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TRADITION



Photo: TAT

SHRINE ELDER CALLS FOR VEGETARIAN FESTIVAL TO RETURN TO ITS SPIRITUAL ROOTS

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As Phuket's famous Vegetarian Festival this year marks 200 years since its founding, elders at the festival's birthplace, Kathu Shrine, say the nine-day celebration has drifted from its origins as a ritual of healing and moral purification.

"The festival began as gratitude, not entertainment," Prasert Khaokitpaisan, President of Kathu Shrine, who has also served previously as Mayor of Kathu, told *The Phuket News*.

"People saw their prayers answered. They made a vow to continue the tradition, and that vow has lasted 200 years. However, in

the past 20 or 30 years, the elements used by spirit mediums ('mah song') have become more and more extreme.

"Tourists expect something extreme, so some mediums push beyond what our ancestors intended. But this is not the true spirit of the Vegetarian Festival," he added.

Mr Prasert said that a concerted push for the 200th anniversary this year is a campaign to highlight the spiritual aspects of the festival, namely through a series of events branded 'Satha', the Thai word for 'Faith'.

"If we lose the purity, we lose the heart of the festival," Mr Prasert warned. "Our ancestors began this to heal the people of

Phuket. Two centuries later, that purpose must remain."

THE FESTIVAL

Each year during the ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar, devotees across Phuket commit to a strict vegetarian diet and the 'Five Precepts', which includes abstaining from meat, alcohol, sex and worldly pleasures. The period of abstinence has one holistic goal – to purify both body and soul.

Spirit mediums, or Mah Song, pierce their bodies with swords, spears, or needles while entering a trance believed to be possession by Chinese deities.

These rituals, once rare and deeply personal acts of devotion, have gradually turned into public

performances. Crowds line the streets for processions, and social media is flooded with close-up photos of pierced cheeks and firecracker explosions.

The traditional elements used by mah song include blessed swords and skewers, but over the years irregular items borne as face piercings have included handguns, motorbike parts, beach umbrellas and even dispensers from petrol pumps.

Mr Prasert said the Kathu Shrine has maintained strict rules limiting the tools used in rituals – only swords, knives, or needles no more than an arm's length are permitted.

"We never allow anything else," he said. "When the spirits descend,...

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already facing
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Elders call for festival purity

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...the mediums lose awareness of their surroundings. Using dangerous objects is not only disrespectful – it tortures the human body that carries the spirit.”

He emphasised that the true meaning of the festival lies not in endurance or shock value, but in faith to relieve pain for people who follow and believe in the traditions.

“Eating vegetarian is about cleansing the mind and body, about compassion and peace. That’s the real purity we must protect,” he said.

ORIGINS

The Phuket Vegetarian Festival traces its origins back to a visiting Chinese opera troupe who had come to perform in Kathu village, which at the time was home to many Chinese people working at the local tin mines.

In fact, the main mall of Kathu Shrine today remains as ‘ground zero’ for the event, as that is where the troupe were staying.

According to Mr Prasert, the troupe of performers was delayed from returning home due to a large storm. Soon after, an outbreak of disease swept through the site.

The troupe, realising they had missed their annual vegetarian observance in China, held a shortened version of the cere-



Photo: PR Phuket

mony – and miraculously, the sickness subsided.

Before leaving, the performers left behind sacred statues of Hiew Oi and Hiew Yian, which they had brought with them, for the local Chinese to worship.

Inspired by the miracle, the local Chinese miners collected donations to give to the troupe, so the troupe could bring statues of the Nine Emperor Gods, including the main Emperor God Dianhu Nguan Sui, back from China during their next visit to Phuket.

“It took the Chinese opera troupe a long time to return to China and then come back to

Phuket. Upon arrival, the sacred objects were received at (what would later become) Saphan Hin and carried in procession to Kathu Shrine, establishing it as the first main Chinese shrine in Phuket and the birthplace of the festival,” Mr Prasert explained.

BEYOND THE CROWDS

“Apart from abstaining from meat, devotees observing the Vegetarian Festival must also maintain the Five Precepts – refraining from killing, stealing, lying, sexual misconduct and intoxication. The shrine forbids gilding Buddha images and insists on the same ceremonies used for

generations,” Mr Prasert noted.

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, Kathu Shrine maintained its rituals, but under strict limits – no more than 50 participants, ATK testing and distancing – a testament, Mr Prasert said, to how faith endures even in crisis.

“This tradition survived storms, wars and pandemics,” he said. “We will not let it fade because of modern pressures.”

The selection of ‘mah song’ (‘horses of the gods’) remains a sacred process. Candidates’ names are written on slips of paper and chosen through a divination ritual known as “poi”, performed before the shrine’s deities. Only those who receive divine approval may serve.

“The mediums act as channels for the gods, blessing believers and helping drive away misfortune. They receive no payment, and if a chosen medium cannot participate, a family member must continue the duty,” he added.

Firecrackers – an inseparable part of the festival – are believed to ward off evil spirits and announce the gods’ arrival. Though banned in some areas due to safety concerns, Kathu Shrine continues to permit them under supervision.

“For those who observe the precepts, firecrackers bring no

harm,” Mr Prasert said. “Purity is protection.”

Actually originally established around 1817, Kathu Shrine is not only a religious centre but also a pillar of Phuket’s Chinese-Thai heritage, Mr Prasert added.

“It has become a hub for cooperation among over 40 shrines across the island, working under the Phuket Vegetarian Festival Association, formed in 2017.

“The association’s presidency rotates every four years to ensure shared responsibility and preserve unity. The shrine’s work extends beyond rituals – supporting education, youth development and cultural continuity,” he explained.

“Our ancestors built this festival to unite the community,” said Mr Prasert. “We must now protect that unity, not divide it with competition or spectacle.”

As Phuket’s tourism industry continues to grow, the Vegetarian Festival has become one of the island’s most photographed and promoted events, but for Kathu Shrine, preserving its spiritual roots is the priority, Mr Prasert noted.

“Many young people still return each year to volunteer or take part in ceremonies. This offers hope that the next generation will keep the ancient faith alive,” he said.

Vegetarian Festival launches into 200th year

THE PHUKET VEGETARIAN Festival, this year celebrating 200 years since its founding, began on Monday evening (Oct 20) with the traditional raising of the Ko Teng pole at Chinese shrines across the island, marking the official start of nine days and nights of purification and devotion rituals.

At Kathu Shrine – the birthplace of the festival more than two centuries ago – Phuket Deputy Governor Samawit Suphanphai led the pole-raising ceremony at 5pm, joined by Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) President Rewat Areerob, Kathu Mayor Wannayut Suthikun, community

leaders and hundreds of devotees dressed in white.

The ceremony, accompanied by the sounds of drums and firecrackers, opened the shrine’s special 200th anniversary celebrations, honouring its central role in preserving Phuket’s faith and traditions.

Similar ceremonies were held simultaneously at major shrines around the island.

At Tha Ruea Shrine in Thalang, Minister of Tourism and Sports Atthakorn Sirilathayakorn presided over the raising of the 16-metre Ko Teng pole, joined by Vice Governor Suwit Pansengiam, Srisoonthorn Mayor Chalernpol Kerdap, and shrine president Kittisak Sotraksa. The lively

ceremony drew large crowds of residents, tourists and spirit mediums, reflecting the enduring devotion that defines the festival.

“Visiting Phuket during this time is important because the Vegetarian Festival is a valuable cultural identity of the province,” said Minister Atthakorn. He praised the unity shown by local communities and invited tourists to experience the atmosphere of faith throughout the nine-day event.

In Phuket Town, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn officiated at the pole-raising at Jui Tui Tao Bo Keng Shrine, joined by Governor Saransak Srikuwana and local officials. The ceremony,

held at about 4:45pm, was conducted amid an atmosphere of reverence and unity.

Minister Phiphat said Phuket’s Vegetarian Festival, listed as a national intangible cultural heritage since 2018, reflects the faith and compassion of the local people and strengthens Phuket’s image as a “world-class cultural and tourism city.” He also commended agencies for ensuring safety and convenience for residents and visitors throughout the festival period.

Further marking this year’s significance, Minister of Industry Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana presided over two events in Phuket Town – the pole-raising and lantern



Photo: PR Phuket

ceremony at Sang Tham Shrine on Phang Nga Rd, and the opening of the Phuket Vegetarian Food and Fashion Innovation Fair at Central Floresta.

This year marks the first time Sang Tham Shrine has officially hosted the festival. “The illumination of nine lanterns evokes a spark of faith,” said Minister Thanakorn. “The Vegetarian Festival not only preserves spiritual values but also supports Phuket’s economy, attracting more than one million visitors and generating around B15 billion.”

He added that the accompanying food and fashion fair aims to blend Phuket’s heritage with modern innovation to promote sustainable creative industries and highlight the province’s growing wellness and cultural tourism sectors.

The Phuket Vegetarian Festival 2025 runs from Oct 21-29, with rituals and processions taking place at shrines across the island under the theme ‘Phuket, the City of Faith and Goodness in the Andaman’.

The Phuket News

Phiphat touts B130bn in 'mega-projects'

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Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn after arriving in Phuket on Monday (Oct 20) told the press that the government was pushing nine major infrastructure projects worth more than B130 billion to transform Phuket into a "Smart Mobility Hub" and a world-class logistics and tourism centre on the Andaman coast.

Mr Phiphat chaired a high-level workshop at Phuket International Airport to review the progress of the projects and discuss strategies to ease traffic congestion across the island.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Transport, including Permanent Secretary Chaiyatham Promsorn, Highways Department Director-General Piyapong Jiwattanakupaisan, and Rural Roads Department Director-General Phichit Hunsiri, along with Phuket Governor Saransak Srikuaneetra, local administrators and business representatives.

Mr Phiphat said the developments, spanning land, air and sea transport, would be "game changers" for Phuket over the next five years. "Phuket is not just a tourist destination, but will



Photo: PR Phuket

become a model city for transportation, logistics and mobility in the future," he said.

However, all the projects Mr Phiphat listed have been on the planning board for years. Among the nine projects, the Kathu-Patong Tunnel remains one of the most anticipated. Scheduled for completion by 2030, it will cut travel time from Phuket Airport to Patong to just 20 minutes, he said.

The Phuket Airport Rail Link, running from the airport to Chalong Circle, will serve as the backbone of the island's future

urban transit system, while the Muang Mai-Koh Kaeo-Kathu Expressway will relieve chronic congestion on Thepkasattri Rd and provide a faster route across the island, he added.

The Phuket International Airport Phase 2 expansion is also being fast-tracked, increasing capacity from 12.5 million to 18mn passengers per year to meet rising tourist arrivals. Meanwhile, plans for a 'cruise terminal and Andaman Seaport' are progressing, designed to link Phuket with Phang Nga and Krabi

and to cater to premium international visitors. "The seaport will open new economic opportunities and strengthen Phuket's role as the maritime gateway to the Andaman," Mr Phiphat said.

Several supporting road upgrades are underway, Mr Phiphat added. The Highways Department presented plans to improve U-turns and lighting on Route 402, expand Route 4027, and construct a new 1.95km route from Ban Muang Mai to the airport intersection. A feasibility study is also being conducted for a new highway network from Pa Khlok to Baan Bang Khu.

The Expressway Authority of Thailand reported progress on the two-phase Phuket Expressway Project. The 3.98km Kathu-Patong section is now in land acquisition, while the Muang Mai-Koh Kaeo-Kathu section is under Environmental Impact Assessment review.

On the water transport front, it was repeated that plans are advancing for new and upgraded ports including the Andaman Ring Road Port, Manoh Port, Chong Lad Port and Ao Po Ferry Port. The concept of a "large cruise ship port" is being developed to capture the high-end tourism market, while a taxi boat network is planned to help ease traffic during the high season.

The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) presented its proposal for a new 'Tha Noon-Phuket Airport' line, which would link land and air transport systems and ease congestion on main roads. Meanwhile, the Mass Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand (MRTA) confirmed continued progress on the Phuket Light Rail Transit (LRT) Phase 1 project, connecting the airport with Chalong Circle.

Mr Phiphat also ordered provincial authorities, police, and the Department of Land Transport to intensify their crackdown on illegal black-plate taxis, stressing that enforcement must be fair to licensed drivers and ensure passenger safety.

He further directed the Ministry of Transport to investigate and regulate taxi app operators following complaints from the public. "All platforms must comply with the law and operate transparently to protect both users and drivers," he said.

If all projects proceed on schedule, Mr Phiphat said, Phuket will be fully transformed by 2030. "Phuket will proudly stand as a world-class transportation and tourism hub of the Andaman coast – a model of smart, sustainable mobility for Thailand," he declared.

B2.38bn 'Heroines Underpass' cancelled

THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS has scrapped the B2.38-billion bidding process for the Heroines Monument underpass project in Thalang, citing the need for review and growing concerns about potential traffic chaos and flooding during construction.

Sri Soonthorn Mayor Chalermphon Kerdap said the decision followed strong local opposition after the project was announced late last year.

"Residents were worried that digging a huge tunnel in an already flood-prone area would only make things worse," Mr Chalermphon said. "Closing lanes for construction would have caused massive gridlock on Route 402 [Thepkasattri Rd]."

The project, meant to ease congestion at the busy 'Tha Ruea Intersection', as officials prefer to call it, where Thepkasattri Rd meets Route 4027, is now "indefinitely postponed", he said.

However, Mr Chalermphon noted it could return if the centre Department of Highways and Ministry of Transport decide to revise the design or policy direction.

The original plan called for a 2km three-lane underpass under the Victory Monument, with landscaped surroundings, a pedestrian walkway and even a small hall beneath the Heroines Monument for historical displays and worship.

Preparatory work had already begun, including the moving of utility and



Photo: Thalang Traffic Police

power poles and road widening, before the Department of Highways officially canceled the tender.

The project was expected to take three years to complete, finishing by 2027.

Despite the cancellation, Mr Chalermphon said Phuket's traffic problems remain unresolved. The Tha Ruea Intersection is a key link between the airport, Phuket Town and the island's southern beaches – and now more importantly to the now heavily congested areas of Bang Tao and Cherg Talay.

"The underpass aimed to improve safety and traffic flow," he said. "But for now, we have to rethink the plan and wait for central government guidelines."

For now, the Phuket Highway Office will continue managing traffic using the existing road system, while the future of the underpass – and any long-term solution to the congestion – remains uncertain.

Natnaree Likidwatanasakun



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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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THU OCTOBER 30

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Wind 4 m/s

Pakistani tourist arrested for assaulting transgender woman

PATONG POLICE HAVE arrested a Pakistani tourist wanted for assaulting a transgender woman and stealing her money before attempting to flee Thailand.

The arrest followed an incident that occurred at about 3am on Oct 13, when the victim, identified as a transgender woman, met the suspect, a foreign national of Indian appearance, in Soi Bangla, Patong. The two later went to a nearby hotel room on Soi Sansabai.

According to the police report, an argument broke out inside the room after the suspect handed the victim B1,000 but then demanded it back. When she refused, he allegedly assaulted her and took B10,000 in cash before fleeing the scene. The victim later filed a formal complaint at Patong Police Station.

Following an investigation, officers from Patong Police Station, under the command of Patong Police Chief Pol Col Chalermchai Hirasawat and Deputy Chief



Photo: Patong Police

Pol Lt Col Suchart Chumphusang, obtained an arrest warrant from the Phuket Provincial Court.

On Friday (Oct 17), police coordinated with Immigration officers and arrested the suspect, named as Muhammad Nazar Gon Dal, 23, from Pakistan, at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Samut Prakan, as he was preparing to leave the country.

He was taken into custody under Phuket Provincial Court warrant No. 991/2568, dated Oct 17, 2025, on charges of robbery resulting in physical or mental harm and assault causing injury.

Muhammad was transferred to Patong Police Station for further questioning and legal proceedings, police confirmed.

Police have not disclosed whether the stolen cash was recovered.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Police step up crackdown on youth street gangs

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Police in Wichit have intensified their crackdown on youth-related crime, arresting a 17-year-old found carrying a homemade shotgun and seizing more than a dozen modified motorbikes in recent raids.

The latest operations, conducted between Oct 17-18, form part of Wichit Police's ongoing campaign to suppress youth gangs and illegal street racing ahead of Phuket's annual Vegetarian Festival.

In the first raid on Friday night (Oct 17), officers led by Wichit Police Chief Pol Col Somsak Thongkiliang seized seven modified motorbikes during a late-night patrol from 10pm to 11:30pm in the Laem Dinso area. The youths, from both Wichit and neighbouring districts, were reportedly using Sakdidet Rd – connecting Ao Yon, Khao Khad and Laem Dinso – as a street racing route, disturbing residents despite previous arrests and warnings.

The impounded bikes included five Honda Wave



Photo: Wichit Police

110i motorbikes, a Honda Lead and a Honda NSX. One had a red license plate from Phang Nga, while another had no plate at all. All were taken to Wichit Police Station for legal proceedings.

Pol Col Somsak said the operation aimed to restore peace to communities repeatedly affected by noise and reckless riding. "Over the past year, many gangs have been arrested, their bikes confiscated, and parents prosecuted, yet they continue to reappear," he said. "We will now form a special task force with village headmen and Volunteer Defense Corps to enforce the law rigorously. Modified bikes will be seized, and parents will be summoned to face charges."

In a separate operation, police arrested a 17-year-old youth in the Saphan Ruam area for carrying a homemade shotgun. The arrest, led by Police Lt Col Wittaya Kunnoi, was part of a wider campaign to prevent violence during the festival.

Officers also impounded five more motorcycles linked to groups causing disturbances. Police warned parents to closely monitor their children, stressing that misguided attempts to "level up" through illegal acts would only result in harsher punishment.

"Our goal is to eliminate street racing and youth gang activity," Pol Col Somsak said. "We want Wichit to be a safe community for everyone."

Russian tourist drowns at Karon

A 56-YEAR-OLD RUSSIAN man drowned while swimming at Karon Beach last Sunday evening (Oct 19), despite lifeguards' efforts to save him.

Karon Police were alerted at 6:45pm to the incident, which occurred near Nong Harn Public Park. The victim, identified as Russian national Andrei Chekhov, 56, was pronounced dead after being taken to Chalong Hospital.

Police Lt Phirawat Yodtor, Deputy Inspector of Karon Police Station, said officers were informed of the drowning by a nurse at Chalong Hospital, where the man's body had been transferred for emergency treatment.

Hospital staff confirmed that lifeguards had performed CPR at the beach before the man was transported by rescue workers, but attempts to revive him were



Screenshot: Karon Lifeguards

unsuccessful. No signs of injury or foul play were found on his body.

Mr Chekhov's wife, Ms Zarina Chekhirhova, 43, told police that the family had arrived in Phuket earlier the same day for a 10-day holiday and were staying at a nearby hotel.

She said her husband had been swimming alone for about 30 minutes before signalling for help. Lifeguards rushed to assist and found him unconscious in the water.

Police have sent the body to Vachira Phuket Hospital for official confirmation of the cause of death. Eakkapop Thongtub

Fire destroys second floor of Kathu home

A FIRE GUTTED THE SECOND floor of a two-storey house in Kathu late on Oct 16, though no injuries were reported.

Police Lt Col Natthaya Suphanphong of Kathu Police Station received the report at about 11:45pm from the Phuket Provincial Police 191 emergency centre, notifying her of a blaze in Soi 8, Anuphas Golf View Village, in Moo 7, Kathu.

Kathu Police responded to the scene and firefighters from Kathu Municipality quickly arrived and brought the flames under control.

The fire was confined to the second floor of the detached home, which sits on a plot of about 200 square wah (800sqm). It was successfully extinguished before spreading to neighbouring properties.

Three people were inside the house at the time – homeowner Liwan Saffner, her Swiss husband, and her sister.

According to Ms Liwan, the



Photo: DDPM Kathu

family was asleep when they heard crackling sounds and saw smoke coming from a bedroom on the second floor. They immediately evacuated the house before flames engulfed the upper floor.

No injuries or fatalities were reported, though significant damage was sustained to the upper level of the property.

Police said initial investigations suggest the fire was caused by an electrical short circuit in the second-floor bedroom. The area has been cordoned off, and forensic officers have been notified to conduct a detailed inspection.

The incident was reported to Kathu Police Station and recorded as a house fire for further investigation.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Cabinet approves Governor transfer

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The Cabinet last week approved the transfer of Phuket's newest Governor, Saransak Srikruanetra, after just 14 days in office.

Governor Saransak, who was officially dubbed Phuket Governor from Oct 1, arrived in Phuket on Oct 2 to begin his term. His transfer makes him the shortest-serving Phuket Governor on record.

Anuphong Panarat, Secretary to the Phuket Governor, confirmed to *The Phuket News* that the transfer approved by Cabinet on Oct 14 was official.

However, he added, "This is just the latest Cabinet resolution... It will become effective only upon Royal Assent." Regardless, transfers approved by Cabinet historically have been swift.

Mr Anuphong's confirmation follows documents marked 'confidential' being leaked online.

Governor Saransak is to be replaced by Nirat Phongsitthaworn, who has been relieved of his position as Director-General of the Department of Provincial Administration (DOPA).

Of note, Mr Nirat became Director-General of DOPA under



Governor Saransak at the Vegetarian Festival on Monday (Oct 20). Photo: PR Phuket

the short-lived administration of Phumtham Wechayachai, who served as Acting Prime Minister for just 66 days, from July 3, 2025 to Sept 7, 2025.

Mr Nirat's series of fast-tracked promotions have all come while current prime minister, Anutin Charnvirakul, served as Minister of Interior.

Anutin, leader of the Bhumjaithai Party, is currently Prime Minister of Thailand under an agreement with the People's Party – on the condition that he

holds a national general election within four months.

Despite the well-publicised agreement with the People's Party, many political pundits have already made public their concerns that Anutin is already preparing to hold onto power for much longer.

Originally from Bangkok, Mr Nirat has previously served as Governor of Chiang Mai. His experience as a provincial governor first started with the very rural Bueng Kan Province,

then in Udon Thani. He was then transferred to the DOPA headquarters in Bangkok.

Widely respected Phuket MP Chalermpong Saengdee has already posted online his observations regarding the imminent transfer of Governor Saransak, and the regular reshuffling of provincial governors.

"The [latest] Phuket case may be special, but this phenomenon has long been a normal cycle in Thai government administration," he said. "Most governors serve only one to four years, and often they are senior officials nearing retirement. Once they begin to understand the local context, they are transferred again."

"It's not the fault of the individual governor, but of the system itself," he wrote. "How can such a system effectively develop the people's hometown province?"

Under Thailand's current structure, provincial governors are appointed by the Ministry of the Interior and serve as the top decision-makers in each province, MP Chalermpong explained.

Although local bodies such as Provincial Administrative Organisations (PAO), Subdistrict Administrative Organisations (OrBorTor), and municipalities exist, they remain subordinate to

the governor in most key decisions, he noted.

"When it comes to major issues, local governments can't act on their own... The governor must either sign off or send the matter to the central government for approval."

MP Chalermpong described the system as "the most inefficient form of government administration", where power rests almost entirely with centrally appointed officials who often have limited understanding of local needs.

He also lamented that despite the 1997 Constitution's intent to promote decentralisation, progress has stalled.

"Thailand has been trying to decentralise power for decades, but real power still lies with the central government," he said. "Local governments have only meagre authority and remain unable to truly develop their provinces or the country."

MP Chalermpong concluded by calling for the direct election of provincial governors by local residents.

"This phenomenon underscores the ineffectiveness of the current administrative system and further emphasises the need for direct elections of provincial executives from actual provincial residents," he said, ending with the hashtag #ElectGovernors.

Environmental action at Bang Tao condo

PHUKET VICE GOVERNOR Samawit Suphanphai has ordered immediate corrective measures at a condominium construction site in Cherng Talay following complaints from local residents about dust, noise and traffic congestion.

Mr Samawit led a team to inspect the seven-storey One World One Home condo project in Bang Tao last Friday (Oct 17), accompanied by Cherng Talay Administrative Organisation (OrBorTor) Chief Manoch Phanchalat as well as representatives of the project developer and consultant, and officials from relevant agencies.

The inspection followed a meeting to follow up on repeated complaints from residents who said the construction had caused serious disruption to daily life.

Reported issues included excessive dust, construction noise, vibration and traffic congestion caused by large trucks and heavy machinery using the narrow access road, which is less than six metres wide. Residents also raised concerns about accidents and overall safety in the area.



Photo: PR Phuket

Mr Samawit said the inspection aimed to ensure the developer complied with environmental and safety regulations, and that local residents' concerns were properly addressed.

He ordered the project owner to install clear information signs detailing project details and construction hours – set from 8am to 5pm – and to notify residents in advance if any work outside those hours was required.

The project's consulting firm has been instructed to prepare a written Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for submission to the provincial EIA Review Committee.

Meanwhile, the Cherng Talay OrBorTor has been tasked with closely supervising the construction under its jurisdiction and implementing immediate remedial measures.

After inspecting the site, the working group met again at the Cherng Talay OrBorTor offices to discuss further action. Officials agreed that strict enforcement and regular progress monitoring were necessary to alleviate public distress and ensure compliance with environmental regulations.

The meeting resolved to forward the residents' complaints and findings to the EIA Report Review Committee for consideration and to require follow-up progress reports from all involved agencies to Phuket Provincial Office.

Among the immediate corrective measures ordered were: installation of visible project information signage accessible to the public; and construction of sound-barrier walls to reduce the noise and vibration impacts on nearby homes.

The Cherng Talay OrBorTor has been assigned to report tangible progress on these actions at the next committee meeting to ensure continuous follow-up and accountability, said an official report of the inspection.

The Phuket News

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Veg Fest expected to generate over B22bn

THE PHUKET BRANCH of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) expects the upcoming Phuket Vegetarian Festival to inject more than B22 billion into the local economy, with over 600,000 visitors forecast to attend the nine-day celebration later this month.

According to the TAT Phuket Office, tourism during the festival period from Oct 21-29 is expected to surge, marking a strong recovery for the island's tourism sector. The TAT projects 634,787 visits in total, generating estimated revenue of B22.03bn.

Data compiled by the TAT's Tourism Intelligence Center as of Sept 24, 2025, shows that hotel occupancy remains robust ahead of the festival, TAT Phuket confirmed.

A survey covering 30% of hotels in Phuket's main tourist areas found 104,268 rooms across 1,883 properties, with an average occupancy rate of 81.29% and an average length of stay of 4.35 days, TAT Phuket reported.

Foreign visitors are expected to make up the



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub / file

majority, accounting for 436,548 visits and generating an estimated B19.69bn in tourism income.

Thai tourists, meanwhile, are projected to contribute 198,239 visits, bringing in an estimated B2.34bn.

The Phuket Vegetarian Festival – known for its rituals, parades and strict vegan diet observed by devotees – is one of the island's most significant annual events, attracting both domestic and international tourists each year.

This year's festival will take place from Oct 21-29 at Chinese shrines across the island, with a full schedule of ceremonies and street processions expected to draw large crowds throughout the week.

The Phuket News

'Half-Half Plus' starts to gain merchant traction

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Merchant registration for the government's 'Khon La Krueng Plus' (Half-Half Plus) subsidy programme has surged in Phuket with a total of 2,026 vendors now signed up for the scheme.

The increase in vendor participants in Phuket follows only 96 vendors applying on the first day of registrations.

The poor turnout spurred an islandwide public relations blitz by officials to get local vendors to register.

The surge in registrations also follows local government agencies announcing through official notices the comment: "We confirm that no information will be sent to the Revenue Department."

The official notices coincidentally featured images of Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, indicating that the tax-free amnesty for Half-Half Plus registrants came from the prime minister himself.



Photo: PR Phuket

Since then, 1,005 vendors in Mueang District have registered for the scheme, as have 468 vendors in Kathu and 553 in Thalung.

To facilitate access to the scheme, officials opened registration through the 'Tung Nern' system, allowing merchants to sign up either online or in person at Krungthai Bank branches. However, most applicants have opted for online registration, citing its convenience and faster processing compared to in-person queues.

According to data from the Thalung District Office, Thalung saw a steady rise over several days – 54 vendors joined on Oct 16, 111 on Oct 17 and 110 on

Oct 18. Another 176 are currently completing online registration, the Thalung District Office said.

To boost awareness, local officials also launched the 'Phuket 120 Days Non-stop' outreach campaign to help small vendors join the co-payment programme.

Local officials, in cooperation with Krungthai Bank and local administrative organisations, will set up mobile registration points to increase accessibility across the island, including in Rawai, Karon, Mai Khao, Pa Khlok and Kamala.

The Khon La Krueng Plus scheme provides a 50% government co-payment on purchases of eligible goods and services,

helping ease living costs while boosting income for small businesses.

Krungthai Bank has reminded Pao Tang app users to update their app to the latest version before participating. Merchants changing personal details such as phone numbers should visit any Krungthai Bank branch to update their information.

Both new and existing merchants must have their documents verified by district offices before final submission to Krungthai Bank for approval. Once approved, the Khon La Krueng Plus menu will appear in the Tung Nern app.

To qualify, merchants must be Thai nationals, operate verifiable small businesses with annual revenue under B1.8 million, and must not belong to any franchise or have been suspended from previous government schemes.

Between Oct 15-17, a total of 123,960 merchants nationwide successfully registered.

Maxim partners with local taxis

RIDE-HAILING PLATFORM Maxim Thailand has become the first and only app to formally partner with the Phuket Taxi Association, under a new agreement aimed at improving local taxi services and strengthening the province's tourism image.

The collaboration was formalised with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Oct 10 under the theme 'Driving Convenience, Safety, and Stability for the Community'.

The signing event, attended by more than 250 association members, also included a seminar on using the Taxsee Driver app, service management and passenger safety standards.

According to Maxim, the partnership will integrate Phuket's existing taxi network directly into the company's platform, allowing local drivers to use Maxim's technology to manage bookings, track rides and deliver services in line with international standards.

The agreement sets out goals to improve passenger safety, raise the income and



Photo: Maxim Thailand

professionalism of drivers, and create a unified service system to ensure consistent quality across the island.

Phuket Taxi Association President Nopparat Chatchawet said the Association chose Maxim after assessing the company's long-term commitment to local drivers.

"This is not just an app; it's a development program," he said. "Maxim is the first and only platform to work directly with our Association to build a sustainable future for Phuket's transportation."

"We are confident this collaboration will set a new benchmark for safety and professionalism, directly benefiting our drivers and the millions of tourists who trust us each year," he added.

Maxim Thailand Managing Director Phongpath Aksarawornkarn said the company's mission is to support local communities through technology and fair partnerships.

"Only Maxim has been chosen to work hand-in-hand with the official representative body of local drivers to enact real, systemic change," he said.

"We are not just adding cars to an app; we are integrating an entire ecosystem onto our platform to ensure every journey is safe, standardized, and supports the local economy."

The initiative is expected to serve as a model for cooperation between ride-hailing platforms and traditional taxi operators, improving safety, convenience and service quality while ensuring that tourism income benefits the local community.

Maxim launched operations in Thailand in 2022, beginning in Chiang Mai, and now operates in 19 provinces including Phuket, Bangkok, Chonburi, Surat Thani and Khon Kaen.

The company's platforms – the Maxim app for passengers and the Taxsee Driver app for drivers – are used globally to connect millions of users through its ride-hailing and delivery services.

The Phuket News

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Thailand banks on AI to reverse student decline

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Thailand is embarking on an ambitious effort to raise the performance of its students in the global education rankings by integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into classrooms, aiming to reverse years of academic decline and prepare students for a rapidly changing digital world.

In the 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) conducted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to test the reading literacy, mathematics and science skills of 15-year-olds in over 65 countries, students in Thailand scored less than the OECD average.

The national results, also lower than those from the last assessment in 2018, underscored weaknesses in the education system and the urgent need for new, technology-driven learning models, critics said.

The next four years will be critical, authorities say, as Thailand prepares for the generation born in 2025, who are expected to grow up with AI-supported learning from an early age.

The Bureau of Academic Affairs and Educational Standards (BAAES),



Photo: Bangkok Post

under the Office of the Basic Education Commission (OBEC), is leading the effort to bring AI into classrooms nationwide.

At national level, BAAES has developed AI-based teaching materials and handbooks for teachers and students.

"We've partnered with Google, Microsoft, and other global organisations to use tools such as Gemini, ChatGPT, Deepseek and Leonardo. More than two million educators have already participated in AI-related training," said Eakasit Piyasangtong, director of BAAES.

The Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA) is also promoting digital ethics through its Digital Citizen Plus curriculum. The programme helps teachers develop "digital intelligence", ensuring that students learn to use technology safely, responsibly and creatively.

Globally, 97% of students are exposed to AI in some form, but more than half pursue AI learning independently. Mr Eakasit said Thailand's strategy aims to close this gap through structured classroom programmes and comprehensive teacher training.

He also noted that Thailand's cultural diversity and creative traditions give it an edge in developing AI learning models suited to local needs. "AI can support not only STEM education but also arts and problem-solving," he said. "Students can combine technology with traditional skills to create original, high-quality work."

AI learning now begins as early as kindergarten and continues through secondary school, teaching students to use AI tools, recognise their influence, and think critically about ethical implications.

With nearly 60,000 students and 700 schools already engaged, Thailand's foundation in AI literacy is growing steadily. The next phase will focus on building a full AI ecosystem, from access to devices and local data centres to research hubs and ethics education.

"Thailand's long-term goal is to move beyond being an AI consumer and become an AI innovator," Mr Eakasit concluded.

Abhisit returns as Democrat leader in landslide victory

BANGKOK

FORMER PRIME MINISTER Abhisit Vejjajiva has returned as leader of the Democrat Party, winning the position unopposed with an overwhelming majority of votes during the party's extraordinary general assembly in Bangkok last Saturday (Oct 18).

The meeting, attended by current and former members of parliament, ex-ministers and party members, also chose a new executive committee.

Former deputy leader Therdpong Chaichanan nominated Mr Abhisit for the top post. No other candidates were proposed.

Voting followed Election Commission (EC) procedures, with ballots cast by three groups: current MPs (40%), former MPs (40%) and general party members (20%).

Oxford-educated Mr Abhisit won with 96.2% of the vote, drawing applause from party members present.

"I thank everyone who attended the meeting in



Abhisit. Photo: Bangkok Post

unison and entrusted me once again," Mr Abhisit said in his victory speech.

Mr Abhisit, 61, served as the Democrats' seventh leader from March 2005 to March 2019. He returns as the party's 10th leader, two years after resigning as a member during a stormy meeting that led to the selection of Chalermchai Sri-on as leader.

It was speculated that his exit was linked to the possibility that under a new leader, the party would move from the opposition benches to join the Pheu Thai-led government coalition, which it ultimately did.

At the time Mr Abhisit pledged he would not join another political party and would return to the Democrats if they needed him. "My heart never left," he said after the result.

Bangkok Post

Anutin cops flak for Interior reshuffle

BANGKOK

THE CONTROVERSIAL INTERIOR Ministry's transfer of more than 45 senior officials, including several provincial governors, has sparked criticism over whether the reshuffle was based on merit or the Bhumjaithai (BJT) Party's attempt to consolidate political power ahead of next year's elections.

Academics and opposition figures say the shake-up, approved by Prime Minister and Interior Minister Anutin Charnvirakul on Oct 14, reflects political patronage rather than administrative reform which could disrupt local governance and deepen central control.

Pornamarin Promkerd, of Khon Kaen University, said the reshuffle was "more about political retaliation than solving problems".

He said several governors, installed by the previous Pheu Thai Party-led administration, were transferred after less than two weeks in office, calling the move proof that "appointments serve political ends rather than local needs".

He urged reforms allowing citizens to elect their provincial governors for the sake of accountability and policy continuity.

With the government's four-month working timeline and the expectation of a House dissolution, Professor emeritus Thanet Charoenmuang of Chiang Mai University said the transfers were clearly



Anutin. Photo: Bangkok Post

politically motivated: "It's normal they'd position loyal officials in key provinces ahead of polls."

He said frequent governor changes undermine continuity and morale, calling it "a system designed for politics, not governance".

Chiang Mai, once a Pheu Thai stronghold, has become a major battleground after the People's Party (PP) gained seven House seats there.

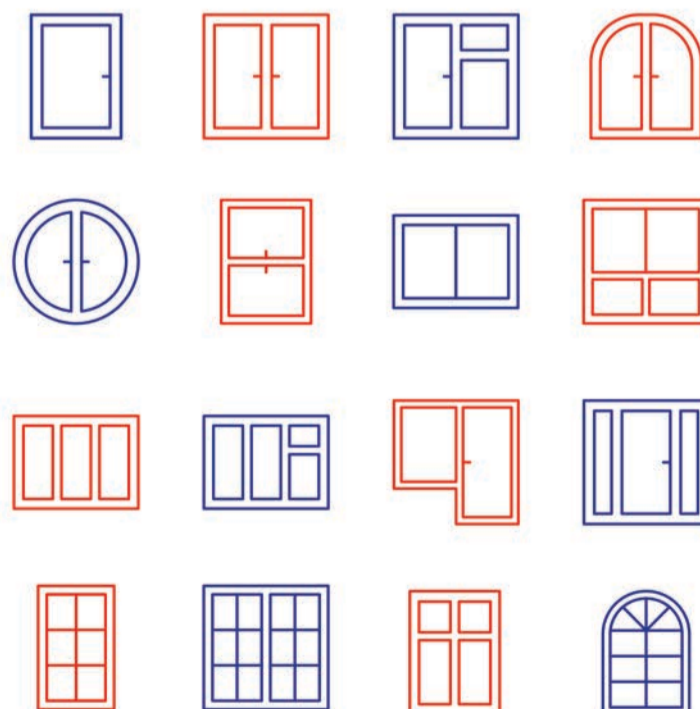
The reshuffle has also revived public debate about direct gubernatorial elections, with civic groups arguing that elected governors would work for long-term development free from political interference.

Three PP MPs from Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, and Phuket condemned the reshuffle as disruptive and politically driven.

Former Pheu Thai MP Somkid Cheukong accused Anutin of using the reshuffle to strengthen his party's influence in the bureaucracy. "Some governors hadn't even started work before being transferred. This is political retaliation between blue and red camps," he said. Bangkok Post



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Ares reignites Tron franchise in neon style

Jared Leto in 'Tron: Ares'. Photo: IMDb

David Griffiths

To be honest I am surprised that it has taken 15 years for a new *Tron* film to surface. Does everybody remember the hype that occurred when *Tron: Legacy* was released in 2010?

Disney basically released a film as a follow-up to a 1982 Jeff Bridges film that most people, if they weren't hardcore sci-fi fans, would have forgotten about and everyone was sure

it would flop. It didn't – it became an instant classic that the new generation loved, the Daft Punk soundtrack became a must have item and the film was so well loved that even a decade and a half later the film is still a regular re-run in IMAX cinemas right around the world.

Many thought that Disney would want to follow it up straight away with another *Tron* film but aside from a short lived television series *Tron* fans have had nothing up until now with the arrival of *Tron: Ares* in cinemas.

If you are expecting *Tron: Ares* to rest heavily on the storyline of *Tron: Legacy* think again. This is its own special beast which sees screenwriter Jesse Wigutow (*Daredevil: Born Again*) steer the story in a new direction. Yes, there is a nod to the original *Tron* with the inclusion of Kevin Flynn (Jeff Bridges – *The Big Lebowski*), but the references to *Tron: Legacy* are kept to a frustrating low – but more on that later.

The focal points of *Tron: Ares* are Eve Kim (Greta Lee – *Past Lives*) and Julian Dillinger (Evan Peters – *X-Men: Days of Future Past*). Both are running tech companies that are trying to harness the technology to be able to download items and people out of The Grid (think of a huge cloud software dimension) and have them generate into the actual item on Earth.

The difference is that Kim is trying to create things like fruit, vegetables and plants so that starving nations can have a steady supply of food while Dillinger wants to use the technology to create military hardware and soldiers that can be sold to countries for profit.

He has the technology to the point where he can 'download' military vehicles and super-soldiers like Ares (Jared Leto – *Suicide Squad*) and Athena (Jodie Turner-Smith – *Queen & Slim*) but they only last half an hour before they disintegrate.

Dillinger thinks he has won the 'game' and plans to just iron out the quirks but he finds out that Kim knows more than the company has talked about publicly after getting Ares to hack his rival's system. He then decides to take desperate measures to make sure his company wins – measures that even terrify his own mother (Gillian Anderson – *The X-Files*).

Divided

Tron: Ares is a film that will divide fans – hell, it has even divided me internally. On one side there are things I love about this film.

Director Joachim Ronning (*Maleficant: Mistress of Evil*) and cinematographer Jeff Cronenweth (*The Social Network*) have made this movie look amazing. Whether it be scenes within The Grid or chase sequences through city streets, the film looks like a piece of neon artwork. Then there is the soundtrack created by Nine Inch Nails

which is not only a work of brilliance on its own but also enhances the neon and futuristic feel to the film.

Then there is also the fact that this film explores a theme that we have seldom seen on the big screen previously. Normally when AI characters are included in films that were developed for the good of mankind and then become 'evil'. It began with the robot films of the 1950s and 1960s and then of course became the 'in' thing after James Cameron's *The Terminator*.

But here things are a little different. Ares has been developed to kill first and think later – he has basically been created to do the evil biddings of Dillinger. Yet after hacking into Kim's files he learns about the existence of good – and that is something that intrigues him. The best part of *Tron: Ares* is watching the acting performance of Leto as Ares battles with the notion that perhaps he should be 'good' instead of 'evil'. If this was supposed to just be a big dumb action film then someone forgot to tell Leto because he takes his acting spectrum to 200%.

The annoying thing about *Tron: Ares* is that it seems determined to forget that *Tron: Legacy* ever existed. The whole downloading a human from The Grid occurred in that movie with the character of Quorra (Olivia Wilde – *Don't Worry Darling*) but seems to be forgotten about here. That will infuriate fans of the series there is no doubt about that.

As I said previously *Tron: Ares* will divide fans but if you don't mind a fairly decent action flick that at times feels like a music video clip then you won't be disappointed. The good-over-evil Jared Leto and Nine Inch Nails are what saves this movie and will make sure you still have a good time.

Tron: Ares is currently screening in Phuket and is rated '13'

3/5 Stars

David Griffiths has been working as a film journalist for over 25 years. That time has seen him work in radio, television and in print. He currently hosts a film podcast called *The Popcorn Conspiracy*. He is also a Rotten Tomatoes accredited reviewer and is an alternate judge for the Golden Globes Awards. You can follow him at Facebook: [SubcultureEntertainmentAus](https://www.facebook.com/SubcultureEntertainmentAus).

WINDOW ON PHUKET

The December/January 2026 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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95% of AI pilots fail – how to join the 5% that don't



THE AI EDGE

Joe Smith

Phuket businesses beware – 95% of companies that launch AI pilots lose money on them, according to a shocking new study from MIT.

Researchers analysing hundreds of executive interviews and public records found only a tiny fraction of AI pilots – those meeting demanding criteria – achieved a positive return on investment after six months.

The news comes hot on the heels of the disastrous rollout of ChatGPT 5, compounding the fears of some industry observers that expectations of AI's transformative effects on business are overblown.

It is a sobering warning to Phuket people wrestling with how to incorporate AI into their lives and work. But the research also offers lessons on what to do – and what not to do – to up your AI game.

Encouragingly, the authors attributed the high failure rates not to shortcomings in the technology itself, but to poor design and management. Most pilots, they say, are doomed by a lack of clear goals, poor integration, and leadership failures.

Let's take a deeper look at MIT's recommendations and see how they apply to your Phuket business.

Decision-making

First, forget about "transforming" your business with AI. Successful projects were modest and focused on narrow, well-defined problems, especially in back-office or operational workflows. For your Phuket hotel, ditch the idea of an all-singing AI concierge. Instead, think about AI optimising housekeeping rosters based on checkout times, or analysing consumption to reduce food waste.



Image: Joe Smith

Second, integration with existing information systems predicted success. If an AI pilot could read from and write to the systems you already use, it had a much better chance of delivering ROI gains.

Third, decentralised decision-making was key. Where the project was run by the line manager – your accountant or your chef – who would actually use the tool, it succeeded. Where it was run by a central tech or "innovation" team, it tended to lose money.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, successful projects included clear KPIs and strong feedback systems. And as with any change, buy-in from senior management was essential.

Less obviously, the MIT researchers found that pilots tapping the expertise of external vendors or solution providers were twice as likely to succeed as purely in-house efforts.

Clean data

One of the first things external vendors always tell you is to get your data in order. Before you can use AI to personalise offers, you need to know what your guests like. If their preferences are currently scattered across three different messy spreadsheets, AI can't help you. Clean data comes first.

Finally, realistic expectations are crucial. The MIT study's timeline was just six months – a shortcoming its authors acknowledged. An AI project may well take longer to bear fruit.

Putting that all together, what does it mean for your Phuket business?

First, forget the moonshots. Don't try to build a revolutionary AI tour guide. Instead, automate one tedious, expensive job, like responding to the same ten booking questions you get on Facebook every day.

Second, integration is key. Make sure AI connects to your core systems, whether that's your property management software or your accounting package.

Third, empower your people. Let the bookings manager be the AI champion, not the IT guy. They know the real problem and can see if the solution is actually working.

Fourth, buy, don't build. If you can find an off-the-shelf tool that solves your problem, use it instead of hiring a coder.

And finally, measure what matters. Before you start, figure out how much your problem is costing you. That's the only way you'll know if your investment in AI is a success and you've joined the winning 5%.

Joe Smith is Founder of the AI consultancy 2Sigma Consultants. He studied AI at Imperial College Business School and is researching AI's effects on cognition at Chulalongkorn University. He is author of The Optimized Marketer, a book on how to use AI to promote your business and yourself. Contact joe@2Sigmaconsultants.com.



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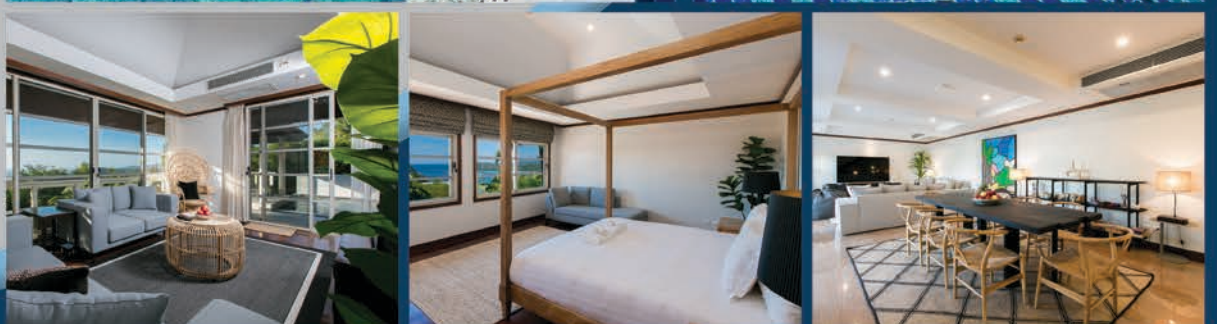
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POP QUIZ

- What links Brazil, Uruguay, Mozambique and Angola?
- Barry Allen was the alter ego of which DC comic superhero?
- In 1901 which brand of car was seen for the first time?
- Oil seed rape belongs to which plant family?
- What digit does not exist in Roman Numerals?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Hard

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

- Result of ill-fitting shoe
- Neighbor
- Wetland
- Play an ace?
- No gain, no loss
- Mozart's "L'___ del Cairo"
- Fixed rights
- Wannabe
- Triumvirates
- Beat
- With irony
- Language of Pakistan
- Ghostlike
- Epitome of thinness
- Scale of temperature
- Fell
- Broke off relations
- Police blotter abbr.
- Ultimate object
- Malaria symptom
- Very, in music
- Flimsy
- Range
- Irritate
- Faux names
- May birthstone

Down

- A sparkling wine
- Sts.
- Talk like Daffy
- Freedom from normal restraints
- Female parts
- When haroseth is eaten
- Bristle
- Insulation fiber
- Cybercafe patron
- Balls put into play (rugby)
- Covered with thickets
- Of base 8
- Bloated
- Pique
- Emerald Isle
- Of a Mississippi

- Commuter track in Toronto
- Short order, for short
- Greek vowels
- Big bore
- Classic rock band
- Cabinet div.
- Fur pieces

- Comic villain
- Raise a stink
- Hindu diety
- Devilish
- Cambodian
- Barbie buddies
- Mythology anthology
- Tipsy
- Needle holder
- "Say ___"
- Designed anew
- Undoing
- Bee, to Opie
- Talkative
- Give extreme unction to
- Drops off
- One of L.B.J.'s beagles
- Bank
- False move
- Small amount
- Ginger ___
- Gone wrong?
- Veg out
- Stains
- Shakespearean suffix

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14							15				16	
17						18				19		
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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
59							60					
61				62					63			
64				65					66			

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

4

seconds of awkward silence is all it takes to significantly increase your anxiety during a conversation.

40

copies of genes that code for the tumor suppressor protein p53 is why elephants rarely get cancer. Humans have only two.

162

dollars is how much the average US household spends each year on lotteries. Households that make less than \$10,000 spend about \$597 a year.

20,000

US dollars per episode was the clothes budget for 1970s TV show Charlie's Angels.

150 million

work days and up to 189mn school days were missed each year in the US due to people having colds – before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW

A busy day the Phuket Provincial Transport Office. Photo by Priya Isaac

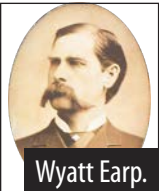
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This week in history

Oct 24, 1901
Annie Edson Taylor becomes the first person to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel.

Oct 25, 1415
Henry V of England, with his lightly armoured infantry and archers, defeats the heavily armoured French cavalry in the Battle of Agincourt as part of the Hundred Years' War

Oct 26, 1881
Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday participate in the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona.



Wyatt Earp.

Oct 27, 1997
The 1997 Asian financial crisis causes a crash in the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

Oct 28, 1420
Beijing is officially designated the capital of the Ming dynasty when the Forbidden City is completed.

Oct 29, 1863
Eighteen countries meet in Geneva and agree to form the International Red Cross.

Oct 30, 1973
The Bosphorus Bridge in Turkey is completed, connecting the continents of Europe and Asia over the Bosphorus for the second time.

Source: Wikipedia

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08 NOV 2025

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Patong Beach Rotary Club



REGGAE WAVES

REGGAE WAVES

Rotary Club of Patong Beach is pleased to announce the return of Reggae Waves to be held at Carpe Diem Beach Club - Bang Tao, Phuket. Block the date for a great evening of fun and for a noble cause, all proceeds from this event will benefit the local community. More details coming soon.

SAT25OCT

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Phuket News

AFL Masters Cup 2025

AFL Masters is confirmed for Phuket on October 25 from 9am at the ACG Cricket & Sports facility, Baan Liphon. This one day event features AFL teams from Indonesia, Singapore, Australia and Thailand. Players must be 35 years or older. Matches consist of 2 x 12-minute halves with a final between the top sides to decide who raises the Pacific Cross Health Insurance AFL Andaman Cup. For more info visit facebook.com/ThailandTigers

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FRI31OCT

AustCham Thailand

JOINT CHAMBERS PHUKET SUNDOWNERS

Friday 31st October 2025 18:00 - 21:00 hrs.

Courtyard by Marriott Phuket Town

650 THB for AustCham members, Partner Chambers members, and Australian Alumni Members 1,200 THB for non-members

31 OCT 18:00 - 21:00 HRS

AustCham Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners - October

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, AMCHAM, BCCT, Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber, CanCham Thailand, FTCC, GTCC, NTCC, NZTCC, Phuket Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Swedish Chamber, will host the Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners from 18.00 - 21.00 hrs., at Courtyard by Marriott Phuket Town. Join us for a wonderful night of making new connections and catching up with familiar faces in the Australian-Thai business community in Phuket. 650 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members, 1,200 THB for non-members. To book contact - office@austchamthailand.com

AustCham Thailand

JOINT CHAMBERS PHUKET MEMBERS BRIEFING ON "PKCD's Mission for a Smarter City: Enhancing Mobility through Modern Public Transport"

Friday, 31st October 2025 17:00 - 18:00 hrs.

Courtyard by Marriott Phuket Town

Free of Charge for AustCham members, partner Chambers members, Australian Alumni Members, and attendees who join Phuket Sundowners

31 OCT 17:00 - 18:00

Joint Chambers Phuket Member Briefing

Before Phuket Sundowners, AustCham Thailand is pleased to invite members and guests to an exclusive Phuket briefing session on the topic "PKCD's Mission for a Smarter City: Enhancing Mobility through Modern Public Transport". Speaker: Vytot Upatising, CEO – Phuket City Development Co., Ltd. Registration for briefing at 16:45 hrs, session at 17:00 - 18:00 hrs. Courtyard by Marriott Phuket Town. Free of Charge for AustCham, Australian Alumni, Partner members & attendees who join Phuket Sundowners. www.austchamthailand.com

TUE4NOV

Melbourne Cup

4th November 2025 9.30am to 2.30pm

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FRI7NOV



Grow Boating Phuket Evening - Nov 2025

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm. We are delighted to announce that our drinks sponsor for the evening will be Royal Phuket Marina. Royal Phuket Marina is a distinguished world-class destination combining luxury waterfront living with a state-of-the-art marina. See royalphuketmarina.com/marina There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant for all attendees. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee. Find us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket/

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SAT29NOV

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17 Saturday, November 29, 2025

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Snowbirds Charity Golf Classic

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SKÅL PHUKET OCTOBER MEMBER DRIVE DINNER

The recent Skål International Phuket Member Drive Dinner was hosted by SAii Laguna Phuket on Thursday, October 16. The very special evening began at 5pm with an engaging panel discussion on 'The Future of Hospitality in Phuket 2027', with panelists Bart Callens, General Manager, SAii Laguna Phuket; K. Saharat 'Sears' Jivavisitnont, Executive Director, Jee Teng Hospitality and Vice President, Thai Hotel Association (Southern Chapter); and K. Panitchaya 'Som' Dungprom, Senior Business Development Manager, Lighthouse Thailand. Following the discussion, the sell-out gathering of members and guests enjoyed networking drinks and probably the best Skål dinner of the year, with an array of salads, seafood, meats and desserts, ensuring no one left hungry. To find out more about Skål International Phuket visit phuket.skai.org



LOUISE LANDGRAF INVITATIONAL

To celebrate Louise's continued success and support her ongoing golf journey, Laguna Golf Phuket hosted a fun-filled hospitality golf day on Sunday, October 19. There was tremendous support from sponsors across the island and beyond. All golfers were treated to fantastic on-course food and beverages throughout the day, followed by a wonderful buffet, prize presentation and live auction.

HM Queen Suthida to sail at SEA Games

SEA GAMES

THE UPCOMING Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) will get a royal touch as Her Majesty the Queen has been confirmed to take part in the sailing competition.

"The 33rd SEA Games will be a special occasion as Her Majesty the Queen will participate in the keelboat SSL47 competition between Dec 15-18 at the Ocean Marina Resort Pattaya," confirmed on Oct 16.

Her Majesty Queen Suthida will follow in the footsteps of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej the Great, who competed in sailing at the Southeast Asian Peninsular (SEAP) Games in 1967.

The late King and Princess Ubolratana were joint winners in the OK dinghy class of the sailing tournament, which was held in Pattaya.

Queen Suthida is a skilled sailor who com-



HM Queen at the Phuket Regatta 2023. Photo: Guy Nowell

peted in the 52 Super Series in Mallorca, Spain, in August 2024 for the Thai team, Vayu, where she was involved in weather calls and strategic planning for the races.

Her Majesty was also part of the crew on racing yacht 'THA 72' in the IRC Zero class during the Phuket King's Cup Regatta in December 2023.

Stunning onlookers, Her Majesty climbed the mast of the 52-foot yacht and was even pictured 'hiking out', sitting on the side of the boat with her legs hanging over the side to help balance the vessel.

Bangkok Post

- Additional reporting by The Phuket News

Facelift for Thai stadiums

SEA GAMES

Bangkok Post

Major stadiums in Thailand have undergone a huge upgrade ahead of the country hosting the 33rd Southeast Asian Games and the 13th ASEAN Para Games.

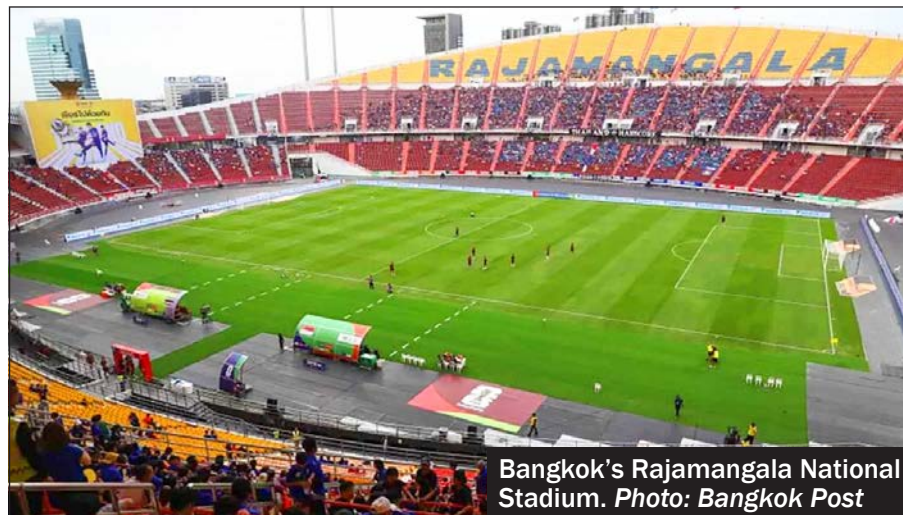
The 2025 SEA Games will take place between Dec 9-20 in three cities – Bangkok, Chonburi and Songkhla, while the ASEAN Para games will be held in Nakhon Ratchasima from Jan 20-26, 2026.

While no new stadium has been built for either tournament, Bangkok's Rajamangala National Stadium has received a huge upgrade as it will host the opening and closing ceremonies of the SEA Games, said Dr Gongsak Yodmani, Governor of the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) on Oct 10.

The 80th Birthday Stadium in Nakhon Ratchasima, which will be a venue for the opening and closing ceremonies of the ASEAN Para Games, has also received a major facelift, he added.

A total of 30 sports have been confirmed to be held in Bangkok and its metropolitan areas, along with two demonstration sports and one value-creating sport.

Chonburi will have 19 sports and one demonstration sport, while Songkhla will host 10 sports and some football matches will be held in Chiang Mai.



Bangkok's Rajamangala National Stadium. Photo: Bangkok Post

The ASEAN Para Games in Nakhon Ratchasima will have 19 sports.

Meanwhile, a total of six national sports governing bodies, including track and field, were invited to the first "Meet the Press" event on Oct 14 at Rajamangala National Stadium where they revealed they hoped to deliver between 24 and 36 gold medals at the biennial tournament.

The Athletics Association of Thailand said on Oct 15 it has taken on the responsibility of contributing 17 gold medals to the Thai tally during the SEA Games, which would surpass the 16 won previously.

Pol Maj Gen Naphanwut Liamsanguan, vice president of the Athletics Association of Thailand, reaffirmed the goal, said that the association has enlisted an American sprint coach to help athletes improve their times.

The Thai Modern Pentathlon Association expects to claim two of the six gold medals up for grabs, while the Thailand Triathlon Association also hopes to win at least two of the 11 gold medals available.

The Thailand Equestrian Federation confirmed it is aiming for five golds and believes six are within reach, while the Thailand Polo Association is confident of sweeping both gold medals.

The Thai Cycling Association revealed that the sport will offer 17 gold medals across four disciplines, with Thailand expected to win six titles.

"I am confident that Thailand will win the overall title at this year's SEA Games and make us proud," National Olympic Committee of Thailand president Pimol Srivikorn said at the event.

Bangkok Marathon gets state support

MARATHON

THE CABINET HAS APPROVED a budget framework of B264.35 million for hosting the Amazing Thailand Marathon Bangkok from 2025 to 2027, as part of the prestigious World Capital Marathon Series.

Siripong Angkasakulkiat, spokesperson for the Office of the Prime Minister, said on Oct 14 that the three-year budget, proposed by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, will cover licensing fees and related taxes.

The Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT), which has been heavily involved in all advance discussions with the government and private sectors, will oversee implementation and ensure that all preparations align with recommendations from the Budget Bureau and other relevant agencies.

The event is expected to deliver substantial economic benefits, generating at least B1.46 billion in direct and indirect value through employment, tourism, international participation and global



Photo: Bangkok Post

exposure, Mr Siripong explained.

Thailand is projected to earn more than B3.29bn across the three years, roughly B1.1bn per year, from spending by participants, supporters, and visitors, both local and foreign.

The marathon is also anticipated to create over 21,000 jobs, or about 7,000 positions annually, covering roles for staff, volunteers, students and contractors during each six-month preparation period.

The competition venue will meet World Athletics Championships requirements, with a specific focus on preparing the competition route, traffic and safety, as well as managing the impact on residents along the race route.

Bangkok Post

Verstappen sets sights on McLaren duo

FORMULA ONE

MAX VERSTAPPEN MAINTAINED the pressure on McLaren and cut another chunk out of Oscar Piastri's lead in this year's world championship last Sunday (Oct 19) when he cruised to a commanding triumph at the United States Grand Prix.

In sizzling conditions Red Bull's four-time world champion led from pole position to chequered flag to come home 7.959 seconds clear of title-chasing Lando Norris, of McLaren, with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finishing third, 4.041s adrift.

Australian championship leader Oscar Piastri of McLaren finished fifth.

It was Verstappen's fourth win in Texas and seventh on American soil, his fifth this year and the 68th of his career.

It was also, for Verstappen, the fourth race in succession in which he had out-qualified and out-raced both McLarens.

Verstappen has reduced Piastri's 104 point advantage over him to 40 with five races remaining.

Seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton was fourth in the second Ferrari ahead of Piastri and Mercedes's George Russell.



Max Verstappen hoists the trophy on the podium after his win. Photo: AFP

Verstappen said: "It's been an unbelievable weekend for us. I knew it wouldn't be straightforward and the pace between us was close.

"Now we have a chance to be there (in the title race) and we just have to keep delivering like that in all the weekends to the end of the season and see what happens. It's exciting. We just need to keep up the momentum."

Verstappen now has 306 points in the title race in third place leaving Piastri on top with 346 points and Norris on 332.

McLaren have already won the constructors' title for the second consecutive year.

The 28-year-old Dutchman has now collected 119 points from a possible 135 over the last five Grand Prix weekends.

On another day of searing heat in Texas, with temperatures of 30°C – and 44°C on the track – making it a 'heat hazard' race, Verstappen made a clean start to lead up the hill into the opening sequence of turns which saw him three seconds ahead by lap four.

Having won Saturday's sprint to trim Piastri's championship advantage to 55 points, the Dutchman was revelling in his form and the role of hunter as McLaren's supremacy evaporated.

By lap 10, Verstappen led Leclerc by 3.3s with Norris third, 1.4s adrift and Hamilton fourth, 1.9s behind him. Piastri was fifth, 3.2s back.

For McLaren, it was shaping up as a nightmare for team boss Zak Brown who feared "that Max guy getting in the middle of our fun".

What seemed to be a pedestrian contest came to life in the final six laps when Norris passed Leclerc, which helped the former trim Piastri's championship lead to just 14 points.

AFP

Forest sack Postecoglou

FOOTBALL

AFP

Ange Postecoglou's reign as Nottingham Forest manager was ended after a 3-0 defeat to Chelsea last Saturday (Oct 18).

Postecoglou was sacked after just eight games and 39 days in charge at the City Ground, making his the shortest ever permanent managerial stint in Premier League history.

Forest picked up just one point from the Australian's five league games and were also dumped out of the League Cup by second-tier Swansea City.

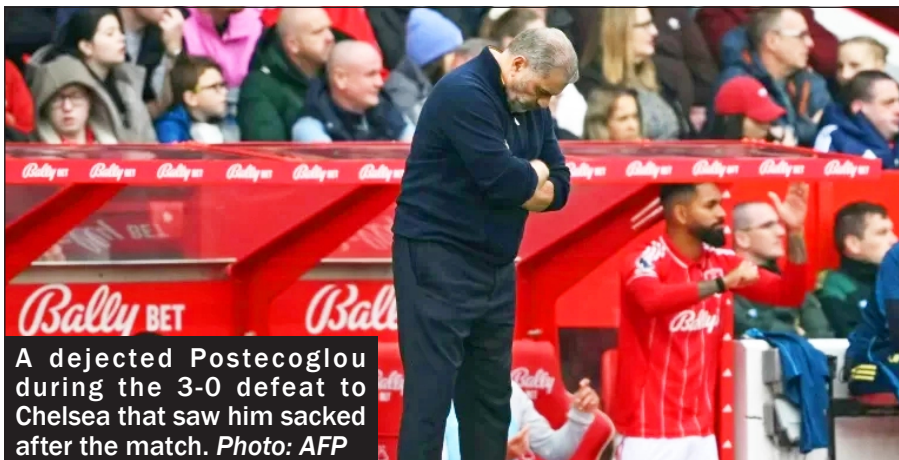
Club owner Evangelos Marinakis left his seat during the match as Chelsea took control in the second half and Postecoglou's fate was confirmed shortly after full-time.

Forest are already looking for their third manager of the season after Nuno Espirito Santo was dismissed last month.

Josh Acheampong, Pedro Neto and Reece James were all on target for Chelsea as defeat saw Forest fall into the relegation zone.

Meanwhile, Liverpool slumped to a fourth consecutive defeat for the first time in 11 years as Manchester United won 2-1 to end their near decade-long wait for victory at Anfield.

Harry Maguire's 84th minute header secured back-to-back Premier League wins for the first time in



A dejected Postecoglou during the 3-0 defeat to Chelsea that saw him sacked after the match. Photo: AFP

Ruben Amorim's tenure as United boss after Cody Gakpo had cancelled out Bryan Mbeumo's opener after just 61 seconds.

Erling Haaland's unstoppable form is dragging Manchester City into title contention as the Norwegian took his tally for the season to 23 goals in 13 games for club and country with a brace in the 2-0 win over Everton.

After two defeats in their opening three Premier League matches, Pep Guardiola's men are now unbeaten in eight games in all competitions.

Elsewhere, Leandro Trossard's second-half goal was enough for Arsenal to overcome a stubborn Fulham as the Gunners won 1-0 at Craven Cottage to maintain top spot, while North London rivals Tottenham fell to a 2-1 home defeat to Aston Villa.

Jean-Philippe Mateta scored a hat-trick as his 97th minute penalty secured a point for Crystal Palace in a

thrilling 3-3 draw against high-flying Bournemouth.

Goals from Eli Junior Kroupi (2) and Ryan Christie weren't enough for the Cherries as the in-form Mateta, fresh from scoring his first international goal for France mid-week, held his nerve from the spot to salvage a point late on.

Newcastle's struggles on the road continued with a 2-1 defeat at Brighton as Danny Welbeck struck twice, meaning the Magpies have yet to win away in the Premier League this season.

Their local rivals Sunderland climbed up to seventh with a 2-0 victory over Wolves, which left the visitors five points off safety at the bottom of the table.

Burnley climbed out of the bottom three thanks to a 2-0 win over Leeds United, while Brentford beat West Ham 2-0 on Monday.

Ban for Aussie rugby players joining R360

RUGBY

AUSTRALIAN RUGBY league players who join the rebel R360 competition will be banned for 10 years, the sport's governing body said on Oct 15.

The R360, co-founded by former England Rugby World Cup winner Mike Tindall, has backing from private investors, but it remains shrouded in secrecy.

Reports say it would involve six to eight men's teams and four women's, targeting big-name players globally from rugby union and rugby league to join the competition's franchises which will be located in major world cities.

Earlier this month, the rugby unions of eight of the sport's major countries said anyone who defects would be ineligible for national team selection.

The Australian Rugby League Commission (ARLC) has taken a similarly hard-line stance.

"Unfortunately, there will always be organisations that seek to pirate our game



Mike Tindall. Photo: AFP

for potential financial gain," said ARLC chairman Peter V'landys in announcing the ban.

"They don't invest in pathways or the development of players. They simply exploit the hard work of others, putting players at risk of financial loss while profiting themselves.

"They are, in reality, counterfeiting a code. We've listened to our clubs, and we've acted decisively," he added.

R360 has insisted it wants to work with rugby's other stakeholders "collaboratively as part of the global rugby calendar."

R360 is hoping to gain approval from the sport's global governing body, World Rugby, at its council meeting next year, with the view to beginning its first competition later in 2026.

AFP

War Elephants charge into world top 100

FOOTBALL

THAILAND'S MEN'S team have moved up to No.96 in the FIFA world ranking this month following their two straight victories in the AFC Asian Cup 2027 qualifiers.

The world governing body FIFA officially announced the world rankings for men's football teams for October 2025, with Thailand moving up to the 96th spot and becoming the 15th ranked team in Asia.

The War Elephants had been ranked No.101 in the month of September. In the two AFC Asian Cup qualifying round matches against Taiwan, Thailand recorded a 2-0 home victory before running riot in Taipei and routing the same opponents 6-1.

Thailand had 1,222.2 points at the start of October and added 13.16 more points to their tally for a total of 1,235.36 points, which proved good enough to help them move up five places in the FIFA world rankings.



Photo: Bangkok Post

Thailand play their fifth Asian Cup qualifying round Group D match with Sri Lanka, placed No.193 in the FIFA rankings, at Colombo Race Course Stadium in Sri Lanka on Nov 18.

Meanwhile, the Football Association of Thailand (FAT) claimed the Asian Football Confederation's Member Association of the Year Diamond Award for the second consecutive year at the annual gala of the regional body in Saudi Arabia on Oct 16.

FAT president Nualphan Lamsam was in Riyadh to receive the award as Thailand became the first nation to win the honour two years in a row.

It was another memorable milestone for the Thai governing body, which last year won the prestigious honour for the first time in the 30-year history of the award in Seoul, South Korea.

The prestigious honour reflected FAT's successes on and off the pitch in the past year, including the performance at both club and international levels, management standards and hosting of international tournaments.

Thailand has also been selected as the host of the AFC Annual Awards 2026, underscoring the nation's growing reputation and capability to stage international sporting events. Bangkok Post



OVER 35's AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT IN PARADISE

WHEN: SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER 2025
9:00AM Start

WHERE: ACG CRICKET & SPORTS FACILITY, PHUKET, THAILAND

FORMAT: MEN'S DIVISION
OVER 35'S / 12 A SIDE /
2 X 12 MINUTE HALVES

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Sport



HM Queen set to sail in SEA Games > p14

WHIZ KIDS

PSU team shine at automotive comp

The PSU student team 'Lookprabida'. Photos: The Sports Association of Phuket

MOTORSPORTS

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Seven students from Prince Songkla University (PSU) in Phuket made a name for themselves recently after impressing and winning several awards at a major automotive competition in Japan.

Organised by the Japan Society of Automotive Engineers (JSAE), Formula SAE Japan 2025 was held between Sept 8-13 at the Aichi Sky Expo in Nagoya, Japan, where 93 teams of students from a range of international universities were challenged to design, build and race a single-seater formula-style car.

The competition was divided into two classes: Internal Combustion Engine Vehicle Class, with 58 teams participating; and Electric Vehicle (EV) Class, with 35 teams participating. The latter was the first ever four-wheel drive electric car category in the competition and the one that the PSU team entered.

Through its Faculty of Engineering and under the team

name “Lookprabida”, the PSU students submitted an EV-class car that they had designed and constructed, which was smaller than an F4 car but larger than a standard go-kart. In doing so they became the first foreign team to pass the EV-class safety inspections in the competition.

Team Lookprabida scored a total of 192.87 points in the EV competition to finish a respectable 14th place out of 35 teams, with teams from Japan, China, Taiwan, Indonesia, the United States, Germany, Spain, Bangladesh and many other countries involved.

The awards won by team Lookprabida were as follows: first place in the EV safety inspection category; second place in the best 3D drawing design category; second place in the “coolest car” category; third place in the overall engineering design category; third place in the best mathwords category; seventh place in the cost and manufacturing category; and 17th place in the overall presentation category.

The PSU team was led by: Assistant Professor Dr Nikom Suwannaworn, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering; Assistant

Professor Sawit Tantanuch, Director of the Electric Vehicle Development Center (PSU EV); Associate Professor Dr Charoenyut Dechwayukul, Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering; and Assistant Professor Dr Watcharin Kaewapichai, Lecturer in the Department of Computer Engineering, who also served as general team supervisor.

TECHNICAL ERRORS

In a general statement released by Lookprabida after the event the team expressed thanks to everyone for their support while admitting to slight frustration with technical errors that cost them the opportunity to perform at their optimal level.

“Thank you for all your support and encouragement. We worked hard and to our fullest potential in this competition,” the statement read. “However, our car experienced an electrical issue in the Autocross RUN 1 Dynamic Event and, despite the team working hard on-site to resolve the issue, were unable to do so within the allocated timeframe. This meant we were unable to

achieve lap times in the acceleration, skid pad and remaining autocross runs, resulting in no points awarded in these races.

“The team sincerely apologises if we were unable to meet the expectations of all the support and encouragement, but we will use this experience and the lessons learned to improve for future events,” the statement added.

“Although we were unable to achieve the success levels we aimed for we were still delighted to perform so positively in the EV class and become the first foreign team to pass safety inspections in the Japanese arena. This has shown the world that great work is being done and that the future of automotive design is bright in Thailand.

“The entire team would like to thank everyone for their support, especially the President, Dean and the Prince of Songkla University Engineering Alumni Association. We look forward to continued support and hope to receive the same encouragement as we move forward in the future,” the statement concluded.

Formula SAE is a student design competition organised by

Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) International, with the inaugural competition taking place in 1980, arranged by the SAE student branch at the University of Texas at Austin in the United States.

Wikipedia explains the concept behind Formula SAE as follows: “a fictional manufacturing company has contracted a student design team to develop a small Formula-style race car. The prototype race car is to be evaluated for its potential as a production item. The target marketing group for the race car is the non-professional weekend autocross racer. Each student team designs, builds and tests a prototype based on a series of rules, whose purpose is both ensuring on-track safety (the cars are driven by the students themselves) and promoting clever problem solving.

“The volunteers for the design judging include some of the racing industry’s most prominent engineers and consultants including the late Carroll Smith, Bill Mitchell, Doug Milliken, Claude Rouelle, Jack Auld, John LePlante, Ron Tauranac and Bryan Kubala.”

Phang Nga United FC the new football kids on the block

FOOTBALL

Press Release

A NEW CHAPTER IN Thai football began last month with the official launch of Phang Nga United Football Club, the newest professional football team in Thailand who are set to represent Phang Nga province on the national stage.

Phang Nga United FC has been established with a mission to bring top-level

football to the province, nurture local talent and inspire the next generation of athletes. The club will compete in the Thai Semi Pro League of the Thai football pyramid (tier 4) with its debut season kicking off in 2026.

“This is an incredibly proud moment for Phang Nga,” said Club President Russ Horsley. “Our vision is to create a club that represents the heart and spirit of this province, combining local pride with professional



ambition. We want to give young players opportunities to grow and give our community a team they can truly call their own.”

The club’s identity draws inspiration from the natural beauty of Phang Nga, famous for its emerald seas, limestone cliffs and vibrant culture. The official crest and kit embodies the province’s heritage and passion for sport.

The club’s mission is to elevate football in the region, nurture homegrown talent and unite the local community through the power of sport. The club will also have a strong international feel, through

its international academy and several international partnerships with clubs and academies.

Phang Nga United FC is also committed to community engagement, with grassroots football programs, youth academies and outreach initiatives designed to strengthen the bond between the club and local supporters.

“With Phang Nga United FC, we’re not just building a football team, we’re building a family,” added

Horsley. “Our fans will be at the heart of everything we do, and we are determined to make them proud both on and off the pitch.”

The club invites football fans across Thailand, especially those from Phang Nga, Krabi and Phuket provinces, to join its journey and come to support the team as it strives to become a competitive force in Thai football.

You can follow Phang Nga United on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, X and TikTok.