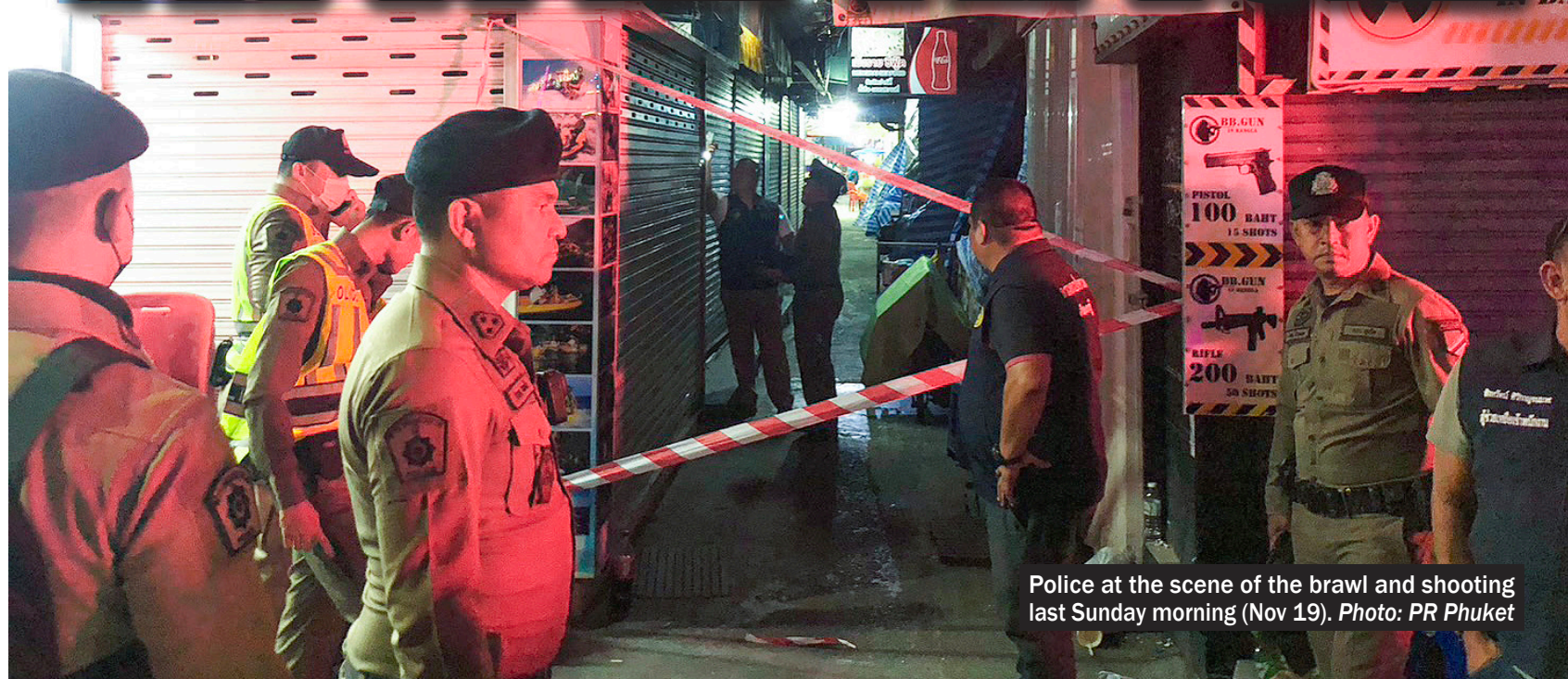


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RIVAL RAGE



Police at the scene of the brawl and shooting last Sunday morning (Nov 19). Photo: PR Phuket

BANGLA TOUT ATTACK ENDS WITH SHOOTING, ATTEMPTED MURDER CHARGE

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Police and local officials have yet to comment on the potential impact that a gang attack on one man, and the man's subsequent shooting of two people, on Bangla Rd in Phuket's busiest tourism nightlife area might have on the island's appeal to allow 4am closing for nightlife venues in specified zones.

The attack and shootings happened soon after 2am in Soi Lao, a small sidestreet off Bangla Rd, last Sunday (Nov 19).

Following initial reports of the incident, police and local government officials remained silent about the

shootings, with not a single report released until Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum broke the silence late Monday afternoon (Nov 20).

Maj Gen Sinlert explained that the shooter, already arrested, was fending off an attack by eight people.

Maj Gen Sinlert broke news at a press conference held at Phuket City Police Station at about 5pm, at the launch of an island-wide anti-crime blitz to be conducted for the week leading up to the Loy Krathong festival, to be celebrated nationwide on Monday (Nov 27).

The seven-day anti-crime campaign for Loy Krathong began on Monday, and continues through to

this coming Sunday (Nov 20-26).

Police were first alerted to the shootings at 2:25am, when officers at the Bangla Police Box were told of a brawl during which a firearm had been used, Maj Gen Sinlert said.

Officers arrived at the scene, the parking lot in Soi Lao, off Bangla Rd, to find the shooter still with the firearm.

Maj Gen Sinlert referred to the shooter only as 'Mr Boy', 37, despite initial police reports last Sunday already identifying him as Jettanai Kongsiri.

Officers placed Jettanai under arrest and seized the gun, a legally registered .38-calibre Smith & Wesson revolver, Maj Gen Sinlert said.

All five bullets in the gun had been fired, he confirmed.

Jettanai used to work on Bangla Rd as a tout, soliciting customers, mainly tourists, who walked along the nightlife street. However, he ceased work as a tout about a year ago. Only recently did Jettanai return to work as a tout, Maj Gen Sinlert explained.

While sitting in Soi Lao, Jettanai saw nine people with whom had already had a conflict with coming toward him to attack him. Jettanai fled further into Soi Lao, and fired the gun, Maj Gen Sinlert said.

Four people, three men and one woman, were injured in the brawl, and the gunfire that ended it. Ms Thidarat, a bystander to the brawl, was hit by...

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Local Russian tour buses hit with slingshots



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British couple rule at Laguna Triathlon





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News



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Tout rivalry ends with gunfire

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...a stray bullet on the right side of the neck. Mr Theerasak was shot in the left arm. Mr Somnuk was shot in the leg. Mr Pornsak suffered a knife wound on his right hand. None of the injuries were described as serious.

In conducting their investigation, Patong Police had checked additional CCTV cameras installed in Soi Lao, Pol Maj Gen Sinlert said. The cameras were already installed following a previous order by Pol Maj Gen Sinlert himself to have security measures in the nightlife area ramped up, said an official report of the press conference.

Maj Gen Sinlert confirmed that Jettanai now faces three charges: attempted murder, carrying a firearm in a public area without reasonable cause, and firing a gun in a public area without reason.

Of note, despite his description of the events that led to the firing of the gun, Maj Gen Sinlert made no mention of self-defence.

Meanwhile, all nine people involved in the attack on Jettanai have been charged with "joining together to physically harm another person, causing harm to body or mind", Maj Gen Sinlert confirmed.

Before the press conference on Monday, Maj Gen Sinlert inspected



Bangla tout Jettanai Kongsiri (left) in custody at Patong Police Station last Sunday (Nov 19). Photo: Patong Police

the scene of the shooting, joined by Phuket MP Chalermpong Saengdee.

Mr Chalermpong praised police efforts in responding to the incident. "In my opinion, police officers worked well and quickly," he wrote in a Facebook post on Monday night.

Weerawit Krueasombat, President of the Patong Entertainment Business Association (PEBA), agreed.

"Due to various measures that the officials had put in place to accommodate the extension of time allowed [for 4am closing] the officials to promptly arrest the perpetrator,"

Mr Weerawit said.

BAD TIMING

Present at the press conference on Monday was Kathu District Chief Theeraphong Chuaychu, who only days earlier had confirmed a 'unanimous' vote for Patong – and especially Bangla Rd – to be allowed to trial 4am closing of nightlife venues from Dec 15.

More than 800 people turned out for the vote, at a public forum held at Kathu Wittaya School on Nov 14. The public meeting was held to

hear public opinions on nightlife venues being allowed to remain open until 4am in specified zones, with a unanimous show of hands in support of the move.

Kathu District Chief Mr Theeraphong chaired the opening of the forum, held as part of the measures required by the national government before 4am zones will be piloted in four tourist-popular areas in the country, in Bangkok, Chon Buri, Chiang Mai and Phuket.

The aim of the meeting was to hear a range of opinions from the public, including local residents, business operators, academics and officials, Mr Theeraphong said.

"The Ministry of Interior and the government have considered extending the opening hours of service places to 4am as part of its tourism integration plan to support tourism and stimulate the national economy," Mr Theeraphong said.

"However, extending the opening hours of such service locations may have various problems and impacts. This forum is so that the operation will be done carefully and in order to obtain complete information for consideration. The Ministry of Interior has ordered four pilot provinces, namely Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Chonburi and Phuket, to open

a forum to listen to the opinions of citizens, civil society and stakeholders to cover all professional groups," he added.

If the move is deemed to have public support, local authorities will need to submit requests for consideration to extend the opening hours of service establishments to 4am in specified areas, he explained.

Six areas in Kathu District are to be proposed for 4am closing. Mr Theeraphong said. All six areas in Patong.

When the time came for the participants to express their opinions and raise their hands to express their approval on the issue, it appeared that 100% of the participants raised their hands to agree, noted an official report of the meeting.

"Therefore, it can be considered that the operation was completed at that time," the report said.

"Kathu District will proceed with filing all matters according to the next process," the report added.

Kathu District together with relevant agencies and business operators would draft a plan of where 4am closing zones will be and how they will be managed and were to forward the plan to the Ministry of Interior by last Friday (Nov 17), the report concluded.

4am closing zones for nightlife venues: Is Phuket ready or not?

BEFORE THE BRAWL and shootings last Sunday, Kathu District Chief Mr Theeraphong declared that Patong will be ready to allow nightlife venues to remain open until 4am by the Dec 15 deadline.

The statement of confidence came on Nov 16, when Mr Theeraphong confirmed the six zones in Patong where 4am closing will be allowed.

The six zones are: Soi Bangla, Soi Saensabai, Soi Paradise, Aroonsom Plaza (on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, located north of Bangla), near the Sea Pearl Beach Resort and Duangjitt Resort & Spa at the southern end of the Patong beach road, and the OTOP Market (on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, at the southern end of Patong).

"Every sector agrees 100% with these zones," said Mr Theeraphong, referring to the results of the public forum held.

"Measures will be in place to cover all aspects, both safety and the surroundings, to make it in time for D-Day on December 15," he said.

"Kathu District Office has cooperated with relevant agencies, including the central government, police and local government departments, in setting measures to take care of safety," he continued.

"They have set up a Line group to report incidents involving tourists, such as being drunk or not paying their bills, and the measures include setting up checkpoints to intercept people and weapons both at the beginning and end of the zones – and using AI to detect faces," Mr Theeraphong said.

"In the case of verifying those providing services at the establishments, the Thai Dee application will be used to prevent problems with ID card counterfeiting. As for drugs, there will be random inspections at all times without prior notice," he warned.



People at a public meeting vote unanimously for six areas in Patong to be allowed 4am closing. Photo: PR Phuket

"However, regarding the problem with garbage, collection times will be adjusted so that there is no garbage left in the area," Mr Theeraphong said.

"All of these measures will be evaluated periodically, in terms of economic value and safety. This includes Soi Bangla and surrounding areas, and including the area bordering Kathu Subdistrict and Kamala Subdistrict, checking whether the area has been affected or not.

"As for preventing road accidents, operators and officials have organised services

to deliver drunken tourists who are unable to get back to where they are staying on their own," Mr Theeraphong said.

KARON, CHALONG

A meeting of more than 70 nightlife venue operators on Nov 15 saw majority support for four zones for 4am closing in Phuket's Muang District, with two of them in Phuket Town, along with one in Karon and another in Chalong.

The meeting, held at the Muang District Office on Narisorn Rd in Phuket

Town, was the second public feedback meeting in Phuket held to receive opinions and recommendations about the 4am closing zones.

At the meeting, chaired by Muang Phuket District Chief Pairot Srilamul, four 4am closing zones were agreed to in Muang District.

Two 4am closing zones will be in Phuket Town. One will be near the Seahorse Circle on the east side of town, while the other will be along Kra Rd.

One 4am closing zone will be along Soi Tai Na in Karon, which for years had already been designated an 'entertainment zone'.

The fourth area in Muang District to have a 4am closing zone will be Soi Ta-ia in Chalong.

Rawai failed to have any 4am closing zones receive support.

According to an official report of the meeting, the venue operators agreed that

4am entertainment venues should be allowed to remain open until 4am, but also noted that Muang District area as a whole was "still not ready in many aspects", including in terms of safety, environmental and economic factors.

The operators were ready and willing to work with officials to "drive forward with stable measures in allowing entertainment venues to open until 4am", the report added.

However, the operators also agreed that it would be best to pilot the 4am closing conditions in Patong, the traditional area for late nightlife entertainment, which they said would help to stimulate Phuket's tourism industry, the report concluded.

There were no reports of any public meetings held to discuss 4am closing zones in Thalang District.

The Phuket News

Slingshot attacks target Russian tour vehicles

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Police have arrested two men who were allegedly paid B1,000 for each tour bus they damaged with a slingshot and ball bearings, with attacks on 10 vehicles carried out before the men were caught.

Police announced at a press conference last Thursday (Nov 16) that the two men were arrested on a warrant issued by Phuket Provincial Court on Nov 13.

At 2pm on Tuesday (Nov 14), officers from the Wichit Police, Phuket City Police, Chalong Police and an investigation team from the Phuket Provincial Police working together with investigators from Region 8 Police moved in and made the arrests.

The suspects arrested were named only as Mr Panupong, or 'Noon', (family name not reported), a 34-year-old resident of Soi Samakkhi 2, off Yaowarat Rd, in Phuket Town, and 'Mr Sarayut' (family name not reported), 29, from Pattani.

The men were arrested at



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

a house in Moo 3, Wichit, and at a bus parking area on Soi Luang Phor Kluea, in Moo 3, Wichit.

Officers seized as evidence two motorbikes used in carrying out the attacks, as well as two slingshots and 72 steel balls used to shoot bus windows.

The two men were taken in for questioning, and face charges of causing damage to private property as well as collaborating to cause damage to public transportation vehicles in a manner that is likely to cause danger to persons, police confirmed.

According to police, the

two men confessed that they used a slingshot loaded with steel balls to shoot the windows of 10 transport buses in three separate attacks.

Two buses were damaged at the Shell gas station on Thepkasattri Rd in Sapam, Ratsada, on Oct 26. Two more buses were damaged at a tour bus parking area near the SuperCheap store on Soi Palai, Chalong, on Nov 2. Four more buses were damaged at a tour bus parking area opposite Wat Chalong on Nov 11.

Of note, photos released at the press conference showed forensic police carrying out their inspections of the dam-

aged tour buses, namely buses emblazoned with the logo of the popular Russian tour agency 'Anex Tour'.

A report by Thai-language 'Manager Online' on Nov 3 quoted Phuket City Police Chief Pol Col Pratuang Pholmana as leading the team of forensic police to investigate the buses damaged in the attacks so far at that time.

Meanwhile, at the press conference last week, police said the men had confessed to being hired to carry out the attacks, and were paid by a tour bus operator in Phuket named by police only as 'Goh M'.

'Goh M' offered the men B1,000 for damaging buses belonging to any of three companies: Chalermphat Co Ltd, First Transport Co Ltd and Andaman Lotus Co Ltd.

The two men obliged, and were paid B11,000: B1,000 for each of the 10 buses damaged, plus B1,000 "gratuity".

Police said they were continuing their investigation to apprehend 'Goh M'. At time of press there had been no updates on whether or not police had 'Goh M' in custody.

Governor talks up safety to big guns

A SERIES OF EVENTS including an air-sea rescue exercise off Patong Beach now to be held on Dec 1 is to show how seriously the government is taking tourists' safety, Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat said last week.

The "rehearsal" of the province's disaster response plan – originally announced to be held on Nov 26 – is to help tourists build confidence in Phuket being safe, he said.

Governor Sophon's comments came a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on Nov 16, attended by Royal Thai Police (RTP) spokesman Pol Lt Gen Achayon Kraithong, Tourist Police Region 3 Commander Maj Gen Krit Warit and Advisor to the Prime Minister Paitoon Chutimakornkul.

Mr Paitoon relayed the Prime Minister's concerns regarding Phuket on four important issues, said an official report of the meeting. Drugs must be gone, the island must be free from foreign mafia, tourists must be safe and measures for nightlife venues to remain open until 4am must be in place, with emphasis on



Photo: PR Phuket

measures not to drink and drive, intensive patrols and an integrated CCTV network to maintain safety throughout the province, the report said.

"There must be proactive action to prevent and suppress crime in order to build confidence in the safety of life and property for tourists, including pushing the image of security for tourists of the province to have more confidence when traveling in Phuket," he said.

The exercise to be held off Patong on Dec 1 will simulate a tour boat encountering bad weather with strong wind and waves up to four metres high, causing the boat "to be affected" and resulting in injured people floating in the sea, the report explained – a very similar scenario to the Phoenix tour boat disaster in 2018 that killed 47 Chinese tourists. *The Phuket News*

Brit nabbed over gun dropped outside nightclub in Rawai

CHALONG POLICE HAVE ARRESTED a British man wanted for illegal possession of a firearm that he dropped outside a night venue in Rawai after the man had fled the country, then returned to Phuket.

The man was named by police only as "Jamaal", which police spelled in English.

Jamaal was wanted on an arrest warrant issued by the Phuket Provincial Court for illegal possession of a firearm and carrying it in a public area without permission or reasonable cause, police explained.

Jamaal reportedly dropped the gun – a black Glock 19, which police described as a "blank gun" – outside the nightclub after leaving the venue.

A security guard at the night venue picked it up and informed the police, police said.

However, Jamaal and the people he was with had already fled the area, and a check by police discovered that he left Thailand the next morning.

Officers continued with their investigation and identified Jamaal as their main suspect, and were issued a warrant for his arrest.

Jamaal was recently confirmed to have returned to Thailand, and officers moved to arrest him at his place of stay on Nov 13, Chalong Police reported.

The place of Jamaal's arrest was not reported. Also not reported was the date and time of the incident when he reportedly dropped the gun outside the nightclub, which was also not named by police. Also not reported was when he allegedly left the country, and returned.



Police present 'Jamaal' with the arrest warrant. Photo: via Eakkapop Thongtub

However, the police were happy to tell reporters "the accused had links to criminal networks in the area. He also has a history of imprisonment for drug trafficking, firearms, etc, in England in many cases."

Chalong Police were also happy to highlight the arrest as in accordance with Phuket Provincial Police policy of "focusing on the importance of maintaining the safety of tourists and to take action against foreigners who have hidden behaviours to commit crimes in Thailand".

Of note, Phuket Info Center reported the man as Jamal Woodcock of Luton, England, who eight years ago, at the age of 18, was sentenced by Luton Crown Court to three years and four months imprisonment for possessing with intent to supply cannabis, crack cocaine and heroin.

Bedfordshire Police posted confirmation of Jamal Woodcock's sentencing on Sept 9, 2015.

Chalong Police have not yet directly confirmed that the "Jamaal" arrested in Phuket and the Jamal Woodcock sentenced in England in 2015 is the same person. *Eakkapop Thongtub*

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Baby bitten by rogue macaques

Eakkapop Thongtub
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A 3-month-old baby boy is in intensive care at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town after a group of macaques entered the house where he was being cared for near Koh Panyee, with one of the macaques biting him several times on the head.

The baby boy was rushed to Phuket late on Nov 14 from Koh Mai Phai, in Moo 3, Koh Panyee – home to the famed 'floating village' in Phang Nga Bay – after Jiraporn Kalong, a 37-year-old relative of the child, raised the alarm.

Ms Jiraporn explained that she was entrusted to look after the baby boy while the child's parents were in Phuket working as labourers.

Around 1:35pm she left the boy to sleep and drink milk inside the house. While she was outside, a group of macaques came into the home, with two of the macaques entering the child's room.

Ms Jiraporn believes the macaques came to steal the



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

baby's milk. However, one of the macaques bit the child on the head, leaving five to six heavy bite marks through the baby's skin.

The baby screamed out, at the same moment that she walked back into the house, Ms Jiraporn said. She called out to relatives nearby for help before the monkey released its bite grip on the baby's head and fled into the forest.

One of the wounds on the

baby's head was gaping and bleeding profusely. The baby was rushed to the Subdistrict Health Promotion Hospital in the area, where nurses dressed the wound to help stop the bleeding.

A boat was quickly brought to rush the child to Baan Tha Dan pier, on the Phang Nga mainland. From there a rescue team rushed the baby to Phang Nga Hospital. Doctors there had the baby boy rushed to

Phuket to undergo surgery at Vachira Hospital.

At midday on Nov 15, Sunattha Phianthong, Deputy President of the Red Cross Society of Phang Nga Province, arrived in Phuket along with officials from the Phang Nga Provincial Social Development and Human Security Office, as well as the baby's parents.

The baby remains undergoing treatment and is under close observation in the ICU

at the hospital.

The child's family and villagers have directly asked local agencies to investigate and take action to prevent any future attacks by macaques on the island from happening.

The villagers understand that macaques live in the wild, but noted that there are 300 to 400 monkeys on Koh Mai Pai (Bamboo Island), more than the population of people living there.



Pit stop lands fake 'red licence plates' arrest

PHUKET HIGHWAY POLICE have arrested a man for using fake 'red licence plates' after he claimed that he could not afford to pay the loan instalments for the car.

Officers noticed the car, a black Toyota Vios, when it was parked in front of a bathroom at a Highway Police rest area, and saw the licence plates marked as "A-3838 Bangkok."

Taking a closer look, the officers realised that the licence plates were fake, Phuket Highway Police reported last Saturday (Nov 18).

The officers located the owner of the car, who remained unnamed in their report, and questioned him about the red licence plates, which are issued to owners of brand-new cars, and most often dealerships, to be used until the real licence plates are received.

Suspicious, the officers checked the registration of the car and found that it had already been issued the standard 'white licence plates', and then questioned the owner of the car further.



Photo: Phuket Highway Police

The man confessed to buying the red licence plates and using them in order to hide from his finance company because he could no longer pay the instalments, police said.

The officers seized the car, and the fake licence plates, and took the man to Thalang Police Station to be charged.

The man now faces a charge of forging and using fake government documents, the Highway Police confirmed in their report.

The Phuket News

Aussie arrives at airport with cocaine still in his passport

A 26-YEAR-OLD AUSTRALIAN man has been arrested at Phuket International Airport after immigration officers found a small packet of cocaine hidden in his passport.

The man, unnamed in the report by officers from 'Phuket Immigration Checkpoint' at Phuket airport, was arrested in the international arrivals hall at about 9:30pm on Nov 13.

The man was found with a small plastic bag containing 0.17 grammes of cocaine tucked into his passport, immigration officers reported.

The Australian was taken to Sakhu Police Station for further legal action. He faces charges of illegal possession of a Category 2 narcotic and "bringing a Category 2 narcotic (cocaine) into the Kingdom without permission", said the report.

The official 'Phuket Immigration Checkpoint' Facebook page also shared a report by the Thai-language newspaper *Matichon*.

The report named the Australian as Mr Shoma Fati Koko, who arrived in Phuket on Jetstar Airlines Flight JQ 27 from Sydney.

After disembarking his flight, Mr Koko then presented himself at



Photo: Phuket Immigration Checkpoint / Facebook

the immigration counter to request permission to enter the Kingdom, the report explained.

Mr Shoma Fati Koko handed over his Australian passport to Immigration officer Pol Sgt Shakrit Praekthong.

Pol Sgt Shakrit opened the passport and found a small clear plastic press-seal envelope containing what appeared to be a "suspicious white powder".

Customs officers at the airport were then called in to test the powder, which was soon confirmed to be cocaine.

When questioned, Mr Shoma Fati Koko testified that the cocaine was not his and that he did not know how it came to be in his passport.

He had never taken any drugs, he said. *The Phuket News*

DSI, Navy team uncovers Bang Khanun logging

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

An inspection of Bang Khanun protected forest by officers from the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) accompanied by Royal Thai Navy personnel and forest protection officials has uncovered an illegal logging operation.

Vice Admiral Suchart Thammakitakwet, Commander of the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command at Panwa, was informed of the raid last Friday (Nov 17).

Leading the DSI officers was Pol Maj Nimit Promma, Deputy Director of the DSI's Natural Resources and Environmental Litigation Division.

The party were searching the forest for illegal permanent structures when they found the illegal logging operation near Soi Bang Ma Lao 11, in Moo 7, Sakhu, said the report.

At the site, officers found some jackfruit trees and the remains of large trees that had been cut down. Six of the trees cut down were protected species, the report noted.



Photo: Royal Thai Navy / Third Area Command

From the nature of the wood processing found at the site, it is likely that there were many culprits involved and it is believed that the operation was being financed, the report added.

The report neglected to mention what action was being taken to track down the culprits, but did advance the Navy's claim to the forest and its role in protecting it "to protect Phuket International Airport, to protect Phuket Province, a world-class tourist destination and special economic zone in the Andaman Sea waters".

The report by the Navy also pointed out that DSI Deputy Director-General Pol Capt

Piya Raksakul had revealed that the DSI had received a complaint of encroachment on the Bang Khanun National Forest Reserve, as the area is officially called.

"It is a special case covering the entire area. The duty of the investigating officer is to prove the guilt of those who encroach on the area, and it is the duty of the special case investigator to reveal the truth as to who, if anyone, has committed the crime of invading areas and destroying the country's resources," the report said.

"Bang Khanun Forest is a security area that belongs to every Thai person and cannot be given to any one person as owner. The discovery of crimes

committed in deforestation in the area is a violation of public rights that affects public order and good morals.

"It causes damage to important upstream resources which will cause suffering to the people on Phuket Island. It is considered an act of outrageous conduct with no fear of the law. Therefore, there must be an investigation and the perpetrators will be punished according to the law," the report said.

The report made no mention of the ongoing controversy regarding the Royal Thai Navy being granted to use all 3,700 rai of the protected forest to create a new home for the 22nd Anti-Aircraft Battalion, the 2nd Anti-Aircraft Regiment, the Anti-Aircraft Command Unit, an Air Defense and Coastal Defense Center and the 4th Naval Police Battalion of the Naval Police Department.

At last report, Phuket provincial officials were working on creating a map showing exactly which areas are occupied in the protected forest, and what the claimants rights to those areas are.

Illegal sunbeds removed at Kata

THREE SUNBED AND umbrella operators were arrested last Saturday (Nov 18) for operating illegally on Kata Beach following an inspection led by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat.



Photo: PR Phuket

The "inspection" was carried out by the Mueang Phuket District Administrative Special Operations Team joined by officers from the Karon Police and officials from Karon Municipality, said an official report of the raid.

In making the arrests, the officers seized 100 sets of sunbeds and umbrellas belonging to the three arrested.

Of note the Administrative Special Operations Team from the Mueang Phuket District Office was led by Veerasak Khamkerd, Muang District Deputy Chief for Security, joined by personnel from the Volunteer Defense Corps (Or-Sor) designated the "Phuket District Tourism Special Operations Team".

Also joining the raid were the Assistant Village Headman for Moo 2 and Moo 4, Karon.

The raid was the result of a complaint filed that the operators had set up the sunbeds and umbrellas in order

to charge fees from tourists, the report explained.

In total, three operators were found to have set up their sunbeds outside the '10% zone', where vendors may legally operate on the beach.

The officials also inspected the vendors inside the 10% zone to ensure that they were authorised to operate on the beach and that they were not selling alcoholic beverages or other intoxicants.

They were also checked to make sure they did not employ foreign workers to set out the sunbeds and umbrellas.

The three persons arrested, unnamed in the report, have been charged for breach of the provincial order regulating the areas on the beaches where vendors may operate, the official report confirmed.

"Karon Municipality will process fines against [them] in accordance with the law," the report said. *The Phuket News*

Patong Hill road surface to get a gripping makeover

WORK IS TO BEGIN ON applying a new surface to the road over Patong Hill in the hope of reducing the number of accidents on the steep slope.

Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat and Phuket Highways Office Chief Yutthana Phitak, along with a team of other officials, inspected the road over the hill on Nov 16.

The inspection followed local residents filing formal complaints about the road, which due to its heavy usage had become slick, and especially slippery when wet.

Governor Sophon thanked the local residents for filing the complaints, and said that he had assigned the Phuket Highways Office to address the problem, with Kathu Municipality and the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) to provide the budget for the project.

Joining Governor Sophon for his inspection were Kathu District Chief Theeraphong Chuaychu, PPAO President Rewat Areerob and Kathu Deputy Mayors Somboon Airak and Somsong Prasansom.

Mr Yuttana explained that the road will be solved



Photo: PR Phuket

by using a 'Single Surface Treatment' to reduce the slipperiness of the road surface. In lay terms, a special layer will be applied to the surface that will improve traction and extend the life of the road.

The plans for carrying out the road improvement are expected to be completed within one week, Mr Yuttana said.

"After that, we will coordinate to make sure the project receives urgent funding."

The Kathu District Office has prepared signs to warn tourists and other drivers of the condition of the road, Mr Yuttana said.

"I would like to ask people who drive over the hill to use extra caution as this is a mountainous and steep road," Mr Yuttana said.

"It is normal on such steep slopes that vehicles such as

trucks, when the air brake is pressed continuously, the brake air may run out.

"Drivers are asked to check the condition of their vehicles and drivers [of large vehicles] who are new and not well-versed with this road should avoid this route, because if there are problems with the gearbox and you have to shift into neutral, this causes the vehicle to roll backwards and accidents can easily occur," he said.

Mr Yuttana's reference to trucks rolling backwards down Patong Hill followed a 59-year-old truck driver from Ubon Ratchathani being charged earlier this month after his six-wheeled truck failed to make it up Patong Hill.

The truck rolled backwards down the hill and narrowly escaped plunging over the side when it was stopped by the roadside barrier.

Following his inspection of the road over Patong Hill, Governor Sophon and his team visited the display nearby that was set up for Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin to review during his visit in late September. *The Phuket News*

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Photo: NNT

THAI Airways sees B16bn profit push amid tourism revival

THAI INTERNATIONAL Airways Plc (THAI) has reported a comeback with a net profit of B16.31 billion in the first nine months of 2023, driven by the recovery of the tourism sector.

The figure marked a significant improvement from the loss recorded in the same period last year.

For the third quarter, THAI and its subsidiaries achieved a net profit of B1.55bn, compared to a loss of B4.78bn the previous year. The company's revenue rose by 12.6% to B37bn, thanks to increased passenger transport revenue.

Operational efficiency improvements have resulted in a substantial increase in EBITDA and a profit of B7.72bn from core operations. The airline managed

a slight increase in total expenses despite higher production and transport volumes.

THAI's recent operational strategies include expanding flight routes, particularly to Japan, and integrating additional aircraft from Thai Smile Airways to enhance service efficiency. This move is part of the airline's broader strategy to streamline operations and adapt to the recovering tourism industry.

As of the end of September 2023, THAI's total assets have risen significantly, with a corresponding increase in liabilities. However, the airline's negative equity has reduced, reflecting its ongoing financial recovery.

National News Bureau of Thailand

Local operators pitch for marine tour price controls

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Price controls on Phuket boat tours and marine transport was just one of the requests levelled at Jaturon Phakdeewanit, Director-General of the Department of Tourism, during a meeting in Phuket Town last week.

Mr Jaturon on Nov 14 led a meeting at the Pearl Hotel in Phuket Town organised by the Andaman branch of the Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT) so that local tourism business operators could voice their concerns and grievances.

Wirintra Paphakityotphat, head of the Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT) Region 11 branch, which includes Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi, explained that the TCT had submitted a letter of request to the Prime Minister, Srettha Thavisin, on Sept 29 in order to solve the problem of economic inequality and promote tourism within Phuket Province.

The letter detailed three important issues, said an official report of the meeting.

First, a 'Community Marina' was proposed for fisheries and tourism businesses to be connected to each other and to support community tourism, and to help to provide another option for passenger transportation via sea in order to help reduce traffic congestion in Phuket.

The second issue was the quality of life of Phuket people,



Photo: TAC Phuket

and the third issue was 'mega-events' held during Songkran, including Phuket Bike Week International 2024, which the TCT wants to be a magnet for attracting additional tourists to the island from April 13-20, 2024.

Kritsada Pichetphongsanon, President of the Phuket Marine Tourism Business Association, said that "main problem" for maritime operators right now is the problem of price competition on the supply side.

He said local operators want the relevant agencies to control and supervise the situation, and establish a committee to control the "median price" so that small- and medium-sized marine operators can continue to do business.

Mr Jaturon heard a wide range of issues tourism and

tourism-related businesses in Phuket are currently facing.

"All problems discussed today including the problem of price competition on the supply side, economic inequality, tourism promotion guidelines, preparation for sea tourism, overall preparation of entrepreneurs, setting up a tourism fund, checkpoint problems along the Southern border, training to increase knowledge for groups of tour guides and legal problems with small hotels, will be presented to the relevant agencies to integrate and solve them," he said.

"Along with guidelines for establishing a special economic zone for Andaman tourism in order to raise the potential of the southern Andaman provinces towards sustainable tourism," he added.

"The Department of Tour-

ism is in the middle of a brainstorming meeting with all relevant sectors. If it is truly possible to push for a special economic zone for tourism, every problem presented by business operators in the southern Andaman region will have a solution that is convenient and quick. Exceptions can occur in enforcing the law in many areas," Jaturon said.

At the meeting, it was recognised that the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has set a goal of more than 28 million tourists entering the country by the end of 2023, generating more than B2.1 trillion for the national economy.

"From Jan 1 to Oct 30 this year, Thailand has received more than 22mn foreign tourists, which has the opportunity to meet the target," said the official report.

Government entertains allowing 90-day visas for European visitors

THAILAND MAY WAIVE visa requirements for travellers from more European countries and is lining up hundreds of cultural and sporting events as it works to induce holidaymakers to stay longer and spend more, the government has said.

The government is discussing a plan to let tourists of some European nationalities stay as long as 90 days, Prommin Lertsuridej, a top aide to Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, said in an interview on Nov 16.

There will also be about 3,000 events like music concerts, marathons and other cultural festivities organised through to next year to draw tourists, he said.

Mr Srettha, who became prime minister in August, has identified tourism as a "quick win" to accelerate Thailand's economic growth. His administration has temporarily waived



Immigration officers work at Suvarnabhumi airport in February. Photo: Somchai Poomlard / Bangkok Post

visa requirements for travellers from Russia, China, Kazakhstan, India and Taiwan, and ordered airlines to add more routes while streamlining airport operations to cut waiting time for visitors.

The government also plans to allow nightlife entertainment venues in some areas of Bangkok, Phuket,

Chiang Mai and Chonburi to operate until 4am starting next month.

While Thailand has rolled back most pandemic-era curbs on visitors, average spending per traveller has lagged pre-COVID levels and missed official estimates.

In 2019, the country saw record foreign arrivals – almost 40 million

– which generated B1.91 trillion in revenue. That year, each tourist spent an average of B47,895 per trip which lasted nine days on average, according to official data.

As of Nov 12 this year, Thailand has welcomed 23.2mn foreign tourists and received B981.7 billion in foreign tourist receipts. That means

it is currently tracking about 12% below the 2019 per-trip spending benchmark.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand has set a goal to raise foreign tourism revenue back to pre-COVID levels, targeting at least B2trn in 2024.

Mr Srettha last week announced the "Winter Festival" celebrations that will include the Loy Krathong festival, Bangkok Marathon and New Year. The event is designed to showcase Thailand's unique culture and attract tourists during the high season between November and January.

"We will design more attractions and promotions to incentivize tourists to stay longer," Mr Prommin, who is secretary-general to the premier, said. "Longer stay, more events to attract them, more fun on the nightlife scene. This is how we're planning for tourists to spend more." *Bangkok Post*

National suspension on firearm carry permits

BANGKOK
Bangkok Post

The issuance of permits for individuals to carry firearms in public has been suspended nationwide to ensure people’s safety, as instructed by Interior Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, interior permanent secretary Suttipong Juljarern said on Nov 16.

Mr Suttipong said an order has been sent to the governors of all 76 provinces and he has coordinated with national police chief Pol Gen Torsak Sukvimol, who has the authority to issue gun-carrying permits in Bangkok, to suspend the issuance of permits until further notice.

Mr Suttipong explained that the instruction came after a fatal shooting between rival student gangs in front of Sacred Heart Convent School in Bangkok’s Klong Toey district on Nov 11 which resulted in a female schoolteacher being killed by a stray bullet in the incident.

Mr Suttipong said he has also ordered all provincial



Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Anutin Charnvirakul announces a plan on stricter gun control at Government House on Oct 5. Photo: Bangkok Post

governors to take action as follows:

- Local gun registration officials are to suspend the issuance of permits for ordering and importing blank guns or imitations that can be easily modified for use as real guns. No licences will be issued to new importers or traders of blank guns or other imitations. Gun shops will no longer receive permits to order or import guns and ammunition until further notice.
- People who have blank guns or imitations in their possession are required to

register them with local officials to show that they do not intend to modify them.

- Permits for buying guns, having guns in possession for use and ordering or importing guns and ammunition will now only be issued to shooting sports associations properly registered under the Sport Authority of Thailand Act.

Mr Suttipong said people with information on wrongful acts concerning guns and imitations or materials which may be harmful to people’s lives and property can report to chiefs of villages, tambons

and districts in their localities or call the Damrongtham Centre at 1567.

Authorities have stepped up gun control efforts following the Klong Toey shooting and the Oct 3 shooting at Siam Paragon shopping mall in Bangkok, where a 14-year-old boy using a modified gun intended to fire blank ammunition fatally shot three people and wounded five others.

Around 10.3 million guns – only 6.2mn of them registered – were possessed by Thais, putting the country in 13th place globally for small gun possession, according to the Switzerland-based Small Arms Survey in 2017.

The survey estimated that Thai people possessed the most guns in Southeast Asia, with an average of 15 firearms per 100 population.

Data from the World Population Review in 2022 indicated Thailand was ranked 15th globally in gun deaths with 2,804 people killed, for a rate of 3.91 people per 100,000 population.

The Philippines was the top country in Asean region with 9,267 gun deaths.

Thai secures runner-up at Miss Universe 2023

BANGKOK

PRIME MINISTER SRETTHA Thavasin has congratulated Thailand’s representative, Anntonia Porsild, for securing the first runner-up position in the Miss Universe 2023 pageant, following the finale of the competition that took place in El Salvador last Sunday (Nov 19).

Mr Srettha commended Miss Anntonia for her exceptional representation of Thailand, noting that her success is a reflection of her dedicated efforts and support from all sides.

Miss Anntonia showcased Thailand’s rich and captivating culture on the global stage, especially with her national costume, titled ‘Goddess of the Ayutthaya Kingdom’. The costume, inspired by the Mother Earth statue from the Ayutthaya period, dating from the 14th to the 18th centuries, has been acclaimed for its beauty and cultural significance.

“No words can describe the way I’m feeling right now,” Miss Anntonia said on her Instagram page. “I put my all on the stage tonight for



Anntonia Porsild. Photo: Miss Universe Thailand / Facebook

Thailand, for everyone who believed in me and was a part of my journey.

“I’m sorry I couldn’t bring the crown home for us, and I am eternally grateful for all of the love and support I have received throughout this journey. Without your support, I wouldn’t be standing here today.

“As I was once told, it’s not the crown and sash that is most important – but it’s what you do with the platform you have that matters most. I will continue to work towards my dreams and hope you will all come along with me on whatever path we go from here.”

The Phuket News

Cannabis loopholes to be closed

BANGKOK

THE PUBLIC HEALTH Ministry has completed the first draft of the Cannabis-Hemp Act and confirmed it will not reclassify cannabis as a narcotic, Public Health Minister Cholnan Srikaew said last Friday (Nov 17).

He said the new law has 70 sections and is based on amendments to the first draft, which has 94 sections.

It has been updated to address various public concerns or loopholes that allow people to use cannabis for recreational purposes.

The core of the law still defines cannabis as a controlled herb, while any extract that contains more than 0.2% tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) remains listed as a narcotic.

“The minister still supports the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes but not for recreational use, so those who grow cannabis – even for personal use – must have permission under the new law,” Mr Cholnan said.

The first version of the Cannabis and Hemp Law



Photo: Bangkok Post

allowed a household to grow up to 15 plants for personal use, such as for treating some sickness. They merely needed to inform local authorities, but under the new law, they must seek permission first.

“We will not shut down all cannabis shops, but they need to comply with the law. The new law will not allow them to sell cannabis buds for people to smoke or even have equipment for customers to smoke inside their shops. In the past, we could not control the usage, but with the new law, using cannabis for recreational purposes will be prohibited,” Mr Cholnan said.

When asked if smoking

cannabis at home will be illegal, he said that remains a grey area pending more public feedback.

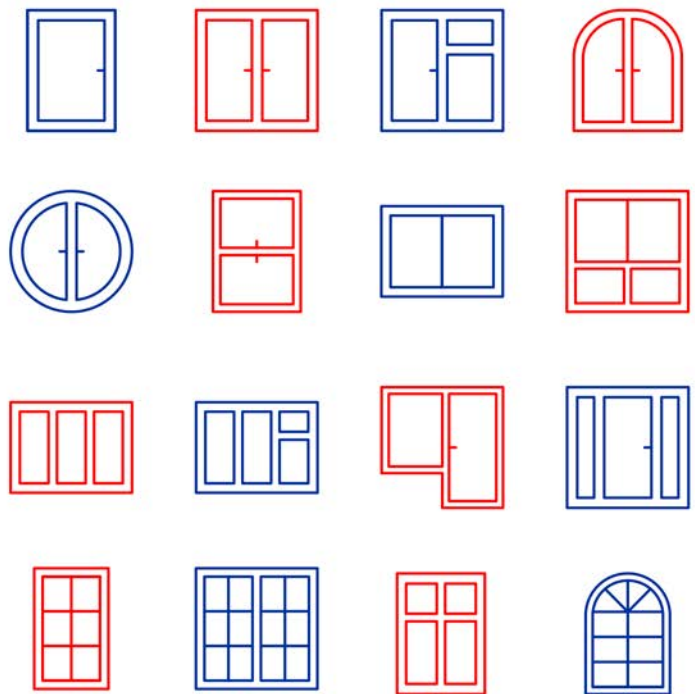
On whether cannabis and hemp should have separate laws, he said this issue has been raised. However, according to the current law, hemp is considered a kind of cannabis, just one with low levels of THC, he noted.

The ministry will create a two-week window for the public to read the law and provide feedback by mid-December. The minister will then analyse whether the law should be updated before submitting it to the Cabinet for approval, Mr Cholnan concluded.

Bangkok Post



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Ready for Loy Krathong

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket, along with the rest of the country, on Monday (Nov 27) will celebrate one of Thailand's festivals most renowned for its beauty, and atmosphere, Loy Krathong.

Loy Krathong each year sees millions of people turn out to offer their 'krathong' – a hand-crafted float made from a slice of banana tree stalk adorned with flowers – to waterways and other bodies of water as a way of making merit and to wash away the sins of the past.

Also referred to as the "Festival" of Lights", Loy Krathong in more recent years has also become renowned for floating 'sky lanterns', called Khom Loy.

As is Thai tradition, the festival will see events held in every community in the country – complete with live music, cultural performances and the famed 'Nong Noppamas' beauty contests – and Phuket is no exception.

In Patong, the centre of festivities will be near the end of Bangla Rd on Patong Beach, while many people launch their krathong from the pier at the southern end of the beach.

In Rawai, the centre of festivities will be at Nai Harn Lake and Nai Harn Beach, while in Chalong the most popular sites for enjoying the festival will be Chalong Pier, Palai Pier, Wat Ladthi Wanaram (Wat Tai) on Chao Fa East Rd and the lakes behind Wat Chalong, on Chao Fa West Rd.

Karon festivities will be held at Nong Harn Public Park, while Kamala will hold its festivities at the beach area of Chalermprakiat 100th Anniversary Park.

While the festival each year features large fireworks displays organised by local municipalities, local officials have made it clear that people individually setting off their own fireworks will not be tolerated.



Photo: The Phuket News / file

Rawai Municipality has already set up a sign making sure people know that firecrackers and fireworks are banned at Nai Harn Lake, and Patong Municipality is already warning people of the ban of fireworks set off on the beach.

Festivities at all locales will be from about 6pm onwards.

In Phuket Town, the main centre of activities will be at Suan Luang (King Rama IX Park), starting at 5:30pm.

Phuket Town Mayor Saroj Angkanapilas explained that Loy Krathong is an ancient tradition that is observed on the full moon of the 12th lunar month. "It's an ancient practice that pays homage to natural waterways and other bodies of water," he said.

"With the full moon, the moonlight shines brightly at night. It is a beautiful atmosphere ideal for Loy Krathong and helps us to preserve and carry on the good cultural traditions of Thailand for future generations. It also cultivates awareness of value in learning how to preserve water resources," he added.

People are encouraged to enjoy the event as their Thai ancestors did, including joining the festivities in

traditional Thai costumes, he added.

As with festivities held elsewhere across the island, there will be a Nong Noppamas (or 'Nai Noppamas') contest for girls 4-6 years old and a separate contest for girls 7-11 years old.

Prizes are up for grabs for winners in the Nong Noppamas contests. The winner of each contest will receive B3,000, the runner up will receive B2,000 and the second runner-up B1,000. The winner of the People's Choice Award in each contest will also receive B1,000.

The 'Nong Noppamas' contests are a Thai tradition held in honour of and tribute to 'Nang Noppamas', also known as Rewadin Phamas or Thao Sri Chulalak. The festival traces its roots back to the Sukhothai period.

The legend says that Nang Noppamas lived in Sukhothai when the ancient kingdom was prosperous and full of happiness, with people of different languages and religions all living together.

The most outstanding aspect of Nang Noppamas is that she invented the krathong as a way of paying tribute to the Goddess of the Waters, Mae Kongka, thus creating the Loy Krathong tradition.

Nang Noppamas is also renowned for her outstanding beauty, thus inspiring the Nong Noppamas contests held today.

"We would like to invite everyone to join the Loy Krathong tradition for the year 2023. Join in Loy Krathong and ask for forgiveness from Mae Kongka and pray for blessings for prosperity for yourself and your family," Mayor Saroj said.

"We ask for everyone's cooperation in only using krathong that are made from natural materials. Join in protecting the environment, to reduce global warming, and join in dressing in 'retro Thai costumes' to preserve culture so that the local Loy Krathong tradition will continue to exist," he added.

The January/February 2024 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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Make mine a 'Millionaire'

J.P. Mestanza
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Hunger always comes after long swims at Surin Beach, and I found myself in that exact predicament. Luckily, I didn't have to go far for some outstanding food; Millionaire Burger is just a few steps away. A small, straightforward menu that has something for everyone, this is the charm of Millionaire Burger. But I'm getting ahead of myself!

The location is incredibly convenient for anyone spending a day at Surin Beach or staying anywhere near the area. There's plenty of parking across the street and the space has a fast-casual feel. The restaurant itself is on the smaller side but has just enough space for dine-in guests.

The menu is packed with classic favourites and a few unique items, with fun, millionaire tie-in names for each. Mr Chow, a reference to the wealthy antagonist of 'The Hangover' films, is a Korean fried chicken burger with gochujang sauce and sesame emulsion.

Then there is the 'Big Money', a Greek-inspired burger with lamb souvlaki and garlic tzatziki, while the Da Vinci – a veggie burger with a falafel patty, baby spinach, and more – is a nod to the vegetarian diet of the famed Italian Renaissance man.

I opted for the 'Original Millionaire',



which included a meaty 150g beef patty topped with American cheddar, iceberg lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, grilled onions and their secret millionaire sauce and horseradish cream. As a longtime judge of Phuket's Best Burger competition, I know my way around a burger, and this one is simply sensational. The patty was cooked perfectly to my liking, the burger sauce complemented the burger well and the sesame seed bread was the perfect vessel that only became soggy at the very end. I must admit, I'm not a pickle lover – but when a burger is this

delicious, and this well-seasoned, it's hard to notice anything but delicious flavours.

Is that pulled pork slow-cooked for 12 hours I see? Oh yes! The 'Notorious P.I.G.' is chock full of the stuff, and it's easy to see why.

To complement my burger, I opted for the 'Loaded Fries' – the perfect side after a hunger-inducing beach day.

Topped with jalapenos, homemade tomato salsa, coriander and their tender slow-cooked pulled pork, it was a winner in all facets. The pulled pork is the



star of the show when it comes to the side and forces this burger lover to mentally reserve the 'Notorious P.I.G.' for my next visit.

Millionaire Burgers. 106 Surin Beach, Cherng Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110. Open daily 11.30am-11.30pm. Price range: B400-B799. Booking not necessary. Major credit cards accepted. Parking nearby Has smoking area Free WiFi hotspot. Reservations: 082 2197565. Visit 'Millionaire Burgers' on Facebook and Instagram.



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Rotary Club Patong Beach/CanCham Charity Golf Outing

Rotary Club of Patong Beach/CanCham Thailand is holding its first annual charity golf outing at Aquella Golf Club on Sunday, November 26th, 12pm shotgun start. Individual stableford competition using system 36 scoring. 3,000 THB includes green fee, caddy, cart and 1 tray of driving range balls, Tournament and lucky draw, Premium dinner buffet & 1 complimentary drink. Come join us to raise funds for Rotary Club of Patong Beach (RCOPB) for their Save a Child Swim program. The Swim program, originating in Patong, now extends its reach to over five schools annually, offering a vital 10-week curriculum that imparts essential swimming skills and water safety knowledge to children. Over the past five years, the Rotary Club of Patong Beach has proudly supported more than 1,000 students through this life-saving initiative, fully funding the program's operations. Justin Hooke, 157/12 Moo 9, Limdul Road, Thai Muang, Thai Muang District, Phang-nga 82120, Thailand, snowbirdsgolf@gmail.com, +66 (0) 83 451 7340

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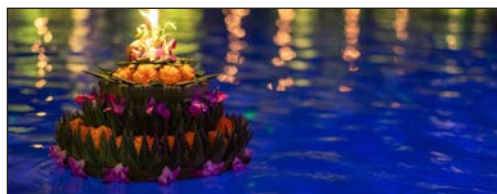
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WED 29 NOV

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Wednesday BBQ Night

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

FRI 1 DEC

A CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME SHOW
Snow White And the Seven Dwarfs
BY BEN CROCKER
Date & Time
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Time 7pm-9pm
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FRI 8 DEC



Christmas Market at Phuket Boat Lagoon

Join us on the boardwalk at Lagoon Quay of Phuket Boat Lagoon from 6pm on Friday December 8 for an evening of Christmas fun. For more information call 093 781 1188 or email customercare@phuketboatlagoon.com

SAT 9 DEC



La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Phuket Christmas Lunch

We are back again at The Boathouse Phuket for our Chaîne Phuket Christmas lunch. Chef Jonathan Bruell has created a fantastic menu for our lunch this year. Looking forward to seeing you all there for a great day over looking the white sand of Kata Beach. Bookings via PhuketTicketMaster.com

SAT 16 DEC



Rotary Club of Patong Beach Christmas Party 2023

Please reserve the date and register for the annual Rotary Club of Patong Beach Christmas Party happening at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket. Registration and Prepayment is mandatory. Prices until December 01: Rotary Club Members and their immediate family members: 2,000 THB per Adult. Non-Rotary Members: 2,500 THB per Adult. For Children aged 6 to 12 years old: 750 THB. The price includes a sumptuous buffet and free flow of well- chosen drinks per person. For bookings and more info email address: president@rotarypatong.org or LINE ID kamala110

CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS

Part Time Fitness Coach

Female fitness coach required End of October for busy business man staying in Surin Beach Must arrange diet, food, workout and massage during his stay. Please email experience and availability by October 21st. Phil Solomons: sirroundsound27@gmail.com, +44 7788 725846w

JOB

URGENT

Personal Assistant

Looking for a Personal Assistant to help a British Business man who intends to buy a property in Phuket where he will live part of the year. Duties to include arranging viewings, help organise maids, housekeepers, masseuses, gardener, chef. Arriving October 29th, 2023 and staying in Surin Beach, Phuket. Please email with photo. Phil Solomons: sirroundsound27@gmail.com, +44 7788 725846

BOATS, YACHTS FOR SALE



FISHING BOAT

This is a 2015 20ft X 6ft fishing skiff (6m. X 1.75M). Has bimini, anchor with 150 m. of 1/2"rope, navigation lights, fishing lights, house lights, dual batteries, auto bilge pump, solar panel, steering console, fire extinguisher, 4 life jackets, fenders, engine washing cup, everything you need.w Powered by a 40HP 2015 Yamaha Enduro, low hours, with 10 micron fuel filter/water separator, 2 spare 8L. tanks, 30 liter main tank. Comes with a 10ft tender, and boat trailer with spare tyre. Price 180,000 Baht. Contact Magdi Myrtoglou on 66 98 874 9522.



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Volvo V60-2.0 Recharge T8 4WD Wagon. 2021. 48,xxx km. Turbo charged Supercharged 407 hp. Plug-in Hybrid - Gas - Full Electric. Black Onyx Metallic. Contact LINE ID: pma97139 Mr. Philip, Rawai

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LA CHAÎNE DES RÔTISSEURS PHUKET DINNER

An amazing menu that brought Melbourne to the Andaman, with paired drinks, that was created specifically by Chef Oat for this month's La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Phuket Dinner. Held at HEH Restaurant in Talat Yai on November 15. The Contemporary Australian Dinner featured Fish Crudo, Charred Broccoli and Charcoal Grilled Calamari as starters, followed by Baked Grouper, Pan Fried Barramundi, and Pan Fried Fish with Panjaree Curry. For the main a choice of Charcoal grilled Australian Lamb or Charcoal Short Ribs of Beef with Cheesy Cauliflower, Honey Roasted Pumpkin and Butternut Squash on the side. A great menu rounded out by Sticky Date Pudding with Butterscotch Ice Cream.



SKAL 2023 AGM & MONTHLY DINNER - NOVEMBER

The host of the month of November, Maja Semiljanic, welcomed Skalleagues and guests to Villa Nautilus. After a productive AGM members and guest's enjoyed an evening of elegance, luxury, and breathtaking views of the Andaman Sea.



Djokovic with the trophy. Photo: AFP

Seventh ATP Finals title for record-breaker Djokovic

TENNIS

NOVAK DJOKOVIC CLAIMED yet another record last Sunday (Nov 19) with his seventh ATP Finals title, sweeping aside local hero Jannik Sinner 6-3, 6-3 in Turin, Italy and leaving tennis fans wondering when he will relinquish his dominance.

Djokovic came into the Finals at the end of an age-defying year which has brought three Grand Slams, taking his total to an all-time best of 24, and a 40th Masters 1000 title.

He will clock a 400th week at world number one after crowning an incredible season – in which he also reached the Wimbledon final – by moving clear of retired great Roger Federer in victories at the season-ending tournament.

The 36-year-old took his

record-breaking crown by beating in straight sets the game's best two young players in Sinner and vanquished semi-finalist Carlos Alcaraz, showing that he still has plenty to give with the Paris Olympics around the corner and a gold medal the only major title missing from his list of honours.

"Very special, one of the best seasons I've had in my life, no doubt. To crown it with a win against a home town hero in Jannik, who has played amazing tennis all week, is phenomenal," said Djokovic.

Sinner was bidding to become the first ever Italian to win the Finals but the 22-year-old, like Alcaraz in the semi-final, simply could not handle Djokovic, a man on a mission who hit his best form at exactly the right time in the tournament. *AFP*

Aussies use their Head to claim sixth World Cup win

CRICKET

AFP

Travis Head hit a sparkling 137 to power Australia to a record-extending sixth World Cup title in a convincing six-wicket win over India last Sunday (Nov 19) with captain Pat Cummins describing victory as "the pinnacle of cricket".

Chasing a tricky 241 for victory in the final, Australia slipped to 47-3 before left-handed opener Head hit his second century of the tournament to steer the team home with seven overs to spare.

Head's knock, and his marathon stand of 192 with Marnus Labuschagne, unbeaten on 58, ended India's dominant run of 10 unbeaten matches at the event.

"That's huge, that's the pinnacle in cricket, winning a World Cup, especially here in India. These are the moments you remember for the rest of your life," said Cummins.

Head fell after his 120-ball knock laced with 15 fours and four sixes before Glenn Maxwell hit the winning runs to trigger wild celebrations in the Aussie camp.

India's chances of ending a global trophy drought since their 2013 Champions Trophy win went up in smoke once Head got going with Labuschagne.

"The result hasn't gone our way and we know that we were not good enough



The Australian team celebrate their final victory against India. Photo: AFP

on the day. But I'm proud of the team," said India captain Rohit Sharma.

The bowlers set up victory for an Australian side that bounced back after two losses – including a six-wicket defeat to India in pool play – to win nine in a row as Mitchell Starc (3-55) and Pat Cummins (2-34) helped bowl out India for 240.

India hit back when Mohammed Shami shared the new ball with Jasprit Bumrah and struck on his second delivery to get David Warner caught behind for seven.

But it was Bumrah's double strike in quick succession that raised the roof as he had Mitchell Marsh caught behind for 15 and Steve Smith lbw for four.

Head stood firm with Labuschagne to thwart the Indian attack despite Rohit

rotating his bowlers in a desperate hunt for a breakthrough.

Head reached his 100 in 95 balls and raised his bat to an applauding Australian dressing room.

Australia elected to field first and the players backed up Cummins' decision with disciplined bowling and impressive fielding.

Virat Kohli and KL Rahul hit 54 and 66 respectively after Rohit's attacking 47 but the ball dominated the bat on a slow, dry pitch.

Head took a stunning catch to cut short Rohit's innings off spinner Maxwell and Cummins bowled Kohli, who ended as the leading batsman in tournament with 765 runs, to silence the crowd of 92,453 fans, who like the home team in the middle had a forgettable day.

ONE Lumpinee 46 promises to be a Christmas cracker

MMA

THE HIGHLY-ANTICIPATED showdown between Tawanchai PK Saenchai and Superbon Singha Mawynn has been confirmed to headline ONE Lumpinee 46 at the Lumpinee Boxing Stadium in Bangkok on Dec 22.

The Thai superstars were scheduled to clash at ONE Fight Night 15 on Oct 7 before Superbon was forced to withdraw due to injury.

However, the pair will now face off to contest Tawanchai's ONE featherweight Muay Thai world title as part of a blockbuster event.

Tawanchai, who has an overall career record of 131-31-2, has campaigned under kickboxing rules in his last two fights as he searches for a second world title to add to his collection.

But he will return to his roots on Dec 22 in a bid to defend his featherweight Muay Thai strap for the second time against Superbon.

Former two-time ONE



Tawanchai. Photo: ONE Championship

featherweight kickboxing world champion Superbon is the No.1 ranked featherweight Muay Thai contender, and the 149-fight veteran will look to add arguably the biggest scalp yet – and another world title – to his already impressive resume.

ONE Lumpinee 46 is shaping up to be a Christmas treat in Asian primetime, with the ONE interim women's atomweight kickboxing world title clash between

Thai phenom 'The Queen' Phetjeeja and French Algerian superstar Anissa Meksen.

Further bouts will see ONE strawweight Muay Thai world champion Joseph Lasiri defend his title against Prajanchai PK Saenchai, while former ONE bantamweight Muay Thai world champion Nong-O Hama will take on Scottish knockout artist Nico Carrillo.

Bangkok Post

Magic Max lights up Vegas

FORMULA ONE

MAX VERSTAPPEN WON the inaugural Las Vegas Grand Prix ahead of Charles Leclerc and Sergio Pérez in a chaotic first race down the Strip last Sunday (Nov 19).

Verstappen got the better launch from second on the grid to run side by side with pole-getter Leclerc as they hit the brakes for the first turn, but the super low grip surface off the racing line sent the Dutchman sailing off the track, with Leclerc helpless but to follow him from the outside.

They joined just ahead of the pack but with Verstappen having taken the lead – unfairly, the stewards judged, and he was soon slapped with a five-second penalty for passing off the track.

But the world champion had a more pressing problem to deal with. In the chilly night-time conditions he had overworked his tyres and suddenly felt the grip expiring. He had built a 2.5-second lead, but Leclerc sliced that down to almost nothing on lap 16.

The Monegasque made an easy pass down the Las Vegas Strip, out-braking his rival into the chicane to take



Verstappen celebrates his win. Photo: AFP

the lead.

Verstappen's evening was going from bad to worse. He was hauled into the pits for a new set of tyres and to serve his penalty, dropping down to 11th. He then tripped over George Russell in a fight at the right Turn 12 left-hander – the Briton hadn't seen him coming hard on the brakes from a long way back and turned in, leaving both with damage.

But in an ironic twist, the damage strewn over the circuit triggered a safety car, gifting Verstappen a cheap second pit stop and a ticket back into the race.

The Dutchman needed just two clinical passes on laps 36 and 37 to snatch the lead from Leclerc, from where he massaged open a gap that would secure him victory.

In the fight for second Leclerc's older tyres were

wearing and on lap 43 of 50 he made a mistake under braking at Turn 12, opening the door wide to an easy pass that seemed sure to secure second for Pérez.

Leclerc seemed dispirited, but he bided his time until the final lap for a Hail Mary pass into the big-braking Turn 14.

Pérez was caught napping, and the pair ran almost side by side exiting the chicane towards the chequered flag.

In a photo finish Leclerc snatched the place, the margin just 0.2 seconds.

Despite the disappointment, it was enough for Pérez to secure second in the championship, Red Bull Racing's first one-two finish in the drivers title standings.

Russell took the flag fourth but was demoted to eighth with his penalty for colliding with Verstappen. *Michael Lamonato*

Toffees in a sticky situation

FOOTBALL

AFP

Everton have been docked 10 points after being found guilty of breaching Premier League financial rules, plunging one of England's most storied football clubs into the relegation zone.

The punishment, the biggest sporting sanction in the history of the competition, leaves Sean Dyche's side 19th in the table on a total of just four points after 12 matches – five points from safety.

Everton said they were "shocked and disappointed", announcing their intention to appeal the Nov 17 ruling.

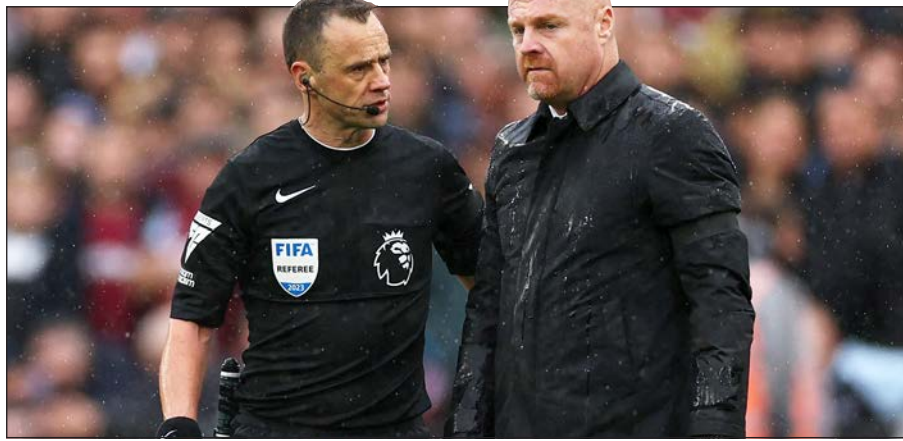
The Premier League referred the club, who have posted losses for five consecutive years, to an independent commission in March for an alleged breach of its profitability and sustainability rules (PSRs).

Clubs are allowed to lose a maximum £105 million (B4.5 billion) over a three-year period or face sanctions.

However, a recent review by a Premier League commission discovered Everton FC's PSR calculation for the relevant period resulted in a loss of £124.5mn.

Everton said the punishment was "wholly disproportionate and unjust".

"Everton maintains that it has been open and transparent in the information it has provided to the Premier League and that it has always respected the integrity of the process," the club said in a statement.



Everton manager Sean Dyche (right) talks to assistant referee Stuart Attwell during the game against West Ham on Oct 29. Photo: AFP

"The club does not recognise the finding that it failed to act with the utmost good faith and it does not understand this to have been an allegation made by the Premier League during the course of proceedings.

"Both the harshness and severity of the sanction imposed by the commission are neither a fair nor a reasonable reflection of the evidence submitted."

The punishment comes at a time of upheaval at the club with owner Farhad Moshiri agreeing a deal with US investment firm 777 Partners for his 94% shareholding, expected to be completed next month.

Everton are also currently building a new 53,000-capacity stadium, preparing to leave their Goodison Park ground.

They said they would monitor "with great interest" the decisions made in other cases concerning financial rules.

Premier League champions Manchester

City were charged earlier this year with 115 alleged breaches of financial fair play regulations in a case that is ongoing.

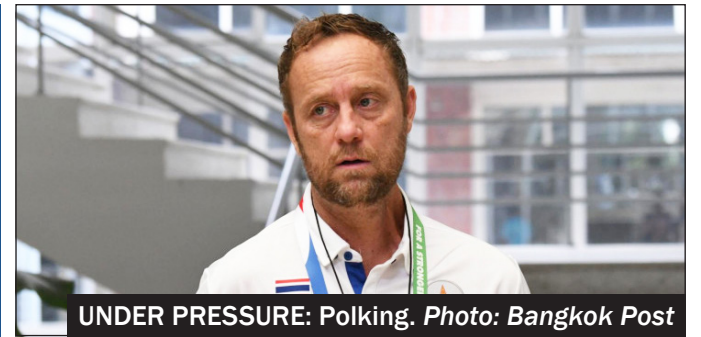
Only two other clubs have received points deductions in Premier League history.

Middlesbrough were deducted three points for failing to fulfil a fixture against Blackburn during the 1996/97 season, while in 2010 Portsmouth were deducted nine points after going into administration.

Both clubs were unable to avoid relegation.

Nine-time English champions Everton, known as the Toffees, have been a continuous presence in the top flight since 1954 and have never been relegated from the Premier League.

But they only avoided the drop by two points last season and have spent years in the shadow of city rivals Liverpool, last winning a trophy in 1995.



UNDER PRESSURE: Polking. Photo: Bangkok Post

Polking feels the heat

FOOTBALL

UNDER-FIRE THAILAND coach Mano Polking remains upbeat about the War Elephants' chances in their 2026 World Cup qualifying campaign even though they suffered a home loss to China on Nov 16.

The Thais were defeated 2-1 by China at Rajamangala National Stadium in their first Group C game in Asia's second phase of qualifying for the 2026 finals.

Thailand were set to visit Singapore on Tuesday (Nov 21) while China host South Korea the same day.

The top two teams in each of nine groups advance to the next stage.

A record eight direct spots and one intercontinental play-off berth are up for grabs for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) sides at the

expanded 2026 World Cup, which will be the first to feature 48 teams.

"It's a disappointing result," said Polking after the China defeat. "We did well and had several chances but just could not turn them into goals. We conceded two goals on the counter-attack. This should not have happened.

"We still have hopes. We will keep fighting. If we beat Singapore, we will be back on track," he added.

Meanwhile, a "Mano out" campaign has surfaced on social media.

His team is considered by a large number of fans as the best Thailand squad for years and one critic said "good ingredients but a bad chef."

Many fans criticised Polking's starting line-up and substitutions. "He is only good at the Asean level but not at the Asian level," said one fan. *Bangkok Post*

Fury and Usyk to clash in undisputed heavyweight bout

BOXING

TYSON FURY VOWED TO DELIVER a "fight for the ages" as his "historic" clash with Oleksandr Usyk for the undisputed heavyweight title was confirmed for Feb 17 next year in Saudi Arabia.

British star Fury will put his WBC belt on the line, with the WBA, IBF and WBO titles held by Ukraine's Usyk also up for grabs in Riyadh.

The winner will be crowned the heavyweight division's first undisputed champion since Lennox Lewis from 1999 to 2000.

Fury, 35, and Usyk, 36, were originally expected to clash on Dec 23.

But Fury's disappointing performance and injury in a split-decision victory over MMA star Francis Ngannou last month forced a delay to the hotly-anticipated bout.

The pair will finally step into the ring in 2024 as Fury looks to add to his record of 34 wins with one draw since turning professional in 2008.

"This is a historic event. The whole world of boxing has been waiting for many, many years, and they now have this fight," Fury's promoter Frank Warren said at a press conference in London on Nov 16.

"For the first time this century, we will have an undisputed heavyweight champion."

In typically combative mood at the press conference, Fury referenced his 2015 victory over Usyk's fellow Ukrainian Wladimir



Fury (left) and Usyk at the London press conference on Nov 16. Photo: AFP

Klitschko, which earned him the WBA, IBF and WBO titles.

"I already relieved one Ukrainian of all the belts, and now I'm going to take them all back," Fury said.

"Usyk's a champion, I'm a champion. It's going to be a fight for the ages."

Fury believes a victory over Usyk would cement his status as one of the all-time greats.

"He's a good boxer, slick. But I've seen people like him before, and when they fight the big man, they lose," he said.

"I'm going to bust him up. You know what's coming? You're getting smashed to pieces. You're fighting the best British heavyweight there's ever been.

"I'm destined to become the undisputed champion, and more than that, cement my legacy as the number one fighter of this era." AFP



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Sport

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Cricket World Cup joy for Aussies > p14

COUPLE'S DOUBLE TRI DELIGHT

TRIATHLON

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

It was double delight for British couple Max Stapley and Kate Waugh last Sunday (Nov 19) as they won the men's and women's races respectively at the Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT).

Stapley, marking his LPT debut, claimed top spot in the men's race with an impressive time of 2 hours, 32 minutes and 53 seconds, while partner and compatriot Waugh won the women's race, completing the challenging course in a very commendable 2h 46m and 4s.

The 29th edition of the hugely popular event saw over 1,000 Thai and international triathletes representing 30 countries take part to create a vibrant and enjoyable phenomenon, showcasing Phuket's potential as a world-class sports event destination.

The competition kicked off at 6:30am with the commencement of the Triathlon, featuring men's



Max Stapley and Kate Waugh celebrate their Triathlon success. Photo: Laguna Phuket

and women's pros. Following this, the sprint triathlon and duathlon participants took to the Andaman Sea at Bang Tao Beach for the swimming leg.

Triathlon competitors faced challenging stages, conquering a 1.8-kilometre swim in the Andaman Sea and lagoon, a rigorous 55km cycling route navigating mountain

trails, and a demanding 12km run within Laguna Phuket. All races concluded at Laguna Grove, with the cut-off for each distance set at approximately 12:30pm.

Securing second position behind Stapley in the men's race was Max Studer from Switzerland, finishing in 2h 34m 9s, while the third went to Anthony Costes from France,

recording a time of 2h 35m 32s.

In the women's race, second position was earned by Julie Derron from Switzerland, finishing with a time of 2h 47m 45 s, while third went to Sophie Malowiecki from Australia, posting a time of 2h 52m 12s.

In the midst of a strong representation by Thai triathletes in this year's competition, Thanadol Wisarutsin, an 18-year-old from the Thai national team and the youngest competitor, secured the Thai championship with an impressive time of 2h 51m 51s. Meanwhile, 11-time Thai champion Jaray Jearanai completed the race in a commendable 2h 53m 33s.

Another noteworthy participant was 'Tao-Somchai Khemglad', a favourite from the teenage era in the 1990s. Making his LPT debut, he impressively conquered the challenge and completed a significant milestone of fulfilling his dream of participating in a premier global triathlon program.

"We extend our congratulations to the triumphant triathletes of this year's championship," said Paul

Wilson, Vice President and Deputy Managing Director of Laguna Phuket.

"Our heartfelt thanks go to all participants, across various sectors, for their dedicated contributions that culminated in the success of the 29th Laguna Phuket Triathlon, showcasing a splendid victory for Phuket, Thailand.

"This achievement mirrors the unity and spirit of community efforts, paving the way for the continued growth and success of the Laguna Phuket Triathlon in the years ahead. We invite everyone to anticipate its return, promising that its 30th year will undoubtedly be grander than ever."

The LPT is renowned worldwide as Southeast Asia's longest-running and most successful triathlon event, consistently attracting a multitude of highly skilled triathletes from various corners of the globe.

Support for this year's event came from Phuket Province, the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the Sports Authority of Thailand under the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, and Thai Airways, among others.



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