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HIS MAJESTY

King Maha Vajiralongkorn  
Bodindradebayavarangkun  
July 28, 1952



# The Phuket News

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**BULLET FLIES INTO PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM > PAGE 2**

## BANKSY BLESSING STREET ART IN KARON PRAISED AS BANKSY CREATION



The stencil spray painted on a sidestreet wall in Karon. Photo: JP Mestanza

**JP Mestanza**  
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An Englishman walks into a bar with stencils and a question: “Can I do some artwork?” Kenny, the owner of the Karon Aussie Bar, didn’t know who the man was, until the man asked, “Do you know anything about Banksy’s art?”

Kenny, who believes he met Banksy nine years earlier, took a look at the man, stencil in hand, and asked flat out if he was indeed the Bristol-

born, controversial street artist whose work has been seen across the globe.

After some hemming and hawing, Kenny said the man told him he was one of 12 people scouting locations for potential Banksy art pieces in Karon. After Kenny pointed to a wall near the road, a gaggle of customers arrived at the bar. After tending to them, Kenny turned around and saw that the man was gone.

“He said his rules were, it’s got to be viewable by the road, and he listed quite a few other rules,” he added.

“[But] amongst all the people, he wandered off the road.”

Kenny’s brush with the mystery man was brief, but he did gather some intel on the street artist’s potential plans in Phuket. Either way, Kenny’s wall was left empty.

But the wall of his neighbour Robin Gautami was about to see a new showpiece.

### A STROKE OF ART

Nestled between a clothing shop and a small cafe in a quiet alley just off

Patak Rd, a piece of street art shows a child in a peacoat riding off on top of a turtle. Most of the piece is black and white, save for the turtle’s taxi-yellow shell. A pole rises up from the back of the turtle, with a flag that reads ‘taxi’.

The art piece is clearly stenciled, with beautiful detail and highlighted shading. Was the mystery man actually Banksy? And did he stencil this piece?

“I don’t know [Banksy]. But when I was sitting in the front of the store,...

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‘bad farang’



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Phuket set for  
new Triathlon



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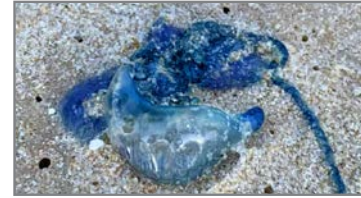
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# News



Bluebottles  
found at  
Layan > p4



Photo: Phuket Info Center

## Kids at risk as bullet hits art classroom

POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING a gunshot that left a bullet hole in a window of a classroom at a private school on the northern side of Phuket Town where 10-year-olds were taking art class last week.

No people were injured in the incident.

Lt Jitthiwa Thanawitwilas of the Phuket City Police was informed of the incident at 2pm on July 18.

Investigators from Phuket City Police and from Phuket Provincial Police soon arrived at the scene – a classroom on the fifth floor of a primary school building at a private school on Komaraphat Rd, in Talad Yai subdistrict in Phuket Town.

The Phuket Info Center did not name the school, and police have yet to is-

sue any statement about the incident.

Prathom 5 students (about 10 years old) were taking art class in the room when the bullet came through the window, Phuket Info Center reported.

On realising what had happened, the art teacher quickly led the students out of the room.

Officers reported finding traces of gunpowder where the bullet passed through the window glass.

So far police have not confirmed finding the bullet.

Police are continuing their investigation and will check CCTV footage of inside the classroom at the time of the incident in the hope of learning more about what had happened, Phuket Info Center reported.

*The Phuket News*

## Chalong Pier pontoon starts sinking again

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Operators of Thai diving and fishing tour boats at Chalong Pier have raised safety concerns about the state of one of the main pontoons at the key tour boat facility, with exposed rust posing a danger to tourists and the pontoon starting to sink again.

The pontoon at risk is the same one that started sinking early last year, prompting officials to take action and weld patches over where the rust had eaten through.

“This is happening time and again,” one of the tour boat operators told *The Phuket News*.

“Not only is it unpleasant for tourists to look at when they board boats to head out on tours, but also it is dangerous. The exposed rust poses a danger to their feet. They cannot even walk barefoot onto the boats,” the operator said.

The sinking pontoon also poses an obvious risk.

“It may be sinking slowly now, but no one knows if the pontoon will just give way



One of the main pontoons at Chalong Pier that Phuket tourists use to board tour boats is covered with rust and sinking, again. Photo: Supplied

and sink,” the operator said.

“Like any steel boat in Thailand, the material used to build the pontoon is cheap steel from China. It rusts very quickly. When the pontoon is built it is given a protected coating, but after two to three years it starts to rust inside...

“Then the rust starts to

spread. You cannot see how much rust there is inside, so you do not know how much damage has been done,” the operator added.

“Last year they patched the holes with welding. This does not fix the problem of the rust from inside,” he added.

“The whole system at the

marina is a mess. It is all steel, and it all rusts. It is called an international-standard marina, but it is made with the wrong, cheap, steel. It is made to look good, but it is not working,” he said.

The alternative is to have a new pontoon made from aluminium, but the cost may be prohibitive.

“The price is three to four times what it costs to make with the cheap steel, but it is good for 20 to 30 years,” the operator explained.

“The big problem we have today is that if they just keep welding and repainting it, then the same problem will keep happening,” he added.

The operator recognised that a key concern for fixing the pontoon properly was getting the budget required.

“It could cost anywhere from B10 million to B20 million, and for that local authorities will need budget approval from Bangkok,” he explained.

“It will take time, and by next high season we might not have a safe, secure pontoon at the pier... and that is a problem,” the operator said.

## Banksy-style stencil surfaces in Karon, considered a blessing

*Continued from page 1*

...he [asked] ‘Can I pen in there?’, said Robin, owner of the building where the piece is displayed.

“I was worried when he asked me, it was the first time anyone asked [to do this]. I was worried [about] what he was going to do, but he showed me the picture before, and I said yes,” he continued.

In his 18 years of owning the shop building, Robin has never had anyone ask him to spray paint his building. But there’s a reason he’s keeping it there.

“I like it, of course, that’s why I keep it there. I like the detail, it looks simple, but there is more detail. If we see [closely], we can see more detail there,” he continued, adding that it took the artist no more than 10-15 minutes to finish the piece.

“It was raining too, and he brought a hat to put on because of the rain. I didn’t know he was going to do it that quickly,” he said.

### BANKSY AND THAILAND

Phuket is full of a hodge-podge collection of street art all over the island, no more so than in Phuket Town.

But Karon is hardly known as a bastion of art, especially a work derived from stencils and clear layers of spray paint. One artist whose work is renowned for its stencil craftsmanship, unique locations and social commentary, such as exhibited by this piece, is Banksy.

The English-born artist, from Bristol, is well-known for his street art and veritable antics that even saw his famous ‘Girl with a Balloon’ shred itself moments after being sold at a Sotheby’s auction for over £1 million in 2016.

At the end of last year, Bangkok’s Museum of Contemporary Art, held a two-month exhibition of 150 pieces of art by Banksy – the first time in Southeast Asia. But Phuket is no stranger to the artist, as Kenny relays.

“Well, I had a man walk in here nine years ago and ask me the



Photo: JP Mestanza

exact same question. And when he said to me, ‘Do you know anything about Banksy art?’, it was like déjà vu. So I think he’d been around or been coming here for some time,” Kenny said.

### FOR THE PEOPLE

The wall where this new piece appears is owned by Robin Gautami, who has a tailor shop and clothing store on site. The piece is visible from the road, but Robin says tourists who walk by always notice the piece.

“Some of the tourists come and take a picture. People see it in the nighttime, lots of people take a photo in there and ask questions,” he said.

Robin added that the mystery artist had told him he was planning on doing several pieces in the area, some in restaurants as well, and even in nearby Kata Beach. Kenny was told the same thing, that four pieces of Banksy street art would come to Karon.

“But he said he had a small window to get them done and it was raining that day as well so... Yeah, I’m looking,” Kenny said.

Banksy’s art is filled with meaning and social commentary, and while this piece is now different, there’s an ambiguity that can make one think.

“I’m still trying to work out the political viewpoint,” Kenny said. “Are the taxi’s that slow like riding a turtle? Or another agenda. I mean every piece of his art has an agenda or a political viewpoint.

“He might’ve just got a slow taxi,”

Kenny said with a laugh.

Both Kenny’s and Robin’s conversations with the mystery street artist touched on topics of the COVID-19 pandemic in Thailand, and how locals had grappled – and are still grappling – with the recovery.

That’s why Kenny believes the artist chose this part of the island.

“A lot of hotels as you can see are still recovering from COVID, a lot of hotels aren’t finished rebuilding yet [in Karon]. Perhaps he’s trying to help everyone. In the recovery of rebuilding everything, let’s have it bring some people into the area to have a look,” Kenny said.

“It’s a blessing,” he said.

*The Phuket News has contacted Pest Control, the only organisation legally empowered to authenticate original Banksy works of art. At time of press, The Phuket News had not received any response from Pest Control, not even a denial that the Karon stencil is a Banksy original.*



# Nanai Rd repaving adds to Patong traffic woes

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

While Patong continues to struggle with the traffic woes brought on by the floodworks underway on Phra Metta Rd, Patong Municipality has announced the partial closure of Nanai Rd from last Saturday (July 22) until Aug 5 while the road is resurfaced.

Nanai Rd will be open to traffic only one way at a time along separate sections for the next two weeks so that workers can repave the surface of Nanai Rd, Patong Municipality confirmed.

To help traffic flow through the town, sections of Nanai Rd will be made one way from 8:30am to 4:30pm during set periods while the work continues, the municipality explained.

The one-way closures may change while the work progresses, Patong Municipality cautioned.

"The public is asked to avoid using the [affected] routes and plan their travel during this time," Patong Municipality said in its announcement.

From last Saturday through Wednesday this week (July 26), traffic was one way along the northern section of Nanai Rd to Soi Banzan. Motorists travelling in the opposite direction were urged to use Soi Banzan to reach their destination.

From Thursday (July 27) through



The resurfacing of Nanai Rd comes while the installation of flood-prevention drains continues on Phra Metta Rd. Photo: Patong Municipality

next Monday (July 31), traffic will be one way between Siriraj Circle (at the southern end of Patong) and Soi Nanai 8. Motorists affected will have to use Soi Nanai 8.

From Aug 1-5 traffic will be one way from Soi Nanai 8 to Soi Banzan Market.

Patong Municipality will open Phra Metta Rd past the wastewater treatment plant so that small vehicles may pass, the municipality added.

Patong Municipality apologised for any inconvenience caused while the work continues.

The resurfacing of Nanai Rd comes while work continues on installing the flood-prevention drains on Phra Metta Rd.

The section of Phra Metta Rd affected is from Soi Banzan to Soi Nanai Ruamjai (Soi Nanai 8). The affected section of Phra Metta Rd was closed to all traffic on June 20.

With the resurfacing of Nanai Rd now underway, Patong Mayor Chalerm Sak Maneesri inspected the progress made on Phra Metta Rd last Friday (July 21). The works are expected to continue until Aug 26.



Photo: Wichit Police

## Police tase foreigner to stop rampage

A FOREIGN MAN WAS tased by police to stop his rampage on cars parked at a convenience store near where he was staying before being taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital last Friday (July 21). Wichit Police were called to the scene, behind the Central Floresta shopping mall, at about 4:20pm.

More than 10 officers arrived to find the man climbing over cars parked in front of the store, repeatedly striking and slashing at them with a drink opener, causing damage to the vehicles.

Police sealed off the area and formed ranks with shields and taser prods in the hope of containing the man. However, the man instead charged at the police, drink opener in hand.

Officers seized the op-

portunity to tase the man, unnamed in police reports, in order to take him into custody.

He was then taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital for care.

Police said that their preliminary investigation revealed that the man's rampage began in his room at a condo complex nearby. The man had caused extensive damage to his room.

Police have yet to clarify what might have prompted or caused the man's frantic episode.

*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

## Six-day holiday weekend brings 48-hour alcohol ban

OFFICIALS ARE URGING PEOPLE to take advantage of five days of holidays over six days this weekend as the country celebrates the 71<sup>st</sup> birthday of His Majesty The King today (July 28) and observes two major Buddhist religious holidays – Asarnha Bucha Day and Khao Phansa (Buddhist Lent) – on Tuesday and Wednesday (Aug 1-2).

Phuket Immigration last week warned that its offices will be closed today, as will all government offices, for the King's Birthday national public holiday.

Also, main branches of banks are closed, but some bank branches in shopping malls will remain open.

Thailand Post branches and kiosks in shopping malls remain open as normal, while hospitals will provide emergency and ongoing regular treatments only – ancillary services such as weight loss and skin care – will not be available.

All Royal Thai Police and Tourist Police stations remain open and some local consulates will be open to serve their respective citizens.

However, government offices will reopen on Monday (July 31), which is not a holiday, before closing again for two more days – Asarnha Bucha and Khao Phansa – on Tuesday and Wednesday (Aug 1-2).

"If you can take additional leave on July 31... in total, we will have a long holiday for up to 6 days... Know this: You can plan a trip together," said the national



Image: NBT

Public Relations Department in a notice posted online.

As both Asarnha Bucha and Khao Phansa are major religious holidays, the sale of alcohol is banned by law across the country on both days. As such, the alcohol ban will start at 00:01am Aug 1 and will conclude at midnight on Tuesday (23:59pm, Aug 2).

The ban does not include duty free shops at international airports.

The ban on the sale of alcohol was instituted by law, introduced under an announcement by the Prime Minister's Office of Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha, on Jan 22, 2015.

Under the order, the sale of alcohol is prohibited on five specific religious days: Makha Bucha, Visakha Bucha, Asarnha Bucha Day, Khao Phansa and Wan Ong Phansa.

Anyone caught breaking the ban faces a prison sentence of up to six months, a B10,000 fine or both.

Of note, recognising the impact of so many holidays occurring together, the Bank of Thailand this year has not declared Khao Phansa a bank holiday. *The Phuket News*



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## PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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FRI JULY 28



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SAT JULY 29



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SUN JULY 30



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

MON JULY 31



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE AUGUST 1



High: +32°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

WED AUGUST 2



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

THU AUGUST 3



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

**Portuguese man-o-war, also called 'bluebottles', have been found washed ashore at Layan beach. Photo: Supplied****Bluebottles found at Layan**

BEACHGOERS AT LAYAN BEACH ARE warned to beware Portuguese man-o-war, also called 'bluebottles', found washed ashore.

Concerns were raised by a reader of *The Phuket News* who found bluebottles washed ashore last week. The reader found four to five bluebottles washed ashore. The biggest was about the size of his hand.

Portuguese man-o-war are regularly blown ashore Phuket, depending on the winds. The previous confirmed reports of bluebottles in Phuket came mid-last month.

So far there have been no official warnings of bluebottles at any Phuket beaches during the current spate of wet weather. However, once found on one west coast beach, they tend to turn up at others.

Portuguese man-o-war are not jellyfish. Lifeguards in Phuket advise that anyone stung should seek assistance from the lifeguards on the beach or go to a medical facility.

Most importantly, people are advised to not touch or rub the affected area.

People are urged to limit self-treatment to washing the injured area with seawater – not freshwater – and removing any visible tentacles.

For pain relief, the injured area can be soaked in warm water for 20 minutes. However, seeking professional medical care is always the best course of action in any case. *The Phuket News*

**Police defend 'pointless' patrol pickup, rental car****The Phuket News**  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

**T**ha Chatchai Police have responded to a complaint online that a patrol pickup truck that remains parked at the Phuket Check Point is a pointless waste of resources, and questioned why a rental car is allowed to remain parked at the checkpoint all day.

In a post online, Tha Chatchai Police thanked the "Rabbit Moonshadow" Facebook group for raising the issues, but noted that the person who made the post "might not be aware of all the issues".

The statement issued was not attributed to any particular officer, but signed off as by the Tha Chatchai Police. The current Tha Chatchai Police Chief is Col Kanchawit Phoprasit.

The pickup truck mentioned in the Rabbit Moonshadow post, shown in a photo parked at the Phuket Check Point, remains there on standby in case it is needed, the police statement said.

"Phuket Check Point is an important checkpoint of Phuket. It is used to prevent crimes such as drugs, firearms and [catching] criminals attempting to flee Phuket, all of which affect tourism, which is an extremely important [source of] income for Phuket people," the statement read.

**The police pickup parked at the Phuket Check Point. Photo: Rabbit Moonshadow Facebook group**

"There is only one way to enter and exit Phuket by land, and that is to go through the Phuket check Point. Therefore, it must be a strong checkpoint and must be ready to operate 24 hours a day for the safety of residents of Phuket and those on duty," the statement continued.

"The police station has therefore arranged for a vehicle to be prepared to give chase immediately if a perpetrator attempts to flee or if there is an incident involving two cars," the statement explained.

Tha Chatchai Police pointed out that there is a police vehicle at each end of both bridges, Thao Thepkasattri Bridge leading onto the island and the Thao Srisoonthorn Bridge leading off the island.

Regarding the rental car that remains parked at the checkpoint, Tha Chatchai Police said a rental

car remains at the checkpoint 24 hours a day in case it is needed.

The Rabbit Moonshadow post said the rental car had remained at the checkpoint for four months, with the supervising officer walking past it, oblivious that a private car remained parked at the checkpoint.

The police statement countered that at different times other rental cars were brought to the checkpoint, but no rental cars were permitted to remain at the checkpoint for 24 hours, or even long periods of time without moving.

"It is not a waste of taxpayers' money. Such cases may be misunderstood," the statement said.

Regular Traffic Police work only during the day. At night, patrol officers use the vehicles to perform their duties "in order to achieve the full value of use", the statement added.

**Neck-high hanging telecom cable sweeps woman off motorcycle**

A THAI FEMALE MOTORCYCLIST was injured in Patong early on July 20 when she ran into a telecom cable hanging at neck level across the entrance to a small alley off Phra Metta Rd.

The incident occurred at around 5:30am near the Care and Clean Pharmacy on Phra Metta Rd in Patong.

Officers from Patong Police Station and rescue workers from Kusolharm Foundation arrived at the scene to find a 25-year-old woman with neck injuries inflicted by the wire.

The woman, identified in the report as Thanaphon Saithong, received first aid at the scene and was then taken to Patong Hospital for a more comprehensive medical

**A young woman was hurt when she ran into a low-hanging cable on her motorcycle on July 20. Photo: Patong Police**

check and treatment.

It was confirmed that Patong Police had made a record of the incident. However, police made no mention of pressing any charges for the cable hanging dangerously low. *Eakkapop Thongtub*

**Couple arrested with 27,000 meth pills, over 900g of ya ice**

POLICE HAVE ARRESTED A man and a woman in Kathu found in possession of more than 27,000 methamphetamine pills (ya bah) and more than 900 grammes of crystal meth (ya ice).

Officers from the Kathu Police arrested Wirawong 'Nueng' Noichan, 39, registered as living on Prabaramee Rd in Patong, and Bulin 'Fon' Decha, 31, registered as living in Moo 1, Kathu, at an unregistered rental room in Soi Thida, Moo 1, Kathu, last Sunday (July 23).

The couple were found in possession of 27,503 ya bah pills, 905.98g of ya ice. Officers also found an improvised handgun and three .38-calibre bullets.

Among the items seized in making the arrests were one car and one car and six motorcycles, police reported.

During questioning at Kathu Police

**Photo: Kathu Police**

Station the couple confessed that the drugs seized were theirs. They also confessed to "ordering" the drugs to sell and distribute throughout the area, police reported.

The couple were charged with joint possession of the drugs, while Wirawong was also charged with possession of an illegal firearm, police confirmed.

Kathu Police are continuing their investigation into the drugs seized, police said. *Eakkapop Thongtub*



# Local officials spotlight law-breaking foreigners

The Phuket News  
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A special meeting with consuls and honorary consuls from across the island was held at Phuket Provincial Hall last week to discuss a range of issues, with Thai officials focussing on foreigners committing crimes on the island.

Countries represented at the meeting, held on July 19, included Australia, the United Kingdom, Israel, Russia, Chile, Germany, France, Nepal, Mexico, South Korea, Estonia, Spain, Switzerland, Norway, and Luxembourg.

Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Pinsuwan said that Phuket has a large number of tourists, so asking tourists to follow the rules is important for a happy coexistence between local people and tourists, said an official report of the meeting.

To that end, Phuket Immigration proposed security measures so that foreigners in Phuket would strictly comply with regulations and legal actions, in order to boost



Photo: PR Phuket

security in terms of crime and drugs, said the report, which made no mention of the current campaign by local police to specifically target and arrest foreigners found working illegally.

At the meeting it was pointed out that there are currently 28,614 foreigners living in Phuket, and since January 565 foreigners "stood accused" of committing crimes. The report did not give any breakdown on the types of crimes foreigners were arrested for committing.

However, the meeting

came amid a flurry of arrests of foreigners caught working illegally. One of the arrests was of a Jordanian man found working illegally as a barber serving tourists in Patong. Another road netted four Russian women working illegally as beauticians in Cherng Talay.

In both rids police made no mention of any legal action against their employers.

Meanwhile, Phuket Immigration Chief Pol Col Thanet Sukchai at the meeting said that the ongoing "white accommodation" project for

foreigners in Phuket, which also targets Thais found harbouring foreigners wanted for criminal activity and Thais found not reporting foreigners staying at their rented accommodations, was a "model for the country".

From June 1-30, 248,325 tourists arrived in Phuket, but 334,752 tourists were reported as staying at guest accommodations, including rented properties, during the period, Col Thanet reported.

"This creates confidence in taking care of tourism safety for tourists," he said, according to the official report of the meeting.

Kornpitak Assuwan, Head of the Policy Division at the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO), explained what efforts were underway to "organise" car and motorbike rental operators in the area, namely the campaign to "urge" car and motorbike rental operators to not rent vehicles out to tourists who do not have the correct licence and to at least check the tourist can ride a motorbike before renting one out to them.

## Navies conclude exercises off Phuket

THE ROYAL THAI NAVY Third Area Command in Phuket last week concluded a week of joint naval exercises conducted in coordination with the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) off the coast of Phuket.

The '67th/2023 SEAEX THAMAL' exercises, officially tabled as from July 15-21, were held in the waters along the Thai Andaman coast, with six ships taking part.

Representing Thailand were the Hua Hin class HTMS *Klaeng*, Patrol Gun Boat Tor 886 of the the THAI-MECC (Thai Maritime Enforcement Command Center) unit stationed at Cape Panwa and the Thai Marine Police patrol boat 809.

Taking part in the exercises on behalf of Malaysia were the Kedah-class offshore patrol vessel KD *Terengganu*, the fast response vessel KD *Perkasa* of the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency and patrol Boat PA 50 of the Malaysian Marine Police.

The crews on board the vessels conducted a series of exercises to simulate responding to illegal activities on the water, including smuggling of illegal goods, illegal fishing, illegal immigration, drugs,



Photo: RTN 3AC

human trafficking and piracy, among others.

Vice Admiral Arpakorn Yukongkaew, Commander of the Third Area Command, and Admiral Roslee Bin Mohamad Isa, Commander of the the RMN base in Langkawi, together co-chaired the closing ceremony of the 67th/2023 SEAEX THAMAL on July 20.

The aim of the exercises was to facilitate and improve coordination among the agencies taking part to increase efficiency in the prevention and deterrence of maritime offenses, said an official report of the closing ceremony.

The SEAEX THAMAL exercises have been held between Thailand and Malaysia every year since 1979. The exercises are held in two parts: one in the Gulf of Thailand (Narathiwat-Kelantan), the other along the Andaman coast (Satun-Perlis).

The Phuket News

## 1,000 trees planted in honour of His Majesty's 71st birthday

SCORES OF PEOPLE braved the sporadic thunder-showers across the island late last Sunday afternoon (July 23) to plant 1,000 tree saplings at Thalang Memorial Park in Tambon Thepkasattri in honour of the 71st birthday of His Majesty King Vajiralongkorn.

The group gathered at the park, home of the annual Phuket Heroines Festival, held each year in March to commemorate the Phuket Heroines, sisters 'Chan' and 'Mook', leading the victory over an invasion of Burmese marauders in 1786.

Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO), led the event and opening ceremony, joined by Boonwandee Woonciew, wife of Governor Narong Woonciew and currently serving as President of the Phuket chapter of the Red Cross Society of Thailand.

Among the leading officials joining the event were Thalang District Chief Bancha Thanu-in, Muang Phuket District Chief Pairote Srilamoon and Phuket City Mayor Saroj Angkanapilas.



Photo: PR Phuket

Chan Wongsattayanon, Vice President of the Thao Thepkasattri Thao Srisoonthorn Foundation, and Suksawadee Chanchu, President of the Business and Professional Women Association of Thailand, also joined the event, along with students and members of the public and community organisations.

Taking advantage of a break between downpours around 4pm, the team planted 1,000 saplings of Thong Urai trees, also called yellow trumpet trees, known for their yellow blossoms. In Thailand, the colour yellow is used to represent and honour the monarchy.

According to an official report of the event, the planting of the trees was carried out not only to help make the park more beautiful, but also

"to show the power of loyalty of the people of Phuket".

The event also featured a mass co-ordinated traditional dance by local elderly women to highlight and demonstrate local culture.

"For today's activity, people from all sectors have come together to plant 1,000 Thong Urai trees at the memorial area of Thalang District. In addition to showing loyalty to King Rama X, it also makes everyone in Phuket have a sense of love for their hometown," said Supangphan Ongsaranakhom, Vice President of the Phuket Business and Professional Women's Association.

"It highlights the importance of conservation and rehabilitating important historical areas of Phuket to be beautiful, shady, and last forever," she added.

Thong Urai trees were described as an auspicious tree with a mild fragrance and golden yellow blossoms. The tree is resistant to strong sunlight and periods of heavy rain. It is easy to grow, and blooms year-round.

The Phuket News

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# Small hotels ready to register

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

**W**irintra Paphakityotphat, head of the Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT) Region 11 branch, which represents Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi, has urged Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew to instruct relevant government agencies to facilitate small hotels being able to legally register.

The call came at a meeting held at Phuket Provincial Hall on Monday (July 24) to explain to operators of small guest accommodation businesses the conditions under which they may now finally legally register as small hotels.

The meeting came two months after Ms Wirintra made the same urgent request to Governor Narong in April, when she pointed out that three major revisions of existing laws that allow many small hotel operators to legally open had been approved by two sessions of Cabinet, on Mar 7 and on Mar 14.

However, at that time, the revised regulation had yet to come into effect on publication in the Royal Gazette.

The 'Ministerial Regula-



Ms Wirintra delivers her very convincing argument on Monday (July 24). Photo: PR Phuket

tions Prescribing Other Types of Buildings for Hotel Business Operations (No. 4) 2023' was signed as approved by caretaker Minister of Interior Gen Anupong Phaochinda on June 7.

The new ministerial regulation came into effect with its promulgation in the Government Gazette on June 20, with heavy emphasis on structural and fire safety requirements

that operators must comply with in order to be legally registered as hotels under the new ministerial regulation.

Yet, more than a month later, Governor Narong on Monday offered no explanation for the delay in bringing the new ministerial regulation into effect in Phuket.

"In Phuket, there are 4,600 hotels in operation, 900 of which are legally licensed

and 3,700 are unlicensed," Ms Wirintra explained at the meeting.

"Allowing small hotels to register will allow small hotels to accept more tourists as guests. Even at an average of 60% occupancy, that will provide accommodation for more than 10,000 more people a day," she said.

The economic benefit spoke for itself, Ms Wirintra

noted. Using the same 60% occupancy projection would account for 2.19 million guest stays per year, generating income of B16.202 billion a year for Phuket, she said.

"Small hotels earn only 10% of their room revenue from tourists, that's over B1.62bn a year, and will result in money flowing to more than 2,500 other businesses. Altogether generating over B14.585bn a year [for the local economy] and creating more than 25,000 jobs," Ms Wirintra said.

Ms Wirintra called for legitimate, licensed small hotels to be registered "in a government system that can regulate and control/encourage small operators to increase their income from their assets". Doing so would support families, create employment and develop careers, she said.

"As a result, the family, society and community will become strong and stable. People will be able to support themselves. It will reduce reliance on government assistance and help promote the grassroots economy from the beginning by distributing income to other supply chains, such as taxis, boats, tours,

restaurants, laundry, shops, among others," she said.

Citing statistics from the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) directors for Singapore and the Philippines, Ms Wirintra said that tourists from both countries per trip abroad spend at least at least B6,000 per day, "and more than 70% [spent] will be distributed to the community network".

"Allowing small hotels to register will increase taxes and the total income of Phuket, and the country, and it will prepare the tourism industry on the supply side so Phuket can be a good host to welcome foreign tourists who come to travel here during the coming high season, and it will help the TAT to achieve its goal of increasing the number of tourists in 2023 to 30 million people," she said.

"Therefore, on behalf of small hotel operators, we would like to ask for cooperation from relevant government agencies to facilitate them. Small hotels have submitted the necessary documentation to ensure that they are on time to welcome visitors during the peak season," Ms Wirintra said.

## More direct flights arrive from China

AIR CHANGAN HAS launched direct flights from Shaanxi Province, in northern central China, landing in Phuket three times a week.

The inaugural flight of the new service, from Xi'an Xianyang International Airport (XIY), landed at Phuket International Airport at 10:30pm on July 18.

The service has been designated flight code 9H6029 and is operated by a Boeing B737-800.

The new route will offer three flights per week, confirmed AOT Ground Aviation Services Company Limited (AOTGA).

Air Changan Airlines is counted as the 65<sup>th</sup> airline customer that has been serviced at Phuket International Airport, AOTGA noted.

Despite positive growth in Thailand's sector this year, tourist arrivals from China have long been considered as a large part of Thailand's tourism recovery in numbers.

According to the Ministry of Tourism & Sports, 285,547 visitors arrived in Thailand from Mainland China from January through May this year.



Photo: AOTGA

According to Phuket Immigration, total international arrivals to Phuket in June reached 248,325 travellers, an increase of 23,968 people from 224,357 in May (+10.7% month-on-month).

Of those 23,968 'additional' arrivals, around one quarter (6,117 travelers) came from China. Other key markets experienced less significant growth in absolute figures, while arrivals from Russia continued to decline seasonally.

China provided Phuket with 44,066 direct arrivals in June, an increase of 16.4% from 37,949 in May.

Remaining in the second place since late April, Russia provided 25,947 visitors, a decrease of 2.6% from 26,624 in May.

William Heinecke, founder and chairman of Minor International Plc, told CNBC earlier this month,

"We have seen strong recovery not only in Thailand but also in Europe, Australia, the Middle East.

"And when China opens up – it hasn't really fully opened yet – you will see these numbers to be even stronger," added Mr Heinecke.

However, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) earlier this week reported that tourism revenue from the international market in 2024 will not be able to match the level recorded in 2019, as the target has been downgraded to B1.92 trillion from an earlier target of B2.29trn due to the impact of a "polycrisis".

Key business leaders have also expressed their concern that political instability may also impact the number of tourists choosing to visit the Kingdom.

The Phuket News

## 'Architect & Hotelex' expo returns

THE ARCHITECT & HOTELEX 2023, traditionally the largest hotel and hospitality trade show in Southern Thailand, got underway at the Central Floresta shopping mall last weekend.

The four-day event, which concluded last Sunday (July 23), was officially opened on July 20 at a ceremony hosted by event organiser Thanet Traiwut. Joining him were Methaphong Upatising, President of the Phuket Real Estate Association, and a host of other leading figures in Phuket's tourism hotel and hospitality industry.

Mr Thanet pointed out that Phuket's accommodation sector is undergoing an intensive period of construction and renovation.

"For the situation of business trends in Phuket and provinces in the Andaman region, since the end of 2022 tourists have continuously flowed into Phuket and the Andaman area from around the world, including the European market, the Middle East, Saudi Arabia, India, and there are Russian, Ukrainian, Kazakhstan groups who have migrated to escape the war for a long time," Mr Thanet said.

"In addition, there are



Photo: PR Phuket

many groups of investors investing in hotels and real estate, including new construction and opening new projects. This has created rapid expansion in the construction material market and interior and exterior decoration sector," he added.

More than 1,000 products and services were on show at the exhibition, showcasing construction and maintenance innovations, materials for foundations, floors, walls and roofs, as well as products for exterior and interior design of buildings, hotels, houses, condos, villas, pool villas, airports, piers and tourist attractions.

Target groups of visitors were brought to attend the expo, from Phuket, Phang Nga, Ranong, Krabi, Trang, Surat Thani, Khao Lak and islands such as Koh Lanta, Koh Phi Phi, Koh Samui and Koh Pha-ngan, Mr Thanet said.

"About 50% of the visitors are foreigners and about 50% are Thais. These include architects design firm owners working in the south, international architect groups working for hotels and real estate owners and executives.

"Representatives from hotels, resorts, spas, coffee shops, bakeries and pubs, engineers from real estate consulting firms, construction contractors, members of the Phuket Engineering Management Club, hotel technician groups, owners of construction materials stores, furniture store owners, and people involved in decoration will also join the event," he said.

"New hotels and tourism-related businesses have plans to speed up renovation and additional construction by the end of 2023 at the billion-baht level. And products that are needed in hotels, restaurants, spas, bakeries, pubs and bars are also in high demand.

"In business opportunities, 2023 is a golden year for manufacturers, importers and distributors of innovative products for construction, decoration and high-tech electronics – all related to construction," he added.

The Phuket News



# MFP told not to meddle in post-election efforts

## BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The leader of the Seri Ruam Thai Party, Sereepisuth Temeeyaves, has warned the Move Forward Party (MFP) and other parties in the coalition not to interfere with Pheu Thai's efforts to garner support for its PM candidate.

Pol Gen Sereepisuth said on Monday (July 24) that the MFP and the six other parties in its alliance should let Pheu Thai do the job, explaining that the priority right now is to ensure the bloc's candidate has the support required to become Thailand's next prime minister, not forming a government.

Seri Ruam Thai is one of the eight parties allied with the MFP.

Pol Gen Sereepisuth said when he previously said the MFP has to make sacrifices, he meant the MFP should step aside and let the other parties take charge in the process.

"I didn't mean the MFP should be an opposition party. If they're not going to help their friends out, must they also hold their friends back?" he said.

"Step aside and let Pheu Thai have a shot at having its candidate elected as PM. If [Pheu Thai] fails, then it will be on them. Don't meddle in their efforts," he said.



Seri Ruam Thai Party leader Sereepisuth Temeeyaves. Photo: Bangkok Post

"If the people believe Pheu Thai isn't acting properly, then don't vote for it in the next election. But it's wrong to hold demonstrations. That's too much," Pol Gen Sereepisuth added.

He was referring to a group of protesters who gathered outside Pheu Thai's head office last Sunday (June 23) while the party's executives were meeting the Palang Pracharath Party.

The protesters demanded Pheu Thai leader Chohnan Srikaew honour the promise he made on behalf of Pheu Thai on the day it came together with seven other parties to sign a memorandum of understanding agreeing to work together.

Meanwhile, Chaowarit Kachornpongkirati, a list MP and leader of the Plung Sungkom Mai (Social New Force) Party, which is part of the eight-party bloc, said that since Pheu Thai is now in charge of forming a government, the MoU signed by the eight parties should be annulled to give Pheu Thai the freedom to do so.

He was due to raise the issue at a meeting of the parties on Tuesday (July 25).

Mr Chaowarit also said two other micro-parties – the Thai Teachers for People Party and the New Party – would back a Pheu Thai candidate for prime minister as long as the lese majeste law is left alone.

## Health workers do not want Anutin back as minister

### BANGKOK

A DOCTORS' GROUP says its members will not support the possible return of Bhumjaithai Party leader Anutin Charnvirakul as public health minister, saying he is unfit for the position.

The MorMaiThon (Doctors Won't Tolerate This) group posted the statement on the 'We, The People' Facebook page last Saturday (July 22), saying its medical personnel members no longer wish to work under Anutin.

They claim that over the past four years in the position, the construction billionaire has proven to be inappropriate for the role.

They accuse Anutin of lacking a necessary understanding of the Thai public health system, leading to its deterioration and resulting in the loss of lives due to his ineffective management of COVID-19 vaccinations.

The announcement further criticised his orders to expedite the use of medical marijuana, delayed budgetary decisions leading to impaired healthcare services, including slowed access to safe abortions, and mismanagement resulting in



Not wanted: Anutin. Photo: Bangkok Post

the mass resignation of medical workers.

The group highlighted Anutin's response to the resignations, when he said: "Nothing can be done at this time, they can only pack up and leave."

The statement concluded by saying that MorMaiThon members would not be able to continue under Anutin's administration if he returns to government, and they do not wish for him to serve as the public health minister.

The statement was issued just ahead of talks between the Pheu Thai Party and Bhumjaithai about the setup of a new government where Anutin reiterated that his party would not be part of any government that contained the election-winning Move Forward Party.

Bangkok Post

## Biker club leader arrested after German man's murder

### CHON BURI

POLICE HAVE ARRESTED four foreign suspects, including the leader of the Outlaws Motorcycle Club in Pattaya, in a raid connected to a club member's alleged murder of German property broker Hans Peter Walter Mack.

Deputy national police chief Pol Gen Surachate Hakparn said Provincial Police Region 2 and Chon Buri Provincial Police expanded their investigations of the motorcycle gang and found it had members of various nationalities.

The gang has been involved in some illegal business, including drugs and human trafficking, he alleged.

The crackdown stems from investigations into Mack's murder on June 4, in which police later arrested German national Olaf Thorsten Brinkmann, 52, a member of the Outlaws Motorcycle Club and three other suspects; Petra Christl Grundgreif, 54, Nicole Frev-



Police conduct one of the raids on July 21. Photo: Royal Thai Police

el, 52 and Shahrukh Karim Uddin, 27.

Acting on the tip-off, police launched a crackdown on eight premises last Friday (July 21) to arrest the gang's leader, Mr Thomas, an Austrian national.

Thomas was arrested at a house in tambon Nong Prue of Bang Lamung district as he was packing in preparation to flee the country.

Police confiscated his Harley Davidson motorcycle and other evidence.

Police said Thomas admitted he was the gang's leader but quit after learning of Mack's murder.

Police ran a background check and found that the suspect had an arrest warrant out for fraud and inputting

false information into a computer system. He was then taken to Pattaya police station for further legal action.

Police also arrested another gang member, identified as Danny, a German national, in a house at Chokchai Garden Home 2 in tambon Nong Prue who also tested positive for illicit drug use.

Police also confiscated his Kawasaki Z900 motorcycle.

An American national, Daniel, and a Swiss national, Theodor, were also arrested at other locations.

Their visas were revoked after Chonburi Immigration Office and Investigation Immigration Division 3 found that the two suspects violated the Immigration Act 1979.

Police confiscated their four motorcycles during the raid.

Pol Gen Surachate said police would expand their investigations into the Outlaws Motorcycle Club and other criminal gangs that have committed offences in the Kingdom.

Bangkok Post



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*Part of the proceed of this event will be donated to a charity in December 2023.*

## AUGUST 19TH 2023 SATURDAY

**Agenda**

- 10:30 am Registration
- 11:00 am Brunch/Lunch
- 11:45 am Briefing & Group Photo
- 12:00 pm Shot Gun Tee Off
- 06:30 pm Gala Dinner @La Vela Khao Lak

**For Bookings:**  
Email: midgpthai@gmail.com  
Phuket Tel: +66 81 271 2429 – Dave Chang  
Bangkok Tel: +66 81 826 9575 – VT Ten






This event is jointly organized by Asia Mice Planner, Malaysian Club Thailand & Malaysian Thai Friends Group.



# 'Kayaking Commuters' Down Under



## BLAZING SADDLES

Baz Daniel  
baz\_gunner2000@yahoo.com

Forgoing my normal morning bike ride at six o'clock and the terror of Phuket's daily road mayhem, one recent chilly and misty dawn, I found myself wolfing down a bacon and egg roll and coffee at a little Rose Bay café on the southern foreshore of Sydney Harbour. Nothing unusual about that you might say, until you notice that I'm wearing waterproof shorts and a spray jacket and that my knees are knocking uncontrollably together.

"Right, you 'orrible lot," shouts Geoff, our Sergeant Major-esque trainer, "Into the kayaks and let's get out there and do some paddling."

It seems that Sydney-siders, like most Australians, have two great obsessions these days... looking like sculpted Greek Gods and Goddesses on the beach when the next summer arrives and trying to do something about the plague of global warming which is having such a dramatic impact upon their lives.

Inventive as ever, they've come up with the idea of 'kayak commuting' as a means of killing both birds with... well, one paddle. Hone those abs and pecs to polished perfection, while removing the carbon footprint from your journey to



The view from the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Photo: Baz Daniel

work. What could be trendier?

We run down the beach and leap, or in my case wriggle and struggle, into our waiting kayaks. Then we launch ourselves into the oncoming waves and we are off, paddling up the harbour with the glorious sight of the "old coat hanger and clam-filled piano" (the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House) rising out of the morning mist.

Commuter passenger ferries and huge departing cruise liners pass us by, sending up big bow waves for us to slalom down as we grimly strain every

sinew to keep our balance. Gulls and Guillemots swoop around us and look on with an alarmed ferocity... surely some infringement of their territorial rights is going on here, they seem to be screeching.

We pass multi-million-dollar harbourside mansions, one with a maid in a primly starched cap and apron hanging out washing while a brace of school-uniformed children play Frisbee before leaving for their lessons. Then the naval docks at the wonderfully-named Woolloomooloo hove into view

on our left with towering grey warships brooding in menacing silence at anchor. We paddle onward, past the Botanical Gardens, feeling somehow superior and more daring than the land-bound joggers and Tai Chi exponents doing their morning workouts.

Finally, after about an hour of sinew-busting paddling, we arrive at a little wooden jetty right below the creamy wings of the Opera House, with Circular Quay and the massive metallic arches of the Harbour Bridge vaulting skyward in front of us.

We shakily disembark to be reunited with our city clothes and briefcases, which have been carried by a waiting minivan for us. And so, we daring aquanauts miraculously transform like Super-men and women, back into common-or-garden dentists and advertising executives and rejoin the daily commuter throng.

All through the day no-one can take away from us the warm inner glow of our well-worked muscles or the sense of achievement and camaraderie that 'kayak commuting' instilled in our cheery group.

In fact, so energised was I by this amazing way to start my day, that the same evening saw me conquering the Sydney Harbour Bridge climb... and here's the picture to prove it!

*'Bicycling' Baz Daniel has been penning his Blazing Saddles column, chronicling his cycling adventures in Phuket and beyond, since 2013.*

## The September/October 2023 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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

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# Phuket yachting trailblazer Andy Dowden passes away

A legend in Phuket's sailing community, Andy Dowden has sailed on.

The Phuket News  
editor1@classactmedia.co.th

Andy Dowden, one the key figures who drove the original development of Phuket's boating and sailing yacht industry, has passed away.

"Hi Everyone, our beloved Andy has passed away this morning. Hope they have a good gin and tonic up there for him! Smooth sail Andy... Love you Dad xx Namprik and Family," his family posted on Andy's Facebook page last Saturday (July 22).

People were invited to share pictures of their good memories with him in the post. "We will let you know if we have more details about the funeral service,"

the family added.

Tributes have poured online to mark Andy's passing.

"One of the founders and a co-author of Southeast Asia Pilot, Andy Dowden, passed away in the early hours of Saturday, July 22," wrote long-time friend Grenville Fordham.

Andy, a British yachtsman who left the UK in 1981 aboard his own 46-foot sloop to cruise the world, was one of the pioneers of yachting in Thailand. He arrived in Thailand for the first time in 1984 and set up Phuket's first yacht services and boat building company in 1989, Grenville noted.

"He was a past president of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, co-founder of both Thailand's first boat show (PIMEX) and Phuket Raceweek re-

gatta – a sailors' favourite largely due to the imprint of Andy's personality on its organisation. Such was his love of Phuket's sailing scene that no local regatta committee boat went out without Andy on board – unless he was racing himself.

Four Points by Sheraton Phuket Patong Beach Resort

"But Andy's real legacy, and the main reason he's almost universally described as 'a legend', is that he was a kind, compassionate, forgiving and easy-going man; he never had a bad word to say about anyone and, to top it off, he was a consummate, if quietly spoken, raconteur – everybody's friend and the perfect companion for setting the world to rights over a few sundowners. I can just see him now,

entertaining the celestial host with that mischievous 'Dowden grin' firmly planted on his face.

"Fair winds and following seas, Andy," Grenville lamented.

Funeral services for Andy were held at Wat Manik in Cherno Talay from 7:30pm each night last Sunday, Monday and Tuesday (July 23-25).

His cremation ceremony was held at 11am on Wednesday (July 26).

There was a gathering at Pepper's Bar in Cherno Talay after the cremation to celebrate Andy's life.

The quintessential story of how Andy came to be in Phuket and his achievements thereafter, is told by Scott Murray in his article, "Two-year sailing journey turns into life's work (Andy Dowden)".



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POP QUIZ

1. Which side of the road do people drive on in Myanmar?
2. How many episodes of The Simpsons have aired since the show launched in 1989?
3. What is the capital of the US state of New York?
4. Acer is a genus of trees commonly known by what name?
5. What is US President Joe Biden's wife's name?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

1. Clark's Lois
5. Prison head
11. Monopolize
14. Religious figure
15. Lady of Arthurian romance
16. Lab eggs
17. Don't give a raise
20. Wiggler
21. Holiday \_\_\_\_
22. Animal catcher
23. Marks of shame
27. Myrmecologist's study
28. Five iron
31. Collectively
33. Choir member
34. Belittle
38. Discourage
42. Guard
43. "\_\_\_\_-Pro," Ferrell flick
44. Innocent
45. Grew
47. Construct
50. Virtuoso composition
52. Pronouncement
54. "Peace Piece" artist
55. Bug

58. Warm welcome's opposite
63. Heap
64. Bully
65. Insipid
66. Electees
67. Arrogance
68. Ashcroft's predecessor

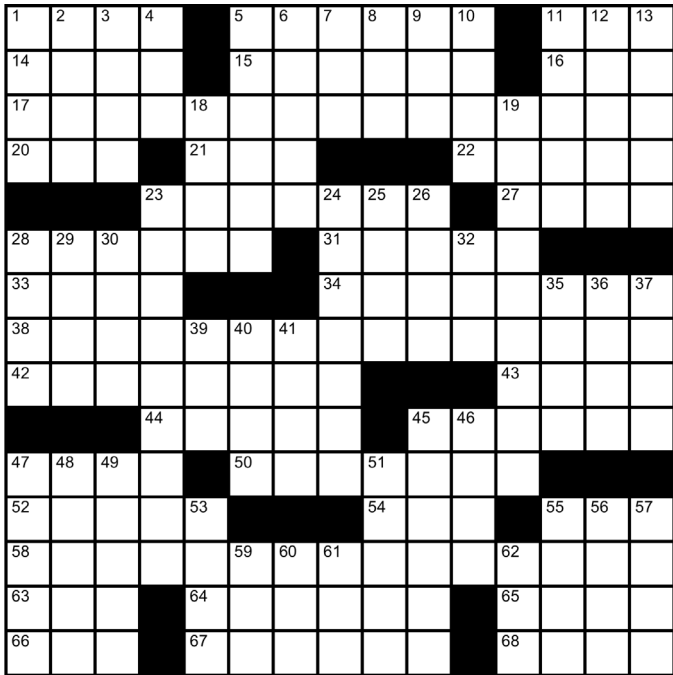
Down

1. Vitality
2. Realtor's unit
3. "O Sanctissima," e.g.
4. Course setting: Abbr.
5. Twerp
6. Beside
7. Did a marathon
8. Fizzle out
9. Naval rank: Abbr.
10. The latest
11. Navajo home
12. For all to see
13. Some are inert
18. Pasta choice
19. Absence of pain
23. Truncation
24. Piano key
25. From scratch

26. "Nobody doesn't like \_\_\_\_ Lee"
28. They may provide relief
29. Cosmetic additive
30. Leave slack-jawed
32. Kit and caboodle
35. Mars, to the Greeks
36. Heavy reading
37. Arthurian lady
39. Tom Clancy subj.
40. Sleep \_\_\_\_
41. Prefix for scoliosis
45. Hindu wives
46. At the summit of
47. Civilian clothes
48. Canton neighbor
49. Unstable mesons
51. Spherical bacteria
53. Mark permanently
55. Let go
56. Butcher's cut
57. Bring to ruin
59. "\_\_\_\_ Send Me"
60. Fighter at Chancellorsville
61. Lapse
62. Feather's partner

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Right; 2) 750 (last aired on May 21, 2023); 3) Albany; 4) Maple; 5) Jill Biden



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

10

hours on average is how long people slept every night before the invention of the lightbulb.

46

percent more often do speakers laugh more than their audience – other than at standup comedy – a recent study revealed.

2015

was the first year since 1974 that nobody climbed to the top of Mount Everest.

45,379

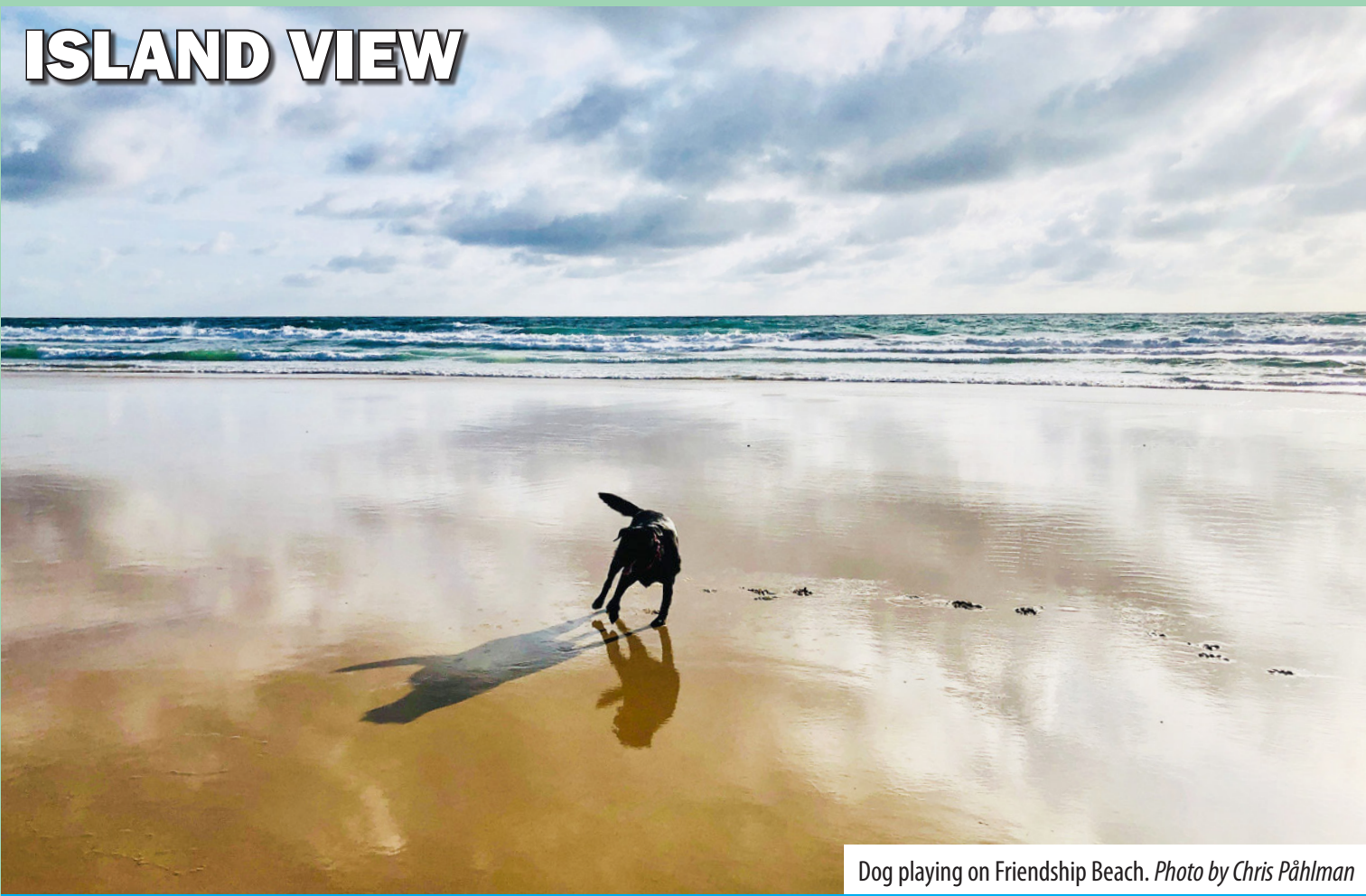
people in the United States have a last name that starts with their first name – more than 25% of those are John Johnson.

500,000

feral and stray cats are estimated to be roaming New York City.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Dog playing on Friendship Beach. Photo by Chris Pahlman

Got an unusual or particularly beautiful picture of Phuket? Email it to [exeditor@classactmedia.co.th](mailto:exeditor@classactmedia.co.th)

This week in history

July 28, 1540

Henry VIII of England marries his fifth wife, Catherine Howard, on the same day his former Chancellor, Thomas Cromwell, is executed on charges of treason.

July 29, 1981

A worldwide television audience of around 750 million people watch the wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales, and Lady Diana Spencer at St Paul's Cathedral in London.

July 30, 1975

Jimmy Hoffa disappears from the parking lot of the Machus Red Fox restaurant in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, at about 2:30pm. He is never seen or heard from again.

July 31, 1948

USS Nevada is sunk by an aerial torpedo after surviving hits from two atomic bombs (as part of post-war tests) and being used for target practice by three other ships.



Wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales, and Lady Diana Spencer.

August 1, 1981

MTV begins broadcasting and airs its first video, 'Video Killed the Radio Star' by The Buggles.

Killed the Radio Star' by The Buggles.

August 2, 1610

Henry Hudson discovers what is now known as Hudson Bay.

August 3, 1492

Christopher Columbus sets sail from Palos de la Frontera, Spain, in the hope of reaching the East Indies (South and Southeast Asia) by sailing westward.

Source: Wikipedia



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FRI28JUL



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SUN30JUL



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WED2AUG



**Wednesday BBQ Night**  
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FRI4AUG



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SAT19AUG



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FRI25AUG



**Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners hosted by AustCham**  
AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, American Chamber (AMCHAM), British Chamber (BCCT), Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber, CanCham Thailand, Franco-Thai Chamber (FTCC), German-Thai Chamber (GTCC), Netherlands-Thai Chamber (NTCC), Phuket Chamber and Thai-Swedish Chamber, invite you to the Joint Chamber Phuket Sundowners at NH Boat Lagoon Phuket Resort, on Friday 25 August 2023, from 18.00 - 21.00 hrs. THB 500 for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members, THB 900 for non-members, includes cocktail-style food, and free-flow selected beverages. More info - austchamthailand.com

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## SKAL INTERNATIONAL PHUKET MONTHLY NETWORKING

On Thursday, July 20 members and guests of SKAL International Phuket gathered at Infuse Restaurant at Diamond Resort Bang Tao for some outstanding Belgian food and beverages and quality networking. SKAL International Phuket meets the third Thursday of the month at various locations across Phuket.





## Great Dane wins second successive Tour de France

### CYCLING

JONAS VINGEGAARD won his second successive Tour de France last Sunday (July 23) after Jordi Meeus claimed the final stage honours on the Champs-Élysées in Paris.

Denmark's Vingegaard crossed the finish line after the 21-day race 7min 29sec ahead of Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar, the champion in 2020 and 2021.

Pogacar's teammate Adam Yates of Great Britain rounded out the top three podium.

Vingegaard's winning margin was the largest since 2014 when Italian Vincenzo Nibali took the fabled champion's yellow jersey by 7min 39sec.

The victorious Dane said he felt "euphoric" after surviving Saturday's penultimate stage to virtually clinch his second successive title after three intense weeks that started in Bilbao on July 1.

"The Tour de France is the greatest race in the world," beamed the 26-year-old.



Vingegaard. Photo: AFP

"There's something so special about it and I can tell you I'll be back again next year to try and win it again," he added.

The world's most famous bike race provided tense drama with spectacular backdrops as Vingegaard and Pogacar remained separated by seconds until the Dane edged ahead with a sensational individual time trial on Friday.

The following day on a 28km climb to the ski resort of Courchevel, Pogacar cracked, shouting "I'm gone, I'm dead" before Vingegaard killed off the race with a sensational final climb.

The event had been billed as a showdown between the defending champion Vingegaard and Pogacar, who has won the Tour twice and now come second twice. *AFP*

# Verstappen win breaks long-standing F1 record

### FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato  
michael@boxofneutrals.com

Max Verstappen dominated the Hungarian Grand Prix last Sunday (July 23) to propel Red Bull Racing to an unprecedented 12<sup>th</sup> successive victory in Formula 1.

Verstappen had started second on the grid after missing out on pole by just 0.003 seconds to former title foe Lewis Hamilton, but a better start and a late dive on the brakes into the first turn got him into a lead he would never relinquish.

On a warm Budapest afternoon the Dutchman's car was suffering none of the balance problems that afflicted his qualifying run the evening before. He effortlessly opened a gap on the field from the very first lap and took the chequered flag with an imperious 33 seconds in hand, the largest victory margin in almost two years.

"The car was really, really quick," Verstappen said. "The car was good on any tyre, we could look after the tyre wear, and basically that's why we could create such a big gap. A day like today is just perfect."

Red Bull Racing's 12<sup>th</sup> successive victory eclipses the 11 clocked up by the legendary 1988 McLaren team led by Alain Prost and Ayrton Senna, albeit this record-beating streak dates back to



Max Verstappen crosses the finish line to win the Hungarian Grand Prix. Photo: AFP

last year's season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

"For the team, 12 wins in a row is just incredible," Verstappen said. "What we've been going through the last three years is just unbelievable, and hopefully we can keep this momentum going for a long time."

For the second race in succession Verstappen's nearest challenger was Lando Norris, whose McLaren looks increasingly like an all-rounder after its significant upgrade at the start of the month.

"Another podium for us, for McLaren, is amazing," said Norris. "We're very happy with the progress we've made. We'll take it for now, and our time will come later on in the year."

Norris's second place came under

threat from a late Sergio Pérez charge, but the Briton had built enough of a buffer in the middle stint of the race to secure second place for the second week in a row, with Pérez completing the podium.

Hamilton finished fourth after a late second pit stop got him a tyre offset advantage over Oscar Piastri, who clung on to fifth ahead of a superb George Russell in the second Mercedes, who defied team expectations by climbing from 18<sup>th</sup> on the grid to sixth.

Charles Leclerc was dropped from sixth to seventh with a penalty for speed in the pit lane, putting him just ahead of teammate Carlos Sainz.

Both Ferrari and Aston Martin, who finished ninth and 10<sup>th</sup> with Fernando Alonso and Lance Stroll, lacked the pace to consider podium tilts.

## Harman cruises to British Open glory

### GOLF

AMERICAN BRIAN HARMAN won the British Open by six shots last Sunday (July 23), finishing 13 under par to claim his first major title at a rainswept Hoylake.

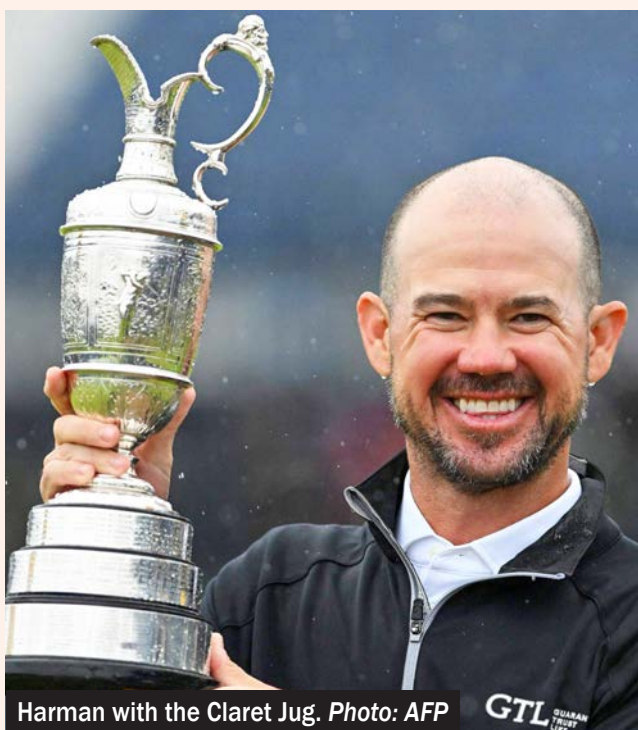
Masters champion Jon Rahm tied for second alongside Austria's Sepp Straka, Australian Jason Day and South Korean Tom Kim on seven under.

Harman held a five-shot lead overnight and recovered from a shaky start to cruise to victory with a one-under final round of 70.

Harman's sublime putting was the key to his success all week and he nailed a huge 40-foot birdie putt at 14 before another birdie with a four at the par-five 15<sup>th</sup> set the seal on a remarkably composed performance.

Straka's two-under-par final round was enough to secure his best-ever finish at a major and boost his hopes of representing Europe at the Ryder Cup later this year.

Kim's share of second was also a career-best at a major, while Day, the 2015



Harman with the Claret Jug. Photo: AFP

PGA Championship winner, continued his return to form after years of struggle with a back injury.

Rahm shot a course-record 63 on Saturday to get back in the hunt for his third major.

The Spaniard needed similar heroics to up the pressure on the leader on Sunday, but could only manage a one-under round of 70.

Rory McIlroy finished in

a tie for sixth on six under par alongside Argentine Emiliano Grillo, meaning his push to win a fifth major will now extend into at least a 10<sup>th</sup> year.

England's wait for a first British Open winner since Nick Faldo in 1992 goes on as home favourites Tommy Fleetwood and Matthew Jordan, who is a member at Hoylake, tied for 10<sup>th</sup> on four under. *AFP*

## Australia retain Ashes after fourth Test washout

### CRICKET

AUSTRALIA HAVE RETAINED the Ashes after the fourth Test against England ended in a rain-affected draw, with bad weather at Old Trafford washing out last Sunday's (July 23) final day.

The result ensured Australia, as the holders, kept the Ashes at 2-1 up with one match left in the series – regardless of the result of next week's fifth Test at The Oval.

Heavy overnight rain left the outfield sodden and meant play was unable to start as scheduled and then a fresh downpour lasting several hours resulted in the umpires officially declaring the match abandoned.

"The group should be pretty proud. Our preference is to come over here and win the Ashes but it's nice to retain it, albeit not in the best of circumstances," Australia captain Pat Cummins said.

England skipper Ben Stokes was understandably downbeat, saying: "It is a tough one to take, playing the cricket we did over the first three days, but it is all part of the journey."

"We have got one game left



A dejected Ben Stokes after play is abandoned. Photo: AFP

and we want to go out with a win and draw the series, like in 2019."

England restricted world Test champions Australia to 317 in their first innings before racing to 592 all out, thanks largely to opener Zak Crawley's breathtaking 189 and an unbeaten 99 from Jonny Bairstow.

Australia finished on 214-5 in their second innings, 61 runs behind England's first-innings 592, after rain meant only 30 overs' play was possible on Saturday's fourth day.

England managed to take just one wicket in that time when part-time off-spinner Joe Root had Marnus Labuschagne caught behind, but not before the Australian had held up the hosts' victory charge with 111.

Old Trafford is notorious for weather delays – the ground has now had 25 complete days rained off in Test cricket, plus an additional two entire Tests abandoned.

Despite the draw, Australia will still have to avoid defeat at The Oval if they are to secure their first Ashes series win in England since 2001. *AFP*



# Henderson confirms Saudi move to join Steven Gerrard

FOOTBALL

AFP

Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson has completed his transfer to Saudi club Al Ettifaq where he will link up with former teammate Steven Gerrard, it has been confirmed.

Henderson, 33, led the Reds to their first Premier League title for 30 years in 2020, a year after lifting the Champions League.

However, the England midfielder has been tempted to join Gerrard, who was appointed manager of Al Ettifaq earlier this month, after reportedly being offered a deal worth up to £700,000 a week (B31.5 million), while Liverpool are set to receive a fee of £12mn.

Henderson joined Liverpool from Sunderland in 2011 and succeeded Gerrard as skipper at Anfield in 2015.

Liverpool are also set to lose Fabinho to the influx of investment by Saudi clubs with the Brazilian on the brink of a £40mn move to Al-Ittihad.

Klopp has also seen midfielders Naby Keita, Alex



Henderson is heading to the Middle East. Photo: AFP

Oxlade-Chamberlain and James Milner depart on free transfers since the end of last season.

But Liverpool have reinforced that area of the field with the signings of Alexis Mac Allister and Dominik Szoboszlai.

Henderson's decision to move to the Gulf state has been criticised by Liverpool's LGBT+ fans group Kop Outs.

The Saudi state has been accused of attempting to "sportswash" its human rights record by hosting major sporting events and now attracting

some of the world's best footballers to its domestic league.

The conservative monarchy executed 81 people in a single day last year, outlaws homosexuality and triggered international condemnation when journalist Jamal Khashoggi was murdered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018.

"Kop Outs have valued the allyship shown by @JHenderson," the group said in a statement on Twitter.

"We are appalled and concerned that anyone might consider working for a #sportswashing operation for a regime

where women & LGBT+ people are oppressed."

Elsewhere, Manchester United completed the signing of Cameroonian goalkeeper Andre Onana from Inter Milan on July 20 in a deal that could rise to £47mn.

Onana has agreed a five-year deal with the Premier League club and will succeed David de Gea as number one at Old Trafford.

United are set to pay an initial £44mn for the 27-year-old with a further £3.5mn due in performance-related add-ons.

"To join Manchester United is an incredible honour," Onana said. "Walking out at Old Trafford to defend our goal and contribute to the team will be another amazing experience. This is the start of a new journey for me, with new teammates, and new ambitions to fight for."

Meanwhile, Chelsea striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has joined Marseille on a three-year contract.

Aubameyang scored just three goals in 22 appearances for Chelsea after joining in a £10.3mn deal from Barcelona last September.



Photo: Bangkok Post

## Thai League 1 matches to go live on AIS and True

FOOTBALL

ALL 240 MATCHES OF the 2023-24 Thai League 1 season will be beamed live by both AIS and True, with the package costing B500 for the entire season, it has been confirmed.

The announcement was made after a meeting of the 16 top-flight teams in Bangkok on July 18.

Weekly matches will be distributed over Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays to avoid clashes between top-ranked teams.

As the search for a free-to-air TV channel to broadcast some of the matches live continues, the arrangement means that, so far, there is no TV rights holder for the new season, which starts next month.

As per the new arrangement, football fans can pur-

chase either a monthly package for B59 or a season package for B500.

The clubs have been advised to encourage their fans to purchase these packages as a percentage of the revenue generated by the sales of packages will go to the clubs.

A club's share of revenue would depend on the number of packages purchased by its fans.

The clubs have also been permitted to initiate campaigns that would encourage the sales of these packages.

The Football Association of Thailand (FAT) recently invited the 16 top-flight clubs to join the management board of Thai League 1.

A proposal to let a separate entity run the top league was floated by its 16 member clubs after the TV right bids for the new season plummeted to about B50 million.

Bangkok Post

## Home joy as New Zealand, Australia open Women's World Cup with wins

FOOTBALL

NEW ZEALAND BEAT NORWAY 1-0 for a historic first ever Women's World Cup win and Australia battled past Ireland by the same scoreline on a triumphant opening day for the co-hosts as the showcase tournament kicked off on July 20.

Both games played out to bumper crowds – the more than 42,000 who witnessed a piece of history at Auckland's Eden Park was a New Zealand football record crowd, men's or women's, while over 75,000 packed Stadium Australia in Sydney.

It was a fitting start to the biggest Women's World Cup yet, with 32 teams battling it out, up from 24 in France four years ago, as global interest in women's football reaches an all-time high.

It was also a joyous end to a day which started with tragedy when Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, was shaken by a shooting which left two people and the gunman dead.

Hannah Wilkinson was the Football Ferns' hero, scoring three minutes after half-time to give them a precious victory over Norway, who are former winners of the competition.

It was New Zealand's first win at the World Cup at the 16<sup>th</sup> attempt.

"We waited for this moment for such a long time. Hearing our fans behind us was just an unforgettable moment, for me as a coach and for all the players involved,"



New Zealand's Hannah Wilkinson celebrates her winner. Photo: AFP

their coach Jitka Klimkova said.

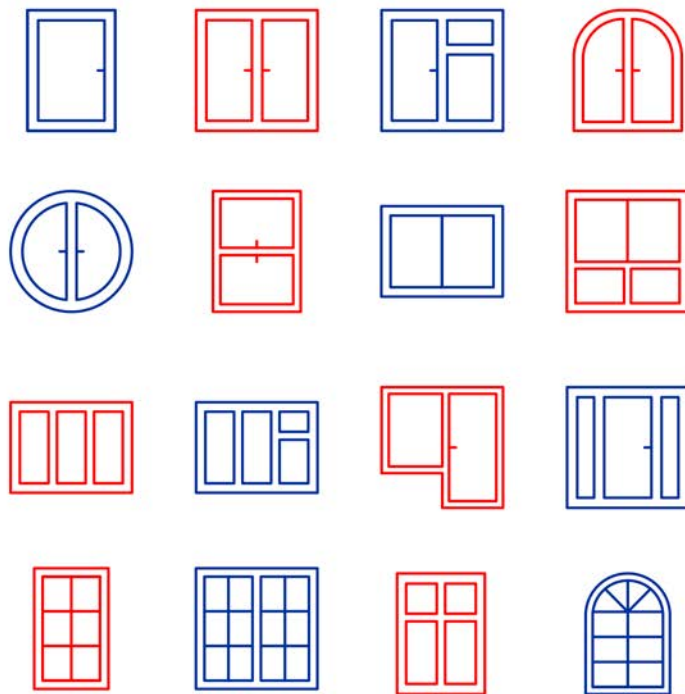
Qualifying for the knockout stages for the first time is now a realistic aim for New Zealand, with Switzerland and minnows the Philippines their other opponents in Group A.

Australia looked blunt in the absence of star player and skipper Sam Kerr, injured for the first two games. However, a 52<sup>nd</sup> minute penalty from stand-in skipper Steph Catley was just enough to beat an Ireland side who refused to go quietly in their first game at a Women's World Cup.

It ensured three points in a tough Group B as the Matildas kick-started their mission to get beyond the quarter-finals for the first time.

There were also opening game wins for defending champions the United States, European champions England, Sweden, Spain, Brazil, Germany and Japan. AFP

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# Sport

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## TRI IYARA DEBUTS IN PHUKET

### TRIATHLON

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The hugely popular sport of triathlon has a new event coming to Phuket later this year after the Tri Iyara Triathlon was officially confirmed at a press conference on July 18.

Scheduled for the weekend of September 9-10 at Sirinath National Park, the event will be of an international standard incorporating the usual bike ride, run and swim races and is an opportunity to showcase Thai triathletes to the world, organisers said.

For individual competitors there will be the option of two race distances, Olympic and Sprint, in addition to duathlon competition incorporating the bike and run races, while mixed-gender teams of three members are also available in the "corporate" category.

The distances for the bike race are as follows: Sprint – 1 lap of 21



The July 18 press conference announcing the event. Photo: Phuket Tri Iyara

kilometres; Olympic – 40km over 2 laps; Duathlon – 40km over 2 laps; Corporate – 40km over 2 laps.

The distances for the run are as follows: Sprint – 5km over 2 laps; Olympic – 10km over 4 laps; Duathlon first run – 10km over 4 laps;

Duathlon second run – 5km over 2 laps; Corporate – 10km over 4 laps.

The distances for the swim are as follows: Sprint – 1 lap of 750 metres; Olympic – 1,500m over 2 laps; Corporate – 1,500m over 2 laps.

The press conference to officially

announce the event was presided over by Thammawat Wongcharoenyot, President of the Phuket Sports Association, Thanet Thantiphirya, President of the Phuket Tourism Business Association, and Danai Sunantarod, Vice Governor of Phuket.

"Triathlon is a hugely popular sport among multi-sport enthusiasts in Phuket, typified by the success of the annual Laguna Phuket Triathlon, which has been running for 28 years and gained international acclaim," commented Vice Governor Danai.

"This new and creative triathlon event, Phuket Tri Iyara, has received excellent cooperation and support from both public and private sector entities locally and nationally and is a further opportunity to showcase the province's identity and culture to the world. It can also help promote Phuket's claims as a Sports City while providing an economic boost to local businesses and the community."

Other guests at the press conference included celebrated Thai triathlon coach and athlete Jaray Jearanai and

Meiji Anorma Cook, a famous health, sports and travel blogger.

Official partners supporting the event include: Central Phuket; Naiyang Beach Resort and Spa, the official accommodation provider; Good Start, the producer of high-quality sports apparel, including the Stealthor brand which is the sponsor of the event's commemorative shirts; the popular sports energy drink Pocari Sweat; Bike Zone, responsible for bike mechanics and transportation; Stage Find The Real, a sports training center; and Taro Lighting.

A special expression of thanks and appreciation was extended to Juergen Zack, the legendary German triathlon champion and founder of Z-Coaching, who has been promoting the triathlon community in Phuket for over 10 years.

Organisers confirmed the initial 500 applicants for the triathlon can participate in the race for free. Registration can be made at : <http://race.thai.run/PhuketTRIYARA>. More information can be found at the Phuket Tri Iyara Facebook page.

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