

PHUKET TOWN POLICE ROPE INTO ANOTHER SCAM > PAGE 3

CHASING THE ENDGAME

UNDER PRESSURE, OFFICIALS CALL FOR EASING ENTRY MEASURES FOR TOURISTS

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew at the meeting on Monday (Feb 21). Photo: PR Phuket

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket officials will petition the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) for permission to reduce the quarantine/isolation period for people who test positive for COVID-19 from 10 days to five days.

They will also request to no longer include 'Green' patients – that is, those who experience little to no symptoms of infection – in their daily reports.

The request will ask the CCSA – the sole regulatory body regarding all matters related to COVID-19 in the country – permission for Phuket

officials to report only patients designated as 'Yellow' or 'Red', or who had died as a result of a COVID-19 infection.

The news came at a meeting of the Phuket Provincial Communicable Disease Committee chaired by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew on Monday (Feb 21).

According to a report of the meeting published by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket), at the meeting there was no mention of a request to declare COVID-19 an "endemic" disease in Phuket, meaning COVID-19 infections would be treated like any other disease – despite widespread English and Thai news reports last Sunday

citing Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong as revealing that Phuket provincial officials will ask the CCSA to declare COVID-19 "endemic" in Phuket.

Of note, the report by PR Phuket did not deny that the reports of Vice Governor Pichet announcing the move to have COVID-19 declared endemic in Phuket were accurate.

At the meeting on Monday, Vice Governor Pichet sat in his usual position, by the Governor's right hand.

"Phuket would be delighted to be the first province for the declaration," Vice Governor Pichet said last Sunday (Feb 20), reported the *Bangkok Post*.

"I hope this will help alleviate concerns about the virus and [shift]

focus to economic restoration instead."

Regarding the request to reduce the quarantine period from 10 to five days, V/Gov Pichet said, "In the first five days, an infected person should be required to quarantine at home, a hospital or hospital before being permitted to resume their lives for another five days under strict COVID-19 prevention measures to solve work leave issues."

The daily report on the number of new COVID-19 infections should be cancelled and instead focus on reports of moderate-to-severe cases, he added.

At the meeting on Monday, Dr Kusak Kukiattikoon, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Public Health...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NEWS PAGE 3

Police ban electric scooters on public roads



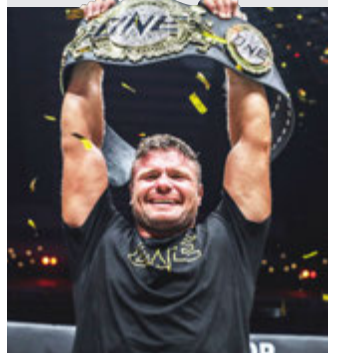
LIFE PAGE 9

Rocking around the island at Andy's hot spots



SPORT PAGE 16

Phuket's big man a knockout with ONE title victory



execeditor@classactmedia.co.th

News



**Phuket's own
Heidi crowned
Miss Grand > p5**

Officials under 'endemic' stress

Continued from page 1

...Office (PPHO), repeated that most current cases of people in Phuket testing positive for COVID-19 were 'Green' patients.

The move by Governor Narong to request more eased measures for tourists came days after Tourism Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn publicly announced that the his ministry and the TAT will propose that the second mandatory RT-PCR test be rolled back to an antigen test kit, as it was before the current regime of entry requirements were brought into effect to counter the Omicron variant being brought into the country.

If approved, the new rule will be applied from next month (Mar 1), Mr Phiphat said.

"The plan to eliminate all RT-PCR testing upon arrival will be made once the country officially declares COVID-19 an endemic disease," he added.

PRESSURE

Leading tourism figures in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi have joined the call led by Marisa Sukosol Nunbhakdi, President of the Thai Hotels Association, for the government to ease entry requirements for tourists to give the economy a much-needed boost with a formal request addressed to Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, copied to Deputy Prime Minister and Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul.

Signatories to the request included Phuket Tourist Association President Bhumikitti Ruktaengam; Phuket Tourism Council Chairman Thanet Tantipiriyakit; and Kongsak Khoopongsakorn, President of the Thai Hotels Association Southern Chapter, based in Phuket.

Also copied to the request were the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Tourism and Sports; Secretary Gen-



Tourism Minister Phiphat will request that the second mandatory PCR test for tourists be downgraded to an ATK test. Photo: MOTs

eral of the National Security Council and the Governor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

The request pointed out how far Thailand is falling behind in easing COVID restrictions.

"Many countries around the world, especially European countries which are the main tourism source markets during the high season, have declared

COVID-19 endemic. Such countries include Sweden, Denmark, Norway, England and Switzerland. They have cancelled almost all measures to control the COVID-19, such as RT-PCR testing, quarantine and so on.

"And countries in the Asia-Pacific region have gradually adjusted their travel measures, such as the Philippines cancelled COVID

checks on arrival since Feb 10. The only thing left to show are documents proving vaccine injection and RT-PCR examination test results issued 48 hours before travelling," the request noted, adding that Cambodia, Taiwan, Vietnam and Japan were also all announcing the easing of entry measures.

"The easing of these measures by these countries will make Thailand begin to lose the ability to compete in tourism on the world stage, that is, tourists will choose to travel to a country that does not have any measures instead of travelling to Thailand," the request said.

In light of the above reality deeply affecting Thailand's tourism industry, the request sought four immediate key changes, as follows:

- To cancel the requirement for the second RT-PCR test on Day 5 of tourist's stay in the country, as the rate of

infections from these tests were less than current local infections and would provide cost savings for tourists.

- Reduce the quarantine period for those who test positive from 10 days to only five days.

- Cancel the quarantine measure for high-risk contacts if they tested negative on the first day of their stay.

- Reduce the travel insurance requirement from US\$50,000 to US\$25,000.

The request further suggested, "In March, consider declaring COVID an endemic disease in line with the guidelines that other countries around the world have begun to implement, and abolish immigration screening measures, such as requesting a Thailand Pass and the first RT-PCR screening so that tourists can travel to Thailand easily and increase the volume of tourists as close as possible to the pre-COVID period."

Mastery Learning • American Curriculum Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education



Ensuring success for all by providing education based upon student mastery of all subjects.

Enroll Today!



**QSI INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF PHUKET**

81/4 Moo. 1 Chalemphrakiat Ror. 9 Road Kathu
www.phuket.qsi.org • 076 304 312

Bored chef robs currency exchange

A MAN WHO ROBBED A CURRENCY exchange booth behind the Jungceylon mall at gunpoint on Feb 13 was previously a cook at a restaurant who couldn't be bothered working.

The robber, Seksan Wongwirat, 20, originally from Phetchabun, was arrested at a rented room on Nanai Rd in Patong, Patong Police confirmed on Feb 16.

His rented room was only some 300 metres from the scene of the crime, the Yes! Currency Exchange booth located behind the Jungceylon shopping mall.

Assistant national police chief Pol Lt Gen Surachate Hakparn together with Region 8 Police Commander Lt Gen Amphol Buarabporn presented Seksan to the press on Feb 17.

Seksan now faces charges for armed robbery, possession of a firearm without permission and carrying a firearm in a public area without justifiable reason. At the press conference, Seksan confessed to all charges.

Seksan himself explained that he used to work as a cook at a restaurant. "But I was reluctant to work. Sometimes I did not go to work, I came late and eventually left the job," he said.

"After that when I had no money, I committed the robbery then I went to Phi Phi Island until Feb 15 and then came back to buy gold in Phuket," he added.

Lt Gen Surachate explained that Seksan was arrested with 96 Thai banknotes of B1,000 and three banknotes of 50 euros (just over B1,800), in his possession.



Seksan Wongwirat, 20, confessed to the robbery, saying he was bored of being a chef. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

After the robbery, during which Seksan threatened 45-year-old staffer Saowaluk Dangdueng at gunpoint, Seksan was reported to have fled with the equivalent of B226,918 in foreign banknotes, and more than B3,400 in cash.

At the press conference police explained that officers had seized the gun used in the robbery, as well as a gold necklace, a silver necklace, and a receipt issued by Thongwang Tokang Yaowarat gold shop. It was not confirmed how much the receipt was for.

Seksan was also found in possession of an iPhone 13 Pro Max and a Redmi Note 11 mobile phone.

Also seized were the black hoodie, black trousers, black gloves and Nike trainers he wore during the robbery.

Patong Police had Seksan in custody and were proceeding with pressing charges, Lt Gen Surachate confirmed.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Electric scooters banned from roads

Eakkapop Thongtub
editor@classactmedia.co.th

People caught riding electric scooters on public roads may be fined up to B10,000 under an order issued by Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Sermphan Sirikong this week.

Maj Gen Sermphan issued an official notice to all police stations across the island on Tuesday (Feb 22), informing officers that electric scooters are not permitted on public roads.

People caught riding electric scooters on public roads may be fined with operating an unregistered vehicle on a public road under Section 6 of the Motor Vehicle Act, Maj Gen Sermphan noted.

The penalty is a fine of up to B10,000, he added.

People caught riding electric scooters on public roads also could be charged with operating a vehicle without a valid licence under Section 64 of the same act, as no licence exists for operating electric scooters, as they are not recognised as vehicles by the Department of Land Transport and hence cannot be registered, Maj Gen Sermphan said in the order.

The penalty for operating a vehicle without a licence is up to six months' imprisonment or a fine of up to B9,000, or both, Maj Gen



Police seize electric scooters from tourists in Patong. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Sermphan added.

However, Maj Gen Sermphan did ask officers to issue warnings first before moving to press formal charges.

Maj Gen Sermphan also explained to police that the law applies to public roads only.

"Electric scooters may be used in parks, but not on the roads" he said.

Of note, *The Phuket News* understands that whether or not electric scooters may be used in a public park is a matter for the relevant

local municipality to decide. Local municipalities have yet to announce whether or not electric scooters may be used in public recreation areas within their respective jurisdictions.

The order issued by Maj Gen Sermphan on Tuesday followed police in Patong on Feb 16 seizing four electric scooters being ridden by tourists on the streets of the tourism town.

Patong Police issued a general warning that anyone caught riding an unregistered vehicle would be liable

to be charged and fined, although the exact amount was not specified.

Patong Police Chief Col Sujin Nilabadee on Monday this week (Feb 21) issued an order for his officers to "publicise" where electric scooters may be used, and parked, with electric scooter rental services for tourists located throughout Patong, while maintaining that the use of electric scooters is prohibited on Patong roads.

Col Sujin said that riding a scooter on a public road is an offence

under the current laws. He noted:

1. It is forbidden for anyone to use an unregistered vehicle to be used in a wrongful way. The punishment with a fine is not more than B10,000.

2. If an offence is found, electric scooters must be seized.

3. If an accident happens, there is no protection under the law.

4. If a scooter driver hits a person or another person's vehicle, they will automatically be at fault.

5. Patong Police has requested the Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO) to ensure that electric scooters cannot be registered as a vehicle.

Col Sujin on Monday met with officers from the PLTO, Patong Municipality and electric scooter rental operators to ensure they understood the police's stance on using electric scooters on public thoroughfares.

The rental operators agreed to temporarily halt renting out electric scooters, notbaly after they were informed that they would be held responsible for providing the electric scooter if an accident occurs.

"It will be dangerous for people who use the road, and most of the people who use electric scooters are usually tourists," Col Sujin said.

"If clarifications and warnings are still not obeyed, legal action will be taken," he warned.

The issue will be raised with provincial officials, Col Sujin noted.

Another scam ropes in Phuket Town Police

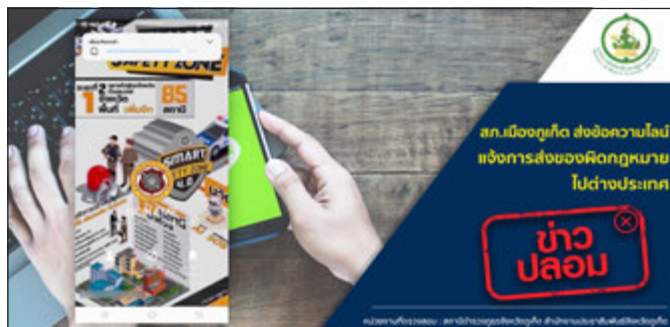
PHUKET OFFICIALS have warned of yet another scam claiming to involve officers from Phuket City Police Station, with the latest scam branded "fake news" by the Anti Fake News Center (AFNC).

The Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket) shared the warning from the AFNC on Feb 17, just one hour after the AFNC posted the warning themselves.

The AFNC warning said, "According to the information about Phuket Town Police Station sending LINE messages reporting illegal shipments abroad, the Anti-Fake News Center conducted a fact check with the Phuket Provincial Police Station. The Phuket Provincial Public Relations Office found that such issues is false information."

"The Phuket Provincial Public Relations Office has examined and clarified the aforementioned issues and confirmed that the message was created and sent by a scammer.

"There is an epidemic [sic] of call center gangs using the logo of the Phuket Provincial Police Station in order for people to misunderstand. It is not a real LINE account



The warning posted by the Anti Fake News Center (AFNC).

from the Phuket Provincial Police Station and the message was not a message sent from the Phuket Provincial Police Station in any way," the warning said.

Phuket City Police Chief Col Sarawut Chuprasittoday told *The Phuket News* on Feb 18 that the scam reported by the AFNC last week is not the same scam as reported by long-term Phuket expat Alain Gogniat earlier this month.

"The news from the Anti Fake News Center is a separate case from the first case, which the police are now investigating as well," Col Sarawut said.

However, more than two weeks later, Phuket City Police have made no progress in Mr Gogniat's case, in which the person in the LINE video call was wearing a Royal Thai Police uniform.

Also, the warning is-

sued by the ANFC this week showed an image different from the LINE account used by alleged scammers in defrauding Mr Gogniat.

At last report, Phuket City Police said they had tracked down Pongdanai Chaya, the man who received the funds errantly transferred by Mr Gogniat.

Mr Pongdanai is a resident in Chiang Mai. Police have not confirmed whether or not Mr Pongdanai is a police officer, though Col Sarawut on Feb 18 confirmed police still have not brought him in for questioning.

"Pongdanai Chaiya has not been arrested. It is still in the process of investigation," he said.

No other details of any progress in the investigation were provided.

The Phuket News

THE NAKA ISLAND RESORT & SPA PHUKET
THE LUXURY COLLECTION

Getaway Daypass

Enchant your holiday at the Naka Island. Enrich your mind by lounging on the tropical beaches, splashing in the pool or enjoying an array of our water activities and fully equipped gym. Only 5-minute speedboat ride from Ao Po Grand Marina.

THB 790 NET PER PERSON

THE PASS IS VALID FROM 09:00 AM TO 08:00 PM INCLUDING

- FOOD AND BEVERAGE CREDIT THB 790.-
- 25% DISCOUNT FOR FOOD AND BEVERAGE
- 30% DISCOUNT FOR A LA CARTE TREATMENT SPA
- GYM, WATER SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES (UNTIL 05:00PM)
- ROUND TRIP SPEED BOAT TRANSFER FROM AO PO GRAND MARINA TO THE NAKA ISLAND PIER

*Children up to 12 years pay 50% of adult price
*The pass is subject to availability

1 DAY ADVANCE RESERVATION IS REQUIRED
Please call: +66 76 371 400 or email: naka.concierge@luxurycollection.com

THE NAKA ISLAND, A LUXURY COLLECTION RESORT AND SPA, PHUKET
T +66 76 371 400 | THENAKAISLAND.COM | thenakaisland | nakaislandphuket | nakaisland_LC
#thenakaisland #theluxurycollection

CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

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

ADVERTISING

ClassAct Media

The Phuket News

WINDOW ON PHUKET

Where to eat in PHUKET

Новости Phuket

ข่าวภูเก็ต

NEWS TV

LIVE 89.5

Phuket TICKETMASTER

076 612 550 ext. 605

Fax: 076 612 553

Info@classactmedia.co.th

thephuketnews.com

99/7 Moo 1 (Billion Plaza),

T. Kathu, A. Kathu, Phuket 83120

PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

www.foreca.com

FRI FEB 25



High: +30°

Low: +25°

Wind 14 m/s

SAT FEB 26



High: +29°

Low: +24°

Wind 18 m/s

SUN FEB 27



High: +30°

Low: +25°

Wind 22 m/s

MON FEB 28



High: +31°

Low: +26°

Wind 18 m/s

TUE MAR 1



High: +31°

Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

WED MAR 2



High: +32°

Low: +25°

Wind 7 m/s

THU MAR 3



High: +32°

Low: +25°

Wind 7 m/s

Jilted ex arrested for attempted murder

Eakkapop Thongtub
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Police last week arrested a man who fired a gun into his ex-girlfriend's car while she was fleeing him as he was overcome with jealousy that she would have a new partner.

The woman, Pornsri Limpawutthipong, 37, was in the car driving when her jilted ex, Chanin 'Tum' Jirasatchakul, 41, shot her car twice in the early hours of Feb 15.

Ms Ponsiri called police to her house on Sri Suthat Rd, on the east side of Phuket Town, at 5:30am on Feb 15.

Responding to the call were Phuket City Police Chief Col Sarawut Chuprasit along with Deputy Chief Lt Col Chatchai Chunu and other high-level Phuket City Police officers.

The officers at the scene arrived to find Ms Pornsri's silver Toyota sedan in front of the house with a bullet hole in the top-right of the windscreen, close to where the driver sits, and another through the back-left window. Police also found an 11mm bullet casing and one 11 mm bullet head, which forensic police collected as evidence.

Chanin was arrested in Chalong at 5pm that same day (Feb 15), confirmed Phuket City Police Chief Col Sarawut Chuprasit.

Chanin, registered as living on Suthat Rd in Phuket Town, was arrested under Phuket Provincial Court arrest warrant No. 61/2565, which was issued on the day of the



Chanin 'Tum' Jirasatchakul, 41, was arrested the same day and charged for attempted murder. Photos: Phuket City Police

shooting, Col Sarawut said.

Police have pressed charges, Col Sarawut added. He cited Criminal Case No. 61/2565.

In taking Chanin into custody officers seized as evidence an 11mm handgun and 12 bullets as well as Chanin's Phuket-registered Honda Zoomer-X motorbike.

Chanin said he shot the car because he was jealous and afraid that his Ms Pornsri would take a new lover because they had been separated for almost three months.

Three days before the shooting, Ms Ponsri called him and asked

him to go out to meet as there was something to discuss.

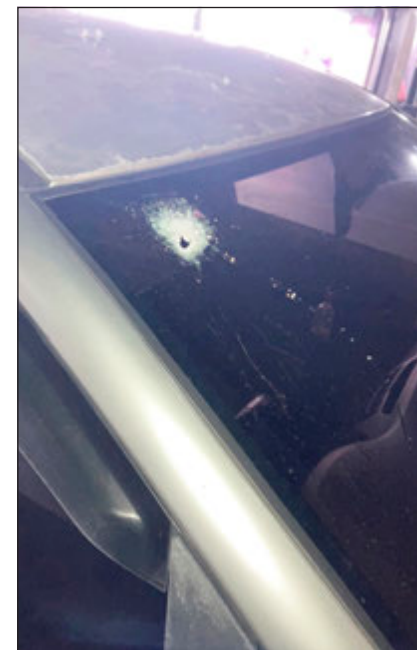
They argued, and Ms Pornsri got in her car to drive home.

Chanin followed her on his motorbike. He called for her to stop, she refused, he said.

Chanin then claimed that Ms Pornsri had swerved the car to strike his motorbike while he was riding alongside.

In anger, he drew his gun and fired one shot into the sky, Chanin said.

He fired another shot into the back window and a third through the windshield.



One of the bullets passed through the windscreen within inches of Ms Pornsri's head. Photos: Phuket City Police

He said he purposely aimed to hit where the bullets went, because he did not want to harm her

Chanin now faces a charge of attempting to kill another person.

He also faces charges of possessing a firearm and ammunition without permission, and carrying a firearm in a public area without permission and without reasonable cause.

Chanin admitted to all the charges, except attempting to kill Ms Pornsri.

Regardless, police are proceeding with prosecuting Chanin in accordance with the arrest warrant issued, Col Sarawut confirmed.

Woman rescued from closed coffee shop fire

POLICE ARE STILL INVESTIGATING what caused a closed coffee shop on Kata Rd to catch fire on Feb 16, with one woman frozen with fear rescued from the burning building.

Pollawat Chanphet, Chief of Karon Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM-Karon) said firefighters were called to the burning two-storey building, Kata Rd, at 3:11pm.

No people were injured by the fire, Mr Pollawat confirmed.

"There was one woman in the building. Even though access to the door to exit the building was not blocked, the woman was in shock and unable to move," Mr Pollawat explained.

Firefighters escorted the woman out of the building to safety, he said.

The lower level of the building was a coffee shop, while the upstairs level served as living quarters, Mr Pollawat noted.

"The fire had damaged about



The fire broke out on Kata Rd on Feb 16. Image: Screenshot / Supplied

70% of the building," he said.

"Firemen took almost an hour to put out the fire. We left the scene at 4pm after the fire was out. Luckily, the fire did not spread to the adjacent buildings," he added.

Firefighters and investigating police have yet to confirm what started the fire.

"The cause of the fire is still under investigation by the police," Mr Pollawat said. *The Phuket News*

Driver killed as pick-up wipes out on bypass

THE DRIVER OF A PICK-UP truck was killed after he swerved out of control and crashed into an electric pole on the bypass road early last Sunday morning (Feb 20).

The incident occurred around 12:30am when officers from the Incident Notification Center responded to a 191 call and were joined by volunteers from the Thepkasattri branch of the Kusoldharm Foundation at the scene, opposite the Shell gas station on the northbound lanes of the bypass road in Rassada.

On arrival at the scene they found a Phuket-registered silver four-door Isuzu pick-up truck badly damaged at the side of the road; the front of the vehicle had been practically demolished and there was significant damage all along the right side of the truck.

It appeared that the truck had lost control, veered onto the central road divider and hit an electric street light and a road traffic sign, both of which sustained serious damage.

Inside the vehicle were two men: the passenger, who was badly injured;

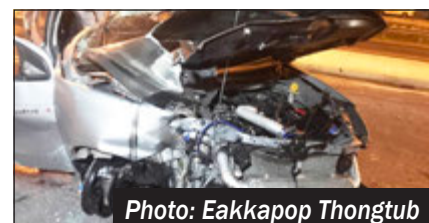


Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

and the driver, who appeared unconscious without a pulse and who was stuck in the truck.

An ambulance from Vachira Phuket Hospital was called and rescue workers used hydraulic equipment to recover the driver's body.

Emergency CPR was then administered to the stricken driver before he was taken to Vachira Hospital for further treatment. However, medical officials confirmed he later died at the hospital.

The injured man was also taken to Vachira Hospital for treatment and was to be questioned by police at a later stage to determine the exact cause of the incident. Police confirmed they will also use local CCTV footage in their investigation efforts.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Patong starts cleaning up its act

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Patong officials led another 'Big Cleaning Day' last week as part of the ongoing campaign to clean up the town, and some of its ugliest features, continues.

Highlight of the event, on Feb 16, was the mass cleaning of Bangla Rd, touted as conducted in order "to build confidence in tourists... as the number of people in Phuket infected [with COVID-19] increases."

A fire truck was deployed to hose down the popular nightlife street with sanitiser while staff, workers from Patong Municipality and the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO, or OrBorJor), members of the public and volunteers from the Patong Development Foundation and Patong the Entertainment Business Association (PEBA) joined together to clean common areas and establishments along the street.

"As Phuket still has a large number of COVID-19 cases, it is necessary to have measures to build confidence in the service for economic recovery to move forward in parallel with disease control," said a report by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

"There were still many foreign tourists coming to the beach for activities such as sunbathing, swim-



Patong Municipality workers clear a partly blocked drain as part of the campaign to clean up the town. Photo: Patong Municipality

ming in the sea and exercising or playing water sports while officials did the activity," the report said, though photos posted with the announcement showed otherwise.

"After two years of no customers there are more establishments, which are 'half restaurants' [sic] and pubs in Bangla Rd, that are open for service," the report added, not recognising that entertainment businesses must still close early under current COVID-19 restrictions.

The report continued its call for business operators to continue to uphold COVID-19 Free Setting measures in the hopes of limiting the

spread of infections across the island.

The report did note that the number of infections in the Bangla area had "decreased significantly".

Meanwhile, before the tourists took to Patong Beach, municipality workers in the morning had already conducted a mass cleaning of the beach, removing hundreds of garbage bags filled with trash, litter and other waste gathered from the sand.

Mass cleanings have become a regular occurrence under new Patong Mayor Chalerm Sak Maneesri, who has launched an intensive campaign to clean up the town.

Popular local tourist sites have

been renovated and painted in bright colours to make the town more attractive, while more serious efforts in keeping Patong clean have been quietly underway, including the clearing of roadside drains and litter clearing drives continuing throughout the town, and even broken street lights repaired.

Yet another algae bloom in Patong Bay late last month is being taken seriously.

Unlike previous administrations, Patong Municipality under Mayor Chalerm Sak openly recognises the recurring algae blooms as caused by "activated sludge".

Patong environmental health officials noted that the conditions were very suitable for such a bloom to occur, "namely temperature, sunlight and nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus compounds) present in the water".

"In addition, Patong Beach is like a closed bay, causing the accumulation of nutrients as well," the health officials noted.

"The bloom caused no mass deaths of aquatic animals in the area and nearby, but may affect the beach, it is not beautiful," said a report by Patong Municipality.

"There have never been any reports of poisoning," it added.

"Patong Municipality has cleaned algae from Patong Beach and increased preventive measures

to reduce important factors of algae growth by controlling the drainage of wastewater into water sources," Patong health officials noted.

"Patong Municipality's wastewater treatment system is an activated sludge treatment system that uses aerobic microorganisms to decompose organic matter in wastewater.

"Water that has undergone wastewater treatment before draining into Pak Bang Canal will pass the criteria of the sewerage control standard from the collective wastewater treatment system of the community in accordance with Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment requirements," officials added.

The values of impurities in the form of BOD (Biological Oxygen Demand), suspended solids, oil, fat, acid-base, nitrogen and phosphorus, are all monitored, the municipal health officials assured.

A large-scale project to expand the processing capability of the Patong Wastewater Plant is underway, and has been for many months.

Meanwhile, an intensive campaign to upgrade, renovate and repair existing drains throughout the town is underway, and has been since last year.

Workers have been clearing blocked drains, installing new drains, and installing new grates and drain covers to make them more effective and safer for pedestrians.

Phuket's Heidi crowned Miss Grand Phuket

AMANDA 'HEIDI' JENSEN, 22, from Phuket, has been crowned Miss Grand Phuket 2022.

Heidi was bestowed the title at the Miss Grand Phuket 2022 finals held at the Ramada Plaza Chao Fah in Wichit last Saturday (Feb 19).

Fellow Phuketian Charlotte Austin placed first runner-up, ahead of second runner-up Passanan Tadom from Songkhla and third runner-up Narisa Yisoon from Surat Thani.

At the event to present the crown was Miss Grand 2020 Auranunpas 'Hong' Intarungsee.

Heidi, of half Thai-Danish descent, graduated at Srinagarindra the Princess Mother School, Phuket, on the outskirts of Phuket Town.

She is now studying a bachelor's degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management at the Suan Dusit University, Hua Hin campus.

Miss Jensen thanked all her supporters through a long list posted on her Facebook page.

"I would like to thank



Amanda 'Heidi' Jensen, 22, will go on to contest the Miss Grand Thailand 2022 pageant. Photo: Miss Grand Phuket

you all for the support that made Heidi achieve this dream very much," she wrote in Thai, noting that the achievement required her to "strives relentlessly to realise her dream since childhood".

"Thank you. No matter what obstacles you face, you fight until everything goes smoothly," she wrote.

"I thank everyone in my family for supporting me, both on days when I have been happy and when I have

cried, when I couldn't deal with the pressure. Everyone was there to teach and console me until I became this version of Heidi. Love you all," she added.

"I sincerely thank you to my fans and everyone who has helped and cheered me," she wrote.

"I will do my best on the big stage (Miss Grand Thailand 2022) so that everyone in Phuket can be proud of me," Heidi wrote.

The Phuket News

DISCOVER THE CHARM OF SIRAY



Say I do to your ceremony in the sky...

Perched on top of the hill, Sinae Phuket Luxury Hotel's wedding venue is the perfect location for a timeless celebration of love, peace, and harmony. Entwined by intimacy and endless azure skies, experience a once-in-a-lifetime celebration with an unforgettable backdrop of the Andaman sea.

SINAE PHUKET LUXURY HOTEL
888 Moo 1, 1, Rassada, Koh Siray, Mueang Phuket District, Phuket, Thailand 83000
☎ +66 76 390 388, +66 61 173 8717
✉ rnm@sinaep Phuket.com
🌐 www.sinaep Phuket.com



'Phuket Stepping Forward' gets a push

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Leading Phuket tourism and business leaders have joined together to promote a "Phuket Stepping Forward" campaign, highlighting why Phuket should be reopened to resume business as usual.

The event, held at Laguna Beach Phuket last Saturday (Feb 19), was attended by Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong and Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO, or OrBorJor), along with Pattanachai Singhawara, Director Southern Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau or (TCEB Southern), Thanet Petchsuwan, Deputy Governor for Marketing Asia and the Pacific at the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), and Thanet Tantipiriyakit Chairman of the Phuket Tourism Council.

Also present were well-known and respected Phuket-based surgeon Dr Sanguan Kunaporn; Pracha Asawatheera, Director Digital Economy Promotion Agency (DEPA), Upper Southern Region; Bhummikitti Ruktaengam, President of Phuket Tourist Association;



Tourists receive help navigating the entry process after arriving at Phuket airport. Photo: Tourist Assistance Center

and Ravi Chandra, Managing Director of Laguna Phuket.

Dr Sanguan put forward the point simply: "Phuket is ready. If COVID is designated an endemic disease, we will live 99.99% like we did before COVID-19.

"COVID-19 could be designated an endemic disease, like a common cold only if: 1. The virus is ready; 2. The central government is ready; 3. Local government and

private sectors are ready; and 4. People are ready," he said.

However, he explained, "If looking at Thailand, and especially Phuket: 1. The virus is 'ready'; 2. The Thai government is still 'stuck'; 3. The local government and private sectors in Phuket are 'ready'; and 4. The people of Phuket are 'almost' ready."

Mr Rewat said that projects were already underway to support the development of

Phuket to support the Phuket MICE industry, and major events to be held in Phuket.

He added that he recently attended the executive meeting of the Southern branch of the TCEB to discuss developing Phuket's MICE industry.

The PPAO is already working with local municipalities to clean up and make landscape improvements along Thepkrasattri Rd, Route 402, the main road down the centre

of the island, and to jointly "develop a clean and livable city", he said.

"And the important point is to develop tourist attractions to support the opening of the city in full," Mr Rewat said.

Mr Rewat also noted that the PPAO was working on "solving the problem of the public transport system" and "accelerating the development of the mass transit system from the airport to Rawai, to reduce traffic congestion making travel more convenient".

Of note, Mr Rewat referred to the mass transit system not as a light-rail project, but as an "EV bus system".

Mr Pattanachai, Director of the TCEB's Southern Thailand branch, explained that progress was being made in Phuket's bid to host a Specialized Expo in 2028.

The theme proposed is "Future of Life: Living in Harmony, Sharing Prosperity", or "L'Avenir de la Vie: Vivre en Harmonie, Partager les Prospérités", he said.

Sarun Charoensuwan, Ambassador of Thailand to France, and Worawut Somwangprasert, Minister of Commercial Affairs at the Thai Embassy in Paris, had officially submitted the bid

Dimitri Kerkentzes, Secretary General of Bureau International des Expositions (BIE), on Jan 11.

"In the coming months of July-August, the Bureau International des Expositions committee will meet with Thai government representatives in Phuket to see the readiness of Thailand to host such events," Mr Pattanachai said.

The event on Saturday culminated with a panel discussion on "Thailand Travel Mart + 2022 Phuket", led by Mr Thanet, the TAT's Deputy Governor for Marketing Asia and the Pacific, joined by Phuket Tourism Council Chairman Mr Thanet, PTA President Mr Bhummikitti and Laguna Phuket Managing Director Mr Chandra.

The annual travel mart event had been cancelled and postponed for the past two years due to COVID-19, Mr Thanet explained.

"In the year 2022, the government plans to announce the opening of the country to welcome foreign tourists to travel to the country. This will benefit the economy and employment as a whole of the country, especially the tourism sector and related service sectors," he said.

Drop in tax revenues means emergency loans, says PDMO

THE PUBLIC DEBT Management Office (PDMO) has reaffirmed that the government is capable of paying back recent emergency loans taken out by the government to address the COVID-19 crisis.

The debt-to-GDP ratio in Thailand has been in a constant state of flux, once reaching 59.98% in the year 2000. The limit was 60% at the time.

The public debt ratio during the administration of Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha has continued this trend, with most loans used to fund infrastructure projects and quality of life campaigns.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the government has needed substantial funding to support the healthcare system, stimulate the economy and provide financial assistance to the general public. Compounding the issue, tax revenues have seen a decline as more people make less money, forcing the government to take out



PDMO Director-General Patricia Mongkhonvanit. Photo: NNT

additional loans that incur higher public debt.

Patricia Mongkhonvanit, director-general of the PDMO, said the government needs to raise the public debt ceiling in order to facilitate more financial measures.

She said the measures are intended to help improve the economy, while noting that the government remains fully capable of paying back the loans.

The number of citizens filing personal income tax last year was around 11-12 million from the population of 66mn, with only around 2mn paying their taxes in full.

The government now expects to lose some B17 billion from its revenue stream after recently introducing an excise tax cut for diesel fuel. This drop has necessitated taking out emergency loans. NNT



MACNELS SHIPPING PHUKET

ANY SHIPMENT ANY WHERE

IMPORT AND EXPORT SERVICES, AIR AND SEA FREIGHT

COMMERCIAL CARGO AND PERSONAL GOODS
INCLUDING HOUSE HOLD RELOCATIONS

- DOOR TO DOOR SERVICES
- CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FORMALITIES
- PROJECT CARGOES INCLUDING BOATS
- WAREHOUSING AND STORAGE
- STRONG AGENCY NETWORK WORLDWIDE
- 20 YEARS STAFF EXPERIENCE IN PHUKET

☎ OFFICE: 076 603907

☎ MOBILE: CALL PETER 0863645862

www.macnelsphuket.com

Level 4 COVID alert issued after surge in infections

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The Public Health Ministry has raised its COVID-19 alert to Level 4 following a sharp increase in Omicron variant infections nationwide.

However, the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) indicated that no lockdowns will be brought back to bring the current outbreak to an end.

Ministry spokesman, Rungrueng Kijphati, posted on Facebook on Monday (Feb 21) that a meeting of the ministry's Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) decided that the alert level will be raised nationwide and containment measures stepped up in high-risk areas.

The move came as the number of new infections, severe cases and deaths continue to rise, with authorities noting an increasing risk of infection among family members and close acquaintances as a result of taking part in collective activities such as dining out, playing sports, and attending wedding and



Infections have been increasing across all groups, particularly among working-age people and children, says the DDC. Photo: Bangkok Post

funeral ceremonies.

Individuals from at-risk groups – including the elderly, those with underlying health conditions and the unvaccinated – continue to account for most COVID-related deaths.

Under the new alert, people are encouraged to work from home, avoid non-essential inter-provincial travel, suspend overseas trips, close at-risk venues and avoid large gatherings.

The ministry had raised the alert to Level 4 in some red-zone provinces early last month, when the situation was less severe than now. With the latest announcement, the alert will now apply to all

provinces nationwide.

Kiattiphum Wongrajit, permanent secretary for public health, said that the Public Health Ministry wanted to remind the public of the threat posed by the virus.

“We had previously announced [the Level-4 alert], but the public may have forgotten the warning,” Dr Kiattiphum said, adding that if people fail to comply with precautions and the outbreak does not slow, then strict curbs may have to be brought back.

CCSA spokeswoman, Apisamai Srirangson, said the CCSA will now focus on the number of deaths and severe cases, rather than

the spike in new cases.

“While the CCSA is unlikely to bring back lockdowns, Thailand still cannot afford to relax virus curbs in the same way as other countries have done. We have to come up with our own approach,” Dr Apisamai said.

She was also trying to allay concerns about the rumoured suspension of the Test & Go scheme, saying the public health system is still sufficiently equipped to handle foreign arrivals who test positive.

Jakkarat Pittayawong-anont, director of the Department of Disease Control's epidemiology division, said that throughout the country, infections have been increasing across all groups, particularly among working-age people and children.

He said that the 18 provinces promoted for tourism must be closely monitored. Of them, eight provinces – Bangkok, Chon Buri, Phuket, Kancharaburi, Krabi, Phangnga, Nonthaburi, and Pathum Thani – have seen case numbers fluctuate, though the trend is still rising.

Third oil leak confirmed at SPRC Rayong pipeline

RAYONG

AUTHORITIES HAVE been informed by Star Petroleum Refining (SPRC) that another leak in its underwater oil pipeline has been found and temporarily sealed during its investigation regarding the previous oil spills.

SPRC sent a letter notifying the Rayong Marine Department about the incident last Tuesday (Feb 15), saying that a leak was found in a pipeline near the location that caused the major oil spill last month.

The company, majority owned by US multinational energy corporation Chevron, stated that it has taken emergency measures to stop the leak but has also requested assistance from authorities while they fortify the pipelines to prevent future oil spills.

It is the third time in less than a month that the same pipeline has experienced problems, leaking gallons of oil into the Gulf of Thailand. The first inci-



Containment efforts underway. Photo: NNT

dent caused a massive oil slick off the coast of Map Ta Phut area on Jan 25.

Another oil leak was then reported on Feb 10 due to operations to investigate the first leak.

Meanwhile, Deputy Rayong Governor Anant Nakniyom stated that authorities are still patrolling the beaches to prevent any oil slick from reaching the area.

Deputy Governor Anant confirmed that business owners can submit their compensation complaints at the provincial office, urging anyone affected by the oil spill to make a legal complaint.

He added that officials will make sure SPRC compensates the victims as soon as possible. NNT

HeadStart: Where Potential is without Limits

School mottos always sound impressive, don't they? But to what extent does the product really match the marketing mantra? Here at HeadStart International School, we claim to 'Inspire a Love of Learning'. Bold words indeed, but where is the proof? Let's take a cross-section of the school more closely to see if these words are in any way substantive...

Some schools dine out on ill-defined, abstract notions of unquantifiable values which they claim to imbue in children. However, at HeadStart, we like to start with the old-fashioned and perennial pillars of success: academic achievement. Let's put these in some context. In 2021, the school achieved Top in Thailand and High Achievement Awards for AS Levels Mathematics, Information Technology, History and Music.

Furthermore, just last month our Head Girl, Nutch Phaisamran, accepted an offer to read Psychology and Behavioural Sciences at Trinity College, Cambridge (only 12.42% of applicants who applied were accepted). Other students being accepted at top-tier Thai institutions: Chanattha Sinsawaiphol, who will soon be gracing the Faculty of Medicine International Programme at King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, Ladkrabang;



Nutch Phaisamran, accepted to Cambridge, with her parents Mr Surasit Sriphantamas and Dr Parimon Phaisamran, School License

OUTSTANDING CAMBRIDGE LEARNER AWARDS TOP IN THAILAND

Hyunseung Lee	Karyth Abday	Natdhawat Pankudrua	Ben Caspi
Top In Thailand Mathematics	High Achievement Information Technology	High Achievement History	High Achievement Music

Cambridge Assessment International Education

AS Level Exam Series November 2020

or perhaps Jinnaphop Prattranasanti, who is now facing the happy quandary of having to choose between two Faculty of Economics International Programmes—one at Chulalongkorn University, the other at Thammasat University.

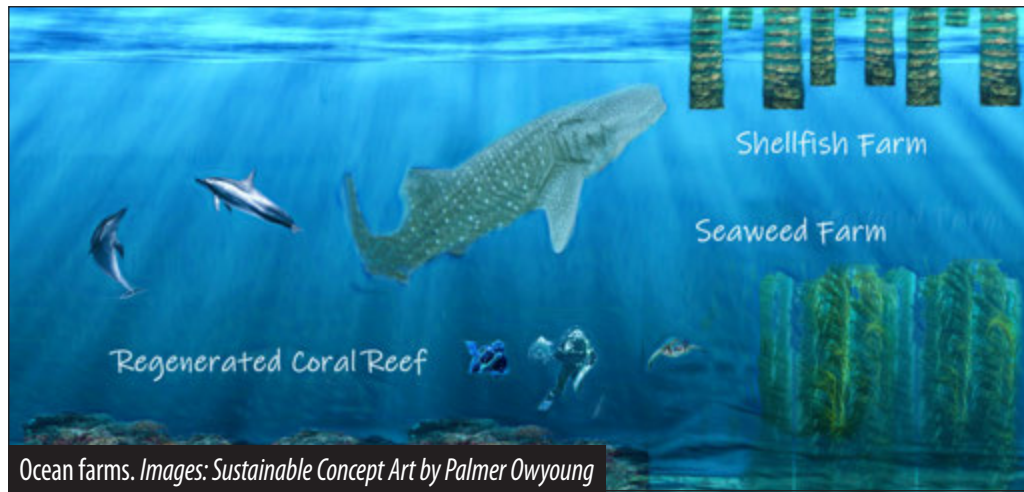
These students will join a panoply of past pupils from the school who are studying and have graduated from top universities in the UK, the USA, Australia and Europe. External examination results at HeadStart have improved steadily every year: take English Literature IGCSE which has shot from 26% A*-A in 2018, to 76% last year; or perhaps Physics AS results from last November, which garnered a remarkable 80% of the highest grade possible. Think not that we have cherry-picked figures; our 2021 IGCSE results saw 97% of all entries graded A*-C; 41% of all students in last year's A Level exams were graded at A* or A and our unique BTEC courses have built on their 100% pass rate from 2020 with another perfect score.

Substantive enough?

Of course, a Dickensian notion of an exams factory is a fairly grim one. Happily, at HeadStart, it couldn't be farther from the truth. We focus on developing rounded young people; exposing them to the broadest range of educational experience so they might choose the path which is right for them. Fine sentiments to be sure, but again in need of evidence? Look out for incredibly professional articles from HeadStart students in the PSU magazine in March this year. In fact, check out the school's Facebook page and I'm sure you'll agree it's not an exercise in hyperbole to insist that such opportunities are being seized in our school on a daily basis. So yes, we really, really are *Inspiring a Love of Learning*.

Contact the school today to find out how you can embark on the HeadStart journey with us.

by Mr David Pollicutt, Head of English at HeadStart



Ocean farms. Images: Sustainable Concept Art by Palmer Owyong



Reimagining Phuket Town. Images: Sustainable Concept Art by Palmer Owyong

Building a Sustainable Phuket: Part 2



SUSTAINABLY YOURS

Palmer Owyong

Last week, in Part 1 of this special report, we talked about improving environmental education, public transportation, creating walking spaces and adding wind and solar to build a sustainable Phuket. This week, we talk about fixing the food system, improving waste management and job skills.

Fixing the Food System

A study by the Food and Land Use Coalition estimates that when you add up all of the negative externalities including excessive water usage, damage from agrochemicals, soil loss, greenhouse

gas emissions, loss of biodiversity and health care our current agricultural system causes US\$12 trillion in damage per year. If we don't radically reform our diets and our global system of food production, it won't matter how many solar panels or wind turbines that we install, they won't be enough to create a sustainable world.

The overuse of pesticides and fertilisers is likely to be at least a contributing factor in the recent and recurring algae blooms that we see in Phuket. In addition to eating less meat and moving to a plant-based diet, we can help reduce our impact by composting our organic waste, which reduces the need for pesticides and fertilisers and improves the quality of the soil. To encourage people to compost, Prince of Songkla University is selling inexpensive bins and teaching communities how to use them.

To replace the destructive fishing industry we can create seaweed and shellfish farms that filter and clean the water as they have done in New York and other parts of the east coast of the United States. We could also build rooftop farms that localise food production and cool the building, thus reducing air conditioning costs.

For the time being, you can help to support local farmers by buying from the Phuket Farmers Club, which uses a network of small farms, that ensures that your food isn't treated with agrochemicals.

Reducing Plastic Waste

We could begin by reducing the use of single-use bottles by promoting the use of water filters at home and in restaurants. In London, San Francisco, and parts of Southern California they have begun installing drinking fountains at parks, schools, and other venues.

We could do this in Phuket, but instead of installing expensive water fountains, we can get restaurants and businesses willing to install filters on their taps to act as refill stations. We could build a mobile app with their GPS location. In exchange, they get free advertising and foot traffic from thirsty potential customers who wish to fill their water bottles.

Some people believe that water that isn't sealed in a plastic bottle is unhygienic, but the opposite is true. According to the WHO, 93% of bottled water carries microplastics, including the biggest brands. A study by the Environmental Working Group reveals that bottled water is often contaminated with chemicals including disinfectants, fertiliser residue and pain medication. Furthermore, a study by the Institute of Global Health says that the impact on natural resources is up to 3,500 times higher than filtered tap water.

One way to get people to recycle more is to use Incentivized Reverse Vending Machine. Norway uses these and has a 97%+ recycling rate for plastic bottles (the world average is 9%). You simply bring your bottles back to the machines, which could be placed at local stores such as Villa Market and you get paid in baht.

We could reduce plastic bag waste by creating educational campaigns to get people to reuse them when they go shopping. We could also replace them entirely by getting vendors to use bioplastic bags made from cassava that are plastic-free and home compostable.

Better Waste Management

Phuket currently can deal with about 700 tonnes of trash per day, but it produces about 850 tonnes per day. In a

normal year during high season that can shoot up to 1,000 tonnes. In 2002 San Francisco made composting and recycling mandatory, by 2008 it had reduced its waste by 75% and it now recovers about 80% of its waste, which is diverted from the landfill or incinerator.

While Phuket may lack the financial resources of San Francisco, there are still things we can do to help reduce our waste streams. For example, most neighbourhoods have local collectors that come and take metal cans, plastic and glass to recycling centres around the island for money. You can help them out, by separating your waste and leaving it by the bins for them. Not only will this reduce waste, but it will also make it easier for them to make a living. We can also compost our organic waste, which can reduce our trash by 50 to 60%.

Skills and Jobs

The Thai government recently announced a 10-year visa to attract highly skilled professionals such as engineers and IT experts in anticipation of a shortage of tech workers over the next decade. While everyone can't afford to go to college, there are other ways to transfer skills and knowledge. Maker Spaces, like MIT's FabLab, are places to acquire skills, network with other entrepreneurs, build things and start businesses. They come equipped with 3D printers, computers, robotics labs, laser cutters, CNC machines and even agricultural plots.

If Phuket is going to get away from the mass tourism business model, Phuketians, both Thai and foreign, will need to acquire new skills outside of the hospitality industry. Electronics, 3D modelling and design, agitecture, data compilation and analysis, robotics, content creation, programming, critical thinking and problem-solving are all skills that will be needed in the coming decades. The small, and once war-torn country of Rwanda is taking this approach, and reinventing its capital city of Kigali into an African tech hub. If they can do it, why can't we?

The future is coming whether we like it or not, and we have to decide if it is going to be business as usual, or if we want to turn Phuket into a sustainable place to live. To this end, OnePhuket and the Sustainable MaiKhao Foundation are working for change and will post upcoming projects.

This article is Part 2 of a two-part special report. Check The Phuket News website or last week's edition of The Phuket News for Part 1. Palmer Owyong is an environmental activist working with the Kamala Green Club and the Global Sustainability Hub.



International Women's Day Lunch 2022

#BreaktheBias

**Firefly Pool & Restaurant
At The Pavilions Phuket
Tuesday 8th March 2022**

9:00-10:30 Walk the Walk
11:00-2:30 Talk the Talk and Lunch
1,000 baht NET

Contact Donna: lunch@classactmedia.co.th
or Tina: phukethasbeengoodtous.org



Rocking around the island



PHUKET MUSIC SCENE

Andy Tong Dee

I've had a busy few months as I've tried to get around as many live music venues as possible post-lockdown, not always easy as my wife and designated driver doesn't like Classic Rock or Blues music as much as I do.

Anyway, I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you what I think will be my personal favourite live music hangouts so far in 2022. I think it's only fair to include Mrs Tong Dee's opinion in case your partner doesn't share the same tastes in live music as you, too! I can award five stars and so can my wife, so we can come out with an overall winner. The venue is to be judged on music (three stars), food (two stars) and restrooms (one star).

First up is the Hippie Road Bar, Patong. Situated halfway between the Bangla Rd and the Hard Rock Café, it's ideally placed to catch passing trade. The music is uncompromising Classic Rock, in the main supplied by the house band and fantastic vocals of Karl Bauer from Dortmund, Germany. If you want to cover Led Zeppelin, AC/DC and Deep Purple songs, you really need a vocalist who can not only cope with the standard of singing required, but do it for three hours. Karl can do it and he



Coconut Live, Rawai. Photo: Andrew Simpson



Hippie Road Bar.

does it well! Food and the restrooms are fine... er, for me...

Score: Andy Tong Dee – Five / Mrs Tong Dee – Zero (No way she was going in to eat or check out the restrooms with Karl screaming and “all that loud, horrible noise!”)

Next, we come to The Dibuka in Dibuk Rd, Phuket Town. This is a classy, upmarket restaurant which is perfect for that romantic night out. Here you'll hear quality bands playing Thai pop songs, which, it might surprise you, I happen to like. You'll also get Thai trios (acoustic guitar, mini-drums, singer shaking an egg) and duos of a high standard. No problem getting Mrs Tong Dee to go in here. Volume, low. Food, terrific. Rest rooms, pristine.

Score: Andy Tong Dee – Four / Mrs Tong Dee – Five (How I miss those overdriven guitars!)

Finally, Coconut Live, Rawai. You'll find this popular venue at the south end of the Rawai beach road. They put on a wide variety of music here, so you can choose what you want to hear by the night you go. Bands include The Moody Band and Gypsy Sun (Blues/Classic Rock), Eurasia PK (Thai and Western Pop) and The Naughties (Rock/Pop). There are also musicians playing acoustic romantic ballads and Thai songs some nights. No problem getting my wife in here if I get the right night then... Volume level, low/medium. Food, fantastic. Restrooms, immaculate.

Score: Andy Tong Dee – Five / Mrs

Tong Dee – Four (She's not quite as keen as me on Blues and Classic Rock.)

So there we have it – it's a draw between Coconut Live and The Dibuka! It all came down in the end to musical taste. As any married couple knows, compromise is everything in a successful relationship. Rock music is usually preferred by men, romantic ballads by women.

So you'll most likely find me and the wife in the Coconut Live on Tuesday nights in 2022 watching the excellent Eurasia PK – a very happy medium!

Andy Tong Dee is a local expat, musician and live music enthusiast. You can read his blog at www.phuketmusicscene.com

THAI RESIDENTIAL



Ocean's Edge Panwa Peninsula

- ✓ 5 Bedrooms
- ✓ 5 Bathrooms
- ✓ Thai Freehold
- ✓ Stunning Views
- ✓ 740 sqm Living Area

Reduced to 79 Million THB



Tamarind Bay Ocean Front Land

- ✓ Cape Panwa Land for Sale
- ✓ Stunning Sea Views
- ✓ Ocean Front
- ✓ Private Estate
- ✓ Amazing 5,284 sqm plot

Reduced to 120 Million THB



Villa One Ayara Surin

- ✓ Private Ayara Estate
- ✓ Stunning Sea Views over Surin Bay
- ✓ Recently Modernized 5 Bedrooms
- ✓ Excellent Rental Potential
- ✓ Large Land Plot of 1,452 sqm

Reduced to 99 Million THB



Andara Bay View Residence

- ✓ Luxury Penthouse on Millionaire's Mile
- ✓ Meticulously Maintained 4 Bedrooms 5 Bathrooms
- ✓ Stunning Views over the Andaman Sea
- ✓ Fantastic Rental Potential
- ✓ 845 sqm Built Area

Now 4,888,000 USD



West Sands Beach Front Villa

- ✓ 3 Bedrooms Luxury Villa
- ✓ 3 Ensuite Bathrooms
- ✓ Beachfront Property
- ✓ 4-star resort with gym, restaurant and swimming pool
- ✓ 471 sqm plot

Reduced to 28 Million THB



Walk to the Beach, 6 Bedroom Villa Layan

- ✓ Amazing Beach Side Villa
- ✓ Thai Freehold
- ✓ 6 Bedrooms
- ✓ 7 Bathrooms
- ✓ 800 sqm of built area

Reduced to 60 Million THB

phuket@thairential.com | +66 94 8411 918 | www.thairential.com | Thai Residential Co., Ltd. 82/37 Sam Pao Courtyard, Moo 4, Patak Road, T. Rawai, Phuket, 83130

POP QUIZ

1. What is the Northern Star otherwise known as?
2. What currency is used in Egypt?
3. How many space flights did the Space Shuttle Enterprise make?
4. In which year did it become legal for men in America to show their nipples in public?
5. The original version of Monopoly was based on the streets of which American city?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Hard

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

1. Take a powder
6. Firmly secured
10. Fungal spore sacs
14. Two-door
15. Prom conveyance
16. European capital
17. Hurt
18. Effluvium
19. Is positioned
20. Nuptials necessity
23. Calendar abbr.
24. Most concise
25. Marvelous
30. Ed.'s request
31. Nuncupative
32. City west of Tulsa
34. Grill grub
38. The main event
41. Racing network
42. Bristle
43. Settled
44. Film stars' org.
46. Touch off
48. Damages
52. Stretch of turbulent water
53. Ralph and Alice
59. Ambience
60. Case

Down

1. Take for a ride
2. Chewed stimulant
3. Essen basin
4. Parrot
5. Toward the middle
6. Punishments, of a kind
7. Lieutenant
8. Young salmon
9. Old party members
10. Military rate, British
11. Paris bisector
12. Salad green
13. Dickey
21. "The Age of

Anxiety" poet

22. Rail family bird
25. Propagates
26. Kind of school
27. Stevedore
28. Player on the dealer's left
29. Cubed
33. Mold
35. Gaucho's weapon
36. "Sit ___!"
37. Information unit
39. Salmon River locale
40. Sine or cosine
45. Family subdivisions
47. City near the Douro River
48. Some parties
49. Barbarian
50. High spot
51. ___ Hall
54. Chinese dollar
55. Bust maker
56. Not leave alone
57. Rub the wrong way
58. Ooze

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

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1. Polaris; 2. Egyptian pound; 3. None (it was the main test craft); 4. 1937; 5. Atlantic City, New Jersey

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

7

hours a year is how long men spend on average hiding in the bathroom for 'peace and quiet', according to a study by Pebble Grey.

23

percent of young adults check their phones within one minute of waking up.

362

times more germs than a public toilet seat is what your typical free weights in a gym can harbour.

750,000

US dollars is how much Google offered to sell their company for in 1999, to another company called Excite. Excite declined.

1.77

trillion

US dollars is how much Google's parent company, Alphabet, is worth today.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Saphan Hin sunrise. Photo by Michael Rafael

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

This week in history

Feb 25, 1932

Adolf Hitler obtains German citizenship by naturalization, which allows him to run in the 1932 election for Reichspräsident.

Feb 26, 1993

In New York City, a truck bomb parked below the North Tower of the World Trade Center explodes, killing six and injuring over a 1,000.

Feb 27, 1964

The Government of Italy asks for help to keep the Leaning Tower of Pisa from toppling over.

Feb 28, 1939

The erroneous word "dord" is discovered in the Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition, prompting an investigation into how it got there.

Mar 1, 1972

The Thai province of Yasothon



The Sony CDP-101, the world's first CD player. Photo: Museo della Scienza e della Tecnologia

Mar 2, 1983

Compact discs and players are released for the first time in the United States and other markets. They had previously been available only in Japan.

Mar 3, 1951

Jackie Brenston, with Ike Turner and his band, records "Rocket 88", often cited as "the first rock and roll record", at Sam Phillips's recording studios in Memphis, Tennessee. Source: Wikipedia

is created after being split off from the Ubon Ratchathani Province.

Trades & Services

 The Phuket News
 @thephuketnews

CORPORATE SERVICES



VERTIGO
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

WE MAKE YOU LOOK GOOD.

VERTIGO VIDEO PRODUCTIONS.COM
f i t y

HOME IMPROVEMENT



Waterproofing & Crack Repair

20 year WARRANTY

Drone Survey

Pipe Inspection

under yearly checkup plan...

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT



MN.PAINTING

German/English: 087 894 8255

No Job too Big
No Job too small

HOME IMPROVEMENT



Lile-it
SMART TILES
Tile Leveling System

Baan Wana - Cherng Talay
Tel : 076 620168

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT



WOOD FLOOR PHUKET - 20 YEARS

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

f /solidwoodfloorphuketthailand
M Matt 081 271 2684 or Jessica 062 372 6624

MARINE SERVICES



Marine Engineering Specialists

C & C MARINE®

YANMAR mtu

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

MARINE INSURANCE



for any insurance study, please contact:
christophe.g@poe-ma.com
+66 92 542 0505

POE-MA
INSURANCES

your marine insurance brokers in South-East Asia

private – charter – commercial
all flags – extended areas

Sunrise Road, Chalong, Phuket

OTHER



Mac-Nels

MACNELS SHIPPING PHUKET

ANY SHIPMENT ANY WHERE

☎ OFFICE: 076 603907

☎ MOBILE: CALL PETER 0863645862

www.macnellsphuket.com

OTHER



CARING FOR OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS 24 HOURS PER DAY.

hugme

โรงพยาบาลสัตว์ฮักมี
HUGME ANIMAL HOSPITAL

100/16 MOOT SRISUNTHON, THALANG, PHUKET 83110
☎ 076 510 656

WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?

The **Phuket News** Your Island - Your Paper
 Новости **Пхукета** Твой остров - твои газеты
 ข่าว **ภูเก็ต**

WINDOW ON PHUKET

The map of PHUKET English 中文 Русский

Where to eat in PHUKET

LIVE 89.5 NEWS TV

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th

FRI

25 FEB



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

081 891 4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket



Friday Mussels night

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

SUN

27 FEB



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

081 891 4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket



Sunday roast

12PM – 9PM: All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet Beef, Pork, Chicken & Lamb – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, Fried mushrooms, Grilled Tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes – Apple sauce, Gravy, Mushroom sauce, Horse raddish, Mint Sauce. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 350 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 175 baht P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

MON

28 FEB



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

081 891 4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket



Pizza Monday

12 PM till closing: 20% discount on all our pizzas We have a kid's playground zone. www.shakersphuket.

com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

WED

2 MAR



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

081 891 4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket



Wednesday BBQ night

6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Ribs 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

4 MAR



The Grow Boating Networking Evening for March 2022

We would like to invite you to join us for the next Grow Boating Evening which will be held at the Sea Breeze at the Royal Phuket Marina on Friday the 4th of March from 5pm. It is with great pleasure that we announce that the Thailand Yacht Show have very generously agreed to be the drinks sponsor for Grow Boating for the next 12 months, which saves us having to worry about finding a sponsor each time, so do come along and enjoy their hospitality! There will be a delicious light buffet for all attendees and as always all of your favourite beverages will be available from the bar. Come and join in the fun everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee. We hope to see you there and if you know anyone you think would be interested in coming please invite them along. To join our mailing list please send an email to growboatingphuket@gmail.com Grow Boating is kindly supported by our media partner The Phuket News, Live 89.5 radio and Phuket News TV. See www.thepuketnews.com

TUE

8 MAR



International Women's Day Lunch 2022

Firefly Pool & Restaurant - The Pavilions Phuket

Tuesday 8th March 2022

9:00-10:30 walk the walk

11:00-2:30 Talk the Talk & Lunch

1,000 baht net

Contact Donna: lunch@classactmedia.co.th or Tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org



International Women's Day 2022

Walk the Walk and/or Talk the Talk! Bring your hat not your heels, your togs not your tiara! It's time for a change in 2022 so we are getting out of the ballroom and into the great outdoors. There are two options on the day: you can walk the walk meeting at 9am, or you can talk the talk meeting at 11am. Even better join for both and make a day of it! A donation of 1,000 baht net to book your seat. Contact Donna - lunch@classactmedia.co.th or tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org

FRI

11 MAR



Australia Day Phuket Sundowners - March 2022

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (AMCHAM), British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber of Commerce, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC) and the Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC), is delighted to invite you to join us for "Australia Day Phuket Sundowners" at JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, on Friday 11 March 2022, from 18.00 - 21.00 hrs. A celebration of all things Australian, join us for your favourite Australian food & beverages, and welcome in the New Year as the first business networking event in Phuket of 2022! Please register in advance, as walk-ins are not allowed for this event Limited spaces, please book early to avoid disappointment COVID-19 Require-

ments: Attendees must be able to show proof of at least double vaccinated and a Negative test result (ATK/RT-PCR) conducted within 24 hours of arriving at the event. Cost: 500 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members. 900 THB for non-members. Accommodation: JW Marriott Resort & Spa offers an additional 10% discount on the room rate inclusive of Breakfast for stays booked & consumed between the 27th to 30th January 2022. For reservation, see https://bit.ly/AustChamThailandPromotion, or contact JWPhuket-Sales@marriott.com

THU

17 MAR



Skal Phuket Dinner at Pizza on Fire Laguna

Welcome to Pizza on Fire, Canal Village, Laguna, Phuket - Vera Pizza Napoletana. Join Skal International Phuket at Pizza on Fire for a real Italian Napoli pizza experience. Skål International Thailand is a professional organization of leaders from all branches of the travel and tourism industry.

THU

21 APR



Skål Phuket Dinner at Baan Rim Pa

Join Skål International Phuket at Baan Rim Pa Ka-lim for dinner in February This multi-award-winning restaurant has proven to be a favorite to international travelers, ex-pats and locals. Baan Rim Pa boasts an incredible cliff-side location directly over the Andaman Sea. Become a member and connect with the biggest Travel & Tourism professional network. Being part of Skål Thailand offers you a wide range of benefits.

JOBS

Full Time Nanny

ooking for a nanny to take care of 1y9m old child. Live in or work 7am to 7pm English or/and Thai speaking Nanny experience 3 years 18000, Napakpaha, nicky_karpuzov@yahoo.com, +6639503078

BUSINESSES FOR SALE



BOAT LAGOON BAR FOR SALE

The Lagoon Saloon Phuket (LSP) in Boat Lagoon is FOR SALE. See our Facebook page for more bar details. Contact Khun Ora on Mobile 082 222 7499. Negotiable.

Listen for

DAILY EVENT
UPDATES ON

LIVE  89.5

PROPERTY FOR RENT



Land for sale near Mission Heights

Land is 1,656 square meters approx on 3 Chanote titles. Has concrete road, water and electric. Small quiet village close to Mission Heights. I'm looking for 4.5 million Baht, negotiable. Call 093 629 4400.

PROPERTY FOR RENT



Stunning Villa For Rent/Sale

ing fans in all rooms. Saltwater Pool 8m x 4m + jacuzzi + outdoor shower. Water system with very high-quality water filter. Long term rental min 6 months price 60,000 THB incl. garden and pool cleaning or available for sale 16,800 000 THB. adam.goodman@hotmail.com, 0910161167

Want your
EVENT
listed here?

Reserve
your space
NOW!

076 612 550

sales@classactmedia.co.th

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Chalong, Phuket Town, Bang Tao & Karon

CALL

081 895 4763

help@aaphuket.org

Google www.aaphuket.com



WINDOW

ON PHUKET

The April/May 2022
hard copy issue goes to print very soon

Distributed in resorts/hotels lobbies, in a high number of restaurants and coffee shops, plus inserted in one issue of *The Phuket News* each month, it is a great way to Talk to Phuket.

Want to be in it?

CONTACT JASON TODAY – gm@classactmedia.co.th



Malykhin (left) lands a punch. Photo: ONE Championship

Malykhin roars with Lion City ONE victory

MMA

Continued from page 16

...title against undisputed champion Arjan Bhullar (11-1) last year, but due to a contractual dispute between the promotion and the Canadian-Indian heavyweight, the fight never materialised. Instead, the promotion announced an interim title fight between Malykhin and Grishenko.

With the interim title now firmly in his grasp, Malykhin is set to take on Bhullar, who recently came to terms on a new contract with the promotion. A date for the ONE Heavyweight title unification bout has yet to be set, but Malykhin is not too worried about the prospects of taking on the other top heavyweights

in the division.

“Arjan Bhullar, my baby chicken. No fight, no big heart. Come, fight!” Malykhin said during his post-fight interview inside the cage.

Despite a looming title unification fight against Bhullar, a decorated freestyle wrestler and former UFC fighter, Malykhin made sure to praise all the people who were able to propel him to the ONE world title, from his coaches at Tiger Muay Thai, including boxing coach John Hutchinson, to his wife.

“My wife is a great person. Before I met her, I was nobody, but then I met her and my life changed. Everything that happens in this fight life, she gives me this, so I’m always grateful for her,” he said.

JP Mestanza

‘Mink’ first Thai woman to win snooker world title

SNOOKER

Ben Tirebuck
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Thailand has a new world champion after Nutcharut “Mink” Wongharuthai won the 2022 World Women’s Snooker Championship in Sheffield, England last Monday (Feb 14).

It was the perfect Valentine’s Day gift for 22-year-old Mink, who became the first Thai player to win the women’s world title. She also secured a two-year card to compete on the main professional World Snooker Tour, beginning in the 2022–23 snooker season, and the winner’s cheque of £6,000 (฿264,000).

The tournament was held at the Ding Junhui Snooker Academy in Sheffield from Feb 11-14, the first time in two years following postponements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

En route to the final Mink defeated three-time champion Ng On Yee of Hong Kong in the quarter-finals, winning a thrilling contest 4–3 on the final black.

In the semi-final Mink overcame world number four Rebecca McKenna of Northern Ireland to set up a final showdown with Wendy Jans of Belgium.

In a nail-biting game which was live-streamed on Facebook, Mink took a 2-1 lead before Jans took control with a 5-3 score. Mink won the next two frames to level the match and set up a deciding



Nutcharut ‘Mink’ Wongharuthai with the winner’s trophy in Sheffield. Photo: The Sport Association Of Phuket Facebook

frame for the title where she managed to triumph by potting the final black ball.

World Number One Reanne Evans paid tribute to the Thai youngster after her final success: “She’s always had the potential to be a winner,” Evans told *Metro.co.uk*.

“She’s got a good game, a never say die attitude. She has a bright future ahead of her and it wasn’t a surprise to me that she won the event,” the Briton added.

However, Evans also sounded a cautionary warning to Mink over the brutality of the professional snooker circuit.

“It’s a lot tougher than people think it is, even lower down. You lose to someone and people are like, ‘Who’s that? I’ve never heard of them,’ but they’re just

so good and the top players are even better, then the elite players right at the top who are all on their own.

“However, Mink’s got good backing and good support so I think it’ll be really good for her,” Evans added.

Mink was runner-up to Evans in the 2019 World Women’s Snooker Championship, the last time the tournament was played before the COVID-enforced break. Mink also won the World Women’s Under-21 Champion in 2018 and her first ranking title at the 2019 Australian Women’s Open.

She also holds the accolade of being the only woman known to have made a maximum break of 147, a feat achieved during a practice round in March 2019.

Phuket News

English Premier League Predictions

thepuketnews.com/predictions.php

Chiang Mai delight for Vagabonds

RUGBY

Continued from page 16

...Nevertheless, Rothwell’s radar and boot were in tune as his sublime drop goal effort found its mark, bringing the teams level at 15-15 going into the final quarter.

The final period was breathless. Both teams sensed a win was within grasp, and after some sustained pressure from the Cobras, a penalty returned possession to the Vagabonds. Rothwell immediately effected a tap-and-go to then find Mark Innes, who broke through the Cobras defense to touch down in the corner. No additional points from the conversion gave the Vagabonds a tight 20-15 lead as the clock ticked down to five minutes remaining.

Scrum after Cobra scrum inside the Vagabonds’ 22 forced resolute defending before a knock-on in the dying seconds looked to have sealed victory for the visitors. The formality of clearing the ball from the resulting scrum then took the most dramatic of turns



The Phuket Vagabonds’ Anthony Van Sleeuwen in line-out action. Photo: Chiang Mai Cobras

when the Cobras pack won the ball against the head. An off-load from Jones gave Lim sight of the line before a last-gasp tackle from Flues caused the Cobra player to lose possession forward and Vagabonds victory celebrations to begin.

The game’s MVP awards went to Luc Briand for the

Vagabonds and Josh Lim for the Cobras, while both teams applauded the officiating by Mai Kiattichai and TRU Northern Rugby.

The Vagabonds’ next outing will be to the Krabi 10s scheduled for April 7-9. For more information on Phuket rugby, please visit their Facebook page.

Magic Mo hits landmark with 150th Liverpool goal

FOOTBALL

AFP

Mohamed Salah said he was proud to score his 150th goal for Liverpool as the Egypt forward helped inspire a 3-1 win against Norwich last Saturday (Feb 19).

Jürgen Klopp's side were stunned when Milot Rashica's deflected strike put Norwich ahead early in the second half at Anfield.

But Liverpool drew level through Sadio Mané's overhead kick before taking the lead through Salah's landmark effort.

Salah is only the 10th player to reach 150 goals for Liverpool and the second fastest to the milestone after Roger Hunt.

Luis Díaz scored his first Liverpool goal in his fourth appearance since his January move from Porto to wrap up a win that kept the pressure on Premier League leaders Manchester City.

Salah has scored 25 in 30 appearances this season, including 17 in 23 league



A 'proud' Mohamed Salah applauds Liverpool fans at Anfield after his 150th goal for the club against Norwich last Saturday (Feb 19). Photo: AFP

matches, while the Reds have won their last eight games in all competitions.

"It feels great. I'm always proud to score for this club and the most important thing is to win games which is what we did today," Salah said.

"What we can do is focus on each game and that's the most important thing.

"We know when you fight

with City, most of the time they win games so all we can do is focus on ourselves and see what happens at the end of the season."

Klopp was asked to name his favourite Salah goal and gave a long list in reply, underlining the Egyptian's enduring value to Liverpool.

"Today was a really cheeky one, to be honest. I

remember the Chelsea goal, comes inside and thunderbolt in the corner, a few of the dribbles against City and Watford, the United goal as well, the Champions League one at City as well was very special," Klopp said.

"I can probably not remember all 150 but I can remember a lot and there were some really good goals.

"The first was at Watford (in August 2017) was probably the easiest. No one could imagine when he scored the first that he could score 149 in such a short period of time."

Manchester City unexpectedly slipped up against Tottenham at home, with England captain Harry Kane scoring an injury time winner in a 3-2 win.

"We didn't need to lose a game to know how hard it is [to win the league]," said City boss Pep Guardiola. "There are many, many games still to play."

At time of press, City led by six points but Liverpool had chance to close to within three points when they faced Leeds United at home on Wednesday (Feb 23).

Man Utd and Liverpool to clash in Bangkok

FOOTBALL

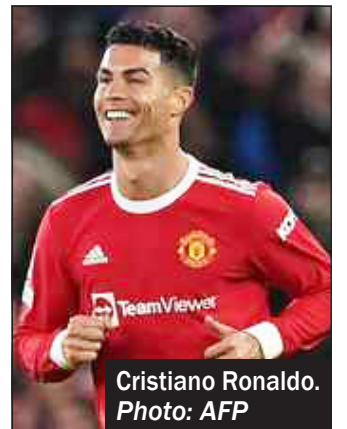
BANGKOK IS SET TO host one of the most keenly-contested derbies in World football as it was confirmed last Friday (Feb 18) that Manchester United and Liverpool will face one another in an exhibition match.

Fresh Air Festival confirmed it had signed a deal to bring the Premier league heavyweights to play at Rajamangala National Stadium on July 12 in a match called 'THE MATCH Bangkok Century Cup 2022'.

Despite the match officially being a friendly, fans can expect a full-blooded affair as encounters between the two clubs in any capacity rarely lack passion or incident.

The organiser stated that both clubs had promised to send full strength squads, alleviating fears that the match, dubbed the 'Red War' by the Thai media and fans, would not be treated as a serious contest.

Liverpool currently sit second in the Premier League and have a squad bursting with talent – Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firminio, Vigil Van



Cristiano Ronaldo. Photo: AFP

Dijk and Sadio Mané are just a few of the players that are household names around the world, likewise their hugely charismatic and popular manager Jürgen Klopp.

Whereas Manchester United have recently endured turbulent times by their lofty standards, they still possess a squad teeming with riches such as Paul Pogba, Bruno Fernandes and Cristiano Ronaldo.

The club, under the stewardship of interim manager Ralf Rangnick, currently sit in fourth place in the Premier League and are hoping to secure Champions League qualification by season's end.

Further details will be announced at a press conference on March 9.

The Phuket News

Masi removed as F1 race director

FORMULA ONE

MICHAEL MASI HAS BEEN REMOVED as Formula One race director over his management of the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix last year which led to Max Verstappen being controversially crowned world champion.

Australian official Masi was heavily criticised for the sequence of events that led to Verstappen passing Lewis Hamilton to deprive the Briton of a record eighth title.

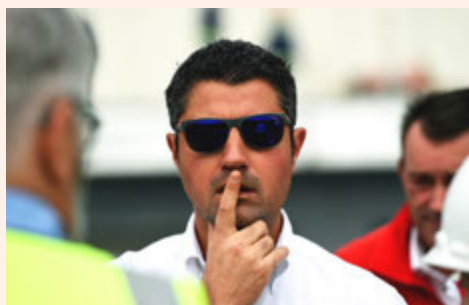
"Michael Masi, who accomplished a very challenging job for three years as Formula 1 race director following Charlie Whiting, will be offered a new position within the FIA," read a statement by FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem last Thursday (Feb 17).

"Niels Wittich and Eduardo Freitas will act alternatively as Race Director, assisted by Herbie Blash (formerly deputy under Whiting) as permanent senior advisor."

Sulayem also announced that measures will be introduced to ease the pressure on the race director.

"Firstly, to assist the race director in the decision-making process, a Virtual Race Control Room will be created. Alike the Video Assistance Referee (VAR) in football, it will be positioned in one of the FIA offices as a backup outside the circuit," said Sulayem.

"In real-time connection with the FIA F1 race director, it will help to apply the sporting regulations using the most modern



Masi was heavily criticised for the way he handled the season-ending Abu Dhabi GP last year. Photo: AFP

technological tools."

Sulayem said the mode of communicating with the race director would be different from now on.

"Direct radio communications during the race, currently broadcast live by all TVs, will be removed in order to protect the race director from any pressure and allow him to take decisions peacefully.

"It will still be possible to ask questions to the race director, according to a well-defined and non-intrusive process."

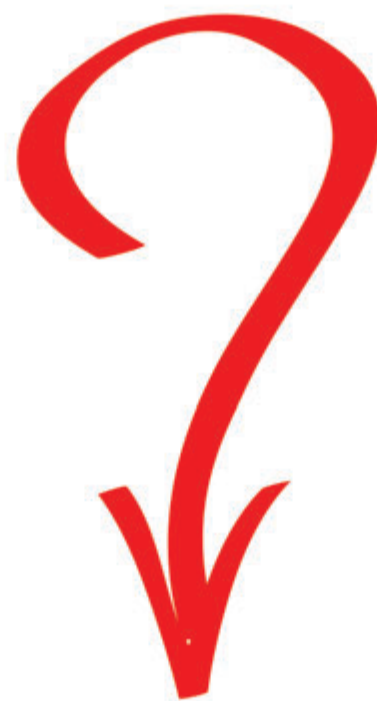
Masi had been heavily panned after calling in the safety car for the final lap, then controversially allowing the backmarkers between race leader Hamilton and Verstappen to unlap themselves.

Sulayem said that these rules regarding unlapping would be addressed.

"Unlapping procedures behind safety car will be reassessed by the F1 Sporting Advisory Committee and presented to the next F1 Commission prior to the start of the season." AFP



THAILAND'S
PVC WINDOW
SPECIALISTS
SINCE 2004



Contact us for the lowest
prices in Phuket



PROJECT SUPPLIES DIRECT
Head Office at Tesco Lotus Thalang Phuket
English +66 87 061 7631 or Thai +66 81 539 2031
PVC Phuket NathanUpvcBrown



editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Sport



Snooker's first Thai female champ > p14

COBRAS WRANGLLED

Phuket's rugby heroes win tense match in Chiang Mai

RUGBY

Neil Quail

Flying the flag for Phuket last Saturday (Feb 19), the Vagabonds took on Chiang Mai Cobras at the Chang Mai University campus ground in a thoroughly absorbing encounter that resulted in a tense final five minutes, with the visitors ultimately clinging on to a deserved 20-15 victory over their northern rivals.

Heavy rainfall prior to and during the match precipitated difficult playing conditions, with both teams having to dig deep into their arsenal of skills and physicality to produce a game full of thumping tackles, rampaging runs that enthralled supporters of both teams.

Having worked hard on the training ground over the past two months, the Vagabonds knew a focused and determined start would be crucial, and immediately put the Cobras under the cosh inside the home side's 22.

Solid Cobras defending, however, brought relief as Charlie Jones and Josh Lim looked to counter with impactful running, before Damion May found room down the blindside of a ruck with Augustin Lecoq in support. A try looked inevitable given the overlap until Vagabonds' Jack Flues gambled on the intercept, the paceman picking the ball cleanly to race away for the game's first score. A tough touchline conver-

sion was confidently slotted home by skipper Paul Rothwell to give the visitors a 7-0 lead.

May and Lecoq would make amends for their earlier complacency shortly before the end of the first period, when May again exploited the Vagabonds blindside by deftly kicking through for the vigilant Lecoq to pounce on and score. Richie Davis was unable to extend the Cobras score, seeing his conversion attempt slide agonizingly wide of the upright.

At 7-5, the game was perfectly poised for a tense second period, but it was the Cobras who emerged from the break with more venom in their play, as Simon Dickinson and Dave McRitchie in the forwards questioned the Vagabonds cohesiveness.

With conditions deteriorating, the game evolved into one of attrition as players put their bodies on the line in the form of pounding runs forcing punishing tackles, before Most Padabyod and Patopong Hompeng combined, the latter eventually crashing over the try line to put the Cobras ahead for the first time in the game. Assuming kicking duties, May pushed his team further ahead with a successful conversion, the score-line now reading 12-7.

Cobras were to extend that lead to 15-7 going into half-time as Thitiphong Jarumaneeroj was given the simple task of converting a penalty from beneath the posts for



The Vagabonds' Florian Lounnas on the charge against the Cobras in Chiang Mai last Saturday (Feb 19). Photo: Chiang Mai Cobras

an offending Vagabonds high tackle.

Recognising the value of their forward line, Vagabonds piled on the pressure after the interval to camp inside the Cobras' 22, in return seeing remarkable defending from the home side to keep the visitors

at bay. But just as the Vagabonds' efforts looked to be waning, Nic Bruno ducked in at the corner to bring his team within three points, with the conversion being missed.

Games such as these can turn on a single moment of inspiration,

and when Cobras' Davies hiked a pressure-relieving kick to the half way line, subsequently gathered by Vagabonds' Rothwell, none would have wagered on the Phuket player's decision, let alone success, to go for goal... *Continued on page 14*

Phuket's big man holds ONE Heavyweight title high

MMA

ANATOLY MALYKHIN NEEDED just over six minutes to knock out Kiril Grishenko (5-1) in Singapore on Feb 11 to hold up the ONE Interim Heavyweight title.

It's the same old story for the 34-year-old, who trains out of Tiger Muay Thai & MMA Training Camp in Chalong and lives full-time in Phuket. The undefeated Russian has racked up 11 wins, all of them finishes, including eight knockouts and three submission victories.

Even more impressive is the fact that he's been able to do it all



Anatoly Malykhin with the ONE Interim Heavyweight title. Photo: ONE Championship

inside of two rounds.

"I can do everything, I can do wrestling, I can do striking. I'm a chess player, I'm the best in this

game," Malykhin said during an interview with reporters following the ONE Championship: Bad Blood event in Singapore.

But going into the fight, Malykhin was dealing with a nagging injury that may have stalled his plans a bit. He saw it as just one more thing to overcome.

"I had a leg injury and it affected me in the first round while doing the wrestling. Then in the second round, I felt my boxing wasn't as efficient anymore because of the injury. But then again, I'm the best man, I'm a dangerous guy," Malykhin said.

Malykhin was grinning from ear to ear during the post-fight interview, as the promotion awarded him not only the interim heavyweight title, but also US\$100,000

(B3.2 million) for earning both the Performance of the Night and Knockout of the Night bonuses.

"The plan was to knock [Grishenko] out and that was the initial plan. It started with the wrestling because he shot and I took him down, then I started to wrestle there, but for that, no one gives \$100k, so I had to knock him out and get the belt, and get the \$100k," he said.

This was Malykhin's fourth fight for the promotion, and he's been able to run through some of the top heavyweight fairly quickly, all by knockout. He previously earned a shot at the heavyweight...

Continued on page 14