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# PROMENADE



Photo: Worapong Yuramhan / file

## PATONG BEGINS B122MN PROJECT TO BEAUTIFY BEACHFRONT

**Natnaree Likidwatanasakun**  
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Patong Municipality has launched a new project costing B122 million to create a promenade some 950 metres long along the Patong beachfront.

Work on the project officially began on Oct 15 and is scheduled to be completed by May next year.

The project includes the construction of a new landmark sculpture, symbolising Patong Beach, along with outdoor recreation and performance spaces, explained Weerawit Kruesombat, President of Patong Entertainment Business Association.

Patong Mayor Chalernsak Maneesri late last week chaired a key meeting to make clear to all

local stakeholders how the project would unfold. Present at the meeting were department heads from Patong Municipality, including officials from Patong Municipality's Engineering Division, as well as officers from Patong Police and Tourist Police and local business operators.

Mayor Chalernsak assigned Mr Weerawit to represent Patong Municipality and explain the project, currently dubbed Patong Town's 'Welcome Zone', to *The Phuket News*.

The project aims to enhance the beachfront area through a multi-phase renovation, addressing safety, aesthetics and organisation to elevate Patong as a quality tourist destination, Mr Weerawit explained.

"The goal of the project is to enhance organisation in the area, especially in terms of parking along the beachfront footpath," he said.

A key objective is to optimise parking along the beachfront footpath for better accessibility and convenience. "Once completed, the project is expected to enhance parking, improve organisation, and create a more functional and beautiful beachfront walkway," he added.

The contract for work was signed on July 24 and will conclude on May 21 next year, with a total period of operation of 300 days, Mr Weerawit said.

In terms of budget, the project is divided into three phases, Mr Weerawit noted.

"The Cabinet has approved the budget for this project, with the first phase costing B42mn to improve the entire landscape, and the second phase costing around B30mn, and the third phase costing B50mn," he said.

"The first phase has been approved by the central government, and starts this month," he added.

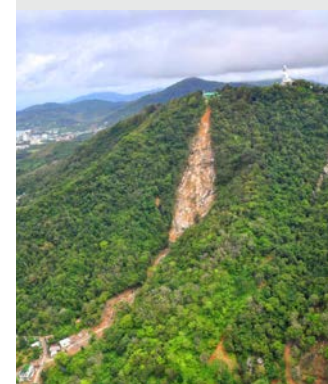
The first section to be developed will start from the Coral Beach Bridge to Soi Mor Watthana at the southern end of the beach.

According to the actual construction plans by Patong Municipality, construction will be carried out in eight phases, with Phase 1 starting at the southern end of Patong on Oct 15 and Phase 8 concluding further north on May 8.

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News



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# New Patong promenade on its way

Continued from page 1

**FUNDS**

Patong Municipality needed to seek central government funds for the project, simply due to the nature of the ‘hidden population’ in Phuket’s busiest tourism town, Mr Weerawit noted.

“The problem is we must acknowledge that many residents in Patong have relocated from other areas, contributing to a significant hidden population,” he said.

According to Patong Municipality, as of June last year Patong had a population of 19,721 registered residents living 4,569 households, with a “hidden population” of approximately 21,838 people, all living in a total area of 1,634 square kilometres.

With more tourists coming, that figure is expected to increase as more Thais from outside Phuket come to Patong to work.

“The sidewalks along the road in front of Patong Beach are severely damaged and in disrepair, which does not reflect well on Phuket as a top tourist destination,” Mr Weerawit also explained.

“And when vendors come to operate their businesses at the beach, some of the vehicles, notably the ‘samlor’ (literally ‘three-wheeler’) parked along the road in front of the beach are not parked properly, which creates a messy and disorderly appearance,” he added.

“The construction and improvements will help make everything more organised,” he said, confirmed.

**PATIENCE**

Mr Weerawit called on people to be patient and understanding



while the work is carried out.

“The inconvenience from the construction is something we need to accept, as a city looking to grow must accept some disruptions,” he said.

Local residents in the construction area have raised concerns and questioned why the improvements weren’t made during the low season.

“We attempted to carry out the work during the current [tourism] low season, but certain elements were not ready, as we were still awaiting budget approval,” Mr Weerawit explained.

“It’s important to understand the bureaucratic process. Once an e-bidding, price proposal or bid is submitted and a contract is signed, the work will proceed according to the terms of that contract and budget,” he added.

Having such work carried out during Phuket’s annual rainy season, during the southwest monsoon from May to October each year, also presented other obvious problems, Mr Weerawit noted.

“If we limit construction to the low season, weather and bigger high tides can cause delays and make it difficult to continue the work, leading to various

problems,” he said.

“If we keep thinking about doing it during the low season, it will never be done. We will never start improving it... So I believe we just need to be patient a little longer. Once it’s done, Patong will look better and be more organised,” he assured.

**PUSHBACK**

Regarding public opinion on this matter, Mr Weerawit explained that both the public and private sectors have recognised the issue of vendors along the beachfront as a longstanding problem.

“This issue has persisted for many years, and there has been a long-standing intention to address it, particularly due to the significant deterioration of the beachfront footpath over time,” Mr Weerawit said.

“So we want to improve it, including adjusting the lighting in the area of the walkways to improve safety,” he added.

“As I highlighted, Patong is facing challenges in organising samlor and mobile vendors,” Mr Weerawit said.

“When we attempt to organise them, we often face complaints and backlash from those affected. But it is important to note that the

critics are usually those who stand to lose their benefits, such as the mobile vendors,” he added.

“Though there are only a few hundred ‘pushcarts’, organising them will help tens of thousands of people by making the area nicer and easier to walk through,” he said.

“I’ve seen some vendors parking carelessly while selling their products and ignoring the rules. This messy parking causes chaos and adds to the trash in the area,” he said.

“Building the promenade will help organise this area. There’s no reason to complain when the government is working to improve it... If we wait for everyone to feel comfortable before making changes, the city won’t progress. It’s normal for a developing city to face some challenges, like roadwork or construction, he told *The Phuket News*.

“Once the construction is complete, it will have only positive effects, creating more convenience for people and making the city more beautiful, livable and better than before,” he assured.

## TRASH

Mr Weerawit recognised the problem of trash that more vendors along the beachfront may add to the already growing volume that Patong creates.

“First, I must say that the waste problem is not just a crisis in Patong; it is a crisis for all of Phuket because there are thousands of tons of garbage accumulating in Phuket right now,” he said.

“In Patong alone, there are currently 150 tons of trash per

day [needing collecting], but it is expected that will increase during the high season,” he said.

“There is currently a significant amount of waste generated, so we need to focus on reducing it. We cannot place the entire responsibility on the municipality or the government officials or private officials; it requires collective effort from everyone.

“We need to start from the ground up, raising awareness about proper waste separation. This includes educating local residents and tourists about following the rules,” Mr Weerawit explained.

“We have been working to educate local residents and business owners in Patong, and we’re also involving tourists. Our goal is to raise awareness about waste management and encourage everyone to take responsibility and be more aware of this matter.

“This is a significant challenge, primarily due to people’s carelessness. In comparison, countries like Japan have made progress by promoting discipline in waste disposal and enforcing strict laws with substantial penalties for violators, which helps cultivate a strong sense of environmental responsibility,” he noted.

“When it comes to enforcing laws in our country, there’s a hesitance due to concerns about impacting tourism. This has led both lawmakers and law enforcement in Thailand to rely heavily on moral choices,” he said.

“However, I believe that implementing stricter laws could lead to improvements in managing these issues,” Mr Weerawit insisted.

# Patong klong among Thailand's ‘10 Most Beautiful Canals’

KLONG PAK BANG, WHICH runs through the heart of Patong, has been selected as one of Thailand’s ‘10 Beautiful Canals, Clear Water, Happy Thais’, a national project celebrating His Majesty King Vajiralongkorn’s 6th cycle birthday (72 years) celebrated on July 28 earlier this year.

The initiative, led by the Ministry of Interior, aims to improve the quality of life for communities and enhance water management across the country, reports state news agency NBT Phuket.

Klong Pak Bang is the main canal serving the Patong area and plays a crucial role in draining treated wastewater into the sea. It has long been a focal point for local development efforts, particularly in addressing water quality and flood management issues.

Despite “challenges”, including the natural presence of black soil and silt in the mangrove forest area, authorities have been working to maintain and improve the canal, said the report.



Phuket’s selection for this prestigious honour comes as part of a wider national project involving nine other provinces and Bangkok. The goal is to beautify canals while promoting environmental

sustainability and water management, reflecting the royal initiative “From the Sky, Through the Mountains, to the Great River,” originally introduced by King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Patong Mayor Chalerm-sak Maneesri has been spearheading efforts to restore Klong Pak Bang by dredging the canal and expanding its drainage capacity, the report noted.

In addition, current construction projects include embankments, wall expansion and water gates to help mitigate flooding

and improve water flow into the sea.

Thammarit Rittipakdee, a specialist civil engineer from the Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning, highlighted that approximately 800 metres of the canal are being “improved”.

The project includes dredging of the waterway, embankment construction and landscape enhancements, all aimed at transforming Klong Pak Bang into “a cleaner and more beautiful waterway”.

Kathu District Chief

Thiraphong Chuaychu expressed his pride in Klong Pak Bang’s selection, emphasising its significance in honouring His Majesty The King’s birthday and the royal initiatives on natural resource and water management.

The canal’s development reflects the ongoing efforts to honour the legacy of King Bhumibol Adulyadej and King Maha Vajiralongkorn by promoting sustainable water use and environmental stewardship, he said.

The Phuket News



# Ministers tour disaster areas

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat has assured that compensation from the central government to victims and survivors of the deadly landslide in Kata on Aug 23 will be delivered 'soon'.

The amount, B9,000 per person, will be paid directly into claimants' bank accounts. Many of those afflicted by the landslide, which killed 13 people, injured 19 others and damaged or destroyed more than 50 homes, had already received disaster relief support directly from Karon Municipality, Governor Sophon said.

"The remaining B9,000 per household, part of the central government's compensation, is set to be transferred to the victims' bank accounts soon," he explained.

The B9,000 per person from the central government is the only compensation to be paid by the central government, *The Phuket News* was told.

So far none of those affected by the Aug 23 landslide have received any compensation from the central government.

"All compensation from local administrative organisations has already been distributed to the



affected residents," Governor Sophon added.

Anuphong Panarat, secretary to the Phuket Governor, confirmed that Karon Municipality has provided B6.59 million from its own budgets, to be reimbursed by the central government later.

## MNRE VISIT

Chalermchai Sri-on, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, visited Phuket last Saturday (Oct 19) to inspect coastal erosion, forest encroachment and mudslide risks.

As part of his inspection he boarded a helicopter to see an aerial view of the site of the deadly landslide in Kata.

The inspection, conducted in cooperation with local officials, aimed to address the environ-

mental challenges swiftly to alleviate the concerns of local residents, said an official report of the visit.

Accompanying Mr Chalermchai, who is the current leader of the Democrat Party, were MNRE Permanent Secretary Jatuporn Buruspat along with Atthaphon Charoenchansa, who is the current Director-General of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), and Pinsak Surawadi, who is currently the Director-General of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR).

Also joining Mr Chalermchai were Surachai Ajalaboon, Director-General of the Royal Forest Department, and Pichit Sombatmak, Director-General of

the Department of Mineral Resources.

Mr Chalermchai, referred to in government reports as "Dr Chalermchai" for his master's degree in Art (Policy and Planning) from Krirk University in Bangkok, and his high-profile entourage also inspected the forest encroachment in the hills behind Kamala.

Mr Chalermchai reviewed the situation and ordered preventative measures, including surveillance of areas prone to what local government reports called "mudslides".

He urged residents in landslide-prone areas to heed warning signals and remain vigilant for their safety. He also touched on the ongoing legal process surrounding the popular Big Buddha site, ensuring that it will be managed responsibly for tourism and local benefits.

He also emphasised that legal action was underway to address forest encroachment, with assistance from the Royal Thai Police.

"We must act swiftly to protect both the environment and the safety of the people in these risk areas," Mr Chalermchai said.

"We are working closely with local governments to address landslide risks and have requested funds for installing warning

systems, which will be completed by fiscal year 2025," he added.

Mr Chalermchai explained that he had scheduled a discussion with the Prime Minister to fast-track the installation of warning systems in landslide risk areas across the country to help minimise potential losses for local residents.

## COASTAL DAMAGE

Earlier in the day last Saturday, Mr Chalermchai began his tour at Sai Kaew Beach in Mai Khao, located within Sirinath National Park, where he was told that the coastal erosion in the area had reached crisis level and was in dire need of immediate action.

Present to explain the problem were DNP Director Mr Atthaphon and DMCR Director Mr Pinsak, joined by Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO).

Mr Chalermchai instructed them to take immediate action. He specifically called for the installation of wooden sand trap fences arranged in a zigzag pattern along 500 metres of the beach to help capture sand and reduce the effects of the coastal erosion. Local authorities were to be brought in to help with the construction.

## Merit-making ceremony held to ease landslide victims' grief

PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES, with leaders from local municipalities and other organisations, held a merit-making ceremony last week to honour those who lost their lives in the mudslide in Karon on Aug 23.

The ceremony took place at the base of the site of the landslide in Patak Soi 8, behind Wat Kata, in Moo 2, Karon, on Oct 15 and was attended by public officials and residents.

Phra Khru Suwanna Thammawinij, abbot of Wat Suwannakirikhet (Wat Kata), and Governor Sophon Suwannarat led the event.

Governor Sophon also visited 83-year-old landslide survivor Somros Thiraphithayaphithak, offering him a gift basket as a gesture of support.

In his address, Governor Sophon provided updates on disaster recovery and highlighted the province's disaster risk management efforts, said an official report of the event.

The official report failed to mention that the landslide



Photo: PR Phuket

killed 13 people, injured 19 others and directly damaged more than 50 homes.

The official report did note Governor Sophon saying that restoration work in affected areas had been completed. He also pointed out that local administrative organisations had provided assistance to victims in accordance with government policy.

They had also worked with victims to help with the rehabilitation of their mental well-being through making merit and dedicating it to the deceased, building morale among their relatives and victims in the area, he said.

The governor also addressed the long-term plans for disaster prevention in Phuket, announcing the establishment of a working group with experts from the

Department of Mineral Resources.

The working group is working on engineering solutions to protect high-risk areas, while early warning systems have been deployed, including devices from Kasetsart University and the Modchanapai Foundation, he said.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is set to install 10 more early warning systems across the province, he added.

Governor Sophon stressed the importance of preparedness, noting that rain gauges have been distributed to all 30 villages in Phuket. The devices are to be used to alert residents if rainfall exceeds 150mm, allowing timely evacuations, he explained.

Experts from the Department of Mineral Resources explained that the landslide on Aug 23 was caused by the age of the soil and rock layers, along with heavy rainfall that allowed water to seep in and trigger the slide, Gov Sophon said.

*The Phuket News*



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## PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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High: +35°  
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Wind 11 m/s

MON OCTOBER 28

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Wind 4 m/s

TUE OCTOBER 29

High: +35°  
Low: +28°

Wind 4 m/s

WED OCTOBER 30

High: +37°  
Low: +28°

Wind 4 m/s

THU OCTOBER 31

High: +36°  
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

## Man shot in leg by police during knife-wielding frenzy

POLICE WERE FORCED to shoot a young man in the leg after a taser failed to prevent him from rushing at police with a knife during a violent confrontation at a home in Kathu last week.

The man, later identified as 28-year-old Naruphan Sosaphan, was reportedly in a delirious state, wielding a knife and attempting to harm police officers when they responded to the scene.

The incident occurred when officers from Kathu Police were notified by a concerned neighbour about the suspect's aggressive behaviour at around 10pm on Oct 17.

The police were told that Naruphan was causing chaos and posing a threat to those inside the home, in Moo 1, Kathu.

Upon receiving the call, the police, along with rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation rushed to the scene.

Equipped with shields and defensive weapons, officers found Naruphan in a frenzy, refusing to cooperate and brandishing a knife. Despite attempts to negotiate and de-escalate the situation, the young man continued to resist.



Photo: Kathu Police

Around midnight, officers used a taser to subdue him, but he remained uncontrollable and even attempted to charge at the police again.

In response, one of the officers fired a shot at Naruphan's thigh to prevent further danger. He was immediately arrested and taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital for treatment.

Further investigation revealed that Naruphan had a violent history. In 2015, he had been convicted for assaulting his grandmother, leading to her death.

He had only been released from prison two months prior to the incident, according to his mother, Sudjai Sosaphan.

At last report the police were continuing to investigate the case, while Naruphan remains in custody at the hospital under guard.

Eakkapop Thongtub

## 48 Phuket victims of iCon fraud scam

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Police in Phuket have confirmed that 48 people impacted by the iCon Group fraud scandal have come forward seeking assistance and compensation totalling B12.5 million in the three days since help centres opened across the island.

Phuket Provincial Police Chief Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum confirmed last Friday (Oct 18) that the recently appointed National Police Chief Kitrat Phanphet had issued orders for police in every province nationwide to monitor progress and help all those negatively impacted by the fallout.

Special centres organised to receive and facilitate complaints by those aggrieved were set up on Oct 15 at a total of 12 police stations across the island, Pol Maj Gen Sinlert confirmed.

He further explained that people affected by the scandal can visit one of the centres and bring with them relevant evidence and documentation to support their claim. A consultation



Maj GEN Sinlert Sukhum. Photo: PR Phuket

will then be arranged with a police office to further pursue the case.

Maj Gen Sinlert also took the opportunity to stress to the public the importance of conducting due diligence before getting involved with any sort of business proposal, which should include a thorough study of the business and any proposed business plan as part of the venture.

He added that it is crucial to always check all details thoroughly before committing to any form of investment, citing the iCon Group fraud fiasco as a case in point.

Online sales company the iCon Group has been

accused of running a pyramid scheme. Seventeen suspects connected to the fraud case were sent to jail after the Criminal Court rejected bail requests on Oct 17.

This came shortly after the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) located a server containing the business records of the company and seized B220 million in assets including many luxury cars.

The company CEO, Warathaphon "Boss Paul" Waratyaworrakul, was remanded in custody along with the 17 other suspects after the Criminal Court approved a police request for detention (see page 7).

## German man dies of illness in hotel room in Patong

POLICE HAVE REQUESTED a medical examination of a German man found dead in his hotel room in Patong after the man suffered fever and dizziness before being found dead on Oct 16.

Patong police were called to the hotel, on Phra Mettha Rd, at about 6am.

Officers arrived and found no signs of a struggle in the room.

A nurse hired to look after the German man, 66, told police that the foreigner had suffered a urinary tract infection and had been bedridden for several months.

She reported that around 5:30am the German man had a fever and suffered bouts of dizziness. Despite her efforts to care for him, including wiping his body to alleviate his

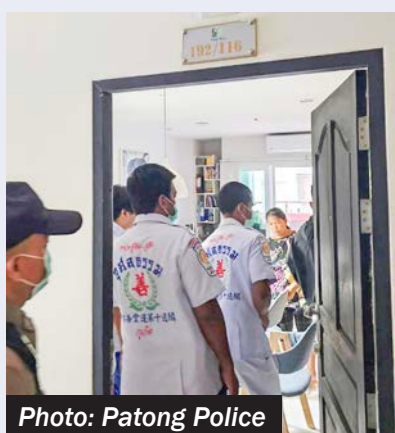


Photo: Patong Police

discomfort, his condition worsened and he ultimately passed away.

The man's body was taken to Patong Hospital, where doctors have been asked to conduct a thorough post-mortem examination to confirm the cause of death.

German embassy representatives were informed of the man's passing. Eakkapop Thongtub

## Grenade in taxi scare turns out to be cigarette lighter

A SAFETY SCARE AT KALIM Beach, north of Patong, ended in relief last Friday (Oct 18) after what looked like a grenade left behind in a taxi turned out to be nothing more than a novelty cigarette lighter.

Police were called to the scene, a green-plate taxi parked on Phra Barami Rd near Kalim Beach, at about 1:30pm.

Quick to arrive were officers from Patong Police, led by Patong Police Chief Col Chalermchai Hirasawat.

The object of concern was visible on the left rear seat of the taxi, a black Toyota Fortuner.

After thoroughly examining the vehicle, Pol Col Chalermchai used a flashlight to inspect the object.

Once he was confident it posed no threat, he picked it up and discovered it was a lighter designed to look like a grenade.



Photo: Patong Police

The discovery brought immediate relief to onlookers and officials at the scene. Pol Col Chalermchai advised the taxi driver to remove the lighter from the vehicle to avoid further alarm, noting that people who saw it had mistaken it for a real explosive and called the police.

While the incident turned out to be a false alarm, it highlighted the vigilance of the local community and the quick response of Patong Police, observers noted.

Eakkapop Thongtub



# House reps vow to make traffic woes top focus

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Officials from the Department of Land Transport were in Phuket last Friday (Oct 18) as part of the ongoing campaign to resolve traffic issues across the island.

Manit Sangphum, Chairman of the House of Representatives Transport Committee, was joined by a delegation of fellow MPs who travelled down from Bangkok to conduct a review of the current situation, whilst meeting with local officials at Phuket Provincial Hall.

Mr Manit met with Vice Governor Adul Chuthong and Wathanapong Suksai, Advisor to Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat, as well as selected heads of government agencies and relevant officials.

Mr Manit explained how Phuket has become one of the top tourist destinations in the world that “tourists from all over the world intend to visit at least once in their lifetime”

The number of foreign tourists in the first half of 2024 was more than 4.3 million, Mr Manit explained, which is close to the number prior to the outbreak of COVID-19. As tourism generates billions of baht in revenue for the country it is therefore crucial to ensure that everything is done to achieve the aim of making



Photo: PR Phuket

“Phuket the best tourist city in the world,” he added.

One challenge that could undermine this is the ever-increasing volume of traffic on Phuket roads, Mr Manit said, which poses an inconvenience for both tourists and local residents that could ultimately tarnish the province’s image.

Mr Manit pointed to several visits made to Phuket by previous Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin who acknowledged the traffic problem and

approved budget for construction work to be carried out to alleviate the issue, specifically the creation of the Heroines Underpass at the Heroines Monument on Thepkasattri Rd.

There are many other projects that have been given approval, Mr Manit added, that will also ultimately help with traffic congestion, something that is a key objective of the current Paethongtarn Shinawatra government who acknowledge that Phuket is a “magnet for attracting income.”



Photo: Khun Jatupat (Lee)

## Hornbills surprise visitors at park

A RARE SIGHTING OF hornbills delighted locals last week as a flock of around 10 of the iconic birds was discovered perched on a banyan tree in a public park within the Phuket Villa 3 housing estate in Wichit.

The birds had been observed for a couple of days, feasting on figs from the blooming banyan tree, by the time locals notified reporters on Oct 16, allowing them

to capture close-up photographs of the birds, an unusual opportunity in the area.

According to witnesses, the hornbills typically arrived around 9am each day, circling the village before settling on the banyan tree.

Local residents have taken precautions to protect the birds, ensuring that no one disturbs them during their stay.

Eakkapop Thongtub

## Police flood-response equipment arrives

THE PHUKET PROVINCIAL Police are prepared to assist residents during floods and storms using modern equipment, including drones, to help those in need, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum has announced.

Pol Maj Gen Sinlert announced that all local police stations are ready to respond to disasters as they have implemented measures such as deploying personnel, equipment, safety signs, and communication tools to ensure public safety during emergencies, said an official report posted on Oct 16.

Drones will also be used to improve their ability to assist affected people, the report added.

The report followed Phuket Provincial Police announcing the arrival of the flood-response equipment on Oct 12.

In addition to Pol Maj Gen Sinlert, present for the occasion were Region 8 Police Deputy Com-



Photo: PR Phuket

mander Pol Maj Gen Wimon Pitakburapa, Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Pol Col Phasakon Santhikun and the heads of local police stations in Phuket along with the patrol officers who will be actually using the equipment.

“Every police station is fully equipped to help manage and respond to disasters. The safety of officers helping people during these incidents is a priority, following the

commander’s policy,” the report posted noted.

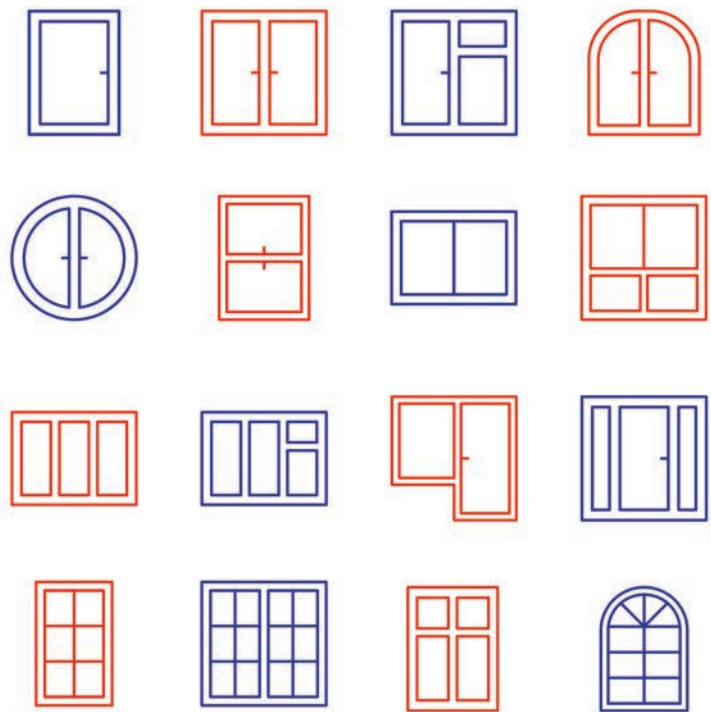
“The police are also working closely with other agencies to ensure smooth traffic flow, assist vulnerable groups like children, the elderly, and bedridden patients in evacuating quickly, and prevent thefts from those affected.

“The goal is to work professionally and efficiently with other organisations to provide the best possible support during disasters,” the report concluded.

The Phuket News



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# Tourism to gain from rate cut

Bangkok Post

Thailand's policy rate cut is expected to benefit the tourism industry, letting business operators invest and upgrade their services to improve competitiveness, while tourist spending could increase.

The Bank of Thailand on Oct 16 unexpectedly cut the interest rate by 25 basis points to 2.25%.

Sanga Ruangwattanakul, president of the Khao San Road Business Association, said the reduction would help to improve the economy, and the tourism industry in particular.

He said operators now have a lower borrowing burden and can invest more to improve or expand their businesses, after being hesitant during a high-rate environment.

"People can cash out their savings to spend or invest, while more jobs can be created, resulting in growing economic circulation," said Mr Sanga.

The baht, which has appreciated against the US dollar since last month, should be weaker as a result of the rate cut, he said, easing foreign tourist sentiment.

Suksit Suvunditkul, president of the Thai Hotels Association's southern chapter, said the strong



Tourists visit Wat Arun in Bangkok. Suksit Suvunditkul, president of the THA's Southern chapter, says visitors still view Thailand as an affordable destination. Photo: Apichart Jinakul / Bangkok Post

baht has yet to significantly impact the number of arrivals and their spending.

Tourists still view Thailand as an affordable destination, even though they have experienced price increases for goods and services here.

Mr Suksit said he believes the central bank will be able to keep the local currency in an acceptable range. "Our currency swing should not hurt the tourism industry at the same level as when the currencies of source markets were previously affected," he said.

For instance, hotels lost a lot of Russian tourists during the Russian financial crisis in 2014, as the ruble fell sharply.

Mr Suksit said the last time the tourism industry actually

benefited from the foreign exchange rate was during the economic crisis in 1997, after the government introduced a floating exchange rate, making foreign currencies rise against the baht.

Hotels in Phuket are expecting strong occupancy of at least 80% and higher room rates in the near term, he said.

Mr Sanga said forward bookings on Khao San Road remain slower than expected, at only 40% in November.

He said the government should offer more tourism campaigns, including a larger tax reduction for hotel bookings.

To prepare for cool season celebrations, the government should collaborate with private operators to promote upcoming festivals, preparing venues,

transport and security for tourists, said Mr Sanga.

## POSH HOTELS TO PUMP UP RATES

High-end hotel operators are preparing to raise room rates during the high season as tourist numbers are projected to surge in the next few months, while hotels in the mid-tier and lower continue to struggle, according to the hotel operator sentiment index.

Thienprasit Chaiyapatranun, president of the Thai Hotels Association (THA), said the average occupancy rate in September was 55%, down seven percentage points from August and lagging the corresponding period in 2019, which tallied 63.4%.

He said each hotel segment has a different rate of recovery, as three-star hotels and below posted only 45% occupancy in September, while four-star hotels and above recorded 58.7% occupancy. By region, the occupancy rate of hotels in the North plunged from 50% in August to 25.7% in September, attributed to severe flooding in key areas of many provinces.

Hotels in the central region posted the highest occupancy rate of 64.4%, followed by the East at 57.1%, while lodging in the

South and Northeast both recorded 49%, said Mr Thienprasit.

He said most hotels will take advantage of the high season and adjust their room rates, but the growth should be less than 10%.

Mr Thienprasit said only four-star hotels and higher have the potential to increase their room rates by more than 20%, based on a more promising track record in the third quarter, particularly for hotels in the central, eastern and southern regions.

Hotel operators have recorded a 55.6% occupancy rate so far in October, estimating their guest numbers will increase by 5-10% during the fourth quarter, according to the THA.

Regarding the Chinese market, 35% of hoteliers do not expect more arrivals during the high season, while 27% believe the number will decrease by 10%. Some 38% expect Chinese guests will increase by 10-20%, mostly flocking to four-star hotels.

Hotel operators also do not hold out much hope for Thai guests, as 65% said bookings would remain flat or decrease during the quarter. Among respondents, 19% believe the decline will exceed 10%.

## High-end tourists to help meet B500bn revenue goal

PHUKET IS PLANNING to increase its tourism revenue to B500 billion in the second half of this year through policies that focus on high-end tourists.

Rewat Areerob, president of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO), said that his agency had a previous goal of receiving B420bn in tourism revenue before it was changed.

The new target of B500bn reflects Phuket's potential as a leading hub for tourism, transportation and aviation, he said.

The PPAO has outlined two main strategies to boost tourism and local income, focusing on attracting tourists with high spending power to the province in a bid to increase their spending during their visit.

The first involves tackling traffic congestion by introducing 24 electric vehicles (EVs) to replace the pink 'Pho Thong' buses, which have served the city for over a decade.



Tourists are warmly received at Phuket International Airport in December last year. Photo: Achadthaya Chuenniran / Bangkok Post

These EVs will operate along three main routes in the city and one additional route from the airport.

The first three routes include Saphan Hin to Central Phuket shopping mall (11 kilometres), Chalong Pier to Super-Cheap (18km), Rassada Pier to Andamanda Water Park (10.5km) and Phuket Airport to Rawai Beach (47km).

The new routes have been designed to provide better access to tourist attractions, schools, communities and commercial areas, Mr Rewat said. Each EV can carry 21

passengers, and trial runs are set to begin in December, he added.

The second strategy is the renovation of the Phuket Provincial Prison in Phuket Town to be converted into a public park.

The 33-rai park will serve as a green space for recreation and well-being, benefiting both locals and tourists, Mr Rewat said.

With a budget of B169.5 million, the project will include parking space for 300 cars and will be linked with surrounding green areas to create a large, central public park.

Bangkok Post

## Domestic tourism revenue sags

FESTIVE EVENTS AND NEW STIMULUS campaigns should push domestic tourism revenue to B950-970 billion this year, missing the target of B1 trillion because of a sluggish economy and the impact of flooding, according to the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

Nithee Seeprae, deputy governor of marketing communications at TAT, said the agency is driving promotions to generate at least B200bn in revenue from 30 million domestic trips during the final three months of the year, reports the *Bangkok Post*.

The Thailand Winter Festival combines several events, such as the Loy Krathong festival, Bun Bang Fai (the rocket festival), Vijitr light show, and marathons.

For the first nine months of the year, domestic tourism generated B768bn in revenue from more than 207mn trips.

Mr Nithee said negative sentiment from flooding in the North and high household debt levels would continue to impact domestic spending to some extent, as some tourism attractions remain damaged by floods.

The agency categorised the flooding impact into three levels: those who can resume their services, groups that require renovation, and operators who must permanently close their businesses.

TAT also launched the '72 journeys, 72 styles' online guidebook to promote new routes and invite top influencers to visit, encouraging their followers to travel.

He said this campaign should help extend Thai tourists' length of stay from 2.5 days to three days, raising their average spending from B3,000 to B3,500-4,000 per trip.



A spectacular fireworks display is held during the first night of the month-long 'Vijitr Chao Phraya 2023' celebrations. Photo: Pattarapong Chatpattarasill / Bangkok Post

TAT expects this campaign to reach at least 30mn local travellers.

To capture movie and mascot marketing trends, the agency launched five routes to explore for those who want to visit the famous pygmy hippo 'Moo Deng' by driving from five regions, as well as promoting a filming location of the top-grossing Thai horror film Tee Yod 2 in Uttaradit.

Next year, the government aims to earn B3.4trn in tourism revenue from 40mn foreign tourists and 205mn domestic trips.

Mr Nithee said domestic tourism in 2025 will use the same marketing tagline, Instant Happiness in Thailand, while international tourism will also rehash: Amazing Thailand, Your Stories Never End.

He said the agency hopes to collaborate more with global media and influencers to promote Thailand.

As the government works to lift the economy and consumer confidence, domestic tourism should revive, but international markets might still be affected by geopolitical risks, said Mr Nithee.

Bangkok Post



# iCon fraud suspects jailed

## BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Warathaphon “Boss Paul” Waratyaworrakul, a prime suspect in The iCon Group fraud case, has been remanded in custody along with 17 other suspects after the Criminal Court approved a police request for his detention.

The 41-year-old founder and CEO of the well-known online business promoter was escorted from the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) to the court on Ratchadaphisek Road last Friday (Oct 18).

Police opposed bail, citing collusion with other suspects and the systematic nature of their offences, which have impacted society and involved numerous victims. He may pose a flight risk if released temporarily, according to officers.

After examining the police’s request and Warathaphon’s testimony, the court granted the detention request. The suspect did not seek bail and was then taken to the Bangkok Remand Prison.

Warathaphon was among 18 suspects wanted on charges of colluding in public fraud and inputting false information into a computer system. All denied the allegations.

Seventeen suspects were sent to court then taken to jail on Oct 17 after the court rejected bail requests submitted by three high-profile celebrities,



Warathaphon Waratyaworrakul, founder and CEO of The iCon Group, is escorted to the Criminal Court in Bangkok on Oct 18. Photo: Bangkok Post

citing flight risk, while the others did not apply for release. The three celebrities are actor Yuranunt “Boss Sam” Pamornmontri, actress Pechaya “Boss Min” Wattanamontree and television host Kan “Boss Kan” Kantathavorn.

The suspects were apprehended on Oct 16 following over 1,000 fraud complaints. Victims reported that the company lured them with online marketing courses costing less than B100 and pressured them into further financial commitments, resulting in substantial losses.

The CIB confirmed a total of 5,648 people so far have filed B1.61 billion loss complaints related to their participation in the direct sales business of The iCon Group, with complainants filing their cases with police nationwide from Oct 10 to 20.

Questioning has been concluded with 2,822 complainants who alleged they lost about B965 million through their dealerships with The iCon

Group’s products which focused on dietary supplements.

Many more people in Thailand and other countries were collecting evidence to prepare for their upcoming complaints in the case, sources said.

Sources also said that the CIB planned to additionally charge The iCon Group suspects with money-laundering, fraudulent borrowing and illegal assembly.

Police intended to conclude investigation into the additional charges this week and would also arrest more suspects in the case, including big dealers who had networks of smaller dealers, sources said.

At time of press, the Anti-Money Laundering Office (Amlo) had impounded assets worth about B220 million from The iCon Group including money in stock trading accounts, current accounts, savings accounts and digital asset trading accounts in addition to several luxury cars.

# Plans to boost education, high-tech workforce

## BANGKOK

PRIME MINISTER PAETONGTARN Shinawatra has outlined a plan to address Thailand’s education challenges, focusing on producing skilled professionals to drive growth in high-tech industries.

During a meeting of the National Council for Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation Policy last Friday (Oct 18), the prime minister discussed the government’s focus on sectors such as electric vehicles, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and advanced medical technology, alongside clean energy and environmental sustainability efforts.

A key part of the plan is introducing a National Credit Bank system, allowing individuals to accumulate educational credits from academic achievements and work experience.

These credits can be applied toward degrees, offering greater flexibility and expanding access to education. The government is also prioritizing upskilling and reskilling



Photo: NNT

initiatives to meet evolving industry needs.

To support the semiconductor industry, the council approved a plan to develop a workforce of at least 80,000 specialised professionals by 2030. This includes establishing six training centers and designing industry-specific curricula to attract new investments. The effort seeks to position Thailand as a global hub for semiconductors and advanced electronics.

The council also approved a B160.13 billion budget for the 2026 fiscal year, with a significant portion allocated to higher education.

The funds will be used to produce graduates in critical sectors such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and electric vehicles while supporting research and innovation to address national challenges and promote sustainable development. NNT

# Fugitive defendant Pisal resigns from Pheu Thai Party

## BANGKOK

FORMER 4<sup>TH</sup> ARMY CHIEF GEN Pisal Wattanawongkiri, a list MP and fugitive defendant in the Tak Bai massacre case, has resigned from the Pheu Thai Party.

His departure was announced on Oct 15 by Wisut Chainarun, head of MPs in the coalition-core Pheu Thai Party.

As a consequence of his resignation Gen Pisal lost his seat in the House, and will be replaced from the party list.

Mr Wisut said he did not know where and how Gen Pisal tendered his resignation, only that no one in the party need criticise Gen Pisal over the Tak Bai issue any longer.

Mr Wisut said the events at Tak Bai occurred 20 years ago and Gen Pisal had not been a Pheu Thai member at the time but an officer serving in the army at operations level.

The Tak Bai massacre occurred on Oct 25, 2004, when security forces dispersed a rally in front of the police station supervising Tak Bai district of the southern border province of Narathiwat.

The protesters were calling for the release of six detainees in a government arms robbery case.

Seven demonstrators died as they were forcefully dispersed, and 78 others later died from suffocation or organ



Gen Pisal. Photo: Bangkok Post

failure while being transported in packed trucks to a military camp 140 kilometres away. The 20-year statute of limitations in the Tak Bai case expires today (Oct 25).

Gen Pisal, now 74, is a major figure in the case. He was in charge of the 4<sup>th</sup> Army Region which supervises the South during the 2004 Tak Bai crackdown and massacre.

Gen Pisal earlier filed for medical leave of absence from the House until Oct 30, five days after the statute expires. His whereabouts are unknown, although he was reported to have initially gone to the UK.

The Narathiwat Provincial Court recently issued an arrest warrant for him when he failed to appear for a court hearing.

Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra said on Oct 18 that Thai police must liaise with Interpol to secure the arrest of Gen Pisal so he can be brought to face justice.

Bangkok Post

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DISCOVER MORE



# Minding the nursing gap

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

According to the Public Health Ministry, Thailand currently faces a shortage of more than 51,420 nurses in the public sector alone. The Nurses Association of Thailand estimates that over the next five years, the private sector in Thailand will need an additional 20,000 nurses.

One reason for the increased need is due to the fact that larger private hospitals in Thailand are increasingly seeking 'Joint Commission International' (JCI) accreditation, which requires a minimum number of Registered Nurses (RNs) in order to meet the criteria. This minimum number ensures that patient safety standards, as set out by international codes, are met.

The world's aging trend, or 'Silver Tsunami' of WWII baby boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) continues to increase medical care demand as well.

Today's nursing shortage is a result of the inadequate production of nurses over the past 30 years, combined with a high number of qualified and experienced nurses leaving the profession.

Thailand is not alone. According to Hospital Management Asia (HMA), "The nursing shortage is a worsening problem in most countries, as demand for care rises amidst growing populations, increasing chronic disease rates,



Scholarship recipients Longlee Permhasa and Pluem Radpradit; Libby Heath, Director of Health and Wellness Coaching at VitalLife Phuket; David Boucher, CEO of Bumrungrad International Hospital Phuket; Dr Pun Thongchumnum, PSU Vice President of Phuket Campus; Dr Luppana Kitrungrrote, PSU Dean of Nursing; and Orathai Gerdsut, CSR Champion for Bumrungrad International Hospital Phuket.

and a rising middle class."

As reported across multiple media agencies, the Thai Public Health Ministry is launching an urgent program to train 2,500 more nurses per year for the next two years, for a total of 5,000 additional nurses.

Prince of Songkla University (PSU) is working hard to address the nursing shortage crisis. PSU was the first university in Southern Thailand and was established in 1967. The name of the university was granted by the King Bhumibol Adulyadej in honour of Prince Mahidol Adulyadej, Prince of Songkla, the King's father. Six years later, in 1973, the Faculty of Nursing at Prince of Songkla University was established to form the first school for nursing educa-

tion in Southern Thailand.

The School of Nursing specifically aims to offer university level nursing education throughout Southern Thailand. In 1988, the nursing program was revised from a Bachelor of Science (Nursing) program to become a Bachelor of Nursing Science (BNS). PSU's nursing program currently has partnerships with nursing programs in Canada, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Nepal, Indonesia, China and Japan.

Admission to the PSU nursing program is very competitive and only a limited number of students are accepted each year. Today there are 220 nursing students enrolled. While most of these students (95%) are from the southern provinces, students from all over the

country attend. Since its inception, 6,304 nurses have successfully completed PSU's nurse education program.

Two of the students who were admitted to PSU's nursing program this year were Longlee Permhasa of Krabi and Pluem Radpradit of Phuket. They both worked hard in secondary school and graduated earlier this year.

Both Miss Longlee and Miss Pluem have been awarded four-year scholarships to the Prince of Songkla University School of Nursing through a new scholarship program.

Phuket couple Libby Heath and David Boucher recently partnered with Prince of Songkla University in Songkhla province to establish four scholarships for women from the south of Thailand seeking nursing careers.

The scholarships cover all tuitions and academic fees for the duration of the four-year program. The recipients were chosen by the PSU Nursing faculty and are based on academic achievement and financial need.

"Our intention is to support local women who dream of careers in nursing. We want them to follow their passion for nursing and to be free from education debt," said David Boucher.

"After they finish their education, they are free to practise wherever they choose. It's a small step toward alleviating the nursing shortage and we hope that others may be inspired to do the same," he added.



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House of Soviets, Tiraspol.



Parliament of Moldova, Chisinau. Built by the Soviets in the late 1970's in the shape of an open book.



Transfiguration Cathedral, Bender.

# In Moldova, blasts from the past



## GLOBETROTTER

Todd Miller

A land journey into the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic has all the features of any other border crossing. A visitor immediately encounters immigration and customs formalities, the national flag and currency. The first hint that things might be a little off occurs when the immigration officer returns your passport without an entry stamp. Instead, you receive a loose piece of paper to document your entry.

More commonly known as Transnistria, this breakaway country sandwiched between Moldova and Ukraine also has a national constitution, parliament and other customary features of a sovereign nation.

But there's a teeny problem: Transnistria doesn't officially exist. This wannabe country is recognised by only two other breakaway territories, all formerly part of the Soviet universe. None of the 193 member states of the United Nations recognise its sovereignty. Because of its unresolved political status Transnistria is cut off from the international banking system. Transnistrians can sing their national anthem, but they can't use a Visa card or travel abroad on their national passport.

Transnistria officially belongs to Moldova, but the locals had other ideas after Moldova declared independence from the USSR in 1991. The military conflict, known euphemistically as the events of 1992, froze the contested borders without resolving the political status. Ever since, there's been a visible Russian military presence to keep the peace.

Tiraspol, the capital and largest city of Transnistria, is just 50km from the Ukrainian border, which is presently closed. Road signs in the capital direct toward Odessa – only 100km, but a world away. There was no indication of the war in Transnistria; life seems – and by local accounts, is – unaffected by the conflict, except that Ukrainians are not allowed into Transnistria for fear of terrorism against the Russians.

For the adventurous traveler a visit to Transnistria offers time travel back to the USSR. The brutalist architecture of the government buildings reflects a Soviet style that, in most other parts of Eastern Europe, is passe. Other former Soviet territories have torn down or removed most (if not all) Lenin statues.

Not here. And if you're feeling nostalgic, several restaurants, including the aptly named 'Back in the USSR', double as anthropological showcases of that era.

In one restaurant, a giant map of the world circa 1985, highlighting the scope of the USSR then, captures how the world has dramatically evolved in 40 years. This change is apparent in Moldova, an often misunderstood and underappreciated country. In Moldova I expected a drab place with hospitality moulded in the Soviet style and food I wouldn't want to touch. What I encountered in Chisinau, the capital and largest city, is something different: a walkable, likeable, growing-up city. There's nothing particular to see but much to take in. I passed my time exploring the compact city centre, walking along the grand boulevard, admiring beautiful Eastern Orthodox churches and the Soviet architecture, popping into wine bars to taste local varieties (Moldova is a prolific producer) and sampling Moldavian staples.

### COLLIDING WITH THE PAST

Perhaps my exit experience best typifies modern Moldova. When I arrived at the Chisinau International Airport, the terminal was chaotic. Passengers jockeyed for position among the airport's 10 check-in counters. Just as I thought it would be impossible to squeeze more people into this crowded space, dance music erupted. Then a troupe of choreographed dancers, decked in stylish pink airline uniforms, appeared for a synchronised performance. When the show ended, blue-and-white balloons and confetti dropped from the ceiling to the tune of the *Rocky* theme song... *Gonna fly now, flying high now...* It was surreal.

Do they do this every day, I wondered?

A few minutes later, an airport staff member passed out supersized cookies to each passenger waiting in the check-in lines, explaining that on this day Chisinau International Airport would handle its 3 millionth passenger of the year, a record. This is a remarkable milestone for a country that ranked as Europe's least visited not long ago. Moldova is flying high now.

But modern Moldova soon crashed into old Moldova.

The departure area was as crowded as check-in: standing room only. A few minutes later I heard my name, spoken with a thick Romanian accent, echoing on the airport public address system. Something about my flight leaving NOW. Startled, I sprinted to the gate, which took all of one minute. The gate agent admonished me: *My Azerbaijan*

*Airlines flight to Baku has boarded and is ready to depart! I'm late! The gate is closed! I'm a bad person!*

It was 30 minutes before the scheduled departure time. I was puzzled.

'What's the problem?', I asked while pointing to the airport clock. This visibly furious gatekeeper growled again, enraged by my confusion which she interpreted as insouciance. She threatened to offload my bag and deny boarding.

That's when I realised that underneath the veneer of modern Moldova lurks lingering vestiges of the old way of doing things. Airline schedules, it turns out, are indicative and not iron-clad. The plane leaves when the crew feels like leaving. And front-line customer service personnel don't care much about customers or service.

Just as I was souring on the country, modern Moldova re-emerged to save the day. With a wide grin, the agent who checked me in earlier handed me a new boarding pass. My punishment was an upgrade. This grinning agent, by now my new best friend, then escorted me to an awaiting van. We proceeded straight to the aircraft. I bolted up the stairs, the cabin crew closed the door, and off to Baku we went – some 20 minutes early.

*Adventurer and author Todd Miller has explored more than 100 countries on all continents. His Amazon bestseller ENRICH: Create Wealth in Time, Money, and Meaning, was lauded by Forbes, USA Today, Entrepreneur, and other global media. He resides at Natai Beach. [www.enrich101.com](http://www.enrich101.com)*



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### POP QUIZ

- The classic Stephen King horror novel 'The Shining' is set at which fictional hotel?
- Which major sporting event took place on Halloween in 2015?
- Which novel by Ira Levin, was the top bestselling horror novel of the 1960s?
- The Day of the Dead is celebrated in which country?
- Kinemortophobia is the fear of what?

Answers below, centre

### Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

- Homesteads
- One of seven branches
- Tie up
- Prorate
- Bond
- Drops the ball
- Was no pushover
- Zen state
- Nonsense
- Literary piece
- Flipper
- Helicopter part
- Go this way and that
- Some
- Bananas
- Hairpiece
- Tennis great Gibson
- Strong features
- Store, as fodder
- Pitcher's asset
- Energy
- Italian money
- Thickets
- Funny guys
- Spring (from)
- After
- Prince, e.g.
- Makes fun of
- Is disappointed

Down

- Closing bars
- Spiced stew of meat and vegetables
- Apartment
- Automaker
- Chole follower
- "That's disgusting!"
- List of candidates
- The dawn
- G-men
- "The Departed" star, first name
- Lingo
- Belief
- Oil of wintergreen, e.g.
- Chaos
- Excite
- Like a stuffed shirt
- Chemistry
- Nobelist Hahn

- Made up a story
- Runners
- Run down
- Equal
- Former Portuguese colony in India
- Word before and after "against"
- Just manages, with "out"
- Nile biter
- Embellish richly
- Elijah's successor
- Tolkien creatures
- Musical composition
- Navel Academy students (1st year)
- Yearn (for)
- Locks up
- Listening
- 4:1, e.g.
- Blow
- Case
- Dated
- Canal zones?
- Hebrides island
- Finish (up)
- Group with troops

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
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			23			24			25	26		
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31					32		33	34		35	36	37
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50	51	52				53	54					
55				56	57			58		59	60	61
62			63					64				
65					66				67			
68					69				70			

Visit: [www.ilovecrosswords.com](http://www.ilovecrosswords.com)

### SUDOKU

Hard

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

### Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) The Overlook Hotel; 2) The Rugby World Cup Final (New Zealand beat Australia 34-17); 3) Rosemary's Baby; 4) Mexico; 5) Zombies

### Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

### GOT YOUR NUMBER

**1.7**

percent of women say they would date a shorter man, according to a recent survey.

**49**

percent of women only want to date men who are taller than they are, said the same survey.

**96**

bags of feces, urine and vomit were left on the Moon by the Apollo missions.

**1,000**

tons of classified documents are incinerated by the CIA each year to heat water, protect information and reduce waste.

**1 million**

minutes is how old a person is when they have lived 19 years and 4 days.

Source: *Uberfacts*

### ISLAND VIEW

Patong-Karon Rd. Photo by Veli Repo

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### This week in history

**Oct 25, 1147**  
After a siege of four months, crusader knights led by Afonso Henriques, who later becomes the first King of Portugal, reconquer Lisbon.

**Oct 26, 1881**  
The Gunfight at the O.K. Corral, a 30-second shootout at 3pm between outlaws and four lawmen, including Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, takes place in Tombstone, Arizona.

**Oct 27, 1936**  
American socialite Wallis Simpson, later known as the Duchess of Windsor, obtains her divorce, which allows her to marry King Edward III, thus forcing his abdication from the British throne.

**Oct 28, 1420**  
Beijing is officially designated the capital of the Ming dynasty in the same year that the Forbidden City, the seat of government, is completed.

**Oct 29, 1863**  
Eighteen countries meet in Geneva and agree to form the International Red Cross.

**Oct 30, 1970**  
In Vietnam, the worst monsoon to hit the area in six years causes severe floods, kills 293, leaves 200,000 homeless and virtually halts the Vietnam War.

**Oct 31, 2020**  
Scottish-born Sean Connery, the first actor to portray super-spy James Bond in films, dies at age 90. Source: *Wikipedia*

Sean Connery, 1964.



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**FRI**

**25**  
OCT



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**SAT**

**26**  
OCT



### AFL Andaman Cup 2024

All welcome for the over 35s Australian Rules Football tournament in paradise. From 10am on Sat Oct 26 at the ACG cricket & Sports facility, Baan Liphon, Phuket. Men's division over 35s, 12 a side, 2 x 12 min halves. Fun, fitness, footy and friendship. More info on FB - ThailandTigers or [thailandtigers@gmail.com](mailto:thailandtigers@gmail.com)

**SUN**

**27**  
OCT



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**MON**

**28**  
OCT



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**WED**

**30**  
OCT



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### European Chamber of Commerce Thailand Networking

EABC -The European Chamber of Commerce Thailand is delighted to hold its first Networking event in Phuket on Wednesday, 30th October at Blue Elephant Phuket (Governor's Mansion). This event will be the opportunity to connect with the whole Thai-European business community in Phuket. Time: 06:00 PM - 08:30 PM. Registration: European Chamber of Commerce Thailand

**FRI**

**1**  
NOV



### Grow Boating Evening - November 2024

We look forward to seeing you at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm. Our drinks sponsor for the evening will be ZERO SIX ONE Co., Ltd (Thailand) who are the distributors for Acqua 3 Aqueous Ozone machines which use tap water, electricity and air to make ozone water, a cleaning solution that removes dirt, stains and odours. For more details see <https://zerosixone.weebly.com/> There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome. [facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket](https://www.facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket)

**TUE**

**5**  
NOV



### Melbourne Cup 2024 at Casa Boho

Fabulous Fundraiser at Funky Casa Boho, Hyatt Regency Kamala from 9:30 to 14:30. Free-flow selected beverages & brunch. Fashions on the Field - with prizes for Best Hat, Best Dressed, Best Suided, and the Chicest Couple. Exclusive prizes to bid on and raffles to win. Screening of the famous thoroughbred horse race. Dancing with resident DJ. Dress code: At the races. Venue: Casa Boho, Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort, Kamala. Donation: 3,000 baht. For tickets, please contact Tina Hall [tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org](mailto:tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org) [Tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org](mailto:Tina@phukethasbeengoodtous.org)



**FRI**

**8**  
NOV



### Phuket Business Networking - Nov 2024

Make sure to bring lots of business cards, as getting to know each other is what PBN is all about. A small entry fee, THB 500 per person, that includes the first 3 drinks and a light buffet. Location - Oasis Bar, Koh Kaew, starting 5pm. Register your attendance here - [facebook.com/phuketbusinessnetworking](https://www.facebook.com/phuketbusinessnetworking) or call Jason - 086 479 7471.

**SAT**

**16**  
NOV



### Living in Phuket 2024

"Living in Phuket" is designed to help Phuket's many expats and their families connect with services that make life on the island easier. Major organisations and community groups from across Phuket in one location. "Living in Phuket" represents an invaluable resource of information for expats.The 2024 event will take place in the Courtyard by Marriott Phuket Town on Nov 16, presented by UFE Phuket, Melki.BIZ, Bangkok Hospital Phuket and The Phuket News. More info - [livinginphuket.org](http://livinginphuket.org)



### The BDO/Rotary Club Snowbirds Charity Golf Tournament

CanCham South & Rotary Club of Patong Beach is holding its second annual BDO Snowbirds Chairty Golf Tournament at the Aquella Golf & Country Club on Saturday November 16th, 2024. This is a family-friendly networking and fellowship event, as well as a fundraiser. Proceeds will be shared evenly with the Rotary Club of Patong Beach for their Save a Child Swim Program. Last year, with BDO as our Title Sponsor, we raised over 57,000 Baht for the Program. We are thrilled that BDO has returned as our Title Sponsor this year, and our goal is to raise over 300,000 THB. The Swim Program, originating in Patong, now reaches five schools in Phuket each year, offering a vital 10-week curriculum that imparts essential swimming skills and water safety knowledge to children. Over the past five years, the Rotary Club of Patong Beach has proudly supported more than 1,000 students through this life-saving initiative, fully funding the program's operations. Link to child swim program: <https://www.rotarypatong.org/page/save-a-child-swim-program> EVENT DETAILS Date: Saturday, November 16, 2024 Venue: Aquella Golf & Country Club Day's Events: 10:00 Registration Opens 11:00 Shotgun Start 17:00 Silent Auction Opens 18:00 Dinner & prizes 21:00 Event Concludes Tickets Golf & Dinner: THB 3300 Sale ends Nov 15, 11:50 PM Ticket type Only Dinner: THB 800 Sale ends Nov 15, 11:50 AM [kareneidsvik@gmail.com](mailto:kareneidsvik@gmail.com)

## CLASSIFIEDS

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Dates 9 October 2024  
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Voluntary Liquidator

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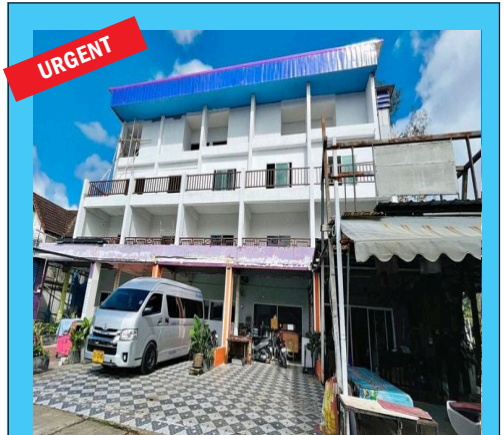


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## CLASSIFIEDS







## SKÅL INTERNATIONAL PHUKET DINNER - OCTOBER

The host of the October dinner was Lotta Hansson and the team from MV *Phuket Champagne*. Perfect weather for a late-afternoon, early-evening sunset cruise to Promthep Cape on Thursday, Oct 17, was the backdrop of another enjoyable evening of networking. This 20-metre wooden boat was purposely built with comfort and safety in mind, based on years of experience. The attentive crew were on hand all evening, from the sunset to the moon rise, attending to guests on the top deck and the comfy saloon. Stay up to date on the Nov dinner - [facebook.com/SkalPhuket](https://facebook.com/SkalPhuket)



## NETWORKING EVENT IN PHUKET: TICC REAL ESTATE ROUND TABLE

The Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce announced the launch of its Real Estate Committee, starting with an exclusive workshop followed by a launch dinner, on Friday, October 18, at the MetaDee Concept Hotel in Karon. The event kicked off with a Real Estate Workshop, featuring presentations from key local developers, industry leaders, and sponsors. Following the workshop, guests enjoyed a networking dinner.



# New Zealand defend America's Cup

## SAILING

AFP

The jubilant crew of Emirates Team New Zealand celebrated after completing a commanding 7-2 victory over Ineos Britannia last Saturday (Oct 19) to defend the America's Cup.

The dominant Kiwis lifted the world's oldest international sporting trophy for the third consecutive time after beating their British opponents by 37 seconds in the ninth race off Barcelona to end the best-of-13 series.

New Zealand raced into a 4-0 lead in the 37<sup>th</sup> edition of the competition before Britain fought back with two victories on Oct 16.

However the defenders responded with three points in a row to clinch a third straight victory after their successes in 2017 and 2021, the country's fifth triumph in the competition.

"What an amazing feeling, it's been a tough battle all week, but an amazing scoreline and I'm proud of the way the team kept battling today," said Kiwi helmsman Peter Burling.

"It's still just sinking in... what an awesome day, Barcelona's just been absolutely amazing, what an amazing feeling."



Emirates Team New Zealand celebrate their win. Photo: AFP

The Kiwis' AC75 foiling boat, named 'Taihoro' – a Maori language word meaning 'to move swiftly as the sea between both sky and earth' – was towed back to harbour with a flotilla escort as celebrations began in earnest.

They raised a huge flag thanking host city Barcelona, with hundreds of fans scrambling for a sight of the victors coming back in to the port.

New Zealand are the first nation to lift the trophy in three consecutive editions since the United States in 1987, 1988 and 1992.

The second generation of AC75 foiling boats has reduced the differences between the teams, but New Zealand consistently read the wind conditions better.

Burling was the youngest helmsman to win the 'Auld Mug', winning it in 2017 at 26, and then skippering the team to a superb title defence four years later before triumphing this year.

### 'NOT A QUITTER'

The ninth race was delayed by 40 minutes because of light wind conditions but eventually began with Ineos knowing they needed

to win five straight races to lift the trophy.

The British boat crossed the start line a knot faster than their opponents and the teams exchanged the lead until New Zealand pulled ahead by 200 metres at the first gate.

The Kiwis extended their lead to 22 seconds by the second mark but Ineos continued to fight relentlessly and cut the gap significantly in the third and fourth legs.

The right side of the course offered higher pressure and New Zealand did a good job of

defending it, denying Britain a way back in.

"A huge well done to Team New Zealand, what an amazing campaign and team, and in my view they are the best team ever in the America's Cup," said Ineos skipper Ben Ainslie.

"At the end of the day the better team won."

Ainslie and Ineos, bankrolled by billionaire Manchester United co-owner Jim Ratcliffe, needed a miracle but it was not forthcoming.

Britain reached the America's Cup for the first time in 60 years but have still never won the competition which started 173 years ago with a race around the Isle of Wight.

Ainslie said he would keep going until he won Britain the trophy, but did not know if that would still be as a sailor or in a different position.

"We're determined to keep going until we get the job done... we set this thing up 10 years ago to win the Cup, and I'm not a quitter," he told reporters.

"Age is just a number... I'm committed to the team, really, whatever my role is, it's how I can serve the team best.

"Ultimately, I don't know next time if I'm going to go on the water or not, but I'm committed to the team moving forward and getting the job done and winning the Cup."

## Marquez on top at Australian MotoGP

### MOTO GP

AN UNRELENTING Marc Marquez edged championship leader Jorge Martin in a titanic battle at the Australian MotoGP last Sunday (Oct 20), with Francesco Bagnaia relegated to third.

The Spanish Gresini rider had a horror start but recovered to hunt down Pramac's Martin and lunge past with four laps left for his fourth victory at Phillip Island.

While Marquez won, Martin bolstered his lead over Ducati's Italian defending world champion Bagnaia to 20 points in the title race with three race weekends left.

Ducati-VR46 rider Fabio Di Giannantonio came fourth ahead of Bagnaia's teammate Enea Bastianini and Pramac's Franco Morbidelli.

"I thought at one time it was impossible to catch Martin, but in lap five, six, I start to get the rhythm," said Marquez,



Marquez in action. Photo: AFP

who also won in Australia in 2015, 2017 and 2019.

"It's true that Martin pushed all the race, but I was saving the tyre for the last attack," he added.

Martin was fast all weekend, blasting to pole position and leading from start to finish in Saturday's sprint race where Bagnaia finished fourth.

While the championship

is effectively a two-horse race, six-time world champion Marquez's victory kept him in the picture.

But at 79 points behind, he only has a slender chance to spoil the party.

The circuit moves to Buriram in Thailand this weekend before Malaysia and the season's finale in Valencia. AFP

## Ferrari secure one-two in Austin

### FORMULA ONE

CHARLES LECLERC LED Carlos Sainz home as Ferrari claimed a resounding one-two triumph in last Sunday's (Oct 20) United States Grand Prix after Lando Norris was relegated to fourth, having finished third on track ahead of title rival Max Verstappen who took the third podium spot.

McLaren's Norris was penalised five seconds for gaining an advantage by leaving the track to pass the series leader and Red Bull's three-time champion on lap 53 of the 56-lap contest and dropped to fourth.

Verstappen has now extended his lead over Norris to 57 points in the drivers' championship with five races left this season.

Leclerc came home 8.562 seconds ahead of Sainz with Verstappen third, adrift by 19.412 secs, leaving Norris fourth ahead of McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri and George Russell of Mercedes who finished sixth after starting from the pitlane.

Sergio Perez was seventh in the second Red Bull



Ferrari's Leclerc (left) and Sainz celebrate their one-two finish. Photo: AFP

ahead of Nico Hulkenberg of Haas, Liam Lawson of RB and Franco Colapinto of Williams.

For Leclerc, it was a first victory in the United States, his third of the season and the eighth of his career while for Ferrari it was a first one-two in America since 2006.

"It wasn't an easy weekend up to now, I have been struggling with the feeling with the car, but I had confidence in the race," said Leclerc.

"I am really happy with today, a 1-2 for the team, we couldn't have dreamed for better."

Norris made a good initial start from his fourth pole in five races, but left a critical gap on the inside which encouraged Verstappen to attack, forcing them both wide and allowing Leclerc to snatch the lead

from fourth on the grid as they came through Turn One.

Norris fell to fourth as Sainz also passed him on an eventful opening lap that saw Lewis Hamilton rise from 17<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> before he went off at Turn 19 on lap three, prompting an early Safety Car intervention.

The Mercedes star had never previously failed to finish in 11 races in Austin.

The race resumed on lap five, Leclerc pulling away to build his lead to three seconds by lap 10 with Verstappen resisting Sainz, who maintained second place.

As the race wore on the battle between Norris and Verstappen intensified as they fought for third and vital points in their title scrap.

The duo battled fiercely for a dozen laps before Norris attacked on lap 53, pushing wide and off-track to take third.

"He needs to give me it back," complained Verstappen on team radio as they battled on and the stewards studied the move before hitting Norris with a five-second penalty for gaining an advantage. AFP



# Liverpool pass Chelsea test

## FOOTBALL

AFP

Arne Slot said Liverpool passed the hardest test of his time in charge as a 2-1 win over Chelsea at Anfield moved the Reds back top of the Premier League last Sunday (Oct 20).

Mohamed Salah's penalty and Curtis Jones' winner made it 10 wins in 11 games since Slot succeeded Jurgen Klopp as Liverpool manager.

Nicolas Jackson briefly levelled for Chelsea, who enjoyed nearly 60% possession, but they slipped to a first league defeat since losing to Manchester City on the opening weekend of the season.

Chelsea are now seven points off the top but there was plenty cause for optimism for the Blues from a performance that stretched Liverpool to their limits.

Victory takes Liverpool one point ahead of City and four clear of Arsenal, who they face at the Emirates on Sunday (Oct 27).

"Many other games were hard but this might have been the hardest because of the amount of quality players they have and the structure they have," said Slot. "We had to fight really hard to get this one over the line."

In Sunday's early kick-off Manchester City needed a controversial 95th minute winner from John Stones



Liverpool players celebrate Curtis Jones' winner. Photo: AFP

to see off bottom-of-the-table Wolverhampton Wanderers 2-1.

Stones' header from Phil Foden's corner in the final minute of stoppage-time at Molineux was initially ruled out for offside against Bernardo Silva, who was standing directly in front of Wolves goalkeeper Jose Sa.

But after a VAR intervention, referee Chris Kavanagh overturned the decision, ruling that Silva, who ducked down before the ball hit the net, was not offside or interfering with Sa.

Jorgen Strand Larsen had given Wolves a first half lead before defender Josko Gvardiol equalised with a stunning strike.

Arsenal suffered their first Premier League defeat since April as William Saliba's red card triggered a shock 2-0 loss at Bournemouth on Saturday.

Saliba was sent off after half-an-hour for a professional foul on Evanilson that was initially punished with a booking before being upgraded to a red card after a VAR review, before goals from Ryan Christie and Justin Kluivert settled the game.

Elsewhere, Manchester United eased the pressure on manager Erik ten Hag as they fought back to beat Brentford 2-1, while Tottenham hammered a hapless West Ham 4-1.

Fourth-placed Aston Villa have made their best start for 26 years after a 3-1 win at Fulham while Everton clinched their first away win in 16 games in all competitions with a 2-0 victory against Ipswich.

Brighton moved up to fifth place with Danny Welbeck's goal enough to defeat Newcastle 1-0 as Leicester staged a stirring fightback from two goals down to snatch a dramatic 3-2 victory at winless Southampton.



Photo: AFP

## Kerr fires Kiwis to glory in Women's T20 World Cup

### CRICKET

NEW ZEALAND ALL-rounder Amelia Kerr reached new heights with a superb performance with bat and ball that led her team to their first ever Women's T20 World Cup title as they beat South Africa by a commanding 32 runs in last Sunday's (Oct 20) final in Dubai.

Kerr, who was named Player of the Match and Player of the Tournament, top-scored with 43 as New Zealand posted an imposing 158-5 in their 20 overs.

The 24-year-old from Wellington then took 3-24, crucially picking up the key wickets of Laura Wolvaardt and Anneke Bosch, to restrict South Africa to

126-9 in their 20 overs.

"We all know she is a once-in-a-generation player," said New Zealand captain Sophie Devine.

"What she was able to do tonight was incredible. Physically to do what she did with the bat, I think she can't feel her legs.

"She is not a bad cricketer but the person that she is, the world is her oyster."

Victory marked a sweet finish to Devine's own career.

The win came 14 years after the White Ferns lost to Australia by just three runs in the 2010 final. They also lost to England in the 2009 championship match.

"I started to dream last night about what it feels to hold the trophy with this team," said a smiling Devine after the win. *AFP*

## New boss Tuchel targets England World Cup glory

### FOOTBALL

THOMAS TUCHEL SAID HE MUST rise to the challenge of ending England's wait for a first major trophy since 1966 as the German was unveiled as the new manager of the Three Lions on Oct 16.

Former Chelsea boss Tuchel will start his new job from Jan 1, 2025 on an 18-month deal to the conclusion of the 2026 World Cup.

The 51-year-old, who has been out of work since leaving Bayern Munich at the end of last season, succeeds Gareth Southgate as permanent coach and becomes the third foreign England manager after Sven-Goran Eriksson and Fabio Capello.

"I know that there are some trophies missing in the federation and, of course, I want to help to make it happen," he told a press conference at Wembley.

Tuchel, who has also coached Borussia Dortmund and Paris Saint-Germain, has the trophy-winning pedigree that the FA is seeking to help end a 58-year wait to win a major tournament since the 1966 World Cup on home soil.

The highlight of the German's career to date came during his spell in English football when he won the Champions League with Chelsea in 2021.



Thomas Tuchel at Wembley. Photo: AFP

However, the FA's move has drawn criticism over their unwillingness to trust an Englishman with its top job, overseeing a richly-talented generation of players including Jude Bellingham who will be among the favourites for the 2026 World Cup.

"There are some serious questions for the FA to answer in respect of English coaching," said former Manchester United captain and England defender Gary Neville.

Southgate resigned shortly after losing the Euro 2024 final to Spain in July, following an eight-year reign that made England a force again on the international stage.

"We will build on everything that Gareth and the FA built and hopefully we can add a little bit of extra to get it over the line," added Tuchel.

"We will try to install values and principles and rules as quickly as possible to make the dream come true."

Tuchel will be assisted by English coach Anthony Barry, who worked alongside him at Bayern. *AFP*

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# Sport

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## CLUB FOR COMMUNITY

### PAFC driving positive change via football



PAFC Chairman Russell Horsley with some of the club's Academy players. Photo: Supplied

#### FOOTBALL

Simon Causton

The new ownership at Phuket Andaman Football Club (PAFC) by Higher Sports Co under the leadership of President Russ Horsley is already heralding a transformative era at the club.

Gone are the days when football was solely about matches and scores. The club's ambition has expanded beyond the pitch, aiming to become an integral part of the Phuket community and a catalyst for positive change.

At the heart of this transformation lies a comprehensive community outreach program that envisions football not just as a sport, but as a powerful tool to inspire, educate and empower.

Adam Thornton, a seasoned Level 2 Professional Football Association (PFA) coach with a proven track record of working with charities and underprivileged children in the UK, will play a pivotal role in realising this vision.

Thornton's expertise will be channeled through his organisation 'Play Football Asia', which will work in tandem with PAFC to deliver in-school and community-based football programs across the island. These programs will focus on providing opportunities for young people from all backgrounds to experience the joy and benefits of the game.

#### HOLISTIC APPROACH

PAFC's community outreach encompasses a range of initiatives tackling social issues and promote sustainable development:

**Youth Development:** Recognising that young people are the future, the club will invest in tailored programs aimed at nurturing talent and fostering holistic growth. The programs not only focus on football skills but also physical fitness, cognitive development and life skills. Innovative partnerships, such as the collaboration with Cognigoals, will enable the club to utilise cutting-edge technology to enhance training and learning.

**Cultural Integration:** PAFC understands the importance of celebrating the island's rich cultural heritage so the club will organise football events that seamlessly blend with traditional festivities, creating a platform for community members to come together, connect and appreciate their shared traditions.

**Environmental Stewardship:** As a responsible member of the Phuket community, the club is committed to promoting environmental awareness and sustainability. Initiatives will include zero-waste events, the use of eco-friendly merchandise and education programs on environmental conservation.

**Community Building:** Strong ties with local schools, clubs and organisations will be established to create a network of support and opportunity. PAFC aims to become a central hub where community members can come together, share experiences and build lasting relationships.

PAFC's commitment to social responsibility extends beyond the local community. The club's

initiatives are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a blueprint for achieving a more just and sustainable world. Through its programs, PAFC aims to contribute to the achievement of several SDGs, including: good health and well-being; quality education; gender equality; reduced inequalities; sustainable cities and communities; climate action; partnerships for the goals.

Strategic partnerships with Higher Sports Co and iSports Analysis are instrumental in the club expanding its reach and impact. These alliances provide PAFC with the resources, expertise and opportunities to deliver quality football programs across Thailand.

#### GET INVOLVED

PAFC welcomes sponsorships at all levels to support its ambitious community initiatives. Whether it is contributing to the weekly subscription service B100 Club that provides match tickets, purchasing a community banner for the season that is displayed at

every home game and provides match tickets or exploring larger sponsorship packages, there are various ways for individuals and businesses to contribute and make a difference.

It is inspiring to see PAFC embrace a holistic vision that extends far beyond the confines of the football field. The club's commitment to youth development, cultural integration, environmental stewardship and community building is setting a new standard for sports organisations in Thailand. Under the guidance of Russ Horsley and with the dedication of individuals such as Adam Thornton, there is every reason for to be confident that PAFC is poised to make a lasting positive impact on the lives of countless people in Phuket and beyond.

I, for one, eagerly anticipate witnessing the transformative journey that lies ahead for this remarkable club and the community it serves. Together, they have the power to create a brighter future for Phuket through the beautiful game of football.

## PAFC tame Andaman Horses to maintain good form

#### FOOTBALL

COACH TUM'S REVOLUTION at Phuket Andaman FC (PAFC) continues to gather momentum following a hard-fought 1-1 draw away to Muangtrang United last Sunday (Oct 20).

The result came after PAFC recorded a 2-1 win against Pattani FC on Oct 16 in Tum's first game in charge of the club.

The draw with Muangtrang, nicknamed the 'Andaman Horses', was probably a fair result, with both teams creating

chances. PAFC, as has become their trademark in recent weeks, posed a constant threat down both flanks, with wingers Game and Torky causing confusion in the Muangtrang defence, while striker Bank drifted to the right and linked well with both, driving menacingly into the box on several occasions.

Both sides had opportunities to open the scoring in the first twenty minutes before the deadlock was broken in the 29<sup>th</sup> minute, albeit controversially.

A dubious free-kick was awarded to Muangtrang, and

while the initial shot was deflected, it fell kindly for number nine Somprat, who made no mistake from close range with the finish.

PAFC emerged for the second half with renewed vigour as substitute goalkeeper Natthawut was called into action early, making several crucial saves including a particularly impressive stop to deny Bank.

However, the in-form PAFC striker was not to be denied when he scored in the 58<sup>th</sup> minute following good work down the left flank by Ohm.

While Bank and his fellow attackers were causing problems for the home side, PAFC's own defence had to remain alert, with goalkeeper Bee in excellent form as he made a number of vital saves to keep his side in the game.

Despite both teams having chances to win the game, a draw was a fair reflection of the match. PAFC will be pleased to come away from Trang with a point, especially with a favourable run of fixtures leading up to the end of the first leg of games in November.



Photo: Supplied

The result leaves PAFC 10<sup>th</sup> in the 12-team table following 3 losses, 2 draws and one win.

Their next match is at home tomorrow (Oct 26) against Yala City, kick-off 3:30pm.

Simon Causton