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BUBBLE BRIDGE



Traffic coming onto the island has reduced dramatically due to the COVID restrictions for entering Phuket now in force. Photo: PR Phuket

DEPUTY PM JURIN URGES PHUKET, PHANG NGA COMMON ENTRY RULES TRAVEL BUBBLE

The Phuket News
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Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce Jurin Laksanawisit has called for Phuket and Phang Nga to align their provincial entry requirements so that tourists may travel freely between the two provinces.

The idea was delivered at a meeting held last Saturday (May 22) at the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa in Mai Khao, attended by 20 representatives of the private sector from Phuket and Phang Nga.

Among those present for the meeting were Thanusak Phungdet, President of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, along with Nanthasiri

Ronnasiri, Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand Phuket Office and the President of the Phang Nga Tourist Business Association.

After the meeting, Mr Jurin made a statement to the media explaining that the purpose of his visit was to meet with officials and private sector representatives from both Phuket and Phang Nga “to drive the economy of the Andaman area”.

“And at the moment there are two main factors driving the national economy: agriculture and tourism, with factors,” he said.

Mr Jurin pointed out that Phuket and Phang Nga had previously generated hundreds of billions of baht each year for the country.

“But the tourism engine is still

stuck due to the COVID-19 epidemic, especially regarding foreign tourists. So there was a meeting today to prepare and implement practical measures to support the plan to open for tourism, especially in Phuket on July 1, this time called Phuket Tourism Sandbox, which will cover the area of Phang Nga as well,” he said.

The meeting was held “because there is a need to work together in ways. Andaman cluster tourists who will come to Phuket will also go to Phang Nga,” he explained.

“Now, the key factors that will enable Phuket to open to foreign tourists on July 1 as the goal depends on vaccines and other administrations as well to present to the CCSA [Centre for COVID Situation Administra-

tion in Bangkok] and the [national government are as follows,” he said.

“1. Request that the Phuket vaccination management plan is in accordance with the national plan, namely Phuket must have 933,174 doses of vaccination injections provided to 466,587 people in Phuket, thus covering 70% of the total population [of the island]

“2. Ask Phang Nga Province to quickly adjust the plan to accommodate foreign tourists in accordance with Phuket, according to the Phuket Tourism Sandbox on July 1, because the sale of tours or travel plans to foreign tourists should be sold together. Both Phuket and Phang Nga attractions will help attract more tourists to come in the form of the Andaman cluster.

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Foreigners may apply for COVID jabs from June 7



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Expat discovers the beauty of One Phuket



SPORT PAGE 16

BISP-Cruzeiro keep academy alive and kicking



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News



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Panic bites over jabs for outsiders

The Phuket News

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Phuket officials on Monday (May 24) were scrambling to douse panic rising from people receiving official notices that their appointment to receive a vaccination injection through the government's mass-vaccination campaign had been cancelled.

Through a live video broadcast online just after 7am, Phuket Vice Governor Piyapong Choowong called the move a "temporary suspension".

The key motivation for the upheaval was that certain groups had complained to the Phuket Governor that people from outside Phuket were registering through Phuket Must Win [www.ภูเก็ตต้องชนะ.com] to receive a state-provided vaccine, Vice Governor Piyapong said.

"That may leave people in Phuket not being vaccinated, thus prompting Phuket Province [Phuket Provincial Government] to conduct a review of the information of people who have registered through Phuket Must Win, especially those who do not have a house registration in Phuket, [to check] whether they really work or live in Phuket or not and whether

they have provided accurate and complete information," he added.

"Phuket Province, therefore, postponed the [vaccination injection] appointments of registrants not registered as living in Phuket from May 25 to allow such people to enter the review process and to make it clear that those people are actually working or living in Phuket.

"This may cause inconvenience to people, but I confirm that once you go through the eligibility review process, you will be offered a vaccination appointment next for sure," he said.

"However, those who have received the message to temporarily postpone your vaccination, please hurry and proceed with the steps recommended by 'Phuket Province'," Vice Governor Piyapong urged.

Of the people who have received such messages, people who work in Phuket are to present a formal document from the organisation or business they work for proving that they do so to the district office, local administrative organisation (OrBorTor) or municipality for the relevant area to confirm their right to register through Phuket Must Win, Vice Governor Piyapong explained.

"In case you are a self-



Phuket Vice Governor Piyapong Choowong speaking during the live broadcast last Monday (May 24). Screenshot: PR Phuket

employed person, please coordinate with your village headman in order to certify your right to register, then bring the certified documents to the district office, local administrative organisation (OrBorTor) or municipality to confirm your right to register through Phuket Must Win," he added.

"Phuket vaccinations will continue until June 16," Vice Governor Piyapong assured.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew later said that the number of people who were not registered as living in Phuket but had registered to be vaccinated in Phuket numbered as many as 30,000.

Regardless, Governor Narong said that suspending

registrations while a check was conducted on the legitimacy of those registrations was only prudent. He assured that Phuket had been assigned enough vaccination doses to ensure that 70% of the island's population would be vaccinated in order to allow the July 1 reopening to fully vaccinated foreign tourists.

THE PANIC

The move to suspend some people's vaccination appointments follows officials last Saturday night (May 22) announcing that the 'Phuket Must Win' vaccination registration web portal will no longer accept registrations from Thais from June 5, and no longer receive registrations of foreign-

ers after Tuesday (May 25).

Vice Governor Piyapong on Monday gave no indication when the web portal will resume receiving registrations.

After the announcement last Saturday and V/Gov Piyapong's explanation on Monday, the Official COVID-19 Information Center Phuket, operated by the Ministry of Interior Phuket office posted two clear warnings for people to not provide false information to officials along with assurances that Phuket residents who have legitimately registered to receive a vaccination injection will be vaccinated.

The centre issued an 'URGENT NOTICE' last Sunday afternoon announcing that vaccination appointments had been cancelled for people registered as living outside Phuket, effective from May 25.

The urgent notice called for people to confirm their right to register in the same manner as explained by Vice Governor Piyapong on Monday.

However, the urgent notice also warned that providing false information to officials was an offence under the Criminal Code punishable by up to six months' imprisonment or a fine of up to B10,000, or both. Hours later, the centre issued another notice explaining the process for people to register.

The centre issued another notice at 7am on Monday, this time toning down its message, urging people to follow the steps instructed by Vice Governor Piyapong.

The centre issued yet another notice at 9am Monday, urging people to not panic and follow the instructions given.

MASS VACCINATION PLAN - UPDATED

Called in to join the briefing on Monday to explain the ongoing mass-vaccination plan was Bhumikitti Raktaengam, President of the Phuket Tourist Association, who explained that the plan is to vaccinate people in Phuket in four groups:

Group 1: 417,402 people registered as living in Phuket, minus 106,865 children under 18 years old, leaving 310,537 people to be vaccinated. The province aims to vaccinate 100% of this group.

Group 2: Workers in tourism businesses who are not registered as living in Phuket, 94,100 people (100% vaccination required).

Group 3 Workers in other businesses who are not registered as living in Phuket, 7,500 people (70% to be vaccinated, equivalent to 5,250 people).

Group 4: 80,000 migrant workers (70% to be vaccinated, equivalent to 56,700).

TAT to push Phuket's 'good safety' to lure tourists in the long run

Continued from page 1

"3. Ask Phuket airport to prepare all aspects to support foreign tourists arriving in July, which will have direct flights from partner countries that will be open to their national travelling as tourists to Thailand, such as England, Germany and Russia, the United States, Israel, France and Scandinavia. Phuket Airport has to prepare for each scheduled flight, which may arrive at 4am or 5am, or during non-normal working hours. [They must prepare] especially for personnel and the disease control checkpoint.

"4. Phuket Province and Phang Nga Province will make a tourism plan called 'Travel Thailand Together', and when the time is right we will be able to attract tourists to both provinces and make it more convenient for Thai tourists [to come] in accordance with government policy.

"For other provinces in the Andaman group, such as Krabi, we will have a joint meeting in June," Mr Jurin said.

Meanwhile, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has come up with a marketing plan to highlight the high level of safety in Phuket and other sandbox areas to gain tourists' confidence despite a spike in new cases.

"As the timeline for the country's reopening via the so-called Phuket sandbox remains the same - July 1 - we have to make sure that the destination, which is currently building herd immunity, is safe for tourists," TAT Governor Yuthasak Supasorn told the *Bangkok Post*.

The TAT on May 19 held a virtual meeting with 50-60 hotel operators led by the Thai Hotels Association, local hoteliers and global hotel companies such as Marriott International, InterContinental Hotels Group, Centara Hotels and Resorts, Minor Hotels, Accor, Dusit Thani, Asset World Corp and Onyx Hospitality Group.

The meeting was to assure operators that the Phuket sandbox will be able to open as planned. The agency



Deputy Prime Minister Jurin met with leading tourism figures from Phuket and Phang Nga last Saturday (May 22). Photo: PR Phuket

also encouraged hotel operators to play a key role in communicating with international guests to create confidence.

"If we cannot give a clear message that the Phuket sandbox is separate from the rest of Thailand, they will not have the confidence to visit the country," Mr Yuthasak said.

He said hoteliers believe that tourists will visit Phuket as they are longing to travel. This situation was seen in Portugal and the Maldives when their borders reopened.

Most hotel operators believe there is more likelihood that chances will be seen in the last quarter on condition that the Phuket sandbox must perform well which will benefit other areas joining the sandbox from October onward.

However, there is concern from operators about the decision to return to a 14-day quarantine after facing the new outbreak.

Mr Yuthasak said the TAT will regularly update information regarding the reopening plan on its website under the campaign dubbed "Countdown to Reopen Phuket".

The information will consist of daily cases, vaccination progress and capacity of the public health system. It will also show livestreaming travel experiences from the Andaman islands.

The 10 sandbox areas have to prepare for vaccination plans which include the ability to administer vaccines, maintaining herd immunity and risk management.

He suggested hotel operators

prepare standard operating procedures for vaccinated guests in case a positive result is found.

Destinations are also required to improve the supply side to serve returning demand.

The agency plans to create experimental trips in Phuket throughout July by bringing key opinion leaders, travel bloggers, film and TV crews as well as training camps for sport teams.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Sydney office has launched the second installment of its campaign to encourage Australians to travel to Thailand once restrictions on international travel are eased there.

Suladda Sarutilavan, Director of TAT Sydney office said, "As the travel restrictions are still in place, we cannot travel to Thailand at this time; however, we hope that Australians will choose Thailand for their first overseas holiday when we are able to travel again internationally in the near future."

Foreigners to get Sinovac

The Phuket News
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Foreigners in Phuket who have registered through the Phuket Must Win web portal to receive a state-provided COVID-19 vaccination will receive the Sinovac vaccine, and will be vaccinated on one day, this Sunday (May 30), the Phuket office of the Ministry of Interior announced earlier this week.

Foreigners also were given just over 24 hours to choose their preferred venue and time for receiving their vaccination injection.

The news was announced Official COVID-19 Information Center Phuket Facebook page, operated by the Phuket office of the Ministry of Interior, which brands its existence as "to prevent fake news or panic news", at 2:23pm on Monday (May 24).

Of note, the post was in English, and read as follows (verbatim):

If you are foreigners who are legitimately working in Phuket and comply with these following requirements you are eligible for the vaccination (Sinovac vaccine) on 30th May 2021.

- Business Visa / SMART visa
- Work Permit
- Your employer (a person, company or an organisation) must be registered & located in Phuket.



The mass vaccination campaign continued at Jungceylon shopping mall in Patong this week. Photo: PPHO

Please contact your employer to register their entity on <https://www.xn--12cmj6ba0a7b3g4a6fud5d2a.com/> (กรุณาส่งข้อมูล) within 25th May 2020. Ask the employer to enrol you and fill in your information on this website. In addition, you must choose the time slot and vaccine center venue within that date as well.

Reference: <https://www.facebook.com/109168820738303/posts/311417470513436/?d=n> [Post ends]

At the time of this report going to press on Tuesday (May 25), no Phuket official had made any public recognition of the announcement despite officials, including the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO), previously repeatedly con-

firmed that foreigners will receive their vaccinations in June, after the first shipment of AstraZeneca vaccine doses arrives.

"Vaccination will start from June, and the vaccine to be injected will be AstraZeneca only," the PPHO had previously assured.

The same message was received by foreigners who had been registered in the system.

The move to vaccinate anyone on May 30 also flies in the face of the mass vaccination plan explained by Dr Chalermpong Sukontapol, Director of Vachira Phuket Hospital, just five days earlier.

"During May 18-28, we will give the Sinovac vaccine as the first injection to 200,000 people.

"During June 1-10, we will give the AstraZeneca vaccine to 150,000 people, including elders who are older than 60 years," he said.

"The last day of mass vaccinations in Phuket will be on June 24. We will have more than 70% of people vaccinated and have achieved herd immunity, so that we can welcome vaccinated tourists," Dr Chalermpong said.

That announcement came during a live broadcast online chaired by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew.

The announcement last Saturday followed Natapanu Nopakun, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Information and Deputy Spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, announcing last Friday (May 21) that all expats in the country will be able to register to be vaccinated for COVID-19 at the hospital where their health records are held from June 7 through what the national government is calling "on-site registration".

Mr Natapanu, during his English-language briefing of the COVID situation to the country, opened his address by confirming that the state of emergency had been extended until July 31.

"Thailand attaches importance to the vaccination of everyone in Thailand according to the level of risk, regardless of nationality," Mr

Natapanu said.

"We practice what we preach. No one is safe in Thailand until everyone is safe, everyone is vaccinated," he said.

"Foreigners will be able to register at the hospitals where you have your own health records by using their passport or social security number," Mr Natapanu explained.

"This is going to be effective across the country," he said.

"Aside from being able to do this at a hospital that already has your health records, it can be done at other designated hospitals, other designated centres as determined by the Ministry of Public Health," he added.

Specifically listed as able to register to be vaccinated on June 7 were foreigners who are spouses of Thai nationals, retirees in Thailand, business people in Thailand and investors in Thailand.

"The expats in Thailand," Mr Natapanu said.

"For each specific group there may be further announcements regarding the details of the location or other specific details as it may be necessary," he added.

"And thank you for your understanding, because this has been something of a challenge in terms of the database and verifying people through documents.

No documents, no boarding

FLIGHT PASSENGERS travelling to Phuket must present documents proving that the passenger is fully vaccinated or has tested negative for COVID-19 within the previous 72 hours or they will not be allowed to board the plane.

The directive was issued by the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) just before 8pm on May 18. The directive came into effect hours later, on May 19.

"Airline passengers will be refused travel to Phuket if their vaccination is incomplete or they do not have a test document for COVID-19," the directive said.

"Previously, Phuket Province has taken measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus with rapid [antigen] tests being conducted at Phuket Airport, but the latest announcement by the [Phuket] Communicable Diseases Committee has canceled the process," the CAAT noted.

"From 19 May 2021 onwards, passengers traveling by airline must present evidence to the airline staff from the originating airport.

"This is evidence of receiving two doses of the



Airport deputy director Soonthorn Sakdasawit (left) at the meeting on May 17. Photo: AoT Phuket

COVID-19 vaccine, or a document confirming that COVID-19 was tested by RT-PCR or Antigen Rapid Test within 72 hours prior to the journey and had a negative test result.

"If [the passenger] is unable to show any evidence, the passenger will be denied travel by the airline," the CAAT ordered.

The directive also noted that passengers travelling to Phuket must also have the MorChana app installed on their phone and have location sharing enabled on the app at all times for the duration of their stay in Phuket.

Passengers must also register their travel details through the www.gophuket.com web portal.

"This is in accordance with the resolution of the Phuket Communicable Disease Committee," the CAAT

directive noted.

"And in order to make the passenger's journey to be orderly, the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand requests passengers to check the announcements of the destination province before traveling to be able to comply with the measures of the destination province correctly and facilitate travel.

"They are also asked to strictly adhere to the measures of the Ministry of Public Health to prevent the spread of COVID-19," the CAAT order said.

Of note, Phuket officials made no announcement of the mandatory document checks for flight passengers coming to Phuket following the meeting of the Phuket Communicable Disease Committee at Phuket Provincial Hall on May 17.

Unlike people arriving in Phuket by road, who may serve a 14-day quarantine, or stay in quarantine for their entire stay if their stay is less than 14 days, if they want to come into Phuket (see page 4), so far Phuket officials have not made any announcements regarding allowing people arriving at the airport to enter quarantine after arriving.

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Island entry rule changes spur fury

The Phuket News
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Phuket Vice Governor Piyapong Choowong has responded to a video posted online showing a Thai man furious over being asked to B450 for a rapid antigen test in order to enter Phuket on Monday (May 17).

The man's tirade, which has spread widely over Thai social media sites, came while officials were already continuing to provide tests for B450, despite the provincial order in effect at that time mandating that rapid tests no longer be available.

The man's outburst was over being asked to pay B450 for the test, or else not being allowed to enter Phuket.

Under the previous entry requirements Thais were provided the test for free, while all foreigners were required to pay B500.

"There are no outsiders wanting to come to Phuket, but also people who have their house in Phuket. If they leave the island, they must pay B450 for returning home. What does this mean?"

"We pay taxes. You must arrange government medical staff to provide the test and service us. You can have whatever measures you want, but if you hire an outside source and get money from us, it's not right," the man said.

"I'm not a Phuket native, but I have to come to Phuket every month. I also came last month. My friend did have the rapid test for free before, but this time we have to pay B450. Then you see me!"



The Thai man was furious for being asked to pay B450 to enter Phuket at a time when the provincial order in effect was to not provide rapid tests any longer. Screenshot: Phuket Info Centre

"Don't need to apologise to me. If we see something wrong, we must speak out. We do not blame the staff, but we need to blame the person who set up the measure. The measure is bad like this, we can't accept it!" the man railed.

Phuket Vice Governor Piyapong on Tuesday last week explained the new requirements for entering Phuket – and admitted how officers at the checkpoint had continued to provide the rapid tests for B450 each last Sunday and Monday despite the provincial order in effect at that time mandating that the tests were no longer to be made available.

His explanation came only after

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew had issued an order that was not posted publicly until 10pm last Monday night (May 17). The new entry requirements officially came into effect on Tuesday (May 18).

Vice Governor Piyapong took to social media again last Thursday (May 20) to repeat his explanation.

"We would like to make our 500,000 people on the island to be safe. Arrivals who come by plane have to be swab tested before getting on board from the departing airport," he said.

"From April 22 to May 15, we had rapid tests for arrivals at the airport and the checkpoint for free because the cost of the test was supported by

the National Health Security Office [NHSO].

"After two weeks of using rapid test, the NHSO told us to use the test kits in the proactive screening in our provinces instead of testing new arrivals, as the number of people tested positive was very low," he said.

Of note, after testing more than 73,000 arrivals, the rapid tests identified just 18 confirmed cases of infection.

"We planned to not conduct rapid testing at the airport and checkpoint anymore after May 15, but we had practical problems," Vice Governor Piyapong continued.

"On May 16 and 17 we had a lot of arrivals wanting to come to Phuket, especially truck operators. They gathered and asked what to do. They told us they are ready to pay for the test," he said.

"So we asked the medical staff of a private company who were staffing the desks and conducting the tests to continue to conduct the test for arrivals at the lowest price, which was B450.

"The company representative [of the company being paid to conduct the tests] told me they were not happy with the price and that they no longer wanted to conduct the tests at that price any longer," V/Gov Piyapong explained.

"We want to stop the movement of people for a while, but we allow tested and vaccinated people to come because we think they have their own necessary reason," he added.

Kratom suspects caught after 20km police chase

TWO MEN'S ATTEMPT to flee police after a 20-kilometre chase starting in Chalong came to a crunching halt last week when they hit a car head-on in a small street in Rassada.

Capt Wichit Nokkaew of the Phuket City Police was called to the scene of the accident, on Soi Paniang, in Moo 5, Rassada, at about 5pm on May 18.

Standing by was the officer who had pursued the two men, with the two suspects in custody: Kitiphop Jongpet, 23, and Anisorn Tuthep, 23, both originally from Phatthalung.

Stopped in the middle of the small street was a grey Phuket-registered Honda City car with a sizable dent in its front. Lying on the road in front of it was a



The men were caught after they hit a car head-on in Soi Paniang, in Moo 5, Rassada. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

red motorbike registered in Surat Thani.

Kitiphop and Anisorn had escaped the collision without suffering any injuries.

The officer who had chased the men, who asked not to be named, explained that the pursuit began in Chalong.

He believed the two men

were acting suspiciously and approached them to question them, but the men sped off.

The pursuit lasted some 20 kilometres, he said.

The men ignored the traffic signals and ran red lights at every intersection and went through two underpasses, he added.

"They were eventually caught because they hit the car on this small street," he said.

After apprehending the duo, officers searched the motorbike and found three bags of kratom leaves under the seat.

Capt Wichit confirmed that Kitiphop was taken to Phuket City Police Station and charged with reckless driving causing damage to other people's property.

Both Kitiphop and Anisorn were to be taken to Chalong Police Station to be charged with possession of a Category 5 drug, Capt Wichit added.

Possession of fresh kratom remains illegal despite a bill being passed by the House of Representatives and later by the Senate in February this year to make possession of the raw plant legal.

Under the bill, processed

forms of the plant are to remain illegal.

Kratom when ingested acts as a mild stimulant. However, it is a key ingredient in the notorious drug cocktail 4x100 ("Four times one hundred").

At last report, Justice Minister Somsak Thepsutin in February explained that the Senate speaker was to forward the bill to the House speaker, who would submit it to the Cabinet.

The Cabinet was then to send the legislation to His Majesty the King for final approval.

The bill was to become law 90 days after it had been published in the Royal Gazette.

So far, that has not happened.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Campaign nears B400k for noodle vendor shot by cop

The Phuket News
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The campaign recently founded by a Phuket expat to help the noodle vendor who was shot and paralysed on Bangla Rd by a drunken off duty policeman has raised almost B400,000 in just one week.

Mr Aroon Thongplab, who is married with two young children, was shot by Cpl Pornthep Channarong on Patong's main nightlife entertainment street in the early hours of Feb 23.

Pornthep's errant shot hit Mr Aroon's spine and subsequently paralysed him. He has been receiving ongoing care in hospital ever since.

Phuket resident Eric Smulders was so moved with the plight of Mr Aroon, 25, that he founded a donation drive in conjunction with AC Legal Advisors to assist him and his family.

The site went live on May 14 and as of last Friday (May 21) had raised B394,907.97 from a total of 50 donations predominantly from the expat community, many of whom chose to remain anonymous.

The only compensation provided to Mr Aroon and his family by the Royal Thai Police thus far is B20,000, received in February. Mr Aroon's wife Kulthida Chananan has sought further assistance but nothing has been forthcoming.

"This man's life and that of his wonder-



Mr Aroon Thongplab is currently in hospital receiving ongoing care after being shot and paralysed by a drunken off duty Phuket police officer on Bangla Rd, Patong in February. Photo: Eric Smulders

ful family have been destroyed and he will need help for a long time," Mr Smulders told *The Phuket News* on May 14.

"The family needs to rent a larger room as where they currently stay is just too small. They also need to pay for medical supplies, diapers, regular nursing care, and more."

Mr Smulders presently estimates that the family, the couple have one young daughter and a baby boy, will need at least B25,000 per month, much of that just for rent.

BAIL DENIED

Pornthep, who was stripped of his rank and dismissed from the police force following the unprovoked attack, has been

charged with attempted murder, carrying a firearm in a public area without necessary reason, and firing a weapon in a public area.

On Wednesday last week (May 19) he was denied the right to post bail by the Phuket Provincial Court.

"Pornthep told the court that he wanted to be temporarily released so that he could find ways to raise money to provide financial relief to Mr Aroon's family," said Bangkok-based lawyer Kerdphol Kaewkerd, who is providing free legal assistance to Mrs Kulthida.

"He also told the court that he wanted to return guns and other equipment which he kept in his house to the Royal Thai Police. His parents could not find them."



Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos (centre) and his team hold up the gold necklaces to be won. Photo: Rawai Municipality

Gold, cash offered for vaccine registration

RAWAI MUNICIPALITY is offering gold necklaces and cash prizes for people who register with the municipality to be vaccinated for COVID-19.

The prizes will be awarded by lucky draw, to be held on June 11.

The municipality is offering 10 gold necklaces of undeclared value, along with 20 cash prizes of B2,000 each.

"Almost 70% of all residents registered as living in Rawai subdistrict have registered to be vaccinated, so our area should achieve [herd] immunity, but we would like to reach 90%," Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos explained.

"To encourage our brothers and sisters in Rawai Subdistrict, we are offering these prizes in order to increase our immunity and keep everyone safe from COVID."

"Phuket will open [to receiving vaccinated foreign tourists] in July, so it is expected that our brothers and sisters will cooperate in being vaccinated," he said.

Rawai Municipality is accepting registrations from people working for businesses that are not registered, and will provide a shuttle to the vaccination venue, Mayor Aroon said.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Honey Pot raided for serving alcohol

PHUKET OFFICIALS together with Chalong police last Friday night (May 21) raided the Honey Pot bar in Rawai and charged the manager for serving alcohol to foreigners.

Chalong Police, led by Capt Suchart Soonthornmatcha, raided the bar in Moo 2, Rawai, at about 10:20pm.

Joining the raid were Territorial Defense Volunteers, led by Rawai subdistrict chief (Kamnan) Jarung Taochan.

The raid followed Chongmas Sakulpradit, Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) of the Muang District Office, receiving a tip-off from a local resident reporting that alcoholic beverages were being served to foreigners at the bar.

Bar manager Sopa Chotchuengwong was taken to Chalong Police Station and charged for breach of the provincial order banning restaurants from selling alcohol and allowing the consumption of alcohol on the premises.

The raid in Rawai followed a blitz through central



The manager of the Honey Pot bar in Rawai was charged with breach of the COVID-19 restrictions effect. Photo: Jarung Taochan

Phuket in Thalang District the preceding night (Thursday, May 20).

Acting on instructions from Phuket Vice Governor Vikrom Jakthee, Phuket Provincial Office Chief (Palad) Anuphap Rodkwan Yodrabum led officers also accompanied by Territorial Defence Volunteers to patrol Chong Talay and nearby areas for venues breaking the law.

All venues at Boat Avenue were found to be complying with the COVID restrictions in place, as were nearly all other venues in the area.

The 'Hoi Saem' seafood restaurant in Srisoonthorn, however, was found to be

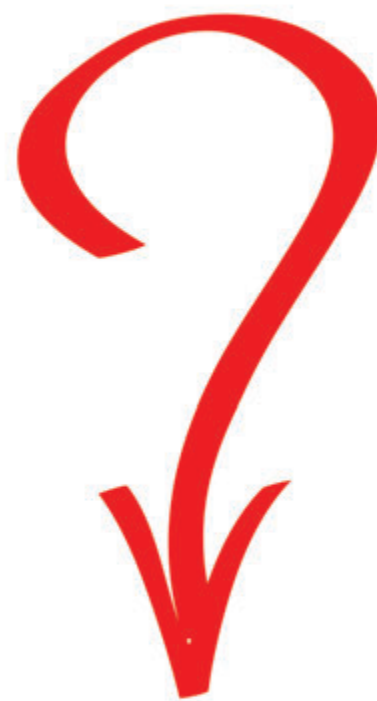
serving alcohol to customers. The owner was charged with selling alcohol and with breach of COVID-19 restrictions in place under Phuket Provincial Order 2645/2564, "which is an offense under Section 34 of the Communicable Disease Control Act", said a report of the raid.

The patrol on Thursday night also found four young teenagers on motorbikes without licence plates near the Heroines Monument. The four were taken to Thalang Police Station and charged accordingly, noted the report.

The report did not confirm exactly which charges the four teenagers were to face. Eakkapop Thongtub



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AstraZeneca shots on hold

Second dose to be received 16 weeks after first, instead of 10

Bangkok Post

The government announced last Monday (May 24) that the second dose of AstraZeneca vaccines will now be administered 16 weeks after the first dose, as opposed to 10 weeks, insisting the delay won't have any negative effect on the immune response against COVID-19.

The move came following reports that several hospitals have suspended inoculations with the AstraZeneca vaccine amid a shortage in Thailand.

It also came on the same day that Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha received his second dose of AstraZeneca vaccine, 10 weeks after his first shot on March 16.

The premier said the nation's vaccine distribution plan might be adjusted according to the pandemic situation in each area and called on people to rely on vaccine information from the Public Health Ministry to prevent confusion.

Permanent secretary for public health, Kiattiphum Wongrajit, reiterated this point, saying the readjusted vaccine



Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha gets his second shot of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine on Monday (May 24). He received his first jab on March 16. Photo: Government House

distribution guidelines are to accommodate the changing outbreak situation in the country, saying the focus now is giving the first dose of COVID-19 vaccines to as many people as possible.

As a result, those who are scheduled to receive their first vaccine in June will now receive their second shot around October, said Dr Kiattiphum, before adding that the government has ordered 3 million vaccines from Sinovac, which will start to arrive next month.

Dr Kiattiphum made the remarks after a number of

hospitals announced that they won't be able to administer the second shot of the AstraZeneca vaccine to those who have received their first shot in time, stirring speculation that the government is running out of vaccines to meet domestic demand.

A spokesman for the Public Health Ministry, Rungrueng Kitphati, admitted that some areas have run out of the AstraZeneca jabs, while others are quickly running out, as the demand for the vaccine was very high.

Chulabhorn Hospital an-

nounced it will be postponing inoculations with the AstraZeneca jabs until it receives more doses, as it only has the Sinovac jabs left in stock.

Similarly, Vachira Hospital (Bangkok) also said it will be suspending vaccinations with the AstraZeneca jabs indefinitely, until more supplies arrive.

'HAVE CONFIDENCE'

Despite the snag, the spokesman urged the public to have confidence in the national vaccine rollout, saying one dose of COVID-19 vaccine alone is

enough to provide protection against new infections, severe symptoms and death.

The second dose, he added, is just a booster intended to prolong the body's immune response against the disease.

Dr Rungrueng said those who have received a dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine are not advised to receive the Sinovac vaccine for their second shot, since they were of a different type.

The public is advised to complete their vaccination rounds with the same vaccine before seeking a vaccine from another manufacturer, he said.

Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said he is confident that AstraZeneca will deliver its vaccine on schedule in June and confirmed that there would be enough vaccines to inoculate the public against COVID-19 from June 7, when the national rollout is expected to get into full swing.

"If the shots made in Thailand are not ready, the company is bound to find them from somewhere else to fill our order as stipulated in the

contract," he said.

The government has not revealed the content of the contract despite numerous calls from opposition political parties.

Mr Anutin said the company was well aware of Thailand's vaccination schedule, implying it would be prepared to fill the order regardless of whether the local production facility is ready.

Disease Control Department Director-General Opas Kankawinpong, said the CCSA will meet to adjust the country's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan based on the amount of vaccines available, current population numbers and the local outbreak situation.

So far, Thailand has received 117,600 doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, which arrived on Feb 24. Six million locally manufactured AstraZeneca doses will be delivered to the government in June.

Between June-December, the government is expected to receive 61 million locally produced AstraZeneca doses.

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5 Star Marine working with the One Phuket campaign is getting food and other essentials to the people who need it the most. Photos: 5 Star Marine

One Phuket, a worthy cause



EXPAT LIFE

Ged Hogg

Sawasdee Krab... Since COVID-19 raised its ugly head in January of 2020 over 164 million cases have been recorded globally and more than 3.41 million lives have been lost. The World Health Organization estimates that the percentage of people who have contracted COVID-19 around the world is around 10%, though that number is a conservative figure as many countries like to save face and do not disclose the actual true figures.

The coronavirus takes no prisoners and the true cost of the pandemic cannot just be measured in just the reported cases and deaths as the economic fallout from all of the world's countries is going to be felt for many years after the pandemic has gone and our children and grandchildren will be the ones who will suffer most financially once the pandemic is over and it will be them who will have to pay for it.

Many countries in the world have seen their economies crash because of the coronavirus; my country of birth the UK as well as Australia, the USA and most countries in Europe have all been hit hard and each of those countries have had to pay out billions of dollars to their citizens to help them get through the crisis due to many of them losing their jobs or businesses during the many lockdowns that were ordered by their governments to try to stop the spread.

If you were lucky enough before you came to live in Thailand, to live in a country where the governments have helped their citizens during the crisis then you may have got through the pandemic virtually unscathed financially, in fact due to the many lockdowns and being forced to stay home you may even be better off financially because you were unable to go out to spend your money in bars and restaurants, buying clothes or going on holidays.

I am one of those lucky people as I receive an Australian/British pension every fortnight and I was also a beneficiary of the Australian government's generous extra payments to help their citizens cope during the pandemic, to the tune of AUS\$1,000 (B25,000) over three instalments in the past year. I recently saw a report from the USA where they said that many people are not even planning on returning to work because the money that they receive in unemployment benefits is more than what they earned when they were working - so that's how good the social system is in the USA, or how bad the social system is if you're an employer looking to hire someone on a wage that is below the money that they are receiving from the US government's unemployment benefits scheme.

Many of us expats came to live in Thailand and made it our home because we love the country and its people and we live a good life here because of the lower cost of living and climate. In my case, I retired five years ago and after trying to live on my pension in Australia for a year I discovered that my pension

was not sufficient to live a decent lifestyle as there was more money going out than coming in and I was dipping into my investment funds too much and Thailand ticked most of the boxes as a retirement destination for me.

Unlike the unemployed in the USA that I mentioned, most of the citizens of Thailand have not had the same help from their government as many expats have had from their home countries and the majority of Thai people have had to go it alone financially. Many of the families who live in Phuket had already been doing it tough for over a year from when the virus first entered Thailand and then at the end of last year, they thought that the coronavirus was lessening its grip on the country and they started to plan again for the future. Then when the second wave started in January and when the third wave arrived, they had to revise their thinking, so there are a lot of Thai people hurting at the present time.

I recently heard about a group of local residents who have united to help the people of Phuket who need help the most due to the pandemic crisis in Phuket. "One Phuket" was started in February this year by a small group of expats and locals to try to help the people of Phuket by organising and delivering food parcels to families who need it most, as many people on the island are now unemployed and do not have enough food to feed their families.

One Phuket is a way for the expats in the group to show their solidarity with the people of Phuket and give something back to the community that has welcomed them with open arms to live on the paradise island of Phuket. This is a very worthy cause and for many of us who have so much compared to our Phuket neighbours it can



be a way to show them that we as expats are not here just to make our own lives better but we care about the people of Phuket and are also part of their community and share their pain.

I am just an ordinary expat pensioner and I do not have a lot compared to some of my compatriots who may have had higher paying jobs with a larger superannuation pay-out or have sold their homes and businesses and retired to the land of smiles with no financial worries, but compared to many of the people of Phuket I am rich. If you can help One Phuket by donating to their cause or if you find that you have time on your hands and can offer your services as a volunteer, they would love to hear from you. Visit 'One-Phuket' on Facebook to get in touch with them.

Donations can be made to:

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Laew Jer Gan Krab
Ged



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See Gerold Hogg's Thailand blog at www.retireinthailand.asia and on YouTube. After travelling the world as a chef and living in Jamaica, Bermuda, Singapore, the Falkland Islands, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and the USA, he retired to Thailand in 2017 where he reinvented himself as an author and whenever COVID permits he travels extensively throughout Thailand and Southeast Asia doing research for his books.

Gerald has written two books in the Thai Died series of books, Thai Died...Murder in Paradise and Thai Died...Bar-Girl as well as five books in his 'Retirees Travel Guide' series aimed at retirees and baby boomers.

His first book in the series 'The Retire in Thailand Handbook' was released by London publishers Austin Macauley in 2019. Ged has also written his biography; You Will Never Amount to Anything and an historical novel about the first-time fingerprints were used to gain a murder conviction in the UK in 1905...The Deptford Mask Murders. All of his books are available on Amazon.

A world of Love and Monsters

David Griffiths

When it comes to the Academy Awards genre flicks rarely get a look in, but this year one found itself on the nominations list and it raised eyebrows everywhere. 'Love and Monsters' was the little film that found itself boxing well and truly out of its weight division.

An American/Australian co-production *Love and Monsters* found itself amongst the heavy hitters when it was nominated in the Best Achievement in Visual Effects category, it didn't win but it did suddenly have the world asking, "What on earth is that film?" Well to answer that question the film has now been made available on streaming platforms right around the world.

Directed by Michael Matthews (*Five Fingers For Marseilles*), *Love And Monsters* is set in a world that was saved by nuclear weapons when a meteorite threatened the Earth's existence but the resulting fallout caused every cold blooded creature to mutate into gigantic 'monster' versions of themselves.

These creatures then killed a majority of the human population and the human's left, which include the very innocent Joel (Dylan O'Brien – *The Maze Runner*), are left to live in colonies hiding underground. While he is a nice guy, Joel freezes when he comes face-to-face with danger and as a result his



Dylan O'Brien (*The Maze Runner*) with his new-found friend 'Boy' looks to survive yet another day in the wilds of a post-apocalyptic world while trekking to finally see the love of his life again, in *Love and Monsters* (2020). Photo: IMDB

colony sees him as a liability. While the others go out to hunt he is left to stay behind and cook, and while the rest of the members of his colony have paired off, Joel finds himself alone lost in his own thoughts.

However, after making radio contact with the girl, Aimee (Jessica Henwick – *Game of Thrones*), that he was in love with before the world went to hell, he decides that he is going to make the dangerous journey from his colony to hers.

As a film *Love and Monsters* has the feel of *Zombieland* all over it. You've got the 'weak' main character, a world that he doesn't fit in with, and for good measure the inclusion of a grumpy ally, Clyde (Michael Rooker – *Guardians of the Galaxy*), who actually cares a lot

more than he is letting on. Like *Zombieland* the film also has an injection of humour that isn't enough to destroy the fantasy element of the film but is just enough to provide you with a laugh here and there.

The key to this film working though are the characters. Joel is a likable guy and the audience soon warm to him and want to see him succeed – due largely to the fact most audiences will realise that Joel is exactly what they would be like in the middle of the apocalypse. Add in a cute dog called Boy and a trusty side-kick, Minnow (Ariana Greenblatt – *Avengers: Infinity War*), and you soon have a group of characters that nobody wants to see anything bad happen to.

The inclusion of the other-worldly

creatures does give a *Stranger Things* vibe throughout the film while the screenwriting team do just enough to create scenes with heart, like Joel bonding with a robot, to go alongside the action sequences. To their credit those action sequences and creature effects look pretty stunning, especially when you realise the film was made for the same sum as some film's catering budgets. This is a filmmaking team that have a huge future ahead of them.

Just like he did in *The Maze Runner* franchise, Dylan O'Brien once again shows Hollywood what he has to offer with his role here. He is brilliant throughout this film and whether it comes to an emotional scene or an action sequence, he is the kind of actor that can shine through both.

Love and Monsters is one of the biggest surprises of 2021. It certainly deserved its Oscar nomination and you get the feeling that this film will become a family favourite for the younger generation in the same way films like *The NeverEnding Story* and *Labyrinth* had for generations in the past.

Love and Monsters is now available on streaming services in Thailand.
3.5/5 Stars

David Griffiths has been working as a film and music reviewer for over 20 years. That time has seen him work in radio, television and in print. You can follow him at www.facebook.com/subcultureentertainmentaus



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POP QUIZ

1. The city of Eindhoven is the birthplace of which famous electronics company?

2. What name is given to the 'woman of the fairy mound', a spirit in Irish mythology which heralds the death of a family member?

3. How many bones are there in an adult human body?

4. In 1830, Edwin Budding's first machine had a frame made of wrought iron and was 19 inches wide. What was it?

5. Name the largest and most populated Japanese island?

Answers below, centre

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across

1. Craving

5. Parsley bit

10. Annul

14. "Mi chiamano Mimi," e.g.

15. France's longest river

16. Escape, in a way

17. It was redone in '04

20. Agnolotti, e.g.

21. Saint Petersburg, once

22. Whimsical

24. Exploit

25. Tend to, as a bad lawn

29. Quip

31. Mozart's "L'___ del Cairo"

34. At any time

35. "Agreed!"

37. Snake or mathematician, at times

39. William Thornton designed it

42. Nice goodbye?

43. Persuaded

44. Mercury, for one

45. ___ soup

46. Rimbaud, for one

48. Early word form
50. Money in Moldova

51. Costa Rican peninsula

52. Shortcomings

57. Mediterranean evergreen

62. The Temple of Zeus was its model

64. Healthy berry

65. Upload ___

66. Manhattan eatery

67. Boxing prize

68. Case type

69. Case type
- Down

1. Arctic native

2. Water-soluble compound

3. Some are deadly

4. Red arachnid

5. Arch

6. Tom's aunt

7. Bank of Paris

8. Persia, now

9. Einstein, e.g.

10. Grammar topic

11. Warm, so to speak

12. Hindu god

13. Kind of column

18. Thief's obstacle

19. Set up (var.)
23. Variety of taro

25. Go over

26. Get around

27. Artist's hue

28. Port city

29. Cascade of ruffles

30. Jewish month

31. Disgrace

32. Literary work

33. About 1% of the atmosphere

36. Besides

38. June 6, 1944

40. City where Elvis was born

41. Bad day for Caesar

47. Nix

49. ___ Bell

50. Allowed

51. Buddhist lecturer, Tendzin, and others

52. Middle-age scourge

53. Houston university

54. Cancer kind

55. Details

56. Eastern prince

58. Spirited horse

59. Stir, with "up"

60. They may be sown

61. Smudge

63. Fulfilled

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17				18						19				
20						21								
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SUDOKU

Hard

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

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

(1) Phillips; (2) Banshee; (3) 206 (a baby has around 305 bones at birth); (4) The first lawn mower; (5) Honshu (Honshu means 'main island')

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

SEPT	PROS	INTRO
HAIR	TINT	CORER
USEAS	SCAPE	GOAT
TERSE	KERI	ODDS
HAJ	ENTO	
ADAM	ERA	OODLES
GAZA	SUMACS	OAT
ONONESH	HIGH	HORSE
RET	DARNEL	TEEN
ASHRAM	ODE	OSLO
EMIR	SIS	
LIAR	NOVA	SCRAM
ASQUIET	ASAMOUSE	
PLUNK	ORES	PICA
PEASE	RYAS	ENID

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

14

percent is how much travel times were reduced in Los Angeles in 2013 when it became the first city to install traffic lights that make automatic adjustments based on car flow.

72

percent of US police officers claim that their poorly performing colleagues were not held accountable, according to a Pew Research Center survey in 2018.

450

kilograms is how much the heart of an adult blue whale weighs. It's about the size of a VW Beetle car.

7,300


percent more than the cost of sending the equivalent amount of data is what phone companies charge for sending texts.

360,000

lives were saved by the horror-movie "SAW" franchise as people were able to donate blood in exchange for a free movie ticket. More than 120,000 pints of blood were donated.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Sunbeam through the green at Ao Yon Beach. Photo by Nadine Plummer

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

This week in history

May 28, 1588

The Spanish Armada, with 130 ships and 30,000 men, sets sail from Lisbon, Portugal, heading for the English Channel.

May 29, 1953


Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay become the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest, on Tenzing Norgay's (adopted) 39th birthday.

May 30, AD 70

Siege of Jerusalem: Titus and his Roman legions breach the Second Wall of Jerusalem. Jewish defenders retreat to the First Wall. The Romans build a circumvallation, cutting down all trees within 15km.

May 31, 1927

The last Ford Model T rolls off the assembly line after a production run of 15,007,003 vehicles.



Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay.

June 1, 2001

Nepalese royal massacre: Crown Prince Dipendra of Nepal shoots and kills several members of his family, including his father and mother.

June 2, 1962

During the FIFA World Cup, police have to intervene multiple times in fights between Chilean and Italian players in one of the most violent games in football history.

June 3, 2017

London Bridge attack: Eight people are murdered and dozens of civilians are wounded by Islamist terrorists. Three of the attackers are shot dead by the police. Source: Wikipedia

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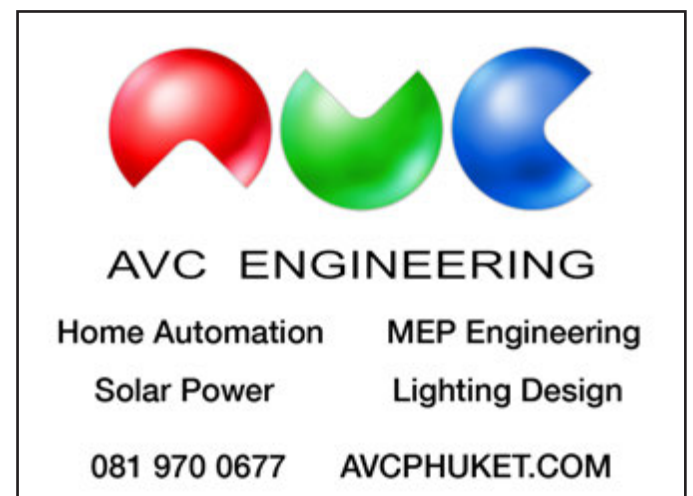
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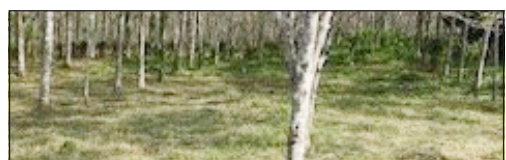
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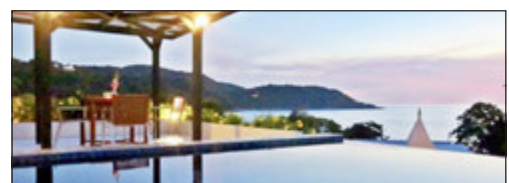
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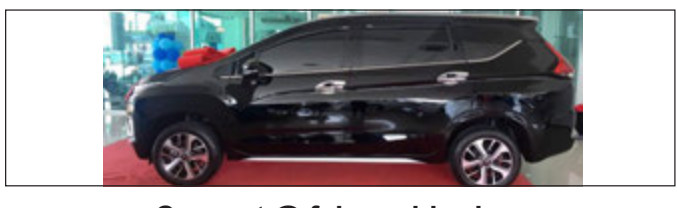
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Verstappen cruises in Monaco

Red Bull driver does his talking on the track to grab season lead

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

Max Verstappen currently leads the drivers championship for the first time in his F1 career to finally make good on Red Bull Racing's (RBR) early-season pace.

RBR and Verstappen arrived in Monte Carlo as favourites to win the Monaco Grand Prix, but not even they could have envisaged the damage they'd deal to Mercedes.

While Verstappen cruised to an easy victory last Sunday (May 23) after leading every lap, Lewis Hamilton struggled to seventh. The result was a dramatic swing in the championships standings, with Verstappen now leading Hamilton by four points and Red Bull Racing leading Mercedes by just one.

Strange though it may seem to say given the closeness of the tallies and the earliness of the season, this was a must-win race for Verstappen. The Dutchman has had a faster car



Max Verstappen dominated the Monaco Grand Prix last Sunday (May 23) and now leads the drivers championship for the first time in his career. Photo: AFP

for much of the year but has seen chances slip through his fingers through some on-track mistakes and poor strategy, while Mercedes has maximised its opportunities as it has learnt to unlock the latent pace of its capricious car.

The previous round, a dominant Hamilton win at the Spanish Grand Prix, suggested Mercedes was poised to stretch its championship advantage.

"I think they still have performance on us," he opined to British TV at the previous race in Barcelona. "They're just making a lot of mistakes."

It was perhaps the first minor missive in a campaign sure to be fought as hard off the track as it is on it, and Hamilton fired another volley when F1 landed in Monaco in an attempt to dominate the psychological front and ratchet up the pressure.

"Perhaps, as you know, he feels that he has a lot to prove," he said of Verstappen's on-track aggression this season.

"But I am not necessarily in the same boat there, and I am more long term. It's a marathon, not a sprint, sort of mentality, which is ultimately why I have the stats that I have."

HOLLOW WORDS
But stones are best not thrown

in glass houses, and Hamilton's weekend-long difficulties ensured his words rung hollow by Sunday evening.

Not only did the reigning champion struggle with his car's propensity to under-work its tyres around the low-energy city streets, but his team seemingly ignored his suggestions to ameliorate his problems through set-up changes, leaving him seventh on the grid at a circuit around which overtaking is almost impossible.

His strategy was commensurately woeful, losing him two places he got back only due to the retirements of other drivers – one of which was teammate Valtteri Bottas, for whom the misapplication of a wheel gun blunted one of his wheel nuts, leaving his tyres unable to be changed in a bizarre turn of event.

The collapse was as spectacular as it was ironic, and after a serene cruise to victory, Verstappen's post-race summation was blunt.

"Actions always speak louder than words," he said. "I think that's a good lesson

after this weekend – you have to talk on the track.

"Yes, we as a team so far have made the smallest mistakes, and that's why we are ahead. So I hope we can keep that going for the rest of the season."

The Monaco Grand Prix is unlikely to prove a turning point in the title campaign. The circuit is the sport's greatest outlier in terms of demands on the car, and Mercedes always bounces back strongly from these howler weekends it has an odd propensity to commit once or twice a year.

But it was a reminder that this championship is liable to be defined by a team and driver's worst weekends as much as it is by moments of brilliance. Hamilton still has more wins, but Verstappen has yet to finish lower than second in 2021, and his mastery of his off days has won him a four-point advantage.

There's still so long to go in this season of record-breaking length, but words will count for nothing at the end of it.

US warns against Olympic travel

OLYMPICS

THE UNITED STATES last Monday (May 24) warned its citizens not to travel to Olympic host Japan, citing the growing risk of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Asian nation just two months before the Games begin.

The warning came in a travel advisory issued by the State Department despite Japan opening its first mass vaccination centres in a push ahead of the Games.

The decision was based



A security guard outside the Japanese Olympic Committee headquarters in Tokyo. Photo: AFP

primarily on government health advice, as well as "secondary factors such as commercial flight availability, restrictions on US citizen entry, and impediments to obtaining COVID

test results within three calendar days," the advisory said.

Just 2% of Japan's population of 125 million has been fully vaccinated so far and a recent surge in infections has put hospitals under strain with Tokyo, Osaka and eight other regions under a state of emergency.

The majority of athletes and others staying in the Olympic village will be vaccinated before they enter Japan, but inoculation is not required to participate. AFP

'Lefty' secures epic PGA win

GOLF

PHIL MICKELSON BECAME the oldest major winner in golf history last Sunday (May 23), the 50-year-old left-hander capturing the PGA Championship by two strokes for his sixth and most iconic major title.

The age-defying American took the US\$2.1 million (B66mn) top prize with an epic victory for the ages, producing a dazzling display at windy Kiawah Island while younger rivals faded.

Mickelson erased the major age win mark set by American Julius Boros when he captured the 1968 PGA Championship at age 48.

Mickelson ground out a final-round one-over par 73 to finish 72 holes on six-under 282 with South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen and American Brooks Koepka sharing second on 284.

It was the first major victory for Mickelson since the 2013 British Open.

The crowd, limited to 10,000 people by COVID-19 safety measures, roared with every successful swing by



Phil Mickelson hoists the Wanamaker Trophy after winning the 2021 PGA Championship. Photo: AFP

Mickelson, creating an electric atmosphere all day on the punishing Ocean Course, the longest layout in major history at 7,876 yards.

On the front nine, Mickelson answered three bogeys with three birdies in a roller-coaster start, his most astonishing effort a 50-foot chip-in from the sand at the par-3 sixth, for a two-stroke lead at the turn.

World number 115 Mickelson sank a 12-foot birdie putt at the 10th while Koepka and Oosthuizen made bogeys to leave "Lefty" with a four-stroke edge.

Spectators created a surreal scene at the 18th hole, swarming around Mickelson after his second shot as he tried to walk to the 18th green,

needing to three-putt from 16 feet for the epic triumph.

Outnumbered security guards forced Mickelson through a throng of thousands of people who encircled the green chanting "Lefty, Lefty," and roared with delight as he tapped in for par to complete a victory for the ages.

"It has been an incredible day," Mickelson said. "Certainly one of the moments I'll cherish my entire life. I hope others find that inspirational."

Tiger Woods, a 15-time major winner and long-time Mickelson rival, did, tweeting: "Truly inspirational to see @PhilMickelson do it again at 50 years of age. Congrats!!!!!!!" AFP

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Final day of Premier drama

Chelsea and Liverpool edge top four as Leicester miss out again

FOOTBALL

AFP

Liverpool and Chelsea seized the final two Champions League places in a dramatic end to the Premier League season last Sunday (May 23), leaving Leicester heartbroken for the second consecutive campaign.

With Manchester City already guaranteed a third title in four years and Manchester United certain to finish second, the focus was on the battle for the remaining two places in the top four.

Heading into the 38th and last round of fixtures, just one point separated Chelsea in third place from Leicester in fifth.

Two Sadio Mane goals gave Liverpool a 2-0 win at home to Crystal Palace, while Thomas Tuchel's Chelsea were indebted to a late Leicester collapse against Tottenham at the King Power Stadium.

Chelsea lost 2-1 at Aston Villa but were saved by the 4-2 defeat for Brendan Rodgers' FA Cup winners.



Liverpool players celebrate Sadio Mane's second goal which secured the club a third-place finish and qualification for next season's Champions League. Photo: AFP

Liverpool had to celebrate the club's first league triumph for 30 years in an empty stadium last season and their Premier League title defence was blown off course by a series of injuries to key players.

But they avoided the financial hit of missing out on Europe's top club competition by finding their form in the final months of the season, winning eight of their last 10

games to finish third.

"Outstanding, best I could've dreamt of – we wanted this feeling, this game, this atmosphere," Jurgen Klopp told the BBC after the win in front of 10,000 fans.

"Finishing the season in third is incredible, I can't believe it – credit to the boys. I can't believe how it worked out in the last few weeks, incredible."

Chelsea were on the brink of missing out on a top-four finish, trailing at Villa Park as goals from Bertrand Traore and Anwar El Ghazi put the home side 2-0 up.

Ben Chilwell pulled a goal back, but in the end Chelsea were saved by the Leicester result to finish fourth, meaning they can now focus on next weekend's Champions League final against Manchester City

knowing they are in the competition next season.

LEICESTER PAIN

Leicester were left to dwell on another agonising near-miss, just a week after winning the FA Cup for the first time in their history.

The Foxes, forced to settle for a Europa League spot, also missed out on the top four on the final day of last season when they were beaten by Manchester United.

Leicester ended with more days in the Premier League's top four than any other side this season, adding to their sense of frustration.

They appeared to be on the brink of a stunning end to their campaign as two Jamie Vardy penalties saw them lead 2-1 with 16 minutes to go, but a Kasper Schmeichel own goal and two late Gareth Bale strikes completed a turnaround for Spurs.

Harry Kane was also on the scoresheet in potentially his final match for Spurs to win his third Golden Boot award.

The England captain fin-

ished one ahead of Liverpool's Mohamed Salah on 23 goals and also picked up the prize for most assists in the season with 14.

"It's hugely disappointing for us," said Rodgers. "We fought so hard all season. I always said you're judged after 38 games and unfortunately we couldn't quite make it."

West Ham secured a Europa League spot by beating Southampton 3-0 while Fulham, West Brom and Sheffield United had already been relegated.

Tottenham finished seventh to take a Europa Conference League spot.

Sergio Aguero scored two goals on his final home appearance for Manchester City in their 5-0 romp against Everton after coming on as a second-half substitute.

Pep Guardiola's side, who finished 12 points ahead of Manchester United, celebrated with the Premier League trophy after the match.

The club also paid tribute to Aguero, whose 184 Premier League goals are the most by any player for a single club.

Maradona doctors face murder charge

FOOTBALL

SEVEN PEOPLE UNDER investigation over the November death of Argentine footballing legend Diego Maradona face charges of premeditated murder, a judicial source has confirmed.

The accused – which include Maradona's neurosurgeon Leopoldo Luque, psychiatrist Agustina Cosachov and psychologist Carlos Diaz – face eight to 25 years in prison if found guilty.

The indictment is based on findings by a board of experts into Maradona's death from a heart attack last year, a source from the San Isidro Attorney General's office, which is leading the investigation, said last Thursday (May 20).

That report concluded that the footballing icon received inadequate medical care and was left to his fate for a "prolonged, agonising period" before his death, which came just weeks after undergoing brain surgery on a blood clot.

"After so many injustices, the case has come full



Photo: AFP

circle," the source told AFP.

The accused are prohibited from leaving the country and must appear ahead of an inquiry between May 31 and June 14.

The legal proceedings were prompted by a complaint filed by two of Maradona's five daughters against Luque, who they blamed for their father's deteriorating condition after the brain surgery.

Prosecutors believe Maradona's death was not the result of malpractice or negligent actions of his doctors, but that they knew the former soccer star would die and did nothing to prevent it.

The prosecutors obtained a series of messages and audio that show that the medical team were aware that Maradona was using

alcohol, psychiatric medication and marijuana in the last months of his life.

Among the conclusions of the report, the medical board said that "the signs of life risk" shown by the former Naples and Barcelona star were ignored, and that his care in his final weeks was "plagued by deficiencies and irregularities".

The recriminations and accusations over Maradona's death are taking place alongside another case, over his disputed inheritance, involving his five children, his brothers and Matias Morla, his former lawyer.

Maradona is an idol to millions of Argentines after he inspired the South American country to only their second World Cup triumph in 1986. AFP

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Sport



Verstappen takes win in Monaco > p14



The BISP Cruzeiro U19 boys squad. Photo: BISP Media

FOOTBALL

The Phuket News
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

It has been confirmed that British International School, Phuket (BISP) and Cruzeiro Esporte Clube of Brazil have extended their successful academy partnership agreement until 2023.

The Cruzeiro Academy was established in Thailand eight years ago in partnership with BISP and has provided football classes and coaching to over 300 male and female students during that time.

Initially, the International Business Department of Cruzeiro EC set about interna-

tionalising the club's brand in Asia, making Thailand its regional hub via the partnership with BISP. Little did the executives know at the time that the partnership would blossom and develop into such a strong and successful project that carried the Cruzeiro brand so far and wide.

Over that eight-year timeframe, the academy has provided invaluable opportunities for many students in Thailand with several earning professional contracts with renowned clubs. Mohammed (Adam) Zamri, 18, made his debut for Perak FC in the Malaysian Premier League earlier this year and 18-year-old goalkeeper Pedro Hauelsen

de Souza signed his first professional contract with top Portuguese club S.L. Benfica last year.

The academy has played more than 100 tournaments across Asia and throughout the world in countries such as Portugal, Spain and Cruzeiro's homeland of Brazil. Cruzeiro is the only Brazilian club that has such a partnership format.

"It is a great pleasure for Cruzeiro EC to be part of this fantastic program with BISP, we hope that this academic, sporting and cultural union continues strong and lasting," commented Director of Cruzeiro Global Business, Adriano Andrade.

"I feel privileged to have

been chosen and to have the opportunity to lead the first Cruzeiro Academy abroad," said coach Jonathas Candido who spearheads the project in Thailand.

"Starting a project like this is not so simple. Brazilian clubs were not very popular in Asia and it was a great challenge," he recalled of the challenging early years.

"We adapted Cruzeiro's training curriculum to our situation, and fully followed the teaching methodology. We work directly with professionals from Cruzeiro and the youth system of the club, and from there we develop and evolve the methodology on a daily basis.

"Today I see that we have won people's respect and admiration. Cruzeiro's history of conquests and glories reached Asia, through the work of several professionals who collaborated with the success of the program.

"Looking back, I see that the whole sacrifice of leaving the country and the distance from the family was worth it! The objective is being reached and we will continue working so that the name of Cruzeiro Esporte Clube is big in the four corners of the world," Jonathas added.

Today there are five Brazilian football coaches working with almost 300 athletes at BISP, many of whom have

taken Cruzeiro to their hearts, watching the games and supporting the club with genuine passion.

"BISP acknowledges our professional association with Cruzeiro Football and recognises the high-quality education and training given to our students," said BISP Headmaster Simon Meredith.

"The coaches, led by Jonathas Candido, provide the highest level of football training while contributing to the whole school community in many other ways. The success of our football teams and individual students, including professional signings, is a reflection of Cruzeiro's methodology and standards."

Rawai Pool League steps up to save lives

POOL

THE RAWAI POOL LEAGUE recently donated an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to members of Kusoldharm Foundation Emergency Rescue Volunteers to save lives across Phuket, the league said in an announcement.

The device will be located on their ambulance based out of Pa-

tong. Its main use will be by trained technicians resuscitating people involved in traffic accidents as well as other incidents and is expected to save lives across Phuket, the league said in an announcement.

"The company providing the equipment, Prosperous, based in Bangkok, have committed to providing an additional unit free of charge each time the first one is used to save a person's life," the league said.

"The aim is for all rescue vehicles in Phuket to have a unit and save lives.

"As a thank you to the Rawai Pool League the Kusoldharm Foundation Emergency Rescue Volunteers have offered to train staff at each of the 17 bars that participate in the league and this should take place in the coming weeks once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted," the organisers added.

The Rawai Pool League plays



Rawai Pool League members Mark Laurence and Kelly O'Brien donate the Automated External Defibrillator to members of the Kusoldharm Foundation Emergency Rescue Volunteers. Photo: Supplied

its matches every Monday in Rawai and currently consists of 17 teams.

For more information, visit the

website Rawai-Pool-League.com or the Rawai Pool League page on Facebook. The Phuket News