

NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF STEPS UP FOR SHOT NOODLE VENDOR > PAGE 5



The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Restaurants across Phuket may now sell alcohol and allow alcohol to be consumed on the premises until 11pm at night, Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong has confirmed.

The news came after the meeting of the Phuket Communicable Disease Committee at Provincial Hall on Monday (June 21), with a new provincial order signed, dated and issued by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciw and posted online that night.

The order is marked as effective from Monday onwards, just nine days before the July 1 'Phuket Tourism Sandbox' reopening of the island to

receiving vaccinated foreign tourists.

The order also followed the the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) last Friday designating Phuket a "yellow" province, among the safest in the country, in a new colour-coding scheme announced.

As such, Phuket was now allowed to enjoy eased restrictions in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The CCSA's provisions, which also included that all pubs, bars and other "entertainment" venues in the country are to remain closed, were published in the Royal Gazette on Monday.

"Regarding the relaxation of the opening of places to set preventive measures, surveillance and control of the spread of additional COVID-19

in some areas, places can be opened for certain operations or activities and people can engage in activities necessary for their livelihood and occupation so that economic and social activities can be continued in parallel with public health measures," Governor Narong said in the order issued on Monday.

Under the new order all types of schools or educational institutions can use buildings and premises for teaching, exams, training or any activities as appropriate.

"Food or beverage outlets that are not operating as an establishment that resembles an entertainment service venue are permitted to allow food or beverages to be consumed in the shop within the specified time [the

hours permitted by normal laws].

"The sale and consumption of liquor or alcoholic beverages in the shop is allowed no later than 23:00," the order said.

From the annex to the order, 70% of staff of the outlet must be fully vaccinated with two injections or the number of doses required for each vaccine or only one injection of AstraZeneca at least 14 days before resuming work.

The order stipulated that entertainment venues in Phuket, including pubs, bars, karaoke venues and other venues "which are similar to entertainment venues", must remain closed, as well as venues for cock fighting, fish fighting, boxing and other kinds of gambling...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

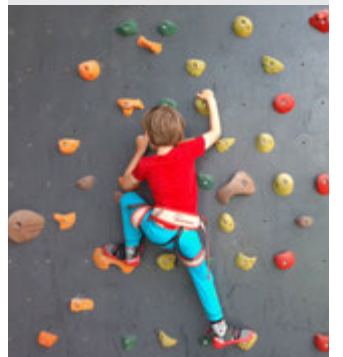
NEWS PAGE 3

Oil spill tar balls plague beaches, whale rescued



LIFE PAGE 9

Climbing walls is not the only thing left to do



SPORT PAGE 16

Ruck 'n' Roll: Sevens Series gets green light



DANCE

DRAMA

HeadStart
International School, Phuket
SUMMER CAMP
5 - 30 July
Apply at office@headstartphuket.com

MMA

FOOTBALL

exeditor@classactmedia.co.th

News



Outrage over haul of reef sharks > p4

Prayut to inspect 'Sandbox' readiness

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha is scheduled to fly to Phuket today (June 25) for an inspection of the island's readiness to reopen to receiving vaccinated foreign tourists from July 1.

According to a report by state news agency NNT, PM Prayut and other ministers will depart Bangkok at 8:30am.

After arriving on the island, the group will inspect the full rehearsal by staff and officials at the international terminal of the airport in processing international tourists arriving under the 'Phuket Tourism Sandbox' scheme.

They will then move to Angsana Laguna Phuket, where they will inspect the mass vaccination efforts underway there and hold a meeting with local officials about the July 1 reopening.

In the afternoon, PM Prayut will lead the team to Ao Por Pier in Pa Khlok to review the procedures for checking tourists arriving in Phuket by boat.

After completing the inspections, the prime minister and his accompanying group will return to Phuket airport and fly back to Bangkok, said the report.

Staff and officials at Phuket International Airport on June 15



Airport staff prepare for July 1. Photo: AoT Phuket

held a rehearsal of processing tourist arrivals.

Speaking to the press at an event before the rehearsal, Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew explained that similar rehearsals will be held at other main entry points to the island, namely at the Phuket Check Point at Tha Chatchai and at the major ports in Phuket used by boats arriving from other provinces.

Further practice runs were held at the airport on June 17 and 19, with another full rehearsal held on Wednesday this week (June 23).

Similar rehearsals will be held at Rassada Pier and at the Phuket Check Point at Tha Chatchai today (June 25).

In "Stage 2" of the preparations, a full rehearsal will be held next Tuesday (June 29) as the last and final rehearsal before international tourists arrive, Governor Narong added.

Speaking at Phuket Provincial Hall last Friday (June 18), Governor Narong said, "We look forward to opening the island of Phuket in accordance with the guidelines ap-

proved by the CCSA, whose vision we want to see is a smooth operation. The economy can be restored while effectively preventing the spread of COVID-19.

"The measures are quite comprehensive considering those who will travel [to Phuket] will be from low- or medium-risk groups, including those who have already been vaccinated and after arriving in Phuket must be tested repeatedly, three times: the first day, the 6th day and the 12th day. And they must stay in Phuket for 14 nights before traveling

to other provinces in Thailand. But in the case of leaving the Kingdom, they can go without having to wait up to 14 days," he said.

"In addition, there will be an operations centre linking the tracking of people who travel to Phuket as well, at Phuket Airport, at the Tha Chatchai checkpoint for those arriving by land, and at Rassada Pier, Ao Por Pier and Chalong Pier for those arriving by water," he continued.

For tracking inbound tourists, Pracha Asawathira, a PhD academic with the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (M-DES), explained, "We will use the tracking app Mor Chana, which Thai people already are familiar with. For foreign tourists, we will create an English version of the app which will notify officers if the tourists turn off the location sharing.

"We will coordinate with SHA+ managers in each hotel to send information about foreign tourist guests' movements to the central EOC [Emergency Operations Centre] every day.

"At the checkpoints, we will have a system for officers to check. The DEPA [Digital Economy Promotion Agency] will connect the network from the three ports together to share the information. We have contacted Immigration to share their information," Mr Pracha said.

Restaurant alcohol ban lifted ahead of July 1 'Sandbox' reopening

Continued from page 1

Meanwhile, another easing of the COVID restrictions under the new Phuket provincial order allows supermarket convenience stores to remain open during their usual hours. Previously all 24-hour convenience stores had to close from 11pm to 4am.

Department stores, shopping centres and community malls are all allowed to resume their normal trading hours – except for game and amusement areas, and all game cabinets, game machines and game shops.

All hairdressing salons for men and women can now open as usual.

Even snooker and billiards halls, and other venues with pool tables, are now allowed to open from 3pm to 11pm. Just like restaurants, 70% of staff must be fully vaccinated.

Internet cafes, theaters and waterparks are allowed to resume their normal hours of operation. However, amusement parks must



Patong Mayor Saroj inspects Patong Beach ahead of the relaxed measures. Photo: PR Patong

be open only from 6am to 8pm, the order said.

GATHERINGS

"Gathering for social activities, selling alcohol or alcoholic beverages in public areas, beaches, parks are to comply with the law," the order noted.

The order also noted that for organising activities where there is

a risk of transmission of the disease, "do not organize activities in which groups of more than 200 people [will congregate], unless it is an activity performed by a competent official or in an area designated as a quarantine facility,"

However, the order did not clarify whether it was still illegal to have friends visit a family home, an offense for which foreigners have

been threatened with deportation.

The order issued on Monday (Provincial Order No. 3373/2564) rescinded the previous order, issued on May 29 (No 2921/2564), meaning that the new order comprises all the restrictions that are now in effect.

The new order no longer includes the provision that dining together or drinking alcohol at home or any other place of residence must involve family members and must not have an outside party.

"In the event that the offender is a foreigner it may be considered to cancel [the foreigner's permission to] living in the Kingdom in strict accordance with the Immigration Act," the previous order warned.

The new order issued on Monday no longer carries that warning.

Regardless, officials have yet to specifically confirm that this restriction has now been lifted.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Officers or employers must consider letting employees work from home

as long as necessary, in order to reduce people movement and the risk of infection.

Officers must strictly inspect the areas which are at risk of spreading the disease, such as factories and the worker camps. Whoever does not follow the suggestion of officers and act against this order must be punished under the relevant law, the order noted.

Failure to comply with the order may be punished under Section 51 of Disease Control Act 2015, which incurs a fine of up to B20,000, or under Section 52 of the act, which invokes a penalty of up to one year imprisonment or a fine of up to B100,000 or both, the order issued on Monday noted.

Those found breaching the order will also be charged under Section 18 of the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situations B.E. 2548 (2005), which invokes a penalty of up to two years imprisonment or up to B40,000 or both, the order warned.

Tar balls smother beaches

Sperm whale rescued at Bang Tao as local cleanups launched

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Beaches as far north as Mai Khao all the way south to Kata and Nai Harn this past week were plagued with oil spill 'tar balls', and saw a 4.5-metre sperm whale in need of rescue at Bang Tao Beach.

Oil first started washing ashore further north at Mai Khao on June 13, but days later was starting to plague other popular beaches. By last Sunday (June 20) tar balls were found strewn across the sands at Patong and Nai Yang.

At Patong Beach, the oil was washed ashore along with other marine debris, leaving a line of waste from the ocean strewn along the waterline.

Further north at Nai Yang Beach, oil-covered blobs of marine debris lay strewn along the beach as families played nearby.

More than 50 people were needed to rescue a sperm whale at Bang Tao Beach, on Phuket's central west coast, Thursday last week (June 17).

The whale had several



Lifeguards attend to a sperm whale smothered in oil at Bang Tao Beach. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

wounds along with oil smeared all over its nose and along its body.

The whale was taken into care by marine biologists at the Sireetarn Marine Endangered Animal Rescue Center, based at the Phuket Marine Biological Centre (PMBC) at Cape Panwa.

The oil spill that has

washed ashore Phuket beaches as tar balls is unlikely to have originated from the cargo vessel 'X-Press Pearl', which burned and sank off Sri Lanka last month, Dr Kongkiat Kit-tiwattanawong from the PMBC told *The Phuket News* on Monday (June 21).

"In the [southwest] monsoon season every year Phuket

is likely to have some tar balls coming ashore," he said.

"Some people link this phenomenon to Sri Lanka. However, we have checked the model for the tides and found that any oil spill [from the 'X-Press Pearl'] should not affect the west coast of Thailand," he said.

"We are still looking into

where this oil may have originated from," he added.

"We have collected samples of the tar balls and gone to check the congestion of the tar balls on the beaches. Right now, we are checking its 'fingerprint' to see the composition of the oil and to find its origin," Dr Kongkiat explained.

While the oil washing ashore has caused much alarm for local residents, Dr Kongkiat said his team had yet to confirm how much damage has been done.

"We already sent staff to collect samples of seawater and other natural resources to check whether the oil has harmed animals. However, so far, we have not seen any deaths of marine animals from the oil spill," he said.

Presenting some good news, Dr Kongkiat confirmed that the sperm whale covered in oil rescued at Bang Tao Beach last week has recovered and already been set free.

"We provided treatment to the whale until it recovered its health, and we have already released it to the sea," he said.

Staff from the PMBC reported on Sunday that they along with officers from Sirinath National Park had inspected Nai Yang Beach. The team said that in heavily affected areas on the sand the officers found the tar balls had a scatter density of 129 grammes per square metre.

The PMBC staff also took water samples for further analysis of the total petroleum hydrocarbon content in seawater.

Wherever the oil spill originated from, it appeared that Phuket had taken the brunt washing ashore. An inspection of Thai Mueang Beach, north of Phuket, last Wednesday (June 16) recorded a scatter density of only 25g per square metre, the officers noted.

National park officers and local residents together cleaned up the beach last Sunday afternoon.

Local environmental group Sustainable Mai Khao also joined national park officers for a cleanup Monday morning. Further cleanups were held at Nai Yang Beach on Tuesday and Wednesday (June 23-24).

Non-working expats finally register for vaccination

FOREIGNERS IN PHUKET who have not been issued a work permit can now register to receive a state-provided COVID-19 vaccination, local authorities have announced.

The announcement came through one sentence in a post on the official Facebook page of the "Official COVID-19 Information Center Phuket", operated by the Phuket office of the Ministry of Interior, after 7pm on June 16.

Of note, the post was in English language.

The post read, "Currently Foreign workers who hold valid work permits are eligible for vaccinations. Registration must be completed by their registered companies."

Then the post noted, "Foreigners who are registered to reside in Phuket without work permits are now eligible to apply via the website www.phuket.win."

No other details were provided.

The 'Phuket Must Win' website (www.ภูเก็ตต้องชนะ.com)



The 'Phuket Must Win' website now shows a new category, 'Vaccination for non-work permit foreigners'. Screenshot: Phuket Must Win

now shows a new category, "Vaccination for non-work permit foreigners".

Phuket officials so far have yet to make any other announcements that registration is now open for non-working expats, in stark contrast to the repeated announcements for any other groups of people in Phuket being allowed to register to be vaccinated.

As is now usual with local announcements regarding vaccinations, some confusions ensued with no people being able to register for days after the announcement.

Later, some foreigners confirmed that they had been

able to register, then did not receive any confirmation SMS for days later.

Others noted they were over 60 years old, leaving people to believe that only foreigners over 60 were being allowed to register. Phuket officials gave no explanations to clarify who could apply or who could not.

At the time of going to press, the situation continued, but with some expats saying they had been allocated an appointment to receive their vaccination injection. Many others were left waiting, guessing, hoping they had been registered.

The Phuket News

LIST YOUR PROPERTY

THROUGH OUR PROFESSIONAL TEAM

和我们的专业团队合作出售您的房产

Разместите Вашу Недвижимость
Вместе с Нашей Профессиональной
Командой



PROPERTYinPHUKET.com
A Tradition of Excellence

Phone: 098 671 7328
Email: cs@propertyinphuket.com
www.propertyinphuket.com

The Phuket News

CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

PURIYA BEAVAN
EditorCHRIS HUSTED
Executive Editor
084 307 7408
execeditor@classactmedia.co.thBEN TIREBUCK
News / Sport Editor
061 806 8132
editor3@classactmedia.co.thCHUTHARAT 'UM'
PLERIN
Thai Editor
088 766 1615
thai@classactmedia.co.thKIATTIKUL 'JOM'
CHUMANEE
Translator
082 729 0270
translate@classactmedia.co.thJASON BEAVAN
General Manager
086 479 7471
gm@classactmedia.co.thSIRIPORN (NOK)
SEANGMAS
Sales Support
086 479 7470
sales@classactmedia.co.thNIRAVIT 'MOS' VORAVANITCHA
THANAPONG 'OAK' KHAO-AMPHAIPHAN
Graphic designersThe Phuket News
@thephuketnews

ADVERTISING

ClassAct Media

Phuket News

WINDOW ON PHUKET

Where to eat in PHUKET

Новости Пхукета

ข่าวภูเก็ต

NEWS 6 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 JUN 25

High: +32°
Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

SAT JUN 26

High: +31°
Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

SUN JUN 27

High: +32°
Low: +27°

Wind 7 m/s

MON JUN 28

High: +32°
Low: +26°

Wind 7 m/s

TUE JUN 29

High: +32°
Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

WED JUN 30

High: +32°
Low: +26°

Wind 14 m/s

THU JUL 1

High: +32°
Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

Outrage over haul of reef sharks

Chutharat Plerin
thai@classactmedia.co.th

A haul of blacktip reef sharks in baskets at the Phuket Fishing Port has caused a backlash online over the fishing of the sharks, which are considered a critical factor in keeping reefs healthy and balancing vital marine ecosystems.

Outrage spiked after photos of the sharks spread quickly online, and gained momentum after they were shared by well-known Thai marine conservationist Prof Thon Thamrongnawasawat.

Watcharin Rattanachoo, Chief of the Phuket Fisheries Office, called for understanding among the public, and explained that the fishing of blacktip reef sharks in areas not protected by law, although not liked by many people, is not illegal.

"At this stage, the blacktip reef shark has not been classified as a protected animal," he said.

"I understand the photos may hurt people who love animals, but the fishing and selling of these sharks is not illegal in Thailand," Mr Watcharin added.

He also explained that blacktip reef sharks are often



The haul of blacktip reef sharks at the fresh fish market on Koh Siray. Photo: Supplied

caught as by-catch.

"When smaller fishing vessels [under 10 tonnes gross] aim to catch grouper and other local fish, some blacktip sharks tend to be caught sometimes when they come to feed and gather around the shoreline rocks," Mr Watcharin said.

"Depending on the time [of the year] the sharks move into the fishermen's fishing area. This is usual during the rainy season from around January to early June," he added.

"Therefore, from the news above, it is not considered a violation of the law if fishing in the area is not prohibited and the correct equipment is used," Mr Watcharin said.

Mr Watcharin pointed out efforts by the Phuket Fisheries offices in the past to

prevent fishing in protected areas and the illegal fishing of specific species, especially whale sharks.

"But in the news such as the blacktip reef shark, the law does not make it an offense. We must also be fair to fishermen," he said.

Marine life expert Dr Thon Thamrongnawasawat has campaigned for years for greater protection of blacktip reef sharks after a haul of the fish were found on sale at a fish market on Koh Lanta.

"Blacktip reef sharks and many other sharks are not protected animals [in Thailand]. I've tried to push for this many times. I hope we can progress, especially for hammerhead sharks and leopard sharks, whose numbers are rapidly

falling," Dr Thon said.

"We must push for the protection of sharks, especially these two species [hammerhead and leopard sharks]," Dr Thon said.

"We need to learn more so that we know how many sharks are needed to preserve a marine ecosystem," Dr Thon noted.

"Sharks are important to the ecosystem and the food chain. Sharks are also important for tourism," Dr Thon wrote.

VERGE OF PROTECTION

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is planning to list blacktip reef sharks as a protected marine species, after a TikTok clip of

five men using a firearm to kill the sharks in Krabi came to light on June 14, reports the *Bangkok Post*.

Even though the sharks were not yet listed as a protected species, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Varawut Silpa-archa slammed the group's behaviour, calling it an act of gratuitous violence.

"I've already instructed Jatuporn Burutphat, permanent secretary for environment, to work with all relevant agencies to review our policies to better protect our marine resources. Agencies in the areas have also been instructed to beef up surveillance and better educate local residents," Mr Varawut said.

Sopon Thongdee, Director-General of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, said the department will be reviewing its list of protected animals and will register blacktip reef sharks as protected marine species.

"These sharks pose no threat to humans," he said.

He has instructed Marine and Coastal Resources Office 10 to file a complaint with Muang Krabi Police against the men featured in the video for using a boat without permission, which is punishable by a B10,000 fine.

Laos national staying illegally in Pa Khlok among drug arrests

THALANG POLICE HAVE named a Laos national among three men arrested for drugs in Pa Khlok last week.

The arrests, led by Capt Suchart Ruecha, were conducted from June 14-18, said the police report.

The Laos national, named in the report only as "Mr Kit", was arrested on the Bang Rong-Bang Pae road in Moo 3, Pa Khlok, after he was found with nine pills of methamphetamine (*ya bah*) stamped with the letters "WY".

Mr Kit was charged with possession of a Category 1 drug, as well as entering and staying in the country illegally, the report noted.

The second arrest was that of Suriya Bangkaew, 29, who was arrested at his home in Moo 6, Pa Khlok, with 13 pills of *ya bah* also embossed with the letters "WY".

Suriya was taken to Thalang Police Station and charged with



Photo: Thalang Police

possession of a Category 1 drug, the report confirmed.

The third arrest noted in the report was that of Anupong "Nat" Kertsup, 26, who was arrested at his house in Soi Bang Pae, Moo 3, Pa Khlok, after he was found with 404 pills of *ya bah* – of which 202 pills were also stamped with the letters "WY".

Anupong was taken to Thalang Police Station and charged with possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell, the report concluded.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Indonesian fisherman rescued by Phuket fishing boat after nine days adrift

AN INDONESIAN FISHERMAN was rescued by a local fishing boat and taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town on June 13 after he was adrift at sea in a small boat for nine days after his boat engine failed.

Vice Admiral Choengchai Chomchoengphaet, Commander of the Third Naval Area Command, explained that the crew of local fishing boat 'Boonlaap 2' informed the Navy at 6:27pm on June 13 that they had found an Indonesian man adrift on a small boat south of Racha Noi Island, more than 30 kilometres south of Phuket.

Then at about 7:30pm, the crew informed the Navy that they would bring the man to the fishing pier on Koh Siray, Rassada, and asked for medical staff to be present when they arrived.

The man, not named in the report by the Navy, was brought ashore at about 10:30pm

The man looked exhausted and was immediately taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he also would be tested for COVID-19, V/Adm Choengchai said.

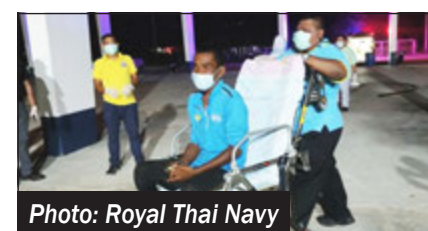


Photo: Royal Thai Navy

In a video posted by the Navy, the man otherwise looked in good health. He was able to walk unassisted and even passed a temperature check conducted at the port.

The man told officers he had been adrift for nine days, V/Adm Choengchai said.

The man's engine had failed, and the boat was pushed across the sea by the wind until it was found by the local fishing boat, he added.

It was not reported where the man had originally put to sea.

V/Adm Choengchai said that the Navy will contact the Indonesian Consulate in Songkhla and Phuket Immigration to help get the man home.

The Phuket News

National police chief steps up

Pol Gen Suwat donates B100k to support shot noodle vendor

Eakkapop Thongtub
editor@classactmedia.co.th

National police chief Pol Gen Suwat Jangyodsuk has donated B100,000 to the wife of a noodle vendor shot by a drunken off-duty police officer on Bangla Rd and vowed to ensure justice in the case.

The noodle vendor, Aroon Thongplab, was shot in the stomach by Cpl Pornthep Chanarong of the Phuket Provincial Police just before 6am on Feb 23 while he was walking along Bangla Rd after collecting a noodle bowl from a customer.

In less than 24 hours Pornthep was quickly stripped of his rank and discharged from the Royal Thai Police, and now faces charges of attempted murder, carrying a firearm in a public area without necessary reason, and firing a weapon in a public area.

His trial is to start on June 28.

Region 8 Police Commander Lt Gen Kitrat Panpetch arrived at the family's rented home in Patong to hand over the donation on June 15.



Region 8 Police Commander Lt Gen Kitrat Panpetch speaks with Mr Aroon at family's rented home in Patong on June 15. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Joining him were Phuket Provincial Police Chief Maj Gen Pornsak Nuannoo and Patong Police Chief Col Sujin Nilabodi.

Lt Gen Kitrat told Mr Aroon's wife, Kulthida Chananan, that he had come to give B100,000 to her family

on behalf of national police chief Pol Gen Suwat.

"Do not be worried about the case because the national police chief has ordered to work on this case decisively. Police will not help bad police," Lt Gen Kitrat said.

"Which finger is bad, we

are ready to cut," he said.

Before Gen Suwat's donation, the only support Mr Aroon and his stricken family had received from the Royal Thai Police were flowers and B20,000 cash handed over by Region 8 Police the day after the shooting and B10,000 from

the Phuket Provincial Police.

A campaign launched last month founded by a Phuket expat to help Mr Aroon raised almost B400,000 in just one week.

Mr Aroon was left paralysed by the bullet, which entered through the stomach and became lodged in his spine. After Mr Aroon woke from a coma, doctors at Vachira Phuket Hospital managed to safely remove the bullet, but were unable to help Mr Aroon recover the use of his legs.

After months in recovery, Mr Aroon was only recently discharged from Vachira Hospital to return to stay with his family at their rented house in Patong.

Ms Kulthida explained that she needs to replan everything for her family's future because her husband has been left unable to make any income for the family. The young couple, Mr Aroon is 25 years old and his wife is 26, have two children: a 4-year-old daughter and a 6-month-old son.

"Aroon still suffers pain in his lungs from surgery and is unable to move or feel the

lower part of his body, from his waist to his toes," Ms Kulthida said.

"Luckily, the upper part of his body can move and feel. He can use his hands to hold a spoon and fork to eat normally," Ms Kulthida said.

"I have to thank every person for helping me in this hard time. My husband is likely to be disabled for his whole life, but I still have a good hope. If he is healthy, in the future he may go through physical therapy, enabling him to walk again," she said.

"Aroon can hear everything I say and reply to me by gestures. He can speak, but it tires him. Nodding is yes and shaking his hand is no," she said.

"He needed to use an aspirator for three months in the hospital, but now he can breathe by himself," she added.

"As for progress in the court case, the court has appointed to have a questioning on June 28. Pornthep's family has never talked with me or offered any help. His mother knows what she should do," she said.

New Phuket Provincial Hall touted to open in Sept

PHUKET OFFICIALS EXPECT THE years-in-coming new Phuket Provincial Hall under construction on the south side of Phuket Town to finally be finished and open for services on Sept 1.

The news came from Phuket Vice Governor Vikrom Jakthee at the century-old current Phuket Provincial Hall on Narisorn Rd, in the old government quarter on the north side of town, on June 17.

Vice Governor Vikrom said that the September opening followed talks with the contractor – named only as "the Wall and Tesco joint venture" (literal translation from the Thai กิจการความร่วมมือ วอลล์ แอนด์ เทสโก้) – to finish the works left incomplete by the previous contractor Chun Eaw Co Ltd.

The main building, called "Phase 1", that will house government offices is not finished yet, but the meeting hall at the compound is already completed and has already served as a 'Field Hospital' during the initial COVID outbreak last year, V/G Vikrom explained.

The "Wall and Tesco joint venture" was hired by government contract signed on Dec 14 last year.

"The contract explained that the budget is B196 million, and the duration of work is 555 days, from Dec 15 to June 22, 2022," he said, repeating his update from February.

"However, the government has expedited the contractor to finish the work within July or August, the new Provincial Hall will



The new Phuket Provincial Hall as pictured in February. Photo: PR Phuket / file

be open on Sept 1," V/Gov Vikrom said.

"A total of 18 government offices will move into the new building, as well as Krung Thai Bank and Thailand Post. From checking in April, 384 officers in total will move and provide services at the [new] building," he added.

Left unsaid was that V/Gov Vikrom pointed out in February that the "Wall and Tesco joint venture" contract of B196mn was reduced from B198mn as reported by Phakaphong Tavipatana, Phuket Governor at the time, on Sept 6, 2019.

At that time, with Governor Phakaphong in Sept 2019 requesting an extra B38mn to complete works unfinished by the initial contractor Chun Eaw Co Ltd, the total cost of the project had blown out to B647mn.

The original contract for building the new Provincial Hall, signed on Sept 9, 2014, stood at B450mn. *The Phuket News*

Man electrocuted while repairing home jacuzzi

POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING what had led to a man being electrocuted while repairing a home jacuzzi in Cherng Talay last Saturday (June 19).

Capt Yannaphat Malai of the Cherng Talay Police was called to the home, in Soi Pasak 8/2, Moo 4, Cherng Talay, after the man's body was found at about 6:50pm.

Police together with Kusoldharm rescue workers arrived to find the body of Surapol Samthong, 45, originally from Trang, beside the sunken tub in an area under the floor.

After rescue workers safely



Ambulances wait outside the home in Cherng Talay last Saturday evening. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

recovered Mr Surapol's body, forensic doctors from Vachira Phuket Hospital were called to examine the body. They found marks on Mr Surapol's right hand indicating that he had suffered an electric shock. Mr Surapol's body was taken to

Thalang Hospital for further examination.

Kunpiya Ragon, 38, originally from Surat Thani, who rents the home, told police that she asked the housing project manager to call a technician to repair the jacuzzi at about 11am.

The technician, Mr Surapol, arrived at about midday and started working on the repairs, she said.

At about 6pm, her husband walked in to see the technician and found him dead, so he shut off the power to the house and called police, Ms Kunpiya said.

Eakkapop Thongtub





WINE & COFFEE SHOP - WINE BAR
WINE TASTING - ANTIPASTI - DESSERTS
HOME DELIVERY AVAILABLE

The Barrel Laguna, 33-34 Canal Village Laguna Shopping, Thalang, Phuket, Thailand
 Phone: 062 489 5192 | Email: thebarrellaguna@bbb.co.th | Open Time: 10am-8pm (Sunday Closed)

ALCOHOL MAY BE A HEALTH HAZARD!

Hopes high for Sandbox boost

Thais to help tourism restart, forecast for B15bn in three months

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) are expecting the Phuket Tourism Sandbox reopening planned for July 1 to attract more than 600,000 foreign and local tourists to Phuket and generate a cash flow of about B15 billion in the next three months.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew said the TAT predicted about 129,000 foreign tourist arrivals and 500,000 Thais will visit Phuket between July and September, said a report by state news agency NNT.

"From July 1, Phuket will waive quarantine requirements for foreign tourists who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 under the 'Phuket Tourism Sandbox' model. The main goal is to be able to revive the local economy and prevent the spread of the pandemic at the same time. The model is being touted as a model for the reopening of the tourism industry," said the report.



Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew (right) at Provincial Hall announcing the entry requirements for foreign tourists from July 1. Photo: PR Phuket

"Governor Narong added that all parties are speeding up preparations to ensure the reopening proceeds smoothly as planned, stressing that strict disease control measures must remain in place so that the province would not be put in a lockdown again," the report continued.

According to a report by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket), Governor Narong also

repeated the main criteria for foreign tourists to be allowed into Phuket, namely that they must be fully vaccinated, be tested repeatedly and must spend 14 nights on Phuket before being allowed to travel to destinations elsewhere in the country.

According to the PR Phuket report, joining Governor Narong for the announcement were Phuket Vice Governors Pichet Panapong

and Piyapong Choowong.

The report marked nine criteria for accepting foreign tourists, all of which Governor Narong already announced last Friday (June 18), and have been reported previously, and have already been reported by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), which now appears to be the designated agency for announcing the entry criteria for foreign tourists in English. (See TATNews.

org for the latest version of the full list.)

GAPS IN CHECKING DOMESTIC ARRIVALS

While officials were focussing on the entry requirements for foreign tourists after July 1, not explained was how a student had returned home to Phuket from Yala, where he attended a school that had shut down due to a COVID cluster outbreak.

With the TAT now expecting 500,000 domestic tourists to come to Phuket from July through September, the checks on domestic arrivals entering the province becomes increasingly important

Under a provincial order issued on June 1, revising the longstanding requirements for domestic arrivals, all domestic travellers with the exception of children under 5 years old entering through any port of entry on Phuket must be fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine approved by the Royal Thai Government or have documentation proving they have tested negative for the virus via a RT-PCR or Rapid

Antigen Test no more than seven days before departing the province where the domestic traveller started their journey to Phuket.

Those who had recovered from COVID-19 no more than 90 days before arriving are also allowed to enter Phuket.

If the above requirements cannot be met the travellers are required to self-quarantine for a period of 14 days. Where the Disease Control Officer has issued an order to quarantine in the accommodation (Home Quarantine for Phuket residents or Hotel Quarantine for Domestic visitors) the traveller is to be monitored by officers of the Sub-District Center (EOC, Sub-District, municipality, sub-district administrative organisation) throughout the period of quarantine, said the order.

According to the timeline of the student's movements released by Phuket health officials last Friday, he had returned from Yala on June 13, but then presented himself at Thalang Hospital the next day for a rapid antigen test for no apparent reason.

Bus services from Bangkok ramped up

BUSES TO PHUKET FROM Mor Chit in Bangkok have resumed in the hope of spurring more visitors to the island, with the state-operated bus transport company BorKorSor (the initials of its name in Thai) offering 10% discounts on fares.

Sanlak Panyawatthanakit, President of the Transport Company Limited (BorKorSor), announced the resumed services last Saturday (June 19).

"The transport sector supports people and tourists who want to travel to Phuket, and



are ready to give instructions to all operators regarding user convenience, including implementing public health standards and strict safety standards to build confidence for service users," Mr Sanlak said.

There will be one new bus service daily each way, Mr Sanlak explained.

One bus will depart the Bangkok Bus Terminal at Chatuchak, also called 'Mo Chit 2', at 4:30pm, while a bus will depart Phuket Bus Terminal 2, located in Ras-sada, north of Phuket Town, also at 4:30pm.

Fares will cost B637 round-trip. However, the BorKorSor is offering 10% discounts on all BorKorSor-operated bus services, Mr Sanlak noted.

All people using bus transport services to travel to Phuket are to comply with COVID health measures, he added. *The Phuket News*

Phuket Town market reopens after COVID scare shutdown

THE TALAD KASET FRESH MARKET on Ong Sim Phai Rd in Phuket Town reopened on June 18 after staff of Phuket City Municipality and vendors conducted a big cleaning to boost local people's confidence.

The market had been closed for two weeks after medical staff found that some workers at the market were infected with COVID-19.

Just two days earlier (June 16), Dr Kusak Kukiattikoon, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO), explained that the four cases found infected on June 14 were all Myanmar national workers who worked at the Talad Kaset market.

That confirmation followed Dr Kusak on June 1 explaining that the 86-year-old Thai woman who was identified as the second death from COVID-19 since the 'Third Wave' outbreak hit the island on April 3 had close contact with her Myanmar caretaker, who was later also found infected.

"Medical staff went to conduct proactive screening at the area where the caretaker stayed and found five other Myanmar workers infected," Dr Kusak said.

"The workers worked at the Phuket Town fresh market on Ong Sim Phai Rd, so we swab tested vendors and workers at the market; 460 Thai people and 350 migrant workers were tested, and we found one Myanmar national worker who was infected," Dr Kusak said.

Present at the market for the "Big Cleaning Day", during which all areas of the market were sanitised, were Vice Governor Pichet Panapong and newly installed Phuket Town Mayor Saroj Angkanapilas.



The market was thoroughly sanitised before being allowed to reopen. Photo: PR Phuket

Mr Saroj explained that the market has been in operation for 42 years.

The market will now operate as two sections, he said.

"From 4am to midday, there are 483 vendors in the market building, 57 vendors on Ong Sim Phai Rd, and 61 vendors near Robinson department store. From 3pm to 11pm, there are 57 street food vendors serving the public," Mr Saroj explained.

"As a result of the current COVID-19 outbreak, some vendors and workers in the market were found infected. Then the market had to be closed for two weeks, from June 3-16, to follow the disease control measures of the Phuket Communicable Disease Committee," he said.

"Therefore, Phuket City Municipality has conducted this cleaning and sanitising of the market, in order to boost the confidence of vendors and shoppers," he said.

"However, vendors and shoppers must strictly follow the disease-control measures to prevent the market from becoming [the centre of] a cluster again," he said. *The Phuket News*

QSI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF PHUKET
AMERICAN CURRICULUM • MASTERY LEARNING

CONTACT US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION @ 076 304 312 • QSI.ORG/PHUKET

A third COVID shot may be required, says DDC

Bangkok Post

The Public Health Ministry is speeding up a study looking into the need for a third COVID-19 vaccine shot for people who are fully vaccinated as certain coronavirus variants are more infectious than others.

Along with this study, a ministry committee is tasked with assessing whether it is safe for people to be jabbed using different vaccine brands after the initial first shot is given, said Dr Opas Karnkawinpong, director-general of the Department of Disease Control (DDC) last Monday (June 21).

Dr Opas, however, insisted it was still too soon to say whether a booster shot is actually needed and if the shot can come from a different manufacturer.

"Knowledge [about the virus and the vaccines is updated] constantly so we need to wait until we have sufficient information to support any new decisions to make," he said.

Dr Opas was responding to questions over the need for a booster shot for vaccine recipients in Thailand and whether it could come from a different brand.

He said the ministry's study is similar to one being conducted by a team led by Dr Yong Poovorawan, head of the Centre of Excellence in Clinical Virology at Chulalongkorn University.

The number of people in Thailand



Dr Opas Karnkawinpong, director-general of the DDC. Photo: Bangkok Post

infected with the Delta coronavirus variant, which first emerged in India, is increasing and likely to replace the Alpha variant, first identified in Britain, as the dominant strain causing infections, Dr Yong said.

Citing findings from a new study published by the British medical journal The Lancet on June 14, he said a considerably higher level of immune response to a COVID-19 vaccine is needed as an efficient defence against the Delta variant.

Both the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines were cited in this study, he said, adding a study carried out in Scotland showed they were less effective in preventing infections caused by the Delta variant.

Fourteen days after a second shot, the Pfizer vaccine was found to be 79% effective in preventing Delta variant in-

fections, while the AstraZeneca vaccine was 60% effective against the strain, Dr Yong said.

In a similar situation, those vaccines were found to be up to 92% and 73% effective against the Alpha variant, Dr Yong added.

As for other COVID-19 vaccines that induce lower rates of immune responses, he said, third shots may need to be used as boosters while the country waits for new vaccines to be developed to specifically deal with the Delta variant.

In response to growing public concern over lower immune responses induced by COVID-19 vaccines, Dr Opas said the ministry is also monitoring information taken from the ongoing mass vaccination drive.

Dr Yong added that everyone in the country will be vaccinated as promised.

Japan donates unwanted AstraZeneca vaccines

THAILAND'S HEALTH minister Anutin Charnvirakul confirmed last Monday (June 21) that Japan is to donate a supply of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines to Thailand.

The donation will help contribute to the national vaccine supply following a series of delays which have resulted in a consistent shortfall with many hospitals having to cancel appointments due to lack of availability.

Anutin confirmed the delivery of the vaccine is expected to be sometime in July although no specific details were provided on dates or quantities.

The offer from Tokyo comes after it donated 1.24 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine on June 6 to Taiwan which was struggling to secure sufficient numbers and had accused China of interference.

Japan had secured enough AstraZeneca doses for over 60mn of its citizens but is not administering the formula despite approving it, as concerns linger about rare cases of blood clots.



Japan is dumping its supply of AstraZeneca vaccines. Photo: AFP

Instead, it is prioritising administration of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and has secured enough of both to potentially jettison its AstraZeneca stock elsewhere.

So far, Thailand has fully vaccinated 2.1mn people out of its 66mn total population using a combination of AstraZeneca and the Chinese-manufactured Sinovac, some of which was donated by China.

The Chulabhorn Royal Academy confirmed on Monday that 1mn doses of the Sinopharm vaccine, also produced in China, arrived in Thailand on Sunday and should be able to be administered by hospitals as an alternative to the jabs provided by the government from today onwards.

The Phuket News



THAI
RESIDENTIAL

Phuket's No.1 Trusted Real Estate Advisor

**Beach Front Land
For Sale
in Khao Lak from
2.781 Million THB per Rai**
Agents Welcome

PHUKET@THAIRESIDENTIAL.COM | +66 94 8411 918 | WWW.THAIRESIDENTIAL.COM
THAIRESIDENTIAL CO., LTD. 82/37 SAM PAO COURTYARD, MOO4, PATAK ROAD, T.RAWAI, PHUKET, 83130



36 Rai (57,600 Sqm) Land for Sale Close to Beach in Khao Lak



245.55 Rai (392,880 Sqm) with Beachfront Land for Sale in Khao Lak (Can be Subdivided)

THIS IS THE MOMENT

A Song for Thailand

Press Release

On the eve of Phuket Island opening to international tourists, British Producer/Song-writer Will Robinson is releasing a music video called “This is the moment” to help encourage tourists to come back to Thailand.

The video filmed is filmed in 23 stunning locations around Thailand of a Thai couple on an extraordinary dream adventure holiday including breathtaking scenes in the mountains of Chiang Rai, Loei, Kanachanaburi, a temple Wat Thang Sai in Prachuap Khiri Khan, and a yacht sailing off into the Indian Ocean sunset from Promthep Cape in Phuket.

There is also a cameo appearance by former Tourism and Sports Minister of Thailand Senator Weerasak Kowsurat at Taweechai Elephant camp in Kanachanaburi where can be seen elephants bathing.

Senator Weerasak says, “Thai hospitality is not just an important industry in Thailand but Thai hospitality is in our culture and ways of life. Sovereignty of the land has never been away from us, and no matter where we live

anywhere in the Kingdom we always see visitors as guests who we thank for paying us a visit. I have already heard the song’s nice melody and I think it’s beautiful.”

“This is the moment” song and video is part of Will’s musical project “The Isan Project”, which features several well known vocalists, including the golden voice of “Sonna Rele”, who was the vocals of Disney’s Cinderella theme song “Strong”.

“This is the moment” is co-written by Will Robinson and Daniel Ryan and is part of The Isan Project’s forthcoming album “The Beautiful North”, which is due for release later in 2021. It will be the project’s second album and will include several compositions and videos linked to destinations in Northern Thailand, along with “Island Dream”, “Gaffae Chiang Rai” and “Yellow Mountain”, which was filmed in Mae Hong Son.

Having travelled to many parts of Thailand with the Isan Project including Nong Han, Nakhon Phanom, Buriram, Chaiyaphum and the island of Phuket on many occasions, Will fell in love with the Thai culture and enjoys traveling and writing lyrics from his journey and experiences.



Will also recently produced “Heroes of Thailand” and “Where the eagles fly”, a song about British Cave Hero Vern Unsworth who was the mastermind of the Tham Luang rescue of the 12 Wild Boars and their coach from the Tham Luang cave, Chiang Rai, in July 2018. The story is currently being recreated in a Hollywood blockbuster movie by Ron Howard and MGM set for release later this year, and Will also made the popular video and song “Thailand Amazing Thailand” theme.

Will, who lives in Chiang Mai, says, “I wanted to encourage people back to Thailand. Come to Thailand, there are so many amazing destinations including the new emerging ones.

“Thailand is open, it’s time to enjoy yourself and leave behind the past you. Please come to Thailand and support the Thai people and their great country.”

“This is the moment” single is released today and is available on Apple/iTunes/Spotify/Amazon and all other digital stores.

WANT TO TALK TO
PHUKET?

WINDOW
ON PHUKET

The map of PHUKET
Карта Пхукета
普吉岛 地图
English 中文 Русский

Where to eat in PHUKET

The Phuket News
Your Island – Your Paper

LIVE 89.5

Новости Пхукета
Твой остров – твоя газета

ข่าวภูเก็ต

Phuket NEWS TV

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th

Family Fun Here We Come

By Joanna Matlub

With so many family friendly activities in Phuket, we can't list them all, so here is a small selection to inspire you:

1. Get Active

Red Bamboo Horse Riding stables are near the British International School and offer private, group and trekking sessions suitable for 3-7 year-olds. Sutai Muay Thai in Surin will run a 'Little Champions' holiday camp for 3-12 year-olds which combines Muay Thai, Boxing, Wrestling and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Talay Surf School is running kids surf camps focusing on ocean safety as well as surfing. Rebel Rock Climbing offers something for all ages and levels with over 700sqm of wall climbing challenges.

2. Dolphin Spotting

Enjoy a family day out or small group private VIP speedboat trip on the waters, and you might get the opportunity to experience a pod of these inquisitively playful creatures up close and personal. Dolphins are intensely social animals, so you could be lucky enough to have some play near your boat's wake. The day trip could start with some family friendly shallow water snorkelling around the Khai Islands, followed by a beach picnic



before heading to Mai Ton to try your luck dolphin spotting.

3. Colourful Phuket Old Town

Feast your eyes on the colourful painted buildings, Sino-Portuguese shophouses and Sino-Colonial style mansions around Phuket Old Town. Rainbow colours galore will keep the kids happy walking around, and with more than enough coffee shops, ice cream parlours and restaurants you can stop to recharge easily too. Admire the street art around Soi Rommanee, Dibuk Road and Phangnga Road and stop to take some artistic family shots around these colourful walls and alleys.

4. Mini Island Adventure

5 Star Marine offers a customised family friendly day trip to Hong Krabi which



has something to keep everyone happy; whether it be snorkelling, white sandy private beaches, hiking or sightseeing. You might choose to enter through the narrow passageway to get to the scenic Ko Hong Lagoon, with striking turquoise shallow waters surrounded by high rock walls. Then let your adventurous side loose and make your way to the most recent island addition, the breath-taking 360o Viewpoint. Built in 2020, it was designed to give panoramic seascape views of Krabi, Phang Nga Bay and the surrounding islands. A fun day, with so much to experience for the whole family.

5. Glamping

So, what ticks the boxes when you want to get back to nature, but are not willing to compromise on comfort? Make way



traditional camping, and let's look at a few glamping options in Phuket. Roost Glamping near Rawai features luxury bell tents, kid friendly infinity pool and café serving high quality, great dishes, set amongst natural tropical gardens. A fun highlight is the Saturday evening campfire experience with marshmallow roasting which the kids (and adults) all love. As an alternative, Sea Safari is a newer addition to the glamping scene and is set on Sunrise Beach in Rawai. It offers an outdoor pool, restaurant and luxurious bell tents along the beach, offering plenty of space for the kids to play.

Contact 5 Star Marine on 093 720 6221 to book a customised, family friendly speedboat day trip and receive their brand-new 'Travel Passport' to fill with stamps from your adventures.

Helping people get back on their feet

The International Veterans Association (IVA) Phuket has stepped up to hold an 'employment assistance fair' to help local people, and local businesses, find skilled staff as the island prepares to reopen to receiving vaccinated international tourists from July 1.

"When the pandemic hit the island, many workers travelled back to their homes in their villages. Businesses closed, many without a plan," explained Steve Pearce, IVA's inaugural president.

"Areas like Patong beach are desolate, with all but a few of the thousands of businesses managing to remain open. Hundreds of locals remain in the area, but most are struggling to get by.

"With the 'Phuket Sandbox' just around the corner, hundreds of businesses will have a plan to reopen in the coming weeks, ready for the tourists," he noted.

"One hurdle that the business owners and managers will face is, how do they find staff so that they can reopen? The doors have been closed for 15 months, so walk-in staff are not readily available," Steve explained.

To provide help for those in need, the IVA in partnership with the owners of the Halfway Inn Bar and Restaurant have decided to run a three-day employment assistance fair, Steve added.

"Locals looking for work will be able to visit the Halfway Inn bar and



The IVA Phuket and the Halfway Inn on Nanai Rd in Patong have joined forces to help people find jobs, and businesses to find staff.

complete a short declaration that they are ready for work. It includes basic information such as name, telephone number, type of work sought and previous experience," Steve explained.

"Potential employers can also visit the Halfway Inn and take the information left by the locals in order to arrange interviews with the hopeful staff. If need be, interviews may take place at the Halfway Inn," he added.

The event started on Thursday and continues today (June 24-25), from 11am to 5pm.

"Please let your Thai friends who may be looking for work, know about this project. The Halfway Inn bar is on Nanai Rd in Patong," said Steve.

The employment assistance fair is expected to mainly focus on businesses in the area, mainly bars, shops, hotels, restaurants and clubs, he noted.

"Employers and HR managers are welcome to visit anytime," Steve added.

Visit PhuketVeterans.com or call 895-870819. *The Phuket News*



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
Facebook: PVC Phuket | Facebook: NathanUpvcBrown



POP QUIZ

1. Martha Jane Canary was better known by what name?

2. What name is given to a planet outside the solar system that orbits a star?

3. Which legendary twin brothers are credited with the founding of Rome?

4. What exactly is Deep Space Nine in the science fiction television series?

5. What is Bart Simpson's full name?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

1. Where the Wizard of Westwood coached

5. Montmartre Mrs.

8. Kind of court

12. Whale show

14. Shade of black

15. Emit light

16. BMW's e.g.

17. Catch

18. Jump over

19. Scottish city

21. Persian Gulf port

22. Wet behind the ____

23. Stratum

24. Drift

27. As matters now stand

30. Eur. speedometer reading

33. Let up

35. Anger

36. Stable staple

37. Australian land in the Indian Ocean, 2 words

41. Decks in a ring

42. They can be sweet

43. Buyer

44. "... ____ quit!"

45. Roman building feature

48. Metric measure

49. Kind of evidence

50. Quote a passage

52. City on the Missouri River

55. Costa del Sol city

59. Leonardo's lady

60. "Exodus" author

62. Maria Callas songs

63. Finger tip

64. Pike or perch

65. "The Lord of the ____"

66. Taverns

67. Photo ____ (press events)

68. Orwell's alma mater

Down

1. Insurer for military personnel

2. Great Lakes fish

3. Overdue

4. Little cherubs

5. Planet circler

6. Andy Warhol painting

7. Wapiti

8. "Hey hey, you you, get off of my ____" Rolling Stones

9. Chops for dinner

10. India setting

11. Mountain legend

13. Stamp of approval

14. Common tattoo spot

20. Medieval perhaps

21. Hate with a passion

23. Its capital,

Singaraja

24. Crazy

25. Dislike, and then some

26. Persian language

28. Refuse

29. Embroidered word

30. Military uniform cloth

31. Discussion members

32. Start for "electric"

34. Neighbor of Francia

38. Prefix with byte

39. Buddy

40. War of 1812 locale

46. Money in electronic form

47. Title a Knight

49. Indian vegetable dishes

51. Skiers tow

52. Present starter

53. ____ and groan

54. Has ____ with

55. Unmarried woman title

56. Drier stuff

57. Italy's ____ di Como

58. Part of Nasdaq, abbr.

60. Mystery craft

61. Clothing defect

Crossword grid

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

SLAP PSST CYCLE

TIME ECHO HOPED

OMAN SUES EUNOS

POTATO PEELER

SINH PEAS ASA

DOEN WEIGHT

AFR SLATS AGAS

GRAPEFRUIT KNIFE

LINE SMCES TETA

NEUTEL SALES

TEP TOFU FILES

CHEESEGRATER

OKAPI TAPA PALO

LILAC AGED SILT

DRESS LEES ELSE

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

in every 10,000 chickens can change their gender.

2

escalators only are in the entire US state of Wyoming, which covers 97,914 square miles.

80

percent of the world's opioids are consumed by the United States.

1,160

US dollars a month and \$13,926 annually is how much New Yorkers save on average by using public transportation.

60 billion

US dollars of sunken treasure is estimated to be still sitting at the bottom of the world's oceans.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW

Sun's splendour. Photo by OB Wetzell

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

This week in history

June 25, 1876
Battle of the Little Bighorn and the death of Lt Col George Armstrong Custer.

June 26, 1870
The Christian holiday of Christmas is declared a federal holiday in the United States.

June 27, 1971
After only three years in business, rock promoter Bill Graham closes Fillmore East in New York, the "Church of Rock and Roll".

June 28, 1997
Holyfield-Tyson II: Mike Tyson is disqualified in the third round for biting a piece off Evander Holyfield's ear.

June 29, 1613
The Globe Theatre in London burns to the ground.

June 30, 2019
Donald Trump becomes the first sitting US President to visit the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea).

June 17, 1631
Mumtaz Mahal dies during childbirth. Her husband, Mughal emperor Shah Jahan

July 1, 1997
China resumes sovereignty over the city-state of Hong Kong, ending 156 years of British colonial rule. The handover ceremony is attended by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Prince Charles of Wales, Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

I, will spend the next 17 years building her mausoleum, the Taj Mahal.

Donald Trump with Kim Jong-un. Photo: AFP

Source: Wikipedia

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

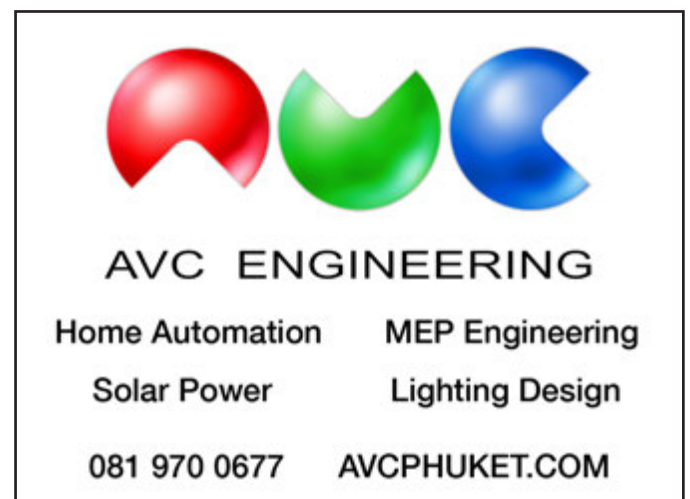
20 year WARRANTY

under yearly checkup plan... Drone Survey

Pipe Inspection

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT



AVC ENGINEERING

Home Automation MEP Engineering
Solar Power Lighting Design

081 970 0677 AVCPHUKET.COM

HOME IMPROVEMENT



Plumber
German Water Team Ltd.Part
We repair what your husband fixed

MASTERCRAFTSMAN
WE REPAIR AND BUILD NEW:

- ALL KINDS OF HOT AND COLD WATER SYSTEMS
- HOT WATER SOLAR SYSTEMS AND SOLAR PUMPS
- POOL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE
- REPAIR ALL KINDS OF WATER SYSTEMS AND POOL PUMPS
- A VARIETY OF WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS TO FIT YOUR NEEDS

SHOWROOM NEXT TO WAT CHALONG
OPEN FROM 8AM TO 5PM

094 594 8868 (THAI)
089 645 4848 (GER / ENG)

www.germanwaterteam.com
Email: germanwaterteam@yahoo.de

22/12 Moo 8 Chaofa R.d west Chalong A Muang Phuket 83130

HOME IMPROVEMENT



SMART TILES
Tile Leveling System

Baan Wana - Cherg Talay
Tel : 076 620168

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

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

PERSONAL SERVICE



New Year - New You

Get the life you want with support from Expat Life Coach.

New Year offer, only 2,500 baht for first 90 minute consultation.

Contact us today to arrange an informal chat
expatlifecoach@outlook.com

PERSONAL SERVICE



We Clean
Phuket.net

Covid-19 Disinfection Service

20% OFF - quote code PN05

081 737 7850
fb.me/WeCleanPhuketNet.EN
LINE ID: WeCleanPhuketNet

PROPERTY SERVICES



LUXURY VILLA CLUB
DIRECT ★ RENTALS ★ SALES

Villa and Yacht Websites
Photography, Videos, Drone
Villa Rental, Sales & Marketing
Property Inventories
25 Years Experience

Joanne@luxuryvillaclub.com

OTHER



Mac-Nels

MACNELS SHIPPING PHUKET

ANY SHIPMENT ANY WHERE

☎ OFFICE: 076 603907
☎ MOBILE: CALL PETER 0863645862
www.macnellsphuket.com

WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?

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

WINDOW ON PHUKET
The map of PHUKET Карта Пхукета Where to eat in PHUKET
LIVE 89.5 **NEWS TV**

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th

FRI
25 JUN


RESTAURANT BAR
 98/18 Vises Road
 Rawai
 Oti: 081/891 4381
 www.shakersphuket.com
 shakersphuket@gmail.com
 GPS: N07°46.971
 E098°19.001

Friday Mussels night
 1.2 Kg mussels served with French Fries Your choice, Your style: Marinere, Provencale, Garlic & cream or Thai style We have a kid's playground zone. Price vary from 295 baht to 350 baht depending on choice ordered. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket

SUN
27 JUN


RESTAURANT BAR
 98/18 Vises Road
 Rawai
 Oti: 081/891 4381
 www.shakersphuket.com
 shakersphuket@gmail.com
 GPS: N07°46.971
 E098°19.001

Sunday roast
 12PM – 9PM: All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet Beef, Pork & Lamb – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, Fried mushrooms, Grilled Tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes – 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.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket

WED
30 JUN


RESTAURANT BAR
 98/18 Vises Road
 Rawai
 Oti: 081/891 4381
 www.shakersphuket.com
 shakersphuket@gmail.com
 GPS: N07°46.971
 E098°19.001

Wednesday Ribs night
 6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ Pork Ribs served with Salad Buffet, Potato Salad & Choice of Sauces. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 325 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket

EVERY DAY



PVC Phuket Food Challenge 2021
 PVCPhuket.com presents the Phuket Food Challenge! Are you sick of paying for your meal even though you finished the whole thing? Running now at Lets Meat Phuket Town, Islander Rawai and Aussie Bar Patong you can earn your meal, worth 495 baht, for free! If you can finish your special sausage sandwich in less than 20 minutes! Check out Phuket Food Challenge on Facebook for full details. nathan@pvcphuket.com

SAT
3 JUL



Cirque du SWAP One Year Anniversary!
 Cirque Du SWAP @ The Grind Cafe, Sat 3rd July 11AM-4PM. An incredible Circus Show! Trapeze,


MON
28 JUN


RESTAURANT BAR
 98/18 Vises Road
 Rawai
 Oti: 081/891 4381
 www.shakersphuket.com
 shakersphuket@gmail.com
 GPS: N07°46.971
 E098°19.001


Monday BBQ night
 6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Prawns & Squids, salad buffet, Baked potatoes, potato salad & various 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

Listen for
DAILY EVENT UPDATES ON
LIVE 89.5



CARS, TRUCKS FOR SALE


18 Seater Mitsubishi Bus x 2
 18 Seater Mitsubishi Bus (2 buses), Year December 2011. Yellow Registration Plates. THB 950,000 (each). Contact: Robin Lee on Mobile 061 829 8293.

PROPERTY FOR SALE


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



HALF PRICE CONDO LAGUNA AREA
 200m to Bangtao, 2 pools, Jacuzzi, sauna, gym, BBQ, 140 sqm. Free: bikes, electric scooters, drinking water, coconuts, 3TVs, Netflix, 200TV channels. HALF PRICE 076 324404 phuket@casuarinashores.co

PROPERTY FOR RENT


Kata Gardens Private Pool
 Kata Gardens Private Pool Penthouses. Walk to Beach Ocean View 1, 2 and 3 Bedroom Units Available. 2 Common Area Pools. plrkata@outlook.com, +66909959767, Graham Herdman

Want your EVENT listed here?
 Reserve your space **NOW!**
076 612 550 sales@classactmedia.co.th

CARS, TRUCKS FOR SALE


Car rent @ fair covid prices
 Mitsubishi Xpander, top model new car, monthly price B17,000. Car from 400 Bht daily, 8,000 monthly. Toyota Vios top model new, from 10,000 Bht monthly. Call 0848474377. Email: stigisaan@gmail.com

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


Australian Visas
 Need An Australian Visa or Expert Advice?
 Have the confidence dealing with an Australian Lawyer and Agent, based right here in Thailand but regulated in Australia.
 Your application will be prepared and lodged for you, as well as expert advice as to the best visas and approach.
 We can assist with all visa types, including Tourist, Partner, Work, Study and Family visas.
 Had a visa refusal - our team specialise in getting you the result you want.
Phone: 084 400 9487
www.AustralianVisas-Thailand.com
 Migration Agents
 Registration Number
1464995
www.mara.gov.au

QSI
QSI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF PHUKET

QSI Phuket is looking for Certified Native English Speaking Teachers for 2020-2021 school year
Preschool/Kindergarten Teacher
Qualifications:
 • Native English Speaking Teachers
 • Bachelor or higher degree in Education Only
 • Experience in teaching is required
 • Teaching license is preferred
Interested teachers
Please send email with the following attachments:
 • A cover letter with stating the position you are applying for
 • Your resume with a recent photo
 • A scan of your education certificates and transcripts
 • A scan of your passport's photo page
Send CV to Phuket@qsi.org
https://www.qsi.org/thailand/pkt Tel. 076 304 312
 SUCCESS FOR ALL



STAY UP TO DATE

with our daily/weekly
email updates on
everything Phuket

A PLEA FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Do you have less than 3 Baht a day for The Phuket News? It is tough times for all of us.

Many will know that *The Phuket News* is a critical means of information here in Phuket.

However, over the last 12 months advertising revenue has dropped traumatically and therefore our ability to provide a free daily news update email has diminished. We rely on our fantastic staff and have no revenue to pay for them to continue to provide the news we need to know in Phuket.

As a result we have introduced a charge to help cover our costs of bringing you timely and important updates. For B1,500 a year, 33% off if signed up by Jun 30, 2021, you will receive an email at 7pm each evening with key Phuket updates.

For those who still want free news you can subscribe to a free weekly email update, sent every Sunday evening.

This has not been an easy decision but we need new sources of revenue to cover our staff costs so we can deliver you the news you need to know.

SIGN UP TODAY



thephuketnews.com/subscribe-newsalert-daily.php

Thanking you for your continued support.

Regards.

Jason Beavan

Verstappen wins French GP

Red Bull driver leaves it late to outwit Hamilton in Riviera thriller

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

Max Verstappen pulled off a masterful strategy to pass Lewis Hamilton for victory with two laps to go in a nail-biting French Grand Prix last Sunday (June 20).

Verstappen started on pole but lost the lead almost immediately when he ran wide on exit, allowing Hamilton to slip through and control the pace of the first stint.

Valtteri Bottas held third off the line and was on the attack, the Finn bouncing back strongly from his horror race in Azerbaijan two weeks ago. He sandwiched Verstappen behind the leader, and Mercedes opted for aggressive tactics by bringing in Bottas, not Hamilton, first at the pit stops to try to strategise him into second.

Verstappen stopped on the next lap, just maintaining position, but Mercedes waited a crucial extra lap before bringing Hamilton in for his



Race winner Max Verstappen and Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez (right) celebrate at the finish line during the French Formula One Grand Prix last Sunday (June 20). Photo: Nicolas Tucat/AFP

own new set of tyres.

It was an error, and by keeping his ageing tyres for an extra lap Hamilton found himself rejoining the race behind Verstappen, demoted to second.

The Mercedes cars were still faster, but try as they might to force their way through, Verstappen was too quick down the straights, allowing him to defend in the

key overtaking zones and maintain a delicate lead.

But the fighting was coming at the expense of severe tyre degradation, and there was concern that getting to the chequered flag without a second stop may not be feasible – Bottas said as much over team radio early in the race, though the team chose not to act.

Red Bull Racing seized the

initiative. With Verstappen warning he couldn't defend against the faster cars on old rubber to the end, the team brought him in for new tyres with 20 laps to go, dropping him to fourth behind the Mercedes cars and teammate Sergio Perez, who was running an alternative strategy.

FAMOUS WIN

Perez's presence was crucial,

preventing Hamilton from following Verstappen lest he get caught behind the Mexican.

Now lapping up to two seconds a lap faster, Verstappen waved past Perez and muscled his way through Bottas to give himself a 10-lap advantage.

He had 18 seconds to make up to Hamilton, and after being waved into third by Perez he made short work of Bottas on lap 39 and closed to three seconds of the lead with five laps remaining.

He didn't need them all, and on the penultimate lap he breezed into the lead down the long back straight to record a famous win.

"Luckily it paid off!" Verstappen said of his strategic gamble. "The whole race we were fighting each other. I think it will be like this for the rest of the season."

Hamilton came home second, partly relieved to have minimised his car's troubled build-up to the weekend through practice but warning that his team had work to do to keep itself in title contention.

"Of course we didn't win and we were in the lead... but still it was a great race," he said. "We've got to find some pace, that's for sure."

Sergio Perez and Valtteri Bottas battled for third late in the race, but Perez had delayed his sole pit stop until almost halfway through the race, earning him tyres seven laps fresher that eased his way past the second Red Bull Racing machine.

"A great race, great strategy from the team," Perez said. "I'm happy we won the race today – good points for the team."

McLaren teammates Lando Norris and Daniel Ricciardo battled in reverse order in the first part of the race, but a better strategy with a late pit stop got Norris ahead at the end, leaving Ricciardo to defend against Pierre Gasly and Fernando Alonso in the closing laps.

Aston Martin teammates Sebastian Vettel and Lance Stroll drove superb recovery drivers from 12th and 19th through strategy to score the final points of the race.

Kiwi selected as first transgender Olympian

OLYMPICS

NEW ZEALAND WEIGHT-lifter Laurel Hubbard was confirmed as the first openly transgender athlete to compete at the Olympic Games last Monday (June 21) when Kiwi officials named her in the squad for Tokyo next month.

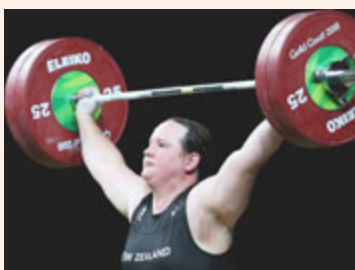
New Zealand Olympic Committee chief Kereyn Smith said Hubbard, 43 – who was born male but transitioned to female in her 30s – had met all the qualification criteria for transgender athletes.

"We acknowledge that gender identity in sport is a highly sensitive and complex issue requiring a balance between human rights and fairness on the field of play," Smith said in a statement.

Hubbard, who also competed as a male, became eligible to lift as a woman after showing testosterone levels below the threshold required by the International Olympic Committee.

She will contest the womens +87kg category in Tokyo, an event in which she is currently ranked 16th in the world.

Current IOC rules state a trans



Laurel Hubbard in action in 2018. Photo: AFP

woman can compete provided her testosterone levels are below 10 nanomoles per litre, a criteria Hubbard meets.

But critics say she has numerous physical advantages from growing up male that make her presence in the competition unfair for female-born athletes.

Hubbard, an intensely private person who avoids the media, did not address the gender issue in remarks released by the NZOC.

But she thanks the community for supporting her return from injury.

"I am grateful and humbled by the kindness and support that has been given to me by so many New Zealanders... your support, your encouragement, and your aroha (love) carried me through the darkness," she said. AFP

Tokyo 2020 shows off Olympic Village

OLYMPICS

TOKYO 2020 ORGANISERS threw open the doors of the Olympic Village to the media last Sunday (June 20), showcasing virus upgrades including a fever clinic just over a month before the Games begin.

Organisers are in the home stretch of preparations before the July 23 opening ceremony, and are trying to build confidence that the mega-event will be safe for athletes and the Japanese public.

As they unveiled the dedicated virus clinic, there was a warning that drinking in groups would be prohibited and confirmation a mixed zone for guests had been scrapped.

Warning posters that caution residents to take anti-virus measures including room ventilation have been placed throughout the mini-city, which can sleep 18,000 athletes and team members during the Olympics and 8,000 during the Paralympics.

The fever clinic, separate from the main medical facility, will be used to test and isolate people suspected of virus infection or considered close contacts of those who test positive.

Other measures include reduced seating for diners, plexiglass shields between gym equipment, and a kit of hand sanitisers and soap to be handed to village residents.

Built on reclaimed land looking out over Tokyo Bay, the village has



Beds at the Village are made out of recyclable cardboard. Photo: AFP

been empty except for workers since the event was postponed last March. Opening in just over a fortnight, the village will be particularly important for athletes this Games because they are barred from going anywhere else except training and competition venues.

Under strict virus rules, athletes will be tested daily and required to wear masks except during competition, eating and sleeping.

Competitors can only enter the village shortly before their event and must leave within 48 hours of being eliminated or their competition ending.

And conditions won't exactly be luxurious, with single rooms of nine square metres and doubles of 12 square metres.

Beds are made from recyclable cardboard, but are tough enough to

stand up to beefy weightlifters and towering basketball players, organisers say.

Olympic officials expect most of those staying in the village will have been vaccinated, but the rules apply regardless of inoculation status, and athletes could be kicked out of the Games if they fail to comply.

Although overseas fans are banned, organisers confirmed on Monday that up to 10,000 spectators will be permitted to enter each venue, provided the number does not exceed 50% of its capacity.

Organisers are battling public opposition to the Games, with national polls regularly showing most Japanese would prefer the event be delayed or postponed. However, recent surveys have showed sentiment may be shifting more positively as the Games approach. AFP

Cricket the winner at the ACG

Local game returns as Penguins and Cows renew their rivalry

CRICKET

Michael Flowers

After a long COVID-induced break due to government regulations, Phuket cricket managed to resurface with a T20 battle between local rivals Patong Penguins and the Thalang Cows last Sunday (June 20).

After winning the toss, the Penguins elected to bat first although with the assistance of a much slower outfield the Cows were able to stifle the brunt of the Patong attack.

In the third over, the Cows' opening bowler Waseem Wahid ripped out Paddy Ledebor's stumps with the score on 13 before Guddu Yadav did the same to Raju Seemant to reduce the Penguins to 24-2.

Next up were Patong's top batting South African duo Justin Swart and Craig Morgan who looked to build the innings.

Unfortunately, Morgan fell for just 3 runs, caught by new recruit Michael Flowers at long off from the bowling



The Patong Penguins and the Thalang Cows resumed their rivalry at the ACG last Sunday (June 20) after a lengthy COVID-19-induced layoff. Photo: Anthony Van Blerk

of Bahnu Singh and soon after Sameer Kahn bowled Swart for 10, leaving the Penguins in serious trouble at 38-4 after 7.2 overs.

The usually aggressive Curt Livermore and the vastly experienced Anthony Van Blerk, batting in prescription glasses for the first time, were left to pick up the pieces and

try to carefully put some sort of score together.

While the pair consolidated, Van Blerk was dismissed for 4 with a stunning caught and bowled from Jaskaran Ahluwalia.

Livermore 11 (28) and Penguin's captain Jason Robertson put on a 40-run partnership before the former

was bowled by Singh with the score at 90-6 after 17.1 overs.

Sajal Gaur 2 (3) joined his captain briefly before the excellent innings of Robertson was dramatically ended as all three stumps ended up sprawled on the wicket courtesy of Yadav. The Penguins ending up posting 106 all out, one of the lowest

scores in recent memories at the ground.

'TOP GUN'

After the break the Cows sent journeyman Sameer Kahn and wild card Pir Sami out to face the new ball.

Sami 0 (3) didn't last long with Robertson picking up his wicket after he lofted a ball straight up to Livermore at cover.

That brought Flowers to the crease for his first innings against his former teammates.

Kahn and Flowers cautiously pushed the score to 53-1 at the 10 over drinks break, a similar score to the Penguins at the same stage but with far more firepower in the tank.

In the 12th over, Flowers 17 (32) was bowled by Penguins fill-in Mayur Deuskar to break the 56 run partnership, bringing in the Cows top gun and ex-pro Ashan Fonseka with the score at 58-2 after 11.3 overs.

However, the pairing of Kahn 34 (39) and Fonseka 3 (5) were quickly removed within two balls as Kahn was caught by Swart from the bowling of Livermore before Fonseka,

in a rare failure, nicked off to Penguins keeper Van Blerk, again from the bowling of Deuskar.

The flurry of wickets left the Cows at 69-4 after 13.1 overs, providing the Penguins a sniff at victory.

Coming in at five, captain Joe Ninan shouldered the responsibility of leading the Cows to the brink of victory with Mike Thomas 3 (7) and Singh 3 (8) not out playing the supporting roles.

Unfortunately, Ninan 26 (22) was trapped LBW by Deuskar with the scores level before Singh hit the winning run to give the Cows a well-deserved 4-wicket victory with just 4 balls remaining.

Deuskar's 3-24 off 4 overs and Robertson's 2-10 off 4 overs were impressive bowling figures, despite the losing cause.

While the scoring application judged Robertson to be the MVP of the game after his all-round performance, it wasn't enough to get his team over the line and he will surely be hoping for more from the top order of the batting line-up in the next match this Sunday.

Knockout time at Euro 2020

FOOTBALL

GOING INTO THE LAST 16 knockout stage of Euro 2020 which starts tomorrow (June 26), only three teams advance in top form with a 100% record.

Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands all leave their respective groups having secured the maximum of nine points and in the kind of form to suggest they could well have enough to go all the way and win the tournament outright.

Italy have impressed from the opening game of the competition, strolling to wins against Turkey, Switzerland and Wales without conceding a single goal.

Always historically admired as a resolute defensive unit, the Azzurri have also impressed in attack, scoring seven times so far.

Add in the fact that star man and playmaker Marco Verratti returned to action and dominated play in the final group game against Wales and Italy look a very serious proposition indeed.

"We will be a test for whichever team we come up against in the last 16," said the Italy manager, Roberto Mancini. Italy play Austria tomorrow.

The Netherlands have looked equally adept thus far with a tight defence marshalled by Matthijs de Ligt and former Manchester United player Daley Blind. Right wing-back Denzel Dumfries has been a revelation, scoring twice and having a hand in several other goals.



Flying Dutchman Denzel Dumfries. Photo: AFP

In attack, Barcelona-bound Memphis Depay is playing the best football of his career, as is ex-Liverpool star Georginio Wijnaldum who has three goals to his name already.

The 'Oranje' resemble a high-speed juggernaut that no team will fancy trying to stop.

Belgium have performed well without really attracting many headlines, maybe due to the fact they are currently the number one-ranked team in the world and therefore much is expected from them.

Romelu Lukaku is in fine scoring form and key men Kevin de Bruyne and Eden Hazard have both successfully returned from injury to play major parts in the last two group games, offering an ominous warning to the rest of the competition.

At time of press, England, France, Portugal, Germany and Spain had yet to complete their respective group games. However, none have demonstrated any kind of sign that they are ready to push on and emerge as serious contenders for the title.

Ben Tirebuck

psd Pvcphuket.com Presents Safe, secure and soundproof windows, Balustrade glass and UV window films psd

THE FIRST ONE TO BEAT ALL 3 CHALLENGES WINS 1000 THB TO SPEND ON FOOD AND BEVERAGE IN ANY OF THE RESTAURANTS BELOW

PHUKET FOOD CHALLENGE

THE FOOD IS FOR FREE IF YOU CAN FINISH IT IN 20 MINUTES IF NOT IT'S 495 THB

LET'S MEAT, PHUKET TOWN ISLANDER, RAWAI AUSSIE BAR, PATONG

In co-operation with thephuketnews.com The Phuket News

Sport

editor3@classactmedia.co.th



**Euro 2020
knockouts
begin > p15**

RAHM'S FAIRYTALE WIN

Spaniard battles back from COVID-19 to earn first major title

GOLF

AFP

Jon Rahm knew after contracting COVID-19, missing his parents meeting his son and losing a near-certain PGA victory two weeks ago that he was due for something good to happen.

It turned out to be winning his first major title, which happened last Sunday (June 20) at the US Open at Torrey Pines, one of his favorite places in the world.

"This one is very incredible, very hard to believe that this story can end up so good," Rahm said after his victory. "It almost feels like it's a movie that's about to end and I'm going to wake up soon."

"With the setback I had a couple of weeks ago, to end up like this, it's incredible," he added.

Rahm had seized a six-stroke lead after 54 holes at the Memorial on June 6 when he was told seconds after finishing his round that he had tested positive. He spent the next week in quarantine until two negative tests allowed him to return to US Open preparations.

On Sunday at the same



Jon Rahm with wife, Kelley, and son, Kepa, after winning the US Open. Photo: AFP

course where he proposed to his wife Kelley Cahill and where he won his first US PGA title in 2017, Rahm sank birdie putts on holes 17 and 18 to defeat South African Louis Oosthuizen by one stroke.

Rahm also became the

new world number one ranked player after his win, the first Spaniard to win a US Open and the fourth to capture a major title after Sergio Garcia, Jose Maria Olazabal and the late Seve Ballesteros.

"I'm a big believer in kar-

ma and after what happened a couple weeks ago, I stayed really positive knowing good things were coming," Rahm said.

"It felt like such a fairy tale story that I knew it was going to have a happy ending."

FIRST FATHER'S DAY

In a strange way, getting COVID-19 helped Rahm pull off his long-sought breakthrough major triumph.

"I believed from the biggest setbacks we can get some of the biggest breakthroughs,

and that's why I stay so positive," Rahm said.

The Spaniard has been trying to better control his temper on the course, but after a club-crunching incident at last month's PGA Championship, has felt calmer and in greater emotional control.

"I feel like coming in here without having practiced much relaxed me a little bit. In case I play bad, I have an excuse. Hey, I had COVID," Rahm quipped.

"I feel like it relaxed me a little bit and ever since the Sunday at the PGA, I felt a bit of a shift on the golf course mentally. I still had that grit, but almost like each miss bothered me less."

Rahm, who said his biggest COVID-19 disappointment was not being there when his parents saw their grandson for the first time, celebrated his first Father's Day as a dad hoping to set an example for two-month-old son Kepa.

"I really set out myself to be an example for my son that he would be proud of," Rahm said.

"You have no idea what this means," he told his infant son as he hugged his wife in celebration.

Vagabonds Sevens series gets green light

RUGBY

PHUKET VAGABONDS IS thrilled to announce the beginning of a sevens club competition to be played out over three weeks, with the first match of the tri-series kicking off at 4pm tomorrow (June 26) at the ACG in Thalang.

Following a month of restrictions, which curtailed gathering for training sessions and the cancellation of a touring 15s game against the Bangkok Bangers, the island's rugby players are keen to ignite an element of competitive play and help influence a return to regularly attended sports activities.



Photo: Phuket Rugby

Excitingly, the series format will be played as full contact, rather than the touch variation regularly enjoyed during training sessions, giving the players an opportunity

to exhibit their full repertoire of rugby abilities.

The club's panel of players has been separated into two teams (reds and blues), and while this series

begins as an internal competition, club officials are hoping it will further expose rugby to the Phuket public and generate greater interest in regard to increasing participation both at adult and youth levels.

"The build-up to the match has been great, as the intensity between the two teams has been building as we get closer to the big day on Saturday," said Paul Rothwell, captain of the red team.

"The players on both teams have been pushing themselves in training and we've had great player turn outs at our sessions."

"I'm excited to see how it all pans out and we're glad that restrictions have been lifted to allow some support for the players who will

leave it all on the pitch for their teams," Rothwell added.

"All the players, coaches and supporters have been looking forward to this since the idea arose," commented Dave Walker who will captain the blues.

"It's added great purpose and intensity to training and the competitive banter makes sure everyone will not be holding anything back. We'll all be friends again afterwards though, and we hope to make this a regular event."

In addition to the upcoming sevens series, the Vagabonds will soon announce their next academy training date, with the anticipated introduction of a regular schedule also planned. *Neil Quail*