

PHUKET AIRPORT FINALLY FIXES FAILED AIRCON > PAGE 2

FARMED OUT

AGRO MINISTER SUPPORTS CALL FOR STATE FARMLAND TO BE USED FOR HOTELS, RESORTS

Photo: PR Phuket

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives Thamanat Prompow has voiced his support for allowing holders of ‘SorPorKor’ land into areas that generate income from tourism, including building hotels, resorts, shops and restaurants.

Mr Thamanat revealed his support while in Phuket last week, when met with local farmers who have been assigned rights to farm ‘SorPorKor’ land.

So-called ‘SorPorKor land’ became available through Agricultural Land Reform Office (ALRO) after the agency was formed under the Land Reform Act of 1975. ALRO is better known by its Thai initials, SorPorKor.

The land-reform project was intended to provide poor farmers with

what was deemed to be degraded forest areas so that they could eke out a living growing crops on state land.

Phuket Province has areas in the “reform zone”, Mr Thamanat said at an event held at Bang Neow Dum reservoir in Srisoonthorn on Oct 20, attended by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat and heads of local government offices.

In total, there is 32,372 rai of land in Phuket under the administration of ALRO, Mr Thamanat explained.

Of that total, 13,184 may be allocated to farmers in Phuket, and so far 9,701 rai of that land has been already allocated to farmers on the island as 687 plots assigned to 583 ‘cases’ in 10 tambon (subdistricts): Ratsada, Karon, Chalong, Rawai, Kathu, Kamala, Patong, Cherno Talay, Srisoonthorn and Pa Khlok.

“The problem with the land in ‘reform zone areas’ is that overall

it is hilly,” making it unsuitable for farming, Mr Thamanat noted.

However, he added, much of the land had sea views “and is suitable for use for tourist service businesses that can generate very high incomes”.

“This can create a good living situation for farmers,” he added.

“There is a need to use land to serve tourists in various businesses such as hotels, resorts, accommodations, shops, restaurants,” Mr Thamanat said, according to an official report of his visit.

“The solution is to allocate community land according to the announcement of the Agricultural Land Reform Office regarding the allocation of community land in agricultural land reform areas announced on October 30, 2020,” he said.

Mr Thamanat reviewed maps of areas in Phuket with SorPorKor land that may be developed. Local officials

guided him with explanations of the areas that he was reviewing, and local farmers present made their pleas to develop land for tourism purposes, and explained key issues they were facing.

Mr Thamanat noted one key issue: “Land prices are very high, and causing rights disputes and land owners [sic],” he said.

CONCERNS

The revision of SorPorKor land use in 2020 caused much concern in Phuket. Under the original “nine rights” laid out in the Land Reform Act of 1975, farmers allocated SorPorKor land were issued a SorPorKor land-use document and were allowed to use the land for agricultural purposes only. The land-use rights were allowed to be passed on to family members, but the land could never be sold legally as it was to forever remain owned...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NEWS PAGE 3

Patong to get ‘baht bus’ around town



LIFE PAGE 13

Veg Fest closes with a blaze of firecrackers



SPORT PAGE 16

Charity swim to raise funds for Phuket children



execeditor@classactmedia.co.th

News



Police defend
B4.6mn on
motorbikes > p5

Phuket worker safely returns from Israel

PHUKET OFFICIALS were on hand at Phuket International Airport late on Oct 19 to welcome back an island resident who has returned after being evacuated from Israel.

Leading the welcoming party was Thalang District Chief Bancha Thanu-in, who had been assigned by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat to lead the delegation of officials, which included heads and representatives from the local offices of the Ministry of Labour.

Nathaporn Hongsa, a resident of Moo 5, Mai Khao, was among the Thai workers safely evacuated from Israel following the massive attack launched by Hamas on Oct 7.

Mr Nathaporn was one of the Thai workers affected by rockets fired into the area close to the Gaza Strip, south of Tel Aviv.

An official report marking Mr Nathaporn's safe return to Phuket, posted at 12:43am, said that in total 10 Phuket residents were registered as working in Israel when the conflict began.

However, Mr Nathaporn so far is the only one to return.

"Most of the rest have not yet asked to return to



Photo: PR Phuket

Thailand because it's still safe," the report noted.

The Ministry of Labor is continuing to expedite assistance to Thai workers affected by the fighting in Israel, the report added.

An assistance centre has been set up and officials are continuing to monitor the situation in Israel, the report noted.

Latest reports have marked that 30 Thais so far have been killed by the conflict in Israel, with a further 16 injured and 19 more now abducted and taken hostage by Hamas.

Meanwhile, Boonyavee Kwaipan, acting director-general of the Employment Department, said it is preparing to provide compensation of 1B5,000 to Thai returnees from Israel who are members of the Aid Fund for Overseas Workers, reports the Bangkok Post.

Provincial employment offices have been instructed to compensate Thai returnees within three days.

The Phuket News

Airport finally fixes failed aircon system

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Airports of Thailand (AoT Phuket), which operates Phuket International Airport, has finally responded publicly to the problem of the air conditioning system at the international terminal failing.

The response came through a statement issued as a "News Release" on Oct 19, not marked as signed by any particular person, though the General Manager of Phuket International Airport is Monchai Tanode.

The release was marked as "Phuket Airport would like to clarify the case of the air conditioning system malfunction at the international passenger terminal."

The release first marked posts online already long complaining about the failure of the air conditioning at the international terminal.

"From the case that there are various pages posting messages with pictures about Phuket Airport that #Tourists complain that the service #is not suitable for the definition of an international airport, very hot after the air conditioner has been broken for many days. There's still no fix. Travel costs are expensive. Still have to



Photo: AoT Phuket

come across quality like this. Most recently, it was necessary to have the Phuket MP report the matter to the Ministry of Transport. Please fix it quickly! After Phuket Port closed its mouth," the release said, citing the complaints posted online.

Of note, Phuket MP Thitikan Thitipruethikul, Member of Parliament for Phuket District 3 (all of Thalang District plus Tambon Kathu), posted online that he had informed the Ministry of Transport of the airport's failure to fix its air conditioning system.

The release by AoT Phuket explained that "the cause was a failure of two cooling systems, one of which caused a problem in the air conditioning system inside the building."

The result was a "temperature higher than normal", AoT

Phuket admitted.

An inspection of the cooling system found that there was a refrigerant leak, AOT Phuket said in its statement.

"When AoT became aware of the aforementioned problems, we therefore hastened to hire a company to take corrective action immediately," it added.

AoT had the urgent repairs made "immediately", including replacing the lost coolant.

"We are ready to expedite the procurement of spare parts for the air conditioning system to work efficiently as before," AoT Phuket assured.

While the work is waiting to be completed AoT Phuket has installed a total of 90 portable air-conditioning units throughout the terminal for passenger comfort, the state-

ment explained.

The "News Release" included photos showing temperature readings throughout the terminal of 24°C-25°C.

"AoT Phuket expects to repair the cooling system so that it can return to normal use by tonight (October 19, 2023). AoT would like to apologise for the inconvenience on this occasion," the official statement concluded.

The "News Release" issued yesterday came while AoT Phuket GM Mr Monchai was leading a public meeting to discuss issues and receive feedback from the public on the potential impact on local residents of the B6 billion 'Phase 2' expansion of the airport, which aims to increase capacity of the airport to 18 million passengers a year.

State farmland in Phuket targeted for more tourism development

Continued from page 1
...by the government.

However, through the announcement in 2020, ALRO revised the uses that farmers are allowed to develop their SorPorKor land. The new regulations allow 12 uses: farming, petrol station, drinking water plant, market place, vehicle dealership, retail shop, post office, healthcare facility, restaurant, school, apartment complex and food-processing plant.

The move raised serious concerns among even property developers, amid fears of the impact of massive deforestation of the hills on Phuket would have on Phuket's tourism industry – the very industry that the farmers would be looking to cash in on. Of note, large tracts of land in the hills both north and south of Patong are SorPorKor land.

Regardless, the farmers Mr Tha-

manat met made a request for the issuance of title deeds in the land reform areas, and requested that he help to expedite the implementation of various projects related to the use of farmers' arable land.

Of note, under the announcement in 2020, the aim of the expanded use of SorPorKor land was to allow leasehold rights to generate revenue for the Agricultural Land Reform Fund.

Despite this, Mr Thamanat has already announced to issue Chanote title deeds to farmers who hold and continue to farm SorPorKor Land as a 'gift' to the people next year.

Under the 'free land' scheme, in order to be issued a Chanote title deed, SorPorKor farmers must have farmed the plot of SorPorKor land for at least the past five years. There are also limits on how much land each farmer may receive.



Photo: PR Phuket

WATER

In addition to the SorPorKor land issues heard, Mr Thamanat noted that water supply and management was another key issue affecting the island.

The amount of water held by the island's three main reservoirs – Bang Wad in Kathu, Bang Neow Dum in Srisoonthorn and Klong Kata in Chalong – may not held enough to serve the island's needs, especially

in light of Phuket's tourism industry, he said.

Short-term, medium-term, and long-term plans had been prepared in order to support the tourism industry, Mr Thamanat said.

"Plans have been made to procure additional water sources at additional cost, such as developing the three existing reservoirs to be more efficient in storing water and developing mines in the area jointly between the private sector and government agencies to reserve water from during the rainy season," he added.

A project to expand the capacity of Bang Neow Dum reservoir by 600,000 cubic meters was underway, Mr Thamanat said.

"For the medium term is the Ban Khok Tanod Water Diversion Project to bring water from the Khlong Thalang Basin, which can provide about 40 million cubic meters of

water a year to fill in Bang Neow Dum reservoir during the dry season," he explained.

Mr Thamanat also presented an agreement for R.E.Q. Co Ltd to continue producing fresh water for consumption in Phuket.

AGRI PROMO

Among the other activities at the event last week, Mr Thamanat gave away boxes of local produce, namely Phuket pineapple, to promote adding value to agricultural products and handed out B100,000 in subsidy funds to support local fisheries.

Farmers present at the event requested that Mr Thamanat help push agricultural products to connect with tourism. "Because Phuket province has income from tourism, therefore agriculture should not be overlooked which also generates income for the people," he said.

Patong to get new 'baht bus'

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) has announced that it is receiving applications from operators to provide a circular 'baht bus' style public transport service throughout Phuket's busiest tourism town.

The PLTO posted on its official Facebook page on Oct 17 three separate official notices for operators to apply to provide bus transport services for Patong.

Two of the notices announced two circular routes to be served by operators, while the third route open to applications from prospective operators is the decades-old bus service between the old bus station on Phang Nga Rd in Phuket Town and Patong.

The two circular routes will both start from the Bangla Police Box on the Patong beach road (Thaweewong Rd). Both routes will continue north to the 'Dolphin Circle' at the northern end of the beach, then turn right onto Phra Barami Rd.

From there, one service will turn right onto Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, while the other will turn right onto Phra Metta Rd.

Both routes continue south all the way to the southern end of Patong, where they will turn right onto Prachanukroh Rd and head back towards Patong Beach. The 'buses' will then continue north and stop back at the Bangla Police Box, before starting the circular journey over again.

The vehicles to be used



Both circular 'baht bus' routes in Patong will use the Bangla Police Box as their base of operations, where the Phuket Smart Bus already stops while travelling between Phuket airport and Rawai. Photo: Phuket Smart Bus

to provide the services must be "standard type 2(e) that are not passenger vans". The type of vehicle is optional, depending on the number of passengers, the PLTO formal announcement said.

A minimum number of three vehicles must be provided for the service that will travel along Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, while a minimum number of two vehicles must be provided for the service along Phra Metta Rd.

Both services must make a minimum of 40 trips per day. "The fare throughout

the line is 40 baht," the announcements read.

The guidelines for all three services offered through the announcements explained that the aim is "to provide convenience and safety to the people who use public bus services so they travel even more and to develop the bus transportation system to be competitive with other newly emerging public transport services on an equal footing consistent with the progress in economy and society of the country".

Applicants must show

details of the buses, or other type of vehicle, to be used, and places where the vehicles will be stored, repaired and maintained.

Plans must include a bus service management plan and anti-pollution and environmental plans, as well as employee development and service models, and safety plan regarding the vehicle and passengers.

"The history of past transportation operations (if any) is a factor in considering the designation," the announcements said.

Prospective applicants could seek more details by contacting the PLTO directly "during official hours from 29 September 2017 to 28 November 2023", the announcements confirmed, giving the clear deadline for submitting applications as Nov 28.

The new services to be launched in Patong are plainly similar to the renowned 'baht bus' in Pattaya. However, the 'baht bus' in Pattaya is provided by pickup trucks converted to carry passengers in the back. The routes are set, but the service is pretty

much hop-on, hop-off. The minimum fare is B10.

All three announcements were marked as "announced on 29 September 2023" by PLTO Chief Adcha Buachan. However, all three were only posted by the PLTO on Oct 17.

The announcements follow Phuket MP Somchart Techathavorncharoen earlier this month posting a 16-page report on discussions with the PLTO about launching new bus services in Phuket, including the 'baht bus' style service in Patong.

Mr Somchart noted plainly in his report on Oct 3 that the 'baht bus' style service in Patong had been agreed by Phuket Provincial Land Transport Control Committee... on "17 August, 2023".

The announcements by the PLTO on Oct 17 gave no explanation for the delay of more than two weeks in even just announcing the new services to be provided, despite the top regulatory transport committee for Phuket approving the new services two months ago.

Patong Municipality has also yet to make any mention of the new services to local residents in the town.

Mr Somchart in his report on Oct 3 also noted that progress had stalled on plans by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO) to provide a bus service from the airport all the way south to Rawai. Phuket's transport kingpins have also yet to agree to allow the popular Phuket Smart Bus to expand its route just 2.1km from its terminus in Rawai to Cape Promthep.

Safety blitz nets tuk-tuk driver in Patong with meth, weapons

POLICE HAVE ARRESTED a Patong tuk-tuk driver caught carrying 43 methamphetamine pills (ya bah) and several weapons, including an axe.

The driver, named by police only as "Mr Adisak", 30, was arrested at a checkpoint set up at the intersection in front of Patong Hospital at 11:50pm on the night of Oct 16, Patong Police reported last week.

The report made no mention of where at the intersection the Adisak was arrested. Patong Police Station itself is located at that same intersection, diagonally opposite from Patong Hospital.

Adisak, who goes by the nickname 'Phase', was



arrested in the second mass search operation of tuk-tuks and other "public transport vehicles", said the Patong Police report.

The search operation was

led by Pol Lt Wanit Anantaphong of the Patong Police Traffic Police, the report added.

The tuk-tuk Adisak was driving was identified in the report by its registration



Photo: Patong Police

number พท-401 (ForKor-401) Phuket.

The series of photos posted with the report showed Patong Traffic Police carrying out many inspections, but did not

identify exactly which photo showed Adisak being searched or placed under arrest.

Adisak was found with 43 pills of ya bah, which is a Category 1 narcotic, as

well as three iron bars and one axe, the police report confirmed.

Adisak was handed over to investigating officers "to prosecute according to law", said the report.

No other details of the arrest were provided. There also was no confirmation of exactly which charges Adisak has been formally presented with, or whether Adisak was to be tested for drug use.

The report also made no mention of whether Patong Police are to even inform the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO), which regulates all public transport vehicles and licences in Phuket, of Adisak's arrest.

The Phuket News

The Phuket News

CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

PURIYA BEAVAN
EditorCHRIS HUSTED
Executive Editor
084 307 7408
execeditor@classactmedia.co.thBEN TIREBUCK
News / Sport Editor
061 806 8132
editor3@classactmedia.co.thCHUTHARAT 'UM' PLERIN
Thai Editor
088 766 1615
thai@classactmedia.co.thJASON BEAVAN
General Manager
086 479 7471
gm@classactmedia.co.thSIRIPORN (NOK) SEANGMAS
Sales Support
086 479 7470
sales@classactmedia.co.thNIRAVIT 'MOS' VORAVANITCHA
THANAPONG 'OAK' KHAO-AMPHAI PHAN
Graphic designersThe Phuket News
@thephuketnews

ADVERTISING

ClassAct Media

The Phuket News

WINDOW ON PHUKET

Where to eat in PHUKET

Новости Phuket

ข่าวภูเก็ต

NEWS TV

LIVE 89.5

Phuket TICKETMASTER

076 612 550 ext. 605

Fax: 076 612 553

Info@classactmedia.co.th

thephuketnews.com

99/7 Moo 1 (Billion Plaza),
T. Kathu, A. Kathu, Phuket 83120

PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

www.foreca.com

FRI OCTOBER 27



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SAT OCTOBER 28



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SUN OCTOBER 29



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

MON OCTOBER 30



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE OCTOBER 31



High: +32°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

WED NOVEMBER 1



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

THU NOVEMBER 2



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

Online scams run rife

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket) has shared a warning of a scam trying to dupe people by tricking them into thinking they are making a donation to the Red Cross Society of Thailand, while the Phuket office of the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA Phuket) has posted a warning of scammers targeting people on the island.

"Currently, there is a group of criminals who have set up a Line OpenChat group to recruit members into the group named 'Group donates funds for charity to create income' and allows people to donate money to receive commissions and compete for prizes by falsely claiming the account name 'Thai Red Cross Society' to receive donations," said the Thai Red Cross warning.

"The Thai Red Cross Society would like to inform you that it has no policy to accept donations in this manner. Therefore, we would like to warn people to be careful and never be fooled!!!" the



warning added.

"If you would like to donate money to the Thai Red Cross Society it must be an account in the name of the organisation 'Thai Red Cross Income Procurement Office' only. If the account is in the name of a person, Mr. Mrs. Miss, it is a scammer and the Thai Red Cross Society has no involvement at all," the national charity said.

"If you see any such abnormalities You can report information to Revenue Generation Office, Thai Red Cross

Society, Tel. 0 2256 4440-3," the warning concluded.

Meanwhile, PEA Phuket last week issued a warning of a scam operation targeting people on the island.

"Most recently today (Oct. 17, 2023), someone was injured from transferring money to an impersonator," PEA Phuket said. The impersonator claimed to be an official of the PEA and said the PEA wanted to install power backup equipment and check the quality of electricity use in the victim's area.

The victim explained to officers at PEA Phuket that the call centre gang had called the victim's office and asked for the victim's phone number. Pretending to be an official of the PEA, the victim was then invited to talk via the Line application.

The victim sent information and documents, and was finally tricked into transferring money. After that, no action was taken. Later, the victim checked with the PEA, and discovered the scam.

"At present, documents and evidence have been prepared to file a complaint [with police]," PEA Phuket. Screenshots were provided by the victim to substantiate the report.

"The Provincial Electricity Authority has no policy to for people to transfer money or for any transactions where it is required to enter the employee account number," PEA Phuket reported.

"For more information, please contact call center 1129 or at Electricity Authority ofices nationwide," the warning concluded.

Meanwhile, Phuket Info Center has posted a photo

of an alleged scammer who impersonated a police officer stationed at Phuket City Police Station ('Mueang Phuket Police Station'). The scam was reminiscent of a scheme last year that saw a Phuket expat of 36 years being duped out of thousands of baht after he was threatened with 10 years in jail for receiving illicit funds.

PR Phuket last week also shared a warning against online scammers issued by the Comptroller General's Department, under the Ministry of Finance.

"Don't be fooled by scammers pretending to be executives from the Comptroller General's Department," said the warning.

Special warning was given if people were contacted by "officers" who call or send an SMS to proceed with further communication, or asking people to download various applications or click on links, or to be added as friends through the Line app.

People who believed they had been scammed by fake Comptroller General's Department officials were asked to call 02-2706400.

Russian man, 25, falls to death at Kathu condo

POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING the death of a 25-year-old Russian man who fell from the rooftop of an eight-storey condo building near Prince of Songkla University in Kathu early on Oct 18.

Kathu Police were informed of the incident at about 5:10am, said Pol Lt Col Channarong Prakongkeaw, Deputy Inspector (Investigation) of the Kathu Police.

Kathu Police Chief Pol Col Rungrit Ratanapakdee was informed of the incident.

Police along with Dr Tulayawit Wannasri, a forensic doctor from Vachira Phuket Hospital, and rescue workers arrived at the scene to find the body of the man, later identified as Vitalii Rudenko, on the ground in the parking area beside the condo building.

The base of his skull was fractured, his left arm was broken, and his right hip was broken. No signs of a struggle were found on his body.

From CCTV inside the building, the man was seen leaving his room



The man's body was found on the ground beside the eight-storey condo building. Photo: Kathu Police

on the fifth floor and making his way to the rooftop via the fire escape. He did not return.

No signs of a struggle or theft were found in his room, police reported.

The man's body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital for further examination. Police are to coordinate with the Russian Embassy so relatives can be informed of the man's death, police noted.

If you or anyone you know is in need of emotional support and counselling, please contact the Samaritans of Thailand at their 24-hour hotline 02-113-6789 (English & Thai) or the Thai Mental Health Hotline at 1323 (Thai). Eakkapop Thongtub

Police chief defends new motorbike fleet

Eakkapop Thongtub
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket City Police Chief Pol Col Pratuang Pholmana has defended the provision of 51 new motorbikes to be used by Traffic Police in carrying out their duties.

The motorbikes provided are all Yamaha NMAX 155 models, currently costing about B92,000 each. Although exactly how much was spent on buying the new fleet motorbikes has yet to be confirmed, the current estimate is that the new fleet of motorbikes cost B4,692,000 in total.

The defence of the new fleet of motorbikes follows reporters arriving at Phuket City Police Station on Oct 19, and following harsh criticism posted on a popular local social media webpage, saying the new motorbikes were more likely to be used for personal reasons.

Parked in front of Phuket City Police Station were 51 new motorbikes in total. Officers were seen exiting the police station, mounting the new motorbikes and moving off to perform their patrols.

The officers had initially arrived for work on their own motorbikes and cars, which were all left in the police station parking lot.

Pol Col Pratuang said that the new fleet was procured under the budget for



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

the new fiscal year, which began on Oct 1.

“Government items, whether they are firearms, ammunition, armour or vehicles, will be all provided and made ready for use. At the same time, if repairs are required, we will request a budget from the Provincial Police... Whatever is missing will be made right,” Pol Col Pratuang said.

Pol Lt Col Kamala Niyomkhet, Phuket City Police Deputy Chief, said all the new motorbikes were provided in full accordance with the law.

“Traffic officers must use these vehicles when performing their normal duties because they must be provided to them by law. They are the correct vehicles and suit the needs of Traffic Police,” he said.

Pol Col Pratheung added Phuket City Police could not rely on officers using their personal vehicles for work, as they had no idea when they would be left without patrol vehicles because a personal motorbike had broken down or was involved in an accident.

Previously, some Traffic Police officers had even performed their duties by using an old motorbike with sidecar (saleng).

Pol Lt Col Thani Wirawikrom, an Inspector at Phuket City Police Station, said the new motorbikes would be put to immediate effective use, especially in officers being dispatched for traffic control during the Phuket Vegetarian Festival, which concluded on Monday (Oct 23).



Photo: DMCR

New dive site hoped to help protect local reefs

A NEW DIVING ATTRACTION has officially been declared near Racha Yai Island which authorities hope will lessen the pressure on nearby coral reefs ahead of the high tourist season.

The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) posted on its Facebook page that a team from the Coastal Marine Department (CMD) led by Paithul Panchaiyaphum, Director of the Marine Resources Conservation and Management Measures Division, visited the area located just off Phuket’s southernmost tip last Friday (Oct 20) to conduct an inspection.

The main attraction is a sunken boat on the seabed that tour operators can offer as a diving attraction to interested divers. No specific details were provided on the vessel, however.

Authorities believe local tour operators will bring at least 100 tourists per day as the numbers of visitors to Phuket increases into the popular high season.

This effectively equates to one less tour boat per day visiting coral reefs nearby which will lessen the pressure on the reefs, which will go a long way to protecting them and allowing them to regenerate, officials said.

Volunteers from a local diving group called the Rak Raya Group worked with the CDM team to install a buoy at the site so tour operators can easily navigate.

A full report on numbers of tourists visiting the site will also be managed by the Rak Raya Group and shared with the CDM team in due course, it was confirmed.

The Phuket News

Phuket Governor meets the consuls

AFTER JUST OVER TWO weeks in office as the new Governor of Phuket, Sophon Suwannarat on Oct 18 met with Phuket consuls and honorary consuls from 27 countries to discuss issues focussing on the safety of tourists.

Among those present for the meeting, held at Phuket Provincial Hall, were Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Sermphan Sirikong; Samerjit Limlikit, head Phuket Provincial Temporary Passport Office (under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs); and Thaneth Tantipiriyakit, President of the Phuket Tourist Association.

The first order of business was to welcome three representatives to their positions as honorary consuls: Somboon Jirayus as honorary consul for Sweden; Sasit Thavornwongwongse as honorary consul for Brazil; and Nutthaphong Phathakiatpaisan, honorary consul for Mongolia.

According to an official report of the meeting, the key issue discussed was safety and security measures for foreigners in Phuket and building confidence for tourists and foreigners in Phuket.

Governor Sophon said that



Photo: PR Phuket

the government had given importance to Phuket province and pointed out that new Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin had already visited the island twice. The government will push for income generation from tourism and aimed to open the door to receive tourists by providing convenience, he said.

A crackdown to prevent exploitation of tourists was underway and enhanced security measures were being rolled out to create confidence and impress tourists in terms of life and property, he added.

“Important principles of tourist care is to create safety, convenience and attraction, with integration from all sectors,” Gov Sophon said.

“Tourist areas are to be organised, including providing various facilities to support tourists of every group, every country, every nationality.

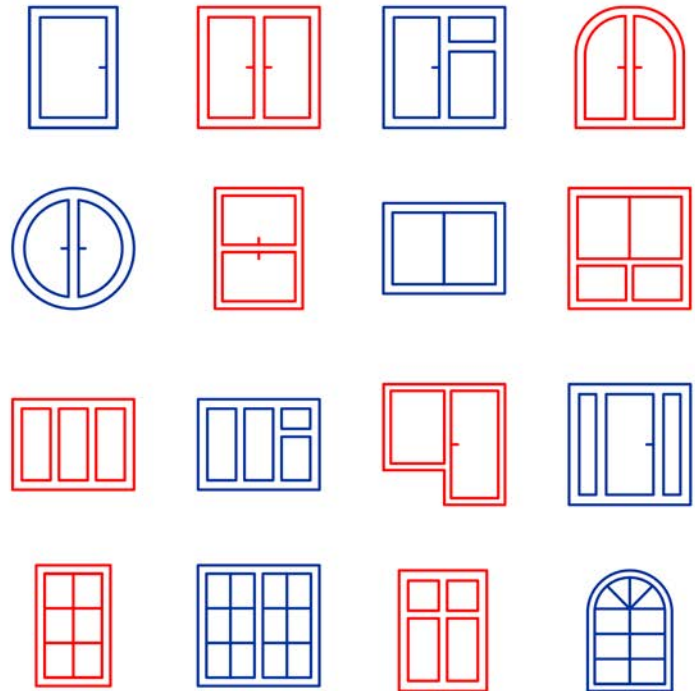
In preparing to take care of safety for important tourists, intelligent AI will be pushed in public health. Accidents and road safety is a policy that must be pushed to happen as soon as possible,” he added, according to the official report.

Pol Maj Gen Sermphan said the Phuket Provincial Police had security measures in place at Phuket International Airport and the Phuket Check Point at Tha Chatchai, “and at various piers and beach areas, which are important tourist attractions”.

“Readiness has been prepared at every point to take care of the safety of tourists. In addition, in order to build confidence for tourists, the Phuket Provincial Police have launched a crackdown on crime. We have also conducted incident-response training, such as at the Central shopping mall,” he added. *The Phuket News*



Safe, Secure, Soundproof Windows and Doors



087 061 7631 @nathan Upvc brown pvcphuket.com



Photo: PR Phuket

SME festival held at Patong

THE THREE-DAY SME ONE FEST was held at Patong Beach last weekend to help small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) showcase their products.

The fair was held at the beach front area known as Dolphin Park on Oct 20-22. The initiative was organised by the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion (OSMEP) together with the Thai SME Confederation Association.

More than 300 independent vendors from Phuket and beyond took part.

A variety of products and goods was showcased by local vendors, such as agricultural goods (including plants, vegetables and fruits), fresh delicacies, seafood, handicraft products, general household items and

clothes, including a range of commemorative costumes and souvenirs made by local village residents.

A range of discounted goods was on offer at the festival and live entertainment and musical performances were held as part of the festivities.

The festival was officially opened by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwanarat, who was joined by Kathu District Chief Theeraphong Chuaychu and Patong Mayor Chalerm-sak Maneesri, along with Wirintra Papakityotphat, Chairwoman of the Phuket Tourism Industry Council Region 11 branch; Rachan Chatsutthi from the OSMEP Phuket office; as well as selected representatives from public and private sector entities. *The Phuket News*

Digital platform launched to bolster medical tourism

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Prince of Songkla University, in collaboration with Suranaree University of Technology in Nakhon Ratchasima and the Fintechinno Group based in Bangkok have announced the launch of a mobile app and digital platform through which local residents and tourists will be able to share medical records and information securely by using Blockchain.

The announcement of the digital platform came at the Andaman Dental Congress 2023 at the Duangjitt Resort and Spa Hotel in Patong on Oct 18.

The platform, based on Fintechinno's '24HOS' ('24x7 Digital Hospital') platform, is expected to enhance the development of 'innovation zones' and raise tourism to a higher value, said Assoc Prof Dr Chitchanok Leethanakul, Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at Prince of Songkla University.

Specifically, the platform is hoped to enhance the development of nine medical innovation and health promotion zones, tourism innovation zones in 12 'high value areas', seven green industrial zones and 28 carbon neutral areas, he said.

Chaowalit Chaengchai, Fintechinno's Managing Director, said the digital platform included 24HOS's mobile application ThaiHN for use as a personal health record in electronic format.



Photo: PR Phuket

"It supports the access and exchange of health information via smart phones of both Thai people and foreign tourists with security using Blockchain technology," Mr Chaowalit said.

"This supports the expansion of health, beauty and wellness businesses in order to promote the industry in terms of health tourism or medical tourism for the Health & Wellness Hub that will develop in many areas in Thailand," he said.

"Working closely with the Prince of Songkla University will support the development of health tourism businesses in the southern provinces, and working closely with Suranaree University of Technology will support the development of medical tourism businesses in the northeastern provinces," he added.

The medical tourism development in the South and the Northeast will be

supported by the Ronitron group of companies, of which Suphakin Somsri, Chairman of the Executive Board of Ronitron Co Ltd, was present at the launch.

Assoc Prof Dr Chitchanok said, "Prince of Songkla University is responding to the government's policy in using digital technology to develop education, especially for the Andaman International Health Center project. The Prince of Songkla University has received budget approval from the government.

"Therefore, Fintechinno will help further develop a technology system for use in services that will be able to meet the needs of local residents and tourists who come to Phuket in order to provide comprehensive health care that is modern and accessible to the public, and especially respond to the needs of tourists coming to Phuket," he said.

Analysis report to cover impact of Phuket airport development

THE PHUKET OFFICE of the Airports of Thailand (AOT) had a meeting on Oct 19 to study the potential environmental and community impact of proposed development plans for Phuket airport.

The meeting, held at the Proud Phuket Hotel near Nai Yang Beach and led by Chief Administrative Officer of the Phuket Provincial Office (Palad) Somprat Prabsongkham, specifically sought feedback from the general public on the impact of Phase 2 of the Phuket Airport Development Project.

Also present at the meeting was Monchai Tanode, General Manager of Phuket International Airport, representatives from government and private sector entities, community leaders and selected representatives from local community clubs and associations.

Mr Somprat explained that the AOT is fully aware of the importance of studying and preparing environmental impact assessment re-



Photo: PR Phuket

ports and that a consultancy has been hired to carry out a thorough analysis report of the findings.

One of the aspects of this process was the meeting to provide an opportunity for representatives of local communities to air any concerns they may have.

Such concerns would be factored into the report to ensure appropriate measures are implemented to minimise any significant impact and subsequent inconvenience, something required by law Mr Somprat explained. All environmental concerns

would be equally considered, he said.

The meeting was, in essence, an opportunity for the authorities to listen to stakeholders from the local community to ensure they are heard and appropriate action is taken, Mr Somprat added.

The information shared and discussed will be used to determine the scope and guidelines for the environmental impact assessment report to ensure maximum benefit to the people of Phuket Province, he concluded. *The Phuket News*

Visa waivers for India, Taiwan on wish list

THE TOURISM AUTHORITY OF Thailand (TAT) hopes travellers from Taiwan and India will be next in line for visa waivers if visa-free entry for mainland Chinese tourists is made permanent, as proposed by Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin.

Mr Srettha said that the temporary visa exemption for Chinese travellers, which is scheduled to end on Feb 29, could be made permanent.

He made the comment during the signing of a letter of intent between the TAT and eight Chinese companies on Oct 19 in Beijing, where he led a Thai delegation attending the Belt and Road Forum.

Thai authorities also want to upgrade safety and security measures to revive the Chinese market, he said.

Thapanee Kiatphaibool, the TAT governor, said that while the government considers visa measures for China, the agency is working to create a better impression of Thailand among Chinese visitors. Changing perceptions about unsafe travel, which have been exaggerated in her view, is one of the goals.

She said eight partners would help to create a positive perception, as they include big tech and online players with a combined database of 70-80% of the Chinese population, spanning the finance, travel, entertainment and communication sectors.

The eight companies are Huawei Technologies, Trip.com Group, Meituan.com, Spring Airlines, Sina News, Alipay, iQIYI and Jago Trip.

Ms Thapanee said the agency and partner companies would share tourism information and produce positive content to counter fake news about Thailand.



Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin joins officials from the Tourism Authority of Thailand and Chinese tourism partners at the signing of an agreement in Beijing on Thursday (Oct 19). Photo: TAT

"Our prime minister directed us to aggressively promote trade, investment and tourism," she said. "The TAT has to accelerate tourism growth and we are considering setting up a sixth office in China in Nanning, a southern city that promotes itself as a springboard to Asean."

Ms Thapanee said the plan to accelerate growth could include visa waivers for arrivals from Taiwan and India, as well as easing of travel restrictions for Malaysian tourists coming via the land border.

"Of the 3.4 million Malaysians visiting Thailand, about 1 million came via the Sadao border checkpoint," she said. "Though there is no visa requirement for this market, the queues during the weekends are quite long. We are proposing removing the TM6 immigration form requirement during weekends to ease tourist flows."

Chattan Kunjara Na Ayudhya, the TAT deputy governor for Asia and the South Pacific, said that if Thailand and China mutually agree to waive visa requirements for visitors, it would help increase seat capacity more quickly between the two markets.

PM pleads for Thais to return from Israel

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin made an impassioned plea on Monday (Oct 23) for all Thai workers to leave Israel, warning that the conflict would likely spread and escalate and future ground battles obstruct evacuation efforts.

He made the call after meeting with officials at the Foreign Affairs Ministry on the situation in Israel and the Palestinian Gaza Strip.

"All military, foreign affairs and security authorities confirmed that although reported strikes have eased, the intensity of the war has not and is likely to escalate and expand to nearby countries. This is of real concern," the PM said.

"Please come back. Their relatives here, please convince them to leave Israel. Now, while their return is still possible. When the ground battles start, return will be difficult. It will be harder to reach evacu-



Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin makes his plea on Monday (Oct 23). Photo: Government House

ation centres and airports.

"Right now 1,000 Thais can be evacuated daily. I would like them all to return. After signing your names, please don't change your mind. No matter how much money, it is not worth your life... I want everyone to return safely. Other things are less important. Please return. Be concerned for your life. Return right away. This is first and foremost," he added.

Mr Srettha said he ordered officials to raise the cash incentive for returnees from the current B15,000 a month and ensure they have jobs upon their return.

Thirty Thais have been killed in the violence so far, Mr Srettha confirmed, adding that the government was doing everything it could to secure the release of the 19 Thais abducted by Hamas, whose fate remains unknown.

"High-level officials of Thailand are departing on flights but I cannot reveal their destinations. I confirm we are trying all possible means to ensure the captives' release," Mr Srettha said.

Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Jakkapong Sangmanee said about 3,000 Thais had already returned from Israel and the government

would arrange for more flights with airlines, to speed up evacuation.

About 8,500 of the roughly 30,000 Thai workers in Israel when Hamas launched its attack on Oct 7 have already registered for evacuation home, and have begun arriving daily.

Meanwhile, more than 300 Thai Muslims and Palestinians gathered outside the Israeli embassy in Bangkok last Saturday (Oct 21) to condemn Israel and the United States for the ongoing bombardment of the Gaza Strip and demand that Israel stop "genocide".

The demonstrators, many of them Muslims from five southern border provinces and Palestinians living in Thailand, voiced encouragement for Hamas militants fighting Israeli military forces before setting fire to an Israeli flag.

"Accepting oppression is the greatest evil. If the Palestine problem is not ended, the whole world will suffer. The United Nations protects the rights of Jews. Hamas brothers had to fight against them," said one protester.

Melioidosis concerns rise after 10 confirmed dead

BANGKOK

THE DEPARTMENT OF Disease Control (DDC) has warned farmers about a new outbreak of melioidosis which has killed 10 farmers in Buri Ram, Nakhon Ratchasima and Songkhla.

Melioidosis, also called Whitmore's disease, is a bacterial infectious disease caused by a fungus called *Burkholderia pseudomallei* or *B. pseudomallei* that is normally detected in contaminated soil, water, rice paddies and cropping farms.

Melioidosis is now in its spring outbreak and is causing concern among medical offices, DDC chief Dr Taweechai Wisanuyothin said last Saturday (Oct 21), adding that 582 cases of the disease have been found this year in the four lower northeastern provinces. Six of those – four in Buri Ram and two in Nakhon Ratchasima – died of the disease.

Dr Taweechai said that 53.78% of those infected were farmers, 25.88% were employees and 6.87% were children. Most of the infected patients were at least 65 years old; the

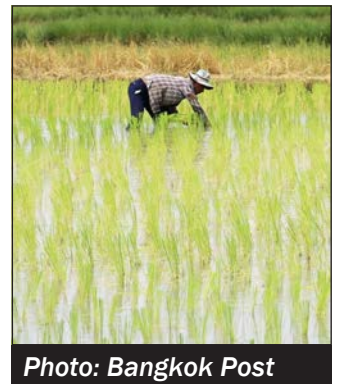


Photo: Bangkok Post

others were 55-64 and 45-54 years old, respectively.

Melioidosis can infect both humans and animals through direct contact with a contaminated source, such as touching or consuming soil and water or even breathing in the fungi, Dr Taweechai said.

Symptoms of the disease, including high fevers, abscesses and respiratory infections, will typically be displayed one to 21 days after receiving the bacteria, he added.

People are cautioned against wading through water or mud and advised to wear boots, plastic shoe protectors, and to drink fully sterilised water.

Immediate treatment should be sought if symptoms arise, Dr Taweechai concluded.

Bangkok Post

Srettha extends invitations for Putin and Xi to visit Thailand

BEIJING

PRIME MINISTER SRETTHA THAVISIN has extended official invitations to Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping to visit Thailand next year.

Mr Srettha extended the invitations while at the 3rd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing on Oct 17-19.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has thrown Putin into international isolation, leaving him with few allies and an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the alleged deportations of thousands of Ukrainian children to Russia.

Thailand – which is not a state party to the ICC Rome Statute – opted to maintain cooperation with Russia, joining China and India in abstaining at a United Nations General Assembly vote last year to condemn Russia's annexation of parts of Ukraine.

Thailand recently made changes to its visa arrangements to allow Russians to visit for up to three months – an increase from 30 days.

"President Putin likes Phuket, I understand he travels often," Mr Srettha said, adding the Russian leader had accepted the invitation although no dates had been confirmed.

A similar invitation was extended to China's Xi following a series of bilateral talks on the side of the Beijing forum.

The two sides discussed a wide range of topics, including economic cooperation, Mr Srettha said, adding they believed the global economic slowdown and the geopolitical conflict between the US and China have impacted the



PM Srettha meets Russian leader Vladimir Putin in Beijing on Oct 17. Photo: AFP

economies of China and Thailand.

Mr Srettha and Xi also vowed to strengthen Thai-China relations and emphasised the importance of the Thailand-China Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership and the need to promote high-level visits between the two countries as 2025 will mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Thai-Chinese diplomatic ties.

Regarding cooperation on tourism, Mr Srettha highlighted the 30-day visa-free policy for Chinese tourists, which started on Sept 25 and is scheduled to expire on Feb 29, although may become permanent, he added.

China was Thailand's biggest source of international visitors before the COVID-19 pandemic, accounting for nearly 11 million arrivals in 2019. Tourism authorities expect about 5mn Chinese to visit the country this year.

Bangkok Post

THE PAVILIONS Spa

Spa HARMONY

Design your own spa package and unlock pure bliss by selecting two of the Spa Treatments listed (total of 90 minutes / package)

THB 2,999 ++
per person

Explore our selection of treatments and select:

The Pavilions Oil Massage	60/90 mins
Deep Tissue Massage	60/90 mins
Jetlag Recovery Massage	60/90 mins
Thai Massage	60/90 mins
Facial Massage	30/60 mins
Head Massage	30 mins
Foot Massage	30/60 mins
Coconut Body Scrub	30 mins
Fresh Coffee Scrub	30 mins

Terms and conditions:
• Promotion cannot be combined with other offers
• Promotion is available daily from 10.00 am – 8.00 pm
• Price is not inclusive of tax and service charge
• Reservation in advance is recommended, and no show or cancellation less than 4 hours will be charged full price.

STAY WITH US AT THE PAVILIONS PHUKET BOOK NOW AND ENJOY UP TO 35% OFF

RESERVE YOUR SPA SESSION AT +66 76 317 600 EXT. 2

In reverence of Rama V

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Leading Phuket officials on Monday (Oct 23) paid tribute to the life and reign of King Chulalongkorn (Rama V), often referred to by Thais as 'Piya Maharat', meaning 'Great Beloved King', as the nation commemorated Chulalongkorn Day, marking the great monarch's death 113 years ago.

Phuket Governor Sophon Suwanarat, joined by his wife Mrs Busadee, led senior government officials, leading community representatives and members of the public at an event held at the King Chulalongkorn statue in front of the old Provincial Hall.

The wreath-laying ceremony held at the statue allowed those present "to pay their respects and pay tribute to King Chulalongkorn to show loyalty and bow in remembrance of His Majesty's grace", said an official report of the occasion.

Governor Sophon addressed the assembly present: "His Majesty King Chulalongkorn, King Rama V, is a monarch who performed his royal duties, small and large, with great skill, continuing the development of Thailand to progress in every aspect... in government government administration, education, public health, as well as various public facilities which have enabled Thailand to progress and maintain its



Photo: PR Phuket

independence," he said.

"The Thai people have humbly offered the royal title 'Phra Piya Maharaj', which means 'the great king who is loved by all the people'. And the government has designated October 23 of every year as 'Piya Maharat Day' to jointly remember His Majesty's infinite kindness," he added.

"King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) is renowned as the monarch who established the abolition of slavery in Thailand when he ascended the throne because he did not want there to be oppression and disrespect among the Thai people," Governor Sophon continued.

King Chulalongkorn achieved the abolition of slavery in Thailand through

several Acts issued over decades, beginning with the abolition that children born into slavery since 1868 be free upon reaching 21 years of age.

"He saw that slavery was obsolete, not suitable for developed countries. Therefore, the Act on the Abolition of Slavery was issued, called the "Slavery Act R.S. 124" (1905) to abolish the issue of slave children," Governor Sophon said.

Section 269 of the 1908 penal code explicitly criminalised slavery, with several exceptions still being phased out under previous Acts issued. Slavery finally became fully illegal in 1915.

King Chulalongkorn is also revered for reforming public administration

regulations, bringing much of the Thai government and its administration in line with Western models by using ministries, Governor Sophon reminded the assembly.

"He improved the duties of many different departments and combined them into ministries. Each ministry has one main duty... For orderliness in education, His Majesty ordered the establishment of a royal school in the Grand Palace. He also had the royal family and government officials send their children to study in the judiciary.

"He established the Ministry of Justice to bring together the various courts under the same ministry; the Ministry of Transport to expand the Bamrung Mueang Road, the newly built Yaowarat Road, Ratchadamnoen Klang Road, Ratchadamnoen Nok Road, Burapha Road, and so on," Governor Sophon added.

"Moreover, in the area of health, many hospitals were established, such as Siriraj Hospital.. In terms of foreign affairs, His Majesty travelled to many foreign countries to see the models of government and brought them to be modified and used in our country," Governor Sophon said.

King Chulalongkorn is also renowned for the abolition in 1873 of the practice of lower-class citizens being required to prostrate themselves, on their hands and knees face down, before higher-ranking dignitaries.

The December/January 2024 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.

Want to be in it?

✉ CONTACT JASON TODAY – gm@classactmedia.co.th

Served to completion

Ben Tirebuck

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

A fantastic view is always a welcome addition to any great dining experience, something my partner and I enjoyed to the full at our recent lunch at Rock Salt at Nai Harn Beach. Greeted by a picturesque view across the beach, we took our seats and wasted no time getting stuck into the menu.

For appetisers we ordered the Tomato Burrata and the Hot Prawn Cocktail and what a delight they were! The tiger prawns were perfectly cooked and accompanied with an incredible tomato relish, while slicing open the creamy burrata to fuse with a bed of gorgeous baby tomatoes made for an exquisite taste sensation.

Head Chef Mark Jones soon joined us to explain that leaving the tomatoes at room temperature to preserve their flavour enhances the dish, while the prawns are cooked just under then left to fully cook themselves, he informs us. Adding a slight drizzle of orange juice mixed with the prawn's natural residue, once plated, ensures a unique tang to the dish that is truly memorable.

Onto main courses, we ordered the Ranger Valley Sirloin Steak with café de Paris butter and local favourite Piri Piri Chicken. Both portions are



Photo: Rock Salt Phuket

extremely generous and accompanied by sumptuous fresh salads and French fries. The steak is sliced and cooked to perfection, melting in the mouth. The butter adds an altogether elevated dimension to the taste, a secret recipe that Mark explains contains a wide variety of ingredients. The chicken is succulent, perfectly charred with the delectable Piri Piri sauce, spicy without going overboard, and such a generous portion that it could easily be shared between two people.

Being a dessert fanatic, I always

ensure I leave room for my favourite dish and I absolutely wasn't disappointed on this occasion. The Rock Salt Rum and Raisin Brownie is a genuine delight, with chunks of moist brownie surrounded by a combination of fresh cream and sweet rum and raisin ice cream, served in a beautiful half glass bottle. Chef Mark explains how they order in bottles of rum from Chalong Bay Rum Distillery that, once used, are specially crafted into serving bowls for the dessert – a wonderful touch.

My partner claims her Panna Cotta is

among the finest desserts she has ever experienced in Phuket, a decadent serving sitting in a bowl of delicious berry coulis.

The exceptional food aside, it was the attention of the knowledgeable, capable and very friendly staff – and the time Chef Mark took to explain the dishes – that truly made for a wonderful experience. Many of the dishes may appear relatively straightforward at first glance, he explains, but there is a considerable amount of time and heartfelt effort that goes into each and every one to create a unique taste sensation, an ethos that is clearly evident throughout our lunch. He tells us how they strive to use fresh organic produce as often as possible to support local farmers and businesses and that such quality produce does not need to be overdone as it carries such fine natural flavour.

It is clear that the staff at Rock Salt genuinely care, which, when backed up with such delicious food, makes for an exceptional and truly memorable experience. Oh, and the view isn't bad either!

Rock Salt Restaurant & Bar is located on beautiful Nai Harn Beach near the southern tip of Phuket. Open Daily 7-10am, 12.30-10pm. Reservations: 076-380200. Visit TheNaiHarn.com or [RockSaltPhuket](https://www.facebook.com/RockSaltPhuket) on Facebook.



THAI
RESIDENTIAL

Phuket's No.1 Trusted Real Estate Advisor

Are You Trying To Sell Your Phuket Property?

List Your House, Villa or Luxury Condo with
Thai Residential
and Increase Your Chances
of a **Successful** Sale.



PHUKET@THAIRESIDENTIAL.COM | +66 94 8411 918 | WWW.THAIRESIDENTIAL.COM
THAIRESIDENTIAL CO., LTD. 82/37 SAM PAO COURTYARD, MOO4, PATAK ROAD, T.RAWAI, PHUKET, 83130

POP QUIZ

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

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

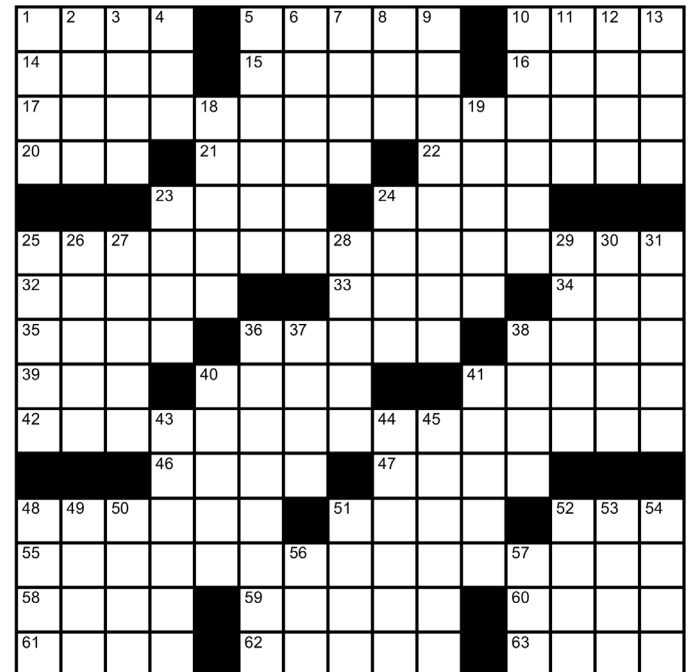
1. Have a sudden inspiration?
5. Go off script
10. Discounted by
14. Diva's solo
15. Facetious
16. Hurt
17. Presents a brave front
20. German spa
21. Boat trailer?
22. American photographer Edward
23. Tiny arachnid
24. Butter
25. Focuses on a person's assets
32. Bell sound
33. "___ Toledo!"
34. Big mouth
35. Hazard
36. Thunderstorm product
38. Labyrinth
39. Flowery verse
40. Ancient greetings
41. Auspicate
42. Come through
46. Catalan surrealist
47. Any minute

Down

1. Goggle
2. Jack-in-the-pulpit, e.g.
3. Poses
4. Dance bit
5. Joined, in biology
6. Male ducks
7. Opera house box
8. U.N. workers' grp.
9. Whale part
10. Sweethearts
11. Genuine
12. "Beat it!"
13. Tailor-made
18. Because of, with "to"
19. Industrious
23. Brother
24. Continue
25. New England

catch

26. Slur over
27. Stand for Steen
28. Hamlet's father, e.g.
29. Adult insect
30. In a fog
31. Decorative pitchers
36. Commands
37. Poor test score
38. Atomic particle
40. Dispatch boat
41. ___ goose
43. They're cast
44. Like an angel
45. Allow
48. At the summit of
49. Kind of dancer
50. Honker
51. Lava maker
52. Cup part
53. River in northeastern England
54. Hammer's end
56. Morse T
57. Low card



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1.7

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

49

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

96

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

1,000

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

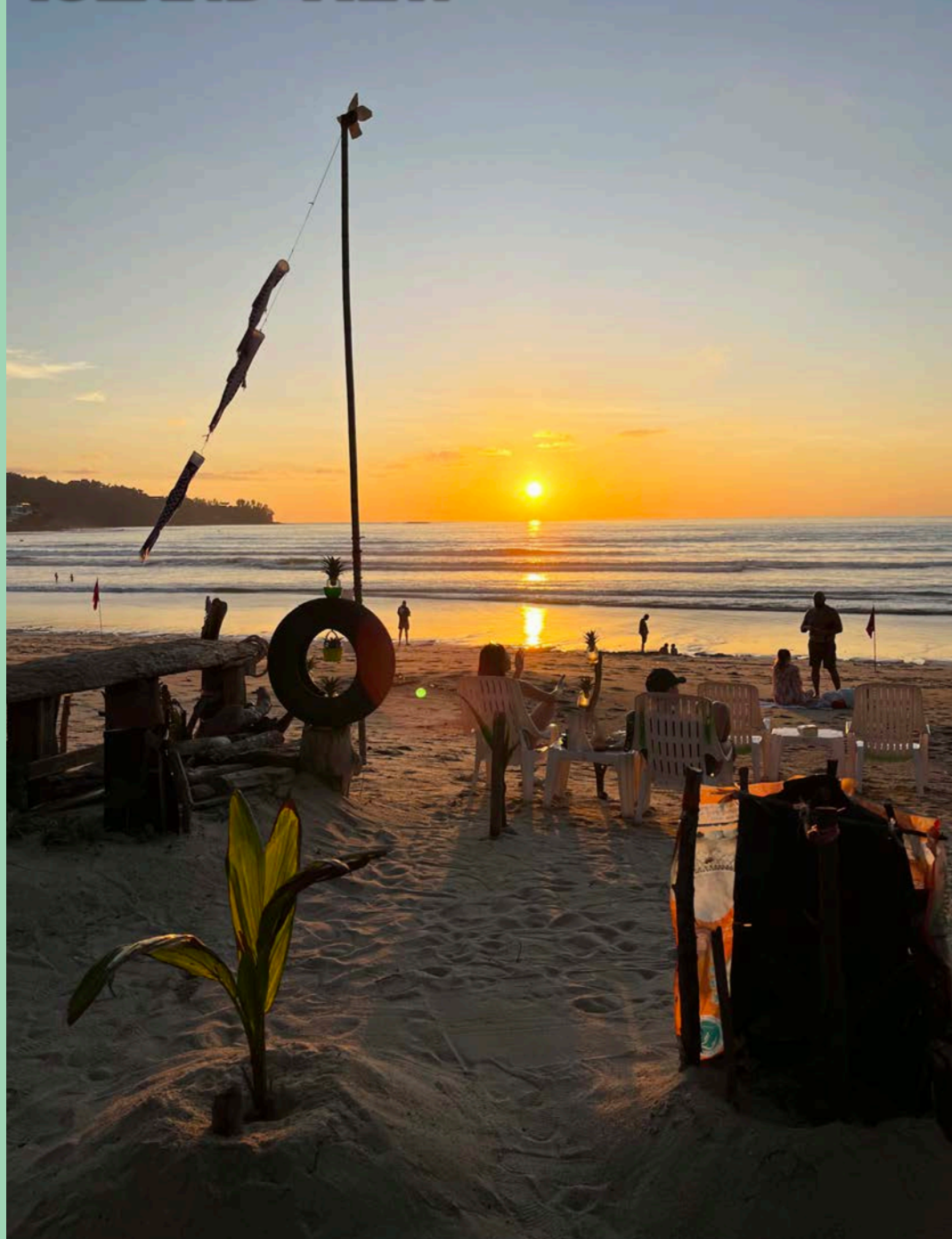
1

million

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

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Kamala heading into Saturday night. Photo by Dominic Egger

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

This week in history

Oct 27, 1936

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

Oct 28, 1420

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

Oct 29, 2004

Al Jazeera broadcasts an excerpt from a 2004 Osama bin Laden video in which the terrorist leader first admits direct responsibility for the Sept 11, 2001 attacks and references the 2004 US presidential election.

Oct 30, 1970

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

Oct 31, 2011

The global population of humans reaches seven billion. This day is now recognised by the United Nations as the Day of Seven Billion. The global population today is 8.1 billion.



Nov 1, 1512

The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, painted by Michelangelo, is exhibited to the public for the first time. Photo: Jörg Bittner Unna

Nov 2, 1949

The Dutch-Indonesian Round Table Conference ends with the Netherlands agreeing to transfer sovereignty of the Dutch East Indies to the United States of Indonesia. Source: Wikipedia

Trades & Services

 The Phuket News
 @thephuketnews

CORPORATE SERVICES



HOME IMPROVEMENT

Waterproofing & Crack Repair

20 year WARRANTY

under yearly checkup plan... Drone Survey

Pipe Inspection

TCM Asia Co., Ltd - quality services since 2003
 office@tcm-asia.com 086-9439834

HOME IMPROVEMENT

ASIA GREEN TECH GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

+6683 394 7430
 www.asiagtech.com

Cherng Talay & Rawai Phuket, Thailand
 bruno@asiagtech.com

BIOCLIMATIC PERCOLA

HOME IMPROVEMENT

ASIA GREEN TECH GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

+6683 394 7430
 www.asiagtech.com

Cherng Talay & Rawai Phuket, Thailand
 bruno@asiagtech.com

HIGH ELECTRICITY BILL ???
 WE WILL TELL YOU WHY AND HOW TO REDUCE IT.
 FIRST CONSULTANCY FREE OF CHARGE

SAVE ENERGY BY SMART MONITORING YOUR CONSUMPTION. FREE CONSULTANCY. COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

HOME IMPROVEMENT

WOOD FLOOR PHUKET - 20 YEARS

Solid wood floors and engineering.
 Decks supplied and installed - Teak & NZ Pine.

/solidwoodfloorphuketthailand
 Matt 081 271 2684 or Jessika 062 372 6624

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Tile-e-it SMART TILES
 Tile Leveling System

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

Baan Wana - Cherng Talay
 Tel : 076 620168

www.tile-asia.com | letstalk@tile-asia.com

HOME IMPROVEMENT

MASTERCRAFTSMAN
 WE REPAIR AND BUILD NEW:

- ALL KINDS OF HOT AND COLD WATER SYSTEMS
- HOT WATER SOLAR SYSTEMS AND SOLAR PUMPS
- POOL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE
- REPAIR ALL KINDS OF WATER SYSTEMS AND POOL PUMPS
- A VARIETY OF WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS TO FIT YOUR NEEDS

SHOWROOM NEXT TO WAT CHALONG
 OPEN FROM 8AM TO 5PM

Plumber
 German Water Team Ltd.Part
 We repair what your husband fixed

094 594 8868 (THAI)
 089 645 4848 (GER / ENG)

www.germanwaterteam.com
 Email: germanwaterteam@yahoo.de

22/12 Moo 6 Chaofa R.d.west Chalong A.Muang Phuket 83130

HOME IMPROVEMENT

ASIA GREEN TECH GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

+6683 394 7430
 www.asiagtech.com

Cherng Talay & Rawai Phuket, Thailand
 bruno@asiagtech.com

- ✓ 100% Chlorine Free
- ✓ Water Parameters Check
- ✓ Salt Chlorinator Installation
- ✓ Electric System Check
- ✓ Pump Room Installation
- ✓ Filtration Check

MARINE SERVICES

Marine Engineering Specialists

C & C MARINE®

YANMAR mtu

C & C Marine (Thailand) Co., Ltd.
 16/2 Moo 4, Soi Nanai, Thepkasattri Rd., Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
 Tel: +66 (0)76 273247 Fax: +66 (0)76 273248 Mob: +66 (0)81 078 4507
 Email: holmes@candc-marine.com www.candc-marine.com

WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?

The Phuket News
 Новости Пхукета
 ข่าวภูเก็ต

WINDOW ON PHUKET
 The map of PHUKET
 English 中文 Русский
 LIVE 89.5 NEWS TV

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th

FRI 27 OCT



Friday Mussels Night

6 PM onwards: Belgian style mussels served with French Fries. All you can eat. Your choice, Your style: Marinere, Selected drinks, Provencale, Garlic & cream, Creamy curry, Blue cheese or Thai style We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 325 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381



Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners by AustCham Thailand

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, British Chamber (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber (GTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber (NTCC), Phuket Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Swedish Chamber, invite you to join us for Sundowners at Saii Laguna Phuket from 18.00 hrs. Make new connections and catch up with familiar faces in the Australian-Thai business community. Also get to know our corporate sponsor, Meinhardt, an engineering consultancy service which offers full engineering consultancy services. • 500 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members • 900 THB for non-members. Includes cocktail-style food, and free-flow selected beverages. Register in advance, walk-ins are not allowed, via office@austchamthailand.com or 02 109 9616.



Joint Chambers Member Briefing on How Engineering Excellence can SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE your hotel facility

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, British Chamber Thailand (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber (GTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber (NTCC), Phuket Chamber, Thai-Italian Chamber (TICC) and Thai-Swedish Chamber of Commerce, invite you to join us for Joint Chambers Member Briefing from 17.00 - 18.00 hrs. In this session, you will get to know more from our corporate sponsor, Meinhardt, about engineering excellence which goes beyond the initial construction phase. It's an ongoing commitment to efficient, reliable, and sustainable practices that can have a profound and positive impact on your hotel or facility's profitability, reliability, and sustainability over time. Free of charge for AustCham members, partner Chambers. Advance registration required - office@austchamthailand.com

SUN 29 OCT



Sunday Roast

12PM - 9PM: All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet Beef, Pork & Capon chicken - Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, Fried mushrooms, Grilled Tomatoes - Yorkshire pudding - Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes - Gravy, Mushroom sauce, Horse raddish, Mint Sauce. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 350 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

MON 30 OCT



Monday BBQ Night

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

WED 1 NOV



Wednesday 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

FRI 3 NOV



Grow Boating Evening

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm on Friday the 3rd of November. We are delighted to announce that our drinks sponsor for the evening will be the Thailand International Boat Show 2024 (TIBS) which will take place at the award-winning Royal Phuket Marina between 11 - 14 January 2024, with over 6,000 visitors and more than 100 exhibitors expected to attend. See www.thailandinternationalboatshow.com There will

be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant for all attendees and as always, all your favourite beverages will be available from the bar. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee and if you know anyone you think would be interested in coming, please invite them along. To join our mailing list click this link <https://facebook.us16.list-manage.com/subscribe...> Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/growboatingphuket Grow Boating is kindly supported by our media partner The Phuket News, Live 89.5 radio and Phuket News TV. See www.thephuketnews.com

TUE 7 NOV



Melbourne Cup 2023 at Casa Boho

Fabulous Fun Fundraiser at Funky Casa Boho at the Hyatt Regency Kamala - The Melbourne Cup 2023. From 9:30 to 14:30, guests will enjoy free-flow selected beverages & brunch with: - Fashions on the Field to find the most stylish guests - with prizes awarded for Best Hat, Best Dressed, Best Suited, and the Chicest Couple. - Exclusive prizes to bid on and raffles to win. - Screening of the famous thoroughbred horse race. - Dancing with resident DJ. Casa Boho is the perfect party venue, with aircon, ocean breezes and panoramic views across Kamala Bay. Dress code: At the races. Hats a must! Venue: Casa Boho, Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort, Kamala. Donation: 3,500 baht. For tickets, please contact Tina Hall tina.phukethasbeengoodtous.org Phuket Has Been Good To Us must raise 450,000 baht from this fundraiser to pay for an English Teacher for 2024, so PLEASE join us for this party with a purpose

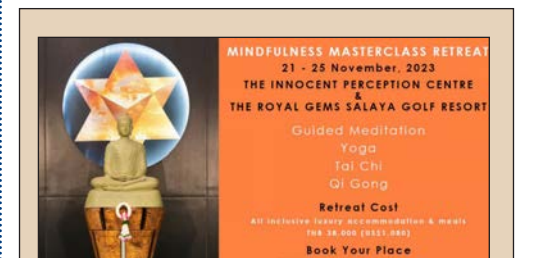
WED 15 NOV



La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Phuket Dinner - Nov 2023

Contemporary Australian Dinner. An amazing menu that brings Melbourne to the Andaman, with paired drinks, has been created specifically by Chef Oat for this months La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Phuket Dinner. Held at HEH Restaurant in Talat Yai on November 15, from 6pm. Dress code - Jacket's optional for men, no jeans, with Chaîne ribbon. Members - THB 5,000 p.p., limited invited guests - THB 5,500 p.p. To book your seat at this very special dinner, please visit - phuket-ticketmaster.com *Pay via Bank Transfer and only pay the dinner price, booking fees only apply to other payment options. (By attending this event, you consent to being photographed, and these photos may be used for promotional and advertising purposes. If you have any concerns, please inform the Chaîne Phuket committee.)

TUE 21 NOV



5-Day Mindfulness Master Class Retreat

Learn the secrets of self-empowerment with a week of life-changing mindfulness and guided meditation skills taught by spiritual life coach Supawan Green at The Innocent Perception Centre, Nakhon Pathom near Bangkok. Retreat includes stay at boutique golf resort in rural surroundings. Daily activities include modern Vipassana meditation, yoga, tai chi, discussions and presentations. Meals included. Supawan Green, 2/41 Soi Dao Thong 2, Moo 3 Salaya, Phutthamonthon District Nakhon Pathom. Email: retreat@innocentperception.org

CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS

JOB WANTED!

Dutch professional (26 y/o) looking for a job in real estate, marketing, or sales. Extremely motivated, positive, and a fast learner. Let's discuss over a coffee if we're a match! Please contact me on Whatsapp: +31649687968 or laszlobraaksm@gmail.com. Laszlo Braaksm, laszlobraaksm@gmail.com, +31649687968

JOB

URGENT Personal Assistant

Looking for a Personal Assistant to help a British Business man who intends to buy a property in Phuket where he will live part of the year. Duties to include arranging viewings, help organise maids, housekeepers, masseuses, gardener, chef. Arriving October 29th, 2023 and staying in Surin Beach, Phuket. Please email with photo. Phil Solomons: sirroundsound27@gmail.com, +44 7788 725846

JOBS

Part Time Fitness Coach

Female fitness coach required End of October for busy business man staying in Surin Beach Must arrange diet, food, workout and masseuse during his stay. Please email experience and availability by October 21st. Phil Solomons: sirroundsound27@gmail.com, +44 7788 725846w

PROPERTY FOR SALE



FARANG STYLE HOUSE

House for sale 300 meters from Robinson at Baan Suan Neramit 1; fully furnished and rented to same tenant for the last 5 years. Owner moved to other province must sell! Reduced to 4.3MB, interested party call John on 093 629 4400.



Cha Am Beach Condo for Sale

72 SqM Unfurnished One bdrm bath kitchen. 1 Air cond 25 mtrs to beach 4th floor Cattareya Condo Swimming Pool Fitness Parking 24 hr security CCTV. Panadda Sathaisong, 089 635 7311, mypinellasm@gmail.com



RPM by owner

Unique luxury condo 2 bed, 2 bath, 155sqm. Foreign FREE HOLD. Architect remodel in tropical white. Jacuzzi. All round beautiful views. Completely furnished to a high standard. Only toothbrush needed. Very motivated owner living in Phuket. Onsite restaurant, gym, Tennis court, swimming pools and new Russian consulate. Available to agents. Contact Brian (Owner) - bgvirgo@gmail.com

CARS, TRUCKS FOR SALE



Volvo V60-2.0 Recharge T8

Volvo V60-2.0 Recharge T8 4WD Wagon. 2021. 48,xxx km. Turbo charged Supercharged 407 hp. Plug-in Hybrid - Gas - Full Electric. Black Onyx Metallic. Contact LINE ID: [pma97139](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/00291pma97139) Mr. Philip, Rawai

PROPERTY FOR RENT



Land for sale near Mission Heights

Nice plot of land, just over one Rai in small, very quiet private estate, no monthly fees. 10 min to international school, 15 min to airport. Ideal to build 4 rental units. Reduced to 4.2MB. Contact owner direct - 063 743 8595.

CLASSIFIEDS

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Chalong, Phuket Town, Bang Tao & Karon

CALL 081 895 4763 help@aaphuket.org

Google www.aaphuket.com



Photo: Tim Laven

VEG FEST CONCLUDES WITH A BANG

After nine days of ablutions, self-purification rituals and street processions that saw thousands turn out to witness the annual spectacle, this year's Phuket Vegetarian Festival drew to a close on Monday night (Oct 23) with a mass bonfire of prayers and blessings calling the Nine Emperor Gods back to the heavens.

The day started with the street procession of mah song spirit mediums and devotees from the Lor Rong Shrine, also called the Sui Boon Thong Shrine, in Phuket Town. The Sui Boon Thong Shrine specifically worships a sacred statue of the former Buddhist supreme patriarchal monk 'Ching Sui Zu Shi'. Honouring 'Ching Sui Zu Shi' is to gain protection from bad omens and repel negative energies, together bringing devotees an 'ensured level of protection'.

The mah song, which included women and at least one child, mostly were adorned with the traditional face piercings of blessed skewers, but some of the spirit mediums felt more comfortable with more modern adornments.

As with the street processions by all 40 participating Chinese shrines across the island over the preceding week, altars of offerings were made available along the route on Monday, with mah song stopping by to bestow blessings.

The Sui Boon Thong Shrine was not the only shrine to hold its street procession on Monday, with devotees from the Bang Khu Shrine in Koh Kaew taking to the streets at 8am.

By that time, the Vegetarian Festival had truly gained momentum. Thousands had already turned out to take

part in the street processions by the oldest and largest Chinese shrines on the island: the Jui Tui Shrine, built in 1904; the Bang Neow Shrine; the Samkong Shrine; and the Kathu Shrine.

The Kathu Shrine holds a special place in the Phuket Vegetarian Festival. The once-modest shrine is the birthplace of the Vegetarian Festival as it is where Chinese workers experienced a miraculous recovery from illness by eating a strict diet of vegetables for nine days 198 years ago.

More than 2,000 revellers turned out for the street procession by the Jui Tui Shrine. Local residents and tourists alike looked on as the procession passed, with a series of colourful floats following a revered statue of one of the gods that was being carried, with firecrackers being set off in every street that it passed.

Participants in the procession displayed a series of customary piercings to their faces where items such as kitchen knives, spikes, umbrellas and other items were seen piercing their cheeks and tongues.

Sharing the spotlight last Saturday night (Oct 21) was the Bang Neow Shrine, where crowds of locals and tourists alike looked on in awe as devotees climbed a 72-step 'knife ladder' in front of the shrine on Phuket Rd as part of the Vegetarian Festival celebrations.

The v-shaped 'knife ladder' had 36 steps on both sides, each with an upward protruding sharp blade attached. Participants have to climb all the way to the top and back down again as part of the ceremony.

Around 7:45pm, after the crowds had gathered and prayers of homage had been made to the shrine, more

than 30 devotees entered the stage and prepared to climb the seemingly treacherous ladder. Then, one by one, they commenced their climb, before crossing over at the top of the ladder and beginning their descent.

On reaching the summit of the ladder, one of the climbers threw several yellow cloths inscribed with the Chinese characters "Kiuwong Tai Te" down to the crowds below, which are considered auspicious and lucky gifts.

One participant revealed that the secret to avoiding injury when scaling the ladder was the practice of putting body weight back onto the heels of the feet. It was exactly this approach that saw all devotees complete the climb and descent without any injury, leaving the crowds below awe-struck.

All major shrines taking part in the festival held street processions through the heart of Phuket Town late Monday night as their devotees make their way to Saphan Hin for the bonfire ritual to send the Nine Emperor Gods back to the heavens at midnight. Police cautioned motorists of traffic disruptions in Phuket Town while the street processions took place.

While Monday night marked the official end of this year's Vegetarian Festival, with devotees allowed to eat non-vegetarian fare after midnight, a final ceremony for the year was held at all participating shrines at sunset on Tuesday (Oct 24) as the traditional Go Teng poles were lowered.

The dates for the Vegetarian Festival for next year have already been announced: Oct 3-11, 2024.



Photos: PR Phuket



Their Majesties open ice hockey arena

ICE HOCKEY

THEIR MAJESTIES THE King and Queen attended the opening of Thailand International Ice Hockey Arena Chiang Mai last Friday (Oct 20), with Queen Suthida actively participating in the sport.

Their Majesties arrived at the military airport at Wing 41 in Muang district on a royal plane at 6:29pm where they were welcomed by Chiang Mai Governor Niran Pongsitthithavorn, senior officials, police, air force officers and a crowd of well-wishers.

Their Majesties then proceeded to tambon Tha Sala in Muang district to preside over the opening of Thailand International Ice Hockey Arena Chiang Mai.

During the opening ceremony, the monarch lit ceremonial candles and incense sticks to pay homage to a Buddha image.

Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, a distinguished member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and Luc Tardif, the President of the International Ice Hockey Federation, also participated in the ceremony.



Her Majesty the Queen Suthida in w on the ice. Photo: Bangkok Post

Pinpinat Yankornthana-phan, president of Theater of Dream Co, then presented a briefing on the objectives of the arena.

After the King pressed a button to unveil the sign of the arena, a group of Buddhist monks performed a religious ceremony.

ML Kritsada Kasemsan, president of the Ice Hockey Association of Thailand, and his team presented hockey T-shirts to Their Majesties.

The King watched ice hockey games, with Queen Suthida, who was wearing a hockey uniform, joining athletes on the ice to the delight of the crowd of people who gathered to catch a glimpse of Her Majesty's sporting talent. Bangkok Post

Boks face All Blacks in WC final showdown

RUGBY

AFP

Handre Pollard broke English hearts as he landed a 49-metre penalty three minutes from time to book South Africa's place in the World Cup final as they edged England 16-15 at the Stade de France last Saturday (Oct 21).

The Springboks will face New Zealand in tomorrow's (Oct 28) final after the All Blacks trounced Argentina 44-6 in their semi-final.

Victory over England took the holders through to their fourth final where either they or the All Blacks will become the first team to notch up four World Cup wins.

In a repeat of the 2019 final, England appeared to have turned the tables on the Boks with a superb performance in the wet and windy conditions, leading by the first of Owen Farrell's successfully converted penalties.

It was Farrell's stunning 48-metre drop goal that gave England a 15-6 lead going into



South Africa beat England in their semi-final to book a final place against the All Blacks. Photo: AFP

the final 10 minutes of the match. However, the South Africans are known for never giving up a lost cause and so Pollard proved.

Three minutes from time, England were penalised for collapsing the scrum. From just in front of halfway Pollard coolly fired the ball between the posts to put the Boks in front for the first time, a lead they managed to hold on to.

"I think they put us under pressure in exactly the right areas," said Pollard afterwards. "But jeez the fight we

showed, never giving up, it is what we stand for as a team and as a nation."

Farrell was extremely proud of his teammates but also gracious in defeat.

"I am unbelievably proud of this group and what they have done over this past few months together," he said.

"Credit to them fighting their way back into it and finding a way to win at the end."

Meanwhile, New Zealand's incoming Prime Minister Christopher Luxon joined his countrymen in heaping praise

on an All Blacks side that has exceeded national expectations by reaching the Rugby World Cup final.

The three-time champions were regarded as outside hopes to clinch the silverware by many in the rugby-mad country after going into the tournament in mixed form and emphatically losing their opening pool game to hosts France. However, their desperate 28-24 quarter-final defeat of top-ranked Ireland reset expectations, and the semi-final dismantling of Argentina had headline writers searching for superlatives.

The *New Zealand Herald* focused on the improvements made under head coach Ian Foster since the "chaos" of his team's first-ever defeat on home soil to Argentina little more than a year ago.

"Foster is now 80 minutes away from writing one of the greatest redemption stories in rugby history," the newspaper said.

The 2023 Rugby World Cup final kicks off at 2am Phuket time on Sunday (Oct 29).

Bagnaia in charge as Australian MotoGP sprint race cancelled

MOTO GP

JORGE MARTIN WAS denied the chance to close the world championship gap on leader Francesco Bagnaia after the sprint race at the Australia MotoGP last Sunday (Oct 22) was called off due to treacherous conditions.

Organisers pulled the plug barely half an hour before the 13-lap dash was due to start at a soaking Phillip Island, with winds of up to 80 kilometres per hour forecast.

"Changes were made to the schedule to try and ensure the maximum track action in the safest possible conditions on Sunday," organisers said.

"But the weather conditions – forecast to worsen throughout the day – have obliged the cancellation of further track activity."

Spain's Martin had won the last four sprints and was on pole in Australia, desperate to claw back points after finishing fifth in Saturday's



Bleak weather at Phillip Island saw the MotoGP sprint cancelled last Sunday (Oct 22). Photo: AFP

grand prix to Bagnaia's second.

Bagnaia, the Italian Ducati rider, will now take a 27-point lead over Pramac's Martin into this weekend's Thailand MotoGP with just four legs of the 20-stop season remaining.

"The wind was quite crazy and with MotoGP riders at 330kph it can become very dangerous, so for me

the decision is the correct one," Bagnaia said.

Six-time world champion Marc Marquez agreed it was the only sensible move.

Racing did go ahead at Phillip Island on Sunday in the Moto2 and Moto3 races despite the bleak conditions, but several riders came to grief on the slippery track before the sprint was cancelled. AFP

Verstappen secures 50th career win

FORMULA ONE

FRESHLY MINTED TRIPLE WORLD champion Max Verstappen completed a hat trick of Texan victories last Sunday (Oct 22) when he claimed the 50th win of his career in a tense and strategic United States Grand Prix.

The 26-year-old Dutchman, who started sixth on the grid in his Red Bull car, worked his way through the field to take control before he came home 2.225 seconds ahead of resurgent seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton, who was disqualified hours after the race when his Mercedes car failed a technical inspection.

"Fifty wins is incredible and to do it here I am very proud. Now we keep on pushing for more," said Verstappen, who won his third straight title last time out in the sprint at Qatar.

Lando Norris, in his 100th Grand Prix, was promoted to second after Hamilton's disqualification following a thrilling race in which he had out-started pole-sitter Charles Leclerc, who like Hamilton was disqualified for failing a technical inspection following the race.

It was Verstappen's third consecutive victory at the Circuit of the Americas and brought him level with last season's record tally of 15 wins.

His runaway lead in the drivers' championship now stands at 228 points ahead of teammate Sergio Perez, who finished fourth in Texas behind Ferrari's Carlos Sainz.

George Russell, also in his 100th race, finished seventh but was promoted to fifth following the disqualification of Hamilton and Leclerc.



Max Verstappen on his way to victory in Austin, Texas. Photo: AFP

The race began with 16 cars on the grid and four in the pitlane, Aston Martin and Haas having made overnight set-up changes. The temperature was 29°C with the track at 40°C.

Norris, with a perfect start, took the lead from pole-man Leclerc in Turn One and a near-frantic opening lap saw Carlos Sainz pass Hamilton for third and Verstappen rise to fifth from sixth.

Verstappen was first to pit after 16 laps, taking mediums to re-join ninth. Norris reacted by pitting for hards before managing to advance to the position of race leader.

Norris was two seconds clear of Verstappen, but after stalking his friend the Dutchman passed him on lap 28, on the inside of Turn 12 and eased clear by 3.5 seconds on lap 35 when Norris pitted for more hards and fell to sixth.

Tyres and tyre-wear were clearly key issues for the closing laps as Hamilton took Leclerc for third on lap 44 and, on mediums, chased the hard-shod duo ahead.

On lap 49, after being blocked by Norris, Hamilton swept into second place, 5.2 seconds behind Verstappen with seven remaining.

However, the Red Bull driver was able to hold on and secure another landmark win, with Hamilton finishing second before his post-race disqualification. AFP

Man Utd honour legend Charlton with victory

FOOTBALL

AFP

Manchester United beat Sheffield United 2-1 last Saturday (Oct 21) on an emotionally charged evening as the Premier League giants said farewell to club great Bobby Charlton, who died earlier in the day.

Charlton's family announced that the England World Cup winner, who enjoyed a glittering career with United, had "passed peacefully in the early hours of Saturday morning" at the age of 86.

Tributes poured in from across the football world, with former United player and England captain David Beckham praising Charlton as a "national hero".

United captain Bruno Fernandes laid a wreath and a picture of the former attacking midfielder was displayed on a giant screen, while the fans chanted Charlton's name during the match.

Goals from Scott McTominay and Diogo Dalot were enough to secure the win for United who move into eighth place in the table.

"He was outstanding on the pitch and off it. We wanted to remember Sir Bobby and I think we did it in a decent way," said United manager Erik Ten Hag afterwards.

Elsewhere, Tottenham moved to the top of the table after a 2-0 win against



Manchester United players pay tribute to Bobby Charlton. Photo: AFP

Fulham on Monday thanks to goals from captain Son Heung-min and James Maddison.

Ange Postecoglou's side extended their unbeaten start to nine league games, meaning the Australian set a record for the most points gained by a new manager in their first nine games in charge.

"It was a good result against a tough opponent. We maintained our patience and our pressing was really strong," Postecoglou said, whose side sit top on 23 points, two ahead of Manchester City and Arsenal.

City manager Pep Guardiola also expressed his condolences for Charlton's death and called him "a big legend" after the champions held on to beat Brighton 2-1 thanks to goals from Juilan Alvarez and Erling Haaland.

Arsenal found themselves 2-0 down at Stamford Bridge with just 13 minutes

to go before Declan Rice and Leandro Trossard rescued a valuable point.

Mohamed Salah scored twice for Liverpool in a 2-0 Merseyside derby victory over Everton while Newcastle, whose early-season struggles are now a distant memory, romped to a 4-0 win against sorry Crystal Palace and are now sixth in the table.

Brentford beat Burnley 3-0 while Wolves came from behind to beat Bournemouth 2-1. Luton recovered from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 with Nottingham Forest.

Aston Villa maintained their fine early season form to beat West Ham 4-1 on Sunday, with Douglas Luiz's brace meaning he is the first ever Villa player to score in six consecutive games at Villa Park.

The Villains moved up to fifth in the table with the win, four points off the leaders Tottenham.



Photo: AFP

Premier League targets biggest ever TV rights deal

FOOTBALL

THE PREMIER LEAGUE is aiming to smash its own record domestic television rights deal after making 70 more matches available for broadcast from 2025.

Currently, 200 matches per season are sold to broadcasters in the UK with the three-year deal that runs until the 2024/25 season worth a reported £4.8 billion (B211bn).

A Saturday afternoon blackout, designed to protect attendances in the lower leagues, will remain.

However, matches switched to Sundays due to the involvement of clubs in European fixtures will be broadcast live for the first time.

The extra games will also come from every match of five midweek rounds per season and the final round of the season being shown live.

Rather than the usual three-year cycle, the Premier League is inviting offers on a four-year deal lasting till the 2028/29 season.

This is the first Premier League tender process since 2016 as the current deal was rolled over in 2021 for an extra three years due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Five packages containing between 42 and 65 live matches will be available for broadcasters to bid on.

The present deal is split between 128 matches for Sky Sports, 52 for TNT Sports and 20 on Amazon.

Competition is expected to be fierce with streaming platform DAZN reportedly interested in acquiring rights for the first time.

Premier League clubs already enjoy a huge financial advantage over their European competitors due to far more lucrative domestic and international TV rights deals. *AFP*

India maintain 100% record

CRICKET

VIRAT KOHLI HIT 95 TO lead India to a four-wicket victory over New Zealand and a fifth win in five matches at the World Cup last Sunday (Oct 22) although the superstar batsman just missed equalling Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 one-day international centuries.

Fast bowler Mohammed Shami returned figures of 5-54 to help bowl out New Zealand for 273, a total India overhauled with 12 balls to spare in Dharamsala.

The Kiwis suffered their first loss in five matches and, at time of press, are second behind leaders India in the 10-team table.

India, who lost to New Zealand in the semi-final of the 2019 edition, ended a 20-year wait for a win against the Kiwis in an ICC event after they last beat them in the 2003 World Cup.

An in-form Kohli, who hit 103 not out in the previous victory over Bangladesh, put on key partnerships including a 78-run stand with Ravindra Jadeja, who



Virat Kohli in action against New Zealand. Photo: AFP

hit the winning four in his unbeaten 39.

Elsewhere, there was a huge upset as Afghanistan put on a superb batting and bowling display to hand Pakistan a stunning eight-wicket defeat on Monday.

Pakistan had made 282-7 in their 50 overs but the total did not prove tough enough for a clinical Afghanistan, who shocked defending champions England a week earlier.

The defeat leaves Pakistan's campaign in disarray with three defeats in five games ahead of their game against South Africa today (Oct 27).

The Proteas will be confident after inflicting a record

229-run defeat on England last Saturday (Oct 21).

England have now lost three of their first four games, leaving their chancing of progressing to the knockout stages looking slim. They were due to play Sri Lanka yesterday (Oct 26).

Saturday's win was a timely boost for South Africa who had fallen to a shock defeat to the Netherlands in their previous game on Oct 17.

Chasing 246 to win from a rain-reduced 43 overs after Dutch captain Scott Edwards made a crucial 78 not out, South Africa, one of the tournament favourites, were bowled out for 207.

AFP

Scan to add friend

AQUELLA
GOLF • COUNTRY CLUB

2K Tuesday

Enjoy an incredible deal every Tuesday
at Aquella Golf & Country Club

From 10th to 31st October 2023

Reserve your tee time from

2,000 THB

for Visitor and Thai Resident

1,700 THB

for Aquella Club Card Holders

✓ 18 hole green fee, inclusive of caddy, cart & 1 tray of driving range balls

+66 (0) 76 679 308 Golfreservations1@aquellagolf.com www.AquellaGolf.com

Sport

editor3@classactmedia.co.th



Football world mourns a true legend > p15

MILLION BAHT SWIM



Charity swim around Phuket for Good Shepherd School

Grant 'Axe' Rawlinson in training ahead of his charity swim around Phuket next January. Photo: Supplied

SWIMMING

Ben Tirebuck
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Anybody that undertakes a charitable endeavour always deserves great credit and that is exactly what Phuket resident Grant 'Axe' Rawlinson is planning early next year with his 'Million Baht Swim.'

Axe will be swimming approximately 130 kilometres around the coast of Phuket over a 10-day period between January 2-11 to raise funds for the Good Shepherd School in Phuket Town, with an ultimate target of B1 million.

Sounds pretty arduous, doesn't it? However, there is a further catch. Axe has revealed that he is not limited by time but by the magic figure of the B1mn, essentially meaning that he will not stop the swim until that figure is reached, even if the full 130km loop of the island has been achieved. That could mean the swim is shorter in duration than the 10-day timeframe or, equally, that it could stretch longer. Axe and his team are hoping donations from kind-natured people will mean it is the former.

Hailing from New Zealand, 49-year-old Grant has been based in Phuket for the past nine months, making his pledge to help the local community even more impressive.

He will start his swim at the SALA Phuket Mai Khao Beach Resort in the northwest of the island on the morning of Tuesday, Jan 2, 2024. The plan is to cover between



Students at the Good Shepherd School Phuket. Photo: Supplied

10-20km per day, dependent on tidal conditions and his personal physical condition. There will be one or two support kayakers in the water with Axe at all times to help manage safety and support and he will not come ashore once his daily swim has been completed but will rest in a support vessel between shifts.

"The purpose of the swim is to have a challenging human-powered adventure," Axe told *The Phuket News*. "This is something that I very much regard as my own life purpose and if it can help raise much-needed funds to support the brilliant work the team at The Good Shepherd in Phuket do, then fantastic," he added.

AMBITIOUS PROJECT

This is not the first time Axe has taken on a seriously ambitious project, having previously made over 50 human-powered expeditions through the world's more remote environments, including summiting Mount Everest, riding across Australia on a

bicycle, walking across Scotland, and rowing from Singapore to Australia. In February this year he took to a peddle-powered ocean-going boat and peddled 2,200km in 23 days and nights from Phuket to Sri Lanka.

"It was a sustainability-driven initiative to try and measure the health of the Bay of Bengal for a scientific model," Axe explained. "We managed to collect some samples but not enough to complete a full set as adverse weather kept pushing us off course."

It was this project that inspired Axe to take on the Million Baht Swim. "I wanted something close to home that could mean giving back to the local community but that still posed an enormous challenge," he said.

"I have no specific swimming background but, as with all my human-powered journeys, I love the challenge and have committed myself to eight months of training to be fully prepared," Axe added.

Other than the actual daily distance, there will be a myriad of additional challenges. "The west coast of Phuket is open to the Andaman Sea and the water can get rough depending on wind conditions," Axe explained.

"The east coast of Phuket is more sheltered but has strong tidal currents which change direction regularly. It also has many mangroves and the water visibility is very poor.

"There are also significant numbers of jellyfish in Phuket waters. Many of them are harmless but some have nasty stings!

"The water temperature is around 30°C and the temperature under midday sun can be in excess of 35°C.

"There is lots of boat traffic around the Phuket coast so avoiding any collision is critical."

Ahead of the project, however, one of the biggest challenges is sourcing a support boat for the duration of the project, something Axe is hoping can be resolved shortly.

SUPPORT NETWORK

Axe is not alone, of course, in taking on this ambitious endeavour, with a full support team behind him, including his wife Stephanie and two young daughters Rachel and Kate. Others include Michelle Kang, Sukhjit Kang, Luke Richmond, Steve Johnson, Baffelly Woo, Andrea Edwards, Heidi Oxley Whitnell and Jason Whitnell. "I certainly could not even attempt to take on this project without the time and support of so many," Axe said.

Further to raising funds for the

Good Shepherd School, the project will also focus on teaching a number of students how to swim. "Learning to swim is an essential life skill that many of them never have the opportunity to learn," Axe said.

The Good Shepherd Phuket Town School has been a beacon of hope for a growing number of students in providing access to quality education since 2013. In 2023 they have a record enrolment of 400 students but not enough classrooms to accommodate everyone. By extending the existing classrooms the school can accommodate a growing number of students and create a conducive, safe learning environment. The expansion is projected to cost B1.245mn and forecast to take three months to complete.

There are plenty of ways to get involved and support the project. Become an expedition partner and support the journey. Swim a portion of the journey. Be part of the event organising team. Bring your family to the pre- and post-event celebrations to meet inspiring and like-minded people.

More information can be found and donations can be made at the Million Baht Swim online campaign page, Facebook or Instagram pages.

Times have been tough in recent years for many of us and, indeed, continue to remain tough for many of us. However, if everyone of us could dig deep into our pockets to find even the smallest of donations it would go a long way to helping Axe and his team ensure this extremely worthwhile project comes to fruition.