention to restrooms, especially if one of your family members has diarrhea. Toilets should be cleaned with disinfectant solutions, and clothes should be thoroughly washed with detergents," Dr Kusak reminded.

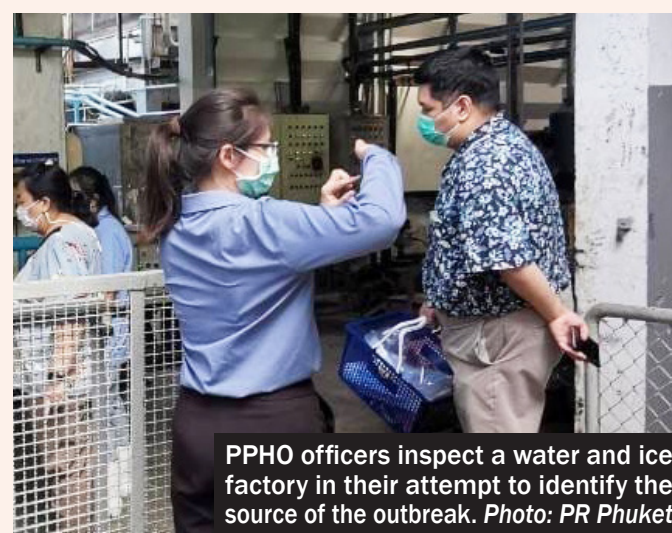
In the case of severe infection characterised by extreme fatigue and difficulties holding fluids and food down after ingestion, people are advised to

seek professional medical help rather than trying to overcome the sickness on their own.

NO CONTAMINATION AT WATER AND ICE PLANTS

The Phuket provincial office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket) on June 14 posted a report on inspections conducted at a number of ice and drinking water production facilities across the island.

Due to language issues, the report was wrongly interpreted by some media channels (including *The Phuket News*) as confirming the finding



PPHO officers inspect a water and ice factory in their attempt to identify the source of the outbreak. Photo: PR Phuket

of strains of the norovirus, the most common pathogen causing conditions such as vomiting and diarrhea.

Speaking to *The Phuket News* on June 15, Dr Kusak confirmed that no signs of contamination were found at any of the three water-producing facilities or the six ice factories inspected. All the inspected locations were found to be free of norovirus.

Dr Kusak said that the collective teams of relevant officials specifically targeted the nine key producers of drinking water and ice on the island.

"These facilities supply

their products to smaller ventures acting as sources of drinking water and ice for the island. We did not find any contamination at any of those facilities," Dr Kusak confirmed.

"We will also continue to inspect municipal water sources on a daily basis, such as water treatment plants or lakes providing water to people," he added.

Dr Kusak assured that if norovirus is found at any water or ice-producing facilities, the PPHO will immediately warn people and order the facility to shut down until it undergoes

proper disinfection and is declared safe following an inspection.

"Rest assured that we will announce this to the people and investigate the source of contamination," he said.

The PPHO Chief also assured that there is no deficit of medical supplies or lack of medical personnel to counter the seasonal norovirus outbreak in Phuket, although it appears to be more severe than last year or the year before when Phuket had not yet fully returned to normal life and COVID-19 restrictions remained in force.

"I would like to assure the public that the situation is improving. The number of patients has decreased and continues to decrease. The treatment provided by government and private hospitals in coordination with the PPHO is sufficient. We can handle the outbreak. Local residents and tourists can trust that the situation is under control," Dr Kusak concluded.

Nattha Thepbamrung

CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

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

ADVERTISING

ClassAct Media

The Phuket News

WINDOW ON PHUKET

Where to eat in PHUKET

Новости Phuket

ข่าวภูเก็ต

NEWS TV

LIVE 89.5

Phuket TICKETMASTER

076 612 550 ext. 605

Fax: 076 612 553

Info@classactmedia.co.th

thephuketnews.com

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

PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

www.foreca.com

FRI JUNE 23

High: +30°
Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SAT JUNE 24

High: +31°
Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SUN JUNE 25

High: +31°
Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

MON JUNE 26

High: +31°
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE JUNE 27

High: +32°
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

WED JUNE 28

High: +30°
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

THU JUNE 29

High: +30°
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

Tourists urged to beware marijuana on the beach

PHUKET TOURIST Police have warned tourists to beware people offering them marijuana on the beach out of fear they may be robbed of their valuables while under the effects of the herb.

The warning followed an incident at Freedom Beach last Friday (June 16) involving a male-female couple, both Thai tourists who had travelled from Chiang Mai.

The couple were sitting on the beach when they were approached by two people – one of them was blind, the other was carrying a bag of ice cream.

The two were friendly, and offered the tourists to try marijuana. The tourist couple were taunted that if they hadn't had marijuana on the beach, they hadn't "really been" to Freedom Beach yet.

The couple conceded and inhaled marijuana from a bong that the new-found "friends" were carrying with them.

However, the Thai male tourist became overwhelmed by the effects of marijuana. His heart started pounding and he started staggering around.

A person police described as a "good samaritan" saw what was happening and came to help the couple, making sure that their valuables stayed untouched and providing assistance to the man, who was later taken to Patong Hospital.

Tourist Police patrol officers in Patong who later arrived at the beach confirmed that the incident had been reported to Karon Police for further action.

The couple declined to give further information about the incident to reporters on Sunday (June 18) as they were about to head back home. All relevant information had been passed on to the Karon Police, the male tourist said.

He said he had inhaled only a little marijuana from the bong provided, adding that he did not want to be teased by his friends for not trying it.

Eakkapop Thongtub



Photo: Phuket Tourist Police

Pavilion to honour royal visit demolished over disrepair

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A pavilion at Surin Beach that was built in 2007 under a budget of B13 million to honour the royal visit of King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama 9) to the beach in 1959 has been demolished due to its state of disrepair, an official at Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organisation (OrBorTor) has confirmed.

Sudachan Manabut, Director of the Cherng Talay OrBorTor's "Strategy Unit", told *The Phuket News* on June 16 that the plan is to build the new pavilion under the same concept to honour the visit of King Bhumibol, who visited the beach on March 10, 1959.

"The pavilion was removed about the end of December last year as it was old and run down. Initially, we were considering renovating the pavilion but we consulted the Fine Arts Department to evaluate the project and they suggested demolishing it instead as [they said] it was not worth renovating compared with the cost of building a new one," she said.

"We also filed the demolition plan to the Cabinet for approval," Ms Sudachan said.

The new design from the Fine Arts Department will use durable materials that suit the



The pavilion that has now been demolished. Photo: PIC

weather near the sea as the old one had suffered a lot of rust, Ms Sudachan explained.

Cherng Talay OrBorTor publicly announced the demolition of the pavilion to local residents and there was a community meeting set to get their opinion, Ms Sudachan said.

"The local people were informed about it and we had a hearing. The locals did not disagree with the demolition," she said.

However, in a public response to questions about the demolition raised by Phuket Info Center, which operates under the Phuket office of the Ministry of Interior, Cherng Talay OrBorTor said that the public notice announced a "renovation" of the pavilion, not a demolition.

Phuket Info Center on June 15 posted a notice explaining that the National Anti-Corruption

Commission (NACC) had previously instructed Cherng Talay OrBorTor to change the public notice to clarify that the pavilion was to be demolished. It was not reported when the NACC gave its order, or why the NACC was involved in reviewing the project.

Ms Sudachan on June 16 said that the new pavilion will be built on the elevated area near the football field at Surin Beach, where King Bhumibol actually visited in person.

"The budget for the project has not yet been set as we have to wait for the finalised design from the Fine Arts Department," she said.

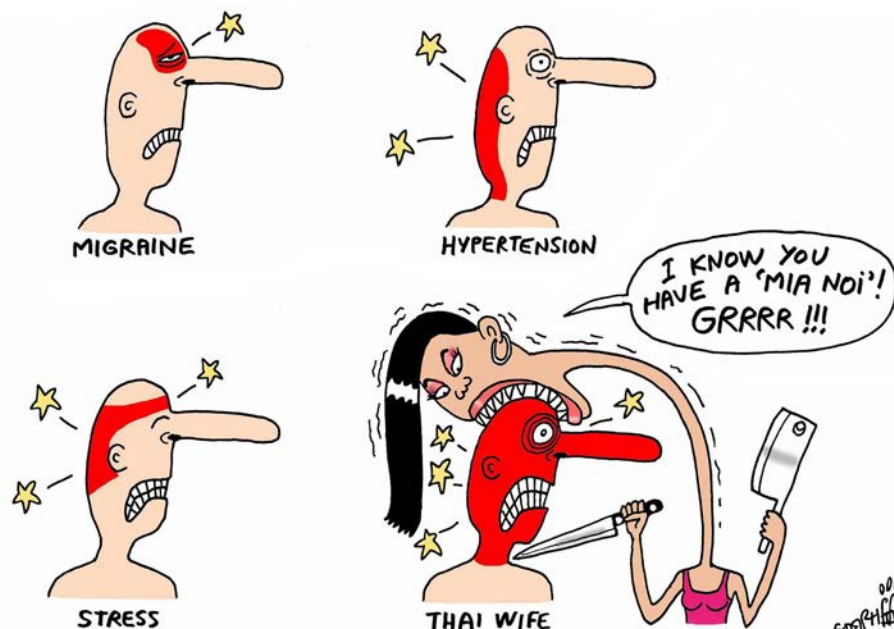
"We have not yet made any plans for the location where the old pavilion stood as there is a plan for landscape development for the whole area of Surin Beach. We are waiting for the budget on this," Ms Sudachan added.

FARANG AFFAIRS

By Stephff

<https://farangaffairs.com>

LIFE IN THAILAND GIVES YOU ALL KIND OF SEVERE ACUTE HEADACHES.



Russian man drowns at Rawai villa

CHALONG POLICE ARE investigating the death of a Russian man who was found drowned in a swimming pool at a villa in Rawai on June 15.

Chalong Police were informed of the incident, at a gated residential community on Saiyuan Rd, at about 11am.

Police officers and medical personnel rushed to the scene, where they discovered the body of the man at the bottom of a 1.8-metre-deep swimming pool at a private villa.

The deceased was identified by his passport as a 22-year-old Russian national born in the city of Chita in the Russian Far East. The body was transported to the Vachira Phuket Hospital morgue for further examination.

According to the preliminary investigation, it is be-



A 22-year old man from Russia was found dead in a swimming pool at a villa in Rawai on June 15. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

lieved that the man drowned at least 12 hours before his body was discovered by a swimming pool technician.

The technician said the man was known to enjoy spending time at the pool, engaging in activities such as yoga or freediving. However, the police report did not specifically define the man's pastime.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Navy moves on protected forest, warns encroachers

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Vice Admiral Arpakorn Yookongkaew, Commander of the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command, has warned people illegally occupying areas in the Bang Khanun Forest near Phuket International Airport that their buildings will be demolished, as the Navy proceeds with its plan to build several facilities in the protected area.

He has also dismissed rumours that a golf course or a hospice villa development will be built in the forest.

V/Adm Arpakorn, accompanied by Navy security personnel, inspected the forest on June 15.

Joining him for the inspection tour was Move Forward Phuket MP-elect Chalermpong Saengdee, the forestry chiefs responsible for the protected forest area, the local village chief (Phu Yai Baan) and representatives from the Monsoon Garbage Thailand environmental group.

The purpose of the inspection was to see firsthand areas legally occupied by local people, mainly for growing rubber trees or fruit farming of durian and



Photo: Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command

mangosteen, and to identify areas not to be affected by the Navy's plan to build in the forest.

The Navy has been granted use of 3,763 rai in the forest to create a new home for the 22nd Anti-Aircraft Battalion, the 2nd Anti-Aircraft Regiment, the Anti-Aircraft Command Unit, an Air Defense and Coastal Defense Center and the 4th Naval Police Battalion of the Naval Police Department.

The plan has come under fire from local residents. At a meeting in April, Sakhu Deputy Mayor Surin Yotharak explained that more than 100 families have built houses and grow crops in the area, and had lived and farmed

in the park for a generation.

During the inspection last week one illegal occupier was found with a building on site that clearly contravened any legal use of land within the forest. The occupier was given 15 days to remove the structure, or the Navy would do it for them. The move was praised with much support online.

V/Adm Arpakorn explained that people permitted to grow crops within the park will be allowed to continue to do so for the immediate future. However, sooner or later, they will have to vacate the area, he said.

The Navy aims "to know the facts and to understand and

find solutions to problems, as well as jointly organise forest conservation activities with local communities in the future", V/Adm Arpakorn said.

"People in the area come to make a living in the forest. We can confirm that no villagers have been pushed out of the area. You can still cut the rubber. But when those rubber trees expire, it must be stopped. Do not plant new trees," he said.

V/Adm Arpakorn recognised that 265 "cases" had been approved use of areas within the forest, which has been officially classified as "degraded forest".

However, there are many others with no such legal right to occupy areas in the forest. Such people will be forced to vacate the area, he said.

"After clearing the forest and planting rubber plantations in this area, we have to cooperate with local conservation groups on how to help the forest recover," he said.

Also raised as a concern was the use of pesticides by farmers growing crops in the forest. The pesticides were being washed downhill during heavy rains and making their way into local waterways and watershed areas.



Photo: PR Phuket

Major road in Patong to close for two months

A ONE-KILOMETRE SECTION OF PHRA Metta Rd in Patong, running behind Jungceylon shopping mall, will be closed for all traffic for more than two months, Patong Police have announced.

The one-kilometer-long stretch of Phra Metta Rd from Soi Banzan to Soi Nanai Ruamjai (Soi Nanai 8) closed to traffic on Tuesday (June 20) and will remain closed to traffic through to Aug 26 to facilitate the construction of a new element of the much-needed flood prevention system. The element was described by Patong Police as a "sand trap (SP1)" near the wastewater treatment plant.

"In light of this, the public is kindly requested to avoid using the affected route," Patong Police said in a notice issued on June 16.

No information has been provided regarding the access of permanent residents within the closed area. However, it is believed that they will be allowed entry to Phra Metta Rd, while transit traffic will be prohibited completely during the closure period.

The Phuket News

Dolphin rescued, taken into care in Phuket

A YOUNG BOTTLENOSE dolphin, which was spotted in Phuket waters on June 15, has been successfully rescued and is now receiving treatment at the Phuket Marine Biological Centre (PMBC).

The dolphin was initially spotted dangerously close to the shore early on June 15. The marine animal was observed swimming in Tha Jeen Canal, also referred to as Khlong Tha Chin – the waterway that separates Koh Siray from Phuket, and known for its pollution and high marine traffic.

The dolphin was swimming in the area of the canal under the Koh Siray Bridge. Local residents raised concerns that the dolphin was in danger as there are a significant number of fishermen and boats in that area.

Police and Kusoldham Foundation rescue team workers were joined at the scene by officials from the Phuket branch of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), the Phuket Marine Office and personnel from the



A bottlenose dolphin was spotted and rescued in Phuket on June 15. Photo: DMCR

Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command, who closely surveyed the situation.

It was later reported that the dolphin had been assisted in returning to the sea, meaning out of the canal. However, the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) later corrected those reports, stating that the dolphin had actually been rescued by marine experts and transported to the Sirithan Rare Marine Life Rescue Center at Cape Panwa.

The rescued bottlenose dolphin was identified as an adolescent male, measuring 193cm in length and weighing about 42kg.

Although no visible wounds were found on its

body, marine life experts noted that the dolphin appeared weak. Further tests confirmed dehydration. In light of this, wildlife specialists decided to provide care for the animal until its recovery from any underlying conditions it may have.

For obvious reasons, the DMCR could not confirm that the rescued dolphin was the same animal that had been spotted several hours before in the canal and then assisted out of it. Yet the rescue location, as specified in the DMCR report, was exactly where the dolphin would be if the animal headed straight south from the canal.

The Phuket News



AQUELLA
GOLF • COUNTRY CLUB

AQUELLA GOLF FESTIVAL
1st July - 31st August 2023



Aquella Golf Festival Rates

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2,800 THB for Visitor | 2,000 THB for Thai Resident | 1,700 THB for Aquella Club Card Holder |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|

Inclusive of 18 hole green fee, caddy fee, golf cart & 1 tray of driving range balls

Special Sports Day: Monday, Thursday & Sunday

| | |
|---|--|
| 1,900 THB for Visitor & Thai Resident | 1,700 THB for Aquella Club Card Holder |
|---|--|

Inclusive of 18 hole green fee, caddy fee, golf cart & 1 tray of driving range balls

BOOK YOUR TEE TIME NOW!

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

Web Connection and Smart Order Collaborate to Empower Independent Hotel Owners in Thailand

ADVERTORIAL

On June 18, 2023, leading digital marketing agency in the hospitality industry Web Connection, by Surachat 'Jim' Eawsakul, Managing Director of Web Connection Co Ltd, Director of Thai Southern Hotel Association, President of YEC PHUKET (Young Entrepreneur Chamber of Commerce) and Vice President of Phuket Chamber of Commerce, partnered with Smart Order by Vilsonm Wong, VP Global Business Smart Order, a dominant player in the hotel property management system (PMS) industry.

At a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony, held during the Andaman Hotelier Exhibition held at Central Floresta, both parties noted that this collaboration aims to tap into the growing market of Chinese tourists by leveraging social media marketing services, aligning with the Thailand government's initiatives to develop tourism activities, especially in second-tier cities.

Web Connection, a rapidly expanding hotel digital marketing agency headquartered in Southeast Asia, specialises in driving revenue for hotels through their diverse range of travel tech products and services. With offices in Bangkok, Phuket and



Surachat 'Jim' Eawsakul - Managing Director of Web Connection, Director of Thai Hotels Association - Southern Chapter, President of YEC Phuket (Young Entrepreneur Chamber of Commerce), Vice President of Phuket Chamber of Commerce, with Sukst 'Ton' Suvunditkul - President of Thai Hotels Association - Southern Chapter and Vilsonm Wong - VP, Global Business - Smart Order.

Bali, Web Connection works as an independent strategic partner with hotels across Asia. Their comprehensive solutions encompass marketing strategies, pricing optimisation and distribution solutions that empower hoteliers to thrive in the digital age and achieve profitability.

Established in 2016 in Hangzhou, Smart Order has emerged as the leading PMS provider in China, serving over 90,000 properties and contributing significantly to reshaping the hospitality ecosystem. With an impressive track record, Smart Order excels in helping hotels increase

conversion rates on mainstream social media platforms such as Xiaohongshu, Douyin and WeChat. Their comprehensive range of services includes Official Account (OA) and OTA account management, content production, influencer partnerships (KOLs), live-streaming services

as well as Artificial Intelligence-generated content (AIGC) in English and Chinese.

By combining the expertise and capabilities of Web Connection and Smart Order, independent hotel owners in Thailand will benefit from a powerful solution that enables them to optimise their room inventory, streamline operations, and maximise revenue potential. Moreover, with Smart Order's prowess in social media marketing and their extensive experience in reaching the Chinese market, hotels will have the opportunity to tap into the ever-growing segment of Chinese tourists.

This collaboration not only supports the goals of independent hotel owners but also aligns with the Thailand government's vision to boost tourism activities, particularly in second-tier cities. By empowering hoteliers with effective technology-driven solutions and targeted marketing strategies, Web Connection and Smart Order aim to contribute to the growth and success of the Thai hospitality industry.

For enquiries, please contact:

Web Connection – Email:

contact@webconnection.com |

Phone: +66 937617979

Smart Order – Email:

vilsonm@dingdandao.com |

Phone: +60 133093113

Phuket food price hikes 'not unreasonable', say officials

FOOD PRICES IN PHUKET remain adequate, including the prices of chicken eggs, which some people are currently much worried about, the Phuket office of the Ministry of Commerce announced on June 15 following an inspection at local shops.

The inspection was led by Phuket Commerce Chief Woranit Aphirattjirawong, who personally visited some shops to ensure that food prices in Phuket were adequate. Special attention was paid to "goods that are essential for the people's livelihood," such as chicken eggs.

"The inspection found that prices of goods such as rice, vegetable oil, and eggs have been stable for the past two to three months," Ms Woranit said.

Responding specifically to concerns about chicken eggs, Ms Woranit assured that they were also priced adequately "as the supply is sufficient to meet the demand".



Phuket officials conduct price checks at a Super Cheap shop in Phuket. Photo: Radio Thailand Phuket

"Although chicken egg prices have increased in some other provinces, Phuket has not witnessed any hikes as vendors are still able to negotiate prices with the farms," Ms Woranit said.

Phuket's Commerce Chief explained that chicken egg prices in shops and at markets are subject to the balance of supply and demand. When the demand exceeds the supply, prices rise "following the market mechanism".

Ms Woranit added that her office will continue conducting regular checks at random retail points three times a week to monitor

prices for basic necessities. So far, she said, no intervention is needed from the Phuket office of the Ministry of Commerce.

Ms Woranit also reiterated her standard call to vendors to be honest in their business and not to inflate prices just because there is an opportunity to do so.

In addition to warning against unreasonable price gouging, Ms Woranit also reminded vendors that they should have clear price tags for all the goods they have for sale so that consumers can make informed decisions when making a purchase.

Complaints about suspected price gouging or a lack of clear price indication can be made via the 1569 national hotline. People can also directly contact the Phuket office of the Ministry of Commerce at 076-212017.

According to the most recent CPI report by the Ministry of Commerce, food and non-alcoholic beverage prices in May grew by 3.99%. *The Phuket News*

Council urges efforts to woo retirees

THE TOURISM COUNCIL of Thailand (TCT) has urged the new government to establish the country as a destination for retirees, while calling for the removal of regulatory barriers pertaining to supply development.

The TCT and representatives from the Thai Sang Thai Party met on June 14 to exchange views on tourism development after the party held discussions with tourism associations in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi on June 13.

TCT President Chamnan Srisawat said tourism development should be upgraded to a national agenda item, with a committee chaired by the prime minister to engage all related ministries.

Most of the regulations that require amendments fall under the responsibility of ministries other than the Tourism and Sports Ministry, such as hotel registration under the Interior Ministry, and natural resources at tourism destinations, under the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry, he said.

Mr Chamnan said the private sector agrees with the coalition government's vow to reform outdated laws and regulations, especially in terms of cutting redundant rules that



Thai Sang Thai (TST) Party leader Khunying Sudarat Keyuraphan speaks during a meeting with representatives of the private sector in Phuket on June 14. Photo: Thai Sang Thai Party

hinder tourism development.

In terms of tourism promotion, TCT suggests reaping the benefits of being an increasingly ageing society by promoting Thailand as a preferred destination for retirees by offering health and wellness products, which could attract high spending visitors.

Former Federation of Thai Industries chairman Supant Mongkolsuthree, who is the economic chief of the Thai Sang Thai Party, said the delay in forming a new government is taking a toll on economic confidence and foreign investment.

Meanwhile, Khunying Sudarat Keyuraphan, leader of the Thai Sang Thai and a party-list MP-elect, said after

holding the talks with the private sector in three southern provinces along the Andaman Coast that they had reached an agreement to take part in two working teams that the coalition would set up later to drive two policies.

The first mission is to establish a special Andaman tourism economic zone to accelerate infrastructure and tourism development with the aim of boosting tourism revenue to B1 trillion from the three provinces, which is almost double the current level of income.

She said the board of the committee for this economic zone would include public, private and community representatives to be solely responsible for economic development and investment, while other administration matters would remain under the responsibility of the provincial governor.

The second policy is to suspend around 1,400 laws and regulations that are proving to be impediments to business at present.

Mrs Sudarat said the eight parties in the coalition government agreed that this agenda should be pursued as soon as the government is able to begin its work. *Bangkok Post*

New parliament prepares to open

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The formal opening of the new parliament is expected to take place early next month after the Election Commission (EC) endorsed all 500 MPs elected in the May 14 general election, a source said on Monday (June 19).

Under Section 121 of the constitution, the first parliament meeting must be convened within 15 days from the day the EC endorses at least 95% of all MPs-elect, added the source.

The selection of the new House speaker and his two deputies is expected to take place on the first day of the new parliamentary session, but the parliamentary selection of Thailand's next prime minister will take place only after the selection of the House speaker gets royal endorsement, the source explained.

The selection of the House speaker will be scheduled after the state opening of parliament, which marks the formal start of the new parliamentary year, said the same source.

The 500 MPs-elect en-



Sappaya-Sapasathan, the parliament house of Thailand. Photo: Bangkok Post

dorsed by the EC on Monday hail from 67 parties – 400 of whom are MPs elected in the constituency system and the other 100 in the party-list system.

The endorsement contradicted previous media reports, which said 71 MPs-elect in 37 constituencies might be suspended over election fraud complaints, said the source.

'FAIRNESS'

EC secretary-general Sawang Boonmee, meanwhile, said the EC resolved to endorse all

MPs-elect because it came to the conclusion that it will not be able to ensure fairness for all sides if it has to rush its investigation into complaints lodged against the results of the election and wrap it up within the given 60-day time frame.

Under Section 138 of the 2018 organic law on the election of MPs, the EC still has the authority to continue investigating these complaints for up to a year after receiving them, according to Mr Sawang.

And if the EC has sufficient evidence to believe an MP had committed or been involved in an election fraud as accused, the EC can still petition the Supreme Court to retrospectively forfeit their right to contest an election and vote in one, he said.

All MPs who stand accused of election fraud will be allowed sufficient time to defend themselves against the allegations to ensure justice for them, too, he said.

When asked if the EC will next seek the Constitutional

Court's interpretation of Move Forward Party (MFP) leader Pita Limjaroenrat's alleged ineligibility to contest the election after also endorsing his MP status, Mr Sawang said the EC's fact-finding committee is still investigating the case.

The EC is being pressured by several senators to call on the court to rule whether Mr Pita's past holding of 42,000 shares in iTV Plc made him ineligible to contest the election from the beginning.

Mr Pita has insisted he only served as executor of his late father's estate, of which the shares were a part.

The MFP leader reportedly transferred the shares last month.

SOLE CANDIDATE

Mr Sawang said the EC would not mix its responsibility to investigate claims against Mr Pita with politics; hence whether or not the investigation will be concluded in time before the selection of the country's new prime minister takes place isn't something that concerns the EC.

"In the way we work, all facts deemed necessary for the ongoing investigation must be completely extracted first...

and even if the process has to be expedited later, it will still have nothing to do with politics," he said.

Mr Pita is the sole prime ministerial candidate of the MFP and is expected to become the next prime minister.

All MPs who have been endorsed by the EC were able to pick up their letter of endorsement from the EC from June 19-21.

The document must be shown to the Secretariat of the House of Representatives upon reporting for the first time as a new MP, said Mr Sawang.

Pornpith Phetchareon, secretary-general of the House of Representatives, said new MPs may report to the House from today onwards.

Pheu Thai Party secretary-general Prasert Chantararungthong said he now expects to see the formation of the new coalition and the selection of the new prime minister to happen sooner than previously thought.

Considering the EC timeline for endorsing the election results, he said he personally believes Thailand's new prime minister will be officially named before the end of next month.

High-rises 'wobble' as tremors strike

BANGKOK

TREMORS FROM A series of earthquakes centred on the southern coastal area of Myanmar were also felt in Bangkok and its surrounding areas on Monday morning (June 19).

The first quake, 6.0 magnitude, occurred at a depth of 10 kilometres at 8:40am, the Thai Meteorological Department's (TMD) Earthquake Observation Division reported.

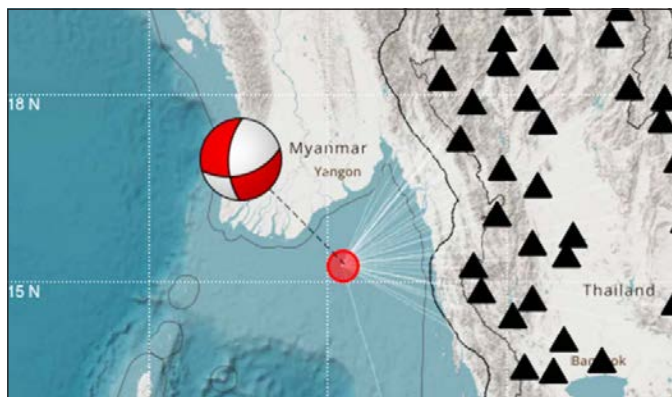
The epicentre was in Myanmar, about 289 kilometres southwest of Tak's Phop Phra district, it said.

There were two subsequent aftershocks near the Myanmar southern coast at 8:57am, 3.6 magnitude, and at 10:46am, 4.4 magnitude.

The quakes were felt in Nonthaburi and Bangkok, especially by people in high-rise buildings. There were no reports of damage or casualties.

"Silom...in [the] Surawong area. Felt like the building is wobbling. Going down the building for safety," netizen @mefanw wrote on Twitter.

In Bang Sue, the shaking was reportedly felt at the Buranayothin School, where scared students ran for cover.



A graphic shows the epicentre of the quake. Photo: TMD

"The building is shaking. Please help. In class when it happened. #earthquake #yothinburana," @helloisunmrr, Twitter user, said.

Regarding the Klong Toey area, Twitter user @kanaapz posted: "Earthquake in Klong Toey. Those in the lift felt nothing."

A video clip apparently showing shaking ceiling lights was attached to the post.

In the Sukhumvit area, where there are many office buildings, many workers evacuated.

Twitter user @Chitsan-upo57308 posted a video apparently showing people running for cover in Sukhumvit.

@kanaapz a Twitter user in Lat Phrao posted: "Earthquake. On 13th floor of a building at Lat Phrao, the lights

are swinging. Feeling dizzy. #earthquake."

At a press conference, Bangkok Governor Chadchart Sittipunt said tremors were felt in 11 of the capital's 50 districts, mostly reported by people in high-rises.

There were no reports of damage at that stage, the governor said.

Chatpan Chintanapakdee from Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Engineering said the capital should be able to come through such quakes without problems.

The strength of this quake was not enough to make a building collapse, Mr Chatpan said.

"If buildings are lawfully designed, they can deal with quakes like this without a problem," he added.

Bangkok Post

Senior police charged in B140mn extortion case

BANGKOK

TEN POLICE OFFICERS, including the former chief of Chon Buri Police, have been charged with involvement in the alleged extortion of B140 million from six suspects in an online gambling case, deputy national police chief Pol Gen Surachate Hakpam said on Monday (June 19).

Pol Gen Surachate said the 10 officers reported to acknowledge the charges against them.

Eight of them were attached to Provincial Police Region 2, and included Pol Maj Gen Kamphon Leelapraporn, 54, until recently chief of Chon Buri police. The two others were from the Cyber Crime Investigation Bureau.

Pol Gen Surachate said the eight Region 2 officers were charged with demanding and taking bribes in violation of Section 149, abuse of power under Section 157 and posing threats to the life, liberty, reputa-



Pol Gen Surachate Hakpam. Photo: Bangkok Post

tion or property of others in breach of Section 309 of the Criminal Code.

The two CCIB officers were charged with violating Sections 157 and 309 of the Criminal Code.

The ten officers were released after giving their statements during interrogation.

Some of the Region 2 officers confessed to the charges and provided useful information in the case. The two CCIB officers denied the charges, he said.

Pol Gen Surachate said three civilian suspects in the case who were subject to arrest warrants had not turned themselves in. Bangkok Post

'Transformers' gets a 'Beastly' upgrade

David Griffiths

The past few years have been pretty frustrating for fans of the *Transformers* franchise. After the success of 2018's *'Bumblebee'* many were expecting more Transformers films to hit cinemas – yet strangely it has taken five years to do so with *'Transformers: Rise of the Beasts'* finally arriving now. The good news is that it has been well worth the wait.

Set in 1994, this chapter in the franchise begins its story in Brooklyn. Noah Diaz (Anthony Ramos – *In The Heights*) is a young man desperate for a job. The medical bills of his brother, Kris (Dean Scott Vazquez – *9 Bullets*), are rising by the day and with no work on the horizon he finds himself tempted to help a friend out with a car robbery.

Meanwhile, Elena Wallace (Dominique Fishback – *The Hate U Give*) is a young historian who loves the opportunity she has to work at a museum but is tired of the fact that her boss takes all the credit for her work.

Their lives cross paths though after Noah accidentally tries to steal a Transformer named Mirage (voiced by Pete Davidson – *The Suicide Squad*) and learns that a supernatural key needed by Unicron (voiced by Colman Domingo – *Lincoln*) to destroy planets like Earth, and he learns that Cybertron is on Earth and in the hands of Elena.



Transformers: Rise of the Beasts (2023). Image: IMDb

While Optimus Prime (voiced by Peter Cullen – *Winnie The Pooh*) devises a plan to get the key his team suddenly find themselves confronted by a group of Terrorcons led by the evil Scourge (voiced by Peter Dinklage – *Game Of Thrones*) who are hellbent on claiming the key for Unicron. Now Elena and Noah find themselves joining forces with the Autobots and several BattleBeasts, including Optimus Primal (voiced by Ron Perlman – *Hellboy*) and Airazor (voiced by Michelle Yeoh – *Everything Everywhere All At Once*), in a bid to stop the key from falling into the wrong hands.

True fans of the franchise will find some pros and cons with *Transformers: Rise of the Beasts*. On the plus side

is the fact that director Steven Caple Jnr (Creed II) and his team of writers have taken the plot away from the basic Autobot-versus-Decepticon battles and instead given the audience more of a look at the other types of Transformers that inhabit the universe. While some people may be scratching their heads at what the difference is between a Decepticon and a Terrorcon, others will be praising the film for its fresh approach... especially with the BattleBeasts that look amazing on the screen.

But sadly, at the same time this becomes another *Transformers* film that awkwardly fits into the universe set up by the legendary Michael Bay. There is a rough nod given to *Bumblebee* during the film yet it also seems that Optimus

and the other Autobots still don't trust humans, which is a bit of a plot hole. The events of this film also raise a lot of questions about some of the things said in 2007's *Transformers*, so maybe it would have been better if the producers had decided to make this one a stand-alone film or a reboot.

Still, there is plenty to like with this film. The action sequences are simplistic yet entertaining while the screenplay allows a lot of the human characters to be much more interesting than some have turned out to be in previous *Transformers* films. These characters seem to have a lot more heart and have been given interesting storylines that means that the audience find themselves caring what happens to them.

Transformers: Rise of the Beasts is a film that will be enjoyed by hardcore Transformers fans and because of the reboot vibe is easily accessible to those who haven't seen the other films. The film really hits its straps with its scene in Peru and it is great to see new life breathed into a franchise that certainly has more stories to tell.

Transformers: Rise of the Beasts is currently screening in Phuket and is rated G.

3/5 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

WINDOW ON PHUKET

June/July 2023 issue

Out now in over
600 locations

windowonphuket.com

A taste of Eden

Grenville Fordham

Comprising a smart air-conditioned dining area, a large outside space overlooking the lake and a tented beer garden, Eden Grill in Cherng Talay's Boat Avenue offers an attractive option for every taste.

First impressions count and we were duly impressed by our welcome the moment we got out of our car and were led by our server, Kwang – exhibiting the classic combination of friendly cheerfulness and knowledgeable professionalism – to our waterside table.



We started with Chef's Eden Seafood Soup and Andaman Red Snapper Ceviche. The soup, a mélange of freshly caught fish, prawns, mussels, squid, clams, onion, tomato and basil, was wonderfully rich and the seafood – especially the squid – was as fresh as could be and cooked to tender perfection. The ceviche – beautifully-presented raw snapper cured in lemon with shallots, mango and boiled potatoes – was refreshing, light, clean-tasting, tangy, spicy and pleasantly acidic. Impeccable!

For our main course my partner opted for 200g of Australian Pure Black Angus Ribeye MB 5+ with Pink Peppercorn Sauce and served with sides of Spinach Gratin and Truffle Mashed Potatoes. It's worth mentioning here that when you order steak at Eden Grill, you get to choose from eight signature sauces and 12 carefully curated side dishes. I went with the Wagyu Beef Stroganoff (Argentinian Prime Angus served with creamy mashed potato).

The ribeye was ordered medium and arrived at the table medium – which is so often, unfortunately, not the case. As well as being faultlessly cooked, it was succulent, full of flavour, tender, juicy and perfectly seasoned. Both side dishes were scrumptious and the portions were huge, so we were thankful we had decided to share.

The beef stroganoff combined impeccably the mushrooms, onions and thin



Photos: Eden Grill Phuket

tender slices of beef with the rich and slightly piquant sour cream, creating the irresistible savoury flavour that made this perennial favourite, 'invented' in the 18th century, so popular in the 1960s and 70s.

For dessert we went for the Garden of Eden (vanilla and white chocolate mousse served with senga strawberry sorbet) and the Vanilla Crème Brûlée (delicate egg custard infused with real Madagascar vanilla beans). The Garden of Eden presentation was inspirational – creamy mousse encased in a thin layer of senga sorbet, with a slug of sorbet on the side. The rich, creamy mousse was complemented perfectly by the tart flavour of sorbet. One of those desserts so delicious that you could just go on (and on) devouring it. The crème brûlée excelled in that the burnt sugar

topping was thick enough to resist the spoon (as it should be, but so often is not). Inside, the egg custard was brilliantly complemented by the subtle flavour of the vanilla beans, while the fresh strawberry topping to balance the creaminess was a stroke of genius.

If fine food perfectly executed, combined with professional but relaxed and friendly service is your thing, then you have to try Eden Grill. Reservations are recommended.

And if you're concerned about parking at Boat Avenue, the restaurant has its own dedicated parking lot – a huge bonus in this part of the island.

Eden Grill. Ope daily 4pm-12am (last order at 11:30pm). Reservations: 092-6585899. Website: edengrillphuket.com. Facebook: Eden Grill Phuket

THAI
RESIDENTIAL

Phuket's No.1 Trusted Real Estate Advisor

Are You Trying To Sell Your Phuket Property?

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



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

POP QUIZ

1. American frontierswoman Martha Jane Canary was better known by what name?

2. What name is given to a planet outside the solar system that orbits a star?

3. Which legendary twin brothers are credited with the founding of Rome?

4. Fort Knox, best known as the site of the United States Bullion Depository, is in which American state?

5. The Republic of Ireland is home to how many counties?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

1. Blunt weapon

5. Cultivate

9. Kind of spray

14. Big oil company

15. 1948 Hitchcock thriller

16. Are relevant

17. Enlarge, as a hole

18. First murder victim

19. Way to walk

20. 1971 World Series MVP

23. Bearing

24. Seven, in ancient Rome

25. Masters

28. Lab eggs

30. Greenish blue

34. Biting

35. Litmus reddeners

37. Bonanza find

38. 1986 Kentucky Derby winner

41. Compass dir.

42. Pitch

43. Companion of Artemis

44. Banquet

46. Crew need

47. Crania

48. Pouch

50. "Excuse me ..."

Down

1. Singer Vikki

2. Sundae topper, perhaps

3. Healing sign

4. Youth gang member

5. Free

6. Automaton

7. Grp. with Indonesia and Algeria as members

8. Healthy

9. Biblical woman from Bethlehem

10. Relating to a breathing condition

11. Extent

12. Came to rest

13. Instrument for Orpheus

21. Synagogue figures

22. Dodge

25. Hewn

26. Drupelets

27. She had "the face that launched a thousand ships"

28. Orangish yellow

29. Six-stringed instrument

31. Bumpkin

32. "He's ___ nowhere man" (Beatles lyric)

33. Social misfits

35. Marco Polo crossed it

36. Tobacco user

39. Geologic period

40. Calla

45. Honor

47. Four Seasons hit

49. Lots of land

50. Lower

51. Trace

52. Aviation acronym

53. Foreign money

54. Be next to

55. Fit together

56. Asian buffalo

57. Matinee ___

58. Zero

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

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

in every 10,000 chickens can change their gender.

2

pairs (one up, one down) is the total number of escalators in the entire US state of Wyoming, which covers 97,914 square miles.

80

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

1,160

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

60 billion

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

Source: *Uberfacts*

ISLAND VIEW



Sunrise shimmer. Photo by Sutharat Khaodee

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

This week in history

June 23, 1611

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

June 24, 1939

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

June 25, 1876

Battle of the Little Bighorn and the death of Lt Col George Armstrong Custer.

June 26, 1870

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

June 27, 1971

After only three years in business, rock promoter Bill Graham closes Fillmore East in New York, known as the

June 28, 1997

Holyfield-Tyson II: Mike Tyson is disqualified in the third round for biting a piece off Evander Holyfield's ear.

June 29, 1613

The Globe Theatre in London burns to the ground.



Phibunsongkhram c. 1940s

'Church of Rock and Roll'.

Source: *Wikipedia*

Trades & Services

 The Phuket News
 @thephuketnews

CORPORATE SERVICES



VERTIGO
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

WE MAKE YOU LOOK GOOD.

VERTIGO VIDEO PRODUCTIONS.COM
f i t y

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Waterproofing & Crack Repair

20 year WARRANTY

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

Drone Survey
 Pipe Inspection

HOME IMPROVEMENT

ASIA GREEN TECH
GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

+6683 394 7430
www.asiagtech.com
Cherng Talay & Rawai Phuket, Thailand
bruno@asiagtech.com

BIOCLIMATIC PERCOLA

HOME IMPROVEMENT

ASIA GREEN TECH
GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

+6683 394 7430
www.asiagtech.com
Cherng Talay & Rawai Phuket, Thailand
bruno@asiagtech.com

HIGH ELECTRICITY BILL ???
WE WILL TELL YOU WHY AND HOW TO REDUCE IT.
FIRST CONSULTANCY FREE OF CHARGE

SAVE ENERGY BY SMART MONITORING YOUR CONSUMPTION. FREE CONSULTANCY. COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

HOME IMPROVEMENT

WOOD FLOOR PHUKET - 20 YEARS

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

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Tile-it
SMART TILES
Tile Leveling System

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

Baan Wana - Cherng Talay
Tel : 076 620168

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

The Curtain Shop

UPHOLSTERY
CURTAIN
WALLPAPER
BLIND
CARPET

PROFESSIONAL
Curtain repeating, stitching, sewing and installation.

GREAT VALUE. LUXURY FEEL.

WhatsApp
 www.phuketcurtain.com sales@phuketcurtain.com 095 428 2299, 076 216 666

HOME IMPROVEMENT

ASIA GREEN TECH
GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

+6683 394 7430
www.asiagtech.com
Cherng Talay & Rawai Phuket, Thailand
bruno@asiagtech.com

- 100% Chlorine Free
- Water Parameters Check
- Salt Chlorinator Installation
- Electric System Check
- Pump Room Installation
- Filtration Check

MARINE SERVICES

Marine Engineering Specialists

C & C MARINE

YANMAR mtu

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

WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?

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

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

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th

FRI23JUN

MON26JUN

THU6AUG

THU20AUG



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

Oli: 081/891 4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket



Friday Mussels Night

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



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

Oli: 081/891 4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket



Monday BBQ Night

6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Fish, Prawns & Squids, salad buffet and veggies, Choice of potatoes, cold and hot sauces, Bread, Buns & garlic bread. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 395 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381



OMGD Chainé Phuket - Invitation to July event

A Night at the Cantina, Celebrating Traditional Flavors, Textures & Colors of Mexico. Established 2016, Mamasita Mexican is a 100% family owned and operated Restaurant. As such, it is only natural that we welcome you as part of our family. An amazing menu, with paired drinks, has been created specifically for the La Chainé des Rotisseurs Phuket OMGD event. Dress code - No jeans, with Chainé ribbon. THB 5,000 for OMGD members, THB 5,500 for Chainé members, THB 6,000 for a limited number of Guests. **Limited to 18 attendees. OMGD members get priority. To book your seat at this very special dinner, please visit - phuketticketmaster.com *Pay via Bank Transfer and only pay the dinner price, booking fees only apply to other payment options.



SKÅL

INTERNATIONAL

Connecting Tourism Globally

PHUKET

Skål International Phuket Dinner at Infuse Restaurant

Monthly dinner of Skål International Phuket for good food, good drinks, casual business, friendship, fellowship and fun, from 6pm, the 3rd Thursday of every month. For more details visit - www.facebook.com/SkalPhuket, contact@skalphuket.org

SUN25JUN



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

Oli: 081/891 4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket



Sunday Roast

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

WED28JUN



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

Oli: 081/891 4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket



Wednesday BBQ Night

6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Fish, Prawns & Squids, salad buffet and veggies, Choice of potatoes, cold and hot sauces, Bread, Buns & garlic bread. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 395 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

THU13AUG



BCCT Multi-Chamber Phuket Evening

Medical Tourism - What value does it bring to the Phuket economy? Medical Tourism is the growth sector that everyone is talking about. How will it help boost the Phuket economy? The British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT) is bringing together industry leaders to explain the what, the why and how Medical Tourism can help Phuket as a whole. Join us on Thursday 13th July at the Courtyard by Marriott Phuket Town from 6pm. Tickets for BCCT/partner members THB 500 net and guests THB 1,000 net. This includes free flow selected beverages and a light dinner. Book now by emailing events@bccthai.com

JOB



Class Act Media is Southern Thailand's most comprehensive media company, incorporating Phuket's only English weekly newspaper 'The Phuket News', Russian-language newspaper 'Novosti Phuket', the Thai-language 'Khao Phuket', Phuket's leading English radio station 'Live 89.5', 'The Phuket News TV' ('Phuket Xtra') and a host of publication services.

Thai Reporter/Translator

The Phuket News is looking for a Thai national as a Reporter/Translator to assist the editorial team to create news stories and translate Thai to English.

The successful candidate must:

- Have a good command of English (written and spoken)
- Have a hunger for news
- Be willing to learn
- Be willing to interview Thais and foreigners for stories
- Experience is an advantage but not essential
- Recent graduates are welcome to apply

We offer:

- Working 5 days a week/Monday-Friday (08.30 - 18.00 hrs.)
- Able to work from home
- Social security (100%) paid by the company

Interested candidates are invited to fill out an application and attach their full resume in English indicating qualifications, experience and expected salary, with a recent photo on: the Phuket News.com/job.php

Class Act Media Co., Ltd.

99/7 Moo 1 T. Kathu A. Kathu Phuket 83120

Tel: 076 612 550 Fax: 076 612 553

BUSINESS

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Non-tourism based business

A genuine opportunity to own a business and live in Phuket, Thailand. 4,000,000+ THB annual turnover with room for growth. Established more than 20 years. 3,000,000 THB annual net profit. Simple business model. Repeat custom. Mainly involves management of on-going contracts. Work permit + long-term visa attached to business. businessforsalephuket@gmail.com

JOB

URGENT

Personal Assistant Wanted

Smart, attractive, single female under 35 years old. Reliable and kind. Excellent English. Cooking. Shopping. Act as travel guide for UK/Canadian businessman. 1st-class resort accommodation. More details call 089 054 4354 or email bggvirgo@gmail.com

BOATS, YACHTS FOR SALE



BOAT Merry Fisher 1095 FLY

Three double cabins. Generous equipment. Additional living space with flybridge Integrated electric steering + autopilot Cockpit shower (hot & cold water) 220V water heater Fresh water electric toilet 2 Garmin chart plotters 2 wood cockpit tables + Flybridge table. Sundeck+sun pad on Flybridge Bow Thruster 2 Fridges + microwave Teak floor Length: 10.45 M Engine Type: Outboard YAMAHA F300x2 Fuel Capacity: 400 L x2 Water Capacity: 260 L Passengers: 10 Pax 0985308234 admin@motorium.co.th

CLASSIFIEDS

Massage for Painful Muscles

Using Therabody technology, only THB 500 for 1 hour. Location Ban Don, easy parking. Call for appointment - 092 805 3522. wfhelphs@icloud.com

JOBS



Marketing Manager

We are looking for an experienced and motivated individual to join our school's management team. Must have outstanding communication skills, be fluent in English, have a relevant degree and experience of marketing in an international setting. Previous experience of marketing educational programmes and ability to speak more than one language are an advantage. Full Time - 2 year contract. *Based in Phuket, Thailand. *Salary: 90,000 +15,000 housing. *End of contract bonus and flight allowance provided. *Health Insurance, work permit and visa provided. Applicants should send a CV and Application Letter in English to jedouard@headstartphuket.com and cedouard@headstartphuket.com

PROPERTY FOR SALE



Cha Am Beach Condo for Sale

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

URGENT



RPM by owner

Unique luxury condo 2 bed, 2 bath, 155sqm. Foreign FREE HOLD. Architect remodel in tropical white. Jacuzzi. All round beautiful views. Completely furnished to a high standard. Only toothbrush needed. Very motivated owner living in Phuket. Onsite restaurant, gym, Tennis court, swimming pools and new Russian consulate. Available to agents. Contact Brian (Owner) - bggvirgo@gmail.com

PROPERTY FOR RENT



Luxury Ocean View Pool Villa

The Cube Villa Kalim, is a modern ocean view pool villa with over 800sqm living space with a private 90 sqm infinity saltwater pool. Ocean Rock Villa Estate, 9/4 Soi Prabaramee 7, Kalim Beach, Patong, hello@the-cube-villa-kalim.com, +66(0)92 870 6065,

CARS, TRUCKS FOR SALE

BMW 320d Luxury 2014

Excellent condition; purchased 2016 with 8000km; local driving only by elderly driver; 112000km; cameras; BMW service; leaving Thailand. B750,000. John, johnhkt2560@icloud.com, 0869890919

PROPERTY FOR RENT



Yanui Beach Seaview Cabins

Yanui Beach Seaview are brand-new cabins/Pods. There are only two. On Baan Soi Rawai. Just before the gun club on the way to Laem Promthep. Beautiful seaview sunsets nightly, King-sized bed, small kitchenette. Suitable for couples. 30 square metres. Walking distance to Yanui Beach. 2 kilometres from Rawai and Nai Harn beaches. Available short term and long term. First time listed and brand-new. Negotiable. Ray Dixon, rraydixon@yahoo.com, 062-4488838



Land for sale near Mission Heights

Nice plot of land, just over one Rai in small, very quiet private estate, no monthly fees. 10 min to international school, 15 min to airport. Ideal to build 4 rental units. Reduced to 4.2MB. Contact owner direct - 063 743 8595.

PROPERTY FOR SALE



FARANG STYLE HOUSE

Fully furnished including Air/Washing machine, 300m from Robinson Thalang in small estate, low monthly fee. House has been rented for 5+ years to same tenant at B17K p/m. Still rented now to very good tenant. Reduced to 4.3MB, call owner direct on 063 743 8595.

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Chalong, Phuket Town, Bang Tao & Karon

CALL

081 895 4763

help@aaphuket.org

Google www.aaphuket.com

Phuket

NEWS TV

LIVE

89.5

Radio

f

the Phuket news



SKAL INTERNATIONAL PHUKET - JUNE 2023 DINNER

Another successful monthly dinner was held on June 15 at Kenny Rogers Roaster in Boat Avenue. More than 30 hospitality and tourism professionals from across the island and beyond enjoyed a fun evening of networking.



BDO PHUKET BREAKFAST BRIEFING

Held at Blue Tree Phuket on June 16, a select group of hospitality professionals received an update on how to navigate hotel disputes between owners and brands. Very insightful updates from Desmond Hughes from Hughes Krupica and Frank Janik from BDO Thailand.

Annual anti-drugs sports competition kicks off

ALL SPORTS

THE 22ND EDITION OF the 'Wichit Subdistrict Municipality Cup', which campaigns an anti-drugs drive in the local community, kicked off on June 10.

The anti-drug sports competition is held annually with the objective of warning youngsters as to the potential pitfalls of illegal drugs while simultaneously encouraging regular exercise to attain a healthy lifestyle.

The main highlight of the event was a tug-of-war contest and a football match between representatives of Wichit Municipality and Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO).

Held at the local football field in Moo 1, Wichit, the opening ceremony was presided over by PPAO President Rewat Areerob, who was joined by Kreetha Chotiwitpipat, Mayor of Wichit subdistrict, along municipal council members, village chiefs, heads of government agencies and



Photo: PR Phuket

members of the general public.

The PPAO team came out on top in the tug-of-war contest and the football match ended in a 2-2 draw. Other sports contested on the day included wood-ball matches, sepak takraw matches, takraw through the rings and petanque.

A variety of matches in these sports will take place between public and private sector teams each weekend until July 15, organisers confirmed.

This year's competition receives full support from government agencies and the private sector throughout its duration, including from the Phuket Sports Referee Club who are providing a team of officials to help oversee all contests until the competition's conclusion.

The Phuket News

Momentous victory for Verstappen in Canada

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

Max Verstappen led Red Bull Racing to its 100th grand prix victory with a pole-to-flag triumph in Canada last Sunday (June 18).

Verstappen was never genuinely challenged for the win after acing his launch at lights-out, though the Dutchman lacked the same kind of runaway pace he has enjoyed at previous weekends.

His Red Bull Racing car struggled to get its tyres up to working temperature on a chilly Montreal day, with the ambient hovering around 20°C and the circuit no warmer than 34°C.

His car was also afflicted by bird strike, debris which remained lodged behind his front-right brake duct throughout the afternoon.

It all conspired to keep him within around five seconds and theoretically within striking distance of the battling Fernando Alonso and Lewis Hamilton.

But as the Alonso-Hamilton duel came to its climax, Verstappen was able to stretch his lead to an insurmountable 9.5 seconds at the flag to take an ultimately comfortable victory.

"I'm very happy right now," he said. "To win again, to win the 100th grand prix for the team – that's incredible."

It was also Verstappen's 41st victory,



Verstappen celebrates his win. Photo: AFP

drawing him level with Brazilian F1 icon Ayrton Senna and putting him equal fifth on the all-time winners table.

"I never expected to be on these kinds of numbers myself as well," he said. "We keep enjoying, we keep working hard. But today has been a great day again."

Alonso started and secured second place despite being mugged off the line by a fast-starting Hamilton to initiate a race-long duel between the two championship titans.

"It was a battle with the Mercedes, and Lewis was pushing all the race, so I didn't have one lap where I could relax a little bit," he said. "It was an amazing battle."

Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz enjoyed a rare day of flawless execution from Ferrari, with strategy helping them to rise from 10th and 11th to fourth and fifth.

Sergio Pérez had a lukewarm recovery from 12th on the grid after a disappointing qualifying to ultimately finish sixth, although the Mexican driver never looked in contention for the podium.

The result did further damage to his flatlining title challenge, dropping him 69 points behind Verstappen.

Thai driver Alex Albon had a superb grand prix to finish seventh and score six valuable points for the Williams team.

The 27-year-old was centimetre perfect in his defence, holding back Esteban Ocon and a train of five much faster cars to score Williams's equal-best dry-weather result since 2017.

Ocon finished a frustrated eighth for Alpine ahead of local favourite Lance Stroll for Aston Martin and Alfa Romeo's Valtteri Bottas.

Surfers clean up at Khao Lak Festival

SURFING

THE KHAO LAK SURF FESTIVAL 2023 came to a close last Sunday (June 18) with perfect weather conditions making for great surfing which was followed by a community-led beach cleanup.

The three-day event, organised by the Thailand Surfing Federation, brought together a diverse field of surfers showcasing their talents across several categories.

Phuket's Annissa Flynn won the Women's Open Shortboard contest with a score of 10.00 from the judges, while Indonesia's Pito Wardana claimed victory in the Men's Open Shortboard with a score of 13.65 to collect the same amount in prize money.

The Men's Open Longboard saw Nathan Sadoun from France come out on top with an impressive score of 15.75, while the Women's Open Longboard was won by Flora Cristin Butar Butar from Indonesia with a score of 8.20.

All four winners received a cash prize of B20,000 each, with B15,000 and B10,000 going to second and third-placed finishers.

Several local talents made it to the podium to hint at a very promising future for Thai surfing, including Pattana Kenkhuntod, Sitipong Chapman, Phatchara Tiangnoi, Lunlana Sinsoke, Proud Panutatsanaporn, Mathiya Ashley Holmberg, Werawat Kuru, and Suwaprapa Khambutdi.

Following the award presentation, athletes and audience members participated in a joint beach cleanup, emphasising the



Photo: Thailand Surfing Federation

surfing community's commitment to environmental sustainability.

The festival then concluded with a free-entry concert on the main beach stage featuring Ton Trakul and Maiyarap from 8:30pm until midnight.

The Khao Lak Surf Festival 2023 is among the top surfing events in Thailand, featuring a diverse blend of local and international talent. The festival acts as a platform for the sport's growth and promotion in the region and is supported by the Ministry of Tourism and Sport, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and various other local government organisations.

A replay of the final day action is available for streaming on the Thailand Surfing Federation Facebook page at www.facebook.com/surfingthailand. Complete results and scores can also be found at <https://liveheats.com/events/139274>.

Next up is the 'Phuket Surf Contest 2023' which takes place this coming weekend (June 23-25) at Kata Beach.

The Phuket News

Padel Tennis competition set to debut in Phuket

PADEL TENNIS

BLUE TREE PHUKET IS set to host the first recognised Padel Tennis competition in Phuket when "Thai Padel Series 2023" makes its bow on the island this weekend (June 23-25).

Padel tennis has experienced a remarkable surge in popularity over the past few years, particularly in Europe, and is now emerging as a trending sport in Asia.

Recognising this trend, Blue Tree Phuket, a comprehensive entertainment hub that supports all aspects of leisure including health and sports, sees the 'Thai Padel Series 2023' as an opportunity to generate interest in sports and promote well-being.

Padel Tennis is an easy and accessible sport suitable for all ages and genders. The sport shares the same scoring system as tennis although the court is modified using walls at the sides which players can use to angle shots off, similar to squash.

The Padel Tennis Blue Tree Phuket facility is built to international standards and consists of four indoor and two outdoor courts, with professional instructors on hand to

THAI PADEL SERIES 2023

23 - 25 June 2023 at Blue Tree Phuket

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| MEN | 2,400 THB (4,800 THB/TEAM) |
| WOMEN | 1,900 THB (3,800 THB/TEAM) |

Admission Fee include:

- Welcome Package
- 3 Days of PADEL
- 2 Days Pass to Blue Tree Lagoon
- Dinner Buffet
- Prize Table & Lucky Draw

For more information please contact
+66 86 273 33 28

Image: Blue Tree Phuket

provide guidance.

Players from Thailand and countries such as China, Singapore, Japan, and the Philippines have registered to participate in the 'Thai Padel Series 2023' which will officially open at the Padel Tennis Blue Tree Phuket today (June 23).

Men's registration costs B2,400 (B4,800 per team), while women's registration costs B1,900 (B3,800 per team).

The training and competition schedule for the 'Thai

Padel Series 2023' is as follows: Friday, June 23: Team practice/opening games; Saturday, June 24, 8am - 3pm: Group stage matches; Sunday, June 25, 8am - 3pm: Playoff and championship matches.

Admission fee includes a welcome package, three-day access for the Padel Tennis tournaments, a two-day pass to Blue Tree Lagoon and a buffet dinner.

For more information please contact Daniel Padel Phuket via Whatsapp at (+66) 86-273-3328. *The Phuket News*

European football giants heading to Asia on tour

FOOTBALL

AFP

European giants including Manchester City, Liverpool, Bayern Munich and Tottenham Hotspur will all travel to Asia this summer to compete in a raft of fixtures around the continent.

Pep Guardiola's treble winners Manchester City will play his former side Bayern and Japanese champions Yokohama F Marinos in friendlies in Tokyo, Japan.

City, who won the FA Cup, Premier League and Champions League last season, will face Marinos on July 23 before taking on Bayern three days later, with both games taking place at Tokyo's National Stadium.

Bayern will also play J-League side Kawasaki Frontale before travelling to Singapore to take on Liverpool on Aug 2.

Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool will play two games in the city state, also squaring off against fellow English side Leicester City on July 30.

Thai-owned Leicester were relegated from the Premier



Treble-winning Pep Guardiola and his Manchester City team are just one of many big teams heading to tour Asia this summer. Photo: AFP

League last season although they retain a strong support base in Asia after they shocked the football world by winning the Premier League title in 2016 and the FA Cup in 2021.

The Foxes appointed Manchester City assistant coach Enzo Maresca as their new manager on June 16, less than a week after the 43-year-old Italian had tasted Champions League success with his former team in Istanbul.

Tottenham Hotspur, under new manager Ange Postecoglou, will travel to Australia,

Thailand and Singapore. In what is their first ever trip to Thailand Spurs will play Leicester in Bangkok on July 23.

"We are extremely excited to be making our first ever visit to Thailand and look forward to engaging with our passionate fans, supporting good causes and delivering football coaching clinics to leave a lasting, positive legacy," Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy said ahead of the trip.

Spurs will face West Ham in Perth on July 18, before

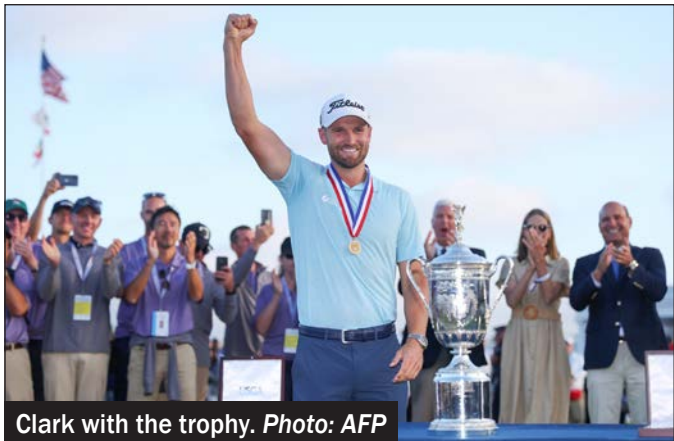
travelling to Bangkok to play Leicester on July 23. They round their tour off with a game against former coach Jose Mourinho's Roma in Singapore on July 26.

Last season's Spanish champions Barcelona have already played in Asia after they defeated former player Andres Iniesta's Vissel Kobe 2-0 in Tokyo on June 6.

Scottish champions Celtic also visit Japan this summer, taking on Marinos in Yokohama on July 19.

Meanwhile, in transfer news, Liverpool have completed the signing of Argentinian World Cup winner Alexis Mac Allister from Brighton in a £45 million (B2 billion) five-year deal, with former Reds midfielder James Milner going in the opposite direction.

Elsewhere, despite interest from several Premier League clubs, Jude Bellingham has joined Spanish giants Real Madrid from Borussia Dortmund in a deal that could rise to £115mn, making the 19-year-old former Birmingham City academy graduate the most expensive English player in history.



Clark with the trophy. Photo: AFP

Wyndham Clark holds off McIlroy to win US Open

GOLF

WYNDHAM CLARK FIRED an even-par 70 last Sunday (June 18) to win the 123rd US Open, capturing his first major title and denying four-time major winner Rory McIlroy his first in nine years.

Clark, whose previous best finish in six prior major starts was a tie for 75th, held his nerve at The Los Angeles Country Club, where his 10-under-par total of 270 gave him a one-shot win over McIlroy, who also shot 70.

Clark, ranked 32nd in the world, started the day tied for the lead with Rickie Fowler and had a three-shot lead after his fourth birdie of the day at the par-five 14th.

His lead dwindled to one shot after bogeys at 15 and 16, and McIlroy kept the pressure on with an unlikely par at 17 – where his tee shot was left onto the fairway of the neighbouring second hole.

Clark missed the green at the par-four 17th, but stuck his third shot within two feet of the pin for a needed par.

His approach at 18 left him 60 feet short, and he made a confident run with his first putt and sealed the victory with a par putt from within three feet.

World number one Scottie Scheffler finished third, two shots behind McIlroy, while reigning British Open champion Cameron Smith of Australia claimed fourth place on six-under 274. AFP

Yacht Sales Co Regatta sets sail

SAILING

THE WEATHER FORECAST is looking good and anticipation is high as The Yacht Sales Co Regatta gets underway today (June 23).

Organised by the Phuket Yacht Club, the three-day event will see a number of multihulls competing, including past winners such as James Haste's *Bonza* and Dan Fidock's *Fugazi* as well as Roger Diggelmann's *Saffron* and Glwyn Rowlands' *Twister 2*, both Stealths built in Phuket by Asia Catamarans. Andrew McDermott's trimaran *Trident* with a predominately female crew will also compete.

Two Fireflies, John Newnham's *Twin Sharks* and George Eddings' *Blue Noze*, will be competing against each other in the multihull class. Both were built in Phuket by designer Mark Pescott and boatbuilder Mark Horwood. They are always fun to watch scattering around Chalong Bay as is Dirk Wieblen's interesting *No Fear*, a VLVP YG25 MOD, which is also entered



Bonza. Photo: Phuket Raceweek

in the regatta.

Two monohulls, James Bury's *Alright*, a Sydney 40, and Neils Degenkolw's *Phoenix*, an X 3/4, have also officially entered the regatta.

The weather forecast is looking good, particularly on race days two and three with 12-17 knots expected in Chalong Bay. Principal Race Officer Simon James from Regattas Asia is hoping to get in three races a day.

The event, known as the Multihull Solutions Regatta for the past decade has changed its name and concept to the The Yacht Sales Co Regatta. Previously, it was the only regatta in the region which strictly focused on multihulls. However,

since the mother company Multihull Solutions started Yachts Sales Co, which brokers used monohulls, it is changing its image and re-branding itself to the Yacht Sales Co in this part of the world, and so it only made sense to rename the regatta.

In the past, this event has sometimes been seen as a feeder event for Phuket Raceweek, traditionally held a few days later, but since that regatta has been canceled The Yacht Sales Co Regatta is now the main event for the summer sailing season in the region.

Results can be found at www.results.sailingscoreboard.com/index.php/results/index. Scott Duncanson

Safe, Secure, Soundproof Windows and Doors

087 061 7631

@nathan Upvc brown

pvcphuket.com

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Sport



Surf's Up at Khao Lak Festival > p14

COOL RUNNERS



Sekachev and Nuntaporn top Laguna marathon

Marathon runners converge at the start line on Sunday, June 10. Photo: Supersports Laguna

MARATHON

The Phuket News
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Friends and families young and old came together in Phuket for the 17th edition of the Supersports Laguna Phuket Marathon on the weekend of June 10-11 which saw competitive racing, personal bests and lots of smiles among more than 6,000 runners from more than 43 countries.

The change to have morning starts on both days this year saw many opting to compete on both days and a festival-like atmosphere at the finish line with food stalls and entertainment enjoyed by participants and spectators alike.

Day 1 (Saturday, June 10) hosted the 2-kilometre kids run, 5km and 10.5km runs. Almost 250 kids en-

joyed the 2km kids run in the green surrounds of Laguna Phuket and the first to cross the line in the male division was Julian Kloihof from Thailand. Kawinthip Wongthawat, also from Thailand, crossed first in the female division.

Just two seconds separated the top two men in the 5km with Seung Ho Park of South Korea taking the win ahead of Russia's Sergei Zyrianov in second while in the women's division it was Hayley Newman of Australia who won by almost a minute over fellow Aussie Siena Milgate in second.

It was another Korean runner who took the win in the male 10.5km. Youngho Kim carved out a lead and held it to cross the finish line in a time of 35 minutes 23 seconds, ahead of Thai Aekkalak Jhankaew. Mei Yan Wong from Hong Kong dominated the women's 10.5km with

a convincing win by more than two minutes over second place finisher Kanika Chuaypet from Thailand.

PACE SETTER

Day 2 (Sunday, June 10) saw thousands of runners new and old converge at the start line at Laguna Grove where friendships were made and renewed and camaraderie was high. With runners from all over the world lining up together, it was a clear sign that Phuket is back and open for all!

Out with the lead pack, Russia's Artem Sekachev pushed the marathon pace early to create some separation between the leaders and the chasers. He then continued to turn up the pressure and by the 30km mark had a three-minute lead which he further extended over the remaining distance to finish in a time of 2 hours 51 minutes and 10 seconds, more

than five minutes ahead of second place finisher Waiwit Thongtae from Thailand.

In the women's division, the racing proved much closer and it became a podium battle amongst Thai and Aussie runners. With just two minutes separating the top three at the finish line, it was Nuntaporn Tengamnuy who claimed the crown in a time of 3:38:33 ahead of Wannarat Jittiwuttinon in second.

In the Marathon Relay it was the Thai team "Team Three men and a little lady" who were the clear winners in a time of 2:50:39.

Little separated the runners in the male half marathon. Sergei Zyrianov from Russia got off to a fast start and led from early on and although despite a more conservative at the start, Japan's Sota Maehara built up his pace and was closing fast towards the finish. Unfortunately

for him, there wasn't enough track and Zyrianov held on to take the win in a time of 1:17:25, with Maehara settling for second.

In the women's division, Australia's Hayley Newman outran a tough field to finish with a winning margin of four minutes over second place finisher from the United States, Lindsay Nickel.

Organised by GAA Events and internationally-certified measured run course by World Athletics (WA), the Supersports Laguna Phuket Marathon is one of Southeast Asia's favourite destination marathons and a qualifying event for the Boston Marathon.

The dates have already been set for next year, with the 18th Supersports Laguna Phuket Marathon taking place on June 8-9, 2024.

Full results of the 2023 Supersports Laguna Phuket Marathon are available at www.sportstats.asia.

Panipak makes taekwondo history in Eternal City

TAEKWONDO

THAI STAR PANIPAK WONG-pattanakit made history at the 2023 World Taekwondo Grand Prix in Rome, Italy, on June 11 when she won a gold medal in the women's 49kg class.

Panipak defeated Spain's Adriana Cerezo Iglesias to claim her 10th overall gold in the competition, the first athlete to achieve the feat, which also places her at the top of the charts of all time female winners.

She has now won a total of 13 medals (10 gold, two silver and one

bronze) at the World Taekwondo Grand Prix, which serves as a qualifier for the Olympic Games. The competition is structured across four different locations each year in each Olympic weight category, with further events this year to be held in Paris, France (Aug 31 - Sept 2), Taiyuan, China (Oct 1) and Manchester, England (Dec 2-3).

Surat Thani native Panipak, often affectionately referred to as "Tennis", had to fight hard in the Eternal City to overcome Iglesias in the final match by a score of 3-2 to claim the gold medal and pocket the winner's cheque of approximately US\$5,000 (B170,000).

The two know each other well having competed against one another in the women's 49kg taekwondo gold medal match at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. Panipak left it late on that occasion, trailing 10-9 with just five seconds remaining before delivering a devastating last-gasp kick to secure the win.

In doing so she became the first Thai medal winner at the Tokyo Games and the first ever from Thailand to win a gold medal in the sport of taekwondo at Olympic level. It was also the only gold medal Thailand won in Tokyo.

More recently Panipak, 25, won

her fourth successive gold medal at the 32nd Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Cambodia when she defeated Vietnam's Thi Kim Tuyen Truong in the women's 49kg final.

Panipak was voted best female amateur athlete of 2022 by the Sports Writers Association of Thailand (Swat) at the annual national sports awards ceremony in Bangkok on Apr 19 this year.

She is mentored by respected coach Choi Young-Seok, a Korean national who became a fully-fledged Thai citizen last year and who Panipak herself is quick to credit for much of her recent success.

The Phuket News

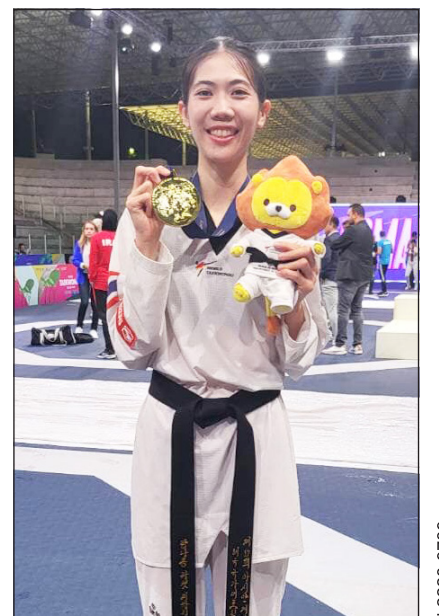


Photo: Sports Association of Phuket