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NO WASTE



New projects will see surplus food from hotels delivered to people in need, and reduce Phuket's carbon footprint. Photo: Food Sharing by SOS

HOTELS, GOVERNMENT JOIN PUSH TO REDUCE ISLAND'S FOOD WASTE

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Bhummikitti Ruktaengam, Advisor to Phuket Chamber of Commerce, met with Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew and a host of leading local government figures last week to discuss a new 'zero food waste' project underway and the ambitious goal of making Phuket a 'Low Carbon Destination City'.

Joining the meeting, held on Aug 15, were Wattanapong Suksai, Director of the Phuket Natural Resources and Environment Office; Tiwat Seedokbuap, Deputy President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO); and Witthaya Ketchu, Director of the Phuket Vocational College.

Mr Bhummikitti, at this meeting described as President of the Sustainable Tourism Development Foundation (มูลนิธิพัฒนาการท่องเที่ยวยั่งยืน), announced that a digital platform for collecting data on food waste and excess food in Phuket will be developed.

Phuket already has a 'Participatory Food Waste Management Model' pilot project underway, Mr Bhummikitti explained.

The project focuses on reducing the volume of food waste and individual and organisational planning for purchasing food and produce, but still aiming to provide the right amount of food and to see people consuming the right amount of food, while changing consumers' behaviour as well.

The PPAO has a project underway

that allows schools operated under the PPAO to use food sorting to reduce food waste, and to each have a waste management system that generates fertiliser.

The Sustainable Tourism Development Foundation is moving to expand these projects to drive Phuket towards a 'sustainable and continuous low-carbon city', said a report of the meeting.

A 'food management centres' will be set up in each of Phuket's three districts: Mueang District (Phuket Town, Wichit, Chalong, Rawai, Kata, Karon); Thalang District (covering the centre and north of the island); and Kathu (including Patong and Kamala).

"Food waste will be brought from

hotels participating in the project to be provided to people in need at reasonable prices but with quality," Mr Bhummikitti said.

"The project will be operated in conjunction with the Phuket Vocational College and local administrative organisations (OrBorTor and municipalities), and have goals set to let Phuket move forward towards a sustainable and continuous low-carbon city," he added.

SOS HOTELS

The meeting last week followed Mr Bhummikitti late last month joining the announcement by the Phuket Tourist Association that it had partnered with the well-respected Scholars of Sustenance Thailand (SOS), the first...

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Crackdown on cannabis vendors underway



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Palmer Owyong hits up 'Solving the Climate Crisis'



SPORT INSIDE

Rugby World Cup 2023 Wall chart!



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Photo: PR Phuket

Poor gifted B200k to renovate homes

TWO IMPOVERISHED families in Wichit have been selected to receive B200,000 each to renovate their homes through a community welfare project organised by the Phuket chapter of the Red Cross Society of Thailand.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew visited the families in person on Aug 16, joined by Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Somprat Prabsonkram, Mueang District Chief Phairot Srilamul and members of the Phuket Red Cross Society.

The funds of B200,000 per house were provided under the 2023 budget of the ongoing project by the Phuket Red Cross to improve the living conditions of the underprivileged, the disabled and the elderly.

One of the recipients was Daod Khumban, 55, a resident of Moo 7, Wichit.

Mr Daod suffers from cerebral palsy and lives alone, without income. He has a sister and a brother-in-law who visit to help take care of him.

The other recipient was Amnat Koomban, also 55, a resident of Moo 8, Wichit. Mr Amnat is the head of a family of 19 living in poverty at the home.

The family includes 12 children, two of whom require special needs. Several of the children are from other families. Mr Amnat and his wife attempt to provide care for all of them.

In addition to presenting Mr Daod and Mr Amnat each with the B200,000 to spend on renovating their homes, the welfare delegation led by Governor Narong also delivered a variety of household goods, including fans, rice and other consumables. *The Phuket News*

Officials warn of alcohol promotion on social media

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Phuket Info Center, operated under the Phuket office of the Ministry of Interior, has shared a warning by the Department of Disease Control that promoting alcohol on social media is illegal.

Posting pictures of alcoholic beverages on social media constitutes an offense under the Alcohol Control Act B.E. 2551, the warning pointed out.

The initial warning, by Dr Nippon Chinanonvech, Director of the Office of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee, under the Ministry of Public Health's Department of Disease Control, was branded as a "clarification of the case of a famous person sharing information that is trending in the online world".

The "famous person" inferred, but not named, by the warning is Deputy House Speaker Padipat Suntiphada, the elected MP for Phitsanulok and a member of the Move Forward Party.

Mr Padipat Suntiphada had posted on his Facebook account a picture of himself with a can of beer. He said in the post that it was an interesting product, the first craft



Image: via Phuket Info Center

beer brewed in Phitsanulok. In a video posted online, he is seen drinking the beer.

Within 48 hours of the post, on Aug 13, activist Srisuwan Janya filed a formal complaint and said he had already asked House Speaker Wan Muhamad Noor Matha to launch an ethics investigation into Mr Padipat.

Mr Srisuwan alleged that in posting the photograph Mr Padipat had violated Section 32 of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act, which prohibits the advertising of alcoholic beverages.

In the warning shared by the Phuket Info Center, which also bore the official logo of the Public Relations Department,

Dr Nippon pointed out that any form of promotion of alcohol, especially presenting any images of alcohol products and packaging, were illegal under the Alcohol Control Act B.E. 2551.

"Section 32, paragraph one, clearly states that such actions are offenses for advertising alcoholic beverages. have the effect of persuading or persuading, whether directly or indirectly," the warning said.

Under the Act, "Advertising" means any act which enables the public to see, hear or know of any information for commercial purpose, including marketing communication. "Marketing communication" means any activity organ-

ised for the selling of goods, providing services, creating images, public relations, distribution of information, sales promotion, product exhibition, organising or providing support to organise any special events and direct marketing, "Message" includes any act which displays letters, illustrations, films, lights, sounds or symbols or any act which enables an individual to understand the meaning thereof, and "Label" means a picture, artificial mark, paper or any other thing which displays information of goods as affixed to the goods or their container or parcel or inserted in or combined with the goods or their container or parcel, including... any tag posted or presented on the goods or their container or parcel.

Section 32 of the Act states, "No person shall advertise or display, directly or indirectly, the name or trademark of any alcoholic beverage in a manner showing the properties thereof or inducing another person to drink". Breach of Section 32 may be punished by up to one year in jail or a fine of up to B500,000, or both. In addition, the violator shall be liable to a fine of up to B50,000 a day until the infraction is corrected.

'Food Rescue' push to help the poor, and Phuket's carbon-netural goal

Continued from page 1

...food rescue foundation in Thailand, established in 2016.

Scholars of Sustenance became renowned for their efforts to provide food to the poor throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

Joining the Phuket Tourist Association announcement last month was Lertchai Wangtrakuldee, Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand Phuket Office, and a host of leading hoteliers on the island. The Phuket Tourist Association has had more than 500 member organisations since its founding in 1978. Today, the PTA has 281 members, mostly hotels and resorts across the island.

The launch of the PTA-SOS 'Phuket Food (Before) Waste' project invited operators of hotels, restaurants and other tourism-related businesses to join the project to create a management system to better manage food waste and reduce waste

production. Among the examples cited were leftover food from hotel breakfast buffets.

"Climate change is a story that is coming closer and closer, and affecting the overall economy, especially tourism," the PTA said in its announcement.

"Regarding SDGs [Social Development Goals], tourism should meet all aspects of the goals... adjusting from maximising profit to balancing 'People Planet Profit', because climate change is something that is close to us and affects us all the time.

"Thailand promises that it will be carbon neutral by 2065, with zero net greenhouse gas emissions. How can business owners help to achieve this goal, when the world does not turn over a new leaf," it added.

The Sustainable Tourism Development Foundation is aiming to host the 'GSTC 2026' meeting of the Global Sustainable Tourism



Photo: Food Sharing by SOS

Council," the announcement said. In order to do so, "Phuket must be a Green Destination by 2026."

The foundation will bring the criteria to local government organisations to help work together, it added, which was done on Aug 15. The foundation will also work with the Mae Fah Luang Foundation. The Mae Fah Luang Foundation is a private, non-profit organisation established to improve the quality of life of people in poverty and deprived

of opportunities.

"What we can start doing is addressing food waste, which is the second largest carbon emitter after transport. The partner agency is SOS, which will focus on organic waste generated from the tourism sector," the PTA said.

The foundation aims to become a centre of sustainable tourism development through three main projects: 1) Food Waste; 2) Individual Carbon Offset for Travelers; and 3) Low Carbon Destination.

The 'Metta Kitchen Project for Sustainable Gastronomy' is a food waste management project that will see food that is going to spoil to be reorganised under the control of a 'Chef Care' group and using students as staff from business operators, with the food sold at the three centres to be set up in each district at very low prices.

"It is a collaboration with all sec-

tors to make this management goal come true with the cooperation of all departments. This project will achieve 7 SDGs (Zero Hunger / Reduced Inequalities / Sustainable Cities and Communities / Responsible Consumption / Climate Action / Life Below Water / Life on Land) and will successfully make Phuket a Sustainable Tourism Destination in the future," the PTA added.

Meanwhile, Scholars of Sustenance Thailand continues to take great strides in managing food waste in order to bring food to the poor. The SOS last month partnered with the Thai Chamber of Commerce to provide 900,000 meals to people in need.

The Scholars of Sustenance Thailand - Phuket Office is based at 98 Soi Wat Pa Aram Rattanaram in Ratsada. Visit 'FoodSharingSOSPhuket' on Facebook for more information.

Weeding out bad players

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Health officials will conduct weekly random inspections of cannabis shops and venues across the island as part of a campaign to clean up the island's cannabis industry, Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) Chief Dr Kusak Kukkiattikoon has announced.

The aim is to ensure that licensed vendors must advise customers not to smoke marijuana in ways that create unpleasant odours and smoke that could disturb the public, Dr Kusak said.

There are currently 1,451 business operators in Phuket (502 in Kathu, 222 in Thalung and 729 in Mueang District) with licences to sell marijuana, he added.

"To ensure effective control and oversight, a joint effort is being undertaken by the Provincial Public Health Office of the Ministry of Public Health, in collaboration with the Consumer Protection Office, the District Public Health Office, the administrative organisations, the police and



Officers check a vendor on Bangla Rd. Photo: Phuket Provincial Police

local government entities, will perform unannounced weekly inspections, often during nighttime hours, with the aim of discouraging, advising and ensuring adherence to regulations," Dr Kusak said.

"Violators will face legal consequences, potentially resulting in the suspension or withdrawal of their distribution licences," Dr Kusak added.

Penalties include fines up to B20,000, imprisonment for up to one year, or both. The operators of several marijuana shops already have been prosecuted for operating without licence, he said.

Of 13 shops prosecuted for selling marijuana without permission, nine were in Kathu District, two were in Muang District, and two were in Thalung District.

"Licensed shops that disobey official orders can face 30-day licence suspensions, and if violations continue, licences can be revoked. If evidence [of breaking the regulations] emerges on social media, authorities will act according to the law, whether an incident occurs in front of them or is reported later," Dr Kusak noted.

"Regarding places that let

people smoke on their property, 11 shops in Kathu District, eight in Mueang District and one in Thalung District were ordered to stop operating for a while. There are also punishments for breaking other rules, such as illegally promoting medical cannabis," he said.

Operators are also required to inform customers that smoking marijuana in close proximity to the establishment is prohibited, Dr Kusak said.

"This regulation is in place due to the offensive odour and potential disturbance caused to individuals nearby," he explained.

"Any breach of this directive could result in punitive consequences, including a potential imprisonment term of up to three months, a fine of up to B25,000, or a combination of both penalties."

'WEED BLOWER' SPURS CHECKS

A foreign man offering people to be doused with a cloud of marijuana smoke on Bangla Rd prompted officials to conduct inspections of cannabis vendors on the popular party street in Patong last week.

Officials learned of the man's antics only after photos were posted on social media, prompting police and PPHO officers to conduct the checks last Friday night (Aug 18).

Some 20 officers led by Patong Police Deputy Chief Pol Lt Col Somporn Surin began their checks after 10:30pm. Joining the police contingent was the Kathu District Deputy Chief, Patong Municipality officials and a group of volunteers.

Several venues on Bangla Rd were inspected to check for correct licences to permit the sale of controlled herbs and to ensure that no sales were be-

ing made to people under the age of 20 or pregnant women. Further checks were made to ensure nobody was smoking marijuana in public spaces, officers confirmed.

No violations were found. However, officers failed to find the man wanted for using his 'weed blower' to infuse people with a cloud of cannabis smoke.

Officers checked CCTV and later confirmed that the man was American national Angkhan Vorac Chhieng, who arrived in Thailand at Suvarnabhumi Airport on Aug 15. He was staying at a hotel on Bangla Rd.

Chhieng confessed that his purpose was to create promotional material for selling marijuana in other countries, and was not aware of "the wrongness of his actions", Provincial Police said.

He also said he felt sorry for the unintended harm done to Phuket's image as a tourist destination, and decided to make a video apology, Provincial Police continued.

Patong Police later confirmed that Chhieng left Phuket on Vietjet Flight VZ310 last Saturday (Aug 19).

PUBLIC APOLOGY

I, Mr. Jiradej Khayankij and Mr. Thanawat Buasaard on behalf of Blue Horizon (Thailand) Co., Ltd., Blue Horizon Grand Himalai Co., Ltd., Blue Horizon Himalai Co., Ltd., Rawai Residents Co., Ltd., Skylight Villas Co., Ltd., The Beach front Co., Ltd., The Beachfront Villas Co., Ltd., The Beachfront Management Co., Ltd., Puen Din Co., Ltd., and The Beachfront Project Co., Ltd. would like to express our regret and deeply apologize to BCED Investment Pte. Ltd., ENY (THAILAND) Co., Ltd. and Khun Chua Boon Chin that both of us and one of foreigners defendant have made a mistake in operation management which made BCED Investment Pte. Ltd. ENY (THAILAND) Co., Ltd. and Khun Chua Boon Chin has suffered damage. The Co-Worker (Foreigner Defendant) has currently fled bail out of Thailand and escape the Thai legal system to escape the responsibilities needed towards you owing over 200 million THB. We are grateful for the opportunity given by BCED Investment Pte. Ltd. ENY (THAILAND) Co., Ltd. and Khun Chua Boon Chin to release the Thai personal in this criminal case And we will cooperate with Khun Chua Boon Chin to prosecute those who are

still fleeing and evading responsibility until the case is concluded. We hereby apologize for any inconvenience caused.

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CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

PURIYA BEAVAN
Editor**CHRIS HUSTED**
Executive Editor
084 307 7408
executive@classactmedia.co.th**BEN TIREBUCK**
News / Sport Editor
061 806 8132
editor3@classactmedia.co.th**CHUTHARAT 'UM' PLERIN**
Thai Editor
088 766 1615
thai@classactmedia.co.th**JASON BEAVAN**
General Manager
086 479 7471
gm@classactmedia.co.th**SIRIPORN (NOK) SEANGMAS**
Sales Support
086 479 7470
sales@classactmedia.co.th**NIRAVIT 'MOS' VORAVANITCHA**
THANAPONG 'OAK' KHAO-AMPHAIHAN
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Wind 11 m/s

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Wind 4 m/s

TUE AUGUST 29

High: +32°
Low: +27°
Wind 4 m/s

WED AUGUST 30

High: +30°
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Wind 4 m/s

THU AUGUST 31

High: +30°
Low: +27°
Wind 4 m/s

Report taxi app rip-offs, says MP

PHUKET MP SOMCHART Techathavorncharoen, the successful Move Forward Party candidate for Phuket District 1, has called for people to report taxi app drivers who do not charge the correct fares according to the government mandated rates.

MP Somchart recently re-posted the revised fare structure for taxis operating through electronic systems, namely apps, as published by the Government Gazette, with the aim of assuring people of using the increasingly popular form of taxis.

The announcement, issued by the Ministry of Transport, introduces updated passenger wage rates and additional service charges, signifying a strategic move towards optimising the sharing economy and expanding options for consumers.

The rates are categorised based on the size of the vehicle and the distance travelled: Small Electronic Taxi Vehicles: Initial 2 kilometres: B40-45; Distance beyond 2km: B6-10 per km

Mid-Size Electronic Taxi Vehicles: Initial 2km: B45-50; Distance beyond 2km: B7-12 per km

Large Electronic Taxi Vehicles: Initial 2km: B100-150; Distance beyond 2km: B12-16 per km

The table lists the official mandated rates for different types of taxis and distances. It includes columns for vehicle type, initial fare, and per kilometer rate.

The official mandated rates.

In cases where traffic congestion hampers the vehicle's normal operation, an additional charge of B2 per minute will be applied, as determined by the advanced fare calculation system.

"Taxi fares arranged via applications adhere to a uniform rate nationwide, established by the Ministry of Transport. Should you encounter a taxi service within an application that imposes fares deviating from the legally mandated standards, you have the option to file complaints through the 24/7 hotline at Tel. 1584," he posted.

The Phuket News



Photo: PR Phuket

Chinese rip-off schemes at temples under probe

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Tourist Police and tourism officials have begun their inspections of temples across Phuket to ensure they comply with an edict by the Sangha Supreme Council to not allow foreigners to rent areas at temples in order to profit from tourists.

The edict, issued on Aug 13, specifically mentioned people selling Thai amulets to Chinese tourists, and people fraudulently impersonating monks in order to sell amulets at greatly inflated prices.

Also noted was that it was "Chinese investors" primarily of concern in carrying out the practices.

Penalties will be imposed on monks that allow such practices at the temples, and criminal charges will be levied against all parties involved, the edict said.

Practices like those found at Wat Khao Chichan in Chon Buri will not be tolerated, said Inthaporn Chan-iam, Acting Director of the National Office of Buddhism.

Pol Col Pisit Sawattavorn, Deputy Superintendent of Tourist Police Division 3, led the inspections at several main temples across Phuket on Aug 17.

Joining him were Ratchadaphon Oin of the Phuket Tourism and Sports office, Phuket Buddhism Office Director Veera Chamlong and officers from Phuket Immigration.

Among the temples inspected on Aug 17 were Wat Ladthi Wanaram (Wat Tai) in Chalong, Wat Sawang Arom in Rawai, Wat Khao Rang Samakkhitham in Phuket Town, Wat Kathu and Wat Srisoonthorn in Thalung.

The team inspected the temple areas and questioned leading monks at the temples, but no infractions were reported.

Fugitive Australian nabbed for drug rap

POLICE HAVE ARRESTED an Australian man wanted in his home country on drugs and weapons charges, who was staying in Phuket on a Thai student visa.

Pol Lt Gen Pakphumpipat Sajjapan, Immigration Bureau (IB) commissioner, said during a press briefing on Aug 17 that Robert Wainwright had been sent to Phuket Immigration Office after his arrest in Rawai.

Wainwright was reportedly staying in Phuket with student status through a language school with his Australian girlfriend.

Pol Lt Gen Pakphumpipat said Wainwright's girlfriend handled his affairs to avoid suspicion.



Image: Immigration Bureau

Immigration police arrested Mr Wainwright and his girlfriend while leaving a villa in Phuket on Aug 10.

Pol Lt Gen Pakphumpipat said the Royal Thai Police had been informed of Wainwright's presence by the Australian Federal Police, which is targeting a drug-trafficking syndicate of which Wainwright is suspected of being a member.

Bangkok Post

FARANG AFFAIRS

By Stephff

https://farangaffairs.com

... YOU APPRECIATE HOW EASY IT IS TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS IN THAILAND.



Flights delayed, diverted as runway cracks return

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Airports of Thailand Phuket branch, which operates Phuket International Airport, has confirmed it has fixed cracks in the runway which caused several flights to be delayed, and one flight to divert and land in Krabi, on Aug 17.

The statement was issued by the state-run Radio Thailand Phuket at night on Aug 17, and copied by the national platform of the state news agency National News Bureau of Thailand, but not posted by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

As of Tuesday (Aug 22), five days later, Airports of Thailand Phuket branch still had yet to publish its own statement through its own channels.

The statement noted that it was in response to posts on social media. The alarm was raised by Facebook Group ‘Outsider’s Aviation’, and shared by the Phuket Info Center.

Without the social media posts, Airports of Thailand



Image: Outsider's Aviation / Facebook

Phuket branch did not recognise the problem.

According to the government reports, Phuket airport “explained the cause of cracks found on the runway. affecting the landing of the aircraft but has repaired the cracked area and allowed to aircraft to land as usual”.

In explaining the problem, the statement only repeated what the social media posts had explained: “There is a problem with the runway. making the plane unable to land.”

Similarly, the statement recognised only the flights affected that already had been reported through the social

media posts.

“Many aircraft have to fly [in holding patterns], such as Qatar Airways B777-300ER, Air Asia A320, NOK AIR B737-800, Azur Air B757-200, etc. There was also an ATR 72-600 of Bangkok Airways that decided to change to land temporarily at Krabi to wait for the situation.

“Now smaller planes like the A320, B737 can still take off,” the statement added.

“After checking at Phuket airport, it was found that at approximately 12:24pm, aircraft could not actually land. A crack was found on Runway 27 [the only runway

at Phuket airport] and the air traffic control tower was notified,” the statement said.

Repairs to the runway were conducted, with the runway returning to normal use at approximately 2:15pm.

According to the statement, Weerasak Insaeng, Director of Maintenance at Phuket Airport, admitted that the runway was damaged by cracks, making it impossible for aircraft to land.

“[We] are in the process of collecting information and analysing the exact cause, but we have completed the preliminary repair of the cracked area and [the runway is] open for aircraft to land as usual,” the statement said.

“The airport already has a plan for permanent runway repairs, which is in the process of being drafted because it will require the closure of the runway for a long time. It’s quite difficult to do because there are flights taking off and landing all the time,” the statement concluded.

A “hole” in the runway caused similar flight delays and safety concerns in May this year.



Photo: DMCR

Corals damaged by derelict cargo boat

THE DEPARTMENT of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) is conducting a survey to determine how much damage was done to corals at Ao Makham, off Phuket’s east coast, by a derelict cargo boat that drifted onto the reef.

Initial estimates indicate that some 2,924 square metres, more than 1.8 rai, of corals were affected by the foundering boat, the DMCR reported last Sunday (Aug 20).

It is believed that the rusting hulk of the boat had drifted off its mooring off Koh Tapao Yai and became stranded on the reef at low tide.

The preliminary survey of the corals on Friday (Aug 18) found many different types of corals had suffered damage. There were deep cuts into the reef that may have been formed by the boat’s propeller. Broken corals from the sea floor were found scattered across the top of live corals.

Of the corals damaged by the boat were dwarf corals, ringed corals and long-grooved brain corals, as well as honeycomb corals, among others.

The DMCR is continuing its survey. So far no mention has been made of any action against the owner of the derelict boat.

The Phuket News

First-year students rescued after elevator on campus fails

SIXTEEN STUDENTS were rescued after spending an hour and a half stuck in an elevator at Phuket Rajabhat University on Monday (Aug 21).

Police and emergency services were called to the university, located in Rat-sada, north of Phuket Town, at about 1:30pm

The students were trapped in the elevator, which had stopped moving on the fourth floor of the Faculty of Management Sciences building.

An EMS Advance Unit from Vachira Phuket Hospital and rescue workers from the Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation soon arrived.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew also soon arrived to oversee operations and to provide support for the students.

A fan was used to blow air into the elevator. Concerned about the students being unable to breathe properly, an oxygen line was also inserted into the lift.

Attempts to get the el-



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

evator working again failed, and initial attempts to open the doors also failed.

Rescue workers were eventually forced to use hydraulic equipment to force the doors open so the students – all first-year students at the Faculty of Science, Management and Health Tourism – could climb out.

The 10 male and six female students were assessed

by medical staff at the scene, with two taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital. The latter two’s medical condition was not reported.

One student at the scene said it was not the first time there had been problems with the elevator. Occasionally the lift would move up and down without any people pressing buttons to call it, the student said.

Eakkapop Thongtub



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Tourism roadshow targets Russia

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A Phuket tourism roadshow held in Moscow earlier this month attracted representatives from more than 80 travel agencies, reports the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA).

The roadshow, held on Aug 3, was organised by the PTA and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Moscow office, and supported by the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO), the PTA said in a report released on Aug 16.

Sasiwat Wongsinsawat, Ambassador of Thailand to Russia, honoured the occasion by inaugurating the roadshow and participated in an award ceremony held as part of the event.

At the event in Moscow, Russian media interviewed and exchanged views with PTA President Thaneth Tantipiriyakij, PTA Vice President of Communications & Executive Secretary Karn Aikwanich and TAT Moscow Office Director Kanitha Phanworawat, said the report.

The media was particularly interested in safety issues, such as traffic, maritime safety and public health. PTA President Mr Thaneth informed the Russian media about measures taken in collaboration with Phuket Province and the PPAO to address these issues and ensure the safety of the province, the report added.

Also on Aug 3, a delegation from Phuket led by Pongsura Kupongsakorn, Secretary to the PPAO President Rewat Areerob, joined by other local officials as well as a delegation from Pattaya, met with Vyacheslav Manuilov, Deputy Head of the Department for External Economic and International Relations of Moscow, and Bulat Nurmukhanov, Head of International Relations Division of the Moscow Tourism Department.

The Thai delegation visited the



Photo: PTA

Situation Center in Moscow, which serves as a hub of all city data such as security systems, CCTV networks, traffic management and real-time utility systems (garbage, water, electricity). The visit aimed to draw insights for upgrading the data center of Phuket in the future.

Following the city data centre visit, a 'Round Table' meeting was held to discuss promoting tourism between the two countries, focusing on tourism trends and statistics, direct flights to Thailand and Phuket, and other factors conducive to tourism.

The Government of Moscow also invited the Phuket team to visit Zaryadye Park. Beyond being a public garden, the park serves as an exhibition area comprising a learning centre, cultural centre and a tourist information center. The delegation was also invited to experience the Moscow Virtual Tour, which uses a new filming technique to showcase tourist spots both inside and outside Moscow.

The roadshow to Moscow fol-

lowed a stop in St Petersburg on Aug 1, where a smaller Phuket tourism promotion event was supported by 25 Phuket business operators, namely from hotels, sea travel companies and tourist attractions on the island. In total 65 representatives from Russian travel companies in St Petersburg joined the event, the PTA reported.

Mr Phongsura said that he is confident that Russia will be the top the tourist source market in the next tourism high season.

So far this year, the Russian market has ranked first for Phuket, with approximately 448,000 Russian tourists traveling to Phuket from January to July, representing a growth of 110% compared to 2019, the PTA noted in its report.

"We are confident that in the upcoming season, Russian tourists will set new records, surpassing previous years," Mr Pongsura said.

"We anticipate generating an economic value of around B61.6 billion. We are delighted to see the

continuous positive recovery of the tourism sector and would like the people of Phuket to prepare themselves to be excellent hosts to our international guests," he added.

UZBEK DRAW

The PTA, again with support from the PPAO, held a tourism roadshow in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in late June with the aim of "strengthening tourism connections and expanding Phuket's international footprint".

"The event capitalised on Uzbekistan's substantial market potential, owing to its population of 36 million. Uzbekistan's tourists count to Thailand peaked in 2019 with 19,000 visitors," the PTA noted.

The first half of 2023 saw 16,000 Uzbeks visit Thailand, of whom 10,000 chose Phuket. The TAT has set an ambitious target of 50,000 Uzbek tourists for this year.

Siripakorn Cheawsamoot, the TAT Deputy Governor for International Marketing Europe Africa Middle East and Americas, provided

valuable insights into the 'Soft Power of Thailand' (SPOT) initiative. SPOT emphasises five unique aspects of Thai culture: Food, Film, Fashion, Fit & Firm, and Festivals.

A significant issue raised during the event was the extension of the Visa On Arrival (VOA) duration and the possibility of visa exemption, the PTA noted.

Mr Siripakorn clarified that while the decision lies with the new Cabinet (when formed), the TAT, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is actively working on an e-visa process.

This system would not only halve the visa fee to B1,000, but it would also expedite the application process, the PTA explained.

However, as explained by the TAT Moscow Office, Russians coming to Thailand are permitted a visa on arrival (VoA), allowing them to enter and remain in the country for 30 days without a visa.

The PTA is focusing intently on the Russian-speaking market, acknowledging its family-oriented travel tendencies and the potential for travel during school holidays in June-August.

"With an average length of stay (LOS) ranging between 14-21 nights, this market promises considerable benefits to Phuket's tourism industry. Direct flights from Uzbekistan to Thailand are non-existent at the moment, but the PTA believes that this roadshow could be the turning point for that to change," the PTA noted in a post late last month.

"This successful event underlines the PTA's ongoing commitment to enhancing Phuket's appeal as a top-tier global tourism destination. We encourage Phuket's tourism stakeholders to embrace this opportunity and join us in making our beloved island a preferred choice for visitors from Uzbekistan and beyond," the PTA said.

Major overhaul planned for Thailand Elite card privileges

THAILAND PRIVILEGE Card Co (TPC), the operator of the Thailand Elite membership and benefits programme for foreigners, is preparing for a major overhaul of its packages, which is expected to come with price increases.

The new packages are expected to be available in October, but applications will be accepted until Sept 15 for the existing packages at the current posted rates, TPC has announced on its website.

There was some confusion earlier this month when TPC announced that holders of the five-year Elite Easy Access membership, its most popular offering accounting for 42% of all memberships,

would be given until Aug 15 to apply for an upgrade to a 15- or 20-year package. The short notice caught many members off-guard and TPC subsequently backtracked on the plan.

People can now apply for Elite Easy Access until Sept 15, the same deadline as for the other membership packages, for the current one-time fee of B600,000, with no annual fee. Existing members have also been reassured that they can renew their memberships three months or more before their expiry date, as has always been the case.

Elite Easy Access, aimed at frequent travellers, offers a five-year, multiple-entry visa with access to exclusive lounges where immigration



Photo: Thailand Privilege Card

is fast-tracked, along with limousine service and other benefits.

TPC has five other Elite membership packages offering 10- or 20-year visas plus VIP perks such as spa and golf course access and unlimited

transfers, with one-time fees up to B2 million and annual fees in some cases.

Elite Flexible Plus, meanwhile, is for current members interested in investment and special privileges while working in Thailand. It requires

an investment of US\$1mn (B35.4mn) in real estate, a public company or equities listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand.

While acknowledging that fees for Elite Cards will probably rise in October, TPC has not said by how much.

It is estimated that there are about 30,000 members of all Elite packages.

The Elite Card was first proposed by Thaksin Shinawatra early in his first term as prime minister two decades ago, with Thaksin-sized ambitions to attract as many as 1 million affluent foreign visitors and investors. But it struggled in its first 10 years and ran up losses of B1 billion.

TPC has called its planned overhaul of the programme

"a strategic move designed to adapt to the global economic landscape". However, it has come under criticism over the vetting of applications. Law enforcement authorities have complained that some of the growing number of Chinese crime figures in the country are here on Elite memberships.

TPC said earlier this year that it was aiming for 10,000 new members in the fiscal year ending on Sept 30, with Chinese nationals being the top target because of the mainland's reopening.

From Oct 1 to March 31, it sold just over 5,000 memberships, generating B3.1bn in revenue.

Bangkok Post

Thaksin jailed on return

BANGKOK

AFP

Former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra returned from 15 years in exile on Tuesday (Aug 22) and was immediately jailed for eight years, but his time behind bars could be cut short with his party on the cusp of winning back power.

The divisive billionaire landed in a private jet at Bangkok's Don Mueang airport at 9am, to be greeted by hundreds of noisy 'Red Shirt' supporters waving banners and singing songs.

Thaksin, 74, emerged briefly from the terminal building to bow and offer a floral garland at a portrait of King Maha Vajiralongkorn as a mark of respect before waving to supporters.

More Red Shirts lined the streets as the former Manchester City owner was taken to the Supreme Court.

There, he was ordered to serve eight years for three convictions passed in his absence. However, it was unclear how long Thaksin would stay in jail.



Thaksin arrives at Don Mueang airport on Tuesday (Aug 22). Photo: Bangkok Post

The timing of his return, with his party on the verge of assuming power, has led many to speculate that a backroom deal has been done to allow him leniency.

"Welcome back to Thailand daddy. My father has now arrived in Thailand safely and has entered the legal process," his daughter Paetongtarn wrote on Instagram, with a photo of

Thaksin with his three children and seven grandchildren in the airport's VIP lounge.

FOUR CRIMINAL CASES

Thaksin has said he is prepared to face justice in order to return to his homeland and see his grandchildren – though he has long maintained the criminal charges against him are politically motivated.

He has been convicted in four criminal cases in his absence, although the statute of limitations has expired in one. The jail sentences against him total 10 years.

In the first case, Thaksin was found guilty of abuse of authority in his then-wife Khunying Potjaman na Pombjra's purchase of state-owned land in Ratchadaphisek at a

price below the market value, resulting in a two-year prison sentence. The 10-year statute of limitations on the court ruling expired in October 2018.

The second case led to a two-year prison sentence for the former prime minister, as he was found guilty of malfeasance in connection with the two- and three-digit lottery case.

In the third case, Thaksin received a three-year prison sentence for abusing his position by authorising B4 billion in loans to Myanmar through the Export-Import (Exim) Bank of Thailand. The funds were used to purchase equipment from a telecoms firm owned by his family.

The fourth case resulted in a five-year prison sentence for him, as the court found him guilty of using nominees to hold shares in Shin Corp, a telecommunications company, which is prohibited for any political office holder.

The statutes of limitation for the court decisions on the second, third and fourth cases have not expired.

PM VOTE

For all his long absence from

the country, Thaksin remains Thailand's most influential – and controversial – politician of modern times.

Loved by the rural poor for policies including cheap healthcare and the minimum wage, he is reviled by the pro-military and royalist elite who saw his rule as corrupt, authoritarian and a threat to Thai social order.

Parties linked to Thaksin have dominated elections since 2001 – until this year, when the progressive Move Forward Party (MFP) won the most seats.

But MFP's leader Pita Limjaroenrat saw his bid to become PM dashed on the rocks of bitter opposition from conservative junta-appointed senators spooked by his determination to reform royal insult laws and tackle business monopolies.

Meanwhile, lawmakers were set to vote in the afternoon to install business tycoon Srettha Thavisin as prime minister at the head of a coalition led by the Pheu Thai party – the latest incarnation of Thaksin's political movement.

Additional reporting by the Bangkok Post

Pheu Thai announces coalition

BANGKOK

PHEU THAI AND 10 OTHER PARTIES, two linked to the military, announced a coalition with 314 votes in the House and Pheu Thai's Srettha Thavisin as their candidate for prime minister on Monday (Aug 21).

Pheu Thai, which came second in the May 14 general election with 141 elected MPs, is the biggest component of the 11-party alliance.

Three other allies are Bhumjaithai with 71 seats, Palang Pracharath (PPRP) with 40 seats and United Thai Nation (UTN) with 36 seats. They came third, fourth and fifth respectively in the election.

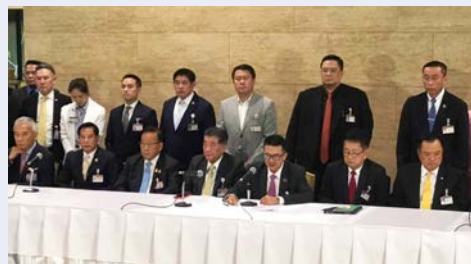
The seven other partners are Chartthaipattana (10 MPs), Prachachat (9), Pue Thai Rumphlang (2), Chartpattanakla (2), Seri Ruam Thai (1), Plung Sungkom Mai (1) and Thai Counties (1).

Pheu Thai leader Cholnan Srikaew told a press conference that Pheu Thai would have eight ministers and nine deputy ministers, including the PM's Office ministry.

Bhumjaithai will have four ministers and four deputy ministers; PPRP two ministers and two deputies; UTN two ministers and two deputies; Chartthaipattana one minister and Prachachat one minister.

PPRP has caretaker Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan as its leader, while UTN earlier had caretaker Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha as its prime ministerial candidate.

The coalition parties agreed to treat Pheu



The press conference to announce the coalition on Monday (Aug 22). Photo: Bangkok Post

Thai's policies as important policies for the new government. They include the digital wallet policy, B600 minimum daily wage and higher farm prices, Dr Cholnan said.

They would have a constitution-drafting assembly set up to amend the constitution to make it "more democratic", he added.

He confirmed Section 112 of the Criminal Code (the lese majeste law) and other chapters concerning the royal institution would remain intact.

Dr Cholnan said he acknowledged the heavy criticism of Pheu Thai for teaming up with parties in the caretaker government, "but we will join forces to work efficiently", he explained, in apparent reference to PPRP and UTN.

At the beginning of the press conference, Dr Cholnan stated clearly that the coalition would not include the Move Forward Party (MFP).

MFP won the general election with 151 House seats. Pheu Thai withdrew from the MFP-led coalition alliance early this month.

Bangkok Post



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Solving the Climate Crisis

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Palmer Owyong is a long-term Phuket expat who lives on Phuket's central west coast. For years, Palmer penned the 'Sustainably Yours' column for *The Phuket News*, through which many people came familiar with his writing, and his thinking.

Palmer took a break from writing his column to finish compiling his thoughts – and research – for a new book, which he started three years ago. Mission accomplished, Palmer's 'Solving the Climate Crisis' was released on Aug 18.

In reviewing his book, Demetria Head wrote for Barnes and Noble: "In *Solving the Climate Crisis*, Palmer Owyong deconstructs climate change to understand how we got here and looks at how we can create a better future by building a nature-based economy in which we live in balance with our environment. Not only will this save us from the worst effects of climate change, but it will also save millions of lives, save trillions of dollars, create jobs, lower health care costs, reduce pollution, lower energy costs, and create a more stable economy."

Kari Klaus in her review on Amazon wrote: "5.0 out of 5 stars - A necessary resource and measured optimism to combating climate change."

"*Solving the Climate Crisis*' by Palmer Owyong is a compelling and indispensable guide that tackles the complexity of climate change with clarity and purpose," she noted.

"This environmental ecology book is a tour de force, combining powerful statistics, insightful charts, and accessible writing to present a comprehensive overview of the climate crisis and, more importantly, actionable solutions that readers can implement within their communities."

Here, Palmer explains what his new book features, and why it is a compelling must-read.

What inspired you to write your book?

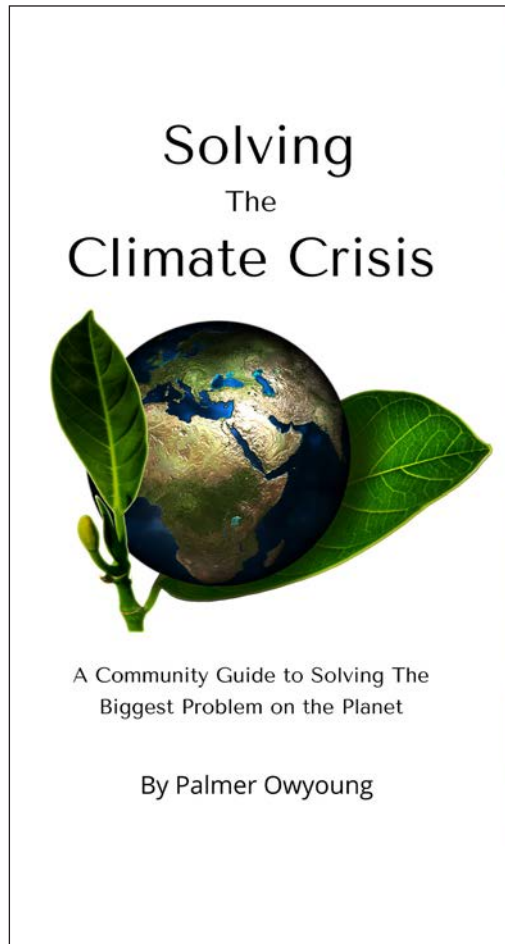
I started writing *Solving the Climate Crisis* at the end of 2020, and the world was looking kind of bleak. COVID had taken over the media and fewer people were paying attention to climate change, but they are both part of the same puzzle.

I had just finished reading Bill Gates's book, *Avoiding a Climate Disaster*, but his solutions involved expensive fixes like investing in nuclear energy and other technology that the average person can't take part in. He also ignored a lot of the social and economic issues surrounding climate change.

So, I wanted to write a book that shows normal people how they can help solve climate change without having to radically change their lives.

Why do you believe this is needed?

Academics write a lot of climate change books and the language is opaque, difficult to understand, and they focus on their area of specialty. Solving climate change requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses socio-economic issues, the abuse of power by corpo-



rations, the high carbon-emitting lifestyles of the wealthy, the inefficiency of our food and energy systems, and how little regard we have for nature.

Also, most climate change books just talk about carbon emissions. We also need to address biodiversity loss, which is at least as important as curbing emissions, because if we fix one problem and not the other, the consequences will still be catastrophic.

Biodiversity is the variety of plants, animals, insects and microbes that exist in an ecosystem. They are responsible for clean air, clean water, trees, plants, healthy soil and our food. They also protect us against pandemics like COVID-19 by limiting the spread of disease. Without biodiversity, our world collapses.

How does your book hope to achieve these goals?

I wrote my book for the layperson and it approaches solving climate change holistically. I deconstruct the problem and the socio-economic and political system that brought us to this point.

I look at how Big Oil manipulated the truth about how damaging burning fossil fuel is by funding think tanks that produced pseudo-science that made the public distrustful of legitimate science. I examine how they funneled 'Dark Money' to politicians favourable to them and used lobbyists to protect their financial interests even as they continued to poison the planet with their product.

I then look at potential solutions. One of the best that I came across was from a Stanford professor of engineering named Mark Jacobson. He talks about his plan in his book *No Miracles Needed* and says that we can transition to 85% renewable energy with existing technologies like solar, wind and hydroelectric by 2030 and 100% by 2050. This would also save 5.3 million lives per year from air pollution, create 28 million new jobs and save trillions of dollars in future damage. Although the plan would cost US\$2.21 trillion



per year over the next three decades, it could pay for itself in just 1.5 years through lower healthcare and electricity costs.

Denialists like to push the falsehood that fighting climate change will damage the economy, but this is simply not true. In the long run, it will stabilise the economy and save us money by preventing damage to infrastructure and supply chain cuts, and by giving us predictable energy costs that are not subject to market fluctuations the way oil is.

I also look at ways we can fix our natural carbon sinks like the forests, the ocean and the soil, which is something that is often overlooked.

I include two chapters on reasons to be hopeful about the future. Some of these include the exponential growth in renewable energy, next-generation wind, solar and battery technologies, and recent legislative changes like the Inflation Reduction Act, the Global Diversity Framework and the High Seas Treaty.

Are there any specific examples from the book that you would like to highlight?

Most people think that overpopulation is the biggest problem with climate change, but it's not. It is connected, but the biggest problem is that a tiny part of the population uses an extremely large number of resources.

For example, the top 10% of the wealthy emit close to half of the world's greenhouse gases. The top 1% emit 15% of emissions, more than twice the amount of the bottom 50%. That means that the top 80 million people emit more than twice that of the bottom 4 billion. Another way to look at it is that one person in the top 1% emits as much as 100 in the bottom half.

The wealthiest 1% generates roughly half the world's aviation emissions. A study from the United Nations says that if we are going to stay below 1.5°C of warming, the top 1% needs to cut their emissions by 97%.

The next thing is that we are told to fight climate change by lowering our individual carbon footprints and voting. Although these things are important to do, they are not enough to save us. What I found was one of the most effective ways to amplify your reach is by donating to non-profits that are lobbying to change climate policies.

GivingGreen.Earth is a website that applies a method called effective altruism, which fuses charitable giving with econometrics and answers the question of where donating a dollar does the most good. So, it's evidence-based giving.

The conclusion is that giving to organisations that affect climate policy is about 10 to 20 times more effective than giving to organisations that are trying to remove CO2 from the atmosphere. GivingGreen.Earth lists the top five non-profits to donate to and breaks down why they are effective.

For example, one charity, the Clean Air Task Force, can eliminate approximately 1 metric tonne of CO2 for between 12 cents and \$1. By comparison, most organisations can't avert a metric tonne for less than \$2.

Is there a single message people should learn from your book?

Climate change is a solvable problem and since society changes through social networks, what we choose to do as individuals (or not do) matters. In the book I talk about 'three degrees of influence', which says that if you change a behaviour, then people in your social circle are likely to change as well up to 'three degrees'. So, we influence each other unconsciously.

Then there is the 25% rule which says that it takes 25% of a population to turn a social movement into a social norm. This is powerful because it means that a committed minority can change society. We are seeing tipping points in plant-based diets, renewable energy and electric vehicles that show that we can change things.

Turning our individual actions into collective action, and amplifying our impact by voting and donating to the right non-profits could make enough of a difference to keep us below 1.5°C warming, which is what we need to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

What are you looking to achieve next?

I am looking forward to going back to writing fiction where I don't have to fact-check everything. I have an outline for a science fiction thriller called 'Generation AI', about the existential threat posed by artificial intelligence.

I am also planning on starting a plant-based food startup. Over the course of my research, I found that our food system causes \$12 trillion worth of damage a year in air water and soil pollution, biodiversity loss, obesity, and disease. So, fixing our food system is one of the most important things we can do.

Palmer's book *'Solving the Climate Crisis'* is available through Barnes & Noble and Amazon. You can find more about Palmer on his website www.PalmerOwyong.me. He also has a YouTube channel simply under the name 'Palmer Owyong'.

See How They Run!

Alan Platt

Robert is a nut. A train nut. When you hear that a guy is retiring early to go and live in Thailand, the last kind of model you think he's going to be hanging out with is a model railroad. But that's exactly what Robert Kief of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce wound up doing. And he doesn't mind you knowing that he's loving it.

Tucked away in its own de-humidified room, away from the wife and kids, is this gentleman's splendid vice – a large and elaborate miniature railroad, aglow in the pride and joy of a very serious addiction. There is no cure.

When not working with Canadian Chamber of Commerce, he's there, master of his domain, a miniature kingdom of locomotives and coaches, model stations, railyards, tracks, points, switches, a little town square, and the coup de grace, a replica of the Bridge on The River Kwai, just like in the movie, but this one with tiny trains happily tootling over it and no miniature Alec Guinness to screw it up.

And he's not alone. It's a hobby that is spreading fast all over Asia. And no wonder. It's art. It's engineering. It's techy, nerdy and creative. And addictive. Ask Rod Stewart. That boy has spent more money and time on his trains than on his women. Well, almost.



It's all because people can't stop. You can add stations, bridges, tunnels, mountains, factories, farms, villages, all populated with people, cars and... don't get me going. Forget building digital cities online. This stuff is for real. You can reach down into your toy world like a giant, like Gulliver, pick up a locomotive, or a coach with little lights inside and bring them to eye level, marveling at their tiny details, then put them back on their tracks and make 'em run!

It's all his dad's fault, this crazy habit. Moving to Canada from Germany, he put together his first layout using mostly German trains and many of the

wee buildings that Robert then inherited. As a result, this miniature world has a distinctly Bavarian look about it, which makes it all look even more exotic among the palms and banana trees on the Rawai streets outside his house.

The German brand Marklin, Robert's choice, the 'Mercedes' of this world, are miniaturized gems that nearly hypnotize you with their intricacy. Better not visit the cannabis store first. Or you could be lost for hours.

Robert thinks it's the world's greatest hobby, because from childhood to geezer-hood, "You'll always be the envy of everyone who sees it."

He may be right. I was knocked out



by his fabulous layout. He brought it in pieces from Canada, and he ain't done yet, not by a long stretch of track.

If you fancy this kind of creative foolishness, there are guys here who will build you a whole environment and teach you how to run it. It's not cheap. But you could pour a lot more into a yacht and wish you hadn't. And with this, you just stroll across the hall and you're in a whole other headspace.

You'll need a spare room that you can dehumidify. But once inside, you can shut out the world. You've built your own.

If you have a hankering to take a trip back to this very creative side-street of your own childhood, you can Google away and find all kinds of help down various rabbit holes. Or for a quick taste, why not start with Robert Kief's own Facebook page, Model Railroad Thailand?



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POP QUIZ

1. Hollywood actor Jason Bateman first starred as a child in which TV series?

2. What is a single strand of spaghetti called?

3. Which UK city earned its famous nickname 'Auld Reekie', for smoke emitted by coal and wood burnt in the city?

4. Which is bigger, Thailand or the island of Borneo?

5. In 1975, Japan's Junko Tabai became the first woman to achieve what?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

1. After-bath powder

5. More rational

10. Combustible heap

14. Above

15. Greenish

16. Course

17. Set in motion

20. "See ya!"

21. Part of a TV feed

22. Kind of doughnut eater

25. Vichyssoise vegetables

28. Slender reed

29. Health facilities

33. Gossip

34. Mellow

35. Calendar square

36. Discovering some dirt

39. Old English letter

40. Charmers

41. Complex dwelling

42. Puzzling one

44. All alternative

45. Allude (to)

46. Certain fir

48. Follows

51. Arizona tribe

Down

1. Deck (out)

2. Mad. ____

3. Authorize

4. Legendary Davy

5. As yet

6. Middle part

7. Fed. agency

8. Christmas ____

9. Coffee order: Abbr.

10. French novelist

11. Common contraction

12. Hindu princess

13. Taro variety

18. Cry of disgust

19. Gathering leaves

22. Bumper car

23. The state of

existing in space

24. Ollie and kin

25. Higher

26. Book before Job

27. Old weapons

29. Immobilize

30. Beloved of Aphrodite

31. Pretentious

32. Modus operandi

34. Tobacco product

37. Most aloof

38. Deviations

43. Assignations

46. Bungle

47. Disposed

48. Gawk at

49. Oktoberfest serving

50. Lab item

51. Bunch

53. Towel stitching

54. Guinness Book suffix

55. Call to Bo-peep

56. No longer working: Abbr.

57. Tribute, of sorts

58. Dandy

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
				20							21			
22	23	24					25	26	27					
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48	49	50							51					
52					53	54	55					56	57	58
59					60						61			
62					63						64			

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

7

years is how long orangutan mothers breastfeed their young, longer than any other mammal.

30

seconds is how long the gunfight at the O.K. Corral in 1881 lasted, leaving three of the five Clanton gang members dead and three of the four in Wyatt Earp's posse wounded.

1,200

times deadlier than cyanide is the poison found in pufferfish, which is served as the popular Japanese cuisine Fugu.

12,800

pounds is the estimated maximum bite force of a Tyrannosaurus rex. Humans have a bite force of about 200 pounds.

24,140

kilometres is how far Marco Polo travelled by land and sea over his 24 years of journeying.

Source: *Uberfacts*

ISLAND VIEW

Day's end at Nai Yang. Photo by Nadia Shakirova

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

This week in history

Aug 25, 1823

American fur trapper Hugh Glass is mauled by a grizzly bear while on an expedition in South Dakota, inspiring many tales of his survival, including major films such as The Revenant.

Aug 26, 2021

During the 2021 Kabul airlift, a suicide bombing at Hamid Karzai International Airport kills 13 US military person-

nel and at least 169 Afghan civilians.

Aug 27, 1883

Four enormous explosions destroy the Indonesian island of Krakatoa and cause years of climate change.

Aug 28, 1898

American pharmacist Caleb Bradham's beverage 'Brad's Drink' is renamed 'Pepsi-Cola'.

Aug 29, 1997

Netflix is launched as an internet DVD rental service.

Aug 30, 1918

Fanny Kaplan (née Feiga Haimovna Roytlat) shoots and seriously injures Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin, prompting the decree for Red Terror.

Aug 31, 1997

Diana, Princess of Wales, her companion Dodi Fayed and driver Henri Paul die in a car crash in Paris.

Fanny Kaplan.

Source: *Wikipedia*

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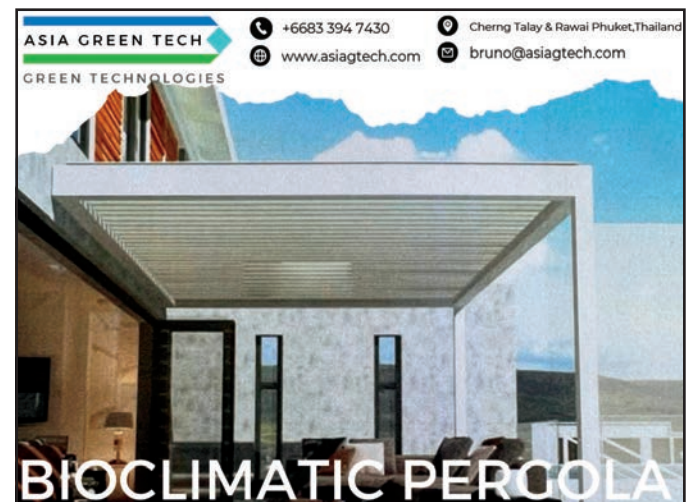
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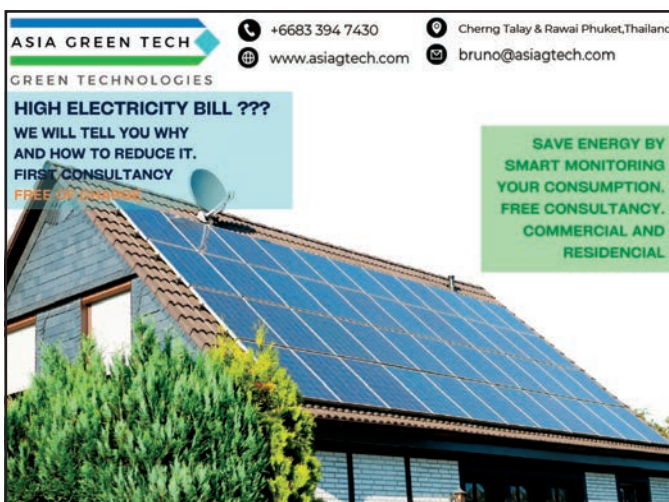
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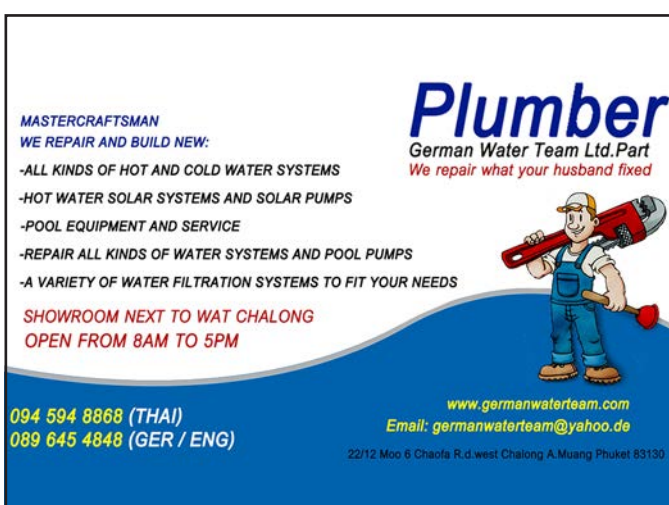
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FRI

25 AUG

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Friday Mussels Night

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JOINT CHAMBERS PHUKET SUNDOWNERS
Friday 25th August 2023
18:00 - 21:00 hrs.
NH Boat Lagoon Phuket Resort
THB 500 for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members and Australian Alumni Members
THB 900 for non-members
Free of charge for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members and Australian Alumni Members

Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners hosted by AustCham

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, American Chamber (AMCHAM), British Chamber (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber (GTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber (NTCC), Phuket Chamber and Thai-Swedish Chamber, invite you to the Joint Chamber Phuket Sundowners at NH Boat Lagoon Phuket Resort, on Friday 25 August 2023, from 18.00 - 21.00 hrs. THB 500 for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members, THB 900 for non-members, includes cocktail-style food, and free-flow selected beverages. More info - austchamthailand.com

AustCham Thailand Member Briefing on Phuket Marine Industry - Charting New Waters
Friday 25th August 2023
17:00 - 18:00 hrs.
NH Boat Lagoon Phuket Resort
Free of charge for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members and Australian Alumni Members

Briefing on Phuket Marine Industry hosted by AustCham

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with partner Chambers, invite you to an insightful Member Briefing on "Phuket Marine Industry - Charting New Waters" from 17:00 to 18:00 hrs. The event will be hosted at NH Boat Lagoon Phuket Resort. The briefing will feature insightful presentations and dynamic panel discussion, bringing together prominent industry leaders to shed light on key facets of the marine sector. Our distinguished speakers will delve into critical

topics that have a profound impact on the marine industry in Phuket including: Marine supply chain, outlook of the charter tourism and local initiatives, outlook of the regattas / sailing events in Thailand & Phuket. Speakers: Ian Lok; East Marine Asia, Shaun Stenning; 5-Star Marine, Simon James; IRC International Race Officer. Moderator: Matthew Cutt; BDO in Thailand and Treasurer at AustCham Thailand. Email office@austchamthailand.com

SUN

27 AUG

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MON

28 AUG

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Monday BBQ Night

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

WED

30 AUG

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Wednesday BBQ Night

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Prawns & Squids, salad buffet and veggies, Choice of potatoes, cold and hot sauces, Bread, Buns & garlic bread. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 395 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

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31 AUG

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FRI

1 SEP



Grow Boating Evening

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for all attendees and as always, all your favourite beverages will be available from the bar. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee. If you know anyone you think would be interested in coming, please invite them along too. A special thanks to our Media Partners The Phuket News, Live 89.5 Radio and Phuket News TV. grow-boatingphuket@gmail.com

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La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Phuket Dinner - Sep 2023

Dîner Savoyard - An evening of food from south-western France stretching from Lake Geneva to the French Riviera paired with beverages from the region, held at Cosmo Restaurant, located at The Nai Harn Phuket, on Thursday September 7, 2023. An amazing menu, with paired drinks, has been created specifically by Chef Mark Jones for the La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Phuket Dinner. Dress code - Jacket's optional for men, no jeans, with Chaine ribbon. Members - THB 6,000 p.p., limited invited guests - THB 6,500 p.p.w. To book your seat at this very special dinner, please visit - phuketticketmaster.com *Pay via Bank Transfer and only pay the dinner price, booking fees only apply to other payment options.

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HEALING HEARTS AND PAWS: DEMAREST CLINIC'S GIFT TO PHUKET SOI DOG

Mr. William Demarest Johnson, owner of Demarest Clinic, has made a substantial donation to Phuket Soi Dog, a local animal welfare organisation renowned for its unwavering dedication to rescuing and caring for stray dogs and cats. Mr. Johnson's profound admiration for the incredible impact of Soi Dog, coupled with the soaring success of Demarest Clinic, has inspired him to give back to the Phuket community and sow the seeds of positive change for both humans and animals alike.

The heartwarming connection between Mr. Johnson and Phuket Soi Dog sprouted from witnessing the sheer effectiveness and devotion of the organization in transforming the lives of vulnerable animals on the island. Under the loving care of Soi Dog's dedicated team, countless abandoned and mistreated animals have been given a second chance at life, and their heartwarming success stories have touched the hearts of many.

As the owner of Demarest Clinic, an Anti-Aging medical Clinic focused on giving back time to people in healing and restoring health, Mr. Johnson realised the parallel impact that compassion and care could have on both humans and animals. This realisation was further reinforced by the recent surge in positive results at Demarest Clinic, with an increasing number of satisfied patients visiting the facility over the past couple of months.

Filled with gratitude and a deep sense of responsibility, Mr. Johnson expressed his intentions to continue and give back to the Phuket community that had supported the growth and prosperity of Demarest Clinic.



MALAYSIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY GOLF EVENT PHUKET 2023

Golfers from Malaysia and Thailand gathered to celebrate Malaysia Independence Day with a round for Charity at Aquella, Phang-Nga on Aug 19. Organised by Asia Mice Planner, M C T and Malaysian Thai Friends Group, which was followed by a fantastic gala dinner at La Vela Khao Lak Resort, that lasted well in to the night.

Dojo 'Rainbow Team' shine on

MMA

Ben Tirebuck

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Not only have more medals come the way of the Dojo at Blue Tree Phuket team after two recent major tournaments but they now have a fun new nickname!

"I like to call us the 'Rainbow Team'," Dojo head instructor Alexis Plantard explained to *The Phuket News* recently.

"This is mainly due to the diverse range of nationalities represented by the students, similar to the many colours of the rainbow," he added.

"We have French, Japanese, Chinese, Russian, Indian, Lithuanian, English and Thais who are all part of the team and who individually and collectively shine like a rainbow!"

The affectionate moniker is certainly appropriate as the multi-national team shone at two recent major tournaments.

The team won 10 medals at the Thai National Judo Cup in Samut Sakhon on the weekend of Aug 4-5, following on from a hugely impressive



The Dojo team at the Thai National Judo Cup in Samut Sakhon. Photo: Alexis Plantard

15-medal haul at the US Open Judo Championships in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA between July 27-31.

The Samut Sakhon tournament, with over 400 athletes from all around the country competing, saw the Dojo team excel with gold medals going to team captain Gabin, Oscar, 6-year-old Damir and 8-year-old Meera, who won her second gold medal in only her second competition; she also received a separate

trophy for the best athlete in her age category.

An especially impressive performance came from David who won a silver medal competing in the under-14 age class despite only just turning 12 years old.

Bronze medals also went to Oliver, Leo, Mael and Dominic.

Alexis himself rounded off the medal haul, winning gold in his age class. "I think it is important that I lead by

example to help inspire the students and that is why I will compete at the championships with them," he explained.

"We train together so we compete together as part of the same team and I hope them seeing me in action can help motivate them to want to continue to improve," he added.

STATESIDE SUCCESS

This followed on from an excellent showing at the US

Open Judo Championships in Florida, the first time Alexis had taken his team stateside.

The hugely popular international event saw over 2,500 athletes from 50 different countries compete as part of 68 teams and team Dojo ended up ranked 8th best team out of 68, despite only having six fighters involved.

Team captain Gabin once again stepped up to the plate to lead by example, winning his division after a gruelling 15-fight competition.

"His win was a hugely proud moment for the team, for Phuket and for me personally, with it being the first time I had brought students with me to the USA," Alexis said. "Gabin did so well to win his division, a really tough one with some outstanding competitors involved. It was the first gold the team won and Gabin set the tone for the rest of us to follow."

Timur won a bronze in his division, securing his orange belt rank in the process. Oscar also won bronze, while Valentine secured his first-ever gold medal at international level, while also claiming a silver and two bronze medals.

Oliver also secured a four-

medal haul, including a silver and three bronzes, while also qualifying for his orange belt classification.

Alexis once again impressed, leading by example to claim two gold medals and a bronze from his contests.

Only weeks previous, Alexis had successfully completed his 5th degree black belt studies in jiu-jitsu and judo at the Kodokan Judo Institute in Tokyo, Japan, which is the global headquarters of the sport.

After completing an intensive training camp consisting of a series of physical and written examinations focused on the technical choreography of the 5th Dan Kata, it means Alexis is now qualified as a sensei in both judo and jiu-jitsu, something he will continue to use to good effect while guiding his team of students in Phuket.

"We are developing nicely as a team and are currently in just the right place progress wise," he said.

"However, there is still much to learn and much to improve on so we will continue to do so to ensure we create the new generation of champions."



Photo: PR Phuket

Chalong fun run sees healthy turnout

FITNESS

A FUN RUN HELD AT KLONG Kata Reservoir in Chalong last Saturday (Aug 19) geared to promoting healthy living saw an impressive turnout, organisers said.

The event focused on the three core principles of achieving a healthy lifestyle, namely diet, exercise and mental wellbeing.

There was no official confirmation of how many people participated exactly but the numbers were high, organisers said, with people of all ages joining in the fun.

Rewat Areerop, President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) presided over the opening ceremony ahead of the run's official start time of 4pm.

Mr Rewat explained how the PPAO has an official policy to continually promote the pursuit of a healthy life style among local residents

to minimise the chance of sickness and disease, specifically in regards to adhering to a healthy, nutritious diet and engaging in a regular exercise routine.

Saturday's event was the final one of three that have been organised across the island to encourage local residents to get active and healthier, he said. The previous events were held at Bang Wad Reservoir in Kathu on June 24 and at Bang Niew Dam on July 22.

All three events have provided local residents a fun and exciting opportunity to get active with friends and family, whether participants decided to run the course or merely walk it, Mr Rewat said.

There were a number of food and beverage stalls at the finish line last Saturday to help the runners hydrate after the run and a live musical performance was staged to further enhance the fun.

The Phuket News

Panipak aims to sign off with gold

ASIAN GAMES

TAEKWONDO STAR PANIPAK Wongpattanakit has vowed to win gold in Hangzhou in what is expected to be her last Asian Games.

The 19th Asian Games, postponed from last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are scheduled to take place from Sept 23-Oct 8 in the Chinese city of Hangzhou.

Panipak, 26, has been dominant in the 49kg class and is the defending champion at both the Asian Games and Olympics.

"This will be my third Asian Games," Panipak told a meet-the-press event organised by the Sports Reporters and Photographers Association of Thailand on Aug 16.

"I won bronze in my first Asian Games [in South Korea in 2014] and gold in my second Games [in Indonesia in 2018]. I think this will be my last Asian Games so I want to win gold."

She said her dangerous opponents are likely to be those from China and Iran although there could be dark horses.

"We have to do our homework and study our opponents all the time. We can't underestimate anyone. Our opponents are always well-prepared to face us so we need new technique and surprise tactics to counter them," said Panipak, who also claimed bronze at the



Defending champion Panipak Wongpattanakit said the upcoming Asian Games will be her last. Photo: AFP

2016 Rio Olympics.

Previously, she said she will retire after the 2024 Olympics in Paris.

The Surat Thani native is arguably Thailand's most successful athlete on the international stage. Apart from the Olympic and Asian Games gold medals, she has also secured the world title twice.

Nicknamed 'Tennis', Panipak is considered one of Thailand's best hopes in Hangzhou. The kingdom also aim to win titles in sepak takraw and boxing, among other sports.

Thailand brought home 11 gold medals from the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha welcomed the Thai Asian Games contingent to Government House on Aug 16.

Prayut told them to do their

best and earn a good reputation for the country.

"I'd like to give you moral support. I hope will you do your best and perform with determination and spirit," he said.

"You must respect the rules and use sports to strengthen relations with other countries."

Some 200 athletes and officials were present at the function.

They were led by Tourism and Sports Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) governor Gong-sak Yodmani, and Thai Olympic secretary-general Wit Devahastin na Ayudhya.

Thailand are sending 940 athletes and 335 officials to the Hangzhou Games. They will compete in 40 sports with the government allocating B1.23 billion for the purpose. *Bangkok Post*

No Kane, no pain for Spurs

FOOTBALL

AFP

Tottenham very much showed there is life after Harry Kane with a 2-0 win over Manchester United last Saturday (Aug 19) as Manchester City beat potential Premier League title challengers Newcastle 1-0.

Spurs were playing for the first time at home since record goalscorer Kane departed for Bayern Munich.

But in Ange Postecoglou's first match at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, the home side showed promising signs of a new era as Pape Sarr's strike and Lisandro Martinez's own goal continued United's sluggish start to the season.

"I keep saying we're still a long way to go but I really liked the belief and resilience the guys have and the bravery they have to continue playing that way," said Postecoglou.

United's decision not to rival Bayern with a bid for Kane will now face more scrutiny as they looked toothless without new striker Rasmus Hojlund due to injury.

"I am not concerned with our attacking play but I am by our scoring," said manager Erik Ten Hag.

Manchester City were without several key players but were still far too good for the Magpies, with Julian Alvarez scoring the only goal of the game on 31 minutes.

City controlled the game throughout and could have won more comfortably but for a rare off night in front of goal for Erling Haaland.



Tottenham's James Maddison (centre) in action during the 2-0 win against Manchester United last Saturday (Aug 19). Photo: AFP

Liverpool recovered from a terrible start and the controversial loss of Alexis Mac Allister to a red card early in the second half to beat Bournemouth 3-1 courtesy of goals from Luis Diaz, Mohamed Salah and Diogo Jota.

Chelsea fell to a 3-1 loss at West Ham United, despite confirming the £115 million (B5.2 billion) transfer of Moises Caicedo from Brighton last week.

However, Caicedo's loss did not seem to affect the Seagulls who continue to soar under Roberto De Zerbi and sit top of the table after a hugely impressive 4-1 win at Wolves.

Caicedo, who joined the Seagulls for just £4mn just two years ago, cost Chelsea more than Brighton spent to build their Amex Stadium.

The Premier League's vultures are likely to be hovering once more for Kaoru Mitoma in the near future.

The Japanese winger shone last season and opened the scoring in stunning fashion at Molineux as he slalomed past four Wolves defenders before slotting home.

Mitoma then set up the second goal for Pervis Estupinan before Solly March struck twice.

Elsewhere, Brentford are making light of the absence of the suspended Ivan Toney as they won 3-0 at Fulham, while Everton's poor start to the season continued with a 4-0 loss at Aston Villa.

Arsenal won Monday's game at Crystal Palace 1-0 thanks to a second-half penalty from captain Martin Odegaard to maintain their unbeaten start.



Thailand draw Lebanon in King's Cup tournament

FOOTBALL

THAILAND HAVE BEEN drawn to face Lebanon in their first 49th King's Cup match with Iraq taking on India in the other opening day game in Chiang Mai next month.

The official draw for the prestigious tournament was held at the Chiang Mai Provincial Administrative Organisation hall on Aug 16.

Chiang Mai governor Nirat Pongsiritavon presided over the draw, which was attended by Thailand team manager Nualphan Lamsam and coach Mano Polking.

The first two games of the tournament will be held on Sept 7 with the final and third-place play-off being scheduled for Sept 10 at Chiang Mai's 700th Anniversary Stadium.

The winners of the first

games meet in the final and the losers face off in the third-place play-off.

All matches will be televised live on Thai Rath TV and AIS Play.

After the draw, Nualphan admitted that this year's King's Cup would not be an easy fixture for the War Elephants.

"The three other teams participating in the event have higher world rankings than us. They are all in the top 100," she said.

"The game against Lebanon will be a difficult one but we are ready to fight and will do our best to qualify for the final.

"Coach Mano and his staff have already done their homework and we will be selecting the best team possible."

The team will start training on Aug 30 and move their camp to Chiang Mai on Sept 4. Bangkok Post

Spain win Women's World Cup final

FOOTBALL

SPAIN WON THE WOMEN'S World Cup for the first time in their history with a deserved 1-0 victory over England in last Sunday's (Aug 21) final.

In front of a crowd of 76,000 at Stadium Australia in Sydney, Spain were the more accomplished side and had more chances, including a missed second-half penalty.

Spain's triumph is vindication for Jorge Vilda and the Spanish football federation, who stuck with the coach even after 15 players last year said they no longer wanted to represent their country under him.

European champions England and their coach Sarina Wiegman, who has now suffered back-to-back defeats in the final, could have few complaints with the outcome.

Spain are the fifth team to lift the World Cup since the tournament began in 1991, joining outgoing champions the United States, Germany, Norway and Japan.

In front of Spain's Queen



World champions Spain celebrate. Photo: AFP

Letizia, defender and skipper Olga Carmona rampaged from left-back to thrash home the winner low and hard on 29 minutes.

"It was a really tough game, we knew it would be tricky, England have a great team, but I think it was our game," Carmona said afterwards.

An emotional Lionesses skipper Millie Bright said her side had not been at their best as their dreams of a first World Cup melted away.

"Really proud of the team to come this far and to play in a World Cup final, not many players do that," she said.

"This is not it from us, we will bounce back I'm sure, but for now, it's hard to take."

There was little to choose

between the teams in the opening exchanges before Spain went ahead just before the half-hour mark.

Mariona Caldentey threaded an inch-perfect pass for Carmona, who came flying unmarked down the left before lashing into the bottom corner.

With 20 minutes left, Spain were awarded a penalty after a long VAR review decided Keira Walsh had handled in the box.

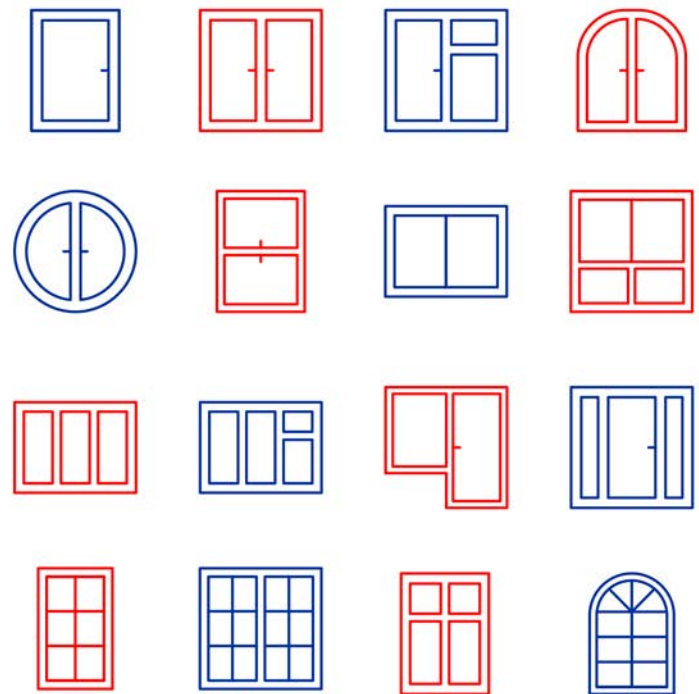
But Jennifer Hermoso's penalty was weak and Earps saved comfortably to keep England hopes alive.

However, despite 13 minutes of injury time, England rarely threatened and it was an assured Spain who held on comfortably for the win.

AFP



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