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BETTING LIMITS



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

PHUKET DIVIDED ON PROSPECT OF HOSTING A CASINO

Eakkapop Thongtub
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As the Thai government moves forward with draft laws to legalise casinos and integrated entertainment complexes, Phuket has become a battleground of opinions. On one side, locals warned of social and cultural harm; on the other, business leaders see economic and tourism potential.

"I'm completely against this. For me, gambling is wrong – no matter where it happens, it's still wrong," Don Limnantapisit, leader of a group who staged an anti-casino protest at Phuket Provincial Hall earlier this month, told *The Phuket News*.

According to Mr Don, a casino in Phuket would do more harm

than good. "If you look at the big picture, some might argue that legalising casinos would help to boost tax revenues, making it seem like the right move.

"But have you ever considered the cost to our culture, traditions and environment? Has anyone truly researched these impacts? Have we looked at the damage this could do to families, the rise in social problems, even domestic violence? More people stuck in debt?"

"Some might argue that only foreigners should be allowed to gamble then, not Thais. But what happens if those foreigners come here, lose everything and end up causing problems? That could still lead to crime. It's a problem either way," he said.

Mr Don also pointed out casinos elsewhere are hotbeds for

criminal networks, money laundering and illegal businesses. "Legalising casinos could open the door for more corruption, and more criminal activities, not just among business figures, but also within political and government circles," he added.

Mr Don and his group outlined six key concerns in their statement to the Phuket Governor, submitted during the protest earlier this month.

The concerns were listed as causing potential harm to Phuket's global image, increased crime, threats to community wellbeing, unequal economic benefits, conflict with sustainable development goals, and a lack of public participation in the decision-making process.

The group called on the government to abandon the draft

legislation and instead prioritise policies that promote a creative, fair and sustainable economy in line with Phuket's identity as a high-quality tourism destination.

Thiraphong Chuaychu, Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad), accepted the statement on behalf of Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat.

Of note, the draft law for casinos and entertainment complexes approved by Cabinet late last month will significantly limit how many Thai punters can go to casinos, with an entry fee of B5,000 and proof of at least B50 million in bank deposits, effectively blocking large swathes of the population.

Deputy Finance Minister Julapun Amornvivat had earlier said that the assets requirement for...

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Exploring the southern charms of Thailand



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Dojo Phuket team pick up more awards



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News



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Not all bets on Phuket casino

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...Thai nationals would probably be scrapped because it would exclude too many people. He said officials had decided to submit the draft in its current form and deal with possible amendments later.

Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra told reporters after the draft law was approved that the details of the law were not final as parliament would have the final say.

The bill will be sent to the House of Representatives, and if passed, will also need approval from the Senate and His Majesty the King, she added.

Another restriction in the draft is that the casino area may only occupy up to 10% of the entire space of an entertainment complex, according to a government statement.

ECONOMIC BOOST

Meanwhile, well-known Patong businessman Preechavude 'Prab' Keesin took a stance against the growing 'Phuket People Don't Want Casinos' movement.

He expressed support for building a casino in Patong, arguing that the area already has the infrastructure to support casino businesses and that it would help distribute income more evenly across the community.

"If it really happens, it will create jobs and boost the economy," Mr Preechavude said.

"Right now, we don't have many tools to drive economic growth, so we need something new. Phuket is the right place for a casino because nearly all of the real casino-goers are foreign tourists, very few Thais actually play," he added.



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

However, Mr Preechavude emphasised the need to listen to the public, hold forums and possibly referendums to ensure people can take part in the decision-making process.

Mr Preechavude believes developing the casino industry offers more economic and social benefits than drawbacks.

"This will bring a positive impact on the economy and society," he said. "In terms of the 'entertainment complex' required, a casino is to occupy only 5-10% of casinos, indicated on draft, not the entire area.

"It's just a small part that adds to the entertainment industry, casinos are like a piece of the puzzle," he added.

NEUTRAL CONCERNS

Kongsak Koophongsakorn, President of the Phuket Chamber

of Commerce, has declined to either support or oppose a casino in Phuket.

"I believe the government lacks sufficient information to say whether having a casino is truly beneficial. When the casino law was first introduced, the public mainly heard about it through the media. The government gave only a brief explanation, without clearly defining what an 'Entertainment Complex' or 'Casino Bill' actually means," he said.

"There hasn't been enough information about the benefits or impacts. Each area in Thailand has different cultures, beliefs, and economic conditions and not all are suitable for such developments," he added.

"For example, if the aim is to attract more middle- to high-income tourists, how many more

visitors will Phuket gain from the current 14 million? How much more income will that bring? None of this has been explained.

"It's also unclear how the revenue from the casino will be distributed – will it go to the government, the casino operators, or the local area? Will it be used to address social issues?

"Also, the government should be transparent about how taxes will be collected and used. This includes VAT, income tax, and any special excise taxes," Mr Kongsak continued.

"We also worry that once legalised, regulation will become too loose. Thailand may not yet have the social strength to handle the consequences, unlike countries such as Singapore.

"I'm open to the idea if it's done responsibly – for example, a single integrated resort like

Marina Bay in Singapore, where a casino is just one part of a bigger attraction.

"But realistically, we cannot say that the income will go to locals, much of the income will go to investors, not the community. While jobs may be created, we must stay cautious.

"To be honest, many laws in Thailand are not strictly enforced. For example, hotel regulations and height limits for buildings have been relaxed over time, showing how rules can change to suit developers," he said.

"So even if rules start off strict – for example, only allowing high-income people to enter – those limits may be lowered later to benefit investors... That's something I worry about," he said.

If Phuket were to be approved to host a casino, Mr Kongsak suggested Mai Khao as the preferred location. "I believe Mai Khao is a more suitable location than Patong, which has no space left," he said.

"However, if I were the government I would choose a different province to build the new entertainment complex – not just Phuket. Phuket is already thriving with its existing strengths, but developing other provinces is just as important for balanced national growth.

"In any case, this is still a draft law. The government has postponed the [House of Representatives] vote for now, and a public hearing and a vote are both required before it can move forward," Mr Kongsak concluded.

Hillside construction in Karon raises concerns

OFFICIALS CONDUCTED an inspection of a hillside construction site in Karon on Monday (Apr 21) following public complaints about potential illegal development and environmental damage.

Leading the inspection was Surasak Anusorn, Director of the Phuket Natural Resources and Environment Office, accompanied by officers from the Phuket Provincial Public Works and Town & Country Planning Office. Also present were Somkid Chokong

and Watanapong Suksai, advisors to Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat.

The inspection was prompted by concerns raised by residents on social media, citing soil erosion from the construction site spilling onto nearby roads and posing future risks.

According to an official report, the inspection aimed to collect factual details to support potential legal action and forward the matter to relevant authorities. The report added that Karon Municipality would be contacted to

verify whether the construction had received the required legal permits.

The site in question, located along Soi Patak 12, had previously drawn attention from Phuket MP Chalermpong Saengdee, who visited the area last Friday (Apr 18) after vegetation had been cleared, leading to rain-induced erosion.

"We inspected the area where water was flowing down Soi Patak 12, in Tambon Karon, with local headman Dr Winai Chitchiew," MP Chalermpong said.

He identified the project as a capsule-style accommodation development currently under construction. Following heavy rainfall, sediment and sand washed down from the site, dirtying the road surface and causing concern among locals.

In response, construction was temporarily halted. Measures were put in place to reduce further erosion, including sandbags and coconut fiber mats to stabilize the soil. Water trucks were also deployed to clean the affected road.



Photo: PR Phuket

While the project supervisor claimed that permission for the development had been requested, no documentation had been provided to back the claim, MP Chalermpong noted.

"The municipality and relevant agencies will now be asked to confirm the legality of the project. Further investigation will follow," he said.

The Phuket News

Raid links to local politician

The Phuket News

editor@classactmedia.co.th

Authorities have raided four locations in central Phuket as part of a major crackdown on illegal cigarette distribution, uncovering a smuggling network allegedly linked to influential individuals in the area.

The operation, codenamed 'Secret Lion #Illegal Cigarettes Phuket V.2', was led by the Department of Provincial Administration (DOPA) following orders from Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, explained Ronnarong Thipsiri, Deputy Director-General of DOPA.

Mr Ronnarong was formerly a Vice Governor of Phuket.

The operation was launched after local residents tipped off officials about the widespread sale and transportation of untaxed cigarettes, Mr Ronnarong said.

More than 50 personnel, including administrative officials and members of the Volunteer Defense Corps (OrSor), were involved in the raids, which targeted key locations in Mueang District, including: Pratunam Ngern Shop and Sam Yaek Ban Suan Shop on Ratsadanusorn Rd in Ratsada, and a shop near a National Housing Authority estate



and a "warehouse-style room", both in Phuket Town.

Investigators found that the cigarettes were smuggled into Phuket by sea, using tour boats, and distributed to local shops by a network allegedly coordinated by an individual identified only as 'B'.

One key seller, known by the nickname 'Sergeant Waen' is believed to be part of the distribution chain. Some of the illicit goods were also transported via a private logistics company.

Officials also discovered that illegal cigarettes were being marketed online, including through the LINE OpenChat platform, which had attracted a large customer base. Several sale points had been modified with hidden exits to evade inspections.

A significant quantity of illegal cigarettes was seized, with initial estimates placing the damage to state tax revenue at over B4 million.

Three suspects were arrested and face charges under the Customs Act of 2017, including possession and sale of untaxed goods, illegal importation and concealment of smuggled items, Mr Ronnarong confirmed.

The network was found to belong to a politician who was one of the local council candidates in the area, said an official report of the raids.

The report did not name the politician.

In the past several months, there have been images appearing on social media with posts saying, "This network is a large network

of local politicians in the area that no agency dares to come and arrest", the report continued.

"This operation sends a clear message that the Department of Provincial Administration will not tolerate the illegal cigarette trade," Mr Ronnarong said.

"Apart from the loss of tax revenue, these counterfeit products pose a serious risk to public health due to unknown and potentially hazardous substances," he added.

Officials are urging the public to report any illegal activities or suspicious behaviour to the district, provincial, or Ministry of Interior Ombudsman Centers. Complaints can be made 24 hours a day by calling the national hotline at 1567.

METH BUST

Meanwhile, officials – again, not police – have arrested a man in Pa Khlok after a sting operation uncovered thousands of methamphetamine pills and a large quantity of crystal meth hidden in a rubber plantation.

The arrest, announced at a press conference last Friday (Apr 18), was the result of a coordinated effort led by the Thalang District Administrative Special Operations Unit

Also present at the briefing

were Phuket Vice Governor Adul Chuthong, Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Thiraphong Chuaychu and Thalang District Chief Siwat Rawangkun.

Vice Governor Adul said officers received a tip-off about a man suspected of selling drugs to teenagers in Baan Yamu, in Moo 7, Pa Khlok, and the surrounding areas.

Acting on the information, officers arranged for an undercover agent to purchase 100 methamphetamine pills (ya bah) for B2,400. The suspect, identified only as 'James' (name withheld by authorities), was arrested at the pre-arranged meeting spot along a roadside in Baan Yamu at 3pm that day.

Police seized 101 methamphetamine pills and the marked money used in the sting. During questioning, James reportedly confessed to hiding more drugs in nearby bushes within a rubber plantation.

A subsequent search uncovered a major stash of 6,932 ya bah pills and 182.97 grammes of crystal meth (ya ice).

Vice Governor Adul said the operation was part of an ongoing crackdown aimed at reducing drug-related crime and improving public safety in Phuket Province.

Tourists run down in Khao Lak

IN RESPONSE TO A ROAD accident that injured two German tourists in Takua Pa on Apr 15, Phang Nga Governor Pairot Petchyuan has ordered greater efforts to prevent road and marine accidents on the dangerous road.

The order came at a meeting at Phang Nga Provincial Hall on Apr 17, attended by Phang Nga Vice Governor Bancha Thanu-in, Phang Nga Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Somchai Suetotrakul, Phang Nga Provincial Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office (DDPM Phang Nga) Chief Kamolchanok Chiarawiwatwong and other key officials.

The discussion focused on the accident in which two German tourists were struck by a pickup while crossing at a zebra crossing on Phetkasem Rd near Khao Lak Post Office in Tambon Khuek Khak.

The German couple, identified as Phillip David Lothar, 34, and Linda Raub, 32, were seriously injured after being struck by a speeding pickup truck while pushing their one-year-and-eleven-month-old baby



Fiete Raub across a zebra crossing in Bang Niang at about 5pm.

The family were initially rushed to Khao Lak Hospital, where the parents were admitted to intensive care. The baby was reported to have sustained only minor injuries.

The driver of the pickup, identified only as 'Choei', 60, remained at the scene and was arrested and charged with reckless driving causing injuries.

The German family were taken for treatment to Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

Governor Pairot emphasised the importance of learning from the incident and swiftly implementing safety measures, said an official report of the meeting.

Among the key decisions made at the meeting, the Phuket Highways Office was instructed to repaint crosswalks red and white, add speed bumps, install

clearer speed limit signage and fix traffic lights near pedestrian crossings.

The Phang Nga Transport Office, Takua Pa District Office and Khao Lak Police will begin strict enforcement of traffic laws, targeting speeding and undisciplined driving among locals, taxi drivers and other public transport operators, the report said.

Takua Pa District Safety Center will meet with local transport operators and safety networks today to establish long-term accident prevention strategies, the report said.

"The province will pursue legal action decisively to demonstrate our commitment to tourist safety," Governor Pairot said. "This incident has impacted the image of Phang Nga's tourism, and we must act urgently and visibly to restore confidence."

On hearing of the horrific accident, Governor Pairot dispatched officials to visit Bangkok Hospital Phuket, where a gift basket was delivered on behalf of the province to the injured tourists. *The Phuket News*

Airport responds over cyber-hacked sign

THE PHUKET BRANCH of Airports of Thailand (AoT Phuket) has issued a statement following a cyberattack on Apr 8 caused unauthorised content to show on a screen at the international terminal.

AoT Phuket explained that the hacker accessed the system using leaked login details for the screen software and has pledged to strengthen security measures.

Reuntip Praikanarat, Director of the Management Department at AoT Phuket, apologised for the incident, saying the images harmed AoT Phuket's public image and raised serious security concerns.

Ms Reuntip shared the statement to *The Phuket News* detailing what happened on that day and assured that such an incident would not occur in the future.

The findings revealed that the User and Password of the Software Tools, called Magic Info, had been breached after the user credentials were



leaked, allowing the cyber attacker to alter the content shown on the screen.

According to the statement, the incident occurred around 7:30am, when staff at the airport discovered that a digital screen in the international departure check-in hall on the 3rd floor was displaying messages and images unrelated to the airport's services.

The digital signage is typically used to provide smart toilet guidance, showing information such as user density and directions to the nearest restroom facilities.

It is operated by a private service company under the supervision of AoT.

Therefore, the breach did not affect or compromise any other airport systems, the statement noted.

The screen was restored to normal operation by 9:45am, and AoT Phuket promptly launched an investigation to find the cause of the incident, the statement said.

The main AoT headquarters in Bangkok has informed its Communication and Computer Equipment Division of the incident to enhance future cyber protection protocols and airport personnel have been instructed to routinely inspect all digital signage for accuracy, AoT Phuket noted.

Also, the same Computer Equipment Division has been tasked with developing safeguards to prevent similar incidents from occurring again, AoT Phuket said.

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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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Wind 11 m/s

SAT APRIL 26

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Low: +28°
Wind 11 m/s

SUN APRIL 27

High: +35°
Low: +28°
Wind 11 m/s

MON APRIL 28

High: +35°
Low: +27°
Wind 4 m/s

TUE APRIL 29

High: +35°
Low: +28°
Wind 4 m/s

WED APRIL 30

High: +37°
Low: +28°
Wind 4 m/s

THU MAY 1

High: +36°
Low: +27°
Wind 4 m/s

Photo: Patong Police

Aussie arrested on Bangla with loaded gun

POLICE HAVE ARRESTED AN Australian man who was found carrying an illegal, loaded, firearm on Bangla Rd in Patong in the early hours of Monday morning (Apr 21).

The man, identified as 31-year-old Lachlan James McGahey, was arrested by police on standard patrol at about 3:40am.

McGahey was found carrying what was described as a 'Thai-made' .38-calibre handgun, along with eight rounds of PMC-brand ammunition.

The eight rounds were loaded into the gun's magazine.

Officers also seized a bullet holster and a black cloth pistol holster.

McGahey was arrested on the spot and taken to Patong Police Station.

He has been charged with possession of a firearm and ammunition without a permit, and carrying a firearm in a public area without a valid reason.

Legal proceedings were underway, police reported.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Kamala jet-ski operators arrested in raids by CIB

The Phuket News
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Officers from the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB), working with the Marine Police Division, have arrested five jet-ski operators for illegally renting out jet-skis to tourists.

Several operators were arrested at Kamala Beach, with one more arrested "at a pier in Koh Kaew", the CIB reported.

The five suspects arrested were identified as Kritsada Jaija, 32; Cherdchai Anuphraiwan, 31; Phanomphorn Phrom-ouan, 25; Bancherd Bulan, 40; and Anchalee Tiangnoi, 34.

Kritsada, Chetchai and Anchalee were all charged with operating a vessel without a license, a violation under Section 9 of the Thai Navigation Act B.E. 2481, as amended, the CIB confirmed.

Phanomporn who was found operating a vessel without carrying the required license, breaching Section 150 of the Navigation Act B.E. 2456.

Banjerd was charged with using an expired certificate (Section 282) and failing to keep the certificate on board (Section 284), both offenses under the amended Navigation Act.



Photo: CIB

The operators were using unregistered jet skis that lacked both names and registration numbers, in clear contravention of the Thai Water Navigation Act, the CIB said in its report.

The suspects were informed of the charges and their rights before being taken into custody.

They were handed over to investigators at Kamala Police Station and Phuket City Police Station for further legal proceedings, the CIB confirmed.

While the CIB said the arrests were part of an ongoing crackdown to enhance marine safety and regulate tourism-related businesses operating along the coast, the arrests also follow a crackdown at the beginning of Phuket's tourism high season late last year.

That crackdown, initiated under an order by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat, resulted in 72 illegal jet-skis "discovered" being rented out to

tourists in just a few weeks.

According to the plethora of official reports marking the weeks-long crackdown, the operators caught were fined B10,000 each – marking a net take in fines of at least B720,000 in less than a month.

However, the fines have obviously not deterred operators from continuing to illegally rent out jet-skis to tourists. The CIB report did not confirm whether or not any of the five arrested in this latest crackdown had already been arrested and fined for the same offence.

According to the *Bangkok Post*, the latest arrests were part of a "crackdown on scam gangs preying on tourists" and "high rental fees and exorbitant charges for 'damages' among frequent tourist complaints".

Yet the CIB report made no mention of the jet-ski operators being investigated for ripping off tourists.

Man beats girlfriend to death

OFFICERS ARRESTED A man late on Apr 13 for beating his girlfriend to death while under the influence of cannabis, according to police in Wichit.

Officers from Wichit Police Station responded to a report of a fatal assault at a row of shophouses near Soi Thanit at around 10:50pm. The incident occurred in room number 04, next to Soi Thanit Thurakij.

At the scene, police found the body of Supattra Sangthong, 28, lying with signs of severe assault, including facial bleeding and extensive bruising across her body.

Her boyfriend, Hatthanai Yuttitham, was found inside the room and taken into custody.

During questioning, Hatthanai admitted to physically assaulting Ms Supattra by slapping and punching her in the head, causing her to lose



Photo: Wichit Police

consciousness. She later died from her injuries.

Investigators believe Hatthanai was under the influence of cannabis at the time of the incident.

Forensic officers and a doctor from Vachira Phuket Hospital examined the scene and arranged for the body to be taken for a full post-mortem examination to confirm the cause of death.

Hatthanai was formally arrested at the scene and is now facing legal action, Wichit Police confirmed. *Eakkapop Thongtub*

Meat grinder mangles teen's hand

A 15-YEAR-OLD BOY HAD the fingers on his right hand mangled in a horrific accident at a butcher shop in Ratsada last Friday afternoon (Apr 18), when his hand became trapped in a meat grinder.

Emergency responders from the Kusoldharm Phuket Foundation, along with an advanced EMS unit from Vachira Phuket Hospital, were dispatched to the shop, located in Soi Siang Tai, near Mission Hospital Phuket, after receiving an urgent call reporting the incident.

Rescue workers arrived to find the teen, Barokat Intharat, from Koh Kaew, with his right hand jammed inside the industrial meat grinder.

Although visibly exhausted and in pain, he remained conscious. Rescue personnel spent nearly an hour using cutting and prying tools to carefully dismantle the grinder and free what remained of his hand.

First aid was administered on



Photo: Kusoldharm Phuket Foundation

site before he was transported to Vachira Phuket Hospital for further treatment.

According to witnesses, the accident occurred while Mr Barokat was operating the grinder. His hand slipped into the machine and a co-worker quickly shut it off before calling emergency services.

At last report officials were investigating how Mr Barokat's hand came to become jammed inside the grinder.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Zero deaths in Songkran 'Seven Days'

The Phuket News
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Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat has praised local officials for their efforts contributing to Phuket officially concluding the 'Seven Days of Danger' for Songkran 2025 with zero fatalities.

The 'strict enforcement' part of the annual road and marine safety campaign for the Songkran holidays was conducted this year from Apr 11-17.

Last year, Phuket officials recognised two people were killed and 47 people were injured in 49 road accidents across the island over the 'Seven Days' for Songkran.

Of note, to be recognised by officials as 'injured', accident victims must be admitted to hospital for treatment.

For the last day of the Seven Days campaign this year, Phuket officials recognised seven people injured in seven accidents on the island during the 24 hours of Apr 17.

However, national road safety agency ThaiRSC reported 63 people injured in road accidents during the same 24 hours.

ThaiRSC as of Apr 18 reported that 30 people had been killed and a further 9,597 people injured in road accidents in Phuket so far this year.



Governor Sophon praised local officials' efforts during the annual road-safety campaign. Photo: PR Phuket

For the whole Seven Days, from Apr 11-17, Phuket officials recognised 45 people injured in road accidents on the island, with no fatalities. The 45 injured comprised 27 in Mueang District, nine in Kathu District and nine in Thalang District.

Focusing on the positive, Governor Sophon at a meeting of officials at Phuket Provincial Hall on Apr 18 said, "The absence of fatalities during this year's Songkran Festival reflects the dedication and cooperation of all involved sectors.

"I thank all government offices, the private sector, and our citizens for their commitment to safety. Phuket will now assess lessons learned and continue developing more effective safety measures. This cooperation is key to making Phuket a safe and sustainable

tourist destination," he added.

At the meeting, Wichit Sutthaso, Chief of the Provincial Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office (DDPM Phuket), noted that of the 45 people injured in road accidents during this year's campaign, 27 were men and 18 were women.

Of those injured, 31 were Thai nationals, while 14 were foreigners, including individuals from Myanmar, Tunisia, Russia, Switzerland, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and Australia, he added.

Speeding was cited as the primary cause of accidents, while the most common risky behaviour was riding without a helmet. Most incidents involved motorbikes, Mr Wichit also noted.

POLICE ACTION

Police recorded a total of 5,060

arrests and issued 241 warnings for 10 key traffic violations during the week, according to a report from the Phuket Provincial Police.

The strict enforcement campaign, conducted between Apr 11-17, targeted violations contributing to road accidents, particularly during the high-risk Songkran holidays.

The top offense was failure to wear a helmet, with 1,376 arrests and 111 warnings issued — totalling 1,487 cases, police reported.

However, their own report marked that 2,971 cases — including 2,917 arrests and 54 warnings issued — were for people operating a vehicle without a valid driver's license.

Other common violations included drunk driving (161) and failure to fasten a seatbelt (229). Motorbikes that were illegally modified accounted for 143 cases, while speeding (16), ignoring traffic lights (132) and illegal overtaking (46) also featured prominently.

The 10 priority offenses and their totals, as presented in the police report, were:

- Not wearing a helmet — 1,376 arrests and 111 warnings issued - totalling 1,487 cases
- Unsafe motorbike modifica-

tions — 135 arrests and 8 warnings issued - totalling 143 cases

- Drunk driving — 161 arrests and no warnings issued - totalling 161 cases

- No seatbelt — 202 arrests and 27 warnings issued - totalling 229 cases

- No driver's license — 2,917 arrests and 54 warnings issued - totalling 2,971 cases

- Speeding — 16 arrests and no warnings issued - totalling 16 cases

- ignoring traffic lights — 116 arrests and 16 warnings issued - totalling 132 cases

- Wrong-way driving — 54 arrests and 11 warnings issued - totalling 65 cases

- Overtaking in a tight spot — 37 arrests and 9 warnings issued - totalling 46 cases

- Using mobile phones while driving — 46 arrests and 5 warnings issued - totalling 51 cases

Also of concern was that a rental operator allowed a 14-year-old Swiss tourist to hire a car. The rental operator was fined B2,000.

Following the briefing, the governor formally declared the closure of Phuket's Operation Center for the Prevention and Reduction of Road and Marine Accidents for the Songkran Festival 2025.

Alan Morison passes away

ALAN MORISON, VETERAN journalist and founder of the renowned local news blog Phuket Wan, has passed away after a year-long battle against cancer.

Since news of his passing on Apr 18, an outpouring of condolences to his friends and family, and his partner Thai journalist Chutima 'Oi' Sidasathien, has flowed online.

Alan came to Phuket in 2002, fresh from Hong Kong, where he worked reporting directly online for CNN.

He joined the *Phuket Gazette*, where he made immediate impact tackling critical issues, delivering a switch of pace for local news with page one stories like 'The Devil Rides Out'.

The seminal article spotlighted the surge in road accident deaths across the island during a time when Phuket was on its rise to becoming the most dangerous province in a country that was soon to hold the title of the most dangerous country in the world for road accidents.

Alan left the *Phuket Gazette* to launch Phuket Wan with Chutima, through which they continued to tackle issues critical to the



Alan and Chutima. Photo: FCCT

island, and then beyond.

As the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand noted, Alan is best known in Thailand for the courageous stand he and Chutima took against the Royal Thai Navy after they were prosecuted for criminal defamation in late 2013 over a story on the trafficking of Rohingyas posted on Phuket Wan.

The pair faced up to seven years in jail, but still refused a deal which required them to apologise, and after much international attention to their plight were eventually acquitted in September 2015.

Alan and Chutima shared regional SIPA awards for Investigative Reporting and Human Rights Reporting over the issue.

Following up with Alan and Chutima on their understanding of the

Rohingya trafficking in Thailand and the pair's local connections, Reuters reporters ended up being bestowed a Pulitzer Prize for their reports.

Alan already had two Walkley Awards for his reports working with the *The Age* newspaper in Melbourne.

Alan's wry sense of honour and at times wicked way of antagonising people into spirited action was often seen clearly in his response to comments on Phuket Wan, provoking people into deeper thought or even testing them to challenge their own understanding of issues in play.

His motto, oft repeated: "Comfort the afflicted, afflict the comfortable".

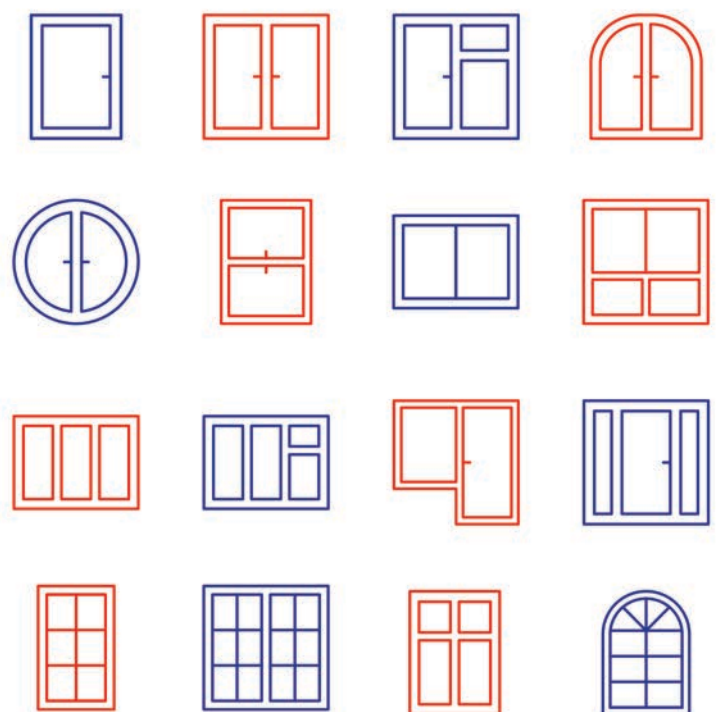
Phuket was lucky to call Alan Morison one of our own. Like him or not, he was one of our best.

Our sincerest condolences to Chutima and all who knew Alan well. He will be missed.

Chutima is continuing her fight with her own health issues. From the bottom of our hearts, we wish her the very best in her recovery. *Chris Husted*



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Songkran brings B8.3bn boost

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket saw a major tourism boost during this year's Songkran Festival, with more than 523,000 travelers passing through the province by air, according to figures from the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket Office.

From Apr 12-16, both Thai and international visitors flocked to the island for the traditional Thai New Year celebrations, with a total of 3,225 domestic and international flights recorded at Phuket International Airport.

The province's festive atmosphere was felt across all districts, with hotels seeing high occupancy rates. Of the 104,268 rooms across 1,883 hotels in Phuket, the average occupancy rate reached 80.90%. Visitors stayed an average of 4.23 days.

The TAT estimated total tourism revenue for the island during the festival period at about B8.3 billion. Of that, around B790 million came from domestic tourists, while foreign visitors contributed about B7.5bn. The average spending per person per day was estimated at B7,032.

Tourism officials said the figures reflect Phuket's strong recovery and continued appeal as



Photo: NBT

a top holiday destination during Thailand's most celebrated festival.

STRONG START

TAT Phuket this week reported a robust start to 2025, with tourism revenue reaching B149 billion in the first quarter.

A total of 3.89 million visitors, both domestic and international, travelled to Phuket between January and March, said TAT Phuket Director Siriwan Seeharach.

"Phuket receives 17,000 to 18,000 international tourists per day, and about 8,000 to 10,000 Thai tourists per day. We hope these figures will increase," she said.

TAT Phuket is shifting its focus towards the domestic

market, especially younger Thai travellers with lifestyle-oriented preferences, to sustain momentum through the Green Season running from April to October.

"We want to attract a new generation of Thai tourists with activities that blend experience, nature, and community," she said.

Kicking off the season was the 'Phuket SUP Rally: Paddle in Paradise', held on the first weekend of this month at the mangrove-lined Tha Chatchai community, targeting affluent adventure-seekers.

This was followed by 'Sip & Chill: Zoociety', a three-day lifestyle event running from Friday to Sunday at Saphan Hin Public Park, in collaboration with Phuket City Municipality.

Ms Siriwan said the Sip & Chill is in its second year. The event features 50 food and lifestyle vendors, local workshops and live seaside music. TAT expects the event to generate B2mn revenue this year, up from B1.7mn in 2024.

Later in the year, the office will promote the internationally renowned Phuket Vegetarian Festival, with expanded marketing efforts in partnership with TAT headquarters and local tourism associations, she said.

Internationally, Phuket continues to attract visitors from Russia, China, India, the UK, Germany and the Middle East, which is showing a post-Ramadan recovery, she added.

The Chinese market is stabilising with more non-group tour travellers, while US and Kazakh markets also remain strong, Ms Siriwan noted.

ONLINE TM6

Thai authorities have reminded all foreign tourists planning trips to the country that they will need to fill out a Thailand Digital Arrival Card (TDAC) at least three days before travelling, starting on April 28 for arrivals on May 1.

The simple application, replacing the traditional TM.6

paper form, can be completed on the TDAC website, said deputy government spokesman Anukool Pruksanusak. A TDAC mobile app for Android and iOS users is expected to be ready soon, reports the Bangkok Post.

The TDAC will replace the TM6 form, which all visitors had to complete in order to clear immigration. The use of TM6 cards has been suspended since last year.

Travellers must input personal details, passport information, travel itinerary, accommodation and health status.

Once they fill out the TDAC form, travellers will receive a confirmation email to present alongside travel documents upon arrival in Thailand.

"TDAC is not a visa but a digital entry form aimed at improving convenience and compliance with international standards. It applies to all entry routes – land, sea and air," Mr Anukool said.

Instructions are available in five languages: English, Chinese, Korean, Russian and Japanese. Immigration authorities are working with related agencies, including the E-Visa system, public health screening and tourism fee platforms, to streamline arrivals.

Call for infrastructure boost

PHUKET TOURISM OPERATORS submitted a white paper focusing on the Cherng Talay area to the Phuket governor last month, asking for infrastructure improvement to accommodate rising demand in the tourism and property markets.

Bill Barnett, Managing Director of hospitality consultancy C9 Hotelworks, said public infrastructure and facilities on the island are lagging constant growth, considering the future pipeline.

The paper assesses existing conditions and insights for the Cherng Talay area, such as demographics, traffic congestion hotspots and real estate development, including hotel, residences and commercial.

As of 2024, there were 3,863 hotel rooms in the Cherng Talay area, with 1,194 new rooms projected to open between 2024 and 2028.

As a development hotspot, 18,138 new residential units in 104 projects are expected to be completed by 2035, in addition to the current tally of nearly 14,000 registered residences.

The area already has commercial projects, such as Boat Avenue and Porto de Phuket, while upcoming developments such as Boat Avenue Lakefront could potentially attract more retailers.

Schools in the area are also recording increased enrolment, aligning with population growth.

Mr Barnett said these increasing developments put pressure on existing



Traffic in Cherng Talay during the high season. Photo: Courtesy of Phuket OK

resources and highlights the need for public infrastructure improvements.

The report suggested ramping up infrastructure, such as adopting a floor area ratio system to support higher density development and efficient land usage.

The paper recommended that bus feeder lines connect different areas to the proposed Light Rail network.

These feeder lines would help reduce the use of private vehicles, as well as enhance long-term sustainable tourism goals.

Moreover, the report suggested relocating overhead power and telecom cables underground, allowing for road lane expansion.

Developing flyovers and bypass roads at key intersections is also crucial for areas with traffic congestion, such as the police station and Boat Avenue intersection.

For sustainable growth, Phuket should also expand the number of green spaces, as well as pedestrian and cycle lanes, noted the report. *Bangkok Post*

Illegal foreign guides hinder sector

ILLEGAL FOREIGN TOUR GUIDES, including Chinese and other nationalities, are still operating in major tourist destinations, surviving by paying monthly bribes to officers, according to the Professional Tourist Guides Association of Thailand.

Paisarn Suethanuwong, a committee member of the association, said illegal foreign tour guides and nominee businesses during the past high season remained severe issues and continued to hamper the tourism industry.

Foreigners of various nationalities have flocked to Thailand to perform these jobs, with some even establishing their own companies using Thai nominees, notably those from Russia, India and Vietnam, he said.

Recent news reports found a former Israeli special task force offered tours to children in Koh Pha-ngan, while a South Korean illegally worked as a tour guide in Pattaya.

Mr Paisarn said foreign tour guides are typically found in major tourist cities, such as Bangkok, Pattaya, Chiang Mai and Phuket.

Many of them sold tour packages via online platforms and social media, exploiting their entry permits, such as the 60-day visa exemption, long-stay visas or even using the student visa as a cover, he said.

Mr Paisarn said roughly half of tour companies offering inbound tour packages are nominee businesses entirely managed by foreigners to target tourists of the same nationality, and hiring foreign guides to accommodate them.



The Professional Tourist Guides Association of Thailand says illegal tour guides and nominee tour businesses can still be found in major destinations across the country. Photo: Nutthawat Wichieanbut / Bangkok Post

"Paying bribes to officers on a regular basis has become a typical practice in the tourism industry," he said.

Though some illegal guides have been arrested, there are still many who bribe officers every month to run their business without interruption, said Mr Paisarn.

In many cases, those found guilty were not prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

He said he agreed with the government's plan to reduce the visa-free period for foreigners to 30 days, as this could help solve the issue to a certain extent.

At a minimum, it would be more difficult for visitors as they would be required to exit and re-enter when their visa-free period expired, said Mr Paisarn.

He said it is essential for the government to restore public confidence in Thailand's law enforcement, which should work to prevent further illegal and nominee businesses.

"Thailand has a problem with loose law enforcement," said Mr Paisarn.

Bangkok Post

DSI seeks trio over ownership

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

A search is underway for three Thai executives of China Railway No.10 (Thailand) Co who are wanted by authorities in connection with the collapse of the State Audit Office building during the Mar 28 earthquake, which killed dozens of workers.

The search was announced by the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) after it arrested Zhang Chuanling, a Chinese national working as an executive at China Railway No.10 (Thailand) Co, at a hotel in the Ratchadaphisek neighbourhood last Saturday (Apr 19).

The three suspects – identified as Manas Sri-anan, Prachuap Sirikhet and Sophon Meechai – along with Mr Zhang, are listed as executives of the Thai company, which formed a joint venture with Italian-Thai Development Plc, that won the contract to build the ill-fated 30-storey State Audit Office building in Chatuchak district.

The DSI said its investigation into the company's shareholding structure found that 51% of the company was ostensibly held by the Thai nationals – with Mr Sophon holding 40.7997% of the shares, Mr Prachuap holding 10.2%, and Mr Manas 0.0003% – while Mr Zhang held the remaining 49%.

Investigators suspect these shares were held on behalf of foreign actors, in violation of the Foreign Business



China Railway No.10 Engineering Group staff hold a sign that says 'A celebration of completion of the State Audit Office building's structural work' in front of the now-collapsed office on Apr 3, 2024. Photo: Supplied

Act (1999). With the evidence pointing to the use of nominee shareholders, the DSI asked the Criminal Court to issue arrest warrants for the four executives.

Investigators tracked Mr Zhang to his hotel and brought him to DSI's headquarters on Chaeng Watthana Road for questioning. Efforts are now underway to locate the whereabouts of the three Thai executives, who are still at large.

Multiple investigations into other irregularities surrounding the building's construction are ongoing, including a probe into the allegation that substandard steel was used in the project, contributing to the building's collapse.

The Iron and Steel Institute of Thailand were to start examining 40

steel samples collected from the site on Monday (Apr 21). The tests will assess whether the steel meets the Thai Industrial Standards Institute's standard. If the materials prove to be substandard, legal action will be taken against those responsible.

Meanwhile, Xin Ke Yuan Steel Co, which supplied steel for the project, will talk to the media regarding the quality of the materials used in the building.

Separately, the Anti-Corruption Organization of Thailand (ACT) criticised Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra for providing vague and delayed responses following the collapse, while urging the PM to ensure transparency in the investigation.

National road accidents over Songkran claim 253 lives

BANGKOK

THE 'SEVEN DANGEROUS days' of travelling on the road in Thailand for this year's Songkran holidays ended on Thursday, Apr 17, with the accumulated death toll reaching 253, a 12% decline from the same period last year.

The Road Safety Operation Centre reported last Friday (Apr 18) that there were 147 traffic accidents, 145 injuries and 22 deaths on the last day of the period. This led to a total of 1,538 accidents and 1,495 injuries recorded between Apr 11 and Apr 17.

The number of accidents was 24.8% lower than last year, resulting in fewer deaths and injuries. In the same seven-day period in 2024, there were 2,044 accidents with 2,060 injuries and 287 deaths.

The provinces with the most recorded accidents this year were Phatthalung (63), Lam-



A fatal accident in Nakhon Ratchasima on Apr 17. Photo: Bangkok Post

pang (52) and Narathiwat (49), while Bangkok saw the highest number of deaths at 19.

Six out of 76 provinces reported zero fatalities. They were Nakhon Nayok, Phichit, Phuket, Ranong, Satun and Sing Buri.

Motorcycles remained the most involved vehicles in the accidents, followed by pickup trucks and sedans. The fatalities involved people aged between 20 and 29 years old, with 64.67% being male victims.

Bangkok Post

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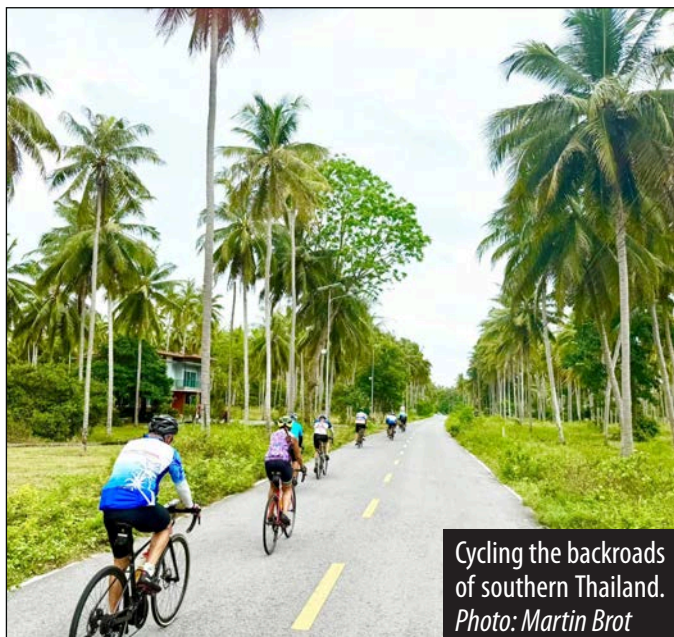
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Khao Sok National Park. Photo: Lakklontiew



Cycling the backroads of southern Thailand. Photo: Martin Brot



Intimate temples punctuate southern Thailand's countryside. Photo: Supplied

Road tripping through Southern Thailand



GLOBETROTTER

Todd Miller

Just beyond Phuket's shores lies an eclectic region of sleepy fishing villages, ancient rainforests, postcard-perfect coastlines and limestone karsts that pierce the sky. Thailand's southern peninsula, sandwiched between the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea, makes for a fantastic multi-day circular road trip.

For extra fun, we did this road trip on bicycles. Regardless of your prefer-

ence between two wheels or four, you'll discover a Thailand where sea dragons turned to stone, jungle paths lead to flowers that smell worse than durian, and the kingdom's most unusual residents – pink dolphins – become unexpected companions. Some of our highlights on this road trip included:

Phang Nga Bay: Where James Bond goes for geology

James Bond may have visited 'Khao Phing Kan' (now forever known as 'James Bond Island') in *The Man with the Golden Gun*, but what Agent 007 failed to mention in his report was that these dramatic limestone formations were once coral reefs.

Around 250 million years ago, these marine skyscrapers were submerged beneath ancient seas before tectonic shifts dramatically elevated them. The locals have a more poetic explanation: the formations are petrified dragons who tried to steal the moon.

Approaching these giants on two wheels offers a perspective motorists miss – the gradual reveal of each karst as you round corners on coastal roads. I've visited Phang Nga Bay at least 50 times over the years. Each visit reveals new secrets: hidden lagoons accessible only at certain tides, caves with ancient wall paintings missed by hurried tour groups, and the ever-changing play of light on limestone that transforms the seascape hourly.

Khao Sok National Park: The Jurassic Park Thailand never advertises

The approach to Khao Sok National Park features some of the trip's most challenging ascents – but the ancient rainforest canopy provides blessed shade. This rainforest is older than the Amazon by about 50 million years and cycling through it feels like pedaling back in time. Whether you're exploring the park by foot or on the water, you're in for some surprises – like the giant Rafflesia flowers that smell like decomposing flesh, and glowing fungi that locals use as natural nightlights.

The artificial lake at Khao Sok National Park, known officially as Cheow Lan Lake, is one of Thailand's most spectacular hidden treasures. In 1982 when the Ratchaprapha Dam was built on the Klong Saeng River, this yielded a vast body of emerald-green water. What makes this lake truly remarkable is its otherworldly landscape. Hundreds of limestone karst formations rise dramatically from the water, creating a scene that looks like it belongs in a fantasy film.

How we travelled

We joined Siam Bike Tour's 12-day Southern Thailand Cycling Tour, a moderate-grade tour involving 1,000km of cycling and 5,000m of cumulative climbing over 10 stages. Siam Bike Tours delivers excellent concierge-style support. This includes cold towels during breaks and daily shoe, helmet and water bottle cleaning service, plus full mechanical and logistical support.

The tour originates and ends in Cherg Talay and traverses Phang Nga, Krabi and Surat Thani provinces. The tour also visits Krabi, Surat Thani, Khao Lak and other intermediate towns. The island's southern roads are remarkably well-paved yet mostly gloriously empty, a cyclist's dream.

Our two favourite hotels on this road trip are the Avanti Plus on Koh Lanta and the Khanom Beach Resort in Khanom. We enjoyed spacious and well-appointed private villas at both properties, but the Avanti offered the perk of a private plunge pool overlooking the water – a welcome respite after a hard, hot day of cycling.

Adventurer and author Todd Miller has explored more than 115 countries. He authored the Amazon bestseller *ENRICH: Create Wealth in Time, Money, and Meaning*. His writing has featured in *CNBC*, *Fast Company*, and *Newsweek*. www.enrich101.com



The June/July 2025 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.

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Understanding why macros matter

WELLTHWISE

Libby Heath

Most people know how to count calories. Fewer people know what those calories are made of and that is where nutrition really starts to matter. Enter macros. Short for macronutrients, macros are the proteins, fats and carbohydrates that make up the food you eat – and they play a huge role in how your body looks, feels and functions. Whether your goal is to build muscle, lose fat or just feel better in your own skin, learning how to balance your macros can completely change your approach to food.

What roles do macros play?

Proteins are the building blocks of muscles, tissues and enzymes; facilitating growth, repair and overall maintenance of bodily structures. They are the most filling macronutrient because they reduce the hunger hormone ghrelin, increase satiety hormones like peptide YY and GLP-1 and slow down digestion, keeping you full longer. They are necessary for increasing muscle mass and help preserve muscle when you are restricting calories. Some of the best sources are eggs, chicken, fish, tofu, yogurt and beans.

Fats, often misunderstood, are crucial for energy storage, cellular function and hormone production. They also aid in the absorption of fat-soluble vitamins like A, D, E and K. Fats take longer to digest, so you feel full longer. They also add flavour and texture, which boosts satisfaction and reduces cravings. But do not overdo it – fats are calorie dense, so a little goes a long way. Some of the best sources are avocados, nuts, seeds, olive oil, full fat dairy and fatty fish.

Carbohydrates, for most people, are the body's primary energy source; fueling our daily activities and supporting brain function. They can be your best friend or your worst enemy depending on what type you are eating – simple or complex.

Simple carbs are made of one or two sugar molecules, which means they digest swiftly, causing a surge in blood glucose. When glucose enters your bloodstream rapidly, the pancreas hastily releases a corresponding amount of insulin, which acts to move glucose out of the bloodstream and into cells. If your body does not need energy then, the glucose is often stored as fat, especially in the abdominal region.

A rapid insulin response can cause a sharp drop in blood glucose, hence the 'crash', which leaves you feeling tired, cranky, foggy and hungry for more. Your body responds to this danger mode with an increase in the stress hormone cortisol, which helps return blood glucose to a normal level. Unfortunately, the elevated cortisol causes you to be stuck in a stress mode that disrupts sleep, suppresses immune function, breaks down muscle and impacts mental health.

Frequent spikes and crashes can wear down your insulin response over time, leading to insulin resistance, en-



Photo: fcafotodigital / AFP

ergy imbalance, cravings and eventually issues like metabolic syndrome or type 2 diabetes. They can trigger chronic low-grade inflammation, which is linked to everything from heart disease to wrinkles. The swings can also disrupt the function of hormones like thyroid, sex hormones and more.

Sugar does not just mess with your blood, it also messes with your brain. It causes a release of dopamine, the feel-good neurotransmitter, which sends the signal: "That was amazing! Do it again!" Your brain starts to associate sugar with reward. The connection grows stronger; the more often you eat sugar, your brain wants more, even when you are not hungry. Over time, your tolerance level increases and you need more sugar to get the same "high". Candy, soda, baked goods, white bread, white rice and many ultra processed foods are all culprits. Does that doughnut still look good?

Superheroes

Thank goodness for complex carbohydrates, the nutritional superheroes! Almost all complex carbs are derived from plants and have long chains of sugar molecules, which means they digest slowly, causing a gradual blood glucose release, longer lasting energy and less pancreatic stress. They are often packed with two kinds of fibre: soluble, which slows glucose absorption for a steady release of energy and acts as a prebiotic by feeding the good bacteria in the gut; and insoluble, which keeps digestion regular.

The fibre also keeps you feeling full longer and reduces the urge to overeat. Additionally, complex carbohydrates moderate insulin release, preventing the rapid spikes and crashes associated with simple sugars. This steady insulin response helps maintain balanced energy levels and reduces the risk of insulin resistance. Cortisol is preserved for judicious use. Metabolism, immune response and even mood are positively influenced as well.

Whole grains like oats, brown rice and quinoa; legumes like beans and lentils and vegetables are abundantly available sources. Whole fruits, even though they have sugar, are great because they have fibre. Fruit juice alone is another story; consider that a glucose bomb. Pair these complex carbs with

high quality protein and healthy fats and you have a meal that supports all aspects of your physical and cognitive well-being.

Want an easy hack? Start EVERY meal with a fibrous, non-starchy vegetable to prime the digestive system for a gradual glucose release. Think leafy greens, broccoli, cauliflower and cucumbers. Eating fibre first creates a gel-like barrier in your small intestine which slows down the absorption of glucose from everything you eat afterwards. Salad first, then your balanced meal, bread for dessert!

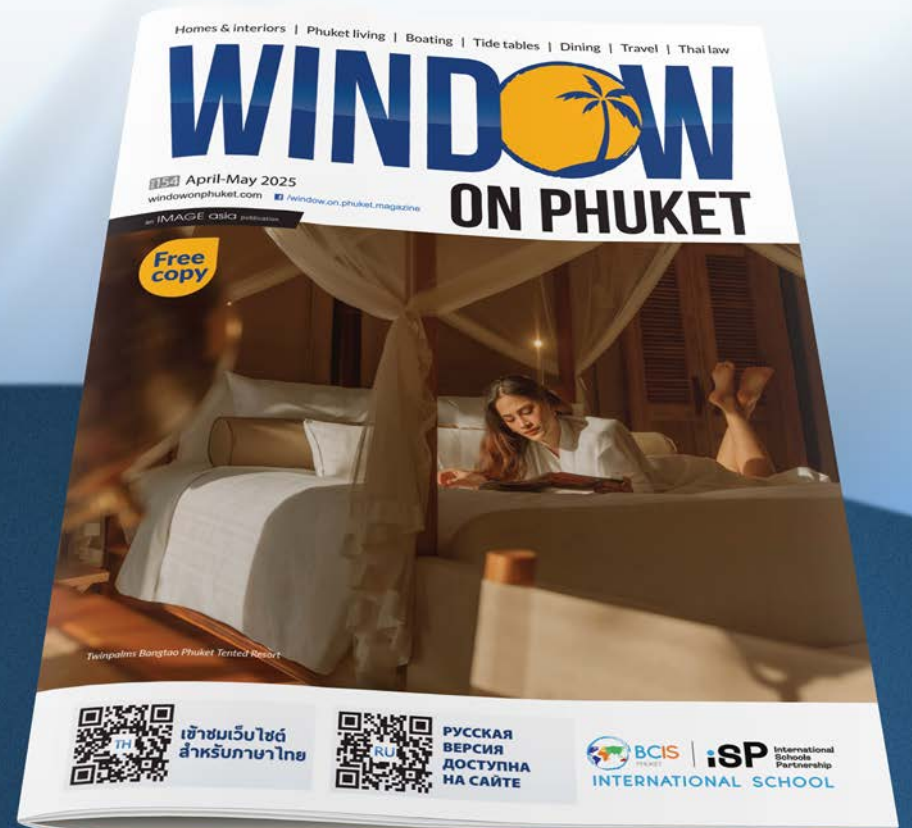
What should the ratios be? It depends. There is no one-size-fits-all proportion and some experimentation is required. For example, my current metabolic focus is on increasing muscle mass. Because protein is necessary to build muscle and protein metabolism diminishes with age, my meals have a higher proportion of protein. Each person has a 'muscle building ceiling' per meal; too much protein gets converted to glucose or stored as fat. I monitor my intake the old-fashioned way – by how I feel. The body doesn't lie. There are technologies and apps that can help. You do you.

This I do know: the body loves consistency. Regular meal schedules, regardless of what time they occur, are one of the best ways to manage hunger and satiety signals. Consider the sources of the food you eat; is it real food? Build meals that support your energy, goals and long-term wellness. You don't have to be perfect, but being mostly good goes a long way. Ask yourself, is it high quality fuel? Does it nourish you? Are you really hungry? If you can say "yes", then bon appetit!

Libby Heath recently became the first Mayo Clinic certified wellness coach in Asia. She shares her insights and advice through her column 'Wellthwise' here in The Phuket News. Please note that if you have a condition that requires medical treatment, consult your doctor. Contact Libby at: BeWellthwise@gmail.com.

WINDOW ON PHUKET

April/May 2025 issue



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POP QUIZ

1. New York City comprises how many boroughs: 5; 6; 7; or 12?

2. What is the pen-name of novelist Mary Ann Evans (1819-80)?

3. What is the lair of a fox?

4. Where did Panama hats originate?

5. Which country invented baseball?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across

1. Young salmon

6. Kisser

10. Droops

14. Lowest point

15. ___ believer

16. Small gull

17. 1952 novel, with The

20. Split

21. Rowboat adjunct

22. Not too brainy

25. ___ Rebellion of 1857-59

26. Twisted

30. Hoodlum

32. Fuse

35. Sniff out

41. Author of 17 and 63

Across

43. Meager

44. Broad view

45. Square

47. Che or gen followers

48. Item with a ladder

53. Pastoral poems (var.)

56. Wheels for mom

58. Lest

63. 1929 novel

66. Cost of living?
67. Ashtabula's lake

68. Exhaust

69. Deuce topper

70. Turned blue, maybe

71. Interesting

Down

1. Prig

2. French Sudan, today

3. Betting data

4. Beer garnish

5. ___ housing

6. "Harper Valley ___"

7. Ashes holder

8. Logic game

9. "La Scala di ___" (Rossini opera)

10. Inscribed stone

11. Greek moralist

12. Artist, with El

13. Sinuous

18. ___ degree

19. "48___"

23. Yen

24. Sang like a canary

26. Scores high

27. Do the trick
28. Doctor Who villainess, with The

29. Big bang matter

31. Beam

33. Sixth sense

34. Peeper problem

36. "Walking on Thin Ice" singer

37. Shrek, e.g.

38. Holiday opener

39. Weak

40. Young falcon

42. Lots

46. Napa Valley area

48. Sting

49. Certain inmate

50. Empty

51. Kind of pool

52. "Give It To You" rapper

54. Illuminated

55. Muzzle

57. Blown away

59. Hombre's home

60. "Iliad" warrior

61. Blue books?

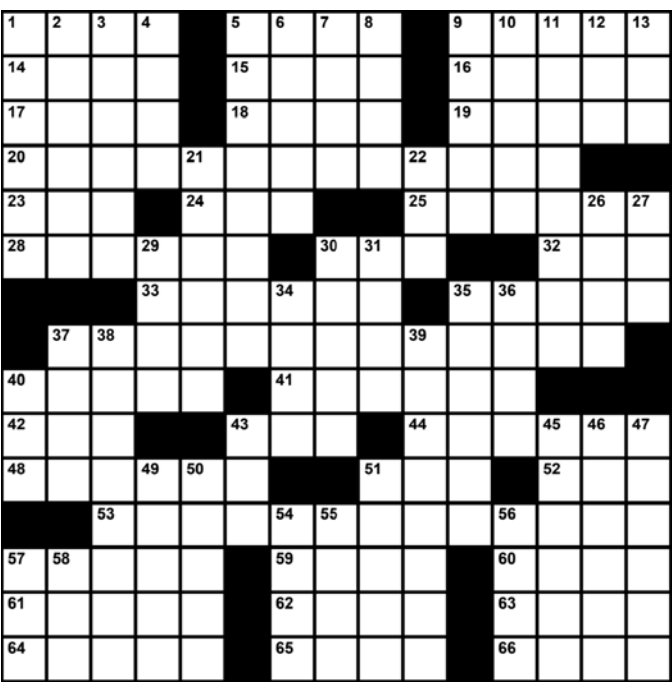
62. See

64. Go horizontal

65. Directed

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) 5; 2) George Eliot; 3) Earth; 4) Ecuador; 5) England



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

17

syllables are contained in the Japanese three-line verse known as Haiku

116

years is actually how long the 100 Years War lasted

1966

was the year ISBN numbers were introduced to the UK

23,000

people work at The Pentagon, the highest-occupancy office building in the world

9.1 billion

people worldwide have a mobile phone subscription

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW

A spot of fishing near the Sarasin Bridge. Photo by Mila Pashina

Got an unusual or particularly beautiful picture of Phuket? Email it to editor3@classactmedia.co.th

This week in history

Apr 25, 1792

Highwayman Nicolas J. Pelletier becomes the first person executed by guillotine.

Apr 26, 1933

The Gestapo, the official secret police force of Nazi Germany, is established by Hermann Göring.

Apr 27, 1521

Explorer Ferdinand Magellan

Apr 28, 1967

Boxer Muhammad Ali refuses his induction into the United States Army and is subsequently stripped of his championship and license.

Apr 29, 1770

James Cook arrives in Aus-

Apr 30, 1905

Albert Einstein completes his doctoral thesis at the University of Zurich.

May 1, 1994

Three-time Formula One champion Ayrton Senna is killed in an accident during the San Marino Grand Prix.

Ayrton Senna.

tralia at Botany Bay, which he names.

Source: Wikipedia

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QAV RESIDENCE OPEN HOUSE

QAV Residence proudly hosted their first Open House, on Apr 10, as an early celebration of Songkran, in collaboration with their valued partners: Siam Sports Pro, Courtside Café and Live More Wellness Clinic. The event welcomed friends from the property industry, partner hotels and VIP clients. Over 150 guests joined for a festive evening filled with classic Thai dishes, refreshing drinks and a vibrant social atmosphere. Guests arrived early and stayed late into the evening. QAV Residence is an exclusive community of just 35 beautifully crafted homes, offering 3 to 5+ bedrooms. Perched on an elevated site on Pasak Soi 8, the development boasts sweeping mountain views and cooling natural breezes. Each villa has been thoughtfully designed to embrace these elements. Over 50% of villas have already been sold. Depending on the home type, they can deliver new homes within 6 to 15 months. A limited number of plots remain available for clients seeking a fully bespoke villa tailored to their vision. All owners benefit from the facilities offered at the Siam Sports Pro Tennis Academy, Live More Clinic, Courtside Cafe and upcoming QAV Wellness Centre that will include a 1400 sq metre gym, Japanese onsen, Yoga, Pilates and more. For more info visit qavlife.com



SUPALAI JUDO CLUB AT THE PENANG INVITATIONAL JICA JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

Held in Penag over the dates Apr 11-13, five athletes from Supalai Judo Club Phuket picked up a number of medals. Kiichi claimed gold in the under 40kg division, Sota claimed gold in the over 45kg, Tomo claimed gold in the under 66kg, Timur claimed silver in the under 55kg. Gabin faced a strong opponent and a good friend from Perth, Australia, in his first match. Though he didn't win, it was an honour to compete — true judo spirit. Well done to all the children, coach Thiti and Penang Championship organisers. For more info IG: [supalai_judo_club_phuket](https://www.instagram.com/supalai_judo_club_phuket)

Suryavanshi, 14, becomes the IPL's youngest player

CRICKET

INDIAN BATTER VAIBHAV Suryavanshi made history last Saturday (Apr 19) as the youngest ever IPL player at 14 years old after Rajasthan Royals brought him in as their impact substitute against Lucknow Super Giants.

Suryavanshi, a left-hand batsman, earned a deal in the lucrative T20 tournament after Rajasthan bought him for US\$130,500 (B4.3 million) in the November auction when he was still aged just 13.

At 14 years and 23 days, Suryavanshi easily beat the previous record for the IPL's youngest debutant held by Prayas Ray Barman, who was 16 years and 157 days old when he played for Royal Challengers Bengaluru in 2019.

The teenager opened the innings alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal and made an instant impact when he smacked his first ball for a six.



Suryavanshi (right). Photo: AFP

The baby-faced Suryavanshi, called 'Boss Baby' – a popular animated film – by the TV commentators, smashed 34 before being stumped off South African spinner Aiden Markram.

The youngster hit two fours and three sixes to put on 85 runs for the first wicket with Jaiswal, who has played 19 Tests for India.

Suryavanshi comes from India's poorest state, Bihar, and his father is a farmer and part-time journalist.

He is an explosive batter and rose to prominence with a 58-ball century in an Under-19 Test against Australia – the second fastest ton in youth Tests after England's Moeen Ali, who hit 100 in 56 balls in 2005. *AFP*

Piastrri power rules in Saudi

FORMULA ONE

AFP

McLaren's Oscar Piastrri won the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix last Sunday (Apr 20) from Red Bull polesitter Max Verstappen to lead the world championship for the first time in his career.

Charles Leclerc's Ferrari completed the podium for this fifth round of the season under the floodlights at the Jeddah Corniche Circuit.

Piastrri's third win this year was in large part decided at the first turn, when Verstappen picked up a five-second penalty for gaining an advantage after going off the track.

He becomes the first Australian to lead the drivers' standings since his agent, Mark Webber, 15 years ago.

"Definitely one of the toughest races I've had in my career so I'm happy I could come out on top," said Piastrri, who crossed the line 2.843 seconds clear of the four-time world champion.

Piastrri's McLaren teammate Lando Norris, who went into the weekend leading the standings, took fourth ahead of the two Mercedes of George Russell and Kimi Antonelli.

As the sun dipped and the tension rose, the lights went out at the world's fastest street circuit, a strip of asphalt hugging a lagoon on the Red Sea coastline.

Piastrri got off to a flyer and was upsides Verstappen at the first corner



Piastrri celebrates his win on the podium. Photo: AFP

but the Dutchman cut the chicane prompting Piastrri to tell his team: "He needs to give that back, I was ahead."

"He just forced me off," was Verstappen's verdict.

Behind, Verstappen's teammate Yuki Tsunoda and Pierre Gasly's Alpine tangled, bringing out the safety car and taking them both out of the race.

Racing resumed on lap three with news that Verstappen had been slapped with a five-second penalty for leaving the track and gaining an advantage.

Piastrri was content to bide his time behind Verstappen, around a second back, safe in the knowledge that the lead was effectively his once Verstappen took his penalty.

On lap 20 with Norris up to fifth Piastrri was the first of the leaders to come in to fit fresh rubber on his car. Verstappen came in on lap 22 to serve his penalty.

Up front Leclerc and Norris, both yet to pit, led from Piastrri, with Verstappen fourth.

Leclerc finally came in on lap 30, Norris following suit a couple of laps later to leave his teammate in firm control of the race.

Piastrri duly held on to move on to 99 points in the race for the 2025 world title, 10 clear of Norris, with Verstappen a further two points back.

After this final leg of a frantic, not to say draining, triple-header, F1 takes a breather before its well-oiled circus pitches up again in Miami in a week's time.

Kunlavut on the rise

BADMINTON

KUNLAVUT VITIDSARN HAS RISEN to a career-high No.2 in the world following his maiden victory at the Badminton Asia Championships 2025 in Ningbo, China, on Apr 13.

Kunlavut has 89,138 points in the latest world rankings released by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) on Apr 15. The 23-year-old has climbed up three spots from fifth place (83,738 points) prior to his victory in Ningbo.

China's Shi Yuqi, who reached the quarter-finals in Ningbo, remains on top with 99,435 points.

Kunlavut became the first Thai player to win the Asian men's singles crown after his Chinese opponent Lu Guangzu retired with what looked like a back injury while trailing 6-11 in the second game and after Kunlavut took the opening game 21-12.

The Thai shuttler received US\$35,000 (approximately B1.2 million) for his winning performance.

"The is the most wonderful week for me. I got to try many things, playing against world-class players in the tournament," said Kunlavut after his win.

"Although I won the title, there are still some things I need to work on. I will do my best in my next tournament," he added.

It capped off a remarkable two-year span for the Thai star, who claimed the



Kunlavut. Photo: AFP

world title in 2023 and an Olympic silver medal last year.

Prior to Kunlavut's victory, Boonsak Ponsana had the best run for Thai men's singles players in the 2006 Asia Championships, finishing runner-up to Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei.

Kunlavut is the sixth Thai shuttler to win an Asian title.

Chavalert Chumkum and Narong Bornchima won the men's doubles title in 1965, Sudket Prapakamol and Saralee Thungthongkham claimed the mixed doubles crown in 2005 and Ratchanok Intanon captured the women's singles gold medal in 2015.

The other four players are Denmark's Viktor Axelsen, the 2024 Olympic gold medallist, China's Chen Long and Chen Jin, and Japan's Kento Momota.

Kunlavut will next compete at the Sudirman Cup Finals 2025. The tournament will take place from Sunday (Apr 27) to May 4 in Xiamen, China.

Bangkok Post

Private firms urged to help Thai MotoGP

MOTO GP

TOURISM AND SPORTS MINISTER Sorawong Thienthong has called for more involvement from the private sector to help renew the contract for Thailand to host the MotoGP Grand Prix.

Mr Sorawong said on Apr 12 that the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is currently in discussions with relevant agencies regarding the renewal of the MotoGP event in the country.

He explained that since the government helped establish the event and has hosted it for seven years, now it is time for private firms to step in.

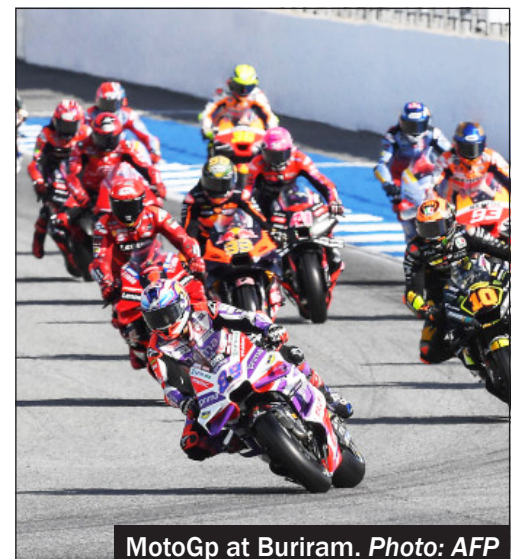
Given the impressive viewership and economic benefits, private participation is urged to support the event. Such support would ensure the event would continue while reducing state funding, he said.

Regarding speculation about political interference, he dismissed such claims, insisting the sports matter is unrelated to politics.

"Politics and sports should remain separate," he said.

Reports of the government's plan to end its sponsorship of the MotoGP Grand Prix event surfaced last month amid a growing rift between the ruling Pheu Thai and Bhumjaithai parties – the main members of the ruling coalition.

Bhumjaithai's de facto leader, politician-turned-sports-promoter Newin Chidchob, is the chairman of Chang International Circuit, the hosting venue of the event in Buriram.



MotoGP at Buriram. Photo: AFP

Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra responded to the matter by saying that the decision [to renew the contract] will be based on revenue, not politics.

Mr Sorawong confirmed that the MotoGP would take priority over Formula One.

He said talks with F1 are still in the feasibility study phase, with F1 preferring a street circuit model. The study is set to finish by 2028.

This year's edition of the MotoGP race, officially called the 2025 PT Grand Prix of Thailand, was held between Feb 28 and Mar 2.

The race, which was the opening event of the 2025 MotoGP calendar, drew about 224,624 spectators – a record for the circuit – and injected B5.04 billion into the economies of Buriram and its surrounding provinces. *Bangkok Post*

Liverpool on brink of title

FOOTBALL

AFP

Trent Alexander-Arnold fired Liverpool to the brink of the Premier League title as his late strike sealed a 1-0 win that relegated Leicester City last Sunday (Apr 20).

Arne Slot's side could have clinched a record-equalling 20th English title with a combination of a victory at the King Power Stadium and an Arsenal loss at Ipswich. However, the Gunners' 4-0 rout of The Tractor Boys delayed the leaders' coronation.

It looked like being a frustrating day for Liverpool as second-bottom Leicester kept them at bay until Alexander-Arnold's match-winning contribution after coming off the bench.

Liverpool are now 13 points clear of Arsenal with five games left for both teams. Leicester will spend next season in the Championship after their woeful one-year stay in the top tier came to an end with a 23rd defeat in 33 league games.

Arsenal's stroll at Portman Road effectively ends third-bottom Ipswich's hope of maintaining their Premier League status as they are 15 points adrift of safety with five games remaining.

Chelsea needed two late goals at Fulham to revive their chances of Champions League football next



A shirtless Trent Alexander-Arnold celebrates his winner against Leicester. Photo: AFP

season with a dramatic 2-1 victory, while Wolves condemned Manchester United to a club record 15th league loss this term with a 1-0 win at Old Trafford.

Wolves' fifth consecutive Premier League win lifts Vitor Pereira's side up to 15th and level on points with United, who stay 14th on goal difference.

Elsewhere, Manchester City bolstered their bid to qualify for the Champions League with a dramatic 2-0 win at Everton on Saturday.

City were heading towards a damaging draw before Nico O'Reilly's 84th minute strike put them on course for a vital victory that was sealed by Mateo Kovacic's goal in the final seconds.

Aston Villa thrashed Newcastle 4-1 to secure their fifth consecutive Premier League win and bounce back from their Champions League quarter-

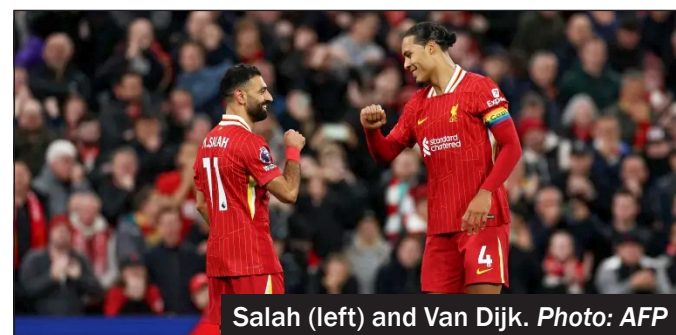
final elimination to Paris Saint-Germain.

The win means Villa close to within just two points of third-placed Newcastle with five games to go.

Already relegated Southampton's last-gasp equaliser in the 1-1 draw at West Ham ensured they will not have sole possession of the lowest points total in Premier League history.

Bottom of the table Saints are now on 11 points – the same number Derby managed in 2007-08 – and have five games left to leave the Rams with the lowest total ever recorded in the Premier League.

Bryan Mbeumo scored twice as Brentford beat 10-man Brighton 4-2 to damage the Seagulls' prospects of qualifying for Europe while Crystal Palace held on for a 0-0 draw against Bournemouth despite playing half the match with 10 men after Chris Richards' first-half red card.



Salah (left) and Van Dijk. Photo: AFP

Salah, Van Dijk sign new contracts

FOOTBALL

LIVERPOOL CAPTAIN Virgil van Dijk signed a new two-year contract with the club on Apr 17, ending months of fevered speculation over his future just a week after Mohamed Salah extended his stay.

"I'm very happy, very proud," said Van Dijk, whose existing deal, like Salah's, had been set to expire at the end of the season.

"The journey I've had so far in my career, to be able to extend it with another two years at this club is amazing and I'm so happy," the Dutchman added.

Salah ended months of speculation over his future by signing a new two-year contract with the club on Apr 11.

The 32-year-old Egyptian has scored 243 goals in 394 appearances for the

Reds since joining from Roma in 2017, making him the club's third highest goalscorer of all time. He has netted 27 goals and provided 17 assists in the Premier League this season.

"Of course I'm very excited. We have a great team now. Before also we had a great team. But I signed because I think we have a chance to win other trophies," Salah said.

Twice he has been crowned player of the year by his fellow professionals and football writers and is almost certain to pick up both prizes for a third time this year.

However, with new deals confirmed for Salah and Van Dijk, the future of defender Trent Alexander-Arnold remains unresolved amid rumours he will join Real Madrid when his contract ends next month.

AFP

Landmark UK court ruling redefines trans rules in sport

ALL SPORTS

CAMPAIGNERS SAY THERE ARE "no excuses" for allowing transgender women to compete in women's sports events after a landmark legal decision in Britain on Apr 16.

The Supreme Court, the UK's highest court, ruled that the legal definition of a "woman" is based on a person's sex at birth and does not include transgender women who hold a gender recognition certificate.

The decision is a significant victory for gender critical rights campaigners and could have implications for participation criteria related to women's sport.

Fiona McAnena, director of campaigns at the charity Sex Matters, welcomed the ruling, saying it was crucial for fairness and safety.

"There are now no excuses for sports governing bodies that are still letting trans-identifying men into the women's category," she told the PA news agency.

"The judges mentioned fairness in sport this morning. The law was always clear that everyone male can be excluded to provide fair, safe sport for women and girls, but some people claimed it was unkind or complicated to do so.

"It's neither of those – it's essential for fairness and safety for everyone female."

Transgender participation has become a hot-button issue as different sports try to balance inclusivity with ensuring fair competition.



Photo: AFP

International governing bodies in a number of sports including cycling, swimming and athletics have tightened policies to effectively ban transgender competitors.

US President Donald Trump signed an executive order in February seeking to ban transgender athletes from participating in women's sports.

Former British swimmer Sharron Davies, who won an Olympic silver medal at the Moscow Games in 1980, has been outspoken over the issue, saying transgender athletes should not compete in women's sport.

"I think it's just really important that we can define what a woman is," Davies told the BBC, saying it was time for sports bodies to "protect every female athlete".

"It doesn't mean to say that we can't respect people across the whole of society, however they wish to present themselves," she said.

"My position was always one that, biologically, women are very different from men." AFP

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Sport



Liverpool close in on title > p15



The Dojo Phuket team at the Thailand National Jiu-Jitsu Championships on Apr 6 where they won second best team overall. Photo: Supplied

MARTIAL ARTS

Ben Tirebuck
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

The team from Dojo Phuket lit up the recent Thailand and National Jiu-Jitsu Championships with a staggering 54-medal haul, while claiming second rank as best overall team.

Lead instructor Alexis Plantard and his band of impressive students won 25 gold medals, 14 silver and 16 bronze, as well as five awards for distinction across different fighting classes.

The tournament was held in Pathum Thani on Apr 4-6 with 84 individual clubs participating across the Jiu-Jitsu fighting styles of Tachi Waza, Ne-Waza and No-Gi.

Day one incorporated the Tachi Waza class and the Dojo Phuket team were in fine form as David, Max, Sagit, Aleksandr, Mayel, Damir and Alexis claimed

golds, Daniil, Dima, Philippa, Ashia and Naylia won silver, while Léa, Meera and Johnathan secured bronze.

Their collective performance was enough to secure top ranking in the Tachi Waza classification out of 35 clubs from Thailand competing at the event.

While all the students performed admirably, Alexis was keen to highlight the achievement of 5-year-old Léa who fought an opponent six years older than her and demonstrated incredible bravery, only having to concede the contest due to an injury.

Alexis also praised Ashia for her fearless performance in only her first ever contest, while tipping Sagit and Damir to secure their green and blue belt classifications very soon.

The medals continued to flood in on day two during the Ne-Waza and No-Gi classifications where the team ended up being ranked number one out of the 71 teams competing.

Juthika, Alex and Tatiana won three gold medals each, Max won two gold, Philippa and Alexis won two gold and one silver each, while Léa won two gold, one silver and one bronze and Sacha won one gold and one bronze.

Ashia won three silver medals, David and Johnathan won one silver and two bronze each, Daniil won one silver and a bronze, Naylia won one silver, with bronze medals going to Mayel, Damir, Dima, Leo, Philippe, Meera (2) and Sagit (2).

The team's performance meant they were ultimately ranked second out of 84 teams across all age, gender and discipline and were only pipped to top spot by the Thai national No-Gi team, who managed to secure two more gold medals overall.

SKY'S THE LIMIT

More accolades came at the Malaysia Judo International Open in Penang on the weekend

of Apr 12-13 where Dojo Phuket was ranked as best overall overseas team.

Over 700 athletes participated with tough international competition from dojos based in Australia, Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines, as well as the Singapore and Myanmar national teams.

Dojo Phuket had 19 athletes competing and all were in fine form as they performed brilliantly once again to win 19 medals overall, including six gold, four silver and nine bronze.

Gold medals went to Léa, Leo, Damir, Mikhail, Max and Alexis, while Daniil, Sagit, Sacha and Andrei claimed silver and David W, Philippa, Philippe, Dima, David (2), Mayel (2) and Naylia all won bronze.

While acknowledging the impressive team performance as a whole, Alexis had particular praise for Mikhail who won his first gold medal at competition

level, similarly Philippa and Philippe who both won their first medal at international level. The coach also commended Damir, explaining the young student is the most mature he has seen at his age, possessing a fine understanding of strategy and for whom the sky is the limit.

The success in Penang meant Dojo Phuket have won best team at competitions in Malaysia, Singapore, China and Thailand this year already.

Most recently the Dojo Phuket team were in action in Kathmandu at the Nepal International Judo Championships last Sunday (Apr 20).

The team of eight athletes won five medals overall, with David picking up a gold, Léa a silver and bronze for Naylia, Max and Sagit.

For more information on joining classes at the Dojo Phuket please visit their Facebook page.

Phuket praised for hosting world badminton tournament

BADMINTON

KHUNYING PATHAMA Leeswadtrakul, Thailand's member of the International Olympic Committee, praised Phuket as she presided over the closing ceremony of the Toyota Phuket International Series 2025 badminton tournament on Apr 6.

Ms Khunying, who is also Vice President of the Badminton World Federation and President of the Badminton Association of Thailand under Royal Patronage, was joined by Prachan Pajanthabut, Vice President of

the Phuket Provincial Sports Association and Vice President of the Phuket Badminton Club, at the ceremony at Saphan Hin Stadium.

In her closing remarks, Ms Khunying declared the week-long event at the 4,000-seat gymnasium had been a great success which saw athletes from more than 25 countries around the world participating.

It also demonstrated Phuket's successful capacity to host international events while promoting the province as a reputable tourist destination, she added. Furthermore, the event helped boost the local economy

though additional tourism-related pursuits, such as organised visits to Promthep Cape, Central Festival shopping mall and selected night markets.

Ms Pathama explained that the tournament provided opportunity for all players involved to collect points and increase their BWF world ranking in order to improve their chances of qualifying for the world tour. It was also considered an ideal opportunity for Thai players to compete against world class athletes and improve their standards.

Two-time world championship bronze medalists and 2012

Asian champions Kim Ki-joong and Kim Sarang from South Korea were involved, as was compatriot Aom Hye-won, a former world championship silver medalist and a bronze medalist in mixed doubles.

Fellow competitors came from the USA, Canada, Indonesia, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia and India.

The leading Thai players involved included: Lalinrat 'Jiew' Chaiyawan; Phichchamon 'Pink' Ophasnipat; Tanongsak 'Song' Saensomboonsuk; Thamolwan 'Minnie' Nithi-ithikrai; Yatawimin 'Ruangkao' Ketkliang; Pharanu



Photo: Sports Association of Phuket

'Phim' Khaosam-ang; Thanadol 'Pun' Panpanich; Rachapol 'Mix' Maksasithorn; and Natthamon 'Wahwa' Laisuan.

Mr Prachan presented trophies to the winners during the closing ceremony as well as cash prizes amounting to more than B175,000. *The Phuket News*