

YACHT TOURISM TO BRING B1.1BN BOOST > PAGE 6

HOPE FLOATS



DDPM Director-General Boontham Lertsukeekasem at the tsunami-warning buoy send-off last week. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

MISSION TO DEPLOY TSUNAMI-WARNING BUOYS SETS SAIL, ONE BUOY BACK ONLINE

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

One of the tsunami-warning buoys currently being “replaced” by a Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) mission that set sail from Phuket last week is back online.

Station 23461, installed in the Andaman Sea approximately 340km northwest of Phuket, began relaying real-time data to the US Government’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on Nov 18. The buoy became operational

again just three days after the ship MS Seafdec left Phuket on its mission to “replace” two tsunami warning buoys that were no longer functioning.

The other tsunami-warning buoy owned and maintained by the DDPM’s National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC), Station 23401, as of Tuesday (Nov 22) had yet to resume relaying data. Station 23401 was originally installed some 965km west of Phuket as part of the multinational array of tsunami-warning buoys in the Bay of Bengal.

Station 23401 stopped transmitting data in October last year. The

buoy was confirmed as “missing” from its installed location, but later recovered.

Station 23461, located about halfway between Phuket and the Nicobar Islands, stopped transmitting data on June 7 this year, with Thai authorities explaining that the problem was with data not syncing with NOAA servers.

SEND-OFF

DDPM Director-General Boontham Lertsukeekasem was in Phuket last week to officiate the high-profile sending off of the ship MS Seafdec,

named after the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center. The ship departed Phuket Deep Sea Port, on the east coast of Cape Panwa, at 3pm on Nov 15 with two tsunami-warning buoys on board to “replace” the two that were not functioning.

The send-off was a high-profile affair with envoys from 11 countries present, official reports of the event noted, singling out Russia, India, Nepal, Switzerland and China for specific mention.

“The tsunami-monitoring system in the Indian Ocean and the Andaman Sea is a mechanism for early...

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OrSor flamed
for threats,
bad behaviour



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Boy, 4, wins
major prize for
wildlife photo



SPORT PAGE 16

Kiwi and Aussie
win at Laguna
Phuket Triathlon



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News



Turtle nesting season begins anew > p4

Warning buoys set to resurface

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...warning of tsunamis to people so they are not alarmed by rumors and receive accurate information from government agencies, and to enable people to prepare for tsunami evacuation in a timely manner, to create safety for the lives of the people,” Mr Boontham said.

Mr Boontham highlighted there are 130 tsunami-warning towers posted along the Thai Andaman coast, namely in Ranong, Phang Nga, Phuket, Krabi, Trang and Satun.

“The tsunami wave detection buoys being installed are a worthwhile investment to help reduce the loss of life and property of the people. However, I would like to ask government agencies, organisations, businesses, volunteers, networks, fishermen and the public to help monitor and maintain the tsunami detection system. This includes the warning towers and local warning devices so they are able to remain in continuous use and give effective warnings in advance,” he said.

Tsunami-warning towers will be tested every Wednesday at 8am, Mr Boontham continued. “If at any point there is a problem, staff will be sent to fix it immediately so they are ready to provide effective tsunami disaster warnings in risk areas,” he said.

Mr Boontham recounted the impact of the Asian Tsunami in 2004, which killed an estimated 230,000 people. Thailand’s official casualties numbered 4,812 with a further 4,499 people missing after the disaster.

Phuket officially suffered only 259 deaths with a further 700 people missing, but the resort area of Khao Lak north of the island suffered 3,950 confirmed deaths, with unofficial estimates placing the death count



The MS Seafdec prepares to depart Phuket with the two tsunami-warning buoys on board. Photo: PR Phuket

much higher, more than 4,500. Many of those killed in Khao Lak were Scandinavian tourists.

CONFIDENCE

Mr Boontham called on people to have confidence in the tsunami-warning measures in place to provide effective warnings in a timely manner.

The two buoys being deployed were to “replace” the buoys that are no longer functioning, Mr Boontham explained.

However, Mr Boontham’s call for confidence in Thailand’s ability to warn people of an impending tsunami came five months after national state news agency NNT also called for people to not be worried about impending tsunamis, and assured that an operation had been launched to recover the buoy in the Andaman Sea – an operation that finally set sail last week.

The problem was with the buoy’s

data transmissions not being processed by NOAA servers, the DDPM said at that time.

Mr Boontham at the launch event last week explained that the warning buoys feed data to the tsunami-warning system monitored and operated by NOAA.

Mr Boontham gave no explanation as to how Thai DDPM officials, and specifically the NDWC, would be able to issue any tsunami alerts or warnings without warning buoy data being received from the Bay of Bengal array.

Also not explained was that the NOAA monitoring system had not been relaying data from any of the Bay of Bengal warning buoys for months.

The data is relayed in real time to the NOAA’s National Data Buoy Center (NDBC). However, the NDBC Webmaster confirmed to The Phuket News in July that data from any buoys in the Bay of Bengal array

was not being relayed to the NDBC servers. The problem was at the source, not at the NDBC.

At the time Mr Boontham was addressing his guests last week, the NDBC was still not receiving any data from the Bay of Bengal array.

Despite Mr Boontham’s claims that the NOAA tsunami data system was experiencing “server problems”, by amazing coincidence it was only after the MS Seafdec left Phuket that real time data for Station 23461 started being relayed by the NDBC.

CEREMONIAL PROGRESS

Before the launch of the MS Seafdec at the Deep Sea Port, Mr Boontham led a grand ceremony at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Phuket Town to commemorate the signing of an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) “on the Support and Integration of Thailand’s Tsunami Monitoring and Maintenance Network”.

The MoU was signed by eight other government agencies, in addition to the DDPM. Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew and the heads of “many other relevant government agencies” attended the event, noted official reports.

“By signing the Memorandum of Cooperation today, it is a part that will contribute and will help the tsunami measurement system and provide consistent availability and efficiency to give alerts to the public, and tourists, in the Andaman coast area of Thailand, including people in the region around the Indian Ocean, to be able to be ready to respond and evacuate in a timely manner,” Mr Boontham said.

“This is considered an important way to drive the policy ‘Safety Thailand’ and to build confidence in the warning system for people and tourists,” he added.

Why a new MoU was needed for agencies that were already supposed to be coordinating to provide effective tsunami warnings was not explained.

Further, according to official reports, the MoU was dated to be effective for only two years from the date of signing. Why the MoU was given an expiration date remained unexplained.

Of note, while the DDPM was established in 2002, taking responsibility for disaster warning and prevention measures from five other government departments, the NDWC was not established until after the devastating Asian Tsunami on Dec 26, 2004.

The NDWC’s primary initial reason for existence is to provide effective tsunami alerts.

Additional reporting by Eakkapop Thongtub

Drains blamed, work underway to avoid more Patong floods

MOVES TO COMPLETE construction work on drains at the wastewater treatment plant in Patong are underway after sections of the tourism town flooded amid a single downpour last week.

Patong Police Station and the surrounding area flooded and a bridge on the road to Kamala suffered damage on Nov 18.

While reports on the duration of the rainfall differed, from 15 minutes to two hours, there were sufficient levels to see floods at the intersection in front of Patong Hospital, located

diagonally across the intersection from the police station, likewise the street in front of Patong Municipality offices on Rachaphatanusorn Rd.

Construction near the wastewater plant at the southern end of Patong saw water levels in the drains rise dramatically, with that section of waterway fed by the Pak Bang Canal, which snakes through the back of Patong, passing Patong Municipality offices, Patong Police Station and Patong Hospital en route.

The flooding prompted officials from Patong Municipality to confirm they would



Photo: PR Phuket

urge contractors at the site to expedite their construction works so as to ensure no repeat scenario was experienced.

Suvit Phansaengiam, of

the Phuket Provincial Office of Public Works and Town & Country Planning, joined Patong Mayor Chalerm Sak Maneesri at the site on Nov

18 to assess the situation.

Also present was Kittisan Kuru, Deputy Mayor of Patong, joined by fellow officials to review the site where contractors had a backhoe in operation to the drain.

Mr Kittison said the contractor was clearing anything that could possibly cause an obstruction and blockage in the drains, including dirt, debris and cement.

The contractor would also dig a deeper trench in the canal and cut away steel that was blocking the waterway at the bottom of the bridge to ensure water could flow

unobstructed, confirmed Mr Kittison.

Officials would visit the site every day in an effort to expedite the works, he added, stating that the installation of traffic lights and signs would be completed within the next three days, as per the request of local residents.

Work on the water treatment plant began in 2016 under a project with a B222 million budget. It was due to finish in November 2021 but still has yet to be completed.

The Phuket News

Netizens flame OrSor for aberrant behaviour

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Phuket Info Center, a Facebook page operated under Phuket office of the Ministry of Interior, has called out for transparency and accountability in the operations of Volunteer Defense Corps (OrSor) personnel following a local news portal claiming that one OrSor "volunteer" had used threats and intimidation as a means of extorting money.

"Government officials intimidate reporters? Be an officer or a gangster? Eat salary from public taxes or receive money from anyone?" Phuket Info Center posed in a post online late Monday (Nov 21).

To highlight the message the post included hashtags in Thai for "#Department of Provincial Administration", "#Ministry of Interior", "#Prime Minister's Office" and "#Quick Check".

The questions were posed along with the sharing of another post online, by local news portal "Hot Jung! Phuket".

"To #OrSor. #Kathu District, whose name is Daeng. The one who asked journalists to threaten the admin #admin is not afraid, always ready," the post said.

"I don't know about other journalists, but local journalists like admin are not afraid of him. Remember the admin's words: OrSor is a volunteer to serve the people, not a gangster!"



OrSor personnel stand at the ready during the mandatory drug tests conducted at night venues on Bangla Rd. Photo: PR Phuket

The post by Hot Jung quickly gained traction. Posted online at 12:17pm, within hours the post had gained more than 3,400 reactions and 324 comments.

Many of the comments aired complaints of OrSor being rude or heavy handed in carrying out their duties, including manning traffic checkpoints and directing traffic while the road over Patong Hill remains restricted.

However, by 6:45pm Monday night the post was updated to say only, "It's over". No further explanation was given.

The backlash over inappropriate, and possibly criminal, behaviour of an OrSor volunteer followed a week of OrSor personnel continuing their "weapons and drugs" checks on Bangla Rd under

instructions by Kathu District Chief Siwat Rawarangkul.

The inspections began on Nov 8, with 189 staffers at selected nightlife venues on Bangla Rd tested for drugs, with just one person testing positive.

The checks continued throughout last week, while the Apec summit was held in Bangkok, with more staff at selected nightlife venues singled out for on-the-spot mandatory urine tests for drugs while still at the venue where they worked.

During torrential rain on Nov 16, 117 more people – mostly touts – were tested for drugs, with two men testing positive. Both volunteered to enter a drug rehabilitation programme.



Photo: Thalang Police

Local man wins B12mn on lottery

A 56-YEAR-OLD PHUKET man has won B12 million on the government lottery, just in time for him to avoid losing his house.

The man, who police named only as "Mr Srinuai", presented his two winning tickets at Thalang Police Station on the night of Nov 16.

Mr Srinuai, a resident of Moo 4, Thepkasattri, said he bought the tickets from a government lottery ticket vendor across the road from Thalang Police Station at about 10am three days earlier (Nov 13).

He bought two tickets

with the number 121789, which won the first prize in the national lottery draw on Nov 16.

Mr Srinuai said he came to the police station to record that he was the holder of the tickets.

Pol Lt Pongpipat Khamchomphu recorded the possession of the tickets in the police log.

Mr Srinuai, though still very composed, was very happy with his good fortune. A friend posted online that Mr Srinuai was facing his house being foreclosed on.

Eakkapop Thongtub

German couple charged for disappearing with rental car

A GERMAN COUPLE HAVE BEEN arrested for renting a car in Phuket and disappearing by driving it into Malaysia.

Julia Poppelbaum, 34, and Thomas Veit, 47, were arrested at about 2:30pm on Nov 16, Wichit Police reported.

The pair were taken into custody under arrest warrants issued by Phuket Provincial Court that same day, police noted.

The arrests traced back to February, when Petcharat Mankong reported to police that the car, a white Mitsubishi Pajero Sport, had been stolen, Wichit Police explained in their report.

Ms Petcharat explained to police that Poppelbaum had contacted her at 6pm on Feb 5 asking to rent the car for one month, from Feb 5 to March 5.

The price of B32,000 was agreed, with Poppelbaum making an initial payment of B9,000 and later transferring an additional B5,000. The remaining B23,000 was to be paid on the car's return.

However, at about 8:45am on Feb 12 Ms Petcharat received a call from officers from the Office of the Narcotics Control Board explaining to her that the Mitsubishi Pajero had just been recorded as passing a checkpoint to enter Malaysia.

The officers suspected the car was being used in the transportation of drugs, the officers said.

Ms Petcharat checked the GPS tracker fitted to the car and confirmed for herself



Photos: Wichit Police

that it was in Malaysia. She said she tried to contact the couple, but without success.

Police launched an investigation and later learned that the couple had recently returned to Thailand "and committed other offenses", Wichit Police said in their report.

Warrants of arrest for the couple were sought, issued and served, with Poppelbaum and Veit both now facing charges of "theft by committing two or more offenses together", the report confirmed.

The report made no mention of whether the car had been recovered, or any other charges the couple were facing, or the location of their arrest.

However, *The Pattaya News* reported that Veit was arrested in Pattaya on Nov 7 for overstaying in the country after an intense, hours-long standoff with police.

The Phuket News

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The Phuket News

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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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WED NOVEMBER 30



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THU DECEMBER 1



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Wind 4 m/s

Turtle nesting season begins

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Officials have confirmed that a leatherback sea turtle laid over 100 eggs at Bang Khwan Beach in Phang Nga province just north of Phuket last week.

At around 6am on Nov 17, local authorities from tambon Khok Kloi in Phang Nga informed the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) that sea turtle tracks were found at Bang Khwan Beach, said Atthaphol Charoenchansa, Director-General of the DMCR.

Having arrived at the beach, officials found the tracks on the sand up from the sea and back. The tracks measured about 220cm across, with the drag marks indicating that the turtle shell measured about 110cm wide.

Having searched the area, officials also found the turtle nest and carefully dug it, discovering 118 eggs. Of them 106 were fertile and in good condition.

As the nest was in the part of the beach where it could be damaged by the surf, officials moved all the eggs to a safer area.

The new nest was complete with a fence for protection from animals and people, CCTV cameras and thermometers to monitor the 'incubation process'. Normally, sea turtle eggs hatch within 55-60 days.

Mr Atthaphol confirmed it was



The first turtle nest of the season was found in Phang Nga on Nov 17. Photo: Phuket Info Center

the first time a turtle has laid her eggs on Phang Nga shores in this year's season.

JOINT EFFORT BRINGS FRUIT

The DMCR chief also added that specialists are now witnessing proper return of sea turtles on Phuket and Phang Nga beaches with more of these animals being spotted and more nests being found each season. In 2018/2019 only three nests were found, in 2021/2022 the total hit 18.

In early 2021 local DMCR even recorded recurrent visits of a 'super mother turtle' named Alpha, who visited the shores several times to lay a lot of eggs.

This is compared to zero turtle nest findings for five years from 2012

to 2017. Mr Atthaphol attributed the disappearance of sea turtles to active beachfront development in Phuket, as well as irresponsible fishing and marine pollution, including discharge of plastic waste and old fishing nets into the sea.

Mr Atthaphol praised the continuous joint efforts by the private and public sectors to support marine life protection and conservation, especially the sea turtles. He called for the business, government and people to continue their good job.

"The involvement of all sectors has led to success in conservation and rehabilitation of the leatherback turtle population in Thailand. Yet this may be just the beginning of the road. Our further work requires constant efforts to maintain and protect the

environment to be suitable for habitation and spawning of sea turtles. We need to reduce the threat factors, such as marine debris. This is critical to sustainability in the conservation of sea turtles," Mr Atthaphol said.

The DMCR chief reminded that in 2016 local hotels, government agencies and public organisations signed a pact for marine fauna conservation with special emphasis on protection of sea turtles. The treaty was signed by the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation, the DMCR and various business partners.

A special ceremony was held in Mai Khao to mark the signing of the memorandum as well as celebrate the grand opening of "The Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation", an on-site Turtle Shelter and Education Centre located at JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa.

In 2020 parks chiefs in Phuket and Phang Nga jointly called for hotels and other beachfront businesses to create turtle preservation zones to protect turtle eggs being laid along west-coast beaches.

In Phuket, the suggested areas included Nai Yang Beach, Mai Khao Beach and Sai Kaew Beach in the northern part of the island (some 14km of shoreline in total).

In February 2021 an olive ridley turtle was found laying eggs on Mai Khao Beach in Phuket, for the first time in more than 20 years.

Son fatally stabs father in fight over kratom money

A 26-YEAR-OLD MAN HAS surrendered to police for fatally stabbing his father in the neck during a fight over money to buy kratom leaves.

Police were alerted to the stabbing at 6pm on Monday (Nov 21), reported Lt Col Patiwat Yodkwan, Deputy Chief of the Thalang Police.

Officers arrived at the home, in Baan Bang Jo, Moo 4, Srisoonthorn, to find the perpetrator, Anon Khammanochat, waiting for them in front of the small, one-storey house.

After placing Anon under arrest, officers located the body of his father, Uthai Khammanochat, 51, on a bed at the back of the home. He had contusions on his face and a deep laceration to his neck.

During their initial investigation, officers were told that Uthai often had his son, Anon, buy kratom leaves for him with money Anon received from Anon's grandmother. This time, however, Anon's grandmother had refused.



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Anon returned home and told his father that his grandmother had not given him any money. In response, Uthai got up off his bed and kicked Anon in the face.

Angered, Anon grabbed a kitchen knife, some eight inches long. A fight ensued, ending with Uthai being stabbed in the neck, police reported.

Uthai and Anon lived alone in the house. They often argued.

The father, Uthai, allegedly often boiled kratom leaves to drink the juice, police noted in their report.

Anon was taken to Thalang Police Station for further questioning while police continue their investigation.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Samui man killed making U-turn

A 54-YEAR-OLD MAN DIED while attempting to make a U-turn on Thepkrasattri Rd in Srisoonthorn last Sunday evening (Nov 20).

Lt Col Sanit Nookong, Deputy Chief of Thalang Police, said officers arrived at the scene after being informed of a collision between a motorbike and a car at the U-turn in front of the Tra Nok cement outlet.

Officers and rescue workers from the "Two Grandmothers" rescue organisation, attached to the Thepkrasattri Tambon Administrative Organisation (OrBorTor), arrived to find a white Toyota Corolla Cross SUV with heavy damage to its front. The car was bearing red licence plates issued to dealerships, indicating that the car was brand-new.

Nearby was a blue Suzuki motorbike with heavy damage to its front.

The rider, Phon Narapong, 54, from Bo Phut on Koh Samui, was lying on the road with critical injuries.

Mr Phon was rushed by ambulance to Thalang Hospital. Paramedics administered CPR en route, but were unable to revive him. Mr Phon was formally pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital.



Photo: Thalang Police

Police confirmed through CCTV footage that Mr Phon had driven his motorbike across the southbound lanes while attempting to make a U-turn. He drove across the path of the oncoming Toyota car, which slammed into the motorbike.

At time of press officers had yet to conclude their investigation into the accident. Police had not given any indication of fault in the collision. They also had yet to explain the speed of the Toyota car at the time of impact, or name the driver.

Local reports have noted that the U-turn is well known as a local "black spot" for serious accidents. The U-turn is the site of "countless" accidents that cause the loss of life and property, one report said.

Eakkapop Thongtub

the Phuket News

Old prison gets eco-purpose

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Demolition of the wall around the old Phuket Prison in Phuket Town began on Monday (Nov 21) as work started on transforming the site into an “eco-tourism attraction” and green area that is to be “the lungs of Phuket Town”.

The work began after a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) and Phuket City Municipality at an event held in front of the century-old prison, located on Damrong Rd.

Signatories to the MoU were PPAO President Rewat Areerob and Phuket City Deputy Mayor Onphailin Trakulpalinphon.

Present as witnesses to the event were Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew, Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Pinsuwan, Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Office (Palad) Somprat Prabsongkram, Phuket Land Office Chief Wisit Chokchai, Phuket Area Treasury Office Chief Aisoon Suthamthwakun, along with Paisarn Chaewchan, Director



Photo: PR Phuket

of the Prisoner Development Division and Krisana Thipayachan, Commander of Phuket Provincial Prison.

The event today followed the Treasury Department on Sept 30 issuing a notice granting permission to the Office of the Permanent Secretary for Interior for Phuket to use the state land, measuring 37-2-41 rai, reported the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

The permission officially allowed the site to be used as a public park, the report said.

The area to be developed covers approximately 29-1-

86.2 rai, the report added.

The park must be designed and constructed according to the plans approved by the Phuket Provincial Office, overseen by the Phuket Governor.

The plans include several small buildings to be constructed on the site, covering only 8-0-54.8 rai, but also with parking spaces, the report continued.

The idea for development of the park began back in 2014, when the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) resolved to approve the Ministry of Justice (Department of Corrections) to proceed

with the construction of a new Phuket Provincial Prison, PR Phuket explained.

The old Phuket Provincial Prison was allowed to be re-used for other purposes once the inmates had been moved to the new facility, the report continued.

For nigh two decades the old Phuket Prison was notoriously overcrowded, spurring the move to spend B789 million on building the new Phuket Provincial Prison in Srisoonthorn, Thalang. The new prison opened in December 2020.

The old prison, however,

most recently served as a ‘Covid Care Center’, where COVID-19 patients not sick enough to be admitted to hospital were required to stay “for the health and safety of their neighbours in the community” during the height of the Delta outbreak last year.

Krisana Thipayachan, Commander of Phuket Provincial Prison, explained earlier this year that the move to transform the old prison into a tourism attraction came under the direction of Ayut Sinthaphan, Director-General of the Department of Corrections.

Built some 120 years ago, the prison remains one of the oldest remaining prisons still standing in the country, Mr Kisana said.

The prison covers just over 41 rai, with much of the site undeveloped as the buildings clustered close to Damrong Rd, he said at the time.

“By designating the development of the Old Phuket Prison area in Phuket Town for public use to become a green area, it will become the lungs of Phuket Town,” Mr Krisana said.

“Currently, this Phuket Prison is not used for inmates control missions, but it is

worth preserving for future generations to learn about the wisdom of the craftsmen in the past, both in architecture and the tools and materials used in construction,” he said.

“People generally can’t see or touch such real things from the past; some people call it ‘Twilight Zone’... Developing the ‘Twilight Zone’ to be an eco-tourism attraction and a ‘live museum’ learning centre will give tourists and local people a learning experience about correctional work in the past,” Mr Krisana continued.

“The prison will also serve as a source of education for those interested in correctional work and will be used as a professional training venue for inmates who are undertaking vocational training before release,” he added.

Meanwhile, the new Phuket Provincial Prison, built on 108 rai in Srisoonthorn, is already 85% full, officials reported in May this year.

The prison is designed to accommodate a total of 3,459 inmates, comprising 3,086 male inmates and 373 female inmates.

However, the new prison already has 2,943 inmates, comprising 2,552 male inmates and 391 female inmates.

Mooring buoys deployed to protect coral reefs in Patong

THE DEPARTMENT OF Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) has launched its latest campaign to install mooring buoys at popular marine tourism locations to help prevent damage to coral reefs in the area.

The campaign began with the installment of mooring buoys in Patong Bay last Friday (Nov 18), launched by DMCR Deputy Director General Apichai Ekwanakul.

Present for the occasion was Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Pinsuwan joined by Ukrit Staphumin, Director of the DMCR’s Marine Resources Conservation Division, along with representatives from the Navy and heads of a host of local government agencies, including Patong Mayor Chalernsak Maneesri..

Mr Ukrit explained that Patong Bay is home to 633.42 rai of protected coral reefs. Some 20 mooring buoys were deployed to help protect those reefs from boat operators dropping anchor on them.

“The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources has a duty to take care to maintain conservation and



Mooring buoys have been installed to protect coral reefs in Patong Bay. Photo: PR Phuket

restore coral resources in areas outside the national park boundaries, especially coral reef tourist attractions in the six provinces along the Andaman Sea coast,” he said.

There are 29,125.88 rai of coral reefs along the Thai Andaman coast, Mr Ukrit said.

“The objective is to prevent the destruction of coral reefs from boats dropping anchor in the areas,” he added.

In total 418 buoys are to be installed in 33 areas to help protect the corals, Mr Ukrit added.

In Phuket alone there are 130 buoys at 11 locations, he said.

“The Patong Bay area is an important marine tourist attraction of Phuket which many tourists visit, and there are more than 100 boats that take

tourists to various important places throughout the area, so these mooring buoys are needed to prevent the boats from dropping anchor [onto corals] when they take tourists to see the coral reefs,” Mr Ukrit explained.

The DMCR has been conducting its ongoing campaign to install mooring buoys to help protect coral reefs since 1992, Mr Ukrit noted.

Vice Governor Amnuay praised the campaign, saying it was much needed to help protect the natural tourist attractions around Phuket.

The DMCR conducted many campaigns to protect the natural beauty of Phuket, including projects to protect the island’s mangroves, Vice Governor Amnuay said.

The Phuket News

Early Bird
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ASIA'S SPONSORSHIP INDUSTRY REBOUNDS

Sponsorship market intelligence firm relocates to Phuket

ADVERTORIAL

Asia's sponsorship industry is experiencing a resurgence post-pandemic, and nobody is better placed to capitalise on that trend than The Sponsorship Experts, Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co., Ltd. (PP(SEA)CL).

Paul and his team connect events with sponsors and brands with events – and steer them through the whole process of sponsorship towards a successful outcome for both.

A key PP(SEA)CL objective is to increase the commercial value of the properties they represent by developing professional sponsorship packages, by sourcing 'best brand name/fit' commercial sponsors and by ensuring ROI and ROO for their clients, sponsors and partners.

Furthermore, Paul strongly believes that – by effectively leveraging the power of sponsorship – rights holders and brands can organise and host better quality and more sustainable events, and engage with the local community in a more meaningful way.

Fundamental to PP(SEA)CL's ability to offer expert advice is Paul's commitment to evidence-based decision-making, proper evaluation of sponsorship 'assets', media and sponsorship benchmarking and



use of market intelligence on the latest trends shaping the industry. PP(SEA)CL is a member of the Asian Sponsorship Association and includes PerforMind® – a scientific approach to selecting sponsorship criteria and sourcing a sponsorship that is best for each client's needs – in its professional 'tool kit'.

As a measure of its impact, PP(SEA)CL delivers over one billion Thai baht in sponsorship across, on average, 58 properties each year. Clients include mass participation sporting events in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi, such as Supersports Laguna Phuket Marathon, Phang

Nga Triathlon and GFNY Thailand – events that bring valuable revenue to Thai tourism, support local communities and promote a healthier lifestyle.

For individual athletes, they use Sportskred to create unique sponsorship and influencer marketing campaigns. Sportskred combines social media accounts of athletes and brand ambassadors to create a highly valuable private network for marketing and sponsorship needs. By tapping into several social media accounts at once, the network aggregates following and engagement and has the potential to reach far

more people in an engaging manner.

At government level, PP(SEA)CL are special advisors to – and have developed benchmarking tools and conducted bespoke training workshops for – the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT).

On the future, Paul says, "We intend to continue our pre-pandemic trajectory to double in size through acquisition and our own growth."

True to his word, September saw PP(SEA)CL acquire Singapore-based Asia Sponsorship News (ASN) – the leading market intelligence service for Asia's sponsorship industry – and relocate its base to Phuket.

Although a subsidiary of PP(SEA)CL, ASN will be run independently under the direction of Managing Director (former Business Development Director) James Hamshire, who said, "This acquisition comes at a time when the sponsorship industry is resurging in Asia. We are confident of the continued success of ASN as an utterly independent provider of intelligence for those in the sports, media, and entertainment space in Asia."

Founded in Singapore in 2007 by Ben Heyhoe Flint, ASN operates on a subscription-based model where subscribers gain access to the latest news, analytics, and insights from the biggest players in the sponsorship industry. Over the years ASN has worked with the leading names

in sports, media and entertainment across the buy-side, agency, and sell-side.

"ASN has been a monumental force in the sponsorship industry in Asia in the past 15 years, providing invaluable insights to all of us working in this space. We are committed to continuing that important work and to remaining an important independent player in an ever-changing industry," said Paul.

According to Ben, ASN was created by media professionals with collectively decades of experience who were frustrated that there was a black hole of data and insight relating to this poorly understood but fast-growing \$10 billion channel. "We are extremely excited to start this new chapter under the ownership of PP(SEA)CL. Paul has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to the sponsorship industry and we could not have found a better path forward," he said.

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Yacht tourism touted to bring B1.1bn

THE "YACHT TOURISM" SEASON IN Phuket from October 2022 through April 2023 is expected to boost the Thai economy by more than B1 billion, Tourism Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn has revealed.

Mr Phiphat delivered the enticing figure on Nov 16 at the official opening of Thailand Charter Week 2022 at Phuket Yacht Haven Marina on Phuket's northeast coast.

Thailand Charter Week, organised by the Thai Yacht Business Association (TYBA) and held Nov 16-19, alone is expected to boost the local economy by B200 million, Mr Phiphat said.

"It is expected that during the tourist season between October 2022 and April 2023 Phuket will welcome travellers to Thailand on about 100 yachts. The number of tourists is expected to be about 300-500 people, with each tourist staying in Thailand on average about 20-35 days. This will generate about B300-650mn in income for Phuket's tourism industry," Mr Phiphat continued.

"In addition, income from the ongoing industry, such as repair or maintenance of boats and additional consumption expenditure, is expected to be not less than B550mn," he added.

"Altogether, income for Phuket's tourism industry from tourism by yachts throughout the tourist season will be not less than B1,000 million, which will be 'Restoring the Thai economy with tourism' indeed," Mr Phiphat said.

The event at Thailand Charter Week was a high-profile affair, attended by Siraphop Duangsodsri, Advisor to the Minister of Tourism and Sports; Suthipong Julcharoen, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior; as well as Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew and Vice Admiral Arpakorn



Tourism Minister Phiphat at the launch of Thailand Charter Week in Phuket last week. Photo: MoTS

Yukongkaew, Commander of the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command at Cape Panwa.

Also present were Thapanee Kiatphaiboon, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Deputy Governor for Domestic Market, and TYBA President Ditapong Thitadilok accompanied by Thakoon Bunmak of the TYBA, and a host of TYBA Board members.

"This is the government's policy to revitalize the domestic economy, by accelerating the travel of tourists through the development of products and services with an emphasis on experience design coupled with stimulating spending to penetrate quality tourists, both Thai and foreigners," Mr Phiphat said.

"In the matter of tourism, and people enjoying the water, this promotes luxury tourism in the marine business. They are high-spending quality tourists, and to promote marine tourism as an alternative to general Thai tourism is regarded as a new source of income for the country and also creates community participation in which the project will create jobs, create careers, distribute income to the people in the area, stimulate the economy and also contributes to economic circulation in the area and in the country as well," he said. *The Phuket News*

PM closes summit with call for 'Bangkok Goals'

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha brought the 2022 Apec Summit to a close last Saturday (Nov 19), saying he hopes member economies will work together to help the Asia-Pacific region prosper.

The world is undergoing significant change and the environment and sustainability are crucial, he said after members adopted a final statement that placed a strong emphasis on the "Bangkok Goals" to promote a bio-circular-green (BCG) model.

"We hope the BCG economic model will also be one of the main factors that bring economies together," said Prayut.

The event concluded with a ceremonial handover to US Vice President Kamala Harris, with next year's Apec summit to be held in San Francisco.

The Bangkok summit produced a statement on which there was broad consensus on a wide range of issues ranging



Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha (left) and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Apec Summit. Photo: Bangkok Post

from sustainable development to open markets.

Leaders reiterated the bloc's commitment to a rules-based multilateral trading system and cited progress in advancing the Free-Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific.

But it was also a forum for leaders to wrangle over Russia's war in Ukraine and its fallout. While most strongly condemned the war, "there were other views and different assessments of the situation and sanctions", a carefully

worded declaration read.

Apec leaders also discussed nuclear weapons, something Prayut said "everyone was concerned about", in addition to a recognition that more intensive efforts were needed to address such challenges as rising inflation, food security, climate change and natural disasters.

Prayut also confirmed that Thailand and China signed a number of agreements to strengthen cooperation in e-commerce, investment, science

and technology.

During a meeting with China's president Xi Jinping, a joint action plan on Thai-Chinese strategic cooperation between 2022 and 2026 was signed, as well as a plan jointly promoting the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

Xi congratulated Prayut for successfully hosting the summit and said Thais and Chinese are close like a family.

"China is ready to work with Thailand to build a community with a shared future for prosperity, stability and sustainability," Xi said.

The two sides also discussed ways to boost cybersecurity and dealing with transnational crimes, the drug trade, human trafficking and phone scams, as Prayut proposed more high-level dialogue between the governments.

Prayut also met Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and signed off five agreements pledging to increase trade and investment between the two countries, promote tourism and deepen cooperation in energy.



Protesters confront police last Friday (Nov 18). Photo: AFP

Cops to probe assault on journalists at Apec protest

BANGKOK

THE ROYAL THAI POLICE (RTP) will launch an investigation into the assault of two journalists injured in the clash between riot police and anti-government protesters during the Apec Summit last week, national police chief Damrongsak Kittiprapas said on Monday (Nov 21).

The journalists, who are employed by Reuters and The Matter, were injured while following anti-government protesters taking part in the "Citizens Stop Apec 2022" protest as they moved from the designated protest site at Lan Khon Muang, in front of City Hall, to the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, where the gathering was held last Friday and Saturday.

As the demonstrators reached Dinso Road, a clash

broke out between protesters and riot police, resulting in injuries.

According to Pol Gen Damrongsak, the RTP is reviewing photos and videos of the assault circulating across social media, and promises the investigation will be carried out in a transparent manner.

If officers are found to have used excessive force in responding to the protesters, they will be punished accordingly, he said.

Protesters who gathered outside permitted areas during the Apec Summit will also be prosecuted, he added.

Bangkok Governor Chadchart Sittipunt said the injuries from the clash were regrettable, but defended his decision to designate Lan Khon Muang as a protest site, saying it helped ensure demonstrators' safety.

Bangkok Post

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'Wakanda Forever' shows Marvel with heart

David Griffiths

When talented young actor Chadwick Boseman passed away in August 2020 it not only devastated the legion of Marvel fans who had grown to love him as Black Panther, it also left a dilemma for the producers of the Marvel cinematic universe.

Fans of the series will know that Marvel bigwigs decide the path the universe is going to take years in advance and Black Panther was very much part of that journey.

It was obvious when Marvel announced his death that they didn't want to simply recast the role of T'Challa, yet because of the legend behind the character they couldn't just magic up a new Black Panther either. This dilemma was going to need some real planning.

The result is director Ryan Coogler's (Creed) new film *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, a film that while inside the Marvel cinematic universe also very much feels like a stand-alone film designed to honour the memory of T'Challa and of course the man that brought the character to life – Chadwick Boseman.

The film starts with the death of T'Challa, which leaves his sister Shuri (Letitia Wright) shattered – how can she be a brilliant scientist when she is unable to save him from the disease that takes his life. With her grief



Image: IMDb

engulfing her, her mother, Queen Ramonda (Angela Bassett – *Olympus Has Fallen*), has to try to stay strong and lead Wakanda through this dark time.

Twelve months later and Ramonda finds herself under pressure as the world, led by the UN, repeatedly comes at Wakanda, determined to get access to the country's very valuable vibranium. The stakes in that game are raised even further when young science student Riri Williams (Dominique Thorne – *Judas and the Black Messiah*) develops a machine that can search the ocean floors for vibranium.

The use of the machine angers an ancient God named Namor (Tenoch Huerta – *The Forever Purge*), who fears that it will help the outside world discover his hidden Kingdom. In anger he tells Ramonda and Shuri if they don't bring him the person that created the

machine he will attack Wakanda. This causes Shuri and Okoye (Danai Gurira – *Avengers: Endgame*) to start a hunt for Riri but at the same time sees a nation still in grief face its biggest ever challenge.

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever is one of the better Marvel films that we have seen over the past few years. Ryan Coogler along with his co-screenwriter Joe Robert Cole (*Amber Lake*) reverts back to the formula that made the early Marvel films so brilliant. Yes there are huge action sequences throughout the film, but the film doesn't forget about the importance of characterisation.

There are no confusing introductions to a myriad of characters like some of the recent Marvel films have done. This film is mainly about characters that we have already come to know and love, but there are some new char-

acters introduced. We have the huge arrival of Riri Williams who becomes somebody hardcore comic book fans will know, but there aren't so many arriving that it confuses the audience. The film also respectfully follows what grief has done to Shuri and Ramonda and for once this reveals itself to be one of the few Marvel films with real heart.

The only real weakness with *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* is that it seems strange that no other Avenger decided to attend the funeral of their colleague Black Panther.

This is a film that allows some of its cast to really shine. Both Letitia Wright and Danai Gurira really step up with their enhanced roles and it is easy to see that both are more than ready to take the big step into becoming characters that are important in the Marvel universe moving forward. Dominique Thorne is also a welcome introduction into the franchise and she is likable from her very first moment in the film and isn't over-shadowed by her famous castmates.

Spiderman aside, Marvel has been in a little bit of a slump recently so it is welcoming to see a Marvel film that is enjoyable and has real heart. *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* may contain some storylines that comic book fans wish that they never had to witness but at least such a sad occurrence has resulted in a film that is a true tribute to Chadwick Boseman and T'Challa.

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever is currently screening in Phuket and is rated '13'.

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Phuket boy, 4, wins major wildlife photo award



The Phuket News
editor1@classactmedia.co.th

At just 4 years old, Tim Loic of Phuket has won a major prize at the XVI International Wildlife Festival “Golden Turtle” photo contest held in Moscow.

Loic was not only the youngest prize winner, but the youngest entrant in the entire photo contest, which saw 10,668 works entered.

His photo, “Starfish to be Rescued”, was taken at Nai Harn Beach. The stunning image was awarded third place in the nomination “Nature through the eyes of children”.

Zeyu Zhai of China won the category with “Run”, while Zitian Tian of Spain won second place with “The magpie forecasts good news”.

Loic’s mum, Nicole, said “It’s not only a great opportunity to widen Loic’s horizon learning from other award-winning photographers and artists, but also a life-time memory to keep the international wildlife festival photo book in his bookcase.”

Loic’s proud achievement was announced at the “Golden Turtle” Festival Opening and Prize Winner Award Ceremony on Oct 15 at the New Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow, where his photo was put on display.

The International Wildlife Festival “Golden Turtle” is the largest educational, environmental and scientific project that provides an opportunity to learn about the beauty of the world of wildlife.

It is one of the top three main wildlife photography competitions in the world. Over 16 years of operation, the festival has brought together more

than 29,000 photographers from 152 countries.

The organisers explain that the project’s “spirit and philosophy are aimed at changing the ecological consciousness and behaviour of people through love of nature and understanding the importance of its conservation. The event is the largest educational, environmental and scientific project in Russia that gives the opportunity to learn about the beauty of the wild world.”

The panel of judges for the contest is truly international, comprising professional wildlife photographers from around the world, including Spain, Belgium, Australian, Argentina, the UK, Greece, Switzerland, India, Russia, Japan and Italy.

After sifting through the initial 10,668 entries, the judges whittled the list down to 1,292 works in the “prese-

lection results”. Of those, only 190 were named semi-finalists, with the final 39 announced as prize winners.

The “Photographer of the Year” was Norbert Kaszas of Hungary.

The judges are stringent with the rules of entry. Several entries were rejected, and publicly named, for violation of the competition’s code of ethics.

Loic’s winning entry will be published in a gallery of all finalists’ entries posted online.

He will also see his photo published in the official printed Golden Turtle Wildlife Photo Book of all winners’ photos.

Loic’s award-winning photo and a video of the award presentation ceremony can be seen on his Instagram page, “loic.art.photo.golf”.

<https://www.instagram.com/loic.art.photo.golf/>



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POP QUIZ

- 1. Which famed murder mystery writer was an avid surfer?
- 2. Movember raises money for and awareness of what?
- 3. Brothers Caleb, Nathan and Jared Followill and their cousin Matthew Followill made up which band?
- 4. Which country has a province, a city and a river all called Batman?
- 5. Mark Sinclair is the real name of which actor?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

- 1. Rock band (with "The")
- 5. Weaned pig, var.
- 10. ___ orchid
- 14. Mac download
- 15. One who winnows
- 16. Old weapon
- 17. Aviation acronym
- 18. Wise enders
- 19. Troubles
- 20. LOVE
- 23. Hazards
- 24. Bridget, to Jane
- 25. Briefly
- 28. Store
- 30. Chinese dynasty
- 31. Former capital of Japan
- 33. Dr. J's first pro league
- 36. LOVE
- 40. Big, fat mouth
- 41. Standing
- 42. Interruption
- 43. Coral ___
- 44. Hound
- 46. Toklas partner
- 49. Swiss capital
- 51. LOVE

57. Elementary

- particle
- 58. Hip bone
- 59. Novice, var.
- 60. Part of A.P.R.
- 61. It's catching
- 62. Bookkeeping entry
- 63. Cut out
- 64. More inclined
- 65. Beer sales unit

Down

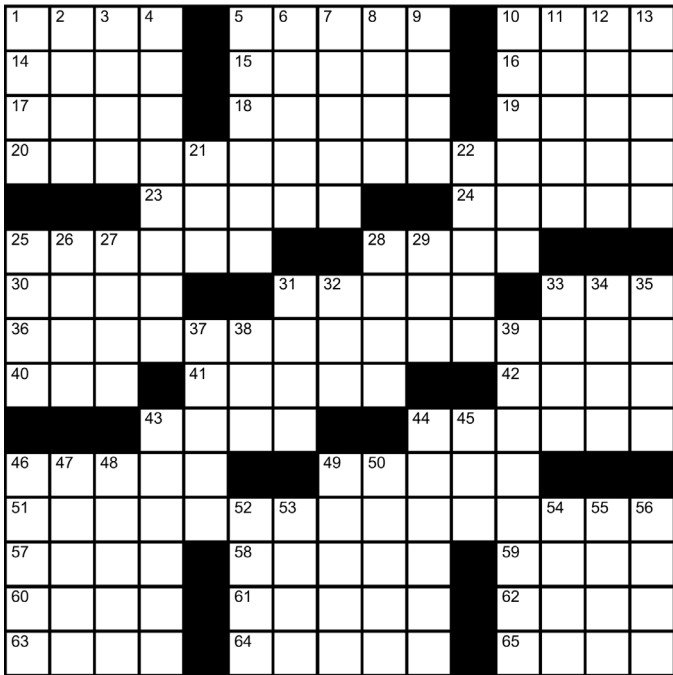
- 1. Bawbee, for one
- 2. Remarkably
- 3. Handwoven rugs
- 4. Certain gland
- 5. Lean
- 6. Diacritical mark
- 7. Gold braid
- 8. Freshman, probably
- 9. While lead-in
- 10. Blue ___ ("Yellow Submarine" character)
- 11. Express
- 12. Purposeful
- 13. Wiesbaden's state
- 21. Salad topper
- 22. Concluding stanza

25. Hurting

- 26. "Slow down!"
- 27. Counseling, e.g.
- 28. Bricklayers' equipment
- 29. T.G.I.F. part
- 31. Groove made by a cutting tool
- 32. Starchy tuber
- 33. Turkish title
- 34. Some contests
- 35. Kind of dealer
- 37. Dictation taker
- 38. Loser at Antietam
- 39. Drug
- 43. Like most eyeglasses
- 44. Pound
- 45. Boric acid target
- 46. Muffler

47. General Mills

- brand
- 48. Gush
- 49. Impose
- 50. Employ anew
- 52. Mangrove palm
- 53. Alka-Seltzer sound
- 54. ___ bread
- 55. Resentments
- 56. Dog command



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Agatha Christie; 2) Men's health, namely prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health; 3) Kings of Leon; 4) Turkey; 5) Vin Diesel

GOT YOUR NUMBER

3.6

kilogrammes is how much dead skin a person sheds in one year.

22

species, one genus and a constellation in the shape of a whale have been named in David Attenborough's honour.

3,000

miles per hour is the speed at which the cracks move when glass breaks.

385,000

kilometres of liquorice wheels are produced by Haribo each year, enough to stretch from Earth to the Moon.

4 billion

people – more than half the world's population – are thought to be football/soccer fans

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Sunset at Nai Harn Windmill. Photo by Orawan Pimbley

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

This week in history

November 25, 1833

Just 35 days after Krakatoa finishes erupting, one of the deadliest and most destructive volcanic events in recorded history. a massive undersea earthquake, estimated magnitude between 8.7 and 9.2, rocks Sumatra, producing a massive tsunami all along the Indonesian coast.

November 26, 1976

The debut single of British band the Sex Pistols, 'Anarchy in the U.K.', is released by EMI,

heralding the arrival of punk rock in the UK and beyond.

November 27, 1895

At the Swedish-Norwegian Club in Paris, Alfred Nobel signs his last will and testament, setting aside his estate to establish the Nobel Prize when he dies.

November 28, 1975

East Timor (or Timor-Leste) declares itself independent from Portugal after 400 years of colonial rule. It is invaded



Rosa Parks with Martin Luther King Jr. (circa 1955).

by Indonesia nine days later.

November 29, 1972

Atari releases Pong, the first commercially successful video game.

November 30, 1872

The first-ever international football match takes place at Hamilton Crescent, Glasgow, between Scotland and England. (Score 0-0; Attendance: 4,000)

December 1, 1955

In Alabama, seamstress Rosa Parks refuses to give up her bus seat to a white man and is arrested for violating the city's racial segregation laws. The incident leads to a bus boycott.

Source: Wikipedia

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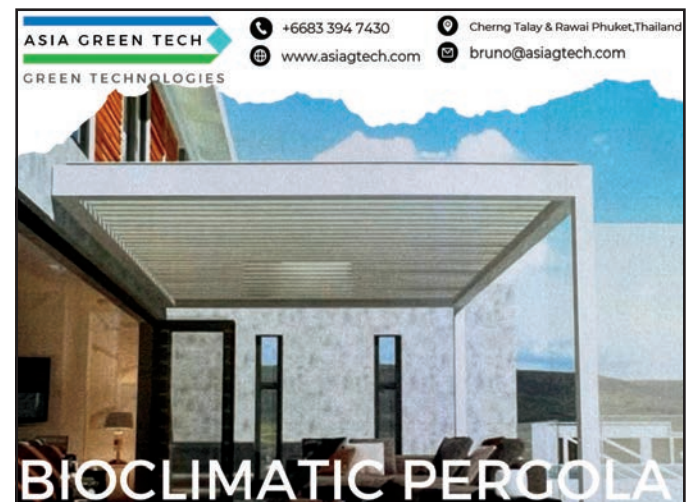
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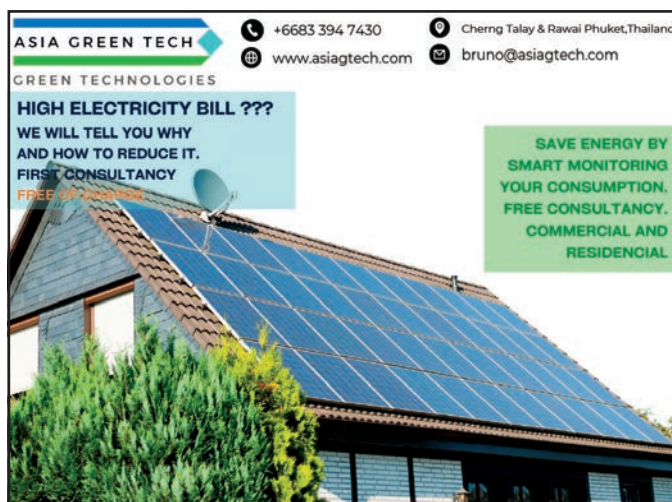
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FRI 2 DEC

**Grow Boating Evening - December**

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar at the Phuket Boat Lagoon from 5pm on Friday the 2nd of December. We are delighted to announce that our drinks sponsor for the evening will be Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co., Ltd. - The Sponsorship Experts. An independent marketing consultancy based in Bangkok, Thailand specializing in commercial sponsorship and partnership marketing, working with both rights holders and brands - acting as a catalyst by bringing them together and maximizing the relationship. See https://www.paulpoole.co.th/ There will be a delicious finger food buffet sponsored by the Boardwalk Bistro for all attendees and if you are still hungry then there will be burgers for just 100 baht. 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 and if you know anyone you think would be interested in coming, please invite them along. If that is too long to wait then come along to the Boardwalk tonight, the 11th of November to celebrate their 1 year anniversary. See you there! A special thanks to our Media Partners The Phuket News and Live 89.5 Radio.

**BDO Phuket Breakfast Briefing - 'Cash is King'**

BDO in Phuket, in conjunction with Hughes Krupica, is pleased to invite you to an exclusive breakfast briefing on "Cash is King: Raising Capital to Supercharge Your Business". Learn the 10-step guide to raising capital and the five key legal and structuring issues you should consider. Preparing your business for growth requires access to capital in the same way as those who require cash to keep the business going. Hear from our experts as to what businesses need to do to prepare themselves for a capital raise, be it debt or equity. Our Speakers: 1. Matthew Cutt: Advisory Partner at BDO Thailand 2. Desmond Hughes: Co-founder and Senior Partner at Hughes Krupica. Time: 9:00 - 11:00 hrs. (Registration starts at 8:30 hrs.) Location: Captain Room, NH Boat Lagoon Resort, Phuket. This event is free of charge and has limited capacity. Register now to book your slot. Visit: https://bit.ly/3E18J0 or email BDO at marketing@bdo.th BDO in Thailand, Captain Room, NH Boat Lagoon Phuket Resort, marketing@bdo.th

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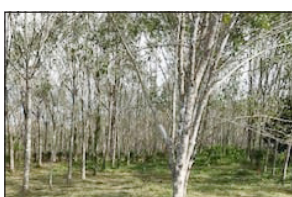
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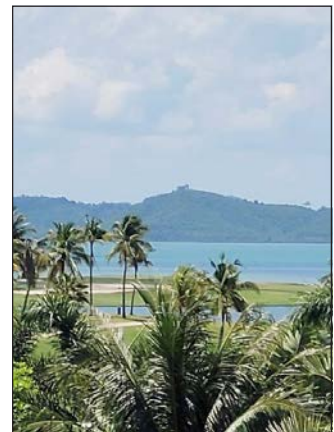
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STYLE ON SHOW AS 333 AT THE BEACH PUTS ON EXCLUSIVE PARTY

Located right next to the InterContinental Phuket Resort, 333 at the Beach is the latest beachside dining and entertainment venue on Kamala Beach. On Thursday, Nov 17 an invite-only event for 150 local suppliers and supporters was held to showcase what 333 at the Beach is all about. A wonderful evening of food, drinks, entertainment and lots of fun was had.



AUSTCHAM THAILAND

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (AMCHAM), British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber of Commerce, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber of Commerce (NTCC), Phuket Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce, held Business Briefing on "The future of Recreational and Medical Cannabis in the Tourism Sector". Speakers: Dr Paul Crosio, a Partner at Silk Legal, and Diego Sala, Managing Director of Siam Trade Development. Briefing was followed by Phuket Sundowners at SAii Laguna Phuket, on Friday, November 18.



CHÂTEAU D'ESCLANS EXCLUSIVE SOIRÉE IN PHUKET

The Phuket island scene celebrated the extraordinary Pink Party with 300 selected VIP guests at Catch Beach Club on November 19. Host Monsieur Sacha Lichine welcomed the 'Who is Who' of Phuket including the Amanpuri Management, Founder of Thailand Elite, Owner of Singha corporation, along with local business owners.



Photo: AFP

COVID forces BWF finals move from China to Thailand

BADMINTON

CHINA WILL NO LONGER host the season-ending Badminton World Tour Finals in December because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the sport's governing body said on Nov 15.

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) had planned to host the flagship US\$1.5 million (B53mn) event in Guangzhou between Dec 14 and 18, but the event will now take place in Bangkok during the previous week.

China has cancelled almost all international sports competitions since COVID emerged there in 2019, with the Beijing

Winter Olympics in February this year a rare exception.

The BWF said it decided to relocate the tournament following consultation with the Chinese Badminton Association (CBA) "due to the various challenges brought about by the current pandemic situation".

The World Tour Finals – now to take place in Bangkok's Nimibutr Arena from Dec 7 to 11 – will include the top eight players and pairs in each category for their share of what the BWF called "the biggest prize pool ever seen in badminton".

The southern city of Guangzhou held the Finals in 2018 and 2019. *AFP*

Record-breaker Max ends season on a high

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

World champion Max Verstappen dominated the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix last Sunday (Nov 20) to complete his record-breaking year.

The Dutchman's 15th victory, extending his record for most wins in a season, was controlled from pole position. He checked out of the race early and had enough pace in hand to make it to the end of the grand prix with only one pit stop when he had originally intended to make two, and he took the flag by a comfortable 8.7 seconds.

"It was a good race," he said. "It was all about tyre management."

"It's incredible to win again here. My 15th win of the season is unbelievable."

"It's been really enjoyable to work with the whole team to be able to achieve something like this this year."

But the day wasn't perfect for Red Bull Racing with Sergio Perez losing grasp of second place in the championship after a strategy error put him third behind Charles Leclerc at the end of the race.

Perez and Leclerc started the weekend tied on points for runner-up in the title standings and were locked in a battle early in the race, but when the Mexican



Max Verstappen raises the winner's trophy on the podium after victory at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix last Sunday (Nov 20). *Photo: AFP*

dived into the pits to attempt to undercut the Monegasque, Ferrari left its leading car out on track.

It set Leclerc up for a grand defence to the finish, with Perez needing to close a 20-second deficit in 24 laps.

The Red Bull Racing driver charged through the field to close within striking distance on the final lap, but he fell agonisingly short, losing second in the race and the championship by just 1.3 seconds.

"I was 110% from the first lap to the last lap," Leclerc said. "Honestly, we had the perfect race for us."

It was Leclerc's best championship

finish, but having led the title early in the year, he said he hoped it proved to be just a stepping stone to a better 2023.

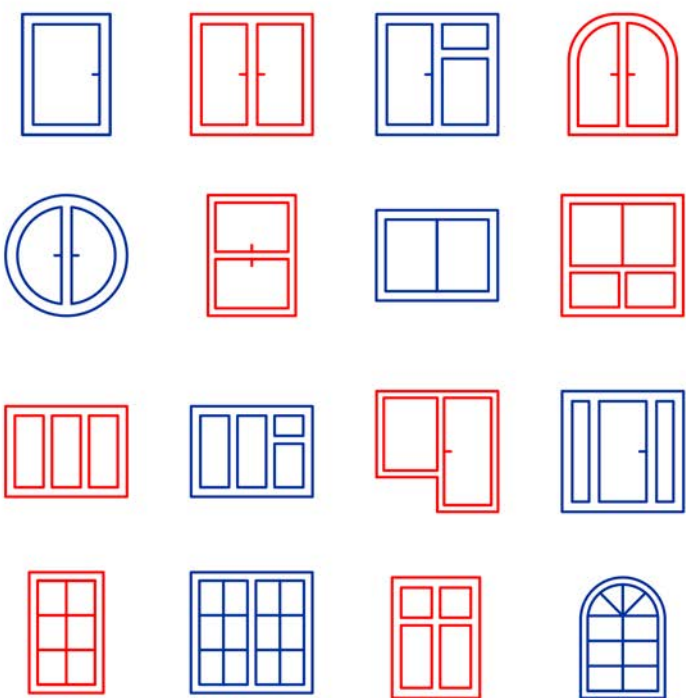
"I really hope next year we can do a step forward in order to fight for the championship," he said. "Considering where we were last year, it's a really big step forward."

Third in the championship was also a career-best result for Perez, who was sanguine about the loss.

"At the end of the day I've got to be happy," he said. "As a team we gave it all through the season. "When we come back we will be stronger."



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Phuket proposes to host part of SEA and Asian Para Games

SEA & ASIAN PARA GAMES

A MEETING WAS CONDUCTED ON Nov 17 to discuss the possibility of Phuket hosting selected parts of the Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) and Asian Para Games, which are both confirmed to take place in Bangkok.

The meeting was chaired by Phuket Deputy Governor Pichet Panapong, who also serves as chairman of the Phuket Sports Committee.

He was joined by Thammawat Wongcharoenyot, President of the Sports Association of Phuket Province; Rachadaporn Oin, Head of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports Phuket office; Damrong Chaisena, Director of the Phuket office of the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) and representatives from additional relevant agencies.

During the meeting, information was shared in regards to Phuket's nomination to host both the opening and closing ceremonies of the 33rd SEA Games, which is to be held in Bangkok between Dec 7-19, 2025, in addition to providing venues for volleyball competition.

Likewise, details were shared on the possibility of hosting portions of the 13th Asian Para Games, which is also scheduled to take place in Bangkok in 2026.

As part of its proposal to host the events it was agreed that Phuket authorities need to provide detailed information relating to



Thailand's men's 4x400m relay team won gold at the SEA Games in Vietnam in May and will be looking for more success in Bangkok in 2025. *Photo: Bangkok Post*

its logistical suitability, including an overview on its ability to organise and carry out competition, as well as transportation and accommodation options for athletes and tourists. This would then be presented to the SAT for its full evaluation.

The meeting mapped out the sporting calendar in Phuket for the remainder of the year as the island continues to promote itself as an attractive location for international sports tourism. The following were confirmed events:

Nov 26-27: The 2022 Spartan Asia Pacific Championship at Blue Tree Phuket; Dec: Phuket Thailand Powerboat 2022 at Kata Karon beach (exact date not disclosed); Dec 6-12: 2022 World Bodybuilding Championship at Central Floresta Phuket; Dec 11: The 25th Kathu Half Marathon; Dec 8-12: JSSL Arsenal Singapore Soccer School; Dec 16: National Sports Day to honour Phuket athletes. *The Phuket News*

Muted kick-off for World Cup

FOOTBALL

AFP

Thousands of empty seats told the sad story as Qatar's long-awaited World Cup debut ended in a bad case of stage fright last Sunday (Nov 20).

Long before the final whistle at the spectacular Bedouin tent-inspired Al Bayt Stadium, the host nation's fans among the 67,372 crowd had started heading for the exits.

The exodus began soon after Ecuador striker Enner Valencia headed his second goal just after the half-hour mark against the outclassed World Cup hosts who lost the game 0-2. It was the first time a host nation had lost their opening game at a World Cup finals.

As the second half wore on, swathes of unfilled seats could be seen throughout the arena as an evening that began with joyous celebrations and heady optimism ended with a whimper.

The downbeat finale was in stark contrast to the mood in the hours before kick-off at the stadium in Al Khor, 31 miles north of Qatar's capital Doha.



The Qatar 2022 mascot La'eeb performs during the opening ceremony 1st Sunday (Nov 20). Photo: AFP

Thousands of people arrived at the vast Lusail train station where the subway line built especially for this tournament at a cost of US\$36 billion (B1.3 trillion) ends and spectators boarded a fleet of buses for the final leg of their journey.

The security forces appeared tense, aware that the eyes of the world are on this Gulf state, which many critics say should never have been

awarded the World Cup.

Once the spectators arrived at the spectacular venue, camels and horses lined the road to the turnstiles.

For a Qatari supporter who gave his name only as Abdallah, it was an exciting moment.

"We have been waiting for this moment for 12 years," he said.

He was confident of victory against the South Americans

and predicted his team would be runners-up in their group and go through to the next round – where England could await.

'REAL POSITIVE START'

Although unlikely, such an encounter would prove daunting as England turned on the style in their opening Group B match against Iran on Monday (Nov 21), emerging 6-2 winners.

England, World Cup semi-finalists in 2018 and European Championship runners-up last year, came to Qatar on the back of a six-game winless run but quickly found their feet at the Khalifa International Stadium, totally dominating the match.

Jude Bellingham shone in midfield, Bukayo Saka rewarded the manager's faith in him after his penalty nightmare at Euro 2020 and substitutes Marcus Rashford and Jack Grealish got on the scoresheet.

"A real positive start," said midfielder Declan Rice. "I think there were probably a lot of doubts over us before the start of the tournament and a lot of talk about us not winning in our last six games."

"By our standards and the players we've got, we know it hasn't been good enough. But it's a World Cup stage, you can see there was a fire in our stomachs tonight to go out there and prove a lot of people wrong."

Rice praised the performance of his midfield partner, 19-year-old Bellingham, who opened the scoring with an impressive header and was a powerful and creative presence throughout.

"I said to him before the game in the tunnel 'it's your stage, go and flourish and I'll be behind you to sweep up and give you the ball to go and do your thing.'"

In registering his first international goal, former Birmingham City player Bellingham also became England's second-youngest scorer at a World Cup, after 18-year-old Michael Owen in France in 1998.

Despite the euphoria of the win manager Gareth Southgate could not hide his frustration after his team conceded two second-half goals.

"I wasn't pleased with how we finished the game, conceding two goals," he said. "We are going to have to be better against the USA because they are going to come at us full throttle."

Group B opponents Wales and the USA fought out a 1-1 draw with Gareth Bale's late penalty cancelling out Timothy Weah's opener.

The Netherlands overcame Senegal 2-0 in Group A thanks to late goals from by Cody Gakpo and Davy Klaassen, as the three-time beaten finalists made their return to the World Cup stage.

Bangkok visitors bounce back

CRICKET

Continued from page 16

With 36 required from the final 38 balls and ice running through his veins, Brar 27* (27) guided the Penguins to victory, aided by a strong contribution from 'specialist runner' Gaur 5* (7), the pair completing the win with just 2 balls remaining.

Morgan was given Man of the Match honours for his swashbuckling 55* (27) which included 1 four and 7 sixes.

BRITISH CLUB BOUNCE BACK

Sunday's match was a two innings 15-over match with BCB again choosing to bat first against a Village team missing a couple of their key players from last year's victory in Rowley Cooper and Stuart Redding.

Openers Ian Brewis 3 (12) and Manish Bagaria 0 (6) were unable to make significant progress early on as Roshan Jayasuriya and Anthony Du Pont made the early breakthroughs with the new ball.

Captain Eastwell 24 (21) batted well to get the scoring rate moving but didn't get a lot of support from Curt Livermore 8 (6) or Chhabra 6 (11).

Mishra 15 (17) again played nicely with the bat, helping the tail to post a respectable 96-7 from the first 15 over innings.

In reply Village were unable to really get anything going with the bat, as only Andrew Macmillan 13 (14) and Craig Murphy 10 (13) were able to reach double figures, leaving the team restricted to 65-7



The British Club Bangkok touring side at the ACG. Photo: Supplied

and a 31-run deficit.

In the BCB's second innings, Pramodh 35* (21) and Eastwell 21* (9) piled on the runs to help post a score of 105-6, leaving a daunting run chase of 137 required for a Village victory.

The Village very quickly abandoned the run chase in favour of working on their test cricket technique as the required rate skyrocketed during the first 5 overs. The Village eventually finished at 69-6, handing the British Club a 67-run victory.

Dilip Mishra was the stand out player for the BCB, picking up a tremendous 4 wickets for just 10 runs in 6 overs.

This coming weekend features yet another tour, with the ANZA team from Singapore arriving in Phuket for two more matches at the ACG. Contact the Phuket Cricket or the ACG via their respective Facebook pages for more information.

Michael Flowers



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Sport



Three Lions off to a flyer in Qatar > p15

LEGENDS!

Amelia and Charlie dazzle at Laguna Phuket Triathlon 'Race of Legends'

Women's winner Amelia Watkinson. Photo: Laguna Phuket

TRIATHLON

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The 'Race of Legends' tag was an appropriate one for the 28th Laguna Phuket Triathlon last Sunday (Nov 20) as talented Australian Charlie Quin dominated the men's field, while New Zealander Amelia Watkinson clinched her third women's title in what were tough, hot and humid conditions.

Both Pro athletes faced stiff competition with Watkinson taking the title in a time of 2 hours 39 minutes and 50 seconds and Quin in 02:27:39 having led from start to finish.

Coming second and third

in the male division was Swiss triathlete Ruedi Wild (02:33:20) who had the fastest run time on the day, and Italian Massimo Cigana (02:38:35) – both past winners of the Laguna Phuket Triathlon.

Watkinson was pushed hard by Australian Dimity-Lee Duke, who often trains with Z-Coaching in Phuket, coming in second in a time of 02:47:28. Another Australian, Felicity Sheedy-Ryan, grabbed the third spot in 02:51:07.

After the race, Quin, who dashed right for a much needed Thai massage to help him unwind from a physically demanding performance, said: "Yesterday at the press conference I played down my chances of winning the title.

Today I just tried to run my own race, treating it like a training session for my race in New Zealand in two weeks. I just wanted to come here and have fun and get in a really good training session.

"I am coming from Australia where it was hot, but nothing like it was here. Once I got hydrated and caught my breath it was pretty comfortable and I could enjoy myself.

"It's my first time racing the race but I came here with my parents 11 years ago. It was a profound experience, the winner was an Olympic champion at that time, I remember watching him and thinking one day I would like to race here. Now I have and it feels good to have won,"

Quin added.

A delighted Watkinson was thrilled with bagging her third, and hard fought, win in Phuket. "Competing amongst such stiff competition and in these harsh conditions it was never going to be easy, so I'm really pleased to have got the victory. I had to focus throughout and in this heat it's so important to keep cool. It's been another memorable experience and I hope to return to defend my title next year."

Top Thai triathlete Jaray Jearanai was looking to defend his title on his home turf and make it 11 wins from 11, and he did. In a blistering performance, Jearanai crossed the line almost six minutes ahead of his closest compatriot and

seventh overall.

"As the number one Thai athlete for the 11th year I'm super excited to have won again," commented Jaray. "Laguna Phuket Triathlon is the event that I really focus on in Thailand each year. The course is really challenging, and every year there are many world class triathletes with a wealth of experience that compete. It's always a good experience for me to be able to compete with them.

"I have been racing the Laguna Phuket Triathlon for 18 years now – I intend to return next year to defend my title and I will keep doing so until somebody defeats me!"

Joining the 1,200 triathletes competing across three

distances was Muay Thai star Sombat Banchamek (a.k.a Buakaw), who completed the long course in a time of 04:50:12, and Thai actor Tewin Surachredkai who was competing at Laguna Phuket Triathlon for the first time, and finished in a time of 04:20:02.

After 28 years, the popularity of the Laguna Phuket Triathlon doesn't diminish. Mark your calendars for the next edition which will take place on Nov 19, 2023. For more information, visit Laguna Phuket Triathlon's official website <https://www.lagunaphukettri.com> and follow the event's facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/LagunaPhuketTri>.

Nail-biting action at the ACG as British Club Bangkok tour

CRICKET

THE BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK's (BCB) annual tour to Phuket's tropical shores is considered by many to be the highlight of the cricketing calendar and this year's matches certainly lived up to the lofty expectations.

The tourists battled fiercely, going down in a nail-biting 30-over contest against rivals the Patong Penguins last Saturday (Nov 19) before squaring the ledger on Sunday with a comfortable victory over the jovial and spirited Village Cricket Club, in what is their only



ACG action last Saturday (Nov 19). Photo: Supplied

match of the year.

In Saturday's 30-over match, BCB captain Ben Eastwell won the toss and elected to bat, sending in tour debutants Tyrone Bond and Sunil Kumar to face Phuket's new ball combination of premier strike

bowler Jagsir Brar and Sajal Gaur.

Bond 1 (6) fell in just the 2nd over before the vastly experienced duo of Denzyl Allwright 2 (6) and Eastwell 1 (3) both succumbed to the pace and guile of Brar to leave BCB precariously placed at 23-3

after 4.2 overs.

Pramodh Kamalakannan joined Kumar at the crease to forge a 54-run partnership before Kumar was finally dismissed for a terrific 45 from just 26 balls, boosting BCB to 77-4 after 10.3 overs.

Chan Chhabra 48* (57) and Ahad Bhai 23 (26) steadied the BCB ship and Dilip "Onions" Mishra chimed in with a great cameo performance of 21 off 26, to set a score of 195/7 from their allotted 30 overs.

In reply, captain Craig Morgan sent to bat Simon Wetherell 16 (25) and the previously blind Penguin, Anthony Van Blerk 28 (27), with the former caught by Eastwell of

Mishra's bowling and the latter caught by Tui off the bowling of Pramodh.

Sunny Bowry and Morgan played sensibly to all but guide the hosts to drinks before Bowry 17 (17) fell to Bhai to leave the match in the balance with the Penguins on 87-4 needing 109 from the final 15 overs.

Morgan 55* (27) was forced into a mandatory retirement with the score at 129-4, bringing Mayur Deuskar to join James Chattaway in the middle.

Chattaway 12 (20) was caught by Tui off the bowling of Eastwell then Deuskar 13 (14) fell LBW to Allwright with the score at 160-6 after 24.4 overs. *Continued on page 15*