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STRATEGY SHIFT

NEW THREE-PRONG CAMPAIGN TO COUNTER INFECTIONS OUTBREAK IN FULL SWING

COVID response teams have been deployed across the island. Photo: PPHO

The Phuket News
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Nine teams of medical staff under the newly formed Phuket Comprehensive COVID-19 Response Team (Phuket CCR) began their intensive screening of communities across Phuket on Tuesday (Sept 21) with the goal of testing 25,000 people within three days.

The teams have been deployed under the new strategy to curtail the rising number of infections across Phuket, which have risen from 1,186 on Aug 1 to 9,004 as of Monday (Sept 20).

Before Tuesday, the Phuket CCR teams had already set up in Patong, providing assistance to people in the Nani Rd area over last weekend, and another team arrived at the sea gypsy village in Rawai on Monday.

At the sea gypsy village the team members, comprising staff from the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO), Chalong Hospital, Vachira Phuket Hospital and Rawai Municipality, conducted COVID tests, administered vaccination injections and gave advice about self-care with COVID-19 and how to prevent contracting the disease. Officers from

the Surat Thani Provincial Public Health Office also joined the efforts.

Phuket Governor unveiled the new strategy to battle the rising number of COVID infections last Wednesday (Sept 15), with Pitakpol Boonyamalik, Inspector General of the Ministry of Public Health District 11 office, explaining the new three-pronged campaign.

As Chief of the Ministry of Public Health District 11 office, Mr Pitakpol is the leading Ministry of Public Health official responsible for the seven 'Upper Southern Thailand' provinces, including Phuket. Of note,

medical officers and staff from the Region 11 office have been assigned to support the Phuket CCR teams conduct the mass testing.

Phuket has had more than 200 new cases a day for weeks, Dr Pitakpol admitted when announcing the new strategy. However, he added, "Although there have been many new infected cases, more than 85% have been asymptomatic or green patients."

"The patients in the 'red' group with severe symptoms have been very few, and the mortality rate has been very low, because most people in Phuket have received two doses...

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Khan's batting masterclass gives Cows win



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News



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New COVID battle plan rolled out

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...of vaccine and are in the middle of the third booster dose," he said.

Regardless, Phuket this month has suffered its worst number of COVID deaths since the outbreak began. The PPHO on Monday reported five new deaths attributed to COVID-19, bringing the total number of deaths in Phuket attributed to COVID-19 since Apr 3 to 58. Of those, 38 deaths occurred this month, with 19 deaths in the past week alone.

Also vital to the new strategy is the opening of the 'Aunjai Clinic' at the conference hall at the still-incomplete Phuket Provincial Hall complex on Tha Kraeng Rd, on the south side of Phuket Town.

The clinic, named with 'aunjai' in Thai meaning 'peace of mind', has 20 lines open that local residents can call for advice on what to do if they test positive for COVID after using an antigen test kit (ATK) independently, not as part of a mass screening campaign.

With Mr Pitak last week confirming that 85% of new infections being asymptomatic, many people are now allowed to self-isolate at home instead of occupying much-needed hospital beds.



CCR team members at the Rawai sea gypsy village on Monday (Sept 20). Photo: PPHO

Of note, immediately after the announcement by Dr Pitak, the PPHO in its daily COVID situation report for the island marked that the number of patients designated as 'Green' had fallen overnight by 310, from 711 to 401. No public statement from Phuket officials marked the notable fall in the number of patients designated 'green', but the daily report for that day (Sept 16) also marked the total number of hospital beds actually occupied by COVID patients in Phuket had also fallen, by 381, from 2,266 to 1,885.

As of Tuesday, the PPHO reported that 1,269 remain in quarantine at 'COVID-19 Care Centres' set up across the island.

There were 4,074 under medical care or supervision, but only 49 in intensive care units, of which 35 are designated 'Red' patients - with 14 beds still available.

A further 418 patients remained in hospital isolation units. Of those, 347 patients were designated 'Yellow' patients - with 71 beds still available.

In total 1,787 people were

still under care at field hospitals and 'hospitals'. Field hospitals in Phuket as of Monday had 370 patients, with 96 beds still spare, and hospitals had 1,181 people in care, with 140 beds still available.

Dr Chalermpong Sukontapol, Director of Vachira Phuket Hospital, on Monday noted, "The important thing is that when an infected person is found, they must be brought into the treatment system immediately."

Dr Chalermpong described the Aunjai Clinic as "a comprehensive management center

for COVID-19 patients".

The clinic has been set up as a multi-agency effort, with the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO, or OrBorJor) providing B1.2 million towards setting up the facilities. It has not been reported how much funding the Phuket Provincial Government has put towards the project, but the phone services have been provided by TOT Public Company Limited and the Phuket Provincial office of the Digital Economy Promotion Agency (DEPA) have provided the computing services.

"The objective is to manage the number of infected people in the community, including expanding opportunities for all infected people to access fast and convenient services that appropriately appraise the severity of symptoms and risk factors," Dr Chalermpong said.

"The centre includes facilities such as a centre where infected people can wait until appropriate quarantine accommodation can be provided. The clinic also provides a single point of contact for services where people can call with enquiries and have their needs coordinated. The centre includes a 'One stop service call center' with 20 lines available, at 076-254200," he added.

"Those with positive ATK results can have their test results confirmed, they can undergo medical examination and diagnosis, including chest x-rays, and receive basic treatment by medical personnel," Dr Chalermpong explained.

"In cases that can be quarantined at home, in the community isolation centres, at hotels [or 'hospitals'], there will be a team to help treat initial symptoms. This includes giving patients medication such as Favipiravir in necessary cases, along with monitoring symptoms and giving advice every day," he said.

The third prong in the new strategy is the deployment of third-dose 'booster' vaccination injections, which began in earnest last week. As of Tuesday (Sept 21), 66,383 people in Phuket had received their third-dose 'booster' shot.

Meanwhile, also as of Tuesday, 426,387 people had received just one vaccination injection, while 389,163 had received two vaccination injections.

The PPHO in its detailed report available online marks its target population in Phuket to be vaccinated as 547,584, not 466,587 as promoted by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department.

Phuket officials mull easing domestic entry requirements

PHUKET OFFICIALS HAVE tabled making further changes to the requirements for domestic visitors to enter the province in the hope of providing a means to boost the island's flailing economy.

Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong explained at a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall last Saturday (Sept 18) that the meeting was being held specifically to consider solving the problems of people affected by the announcement of Phuket Province Order 5407/2564 on travel screening measures for entering Phuket.

The order was issued by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew on Sept 11 and came into effect on Sept 15.

Those present at the meeting, including senior island officials and representatives from the island's private sector, agreed to ease the measures currently



Tourist Police assist a foreign family at the Phuket Check Point leading onto the island. Photo: Phuket Tourist Police

in effect to help boost the island's economy while maintaining measures to protect people from infections being brought onto the island from the mainland.

The meeting attendees resolved to present to the Phuket Communicable Disease Committee for consideration to allow all groups to travel to Phuket under following conditions:

- 1) Arrivals must be fully vaccinated
- 2) Arrivals must provide evidence of testing negative for COVID-19 by RT-PCR method or ATK swab test within seven days before arriving
- 3) Arrivals must have the Mor-Prom app installed on their phones and must register their travel details through the gophuket.com web platform

As for air travel, which has limitations in the methods of detecting infection, it was agreed to propose having checkpoints set up at airports providing flights to Phuket where passengers can bring their own ATKs to conduct COVID tests before being allowed to board their flight.

Mr Pichet emphasised strongly that the proposal was just the opinion of the joint meeting between government agencies, the private sector and administrative departments to prepare to be presented to the Phuket Communicable Disease Committee for further consideration.

"This is to facilitate those who want to travel to Phuket, both for tourism and in other cases, under the principle to reduce infections from being brought to Phuket while helping to improve the island's economy," Vice Governor Pichet said.

However, Phuket officials have

sidelined discussing whether to lift the ban on the sale and consumption of alcohol in restaurants on the island due to the high number of new COVID infections reported each day.

The deferral came at a recommendation by Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) Chief Kusak Kukiattikoon at a meeting of the Phuket Provincial Communicable Disease Committee, chaired by Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong, on Sept 15.

The meeting recognised that business operators have formally requested the ban be lifted.

However, Dr Kusak noted, "We ask that Phuket Province [the provincial government] delay considering this issue first, because the area still has a high number of infected people. If there is a decrease in the number of infected people within the area, the issue can be considered again." *The Phuket News*

Smaller dose, improved immunity, proves study

Eakkapop Thongtub
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Phuket health officials will use only 20% of the standard vaccine dose of AstraZeneca for the third-dose 'booster shots' and will administer the vaccine doses as subdermal injections, not intramuscular injections, to boost the recipient's immunity.

The move follows a study conducted by medical officers at Vachira Phuket Hospital, hospital director Dr Chalermpong Sukontapol explained at a press conference at the hospital on Sept 15.

Joining the conference were the hospital's Epidemiologist, Dr Withita Jaeng-iam, along with DEPA Phuket office Manager Pracha Asawathira and Phuket Tourist Association President Bhummikitti Ruktaengam.

"The team led by Dr Withita and Dr Suphalak Laongpetch initiated this research to find an alternative way to provide the third dose of vaccine in Phuket, and Thailand," Dr Chalermpong said.

Dr Withita explained, "In this research, we had 242 participants who were 18-60 years old and we divided them into two groups. For the first group, of 120 participants, we injected 0.5ml of vaccine into their muscle [Intramuscular], which is normal for COVID-19 vaccine injection.

"For another 122 participants, we



The new injection method allows for use of only 20% of the standard vaccine dose.

injected 0.1ml of vaccine under their skin [subcutaneous]," she said.

"The study found that participants who received the subcutaneous injection with 0.1ml of vaccine developed a slightly higher rate of immunity than the other group of participants," Dr Withita explained.

"Participants who received subcutaneous injections had approximately 17,662.3 AU/ml, while participants who received intramuscular injections had 17,214.1 AU/ml. Both groups had a higher rate of immunity than the minimum threshold or 840 AU/ml.

"Additionally, participants who received subcutaneous injections had less side effects than the other group. Seventy of them had a fever or headache, while

the number went up to 98 in the other group," she said.

"The subcutaneous injection causes more irritation and redness at the injected area, it is not worrying," she added.

"We will start providing the third dose of vaccine by subcutaneous injection to 200,000 people who received two doses of Sinovac," Dr Withita said.

"To return to normal life, the third dose of vaccine is very necessary, and in the situation that we have limited doses of vaccine, the subcutaneous injection using less amount of vaccine helps us achieve that goal faster," she said.

"This may be an important method to solve shortages of vaccine doses in many countries while the Delta variant is spreading," Dr Withita concluded.



PPAO President Rewat Areerob proposed the cheap ATK test centre on Sept 15. Photo: PPAO

PPAO moves to set up cheap ATK test centre

THE PHUKET PROVINCIAL Administrative Organisation (PPAO, or *OrBorJor*) has approved setting up a centre to provide COVID tests by antigen test kits (ATKs) at cheap prices near the Phuket Check Point in Tha Chatchai to help alleviate the financial burden on those who need to cross the bridge to the mainland regularly.

PPAO President Rewat Areerob proposed the move at a meeting of the PPAO Council on Sept 15, where it was approved.

Mr Rewat said that the repeated cost of people having to take ATK tests in order to be able to leave or enter the island was prohibitive for many people needing to travel off-island.

The proposed centre would

be set up at the Phuket Gateway, near the Phuket Check Point in Tha Chatchai, Mr Rewat explained.

An area covering 40 square metres at the Phuket Gateway had already been chosen as the location to provide the services, he said.

The PPAO had already received bids from three operators wanting to provide ATK test services at the site, Mr Rewat noted.

Initial concessions to provide ATK test services at the Phuket Gateway would be for an initial six months, he added.

The cost of the tests to be provided had yet to be confirmed, but a price of about B200 per test had been set as the target, Mr Rewat noted.

The Phuket News

Tempers flare over long queues

LOCAL OFFICIALS IN Cherng Talay have called for calm and made quick adjustments to the queues for people waiting to receive vaccinations after tempers flared last Saturday (Sept 18) when people were forced to wait for hours in the sun.

An estimated 3,000 people had turned up at the vaccination centre, set up at the Angsana Laguna Phuket resort, officials confirmed.

Local residents voiced their anger at officials managing the queue, as they were forced to queue for hours, with no seating and no shade.

One clip shared online showed the local residents confronting the officials, challenging them as to why effort had been made to make the wait more comfortable.

The officials explained, "Everyone had to stand in line."

One tent had been set up to provide shade for some of those waiting, but as the sun moved across the sky, people were left with no shade. Local residents challenged the officials, asking why they had not set up more tents to provide adequate shade, knowing that the people waiting were left to wait their turn in the sun.



Local residents last Saturday voiced their anger over being forced to wait in the sun for hours. Screenshot: Supplied

Cherng Talay subdistrict chief (Kamnan) Jirayut Jirasunthornkul said that he had seen the clip posted online and assured that measures had been taken to avoid further unnecessary discomfort for those waiting to be vaccinated.

"Today was very good, organised, everyone was fine," he said.

Mr Jirayut said that Saturday saw an exceptional number of people turn up at the vaccination centre, and the number of people coming to the vaccination centre was rising.

"With the third-dose vaccinations arriving, there are a lot of people. Plus there are Myanmar workers coming to receive their second injection. So there are more people every day," he said.

"Our place is small too. People who come to be vac-

inated have to face problems such as walking a long distance to the centre. The weather [last Saturday] was hot too. Therefore, problems arise if all things happen at the same time. The officials involved take responsibility for what happened. Today, we have come to make more improvements so that everything went well," he added.

Suchart Yuyen, a local village chief (Phu Yai Baan) who has already previously made headlines, said he witnessed the confrontation on Saturday. He said that he had also seen the video posted online, and said that he felt he had to apologise to the local community as well.

"The team of administrative volunteers will speak well and go to clarify so that people know and understand the reason why villagers were left standing in the sun. On the day of the incident, there were many people who came to be vaccinated. Normally, it is no more than 2,000 people, but on that day almost 3,000 people came for their injections, which resulted in people being left to stand outside the tent and wait in the sun," Mr Suchart said.

Eakkapop Thongtub

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Construction worker in Patong killed

Drowned after pinned under fallen storm drain section

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A 40-year-old construction worker was killed after a concrete storm drain section fell and trapped him under water at the site of a flood protection project on Phra Metta Rd near Patong Hospital on Sept 14.

Rescue workers from Kusoldharm Patong station and Patong Police were called to the scene at about 3pm.

Also soon to arrive at the scene were Phuket Vice Governor Vikrom Jakthee, Patong Mayor Chalerm Sak Maneesri, Patong Police Chief Col Sujin Nilabodi and officers from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM).

The man, named by officials only as Mr Mahana, age given as 35-40 years old, was working in the excavated area below the storm drain when two sections "fell", officials reported.

No explanation was given as to why Mr Mahana was working in the danger area or what support was in place to prevent the sections of storm



Mr Mahana was trapped under one of the sections of storm drain that fell.
Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

drain from "falling".

Mr Mahana was trapped under one of the sections. He was pinned under water that was some 1.2 metres deep.

Fellow workers rushed to help him, but were unable to lift the storm drain section enough to free him.

Workers took about an hour to position a crane safely to lift the fallen storm drain section and recover Mr Mahana's body, officials reported.

Mr Mahana was working on

a project under the control of the Public Works and Town Planning and Country Planning Department (DPT). The project is to install large storm drains to prevent flooding in the central area of Patong. The project contract is for 120 days, from July 25 to Nov 21.

The traffic division of Patong Police have closed the section of Phra Metta Rd where the accident happened for fear that more ground

may give way at the site.

Drivers can make a U-turn in front of Patong Hospital and the Porn Karnfaifa shop.

Patong Municipality and Patong Police have placed barriers and signs at the site to warn motorists that the section of road is closed.

Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd has now been designated a two-way road from the Sai Namyen Intersection to the Jungceylon shopping mall.

Expat Phi Phi GM found dead

AFTER A SEARCH LASTING days and involving more than 50 people, rescue teams on Phi Phi Island found the body of Florian Hallermann, the 56-year-old General Manager of the Zeavola Resort, on Sept 15.

The search was launched after Mr Hallermann failed to return to the resort on Sept 11.

His body was found about 200 metres from a path leading over the hills in the centre of the island, on a steep slope overlooking Ao Plaew (Flame Bay), reported state news agency TNA.

The cause of death was still unknown, the agency reported at the time.

However, people close to Mr Hallermann later described his death as a trekking accident.

Mr Hallermann's body was recovered from the remote site and officers are in the process of investigating his death, TNA reported.

Mr Hallereman, an Austrian national, was last seen walking past a resort in the Laem Thong area on Phi Phi on Sept 11 last. A CCTV camera recorded him walking towards the path of the hills.



Mr Hallermann's body was found some 200 metres from a trekking path over a hill in the middle of Phi Phi Island. Image: TNA

Krabi Immigration Superintendent Col Kongrit Suksai said the search team said CCTV footage showed Mr Hallermann walking past the resort at 2:24pm.

He was walking alone with a backpack along the path leading to Ao Nui.

After Mr Hallermann failed to return to the resort, hotel staff posted photos of him on social media, asking if anyone had seen him. They filed a missing person report at Phi Phi Police Station on the Monday (Sept 13), Col Kongrit said.

Mr Hallermann had been working on Phi Phi Island for almost 20 years. He was well known and loved by the locals. *The Phuket News*

19 arrested at luxury villa party

CHALONG POLICE HAVE ARRESTED 19 people, including Thais and foreigners, at a party at a luxury villa in Rawai for breach of COVID-prevention rules currently in force by holding an illegal gathering.

The landlord of the property has also been arrested for obstruction of arrest, said a report by Muang District officials.

The luxury villa, located within the Crystal Villa residential estate in Rawai near Nai Harn Lake, was raided at 1am last Saturday (Sept 18), officers reported.

The raid was led by Muang Phuket District Officers, joined by Charung Thaochan, Kamnan (subdistrict chief) of Tambon Rawai, along with Ritthirak Salika, Phu Yai Baan (village chief) of Moo 7, Rawai.

Present to make the arrests were Chalong Police Deputy Chief of Investigation Capt Anantachai Piyapanan and other officers of the Chalong Police, said the report.

The 19 suspects arrested included Thais and foreigners, the report noted.

The 19 were all taken to Chalong Police Station and charged for violating Phuket Provincial Order 5409/2564, which was brought into effect to regulate the measures for closing venues and prohibiting activities that are at risk of spreading COVID-19.



Police arrested 19 people, including Thais and foreigners, at the luxury villa party in Rawai. Photo: Muang District Office

The charges were pressed specifically regarding Section 4, "to refrain from organising festive parties, birthday parties, housewarming parties, transport parties, banquets and performances or just for pleasure on various occasions".

The report by officials noted that the 19th suspect arrested was also charged with physically obstructing officers from performing their duties.

All the suspects were detained and taken to Chalong Police Station for prosecution.

No names of those arrested were released.

It was not reported whether any of the suspects would face additional charges for breach of the emergency decree or breach of Communicable Disease Act, as warned in the provincial order. *Eakkapop Thongtub*

Expat killed in deadly wipeout

Ukrainian woman slain by speeding ice delivery pickup truck

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A Ukrainian woman, who worked as a yoga teacher and was mother to a 6-year-old daughter, was killed and three other people were injured after an ice delivery truck spun out of control on Thepkrasattri Rd on the morning of Sept 15.

The truck, a converted pickup truck with a 'cold box' fitted on the back, crossed the central reservation and ploughed head-on into oncoming traffic on the other side of the road.

Lt Chanita Boonyanuwat of the Thalang Police was called to the scene, on the southbound lanes of Thepkrasattri Rd in front of Wat Tha Ruea, in Srisoonthorn, just before 7:30am.

Police together with Kusoldharm rescue workers arrived to find a calamity of an accident scene.

The ice delivery truck, a Phuket-registered white Toyota Revo pickup truck, with massive damage to its front was tipped over on its side, resting on the boot of a car parked by the side of the road.

Another pickup truck, an Isuzu pickup without special modifications registered in Nakhon Sri Tham-



The scene of the accident on Sept 15. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

marat, was facing backwards into traffic also with heavy damage to its front and damage to its rear.

The Ukrainian woman, 30-year-old Chalong resident Anastasiia Falko, was dead by the side of the road. Her crumpled Phuket-registered Honda Click motorbike

was lying nearby.

The ice truck driver, Theerawat Saehor, 30, and his passenger Arun Klinsom, 20, had suffered minor injuries to their legs.

The driver of the Isuzu pickup truck, Kitsadee Chueibuakaew, 27, was suffering chest pains from the

head-on collision.

Rescue workers administered first aid to all three of the injured survivors of the accident, then transported them and the body of Miss Falko to Thalang Hospital.

Theerawat told police that it was raining while he was driving

on the northbound lane of the road. He overtook another pickup truck, a manoeuvre that saw him lose control of the ice delivery truck he was driving.

The ice delivery truck went across the central reservation and hit the Isuzu pickup truck and the motorbike the Ukrainian woman was riding.

CCTV footage showed that the ice delivery truck was travelling at speed on the wet road and had swerved to avoid colliding with a white pickup truck that had just made a U-turn. The footage showed that at slower speeds the ice delivery truck would have had ample time to avoid any collision with the white pickup that had just completed the U-turn.

The three vehicles were taken to the Thalang Police, Lt Chanita confirmed.

"At this stage, police have not decided what charges the driver [Theerawat] will face, as we have to wait for him and his passenger, and the driver of the other pickup truck driver, to be discharged from hospital first so we can question them," she said at the time.

"I have already asked the medical staff to conduct an alcohol test of the driver," she added.

Vegetarian Festival will go ahead

THE ANNUAL PHUKET VEGETARIAN Festival will go ahead on Oct 6-14, but must be observed under strict COVID-19 protection measures, Phuket officials have announced.

The confirmation that the annual festival will proceed came at a meeting of officials and representatives from 30 shrines across the island held at Provincial Hall on Sept 14.

Chairing the meeting was Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew joined by Vice Governor Piyapong Chooowong, who noted that it was important to allow the festival to be held.

"The festival in Phuket of fasting and eating only vegetables is an old tradition that has been passed down for a long time, and it is known to both Thais and foreigners from all over the world that such traditions are very important to Phuket and to the people of Phuket," V/ Gov Piyapong said.

"This year, the Vegetarian Festival will be held on Oct 6-14 while the outbreak is still ongoing, so the festival must be held under strict disease control measures," V/ Gov Piyapong continued.

"Basically, the measures will focus on three main aspects: participation in ceremonies, the quality of foods, and the hygiene standards of restaurants and shrine kitchens," he said.

"For participation in ceremonies, every shrine can hold all the ceremonies like before, but the number of participants must be limited or lower than normal.

"Participants must maintain social distancing. Shrine staff must be tested



This year's Vegetarian Festival will be held on Oct 6-14. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

every three days.

"For the quality of food and the hygiene standards, the Phuket Public Health Office [PPHO] has set measures and standards for shrine kitchens. All cooks must be tested every three days," he explained.

"If a cook tests positive, he or she must be taken to receive treatment, and any other people who had close contact with the person must self-quarantine at home for 14 days," V/Gov Piyapong added.

"The shrine organisation must change the whole team of cooks and close the kitchen for at least one day for cleaning and sanitising," he said.

"For food vendors near the shrines, they must strictly follow the disease control measures," he also warned.

"However, I need to present the measures to be considered and discuss this again with the Communicable Disease Committee," V/Gov Piyapong added.

The Phuket News

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Unsecured visitor info left online for a decade

THAILAND

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Research by a leading cyber security firm has revealed that a database containing the personal information of 106 million international visitors to Thailand was left exposed online for a period of 10 years.

The unsecured database containing international travel records was left exposed on the web without a password, researchers from Comparitech confirmed. Dates on the records ranged from 2011 to the present day.

Personal information of travellers included date of arrival in Thailand, full name, sex, passport number, residency status, visa type and Thai arrival card number.

Bob Diachenko, who leads Comparitech's cybersecurity research, discovered the database on Aug 22, 2021 and immediately alerted the Thai authorities, who acknowledged the incident and secured the data the following day.

Diachenko surmises that any foreigner who traveled to Thailand in the last decade might have had their information exposed in the incident. He even confirmed the database contained his own name and entries to Thailand.

The database was indexed by search

A screenshot of some of the exposed data. Image: Comparitech

engine Censys on Aug 20 with Diachenko discovering the unprotected data two days later. He immediately took steps to verify and alert the owner in accordance with the company's responsible disclosure policy. Thai authorities acknowledged the incident on Aug 23 and swiftly secured the data in due course.

Notably, the IP address of the database is still public but, at time of press, the database itself has been replaced with a honeypot. Anyone who attempts access at that address now receives the message, "This is honeypot, all access were logged." [sic]

Thai authorities responded quickly to Diachenko's disclosure and maintain the data was not accessed by any unauthorised parties. However it is unknown how long the data was exposed prior to being indexed. 'Honeypot experiments' conducted by Comparitech show attackers

can find and access unsecured databases in a matter of hours.

"Any foreigner who traveled to Thailand in the last decade or so probably has a record in the database," said Comparitech's tech writer Paul Bischoff. "There are many people who would prefer their travel history and residency status not be publicized, so for them there are obvious privacy issues."

None of the information exposed poses a direct financial threat to the majority of data subjects as no financial or contact information was included, said Bischoff.

"Although passport numbers are unique to individuals, they are assigned sequentially and are not particularly sensitive. For example, a passport number can't be used to open bank accounts or travel in another person's name on its own," he said.

Sinopharm jabs for children underway

BANGKOK

THE CHULABHORN Royal Academy (CRA) began its campaign to inoculate schoolchildren in Bangkok and neighbouring provinces with the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine on Monday (Sept 20), ahead of the planned reopening of classes.

Staff from the academy vaccinated 2,000 students aged 10-18 years from Satri-withaya School, Roong Aroon Learning Centre and Santisuk School at the National Telecom head office building, with the approval of their parents.

The CRA plans to jab 180,000 students from 132 schools in Greater Bangkok who have applied to the academy for vaccination. There is no charge.

Despite Sinopharm not being approved for use on schoolchildren by the Food and Drug Administration, CRA secretary-general Nithi Mahanonda said it was safe. The Chinese-made vaccine used inactivated virus and had already been given to young people in China, Chile, Sri Lanka and the UAE.

The campaign would con-



Photo: AFP

tinue until all schoolchildren who registered had been vaccinated, Dr Nithi said. He expected it would end in mid-October.

The academy would monitor their condition three times – on the second day, one week and one month after vaccination, he said.

The drive to vaccinate young people was announced last month, following the example of China.

The ministry plans Pfizer shots for students aged 12-18 nationwide from Oct 4, starting with 29 provinces, including Bangkok, hit the hardest by the pandemic.

All schools must talk with students' parents and get their approval, and send the list to education offices supervising their area by Sept 25.

The ministry plans to reopen all schools after students are inoculated. *Bangkok Post*

New vaccine strategy approved

BANGKOK

PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTER Anutin Charnvirakul on Monday (Sept 20) approved an alternative COVID-19 vaccination strategy in an attempt to both enhance immunity levels and prolong vaccine supplies.

Doctors throughout the country can now administer vaccine booster shots under a patient's skin as opposed to into muscles, as was previously the case. Anutin confirmed the method is to be used at the discretion of doctors following a study conducted by medical officers at Vachira Phuket Hospital (see page 3).

Each intramuscular dose can be divided among five people using this method, said Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) assistant spokeswoman Dr Apisamai Srirangsan to therefore maximise the number of supplies.

Phuket's Vachira Hospital will begin implementing the new strategy from today (Sept 24), with hospi-



Anutin has approved the new strategy. Photo: NNT

tal director Chalermpong Sukonthaphon stating trials showed the technique triggered a similar immune response to the regular method.

Phuket, which back in April was among the first provinces in Thailand to administer vaccines, has received 72,500 booster doses of AstraZeneca from the Disease Control Department. These booster shots will be used via the technique to complement the two doses of Sinovac that many of the island's population have already received.

According to NNT, Phuket has vaccinated just over 50% of 80,000 registered fully vaccinated lo-

cals since September 12th. The province plans to roll out booster doses to target groups and state officers in the province between September 19th and 25th. The general public, foreigners and migrants workers will receive jabs between September 26th and 30th.

The decision to adopt unconventional vaccination techniques is largely down to problems with supplies. Official figures state that so far only 21% of the estimated 72 million population of Thailand have been fully vaccinated.

A similar unconventional approach was recently announced whereby Sinovac will be administered to patients as the initial shot, followed by a second dose of AstraZeneca. This is an approach that has not been adopted anywhere else thus far.

Since the break of the pandemic last year, at time of press Thailand has seen 1,500,105 COVID-19 cases, with 1,352,838 complete recoveries so far and 15,518 deaths.

The Phuket News



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A Bumpy Ride



BLAZING SADDLES

Baz Daniel
baz_gunner2000@yahoo.com

A few months ago, I returned home from a fairly punishing ride in deluges of monsoonal rain. Generally, I don't mind cycling in the rain as long as there's a hot shower afterwards, and I was enjoying exactly such a treat when I happened to make the mistake of looking down at my dripping torso.

"Good Grief!" I shrieked. "What on earth's that?"

A growth of some sort had appeared in the right side of my groin about the size of a small tangerine. It certainly wasn't there the last time I'd bothered to look and now it was, well, 'bulging ominously', I would say!

By the age of 72 one does perhaps get used to certain bits of one's anatomy falling off, or sometimes appearing, in unbidden and alarming ways. My ear and nose hair have, for example, decided to stage embarrassing pyrotechnic growth spurts in recent years, all without my prior agreement, but this new bulge in my groin was in a different league altogether.

I gingerly prodded my new anatomical addition and thankfully there was no pain, while to the touch it felt jelly-

like. So, being of the male persuasion, I decided to do what I suspect most men do in a situation like this... ignore it and hope it goes away!

But during the following weeks, my new body-tangerine seemed to be actually getting bigger and so I eventually decided to 'fess-up' to my partner Pattie, who just happens to be a medical professional working at Bangkok Phuket Hospital.

One evening at bedtime I said, "Will you have a look at my groin?"

"Don't be disgusting," she immediately replied, before casting a cursory glance toward the offending protrusion. "Inguinal hernia," she said dismissively, "How long have you had it?"

"Oh, I just noticed it," I lied.

"Hmmm," she scowled while giving me a knowing look. "OK well, you need to have it dealt with before it gets any bigger and the tissue which is bulging through your abdominal wall becomes strangulated and you die a horrible and painful death."

She has a way with words in matters medical, does Pattie, which while not exactly inspiring confidence, certainly do tend to provoke action! So it was that we booked an appointment with Doctor Toranis Tantipiriyakij at Bangkok Hospital Siriroj for the very next day.

Visiting a hospital during a raging viral pandemic is probably not most people's ideal choice for a day out, however, I have the utmost praise for the



Baz gives Dr Toranis Tantipiriyakij a hearty handshake.

space, social distancing, cleanliness, protocols and efficiency we were shown by the hospital.

I quickly found myself in the extremely calming and reassuringly professional presence of Doctor Toranis who confirmed Pattie's diagnosis and said I should have an ultrasound of my groin, then book an operation for the following week for minimally-invasive laparoscopic, or 'keyhole' surgery, during which the bulging tissues are captured and netted back into place.

The ultrasound revealed that in fact I had a bilateral inguinal hernia, the one on the left side of my groin being less developed, and therefore not actually bulging through my abdominal wall as yet.

Days later I cleared a COVID test and checked into a delightful hospital room worthy of a five-star resort for my night's stay. My operation passed in a sweet anaesthesia-induced dream and

the next thing I knew I was waking up back in my sun-dappled room, with Pattie holding my hand. That evening, I was even allowed a celebratory bowl of clear soup and the following morning Doctor Toranis came for a debriefing chat to tell me that all had gone well and I could go home... just like that!

It's now been a month since my operation and I managed to climb back onto my beloved mountain bike just two weeks after the surgery for a gentle, flat ride around the dam above Chalong.

In a cycling career which now stretches over 65 years, I suppose one must expect the occasional bump in the road, or abdomen, and it's reassuring to know that if you ever experience anything similar, we have here in Phuket the excellent medical resources of Doctor Toranis and his team to flatten out any bumps in your own road, or indeed your tum!

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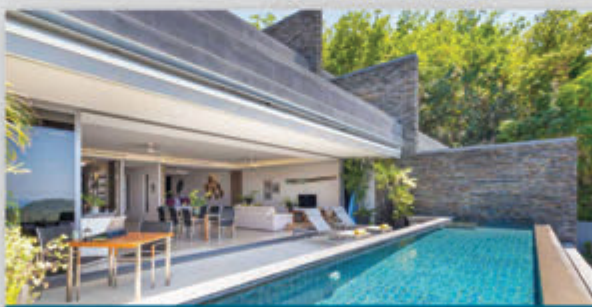
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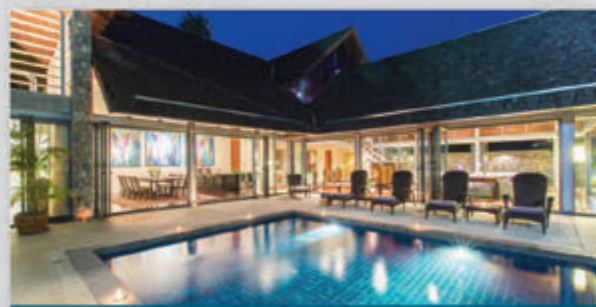
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ACADEMIC SUCCESS AT HEADSTART DESPITE A PANDEMIC

The ongoing world crisis has brought unexpected difficulties and challenges to each of our lives no matter what background or sector we work in. For educators, motivating and supporting students to achieve their personal best and guiding them to choose the right degree and university that will enable them to successfully launch their lives and careers as young professionals is a monumental challenge at the best of times.

Despite the additional challenges which this past year has brought, our teaching team's commitment and resilience has enabled HeadStart's secondary students to succeed and accomplish outstanding results. Here is a look into some of our student's achievements for 2020 - 2021.

HeadStart's Graduating Class of 2021

By Ms Indu Bedi, Head of Sixth Form



In what has been a remarkable two year period in everybody's lives, HeadStart's class of 2021 have truly set the bar high in terms of their achievement. 38 graduates, hailing from 15 different countries, are our largest ever graduating class. 35% of this cohort have attended HeadStart for more than 5 years and 2 students have been with us for 10 years.

These tenacious and resilient young people have managed to stay the course and achieve outstanding results in the A-Levels and BTECs and gained access to universities across the world including those found in the top 200 on the QS University Rankings and at the top of Thai and Asian University Rankings.

Our students have spread across the world to study a vast array of subjects including Medicine, Law and Economics, Liberal Arts & Science, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Psychology, Biological Sciences, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Business Management, Accounting & Finance, IT, Marketing, Hospitality Management,

Sports Studies, Tourism and Hospitality Management, Food Science and Biotechnology, Intercultural Studies, Business, Media and Communication and Liberal Arts and Sciences.

They managed adversity with grace this year, worked hard to achieve the results they deserve and have come through with very promising plans for their future. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

Student Testimonial

By Evan Lee - HeadStart Head Boy 2020 - 2021



"Hello, I am Evan, one of the graduates of the Class of 2021. Being enrolled at HeadStart is by far the most memorable experience I've had in my life. I enrolled at HeadStart in 2017 and during those 4

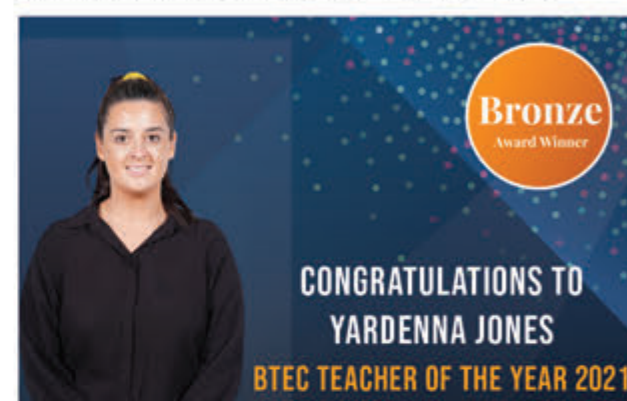
years, I have gained so much knowledge, discipline and also encountered life-changing lessons. I had the opportunity to be the Head Boy of the school and this role brought me connections with other people. It also helped me acknowledge the importance of teamwork and leadership.

The teachers and staff at HeadStart made a huge contribution to my Secondary Education. It is because of them that I was able to manage stress and the heavy workload efficiently. Consequently, I have achieved successful academic results and I cannot thank HeadStart enough for this."

Evan has achieved A* in A Level Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics and is now successfully enrolled at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore to study Mechanical Engineering.

HeadStart Teacher Wins Prestigious BTEC Accolade

By Ms Jennifer Blackweir, Academic Director



In July of this year, we celebrated the exceptional achievements of Yardenna Jones, who has been awarded a bronze BTEC Award for Teacher of the Year at the 11th anniversary of Pearson's annual BTEC Awards.

Yardenna was recognised by school management for setting up our BTEC program from scratch and already enabling 34 students to complete at least one qualification. Her proactivity, passion, tenacity and willingness to help and support others has led to our impressive BTEC results.

2021 Academic Results

We are delighted to announce our IGCSE (97% A*-C), A Level (98% pass rate) and BTEC (100% pass rate) results for June 2021. These successful grades are the result of a tremendous amount of hard work from the students, supported by their teachers and parents over the last two years. Well done everyone for these magnificent results - we are proud of you!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGHEST ACHIEVING STUDENTS

A or A* in 3 or more A Level subjects



Hyunseung Lee



Suphachaya Phewngam



Elizaveta Stashevskaya



Charlie Suzuki



Nam Bouchara



Valentine Guillerey

Distinction or Distinction* in all BTEC subjects



Samantha Manton



Sandi Davies

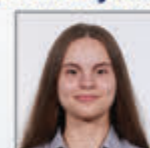


Sina Stahl

A grade in all AS Level subjects



Nutcha Phaisamran



Anastasia Buneeva



Teethabhumi Triparasit



Natnicha Kalajuk

A or A* in 5 or more IGCSE subjects



Supicha Songpetchmongkol



Jessica Jungjai



Keira Brain



Denis Solodkov



Alicia Martin



Aneeta Mettapanyalert



Yingge Liu



Juliette Guillerey



Roy Caspi



Vivek Khanal



Jomkwan Vettayawalkoon



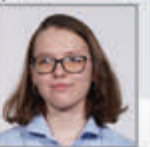
Luna Ducasse



Giacomo Solaroli



Jacen Antognoli



Anastasia Gavrilova



Nikita Kasatkin



Pinyo Ochse Freiwald

POP QUIZ

- Who in 2016 was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature 'for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition'?
- Which rugby stadium, home of Ulster rugby, was formerly known as Ravenhill?
- In which sort of building does Homer Simpson work?
- 'Nessun dorma' is an aria from which opera?
- Which of New York City's five boroughs is home to JFK International Airport and LaGuardia Airport?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

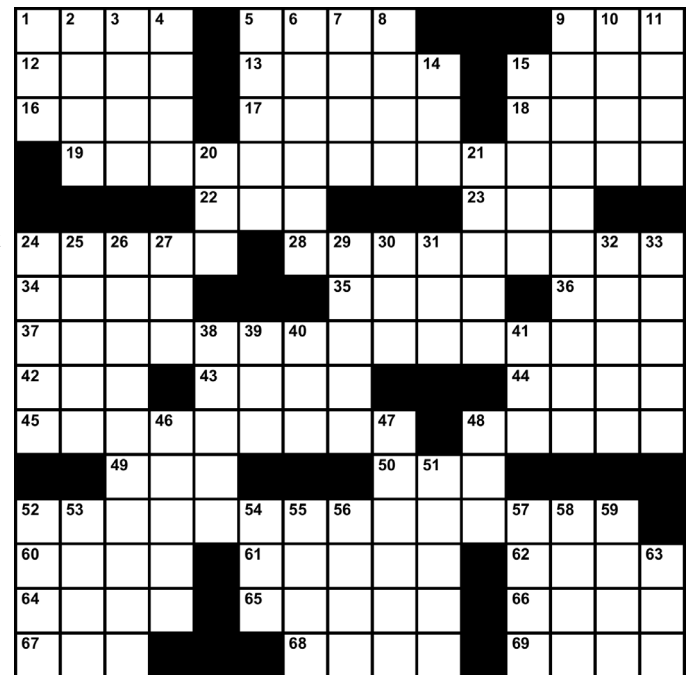
- Cause of head-scratching, perhaps
- Applies lightly
- Narc's org.
- Gambler's marker
- "Foundation" author Asimov
- "Star Wars" knight
- Affect
- A lot
- Kind of column
- Flowers
- "Attract" end
- Switch positions
- Health Act
- "Pulp Fiction" director
- Kind of account
- Keyed up
- Shelley's "___ Skylark"
- Flowers
- "Wheel of Fortune" request
- Commuting option
- Against
- Guards
- Barely beats
- Buck's mate
- Basis of some divisions
- Flower fields in Provence
- Amatory god
- Words repeated at the start of the "Sailor's Song"
- Archeological site

Down

- Digital readout, for short
- Pancake maker
- Big bank, for short
- Lord Grantham alma mater on "Downton Abbey"
- Dance style
- Cockeyed
- "The Beverly Hillbillies" regular
- Cut, as a log
- Banking task
- God's garden
- Comes to the rescue
- "Stars and Bars" flag org.
- It allows for movement
- Amanti is one
- Arizona national monument
- Big East team
- "Goodnight" girl of song
- "Race car" is one
- "That's ___!"

29. Ever

- Battle of Britain grp.
- "___ Wiedersehen"
- "The Beautiful Country" star, Nick
- Desert sight
- Projecting window
- Blanched
- Fizzle out
- Little League coach, often
- "Uncle Tom's Cabin" girl
- Stockpile
- Bard's nightfall
- They get changed
- Brazilian soccer legend
- "A God in Ruins" novelist
- Abbr. after a comma
- Roller coaster feature
- On a deck, perhaps
- Bongo, for one
- Continental coin
- Baltic Sea port
- After expenses

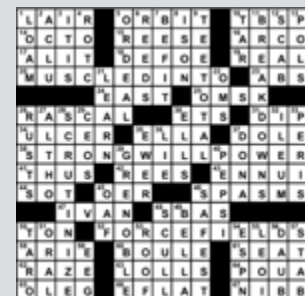


Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

- 1) Bob Dylan; 2) Kingspan Stadium; 3) Nuclear Power Plant; 4) Turandot (by Giacomo Puccini); 5) Queens

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

5

minutes is how long female mayflies live for at most – just long enough to mate and lay eggs.

10

minutes is how long a standard hurricane takes to release more energy than all the nuclear weapons in the world combined

40

percent of the world's population contracted the Spanish Flu in 1918, which killed more people than World War I.

66

percent of all the people who have ever lived past age 65 in the entire history of the world are alive today.

35,000

museums are located throughout the United States.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Phuket Town child. Photo by Ivan Sebastian

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

This week in history

Sept 24, 2007

Between 30,000 and 100,000 people take part in anti-government protests in Yangon, Burma, the largest in 20 years.

Sept 25, 1513

Spanish explorer Vasco Núñez de Balboa reaches what will become known as the Pacific Ocean.

Sept 26, 1973

Concorde makes its first non-stop crossing of the Atlantic in record-breaking time.

Sept 27, 1066

William the Conqueror and his army set sail from the mouth of the River Somme, beginning the Norman conquest of England.



Occupy Central in Harcourt Road, Hong Kong. Photo: Calvin YC

Sept 28, 2014

Hong Kong protests: Benny Tai announces that Occupy Central is launched as Hong Kong's government headquarters is being occupied by thousands of protesters. Hong Kong police resort to tear gas to disperse protesters but thousands remain.

Sept 29, 2004

Burt Rutan's Ansari SpaceShipOne, the first private crewed spacecraft, performs a successful spaceflight, the first of two required to win the Ansari X Prize.

Sept 30, 2009

A 7.6 Mw earthquake shakes Sumatra with a maximum Mercalli intensity of VIII (Severe). The dip-slip earthquake kills 1,115 people, and is followed days later by a 6.6 Mw strike-slip event.

Source: Wikipedia

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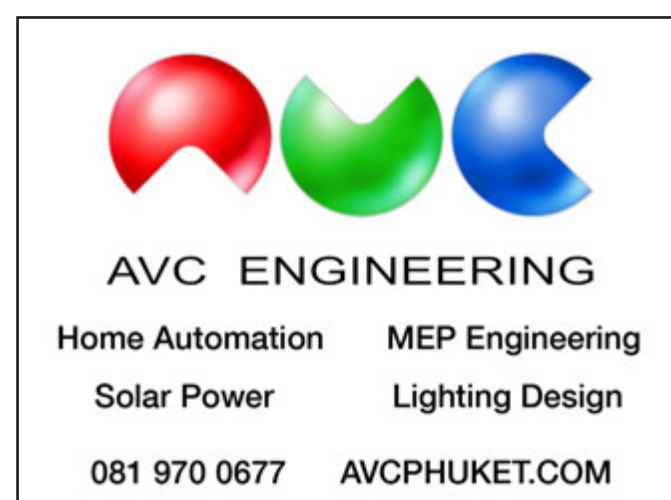
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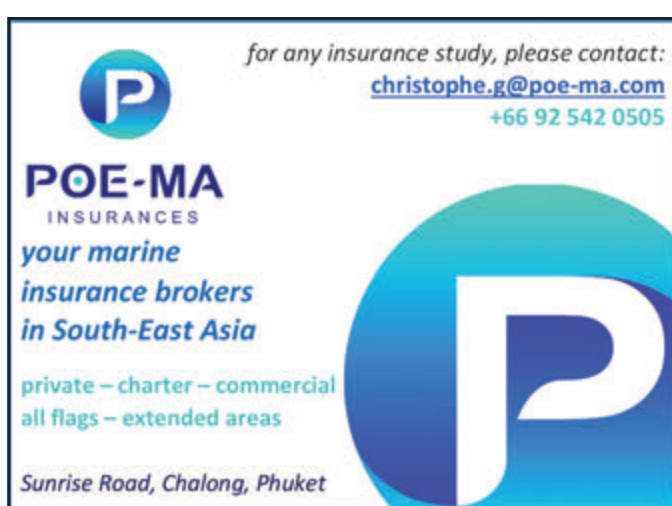


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Sunday roast

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MON

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Monday BBQ night

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WED

29 SEP



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Wednesday Ribs night

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FRI

1 OCT



The Grow Boating Networking Evening for October 2021

The Grow Boating Networking Evening for October 2021 will be held at the Isola Restaurant, at the Royal Phuket Marina on Friday the 1st of October from 5pm. There will be a light buffet sponsored by the Isola Restaurant and as always all of your favourite beverages will be available. We are delighted to announce that The Thailand International Boat Show and JAND Events will be the drinks sponsor for the evening. See www.thailandinternationalboatshow.com Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome. There is no entry fee, just drop your business card or register at the bar. We hope to see you there and if you know anyone you think would be interested in coming please invite them along. To join our mailing list please send an email to growboatingphuket@gmail.com Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/growboatingphuket/> Grow Boating is kindly supported by our media partner The Phuket News, Live 89.5 radio and Phuket News TV. See www.thepuketnews.com



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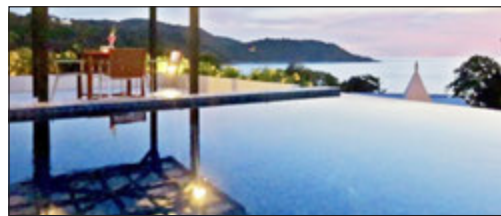
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SUCCESS FOR ALL



PHUKET HOTELS ASSOCIATION COMES TOGETHER TO CLEAN UP PHUKET

On Sep 14 and 15, 2021 Phuket Green Day took place all over the island. A corporate social responsibility initiative launched and as a joint effort by The Phuket Hotels Association's Environmental & Sustainability Working Group, Thai Hotel Association, Southern Chapter and Phuket Tourism Association in support the International Coastal Clean Up Day (ICCD), one of the world's largest annual preservation and protection and volunteer efforts for our ocean, waves and beaches.

The event was fully supported and endorsed by the Phuket Government, the Tourism Authority of Thailand and US Embassy Bangkok. Hotel staff from across Phuket joined the community to champion individual zones by supplying volunteers and coordinating the efforts on the day.



Kiwi ace Cairns faces 'greatest challenge'

CRICKET

NEW ZEALAND CRICKET great Chris Cairns said on Monday (Sept 20) said he was "facing possibly the greatest challenge" of his life after being left paralysed following a stroke during a heart operation.

The 51-year-old, one of the world's top all-rounders in the early 2000s, underwent life-saving surgery last month when a tear developed in the lining of a major artery.

The Canberra-based former international had an emergency operation in Sydney but suffered a stroke during the procedure, leaving him unable to use his legs.

In his first comments since, Cairns shared a video message on social media in which he thanked the surgeons, doctors, nurses who "saved my life", acknowledging there was "a long road ahead".

"Just over six weeks ago, I suffered a type-A aortic dissection, which essentially means there's a tear in one of the major arteries of the heart," he said.

"I had several surgeries and grafts and very thankfully



Chris Cairns. Photo: AFP

the specialists were able to save the heart itself.

"One of the complications that arose was a spinal stroke which in itself will provide me with possibly the greatest challenge I've ever faced in rehab going forward."

Cairns played 62 Tests between 1989 and 2004, averaging 29.4 with the ball and 33.53 with the bat, including 87 sixes – a world record at the time.

However, his on-field achievements were overshadowed by match-fixing allegations, strongly denied by Cairns, that resulted in two court cases.

He was cleared on both occasions but complained his reputation had been "scorched" regardless. *AFP*

US Ryder Cup team wary of European 'underdogs'

GOLF

AFP

A year's delay has only made the United States more hungry to reclaim the Ryder Cup, but captain Steve Stricker knows even a star-studded American side will have to battle to wrest the coveted trophy from Europe at Whistling Straits, which started yesterday (Sept 26).

"I feel like on paper, from head to toe, the world ranking, I would say we're a stronger team," Stricker said of a team that features eight of the top 10 in the world rankings.

"But I don't think our guys feel we're better. They know deep down how hard it is to beat them."

Europe have won nine of the last 12 editions and 11 since continental Europeans joined the biennial match play showdown, swelling the ranks of the team from Britain and Northern Ireland.

Spain's Sergio Garcia, one of Pdraig Harrington's European captain's picks, has earned the most points in the



Sergio Garcia, one of Europe's captain picks, has earned the most points in the continent's Ryder Cup history and owns a record of 22-12 with seven ties. Photo: AFP

continent's Ryder Cup history and owns a record of 22-12 with seven ties. He says the Europeans are still in catch-up mode.

"We've obviously had a great run," Garcia said. "I'm not going to deny that. But at the same time, if you look overall, I think we're still behind... and that's a goal to try to tilt the balance in our favour when it comes in the global score of the Ryder Cup."

Europe closed the gap in that overall record to 26 US wins to 14 European with two

drawn with their victory at Le Golf National in France in 2018.

Then as now the USA boasted the advantage on paper, with players who had combined to win 10 of 16 prior major championships, but they were out-classed 17.5-10.5.

Europe's recent success make them unlikely underdogs despite the rankings, but there's no question they'll be in hostile territory at Whistling Straits, the bunker-strewn layout along the shore of Lake Michigan that has hosted three PGA Championships.

The notoriously partisan Ryder Cup crowd will have even fewer Europe backers this year as pandemic travel restrictions continue to bite.

Stricker has downplayed the threat of dissension on a team that features multiple major winners in Brooks Koepka, Dustin Johnson, Collin Morikawa and Jordan Spieth, major champions Justin Thomas and Bryson DeChambeau as well as Tokyo Olympic champion Xander Schauffele and PGA Tour playoffs champion Patrick Cantlay along with Daniel Berger, Scottie Scheffler, Harris English and Tony Finau.

World number one Jon Rahm of Spain spearheads the European challenge, joined by former No. 1 Rory McIlroy, Matt Fitzpatrick, Tommy Fleetwood, Viktor Hovland, Bernd Wiesberger, Garcia, Poulter and 2019 British Open champion Shane Lowry.

What they lack in world rankings power and major titles they might well make up for in Ryder Cup experience, with a combined 39 Ryder Cup appearances and 12 victories among them.

2020/21 PREMIER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2020/21

Premier League CHAMPIONS 2020/21

The Phuket News

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Brains over brawn the key for Joshua against Usyk

BOXING

ANTHONY JOSHUA SAYS HE IS going to favour brains over brawn for the defence of his World Boxing Association (WBA), International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Organisation heavyweight titles against Oleksandr Usyk.

The 31-year-old British pugilist is set to go toe to toe with the undefeated Ukrainian former undisputed cruiserweight world champion at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London tomorrow (Sept 25).

Joshua told Sky Sports bulking up for the bout lacked common sense.

"I'm looking trim for this fight," he said.

"I'm fighting a guy who is a 12-round fighter. So it would be silly of me to go in there bulky with my muscles screaming for oxygen.

"I've learned how to condition my body for specific fights. I've been training like a 15-round fighter in this camp.

"What happens when I train that way? My body adapts and takes its natural form. This is the form it has taken."

Joshua (24 victories 1 defeat, 22 KOs) claims he is focusing more on adopting a streetwise approach to combat the guile of Usyk (18-0, 13 KOs), who has had just two fights since stepping up to the heavyweight division.

"I am sharpening the mind so that I can



Anthony Joshua. Photo: AFP

concentrate for the 12 rounds," said Joshua.

The defence against Usyk replaced a long-awaited unification title fight with fellow Briton Tyson Fury.

That contest was scuppered when a United States arbitrator ruled World Boxing Council champion Fury must defend his title against Deontay Wilder. That bout takes place on Oct 9.

Joshua has said he needs a fight against Tyson Fury "on my record" before his career is finished because boxing as a whole required at least one bout between the two British heavyweights.

"Do I need Tyson Fury on my record? I need it," Joshua told the BBC 5 Live boxing podcast.

"We need it for boxing. It's what we all need, I need it. Come on, let's see how good I am.

"Fight good fighters and they bring out the best of you. Training camp is hard. To get better is very difficult in boxing. To fight Tyson Fury is a big challenge." *AFP*

Potter works his magic

FOOTBALL

Ben Tirebuck
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The Premier League season may only be five games old but a quick glance at the table might surprise many to see Brighton in fourth place, nestled between the two Manchester giants and only one point off the summit.

Cynics will point to a favourable opening run of games but the more observant will argue that it has much to do with the manager, Graham Potter.

The 46-year-old Englishman is very much a shepherd amongst sheep; innovative, refreshing and fearless in adopting an unorthodox approach to his management style.

Following a career spent mainly in the lower leagues, Potter pursued an unconventional route to top-flight management, coaching at Hull and Leeds Universities, the England Universities Squad and the Ghana women's team at the 2007 FIFA World Cup.

He took the manager's job at Swedish fourth division side Östersund in 2011 where he produced a minor miracle by guiding them to three promotions, a national cup victory and a run in Europe with impressive performances against the



Graham Potter's unconventional methods are paying dividends. Photo: AFP

likes of Arsenal and Galatasaray. Next a move to Championship side Swansea before he took up the reigns at Brighton in 2019.

His teams play a possession-based, enterprising style of foot-

ball, encouraged to take risks. Pep Guardiola describes him as the best English manager in the game.

HUMAN TOUCH

With a degree in Social Sciences

and a Master's in leadership and emotional intelligence, Potter is very much about the human touch. Success on the pitch for him is guided by people first and players second. While at Östersund he introduced the "cultural academy" where players, coaches and staff would collaborate to create community art projects and perform theatrical productions for the public every year.

The reasoning, explained Potter, is to take people out of their comfort zone, to test them as individuals and a group; to promote bravery and responsibility and to see how they respond by finding solutions, all factors that can indirectly translate to scenarios in a game. You can be sure that a squad having to perform *Swan Lake* before an audience won't be phased by much on the pitch.

"I just think it's the only way you can get better, ultimately," Potter told *The Guardian* in 2019. "As soon as you stay comfortable, I think you're on the way down. There are bits when the lads don't really want to do it [but] you have to try and manage that as a team, as a club."

"We are our own worst enemies and as a coach you can help people recognise that, raise their self-awareness and then see if they change or do anything about it."

"That is actually a very rewarding thing about the job because you are helping people's lives in a way. People think that coaching is about winning football matches – which, of course, it is – but throughout my career it has also been about helping people become better, more able to deal with life and be more successful in their lives, on and off the football pitch."

"If you just pin yourself to a result, it is a bit of a rollercoaster. You cannot win all the time and, often, we don't win that much. I think if we can create an environment where people genuinely think that we are trying to help them, to improve them, maybe they will try a bit harder and do a bit better for the team and the club. I have to remind myself of that a lot, especially if we've got beat. It takes me probably 24-48 hours to come out of that darkness of defeat."

This is not something Potter has experienced of late with only one loss thus far this season. Further defeats will come, of course, but in Potter the club have someone who can clearly manage the balance.

Sharing a famous surname with a fictional wizard, there are no doubts this thoughtful and creative coach will continue to weave his own brand of unconventional magic for many moons to come.

Farewell to a goal scoring legend

FOOTBALL

THE FORMER TOTTENHAM, CHELSEA and England striker Jimmy Greaves, one of the game's greatest goalscorers and characters, died last Sunday (Sept 19) aged 81.

His strike rate was phenomenal as he scored 357 goals in England's top flight, a record which still stands. He scored a total of 366 goals in Europe's top five leagues, a record that was only eclipsed by Cristiano Ronaldo in 2016-17.

A member of England's 1966 World Cup-winning squad, Greaves scored 44 goals in his 57 appearances for England.

He began his career in 1957 with Chelsea and his 41-goal haul in 1960/61 still stands as the club's record for a single season.

A brief spell at AC Milan followed before he joined Tottenham where the charismatic Londoner, renowned for his cheeky wit, scored 266 goals in 379 appearances between 1961 and 1970.

He scored the opener in Tottenham's 3-1 win over Burnley in the FA Cup final in 1962 and a brace the following season in the European Cup Winners' Cup Final as the club demolished Atletico Madrid 5-1. He also played in Tottenham's 1967 FA Cup final win against his old club Chelsea.

Greaves played in all four of England's games at the 1962 World Cup but famously did not feature in the 1966 World Cup final victory over West Germany. A shin injury had seen him replaced in the side by Geoff Hurst at the quarter-final stage.



Jimmy Greaves in action against France at the 1966 World Cup. Photo: AFP

After retiring, Greaves starred as a football pundit alongside former Liverpool striker Ian St John in the hugely popular ITV programme 'Saint and Greavsie' between 1985 and 1992.

He endured a debilitating fight with alcoholism and suffered a stroke in 2015 which left him wheelchair-bound and with severely impaired speech.

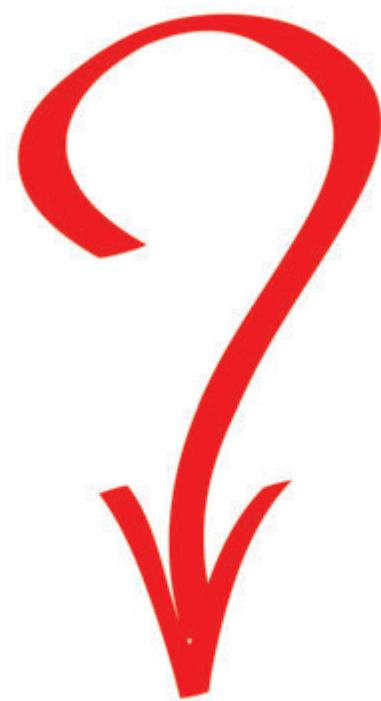
Martin Chivers, who was Greaves' fellow forward at Tottenham, said the only modern-day player he would compare his friend to was Lionel Messi.

"You'd have to look at Messi, how he jinks in and out. Jimmy was like that," Chivers said.

"One of the truly great goalscorers, terrific guy with an absolutely brilliant sense of humour, the best. It has been a difficult time for him, he can now rest in peace," Hurst tweeted. *AFP*



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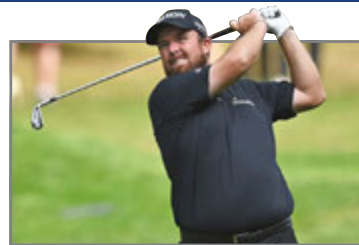


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Sport



Europe aim to defend Ryder Cup > p14



The Cows' Ashan Fonseka in action. Photo: Michael Flowers

THE WRATH OF KHAN

CRICKET

Neil Quail

A virtuoso batting performance from Ali Khan at the ACG on Sunday (Sept 19) overwhelmed an understrength Patong Penguins side to help the Thalang Cows into a 2-1 series lead. Having suffered a six week sabbatical since game two of the series due to inclement weather combined with local COVID restrictions, both teams were desperate for a return to competitive cricket, and thankfully playing conditions proved almost ideal over the weekend for the game to go ahead.

Following weeks of downpours, it was the Penguins bowlers, however, that agonisingly faced the threat of Khan in characteristic cavalier form as he rained down a torrent of batting abuse, eventually claiming an unbeaten 144 not out from just 64 deliveries.

But the Penguins will certainly reflect on a woeful fielding display that included five dropped catches inside two consecutive overs and wickets that arguably would have altered the game's outcome, with Khan being dropped twice during this remarkable passage of play while

having just 20 runs to his name.

Batting first, Cows' opening pair of Ashan Fonseka and Mayur Deuskar took the score to 37 by the start of the fifth over, when Seemant Raju took the ball for his initial over and immediately impacted on the game by dismissing Deuskar (5) with a comfortable catch taken by Jason Robertson at mid-on.

Fonseka (29) would fall just three deliveries later in a carbon copy of Deuskar's wicket as Robertson and Raju combined once more, with the score now on 42 for 2.

FLOUNDERING

By the end of the dropping debacle in the 10th and 11th overs, Cows' captain Joe Ninan and Khan had taken the total to 87 for 2, both batsmen very aware that they were extremely fortunate to be still at the crease.

But throwing caution to the wind and capitalizing on the litany of unforced errors and a floundering fielding effort, the Cows' pair pounced on the Penguins' bowling, the score swelling to 154 by the 15th over drinks' break, allowing respite for the Penguins and for the cows in the paddock adjacent to the ACG.

Ninan's (34) supporting role would come to a close in the 19th

over, when Imtiyaz Mushtaq returned to the Penguins' attack and battered Ninan's stumps with his first delivery of the over, sending the Cows skipper back on a score of 190 for 3.

Replacing Ninan, Bhanu Pratap Singh and Khan would see out the remaining overs, with Khan celebrating his century later in the 19th over, and the pair adding a demoralizing 72 more runs to the total in posting 262 for 3 after 25 overs.

A solid Singh performance of 24 not out from 21 was eclipsed by Khan's raucous innings that included a dozen 6s and seven 4s, generating a sense of inevitability that hovered over the ACG during the inning's break.

DAUNTLESS DUO

Penguins openers Anthony Van Blerk and Raju understood that a run rate of more than 10 per over would require a determined start, but it was a focused line and length initial spell from Sami Pir and Manoj Yaddav that restricted scoring until the fourth over, when a Pir delivery deftly found the edge of Van Blerk's bat for Richard Clarke to collect behind the stumps with the score on 22 for 1.

Already falling behind the re-

quired run rate, Raju (23) retaliated by ravaging the first two balls of Michael Flowers' first over with a brace of 6s. But Flowers himself would bring about Raju's demise with a caught and bowled in the eighth over, the scoreboard now showing 46 for 2, some 20 runs behind the Cows at the same innings juncture.

A disappointing cameo from Mushtaq yielded a miserly four runs before Flowers furnished Fonseka with a straightforward catch, bringing the dauntless duo of Robertson and Craig Morgan to the middle, a pairing the Cows knew could throw a spanner in the works of an expected victory.

By the 15-over drinks' break, the Penguins pair looked to have settled in for a battle, with the score on 103 for 3, but facing an ever increasing required run rate, now at 16 runs needed per over.

The over following drinks offered hope seeing 22 coming off Deuskar's second over, but that hope soon disintegrated into a pipe-dream when in the very next over Pir rattled Robertson's (29) off-stump and four balls later, Yaddav claimed Morgan's (47) wicket in similar fashion.

Livermore in for Robertson could

manage just three runs before finding Khan's hands for Yaddav's second wicket of the day, and Penguins requiring a realistically unattainable 130 runs to win from slightly more than five overs.

With light beginning to fade, Massa Clarke and Sajju Abraham (7 not out) faced a Cows' attack turning to bowling spin in respect of safety for the players.

The last two overs of the game saw Clarke dismissed bowled by Pir, and with just three balls remaining until inning's end, Shilash Sharma fell victim to an accurate piece of Fonseka fielding, being run out from a direct hit, and the Penguins well short of the target on 153 all out.

Khan's 144 not out off 64 was unquestionably rewarded with the man-of-the-match, while other performances of note included Pir's 3 for 18 off 4 overs, and Morgan's 47 off 29.

This best of five series returns on Sunday (Sept 26) with game four and a must-win encounter for the Penguins in order to bring the rubber to a deciding match.

Anyone interested in playing cricket or spectating at the ACG, please feel free to reach out for details via the ACG or Phuket Cricket Facebook pages.