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SWINDLERS

TENANTS WARNED OF BAD LANDLORDS AS PHUKET RENTAL MARKET GROWS

เช่า
RENT

Photo: Natnaree Likidwatanasakun

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Phuket officials, private sector operators and the Phuket Real Estate Association (PREA) have urged tenants to protect themselves against unscrupulous landlords, warning that the island's booming rental market is opening the door to more disputes and scams.

Patong Municipality has posted warnings as a precautionary measure, reflecting concerns about rental disputes nationwide and the potential for disagreements over

deposits and contracts to affect Phuket's reputation as a safe destination for tourists and long-term residents.

Patong Mayor Lalita Maneesri told *The Phuket News* that while no formal tenant complaints have been filed this year, past incidents have highlighted the need for vigilance.

"The warning is a reminder that anyone who has an experience can report the landlord to Patong Municipality or Patong Police Station, and it is also a general caution to be careful," she said.

Patong, Phuket's busiest tourism hub, attracts both short-

stay visitors and long-term residents, Mayor Lalita explained. With demand for rental properties rising sharply in recent years, the warning is meant to encourage tenants to stay informed and verify landlords, not to suggest that bad landlords are currently widespread in Patong, she added.

The warning from Patong Municipality highlighted that consumer protection laws now clearly define what landlords can and cannot demand.

Under the 2025 Contract Committee announcement published in the Royal Gazette:

Security deposits cannot exceed one month's rent, landlords cannot demand more than three months' rent in advance, utilities must be charged at government rates, not inflated prices. Also, contracts must clearly state rent, payment schedules, fees and penalties.

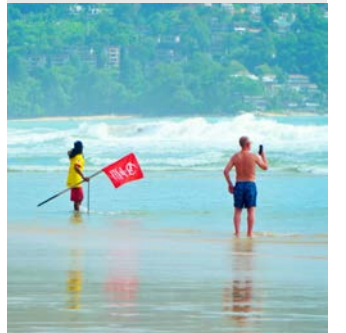
FALLOUT

The warning by Patong Municipality follows the high-profile incident in May, where a Ukrainian woman was held accountable for extensive damage to a condo near Phuket Town, where she spraypainted the word 'Swindler' in large letters on...

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Surf drownings continue to claim lives



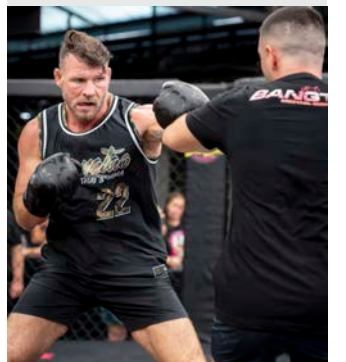
LIFE PAGE 8

Coffee versus tea: a caffeine showdown



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MMA legend Bisping shares career insight



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News



**Governor
set to
retire > p5**

Downpours flood Phuket Town

OFFICIALS WERE on high alert after heavy rainfall and rising sea levels caused water levels in Bang Yai Canal to surge, sparking flooding in areas throughout Phuket Town last Friday morning (Aug 22).



Several areas of Phuket Town, including the Old Town district and the area around the main post office, experienced flooding following hours of rain.

Phuket City Mayor Suphot La-ongphet inspected the Bang Yai Canal near Phuket Vocational College at 9:30am and ordered the Office of Public Works and Town Planning to speed up the removal of rock piles obstructing drainage in the canal. He also encouraged officials stationed at water pumps and flood-control facilities to remain vigilant.

"The water level rose sharply this morning, and with more rain expected and the sea level rising, we must be prepared for possible flooding," Mayor Suphot said while visiting municipal teams. "Residents living along the Bang Yai Canal are advised to move belongings to higher ground and closely monitor updates from authorities."

The Thai Meteorological Department had forecast scattered thunderstorms across Phuket last Friday, with some areas facing heavy downpours. Winds from the southwest reached 15-30 km/h, and offshore waves rose to one to two metres, rising higher in storm-affected areas.

Small boats were advised to stay ashore, while mariners operating larger vessels were urged to proceed with caution.

As of last Friday, Phuket Town had already recorded more than 150 millimetres of rain so far this month, contributing to a total of 1,511.4mm this year.

Residents in Phuket Town affected by flooding or other emergencies can contact the Phuket City Municipality Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Division on 199, 076-211111, or hotline 1132. *Eakkapop Thongtub*

Bad landlord warning

Continued from page 1

...the wall behind the bed. The Ukrainian woman also failed to vacate the property after the lease expired.

The woman, Anastasia Fidanian, 20, was first arrested at Phuket Airport while trying to leave the country, and again at a condo in Phuket Town on a court-ordered arrest warrant for causing B350,000 in damage to the 'Swindler' condo.

Ms Fidanian told officers that she caused damage to the condo because she was upset that her deposit of B32,000 had not been returned.

NEW TOURISTS

Thaneth Tantipiriyakij, President of the Phuket Tourist Association, expressed concerns over Phuket now attracting both short-stay tourists arriving under Thailand's free visa scheme and long-stay visitors, including families with children enrolled in Phuket's international schools.

"There are free visa tourists who stay in Thailand for more than 30 days. These tourists may rent hotels on a daily, monthly or weekly basis," Mr Thaneth said.

"With 10,000 tourists arriving daily, there will likely be an increasing number of people seeking weekly and monthly stays. Ultimately, they may opt not to stay in hotels, but instead opt for rental houses, villas or condos.

"In cases where people rent out properties without being legally registered in the



rental system, without reporting to immigration or reporting their stay, the problem arises primarily with hotels, accommodations or villas outside the system," he explained.

Mr Thaneth stressed that Phuket's international schools also attract long-stay families who rent properties for months or years. He called for more cooperation from landlords and hotel businesses to comply with immigration reporting rules and to ensure safety standards are upheld.

BOOM RISKS

Maetapong Upatising, President of the Phuket Real Estate Association, warned that the island's booming rental market is fueling new risks.

"Over the past year, real estate has grown significantly. With more foreigners renting, rental contract fraud incidents will also increase," he said.

He pointed to the wave of new supply – 16,000 condominiums due to enter the Phuket market this year and next – as both an opportunity and a challenge. More options benefit tenants, but also

increase opportunities for dishonest landlords and agents.

To counter this, the association is offering tenants consultations before signing contracts, background checks on landlords, and reviews of suspicious agreements.

"We will listen to the concerns of those who encounter bad landlords," Mr Maetapong said. "But tenants must also protect themselves. Choose a reputable landlord, check contracts carefully and ask for advice."

He likened the process to that of booking a hotel. "Tourists don't just walk in. They check the hotel's name, reviews, service, tax records and reputation. Renting should be the same. Most rental businesses already have service records – you just need to look for them," he said.

Tenants who feel uncertain about an agreement can submit contracts to the association for review. "If you find something fishy about the contract, or are hesitant to sign it, contact us for consultation," he advised.

Tenants seeking advice or

wishing to report issues can contact the Phuket Real Estate Association (PREA) at 086-4714874 or by email at prea.news@gmail.com

THE LONG ROAD

Mr Maetapong also highlighted the limits of legal assistance. "Regarding legal proceedings, we will assist as much as we can. But the tenant must verify that they are legally residing, not overstaying, and not violating any laws," he said.

"In cases where the tenant is legally residing but is being taken advantage of by the landlord, we can file a lawsuit. Bring the contract documents to the association for consultation. But if the tenant is in breach of the law, they may not dare report or sue, and we cannot intervene."

He stressed that rental scams are not unique to Phuket. "Tourists already have a negative view of rental scams everywhere. It's important to acknowledge that scams happen in every business," he said.

Yet, he argued that Phuket's real estate sector is fundamentally safe because properties are tangible and verifiable. "With real estate, you can see the product, it's real, and you can verify its authenticity. The Land Department can check whether a person is the actual owner of the property or has a long-term lease agreement. This ensures proper registration and peace of mind," he explained.

Officials step up efforts to counter AIDS

PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES have stepped up efforts to eradicate HIV/AIDS with the launch of a workshop to design a system for tracking progress towards ending new infections by 2030.

The two-day meeting, held at the Bhukitta Hotel in Phuket Town on Aug 19-20, was chaired by Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Thiraphong Chuay-

chu. He outlined the provincial policy to make Phuket a 'Province of Ending AIDS', with all agencies working together under a coordinated plan.

The workshop, organised by the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO), brought together 50 participants, including members of the Phuket Provincial AIDS Subcommittee and representatives from key health and community sectors.

PPHO Deputy Chief Dr Mueanprae Bunlom said the HIV epidemic remains a major challenge for Phuket, affecting not only public health but also the local economy and society.

According to Ministry of Public Health estimates, Phuket is expected to record 6,343 HIV infections in 2025 – about 1.1% of the national total and 18.3% of all cases in Health Region 11.

"The prevalence of HIV remains high among key

populations, including sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender people, and injecting drug users. We are also seeing a concerning upward trend among youth," Dr Mueanprae said.

In response, Phuket has adopted a 2023-2030 strategic plan aiming to reduce new HIV infections to no more than 11 per year, limit annual AIDS-related deaths to 15, and cut HIV- and gender-related discrimination by at least 10%.

The plan will be implemented through the RRTTPR framework – Reach, Recruit, Test, Treat, Prevention and Retain – requiring close cooperation across government, health services, and community organisations, Dr Mueanprae explained.

Over the course of the workshop, participants will take part in lectures, presentations of best practices, group discussions and brainstorming sessions



to set out an integrated strategy with provincial network partners.

"The goal is ambitious, but with the right coordination and commitment, Phuket can become a model province in ending AIDS by 2030," Dr Mueanprae said.

The Phuket News

Drownings claim more lives

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A series of drowning incidents across Phuket and nearby Krabi has left at least five people dead in less than a week, sparking renewed calls for caution among swimmers and greater enforcement of water safety measures.

The most recent case involved an 8-year-old Chinese boy who drowned while on a day trip to Phi Phi Island in Krabi last Saturday afternoon (Aug 23). Police named the victim as Xiao Zirui, who had travelled with his father on a tour organised by TSK Marine.

After lunch at a bungalow on Ton Sai Bay, the pair went to nearby Arida Beach at about 1:55pm. According to police, the boy entered the sea with only a snorkel mask and breathing tube, despite being unable to swim and not wearing a life jacket.

Minutes later, his father noticed he was no longer visible and began frantically searching the water. At about 2:05pm he found his son unconscious. The boy was rushed to Koh Phi Phi Hospital where doctors attempted resuscitation, but he was pronounced dead at 3:18pm. His body was later transferred to



Photo: Patong Surf Life Saving

Vachira Phuket Hospital for forensic examination. Police said they are liaising with the Chinese Embassy to assist the family.

The tragedy followed the discovery of an American tourist's body washed ashore on Patong Beach a day earlier (Aug 22). Patong Police confirmed that the body of 28-year-old Shogo Sean Saisu, from California, was found near the Coran Beach Bridge at the southern end of Patong at about 1:30pm.

Police Chief Col Chalermchai Hirasawat led the investigation team at the scene, accompanied by Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers. A friend of the deceased confirmed his identity. The body was taken to Patong Hospital for forensic examination to confirm the cause of death.

Police declined to comment on whether he had drowned, but confirmed they were working with the US Embassy.

In another case, the body of missing Russian tourist Denis Konenkov, 35, was recovered at Nai Thon Beach on Aug 21, hours after he was swept out to sea during a late-night swim.

Mr Konenkov had entered the water shortly after midnight with his girlfriend, Kamila Sharipova, 24, near a resort between Banana Beach and Nai Thon Beach. Ms Sharipova told police that strong waves pulled him away from shore at about 12:30am. Despite trying to reach him, she was unable to help.

Rescue teams were alerted soon after but could not conduct a search until daylight due to strong

surf and darkness. Divers and Kusoldharm Foundation rescue teams deployed dinghies at first light and scoured the area for hours before his body was found washed ashore just after 3pm.

The same day, police recovered the body of a Phuket man off Rawai Beach. Villagers spotted the body floating near a moored boat at about 1:20am and called Chalong Police. Officers and Tourist Assistance Unit personnel retrieved the body, later identified as 47-year-old Payung Bangjak.

His sister told police he suffered from a chronic condition that caused convulsions and had last been seen at around 6pm the previous evening. No signs of violence were found, and police estimate he had been dead for at

least six hours before being discovered. His body was sent to Vachira Phuket Hospital for confirmation of cause of death.

Just one day earlier, on Aug 20, a Swedish tourist collapsed and died after swimming at Kata Beach. Witnesses said Mats Roger Fransson, 68, had returned from the sea just after midday when he suddenly collapsed face down on the sand.

On-duty lifeguard Ledet Sandod, 48, and a beachgoer rushed to help and called for an ambulance, but Mr Fransson was pronounced dead before arrival at Chalong Hospital. Police confirmed there were no signs of assault. He had been staying at a nearby resort with friends since Aug 15 and was scheduled to leave on Aug 24. A post-mortem examination was ordered to determine the cause of death.

The string of deaths in the space of just four days underscored the risks faced by both tourists and locals during the monsoon season, when waves and currents are stronger around Phuket and surrounding islands.

Authorities continue to warn visitors to obey red flag beach closures, swim only in designated safe zones and wear life jackets when joining marine tours.

17,000 foreigners fined for driving without a licence

MORE THAN 17,000 FOREIGNERS have been fined for driving without a licence in Phuket so far this year, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum has confirmed.

The figure was revealed at a meeting of provincial government and agency chiefs held at Phuket Provincial Hall on Monday (Aug 25), chaired by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat.

Reporting on traffic enforcement from Aug 1–22, Maj Gen Sinlert said the most common offence among people driving their own vehicles was driving without a licence, with 1,423 cases recorded. This was followed by not wearing a helmet, with 172 cases, making a total of 1,769 cases during the three-week period.

More broadly, police enforcement this year has seen 2,261 Thai nationals and 17,705 foreigners caught driving without a licence. Those arrested have faced fines and, in some cases, their vehicles have been seized.

"This is a measure we have been enforcing since last year to determine whether foreigners driving in Phuket have licences," Maj Gen Sinlert told *The Phuket News*.

"We also check and fine drivers, and take legal action against those who rent vehicles and allow unlicensed drivers to drive," he added.

Maj Gen Sinlert said last year more



Photo: The Phuket News / file

than 20,000 foreigners were caught driving without a licence in Phuket. "The top group this year are Russians," he noted.

Despite the high numbers, he said there had been an improvement in safety behaviour among foreigners. "So far, I believe foreigners have improved their behaviour in terms of wearing helmets while driving. I believe there have been results in arrests and improved behaviour."

Looking to reduce accidents further, Maj Gen Sinlert reported that safety upgrades are being carried out at accident-prone areas. One key project is the installation of a new traffic light system at the busy Baan Noen intersection in front of Phuket International Airport.

"This is expected to be completed and operational early next month," he said.

Natnaree Likidwatanasakun



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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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SAT AUGUST 30

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Wind 11 m/s

SUN AUGUST 31

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Low: +28°

Wind 11 m/s

MON SEPTEMBER 1

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Wind 4 m/s

TUE SEPTEMBER 2

High: +35°
Low: +28°

Wind 4 m/s

WED SEPTEMBER 3

High: +37°
Low: +28°

Wind 4 m/s

THU SEPTEMBER 4

High: +36°
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

Myanmar woman hangs self in immigration cell

A 29-YEAR-OLD MYANMAR woman has died after taking her own life while being held in the immigration detention room at the Phuket Immigration Office in Phuket Town early last Friday morning (Aug 22).

Police confirmed that the woman, named as Ms Htiike Darlee, was found dead in her cell at about 5:03am.

Pol Lt Col Weerayut Thansirisukvorakul, Investigator at Phuket City Police, said he was notified of the death shortly before 8am. A forensic doctor, the district chief and a Phuket Provincial Prosecutor were called to witness the scene and the post-mortem examination.

CCTV footage from inside the cell showed Ms Darlee tying her trousers to the bars and hanging herself, police said.

A CCTV image revealed to *The Phuket News* showed Ms Htiike Darlee hanged from the detention cell bars.

According to the report by Phuket City

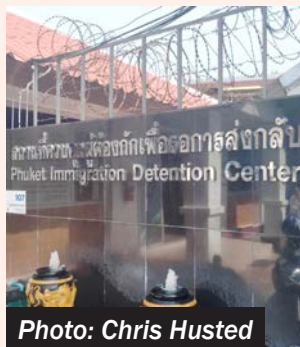


Photo: Chris Husted

Police, Ms Darlee had been released from Phuket Provincial Prison on Aug 15. She was collected by Thalang Police officers and later transferred to Patong Police Station, which was handling her case.

At 2:30pm on Aug 21, she was moved to Phuket Immigration to be held in detention pending deportation, under Immigration Bureau order No. 8.

Two other female detainees were in the cell at the time, police noted.

The report made no mention of the two cellmates attempting to prevent Ms Htiike Darlee from hanging herself.

Her death is being treated as suicide.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Bolt driver arrested for raping teacher

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Police in Phuket have arrested a 19-year-old Bolt driver accused of raping a 28-year-old South African teacher while taking her home in the early hours of Sunday morning (Aug 24).

The victim, who works at a private school on the island, told police she had been attacked on Soi Somboonsap in Srisoonthorn between 1:30am and 2am after a night out with a friend in Cherng Talay.

She reported that she and a colleague had dinner and drinks at a restaurant in Bang Tao last Saturday evening (Aug 23), later moving to another venue nearby.

At about 1am, she booked a Bolt car, described as a white sedan, to return to her home in Pa Khlok.

After first dropping her friend off in Baan Manik, Srisoonthorn, the driver allegedly pulled over on Soi Somboonsap, forced her from the car and raped her in roadside bushes before fleeing.



Photo: Thalang Police

A passing motorist witnessed the assault and alerted police, prompting the suspect to drive away. Officers from Thalang Police Station responded and found the victim at the scene. She initially declined to provide details, asking only to be taken safely home.

Later that morning, the woman filed a formal complaint at Cherng Talay Police Station, which referred the case to Thalang Police as the assault

occurred in their jurisdiction. She was referred to Thalang Hospital for a medical examination while investigators collected evidence and sought an arrest warrant.

Police on Monday (Aug 24) confirmed the suspect had been apprehended and handed over to investigating officers for further legal proceedings.

Initially, the suspect denied the charges, claiming the female passenger had no money to pay the fare.

Israeli dies after Patong fall

AN ISRAELI TOURIST DIED after falling from a hotel in Patong the evening of Aug 18, police have confirmed.

Patong Police received a call at 6:36pm reporting that a man had fallen from a height at a hotel on Phra Mettha Rd.

Deputy Investigation Chief Pol Lt Col Somprasong Labaisat, together with rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Phuket Foundation, arrived at the scene to find the man lying unconscious on the ground behind the hotel.

Police said the tourist had suffered multiple broken limbs but still had a pulse when found. Foundation workers administered first aid before rushing him to Patong Hospital.

Despite doctors' efforts, the man later succumbed to his injuries. Patong Police last Saturday (Aug 23) identified the



Photo: Patong Police

man as Israeli national Idan Pistiner, 20, from Jerusalem.

The confirmation came in an appeal by Patong Police to locate Mr Pistiner's passport.

At last report, Patong Police said investigations were underway to determine the circumstances of the fall. Officers have yet to confirm whether foul play was involved or if the incident was accidental.

The Israeli Embassy has been notified and is assisting with arrangements to repatriate Mr Pistiner's body, Patong Police confirmed in their report.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Thai guard bitten by king cobra

A THAI SECURITY GUARD in Kamala was bitten in the hand by a king cobra last week (Aug 20) after managing to catch and bag the venomous snake.

The guard, already exhibiting a swollen hand from the bite, was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town for treatment.

Rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Phuket Foundation in Patong were called to collect the snake, along with well-known local snake handler Vincent "Vinnie" Modell, known online as 'Snake Guy in Phuket'.

The cobra, placed inside a black trash bag and a plastic container, was returned to Patong where its welfare was checked.

Mr Modell explained that the snake, estimated to be 3.5 to 4 metres long and weighing 4.9kg, was extremely defensive when removed from the bag.

"King cobras normally don't instantly open their mouths to bite,



Photo: Vincent Modell / Snake Guy in Phuket

they usually give fake strikes first. This one was highly agitated. In the three to five minutes it was being checked and bagged it attempted more than seven bites on me," he said.

Mr Modell added that he expected the guard to recover from the bite. "I would expect a full recovery," he said.

He also stressed that handling snakes is dangerous and should be left to professionals.

"Please be careful when trying to catch snakes. It can go very quickly wrong," he warned.

The Phuket News

f thephuketnews

Phuket Governor set to retire

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Current Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat will retire from government service on Sept 30, closing out a two-year tenure as the island's highest-ranking official.

Saransak Srikruaneth, currently Inspector General of the Ministry of Interior, has been appointed as the new Governor of Phuket, effective Oct 1. The Cabinet approved his transfer on Aug 19 as part of a reshuffle involving 25 senior officials.

Mr Saransak oversees Inspection Area 4 (Prachuap Khiri Khan, Phetchaburi, Samut Songkhram, Samut Sakhon) and Inspection Area 12 (Kalasin, Khon Kaen, Maha Sarakham, Roi Et). His move to Phuket marks a key appointment for the island as it faces growing challenges in infrastructure, waste management, and water supply.

Reflecting on his term, Gov Sophon highlighted progress and frustrations. "We've only been able to solve four wastewater problems so far because of budget constraints. The Governor's office has just B170 million a year to tackle several major issues," he said.

He pointed to the push for Phuket to gain special local



Photo: PR Phuket / file

government status, which would allow greater autonomy and resources. "The private sector has submitted the draft proposal. I hope it will reach Parliament quickly and gain the required 12,000 signatures. My concern is that if it lapses before being placed on the agenda, it will need

to be resubmitted, delaying Phuket's development again."

Gov Sophon acknowledged that many large-scale projects cannot be managed by the private sector. "Railways, roads and the expressway tunnels are examples. Credit must go to Prime Minister Srettha for granting the tunnel

project. Land expropriation is complete, and the project is expected to open in 2030," he said.

Waste management was another focus. A second incinerator with a capacity of 1,200 tonnes per day is due to open next year. "Looking ahead, the PPAO has been asked to plan for a third incinerator outside the city. We are seeking a 60-70 rai site and considering new technology from Saraburi to reduce pollution," he said.

Water supply remains a pressing concern. "Next year, Phuket may face shortages as real estate development is expected to add 16,000 new housing units. Even this year we struggled, relying on pumping water from disused mines," he warned.

Gov Sophon has pushed for a long-term solution by drawing water from Cheow Lan Dam in Surat Thani, through Krabi and Phang Nga, to Phuket. "This will secure water for decades to come, and I've already discussed it with Acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai," he noted.

The governor said political differences between Phuket and Bangkok had hampered progress. "The lack of government MPs from the coalition in Phuket makes approvals more difficult. Still, our three MPs have worked hard, particularly in supporting

the self-governance petition," he said.

He called on Phuket residents and the media to remain engaged. "Everyone – not just the media – can act as a voice for the public, monitor progress, and help push projects forward," he urged.

Gov Sophon admitted mixed feelings as he leaves office. "I can't say I'm satisfied. Many projects remain unfinished. One success is the new road behind Wat Tha Ruea, which will soon open. But there are many things left incomplete, and I feel like time ran out – like the final whistle blew before the goal went in," he said.

He also stressed he will continue to support Phuket even after retirement. "I want to thank everyone who supported me, offered advice, and worked alongside me," he said.

"After retiring, I'll live in Loei Province with my wife's family, but I'll return to Phuket often. The Phuket Chamber of Commerce has asked me to be an honorary adviser, and the new governor has asked for my guidance and training.

"I'll remain available to receive complaints and help connect people with officials. After so many years here, I have many contacts and will continue to do what I can for Phuket."

Residents forced to relocate

COMMUNITIES IN RATSADA, PA Khlok and Chalong have been ordered to relocate within 30 days as Phuket authorities step up enforcement of national land-use policy.

The orders were confirmed at a meeting of the Phuket Provincial Land Policy Subcommittee for 2025, chaired by Vice Governor Samawit Suphanphai and attended by senior officials including Surasak Anusorn, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Natural Resources and Environment Office (MNRE Phuket).

The subcommittee reviewed Cabinet resolutions on forest-dwelling communities and projects supporting careers in mangrove areas. Officials noted that the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources had already granted permission for forest use to two Thalang communities – Ao To Khun and Laem Sai Nai Phru.

In Ratsada, Myanmar workers living in front of the Fishing Port on Koh Siray were ordered to vacate. Ratsada Mayor Jirayut Songyot told *The Phuket News* that all those affected were migrant workers. "I still have no idea where they are going to relocate," he said.

In Baan Khok Tanod, Chalong, unauthorised housing was also identified, with mostly Thai residents told to leave within 30 days. Municipal officials have yet to confirm details of relocation.

By contrast, officials in Mai Khao reported progress, with land allocated to



Photo: PR Phuket

35 local residents covering more than 168 rai inside the Khao Mai Prok-Kaew Forest reserve.

Following the meeting, further talks were held on Aug 22 with Phuket MP Chalermpong Saengdee, Governor's Advisor Dr Somkid Chokong, ISOC Phuket, and Koh Siray representatives. Officials confirmed that 81 houses had originally been listed in the land project, but only 52 remain. Households violating conditions will be removed, and all Myanmar workers renting the houses must vacate.

The original 30-day deadline has since been extended to Sept 22. MP Chalermpong warned that any tenants or landlords found in breach after that date will face legal action.

Vice Governor Samawit said the aim was to "balance legal land use with sustainable management of reserved forests and coastal communities while safeguarding Phuket's environment."

Natnaree Likidwatanasakun

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Sarus Crane

Eco-Tourism

Beyond its historical monuments and spiritual sites, Uttar Pradesh is also a haven for eco-tourism enthusiasts. The Dudhwa National Park is home to a rich variety of wildlife, including the majestic Bengal tiger and the rare one-horned rhinoceros. Visitors can embark on thrilling jungle safaris or bird-watching tours in the state's lush landscapes. For a serene escape, the Chambal Safari offers tranquil boat rides where you can observe endangered Gharial crocodiles and river dolphins.

Buddhist Circuit

Uttar Pradesh is the sacred landscape of Buddhism, dotted with places where the Buddha walked, taught, and inspired. From Sarnath, where he first turned the Wheel of Dharma, to Kushinagar, where he attained Mahaparinirvana, every site carries timeless spiritual resonance. The journey continues through Shravasti, where Buddha spent over two decades and performed some of his greatest miracles, and Sankisa, believed to be the place of his descent from heaven. At Kaushambi, the ruins echo with stories of his teachings and the devotion of his followers. For Buddhist travellers, these sites are not only destinations but also places of reflection, devotion, and connection offering a chance to walk the same path the Buddha once walked.

Explore Sarnath, Shravasti and Kushinagar in 3 Days

► Day 1 – Sarnath

Begin at the **Dhamek Stupa** and **Chaukhandi Stupa**, then spend time at the **Bodhi Tree**. Visit the **Ashoka Pillar**, **Mulagandha Kuti Vihar**, and the **Sarnath Archaeological Museum**.

► Day 2 – Shravasti

Explore the **Jetavana Monastery**, **Pakki Kuti** and **Kachchi Kuti Stupas**, **Swarn Gandh Kuti Vihar**, and the **Orajhar Buddhist Site**. Visit **Thai**, **Korean**, and **Sri Lankan Monasteries**.

► Day 3 – Kushinagar

Pay homage at the **Mahaparinirvana Temple**, then visit the **Matha Kuar Shrine**, **Ramabhar Stupa**, **Buddha Sarowar**, and international monasteries.



UttarPradeshTourism | uptourismgov

BDO Phuket Enters a New Chapter

ADVERTORIAL

BDO, one of the world's leading professional services firms, is entering a new chapter in Phuket with a change in leadership at its local office. With a fresh vision and renewed focus to support businesses in the region navigate an increasingly complex economic and regulatory environment.

OUR FOCUS ON STRENGTHENING EXPERTISE IN A CHANGING MARKET

We recognise that Phuket's hospitality, tourism and property sectors are transforming rapidly, driven by shifting investor expectations, digitalisation, sustainability and intensifying competition. Changing consumer preferences, increasing digitalisation, greater focus on sustainability and intensifying competition are redefining how businesses operate and invest. While growth opportunities remain strong, businesses today also face heightened risks, ranging from financial uncertainty, compliance pressures to cybersecurity threats and reputational challenges.

Technology is playing a pivotal role in reshaping the hospitality and wellness sectors.

BDO

BDO Phuket

Practical PDPA Compliance Workshop

For Hospitality and Tourism

Stay compliant, protect your guests, and strengthen your brand trust

Event details:
26 September 2025
8.30 AM - 1.30 PM
Captain Room, NH Boat lagoon, Phuket

Speakers:
Ishan Shah, Partner, Tax & Legal, BDO in Thailand
Netinat Rattanapanya, Director, Advisory, BDO in Thailand
Sneha Chawla, Manager, Tax & Legal, BDO in Thailand

SCAN TO REGISTER

While digital booking platforms and advanced property management systems drive efficiency and customer engagement, they also introduce new risks.

For business leaders, cyberattacks, fraud, and operational disruptions have become everyday concerns. *Among these risks, data privacy has become especially critical.* Hospitality and tourism businesses, as well as property operators, handle vast amounts of sensitive customer information, making them prime targets for misuse and breaches.

Thailand's Personal Data Protection Committee (PDPC) has underscored this by fining organisations for failing to appoint

Data Protection Officers, notify breaches and implement adequate security measures. These developments highlight that data protection is not just a legal requirement, but a fundamental responsibility to safeguard customer trust.

HOW BDO SUPPORTS BUSINESSES

Against this backdrop, BDO Phuket stands as a trusted partner to help organisations strengthen their resilience and plan for growth. Our professionals support businesses through:

- Preventive measures and controls: policies, processes and compliance frameworks to reduce risk exposure.

- Post-incident support: forensic audits, dispute resolution and data governance strategies to address and recover from crises.

- Financial expertise: management reporting, financial planning, fundraising and business financing strategies that enable growth and investor confidence.

BDO blends global expertise with deep local understanding to provide practical solutions that help Phuket businesses navigate their unique challenges.

In the coming months, BDO will also share expert insights on *Cyber, Fraud, Regulatory Compliance, and Governance* – areas that are becoming increas-

ingly critical for Phuket's business landscape. These perspectives will help business leaders anticipate risks, strengthen resilience, and build sustainable growth strategies.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE PHUKET COMMUNITY

As part of its commitment to knowledge-sharing, BDO Phuket, in partnership with the *Phuket Hotel Association (PHA)*, will host two special events in September:

1. Driving Growth – Finance Function in Hospitality and Tourism – A session designed for owners, managers and finance professionals to explore key updates, opportunities and best practices in financial management and reporting.

2. Practical PDPA Compliance Training for Hospitality and Tourism – A focused training on Thailand's Personal Data Protection Act, tailored to hotels, resorts and tourism businesses, highlighting compliance obligations and practical steps to protect sensitive customer data.

If you are interested in joining these events or learning more about how BDO can help your business, please reach out to infophuket@bdo.th

Chinese film delegation scouts movie locations

SENIOR OFFICIALS from China's Hainan Province have visited Phuket to explore potential filming locations and strengthen cultural co-operation between the two destinations.

A delegation led by Chen Jiyang, Deputy Minister of Public Relations of Hainan Province and Secretary-General of the Hainan International Film Festival Organising Committee, toured key sites across the island on Aug 20.

The group included representatives from the Hainan Provincial Film Affairs Department and was hosted by Trithep Thaikuruphan, Chairman of CU Nited Extension Co Ltd.

The delegation inspected Baan Chinpracha and Phuket Old Town, and other tourism attractions, including a tour by boat charter company Phuket Marine Group.



Photo: PR Phuket

The visit aimed to study how Phuket manages filming locations, supports production crews and integrates tourism with the film industry, explained an official report of the delegation's visit.

"My visit to Thailand is to discuss and exchange cooperation in the film,

drama, series, documentary and animation industries between Thailand and Hainan Province," Mr Chen said. "We see Phuket as similar to Hainan, and this trip allows us to assess the diversity of locations and facilities for international productions."

The Phuket News

Senate tackles hotel licensing in Patong

THE SENATE COMMITTEE on Commerce and Industry visited Patong last Friday (Aug 22) to hear concerns from hotel and accommodation operators, while also pushing forward plans to develop the resort town into a Smart City for tourism.

Led by Vice Chairman Nipon Ekwanich, the committee was welcomed at Patong Municipality by Mayor Lalita Maneesri, local executives, hotel owners and small-scale accommodation operators.

Central to the discussions was the impact of the recent expiration of the Ministerial Regulation on Other Building Types for Hotel Businesses, which lapsed on Aug 18. Many smaller operators remain unable to obtain full licences, leaving them in legal limbo and creating barriers to doing business.

Mayor Lalita told the committee that Patong Municipality is committed to addressing these issues by promoting legal access for small businesses and supporting the long-term goal of developing Patong as a Smart City for tourism.



Photo: Patong Municipality

"The municipality is ensuring that all procedures comply with the law, so that small businesses and entrepreneurs can generate income, gain stability and secure the proper licences," she said. "We are committed to helping operators move forward legally and sustainably."

Mr Nipon said the committee had been informed that more than 5,000 accommodation businesses in Phuket were still unregistered, a problem requiring urgent attention.

"The problems are not only in the law but also in mindsets," he said. "We must integrate solutions between the public and private sectors. Each area faces different challenges,

and Phuket should not be singled out as a 'model' for these problems.

"Amending or revising the law is a long and complex process, but the priority is to secure stability and sustainability for Phuket's tourism industry."

He stressed that the cooperation of local entrepreneurs and the public is essential to strengthening the economy and maximising the province's tourism potential.

After the meeting, the committee visited both licensed and unlicensed hotels in Patong to hear directly from operators. Their feedback, Mr Nipon said, will be taken into account in shaping practical and comprehensive solutions. *The Phuket News*

Thai troops to retaliate if Cambodia encroaches

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Second Army commander Lt Gen Boonsin Padklang said on Monday (Aug 25) he had authorised immediate retaliation by Thai soldiers if Cambodian troops were spotted encroaching on Thai sovereign soil.

The announcement followed reports of Cambodian soldiers, believed to be from the Bodyguard Headquarters (BHQ) unit of Cambodian Senate President Hun Sen, spotted near the border monitoring Thai patrol activity.

On Saturday, the 2nd Army Region also alleged that Cambodian soldiers crossed illegally into Surin province to plant a PMN-2 anti-personnel landmine, violating both international agreements and the bilateral ceasefire.

"The Thai army will open fire if they see any encroachment on our territory," Lt Gen Boonsin said.



Lt Gen Boonsin Padklang, Commander of the 2nd Army Region, answers media questions in Bangkok on Monday (Aug 25). Photo: Bangkok Post

He added he had given guidance to his troops, saying they could respond immediately if they detected any encroachment, including laying of landmines, which Cambodia has allegedly been doing in violation of the ceasefire agreement.

Thailand has clear, visible evidence of Cambodia's violations, the commander explained, and landmines were still being found in the border area.

He further explained that Thai proposals to be made at the Regional Border Committee (RBC) meeting between the two countries in Phu Sing on Wednesday

were the same as those proposed by the 1st Army Region and the Navy Task Force in earlier talks – landmine clearance, joint action against cross-border call centre scams and establishment of border coordination groups.

He confirmed landmine clearance proposed to Cambodia must cover all areas along the border, not only locations clearly claimed by each side.

On the issue of the barbed wire concertina fencing strung along parts of the disputed border, Cambodia had proposed Thailand remove it – however, the

Thai army would not accept this proposal as the barbed wire was set along the established Thai border.

Asked if he expected any agreement to emerge from the meetings of the General Border Committee (GBC) and Joint Boundary Commission (JBC) next month, Lt Gen Boonsin said that depended on the Cambodian leadership.

Asked if Hun Sen's position as Cambodia's head of state would affect the situation, Lt Gen Boonsin said that depended on Hun Sen's policies.

Whatever happened, the army was always ready to cope with it. As for the Thai side, that also depended on the government, he added.

Lt Gen Boonsin said the issue of the phone conversation between suspended prime minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra and Hun Sen was more a political matter.

The court ruling in this case is due to be announced today (Aug 29) and Lt Gen Boonsin did not believe the outcome would affect next month's GBC meeting.

Immigration Bureau cancels 10,000 temporary stay permits

BANGKOK

THE IMMIGRATION Bureau (IB) has revoked temporary stay permits for nearly 10,000 foreign nationals whose visa status failed to comply with the regulations, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI) has said.

The move is part of ongoing efforts to prevent the misuse of student visas by foreign nationals seeking to work illegally in the kingdom.

Minister Sudawan Wangsuphakijkosol said last Friday (Aug 22) that she had assigned Supachai Pathumnakul, permanent secretary of the MHESI, to meet with Pol Col Yos-aeak Raksasuwat, acting commander of the IB's Administration Division to address the implementation of the ministry's guidelines concerning short-term (non-degree) programmes for international students.

These discussions are based on the official MHESI announcement outlining the criteria and operational procedures for offering non-degree courses to international students in



Photo: Bangkok Post

higher education institutions, as issued in 2025, she said.

Both agencies agreed to jointly develop and implement a centralised database system for international students enrolled in short-term (non-degree) programmes offered by institutes of higher education in Thailand.

All short-term (non-degree) programmes must submit reports on their educational operations to the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the MHESI. These will be used to forward the names of enrolled international students to the IB for consideration in issuing visas and granting temporary stay permits.

Institutes of higher education must establish internal procedures for monitoring the attendance of international students and submit monthly progress reports through the MHESI's centralised international student tracking system. Bangkok Post

Royal insult case against Thaksin dismissed

BANGKOK

THE CRIMINAL COURT dismissed a royal insult case against influential former premier Thaksin Shinawatra last Friday (Aug 22).

"The case was dismissed," Thaksin told reporters with a smile as he left the courthouse in Bangkok.

The court said the case, brought by the military and stemming from an interview Thaksin gave to a South Korean media outlet in 2015, lacked sufficient evidence to prove he had insulted the monarchy, an offence punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

The court ruled that the video clip submitted as evidence contained only excerpts of the interview, with limited wording, while it believed the full interview had more content.

Since the prosecution could not prove whether the clip had been edited or not, and because Thaksin's statements were not specifically directed at the then-reigning King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the court extended the benefit of the doubt to Thaksin.



Thaksin outside court. Photo: AFP

The court also observed that testimony given by some prosecution witnesses indicated that they had a political bias against the defendant.

In the interview, Thaksin made some critical remarks about what he saw as manoeuvring by certain forces that led to the downfall of the government led by his sister Yingluck in 2014.

"Evidence from the plaintiff showed the interview by the defendant did not defame, insult or threaten the king, therefore the defendant is not guilty," the court said.

Thaksin, who appeared at the court with a yellow necktie, the colour associated with the monarchy, had

denied wrongdoing and has repeatedly pledged allegiance to the king.

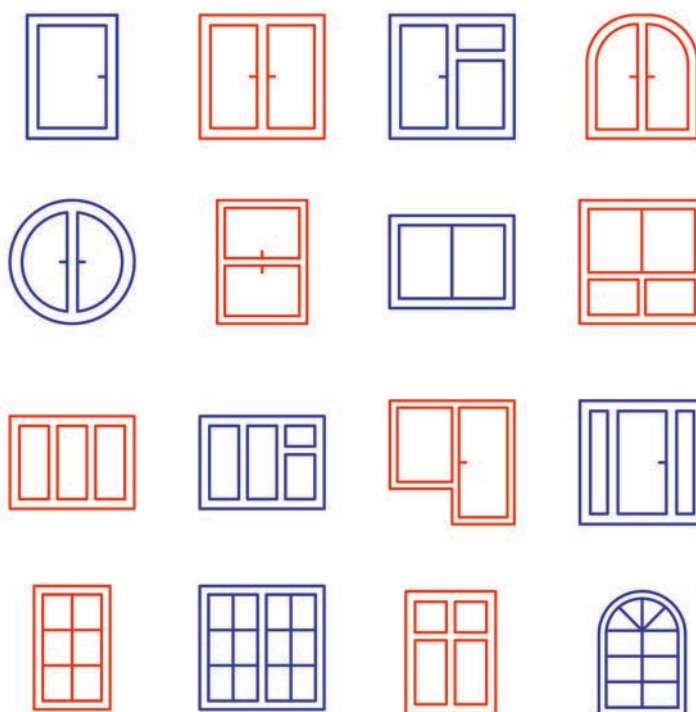
The divisive billionaire remains a major force in Thai politics despite being retired and having previously spent 15 years in self-imposed exile before his return to the country in 2023.

Although he has no official role in government, Thaksin remains politically active and is widely seen as the power behind the ruling Pheu Thai Party nominally led by his daughter Paetongtarn Shinawatra, which is losing popularity and hanging on by a thread over a conflict with Cambodia and a weak economy.

Bangkok Post



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Photo: Supplied

WELLTHWISE

Libby Heath

Caffeine is more than a morning ritual – it is the most widely consumed psychoactive substance in the world. It changes how your brain works – which means it affects mood, thoughts, perception or behaviour.

Roughly 80% of the global population consumes caffeine daily. Coffee is the dominant source, accounting for

roughly 69% of total caffeine intake, followed by carbonated soft drinks, tea, chocolate and energy drinks. From 16th century Turkish coffee houses to the corner Starbucks today, caffeine has fueled revolutions, sparked ideas and helped generations simply get through their day.

A Brief Buzz Through History

Tea leaves were first steeped in ancient China. Cacao was central to sacred Mayan rituals. Coffee began brewing out of Yemen in the 1400s and soon fueled lively debates in Europe's smoky coffeehouses. Fast forward a few cen-

turies, and caffeine is everywhere – in lattes, sodas, “energy” gummies and even skincare. If humans can consume it, they have almost certainly found a way to caffeinate it.

Coffee vs. Tea: The Morning Showdown?

People love to argue over which caffeine source reigns supreme, so let's settle it:

- Coffee = rocket fuel. Around 95mg per cup. You get a fast, hard kick in the brainpan, plus antioxidants that science says may lower risks for things like Parkinson's and type 2 diabetes.
- Tea = smooth operator. Lower caffeine (25–50 mg) but comes with L-theanine – a calm-focus compound that takes the edge off the buzz. Basically, it is caffeine with a yoga instructor.

The verdict? Drink what makes you happy. Coffee is the espresso shot to the heart; tea is the slow-burn hug. Pick your mood.

Upside of the Buzz

Caffeine has more going for it than just wakefulness. It can improve:

- Cognitive function: Boosts focus, vigilance, and reaction time.
- Physical performance: Increases endurance and decreases perceived exertion. In fact, the World Anti-Doping Agency only lifted its ban on caffeine in sports in 2004 because its use was so ubiquitous that policing it became impossible.
- Mood: May improve well-being and even reduce risk of depression.
- Healthspan: Studies suggest regular coffee drinkers may have lower risks of Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and type 2 diabetes.

Downsides of Overdoing It

Too much caffeine can result in:

- Sleep sabotage: Caffeine has a half-life of ~6 hours, meaning that 3pm coffee might still be in your system at 9pm.
- Anxiety & jitters: Too much caffeine can spike cortisol at the wrong time and make stress worse.
- Dependence: Daily use can create tolerance (needing more for the same effect) and withdrawal symptoms like headaches and irritability.
- Heart strain: Sensitive individuals may experience palpitations or blood pressure spikes.

Optimise Your Caffeine Use

Like any performance tool, caffeine works best strategically:

- Timing is everything. Avoid caffeine in the first hour after waking (when cortisol is naturally high) and typically after 2pm to protect your sleep. I have found that a cup of coffee between 9-10am gives me the boost I need and eliminates the dreaded 3pm slump. Experiment to find your best window.

- Use it for purpose, not habit. Save your strongest doses for when you need to perform – presentations, long drives, workouts – instead of mindlessly sipping all day.

- Choose your source wisely. Coffee and tea deliver antioxidants and polyphenols; sodas and energy drinks often deliver sugar and additives. Use common sense, please.

- Know your number. Track how much you consume – and experiment with cutting back occasionally to reset tolerance.

Caffeine tolerance is sneaky – like that “just one more episode” trap on Netflix. One cup turns into two, two into a venti cold brew, and suddenly your baseline energy feels flat unless you are constantly topping up. The fix is not to quit cold turkey (unless you enjoy three-day headaches). Instead, ratchet back gradually – swap one cup for decaf, push your first hit later in the morning, or switch to tea for a week. Expect a couple of sluggish mornings and a mild headache or two as your body recalibrates, but the payoff is worth it: after a reset, that first “real” coffee will feel like rocket fuel.

Caffeine is, quite literally, the #1 fuel of modern civilisation. Unlike banned stimulants, it is legal, cheap, and woven into the fabric of daily life. Used wisely, it is a powerful ally for productivity, performance, and even long-term health. But like any drug – and yes, caffeine is a drug – the difference between “just enough” and “too much” is the difference between focused energy and frantic jitters.

So, drink your coffee. Sip your tea. Love your caffeine. Just do not forget who is in charge – you or the mug.

Libby Heath recently became the first Mayo Clinic certified wellness coach in Asia. She shares her insights and advice through her column 'Wellthwise' here in The Phuket News. Please note that if you have a condition that requires medical treatment, consult your doctor. Contact Libby at: BeWellthwise@gmail.com.

The October/November 2025 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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

Want to be in it?

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When your Inner Child meets your Actual Child

Rashmi Grover

There is an inner child within us, no matter our age. It's the part that holds onto our earliest experiences – from all the good things to wounds and unmet needs. When a child's behaviour triggers us into having our own meltdown, you can be certain that our inner child recognises something familiar which provokes our reaction. Whether it's the feeling of being dismissed, controlled or misunderstood – our inner child reacts.

Picture this: Your 4-year-old child refuses to eat the food you cooked and suddenly, you're 6 years old again. You feel powerless and unheard. In that moment, it's not just your child who is having a meltdown but you are too.

Recognise the activation of Inner Child

Maybe your body reacts physically when you get triggered: jaws clenched, breathing gets shallow or you get a sudden rush of heat or cold. You could also react emotionally: losing 'it', the urge to over-control or give up, or mental talks like, "I can't handle this."

When you begin observing your reactions – you can take that moment to heal. A useful response is usually to pause and simply breathe. If you're anything like me, my triggering responses can overwhelm me completely. My inner child takes over my whole being and it takes sometime to gain my sensibilities. I usually retreat from the situation. I need space and room to centre myself. I ask my husband or



helper to step in so I can take that time to centre myself.

Two-Child Check-In

I have recently adopted a second strategy which is to talk to both the children – my inner child and my actual child. I find myself saying, 'stop crying', quite often and I didn't like the sound or the tone in which I was doing it. Upon reflection, I realised I never actually could cry or burden my family with my problems. I got so used to being alone in a house full of people that I was having a tough time processing big emotions.

Now my response in a crying situation sounds like: It looks like that really upset you. Can I give you a hug? Or help you figure it out? It's not verbatim but rather contextual. It's something that I wished I heard while

growing up. A space where I am allowed to feel things even if it doesn't make sense to anyone else.

It's useful to ask yourself: What does your inner child need right now? Do you need to feel safe and reassured? Do you need to be heard? Validated? Loved? Do you simply need to know that you aren't in trouble but have a companion in your troubling moments? Rest assured that what you need is probably what your child needs as well.

Finding your compassionate response

In the heat of any trigger, it can be hard to find the rightful response that attends to both of you. That's why it's good practice to reflect and ponder over our reactions – after or before the moment. Yes, it can be handled before as well. Take a minute to think back to your interactions with your kids, most

likely there's a pattern. Once you see it, you can take the time to fashion different strategies that work for both of you.

Some foundational questions to trigger the reflection process: what did "being in trouble" feel like in your childhood? Did you feel safe as a child? What was the emotional temperature of your home – was it chaotic, controlled, unpredictable or something else? What did your nervous system learn about the world from your earliest caregivers? What did you have to do to get attention as a child? What did you have to give up about yourself to be accepted in your family?

The Healing Opportunity

These questions can be difficult to process. Just writing them creates a low-key wave of sadness that coats me. It's not easy, but good things are hardly ever easy. Although sometimes our wounds run deep and parenting becomes a constant trigger. This is when professional support becomes not just helpful but necessary. There's no shame in getting help. It's one of the most loving things you can do for your family.

When we learn to tend to both children, the one in front of us and the one within us, something beautiful happens. We stop trying to fix or control our children and offer them what they need most: unconditional love, patient presence, and the safety to be fully human. Your inner child doesn't need to be perfect or fully healed to be a good parent. Most of the time it simply wants to be seen, acknowledged, and gently guided by your own wisdom.

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POP QUIZ

1. Ruby Stevens became famous under which name?

2. Which non-alcoholic cordial is made from pomegranates?

3. What is Orchestis – either professional or amateur?

4. Which 1993 Disney film starred Bette Middler as a witch?

5. Who piloted the first flight across the English channel?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across

1. Rage violently

5. Sword handle

9. Counters

14. Infant's desire to be loved (Japanese word)

15. Asian nurse

16. Cricket position

17. Outlaw turns soul singer?

20. Cockeyed

21. Spread a fertilizer

22. Oolong, for one

24. Enlist

28. Maori war dance

31. Spite

34. Exude

35. "Act your ___!"

36. Had on

37. Personae non gratae

38. Director turns businessman?

42. Sentence type

43. Fruitless

44. Trick taker, often

45. Any thing

46. Mozart

contemporary

48. Finnish river

49. Cognac cocktail

Down

1. Big Indian

2. Home of ISU

3. Cher flick

4. 100 centimos

5. "The ___" (Uris novel)

6. Prayer leader

7. Guru

8. Prefix with magnetic

9. Color of honey

10. Faulks novel

11. ___ Annie

12. Bully

13. Hampton ___

18. "Concentration"

pronoun

19. Brickbat

23. Acknowledge

25. Uproars

26. Nahuati speakers

27. Rent payer

28. Kentucky forward

29. Rabbit-like rodent

30. Got it

32. Baseball stat

33. On edge

36. South Korean currency

37. Juliet, to Romeo

39. Agoraphobic?

40. Palindromic begetter?

41. Touch

46. Muslim pilgrimage

47. Anatomical ring

48. Text changer

50. Perfume

52. "Aladdin" prince

54. Scolded

55. Pad or cap starter

57. Needle holder

58. Undeveloped idea

59. European language

60. This may be fragile

61. Nova, e.g.

62. Piggy digit?

63. Hosiery defect

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
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				22		23			24			25	26	27
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				53					54	55		56	57	58
60	61	62								63				
64							65					66		
67							68					69		

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

person is killed by a drunk driver every 45 minutes in the United States.

42

percent of telecommuters worldwide suffer from insomnia, compared to just 29% of those who report to an office setting, according to a UN study.

90

percent of all wine produced in the world is meant to be consumed within a year or two from when it's made – an older wine is not always better.

5,000

heart transplants take place around the world annually – almost 85% of those patients live at least one year with their new heart.

23,000

books, valued at US\$5.3 million (about \$10mn today), were stolen by one man, Stephen Blumberg, from universities and museums in 45 different US states from 1970 to 1990.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW

Silhouettes and footprints at Bang Tao Beach. Photo by Lineke van Nederpelt

Got an unusual or particularly beautiful picture of Phuket? Email it to editor3@classactmedia.co.th

This week in history

Aug 29, 1966

The Beatles perform their last concert before paying fans at Candlestick Park in San Francisco.

Aug 30, 1835

Melbourne, in the state of Victoria, Australia, is founded.

Aug 31, 1056

After a sudden illness a few days previously, Byzantine

Sept 1, 1923

The Great Kantō earthquake devastates Tokyo and Yokohama in Japan, killing approximately 105,000 people.

Sept 2, 1666

The Great Fire of London breaks out and burns for three days, destroying 10,000 buildings, including Old St Paul's Cathedral.

Sept 3, 301

San Marino, one of the smallest nations in the world and the world's oldest republic still in existence, is founded by Saint Marinus.

Sept 4, 1998

Google is founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin, two PhD students at Stanford University.

Source: Wikipedia

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Couture for a Cause at Solis Beach Club

Solis Beach Club, Phuket Veterans Association & *The Phuket News* have come together to create a fashion show in aid of the Thai-Cambodia Relief Appeal. Tickets include a welcome drink and post show canapes. Fashion show, Raffle, Designer Brands on sale, Live music. Solis Beach club, Bangtao Beach, 099 192 9288

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Grow Boating Evening - Sept 2025

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm. Our drinks sponsor for the evening will be Royal Phuket Marina. See royalphuketmarina.com/marina There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant for all attendees. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket/>

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PHUKET BUSINESS NETWORKING
 Come and have a few at the Phuket Business Networking ~ 2nd Friday every month

Phuket Business Networking - Sep 2025

Make sure to bring lots of business cards, as getting to know each other is what PBN is all about. A small entry fee, THB 500 per person, that includes the first 3 drinks and pizza. Location - Oasis Bar, Koh Kaew, starting 5pm. Register your attendance here or call Jason - 086 479 7471.

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AUGUST SKÅL PHUKET NETWORKING NIGHT

An unforgettable evening of camaraderie and connections at the August Skål Phuket Dinner on Thursday, August 21, at the wonderful Indochine Resort & Villas. Members and guests enjoyed breathtaking views over Patong and the bay while enjoying a selection of tasty treats and cool beverages. This was followed by a delicious buffet dinner and lots of animated discussions among fellow tourism professionals. To find out more about Skål Phuket visit facebook.com/SkalPhuket



AUSTCHAM JOINT CHAMBERS PHUKET SUNDOWNERS - AUGUST

AustCham Thailand, in collaboration with Australian Alumni, AMCHAM, BCCT, Belgian-Luxembourg/Thai Chamber, CanCham Thailand, FTCC, GTCC, NTCC, NZTCC, Phuket Chamber of Commerce and Thai-Swedish Chamber, hosted the Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners at Azura Restaurant, Angsana Laguna Phuket on Friday, August 22. Over 100 members and guests enjoyed fantastic food, beverages and service from the Angsana team as well as scrumptious Aussie pies and sausage rolls from Lady Pie. It was another brilliant night of making new connections and catching up with familiar faces in the Australian-Thai business community in Phuket. Prior to the Sundowners was the joint chambers Phuket members briefing where BDO Thailand delivered an informative presentation on Funding Strategies for the Phuket Real Estate & Hospitality industry: Traditional, Digital, and Governance-Driven Approaches. For more information on AUSTCHAM Thailand visit - austchamthailand.com

Malaysia rules out F1 return over high costs

FORMULA ONE

MALAYSIA HAS RULED out Formula One returning to the country in the near future, citing costs and an already packed racing calendar.

Malaysia first hosted an F1 race in 1999 at its Sepang International Circuit, with the last grand prix held there in 2017.

Malaysia dropped out of the F1 calendar from 2018 amid the rising costs of hosting the event although Sepang still annually stages MotoGP motorbike racing.

Sports minister Hannah Yeoh said on Aug 21 hosting F1 again would require the Malaysian government to pay about 300 million ringgit (B2.3 billion) annually.

Yeoh said the circuit also requires about 10mn ringgit a year to maintain to the required standards for top-level motor racing.

"Malaysia must also bind itself to a contract of



Photo: AFP

between three to five years with commercial rights holder Liberty Media, amounting to a commitment of about 1.5 billion ringgit during this period," she explained.

"The current race calendar is very tight and if Malaysia is interested in hosting again, we will have to compete with other countries for a place," she added.

Regionally, Singapore stages a night race and Thailand hopes to become the latest host, with the Cabinet in June approving a B39bn bid to stage a Bangkok street race from 2028.

Yeoh said Malaysia is not shutting the door completely on having F1 races again, if any corporate entities were willing to shoulder the costs. *AFP*

Big wins as Women's Rugby World Cup gets underway

RUGBY

AFP

Reigning champions New Zealand started their quest for a record-extending seventh Women's Rugby World Cup title with a 54-8 win over a gutsy Spain in York, UK, last Sunday (Aug 24).

On an opening weekend where title rivals England and Canada enjoyed mammoth wins, the Black Ferns 'only' led 21-3 at half-time against a Spain side ranked 13th in the world before running in five tries after the break, despite having to play with 13 women for the final 17 minutes.

Black Ferns boss Allan Bunting had already used all his replacements when Kaipo Olsen-Baker was taken off on a stretcher in the 55th minute after injuring her left leg, then wing Ayesha Leti-I'iga also had to go off because of injury.

They still managed to score a try but a valiant Spain replied with one of their own with the last play of the game when forward Ines Antolinez stretched out to get over.

New Zealand's Jorja Miller scored two first-half tries in an impressive 40-minute World Cup debut, while the outstanding Portia Woodman-Wickliffe, who came out of international retirement in April in a



New Zealand's flanker Layla Sae powers through against Spain. Photo: AFP

bid to win a third successive World Cup, scored a record 21st World Cup try in the second half.

Hosts and competition favourites England launched the tournament on Friday (Aug 22) with a crushing 69-7 win over the United States in Sunderland.

The Red Roses, the world's top-ranked side, ran in 11 tries against a gutsy but outclassed Eagles team, meaning England have lost only once in their past 59 matches – a defeat by coach John Mitchell's native New Zealand in the COVID-delayed 2022 World Cup final.

Australia launched their campaign with a record-breaking 73-0 thrashing of Samoa in Salford on Saturday, running in 11 tries, with wing Desire Miller scoring a first-half hat-trick.

It meant they surpassed both their previous highest points tally for a

World Cup match – 62-12 against South Africa in 2006 – and largest winning margin at the global showpiece of 62-0, also against South Africa, in 2010.

Meanwhile, Francesca McGhie's superb hat-trick helped Scotland to a convincing 38-8 bonus-point opening win over Wales on Saturday, while Julia Schell needed just 22 minutes to score a remarkable six tries as Canada thrashed Fiji 65-7 in York.

France kicked off its campaign with a slow and steady win over Italy on Sunday. With the game remaining scoreless for almost half an hour, Les Bleues' relentless pressure on Italy's defence in the second half earned them a 24-0 win.

Eve Higgins scored the pivotal try as Ireland beat Japan 42-14 in Northampton on Sunday to get their campaign off to a winning start.

Thailand's PK sparkles in Asian Mixed Match victory

GOLF

PATCHARAJUTAR KONGKRAPHAN produced a dazzling final-round 61 to defeat four-time Asian Tour champion Poom Saksansin by two strokes and become the first female winner in three years as the B5 million TrustGolf Asian Mixed Match 3 concluded at Lake View Resort and Golf Club in Cha-am last Friday (Aug 22).

The 33-year-old star, also known as PK, delivered a sparkling performance highlighted by two eagles on holes 2 and 5 and six birdies, finishing with a three-day total of 21-under-par 192.

The victory capped the season-ending edition of the Asian Mixed series and ended a long drought for female champions on the mixed-gender circuit.

The last woman to hoist a trophy was Arpichaya Yubol at the Thailand Mixed Circuit 5 in September 2022 at Gasson Panorama Golf Club in Lamphun.

Patcharajutar now becomes only the third female champion on the TrustGolf Mixed Tour, following Arpichaya and LPGA regular Chanettee Wannasaen.

"I hit the driver well on the par-five holes and gave myself good positions to make those eagles. That really got my game into the groove," said Patcharajutar, who celebrated her 34th career



Photo: Bangkok Post

title with a winner's cheque of B750,000.

She admitted that the challenge of competing against male counterparts gave her extra motivation.

"I'm really happy to win this tournament, especially when there are men in the field. It's never easy because the men play a completely different game," she said.

Poom delivered a stunning final-round 61 of his own, firing 10 birdies, including six on the back nine. His effort was enough to claim second place on 19-under 194, earning him a cheque of B500,000.

A stroke back in third was 2021 champion Chapchai Nirat, who matched the day's low score with a flawless 61 for an 18-under total of 195. Rattanon Wannasrichan finished alone in fourth after signing off with a 65 for 197, while Chonlatit Chuenboonngam was fifth at 198, followed by Taiwanese veteran Chan Shih-chang. *Bangkok Post*

All Blacks shocked by Los Pumas



THE GLOBAL RUGBY COACH

WEEK TWO OF THE Rugby Championship saw an almighty shock as New Zealand were beaten by Argentina for the first time last Saturday (Aug 23).

Los Pumas triumphed 29-23 in Buenos Aires through strong running, resolute defence and sheer determination. Their coach, Felipe Contepomi, is a smart cookie and it is fair to say they have now arrived at the top table in global rugby.

The All Blacks were overwhelmed in the latter part of the game, suggesting gone are the days of the dominant Kiwi forwards running amok with great support play. The land of the long white cloud will be a mass of critical opinion and All Black toughness is on the line. The Barrett brothers set and maintained a standard but can others match and stay with them?

Elsewhere, South Africa reversed the previous week's loss to Australia, winning 30-22 in Cape Town, although they still



Argentine steel. Photo: AFP

look nothing like the formidable team who have won the last two World Cups.

For both teams selection is becoming critical. The Springboks have lost that collective edge, reverting to a more familiar kicking game, with Henry Pollard keeping the forward machine on the front foot. There is talent in their squad, but has coach Erasmus got the nerve to develop a new playing blend before the next World Cup?

Australia has an emerging squad, containing some talented young players, that keep competing right to the end, with attack-

ing DNA in its veins. Poor coach selection has derailed the Wallabies' production line but incoming new coach Les Kiss, and young captain Harry Wilson, can improve this. My prediction is that they will be serious contenders in 2027 when the World Cup comes around.

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

Five star Gunners on top

FOOTBALL

AFP

Arsenal moved ahead of their north London rivals Tottenham at the top of the table on goal difference after a 5-0 trouncing of Leeds United last Saturday (Aug 23), but it came at a cost as Martin Odegaard and Bukayo Saka hobbled off injured.

Viktor Gyokeres scored twice to open his Gunners account while defender Jurrien Timber also notched a double, with Saka adding the other goal prior to his injury.

But Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said the injuries to key players Saka and Odegaard, just days after Kai Havertz was also ruled out by a knee injury, showed why he needs such a deep squad with the club expected to continue their summer transfer spend before the Sept 1 deadline.

A new-look Manchester City were left stunned at the Etihad as Tottenham strolled to a 2-0 win, Brennan Johnson and Joao Palhinha striking for the Europa League winners just before half-time to continue the perfect start for Thomas Frank after two league games in charge.

Chelsea came from behind to thrash West Ham 5-1 and leave former Blues boss Graham Potter under pressure just two games into the season.

Potter has won just five of 21 games since taking charge in January and has endured a miserable start to



Arsenal's Jurrien Timber (left) celebrates scoring his team's fourth goal with Declan Rice. Photo: AFP

the new campaign after a 3-0 defeat to newly-promoted Sunderland the previous weekend.

Joao Pedro, Pedro Neto, Enzo Fernandez, Moises Caicedo and Trevoh Chalobah were all on target for Chelsea while Lucas Paqueta scored the consolation for the Hammers.

Aston Villa have failed to score in their opening two games after losing 1-0 at Brentford, while Marcus Tavernier scored the only goal as Bournemouth beat 10-man Wolves 1-0 and Burnley secured their first points back in the top flight with a 2-0 win over Sunderland.

Manchester United remain without a Premier League win this season after being held 1-1 at Fulham on Sunday, while Crystal Palace and Nottingham Forest also shared a 1-1 draw.

A Jack Grealish-inspired Everton opened their new 53,000 capacity Hill

Dickinson Stadium with a 2-0 victory over Brighton on Sunday. Iliman Ndiaye scored the final goal at Goodison Park against Southampton in May and made more history with the first goal at the Toffees' new home before James Garner added a second.

Liverpool needed a 100th minute winner from 16-year-old Rio Ngumoha to beat Newcastle 3-2, after blowing a two-goal lead against 10 men, in a Premier League thriller on Monday.

Ryan Gravenberch and Hugo Ekitike struck for the defending champions, either side of Anthony Gordon's red card, before Bruno Guimaraes and William Osula scored for the home side.

Teenage sensation Ngumoha then became the youngest goalscorer in Liverpool's history with his late winner.



Salah with the Premier League trophy. Photo: AFP

History for Salah with third PFA player of the year award

FOOTBALL

MOHAMED SALAH has become the first player to win the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) men's player of the year for a third time after guiding Liverpool to Premier League glory last season.

The Egyptian scored 29 goals and provided 18 assists to propel the Reds to a record-equalling 20th English top-flight title with four games to spare last campaign.

Salah also scooped the award in the 2017/18 and 2021/22 seasons before being confirmed as winner for the 2024/25 season on Aug 19.

The 33-year-old also picked up the Football Writers' Association and Premier League player of the year awards in recent months.

Aston Villa's Morgan Rogers won young player of the year following a breakthrough campaign that saw the attacking midfielder make his senior international debut for England.

Salah is joined in the 2024/25 PFA Premier League team of the year by Liverpool team-mates Virgil van Dijk, Ryan Gravenberch and Alexis Mac Allister.

Milos Kerkez, who moved to Anfield from Bournemouth in June, is also selected, as are the Arsenal trio of William Saliba, Gabriel Magalhaes and Declan Rice.

Matz Sels and Chris Wood are recognised for their fine campaigns at Nottingham Forest, while wantaway Newcastle striker Alexander Isak is included after finishing second to Salah in the Golden Boot race. AFP

Answers sought over missing sepak takraw bonus payments

SEPAK TAKRAW

A FORMER THAI NATIONAL sepak takraw player has spoken out on behalf of five younger compatriots who were promised bonuses of almost B2 million each for winning gold medals at the 2022 Asian Games but received only B100,000 each.

The group that benefited from the deductions reportedly described them as a voluntary "gesture of goodwill" from the athletes, Suebsak "Joe" Phunsueb wrote on Facebook.

Sports fans have since questioned who received the remaining 95% of the bonus money and on what grounds, calling the deductions blatantly unfair to the athletes.

At the 2022 Asian Games, Thailand fielded 12 players across the team singles and team competitions (known in sepak takraw as team regu). Since only five players were used in the team singles, those athletes took part in both competitions.

After winning gold medals in both events, the five were told that B1.9mn from their singles event bonuses would be pooled into a central fund, described as a long-standing "tradition" and supposedly voluntary.

However, some athletes feared that refusing to contribute might affect their



Former Thai national player Suebsak 'Joe' wants answers over the missing bonuses. Photo: Bangkok Post

future selection for the national team, according to Suebsak.

He argued that this was a flawed practice that had been carried on for years and called on the authorities to take serious corrective action.

The Takraw Association of Thailand last year held a meeting, chaired by president Thana "Tom" Chaiprasit, on the issue of the "cuts" from the Asian Games 2022 athletes' bonuses.

Participants at the meeting voted to order the team manager and coaches involved to step down immediately. The association also confirmed knowledge of who had received the deducted money, but this information was not made public.

Suebsak's renewed attempt to get answers has reignited the controversy over whether Thailand's national athletes are truly being treated fairly.

Bangkok Post

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Rugby World Cup off to a flier > p14



MR RESILIENT

MMA legend Bisping shares career lessons

Michael Bisping shows off his skills in the ring at Bang Tao Muay Thai. Photo: JP Mestanza

MMA

JP Mestanza
tv@classactmedia.co.th

If resilience is the capacity to withstand, then Michael Bisping represents the textbook definition.

The rise of MMA can be told through the eyes of England's own Bisping, the former UFC Middleweight Champion who has been at the top of the mountain.

In a recent question and answer session at the Bang Tao Muay Thai and MMA gym on the island's west coast, Bisping reflected on his career while answering fans.

"When I started my career, I remember being in little rooms, with puddles on the mats. We would figure out ways to avoid

that, having to look up ways how to train. Now you can come to Phuket at this amazing facility, it's incredible," he told the crowd.

The Q&A session was the first of several events that the English legend took part in across the weekend of Aug 9-10 at the famed gym, which culminated in a special training seminar for would-be fighters on the last day.

During the talk with fans, however, Bisping answered fan's questions about some of the biggest moments of his career including his famous win over then-UFC Middleweight champion (185 pounds, 83.9 kg) Luke Rockhold at UFC 199 in June 2016.

As a late replacement, Bisping knocked out Rockhold in the first round to become the UFC Mid-

dleweight Champion. It was one of the most inspiring comeback stories in UFC history. What made it extra special was the fact that the two had fought two years earlier, with American Rockhold taking the win.

Bisping then went on to successfully defend the title against Dan Henderson in October 2016 in a rematch of their infamous UFC 100 bout seven years previous where Henderson triumphed.

Bisping retired in 2018 with a record of 30 wins and 9 losses, having fought the best opponents of his era, including Georges St-Pierre, Anderson Silva and Chael Sonnen.

CLINICALLY BLIND

But what is even more incredible

is the fact that 47-year-old Bisping fought the latter half of his career essentially with one eye.

"My vision (in my right eye) was pretty much non-existent since 2013," he told MMA Junkie years later. "It was difficult. To pass the medical test, you've got to have 20-200 vision, which is classed as clinically blind anyway, so it's not very good – it's not a very hard mark to pass. Some days I could, some days I couldn't. But fortunately, I was just able to scrape by."

Bisping suffered a detached retina in his fight against Vitor Belfort in 2013 in Brazil. The injury worsened over time and he eventually lost the use of his right eye. Now, years after his retirement in 2018, Bisping doesn't hesitate to show fans how

the prosthetic eye fits in the palm of his hand.

The resilience to be able to withstand the loss of half your vision, and not just continue, but thrive, is what has endeared Bisping to fans around the world.

"My body is destroyed, but I have no regrets. I have made an incredible life and still live an indelible life and my family is living an incredible life," he told the fans at the Bang Tao Q&A.

"So to me this is nothing. Yeah I'm in pain... but its all been worth it. I could have spent my life working a dead-end job, being miserable. But I have lived life.

"So, yeah, the eye happened, and I was still able to continue fighting, but it didn't feel like anything at the time."

High flying Thai spikers advance at FIVB tournament

VOLLEYBALL

HOSTS THAILAND ADVANCED to the round of 16 knockout stage at the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Women's World Championship with two straight victories after the tournament got underway last Friday (Aug 22).

The Thai spikers, ranked 21st in the world, made a strong start by defeating Egypt 3-1 (25-15, 23-25, 25-15, 25-11) at the Indoor Stadium Huamark in Bangkok to take 3 points in Group A.

In the other Group A match on Friday, the Netherlands defeated Sweden 3-2 (25-27, 25-11, 25-21, 21-25, 15-9).

The Thais then followed this up with a comprehensive 3-0 (25-18, 25-18, 25-22) win against Sweden on Sunday at the same venue to move onto 6 points and top the group.

Led by "Coach Oat" Kiattipong Rachatagiangkrai, the starting Thai line-up in both games consisted of Pornpan Kerdprach, Thatdao Nuekjang, Sasipaporn Chantharawisut,

Pimpichaya Kokram, Chatchu-on Moksri, Wimonrat Thanaphan and Piyanut Pannoy as libero.

At time of press, Thailand and the Netherlands were due to face one another on Tuesday evening to determine who finished top of the group after the latter defeated Egypt 3-0 (25-15, 25-13, 25-13) on Sunday.

The group games of the tournament are being hosted by four Thai provinces, namely Chiang Mai, Nakhon Ratchasima, Phuket and Bangkok. All knockout games and the final will

be held in Bangkok, with the tournament running until Sept 7.

Surawong Thienthong, Minister of Tourism and Sports, oversaw the tournament's opening ceremony at the Indoor Stadium Huamark on Friday, while Thamawat Wongcharoenyot, president of Phuket Provincial Sports Association, inaugurated the opening ceremony in Phuket at the 4,000 capacity Saphan Hin gymnasium.

The opening match in Phuket saw Belgium defeat Cuba 3-0 (25-23, 25-14, 25-11) in Group B



Team Thailand. Photo: Bangkok Post

before world number one team Italy defeated Slovakia 3-0 (25-20, 25-14, 25-17) in the second group game.

On Sunday, Italy defeated Cuba 3-0 (25-9, 25-8, 25-16) and Belgium overcame Slovakia 3-0 (25-19, 25-17, 25-18) to both advance to the last 16.