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CONDEMNED



LOCALS STUNNED BY 'SURPRISE' DEMOLITION OF HISTORIC TEMPLE

The old Ubosot before it was demolished. Photo: NOB Phuket.
INSET: The pile of rubble that remains. Photo: Natnaree Likidwatanasakun

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Local residents have voiced outrage over the sudden demolition of the main ordination hall at Wat Phra Nang Sang, a revered temple in Phuket's Thalang District that has stood for more than 250 years.

The hall, known as the Ubosot, was the site of major ceremonies and rituals. "This temple is a symbol of Thalang, revered by the people... It's strange how it was allowed to be demolished," said one resident. "How could they demolish it? Why?" asked another. "It stood for many years, and they demolished it in just a few days."

Many lamented the loss of the interior murals, which depicted local history and legends. "The paintings inside were very informative, so beautiful. What a shame they are gone," said another local.

SAFETY CONCERNS

According to the Phuket Provincial Public Works and Town & Country Planning Office (DPT), the Ubosot was in dangerous disrepair. A notice posted at the temple explained that an inspection on July 15 found severe structural deterioration, including cracks and leaks that made restoration unsafe.

"The structures show clear signs of deterioration, including

cracks and leaks, which make them difficult to restore to a safe and complete condition," the notice read. Continued use was deemed a risk to occupants, and demolition was recommended.

The notice added that the abbot is working with the Fine Arts Department to finalise design documents for a new hall.

'SURPRISE'

Even the Phuket branch of the National Office of Buddhism (NOB) was unaware of the demolition before it happened. "Wat Phra Nang Sang was demolished at the beginning of September without notice," said NOB Phuket Chief Wasan Sangsin.

"The abbot ordered the demolition, stressing the building had become structurally unsafe and that he acted fully within his authority under Thai law and Buddhist Sangha regulations.

"The temple is a juristic person, and the abbot is its representative. He has legal authority over management, including repairs or, if necessary, demolition of unsafe buildings," Mr Wasan explained. "Repair was not possible because the structure had already collapsed internally."

Mr Wasan clarified that the NOB does not directly punish monks. "When an abbot violates rules, the NOB refers the matter to a senior monk and committee..."

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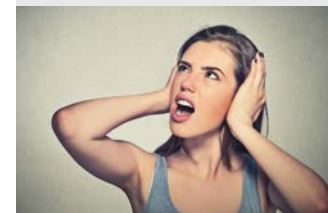
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Coping with hearing loss



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Surakul gets a full makeover



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News



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Historic temple demolished

Continued from page 1

...who decide on disciplinary measures. But in this case, the abbot followed the proper procedures."

Repeated attempts by *The Phuket News* to contact the abbot were unsuccessful.

Mr Wasan said his office later learned that the Ubosot, last renovated nearly 40 years ago, was built with pillars left exposed for several years before completion. Steel reinforcements inside the pillars rusted over time, expanding and causing cracks throughout the structure. "Water leaked into the hall during the rainy season, and the Phuket DPT confirmed it could collapse at any time," he said.

"If the structure collapsed on its own, crushing people, the abbot and community leaders would be held responsible," he added. The abbot presented the DPT's findings to community leaders and the temple committee before demolition, and "no one objected because it was a matter of life and death".

NATIONAL HERITAGE

The temple is recognised and registered by the Fine Arts Department as an 'ancient site'. The original Ubosot at Wat Phra Nang

Sang dates back to the early Rattanakosin period and has undergone several restorations over the centuries.

The temple was recognised for historical and cultural value, and the site was officially registered as an ancient monument on Mar 1, 1984.

Wat Phra Nang Sang was built around 1767 and was granted royal permission for the construction of boundary markers. The protected area covers 3 rai, 2 ngan, and 8.63 square wah (about 5,634 square metres).

Inside the Ubosot were four significant stucco Buddha images: one in the reclining posture and three in the Mara-Vijaya posture, crafted by local artisans. The works were classified as examples of Rattanakosin art.

The temple remains deeply tied to the history of Thalang. According to local lore, Phra Nang was the wife of a nobleman in Langkawi. She was falsely accused of having an affair with a royal page, and was therefore executed.

Before her execution, she requested to pay homage to the sacred relics of Sri Lanka, stopping in Thalang.

According to legend, when she was executed, the



The murals inside the old Ubosot. Photo: TAT

blood that flowed out was white instead of red, surprising and leading to the belief that she was innocent, hence the name 'Phra Nang Lueat Khao' (the White-Blooded Lady).

The temple was named 'Wat Phra Nang Sang' as it marks the place where her life came to an end, giving rise to the legend.

Wat Phra Nang Sang was once the site of a gathering camp for Phuket's famed Heroines – Thao Thap Krasattri and Thao Sri Soonthorn – in the fight against Burmese marauders during the battle of Thalang in 1785. As history notes, the battle was successful, driving out the raiders and securing Thalang.

Inside the Ubosot – which is now demolished – were three of the world's largest ancient tin Buddha images, known as 'Phra Nai

Phung' or 'Phra Sam Kasat'. The murals on the interior walls depicted the heroic deeds of Thao Thap Krasattri and Thao Sri Soonthorn.

In addition to its spiritual role, the temple has long supported education by providing land and facilities for the establishment of a primary school, developed in cooperation with both government and private agencies.

PLANS TO REBUILD

Mr Wasan confirmed that the abbot has pledged to construct a new Ubosot on the same site. All sacred items inside the demolished hall, including Buddha statues and sculptures, are being carefully relocated under the supervision of engineers. The murals, however, are lost.

Chalermwut Phim-

phiyut, Director of the Ancient Monument Conservation Group at the Fine Arts Department's Region 12 office in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, confirmed that approval has been granted for a new Ubosot. "We have already discussed and reviewed the issue," he said. "We acknowledge the concerns from the abbot and have granted permission for the temple to rebuild."

However, Mr Chalermwut declined to confirm whether his office gave prior permission for the old Ubosot's destruction.

Under Thai law, anyone wishing to repair, alter, demolish or excavate within a registered ancient site must obtain written permission from the Fine Arts Department. Failure to do so carries penalties of up to seven years in prison, a fine of up to B700,000, or both. For registered monuments, penalties increase to 10 years and B1 million.

The approval process requires a site inspection, committee evaluation and final sign-off by the department's Director-General, typically taking 22 business days. Applicants must submit ID documents, site plans, proof of land ownership and other supporting papers.

"For Wat Phra Nang

Sang, the Fine Arts Department has already approved the reconstruction," Mr Chalermwut said, noting that records show the last major renovation of the Ubosot in 1917, though the NOB Phuket office maintains it was last renovated about 40 years ago. Minor repairs such as repainting do not require departmental approval.

While residents mourn the loss of the centuries-old hall and its priceless murals, officials stress that public safety had to come first. "If the structure collapsed, people would be injured or killed, and the abbot would bear responsibility," Mr Wasan reiterated.

Despite the controversy, the Fine Arts Department's approval means the temple can proceed with rebuilding. The abbot has not announced a construction timeline, but the new Ubosot is expected to preserve as much of the temple's historic character as possible while meeting modern safety standards.

For many in Thalang, the sudden demolition has left deep scars. "It's not just a building," said one long-time resident. "It was part of our history and our hearts. We can build again, but we can never bring back what was lost."

Officials tout AI 'Pencil Robot' launch, vague on rollout

PHUKET GOVERNOR Sophon Suwannarat has declared the island on course to become 'Thailand's first AI prototype city' following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to introduce the AI robot 'Dinsaw' – known as the 'Pencil Robot' – at local government hospitals.

At a meeting at Vachira Phuket Hospital on Sept 16, provincial officials and CT Asia Robotics unveiled the robot as a key step in transforming Phuket from a Smart City into "Phuket AI City".

The Pencil Robot can assist patients by checking medical history, booking appointments, securing treatment rights and

screening symptoms. It can connect patients with doctors via video call, monitor conditions, record medical orders and even perform preliminary breast cancer screening through breath analysis.

A home version, the Pencil Robot Mini, offers 24-hour monitoring and social interaction features, including music, games and Dharma sermons.

Governor Sophon used the occasion to outline a broader vision of deploying artificial intelligence to address traffic, waste management, public health and food safety.

"AI is not just a technology, but a tool of the future," he said. "Phuket will not only be a world-class tourist destination,



Photo: PR Phuket

but also a 'City of the Future' that will utilise AI to drive all aspects of development."

A highlight of the event was the MoU signing between the Phuket Provincial Office, the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) and CT Asia Robotics. The agreement commits public and private sectors to advancing the "Phuket AI City" initiative under the concept of "AI for All", aiming to

improve quality of life, enhance competitiveness and foster social, economic and environmental sustainability.

The plan promotes AI in four key areas: traffic management, waste management and the environment, food safety, and medicine and public health, while creating an ecosystem for investment, learning and innovation.

Despite the fanfare, officials have yet to reveal how many robots will be bought, where they will be stationed or how patient data will be shared between hospitals. A small demonstration was held at Vachira Phuket Hospital, but no further details were given.

The technology is not new. Chulalongkorn Hospital already

operates five Pencil Robots, Siriraj Hospital has 30, and more than 50 units are used at private hospitals nationwide. CT Asia Robotics CEO Dr Chalermopol Punnotok said the Pencil Robot evolved from the company's earlier 'Dinsaw' service robots, first launched in 2009 to serve in restaurants, namely MK restaurants, before being adapted for healthcare.

PPAO President Rewat Areerob said Phuket's AI drive will focus on practical benefits for residents, with early applications expected in health screening, traffic control, waste reduction and food safety. However, when the robots will begin service remains unclear.

The Phuket News

MP leads charge for ‘cannabis zones’

The Phuket News

editor@classactmedia.co.th

The House of Representatives Tourism Committee has warned that the liberalisation of cannabis use is harming Thailand's image as a tourism destination, with strong impacts on health and family tourism.

The concerns were raised by Phuket MP Chalermpong Sangdee, Secretary of the Tourism Committee, who announced the results of the Committee's 63rd meeting at Parliament, joined by Chonburi MP and Committee Spokesperson Yodchai Phuengphon.

The meeting, which included representatives from the Ministry of Public Health, the Tourism Council of Thailand, and the Thai Association of Cannabis Shop Operators and Cannabis Advisors, was convened to monitor the impact of the cannabis policy adjustment on the tourism industry.

The Committee noted that while cannabis has potential for integration into wellness tourism – such as herbal products, traditional Thai medicine, spa services and creative activities – the lack of effective controls has resulted in negative consequences.



Photo: Chalermpong Saengdee / Facebook

“The spread of cannabis odour in public spaces and key tourist attractions directly impacts tourism quality. It annoys locals, makes tourists uncomfortable, and undermines confidence in Thailand as a safe destination,” Mr Chalermpong said.

The Committee reported that such impacts were already discouraging family tourists and higher-spending visitors from travelling to Thailand, while negative international headlines about cannabis in Thailand had damaged the country's reputation.

POLICY

RECOMMENDATIONS

To mitigate these impacts, the Committee issued four key recommendations to the government and relevant agencies:

- Designate specific zones for cannabis use to prevent nuisance in public and tourist areas.
- Establish clear safety and control standards to protect quality of life and the tourist experience.
- Manage Thailand's international image carefully so cannabis does not become a stereotype of the country.
- Enact specific laws covering public use, odour and pollution control, advertising, and clear distinctions between medical and recreational use.

Mr Chalermpong, writing earlier online, likened cannabis policy to a “double-edged sword” that brings income opportunities but risks outweighing benefits if poorly regulated. He warned that the lack of defined cannabis-use zones had already damaged Thailand's tourism economy.

PUBLIC HEALTH, BUSINESS PERSPECTIVES

The Ministry of Public Health told the Committee that due to the current political climate, amendments to cannabis legislation

should be left to the next government. However, a draft resolution had already been prepared, with cannabis flowers and inflorescences subject to control under the Thai Traditional Medicine Protection and Promotion Act 1999.

The Ministry confirmed that sales inspections and arrests are handled by local police, while nominee-owned shops are investigated by the Ministry of Commerce. It acknowledged zoning concerns and pledged to work on solutions.

Meanwhile, the Cannabis Shop Operators Association reported that more than 8,000 registered shops are operating nationwide, generating over B200 billion in market value and creating 80,000 jobs.

While members accepted that smoking in public places causes nuisance, they said most tourists now prefer non-smoking forms such as oils or edibles. They urged the government to provide clear legal consumption areas and allow safer, non-smoked products with standardised packaging to meet international health tourism standards.

Without balanced regulation, the Association warned, stricter controls may simply drive cannabis use underground and worsen problems.

Monsoon surf claims more lives

TWO FOREIGN TOURISTS HAVE died after separate drowning incidents at Patong and Karon beaches last week, as officials warn of dangerous monsoon-season surf and urge visitors to obey red-flag warnings.

At Karon Beach, the body of Bahraini tourist Jasim Abdali Almeshkhas, 35, was recovered on Monday (Sept 22) after a three-day search. Rescue workers from the Phuket Ruam Jai Foundation confirmed that Mr Almeshkhas was found lodged among rocks at the southern end of the beach.

Karon Municipality rescue teams informed Karon Police, who coordinated with a forensic doctor from Vachira Phuket Hospital before transferring the body for a full post-mortem examination. The Bahraini Embassy has been notified.

Mr Almeshkhas disappeared at about 6:30pm last Friday (Sept 19) after entering the water with his brothers Ahmed, 32, and Mohamed despite red flags posted along the beach. Strong waves quickly dragged the three into deep water.

Lifeguards managed to bring Ahmed and Mohamed safely ashore, with Mohamed treated at Patong Hospital for minor injuries, but Jasim was swept away. Police said the brothers had arrived in Phuket on Sept 14 and were staying at a Patong hotel.

Just two days earlier, a French tourist drowned while swimming at Patong Beach in the early hours of Sept 17.



Photo: Patong SLS

Patong Police said the man (name withheld at the family's request) had arrived in Phuket only the previous day with relatives.

At about 2:30am, the group entered the water behind the Tourist Police office. When his sister was dragged out by the current, the man and his brother-in-law attempted a rescue but were themselves pulled out.

All three were recovered by lifeguards and rushed to Patong Hospital, where the Frenchman was pronounced dead. His brother-in-law remained under resuscitation, while the sister survived.

Authorities have again urged tourists to respect beach safety warnings, avoid swimming after dark and seek help if in difficulty. Red flags mean dangerous rip currents and swimming is strictly prohibited. *Eakkapop Thongtub*



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Wind 4 m/s

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Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

Chinese fugitive arrested in Phuket

A CHINESE MAN wanted on an international arrest warrant for embezzlement of state property has been arrested in Phuket after overstaying his visa by 272 days.

Immigration officers confirmed the arrest took place on Sept 17 after investigators tracked the man, named by police only as 37-year-old 'Mr Peng', to a Chinese restaurant in Wichit.

Phuket Immigration officers, working with the Crime Suppression Division of Immigration Bureau 6, waited in hiding and took Mr Peng into custody as he dined at the restaurant.

The Immigration Bureau was informed by Chinese authorities that Mr Peng was wanted in China on charges of embezzling state property worth tens of millions of baht. He had fled the country and was believed to be hiding in Thailand.

A check of Immigration records confirmed that Mr Peng had overstayed his permit to stay in Thailand by 272 days.



Photo: Phuket Immigration

He was charged for overstaying and handed over to investigators for legal proceedings. Co-ordination with the Chinese Embassy is now underway for further action.

Immigration Bureau Commissioner Lt Gen Panumas Boonyalak in a statement said the arrest was part of ongoing efforts to crack down on foreign criminals hiding in Thailand.

"The Immigration Bureau is committed to preventing foreigners from using Thailand as a base for illegal business activities, transnational crime, and other offences that affect public safety and confidence in Phuket as a tourist destination," Lt Gen Panumas said.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Brits scooped up for 'ram and rob' assault

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Four British nationals have been arrested in connection with the violent 'ram and rob' attack in Cherng Talay last week, in which an American tourist was knocked off his motorbike and robbed of a luxury watch valued at more than B2.3 million.

Cherng Talay Police, working with Thalang and Sakhu Police, confirmed the arrests, identifying the suspects as Hussain Meer, 26; Mir Wayne Carew, 25; Yanne Sarkawat, 25; and Malique Kai Walters, 27. All four men hold British passports.

Police seized two firearms with ammunition, three vehicles, and the victim's Audemars Piguet wristwatch, worth B2.3mn.

The arrests follow the brazen assault on Sept 17, when 36-year-old American national Ebrahim Vahid Amiri was rammed from behind by a blue Ford Everest SUV while riding his motorbike along Soi Layan 7 in heavy rain.

Dashcam footage captured two men, dressed in black and appearing to



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

wear balaclavas, exiting the SUV before striking Mr Amiri and robbing him of his watch. They allegedly threatened him with a knife if he didn't give it to them.

The suspects then fled in the vehicle, later abandoning it in a nearby rubber plantation. A second vehicle, a white car, was seen collecting the men.

Mr Amiri, a lawyer based in Switzerland who has visited Phuket more than 60 times, told police he had never before encountered such an incident in Thailand, which he described as his "second home".

"I had no arguments or disagreements with anyone. I have always worn this watch," he said in his statement. He explained that he had been returning to his accommodation after visiting a coffee shop, a market, and a convenience store shortly before the assault.

A witness, Phuket Airport firefighter Somphum Nopwankaew, provided dashcam footage of the attack and helped Mr Amiri file his report with police. "I saw both a gun and a knife used against him. I had never seen anything like this before," Mr Somphum said.

Cherng Talay Police Chief Col Ekkarat Plaiduang confirmed the four suspects were arrested within 24 hours of the assault.

"We coordinated with Phuket Provincial Police forensic teams to recover evidence from the abandoned vehicle and reviewed CCTV footage along the route," he said.

Police said investigations were continuing into whether the group is linked to other robberies targeting foreign visitors on the island.

Drug tests target Patong bars, nightlife venues

SIX EMPLOYEES working at entertainment venues in Patong tested positive for drugs during a late-night inspection conducted by Kathu District Office.

The inspection began at 11:30pm on Sept 16, led by Kathu District Chief Jirawat Namat and Deputy Chief Anurak Poolsak, joined by security personnel from the Kathu District Office unit of the Volunteer Defense Corps (OrSor).

Random urine tests were carried out on 48 employees at seven



Photo: Kathu District Officials

entertainment venues. Six employees tested positive for drug use. They were sent for treatment after providing consent.

Kathu District Office confirmed that further investigations will be expanded under the 'One User, One Dealer' strategy to identify major drug dealers and dismantle key networks.

The Phuket News

Woman killed, struck by bus, then pickup

A 28-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS killed early on Sept 16 after her motorcycle collided with a bus before she was struck by a pickup truck on Thepkasattri Rd in Koh Kaew.

Police were called to the scene, in front of a Mobil petrol station on the inbound side of the road, at 4:50am, said Lt Col Banditha Thong-un of Phuket City Police.

Rescue workers and ambulance teams from Mission Hospital and Koh Kaew Municipality arrived to find the woman, later identified as Suthida Chaiyot, unconscious and seriously injured. She was rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where she was later pronounced dead.

The crash occurred in heavy rain on a wet road. At the scene, officers found a Mercedes-Benz tour bus operating the Su-ngai Kolok-Phuket route, along with Ms Suthida's red Honda Wave motorbike lying in the middle of the road.

About 50 metres away, a Nissan pickup truck driven by 19-year-old Phonthep Kongthong was parked with damage consistent with the accident.



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Police said preliminary investigations indicated that Ms Suthida was riding from the Bang Khu intersection when the tour bus, driven by 54-year-old Anupong Srikaewchang, pulled out of the petrol station. Her motorbike collided with the bus before she was thrown onto the road and hit by the pickup truck in the dim light.

At last report, both the bus driver and the pickup driver had been taken to Phuket City Police Station for questioning as officers continued their investigation.

Eakkapop Thongtub

More wind turbines planned for new Phromthep complex

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The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) has presented plans to install new wind turbines at the football field near Phromthep Cape to be a ‘Renewable Energy Station’ in Rawai.

The plans include creating a learning centre and eco-tourism attraction, while also expanding clean energy production.

The plan was presented at a meeting at Provincial Hall last week that was chaired by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat.

The meeting was attended by Rawai Mayor Thames Kraitat, the Phuket Provincial Land Office and related agencies, while EGAT was represented by Deputy Director of Power Plant Development and Renewable Energy, Tidech Iamsai.

“EGAT has managed the Phromthep site since 1983 as Thailand’s first demonstration station for wind and solar energy,” Mr Tidech explained to *The Phuket News*.



Photo: EGAT

“The station has hosted multiple prototype wind turbine installations over the decades, including the country’s first successful grid operation in 1990 and the nation’s largest turbine at the time, a 150 kW NORDTANK installed in 1996,” he added.

The latest proposal outlines plans to install new, larger-capacity wind turbines, study environmental and economic impacts, and use the site as a base for training EGAT staff in large-scale renewable projects.

At the same time, EGAT aims to enhance the area as a tourist-friendly landmark, with facilities for education, sightseeing, and leisure activities, Mr Tidech said.

The project aims to

expand renewable energy generation in Phuket while upgrading the Phromthep site into a landmark for education and tourism, Mr Tidech continued.

“The plan includes the installation of two modern wind turbines with a capacity of at least 1 MW each, alongside facilities to welcome students, tourists and the local community,” he said.

However, Rawai Mayor Mr Thames explained to *The Phuket News* that the project must take into account the public’s right to use government land and any changes to land conditions will be carefully reviewed.

Rawai Municipality is expected to play a key role in overseeing the site to

ensure long-term public benefit, he said.

The project is expected to add a new dimension to Phuket tourism, combining renewable energy, eco-tourism, and community engagement. “It will be a place for students and the public to learn, and a destination for tourists,” Mr Thames said.

Mr Thames noted that the key challenge is securing approval for land use, as the site is classified as NorSorLor (public land under government authority). “If the request is approved, EGAT is ready to pay for the whole project,” he said.

Yet, at this stage, no budget or land area figures have been confirmed, with the project still in the drafting and review phase, Mr Thames noted.

EGAT is preparing a formal proposal, which will include an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and a cost-benefit study before submission to the Phuket Governor and Rawai Municipality, he concluded.

Restaurants caught operating in Sirinat

RESTAURANTS OPERATING on the Mai Khao beachfront have been confirmed to be operating illegally within the boundaries of Sirinat National Park.

Officials from Mai Khao Subdistrict Administrative Organisation (OrBorTor) and from the Thalang District Office, along with village headmen, officers from the the Forest Protection Unit 1 branch (Thalang) and Sirinat National Park inspected the operators in Moo 3 and 4 of Mai Khao on Sept 17.

The land, legally designated as part of the national park, is strictly protected from private occupation or any damage to natural resources, Thalang District Office reported.

Despite this, officials during their inspection confirmed that the businesses continue to operate within the prohibited area.

The inspection began at 10:30am under the direction of Mai Khao OrBorTor Chief Sarawut Srisakukam, who sent legal and municipal officers to join the coordinated team.

Later in the day, at



Photo: Mai Khao OrBorTor

1:30pm, Thalang District Chief Siwat Rawangkun assigned District Chief Officer Rachen Songdaeng to lead further checks at the same sites.

The action followed a Phuket Provincial order issued Aug 19, 2025, after complaints were filed through the Government Complaint Center and the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Minister, Thalang District Office noted.

Officials confirmed that encroachment is taking place and reiterated that any form of occupation or activity causing environmental harm inside the national park is prohibited by law.

Relevant agencies have been instructed to continue investigations and take enforcement action within their jurisdiction, Thalang District Office confirmed.

The Phuket News

Kebaya Festival celebrates Peranakan heritage

A PARADE OF MUSIC, colour and culture marked the grand opening of the ‘Phuket Creative City: Kebaya Festival 2025’ last Saturday (Sept 20), celebrating the island’s Baba and Peranakan heritage while promoting Thailand’s cultural identity on the global stage.

The festival, held at Queen Sirikit Park in Phuket Town, is a collaboration between the Ministry of Culture, the Phuket Provincial Cultural Office, the Phuket Provincial Cultural Council, local administrative organisations, government agencies, the private sector and arts networks.

Centred on the ‘kebaya’ – the traditional costume of Baba and Peranakan women – the event followed the garment’s joint inscription on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List in 2024 by Thailand, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

The opening ceremony was presided over by Rakchanok Kojaranon, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, with Phuket Provincial



Photo: PR Phuket

Cultural Officer Puangphaka Chaowai, Phuket Town Mayor Suphot La-onghet and Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation Vice President Chalam Attham.

Ms Rakchanok said the festival aimed not only to celebrate heritage but also to strengthen awareness and pride in identity while connecting cultural roots with modern trends.

“The Ministry of Culture has a mission to preserve, restore and develop the nation’s cultural capital in line with the Sustainable Development Goals,” she said. “Phuket, recognised by UNESCO as a Creative City of Gastronomy, has shown that culture and creativity can generate economic power, create jobs and improve quality of life.”

She added that the Kebaya Festival forms part

of a national drive to elevate Thai traditions to the international stage as a form of soft power.

The opening parade reflected Phuket’s rich multicultural heritage with 11 themed floats, including a tribute to the island’s tin mining history, the Thai Hua School marching band, government representatives, a long drum procession and a showcase of Sino-Thai friendship. Local schools, cultural troupes and community groups drew large crowds along the route.

Visitors enjoyed cultural performances, Baba theatrical plays, Peranakan handicraft demonstrations and exhibitions tracing Phuket’s history. Highlights included a Tiam Chu play on Baba lifestyle, the ‘Complete Story of My Home’ exhibition, and a mini-concert by artists ‘Gam’ Wichayanee and ‘Dome’ Jaruwat.

Organisers said the festival underscored Phuket’s role as a Creative City, integrating fashion, food, performing arts and local lifestyles to inspire regional pride and attract visitors.

The Phuket News

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BDO, one of the world's leading professional services firms, is entering a new chapter in Phuket with a change in leadership at its local office. With a fresh vision and renewed focus to support businesses in the region navigate an increasingly complex economic and regulatory environment.

RISING RISK OF DATA FRAUD AND BUSINESS THREATS

As digital platforms become essential to daily operations in Thailand, these also create new vectors for fraudsters in Phuket, where reliance on technology is growing within the tourism industry. These risks can significantly impact financial stability, stakeholder trust and compliance.

A Recent Malware Scam in Phuket is a clear example of data fraud and cybercrime, involving ransom demands to unlock systems, customer data theft through fake booking platforms and causing costly disruption to hotel business operations.

How BDO Helps: Services Tailored to Your Needs

Preventative measures and controls



- ▶ Policies
- ▶ Processes
- ▶ Compliance frameworks

Reduce risk exposure

Post-incident support



- ▶ Forensic audits
- ▶ Dispute resolution
- ▶ Data governance strategies

Recovery from crises

Financial expertise



- ▶ Management reporting
- ▶ Financial planning
- ▶ Fundraising & financing

Enable growth and investor confidence

The Royal Decree on Technology Crime Prevention empowers the *Centre for the Prevention and Suppression of Technology Crime (CP-STC)* to act faster on fraud reports. This has prevented nearly *B5.9 billion* in online scam within three months. With AI tools

performing the work equivalent to 94 officers, the Ministry has been able to expedite processing of cases and faster detection of suspicious platforms, reduced delays, and a stronger overall response to tech-based financial crimes.

In this evolving lands-

cape, it's a wake-up call for businesses to reduce risk exposure to digital financial crimes. To stay ahead of potential threats, companies must go beyond traditional controls.

Top 4 steps Phuket Hotels must consider to combat cyber-crime Proactive strategies include:

• **Enhance Cybersecurity measures:** invest in and upgrade cybersecurity infrastructure to reduce the risks of attacks and breaches. Especially with regards to payment gateways and customer data.

• **Increasing investment in fraud detection:** allocate

resources for advanced fraud detection tools, including AI and data analytics, to outpace sophisticated fraud techniques.

• **Addressing emerging threats:** develop strategies to counter new threats like deepfake, targeted malware, including training and technology investments.

• **Build resilience:** establishing training modules and incident response plan, implementing a robust governance model and considering cyber insurance for financial resilience.

In the coming months, BDO will also share expert insights on Cyber, Fraud, Regulatory Compliance and Governance, areas that are becoming increasingly critical for Phuket's business landscape. These perspectives will help business leaders anticipate risks, strengthen resilience, and build sustainable growth strategies.

Upcoming sessions by BDO Webinar series – M&A in motion : Unlock strategies for identifying the right targets, executing deals with confidence, and avoiding common pitfalls. For more information contact: infophuket@bdo.th

Lion Currency opens flagship

LION CURRENCY Exchange opened its fourth branch and first flagship outlet on the 4th floor of Central Festival Phuket last Saturday (Sept 20), offering full foreign currency trading services to meet growing demand from tourists and residents.

Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat, joined by his wife and children, presided over the 6pm Saturday launch, before congratulating the company on its expansion.

The opening was marked by a toast and a lively magic illusion show, followed by special activities and a lucky draw for guests.

VIP attendees included Pol Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum, Commander of Phuket Provincial Police; Pol Col Nikorn Somsuk, Deputy Commander of Provincial Police Region 8, and his wife; Pol Lt Col Ekkachai Siri Sarawatyai of Phuket Tourist Police; Central Phuket Senior Vice President Wilaipornpiti Mana-aree; and Central Phuket Marketing



Photo: Central Phuket

Manager Racharej Methapornpipat.

Lion Currency Exchange CEO Peerasilp Kritthiammek said the Central Festival branch marks a milestone for the company, which operates under Currency Asia Co Ltd, a subsidiary of Mamee Asia Co Ltd. Established in 2016 with B10 million in registered capital, the firm now runs three booths at Jungceylon Patong and the new flagship outlet.

"This branch is designed to provide comprehensive services beyond simple buying," Mr Peerasilp said.

"With cash reserves exceeding B50 million, we can offer fast, secure exchanges across 29 major currencies, including the US dollar, euro, Japanese yen, ASEAN and Arab

currencies. Israeli, Turkish and Nepali currencies will be added soon."

He said Central Phuket was selected for its high foot traffic and reputation as a safe financial hub. A fifth branch is planned for Central Hat Yai in the fourth quarter.

Mr Peerasilp highlighted competitive advantages, promising "the best guaranteed rates, guaranteed refunds" and immediate refunds if a better rate is found. Licensed by the Ministry of Finance, Lion Currency Exchange complies with Anti-Money Laundering Office and Bank of Thailand standards.

Despite intense competition in Phuket's exchange market, Mr Peerasilp said the company is pursuing cost-control measures to keep rates attractive.

"We are positioning ourselves not just as a money exchange, but as a financial company ready for the digital era," he said.

The Phuket News

Officials clarify alcohol promotion

THE PHUKET PROVINCIAL Public Health Office (PHHO) has confirmed that images of drinks in glasses that are in no way directly promoting alcohol are allowed in promotion of events and venues on the island.

The clarification came after *The Phuket News* presented an image for an advertisement of a Phuket beach club showing two people holding drinks in their hands.

Somsuk Samphanprathip, one of the PPHO's two Deputy Directors, told *The Phuket News*, "Regarding the submitted advertisement, we believe the intended purpose of the image is not illegal, as it is intended to promote the venue and the drink does not contain any symbols, brands or logos indicating alcohol or wine glasses."

"It appears to be a fruit juice drink, or the emphasis is more on the atmosphere, so it does not fall under this category," Mr Somsuk said.

"Actually, menu photos are prohibited. Promotions are prohibited. Photos of friends offering discounts or freebies with other products



The photo presented to the Phuket Health Office. Image: Supplied

or menu items are prohibited. Images of beer bottles, alcoholic beverage logos, brand logos or even liquor brands are prohibited from being featured on menus or in photos used to promote a restaurant or bar," Mr Somsuk continued.

"Ultimately, we consider the intent of the advertisement. If the intent is to advertise alcoholic beverages, or if officials determine that the advertisement suggests the distribution or sale of alcoholic beverages is focused on alcohol, they will be immediately arrested and fined," Mr Somsuk warned.

"However, if the advertisement appears to be borderline in violation, but the emphasis is still on the atmosphere or food, a warning may be issued and time for corrections. This is at the discretion of the

government officials or the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) will decide," he added.

"Whether a bar or restaurant is allowed to do so depends on the intent of the promotion. For example, if you want to promote your restaurant by focusing on the food, the atmosphere and drinks that look like fruit juice, that's fine. However, if you're holding a wine glass or beer bottle, that's not allowed and is immediately illegal. This is at the discretion of the PPHO," Mr Somsuk concluded.

However, Mr Somsuk noted that most violations occur when venues use images of beer bottles or alcohol brands in storefronts or on social media. "They may use their own restaurant logo or replace alcohol logos with water or soda logos instead," he said.

Items such as umbrellas, aprons or bottle holders carrying alcohol brand logos are also illegal. Establishments are required to cover such branding to avoid being considered as advertising, he explained. *Natnaree Likidwatanasakun*

Thai-Cambodia border closed 'indefinitely'

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Commanders of the Thai armed forces have unanimously voted to indefinitely shutter Thailand's border with Cambodia until the neighbouring nation is no longer deemed a threat to national security.

The decision was made during the fifth meeting of the committee of armed forces chiefs held at the Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters in Bangkok last Friday (Sept 19).

The chiefs agreed that all permanent checkpoints and trade crossings should remain shut down until a de-escalation of the situation between Thailand and Cambodia.

Gen Songwit Noonphukdi, Chief of the Defence Forces, began the meeting by asking all attendees to observe a moment of silence for 15 soldiers and civilians who perished in recent clashes along the border.



Riot police officers in Sa Kaeo reinforce border security. Photo: Provincial Police Region 2

Two other significant conclusions were reached regarding the construction of a border fence and the revision of rules of engagement with Cambodia.

It was determined that fencing would be put up in all areas where the border line is mutually agreed upon by both countries, for continuous patrols and surveillance to take place in border areas where territory has yet to be agreed upon, and for the construction of tactical roads along the entire border.

The committee also approved a new framework for responding to violations of Thailand's sovereignty to be based on international Rules of Engagement

(ROE), which allow for immediate self-defence operations upon detection of any hostile act or intent.

The decisions have been submitted to the defence minister for approval. Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul's new Cabinet, approved by His Majesty the King, includes Gen Nattaphon Narkphanit as Defence Minister and his deputy, Lt Gen Adul Boonthamchareon.

The Thai army also confirmed the first pole equipped with three CCTVs near the main checkpoint to Cambodia had been erected to boost border security in the wake of the deadly skirmishes between the two countries.

On Monday (Sept 22) over 1,400 riot police officers from five eastern provinces were deployed to Sa Kaeo to reinforce security along the Thai-Cambodian border, following reports of potential encroachment near Ban Nong Chan and Ban Nong Ya Kaeo villages in Khok Sung district.

Meanwhile, regional military leaders have expressed frustration with Cambodia over its lack of commitment to implementing agreements reached at the Thai-Cambodian General Border Committee (GBC) meeting on Sept 10.

The talks had called for both sides to withdraw heavy weapons and high-destructive armaments to their bases within three weeks.

However, Lt Gen Boonsin Padklang, commander of the Second Army Region, said Cambodia has shown no sign of compliance, instead reinforcing its positions. He warned that further provocations could end dialogue altogether.

Spectrum shortage prompts fears of mobile data crisis

BANGKOK

THE MOBILE SPECTRUM could suffer a shortage by the end of the year, threatening internet speeds, the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) warned last Saturday (Sept 20).

The commission has projected Thailand's national demand will reach 615 megahertz (MHz) this year, warning that without additional auctions the country could face slower internet speeds and unstable mobile signals.

The NBTC says Thailand currently holds 620 MHz of spectrum for mobile services.

However, if expiring licences had not been re-auctioned, the available spectrum would have dropped to just 500 MHz - far below the projected demand, leaving a shortfall of more than 100 Mhz.

Such a shortage, the regulator said, could lead to degraded mobile network quality, including unstable voice calls, reduced internet speeds, interruptions during



Photo: Bangkok Post

video streaming and lag in online gaming - particularly during peak usage periods.

The NBTC's data shows that internet usage in Thailand has steadily increased in recent years, rising from an average of 25.45 GB per user in 2022 to an expected 27.20 GB this year. Meanwhile, spectrum demand has grown from 539 MHz to an estimated 615 MHz this year.

Looking ahead, the NBTC said it will continue managing spectrum efficiently and confirmed plans to auction off additional bands that are set to expire to meet rising demand nationwide.

Bangkok Post

'No hospital transfer' for jailed PM Thaksin

BANGKOK

THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT has dismissed rumours that jailed former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra was moved to Corrections Hospital for treatment, confirming he remains at Klong Prem Central Prison.

"There has been no change and no hospital transfer (of Thaksin)," Kanokwan Jiuchueapun, deputy spokeswoman of the Department of Corrections, said on Monday (Sept 22).

"He is still at Klong Prem Central Prison. His condition remains one of fatigue and body aches, which are normal for someone of his age. A prison doctor will examine him as scheduled today," Ms Kanokwan added.

She explained that Thaksin developed cervical spondylosis last Friday and, wanting treatment, visited the Corrections Hospital but returned to Klong Prem prison after the check-up.

Thaksin's overall condition was normal and he was able to eat meals in prison, though some concerns remained, Ms Kanokwan added.

Any out-of-cell treatment for Thaksin was treated by critics with high degree of wariness after the Supreme Court's Criminal Division for Holders of Political Positions ruled on Sept 9 he must serve the one-year prison sentence imposed on him two years ago as the time he spent in the luxury ward at the Police General Hospital did not count as his term of incarceration.

Thaksin's lawyer, Winyat Chartmontree, coordinated with prison staff to arrange a



Thaksin on Sept 9. Photo: AFP

family visit on Monday.

Thaksin's middle daughter, Pintongta Kunakornwong, and her brother-in-law, Pitak Suksawat - husband of Paetongtarn Shinawatra - arrived at Klong Prem Central Prison to see him.

This marks the third family visit since Thaksin began serving his sentence. Ms Paetongtarn, his youngest daughter and head of the Pheu Thai Party, did not accompany them due to prior commitments, later confirming that she plans to visit her father on Sept 25.

Meanwhile, a group of red-shirt supporters from provinces including Pathum Thani, Chon Buri, and Kanchanaburi, as well as a foreign supporter from the Netherlands, gathered outside the prison to show solidarity with Thaksin on Monday. Bangkok Post

People's Party back lese-majeste stance

BANGKOK

PEOPLE'S PARTY LEADER Natthaphong Rueangpanyawut has reiterated his long-standing position on Thailand's lese-majeste law, saying that while parts of the law remain problematic, any amendments must adhere to the Constitutional Court's rulings.

He made the comment on Sept 16 to amplify remarks he made in an interview with *Time* magazine, in which the subject of Section 112 of the Criminal Code came up.

"Article 112 still causes problems in Thailand," *Time* quoted him as saying. "And if we get power, we will fix this law in compliance with the Constitutional Court verdict."

"The monarchy must be above politics... and still the core institution in Thailand. We must amend the law to reposition them and make them accepted by Thai people in the modern world."

Mr Natthaphong said that his stance has remained consistent since he assumed the party leadership.

That interpretation led to the dissolution of the Move Forward Party (MFP), the predecessor to the People's Party, in 2023, and 10-year bans on several of its senior figures from political activity.

The court maintained that MFP posed a threat to the constitutional monarchy



Natthaphong. Photo: Bangkok Post

and national security by continuously and seriously campaigning for the amendment of Section 112.

It is still reviewing an ethics complaint against 44 Move Forward MPs - 35 of whom are still serving in the House - who sponsored a bill to amend Section 112 and who could be banned from politics for life if found guilty.

The likelihood of securing enough parliamentary support to push through amendments would depend on shared positions during government formation negotiations or on the individual stances of political parties, Mr Natthaphong said.

He expressed confidence that the political landscape would eventually open a path forward shaped by the will of the people, as expressed in the next general election.

"Our aim is to redefine the roles and powers of independent bodies to bring them in line with international standards, and to end the practice of legal warfare," he said. Bangkok Post

Facing up to hearing loss

Photo: Supplied

SAY
WHAT?

WELLTHWISE

Libby Heath

Hearing loss does not usually arrive with fanfare. It sneaks in quietly, like someone turning down a dimmer switch one notch at a time. A missed word here, a punchline lost there, a conversation that feels just a little harder to follow. You just nod, laugh or guess what was said. Life carries on, but the volume is turned down.

And then came COVID.

Once the masks went on, the dimmer switch became a full-on brownout. Without lips to read, I realised I could not hear a thing! Conversations blurred into word-soup, and I was left stranded in the dark. That is when it hit me: I must have been lip reading for years without even knowing it. When those cues disappeared, so did my ability to follow conversation. I started avoiding social gatherings, inventing excuses not to attend, because every time I tried, I came home defeated, frustrated and exhausted.

Sometimes, the issue is mechanical – a matter of damaged hair cells in the

inner ear, a stiffened eardrum or bones that no longer vibrate as they should. This kind of physical impairment means that sound waves cannot travel properly and the signal is garbled before it ever reaches the brain.

But for others, and increasingly as we age, the problem can be found in the brain's ability to process sound. Even if the ears pick up the noise, the brain's auditory centres might struggle to decode and interpret what is heard. Over time, when these neural pathways are not regularly activated, whether due to under-stimulation or neuroprocessing dysfunction, the brain's regions responsible for sound can shrink or go dormant. That decline does not stay limited to hearing; it can ripple outward, affecting memory, focus and even mood.

Stark

The research is stark: people with untreated mild hearing loss are twice as likely to develop dementia. Moderate hearing loss triples the risk. Severe hearing loss makes it five times higher. Five times!

And the scariest part? The decline is gradual. You do not notice it at first, because your brain works overtime to compensate. But that extra effort comes at a cost. I used to wonder why I would come home from dinner with friends completely drained, as if I had run a race without leaving my chair. Now I understand: it was hearing fatigue.

With a dysfunctional auditory centre, the brain works overtime to separate signal (the words) from noise (the background chatter, the clinking glasses, the hum of the air conditioner). That constant decoding uses an enormous amount of mental energy. Short-term memory suffers because all your resources went into simply hearing. Over time, the fatigue becomes so depleting that it is easier to withdraw than to fight through the static.

That is why so many people with hearing loss are misunderstood as “anti-social”. We are not. In fact, for an extrovert, the irony is brutal: you crave connection, but every gathering feels like a marathon you did not train for. You go in knowing that noise, background clatter and competing voices will drain your energy faster than it can be replenished. By Friday, when dinner with friends sounded fun on Monday, a week of straining to hear has left you running on fumes. The conflict is real – your heart wants to be in the middle of

the laughter, but your brain is begging you to sit it out.

Nobody hesitates to wear glasses, and vision loss, while inconvenient, does not increase your risk of dementia. So why do people resist wearing hearing aids? Denial? Vanity? Ego? Cost? Of all the health issues that are resolvable, treating hearing loss sooner rather than later has dramatic consequences. Why would you resist something that could protect your memory, your energy, and your connections with the people you love?


Upside

Today's hearing aids are not the squealing beige bananas of decades past. They are sleek, discreet and smart. But they are not perfect. They amplify everything, so controlling your environment goes a long way to improving the quality of conversations. Sit away from music speakers, with your back to a wall or in a cosy booth to help minimise surrounding noises. Dine in popular restaurants at off-peak hours. When no one else is around, ask to have background music turned down. Sit outside and avoid sounds bouncing off the hard surfaces of floors and walls. My favourite-sized dinner “party” has four people; I still rely strongly on lip reading, so I need to be able to see everyone's faces. I often remind my loved ones that “if they can't see my face, I can't hear them”.

There is an upside to hearing loss. When my hearing aids are out, I am gloriously immune to crying babies on airplanes, thunderstorms and snoring Shih Tzus. Selective silence is its own kind of luxury.

If you are over 50, do not shrug off a hearing test. The longer you wait, the harder it is for your brain to “wake back up”. Hearing devices need to be worn consistently – 10+ hours a day – to keep those neural pathways alive. You would not work out once a week and expect six-pack abs. The same goes for your brain. Train it daily, and you are not just protecting your hearing, you are protecting your memory, your focus and your future.

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



Where to eat in PHUKET

The November/December 2025 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

Distributed in resorts/hotels lobbies, in a high number of restaurants and coffee shops, plus inserted in one issue of *The Phuket News* each month, it is a great way to Talk to Phuket about your F & B outlet

Want to be in it?

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The Long Walk goes the distance

David Griffiths

When someone mentions films based on the works of Stephen King normally your mind goes straight to the classic horror films – *It*, *Carrie*, *Pet Semetary*, etc. People seem to forget that King's work has also been responsible for cinematic masterpieces like *The Shawshank Redemption* and *The Green Mile*. Now another film need to be added to that second list because *The Long Walk* is sheer cinematic brilliance.

As I went into *The Long Walk* I was wondering how this could ever be a 'watchable' film. The media screening was held weeks before the trailer had even surfaced and having read King's original novel (which was released under his pseudonym Richard Bachman) I knew that the general plot was a group of young men walking along a road until they died. How do you make that into a film that wouldn't have the audience drifting off within an hour.

Actually the plot does have a little more to it than that. Set in a dystopian future an event has plummeted the world into poverty and in a bid to lift the spirits of the general public The Major (Mark Hamill – *Star Wars*) runs what is called The Long Walk.

This televised event sees volunteers agree to go on the walk and if they fail to keep to moving a three miles per hour they receive a warning. Earn three warnings and you are executed by bullet right there on the spot. Try to run off once the walk has started and again you will be executed. You then walk until there is only one person left and that person walks away with a huge cash prize.

The film follows one of the competitors in this year's walk, Raymond 'Ray' Garraty #47 (Cooper Hoffman – *Saturday Night*), who despite the pleas from his mother Ginnie (Judy Greer – *Jurassic World*) has signed up for the barbaric practice.



Photo: IMDb

As the walk begins Ray quickly bonds with fellow walkers like Peter McVries #23 (David Jonsson – *Deep State*) and Hank Olson #46 (Ben Wang – *Mean Girls*) while he learns that there are also 'bad' walkers, like Gary Barkovitch #5 (Charlie Plummer – *Lean On Pete*), who need to be avoided.

As the walk goes on the walkers begin to learn more about each other including the dark secret of why Ray signed up for the walk in the first place.

While cinematographer Jo Willems (*Hard Candy*) uses the roadside and road to the dark and foreboding world that the characters call home screenwriter JT Mollner (*Strange Darling*) uses King's original source material to develop characters and dialogue that will draw the audience into this plot with such intrigue that it lifts the film far beyond being just a 'walking' film.

'Survivalist cinema'

At the same time director Franis Lawrence (*Constantine*) brings everything together and creates a film that totally captivates its audience. Lawrence is no stranger to 'survivalist cinema' having carried much of the heavy load with *The Hunger Games* franchise. What he can't do here is rely on the action of the film to keep the audience engaged like he did with that franchise – instead here he lets Mollner's screen-

play come to the fore in such a way that you will find yourself barracking for some of the characters at hand here.

Together the work of Lawrence, Mollner and Willems creates an atmosphere within the film that keeps the audience heightened throughout. As an audience member whenever one of the guards yells out a warning or begins a countdown you find your heart beating almost out of your chest.

The power of Mollner's screenplay is further enhanced by the actors delivering his dialogue. Grouped together with his performance in *Saturday Night*, Cooper Hoffman's performance here is engaging with a gentleness that is needed to make him 'likable'. Hoffman is not only showing the same acting brilliance that his father carried throughout his career but is now revealing himself to be one of the best young actors in Hollywood at the moment.

Likewise, Charlie Plummer has shown in films like *Words On Bathroom Walls* and *Lean On Pete* that he is a brilliant young actor and here he once again shines with a performance where despite being one of the villains of the piece he becomes one of the most memorable characters.

The Long Walk is not always an easy watch, in fact at times it is gruelling, but it is well worth it. The brilliantly written screenplay is brought alive by a talented young cast and makes this not only a must see but one of the best thrillers you will see this year.

The Long Walk is currently screening in Phuket and is rated '18'

4/5 Stars

David Griffiths has been working as a film journalist for over 25 years. That time has seen him work in radio, television and in print. He currently hosts a film podcast called *The Popcorn Conspiracy*. He is also a Rotten Tomatoes accredited reviewer and is an alternate judge for the Golden Globes Awards. You can follow him at Facebook: *SubcultureEntertainmentAus*.

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POP QUIZ

1. What did mathematician John Napier invent in 1614?
2. Issur Danielovitch became famous as who?
3. What martial arts name means gentle way?
4. What animal lives in a drey?
5. In which country would you find the Negev desert?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

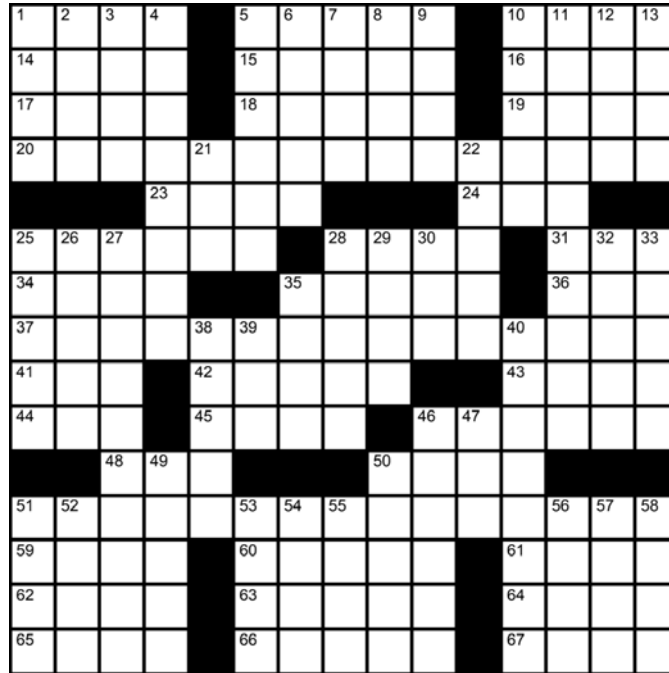
1. Deer sir?
5. Short musical piece
10. Small amphibians
14. Designer Chanel
15. Pondered
16. Seed covering
17. Caspian Sea feeder
18. Stigmatize
19. Fix up
20. Get some shuteye
23. Bounders
24. Fool
25. Prayer beads
28. Medicinal balsam
31. Mas' mates
34. ___ and anon
35. Dogma
36. Hostile
37. Call it a night at 9 p.m.
41. "Gimme ___!" (start of an Iowa State cheer)
42. Pronouncement
43. Six-stringed instrument
44. Big ___
45. Plain and simple
46. Talkative

48. Bit of a draft
50. Go parasailing
51. Take a nap
59. Natural emollient
60. Accustom
61. Meticulousness
62. Computer list
63. Recuperation
64. Large-scale
65. Chick's sound
66. College leave
67. Guff

Down

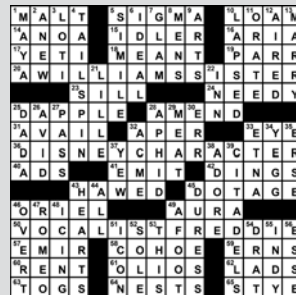
1. Soviet ballistic missile
2. Unit of pressure
3. Berry
4. Links sight
5. Personify
6. Racetracks
7. One of seven: abbr.
8. Nick's cousin
9. Taro variety
10. Noblemen
11. Nonconformist
12. Ocean motion
13. Refuse
21. La Brea goo
22. Brown

25. Kind of center
26. Like Bo-Peep's charges
27. Unchangeable
28. Coquette
29. Grimm beginning
30. 100 quintars
32. Assign
33. In a playful manner
35. Leader opposed by the Bolsheviks
38. Exclamation of displeasure
39. Stretch (out)
40. Greeds
46. Most demure
47. Turn left
49. Freeze
50. Narrow groove
51. Summer place
52. On the calm side
53. Smooth
54. Cameo stone
55. Diversion
56. California county or its seat
57. TV angel Munroe
58. Parts of a min.



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

California mansion, lush with green lawns and vegetation, can guzzle as much water as 90 average homes in one year.

15.4

percent higher risk of death have those with high-stress jobs with little control over their work than those with low-demand jobs.

1,000

years is how long Stephen Hawking believed was the limit of survival of the human race without escaping "beyond our fragile planet".

133 million

American adults are in a facial recognition network used by US law enforcement agencies.

340 billion

US dollars is the annual healthcare cost and lost earnings in the US from daily exposure to hazardous, common chemicals.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Patong Bay as a storm sets in. Photo by Simon Lomas

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

This week in history

Sept 26, 1789
George Washington appoints Thomas Jefferson the first United States Secretary of State.

Sept 27, 1949
Zeng Liansong's design is chosen as the flag of the People's Republic of China.

Sept 28, 1066
William the Conqueror lands

in England, beginning the Norman conquest.

Sept 29, 1885
The first practical public electric tramway in the world is opened in Blackpool, England.

Sept 30, 1939
NBC broadcasts the first televised American football game.



Thomas Jefferson.

Oct 1, 331 BC
Alexander the Great defeats

Darius III of Persia in the Battle of Gaugamela.

Oct 2, 2018
The Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi is assassinated in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey.

Source: Wikipedia

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05 OCT

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SUN12OCT

Canadian Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, Oct 12, 2025.

Avista Hideaway Resort, Tri Trang, Patong.

Canadian Thanksgiving Dinner

The spirit of Thanksgivings follows us wherever we may go. This year's Cdn's in Phuket Thanksgiving Dinner will be extra traditional, our special guest chef is a Canadian Certified Master Chef who formerly called Quebec home. Join us for a Traditional Canadian Thanksgiving! Welcoming you with a classic Canadian Caesar. Begin with maple-glazed bacon lollipops and mini tourtière bites. Savour roast Heritage Turkey with classic giblet gravy and cranberry sauce, silky mashed potatoes, maple-roasted Brussels sprouts, and glazed carrots. Then to finish with a Pumpkin & Maple Symphony dessert. A special mini turkey plate awaits our little canucks! Thanksgiving is about community, gratitude and sharing a meal together — values that travel with Canadians no matter where they live. This day is not only for Canadians, but also for our Commonwealth friends and those from other countries to join in this special occasion. Join us at the Avista Hideaway Resort, Tri Trang, Patong. This event sells out every year. Tickets - thephuketnews.com/phuket-ticket-master.php

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AFL Masters Cup 2025

AFL Masters is confirmed for Phuket on October 25 from 9am at the ACG Cricket & Sports facility, Baan Liphon. This one day event features AFL teams from Indonesia, Singapore, Australia and Thailand. Players must be 35 years or older. Matches consist of 2 x 12 minutes halves with a final between the top sides to decide who raises the Pacific Cross Health Insurance AFL Andaman Cup. For more info visit facebook.com/ThailandTigers

SAT29NOV

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Mixed Thai duo deliver again to make history

BADMINTON

MIXED DOUBLES PAIR Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Supissara Paewsampran claimed their sixth World Tour title after winning the US\$1.25 million (B40mn) BWF China Masters in Shenzhen last Sunday (Sept 21).

The Thai duo became the first non-Chinese players to win the mixed doubles title at the China Masters since its inception in 2005.

The world No.4 pair took just 35 minutes to defeat world champions Chen Tang Jie and Toh Ee Wei of Malaysia 21-8, 21-17 to win the Super 750 event – their fourth title of the year and sixth overall.

It was the Thais' third straight win against Chen and Toh and they now lead their head-to-head record 4-1.

Dechapol and Supissara's other three wins this year included the Malaysia Open (Super 1000), the Thailand Masters (Super 300) and the Singapore Open (Super 750).



Photo: Bangkok Post

The duo began their partnership in October last year. They won the Kumamoto Masters Japan (Super 500) and the Syed Modi India International (Super 300) in 2024.

Women's world No.1 An Se-Young remained unstoppable as she retained her singles title, while Weng Hongyang became the tournament's first Chinese men's singles winner in the World Tour era after he defeated Lin Chun-yi of Taiwan.

China's Jia Yifan and Zhang Shuxian won the women's doubles and top seeds Kim Won-Ho and Seo Seung-Jae of South Korea beat Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty of India in the men's doubles title showdown.

Bangkok Post

Magic Max sends title reminder

FORMULA ONE

AFP

Max Verstappen showed other contenders last Sunday (Sept 21) that he and Red Bull remain serious contenders to disrupt both F1 championships with his imperious lights-to-flag triumph at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix.

The Dutchman's second consecutive win from pole position confirmed Red Bull's potential following the mid-season exit of long-serving team boss Christian Horner and the value of new chief Laurent Mekies' softer more technically-focussed style.

The opening-lap exit of McLaren's series leader Oscar Piastri and Lando Norris's struggle to finish seventh left Red Bull within reach of overhauling Ferrari and Mercedes for second in the constructors' championship and Verstappen within 50 points of Norris in the drivers' title race.

With seven events remaining, Piastri has 324 points. Norris is second on 299. Verstappen, the four-time champion is on 255. In the constructors' race Red Bull have 272 in fourth behind Ferrari on 286, Mercedes on 290 and McLaren on 623.

Asked if he stood by earlier comments suggesting he had given up hope of winning another drivers' title, Verstappen said it was a difficult task to overhaul Piastri.



Verstappen celebrates on the podium. Photo: AFP

"There are seven races remaining and a 69-point gap," the Dutchman said.

"It's a lot. I would need to be perfect on my side and have a lot of luck too."

His experience and the much-improved performance of the Red Bull car since it was upgraded for the Italian Grand Prix at Monza has lifted the team after it went winless after the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix in May.

"It's difficult to say at the moment, but the last two race weekends have been amazing for us," said Verstappen.

"Singapore is a completely different challenge again with the higher downforce, so we will see what we can do there."

Driving with supreme authority, Verstappen led from lights to flag to claim his first win on the unforgiving barrier-lined Baku street track, his

second in succession this month, fourth this year and 67th of his career.

Verstappen came home 14.609 seconds clear of Mercedes' George Russell and 19 clear of Carlos Sainz who scored his first podium and best result since joining Williams from Ferrari this season.

Mercedes' teenage rookie Kimi Antonelli finished fourth ahead of Racing Bulls' Liam Lawson and Yuki Tsunoda in the second Red Bull – leaving Norris, in the second McLaren, to come home seventh.

Lewis Hamilton and Charles LeClerc of Ferrari were eighth and ninth, with Isack Hadjar rounding out the top ten.

For Norris, it was a wasted opportunity to exploit Piastri's rare misfortune after the Australian's run of 34 points finishes ended in the Turn Six barriers.

England, Canada challenge for Women's Rugby World Cup glory

RUGBY

ELLIE KILDUNNE marked her return from concussion with two tries as England saw off a spirited France 35-17 in their Women's Rugby World Cup semi-final in Bristol last Saturday (Sept 20).

The tournament hosts and favourites will face Canada in tomorrow's (Sept 27) final at a sold-out Twickenham crowd of 82,000.

Canada, second behind England in the world rankings, ended double-defending champions New Zealand's 11-year unbeaten run at the World Cup with a superb 34-19 win in last Friday's first semi-final in Bristol.

Tomorrow's showpiece is England's seventh final in a row, although they were beaten in five of the last six by New Zealand. The host nation will be bidding to win the World Cup for the first time since defeating Canada in the 2014 final in Paris.



Kildunne (left). Photo: AFP

"I am buzzing, it is all we have been dreaming of, we will keep our heads down, we know what is coming," player of the match Kildunne said after the win over France.

However, England prop Hannah Botterman warned that Canada would pose a stern challenge, saying: "They have been playing very good rugby, a different style... No celebrations (tonight) – we have not won anything."

Victory meant England extended their own world record to 32 consecutive wins, with this success their 17th victory in a row over France, who have now lost all nine of their Women's World Cup semi-finals. AFP

Intense Ryder Cup showdown on the cards

GOLF

ONE OF SPORT'S FIERCEST rivalries explodes back to life today (Sept 26) as the Ryder Cup tees off at Bethpage Black, where Scottie Scheffler's United States take on Rory McIlroy's Europe under the glare of US President Donald Trump and the roar of a New York crowd.

A biennial duel with a long history of combustibility is likely to be given another jolt of intensity with Trump's presence for the opening day while raucous home fans are expected to deliver both deafening support and merciless heckling.

"We all know it's going to be very difficult and you're not just playing 12 American golfers. You're also trying to get past the crowd," second-ranked McIlroy said.

"That's something definitely that we're going to have to overcome."

The Americans, meanwhile, are counting on the extra energy boost.

Holders Europe have faced tense times in prior US Ryder Cups. Gamesmanship flared at "The War on the Shore" in 1991 at Kiawah Island, when the Americans won 14.5-13.5 for their first victory in eight years.

Tensions boiled over again at "The Battle of Brookline" in 1999 when the US team overcame a 10-6 Europe lead on the final day to win



Europe captain Luke Donald (left) and United States captain Keegan Bradley pose with the Ryder Cup. Photo: AFP

14.5-13.5, with fans barracking Europe players and Americans dancing in a premature victory celebration Sunday on the 17th green, a rowdy display seen as a bitter violation of sportsmanship.

New York fans have some wild history. They savagely taunted Sergio Garcia for waggling on tee shots at the 2002 US Open and cheered Tiger Woods as he exited a portable bathroom.

"New York fans are extremely passionate," US captain Keegan Bradley said. "That multiplies when you're wearing your country's flag on your chest and even more when you're playing on their course."

Add Trump to the mix and Europe will have a unique high-stress challenge.

"We're all expecting the crowds and the energy and the environment to be very loud, be very spirited. I think he'll add to that," Luke Donald said of Trump. "It's something we've been expecting... and we'll be ready for it."

The US squad needs 14.5 points to win the Cup. Europe, winners in 10 of the past 14 meetings, need only 14 of 28 points to retain the trophy.

The Americans lead the all-time rivalry 27-15 with two drawn but Europe lead 12-9 with one drawn since their team was expanded beyond Britain and Ireland in 1979.

The format includes four morning foursomes (alternate shot) matches and four afternoon four-ball (best ball) matches today and tomorrow with 12 concluding Sunday afternoon singles matches. AFP

Liverpool maintain perfect start

FOOTBALL

AFP

Liverpool extended their perfect Premier League start and maintained their stranglehold of the Merseyside derby with a 2-1 win over Everton last Saturday (Sept 20).

Goals from Ryan Gravenberch and Hugo Ekitike were Liverpool's reward for a dominant first half and enough for a fifth consecutive Premier League win.

But Slot's men ran out of steam after the break in their third game in seven days and were left hanging on after Idrissa Gana Gueye fired Everton back into the contest.

The Reds did the bulk of their good work inside the first 30 minutes to leave Everton still without a win at Anfield in front of a crowd in the 21st century.

Meanwhile, Gabriel Martinelli's 93rd minute equaliser saved Arsenal's title bid from a damaging defeat to Manchester City in a 1-1 draw at The Emirates Stadium on Sunday.

The Gunners trailed to Erling Haaland's early strike on the counter-attack for City, the Norwegian's 13th goal for club and country in just eight games this season.

Martinelli came off the bench to score and salvage a point, but both sides lost more ground to leaders Liverpool.

Arsenal went second, five points behind the champions, while City are eight points off the top in ninth.



Liverpool's Hugo Ekitike celebrates scoring in the 2-1 win over Everton last Saturday (Sept 20). Photo: AFP

BELEAGUERED

Manchester United beat Chelsea 2-1 at Old Trafford on Saturday to earn vital breathing space for beleaguered manager Ruben Amorim.

The home side were given a huge helping hand when Chelsea goalkeeper Robert Sanchez was sent off in the fifth minute before United captain Bruno Fernandes made the breakthrough in the 14th minute.

Casemiro then doubled the lead before being shown a second yellow card on the stroke of half-time.

Trevoh Chalobah brought the visitors back into the match 10 minutes from time but United held on to record just their second win of the season, lifting them into the top half of the table as Chelsea experienced their

first league defeat of the season.

Graham Potter's future as West Ham boss appears bleak after a fourth defeat in five matches left the club firmly rooted in the relegation zone.

Hammers boss Potter admitted that his side's 2-1 loss to Crystal Palace was a "tough moment" as he fights to keep his job.

Tottenham came from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Brighton, while newly promoted Leeds recovered from conceding the first goal to beat Wolves 3-1, leaving the Midlands club without a single point from their five matches.

Burnley and Nottingham Forest shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw, as did Sunderland and Aston Villa, while Bournemouth and Newcastle drew 0-0.



Dembele. Photo: AFP

Dembele, Bonmati win top Ballon d'Or awards

FOOTBALL

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN winger Ousmane Dembele won the Ballon d'Or on Monday (Sept 22) as a reward for his starring role in the club's Champions League triumph last season, while Spain's Aitana Bonmati claimed the women's prize for the third year in a row.

Dembele, 28, edged out Barcelona sensation Lamine Yamal as the winner of the most prestigious individual prize in football – an award that for many years had been dominated by Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

Former Borussia Dortmund and Barcelona forward Dembele, who was part of the France team that won the World Cup in 2018, scored 35 goals in all competitions as PSG claimed a French league

and cup double as well as winning the Champions League.

With Dembele converted into a centre-forward following Kylian Mbappe's departure for Real Madrid, PSG went on to hammer Inter Milan 5-0 in the final in Munich to win the European Cup for the first time in their history.

The 18-year-old Yamal won the Kopa Trophy for the best player aged under 21 – the second year running he has taken that award.

Barcelona and Spain midfielder Bonmati, 27, played in the Spain side who were beaten on penalties by England in the Women's Euro 2025 final and was named player of the tournament.

She also lost the Women's Champions League final with her club last season. AFP

Australia skipper Cummins 'hopeful' for Ashes

CRICKET

AUSTRALIA CAPTAIN Pat Cummins says he hopes to play in all five Ashes Tests against England but conceded he will need to see how his back injury holds up.

Pace spearhead Cummins has been ruled out of the October white-ball series against New Zealand and India with "lumbar bone stress".

The 32-year-old has not bowled since the Test tour of the West Indies in June-July and no firm date has been set for his return.

"There are no hard and fast plans yet," he said last Friday (Sept 19).

"I'm still doing a bit of gym and keeping things kicking over, but with this kind of injury, it's rest and then we'll build back and kind of work back from the Ashes," he said.

"Still really hopeful to be able to be part of the Ashes. But it is a little bit of a wait and see.

"It's honestly too far out to say. But the aim at the moment is to try and



Cummins. Photo: AFP

be ready for all of it," he said.

Cummins has suffered serious back issues several times over the years, including a flare-up in 2018 that kept him out of action for a full off-season.

Australia coach Andrew McDonald said this week he was confident Cummins would play a key part in the Ashes.

But he acknowledged to SEN radio that the uncertainty around Cummins "is not ideal", but it was an "overreaction" to say

the skipper would not play.

"It's not ideal. I'm not going to sit here and say that it's ideal," McDonald told the radio station.

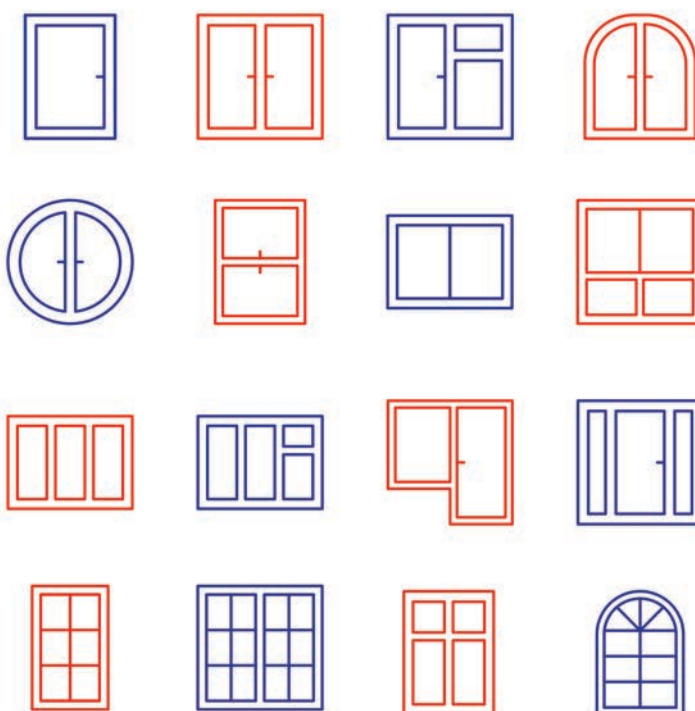
The first Ashes Test against England in Perth starts on Nov 21.

Australia retained the Ashes in England in 2023 after the series ended in a 2-2 draw.

They enjoyed a 4-0 sweep of England at home in 2021-22. Cummins was the leading wicket-taker with 21 scalps at an average of 18. AFP



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Thai shuttlers make history in China > p14

ON TRACK

Surakul Stadium renovations push ahead

Thammawat Wongcharoenyot (left) and Rewat Areerob lead a site inspection at Surakul Stadium on Sept 16. Photo: Sports Association of Phuket Facebook



PHUKET

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Officials have declared that plans are on track to develop Surakul Stadium in line with international quality standards as renovation works at the Wichit-based venue continue.

The 15,000 capacity multi-purpose stadium is undergoing renovations to improve the overall physical infrastructure of the venue, including seating and roofing, electrical and drainage systems, the field surface and the surrounding running track, with a budget of B60 million allocated for the project.

The renovation is being overseen by the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) whose president, Rewat Areerob, led a site inspection on Sept 16 to assess the status of the project.

Mr Rewat was joined by PPAO Vice President Anupap Wetchwanichsanong and the president of the Sports Association of Phuket, Thammawat Wongcharoenyot.

Development work will see the main grandstand improved, with extra seating and lighting introduced and an extended roof built, while the car park is also being enhanced. The entire stadium will be freshly painted and all toilet facilities within the venue will be upgraded.

Mr Thammawat also explained that a new field surface will be implemented utilising the most advanced and safest synthetic 3G turf systems that will enable top-class action to take place on the pitch once completed.

‘INVESTMENT’

The renovation work is the largest in scale at the stadium since it opened in 1959, explained Mr Thammawat, who also serves as the president of local Thai League 3 football club Phuket Andaman FC.

Mr Rewat confirmed that the ongoing renovation work was positive and on target to be finalised before the end of the year, revealing Dec 15 as the date pin-pointed for completion.

“The stadium renovation project is an investment for the people of Phuket,” Mr Rewat said at the site on Sept 16. “The

development plans include enhanced roofing on the stands, improved seating to provide better viewing opportunities for fans and developing the car park facilities.

“Additionally, an indoor mini-football facility is being built, which will be especially important if Phuket wins the right to host the 2027 National Youth Games,” he added.

TRANSPARENT

This followed a site visit on May 6 by Ruenvadee Suwanmongkol, Chief Inspector from the Prime Minister’s Office, Inspection Area 6, and Chairwoman of the Phuket Provincial Governance Committee, who led an inspection team alongside Phiraphi Ongcharoen, Vice Chairwoman of the Phuket Provincial Governance Committee.

Ms Ruenvadee and Ms Phiraphi Ongcharoen were delivered a progress report on site by Rewadee Matsakun, Director of the Construction Engineering Division, who confirmed that work is on track to be completed within the specified timeframe.

Following the onsite visit, a further meeting was conducted at

Phuket Provincial Hall where Ms Ruenvadee reiterated that the project is transparent and in accordance with original plans to provide maximum benefit to local residents.

The work at Surakul Stadium is part of the Phuket Provincial Action Plan for 2025, which includes a total of 19 projects with an overall budget of B360mn.

HEATED

The Stadium was constructed in 1959 by the State Department of Public Works and was selected to co-host the 2008 AFF Suzuki Cup as a last minute replacement to Bangkok after airport takeovers by the People’s Alliance for Democracy resulted in complications flying in and out of the capital.

Surakul is also remembered for hosting a heated King’s Cup encounter between Thailand and Lebanon in 2009 which saw the incensed middle eastern team walk off the pitch before the game had finished, citing biased refereeing decisions as the reason.

Over the years the stadium has served as host venue for a range of tournaments and competitions,

including regional qualifying events for the National Games and the National Handicapped Games, in addition to a host of local youth-based events involving schools across the island.

It is also the only football stadium in Phuket certified by the Football Association of Thailand (FAT) to host national championship matches, serving most recently as the home ground for Phuket Andaman FC.

Affectionately known as The Lobsters, the team played all their home games at Surakul Stadium for the first half of last season before the construction project meant they had to temporarily relocate to Phang Nga Provincial Administrative Organisation Stadium.

They played their first match of the BYD Dolphin League 3 at that venue last Saturday (Sept 20) where they secured their maiden win of the season with a 3-0 victory against Krabi FC.

Despite confirming the anticipated completion date of mid December, officials did not state whether Phuket Andaman FC will be returning to Surakul Stadium as their home base.

Phuket hosts annual ‘Art of Muay Thai’ student competition

MUAY THAI

THE 37TH EDITION OF THE Phuket Vocational College Art of Muay Thai competition took place on Friday, Sept 12.

The annual event sees students who attend the college and who are keen enthusiasts of the Thai national sport compete against one another while promoting the merits of a fit and healthy lifestyle.

The event’s opening ceremony was inaugurated at the Saphan

Hin Sports Center by the head of the Sports Association of Phuket, Thammawat Wongcharoenyot, who was joined by several selected dignitaries.

Among them were: Chalam Attham, Vice President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO); Wittaya Ketchu, Director of Phuket Vocational College; Ratchadaporn Oin, head of the Tourism and Sports Ministry office in Phuket; Thanawut Petchara, Director of the Sports Authority of Thailand, Phuket office; in

addition to executives from various educational institutions and private sector entities, and parents’ networks.

Mr Thammawat explained the annual event is very important in that it leverages sports and fitness to promote a healthy lifestyle among students.

It is also an effective platform to deter youngsters away from negative societal temptations such as drugs and crime, he added.

Mr Thammawat further explained that in addition to sports being a productive way for

students to utilise their spare time, it also helps youngsters develop their mental intelligence via the demand for quick thinking reactions and problem solving techniques.

Mr Wittaya added that the event also helps students to learn how to work as a team while installing the merits of good sportsmanship in knowing how to accept winning and losing.

The event also supports the ‘White House’ drug-free policy and project, and selects students to represent the college in vocational



Photo: Supplied

sports competitions at the provincial, regional and national levels.

Following the opening speeches there was a live musical performance from a brass band and certificates were distributed by the college to Mr Thammawat to acknowledge the ongoing support of the event by the Sports Association of Phuket. *The Phuket News*