

**LOCAL OFFICIALS PROBED OVER PROTECTED FOREST ENCROACHMENT > PAGE 5**

# ALL CLEAR



Phuket Vice Governor Phichet Panaphong inspects Phuket airport before announcing that the quarantine requirement for Bangkok arrivals has been lifted. Photo: AoT Phuket

## MANDATORY QUARANTINE OF BANGKOK ARRIVALS LIFTED TO HELP REVIVE DOMESTIC TOURISM

**The Phuket News**  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket tourism leaders this week were quick to praise the provincial government in lifting the 14-day mandatory quarantine that was required of all arrivals from four specific areas of Bangkok, saying the move would help open the door domestic tourism to resume, which would provide a much-needed boost to tourism businesses on the island.

The lifting of the mandatory quar-

antine requirement was made official with a new provincial order issued last Sunday (Jan 24), and confirmed by Phuket Vice Governor Phichet Panaphong on Monday.

"After facing the threat of COVID-19 infections in December, now all businesses in Phuket are in a lot of trouble," said Phuket Chamber of Commerce President Thanusak Phungdet.

"We need Thai tourists to come to Phuket. We want to see the same number of Thai tourists today that

came to Phuket in October, when about 14,000 visitors arrived by air or road," he said.

However, Mr Thanusak is looking for more restrictions to be eased to help boost local tourism even more.

"So the mandatory 14-day quarantine has been eased. I am happy with Phuket Governor Narong's relaxation of the quarantine decision, but I want more restrictions relaxed so Phuket is open for people to travel in and out," he said.

Mr Thanusak urged free travel

between provinces that are COVID-free. "Other provinces that are facing problems can have their people self-quarantine. If any province has a problem [with COVID infections], they can react like Phuket has. Phuket province is an example for others," Mr Thanusak said.

Mr Thanusak also voiced his support for Phuket business owners to hold on and survive. "I want to give some encouragement to the business owners in Phuket. Right now they have to face up to the problem..."

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**NEWS** PAGE 3

**Two slain amid taxi rivalry at bus terminal**



**LIFE** PAGE 8

**Fin Arts shines spotlight on shark plight**



**SPORT** PAGE 16

**Phuket fighter aims to impress in Singapore**



THINGS MAY BE DIFFERENT IN THE "NEW NORMAL", BUT OUR VALUES REMAIN THE SAME.

**PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION.  
TIMELESS VALUES.**

[www.uwcthailand.ac.th](http://www.uwcthailand.ac.th)



execeditor@classactmedia.co.th

# News



**Bypass speed limit confirmed 50km/h > page 4**

## Vaccine eyed for tourism recovery

*Continued from page 1*

...and adjust their thinking – and right now is a waiting game.

“We have to keep fighting because the vaccine is coming soon. We still need to have hope. Let’s fight together and wait for the vaccine,” he added.

### HEAVY LIFTING

Phuket Vice Governor Phichet on Monday publicly confirmed the order issued last Sunday, which no longer requires arrivals from Bangkok to observe a 14-day mandatory quarantine after arriving on the island as a standard requirement.

The confirmation came at a meeting of the Phuket Communicable Disease Committee held at Phuket Provincial Hall, joined by Phuket Public Health Office Chief Thanit Sermkaew and other relevant officers.

V/Gov Phichet explained that under the new order all arrivals to Phuket are to be classified into one of four groups, reduced from five groups in the order issued on Jan 11. Unchanged is that all arrivals must install the Mor Chana app, register their travel details on gophuget.com and follow the disease control measures strictly before being allowed into the province.

Group 1 comprises people arriving from seven ‘red zone’ provinces: Samut Sakhon, Rayong, Chonburi, Trat, Chanthaburi, Nakhon Prathom and Nonthaburi. In addition to the three standard requirements above, Group 1 arrivals also

must be tested and followed up by staff at an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and quarantine at home or at an Alternative State Quarantine (ASQ) hotel for 14 days.

Group 2 arrivals comprise people arriving from 21 provinces/areas on the secondary list of ‘red zone’ risk areas: Bangkok, Samut Prakan, Tak, Saraburi, Pathum Thani, Ayutthaya, Suphan Buri, Lop Buri, Sing Buri, Kanchanaburi, Nakhon Nayok, Ranong, Chumphon, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Sa Kaew, Ratchaburi, Petchburi, Samut Songkhram, Angthong, Chachoengsao and Prachin Buri.

Group 2 arrivals must comply with the three standard requirements above, but are no longer automatically required to observe any quarantine after arriving in Phuket.

However, V/Gov Phichet made it clear that Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) officers, who are tasked with checking and following up on new arrivals on the island, reserve the right to determine whether or not any new arrivals must observe a quarantine for 14 days.

Meanwhile, Group 3 arrivals comprise people arriving from 11 ‘orange zone’ provinces: Sukhothai, Kamphaeng Phet, Nakhon Sawan, Uthai Thani, Chainat, Phetchabun, Chaiyaphum, Buriram, Nakhon Ratchasima, Surat Thani or Phang Nga.

Group 3 arrivals, in addition to the standard Mor



Staff check domestic travellers at Phuket International Airport. Photo: AoT

Chana, gophuget.com and COVID compliance requirements, according to the order must only “self-monitor at their home or accommodation for 14 days”. Despite the wording of the order, the current practice appears that Group 3 arrivals may move freely about the island, but must closely self-monitor their condition.

Group 4 arrivals are people arriving from anywhere else in the country – 38 provinces designated as ‘yellow zone’ risk areas. Such arrivals are required to comply only with the three standard requirements: install Mor Chana, register on gophuget.com and comply with COVID regulations.

However, not adding any clarity to the current entry requirements for Phuket, V/Gov Phichet on Monday noted that people making “round-trips” to Phuket – a term believed to mean day-trippers – must only 1) Install the Mor Chana app; 2) Register their travel

details on gophuget.com; and 3) Follow the disease control measures strictly. No other details or requirements about day-trippers were explained.

V/Gov Phichet also repeated that there is currently a general ban on moving migrant workers from neighbouring countries into and out of Phuket, unless the employer had a necessary reason or was doing so in order to follow an order issued by the Ministry of Labour or other officials.

Employers who need to move their workers must first submit the required documents to a relevant official and be approved, V/Gov Phichet said.

### PLEA

The move to lift the quarantine for all Bangkok arrivals came just 24 hours after a high-powered delegation of Phuket tourism leaders delivered a plea to the provincial government to do more to ease the current suffering of businesses, and residents, on the island.

The delegation also called for the Phuket provincial government to prepare to start receiving international tourists from October, ahead of what would normally be Phuket’s tourism high season, under a plan that would require all international arrivals to be vaccinated for COVID-19 before being allowed to enter Phuket.

By that time, 70% of the population on Phuket is to be vaccinated for the disease.

The delegation delivered their plea at a special meeting held at Phuket Provincial Hall last Friday (Jan 22), chaired by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew.

Among the key tourism industry representatives present to deliver the plea were Bhumikitti Ruktaengam, President of Phuket Tourist Association; Sarayuth Malum, President of the Phuket Industry Council; Kongsak Khoopongsakorn, President of the Thailand Hotels Association Southern chapter; Thanusak Pungdej, President of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce; and Anchalee Thepabutra, a former Phuket MP.

Governor Narong noted that the meeting was a collaboration to discuss ways to stimulate tourism in Phuket “that is seriously stagnating from the second wave of COVID-19”.

“Phuket has been hit hard by the second epidemic. Thai tourists do not come because they do not want to quarantine and follow the difficult steps

to enter the province, not to mention there are no foreign tourists at this time,” he said.

“We expect foreigners to start coming to Phuket at the end of the year, so for now we have to rely on Thai people together,” he admitted.

Delivering the tourism-revival plan was PTA President Mr Bhumikitti, who said the COVID-19 vaccine was “the last ticket and the last hope” for Phuket tourism, “because Phuket tourism has no way out at this time”.

“The vaccine is now available in many countries that can be the focus of Phuket’s next travel model for foreign tourists. The private sector sees the possibility of opening to receive foreign tourists in October and through the high season at the end of the year,” he said.

However, Mr Bhumikitti also called for strong measures to protect Phuket people from infection from foreign visitors: “Tourists entering Phuket must be people who have been vaccinated with the COVID vaccine, and Phuket people must be vaccinated, at least 70% of the population,” he said.

“This is to ensure the confidence of both Phuket residents and the tourists who visit, that they will not be infected by people in Phuket and the Phuket people will be confident that incoming tourists will not bring the disease to spread again,” Mr Bhumikitti added.

## Relief efforts continue islandwide to support people in need

PHUKET GOVERNOR Narong Woonciew stepped up last week to announce more help being provided to help those suffering financial difficulties from the COVID-19 crisis.

“We have looked closely at each village on the island, and we now have a list of the people who are in trouble in every village,” Governor Narong said.

“We are coordinating with many organisations in handling this issue to help those affected, people who have lost their jobs and their income due to the COVID-19 situation,” he explained.

“Some people still have debt and house payments, car pay-

ments and need to send their children to school, so local government agencies and other organisations have to solve these problems together,” he added.

Among the examples Governor Narong cited on Jan 21 was the Rotary Club of Andaman, which has taken 25 people into their care and provided training so they can regain employment.

Many other government and other organisations were also coordinating efforts to provide more help and support for families in distress, he added.

In addition, many government offices and charity organisations have stepped up to provide rice and other daily necessities, in Chalong



One World One Home, through the Phuket Red Cross, hands out rice at the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organisation (OrBorTor) offices on Jan 20. Photo: Cherng Talay OrBorTor

and elsewhere on the island.

Chinese company One World One Home, through the Phuket Red

Cross, held a food-donation campaign at the offices of the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organisation (OrBorTor) on Jan 20 where hundreds of bags of rice were handed out to people in need.

Through its campaign, the company is to hand out 5,888 bags of rice, totalling 29,440 kilograms of the staple in Phuket.

Governor Narong along with Chalong Mayor Samran Jindapon met at the Phuket office of the Red Cross Society on Jan 21 with Taweep Mee Phan, the 57-year-old man from Chalong who recently tried to sell his left eye on Facebook to raise much needed funds to support his family.

Also present was Khanong

Iaddam, the 43-year-old father of Pornpiphat ‘Mint’ Iaddam, the 20-year-old first-year student at Phuket Rajabhat University who collapsed and died after being told to keep running during a training session with the cheerleading squad in August last year.

The focus of the discussion was how more help could be provided to the families of the two men.

Mr Taweep has already been given a job so he can earn an income to help support his family, Mayor Samran said.

“For the case of the student, we will go to talk to the school director in order to discuss how to help them effectively,” Mayor Samran added.

*The Phuket News*



# Rivals slain at bus station

**Eakkapop Thongtub**  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Two men were shot dead by a colleague at Phuket Bus Terminal 2, the main interprovincial bus station north of Phuket Town, last Saturday night (Jan 23) in what appears to have been a drunken attack against a rival motorbike taxi group operating at the busy terminal.

Police were called to the bus station at about 10:15pm. Phuket City Police Chief Col Teerawat Liamsuwan arrived at the scene shortly afterwards with forensic police and medical staff from Vachira Phuket Hospital to investigate.

They found Prakob Chuthong, 54, lying dead in the motorbike area in a 24-hour parking garage at the bus station. He had been shot once in the head and once in the chest.

About 80 metres away in front of the bus terminal was Yod Sae Lee, 50, lying on the ground in front of a taxi service stand, badly wounded. Rescue workers administered CPR before rushing him to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.



Wian Iadchuthong, 60, from Trang, is taken into custody at Phuket Bus Terminal 2 last Saturday night (Jan 23). Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Wian Iadchuthong, 60, the gunman, who appeared drunk, was still at the scene, waiting to surrender to the police.

The initial investigation by police revealed that the three were close colleagues, but often engaged in heated verbal abuse over motorcycle taxi and taxi services at the bus terminal.

According to witnesses, before the shooting, Wian was

quietly drinking alone. After getting drunk, he walked into the parking garage where Mr Prakob was sitting and fired two shots from a 9mm gun at point-blank range, killing him instantly.

Wian then ran towards Mr Yod, who was sitting in front of the taxi service stand. Mr Yod fled to one side of the terminal building, only to be intercepted by Wian who

had run around the other side of the building to catch him.

Wian fired five shots, hitting Mr Yod once in the head, twice in the torso and twice in the legs.

On Monday (Jan 25), when police had Wian return to the bus station to re-enact his movements in carrying out the shootings, witnesses told police that Wian was known to be a “nice guy”.

However, it also became clear that he had also just formed a new motorbike taxi group at the bus terminal.

While retracing his movements at the bus station, Mr Wian was silent to the press, but police – led by Phuket City Police Chief Col Teerawat and Capt Wipawan – confirmed that Mr Wian had confessed to the fatal shooting of the two men.

During the re-enactment, Jiraporn Longrak, who owns a small restaurant at the bus terminal, told the police that Mr Wian was a “nice man” and “he liked to help people around him”.

“Mr Wian has been here about seven years, since the bus terminal opened. He worked at the old bus terminal in Phuket Town before he moved to work here. He used to say that he liked this kind of job,” Ms Jiraporn said.

“Mr Prakob and Mr Yod were also colleagues of Mr Wian and they came to work here together,” she added.

“Mr Wian used to be the president of the taxi cooperative at the bus terminal, but his term expired so he had his colleague, Mr Yod, take over,” Ms Jiraporn explained.

Ms Jiraporn said that she had no idea what had prompted Wian to shoot dead Mr Prakob and Mr Yod, who like Wian was also originally from Trang. “He never told me about any problems with his colleagues,” she said.

But something had changed recently in Mr Wian’s life, Ms Jiraporn noted.

“Mr Wian lives in a house near the old bus terminal in Phuket Town, but for the last two days [before Saturday night], Mr Wian was sleeping here at the new bus station, and formed a new a taxi group of which he was the president,” Ms Jiraporn explained.

Ms Jiraporn told the police that before the crime, Mr Wian and his colleagues were sitting in the 24-hour taxi service office and drinking together.

She later heard two gunshots and she ran out to see what had happened, and saw Mr Wian, who she thought looked drunk, sitting in front of the office waiting to surrender to the police.

Mr Wian on Monday was taken back to Phuket City Police Station, where officers said they were moving ahead with charging him for the double homicide.

## Park officer sacked for spying on woman in toilet

A NATIONAL PARK OFFICER accused of spying on a woman in a public toilet at Phuket’s Sirinath National Park has been dismissed from his role, Park Chief Pramote Kaewnam confirmed last Saturday (Jan 23).

The officer, 28-year-old Abdulrama Mahaderi, was accused by Miss Sopita and her boyfriend Panupong Rungrueng of climbing the wall separating the men’s and women’s sections of the restroom at Nai Yang beach on Jan 17 and peering down on Miss Sopita, mobile phone in hand.

Park Chief Pramote confirmed that an investigative committee had assessed the evidence and taken accounts from witnesses and that it was determined Abdulrama was guilty of “misbehaviour and improper actions”.

Chief Pramote confirmed that Abdulrama’s employment contract was subsequently terminated, effective Jan 20.

“It has caused disgrace to the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation and affected the image of the overall department,” a post on Sirinath National Park’s Facebook page read.

Abdulrama will also be facing police charges.

Capt Sura Lertthaisong of Sakhu Police confirmed to *The Phuket News* on Jan 20 that Abdulrama would be facing charges and that he was currently investigating whether a charge of “bullying in public”



Photo: The Phuket News

under Section 397 of the Criminal Code would be appropriate.

*The Phuket News* has yet to confirm with Sakhu Police exactly which charge Abdulrama will face.

Abdulrama had previously posted on the official Sirinath National Park Facebook page: “The tourists told me that they did not want to press charges. They just told me that they did not want me to do anything like this again.”

However, after Mr Panupong posted a photo of Abdulrama and detailed his alleged indiscretion on social media, several others came forward with similar accusations.

“One group of women said that they were also spied on by this man on the toilet wall two months ago, but they did not report it and did not press charges – and the truth faded away as if nothing ever happened,” said Miss Sopita. *The Phuket News*

## Phuket Town bar hit with triple charge

A BAR OWNER IN Phuket Town has been charged for operating his business without permission and for neglecting the current provincial orders brought in to control entertainment venues.

An inspection under the command of Chief Col Teerawat Liamsuwan was led by Lt Col Jakkrit Taewattana early on Jan 19.

Officers inspected a bar named H2O Phuket at around 1am which they discovered was being run despite not having an official legal license.

They also discovered the bar was offering illegal baraku

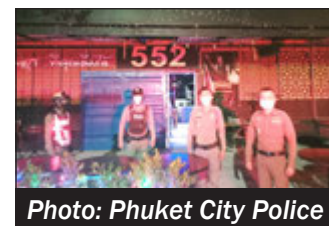


Photo: Phuket City Police

(shisha) and electronic cigarettes and, despite not possessing a license, was remaining open past midnight, contravening the conditions stipulated by the provincial order issued by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew on Jan 11.

The owner of the bar, Thipasut Prateep Na Thalang, was taken to Phuket City

Police Station and charged for opening an entertainment venue without permission as well as selling or providing prohibited goods.

He was also charged for the late closing of the venue which violated the provincial order which states that all entertainment venues in Phuket are to close at midnight and restaurants are not to sell alcohol after midnight.

Mr Thipasut now faces up to B160,000 in fines or up to a three years’ in jail for breaches of the Disease Control Act and the Emergency Decree.

*The Phuket News*



CONTACT US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION @ 076 304 312 • QSI.ORG/PHUKET



The Phuket News

## CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

**PURIYA BEAVAN**  
Editor**CHRIS HUSTED**  
Executive Editor  
084 307 7408  
executive@classactmedia.co.th**BEN TIREBUCK**  
News / Sport Editor  
061 806 8132  
editor3@classactmedia.co.th**TANYALUK 'MANGO' SAKOOT**  
Chief Reporter  
091 165 0260  
reporter2@classactmedia.co.th**KIATTIKUL 'JOM' CHUMANEE**  
Translator  
082 729 0270  
translate@classactmedia.co.th**JASON BEAVAN**  
General Manager  
086 479 7471  
gm@classactmedia.co.th**SIRIPORN (NOK) SEANGMAS**  
Sales Support  
086 479 7470  
sales@classactmedia.co.th**NIRAVIT 'MOS' VORAVANITCHA  
THANAPONG 'OAK' KHAO-AMPHAIPHAN**  
Graphic designersThe Phuket News  
@thephuketnews

ADVERTISING

ClassAct Media

Phuket News

Новости Пхукета

ข่าวภูเก็ต

NEWS TV

LIVE 89.5

Phuket TICKETMASTER

076 612 550 ext. 605

Fax: 076 612 553

Info@classactmedia.co.th

thephuketnews.com

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

## PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

www.foreca.com

FRI JAN 29



High: +33°

Low: +26°

Wind 14 m/s

SAT JAN 30



High: +33°

Low: +25°

Wind 14 m/s

SUN JAN 31



High: +33°

Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

MON FEB 1



High: +33°

Low: +26°

Wind 11 m/s

TUE FEB 2



High: +33°

Low: +25°

Wind 7 m/s

WED FEB 3



High: +33°

Low: +26°

Wind 7 m/s

THU FEB 4



High: +33°

Low: +26°

Wind 7 m/s

## Bypass speed limit hits 50km/h

**Eakkapop Thongtub**  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Town Traffic Police have confirmed that the speed limit on the bypass road is just 50km/h, after years of enforcing an unofficial speed limit of 100km/h.

The move came without warning, and only became known after a slew of local residents posted online copies of speeding tickets issued showing the speed limit as 50km/h.

The posts included complaints that police have for years assured that speeding tickets would be issued only for those caught exceeding 100km/h along the busy road.

Phuket City Traffic Police Deputy Chief Lt Col Rungrit Rattanaphakdee explained to *The Phuket News* last Thursday (Jan 20) that under usual circumstances motorists are permitted to drive up to 80km/h along municipality roads in accordance with the Road Traffic Act B.E. 2522.

However, for Phuket's bypass road, the speed limit is just 50km/h, as signposted along the road, he said.

Lt Col Rungrit's understanding that the speed limit signs posted along the bypass

**Phuket City Traffic Police Deputy Chief Lt Col Rungrit Rattanaphakdee. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub**

road are mandatory contradicts the explanations given in 2015 by former Phuket Highways Office Chief Samak Liedwonghat and Lt Col Teerawat Liamsakun, who was Phuket City Police Chief at the time.

However, Lt Col Rungrit has now made it clear that the actual legal speed limit is just 50km/h, as the signs indicate.

Although last Thursday Lt Col Rungrit maintained that motorists would not be issued speeding tickets by the speed cameras installed on the bypass road unless the vehicle was travelling faster than 100km/h – twice the legal speed limit – on Monday (Jan

25) he told *The Phuket News* that police will now issue speeding tickets for motorists driving faster than 80km/h on the bypass road.

All of the photos of the speeding tickets posted online showed that all of the tickets were issued for vehicles travelling faster than 90km/h.

"There are signs showing where the speed limit area begins and where the speed restriction area ends which were installed after an order of the Phuket accident reduction committee even before I came to take this position," Lt Col Rungrit told *The Phuket News*.

Lt Col Rungrit explained

at length that the bypass road was built to reduce traffic congestion in the Phuket Town area during peak hours.

However, the long straight sections of the bypass road has resulted in many high-speed accidents, he added.

"The signs are there to remind drivers to drive carefully under the speed limit, as normally drivers drive very fast on the road, leading to accidents," he said.

Lt Col Rungrit on Monday also confirmed that motorists fined for speeding or any other moving violations are currently not losing any demerit points from their driver's licences as the whole demerit-points system has yet to be launched.

The system was to be launched in December 2019. Officers in Phuket had been trained and were ready to start using the system, but the whole project – hailed as a milestone for its potential to help greatly reduce the carnage on Thailand's roads each year – dragged to a halt within weeks.

The system is now expected to be brought online sometime in the middle of this year, Lt Col Rungrit said on Monday.

"The demerit point penalties for traffic violations have

not yet started. The system does not work because we are waiting for the Department of Land Transport database to be connected to all police stations in Phuket, and nationwide," Lt Col Rungrit explained.

"The system is expected to be operational by the middle of this year," he added.

"Once the Department of Land Transport database connection with the police is finished, officers will be able to search a driver's history, see any previous traffic violations and the number of points left on their licence," Lt Col Rungrit explained.

Anyone fined for speeding on bypass road will not lose points for now, but will when the demerit-points system comes online, Lt Col Rungrit noted.

"When the system comes online, any tickets issued automatically by speed cameras will result in points taken being automatically deducted from the licence of the registered owner of the vehicle," he said.

"If the owner of the vehicle wants to dispute that, and present evidence that they were not driving the vehicle at the time, they will have to present their claim to the court," he concluded.

## Three injured as pickup hits power pole

THREE MEN WERE INJURED when the pickup truck they were travelling in struck a roadside power pole about 50 metres south of the Tha Reua Chinese Shrine on Thepkrasattri Rd, in Srisoonthorn, last Sunday night (Jan 24).

Capt Somnuk Kaewpetch of the Thalung Police was called to the scene at about 10pm.

Police together with Srisoonthorn Municipality and Kusoldharm rescue workers arrived to find a black Toyota Hilux Revo pickup truck, registered in Uttaradit, still wrapped around the power pole on the southbound side of the road.

The pickup driver Khanchit Khampha, 46, and his front-seat passenger Thawatchai Wiwak, 31, had injuries to their faces and heads. Fellow passenger Theeraphat Kaewpetch, who was sitting on the back seat, was unconscious and had a leg wound.

Rescue workers rushed all three to Thalung Hospital, while

**Rescue workers arrived to find the pickup truck still wrapped around the power pole. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub**

the pickup was taken to Thalung Police Station.

From questioning witnesses at the scene, police were told that the road was slippery because of rain, which may have led to Khanchit losing control of the pickup and hitting the power pole.

However, police found two large bottles of beer already opened in the truck, Capt Somnuk confirmed

At the time of press, Capt Somnuk had yet to confirm any tests for drunk driving and has been unavailable to confirm the extent of injuries to Theeraphat. *Eakkapop Thongtub*

## Vote for Old Kent Road on Phuket Monopoly

THE PHUKET EDITION OF Monopoly was announced just a few weeks ago, and now the makers of the game are asking people to vote for what they think should replace Old Kent Road.

Old Kent Road has traditionally been the cheapest property square on the board. Costing players just sixty Monopoly dollars (the in-game currency), it is one of the easiest properties to build up your Monopoly empire, compared to the more costly properties such as Mayfair and Park Lane.

"Although Old Kent Road is on the lower end of the board, it's famous around the world and people associate it with Monopoly," says Jennifer Lau from Winning Moves UK Ltd, who is producing the game under official license from Hasbro, owners of Monopoly.

"We want to replace this in the Phuket edition with something that is equally as famous in the area – whether it holds historical value or is significant to Phuket, we want to hear from everyone!"

Email [phuket@winningmoves.co.uk](mailto:phuket@winningmoves.co.uk)

**Image: Winning Moves UK**

co.uk or write into the Phuket Monopoly Facebook page for what you think should be on Old Kent Road.

With over a billion players worldwide and editions in 114 countries, Monopoly has long been a family favourite around the globe. Now, for the first time, Phuket will be getting its own edition of the world-famous board game.

In announcing the Phuket-themed edition last month, UK-based Winning Moves say that the game will be sold exclusively through local businesses in Phuket from August this year.

Each of the Monopoly spaces (28 in all) will be replaced with familiar locations around Phuket. Many of the Chance and Community Chest cards will also be getting a Phuket-themed makeover. *The Phuket News*



# Officials face forest probe

## Investigation into forest encroachment to be handed to DSI

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The investigation into the encroachment of more than 100 rai of protected forest in Phuket's Nakkerd Hills will be handed to the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) to investigate further as a special case – and involves an investigation into local officials actively allowing the illegal clearing of the protected forest.

Suphachai Suksai, chief of the Encroachment Prevention and Suppression Region 4 office under the Royal Forest Department, confirmed the move after his officers last week surveyed the area, a road and plantations carved out of the protected area straddling the hills between Kathu and Wichit, had affected a total of 108 rai of protected forest.

Mr Supachai and his team of investigators filed a formal complaint with the Kathu Police last Thursday (Jan 21).

Joining Mr Supachai's team of investigators were Boonlarp Suksai, Director of the Forest Resources Man-



The team of investigators confirmed that the affected area covers 108 rai. Photo: PR Phuket

agement Region 12 Office in Krabi, along with Phuket forestry officials, Phuket police officers and officials from the Phuket Internal Security Operations Command (Isoc) committee.

Isoc, of which there is a provincial office in every province in the country, serves as the political arm of the Thai military.

The affected area, within the Nakkerd Hills Protected Forest Area, is deemed an im-

portant source of water flowing into Bang Wad reservoir, the main water supply reservoir on the island, Mr Supachai said.

"From questioning forest officers with the Phuket Land Office we have found that the area does not have the right document [issued to allow any such clearing]," Mr Supachai added.

"The Department of Forestry will notify the Department of Special Investigation to accept this as a special case

and to conduct an investigation to identify the offender, as the heavy machinery used to adjust the area and create the road to the top of the hills must certainly involve government officials or 'influencers' [sic] behind the scenes," Mr Supachai explained.

"This will undergo an in-depth investigation," he added.

"The case will be submitted within two days," he said.

Mr Supachai recognised that his team had initially

believed that the affected area measured 83 rai, but explained that a more extensive survey had confirmed that the affected area was 108 rai.

"As can be seen, this is a high area offering views. It is unlikely that the perpetrators did this for agriculture, it is intended to be for tourism, because the site offers a wide view of Phuket, including many bays," Mr Supachai noted.

"The value of the land if opened for tourism purposes would be a very high value," he said.

"The road has been cut through a very fertile forest area, this is a watershed forest above Bang Wad Dam, which is an important water source for the people of Phuket, so we must preserve it. There are serious concerns about water supply," Mr Supachai added.

Mr Supachai did confirm that such works may not be illegal if the correct land document is presented, namely a claim to the land upheld by officials since before the area was declared a protected forest reserve.

"Initially, it appears that this area does not have a title document or any form of land claim for it issued to anyone, but the owner may have a Skor Kor 1 [land use document]. We still don't know. We cannot check to confirm this if the landowner does not present him or herself, but from our preliminary investigation the exact rights are not clear," he explained.

Mr Boonlarp of the Forest Resource Management Region 12 Office noted that any cases of encroachment involving more than 100 rai can be submitted to the DSI for further investigation.

"As for having influencers behind it, we are investigating in depth whether any agency was involved in the encroachment and we would like to tell the people of Phuket if any are found," he said.

"Such deforestation can be reported to the Royal Forest Department anywhere, the defense unit or the forest center. The authorities are ready to conduct inspections in all areas," Mr Boonlarp said.

## Scamsters prey on vehicle owners unable to make loan payments

REGION 8 POLICE ARE warning people unable to make their car payments to not fall prey to scam artists who convince people to hand over their cars on the promise that the buyer will take over the outstanding payments to the credit company.

The warning follows five victims, including some from Phang Nga, gathering at the Region 8 Police headquarters at the northern end of Phuket on Jan 19 to file a formal complaint, which was received by Investigator Maj Gen Naphanwoot Liemsa-nguan.

In total the victims had handed over eight vehicles, altogether valued at about B4 million.

One victim, Hanafee Dolah told reporters that the economic impact of COVID-19 had left him unable to continue making payments on his Toyota Hilux Revo.

Fearing legal action and being blacklisted for not making payments, he decided to sell the pickup



In total, the victims had handed over eight vehicles, altogether valued at about B4 million. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

by posting a notice on Facebook.

A man calling himself Rit Trakan contacted him through Facebook, and the two came to an agreement that Mr Rit would take ownership of the pickup on making a downpayment and taking over the payments to the credit company, which had only six monthly installments left to pay.

Mr Rit said that he would contact the credit company and have his name put on the purchase contract, Mr Hanafee explained.

That never happened.

The finance company later contacted Mr Hanafee asking him to make his contracted monthly payment,

as the company had not received any more payments from him.

Mr Hanafee has not been able to contact Mr Rit, and the Facebook page used to contact him is now closed.

Fellow victim Sethakorn Ruangklum said, "I want to remind people who want to sell a car like this must be very careful because as far as I know there are still many other victims of this."

Region 8 Police are now investigating the claims.

"We have received the complaint and are looking into the claims, and we will prosecute those found breaking the law," Maj Gen Naphanwoot said.

Eakkapop Thongtub



**MACNELS SHIPPING PHUKET**

ANY SHIPMENT ANY WHERE

IMPORT AND EXPORT SERVICES, AIR AND SEA FREIGHT

COMMERCIAL CARGO AND PERSONAL GOODS  
INCLUDING HOUSE HOLD RELOCATIONS

- DOOR TO DOOR SERVICES
- CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FORMALITIES
- PROJECT CARGOES INCLUDING BOATS
- WAREHOUSING AND STORAGE
- STRONG AGENCY NETWORK WORLDWIDE
- 20 YEARS STAFF EXPERIENCE IN PHUKET

☎ OFFICE: 076 603907

☎ MOBILE: CALL PETER 0863645862

www.macnellsphuket.com





Phuket Smart Bus is out of action again due to lack of tourists. Photo: Shela Riva / file

## Phuket Smart Bus grinds to a halt – again

THE PHUKET SMART Bus has stopped running, again, due to the lack of people on the island using the service

The Smart Bus stopped playing its way from the airport to Rawai on Jan 19.

The Phuket Smart Bus is the only true form of public transport on the island that carries passengers from one tourism beach resort town to another all along Phuket's west coast.

The suspension of the service comes as a result of the number of people on the island plunging as domestic tourism remains plagued by the current COVID-19 situation elsewhere in the country, Phuket Smart Bus Co Ltd (PKSB) General Manager Wanida Nimnuan told *The Phuket News*.

"As there are fewer tourists on the island, which means far fewer passengers, the Phuket Smart Bus service had to be suspended due to the COVID-19 situation," Ms Wanida said.

"At this time, we were still unable to confirm on which date the service will resume. The Phuket Smart Bus will start rolling again as usual when the situation improves," she added.

The Smart Bus service resumed in November after more than eight months out of action since the 'tambon lockdown' in April last year.

However, even when resuming the service in November, Ms Wanida noted that it was for a trial period only to assess the level of demand. *The Phuket News*

# Prab's brother enters election for Patong Mayor

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

**P**akrit Keesin, younger brother to influential Patong businessman Preechawut 'Prab' Keesin, has announced that he will contest the seat of mayor in the upcoming municipal election in Patong to be held on Mar 28.

Mr Pakrit, whose nickname is 'Puen', the Thai word for "gun" [Mr Pakrit chooses to spell his nickname this way], made the announcement at The Royal Paradise Hotel & Spa in Patong last Sunday (Jan 24).

The announcement came as the Rak Patong Party announced all their candidates for the Patong municipal election.

Rak Patong Party was founded in 1994 by Mr Pakrit and Mr Prab's father, longstanding Patong Mayor Pian Keesin. Mr Pian led the party until his death in 2014.

Mr Pakrit has now taken on the role of leader of the Rak Patong Party.

Mr Pakrit announced at the press conference yesterday that the Rak Patong Party is an alternative political party that aims to help resolve problems of the Patong people, from local residents to businesses.

"Patong needs a leader with a good international perspective. He must not only have good policies, but must also listen to the local people – especially in this current situation," Mr Pakrit said.



Pakrit Keesin publicly announced last Sunday (Jan 24) that he would be contesting the position of Patong Mayor in the upcoming election. Photo: PR Phuket

"We must be aware of basic well-being, including basic utilities, the needs of the people and stimulating tourism to the international level, especially during the COVID-19 crisis," he added.

Asked why his brother Mr Prab was not running for election, Mr Pakrit explained, "He has to mainly take care of the family's business."

"I want to follow up and carry on our father's will in order to listen and solve problems of people," Mr Pakrit said, adding that when he was young he often went on field trips with his father while Mr Pian was in office as Mayor of Patong.

"I want to follow the quote that

my father always said, 'Nayok na dam prachachon nasai' [Dark-faced mayor, bright-faced people]," Mr Pakrit added.

The Rak Patong candidates announced, all men, were:

Patong Voting District 1: Manot Thonghom, Wasan Chaisit, Charuay Phet-heung, Somchai Kwanyuen, Prasitichai Patkor and Mana Panchalard.

Patong Voting District 2: Thanin Attasap, Sahat Tamchu, Wirat Prateep Na Thalang, Banyat Somnam, Suthikan Vanyanaporn and Boontan Piromrit.

Patong Voting District 3: Manit Yuyen, Pritsapakom Setthong, Pongpisut Kitkosab, Methasit Kanjana, Sanakorn Keesin and Saichon Sombat.

## Class Act Media wins APAC Insider Business Award

CLASS ACT MEDIA and IMAGE asia have been recognised in the annual APAC Insider Business Awards by being bestowed the accolade 'Most Outstanding Small Local Business - Phuket'.

The winners of the annual UK-based awards were announced on Jan 19.

"Now in its fifth year, the APAC Business Awards aim to celebrate the success of companies of all sizes across the APAC region, regardless of industry," explained the release announcing this year's winners.

"This last year, more than any other, success has been far from guaranteed. Even long-established firms were met with uncertainty and challenges, with start-ups and newcomers facing a baptism of fire, the likes of which hadn't been seen for decades. With all of this in mind, we launch the 2020 programme with a slight shift in ethos – we wanted to offer a counterpoint to the challenges of the year by focusing on those that have, in whatever small or large way, achieved suc-



The APAC Business Awards aim to celebrate the success of companies of all sizes across the APAC region, regardless of industry. Image: APAC Insider

cess over the last 12 months.

"All in all, the heart of the programme remains the same: we want to represent and recognise these achievements and to showcase those companies who can truly be described as paragons on the greater professional landscape," the release added.

Speaking at the announcement of the awards, Awards Co-ordinator Katherine Benton said, "I offer a sincere and heartfelt congratulations to all of those recognised in the 2020 Business Awards. I hope you all have a wonderful 2021 ahead."

Class Act Media is the publisher of local English-language newspaper, in print

and online, *The Phuket News*, and its sister newspapers Thai-language *Khao Phuket* and Russian-language *Novosti Phuket*.

The Class Act Media house is also home to the popular Live 89.5 radio station broadcasting across the island and JP Mestanza's *Phuket News TV* 'Phuket Xtra' video reports.

The IMAGE asia brand, under the same media ownership, produces the popular *Window on Phuket* magazine and the *Where to Eat* dining guide.

"This award and its recognition is only possible with the hard work, loyalty and commitment from our great team, who have continued to do outstanding work even during these testing times. And special thanks to our supporters, suppliers and readers, listeners and watchers," said Class Act Media & IMAGE asia General Manager Jason Beavan.

"It's wonderful to be recognised as being an important part of the Phuket community. Thank you all."

*The Phuket News*

Phuket News Новости Phuket ข่าวภูเก็ต

• SELLING/RENTING A PROPERTY/CAR/BIKE/BOAT?  
• LOOKING FOR STAFF?

# CLASSIFIEDS

ONLY THB 2,500 + VAT  
FOR 3 LANGUAGES

LIMITED TIME



4 ISSUES IN  
**Phuket News**  
HARD COPY  
1 picture &  
5 lines of text

2 ISSUES IN  
**ข่าวภูเก็ต**  
HARD COPY  
1 picture & 5 lines of text  
& translation to Thai

2 ISSUES IN  
**Новости Phuket**  
HARD COPY  
1 picture & 5 lines of text  
& translation to Russian

30 DAYS ON  
THEPHUKETNEWS.COM  
135 key strokes of text,  
10 pictures & Google map

30 DAYS ON  
KHAOPHUKET.COM  
135 key strokes of text,  
10 pictures, Google map  
& translation to Thai

30 DAYS ON  
NOVOSTIPHUKETA.COM  
135 key strokes of text,  
10 pictures, Google map  
& translation to Russian

If you can't sell it with **Phuket News** You just can't sell it!  
[thephuketnews.com/classifieds.php](http://thephuketnews.com/classifieds.php)



# More elderly ordered to repay huge sums to state

Bangkok Post

More cases have emerged of elderly people being told to return tens of thousands of baht to the state after it determined they were not entitled to the allowances they received for years.

Buan Losuwan, 89, agreed on Monday (Jan 25) to return B84,400 she had received from the Tambon Charoen Suk Administration Organisation over 10 years, but asked for more time to repay it.

At time of press at least three new cases had emerged in Nakhon Ratchasima, including 83-year-olds Samrit Phusawang and Kuang Somboonram.

Both had received the elderly allowance for over 14 years from April 2006 to November 2020. They recently received a letter from the Tambon Cho Ho Municipality, telling them to return the money – amounting to B83,383 each, including interest.

The state determined they were ineligible for the allowance because they were found to have received a separate monthly pension due to the death of their husbands while performing official duties.

Both have been summonsed to appear before the Nakhon Ratchasima Municipal Court for a prima facie examination on Feb 18.

Wannapa Sanpen, a daughter of Mrs Samrit, said her family was stunned on



Buan Losuwan, 89, offers a wai as she and her family need more time to give her living allowances back to the state. Photo: Surachai Piragsa

receiving the letter and that her mother had never intended to claim the money in the first place. She only did so after a municipal official told her to apply and even helped her prepare the necessary documents. Her mother thought it was her lawful right to receive the elderly allowance, she said.

After receiving the letter, she and her mother went to the municipality office, where they were told to pay back the money in instalments – B18,000 for each of the first three months and then about B1,000

per month until the debt was paid in full.

Ms Wannapa said they wanted the monthly repayment to be reduced to B500-600 and hoped the court would have mercy on Feb 18.

A third resident of Korat, 73-year-old Prachuap Padawan, received the monthly allowance from April 2009 to November 2020 and has now been ordered to return a total of B77,737 including interest.

She is also due to appear before the Nakhon Ratchasima Municipal Court on Feb 18.

## Early-stage abortions get Senate support

LEGISLATORS IN THE Senate on Monday (Jan 25) voted in 166-7 in favour of permitting abortion up to 12 weeks of pregnancy while maintaining penalties for later terminations.

The majority voted to amend the existing law that criminalises abortion, pledging support to a plan seeking to tackle unregulated terminations by non-medical practitioners.

Last week an amendment to the Criminal Code was passed by the lower house that followed on from a Constitutional Court ruling last February stating that criminalising abortion was both unconstitutional and a violation of human rights.

The amendment proposes that any abortion undertaken after the 12 week timeline would only be allowed if a certified doctor deems there is a high risk of fetal impairment, danger to the life of the mother, or if a pregnancy was the result of rape, deception or coercion.

Those that did not meet this criteria would be considered illegal and punishable by up to six months in prison, or



Activists from the Women for Freedom and Democracy group protest outside parliament on Monday. Photo: Bangkok Post

a fine of up to B10,000 or both.

“This means abortion is conditional and can only be done by doctors according to the law,” Senator Wanlop Tangkhananurak said on Monday.

The proposal was not met favourably by pro-choice activists who argued that maintaining penalties would ensure the stigma of abortion continues and not protect the rights of the mother.

“We want all penalties to be revoked because it is a person’s right to abort a pregnancy without being punished,” Nisarat Jongwisani, councillor and activist at Tam Tang, a pro-choice group said.

The Phuket News

## Tourism dept turns to films

THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT is aiming to generate B3 billion from international film crews this year, targeting projects with an investment of over B100 million in Thailand, after foreign tourism revenue plunged 82.63% last year.

Following the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration’s (CCSA) granting special entry permission to film crews last year, 53 film production projects were based in country between August and December, contributing B1bn to the economy.

This month, four more

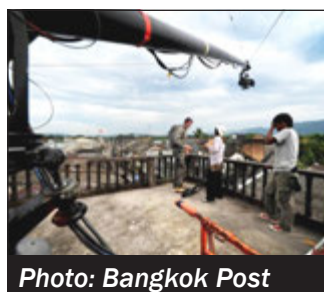


Photo: Bangkok Post

sought to film in Thailand during the first half of this year, which would help create 800 jobs for locals.

Thailand welcomed 176 international film productions last year, generating B1.73bn for the local economy, mainly from China, followed by India, the UK, the US and South Korea.

“International productions can proceed and generate income for locals despite the tourism slowdown,” said Anant Wongbenjarat, director-general of the Tourism Department.

Bangkok Post

film production projects are underway, forecast to generate B186mn and another 89 film crews are presently undergoing quarantine.

Another 136 film crews, accounting for a combined budget of B850mn, have



## DAY PASS OFFER A DAY AWAY

Spend a day away at SALA Phuket with our fantastic day pass package.

The package includes roundtrip Phuket transfers, a three course lunch for two, a beachfront couples massage, a private pool side cabana and a bottle of sparkling.

For Only 3,500 Baht for two persons.

Contact fbphuket@salaphuket.com or call 076 33 8888  
www.salaphuket.com

SALA Phuket Maikhao Beach

**THE SWINGING STICKS™**  
Designed in Germany \* Copyright & Patented

**THE ALL BLACK**

**LEVITATION & SPEAKER**

**NEW!**

**www.ATD.to**  
hi@ATD.to \* +66 630829923

The Swinging Sticks is a double pendulum kinetic energy sculpture. You may also have seen The Swinging Sticks in the Iron Man 2 movie. The fluid movement of this handcrafted, precise kinetic sculpture creates a calming, hypnotic effect.

Art-Tec Design Co., Ltd - authorized importer & seller of The Swinging Sticks

**RT DESIGN**  
ART-TEC DESIGN CO., LTD.

New Shop opened in PHUKET  
71/89 moo 5  
Hua Khuan North Road  
Close to Fanta Sea  
Kamala / Phuket 83150





Photo: The Fin Arts

# Painting a brighter future for an endangered species

**Ben Tirebuck**  
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

“Steven Spielberg has a lot to answer for,” German expat Holger Schwab quips when asked why the worldwide perception of sharks is predominantly negative.

Holger is owner of Phuket-based Sea Bees Diving and has been a keen diver himself for over 35 years. Along with fellow German expat dive instructor Alex Loew, they have been alarmed to see shark numbers declining off Phuket waters for many years now.

As a result, Holger and Alex established The Fin Arts in 2017, a Phuket-based social enterprise that displays and sells shark sculptures, each one handpainted by its growing network of local and international artists, with a percentage of proceeds going to shark and marine conservation projects.

A workshop was recently set up in Chalong affording local resident artists Sunanta Nualsomsri and her sister Saowaluck the creative space to produce the impressive sculptures and it is hoped providing more direct access to the general public will help continue to raise awareness.

The sculptures come in three sizes: 30-centimetre sharks cast in polyresin to decorate desks and shelves; and 100- and 150-centimetre sharks made from fibreglass, statement pieces that The Fin Arts uses to catch eyes at conven-

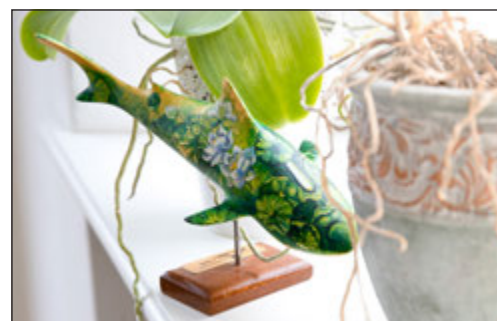


tions. All designs can be customised in a bespoke manner to the customer's requirements.

The inspiration for this was provided by the Elephant Parade on display in Chiang Mai in 2017. In a similar vein to The Fin Arts, Elephant Parade exhibits its decorated elephant statues to raise awareness of the need for elephant conservation.

The objective is to bring the message of shark conservation efforts into everyday lives, into homes and offices in order to create a conversation, raise awareness and educate people.

“The sculptures are different, unusual,” says Holger. “They often achieve the desired effect of initiating a conversation that can result in a positive impact.”



Shark Guardian is the main conservation project The Fin Arts supports. Its focus is to both educate and establish a meaningful dialogue about these important creatures of the deep. The UK-registered charity collaborates with marine biologists and shark experts to share data and research, visits schools across the world to educate the next generation about the plight of sharks, and petitions and lobbies governments.

## Education the key

Although Holger's reference to Hollywood mogul Spielberg's role in depicting sharks as villains courtesy of his 1975 blockbuster film *Jaws* is tongue-in-cheek, there is a simultaneous tone of definite lament and, for him, education is the key driver in effecting change.

“In 35 years of diving I have only ever heard of one serious shark attack on a diver, which occurred in Egypt several years ago,” he says. Indeed, you are far more likely to die from a popping champagne cork, being struck by lightning or a falling coconut from a tree.

“Humans are not part of a shark's food-chain,” adds Holger, stressing that rare attacks are usually the shark mistaking a human for food, taking a “test bite” but then releasing.

If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything it is the precarious yet crucial balance between humans and nature. The importance sharks play in the eco-system of the ocean can not be understated, says Holger.

“As apex predators, sharks play a crucial role in maintaining marine biodiversity,” he says. “You take the shark

out of the equation and it undermines the whole structure. The consequence of their dwindling numbers and potential disappearance altogether would be devastating,” he notes, adding a critical reminder that 70% of the earth's oxygen comes from the ocean.

Estimates state that between 100-120 million sharks are killed every year. A third of all sharks are threatened with extinction in the near future.

Unregulated fishing, bycatch, a continued demand for shark fins for soup and teeth and jaws for souvenirs, and contact with marine debris, such as plastics and discarded ‘ghost nets’ are the main contributing factors to these statistics.

The fishing industry has become much more aggressive and greedy, says Holger, with an increasing number of vessels taking to the waters each year, often operating in illegal territories and utilising illegal methods.

As the demand for fish increases to record numbers, particularly across the Pacific, unregulated fishing is becoming an increasing problem. Unscrupulous methods adopted with longline fishing in particular where the actual size of nets are decreased below the regulated requirement means dolphins, seabirds, sea turtles, and sharks are unintentionally being caught and killed.

The shark fin market is also a major issue, despite restrictions being introduced and consumption dropping. Used for soup at auspicious occasions typically in China and its associated territories, it is estimated that 75 million sharks are killed for this barbaric practice every year. Shark fin soup is still also widely available in Thailand.

“The sad thing is that a shark's fin is merely cartilage and therefore offers very little in terms of taste,” says Holger.

Still, Holger remains upbeat and confident that things can and will change, in the short and long term.

“We will continue our efforts in trying to help protect and conserve these beautiful creatures who are so fundamental in so many ways,” he says.

For more information, visit [thefinarts.com](http://thefinarts.com) and [www.facebook.com/thefinarts](http://www.facebook.com/thefinarts). The Fin Arts' shark sculptures are available through their website or at the Sea Bees Diving centre in Chalong. If you are an artist and are interested in a collaboration, get in touch at [alex@thefinarts.com](mailto:alex@thefinarts.com) or on 080 143 5472.

**WINE & COFFEE SHOP - WINE BAR**  
**WINE TASTING - ANTIPASTI - DESSERTS**  
**HOME DELIVERY AVAILABLE**

The Barrel Laguna, 33-34 Canal Village Laguna Shopping, Thalang, Phuket, Thailand  
Phone: 062 489 5192 | Email: [thebarrellaguna@bbb.co.th](mailto:thebarrellaguna@bbb.co.th) | Open Time: 10am-8pm (Sunday Closed)

**ALCOHOL MAY BE A HEALTH HAZARD!**



# Enjoying floaters with an accent



## GREEN THOUGHTS

Patrick Campbell

If the lotus and water lily are likely to be main players in your Thai water-garden, there are others which can perform useful cameo roles. One such performer is the Egyptian papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*). Every schoolboy knows one fact about this plant: it was used to make the first paper. The second 'fact' is not common knowledge – namely that the 'bulrushes' in which the infant Moses was hidden, were almost certainly papyrus reeds.

Tall with long, elegant stems surmounted by a ring of fine leaves (modified stems) which radiate out from a central hub, this sedge will grow a couple of metres tall, a stately presence above the surface of your pool or pot.

Smaller but equally valuable as a water margin plant and much easier to find in garden centres, is its relative, *Cyperus alternifolius*. Sometimes known as the umbrella plant, it hails from Madagascar and has a circle of broader, grass-like leaves gracing the top of each slender stem.

Both are what Americans like to call "accent plants", and provide a contrast to surface-hugging plants such as water-lilies, or floaters such as water lettuce or water hyacinths. I have a *Cyperus* growing at the edge of my fish pond and a couple in large pots keeping company with guppies and Mexican swordtails which hide in its ample roots. And it will grow more-or-less anywhere.

Another familiar sight on Thai forecourts is the water canna or *Thalia geniculata*, an upright foliage plant, often with attractive red stems, and large bright green, lanceolate leaves which appear lower down the growth. The clusters of tiny flowers are purple with white spots and dangle from the ends of stalks which



Water lettuce and water hyacinth (foreground).

may be three metres tall. Settled in a well-watered pot, *Thalia* can take the full sun of a patio, but it will also survive in permanently moist soil, or at the edge of your fish pond where it will add height and substance to existing foliage. *Thalia* will germinate from seed or can be divided at the roots. An "accent plant" with a difference. Leaves tend to go yellow at the edges, particularly if short of water.

Both the papyrus and water canna root, conventionally enough, in saturated soil. On the other hand, the water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*) literally floats on water. So named because it produces lilac-hued spikes of hyacinth-like blooms above bulbous, air-filled stems, these blooms can look attractive in a confined space. The free-hanging submerged roots are purplish-black, the stiff oval leaves a deep green.

One of the fastest growing of plants, it reproduces by means of stolons or underwater runners which form new plants. Because of this rapid growth, it can colonise and dominate a stretch of water in days, carpeting the entire surface and killing off other aquatics. The water hyacinth also has some commercial value

in Asia: it can be pressed into service as a mulch or fertiliser while its fibrous roots are used to make up-market, woven furniture. This needs to be exploited.

*Eichornia* is a bit more exotic than the humble water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*) which also floats, but produces no flowers of any significance. In similar fashion, its emerald green, deeply pleated rosettes of leaves sprout from roots trailing below the surface. These lie more-or-less flat when there is plenty of surface room, but if the rosettes are close together in a pot, they will become more upright in habit. *Pistia* reproduces by means of offsets: these can be removed to start a new colony elsewhere.

If grown in garden ponds, both these "floaters" provide some shelter for fish, and the capacity to remove some impurities from the water. But they should not be allowed to cover the entire surface: they will need to be periodically culled, and to have their dead leaves removed – before they de-oxygenate the water.

The water chestnut (*Trapa bicornis*) is probably a better choice for the small garden. Another "floater", it looks neat with flat, diamond-shaped, leaves which form an attractive rosette above the submerged fruit. These hard brown fruit, which resemble the horned head of a bull – hence the botanical name – contain a large starchy nut considered a delicacy, especially among the Chinese. Submerged, these fruits can be used to propagate new plants. In the wild, the fine roots may extend for three or four metres, anchored in the mud at the bottom of a pond or slow-moving stream. *Trapa* is happy in strong sunlight and since it is less invasive than the water lettuce, it looks good in a container.

*"The Tropic Gardener", an indispensable guide to plants and their cultivation in Thailand. Available from the author at drpaccampbell@gmail.com, from Seng Ho bookshop in Phuket Town or Delish in Rawai.*



THAI  
RESIDENTIAL

Phuket's No.1 Trusted Real Estate Advisor

## Are You Trying To Sell Your Phuket Property?

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

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





POP QUIZ

1. Who is the first rapper to win a Pulitzer prize for music for his album 'Damn.'?
2. Which 3D puzzle was invented in 1974 by a Hungarian professor of architecture?
3. How heavy in kilograms is one cubic metre of water?
4. A dolorimeter is an instrument used to measure what?
5. Leonardo Da Vinci International Airport serves which Italian city?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

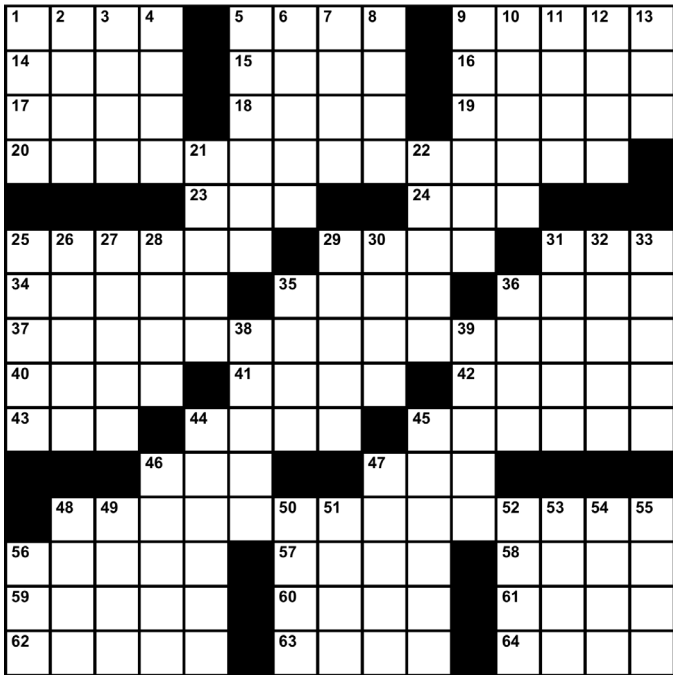
- Across

  1. Dog pest
  5. William Wallace, e.g.
  9. Maj.'s superior
  14. Behind
  15. Dub
  16. Farsi speaker, perhaps
  17. Just like you see it
  18. Caen's river
  19. Baby bottom sprinkles
  20. Classic children's nursery song
  23. Lawyer's group (abbr.)
  24. In the open
  25. Pet songbird
  29. Grps.
  31. Rap doctor?
  34. Like an unwatched pot
  35. Virtual opinion
  36. Runs out of steam
  37. Sleeping beauty characters
  40. DIY handicrafts site
  41. "Strength, Courage and wisdom" singer India
  42. Court site, with "The"
  43. Go out with
  44. Old weapon
  45. Lawgivers
- Down

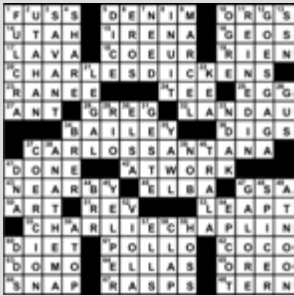
  1. Where boys will be boys
  2. Sumptuous
  3. Mideast potentate
  4. Church recess
  5. Class conscious
  6. "Cheers" role
  7. Hotel chain
  8. Prom dancer
  9. It turns red in acid
  10. Characteristic
  11. H.S. subject
  12. Fairy tale starter
  13. Sue Grafton's "\_\_\_ for Lawless"
  21. Way back when
  22. In hiding
25. Outdoor eateries
  26. Moderate
  27. Brouhaha
  28. Light
  29. Blast from the past
  30. When in \_\_\_\_\_ now
  31. Cousin of Dora the Explorer
  32. Any "Seinfeld," now
  33. Curlicues
  35. Schmo
  36. Lentil sauce
  38. Large clam
  39. Beach footwear
  44. Upraises
  45. Protection
  46. "No way!"
  47. Key of Chopin's "Minute Waltz"
  48. Father
  49. Corrida cries
  50. Hemingway nickname
  51. Taxi firm
  52. Doctrines, informally
  53. Precipitate
  54. Kind of moth
  55. Docking spot
  56. Left on the farm

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

- (1) Kendrick Lamar (2018); (2) Rubik's Cube; (3) 1,000kg; (4) Pain threshold; (5) Rome



Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

2

out of 4 teenage girls feel depressed after looking at a fashion magazine for only 3 minutes, according to one study.

7

times the money it would take to end extreme poverty worldwide is how much the world's billionaires made in 2017.

40

percent of the world's land is in just six countries.

750,000

US dollars is how much Brazilian football star Ronaldinho lost in a deal with Coca-Cola because he took a sip from a Pepsi at a press conference in 2012.

220

million

is how many smell receptors Basset hounds have. The portion of their brains tied to sense of smell is 40 times that of a human.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Phuket Old Town. Photo: Ivan Sebastian

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

This week in history

Jan 29, 904

Sergius III comes out of retirement to take over the papacy from the deposed antipope Christopher.

Jan 30, 1703

The Forty-seven Ronin, under the command of Ōishi Kuranosuke, avenge the death of their master.

Jan 31, 2012

The Toyota Corolla becomes the best-selling car of all time, with more than 37.5 million units sold. (1,482,932 units sold in 2019 alone)

Feb 1, 1972

Kuala Lumpur becomes a city by a royal charter granted by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia.

Feb 2, 1709

Alexander Selkirk is rescued after being shipwrecked on a desert island, inspiring Daniel Defoe's adventure book *Robinson Crusoe*.

Feb 3, 1972

The first day of the seven-day 1972 Iran blizzard, which would kill at least 4,000 people, making it the deadliest snowstorm in history.



The original registration form and login page for thefacebook in 2004.

Feb 4, 2004

Facebook is founded by Mark Zuckerberg, along with fellow Harvard College students and roommates Eduardo Saverin, Andrew McCollum, Dustin Moskovitz and Chris Hughes. Source: Wikipedia



# Trades & Services

 The Phuket News  
 @thephuketnews

## CORPORATE SERVICES



**VERTIGO**  
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

"Powerful Videos For All Industries"  
Boost Awareness, Visibility & Build Trust

  [vertigovideoproductions.com](http://vertigovideoproductions.com)  

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Waterproofing & Crack Repair**


20 year WARRANTY

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

Drone Survey  
Pipe Inspection



## HOME IMPROVEMENT



**AVC ENGINEERING**

Home Automation    MEP Engineering  
Solar Power    Lighting Design

081 970 0677    AVCPHUKET.COM

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

MASTERCRAFTSMAN  
WE REPAIR AND BUILD NEW:

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

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

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

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

[www.germanwaterteam.com](http://www.germanwaterteam.com)  
Email: [germanwaterteam@yahoo.de](mailto:germanwaterteam@yahoo.de)

22112 Moo 8 Chaofa R.d west Chalong A.Muang Phuket 83130



## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**tile-it**  
SMART TILES  
Tile Leveling System

Baan Wana - Cherg Talay  
Tel : 076 620168

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE



[www.tile-asia.com](http://www.tile-asia.com) | [letstalk@tile-asia.com](mailto:letstalk@tile-asia.com)

## PERSONAL SERVICE

**New Year - New You**

Get the life you want with support from Expat Life Coach.

New Year offer, only 2,500 baht for first 90 minute consultation.

Contact us today to arrange an informal chat  
[expatlifecoach@outlook.com](mailto:expatlifecoach@outlook.com)

## PERSONAL SERVICE

**We Clean**  
Phuket.net

Covid-19 Disinfection Service

20% OFF - quote code PN05

 081 737 7850  
fb.me/WeCleanPhuketNet.EN  
LINE ID: WeCleanPhuketNet



## PROPERTY SERVICES

**LUXURY VILLA CLUB**  
DIRECT ★ RENTALS ★ SALES

Villa and Yacht Websites  
Photography, Videos, Drone  
Villa Rental, Sales & Marketing  
Property Inventories  
25 Years Experience

[Joanne@luxuryvillaclub.com](mailto:Joanne@luxuryvillaclub.com)

## OTHER



**MACNELS SHIPPING PHUKET**

ANY SHIPMENT ANY WHERE  
☎ OFFICE: 076 603907  
☎ MOBILE: CALL PETER 0863645862  
[www.macnellsphuket.com](http://www.macnellsphuket.com)

**WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?**

The **Phuket News** Your Island - Your Paper  
 Новости **Пхукета** Твой остров - твои газеты  
 ข่าว **ภูเก็ต**

**WINDOW ON PHUKET**  
 The map of PHUKET English 中文 Русский  
 Where to eat in PHUKET  
 LIVE 89.5 NEWS TV

Contact: [gm@classactmedia.co.th](mailto:gm@classactmedia.co.th)



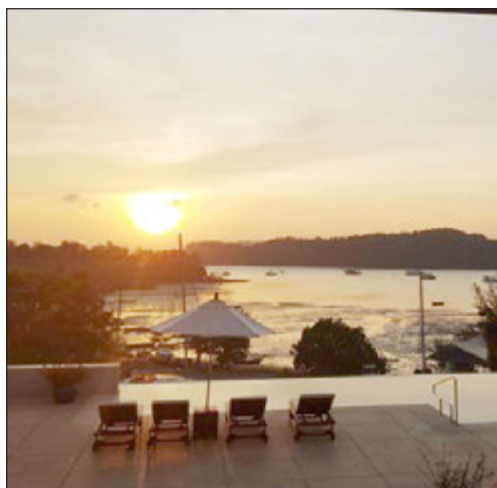
**SUN** 29 JAN



### Sunday Brunch at Pine Beach Bar

Try exciting new items including organic truffle poached egg, lobster house made pasta and unagi don. Enjoy complimentary use of pool and beach facilities before and after your brunch with a bottle of sparkling, a selection of delicious dishes, funky tunes of our DJ and beach activities. Intercontinental Phuket Resort, Kamala, 076 629 999.

### PROPERTY FOR SALE



### Beautiful Phuket condo with a view of the islands

Very close to Ao Por Pier and Ao Por Grand Marina. 2 rooms 132 m / 2 with private terrace, 22m pool, 2 bath, air con, security service, good shopping, private parking and sunrise over the islands every morning. Fully furnished. Direct From Owner at only B3.6M. jensclausen@yahoo.de +66 092-854692. +49 176 32658856

### PROPERTY FOR RENT



### Fantastic Sea View

Sea View condo 70 Sq.m. Swimming pool, fitness, car parking, 1 bed, 1big living room + kitchen. Big balcony. 1.6 km. from Kata beach. nuannapa.sutin@gmail.com , 080 468 8228 (Napa).

**Want your EVENT listed here?**

Reserve your space **NOW!**

076 612 550 sales@classactmedia.co.th

**Listen for**

**DAILY EVENT UPDATES ON**

**LIVE 89.5**

**Australian Visas**

Need An Australian Visa or Expert Advice?

Have the confidence dealing with an Australian Lawyer and Agent, based right here in Thailand but regulated in Australia.

Your application will be prepared and lodged for you, as well as expert advice as to the best visas and approach.

We can assist with all visa types, including Tourist, Partner, Work, Study and Family visas.

Had a visa refusal - our team specialise in getting you the result you want.

Phone: 084 400 9487  
www.AustralianVisas-Thailand.com

IT TAKES 12 MONTHS TO GET A PROSPECTIVE MARRIAGE OR PARTNER VISA START PLANNING NOW!

Migration Agents  
Registration Number  
1464995  
www.mara.gov.au

## Reduce your risk of Coronavirus infection

**Don't panic, but be alert. COVID-19**

Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds with soap & water or hand sanitizer.

When coughing or sneezing, cover nose & mouth with a tissue or flexed elbow.

Practice social distancing, no hugs and kisses, no handshakes. Offer a traditional wai instead.

Try to touch your face as little as possible, including your mouth, nose and eyes.

Reduce travel to a minimum and avoid public transport if possible.

Don't leave your home or hotel room unless absolutely necessary.

**AVOID**

If you have additional questions, please call the Department of Disease Control

**Hotline 1422**  
<https://ddc.moph.go.th/en>

### PROPERTY FOR RENT



### House for Rent

House for Rent @ Burasiri Kohkaew 149 sqm. 3 bedrooms + 3 bathrooms + 2 carpark. Fully Furnished + Kitchen + washing machine. Rental rate 35,000thb Facilities: Swimming Pool + Fitness + Security. nasipornkul8022@gmail.com, 0986516428, Khun Ying.

### PROPERTY FOR RENT



### HALF PRICE CONDO LAGUNA AREA

200m to Bangtao, 2 pools, Jacuzzi, sauna, gym, BBQ, 140 sqm. Free: bikes, electric scooters, drinking water, coconuts, 3TVs, Netflix, 200TV channels. HALF PRICE 076 324404 phuket@casuarinashores.co

**Alcoholics Anonymous**

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

**Daily Meetings**  
Patong, Chalong, Phuket Town, Bang Tao & Karon

**CALL**  
**081 895 4763**  
help@aaphuket.com  
Google [www.aaphuket.com](http://www.aaphuket.com)

**QSI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF PHUKET**

QSI Phuket is looking for Certified Native English Speaking Teachers for 2020-2021 school year

**Preschool/Kindergarten Teacher**

**Qualifications:**

- Native English Speaking Teachers
- Bachelor or higher degree in Education Only
- Experiences in teaching is required
- Teaching license is preferred

**Interested teachers**  
Please send email with the following attachments:

- A cover letter with stating the position you are applying for
- Your resume with a recent photo
- A scan of your education certificates and transcripts
- A scan of your passport's photo page

Send CV to [Phuket@qsi.org](mailto:Phuket@qsi.org)  
<https://www.qsi.org/thailand/pkt> Tel. 076 304 312

SUCCESS FOR ALL



# WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?

The **Phuket News** Your Island – Your Paper

Новости **Пхукета** Твой остров – твоя газета ข่าว **ภูเก็ต**

Where to  
**eat**  
in PHUKET

**WINDOW**  
ON PHUKET

LIVE **89.5**

Phuket  
**NEWS TV**

The **map** Карта Пхукета  
普吉岛 地图  
of PHUKET  
English 中文 Русский

Contact: [gm@classactmedia.co.th](mailto:gm@classactmedia.co.th)



# Things get heated at the ACG

## Controversy as Penguins defeat Cows in year's curtain-raiser

### CRICKET

Neil Quail

Motions ran high at the ACG last Sunday (Jan 24) when the Thalang Cows faced off against the Patong Penguins in the first encounter between the two rivals this year.

What promised to be an enthralling match, with both teams fielding new or returning players, unfortunately ended in a result overshadowed by debate and controversy.

Having racked up 172 runs in his past two matches for the Rest of the World, all-rounder Justin Swart's reinstatement to the Penguins and the signing of left-arm seamer Dom Judge certainly fortified the Patong side, while the Cows garnered motivation by the arrival of all-rounders Bhanu Pratap and Zan Coplestone.

Jeremy Bootsy and Imtiyaz Mushtaq opened the batting strongly for the Cows, rapidly reaching 50 runs by the 7<sup>th</sup> over, before Bootsy was caught by Jason Robertson off the bowling of Sajal Gaur.



Thalang Cows' Stuart Hamilton defends his wicket en route to 90 not out last Sunday. Photo: Neil Quail

Coming in at three, Ninan's innings was to be short-lived, but the manner of his dismissal just six balls later will long be remembered by all at the ACG.

Mushtaq top-edged a Curt Livermore delivery skyward and as the bowler moved to

position himself beneath the dropping ball, both Cows batsmen sprinted to cross and make their ground. Straying off a direct line, Ninan collided with Livermore, causing both players to end up sprawled on the ground, negating the possi-

bility of a catch. Immediately, a chorus of appeals went up from the Penguins claiming 'obstructing the field', to which umpire Neil Quail promptly raised his finger to signal a dismissal.

Regrettably, an inexperience-

rienced Quail was unable to confirm which batsman was to be dismissed, but after some heated debate between the two sides, it was decided that an incredulous Ninan, having been the one to obstruct the fielder, would return to the clubhouse.

Once the furore subsided, Livermore took the wicket of Ali Khan in the 11<sup>th</sup> over, caught behind by Anthony Van Blerk, before Robertson bowled Mushtaq for 80 with the score on 131 for 3.

Stuart Hamilton then called on a repertoire of exceptional shots to reach his half century by the 28<sup>th</sup> over and finished 90 not out.

Chasing a target of 267, Michael Flowers and Saju Abraham opened the batting for the Penguins, hitting a quick-fire 17 off 18, before Pratap bowled Abraham in the 6<sup>th</sup> over.

Flowers and Paddy Ledebor then put on a 59-run partnership before the former was dismissed by wicketkeeper Bootsy, shortly followed by his partner (56) with the score at 112 for 3.

A 110-run partnership between Swart (82) and Van Blerk (29 not out) in just 11 overs ensured victory for Cows and set up a potentially taunted return match on Sunday (Jan 31).

Man-of-the-match went to Hamilton for his 90 not out, with nods to Swart for his 82, Mushtaq for his 80, and Ledebor for his 56. Bowling honours were claimed by Gaur for his 3 for 43 off six overs.

### WHAT'S ON AT THE ACG (JAN 29 – FEB 2)

**Friday:** Senior & Junior Cricket Training (4:30 - 6:30pm)

**Saturday:** Vagabonds Rugby Training (4 - 6pm)

**Sunday:** Cricket - Patong Penguins v Thalang Cows (10am start)

**Monday:** Junior Cricket Coaching with former professional Ashan Fonseka (3 - 5pm)

**Tuesday:** Junior Cricket Coaching with former professional Ashan Fonseka (3 - 5pm) Vagabonds Rugby Training (5 - 7pm)

## Britons secure America's Cup challenger final place

### SAILING

BEN AINSLIE'S INEOS Team UK overcame a pre-race gear failure to beat Luna Rossa on the final cross in a thriller on Auckland harbour last Sunday (Jan 23) to qualify unbeaten for the final of the America's Cup challenger series.

The lead changed nine times in the first fully competitive match-race in a series disrupted in the early rounds by weather vagaries and a spectacular crash involving American Magic.

"That was one for the fans," British legend Ainslie said.

Ainslie, the most successful sailor in Olympic history, is on record as saying he would willingly trade his Olympic medals – four gold and one silver – to be the first Briton to win the America's Cup.

But he said there were some tense moments before the Luna Rossa race, which



Luna Rossa Prada Pirelli (L) competes against INEOS Team UK in Auckland on Jan 23. Photo: AFP

was delayed 80 minutes – first by a wind change forcing a reset of the course, and then a hydraulic fault requiring makeshift repairs on INEOS.

"We were on the back foot. We were missing one of the key settings for the power of the boat so the guys did an awesome job getting us around the track in one piece and getting the win,"

Ainslie said, describing the final cross as being "about as close as you want to get".

With the finish line in sight and Italian entry Luna Rossa holding the right of way, Ainslie managed to keep INEOS in front.

Luna Rossa protested but the race officials ruled Ainslie had maintained the legal distance between the two yachts. AFP

## Double title delight for Thai pair

### BADMINTON

MIXED DOUBLES STARS Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai claimed their second BWF World Tour Super 1000 titles in a fortnight with a straight-game win last Sunday (Jan 24).

The top-seeded Thais defeated fourth-seeded Seo Seung-Jae and Chae Yu-Jung of South Korea 21-16, 22-20 to win the US\$1 million (B30mn) Toyota Thailand Open at Impact Arena, Muang Thong Thani.

World No.3 pair Dechapol and Sapsiree, who claimed their maiden Super 1000 crown at the Yonex Thailand Open the previous week, took home the \$74,000 (approximately B2 million) winners's cheque.

"We're very happy to win our second tournament in two weeks," said Sapsiree in a post-match interview. "It was our goal from the start to do our best and try to win on our home court."

Dechapol and Sapsiree will hope to make it three in a row as they participate in the Asian leg finale – the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals – which started on Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, Spain's



Dechapol Puavaranukroh (left) and Sapsiree Taerattanachai pose with their gold medals and trophies. Photo: Bangkok Post

Carolina Marin and Viktor Axelsen from Denmark also ended the second week of the Asian leg with back-to-back titles.

Axelsen was a commanding force against his compatriot Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus in the men's final.

Marin, the reigning Olympic champion, smashed top seed Tai Tzu-ying for the second time in two weeks.

"I feel extremely happy. Two victories in two weeks, it's an amazing way to start the year," said Marin.

Fourth seed Axelsen 27, ran rings around 35-year-old

Vittinghus throughout the 40-minute match, triumphing in the first set 21-11 and 21-7 in the second game.

The women's doubles was an all Korean affair with sixth-ranked Kim So-Yeong and Kong Hee-Yong too strong against fourth-ranked Lee So-Hee and Shin Seung-Chan 21-18, 21-19.

In the men's doubles, seventh-ranked Lee Yang and Wang Chi-Lin of Taiwan also made it back-to-back titles in 36 minutes against Malaysia's ninth-ranked Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik 21-13, 21-18.

Bangkok Post



# Big guns advance in FA Cup

## No shocks as United, City, Chelsea, Spurs progress

### FOOTBALL

Ben Tirebuck

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Unlike the previous round of this famous cup competition there were no shock results last weekend as many of the heavyweight Premier League clubs managed to navigate themselves safely through to the next round.

The highlight tie was a pulsating clash between Liverpool and Manchester United on Sunday (Jan 24) which saw the Red Devils emerge 3-2 victors thanks to a superb free-kick from talisman Bruno Fernandes.

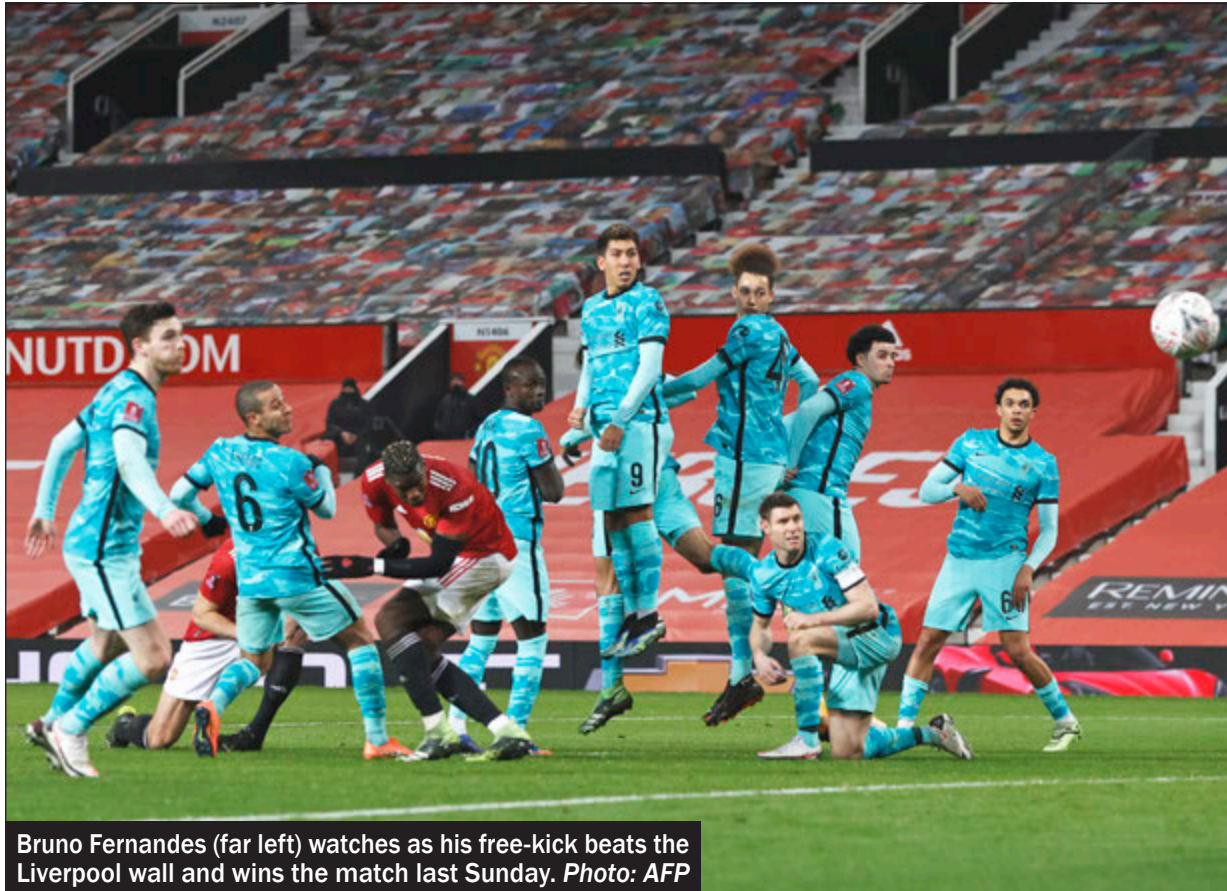
In an end-to-end contest Mohamed Salah scored twice for Liverpool either side of strikes from Mason Greenwood and Marcus Rashford.

Fernandes then came off the bench to smash his free-kick home 12 minutes from time, prompting wild celebrations for the home side and leaving Liverpool searching for answers after another painful defeat.

United will face West Ham in the next round after they saw off lower league opponents Doncaster Rovers 4-0 on Saturday.

### CITY WOBBLE

Tammy Abraham fired a hat-



Bruno Fernandes (far left) watches as his free-kick beats the Liverpool wall and wins the match last Sunday. Photo: AFP

trick as Chelsea saw off League One Luton Town 3-1 at a snowy Stamford Bridge to progress to the next round where they will face Barnsley.

However, the result was not enough to save under-fire manager

Frank Lampard who was dismissed 24 hours later following a series of questionable results in the Premier League (see below).

Spurs overcame League One Wycombe Wanderers 4-1, holders Arsenal were dumped out by

Southampton and there were wins for Everton, Leicester City, Burnley, Brighton and Wolves who made hard work of seeing off non-league Chorley courtesy of a 12<sup>th</sup> minute strike from Vitinha.

It was bittersweet for the non-

league side as, despite the result ending their fairytale run, they pocketed around £120,000 (almost B5 million) in prize money, plus TV fees, to sustain them through what could be a difficult period after their league was suspended for two weeks amid funding concerns.

The closest to a shock result involved Manchester City, somewhat ironically given their imperious form in the league of late.

League Two Cheltenham Town took the lead on the hour mark and one of the biggest shocks in recent history looked to be on the cards.

Indeed, City left it late, scoring all three of their goals in the last 10 minutes as a combination of nerves and fatigue took their toll on the home side.

"I'm incredibly proud," said Cheltenham manager Michael Duff of his side's display. "The players they brought on from the bench and the way they celebrated the goals tells you something. They know they've been in a game. They've done that to better teams than us."

Pep Guardiola's side travel to Championship highfliers Swansea City in the next round.

All FA Cup fifth-round ties are scheduled for the weekend of Feb 10.

## Lampard 'disappointed' with Chelsea exit

### FOOTBALL

FRANK LAMPARD expressed his disappointment at not being given time to succeed after being sacked by Chelsea on Monday (Jan 25), with former Paris Saint-Germain boss Thomas Tuchel set to take over at Stamford Bridge.

Lampard led Chelsea to a fourth-placed Premier League finish and the FA Cup final in his first season in charge.

However, he failed to match much greater expectations this season after the club spent a reported £220 million (B9 billion) on new players in the summer transfer window.

A run of five defeats in their last eight Premier League matches has seen Chelsea slip to ninth, 11 points behind leaders Manchester United.

"It has been a huge privilege and an honour to manage Chelsea, a club that has been a big part of my life for so long," Lampard said in a statement posted on his Instagram account.



Lampard was sacked as Chelsea boss on Monday. Photo: AFP

"I am disappointed not to have had the time this season to take the club forward and bring it to the next level."

The club said it had been a "very difficult decision" to part ways with their all-time record goalscorer, who won three league titles and the Champions League during his 13-year career as a player at Stamford Bridge.

"Recent results and performances have not met the club's expectations, leaving the club mid-table without any clear path to sustained improvement," Chelsea said.

In a rare public statement, the club's Russian owner Roman Abramovich

said: "This was a very difficult decision for the club, not least because I have an excellent personal relationship with Frank and I have the utmost respect for him."

"He is a man of great integrity and has the highest of work ethics. However, under current circumstances we believe it is best to change managers."

Lampard's Premier League points-per-game average of 1.67 is the lowest for any Chelsea manager since Abramovich arrived at Stamford Bridge in 2003.

At time of press, Tuchel was expected to be named as Lampard's successor by the end of the week. AFP



THAILAND'S  
PVC WINDOW  
SPECIALISTS  
SINCE 2004



Contact us for the lowest  
prices in Phuket



PROJECT SUPPLIES DIRECT

Head Office at Tesco Lotus Thalang Phuket

English +66 87 061 7631 or Thai +66 81 539 2031

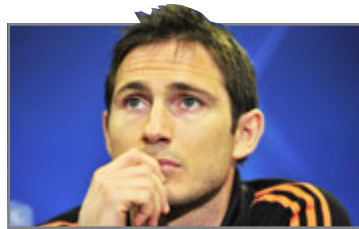
pvcphuket.com nathan@pvcphuket.com

NathanUpvcBrown



editor3@classactmedia.co.th

# Sport



Frank walks the Chelsea plank > p15



Fabricio Andrade training at Tiger Muay Thai and MMA Training Camp in Phuket ahead of his ONE Championship contest. Photo: Hip Panakom Santayanon

## ONE WAY FOR WONDERBOY

### MMA

JP Mestanza  
tv@classactmedia.co.th

The sport of MMA is about making the most of your opportunities, whenever they present themselves. Fabricio Andrade will be looking to run up the championship ladder, after being gifted a chance to fight one of the most experienced fighters in Asian MMA.

The Brazilian known as 'Wonderboy' fights out of Tiger Muay Thai and MMA Training Camp in Chalong and is unranked in ONE

Championship, Asia's premier mixed martial arts promotion. He made his debut for the promotion only last July with an impressive first round submission win over Filipino Mark Abelardo.

For his second fight in the promotion, and with the worldwide pandemic still raging, Andrade thought he would be offered another comparable opponent. After all, he's unranked in the promotion's crowded Bantamweight division (61kg) and isn't a household name at the moment.

But when he was tapped to fight Shoko Sato, the number

two ranked Bantamweight in the division with over 50 fights, Andrade was positively taken aback.

"I was surprised they offered me the fight, but I was more surprised that he accepted," said the 23-year-old Phuket resident. "He's number two, and I'm unranked so it was not a good fight for him. I already knew he's going to be tough. But I'm ready."

The contest, part of ONE Championship: Unbreakable 3 at the Singapore Indoor Stadium, actually took place and was recorded last Friday (Jan 23). However, the results are unknown and the athletes

have been sworn to secrecy until the fights air live next Friday (Feb 5).

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the promotion to hold multiple fight cards in one night which will then be broadcast on YouTube and television on scheduled Friday timeslots.

"[Sato is] very experienced," Andrade said, "I don't think he wants to strike with me. I'd have to defend the take down and make him pay every time he tried or took me down."

The promotion guaranteed a title shot to Sato if he won, while Andrade was not given

the same guarantee. Still, he's ecstatic to be handed an opportunity to showcase his skills against one of the best in the division, and a win over the number two ranked fighter in the division will significantly increase his chances of a title shot in the near future.

At the moment, he's looking to turn heads in ONE Championship and has his sights set on some of the promotion's top names.

"If I win this fight, I would try to fight John Lineker next," he said, referring to the fellow Brazilian and UFC veteran.

While the pandemic has affected travel and tourism, especially here in Phuket, it has allowed Andrade to focus on improving his wrestling, and become a more well-rounded fighter.

"For us, I think we haven't been affected so badly like Japan or those countries, because we're not really in lockdown during fight camp. So I was able to train every day. We don't have many people at Tiger at the moment, so every coach was free to help me. I had more specific training with coach Frank Hickman. I think I had a great camp for this fight."

## Touch rugby returns to Phuket

### TOUCH RUGBY

THE FIRST ONE DAY TOUCH Rugby Tournament of the year kicks off at the Alan Cooke Cricket Ground (ACG) on Feb 20.

The day will begin at 2pm for our younger players with a children's social game and training session run by volunteers from the Phuket community. The main competition will commence at 3pm with defending

champions BISP Must Tag Sally returning to defend their title in the main draw.

At just B100 per player, all funds raised during the day, including the Pavilions Phuket sponsored raffle prizes, will benefit the ACG and their much needed new lawn mower!

Team entries are being confirmed now. However, those that are not yet part of a team are welcome to come down on the day and a team will be allocated for you. Social, but

competitive, the tournament brings teams together from around our beautiful island of Phuket.

The Topsy Cow bar and restaurant will be open all day to quench the thirst and feed the palate of all players and support crew.

The Phuket News is a proud sponsor of Touch Rugby in Phuket. If you would like to register a team or individual player please email Donna Toon, lunch@classactmedia.co.th

The Phuket News



Photo: Donna Toon