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KEEP COVER

A view from the top of the landslide in Baan Kuku, Ratsada, which officials plainly blamed the removal of trees as the cause. Photo: PR Phuket

NEW DRAFT LAW AIMS TO PROTECT GREEN AREAS, KEEP TREE COVER

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A new draft regulation by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) aims to protect green areas specifically in Phuket by enforcing a restriction on how much green areas may be removed from a plot, with a mandate on keeping trees planted on site.

The policy emphasises the need for more trees in Phuket to restore the natural environment, aiming to bring back the island's original green cover, Anuphong Panarat, Secretary to the Governor of Phuket, told *The Phuket News*.

"The draft requires each new

construction to include designated green areas to ensure this. The draft must align with the Thai Constitution, other laws including the Environment Act and Land and Building Control Act," he added.

"At its core, this policy is about returning green spaces to Phuket, which not only benefits the environment but also helps reduce risks of dangers such as floods," Mr Anuphong said.

However, Mr Anuphong cautioned, "It doesn't fully prevent landslides... I would say there are many factors contributing to natural disasters like floods and landslides.

"While having trees and green areas certainly helps, it's important to understand that Phuket's landscape is mostly forested and mountainous. But

these mountains aren't all soil; they have layers of granite that erode with rain. This is a major factor," he said.

"Planting trees and ground cover plants can provide some level of protection, but it's important to recognise that this alone will not fully address the issues of flooding and landslides; it's just one piece of a larger solution," he added.

The move brings some response to incidents such as the landslide in Baan Kuku, Ratsada, on Aug 28 that officials plainly blamed on the removal of tree cover on the adjoining plot, which resulted in a rain-soaked embankment plunging onto homes below.

The disaster affected 11 households and 50 people. In response, Phuket

Province declared Moo 3, Ratsada, as a disaster/emergency disaster relief area due to the flooding and landslide. Even a week after the landslide, five households, consisting of 20 people, opted to stay in a temporary shelter set up. The remaining 30 people were staying with relatives.

The move also brings into question the ongoing investigation into the landslide in Kata on Aug 23 that resulted in 13 deaths, 19 people injured and damage to more than 50 homes.

The Royal Forest Department has launched its investigation, and now pressed charges, for illegal encroachment onto protected forest land at the Big Buddha Viewpoint at the top of the hill where the landslide began...

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Rains wreak havoc with roads, landslips



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Todd Miller relives history at the DNC



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News



Phuket shows mild support for casino > p6



An MNRE Phuket officer inspects a plot to determine that area's ability to soak up rainfall. Photo: MNRE Phuket

Green areas, tree cover get priority

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Forestry officials are investigating whether the illegal car park, which required the removal of trees at the site, caused or contributed to the deadly landslide.

GOING PUBLIC

The Phuket Urban Development Network (PUDA) held a seminar in Phuket Town on Sept 19 to explain the new draft regulation.

In addition to introducing new restrictions for factories and swiftlet buildings, the draft regulation requires that any new building in the Phuket Old Town area must maintain at least 30% of "permeable space" ("to allow to allow surface water to permeate underground") and that trees must be included on site.

In other areas near the coast, at least 50% of a plot area must be maintained as a green area, with trees on site, and plots at the bases of steep slopes must maintain up to 75% of the plot area as a green space, also with trees on site.

While the draft does not stipulate how many trees

must be kept on site, it does mandate that the trees be a native species.

The seminar was led by MNRE Phuket Director Wattanapong Suksai. Attendees included representatives from government, private, and public sectors.

Mr Wattanapong shared that, "Phuket is preparing for a new version of the Ministry's draft regulations concerning the Environmental Protection Area. This draft will update rules and requirements for environmental impact reports (IEE/EIA), land development, and building design in the area."

The Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), under the MNRE, informed *The Phuket News* that the drafting process, which actually began in 2021, is still ongoing.

"The policy is still under development, and no official date for its implementation has been set. More input and discussion are needed before the draft can be finalised," *The Phuket News* was told.

Phuket reservoirs yet to reach 'overflow danger'

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The water levels in Phuket's three main reservoirs have not yet reached 'danger' levels, Kriksak Leenanon, Director of the Phuket Royal Irrigation Department, has assured, but they will by month's end.

Bang Neow Dum Reservoir in Srisoonthorn as of last Friday (Sept 20) was already 93% full, with 6.67 million cubic metres of water, reported the Office of the National Water Resources (ONWR). The reservoir's total capacity is 7.2mn cubic metres.

According to the ONWR, at that time, Bang Wad Reservoir in Kathu was 76% full, with 7.74mn cubic metres of water (capacity 10.2mn cubic metres).

Meanwhile, Klong Kata Reservoir in Chalong was 81% full, with 3.33mn cubic metres of water (capacity 3.49mn cubic metres).

Inflows have risen dramatically in recent days, and weeks, the ONWR also noted, reporting an inflow rate of 0.25mn cubic metres at both the Bang Wad and Bang Neow reservoirs, and an inflow of 0.46mn cubic metres of water at Klong Kata.

Officials nationwide on Sept 19 were ordered to monitor water levels at all reservoirs throughout the country at risk of overflowing, and to take any immediate action to prevent



Bang Neow Dum reservoir in Kathu in August. Image: PR Phuket

further calamity.

"Right now, I insist that it is not dangerous," Mr Kriksak told *The Phuket News*.

"There's a strong chance the reservoirs will reach full capacity. By the end of this month, they're likely to be nearly 100% full," he said.

Mr Kriksak also assured that when the time comes officials will start releasing water through the reservoirs' spillways to make sure they do not overflow.

However, he did not confirm whether officials were already doing that.

"This will not affect people in downstream areas," Mr Kriksak again assured.

"We are still monitoring the situation. The reservoirs can still receive inflows, and

there has been no reason to take any action," he said.

HIGH-LOW

Considering how low the water levels reached by the end of June this year, at the end of a near-month-long heatwave in Phuket, Mr Kriksak still assures there will be enough water supply for the dry season next year.

"I confirm Phuket will have enough water for the upcoming tourism high season, and the dry season next year," he said.

"Our priority is to store as much water as possible during the rainy season. By early each December, the reservoir should be nearly full, ensuring we have enough water to last through the dry season and

provide for residents until the end of June next year," Mr Kriksak said.

"If the reservoirs reach full capacity by then, it will be sufficient to meet these needs," he said.

Of note, according to the ONWR, on June 19 this year the water level at Bang Neow Dum reservoir reached as low as 35% of capacity, while that same day Klong Kata reservoir in Chalong recorded 20.34% of capacity.

Bang Wad reservoir in Kathu, however, as the island's main reservoir, recorded just 9.11% full on June 17.

The low water levels were not reported by Phuket officials. The figures only became available through the historical data published by the ONWR.

Phuket airport again ignores anniversary of One-Two-Go crash

AIRPORTS OF THAILAND, which operates Phuket International Airport (AoT Phuket), has again held no official memorial services in Phuket to remember the 90 people who died in the crash of One-Two-Go flight OG269.

The lack of any remembrance for the victims of what was one of Thailand's deadliest air disasters has been a tradition for local officials. AoT and its staff at Phuket airport have never held any service to remember the victims who died



Photo: AFP

in the crash 17 years ago, on Sept 16, 2007. No service was held soon after the disaster, or even on the first anniversary.

This year, Monchai Tanode, General Manager at Phuket airport, on the anni-

versary of the deadly disaster commemorated World Ozone Day, and joined a meeting with members from the the Economic and Business Research Center at Siam Commercial Bank to assess in-depth macro-

economic research and impact analysis and exchange ideas on the trends of passenger growth at Phuket airport.

Mr Monchai also joined a ceremony to honour staff retiring from working at the airport, complete with bouquets for those about to depart their working life.

Again not remembered was that One-Two-Go Flight 269 crashed during an attempted go-around after an aborted landing amid heavy rain and strong crosswinds in near identical conditions to those affecting Phuket on Sept 16

this year.

The McDonnell Douglas MD-82 with 123 passengers and seven crew members on board was performing a scheduled Bangkok-Phuket flight (OG269).

The plane was scheduled to land at around 3:40pm but on the plane's approach ground control denied landing and instructed the crew to execute a go-around. The plane crashed into one of the runway embankments and burst into flames.

A total of 89 of the 130 people on board died at the

scene, while one survivor succumbed to burn injuries later in hospital. In all, 40 others survived but received various injuries.

Those on board the flight included nationals of Thailand, UK, France, Australia, Canada and other countries.

Following damning reports over safety regulations, the budget airline One-Two-Go was subsequently shut down by its parent company Orient Thai, which ceased operations on Oct 9, 2018.

The Phuket News

Phuket reels from downpours

The Phuket News
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Officials at Karon Municipality last week struggled to counter flash floods that hit the area as heavy downpours continue to soak the island.

Runoff from heavy downpours from the Nakkerd Hills inundated Pak Bang Rd, which parallels the Kata beachfront, slowing traffic and threatening shops in the area.

Local officials took advantage of a break in the rain on Sept 17 to carry out cleanup operations in flood-struck areas while more sandbags were distributed to residents and business operators. Homes at the base of the Nakkerd Hills in Kata remained a key concern as runoff continued to flood the streets with mud.

Deputy Mayor Charoon Udomkitwiboon carried out inspections of affected areas, joined by Phuket Vice Governor Sattha Thongkham along with Rewat Areerob, President of the Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO) and Sopon Thongsai, chief of the Phuket Provincial Disaster Prevention & Mitigation Office (DDPM Phuket).

At the time, the weather warning for Phuket and the surrounding region was extended, with more heavy weather forecast, which continued through Friday and Saturday last week.



Photo: Karon Municipality

Meanwhile, Patong officials last week were forced to take immediate action to prevent landslips in the hills behind the tourism town that endangered homes as heavy downpours continued.

Patong Police confirmed minor landslips at three locations on Sept 19: one in Soi Petchkut; another affecting an unregistered house in Soi Khok Moo off Sirirat Rd; and another in front of the 7-Eleven on Muen-ngern Rd on the way to Tri Trang Beach.

Patong Deputy Mayor Lalita Maneesri, along with other officials, members of the Patong Municipality Council and staff from the Patong Municipality Engineering Division, inspected Soi Khok Moo after receiving a report of a landslide.

Ms Lalita instructed the relevant agencies to bring in machinery and

excavators to clear the soil that was blocking the road, so residents could travel safely and easily.

The landslide occurred on a road next to a steep hill where tree cover had been removed, making the area prone to more landslides, especially if the rain continued, Patong Municipality noted in its report.

There were several people living nearby, increasing the risk, the report added.

Patong Police were also called to Soi 6, Kalim, where a house was damaged by a tree that had fallen onto the home after another small soil slide. The home suffered damage, but no injuries were reported.

Further north, heavy rain and strong winds felled a large tree onto high-voltage power lines, obstructing traffic on the Kamala-Patong road. Patong Traffic Police were soon on

the scene to section off the danger area and direct traffic around the site.

Officials from the Patong branch of the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA Patong) arrived to make repairs to the power lines and have the fallen tree removed, with normal traffic flow restored within a few hours.

'RESCUED'

Sailors from the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command on Sept 18 safely brought back to Phuket 143 tourists who were left stranded on Racha Yai Island by the severe weather conditions.

Heavy weather had made it impossible for the foreign tourists to make the journey safely back to Phuket, the Third Area Command, based at Cape Panwa, reported.

Heavy rain and strong winds created waves up to four metres high, preventing the arrival of tourist boats, the Navy noted in its brief report.

In response to the situation, the Third Naval Area Command deployed personnel from the Marine Security Unit, along with the vessel T-111, to carry out what it called a "rescue mission".

After receiving a request for assistance, naval forces successfully evacuated all tourists, bringing them safely to Phuket Deep Sea port.

The operation was completed smoothly, and no injuries were reported, the Third Area Com-

mand noted.

LOST AND FOUND

Chalong Police are urging motorists who lost licence plates while driving through floodwaters last week to contact them in case their licence plates have been found and handed in.

Chalong Police posted online photos of several licence plates handed in, including from Phuket, Bangkok and Phitsanulok.

Chalong suffered flash floods from heavy downpours in several areas on Monday (Sept 16), with motorists struggling to pass floodwaters across both Chao Fa East and Chao Fa West roads.

"You can ask for your licence plate at Chalong Police Station (all that are currently available). We will update you if someone brings more," Chalong Police said in their notice posted online last Friday (Sept 20).

Chalong Police can be contacted at Tel: 076-381247, through their Facebook page, or through their official website.

As of Tuesday (Sept 24), when more rain fell across the island, PhuketMet reported that more than 619mm of rainfall had already soaked Phuket this month, with the island already recording 1,984mm of rainfall this year.

Additional reporting by Eakkapop Thongtub

Patong beach awash with trash

A LARGE SECTION OF Patong Beach found itself awash with trash and plastic waste as the southwestern monsoon continued to push onwards onto Phuket's west coast late last Sunday afternoon (Sept 22).

A local expat, who has been living in Phuket for about five years, told *The Phuket News* that the area he saw affected was along the northern part of the beach.

"It had finally stopped raining and I went over the hill to enjoy the sunset, and this is what greeted me," he explained.

"This is typical after a big storm. A lot of trash is washed ashore," the expat lamented.

The expat noted that he had not seen the same amount of trash still strewn along the shore since COVID, "when there was no one to clean the beaches".

"We see this in the news all the time, but you need truly appreciate it until you see it like this yourself," the expat said.

Patong Municipality, which has an excellent record of mobilising workers to



Photo: Supplied

clean the beach after major incidents, has yet to report the volume of trash washed ashore, or any cleanup efforts.

The expat noted that much of the waste was discarded food containers. It was his understanding that while waste often washes ashore from fishing boats and other vessels passing Phuket's west coast – namely the huge volume of marine traffic making its way through the Malacca Strait – land sourced waste finding its way into the waters off

Phuket was also very likely.

"People need to be more aware of what they do with their waste. They may not be near a rubbish bin, but they can hold on to it until they are, or just take it home with them," the expat urged.

"You can see that any plastic not cleaned up from the beach, such as the blue drinking water bottle caps, breaks down over time. All this of course ends up in marine life, and continues to discolour the sand on the beach," he added.

The Phuket News

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Wind 4 m/s

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THU OCTOBER 3

High: +36°
Low: +27°
Wind 4 m/s

Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Ice delivery man injured in market shooting

A STRAY BULLET INJURED a bystander ice delivery man during an altercation between two other men at the Ko Beng Baan Pon Market in Srisoonthorn on Monday night (Sept 23).

Thalang Police were called to the market at 7:16pm.

The victim, identified as 50-year-old Boonlod Phanthuphan, was delivering ice when he was struck by a bullet in the right shoulder.

Fortunately, his injury was minor, and he was conscious when he was taken to Thalang Hospital by Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers.

According to initial reports, the altercation involved the market owner, Manas Kocharoenkit, 68, also known as 'Ko Beng', and Kittisak Sotraksa, or 'Kamnan Piek', 64, a former headman of Tambon

Srisoonthorn.

The two men had previously been business partners but had a falling out, leading Kamnan Piek to open a new market about a kilometre away.

Earlier in the day, Kittisak visited Ko Beng's market to invite vendors to relocate to his new market, which sparked the argument.

In a moment of anger, Manas pulled out a gun to threaten Kittisak. Two shots were fired, with one of the bullets hitting Mr Boonlod instead.

After the shooting, both Manas and Kittisak fled the scene. However, Manas later turned himself in at Thalang Police Station, where he at last report he remained in custody.

Police said their investigation into the shooting was ongoing.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Woman arrested driving car of murdered woman

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Police have arrested a 27-year-old woman after tracking the black MG3 car she was driving, which was involved in a robbery-murder case in Nakhon Pathom.

The arrest was made after the car's GPS signal was detected in Phuket, leading officers to the suspect near Phuket International Airport on Sept 19.

The case began on Sept 10, when Thitirat Chatiput, a 47-year-old GrabCar driver in Nakhon Pathom, was reported missing by her family. She was later found dead on Sept 19.

Her body was found in a ditch along Nakhon Chai Si-Huai Phlu Road in Nakhon Pathom Province. Her black MG3 car, with licence plate number 6 Kor Chor 7998, was missing, prompting authorities to suspect a robbery-murder.

The car's GPS signal was detected in Nakhon Sawan Province on Sept 13, and later spotted on CCTV in Phuket.

Police across the island began their search to locate the vehicle. The Investigation Unit of Region 8 Police and Sakhu Police tracked the car to



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

a condo near the airport, where they found the driver, Yadfa Khamsit. She was taken into custody without resistance.

Ms Yadfa claimed she had bought the car from her brother-in-law, Pol Lt Thanitsak Suriyapraphat, in Nakhon Sawan Province. She said she had no knowledge of the vehicle's connection to any crime and was unaware of any wrongdoing.

Phuket police have transferred the case to Nakhon Pathom authorities, where further investigation will determine Ms Yadfa's involvement. Currently, no charges have been filed in Phuket, and Ms Yadfa is cooperating as a witness.

The investigation continues as authorities in both provinces

work together to uncover the full details of the case.

The reputation of police in Nakhon Sawan remains tarnished by the arrest, charged and conviction of Pol Col Thitisan "Joe Ferrari" Utthanaphon, who was head of Nakhon Sawan police station when he was charged with murdering Chiraphong Thanapat, a 24-year-old drug suspect, in 2022.

Thitisan was tried for killing the suspect by putting a plastic bag over his head, suffocating him.

The Central Criminal Court for Corruption and Misconduct initially gave him the death penalty on June 8 this year, but commuted the sentence to life because he confessed to some charges.

Drug dealer arrested in mangrove forest raid

AN INVESTIGATION team from Thalang Police, joined by local patrol officers, arrested a man wanted on drug charges who was found hiding in a mangrove forest in Pa Khlok last week.

The operation, on Sept 18, was led by Pol Lt Col Suchart Luecha, Inspector of Investigation at Thalang Police, said a report of the raid. Thalang Police reported no less than six senior-ranked officers as involved in the raid.

The raid occurred in the Klong Tha Sak area in Pa Khlok. During the raid, officers apprehended Rachen Sason, 45, from Sakon Nakhon Province.

Rachen was found him in possession of 189 methamphetamine pills (ya bah).



Photo: Thalang Police

The suspect, along with the seized drugs, was taken into custody and charged with "possession of Category 1 narcotics (methamphetamine pills) for sale without permission."

Officers were continuing their investigation to crack down on drug-related activities in the area, police noted.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Woman killed, struck by taxi

A 33-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS KILLED when the motorbike she was riding was struck head-on by a green plate taxi on the wrong side of the road in Cherng Talay early on Sept 18.

Police were called to the scene, on Srisoonthorn Rd near the Party Party Store, about 230 metres north of Soi Bang Tao 2, at about 5:30am.

Chakpong Phunphon, 36, the driver of a grey Toyota green plate taxi, with a 'Phuket International Airport' sticker on its side, was at the scene when police arrived.

The taxi, which had stopped on the far right side of the road, facing into oncoming traffic, had sustained heavy damage to its front right, and its windshield was cracked, from the impact.

Some 20 metres behind the taxi was a Phuket-registered Honda Wave 110i motorbike on its side by the side of the road.

About another 20 metres before the motorbike was the body of 33-year-old Thai woman Dueanphen Kaosuan. Her body was taken to Thalang Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.



Photo: Cherng Talay Police

Chakpong told police that he was driving from Kamala towards the airport, when the accident happened.

He claimed not to know how the accident occurred, only realising after the collision that his car had struck the motorcyclist.

Officers at the scene noted that despite the ongoing wet weather at the time, the section of road where the collision occurred the road at that time of the collision was dry.

Chakpong was taken to Cherng Talay Police Station for further questioning, and a breathalyser test showed a blood alcohol level of 0%.

Police have informed Ms Dueanphen's relatives of her death, and said the investigation was ongoing. Eakkapop Thongtub

Art exhibition highlights colours of Phuket life

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

An art exhibition curated by young artists that aims to convey the true essence of life in Phuket opened last Saturday (Sept 21).

“Trapped on an Island” is being held at the Phuket Contemporary Art Gallery at Provincial Hall until Sept 30 and sees works on display by 45 young artists from all over Thailand who are all under the age of 35.

The event is part of the TIDKOR Young Contemporary Art and Exhibition being held under the 3rd International Contemporary Art Festival project which is showcasing Phuket as a city of creative arts and culture ahead of the province hosting the Thailand Biennale next year.

Kesorn Kamnerdpetch, Deputy Director of Contemporary Arts and Culture, presided over the opening ceremony and was joined by: Anchalee Vanich Thepbutr, President of Phuket Art Association; Prof Bin Muangchan, President of the Southern International Artist Association; Prof Sakchai Uthito, President of the Isan Artist Association; Prof Suwit Jaipom, President of the Khua Art Chiang Rai Association; as well as the artists whose work is on display during the exhibition.

The artists created their works during a three-day, two-night period in Phuket



Photo: PR Phuket

from Sept 17-21, using their experiences on the island to inspire a depiction of a range of topics through contemporary art works, including the arts, culture, traditions, history, tourist attractions, climate, physical characteristics and food.

The exhibition is designed to resemble a journey around the island where one travels from beach to beach and to the city, incorporating all Phuket has to offer along the way.

The use of colour has been used to depict certain meanings and characteristics of a specific area. For example, turquoise blue has been widely used to represent the northern area of Phuket, such as the sea at Mai Khao Beach, which is considered tranquil and clear.

Similarly, orange has been used to represent the west of the island, depicting spectacular sunsets in areas such as Bang Tao, Surin, Kata, Karon and Patong. Red has been used to represent the east to emphasise the long history and continuation of Chinese culture in Phuket Town, while golden yellow has been used to represent the south to reflect highlights like Promthep Cape. Finally, emerald green has been used to represent central Phuket, to mirror the lush green landscapes in the area.

While the exhibition is designed to convey the essence of Phuket, there is also an interactive live presentation of artworks called “What is your Phuket like?” with which visitors can engage.



Photo: Karon Police

Rare dolphin found washed ashore at Kata Noi Beach

THE CARCASS OF A RARE breed of dolphin known as ‘Risso’s Dolphin’ was found washed ashore entangled in a pile of rubbish and construction rubble at Kata Noi Beach last Saturday (Sept 21).

Marine biologists from Sireetarn Marine Endangered Animal Rescue Center were informed of the discovery at about 7am.

Officers arrived to find the remains amid large chunks of concrete and other debris, including wood and plastic.

It was not known whether the dolphin washed ashore alive during the heavy weather at that time and became trapped in the pile of rubbish, or whether it was already dead and washed ashore amid the pile.

Officials noted that the dolphin was a ‘Risso’s dolphin’, a rare breed that typically lives

in deep seas.

Risso’s dolphins are “the only species of the genus Grampus. Some of the closest related species to these dolphins include: pilot whales (Globicephala spp.), pygmy killer whales (Feresa attenuata), melon-headed whales (Peponocephala electra), and false killer whales,” explains Wikipedia.

The carcass was an adult dolphin about four metres long and weighing more than 100kg, officers added. There were wounds and abrasions on the body.

Officers contacted Karon Police and Karon Municipality for assistance to lift the carcass onto the back of a truck so it could be transported back to the Sireetarn centre for post-mortem examination to determine the cause of death.

Eakkapop Thongtub



Photo: TAT

Shrines ready for Veg Fest

SOME 39 CHINESE SHRINES across Phuket have begun intensive cleaning and other preparations for this year’s Phuket Vegetarian Festival, which begins on Wednesday (Oct 2), when devotees will be raising Go Teng poles, welcoming the Jade Emperor and the Nine Emperor Gods to descend from the heavens.

This year’s festival will officially begin on Thursday (Oct 3), and continue for the traditional nine days, concluding with the lowering of the Go Teng poles on Oct 12.

In preparation for the large volume of vegetarian dishes to be cooked at the shrines during the festival, efforts last week focussed on clean-

ing cooking appliances and kitchenware such as pots and pans, as well as plates, knives, forks and spoons. Also cleaned were items and relics used to perform rituals and ceremonies throughout the festival.

Motorists are advised to plan their trips in advance and be extra careful near Chinese shrines while the festival is underway.

Devotees from the Jchoor-Si Gong Naka Shrine will be the first to take to the streets for their street procession, starting at 7:30am on Oct 4. All participating shrines will hold their street processions in the days following.

Street processions will af-

fect traffic in nearly all parts of the island, especially in Phuket Town where Traffic Police have advised motorists to keep clear of procession routes while processions are underway.

The final night of festivities for the festival draw to a close on Oct 11, in a blaze of firecrackers and fireworks as the major shrines taking part in the festival hold their final street processions through the heart of Phuket Town.

The Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT Phuket) last year estimated the Phuket Vegetarian Festival to generate B9 billion for the local economy.

The Phuket News

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SANSIRI, Thailand's 'Most Trusted' Brand Launches 'Canvas Cherngtalay'

First Luxury Condominium in the New Expat Investment and Lifestyle Heartland of Cherngtalay, Phuket

ADVERTORIAL

Mr. Ongart Suwannakul, Deputy Executive Vice President for High-Rise Project Development at Sansiri Public Company Limited, said, 'As one of Thailand's oldest and most trusted full-service real estate developers with over 40 years track record, recently voted No.1 position among Thai residential real estate developers in the first-ever Fortune Southeast Asia 500 list, we are proud to have contributed to Phuket's development for over 13 years, having successfully completed a portfolio of 21 projects on the island valued at 21 billion baht. These include notable developments such as condominiums Baan Mai Khao Phuket, THE BASE Central Phuket, THE DECK Patong and Saransiri Kohkaew, a housing project.

'Our first venture in vibrant Cherngtalay - comparable to Bangkok's coolest neighborhoods like Phrom



Phong-Thonglor - positions us to meet the high demand from a diverse range of nationalities, including Russians, Europeans, and Americans. As we continue to reinforce our standing as the leading residential real estate company, this project, with its proximity to Bangtao Beach, lush surroundings, and comprehensive amenities, presents an ideal choice for those seeking a primary residence, second home or an investment opportunity in Phuket with great potential rental yields of 8-12% per annum.'

CANVAS Cherngtalay, Sansiri's first luxury low-

rise condominium in prime Cherngtalay-Bangtao (Laguna zone), Phuket's most sought-after area, is situated on a generous six-rai plot with a project value of 1.8 billion baht. The development encompasses a diverse range of 175 fully furnished units with several layouts to suit various lifestyles, with prices ranging from 8.9 to 20.5 million baht. These include one-bedroom units (39.25 - 49.75 sq.m.), two-bedroom units (58.50 - 82.75 sq.m.), and exclusive penthouses (83.00 - 105 sq.m.). Particularly appealing are the rare collections of 'Pool

Access' residences and the limited-edition 'Penthouses with Private Rooftops,' targeted at investors and buyers seeking second homes or vacation properties. All units are considered investment grade with attractive rental yields of up to 8-12% per annum.

The residence stands out with its OASIS concept, embodying "UNREVEALED BEAUTY". Offering an extraordinary life in a development where every moment captivates the senses, and serene breezes flow through more than 1,000 sq.m. of common areas. The Luxury

Tropical Garden surrounds two expansive lagoon swimming pools, while noteworthy amenities include a glamorous co-working lounge and a fully equipped clubhouse featuring a Golf Simulator Suite, a state-of-the-art Fitness Centre, and a Sunset BBQ Terrace. Meanwhile, PLUS PROPERTY ensures a premium living experience through continuous after-sales services, property management, and rental services, complemented by LIV-24, a comprehensive international standard security service.

Residents will enjoy a vibrant neighborhood with major attractions including Boat Avenue Park & Playground just steps away, and desirable shops, restaurants and cafés, such as Bartels, Daily Dose, Bake cafes, Porto de Phuket, Boat Avenue, Catch Beach Club close by, as they take advantage of unparalleled connectivity to key areas and destinations of Phuket, such as Boat Galleria, Laguna Phuket Golf Club, Laguna Holiday Club, HeadStart International

School Phuket, and leading health clubs.

'With EIA approval and construction underway, Sansiri expects to complete and deliver units by early 2026. We are confident that CANVAS Cherngtalay will exceed expectations for high-quality luxury living spaces and set a new benchmark in residential investment for years to come,' Mr. Ongart concluded.

CANVAS Cherngtalay is ready for Early Bird reservations! To ensure you don't miss out on this valuable asset, register for a unit featuring complete furnishings and appliances from now until 14 October 2024. Special offers include discounts of up to 600,000 baht and a complimentary one-year PLUS PROPERTY care package. The Show Unit and Sales Gallery will be open for viewings from October onwards.

To experience the new pinnacle of luxury living in Phuket and receive exclusive offers, please call 1685 or www.sansiri.com/condominium/canvas-cherngtalay/en/

Phuket punts tempered support for casino

LEADING PHUKET TOURISM figures have voiced their support for the island playing host to a casino, but have also voiced concerns over how it will affect the island and the island's tourism image.

Weerawit Krueasombat, President of the Patong Entertainment Business Association (PEBA), said that he believes it is a good idea to have an integrated complex that includes a casino in a major tourist city.

Such a complex should be developed on a full scale with all matters considered, including tax regulation, to draw in investors and increase money circulating in the country, he said.

Mr Weerawit said Phuket's less-developed areas, such as near Phuket airport, as potential sites instead of a 'downtown' zone.

Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) President Thaneth Tantipiriyakit said he agreed with the entertainment complex idea, but questioned the necessity of a casino.

The PTA, he said, doubted if the casino would have a big impact on tourist numbers, especially repeat visitors. He asked whether the government had conducted a study on such a matter.

"We believe the charm of Phuket lies in its natural beauty,



A croupier at an illegal casino in Nonthaburi when immigration police raided it in November last year. Photo: Immigration Bureau via Bangkok Post

culture and many unique features that have attracted return tourists from around the world and generated economic growth," Mr Thaneth said.

He said most renowned casino destinations in the world are built in areas where there are no natural or cultural attractions so they need to build something to draw people in. That was never the case with Phuket.

The PTA was also concerned about the shareholding structure and questioned the requirement for investors to have a registered capital of at least B10 billion. "How many Thai companies have this level of capital?" he asked, criticising the rule as being favourable to large companies.

"In the past four decades, Phuket's tourism revenue has grown from tens of millions to

hundreds of billions of baht. Many local businesses, especially in the hotel industry, have contributed to this growth by considering long-term impacts.

"If large foreign investors come in, the island's future would be uncertain as investors might just take the profits and leave us the problems," he said.

Mr Thaneth said what the locals need is development of infrastructure, such as more roads, better public transport, an adequate water supply, wastewater treatment and waste management.

He also said there are concerns about social impacts and potential harm to residents if a casino is set up.

Mr Weerawit of the PEBA agreed, suggesting that the government come up with clear measures to protect vulnerable locals from falling victim to gambling.

Mr Thaneth said that from January to July, Phuket earned B284 billion from 7.6 million visitors, with an average hotel booking rate of 82.57%.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) estimated the island's revenue from the tourism sector this year at B500bn. "This clearly has nothing to do with casinos," Mr Thaneth said.

The Phuket News

'Digital nomad' visa promotion stepped up

THE GOVERNMENT IS STEPPING up the promotion of its new Destination Thailand Visa (DTV) to attract foreign nationals who wish to work while travelling in Thailand, according to Foreign Affairs Minister Maris Sangiampongsa.

Speaking to reporters on Sept 19, Mr Maris said his ministry played a key role in the promotion of the DTV, which is expected to help generate revenue for the country.

"It will help facilitate foreign people who would like to stay for a long time in Thailand and also work long-distance," he said.

"A friend of my son's has been working with (US-based) Disney World but he is spending most of his time in Phuket - for six months already," he added.

He said he had heard that some hotel operators in Phuket have launched special packages to foreign 'digital nomads' who want to live in Thailand while working remotely for overseas employers at the same time.

Such individuals are a key target market for the Destination Thailand Visa.

Mr Maris said foreign nationals using the DTV will not have to worry about their visas expiring too soon or complex visa procedures.

Under the DTV, foreign nationals can stay in Thailand for longer. They



Foreign Affairs Minister Maris Sangiampongsa. Photo: Bangkok Post

are considered 'global talents' who will bring unique skills to Thailand's economy, the minister said.

Moreover, their presence is expected to benefit the country's economy as a whole, from local vendors to restaurants, hotels and tourist attractions.

"The programme is expected to generate income for local people as these foreign people can spend their money in local areas where they live and work at the same time for between six months to one year in Thailand," he said.

"This will also help stimulate the Thai economy," he added. "I welcome all of those who would like to come and work [while] in Thailand."

Those entering using the DTV can stay in Thailand for up to 180 days per visit, with the option of extending it for another 180 days, for up to a year. Bangkok Post

New tests for drunk drivers

Floods continue to ravage the North

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

A new regulation will allow police to take urine or blood samples to test the blood alcohol levels of drivers who refuse to blow into a breathalyser device.

The announcement was published in the *Royal Gazette* last Friday (Sept 20) and replaces two ministerial regulations issued in 1994 and 2017 which focused on the use of breathalysers as the main method for testing for drunk drivers.

The new regulation aims to make the alcohol testing processes more suited for today's situation while improving the effectiveness of legal applications to prevent cases of drunk driving. It is unclear how many more drivers the change is likely to net.

The regulation allows police to collect the urine samples of suspected drunk drivers or send them to hospital for blood tests if they refuse to take a breathalyser test.

For the urine test, police officers are instructed to seek the driver's consent before conducting the test. They are instructed to give drivers a secure location to urinate in a sealable container and officers will maintain control over a gathering area to prevent drivers from exchanging samples.

The urine samples will then be required to be sent to a nearby hospital for a laboratory test.

For the blood test, the regulation



The new regulation aims to enhance the effectiveness of legal applications to prevent cases of drunk driving. Photo: Bangkok Post

instructs police to bring the driver to a nearby hospital for a medical test.

Drivers with more than 50 milligrammes of alcohol, or 20mg for those under 20 years old, in their bodies are considered intoxicated and will be charged with drunk driving, according to the regulation.

The law also says that it shall be assumed that a driver who refuses to be examined by a doctor without good reason has a blood alcohol level exceeding the legal limit.

The doctor at the hospital shall record the refusal and notify the police to proceed with an investigation of the case.

The previous government on Jan 30 approved an amendment to the Land Transportation Act to allow alcohol level tests on drivers within three hours of being stopped by the police.

At the time, Karom Polpornklang, who was then-deputy spokesman for the government, said the amended law would help expand the ways to identify drunk drivers beyond the use of breathalysers.

The announcement comes after the Don't Drive Drunk Foundation (DDD) filed a petition earlier this year to a House committee studying the Alcohol Control Act amendment, demanding more severe punishment for those charged with offences related to driving under the influence.

The June 4 petition demanded that any shops that sell alcohol to minors involved in a drunk-driving accident, which results in a fatality, face both civil and criminal charges and have their licence revoked, while operators of such establishments are also to compensate victims.

CHIANG RAI

THE FLOOD SITUATION in Chiang Rai remains critical as some areas in the province have been hit by more flash floods and landslides, inundating several villages and blocking a main road connecting the province with Chiang Mai.

Atipach Chomdang, director of the Hydrological Division Chiang Rai, on Monday (Sept 23) issued a warning that excessive rainfall in Ban Pa Sang Pattana and Ban Rong in Wiang Pa Pao district could cause flash floods there.

According to him, heavy rain on Sunday night resulted in the Lao River overflowing in the district, affecting about 30 households in Pa Ngew, Ban Pong and Wiang sub-districts.

Mr Atipach also reported landslides in tambon Mae Chedi Mai, which blocked traffic in the area before local authorities removed the blockage.

He also confirmed that Highway 118, which links Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai, was closed due to heavy flooding.



Flooding in Chiang Rai. Photo: Bangkok Post

Chiang Rai governor Puttipong Sirimat said Monday he had met with local agencies to follow up on the province's flood recovery operations, including a "big clean-up" mission.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Anutin Charnvirakul was due to ask the Cabinet on Tuesday to consider exempting flood victims from paying this month's electricity and water bills.

Anutin said the proposal is meant to help residents living in areas which have been declared a disaster zone.

"The main focus now is to help and support flood victims so their lives can return to normal as quickly as possible," he said.

Bangkok Post

Government upgrades regulations on superyachts visiting Thai waters

BANGKOK

THE TRANSPORT Ministry has upgraded its regulations on the size of super yachts plying Thai waters, to promote Thailand as an Asian marina hub.

Deputy Minister Manaporn Charoensri said last Friday (Sept 20) the Marine Department recently amended a regulation for superyacht and sports boat arrivals to support the current maritime situation and promote the marine tourism business.

"The regulation has been in place since August 2015. It needs to be revised to be consistent with the current situation. The regulation supports the government's policy by focusing on wealthy foreign tourists," she said.

"Thailand is set to become a regional centre for ocean tourism and cruise ship travel due to the government's efforts to promote the country as an Asian marina hub," she added.



Photo: Thailand International Boat Show

The Marine Department director, Kritpetch Chaichuay, said the new rule amends the definitions of such vessels.

The length of big cruising and sports boats (super yachts) has been lowered from the previous 30 metres-plus, carrying a maximum of 12 passengers, to 24 metres and over, carrying a maximum of 12 passengers, in line with international standards.

The insurance policy has a coverage amount of at least US\$5 million, or about B171mn, per incident.


Mr Kritpetch said application for permission can be made through the electronic service system, and supporting documents can be provided in Thai or

English. The time frame for considering permission has also been set to be within 25 working days.

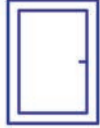





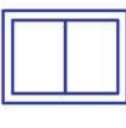

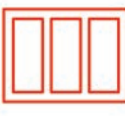







The Ministry of Transport has also noted a growing number of yachts longer than 24 metres entering and leaving Phuket over the past three years, with data showing that 41 super yachts arrived in Phuket in 2021 compared to 117 in 2022 and 148 in 2023.




Phuket and Koh Samui were the most popular destinations for vessels on the Andaman and Gulf of Thailand sides, respectively. According to the ministry, it is now working on two cruise terminal projects in Laem Chabang Port and Koh Samui.

Bangkok Post



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Permission to be healthy

WELLTHWISE

Libby Heath

The first step of a wellness journey does not even require that you get out of bed. Could it be any easier? What it does require is that you know your mindset – your set of beliefs, attitudes or perceptions about yourself. Mindset influences how you interpret situations, react to challenges and deal with disappointments.

In my previous column, I described a wellness stool. The three legs of movement, nourishment and sleep found balance and stability by connecting with the seat of knowledge, experience and mindset. If your mindset is positive, you will find success. If your mindset is negative, you will fail.

The renowned Stanford University Psychologist Carol Dweck is a leading researcher on motivations and mindsets. In her 2006 book 'Mindset: The New Psychology of Success', she coined the terms 'Fixed Mindset' and 'Growth Mindset'. A fixed mindset is the belief that capabilities and intelligence are unchangeable. Those who have a fixed mindset tend to avoid challenges, see effort as futile and feel threatened by the success of others. A growth mindset is the belief that capabilities and intelligence can be developed and improved with effort. Those who have a growth mindset embrace challenges, persevere through setbacks and are inspired by the accomplishments of others.

How is mindset formed? We are all products of the accumulation of our experiences, the good and bad. I know of no one who has followed a straight-line trajectory through the course of their lives. Most have hit speed bumps along the way. Many have fallen off



Photo: Jon Flobrant / Unsplash

metaphorical cliffs and yet somehow sprouted wings to lift themselves up. We all have stories. Childhood experiences or an incident from yesterday can influence mindset. One can also have a mixed mindset. For example, someone who gets excited about learning a new language, but believes that they 'are no good at math'.

Many people approach wellness with a mixed mindset. They want to have more energy. They wish for deep rest. They would love to fit into their skinny jeans. And yet, the sofa calls their name, too much afternoon coffee has made them jittery, and the jeans have become buried treasure.

How do you shift from a fixed mindset to a growth mindset?

1. Acknowledge your fixed mindset thoughts. When you think 'I can't do this,' call yourself out kindly. Acknowledge your truth. Acknowledge that change can be hard. Acknowledge that new habits take time to solidify. Grant yourself permission to experiment, which incorporates missteps, until you find an activity or process that serves you.

2. Question your belief. Is it true? Is it important to you? Replace 'I can't do this' with 'If I try, I can

work toward it.' Setting realistic goals is part of the equation. For example, I have challenged myself to walk at least four miles every day. I usually break it into segments depending on my available time. Some days I walk more, some days less, but the net effect is productive. I have achieved the goal of adding deliberate movement to my daily routine.

3. Embrace Challenges. Grant yourself permission to struggle and expect setbacks to get to your goal. Something as seemingly simple as no more food after dinner time is extremely challenging for the person who always has a bedtime snack. Understand the reason behind your desired change, applaud yourself each time you are successful.

4. Consider setbacks as learning opportunities. 'What can I do differently next time?' Allow yourself to feel emotions and process them constructively. Reframe goals into smaller achievable bites. Each small success can lead to bigger accomplishments.

5. Focus on effort over outcome. Recognise that a desired result requires work. Believe that you can do the work. Grant yourself a reasonable amount of time in which to achieve your goals. Most of us did not go from a point of abundant wellness to a lack of wellness overnight. The reverse is also true.

6. Lastly, seek support. Surround yourself with people who offer encouragement and perspective. Avoid those with a fixed mindset who may sabotage your efforts. There is an African proverb that says, 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.' Is the rest of your life far enough?

Now, get out of the bed, and let's go!

Libby Heath shares her insights and advice through her new 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



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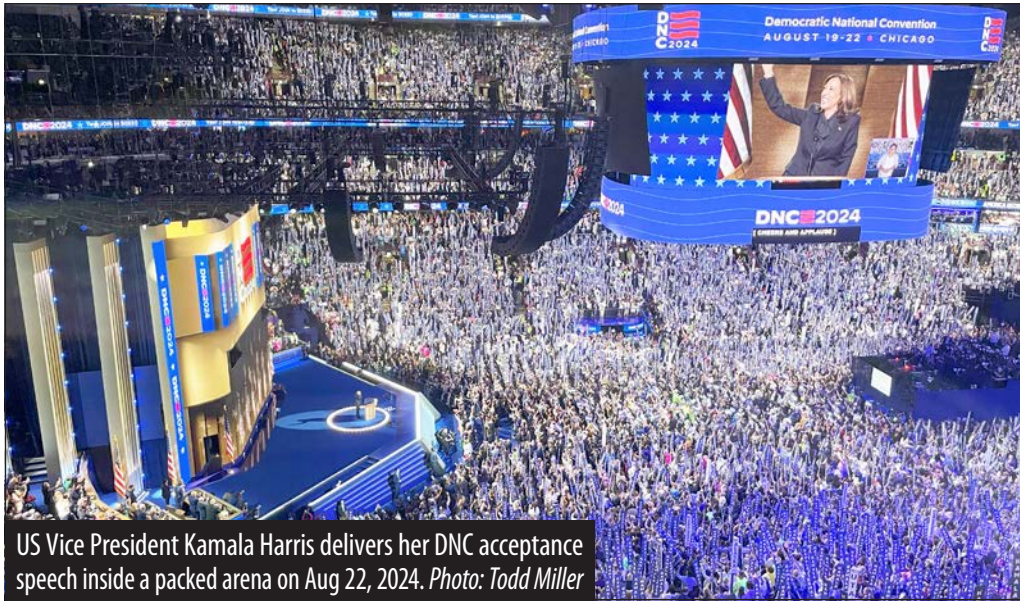
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US Vice President Kamala Harris delivers her DNC acceptance speech inside a packed arena on Aug 22, 2024. Photo: Todd Miller



A pro Palestine protest near the United Center on the first day of the DNC. Photo: Todd Miller

At the DNC: Is this 'moment' a movement?



GLOBETROTTER

Todd Miller

Ah, Chicago, where the pizza is deep and the hot dogs are naked. If you found yourself in the Windy City in late August attending the Democratic National Convention (DNC), as I did as a credentialed journalist representing *The Phuket News*, you were in for a political spectacle for the ages.

This year's DNC wasn't just another political convention – it culminated a breathtaking series of compressed events that surprised nearly everyone. A month before the convention, I was hesitant to attend. "It will be about as fun as attending a wake", I confessed to friends the night before President Joe Biden's decision to exit the race. Equally stunning was the rapid coalescence of support for Vice President Kamala Harris to lead the renewed campaign. This from a political party famous for its diverse and sometimes divergent views ("a big tent", as Democrats like to say).

Overnight, the American presidential election, which for much of this year has seemed like a tired rerun of a movie everyone's seen, scrambled. And the DNC became the hottest ticket in town.

Political conventions in the United States are a quirky mash-up of speeches, pep rally and policy wonking packaged into a four-day prime time television special. The function of a convention is to nominate candidates, a largely ceremonious process; unify the party; and set the stage for the upcoming election. Here's my take on the political spectacle that unfolded, seemingly organically, in Chicago:

The Atmosphere: Walking into the United Center, normally the home court for the Chicago Bulls, felt like stepping onto Bourbon Street during Mardi Gras. The arena overflowed with partisan passion. The energy was electric and infectious. The excitement was palpable among delegates decked out in patriotic colours and funny hats, waving signs and chanting slogans like "Thank You Joe" and "We're Not Going Back". "Something magical is in the air," proclaimed Michelle Obama at the top of her stirring address.

The Speeches: Over four days I heard more than 20 hours of political oratory, not counting the videos, music and other interstitial content that rounded out the main event programming. I was

impressed by the quality and range of speeches, and the deep talent of speakers – a mix of political heavyweights, rising stars and a few surprises that made the content as innovative as it was impactful. The speakers were a who's who of the Democratic Party, including the Obamas and the Clintons, senators and governors. President Joe Biden delivered an emotional "pass the baton" speech. But the breakout hit was the crop of eloquent younger leaders, and the generational change they represent.

The Surprises: Traditionally, the convention nominee doesn't address the audience until the final night. Kamala Harris broke tradition with two made-for television cameo appearances. The first on night one with Beyoncé's 'Freedom', the de facto campaign theme song, heralding her arrival. After receiving the party's nomination the following day, Harris and her running mate Tim Walz made a virtual appearance from a rally in Milwaukee, which took place simultaneously. This represented a powerful message that this political duo can pack two arenas at the same time.

Oprah Winfrey, possibly the closest American to enjoy 'royalty' status, surprised everyone with her debut appearance at a political convention on night three. Oprah urged voters to "choose joy" and reminded the audience that even amid political battles, a little positivity can go a long way.

Various musical legends, including John Legend, Stevie Wonder, Pink and The Dixie Chicks, gave rousing performances. James Taylor was expected to perform on the first night, but to my disappointment was cut from the programming when the speeches ran too long. Throughout the week there were on-off rumours that Beyoncé would show up. She didn't.

The Host City: The week wasn't all political. Chicago offers much to entertain a visitor, and we dove in. We enjoyed deep dish pizza at Giordano's and Lou Malnatis. We sampled an Italian sandwich at Mr Beef, the restaurant that inspired the hit Emmy-winning TV series 'The Bear'. (The sandwich was so greasy we immediately went to another restaurant afterward to order a salad to compensate.) We burned off the calories by walking the Riverwalk, a beautiful promenade along a branch of the Chicago River that cuts through downtown. We laughed throughout an improv sketch comedy show by The Second City, one of the country's most prolific comedy incubators. At the gorgeous Cadillac Theater,

we were thrilled by a matinee performance of 'Back to the Future', a musical based on the 1980s hit film that features cinematic quality special effects.

The 2024 DNC is now history. It was a big moment for sure: a woman of colour at the top of a major party's ticket is a powerful symbol. But the enthusiasm that permeated United Center suggests the DNC might be more than just a moment. Maybe bigger than an election cycle. On election day on Nov 5, we will know whether this is just a moment in history, or if this moment turns into a movement with longevity – and legacy.

Adventurer and author Todd Miller has explored more than 100 countries on all continents. His Amazon bestseller ENRICH: Create Wealth in Time,



Chicago police on the sidelines of an unapproved protest that ensnared traffic on the final night of the DNC. Photo: Todd Miller

Money, and Meaning, was lauded by Forbes, USA Today, Entrepreneur, and other global media. He resides at Natai Beach. www.enrich101.com

The November/December 2024 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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POP QUIZ

1. Award-winning K-Pop star 'Lisa' Manoban is from which Thai province?

2. 'Area 51' of Edwards Air Force Base of UFO fame is in which US state?

3. Which Beatles member was Executive Producer on Monty Python's 'Life of Brian'?

4. "The lady's not for turning," was said by which British Prime Minister?

5. What is the capital of the Azerbaijan?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

1. Desire

5. Wizard

10. Day of the week

13. Puerto Rico city

14. Winged

15. Down Under bird

16. Goodwill, e.g.

19. With no end

20. New ____

21. Chat

22. Microprocessor type

23. Cut off

24. Bundle up

27. Santa ____, Calif.

31. Durable fabric

33. Work boot feature

35. Make lemon into lemonade

39. Jellies

40. Al and Tipper

41. Highway exit

42. Canonical hour

43. Light source

46. History

49. Bow (to)

52. Canadian province

55. Asian expanse

56. "Being ____ Mr. Kite" (Beatles song)

Down

1. Soup type

2. Have in mind

3. Winter accessory

4. Reddish brown

5. Daily delivery

6. Priest wear

7. Aplenty

8. Female organs

9. Christmas ____

10. ____ Verde National Park

11. Foreboding

12. Daft

13. Chessman

17. Intrusive rocks

18. Arcana

25. Foreign dignitary

26. Projection

28. Personality test

29. Decline

30. Animal that beats

its chest

31. Scrap

32. And so on

33. Raw

34. Wedded

35. Besmirch

36. Newspaper, with today

37. Unit of frequency, for short

38. ____ populi

42. Sane

43. Six-line poem

44. Theaters

45. Flips (through)

47. Buddhist who has attained Nirvana

48. Commemorative marker

50. Barista workplaces

51. Novelist Barker

52. Come from ____

53. Lesotho coin

54. Engendered

55. Farm workers?

57. Ages and ages

13

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Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

9 6 4 1 8 2 3 7 5

2 8 1 3 7 5 9 6 4

3 5 7 4 9 6 1 2 8

8 1 9 5 3 7 6 4 2

5 4 2 6 1 9 7 8 3

6 7 3 2 4 8 5 9 1

7 2 8 9 5 1 4 3 6

4 9 5 8 6 3 2 1 7

1 3 6 7 2 4 8 5 9

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

in every 30 million lobsters is yellow.

2

percent of the world's population has green eyes, scientists have estimated.

37

percent of British workers think their jobs are meaningless.

70


cents is all that legendary singer Billie Holiday had in the bank when she passed away, but she had \$750 taped to her leg.

100

years is how long Native Americans have been US citizens.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Saphan Hin sunrise. Photo by Sutharat Khaodee

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

This week in history

Sept 27, 1066

William the Conqueror and his army set sail from the mouth of the River Somme, beginning the Norman conquest of England.

Sept 28, 2014

Hong Kong protests: Benny Tai announces that Occupy Central is launched as Hong Kong's government headquarters is being occupied by thousands of protesters. Hong Kong police resort to tear gas to disperse protesters

Sept 29, 2004

Burt Rutan's Ansari SpaceShipOne, the first private crewed spacecraft, performs

Sept 30, 2009

A 7.6 Mw earthquake shakes Sumatra with a maximum Mercalli intensity of VIII (Severe). The dip-slip earthquake kills 1,115 people, and is followed days later by a 6.6 Mw strike-slip event.

Oct 1, 1964

Japanese Shinkansen (bullet trains) begin high-speed rail

Oct 2, 1789

George Washington sends proposed Constitutional amendments (The United States Bill of Rights) to the States for ratification.

Oct 3, 1849

American author Edgar Allan Poe is found delirious in a gutter in Baltimore under mysterious circumstances; it is the last time he is seen in public before his death. Source: Wikipedia

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Monday BBQ Night

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



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SUN 29 SEP

WED 2 OCT



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SAT 26 OCT



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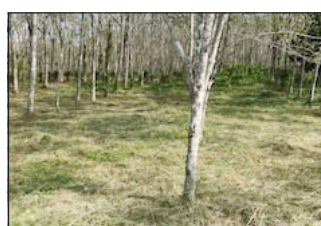
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SKAL INTERNATIONAL PHUKET DINNER - SEPTEMBER

Around 60 attendees joined this month's dinner held at the Thai Thai Restaurant located within the Pullman Phuket Karon Beach Resort on Thursday, Sept 19. The evening started with pre-dinner drinks and an assortment of tasty Thai delicacies. This was followed by the Skal toast and announcements, including the upcoming AGM and elections, Annual Skal Forum in Chiang Mai and the great Skal promo on new membership: 16 months for the price of 12. Rounding out the evening was a sensational buffet. Of note were delicious mini burgers from carved beef joint, salmon en croute, a noodle station, some veggie options and the 'honeypot' (ice cream counter) which attracted many bees until late. Find out more about the next dinner at facebook.com/SkalPhuket

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Dubois beats Joshua in IBF world heavyweight clash

BOXING

DANIEL DUBOIS RETAINED his IBF world heavyweight title with a brutal fifth-round knockout of Anthony Joshua in an all-British spectacular at Wembley last Saturday (Sept 21).

The 27-year-old dominated the bout from the start in front of 96,000 passionate fans, dropping the former two-time heavyweight champion multiple times.

Dubois had spoken of his determination to "legitimise" his reign as IBF champion after being handed the belt that Oleksandr Usyk vacated in June and he produced a destructive display that raises major questions over Joshua's future.

The British rivals locked horns in a dramatic opening round that ended with Joshua being saved by the bell after he was floored by a savage overhand right.

Joshua, 1.8 kilograms heavier than his younger opponent, was in full survival mode in round two and in the following round Dubois



Dubois (right) connects with Joshua. Photo: AFP

had him down again, a left hook causing his legs to buckle.

A standing eight count was followed by the bell and as the fourth round got under way Joshua was floored for the third time, although he protested that it was not a legitimate knockdown.

In a dramatic fifth round, Dubois was momentarily stunned by two right hands and just as Joshua looked to pile on the pressure, the 34-year-old was caught by successive right hands himself and he was down again, this time unable to beat the count.

"It's been a journey and I'm grateful to be in this position," Dubois said after his statement win. *AFP*

Norris dominates in Singapore

FORMULA ONE

AFP

Lando Norris stormed to a dominant victory at the Singapore Grand Prix last Sunday (Sept 22) to close the Formula One championship gap on Max Verstappen, who came a distant second.

It was the McLaren driver's third career GP win and his first from pole position as he finished almost 30 seconds clear of his rival's Red Bull.

Norris admitted to a couple of scary brushes with the walls on the notoriously tight Marina Bay Street Circuit as his tyres faded in the closing laps.

"It was an amazing race," he Norris. "A few too many close calls, I had a couple of close moments. You have a little bit less grip, a little bit less downforce," added the Englishman.

"Tyres are going away a little bit. It just caught me out. So it wasn't like a lack of concentration or anything. It was just a bit of a surprise to me."

But Norris avoided any damage and reduced the deficit to Verstappen to 52 points with six races and three sprints to go.

"I think the car was all good and the car has been mega all weekend. So a big thanks to the team," he added.

Teammate Oscar Piastri started from fifth but a superior strategy enabled him to overhaul the struggling Hamilton and the second Mercedes of George Russell in the late stages to finish third and extend McLaren's lead over Red



Lando Norris (left) leads the pack at the start of the F1 Singapore Grand Prix last Sunday (Sept 22). Photo: AFP

Bull in the constructors' championship to 41 points.

It was a uniquely incident-free 62 laps around the Marina Bay Street Circuit under lights, the first in its 15-race history not to see a safety car deployed.

Norris got away brilliantly from pole and was clear of Verstappen into the first bend as Lewis Hamilton, on softer tyres, failed to get past the Dutchman.

Hamilton was the only front-runner to start on soft tyres and he paid a penalty when he had to pit early on lap 18 and then suffered on tyres much older than the cars around him in the final stint.

Charles Leclerc finished ahead of

Hamilton, with the second Ferrari of Carlos Sainz in seventh. Fernando Alonso, Nico Hulkenberg and Perez rounded out the top 10.

Norris had the point for fastest lap snatched away from him at the end by the RB of Daniel Ricciardo in what is likely to be his last race in F1.

The Australian is rumoured to be leaving the Red Bull junior outfit after this race, but still played a part for his old teammate Verstappen.

"I have to be prepared for this maybe being it," admitted the Australian, who has won eight GPs in a 13-year career. "Let's say I'm at peace with it."



Photo: PR Phuket

Healthy turnout for Phuket trail run

TRAIL RUNNING

MORE THAN 1,000 THAILAND international athletes participated in the 2024 Andaman International Trail Running (AITR) event in Phuket last Sunday (Sept 22).

The popular off-road race took place at Bang Wad reservoir in Kathu and was divided into three separate distances of 7 kilometres, 15km and 25km for male and female competitors. Cash prizes and trophies were distributed to the top three competitors in each class.

Phuket Vice Governor Norasak Suksomboon presided over the opening of the event, where he was joined by Ratchadaporn Oin, Director of the Phuket Tourism and Sports Office, as well as relevant representatives from a range of public and private sector entities.

The Phuket leg of the AITR 2024 competition is one of six races being held, with others staged in the nearby provinces of Satun, Trang, Krabi, Phang Nga and Ranong.

The event is designed to allow each province to showcase a feature that is considered unique, with Phuket highlighting the natural beauty of its pristine forests and local environment at Bang Wad reservoir to participants.

Promotional media for the event also showcased a variety of outstanding art and architecture projects that organisers say highlights how nature and urban society perfectly coexist in Phuket.

The success of the event further demonstrates Phuket's role as a top class sports and tourist destination, organisers stated, while also serving as a welcome boost to local businesses and the broader local economy.

The Phuket News

All Blacks retain Bledisloe Cup



THE GLOBAL RUGBY COACH

NEW ZEALAND STOPPED A two-match losing streak and held on despite a late collapse to beat Australia last Saturday (Sept 21) and retain the Bledisloe Cup in the process.

Some Australian players weren't even born the last time the Wallabies held the Bledisloe Cup and the All Blacks suggested that trend would continue early on when they ran amok to take a 28-14 half-time lead.

However, the All Blacks hadn't scored in the last 20 minutes of their last three games and the 60,000-plus crowd in Sydney felt there may be a chance if Australia could raise their game. Maybe remembering the 67 points conceded against Argentina in their last game spurred the Wallabies into a more positive approach as they registered two late tries, before the All Blacks hung on for a tight, but significant, 31-28 victory.

Meanwhile, South Africa coach Rassie Erasmus made 10 changes for his side's clash with Argentina in Santiago del Estero and it looked to have paid off as the Springboks raced into a 17-point lead.

However, Argentina, with many of their team now playing in Eu-



Photo: AFP

rope, are very resilient and they were able to match South Africa's blistering start with an equally rampant retort. Los Pumas played with great fluency and, when they get into a rhythm between forwards and backs, they are hard to stop. This was evident as they clinched a 29-28 win.

HARD TO BEAT

Closer to home, The Phuket Vagabonds welcomed a strong Bangkok Southerners team for a rugby union 11s game played over four quarters at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) last Saturday.

While the Vagabonds' No. 7 Ben 'The Engine' Williams shone early on by exploiting space and delivering some bone-crunching tackles, it was clear the visitors had several players with superior individual skills which made the difference. With players who can

beat defenders and run 60-80 metres, you will be hard to beat.

Field position and time in possession is crucial if you are to wear your opponents down but the Vagabonds were unable to do either, as they lost three of the four quarters and drew the other.

Kudos to the Southerners and their fans who made the trip and generated a great atmosphere at the ACG.

For me, watching the Vagabonds is becoming addictive so why not come along and enjoy a fantastic day out for the whole family.

The Global Rugby Coach, Mike Penistone, is a globally renowned professional rugby coach based in Phuket who is also an ambassador for the Asia Center Foundation, a charity for disadvantaged children. For more information visit: www.rugbycoachingconsultancy.com.

Gunners prove their mettle

FOOTBALL

AFF

John Stones' 98th minute equaliser salvaged a 2-2 draw for Manchester City against 10-man Arsenal in a bad-tempered clash between the two favourites for the Premier League title last Sunday (Sept 22).

Arsenal played the entire second half a man down after Leandro Trossard was sent off for a second booking just before half-time and were seconds away from inflicting City's first home defeat since November 2022.

Erling Haaland's 100th City goal had given Pep Guardiola's men the perfect start before Arsenal turned the game around thanks to Riccardo Calafiori's wonder strike and a set-piece header from Gabriel Magalhaes.

Mikel Arteta's men then produced a stunning rearguard action to hold out until the final seconds when Stones bundled in after Arsenal failed to clear a corner.

A draw was enough for City to retake top spot, two points clear of Arsenal in fourth place.

Liverpool responded to the first setback of Arne Slot's early days in charge when Nottingham Forest shocked Anfield a week previous by comfortably beating Bournemouth 3-0.

Luis Diaz was rested for the impressive 3-1 win at AC Milan to start Liverpool's Champions League campaign in midweek but, restored to the starting line-up, the Colombian struck twice inside two minutes before Darwin Nunez



Arsenal's Riccardo Calafiori (No. 33) celebrates his stunning goal. Photo: AFP

added a spectacular third.

Chelsea continued their positive start under Enzo Maresca as Nicolas Jackson's double and a Cole Palmer strike put a woeful West Ham to the sword at the London Stadium.

West Ham have now lost their opening three home league games for the first time in their history to mark an inauspicious start for new manager Julen Lopetegui.

Manchester United were held to a disappointing 0-0 draw at Crystal Palace, with Erik ten Hag's spluttering side indebted to Andre Onana for a sublime double save to deny Eddie Nketiah and then Ismaila Sarr.

Having won just one of their opening four league games, Tottenham eased the pressure on Ange Postecoglou by beating Brentford 3-1.

Bryan Mbeumo's thumping volley

after just 22 seconds put Brentford in front before goals from Dominic Solanke, Brennan Johnson and James Maddison sealed the win for Spurs.

Aston Villa also needed a turnaround for their fourth win in five games after Matheus Cunha blasted Wolves in front midway through the first half.

Ollie Watkins' equalised before Ezri Konsa put Villa in front and Jhon Duran continued his scintillating form as an impact substitute with his fourth goal this season off the bench.

Fulham beat Newcastle 3-1, while Brighton and Nottingham Forest played out a hugely entertaining 2-2 draw.

Ipswich struck deep into stoppage time to snatch a 1-1 draw at Southampton in the battle of the newly-promoted sides, while Everton and Leicester also drew 1-1.

Lobster Men suffer their second loss of the season

FOOTBALL

Continued from page 16

...blatantly punched in the face by the Satun keeper in the penalty area. The referee somehow missed the incident – a surprisingly frequent occurrence in Thai football. A red card and a penalty would have changed the fabric of the game, but it was not to be.

Shortly after, Satun took advantage of another defensive error to double their lead through Wathit before the game then petered out as the home side dominated the closing, high-tempered minutes.

PAFC shouldn't be totally disheartened by their display – after all, the team that visited Satun in the corresponding fixture last year lost 5-1. This team are a far different proposition with their style of play and on their day they will give any team in the division a game.

However, there is still a long way to go. Their fitness needs to be improved, especially if they are to maintain a press for the length of the game. Tactical naiveties need to be ironed out and a solid



Photo: Supplied

spine needs to be set in place.

Two losses are never ideal, but they would be ill-advised to panic. This is Thailand, and projects take time.

PAFC formation: 4-2-3-1. Line Up: 99 'Bee' Anawin (GK); 17 'Game' Satawat; 4 'Bass' Akkharadech; 3 'Mark' Rungsak; 79 'Ohm' Athagorn; 27 'Min' Kittinan; 55 'Kla' Patapee (captain); 8 'Petch' Chinnatan; 11: Torky Abdelrahman; 21 'Ball' Muhammad; 77: 'Bebe' Coulibary.

PAFC have lost their first two games of the season and sit in 12th place in the table. Their next match is on Sunday (Sept 29) against Nara United FC at home, kick-off 3:30pm.

Simon Causton

Thammarat re-elected as Phuket Sports chief

ALL SPORTS

THAMMARAT WONGCHAROENYOS has been re-elected to serve as the president of the Sports Association of Phuket.

The Association conducted the vote as its general annual meeting at the Bukitta Boutique Hotel on Sept 16, with members voting unanimously in Thammarat's favour to carry out another term as chief.

Mr Thammarat expressed his gratitude for the vote of confidence, adding that even though he is not a Phuket native he does feel like one, having lived here for over 30 years.

He has worked at the Association for the last 10 years, committing himself diligently to developing the sports industry in Phuket to be strong, stable and progressive, he said. However, there is still much work to be done, he added.

"Returning to the position of the association president for another term will allow us to continue our efforts to develop sports in Phuket province because there are still many difficult things to do," he said.

"For example, we need to construct an additional sports facility to provide aspiring athletes the correct environment to train and develop.

"We have many talented athletes with much potential but need the correct facilities to allow their talent to blossom."

Athletes' welfare will be a key objective



Thammarat. Photo: Sports Association of Phuket

in his next term, Mr Thammarat explained, with a particular focus on providing appropriate accommodation during competition as well as insurance to safe-guard them in the event of an accident or injury.

"Athletes have been forced to sleep at schools or temples in the past during competition and this is something we need to address to ensure they can perform at their maximum during competition."

Mr Thammarat did extend thanks to local government for allocating budget to allow improvements to be carried out at Surakul Stadium. The goal is to continue development, he explained, so as to extend the capacity from its current 12,000 to 20,000 to qualify the venue to host international matches.

The duration of Mr Thammarat's new term was not officially confirmed in reports provided by the Sports Association of Phuket. *The Phuket News*

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Sport



Norris on top at Singapore F1 GP > p14

FIGHTING SPIRIT

Dojo team excel at Hong Kong judo comp

The Dojo Blue Tree team representing Phuket at the recent Hong Kong Junior Judo Team Championships. Photo: Alexis Plantard.

JUDO

Ben Tirebuck

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

They may have been several athletes short of their full quota but that did not dampen the spirits nor stop the progress of the irrepressible team from Dojo at Blue Tree Phuket at the recent Hong Kong Junior Judo Team Championships.

The tournament, held on Sept 15 in Hong Kong, saw Team Dojo enter two teams for competition – one in the 9-10 year old age group and the other in the 12-15 division.

Teams are typically five members strong although, due to a variety of factors out of their control, the younger team only had three competitors – Sagit, Kiichi and Sota.

However, they managed to dig deep and deliver a series of excep-

tional performances to advance to the semi-final stage where they ultimately finished third out of 21 teams.

“To only field three players but finish third overall out of 21 teams and secure a bronze medal is an outstanding achievement and testimony to an incredible team effort,” Dojo lead instructor Alexis Plantard told *The Phuket News*.

“Their flawless victories in the round of 16, last 8 and quarter-finals were superb, a real testament to their skill and determination. Me and everyone at the Dojo are incredibly proud, as they should be,” he added.

TOUGH OPPOSITION

The older team of David, Gabin, Timur and Tomo performed similarly well despite being a member short to also advance to the semi-final stage where they faced extremely tough opposition, ultimately finishing third out of 14 teams.

“David made a tactical mistake, while Gabin struggled somewhat to exert sufficient aggression against a much larger opponent who effectively leveraged his extra weight and years of experience to win,” Alexis explained.

“Timur executed a brilliant Ura Nage, which should have secured the win by ippon, but the referee, influenced by the central judge, revoked the point. This led to a shift in momentum and Timur, emotionally affected, ultimately lost the match.

“However, this happens and learning from adversity is equally, if not more, important than when experiencing success. The team will learn and become ever stronger for future competitions.

“It was a remarkable achievement by all the team, especially considering only 7 out of our 10 athletes were able to compete. I am incredibly proud of their perseverance and talent,” he added.

Next up for Team Dojo is the Laos International Championships on the weekend of Oct 26-27 where 9 athletes will be competing.

FIGHTING ALONE

Last Sunday (Sept 22) Alexis was fighting alone at the Thailand International Judo Open, which saw 20 athletes from separate 20 nations taking part in divisional competition.

Representing his home country France and competing in the under-90-kilogramme division, Alexis excelled to win the title outright.

He defeated Chutipphon Ainaunchot of Thailand courtesy of a ground arm lock in the quarter-final, before some technical Newaza ground work saw him overcome Kangmin Kim of South Korea in the semi-final.

The final showdown saw Alexis face off against Milan Michael Anjalo from Sri Lanka who he defeated by locking him flat on his

back on the ground for 10 seconds to score a second Waza Ari and finish the match.

“It was an amazing day and I am very proud,” Alexis said afterwards. “I especially like the fact that my victory meant the entire crowd in the stadium had to stand when the French national anthem was played during the medal ceremony!”

In addition to the tournament in Laos next month, upcoming team events include the Indonesia International Judo Open on Nov 23-24 and the French National Judo Under-14 competition on Jan 19, 2025. Alexis will also be competing at the World Judo Championships in Las Vegas, USA, on Nov 6.

For more information visit the Dojo at Blue Tree Facebook page or contact dojo@bluetree.fun / tel: 092-805-8527. Everyone is welcome to become the very best version of themselves.

Exorcists prevail as Phuket face their own demons

FOOTBALL

EVERY PROJECT NEEDS a beginning; some are easy, and some take time. Invariably, projects in Thailand fall into the latter category.

There were glimmers of hope in the first 45 minutes for Phuket Andaman FC (PAFC) last Saturday (Sept 21) at Satun FC, but a 2-0 loss highlights that the project has a long way to run and the new owners are just coming to a realisation of the

scale of the task ahead.

Satun FC, affectionately known by their nickname of ‘The Ultimate Exorcists’, finished 4th last season and will be amongst the promotion hopefuls again this season. They play an aggressive, direct style of football with three at the back.

However, for the first half, PAFC were the better side. When they played fast tempo, pressing football high up the pitch they scared Satun, who were forced into careless errors and looked rattled.

With better finishing, the visi-

tors could and should have led 2-0 ahead within 30 minutes. Time and again, Ball and Torky won possession on the flanks and strode forward, while Bebe, who was preferred up front to Bank, showed energy; his pressing was admirable and his link-up play with Torky on the right, with support from Game, was encouraging.

Sadly, however, after 40 minutes the Lobsters tired and their inferior fitness was evident. Rather than pressing, they sat back and were positionally naive. Satun

switched from a three at the back and pushed an extra man forward into midfield. The crowd sensed the game-changing move and responded to push their team forward.

After the break, Satun capitalised on the momentum they had gained and pushed forward as PAFC started dropping back and drifting out of position. They were still holding their own, however, and it took a mistake from goalkeeper Bee for Satun’s Kittiphong to open the scoring.

PAFC looked shaken and lost



Photo: Supplied

their shape further, with tired legs showing. Still, chances came, but time and time again, there was no support for Bank, who had come on to replace the ineffective Petch.

In the 75th minute, the game should have changed as Bebe was...

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